

Holy Crossings

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

October 2019



One Voice for Public Policy MINNESOTA DISTRICTS

Friends in Christ,

I want to introduce one of the ministry staff at our District office who is a blessing and resource for our congregations. Rev. Fred Hinz is our public policy advocate for our MN. South and North Districts of the LCMS and offices at the MN. South District location in Burnsville. Every month Rev. Hinz shares concerns to the Districts' Pastors of what is happening in our state legislature in vital areas of Ethics that Christians and many religious families believe to be essential in culture. The moral and spiritual values are being challenged and changed that will hurt our communities and children and he encourages us to not stay silent but to let our representatives know that the vast majority of our state does not agree to these challenges and changes. However, Rev. Hinz has said many representatives haven't heard that the vast majority disagree and therefore, the representatives only hear from a very tiny minority that trust in a type of chronological evolution theory that humanity is moving quickly towards which is leading to deconstruction of natural law and truth of natural law.

This past month of September, Rev. Hinz asked our congregations in Minnesota as well as the called Pastors, Teachers, DCE's and other church workers, to share with our legislatures in the months ahead (including when the legislature is in session in St. Paul in 2020) our concern about the changing values and morals that we believe are eroding society in our state and the rest of the country. Here is an excerpt of these concerns:

"Dear Christian Friends,

'... creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible'.

It will come as no surprise to anyone when I say that the pace of change in our society has been, and continues to be, dizzying! In fact, so many elements of our cultural foundation have been overturned or called into question that it has become tempting to withdraw from the cultural conversation / battle entirely . . . to stop even trying to understand what's at the heart of it all . . . to stop investing effort in reigning in its many excesses. And for pastors especially, it's tempting to pretend that we might be justified in our lack of engagement because "these changes don't have a direct connection to the Christian Gospel, the proclamation of which is, after all, our primary calling." But nothing could be further from the truth!

Granted, today's cultural radicals generally do not directly attack the person and work of Jesus (2nd Article) or the person and work of the Holy Spirit (3rd Article), but they most certainly do attack the person and work of God the Father, "creator of heaven and earth" (1st Article). And why do they do so? They do so because they know as we do that the 1st Article serves as the necessary foundation for and the logical precursor of the two Articles which follow. Which is to say, they choose this as their target because they understand that to the same degree they can entice a person to God's creative powers, that person will also question His redeeming and sanctifying powers. *cont. on pg. 6*

October is Clergy Appreciation Month!

Here are some ideas of how you can show your thanks to Pastor Jim.

Pray for him on a consistent basis and tell him so, asking the Holy Spirit to fill him and he knows the Spirit's comfort and advocacy to the Father for him.

Write a note and let him know you are praying and what you are praying about: that God is glorified in all he does for the church, his family and all areas in his everyday life. That God's will is accomplished at Holy Cross and in our community.

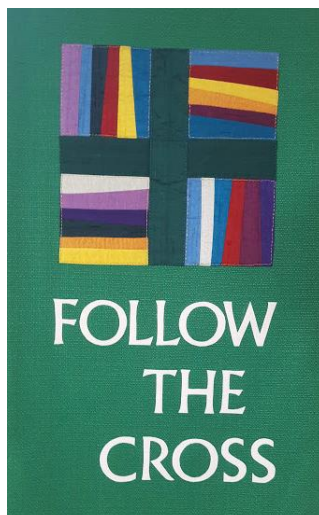
Phone call or text and ask him, "How can I pray for you this week Pastor Jim?"

Share a handshake, or a hug, and say "thank you".

Google it for some more ideas!

A prayer: *Dear God, as our dear Father, You have sent pastors as Your undershepherds to care for Your sheep. May we appreciate and support the men called into Your holy ministry. Help us to heed their admonitions and receive their absolution and forgiveness, all in Your name, that we rightly respect their office as we respect You and so that all faithful pastors' labor for You brings them joy. Amen.* (from Portals of Prayer, July-Sept. 2019)

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you." *Hebrews 13:17*



October Sermons



Oct. 6, 2019

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost LWML Sunday

Theme: Christ Does the
Hard Work

Text: **Luke 17: 1-10**

Oct 13, 2019

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: God's Hand Leads Us

Text: **Ruth 1:1-19a**

Oct 20, 2019

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: The Wrestling Match
That Takes Everything
Out of You for Our
Good!

