

Holy Crossings

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

June 2020



CHURCH TO REOPEN SUNDAY JUNE 7, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Thank you for all the thoughtful feedback on re-opening services at Holy Cross. Under the new guidelines from Governor Walz, we plan to resume Sunday morning services starting on June 7th. For the near future, we will just have one service each Sunday, at 9:00 am.

This letter provides the criteria Pastor and the church leadership has developed together, to enable as many of us as possible to meet as safely as possible. We have considered issues of reverence, sanitation, social distancing, and amount of time spent in the church building.

We know some of these limitations will be unpopular, especially the lack of communion and singing and the use of masks. But we ask you to bear with us as we attempt to navigate through these times. We will also review these protocols periodically and adjust them as needed/possible.

Big picture, we will take a three-phase approach to re-opening:

- The first phase will be a simple church service without communion, without congregational singing, without handshaking or hugging, with masks, and with 6-foot social distancing between families.
- The second phase will add in communion and limited congregational singing, phased in as soon as possible.
- The third phase is fully reopened services, when a Covid-19 vaccine is hopefully available.

cont. on pg. 4



Summer Women's Bible Study on the Book of Nehemiah

Join us for a Summer Women's Bible Study on the Book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah is a wonderful example for us in today's world. Nehemiah prayed constantly and relied on scripture. Read over this great book in preparation of our study. Great background reading is the book of Ezra, which is right before Nehemiah.

Stay tuned for a schedule and dates we will be meeting as we work out meeting at church this summer.

Questions - contact Michele Lein. Join us and be changed by Scripture, the power of the Holy Spirit and the book of Nehemiah.



Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM Worship
In-house and online

9:45 AM
Virtual Christian Education

Father's Day Fun

Are you listening?

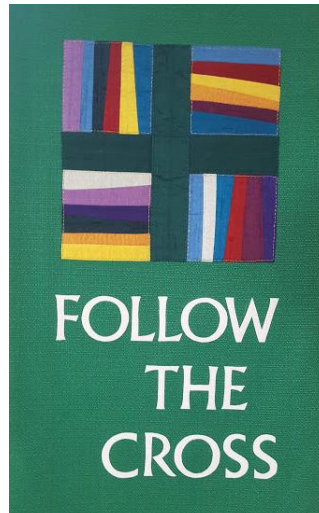
A father asked his 7-year-old son to say the mealtime prayer. "All right," the boy said. "Let's pray." When every head was bowed, the boy prayed, "Lord, we thank you for the pancakes we're going to eat tonight. Amen." "Jimmy," his mother said. "I think you should know we're having chicken, not pancakes, tonight." "I know," Jimmy answered. "I just wanted to see if God was paying attention."

Long Hair

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month, the boy came back and again asked his father, if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut."

The young man waited for a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samsom had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair!" to which his father replied, "Yes, you're right, and they also WALKED everywhere they went!"



June Sermons

Book of Romans Summer Sermon Series "Justified through Faith in Christ and the Spirit of His Grace"

June 7, 2020

Trinity Sunday

Theme: "Faith is the Crown of Life – God's Gift through Christ"

Text: Romans 4:13-25

Synopsis: What is impossible by man is possible with God. Living by Faith

June 14, 2020

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: The Great Exchange. Our Sin, His Death. Life Forever

Text: Romans 5:6-15

Synopsis: The Apostle Paul shares how one man brought sin to all; another Man brings Salvation to All

June 21, 2020

Third Sunday after
Pentecost & Father's Day

Theme: The Law Enslaves – The Gospel Set's Free

Texts: Romans 6:12-23

Synopsis: The Apostle Paul continues to preach how freedom is in Christ and the self, enslaves.

June 28, 2020

Fourth Sunday after
Pentecost

Theme: A New Life for New Purposes: Set Free from the Old Adam

Text: Romans 7:1-13

Synopsis: Dying to Sin by the law which is needed but Rising in a New Way of the Spirit.

