



CROSSLink

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

February 2022

From Pastor's Desk: GOD'S PLANS FOR THE MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN

God's Plans for Israel: We read about God's plans for the children of Israel who were in captivity in Babylon and we can make application of this portion of God's Word to our situation and circumstances today as individuals, families and church:

¹⁰“For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you My promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹**For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare (peace) and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.** ¹²Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you. ¹³You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11

Jeremiah writes to the exiles in Babylon. False prophets and false teachers were giving false hopes. Many were 'planning' for a quick return. But Jeremiah is clear in proclaiming God's Word to them that their exile was not going to be short but would extend over 70 years. They are encouraged to settle down for a long stay in Babylon, after which God will return them to Jerusalem. (Jeremiah 28-29)

We all know about plans. We have our plans and make our plans.

We sometimes 'put our plans on hold'.

A few things we read about 'plans' in Proverbs:

15:22 “Without counsel **plans** fail, but with many advisers they succeed.”

16:3 “Commit your work to the LORD, and your **plans** will be established.”

19:21 “Many are the **plans** in the mind of a man, but it is the **purpose** of the LORD that will stand.”

Our Plans (What we believe are God's plans) For Us Here at Holy Cross Lutheran Church:

In our cottage group meetings and in many continuing conversations since with fellow members, and local and district church leaders, continually in prayer, we have sought the counsel and advise of many as we pondered, not our will, but God's will and purpose for Holy Cross going forward.

You remember the report of the Interim Task Force to the congregation in a 'Town Hall/Voters' Meeting' on Sunday, July 25 which was unanimously accepted by all in attendance. In that report we committed ourselves to the following ministry focuses and current and possible action items:

1. Youth Ministries – ages 3-18

- a. Programs already in place
 - i. Kids for Christ
 - ii. Preschool
 - iii. Contemporary service
 - iv. Confirmation class
- b. Suggestions
 - i. VBS (restart)
 - ii. Sunday school (restart)
 - iii. High school group
 - iv. More interaction with Cary-Grove High School
 - v. More social opportunities for kids of all ages
 - vi. Crisis support groups
 - vii. Better use of the LOFT
 - viii. More follow-up when new members attend any service

2. Family Ministries – especially young families

- a. Programs already in place
 - i. Contemporary service
 - ii. Church picnic
- b. Suggestions
 - i. Church nursery
 - ii. Marriage enrichment programs
 - iii. Social activities for families
 - iv. Weekday church service, education and fellowship opportunities
 - v. Crisis support groups
 - vi. Increased technology opportunities
 - vii. More social opportunities
 - viii. Pictorial directory

3. Senior Ministries

- a. Programs already in place
 - i. OWLS
 - ii. Prayer shawl
 - iii. Golf ministry
 - iv. Social opportunities
 - v. Bible study
- b. Suggestions
 - i. More outreach, especially to homebound
 - ii. More social opportunities

4. Outreach

- a. Programs already in place
 - i. Human care committee
 - ii. Blood drive
 - iii. Food pantry
 - iv. CPR training
 - v. Christmas tree giveaway
- b. Suggestions
 - i. Become chamber of commerce member
 - ii. Coordinate activities with nearby churches
 - iii. Coordinate activities with other Lutheran churches in the surrounding area
 - iv. Become actively involved with CGHS (nearby High School)
 - v. Be visible at community activities
 - vi. Leadership training
 - vii. Support of missions through LCMS
 - viii. Activities at Holy Cross for community

We then added this note: This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list, just some suggestions. In the area of outreach, this note was included earlier in the report: ***“We need to identify areas of need, especially in our community to service and minister to the unchurched as well as our own members.”***

[Today, I, Pastor Meyer, would add this note: “We need to be doing everything we can to share Jesus and His saving Gospel with our family, friends, neighbors and our community. Building upon the various activities mentioned above. Inviting and welcoming people to worship, following up on all worship, fellowship and outreach contacts, and doing everything we can to reach out to people where they are located. Many of them will never come to a church until they know that there is somebody there who really knows them and cares about them. As we have been adding to our mission statement each week: “Sharing Christ!”]

