



# CROSSLink

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847.639.6533 Preschool Office  
www.HolyCrossCary.org

Worship Services:  
Saturdays 5:30PM (Sanctuary)  
Sundays 8:30AM (Sanctuary)  
Sundays 10:45AM (LOFT)

December 2018

## From the Pastor's Desk...

### "God with Us"



Dear Fellow-Redeemed,

"When is God coming to save us?" the people wondered. The prophet Isaiah beautifully foretold in picture language how God was on His way **to be with us**.

This year's Midweek Advent Series is called "God with Us". In this series of Advent services, we are reminded again of God's plan to save us through the Christ Child, Who took on flesh and blood to become **One of us**.

He did this to rescue us from sin, death, and the Devil forever. We no longer need to wonder when God will come to save us. He already has! He is here with us, in His Word and Sacraments, mangled in our hearts by faith.

**GOD WITH US:** This Advent series focuses on the way in which God is with us through Jesus. Each week will focus on a different word picture of the coming Christ found in the poetic and prophetic words of Isaiah. The series will reveal how Christ continues to be present with us even now. The theme verse for the entire series is: "**Behold, the Virgin shall be with Child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated 'God with Us'**". (Matthew 1:23)

This **Advent Midweek Series** will be presented in this way:

**Week One** - December 5: **Our Potter (Isaiah 64:8)**. God is with us as our Potter, Who shapes us according to His will.

**Week Two** - December 12: **Our Shepherd (Isaiah 40:11)**. God is with us as our Shepherd, Who carries us close to His heart.

**Week Three** - December 19: **Our Guide (Isaiah 2:3)**. God is with us as our Guide, Who leads us according to His Word.

Those worshipping will receive a memento each week-to be carried with you- as a continuous reminder of God's Presence, Love, and Power.

Services will be on Wednesdays during Advent: **December 5, 12, 19 at 7 pm** in the Sanctuary. Join us, and INVITE and BRING a friend!

Pastor Bill Metzger - **Matthew 1:23**

## Worship Opportunities

Advent	Wednesday, December 5, 12 and 19	7:00 PM – in the sanctuary
Christmas Eve	Monday, December 24	4:00 PM – in the LOFT
Christmas Eve	Monday, December 24	6:30 PM & 11:00 PM – in the sanctuary
Christmas Day	Tuesday, December 25	10:00 AM – in the sanctuary
New Year's Eve	Monday, December 31	5:00 PM – in the sanctuary

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## News from the Preschool

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*Jean Hoger, Director*

The kids think Christmas is coming soon because of the amount of snow that fell. We are entering Advent and we are waiting in hope for the celebration of our Savior's birth. Waiting takes patience and many of us are not used to having to wait for much. Our kids have to wait in line, wait for their turn to talk or play a game. Sometimes they even have to wait quietly. That is nearly impossible!

The kids will hear the Christmas story many times because we have so many awesome books that tell about Jesus birth. We enjoy making ornaments and decorations this month. We have some favorites like our handprint banners. We've heard from parents with older siblings that they have their collection of wreaths and Christmas trees hanging! One mom even sent me a picture of her set of 8!

We look forward to our Christmas Service on December 16. Our party will include Santa (Phil Stanko) on December 20.

This month we are collecting boxes of stuffing, potatoes and canned, jarred or packaged gravy for the food pantry. We'll have a bin in the hallway by the bulletin board if you care to add to it!

Registration for next fall will take place after the holidays. Please let young families know! We offer tuition assistance and would love to add more kids! Our registration form can be found on the church's website, the narthex and LOFT lobby.

God bless your Advent with patience and hope.

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## OWLS Hoots and Happenings



OWLS will have a Craft and Bake Sale on December 1 and 2 after all worship services. OWLS - Please see the bulletin board to sign up to help with set up and help after services. Donated crafts and baked goods can be brought in on Saturday during set up time or before services.

OWLS will meet on Thursday, December 6 at noon in the lower level of the LOFT. Bring a sandwich for yourself; beverages, dessert and a devotion will be provided. After lunch we will be making up Christmas bags for shut-ins. Please see the bulletin board for a list of contributions that are needed. OWLS are asked to bring 18 small Christmas cookies that will be packed into the bags.

OWLS will have a Christmas Potluck Luncheon in the lower level of the LOFT at noon on December 20. A sign-up sheet will be posted for ideas of what to bring. We your best (or worst) holiday sweater and bring you Christmas spirit for a fun afternoon with friends. If you would like to participate in a grab bag exchange you will want to bring a small wrapped gift.

LOOKING AHEAD: The January planning meeting will be held on January 3 at noon in the LOFT. Bring all your ideas for interesting places to visit and fun things to do together in 2019.

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## 2018 Angel Tree



Our Human Care Ministry will sponsor a Christmas Angel Tree project again this year. They have chosen the Salvation Army of McHenry County to be the recipient of our gifts.

Last year the Salvation Army provided 15,345 gifts to over 1,700 local families. Before any child can receive a gift, the family must show proof of need and residence, as well as a birth certificate for each child as all gifts stay in McHenry County.

The Angel Trees will be up in the narthex and the LOFT sometime around Thanksgiving. Please take a tag from one of the trees. Your gifts must be NEW and UNWRAPPED. The recommended cost of a gift is between \$10 and \$20. Gift cards are also greatly appreciated. Please return all gifts (with the Angel Tree tag attached) to the trees by **Sunday, December 9**.

## **January 2019 Blood Drive**

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Mark your calendars to donate blood at Holy Cross on **January 14, 2019**. Heartland Blood Centers are again short of blood donors to supply the 600 blood products needed daily to cover the 59 area hospitals with the transfusions their patients need. Let's start the New Year off giving a gift to someone you'll never know. You can be someone's rescue story with your simple gift of donating blood. Thank you in advance to all Dedicated Donors. You Really Know How to Give -- Be A Hero, Give Blood!

## **Winter Fellowship Event**

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SAVE THE DATE! Our winter fellowship event will be **Sunday, January 27**. (Approximate time: 4:00-6:00 PM) Check the weekly News and Notes for more details will follow in the weeks ahead.

# December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 9:00A Christmas decorating 5:30P Worship
2 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	3 7:00P Governing Board	4 10:00A Adult Bible study 7:30P Dartball game	5 5:45P Handbells 7:00P Advent worship 7:45P KFC/Confirmation 7:45P Choir	6 Noon OWLS 7:00P Bible study	7	8 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
9 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	10 6:30P Board of Elders	11 10:00A Adult Bible study	12 5:45P Handbells 7:00P Advent worship 7:45P KFC/Confirmation 7:45P Choir	13 10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P Bible study	14	15 5:30P Worship
16 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	17	18 10:00A Adult Bible study	19 5:45P Handbells 7:00P Advent worship 7:45P KFC/Confirmation 7:45P Choir	20 Noon OWLS 7:00P Bible study	21	22 5:30P Worship
23 10:00A Worship (sanctuary)	24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 4:00P Worship – LOFT 6:30P Worship-Sanctuary 11:00P Worship-sanctuary	25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 10:00A Worship	26	27 10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P Bible study	28	29 5:30P Worship
30 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	31 5:00P New Year's Eve worship					

2018