Text: **Genesis 32:22-30**

Oct 27, 2019

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Reformation Sunday

Theme: Blinded by Sin, Self
and Satan! Healed by the
Savior!

Text: **John 8:31-36**



Sunday Schedule

8:15 AM

Traditional Worship

9:45 AM

Christian Education Hour

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.



October 6

"Homeward"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The spiritually homeless people of the modern world have written God out of their story, but God remains the one Way home.

(Genesis 11 - 12:9)

October 13

"Faith Unafraid"

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti

Genesis Series - People sometimes talk of "cutting a deal." In times past, this was more than a figure of speech!

(Genesis 15)

October 20

"The Lamp of the Body"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Genesis Series - (Zeigler:) "If your heart is full of light, then your eyes shine with generosity and grace, and your body follows the light. If your heart is full of darkness, then your eyes are obscured with fear and greed, and the rest of you follows suit."

(Genesis 16)

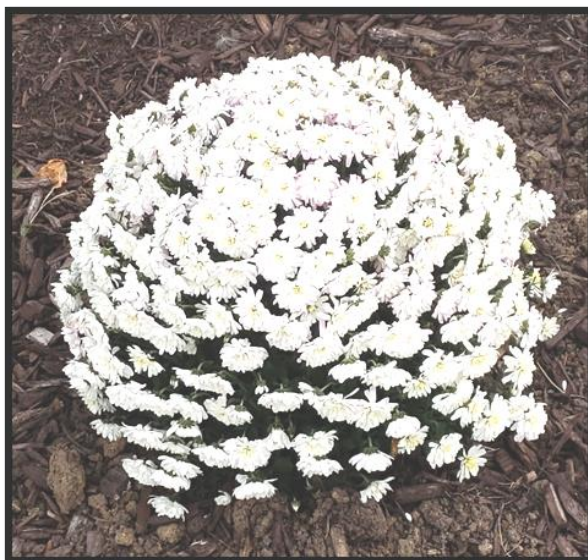
October 27

"Walk with Me"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Genesis Series

(Genesis 17)



Vacation Bible School SAVE THE DATE!

Super Saturday VBS will be Saturday, November 16th

There will be morning sessions, lunch and a short session following.

Crafts, song, food, games and best of all, Jesus will fill our Super Saturday VBS! We will be needing volunteers to join in the fun.

More details to come. Can't wait to help – talk to Pam Hunter!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – November 2019

St. Paul wrote to the Church of Christ in Corinth: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7). God loves a cheerful giver. But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, Abel gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God's sight. Abraham was. By faith, Abraham prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel's God and they His people.

What more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything, yes, even His life, enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us – like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ – give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart – for the joy set before us – the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

We give thanks to Dinah & Karen for tending to the gardens this summer and to Rostina for her donation of plants. Also, to anyone else that tended the flowers and/or flower beds. As you read the newsletter please note all pictures were taken from the gardens here at Holy Cross. As I look at the beauty of each plant and flower, I can't help but think this is just a little glimpse of heaven.

Thank You!



WOMEN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Women's Ministry at Holy Cross offers education, inspiration, and service where faith and missions are the focus. We are Lutheran Women in Mission who are finding avenues to use our God-given talents as we meet the challenges to share the Gospel message.

The 2019-2020 Lutheran Women in Mission season is about to begin. Every month we will gather for either a Bible study, fellowship in-gathering or service project. Our time together will always be about faith and missions. I hope that you would drop in whenever your schedule allows. Below are the highlights of our activities through December.

September 23 – Ingathering Fellowship – 6:45pm at church
Come learn about our Shoe Away Hunger servant event for *Good in the Hood*.

Hostess – Vicki Case

Fall Rally – Oct. 5, 9:30am – St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Bloomington
A rally is a time for us to meet with other women from our sister churches. Sara Wippich will be the guest speaker along with the Trinity First Student Choir. See the poster at church for more details. Tickets are \$10 and include lunch. Carpooling available. Purchase tickets from Vicki Case or Pat Harvey.

LWML Sunday – October 6

Wear purple and help us celebrate 75+ years of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League!

October 21 – Bible Study and Servant Event – 6:45pm at church
Service Project – Shoe sorting for Shoe Away Hunger

Hostess – Pam Hunter

November 18 – Ingathering Fellowship – 6:45pm at church

Come for a time of devotion, fellowship and prayer as we look at all our blessings and thank the Lord.

Hostess – Joy Anderson

December 15 – Christmas Bake Sale between services. Money raised will go towards future mission projects.