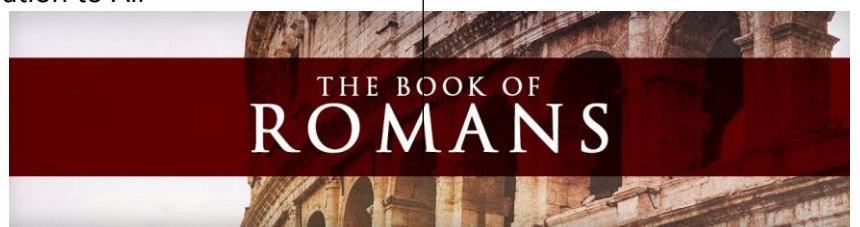
July 5, 2020

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Nothing Good Dwells in Me

Text: Romans 7:14-25a

Synopsis: Paul struggles with the sinful nature and the law never relents yet Christ is our Savior and everything is new and refreshing in Him.



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.



June 7

"An Undeserved Salute"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

"Blessing is a condition that's true even if you're not completely conscious of it or even if you don't fully appreciate it. Only God can bless in this sense. Jesus, sitting in God's spot on the mountain, speaks for God as the Son of God and He blesses." (*Matthew 5:1-16*)

June 14

"What You're Getting Into"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Many of us know what it's like to try out for a team, for a role in a play, or first chair in the band. We might have been chosen first. We might have been chosen last. We might not have been chosen at all. We might have been cut. So, how does God choose His team? (*Matthew 5:17-20*)

June 21

"Powered by Touch"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The human body can produce enough energy to power a tiny light bulb. Christ gives His followers power to light the entire world. Dr. Michael Zeigler reflects on the nature of that light and the power behind it. (*Matthew 5:21-32*)

June 28

"Practice Makes Perfect"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

When we want something to be perfect, we practice it over and over until it becomes part of us. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages His followers to practice being perfect, because God already sees them that way, through faith in Christ. (*Matthew 5*)

A DIFFERENT WAY TO GIVE TO HOLY CROSS

The Joyful Response Electronic Offering Program through Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) provides Holy Cross members a way to:

- Give offerings consistently.
- Never worry about forgetting their offering at home.
- Fulfill their stewardship promises.
- Share their financial blessings efficiently and predictably.
- Give while on summer vacation or wintering out of state.

Please contact the church office on how you can set up your offering electronically.



Give

Serve



Attend

Grow

Stewardship



Father's Day . . . More than a Day

Father's Day was first observed in America in 1910. In 1923 the third Sunday of June was set as the official day and in 1924 President Coolidge recommended its national observance. Today it has a fixed place in the calendar of special days in our country.

But devotion to and pride in fathers does not need to wait for official approval. As long as there have been families, love and respect for fathers has existed.

Letter cont. from pg. 1

This letter discusses our approach to the services in the first phase. Please read this letter through carefully, and let us know if you have any questions:

Before Service

* Please stay home if you are ill, showing symptoms of Covid-19, or concerned about your susceptibility to Covid-19. Likewise, if someone in your household is ill, please stay home.

* Wash your hands often. Frequent and thorough hand-washing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

* The church will be disinfected before Sunday Service.

* Because our church holds safely approximately 200 people, we believe that we can hold a single service during the summer months and will likely not exceed 25% of that capacity.

* These protocols will be available in the church in printed form for distribution. Social distancing guidelines will also be posted.

Arriving for Service

* If we can obtain it, there will be hand sanitizer at the entrance to the building.

* The entrance door from the parking lot will be propped open until service begins, to enable touchless entry.

* You will need to wear a mask when entering and exiting the building, and throughout the service, in consideration of your fellow congregants. (Please bring your own mask from home. If forgetting your mask we will have a very limited supply available.)

* Worship folders will be available, but will need to be picked up on the welcome table upon entrance, as the social distancing needs to be followed. Ushers will help assist in seating.

* In order to maintain 6 feet of space between family groups, we will be roping off every other pew. The ushers will help direct people to appropriate places to sit.

* It will be difficult, especially at first, but we will need to avoid shaking hands or hugging before the services. Please only greet each other observing the 6-foot social distancing indoors as well as outdoors.

