

Holy Crossings

Our Mission... to seek, share, and serve our Savior

April 2018

The Body of Holy Cross

Who is the body of Holy Cross? In Romans 12:4-8; we read "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others, we have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."

I would ask you to prayerfully consider what talents God has given you and how those talents might fit into Holy Cross Lutheran Church. We are in need of some new individuals to serve on boards as member's terms come to an end or have difficulty completing their commitments. Two positions that are currently open and need immediate filling; our Sunday School Superintendent and Congregational Secretary. If your talents lie in these areas please contact Mike Hentges (Chairman), Mike Harvey (Vice Chair) or a Board of Stewardship member.

For your information as you pray about your talents, here is a bit of background information. We run on a Fiscal year (July through June) and positions would start in July of 2018. Most board positions are a 3-year term with an option for a 2nd term if desired. Our boards are as follows: Elders, Education, Missions and Social Ministry, Stewardship, Trustees, and Youth.

Please keep these boards in your prayers through the year that they may deal with the various needs of the body of Holy Cross and consider where your talents might fit into this Body of Christ.

Our Mission: Seek, Share, and Serve Our Savior.

God's Blessings on you all during this Spring Season.
Michael Harvey (Vice Chairman)

Congregational Voter's Meeting

Sunday, April 29, 2018 --- 12:30 pm

Church potluck will follow the late service at 12 noon. A sign-up sheet for the potluck is on the bulletin board in the Commons area. The meeting will cover board and pastor reports, election of officers, and approval of the 2018-2019 budget. If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Mike Hentges (Chairman).



Easter Sunday

April 1, 2018

Sermon:

"Jesus is on the Loose!
Let the Adventure Begin!"

Texts:

Revelation 21:5 and
Mark 16:1-8

Jesus is risen from the dead and loose in Galilee where the disciples will see Him.

MORNING SCHEDULE

8:15 am

Traditional Service

9:15-10:30 am

**Deluxe Continental
Easter Breakfast**

10:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt (Inside)

11:00 am

Contemporary Service

EASTER Season Sermon Series

April 8, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Theme: "EASTER - 'Eye Opening'
Jesus Is Real, Thomas Sees
the Risen Lord Scars and All"

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Synopsis: Jesus helps Thomas believe
in the Resurrection asking
him to see and touch the
evidence of Jesus' nail
pierced hands, feet and
spear pierced side.

April 15, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Theme: "EASTER - 'Attest to the
Humanity of Jesus and Attest
to His Forgiveness'"

Scripture: 1 John 3:1-7

Synopsis: Christ shines the light of
forgiveness and
reconciliation into the
darkness of sin.

April 22, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Good Shepherd Sunday

Theme: "EASTER - 'Shepherding' -
The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Scripture: John 10:11-18

Synopsis: Jesus is the Good Shepherd
who lays down His life for
His sheep.



Considering a Missional Home Group?

Please attend an initial introduction April 8,
during Sunday Morning Bible Class Hour
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Training Class Opportunities

Saturday, April 14 at 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

or

Tuesday, April 17 at 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM



April 29, 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Theme: "EASTER - 'Twigs' - Bearing
Fruit by Remaining Only in
the True Vine"

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Synopsis: Jesus is the vine. We are
the branches.

May 6, 2018

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Confirmation Sunday

Theme: "EASTER - 'Everything' -
Jesus Has Shared
Everything, His All, Word
and Love"

Scripture: John 15:9-17

Synopsis: Jesus Has Shared Everything
He has learned from the
Father to His Disciples.

May 13, 2018

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Theme: "EASTER - 'Risen Up' - The
Lord Keeps Us Looking Up"

Scripture: John 17:11b-21

Synopsis: Jesus raises the disciples
and us up in prayer.

An Easter Prayer

Almighty God, through Your
only-begotten Son, Jesus
Christ, You overcame death
and opened to us the gate of
everlasting life. We humbly
pray that we may live before
You in righteousness and
purity forever; through the
same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen.