December 16 – Christmas Treat Potluck and Fellowship – Watch for more details coming in November.

Calling all Thrivent Members

Are you a Thrivent Member? You may have free money to donate!

Looking for an easy way to help support Holy Cross? Look no further than Thrivent Choice, Thrivent Financial's member-advised charitable outreach program. Thrivent Choice lets eligible Thrivent members recommend where they feel Thrivent should distribute some of its annual outreach funding by choosing from thousands of enrolled churches and nonprofit organizations nationwide, including Holy Cross.

If you haven't yet participated in Thrivent Choice but would like to learn more about participating in it, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Or, you can contact your Thrivent Financial representative.



Contact Information Update

Has your address, phone or email changed? Have you told the church office? Check with the church office and see what we have on file for you and your family. Help us have accurate information in case we or other church members need to contact you. You may also email your information to holycross@holycross-pl.org

cont. from pg. 1

And so we can understand why the radicals have been so militant, for example, in advocating the teaching of evolutionary theory in public schools and the popular media while studiously ignoring the accumulating mountain of scientific evidence which now confirms the complete inadequacy of mutation and natural selection to explain the living world as we know it.

We can understand why, even in the face of natural law and millennia of lived human experience, the binary nature of human sexuality has been rejected along with the obvious complementarity of males and females.

We can understand why, having rejected the role of parents as the primary authority in the life of their children, they now push the State to mandate a new and radical sex-ed curricula in public schools which would effectively prevent children from developing the stable self-identity so essential to living a healthy and God-pleasing life. Indeed, taken as a whole, we understand why they are investing so heavily in a concerted effort to completely dismantle and redefine reality. So what are we to do in the face of such radical and multifaceted cultural project?

Well, **first and foremost it is essential that we return to the Bible . . . return to that one source from which we receive reliable information both about ourselves as human beings, about the created world in which we live, and about the God who created that world and us.** In short, we need to be serious about being 'in the Word.' Both we and our children need to be proactive in divorcing ourselves from those elements of our culture (schools, media outlets, and social and political organizations) which seem so intent on contradicting the Scriptures, and in particular, fostering doubt in God's creative power.

Second, we need to be regular in our prayer and strategic in our teaching, regularly including petitions in our corporate worship which ask God to restrain these efforts to distort God's good, created order and seizing opportunities in our preaching and teaching to point to the many evidences of God's creative power. Take the time to familiarize yourself with the compelling new scientific evidence which now so effectively discredits the basic claim of classic Darwinism, namely, that mutation and natural selection have the capacity to imitate the effects of a creative mind. (A key resource you might use is the new book [Darwin Devolves](#) by Michael Behe.)

And **third, seek out reliable sources of news and commentary so that you can stay current with our swiftly changing cultural circumstances.** To that end, allow me to recommend three sources I've found to be concise, timely and trustworthy: [The Colson Center](#). In particular, let me point you to their "Breakpoint Daily" offering. I've found it to be consistently accurate and insightful in dealing with the most pressing issues of the day from an orthodox Christian perspective. I highly recommend it! [The Family Research Council](#) [The Minnesota Family Council](#). " (by Rev. Fred Hinz Sept. 2019 LCMS Public Policy Advocate Minnesota South and North Districts; The LCMS)

Please pray to the Lord for our schools and the leadership in our state not to continue down a very dangerous and secular path that will lead away from the truth of creation, redemption, and loving one another by gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit as Christ first loved us and gave His life on the cross. For more information please go to the District Website and sign up for ministry updates from Rev. Fred Hinz.

Serving by grace through faith in Christ, our Lord,
Pastor Jim

NOTE: Bio: [Rev. Fred Hinz represents our concerns on public policy here in Minnesota and the LCMS in matters pertaining to life issues (pro-life vs. abortion and end of life issues vs. doctor-assisted suicide), issues related to marriage, family, and sexuality, and issues related to religious freedom, including parental choice in education. Pastor Hinz went to school at Trinity Lutheran School (Waconia), Mayer Lutheran High School, Concordia University, Nebraska, Chicago State University, and Luther Northwestern Seminary, Pastor Hinz has taught biological science at both the high school and college levels, owned and operated retail shoe stores, and served as a parish pastor in St. James, MN, and Gaylord, MN. In addition to active engagement in the public policy matters of the Synod, Pastor Hinz also advocates for the advancement of intelligent design theory.]