We have already begun to act on a few of these items, but there is a growing awareness among many (if not all of us) that we want and need to be doing much more. This is why the Elders and members of the Governing Board have been working together, in teams, to address various ministry needs that we know must move forward!

But many appear to be still watching from the sidelines, even sitting in the bleachers ‘waiting to see what happens.’ Is it possible, with the excuses of Covid-19 and ‘wanting to see whom God will send to be our next resident pastor, we have put many of our plans ‘on hold’.

NO LONGER! It is time to act NOW!

We are eager to see who our next resident pastor will be. But, in the meantime, we have work to do. The work and ministry of Jesus, a work that He has given us the privilege of partnership, is work that is needed now. The Church, and the people desperately in need of the peace, hope and encouragement that can only be found in Jesus need us to all be doing this work, NOW!

Yes, Covid 19 and all the accompanying fears, restrictions, mandates, etc. have been terribly frustrating and discouraging to Christian members and pastors alike, here and around the world. It has kept us from ‘doing what we always did’ and has challenged us to consider new ways and means of sharing and proclaiming the hope and promise that is ours in Jesus.

As we see and become aware of personal and spiritual needs and concerns around us, we must act, and we must act **NOW!!!** To ‘plan’ otherwise, is not wise or faithful to God and our calling!

I cannot tell you every detail of what your part must be, but I want to encourage you to consider, prayerfully, reading and pondering God’s Word, what God’s will is for you going forward. Then, trusting God, strive to act accordingly.

In my visits with people, I have learned that there are some exciting ideas and dreams among the members and friends of Holy Cross. May God help us all share and listen to one another with respect and patience. And let’s see what God will bring about as we encourage one another and work together in mission!

I am striving to do my part, in the time that God grants me to remain as your pastor. My last Sunday with you is May 1, or earlier if a pastor accepts our call and plans to get started among us before May 1.

That’s not a lot of remaining time for me here, but praise be to God, the current work and ministry of Holy Cross Lutheran is NOT dependent on me or any future pastor, or any other staff person that will be added to the leadership team of Holy Cross. This work and ministry that God has given to Holy Cross belongs to ALL! This is the life-changing work that we have the privilege of doing NOW! This ministry is what we are calling our next pastor to join us in continuing and expanding!

I am excited about things already in motion here at Holy Cross. I do not know how long ‘our exile’ will be without a resident pastor (one who doesn’t often have to travel back and forth to Nebraska!!!), but I do know that we have work to do, NOW. And, I know that God, in His time, (and when He sees that we are ready?) will provide our next full-time resident pastor! In the meantime, God has already provided what we need to NOW DO the work and ministry that He has given us to do.

One quick note: Our next pastor will not be perfect, but that’s okay, neither are we! Working together, receiving grace from God and sharing grace with one another, we trust that God will continue to provide the gifts, talents and resources that are needed to do the work He is calling us to do. Will we? Ultimately, it’s up to you – to each and every one of us. And in what we do, our prayer is that God will continually be glorified, God’s people encouraged and edified, and daily people will be saved and encouraged in God’s love and grace through the work and ministry of Holy Cross. Sola Deo Gloris!

Pastor Meyer’s Plans:

As I mentioned earlier, my last Sunday with you is May 1, or earlier depending on when our next pastor plans to join us in our ministry work here at Holy Cross. The close of April will be 18 months, the close of the 12-month + 6-month IIP call you extended to me. Early, in my work as an Intentional Interim Pastor (IIP) I made the informed decision that I would not serve any longer than 18 months, and would always try to finish my work sooner. I am of the same opinion still, but I do admit that Covid-19 did make some parts of the process more difficult, mainly because it was not easy for me to meet everyone. AND Covid concerns affected the ability of

everyone in the congregation to interact and discuss (and resolve) things in person. We have members who have had little contact or conversation with fellow members of Holy Cross for close to 2 years. That is NEVER healthy for any organization, especially the Church!