Sunday Schedule

8:15 AM
Traditional Worship

9:45 AM
Adult Bible Study
and Sunday School

11:00 AM
Contemporary Worship

The Lutheran Hour

The Lutheran Hour can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am. And it can be streamed online too, www.lhm.org. Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.

April 1

"They Were Afraid, You Know?"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Meyer

It takes a lot to overcome fear, a lot of words, in fact a lifetime of words. Let this Easter Day be a new beginning of trusting Jesus' words of resurrection and life!

(Mark 16:1-8)

April 8

"It's Really Real"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Here's the deal. If Jesus actually rose from the dead, it would be wise to believe in Him because there will be salvation in no one else. If He didn't rise, we're all toast. Tune in to today's message and hear why you can be confident Jesus' resurrection is really real.

(1 John 1:1-3)

April 15

"Peace to You"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Meyer

Christians often say, "The Lord be with you." What does that look like? And how do you know Jesus



Is indeed with you? Jesus' visit to His first disciples shows us the how and what of confidence in Christ.

(Luke 24:36-49)

April 22

"What's in a Name?"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus
We live in a disposable age. If something wears out, breaks down or is lost, we replace it. But who or what can replace Jesus? Who else can save us?

(Acts 1:42)

April 29

"The Answer to Unhappiness"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Michael Newman

What do you really want? What does your heart yearn for most? A blogger recently asked her readers the question: "If you could say in one word what you want more of in life, what would that be?" Can you guess the number one answer? It was happiness.

(Acts 8:26-40)



LWML

Spring Rally

Holy Cross will be hosting our Spring Rally on Saturday, April 21st. Join us for a time of fellowship, singing and lunch.

The Rev. Dr. William Utech is the Mission Executive at the MN South District office and will be our guest speaker. Registration and coffee will be at 9:30 am, with the program beginning at 10:00 am. Tickets are \$10 and will be available from Vicki Case or Pat Harvey.

Our **Gifts from the Heart** will be Baby Kits, that will be distributed to three Christian pregnancy and family agencies as well as Hospice Kits that will be distributed world-wide through Global Health Ministries in Minneapolis. Further information concerning the Kit contents will be available at the LWML bulletin board.

Bible Bookenders (Book Club)

"Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger, is our next Bible Bookenders book. Copies of the book are available for checkout on the counter or in our church library located in the Youth Room.



Holy Cross Youth Lock-In

Friday, April 13

7:00 pm

Youth, bring your friends for a night of Christian fun and fellowship!

Prayer Request for Mission



The Wittenberg English Ministry (WEM) program started as part of a sabbatical program in 1996. It has continued and grown into a program that serves the Town Church and Castle Church in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany. English services are offered each Saturday evening during tourist season; May through October. Chapel services are also offered on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Lutheran Pastors from USA, Canada and Australia are committed to serving this community in two-week blocks.

Holy Cross member, Rev. James Fuchs applied to the program over two years ago. After being vetted he was put on a waiting list and told it would be between 2019 and 2021 before he rose to the top of the list. However, he checked the box "available to serve on short notice" and a cancellation sent his name to the top of the list. Pastor Fuchs will be serving as a WEM pastor May 1-15, 2018. Please keep Pastor Fuchs in your prayers as he prepares for and will be serving in this special outreach ministry at the church where Luther nailed the 95 theses.

For more information about the WEM program, please refer to their website: <http://www.wittenbergenglishministry.com>



Call Day 2018

Thomas Batchelder, a son of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, along with other candidates will receive their calls at the Candidate Call service on **Wednesday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m. (EDT)**. The service will take place in Kramer Chapel, and will be livestreamed at www.ctsfw.edu/daily-chapel and www.facebook.com/ctsfw for those who cannot join us in person.

"The whole Church comes together—pastors, congregations, district presidents, seminaries—and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, workers are sent into the harvest field," said the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey H. Pulse, director of Certification and Placement at CTSFW. "This is an awesome and humbling work."

