



CROSSlink

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260.804.3154 Pastor Patterson
847.639.6533 School Office
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)

April 2024

FROM PASTORS DESK

“ Easter Sermon “

Pastor Zac Patterson

The sermon that I preached this Easter Sunday has elicited different reactions; some very happy with it, others not so much. I wanted to take time in this month’s article to explain more about why I preached what I preached. If you have questions or disagreements, please come talk with me as I desire to faithfully serve this congregation.

As you all know, pretty much every church deals with the trouble of a chunk of the membership only attending church on Christmas and Easter. Many have even given them nicknames such as “Chreasters” or “CEO (Christmas/Easter Only) Christians”. This, of course, is not what any of us want to see. We want to have the joy of them attending regularly with us. We hear of that joy of Christian fellowship in Acts 2, “And all who believed were together and had all things in common...and day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts...” We also hear in Scripture that the Church is the body of Christ, as St. Paul writes in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. The body is not to be separate but joined together in joy and fellowship.

The difficulty in this is that many of these people are accustomed to only worshipping twice a year and see that as being perfectly normal and okay. However, this is not what Scripture says. We see this in Hebrews 10, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some...” We don’t want their practice of worshipping only twice a year to continue, for their good and for the good of the Church. Some think that if we just share the Gospel and are nice, then they will eventually break their bad habit of skipping church. However, in Scripture, when we see people not acting according to God’s Law, it’s usually the proclamation of the Law from the Prophets, the Apostles, and even Jesus Himself that calls them out of that behavior.

C.F.W. Walther, the first president of the LCMS, wrote this thesis (Thesis 8) in the book, *The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*,

“In the fourth place, the Word of God is not rightly divided when the Law is preached to those who are already in terror on account of their sins or the Gospel to those who live securely in their sins.”

To summarize his lectures, he says that those who are sorry for their sins shouldn’t be given the Law, but the comfort of the Gospel and, likewise, those who are fine with sinful behavior shouldn’t be given the Gospel, but the sternness of the Law. This is done to bring them to repentance, that their lives might change and shift to be in accordance with Scripture.

This is what I tried to do with my Easter sermon. To the faithful, I preached about the joy that the Resurrection of our Lord brings. To those who I hadn’t seen since Christmas or last Easter, I preached that this

is not pleasing to the Lord and His Church and that they should change their ways and join in worship regularly with the body of Christ. I tied this with the women initially fleeing the tomb in fear and inaction after hearing the wonderful news that Jesus is alive. All of this was preached that those who are stuck in the habit of not attending church would be convicted, repent, and join us in fellowship and joy.

This was probably the most uncomfortable I've ever been when preaching a sermon; it was not a fun sermon to preach. However, seeing people year after year set aside only two hours for Jesus and His Church and being told that is fine, I felt led in my vocation as Pastor to preach the Law to those who are secure in this behavior. I pray that the Holy Spirit, who alone creates and nourishes faith, will work through those words to bring more people to the comfort of His gifts given in church.

Again, if you have questions or thoughts for me, please share them with me. I ask that you please put the best construction on me, "since love covers a multitude of sins." I only desire to be faithful in my calling and proclamation of the Word of God, that people would hear and believe, entering eternal salvation with all the saints. Please pray that those who heard this Easter message would take it to heart and that the Holy Spirit would bring them into this fellowship.

"MORE FOR '24"

Our "Progress Thermometer" is up in the Narthex. Please find the school kids handprints thanking you for your "helping hands" in promoting and supporting our School Ministry! Let's work to meet this goal which brings Christ into the lives of these children!

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Cross Lutheran School is now enrolling for the 24-25 school year. We're offering grades Pre-K through grade 4, plus hybrid homeschool options. For more information or a school tour, contact Mrs. Chrissy Heiss at the school office at 847-639-6533. Tell your family, friends, and neighbors!

NEW OPPORTUNITY

Holy Cross Lutheran School is seeking an extended care assistant for the 24-25 school year. The hours are 6:45-9:15 am Monday-Friday. Interested applicants may contact Chrissy Heiss, Principal at 847-639-6533 or email principal@holycrosscary.org

Help Holy Cross Lutheran School with snacks!

Fill a box for us (or put something in the kitchen refrigerator) with some of the following ideas:

Craisins	Go-Go Fruit	Ranch Dressing
Raisins	Crackers	String Cheese
Cheerios	Animal Crackers	Pretzel Sticks
Go-Gurt	Vanilla Wafers	Clementines
Skinny Pop	Small Round Tortilla Chips	Kix Cereal
Apples	Salsa	Graham Crackers
Bananas	Carrots	Sliced Cheese

These snacks are needed throughout the school year. *Thank you for continued donations!*

TRUSTEES NEEDED

Many hands make light work, and we are blessed with this large facility! Trustees are looking for handy, reliable volunteers to join their group. Contact Joe .

NEW MEMBER CLASS:

We will be offering our winter New Member Class started March 7 at 6:45pm and will be continuing weekly on Thursdays through April 25. (No class on March 28-Maundy Thursday) This class will include 7 one-hour sessions, one per week. If you are interested in membership at Holy Cross, want to learn more about what our church believes, or you're a member who needs a refresher on what Lutherans believe, this class is for you. Contact Pastor Patterson if you are interested.

