



CROSSlink

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

March 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

“He is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love” Folks, as I have been listening and observing these past few weeks, I have noticed some subtle things about how growth is taking place among us. Many have become much better at listening to one another. Many have shown great patience and respect to one another as various perspectives and insights are shared. Overall, being gracious and merciful with one another! In other words, reflecting the abounding steadfast love of God for all people!

FOLKS, I SEE THE PIECES COMING TOGETHER!! THINGS ARE HAPPENING – PRAISE GOD!
Here are a few examples:

Kids for Christ has started up again and is doing GREAT! Special thanks to all involved!

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Class & Fellowship is meeting on many Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Great group of kids and I am hopeful that we will be able to keep some activities scheduled through the summer.

Live Streaming – Audio & Video Upgrades are close to happening. Watch for news!

Church Web Page – we are close to being able to make some major improvements. Again, watch for news!

Interim Task Force will soon be up and running. A key step for us all will be when they are able to make their report to the church. They will report on our strengths, identified issues of weakness or opportunity, what has been done, what is being planned, and what we believe our key signature ministries should be going forward. A big part of what they will work with is the various notes and comments that have been shared with Pastor Meyer as part of the Cottage Group Meetings.

Financial Committee has been formed and is meeting to determine recommendations we can share with the congregation on how to best use and designate for use financial resources that have been entrusted to our care by our Lord.

We want to make certain that we do not become guilty of ‘burying our talent’ from God. (See Matthew 25:14-30 *The Parable of the Talents*.) Instead, we want to be wise and faithful to God in making use of our gifts according to the purpose that God has in mind.

Consecrated Stewards or some other such stewardship resource is being considered for late April, early May. Again, watch for news. I plan for us to have fun with whatever we might do to help reflect the ‘joy of giving’ that can come from counting our blessings from God and returning the first portion to Him with thanks and praise! In this exercise we may well have our eyes opened to the many possible ways that God could indeed bring about among us an expansion of current and new ministries that right now might seem impossible dreams.

Nothing is Impossible with God

What God is calling and asking of us at Holy Cross are ministries that He has and will continually provide for. All we have to do is trust Him, be good and wise stewards, and follow where He leads.

I do NOT have the inside scoop on all the details of where God is indeed leading Holy Cross. I believe that together, in ongoing prayer, open conversation, and faithful stewardship we will continue to see the pieces come together. I believe you will see a beautiful mosaic come together of the ministry, care and support that God has in mind for us all!

Things are being discussed, shared and considered! Please know that there have been some great ideas shared and insights gathered from our Cottage Group meetings. Close to 100 people took the opportunity to share with one another some of their thoughts, insights, concerns and dreams for the ongoing and future ministry of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

What was shared in conversation (and written down) will be given to the Interim Task Force for their consideration as they develop their report for the congregation.

What are some of the ideas being shared?

(these are some that come quickly to mind....)

1. How to help empower and enable ministry to happen more easily among us while avoiding the barriers that have discouraged many past initiatives. Addressing the culture of perfectionism and wanting best value (that remains out of reach) which can keep us from doing something now that is very good.
2. Review how we might improve our governance structures and procedures for the purpose of expanded ministry encouragement and empowerment.
3. Restart our Holy Cross Preschool
4. Start a Christian childcare where the love and Word of Jesus is lived and shared!
5. Get more closely connected with nearby quality Lutheran and Christian schools.
6. Again have a scholarship fund to assist our children in attending such schools.
7. Look for ways to support/encourage staff and students at our local high school across the street from our church.
8. Telecare – Shepherding Program – Staying in touch with members and working to reestablish/make a connection with Holy Cross.
9. Become more staff driven in our effort to expand and be more consistent in our various church ministries. Most, if not all, of such staff would be part-time: e.g.,
 - a. IT Manager
 - b. Web Page Manager
 - c. Extra secretarial assistance
 - d. Volunteer Coordinator
 - e. Director of Youth/Young Adult/Family Ministries
 - f. Director of Christian Outreach and Community Involvement
10. Repair/replace stain glass windows
11. New flooring in church and fellowship hall.
12. Beautiful North drive and added parking.
13. Committed annual missions support.
14. Expand fellowship opportunities for our church family and community.
15. Expand number and variety of Christian education resources for our members.
16. Create a Wish List of items for which financial gifts would be accepted.

Yes, I can hear some already asking how we could afford such things. A good question that must be answered, ultimately by God. Yes, we cannot do what we do not have the funds and commitments to cover. But, trusting that God will give us the ability, people and resources to do what He desires of Holy Cross in our ministry, we can plan for such ministry! The key is knowing and trusting God's will and plan for us!

Another key question for us, that past years might help give insight to is this, "What can we no longer afford to NOT do?" Again, may God's will be done in ALL things!

"Return to the Lord" continues to be our theme for our season of Lent. I encourage you to continue or now begin a family worship habit:

RETURN TO THE LORD – DAILY

I encourage you to spend time daily in God's Word, devotion and prayer. I have personally enjoyed adding our Lenten Devotional Booklet to my daily devotions.

Each week, let us reflect and live the same passion expressed by the psalmist in Psalm 122:1: **"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD!' 'Return to the Lord your God.....'"** May we continue to grow in grace, patience and compassion toward all!

In Christ,
Pastor Meyer

Lenten Worship Opportunities

Please join us for midweek Lenten worship, March 4, 11, 18 and 24 at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary as we continue our series, "Return to the Lord".

A Look Ahead to Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday	April 1	6:30PM
Good Friday	April 2	Noon and 6:30PM
Easter Sunday	April 4	7:30AM & 9:30AM (sanctuary) 10:45AM (LOFT)

Prayer Vigil

We will once again be holding a prayer vigil starting on Good Friday, April 10 from 9:00PM to midnight and on Saturday, April 11 from 5:00AM to midnight. The vigil is divided into one hour time slots. Sign-up sheets are on the tables in the narthex and the LOFT lobby. Please pick a time that works for you and join us.

OWLS Happenings

OWLS will meet on Thursday, March 18 at noon in the lower level of the LOFT. Since we cannot travel yet, we will 'virtually' visit Ireland and enjoy traditions and foods from that corner of the world. Please, check the bulletin board for the latest information on sharing a meal in the Irish tradition.

Kids for Christ

Calling all 3rd-6th graders, "Kids for Christ" youth group has started up again and is in full swing. Come and join in the fun. We are growing rapidly and everyone is having a great time. Meetings are Thursdays 7:00pm-8:30PM in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there! For questions, please contact Sue Anderson or Jean Hoger.

Road Closure March 14

The HillStrider's annual ½ marathon is scheduled for Sunday morning, March 14. **Three Oaks from Elden to First Street will be closed from 7:15AM until approximately 8:45AM.** Entrance to our parking lot from First Street will still be open. Three Oaks Road from First Street to South Rawson might have intermittent road closures from 7:40AM – 8:50AM.

March

	<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 6:30P Lenten worship 7:00P Kids for Christ 7:00P Confirmation	5	6 10:00A Confirmation 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 6:30P Lenten worship 7:00P Kids for Christ 7:00P Confirmation	12	13 10:00A Confirmation 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	18 Noon OWLS 6:30P Lenten worship 7:00P Kids for Christ 7:00P Confirmation	19	20 10:00A Confirmation 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 7:00P Confirmation	26	27 10:00A Confirmation 5:30P Worship
28 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT)						

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