



CROSSlink

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www.HolyCrossCary.org

Worship Services:
Saturdays 5:30pm (Sanctuary)
Sundays 8:30am (Sanctuary)
Sunday 9:45 am Bible Study/Fish Club
Sundays 10:45 am (LOFT)

MARCH 2023

FROM PASTOR'S DESK

"Putting God In A Box"

Pastor Zac Patterson

There have been many times where religiously conservative Christians, such as LCMS Lutherans, get accused of "putting God in a box". What this often means is that these Christians are so set in their ways that they leave no room for God to work in His mysterious ways. And, yes, it is true that we shouldn't try to control God's actions. It would be futile if we ever tried to do such a thing, for God will always do what He wishes. But what if God puts Himself in the box? Let me explain.

Throughout Biblical history, God has always been with His people. From Adam and Eve all the way to current day, Jesus' promise is true, "I will be with you always, to the end of the age." But the ways that God has been with His people have been rather specific.

Let's start with Genesis 3. Adam and Eve had just fallen into sin when we get verse 8, "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden." We rightly confess that God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-present. However, this same God chooses to locate Himself in a being with a specific location, walking in the garden.

We then fast forward to Exodus 13. Here, God is present with His people, but in a very specific and unique way. "And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night." He goes with them, leads them, in the form of these two pillars. Note that these forms are not just to impress the people, but to help bring them out of Egypt, something truly for their good.

Once out of Egypt, God would change His location again. In Exodus 25, we hear of the making of the Ark of the Covenant. "They shall make an ark of acacia wood...You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out...You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold...you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark...There I will meet with you." Here, God quite literally puts Himself into a box, the Ark of the Covenant. Wherever the Ark would go, there God would be present. That Ark would later be put in the Tabernacle and, eventually, the Temple, where God's presence would dwell until the Exile.

Then comes Jesus, the very Son of God. He could have come in any form or fashion, but He chose to become a human being. We hear this in John 1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." It is in the person of Jesus, in human flesh, that God's presence would now dwell with His people. Jesus is even described as the Temple in John 2, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up'...But He was speaking about the temple of His body."

It is in the person of Jesus that the presence of God would dwell with His people from then until even today. But even though He has ascended to the right hand of the Father, He is still present with us in a very specific way: the Lord's Supper. Remember Jesus' words in the upper room, "Take and eat, this is My body...Take and drink, this is My blood." Jesus chooses to be present with us physically, His

body and blood, in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. He could have chosen a more flashy and impressive means of being with us, but He chose bread and wine.

When it comes to the statement, "you shouldn't put God in a box", that is absolutely true. You cannot tell God what to say or do. He's God, He'll do what He wants. But, if He decides to put Himself in that box to be present with us, who are we to say no?

Easter Season Service Schedule:

Wednesday, March 1, 7:00pm - Lent Worship
5:30-6:30pm - Light Meal

Wednesday, March 8, 7:00pm - Lent Worship
5:30-6:30pm Light Meal

Wednesday, March 15, 7:00pm- Lent Worship
5:30-6:30pm - Light Meal

Wednesday, March 22, 7:00pm - Lent Worship
5:30-6:30pm - Light Meal

Wednesday, March 29, 7:00pm – Lent Worship
5:30-6:30pm – Light Meal

Sunday, April 2, 8:30am Palm Sunday
10:45am Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 9, 8:30am- **Easter Service**
10:45am – **Easter Service**
8-10:30am Easter Breakfast

****Watch for info on the Easter Egg Hunt!!!!**

LENT DINNERS AND EASTER BREAKFAST HOSTS:

Thank You all for serving!!

Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday Hosts: Governing Board

March 1 Hosts: Diane Perrone & the OWLS

March 8 Hosts: Choir

March 15 Hosts: "Potluck" – Please bring a dish to share

March 22 Hosts: Janssen Family

March 29 Hosts: Elders

Easter Breakfast Hosts: Holy Cross Youth

Help is always needed for set-up and clean-up, so lend a hand if you are able!

CARDS AND CALLS MINISTRY

We would like to begin a "Cards and Calls" ministry. Asking for volunteers who would like to send a card, note, or call once a month to our Holy Cross members who are less mobile (home bound) and to members needing a renewed connection. We are asking for a one year commitment. We want to stay in contact with them to help them feel loved and connected to Holy Cross. If you would like to volunteer for this outreach ministry, call Elaine at for more information.

DINE TO DONATE

Every Sunday, at the Crystal Lake Texas Roadhouse, 10% of your food bill will be donated back to Holy Cross when you bring in your church bulletin, flyer, or mention our church name. Call ahead seating 815-356-7427!

JULIET'S BOOK CLUB

JULIETS will be meeting at Panera in Fox River Grove on Monday, March 6th at 6:00 pm. We will be discussing chapter 7 on Mary and Martha of Bethany from the book "The Women of the Bible Speak" written by Shannon Bream. Join us and bring a friend for a lively discussion.

FISH CLUB

Please join us- 3 to 8 years old- every Sunday from 9:35am - 10:30am in the Lower LOFT! We're sure the kids will grow in their relationship with Jesus and meet a few new friends along the way.

KIDS FOR CHRIST

Kids for Christ meets from 5-6:30pm. Dinner will be provided. KFC is for all kids grades 1-8. This includes Confirmation instruction for grades 7-8.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Holy Cross Lutheran School is now enrolling for Preschool 3 through First Grade. For more information, check our website or call the school office at 847-639-6533. Tell your friends and neighbors!!! Spread the Word for a Christian Based Education!!

