



CROSSLink

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Worship Services:
Saturdays 5:30PM (Sanctuary)
Sundays 8:30AM (Sanctuary)
Sundays 10:45AM (LOFT)

February 2021

From Pastor's Desk

“Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love....” Joel 2:13b

“I’M TOO BUSY – IT’S NOT CONVENIENT!”

I enjoy my morning devotions. I read from a daily devotional book titled: ***New Morning Mercies*** written by Paul David Tripp and I use the ***Treasury of Daily Prayer*** from CPH. Yet, when I am busy with a lot to get done, it is tempting to ‘skip the devotions’ because ‘I’m too busy and it’s simply not convenient.’

I remember reading and hearing of the example of Christian leaders who learned the value of “When I have much to get done, I first spend even more time in God’s Word and my devotions!”

My experience is that the day goes better when it begins in God’s Word and prayer. My wife, Sue, is one of the best examples of this I know. She nearly always begins her day in a devotional app that is taking her through the Bible with devotional comments, day by day.

RETURN TO THE LORD – DAILY

I encourage you to spend time daily in God’s Word, devotion and prayer. Whether it be a continued, renewed, or a brand new habit.... DO IT! I am certain that you will find the exercise to be a blessing to you and those around you. We will be making available a devotional book for LENT that is part of our Lenten Series this year: ***Return to the Lord***. We also make available the ***Portals of Prayer*** from our LCMS publisher: CPH. Or read the Bible, a chapter a day. I suggest Matthew and Psalms.

If you’re looking for a good new Bible to use, I highly recommend the one I now use from CPH, ***The Lutheran Study Bible***. Both the regular print and larger print versions have worked well for me. We can order them through the church office. I believe a few are on hand now.

THE SHIP OF GOD’S GRACE – THE CHURCH

To say the least, it has been an interesting time since I arrived among you in mid-October. COVID-19 and our various fears and cautions affected us more than we imagined would be the case. It’s tough to transition and work through past disappointments, unresolved hurts, and even hopelessness when you’re stuck in fear! It’s a challenge to dream of the future and ponder God’s will and purpose going forward for us at Holy Cross when so much of what makes us ‘Holy Cross’ has been put ‘on hold’.

Folks, let’s look to Jesus, trust His Word, lift the anchors, and let the wind of God’s love and grace move this boat forward!!!

I am happy to share that many of us are working through the transition process. I have been part of numerous great conversations, some of which have led to action addressing some of the needs and opportunities for ministry in front of us. Already about 90 have been part of our Cottage Group in-person or Zoom meetings.

RETURN TO THE LORD EACH WEEK - WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD

I am disappointed that more of our members and friends have not yet found it possible to gather for worship each week. Yet, I understand the fears and doubts about what is best for our family and the health of people dear to us! Without question, this has hurt us in our personal spiritual walk with Jesus, and in our fellowship and ability to work through issues and past hurts as a congregation.

I have also had some members tell me that they have not been back in church because Pastor Metzger is no longer here. Now I have only heard good things about Pastor Metzger and one thing I continually hear is that he was all about Jesus, pointing people to Jesus. I assure you that no pastor is honored when people stay away from church. We worship God our Savior. Our worship is all about Jesus! Pastors do NOT preach ourselves, we preach Christ!

There is a reason that God's Word includes this section from Hebrews 10:22-25: *let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, ... Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

One of the best ways we can encourage one another is gathering together for worship and in fellowship.

I encourage you to help me, the elders and our worship teams assist you to find a way to gather each week with your family in Christ at Holy Cross. I can make 'special appointments' for extra worship times and days for small family groups – give me a call. If you and your family want to have communion, we can do it, at church or in your home. We will find a way!

“Return to the Lord your God.....”

In Christ, Pastor Meyer

Notes & Comments from Pastor

Saturday & Sunday, February 13 & 14, Our District President, Pastor Allan Buss will be our guest preacher. I hope we 'safely' fill the church! I want him to see that we are eager to welcome, receive and work with our next resident pastor in the work that we are already undertaking as God's people here at Holy Cross!

LENT BEGINS ASH WEDNESDAY, February 17 @ 6:30 PM. Our District President, Pastor Allan Buss will be our guest preacher.

OUR LENT SERIES: *Return to the Lord*

I am excited about this material and the services that will be part of it. Ash Wednesday will be on Wednesday, February 17. Each week following, we will have church on Thursday at 6:30 PM. (This was done to make it possible for me to be present at each mid-week service after Ash Wednesday.) Each service will be family friendly, have a children's message and last about 30-40 minutes. I am encouraging our confirmation class students, our Kids for Christ students, and their families to add these Lenten mid-week services to their worship and devotional time each week in Lent.

CONFIRMATION CLASS (7th & 8th Grades)

We are up and running. We will be meeting on various Saturday mornings 10-11:30 AM and on some Thursday evenings 7-8:30 PM.

ADULT CONFIRMATIONS

We have several high school students and older who have never finished the last few steps of being confirmed and officially becoming a communing member of Holy Cross Lutheran. And other adults, new to our fellowship, have expressed an interest in joining our church. If you are such a person, talk to me or call the church office and we will find a way to make you 'official' as a baptized and communicant member of Holy Cross Lutheran.

