



CROSSlink

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260.804.3154 Pastor Patterson
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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)

JULY 2023

FROM PASTOR'S DESK

"The Prayer of the Church"

Pastor Zac Patterson

Growing up, I understood the point of most parts of the liturgy. Confession and Absolution was very clear to me; I am a sinner and need forgiveness. The Scripture readings and sermon were also clear; the Word needed to be read and proclaimed to the people. But one part that I never really valued was the Prayer of the Church. This is that prayer the pastor prays right after the sermon. It seemed so long and pointless to me and my older brother that we once, rather irreverently, timed our dad's prayer to see how ridiculously long it was. Since those days of my youth, I have come to a much greater appreciation for the Prayer of the Church and here are some of the reasons why. First, this is a prayer to our heavenly Father. To be able to do this is a gift in and of itself, as Luther explains in the Lord's Prayer, "With these words (Our Father who art in heaven) God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear Father." God desires to hear the voice of His people and that is exactly what happens in the Prayer of the Church. We come before God and pray to our Father, knowing that He will hear us and answer us.

Second, notice whose prayer this is. It's not called the Prayer of the Pastor, but the Prayer of the Church. Yes, the pastor does most of the actual speaking, but he is simply the spokesman for the whole congregation. This is why the pastor uses the "we/us" pronouns during the prayer and the congregation speaks "amen" at the end, as well as answering each petition with, "hear our prayer". This prayer is to be prayed in the hearts of all the congregation. The devil likes to distract us away from praying, for he hates all things that are good for the Christian. Jesus teaches us to pray that we may resist the devil and grow closer to our Father.

Third, when I say it's the Church's prayer, it's not just the prayer concerning the congregation of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, but all of Christianity around the world, the universal Church. This is why there are so many different petitions listed, some of which may not always apply directly to us. We pray for all pastors, for new congregations, for our nation, for people working, for schools, for seedtime and harvest, for parents and their children, for the arts and culture of our people, and for all people going through hardship. While the people of Holy Cross may not fall into all of these categories every Sunday, there is at least one Christian somewhere in the world that does, and so we pray for them. I had always thought the prayer was too long, but in reality, we should probably be extending our Prayer of the Church even more to pray for more people.

St. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "pray without ceasing". In the Prayer of the Church, we take a few short minutes to pray to our Father with praises to Him and petitions for the needs of His Church. The Prayer of the Church is a beautiful example of loving God and loving our neighbor. We praise God for what He has done and continues to do, and we pray for our neighbor, that God would provide for them. So next time you are in church, and we begin the Prayer of the Church, think of the wonderful blessing it is to spend time praying to your heavenly Father and to have the opportunity to pray for other people around the world.

JULIET'S BOOK CLUB

JULIET'S Book Club will meet at Panera Bread in Fox River Grove at 6:00pm on **July 10th this month** due to the 4th of July holiday. Currently reading a new book titled " Love Stories of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Brehm. Please contact Kathy for more information.

"STELLAR" VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THANK YOU

A huge Thank You goes out to all the people who helped with VBS this year.

Chrissy Heiss led the way being so organized and working diligently to pull this all together.

Chrissy, Ellen, Sue, Deb and Justice German decorated the church.

Pastor Zac led Bible class and captivated the children with bible stories.

Mike and Elaine manned the check-in station.

Deb, Sue, Cora, and Brian made, served, and cleaned up all the delicious meals for about 50 people each night!

Laura led the melodic music- those little voices singing praise to God-there's nothing better!

Nancy and Karen were pre-school leaders who really stepped up!

Kaitlyn, Aiden, Nora & were our great youth crew leaders. (Sue filled in as well as being onsite paramedic!)

Tania led "Imagination Station" with rockets and experiments. So fun!

Mike & Joe led games and had a ball with the kids!

Ellen led "KID VID" and handed out the cherished bible buddies!

Gary for filling in on the last night.

Every night ended with all the children enjoying the playground and families having fellowship.

Our closing night ended in the sanctuary with the children singing songs for their parents. Through donations Chrissy was able to arrange for the Kona Ice truck to supply treats to everyone!

Thank you also to those who donated food and supplies to make this possible, and those who prayed for us all this week.

Once again, VBS was a success and a wonderful outreach to our community!! If you haven't joined in, there's always next year! Our theme will be "SCUBA"!!! We need underwater-type decorations made from paper, pool noodles, and other fun materials. Please continue to collect plastic bottle caps for our next VBS too!! Don't miss this opportunity to share God's word and see it lived out in these children.