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Holy Cross Lutheran School is seeking a full-time teacher/assistant principal for the 2023-2024 school year. The right candidate must be ministry minded. Duties include teaching a combined classroom of either preschool/kindergarten or kindergarten/first grade, supervising before or after school care, and teaching all subjects for a full school day. Great pay and benefits. Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood, Elementary Education, or a closely related field. To apply, send a resume to Chrissy Heiss at preschool@holycrosscary.org. Those interested can also call the school office at 847-639-6533.

LWML

LUTHERAN WOMEN of the Northern Illinois District will meet on Saturday, March 18 for a Lenten Inspiration with President Allan Buss and others for a full day. St. John's Church in LaGrange is hosting the event. More information and registration forms are on the LWML bulletin board or at [Lutheran Women's Missionary League – Northern Illinois District](#)

LUTHERAN WOMEN from across the U.S. will meet in convention in Milwaukee Wisconsin June 21-25, 2023. In preparation, women of Holy Cross will be gathering items in April and May to take to the convention and pack into hygiene kits to be sent to disaster areas. Watch this Newsletter and weekend bulletins for more information. Consider attending the convention for one day or the entire time. You will benefit from this experience and see where MITE money is spent on missionary projects. Workers for the convention (men, women and teens) are needed, too.

OWLS

OWLS will meet on Thursday, March 2 in the lower LOFT to share lunch and an afternoon with friends. Nancy Israel will host and provide the opening devotion at noon and bring dessert for us. Easter bags for shut-ins and homebound friends will be packed. A list of items needed for the bags is posted on the OWLS bulletin board. Check it out and see what you may decide to contribute.

OWLS will be going out for lunch at an Irish pub in Dundee on Thursday, March 16 at noon. We can carpool from church at 11:30 a.m. or meet there. More information and a sign-up sheet are posted for you to check out.

NEW MEMBERS

✠Baptized into Christ on 2-12-23: Luciana, Henry and Madelyn. Welcome! ✠
Welcome! Adam and Lauren to our Holy Cross Family!

Lent

W Q K P G N I T S A F P K V K F L
P O A S H W E D N E S D A Y C Z R
S N R E C I F I R C A S T N R K L
R S L R V Z K Y N B N N S N U K B
H C E W O F X P G N E E M O C E D
M R P N H S J B G L H F X I I E N
C X C N E F Y N P S T P G T F W J
V R G W B V I M A P E R N A I Y Q
T N O B M R I P T A P A I I X L J
P R H S P N T G S H M Y V L I O K
L E L S S Q P T R R K E I I O H W
B N N L Q R E F M O K R G C N V B
Z X N A E R G K T C F K S N H R C
B R N P N R F B L T C F M O C K K
T K A F B C J N K L K K L C P M Q
W R N M Y L E X C R Q C A E L V J
E L M E D I T A T I O N Y R Q F C

almsgiving
ashes
ash wednesday
cross
crucifixion
easter
fasting
forgiveness
holy week

lent
meditation
penance
prayer
prepare
reconciliation
sacrifice
sorrow
spring

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!!



HOLY CROSS Invites Children to Stellar VBS: Shine Jesus' Light!

A summer kids' event called Stellar VBS will be hosted at **Holy Cross** from **June 19 to 23, 2023 from 5:00-7:30pm**. At Stellar, kids discover how they can shine Jesus' love and hope in everyday life! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, devour yummy dinner, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of Jesus' light, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Cosmic Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at **7:15**.

Kids at Stellar VBS will join a missions effort to provide Bibles for families in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Stellar is for kids ages 3 (potty trained) through rising 5th graders. The cost is \$35 per child and includes a T-shirt and dinner each night. **Ages 6th grade through adult are encouraged to volunteer.** To register your child or sign up to volunteer, use this link:

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/holycrosscaryvbs>. REGISTRATION OPENS ON MARCH 15, 2023.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!!!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30-6:30pm Lent Dinner 7:00pm Lent Service "Wisdom"	2 12:00pm OWLS 5-6:30pm K4C 6:45pm Compline Service	3	4 5:30pm Worship
5 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study/Fish Club 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	6 6:00 pm Juliet's Meeting At FRG Panera	7	8 5:30-6:30pm Lent Dinner 7:00pm Lent Service "Praise"	9 10:00am Prayer Shawl 5-6:30pm K4C 6:45pm Compline Service	10	11 5:30pm Worship 7:00pm Taizé Service
12 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study/Fish Club 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	13	14 3:45pm Board of Ed Mtg. 5:30pm Elder Meeting 7:00pm Cultured Pearls 7:00 Dartball Home MCH	15 VBS Registration Begins!! 5:30-6:30pm Lent Dinner 7:00pm Lent Service "Lament"	16 12:00pm OWLS 5-6:30pm K4C 6:45pm Compline Service	17	18 5:30pm Worship
19 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study/Fish Club 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	20	21 6:30pm Governing Board	22 5:30-6:30pm Lent Dinner 7:00pm Lent Service "Trust"	23 10:00am Prayer Shawl 5-6:30pm K4C 6:45pm Compline Service	24	25 5:30 pm Worship
26 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study/Fish Club 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	27	28 Dartball- Away- Isl. Lk.	29 5:30-6:30pm Lent Dinner 7:00pm Lent Service "Messianic"			

March 2023