During the Service

* There will be no communion at this time until safe practices can be initiated.

* There will be no congregational singing. We will have limited music and hope to have a soloist to sing the hymn of the day.

* Rather than taking an offering during the service, using plates that are passed from person to person, we will take the offering at the door following the service. Please remember that online giving is already available through our website.

* We will all wear masks inside the church building. Pastor will wear a mask and conduct the service from the chancel and altar areas. During the spoken parts, if needed, His mask may be removed. He will also deliver the sermon from the pulpit during this time.

After the Service

* To help the congregation move out of the sanctuary more quickly while maintaining social distancing, Pastor will not greet people at the door as he has usually done at this time.

* Please do not shake hands, hug, or touch people in greeting after the service, but do your best to maintain social distancing of 6 feet.

June Stewardship

The sin of the world is paid for. God's Law has been kept perfectly on our behalf. The prophecies have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has finished it all! And that, dear Christians, should fill us with complete confidence in our salvation. Since Jesus has finished all these things in His self-sacrifice, we can be fully certain our sins are forgiven, and we have everlasting life!

St. Paul wrote: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom. 12:1)

We hear the same teaching in 1 Peter. "As you come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)

It's the very thing Malachi foretold of the Lord, that He would come and purify His priestly people, that they may offer to Him an offering in righteousness. (Mal. 3:3) So, what does this mean? In view of God's mercies – that is, because Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us pure, giving His entire self into death – Paul said that we are to sacrifice ourselves entirely to God, offering Him our whole lives. For our Savior did not give Himself for us in part. So, we do not give back to Him in part.

We don't offer ourselves to God just on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, for example. Rather, we give Him our whole selves, all the time. We understand that offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices involves the giving of our time. It requires us to be faithful stewards of the time He has given us. Yes, it means we devote to our Savior all our time. Otherwise we are not sacrificing our whole lives.

You see, God both teaches us, and has graciously qualified us, to present ourselves to Him as living sacrifices – to live as His holy priests, who offer Him acceptable sacrifices through Jesus Christ, all day, every day, in our various callings.

In the passages from Romans and 1 Peter, we hear several examples of Christian self-sacrifice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, living peaceably with others, submitting to governing authorities and those over us in the workplace, wives submitting to husbands, husbands honoring wives, showing compassion, and suffering patiently in doing good.

In all these things, and in all our other everyday activities, we sacrifice ourselves by using our time, not just for our own benefit, but also and especially for the well-being of others. Work time, school time, exercise time, study time, mealtime, chore time, recreation and relaxation time, even sleep time – it's all God's gift to us to use for purposes that please and honor Him.

This challenges us to think about the way we spend our time, how we utilize our talents, and the way we spend our treasures. Whatever it is I'm doing, am I doing it "for the Lord"? (Col. 3:23) Am I presenting God a living sacrifice? Am I conducting myself as a holy priest, whose sacrifice is acceptable to God?

Because our Lord sacrificed Himself wholly for us, we offer ourselves wholly to Him as living sacrifices. This is following Jesus in self-sacrifice. By His saving mercy, yes, our sacrifice is acceptable to God. For the sake of Jesus' finished work, God is pleased with us.



Letter cont. from pg. 4

* We'll need to use the bathrooms one family at a time. Doors should be left open normally, but closed when in use. Paper towels should be used when leaving the restroom to open the doors.

* Please do not congregate in the narthex, but rather go outside on the grassy areas and knoll around the church to briefly greet one another.

Outside of the service

* We will continue live-streaming the Sunday morning service, for those who are unable to attend in person, and recordings of Sunday morning services will continue to be posted on the church web site.

* As long as there are executive orders limiting large gatherings, we will continue to forego in person group activities outside of the Sunday morning service until such orders are lifted and safety permits.

* Please continue to pray for one another, for our congregation, and for me, your pastor.

* Please also pray for our governor and for our community.

May our Lord keep us in His mercy. Amen.

Pastor Jobst & Holy Cross Elders and Officers