3RD – 6TH GRADE: KIDS FOR CHRIST

Is returning! I am so happy to see this. I am pleased to say that this came about directly as a result of a Cottage Group Meeting. Folks, it is just one example of where someone sees a need, is encouraged to act on that need, and things happen **TO THE GLORY OF GOD and FOR THE GOOD OF GOD'S PEOPLE!!!!**

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP (time to get it up and running once again)

In two of our Cottage Group Meetings, people have expressed an interest in assisting with us starting a Youth Group Fellowship here at Holy Cross. If interested in being part of this – contact the church office to share your name or call me, Pastor Meyer. This is in the early stages, but the interest is already in place. I have already met and been impressed with several of our youth – I would be happy to also help get this started.... Just remember, *"I don't run and my vertical leap is limited to one inch!"*

CHRISTIAN HOPE CONTINUES IN CHRIST

Yes, we have had some trying moments as a congregation in the past year. A beloved pastor retired. We have not always listened to one another as carefully as we should. We have not always handled differences of opinion very well. But with the Lord there is forgiveness and mercy. As His people, we confess our failures and missteps, we forgive one another as God has forgiven us, and we sit at the feet of Jesus and take to heart His Word, and where He leads us; we follow in faith and trust.

I AM EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE

The Lord is still Lord! Things are happening at Holy Cross. We are working to address some of the issues and ministry opportunities that have been before us for some time. Some things we are currently addressing:

- 1. Live Streaming of our worship services;**
- 2. Major update of our Web Page;**
- 3. Preparing for fellowship activities as the COVID-19 fears will one day subside;**
- 4. Addressing staffing needs moving forward;**
- 5. A review of our financial blessings and how to best use them to fund ministry and support faithful stewardship among God's people going forward.....**

These are just some of the items that quickly come to mind that are already being discussed. More are being heard and considered in every conversation that is taking place to the glory of God. Please keep me and the church leadership in your prayers as I will soon be putting together the names for our **Interim Task Force**, who will work through all the notes of the Cottage Group Meetings, gather even more information from our community, and prepare a report to be shared with the congregation later this Spring.

If all goes well, this will lead to a Pre-Call Meeting with our District President (to be attended by every member of Holy Cross who is able to attend safely). If that goes well, it will lead to a new Call Committee representing a united and together in mission and purpose congregation.

We know, very well, that we have the power to mess this all up in various ways. At the same time, great things have and will continue to happen as we look to Jesus, trust His Word, and follow where He leads. And when those great things happen, we will know that it has happened all by the grace and power of God who is powerfully and continually at work among us. And to God we will give all the glory and praise!

Folks, this is NOT a time to give up. This is a time to come on board, grab an oar, lift the sails, and look to Jesus. And let's see what He has in mind for Holy Cross!

Your, loving the Lord and excited about the future of Holy Cross, pastor.....

With love and hope – IN CHRIST
Pastor Meyer

Lenten Worship Opportunities

Please join us for Ash Wednesday worship, February 17 at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary as we begin our series, "Return to the Lord". Lenten worship continues at 6:30 PM **on Thursdays** – February 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25.

Kids for Christ is Returning

Our Christian Youth Club – Kids for Christ – is returning. All kids in grades 3-6 are welcome to join and bring a friend. The kick-off is a Valentine's party celebrating God's love on **Thursday, February 11 from 7:00-8:30 PM in the fellowship hall**. CDC guidelines will be followed so please wear a mask.

If you would like to volunteer to help in any way or have questions, please contact Sue Anderson or Jean Hoger.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class is looking ahead to a variety of Saturdays: 10:00-11:30 AM and Thursdays 5:00-6:30 PM. This class is primarily for 7th and 8th graders but others a little older or younger are welcome. If you have someone who may be interested, please contact Pastor Meyer.

Video Ministry

We are currently recording our 8:30 Sunday morning sanctuary worship service, making it available each week on our website, YouTube and Facebook. It is a multi-hour process with the service not available for viewing until later on Sunday. Our video ministry would like to move to streaming the service which would allow viewers to watch the service live or watch a recorded version later. This will require additional equipment. The OWLS have generously donated \$200 to start a fund to purchase the streaming equipment. If anyone would like to contribute to this fund, please mark it clearly on your contribution and place it in the collection plate or mail it to the church. Thank you for your support of this next step in our ministry to reach those unable to attend in person. If you have any questions contact Ken Hauser.

Human Care Ministry Blood Drive Thank You

Our Human Care Ministry, along with Versiti Blood Center, wishes to **THANK EVERYONE** who donated at the Blood Drive on January 11. In times of crisis we rely on one another to give hope for local patients in need of blood. **BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS 21 UNITS WERE COLLECTED**. This means up to 63 patients will receive the gift of hope and life!! You are all "a beacon of hope". Also, thanks to everyone who helped set up and take down for the drive! Continue to be regular donors. Holy Cross's next drive will be in August. Thanks again!

February

	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 10:00A Adult Bible Class	3	4 Noon OWLS	5	6 5:30P Worship
7 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	8 6:30P Elders	9 10:00A Adult Bible Class	10	11 10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P Kids for Christ Valentine party	12	13 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
14 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	15 7:00P Governing Board	16 10:00A Adult Bible Class	17 6:30P Worship ASH WEDNESDAY	18 Noon OWLS 7:00P Kids for Christ	19	20 5:30P Worship
21 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	22	23 10:00A Adult Bible Class	24	25 10:00A Prayer Shawl 6:30P Lenten Worship 7:00P Kids for Christ	26	27 5:30P Worship
28 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT)						

2021