CARY GROVE FOOD PANTRY

The Cary Grove Food Pantry wants to thank everyone that filled the bags given to them at Vacation Bible School. The pantry has been very busy lately helping our neighbors and the food that was donated was greatly needed. We continue to increase the number of families we serve every month, so this food was greatly appreciated. Thank you again from the food pantry.

WELCOME

We welcome Cheryl as she has accepted the position of Financial Administrator/Bookkeeper here at Holy Cross. She comes to us highly qualified and eager to help! Please welcome her when you see her on Sunday.

CARDS, NOTES & CALLS MINISTRIES

For four months our 11 volunteers have been sending cards, notes or calls to 28 of our members who need reconnecting to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Now until the end of 2023 our volunteers will send kind, gentle invitations asking them to return to Holy Cross. We can be assured God will hear and answer our prayers as we work to build on the work of the Holy Spirit. "Why should we go to church?" Luke 10:38-42 "Mary chose the one thing needful".

July is the month for volunteers to report their findings to Elaine. She will give a summary to Pastor Patterson.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS IS BACK!

Tuesday Morning Bible Class is back for the Summer! The class is from 10-11:00am in the conference room by the offices. We will be going through the book of Acts. Everyone is welcome!
(No class on July 4th or July 25th)

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY

Opportunity to Serve, please prayerfully consider teaching/running Sunday School starting again in September. The classes for this fall will follow a book (The Story Bible) that has a short bible story allowing discussions and an activity suggestion, followed by a prayer. A copy of this great book is available to look at. This means little to no prep work. If we could have a couple teachers, we could have a rotating schedule. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in children's lives leading them to a lifelong relationship with Christ.

HUMAN CARE BLOOD DRIVE

Early Notice To Save The Holy Cross Blood Drive Date August 14, 2023-----3:30PM—7:30PM

Peace—Love—Donate—Summer is the perfect time to do what we love including saving lives thru the gift of Blood Donation!! Our community continues to rely on blood donations and your gift is used to help people who need it most!! VERSITI team members follow CDC, FDA & leadership guidelines to keep donating safe. Watch the weekly News/Notes for more information starting mid July. Contact Barb Molzer at H-847-639-8024 or C-630-222-9668 with any questions...**Thank You In Advance To All Dedicated Donors....**

OWLS

OWLS WILL MEET THURSDAY, JULY 6 AT NOON in the lower LOFT. Please join us for an afternoon with friends. Bring your lunch and beverages and dessert will be provided. Diane will host and provide the opening devotion. After lunch, OWLS play cards, Dominoes, table games and enjoy time together.

OWLS will meet for brunch on Thursday, July 20 at Eggville in Cary at 10:30 a.m. followed by a boat ride on the Fox River hosted by Brad. Please sign up on the OWLS bulletin board.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Romans 12: 6-8 We have different gifts, according to the Grace given to each of us. If your gift is serving, then serve.

Holy Cross has another HUGE need for assistance in the area of Information Technology! We are in need of someone who can help us set up or facilitate setting up a **Main Server**. If you have knowledge in this area and are willing to help, please give us a call.

Contact Ellen Gezella, Office Administrator at our church office (847)639-1702.

NEWS FROM HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

- We have 23 students enrolled for the 23-24 school year!
- We welcome the following staff to our team: Andrea (teacher), Amy (school assistant), and Sara (before and after school care assistant)
- Holy Cross Lutheran School was the recipient of a \$500 grant from the Daughters of the American Revolution Stars and Stripes Forever: The Enduring Legacy of the American Revolution. The money will be used to fund an elective on the American Revolution, along with patriotic music and art.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

September 10 - **Church Picnic & Rally Day!!!** Food, Fellowship, & FUN!!

November 17 & 18- **Vendor Fair !!!** Sign up as a vendor, volunteer, or come to shop!! Contact Kathy or Diane for more information.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

This class is for new members, members who want a refresher on Luther's *Small Catechism*, or anyone who is interested in learning more about what we believe and confess here at Holy Cross. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Patterson (pastor@holycrosscary.org). This session currently meets every Saturday at 11-12:00 and runs from May 13-June 24. If you missed the first class and are still interested, contact Pastor Patterson.

OFFERING ENVELOPE "WISH LIST" ITEMS:

Every amount helps towards our needs. Thank you!

Church Landscaping – Replace dead bushes, plants – Estimated costs \$500.00.

