



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

Holy Crossings

April 2020

The following is from an e-mail sent out earlier with updates as needed.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus who is with us always and knows our needs even before we know them or ask. I'm very thankful to the Lord for our country and all the great communication our leaders are providing to us about the Covid-19 virus including how to best care for each other, our neighbors and community. We are all God's creation and children and we all need each other.

Our Church Leadership, Michael Hentges, Jimmy Anderson, Dave Albrecht, Rich Mobroten, Brit Weimer and I have been paying very close attention to all the information from the Synod and District leadership and of course our U.S. Government, CDC, WHO, State, Twin Cities, and County in order to care for our congregational needs. Based on the President of the United States and his staff's press conference earlier, we plan to not hold worship services from now through March 31, a 15 day window. The advice of not gathering in groups more than 10 will help our communities to slow the virus from affecting too many people all at once. Therefore, we will not meet together for at least two weeks at our Campus for worship, fellowship or ministry meetings and gatherings. The time may be extended past two weeks as we reassess week by week with our leadership team.

Our plans at this time **for the next 15 days** at Holy Cross are the following:

WORSHIP

Lenten Midweek Services will be replaced for the next two weeks (March 18 and 25) with an online video recorded message/sermon based on our "Eyes on Jesus" sermon series that will be available from our website by 6 pm, Wednesday evening or sooner. We hope to offer it also from our Facebook page. A post and/or email will be sent when available.

Sunday morning Services will be replaced the next two weeks (March 22 and 29) by either a live audio message/sermon through a free call in conference service (please see page 3 on how to connect) and/or a video recorded message again from our website/Facebook page.

BIBLE STUDY/DEVOTIONS

Sunday morning TBA. (if the live audio service works for the sermon/message; we will try the Bible study as well with the same phone in live system).

A Weekly Devotion for encouragement to support us and our neighbors during this difficult time will be shared online with a video recorded message and posted when available each week.

PASTORAL CARE & PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor Jim will contact you by phone/facetime/email/text to check in on each household every two weeks. If you would like to set up a particular time that works best please email or text him at pjjobst@gmail.com or cell phone 612-615-2939.

A Care team is being put together and will call weekly as well to connect with you for any needs you might have especially household items you may be running in short supply and unable to find.

SUPPORT/STAFF

To support the needs of our ministry financially including our staff, please feel free to mail offerings to the [church address](#). Mail will be gathered daily during the week.

Pastoral Staff will continue to serve their areas of ministry and plan for future ministry when we gather back together in person for our congregations needs. Best Practices in Ministry is available online for our staff, leaders and members for continued educational learning as well for our ministries. Website at Christ Church offering the audio Ministry session workshops: <http://www.cclphoenix.org/bpm-resources>

In conclusion, if you have any questions, concerns, or emergencies feel free to call, text, or email Pastor Jim from the information under Pastoral Care. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of His Holy Spirit be with you all!

Serving by grace through faith our Lord Jesus and You,

Pastor Jim



April Sermon Series

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

Theme: "The Time is Near! The Hour is at Hand!"

Scriptures: *Matthew 26:1–27:66*

Synopsis: The Passion of the Christ

April 12, 2020

Resurrection Sunday - Easter

Theme: "No Longer Separated from Christ's Glory! The Cross is Empty and so is the Grave!"

Scriptures: *Matthew 28:1–10*

Synopsis: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

Theme: "The Voice of Peace"

Scriptures: *John 20:19–31*

Synopsis: Jesus appears to His disciples who are behind locked doors.

April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Theme: "Jesus Opens Scriptures Revealing the Beauty of Grace"

Scriptures: *Luke 24:13–35*

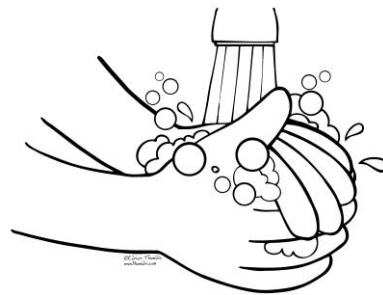
Synopsis: The disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord.