Also, there is a critical need of pastors, also IIP pastors, in the LCMS. As you may know, I declined a call to be an IIP in Colorado early in January. I continue to be contacted, and may even be called, to various situations, but at this point, all of them concern where and when I will be serving long after I will have been 'that masked man who rode off into the sunset'. I won't share every detail, but I will share that it now looks like my next IIP call will be in either Western Iowa, Southern Minnesota, or Northeastern Nebraska and will likely begin either in late July or early August. (I am attempting to have a needed 2-3 month break, if possible, between IIP churches this time around.) Maybe I can call it 'Covid-fatigue' but sadly, I think it is just my 65 year-old age catching up with me. And I desperately want an opportunity to spend more time with my family – the grandchildren keep growing up and I have been missing out on so much!

Some of my personal goals (plans) here at Holy Cross, in the time I have remaining:

1. Continue to be a present and caring pastor (even as I continue to travel 1-2 times a month to spend a few days in Nebraska.
2. Find opportunities to personally express my thanks and gratitude for the many, many kindnesses that I have experienced from so many here at Holy Cross.
3. Start and set into place the study plan (and schedule?) for our next confirmation class.
4. Visit and commune our shut-ins on a monthly basis!
5. If possible, address and share some first-fruit giving and thankful stewardship approaches that have been helpful in other churches that I have served.
6. See if, before I leave on May 1, we might indeed have a plan, with gifts & pledges in place, to totally pay for the stain glass window repair project by this Fall. (Heh, it could happen!)
7. Attempt to help Holy Cross begin to put into place a plan & strategy to fund and have in place the needed additional needed staff that must soon be in place if we are indeed serious about the four ministry focuses to which we have committed ourselves: Youth, Family, Elderly, Outreach. (We cannot let a called pastor think that we expect him to be the only paid staff person at Holy Cross given the task to develop and expand these ministries going forward. Leadership and others have talked about this – I think it is time to give it a lot more attention!
8. To personally meet and visit with as many 'inactive' members and friends of Holy Cross that I can in an ongoing effort to encourage them to step up, take their place, and become again (or maybe for the first time ever) an active part of the Holy Cross family.

In Conclusion:

We just had the funeral service for Pastor Robert Hess, a pastor here at Holy Cross for 47 years. I learned that he was called and installed as our pastor in 1956. I found that of interest as that was the year I was born. God had a plan and a purpose for him then, and even during this past 14 months as I had the privilege of being his pastor. God also has had a plan for each and every one of the members and friends of Holy Cross during its years of worshipping and working together as a family united in Christ Jesus and His Word. Some of those plans were frustrated, ignored and overlooked in our sinfulness.... But many of those plans were realized, and by God's grace many came to faith and many were encouraged in their faith and personal walk with Jesus!

God has a plan and purpose for this congregation and each and every one of you. What will you do? I urge you to join Samuel when he says, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening!" And where God leads and directs you, may you follow – always serving God and always reflecting God's love and care for everyone around you.

So thankful for the privilege of being your pastor!

In Christ,
Pastor Glenn Meyer
"Keep leaning on Jesus!"

I share the following study notes from the Lutheran Study Bible concerning Jeremiah chapters 28 & 29:
(Chapter 28 note) *God does not deal with sin merely with a 'slap on the wrist.' The wages of sin is death. However, God does not delight in punishing sinners. He also sends true prophets and faithful ministers to turn people from death to life – God's gift to us in Christ Jesus. (We pray) Teach us, Lord, to avoid sin and wait upon Your Word, that we may have life in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

(29:5-9 note) *Instead of believing the false prophets whom God did not send, the exiles were to engage in activities that anticipated a prolonged sojourn on foreign soil, such as building houses, planting gardens, and founding families.*

(29:11 note) *There was indeed a future and hope in God's plans for the exiled people. However, only after many years would the chastisement produce the desired change in their lives. When they would again turn to the Lord with all their heart, He would keep His promise to bring them back to their homeland.*

(29:1-23 note) *God will restore them to the Promised Land and ultimately bring from their descendants a Savior for all the people. He keeps His promises. (We pray) Fulfill Your plans for us, O Lord, and guide us to make plans that agree with Your will. Teach us to trust Your decisions for our lives; through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Holy Cross Financial Update December - 2021

Presented: Based on the 2021 budget presented at the 2020 Annual Voter's Meeting, the Governing Board presented a deficit budget of (\$39,958) by year-end 2021. This budget was based on an annual Gross Income number of \$320,763.