PRAISE TEAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Liz or church office 847-639-1702

- **Vocalists, Musicians,** (especially keyboard & guitar)
- **Run Slides** (already prepared- need to be advanced during service)
- **Play Track Music/Mute and Unmute Soundboard.**
- **Ushers** 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month
- **Chair set up** 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month.

Rehearsal 9-10:45 then Service on Sundays

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!! REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!! Reserve your spot!

HOLY CROSS Invites Children to Scuba VBS! At Scuba VBS, kids dive into friendship with God! Scuba is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch! Hands-on science experiments, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and sturdy shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings®. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

SCUBA VBS will be hosted at Holy Cross from June 17 to 21, 2024 from 5:00-7:30pm. (Dinner at 5:00) Each day concludes with a Fintastic Finale 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 Scuba VBS will join a mission effort to collect food for our local food pantry.

Scuba is for kids ages 3 (potty trained) through rising 5th graders. The cost is \$40 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/dfce03>

WELCOME SPRING!

Countryside Nursery and Garden Center has designated Friday, May 3 as a SHOP & SHARE DAY that will benefit Holy Cross OWLSeniors and support our projects and activities. Pick up a flyer at the church entry way and present it that day as you checkout with your purchases. Countryside will donate 18% to OWLS. You must present the flyer at checkout. Please, spread the word and pick up enough flyers for your friends and neighbors. Thank you!

LOU MALNATI'S SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

On Tuesday, April 9th the delicious and generous Lou Malnati's Pizzeria (502 Northwest Highway) is donating back 20% of Takeout & Delivery orders to support a great cause -- Holy Cross Lutheran School. On behalf of Holy Cross Lutheran School, you're invited to join us and eat out, not only in support of the organization, but to show one of your Cary restaurants some love too! ****Be sure to mention our fundraiser when you order**.** We hope you can make it, and please feel free to send this invitation to your friends and family. Thanks in advance for your support!

April 21 Special Service and Hometown Meeting

On Sunday, April 21 we will be having only **one service at 10:30am** (Bible Class at 9:15) followed by a Church Meeting with a light lunch. (There will not be a 5:30pm service on Saturday.) Please mark your calendars and join us as together we update information and discuss what's next for Holy Cross.

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all who donated and participated in our Lent "Fellowship Potluck Dinners" and Easter Breakfast. We had a wonderful meal and wonderful fellowship! We are so blessed at Holy Cross with our close church family!!

OWLS HAPPENINGS

OWLS will meet April 4 at noon in the lower loft. Joan Hogarth will be the host and provide coffee, dessert and a devotion to start the meeting. Please, bring your lunch and join us for an afternoon with friends. We will play table games, cards and dominoes, so bring your favorite or make use of the games we have on hand. You may bring magazines and books you have finished reading to exchange or donate to AbleLight Thrift Shop in Crystal Lake.

OWLS are planning to shop and have lunch April 18 in Woodstock. Carpools will leave from the parking lot at 10:30 a.m. Please, sign up on the bulletin board so enough cars can be arranged.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

The class is from 10-11:00am in the conference room by the offices. Everyone is welcome! Join in any time! **NO CLASS** April 2, 9 & 23rd.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS Meets Sundays at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Meets Sundays at 9:45am in the lower LOFT.

KIDS FOR CHRIST! "KFC"

We meet with our students in grades Preschool-8 every week in a fun and engaging way. The groups are broken down as follows: Christian Playgroup-- Preschool/Kindergarten Crosstown-Grades 1-3, Jesus Company--Grades 4-6, and Confirmation--Grades 7-8.

Class is each Thursday from 4:15-6:30-Dinner included! (School breaks and holidays =no class). A detailed calendar is available at the church on the bulletin boards in the Narthex and LOFT foyer. There is a \$35 fee per child for the entire school year. Please pay by check or cash
Volunteers are needed as well. Please see Chrissy Heiss for more information.

NEW Opportunity!

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Does your family say Grace and give thanks to the Lord before meals?
Here are some prayers you might like.

Come Lord Jesus, be our Guest,
And let Thy gifts to us be blessed. Amen.

Dear Father, hear us as we say
Thank you for our food today. Amen.

Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you, God, for everything.

APRIL 2024

What's Happening This Month:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>EASTER MONDAY Office Closed</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pastor off No Bible Class</p>	<p>3</p> <p>No Choir</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12pm OWLS 4:15-6:30 KFC 6:45pm New Member Class</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>8:30am Worship 9:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10:45am Worship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>← Pastor Off-----</p>	<p>9</p> <p>-----→ NO Bible Class 6:30pm Elder's Lou Malnati's School Fundraiser</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:30pm Finance 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00am Prayer Shawl- Panera 4:15-6:30 KFC 6:45pm New Member Class</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>8:30am Worship 9:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10:45am Worship</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00am Bible Class 6:30pm Gov. Board</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:00 OWLS 4:15-6:30 KFC 6:45pm New Member Class</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>NO Service</p>
<p>21</p> <p>←----- 9:15am Bible Study Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00 Light lunch and Church Hometown meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>-PALS RETREAT--</p>	<p>23</p> <p>-----→ NO Bible Class</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00pm Choir (Crosslink Deadline)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00am Prayer Shawl- here 4:15-6:30 KFC 6:45pm Trustees 6:45pm New Member Class</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:30pm Worship</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8:30am Worship 9:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10:45am Worship</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00am Bible Class</p>				