To view more information about Call Day 2018, visit callday.ctsfw.edu.

Who's In Charge of . . . ?

We all know that it takes many volunteers for all the programs and services Holy Cross offers. Without their help we don't have Sunday School teachers, choir members, coffee servers, ushers and cut lawns just to name a few.

The Board of Stewardship wants to make sure that the work of the church gets done and that the people of the church know the needs of the church. Every so often we'll highlight groups, boards and needs so that you know who to contact and how to get involved.

Just like our homes the church always has things that need repairing or replacing. If you see something that needs repair, or you have skills that would be useful in maintaining the church building, sheds, parking lot, driveway and yard you'll want to talk to the Board of Trustees. Tracy Eickhoff and Rich Vannett are the current members.

A job that is needed every service and is great for those that like to work behind the scenes is the AV person, they run the soundboard and projection screen. Jason Eickhoff

oversees and trains this group of volunteers. Chat with him and find out how easy this very important job is to do.

Serving Him with You,
Joy Anderson, Janean Johnston and
Judy Weimer
Board of Stewardship



April Stewardship Article

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our savior. His atoning sacrifice is the firstfruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father – and ours – so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him.

He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood. As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word.

By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10).

How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving it generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support: your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that in so doing, you will never lack.

I can almost hear it now: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” But our Lord

Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents, “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings.

It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace, His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages just quoted do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. For “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things” (Rom. 8:32)?



Now may the God of peace ... equip you with everything good That You May Do His Will...

LCMS Missionary | Communication Specialist & Volunteer Coordinator



Nichelle Dykema, New Missionary
to Lima, Perú

I have arrived! This month marks the beginning of my final phase of training, both language and job shadowing, in preparation for serving in the mission field in Perú.

Early Thursday morning, March 1st, my parents graciously helped me load all FOUR of my suitcases into their truck and drove through the blowing snow to the airport to make sure I made it on-time with all my necessary luggage. Four suitcases is a lot, I know...I do. Really. I do.

In most cases, I'm actually a rather light packer. However, moving to not just one country, but two...there was NO way. Once I'm finished with training here in the Dominican Republic, I head straight to Perú. So, I had to pack everything in one trip. Thankfully, I had lots of help and all the bags made it the first try.

I arrived in Santiago around 9:00 pm local time, and my friends, roommates and fellow missionaries were waiting to welcome me to the island. It was SO nice to see a familiar face when leaving the airport. Makes it feel already a little bit like home! And for the next 2-3 months this will be my home.

The Regional Office for the Latin American and Caribbean Mission is located here in Santiago, but I wasted no time getting out of the city to see some of the other mission locations in the Dominican Republic. The day after arriving, I was invited to attend chapel with the kids at our school in Palmar Arriba (which has this AMAZING view).



Saturday, there was a worship service and fellowship dinner at our new church building in Licey and the congregation was making sancocho; Dominican specialty stew-style dish eaten at parties and events. I had stamps for mailing thank you cards and newsletters that featured sancocho and was so excited to have the good fortune to try it so soon after arriving! It was delicious!



After a very fast weekend full of meeting new people and getting settled, I'm starting to get adjusted to my new normal schedule. I have Spanish classes every day, which include very practical exercises that are helping me get used to speaking Spanish with native speakers. We have gone to the grocery store and cooked typical Dominican dishes this week. Plus, I will be sitting in on meetings, services, and visits in the area in the coming weeks.

There's a new park here in Santiago that just opened this weekend, so we had an impromptu team outing early this week to get some exercise and spend some time getting to know each other. It has been wonderful finally meeting in person many of the people I have only known through Skype or email, and I'm excited to be getting some experience helping the mission team here in Santiago, so I can go and help the mission team in Perú.



I'm excited to be bringing you updates from the Dominican Republic. Thank you SO much for all of your prayers and encouraging words that helped me to get here. And for your continued prayers as I prepare to serve in Perú.