Year End Total: For 2021 the total Gross Income was \$315,328. By the end of 2021, we have \$76.00. This decrease in year-end deficit is largely due to decreased expenses, such as reduced operating and salary expenses without the preschool running.

Current Month Update: The December Net Operating Income (*which is calculated by taking gross income and subtracting our gross expenses*) was \$13,082 for the month. Monthly giving was \$38,013.

Cash Accounts: Our current total cash is \$522,390. This included our standard six-month reserve of \$150,000, current projected upcoming designation of funds and liabilities of \$145,192 and the holding of the monies from the sale of the congregational house, \$147,934 resulting in year-to-date (YTD) unrestricted cash of \$79,340.

Stain Glass Window Update: As of 12/31/2021, we have raised **\$36,210**. This includes the **\$30,000** that was committed when the Stain Glass windows were approved. We still need to raise **\$120,789** by the end of 2022 to pay for the cost of the stain glass windows in full.

OWLS Happenings

OWLS will meet in the lower LOFT at noon on Thursday, February 3. Bring your lunch and join us for an afternoon with friends. Joan and Tom Hogarth will host the meeting and bring dessert, beverages and a devotion. Fight cabin fever by joining us for table games, cards, dominoes and conversation.

OWLS plan to go to the Village Squire in Crystal Lake on Thursday, February 17 at noon for a post-Valentine's Day lunch. A sign up sheet is posted on the OWLS bulletin board so we can plan the restaurant reservation. If you need transportation, indicate that when you sign up and arrangements will be made.

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 10. In times of critical need and crisis, we rely on one another to give HOPE for local patients in need of blood!! BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS, 17 UNITS WERE COLLECTED. This means 51 waiting patients will receive the gift of hope and life! You are all "A BEACON OF HOPE". Continue to be regular donors. Holy Cross's next drive will be in August. Thanks again!

Thank You from Lutheran Church Charities

Dear Members of Holy Cross,

I am writing say “thank you” for your gifts to Lutheran Church Charities and for your continued faithful support through the years. God uses your gifts in miraculous ways to lighten the heavy load people are experiencing in the most challenging times of life by making His love in Jesus real and touchable. Your support moves that ministry into the future. THANK YOU!

I will pray that God will lead you to the pastor He has chosen to carry out His ministry with you and that He will bless all you do and say so that His Kingdom continues to grow. God bless you abundantly and mightily with strength and courage to face the inevitable challenges that Satan will throw at you in the days ahead as you walk the path of faith on which He is leading you. The Good Shepherd will walk with you.

In His service,
Tom Tews
Lutheran Church Charities

February Birthdays

Ken Hauser	02/02
Delaney Sobecki	02/05
Peyton Barr	02/07
Heath McFaul	02/09
Theodore Kosiba	02/10
Katie Bruhn	02/12
Georgia Boone	02/14
Emma Carter	02/15
Chris Pavoris	02/17
Joe Moslander	02/17
Anna Sobecki	02/19
Jim Kreher	02/21
Denise Fuelling	02/22
Sue Billmann	02/23
Taylor Sanford	02/24
Sheelin Steiner	02/24
Barb Molzer	02/25
Dino Tselikis	02/26
Nathan Chobanian	02/27
Lizzie Gezella	02/27

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*Pastor available by cell #402-580-2929		1 10:00A Adult Bible Study 7:00P Dartball (away game)	2 7:00P Choir	3 OWLS	4	5 5:30P Worship
6 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	7	8 10:00A Adult Bible Study [------Pastor	9 7:00P Choir In Nebraska* ------	10 10:00A Prayer Shawl -----	11 -----]	12 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
13 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	14	15 10:00A Adult Bible Study	16 7:00P Choir	17 OWLS	18	19 5:30P Worship
20 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	21 6:30P Elders/Governing Board	22 10:00A Adult Bible Study [-----Pastor	23 7:00P Choir In Nebraska*-----	24 10:00A Prayer Shawl -----	25 -----]	26 5:30P Worship
27 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	28					