Looking Ahead May 3

Confirmation Sunday 11:00AM

STAYING HEALTHY

1. Before leaving home, determine if you feel well, have your normal amount of energy, note any soreness in throat, eyes, ears, or even a headache that is out of the ordinary. If needed take your temperature and please consider staying home if any of these symptoms are present to be on the safe side of spreading a virus or bacterial infection.
2. Please ask your children how they feel as they may not think about illness. Temperature might be the best way to determine how they are feeling but sometimes the temperature might follow later in a virus that is already active and giving other symptoms. Appetite and energy level are good indicators for children as well as if their school setting has a virus going around.
3. To prevent infection, please wash your hands often, especially after sneezing and/or coughing.



4. Hand Washing best practice: Lather with soap and scrub all parts of the fingers and hands. Handwashing with lathering and scrubbing takes about 15-20 seconds. After lathering and scrubbing, make sure to rinse 20 seconds under the streaming hot water the entire time all parts of the hands.
5. Refrain from handshaking, hugs, and keep a space of about 6 feet from each other for the time of the virus in the community.
6. Don't touch your face. Use a handkerchief, Kleenex etc... if needed. Remember to launder or dispose in trash.
7. Cover coughs and sneezing with handkerchief, clothing, or into the bend of your elbow.
8. Use hand sanitizers located as needed, but detailed handwashing is even better.



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 5

"There's Still Time"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
People can be unreceptive to God's love because they are very bad-or because they think they are very good. (*Exodus 11-12*)

April 12

"You Haven't Lost Me"

Speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(*Exodus 14*)

April 19

" The Great Pursuit"

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti
(*Exodus 15*)

April 26

" Rescue, Test, Rest"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(*Exodus 16*)

Looking for direction in these difficult times? Lutheran Hour Ministries is here to help.

Our products are free, easy, and digital so that you can use them in your home and share them with your friends, family, and congregation. Please visit www.lutheranhour.org

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE REMOTELY

We have set up for Sunday a means to either dial in by phone, or listen on your computer, to see/hear a live message from Pastor. We are using a service from Zoom to do this, and here's how you can join.

From your computer, at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, you can go to the following link to be connected. You do not have to have a microphone, but you will need sound:

<https://zoom.us/j/619855487>

You can also call into the service and just listen to the message. To connect by phone, call:

312-626-6799 (note: this is a long-distance number) When prompted, enter a meeting number of: **619855487**

If it asks you for a participant code, just hit #. This will also be recorded, and placed on the web site after the service is over. Everyone will be muted that joins - only Pastor will be able to speak. Mike Hentges will be standing by if you have trouble, you can call or text Mike at 612-718-2543 if you need help or have questions.

Blessings to all of you, we hope you find this service helpful as we follow the social distancing guidelines given to us.

OTHER RESOURCES FOR SERVICES

* Lutheran Hour-see times & topics in this newsletter

*Cross View Lutheran in Edina, MN. streams sermons online each Sunday morning 8:15 am and 10:45 am.

<https://www.crossview.net/worship/media.cfm>

*Concordia, San Antonio, professional video streaming

<https://www.concordia.cc/media/online>

*St. Paul's Lutheran in Prior Lake has their services on cable TV Mediacom 83

Difficult Times

Although we may not be gathering together Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings church work is still happening. We want to remember our church workers during these difficult times.

Ways you can continue to offer support.

*Continue to lift Holy Cross and all church workers up in prayer.

*Send cards or emails with words of encouragement. It gets lonely working alone in an office.

*Remember financially to support the church. You can mail your weekly offering or get set up with an automatic deduction from your bank account either weekly or monthly.

*Also, if you are a Thrivent member you can direct your choice dollars to Holy Cross.

Together with Christ all things are possible!

April Stewardship Article 2020

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article

On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church.