Playground Mulch- Estimated Costs \$700.00 (12-14 yds, delivered and spread).

*******UPDATE ON STAINED GLASS WINDOWS*******

WE ARE ALMOST THERE!!! Our Stained-Glass Window Project started in August of 2021 with the signing of a contract with Cathedral Craft and with restoration beginning in May 2022. All the work has been completed and now we must finish with the funding. The cost of this project was **\$152,549**. We have received from your generous donations of about **\$142,000** leaving a balance of about **\$10,500**. Your support for the project has been much appreciated but we need to finish our journey. Continue with your giving by indicating on your weekly envelope and circle the "Stained Glass Windows" line item. Your donations to this fund are much appreciated. Let's make an extra effort to complete this project as soon as we can.

REPORT FROM THE LWML CONVENTION "Celebrating the Lord of the nations"

The 80th Biennial Convention of Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) just concluded in Milwaukee, Wi.

3,649 women and men attended the 4 day event of this organization, one of the two auxiliary organizations of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. There was an inspirational opening service with 80 Pastors in the opening procession. The 343 choir members added special anthems. With the assistance of 60 LWML members, Holy Communion was celebrated for everyone in attendance. The Northern Wisconsin District President, Rev. Dwayne Lueck, proclaimed the message to the gathering.

The business meetings on the following two days featured many speakers from LWML programs that benefit from LWML funding. Thirty-one organizations in fellowship with the LCMS that applied for grant funding were selected and new officers were elected for the next two years.

The grants total \$2,350,000. The funds that were dispersed are the MITES that Lutherans all over this country collect and donate. Your MITE donations are part of this. There was a golf outing on the day the convention opened that raised over \$35,000! A walk along Milwaukee's scenic Riverwalk on Saturday afternoon raised more than \$112,000. Of that amount, \$250 was from Holy Cross members who supported my participation in the walk. These funds will be part of the grant funding to be dispersed at the next convention in two years in Omaha, Nebraska.

Gifts from the Heart in the form of Disaster Kits and knit hats for cancer patients that were gathered by the Prayer Shawl Ministry team were part of the overwhelming amount of donations that were collected. Many servant events benefitted other organizations, including 79 pints of donated blood.

Synod's President, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison was a featured speaker and hosted a reception in remembrance of the lives lost to abortion.

It was a wonderful convention and well worth the trip to Milwaukee. It was worthwhile to be a worker for Northern Illinois District, one of the co-hosts of the event. We are looking forward to the next convention in 2025 in Omaha.

Looking for a good summer read? Our Holy Cross Library is filled with great books and videos. Find something you like, read or watch and return it for the next person. It's FREE!! There is even an overflow of books on the nursery shelves.



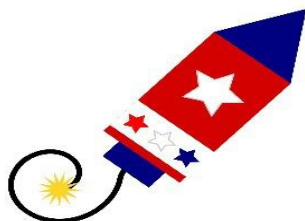
God bless America, land that I love
 Stand beside her and guide her
 Through the night with the light from above
 From the mountains to the prairies
 To the oceans white with foam
 God bless America, my home sweet home

Irving Berlin

4th of July

Word Search

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



- America
- Barbeque
- Celebration
- Fireworks
- Flag
- Freedom
- Independence
- Liberty
- Parade
- Red White and Blue
- Stars and Stripes
- Uncle Sam
- USA

What's Happening This Month:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JULY 2023						1 5:30pm Worship
2 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	3 (Book club next week) OFFICE CLOSED	4 NO Bible Study OFFICE CLOSED 4TH OF JULY!	5	6 12:00pm OWLS- lower LOFT	7	8 5:30pm Worship 7:00pm Taize
9 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	10 6:00pm Juliet's at FRG Panera	11 10-11am Bible Study 6:30pm Elder's 7:00pm Cultured Purls	12 First communion	13 10:00pm Prayer Shawl	14 Pastor's Ordination Anniversary!	15 5:30pm Worship
16 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	17	18 10-11am Bible Study 6:30pm Gov. Board	19	20 OWLS- 10:30am meet at Eggville, followed by a boat ride at Brad Miller's	21	22 5:30pm Worship
23 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	24	25 NO Bible Study (<i>Pastor on vacation July 25 through Aug. 8</i>)	26	27 10:00am Prayer Shawl @ Panera 6:00pm Trustee Meeting	28	29 5:30pm Worship (Pastor here)
30 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship (LOFT) (Pastor here)	31					