The most common question: "How much should I give?" But what they really mean is this: "Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?" So, let's look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn't* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn't tithe because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no "Thus saith the Lord" and no "should" for giving a tithe to your congregation.

Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe.

Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won't have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians *should* give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the *Small Catechism's* Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no

passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I'd expect that conversation would be something like this: "I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it."

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It's not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you're giving when you're giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.



O Lord my God you are my refuge and my strength. You are my ever-present help in times of trouble. When it seems like my world is crumbling around me and I am thrown around by the storms of my life, take away my fear. ... Remind me Lord that you are always with me, you will never leave or forsake me.

PRAYING, PLANNING, AND PROVIDING SUPPORT - ENHANCING HOLY CROSS MINISTRIES!

Online Audio Ministry Learning – Check It Out!

Best Practices in Ministry at Christ Church (LCMS) in Phoenix, AZ was attended last month by Jimmy Anderson, Janean Johnston, Laura Petrie, and me, Pastor Jim. Over 214 workshop sessions were offered from Thursday to Saturday afternoon Feb. 19-22. I wish everyone could have attend from our church, as it was a wonderful learning, encouraging and fellowship time with over 2500 church and lay leaders and professional church workers from teachers, DCE's, missionaries and pastors.

Listed below are many ministry topics that we would like you, our members, to review and see if there are several seminars about specific ministry areas that interest you and may help support ministries at Holy Cross. The link to the Best Practices website is also listed below for the entire audio selections for the workshop sessions and question and answer discussion that were part of the audio tracks at the end of the sessions. I hope you find at least one that interests you and encourages you in a ministry to share in.

Part of the List: Outreach; Worship; Youth; Education; Apologetics; Immigrant Ministry; Reaching Muslims with the Gospel; Missional House Churches; Discipleship; Small Group Ministry; Mental Health Ministry; Young Adult Ministry; Ministry to LGBTQ; Creation and Intelligent Design; Church Leadership; Confirmation Apologetics; Confirmation Technology; Technology Training and Ministry; Student Ministry; Grief Ministry; Raising up the Next Generation; How to do Online Church; Getting Women in the Word; Equipping Leaders; Equipping Members; Establishing Trust, Community, and Growth with Parents; Engaging Changing Communities; Cross Cultural Conflict; Compassion Fatigue; Church Mergers; Building an internship program; Website at Christ Church offering the audio Ministry session workshops: <http://www.cclphoenix.org/bpm-resources>

Please let Pastor Jim know if you do listen to some of the sessions and if a ministry interests you that we offer here at Holy Cross in order that he may give guidance who to connect with at Holy Cross. Ministries are guided by our mission statement. As a congregation we need to be praying and planning for ministry as well as seeing how the Lord is providing gifts in each member for the ministries we currently have for more members to join ministry that they can help enhance or are passionate about. Adding a new ministry is possible as well as we grow in new membership that then lends itself to being able to add ministry in supporting our members and most of all our community. Many in our community do not have a relationship with Christ or they may have one but have been disenfranchised with Christianity due to the brokenness of humanity. Our Lord wants people to keep faith or to learn about faith and wants for us to bring hope to our neighbors and friendship. The Lord calls us to engage weekly, and intentionally following Christ's lead, to make disciples of all nations through building relationships and friendships first and eventually, share the most important news for eternal life that Jesus is the Savior who loved us so much was willing to die in our place to save us from our self, the world and Satan's temptations. Jesus is the way, the truth and life, and only in Him, is salvation and new life. Life with Jesus even now brings a peace that surpasses all understanding and changes our hearts forever with love and forgiveness.

Again, please take a look at the online audio sessions from the BPM conference (some with power point slides) for ministry encouragement and areas of interest that the Lord has put on your heart to build with others at Holy Cross relationships in Christ. Then, please contact me if you would like more support in learning how to be part of this and or to enhance the ministry with the session(s). Thank you! (By Pastor James (Jim) Jobst)