



# CROSSlink

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847.639.1702 Church Office  
847.639.6533 Preschool Office  
www.HolyCrossCary.org

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

January 2018

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## From the Pastor's Desk...

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“The Sheep Must Judge the Shepherd”  
2 Timothy 2:15



Dear Fellow-Redeemed,

No, the sheep (congregation) do not judge Jesus the Shepherd; the sheep (congregation) must judge the UNDER-shepherd: their PASTOR. Being a Lutheran pastor makes me a German Shepherd!!!

This is not optional. The sheep must ALWAYS judge their pastor! What do I mean by this? The Apostle Paul, writing his “The Making of a Pastor” - **1 and 2 Timothy** - says this to rookie Pastor Timothy: **“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)**

Did you notice the criterion that is to be used in judging one’s pastor? It is this: does your pastor rightly divide the word of truth? If you answer “yes”, you have a keeper. If not, you have a problem.

Let’s explore what it means for your pastor to **“rightly divide the word of truth”**.

God gave the Bible to us for one reason and one reason only: **“But these (words of the Bible) are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:31)**

The Word of God - the Bible - is the ONLY standard of faith and practice for all Christians. And this Word of God focuses on THE Word of God: Jesus Himself. **(John 1:1)**

Also note that **believing-faith-trusting Jesus** and His finished work on the Cross is the only thing that secures eternal life.

Now the big question: How does one obtain such faith? **“So then faith come by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Christ)”**. **(Romans 10:17)** This leads you back to the pastor - the one who is Called by God to deliver the **“Word of truth”** to you week in and week out.

How does the pastor do this CORRECTLY? What is the pastor’s way of delivering the Gospel to the congregation? By **“rightly dividing the word of truth”**.

God’s Word is divided into TWO BASIC WORDS: The word of LAW and the word of GOSPEL. Put another way, every sermon should be composed of both BAD news and GOOD news.

An example of BAD news: “You are a sinner and sinners cannot stand before God”. This should cause you to cringe; to say “ouch!” This should scare the “hell” out of you. This should cause you to crave the GOOD NEWS.

And what is the GOOD NEWS? An example is this: **“This Man (Jesus) receives sinners and eats with them”. (Luke 15:2)** Another example: **“Be of good cheer, son, your sins are forgiven you”. (Matthew 9:2)**

These are two very different and very distinct words! The word of the LAW condemns and kills. The word of the GOSPEL comforts and makes alive. **“The letter (Law) kills, but the Spirit (Gospel) gives life.” (2 Corinthians 3:6b)**

These two words - Law and Gospel - must be kept separated, because they have two completely different functions.

Here’s an example of what happens when the Law and the Gospel are confused in the pulpit: “God will love you and forgive you if you change your ways and give your life to Him”. The comfort of God’s love (Gospel) is ruined by a condition (Law) being added to it. The Gospel NEVER contains “ifs, ands, or buts”. Those are Law words. The Gospel says, “Jesus died for you and all your sins. They are gone forever!” PERIOD.

By keeping these two words - Law and Gospel - separate and distinct, then the sermon does its job: it afflicts the comfortable and comforts the afflicted. It KILLS you and all of your supposed “goodness” (Law); then it MAKES YOU ALIVE by pointing you to the righteousness of Christ and His righteousness alone (Gospel).

Put another way: the Law is all about YOU and YOUR performance (called **“filthy rags”** in **Isaiah**) and the Gospel is all about JESUS and HIS performance - see **Romans 3 & 4!!!**

Does a sermon contain both Law and Gospel? If so, good! But that’s not the end of this story. There’s one more thing about your pastor’s sermons: DOES THE GOSPEL PREDOMINATE in the sermon? In other words, is the Gospel - the Good News concerning Jesus and His death and resurrection to justify sinners - the MAIN THING in the sermon? If so, it’s a great sermon! If not, judge your pastor!

What is meant by “judging” your pastor? Luke explains in his **Acts of the Apostles**: **“(the Bereans) received the word with all readiness and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so”. (Acts 17:11)**

You, as a Christian, have the right, no, the DUTY to check out what your pastor is preaching by searching the Bible to make sure it is so. If your pastor is not doing his job, call him on it. Do it gently and in a spirit of Christian love (PLEASE!!!), but do it.

Is there one thing you should be looking for when you **“search the Scriptures”**? Yes. The Apostle Paul makes this very clear. Make sure your pastor is preaching one thing and one thing only: **“For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified”. (1 Corinthians 2:2)**

Don’t let your pastor preach politics, current events, “how to” sermons (as in “How to Overcome Depression”), social work, psychology, or anything else. Make sure he is preaching **“Christ crucified”** in the two words of Law and Gospel - ALWAYS letting the Gospel predominate. Then your pastor will be doing his job!

One final comment: **“Moreover it is required in stewards (pastors dealing with the Word and Sacraments) that one be found faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4:2)**. Not successful, but faithful.

Chief of Sinners,

Pastor Bill Metzger  
2 Timothy 2:15



Holy Cross Preschool is hosting an OPEN HOUSE on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-1pm. Families with young kids can come to see our classrooms and meet the teachers. Examples of our daily routine and curriculum will be available.

### Classes offered:

3 Year Olds-Tuesday/Thursday	9am-11:30am	\$157/mo.
4 Year Olds-Mon./Wed./Fri.	9am-11:30am	\$186/mo.
4 Year Olds- Mon./Tues./Wed./Fri.	9am-11:30am	\$213/mo.

Registration for fall of '18 will be open to the public on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. For more information call 847-639-6533, or visit [holycrosscary.org/preschool](http://holycrosscary.org/preschool).



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## From the Governing Board

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Our annual voters' meeting was held on Sunday, November 19. The 2018 budget was approved.

Congratulations to Jim Deasy and Heath McFaul who were elected to the Governing Board. We all look forward to working with Jim and Heath in the new year. We thank Mike Bulava for his three years of service and particularly for his time this past year as Board Chairman. Mike was a good leader and we wish him well as he looks for a new area where he can continue to serve. We've heard he is in great demand!

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## Thank You

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Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to our Giving/Angel Tree this Christmas season! Our KFC and Confirmation kids had a great time collecting the items from you each Wednesday during our Advent services. We are looking forward to our trip to Norfolk, Nebraska to deliver these much needed items at the warehouse of the **Orphan Grain Train**. They want to be stocked and ready to go for the next time these items are needed by families who suffer a devastation. The love of Jesus and your generosity will put smiles on some faces as they are delivered.

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## Decoration Take Down

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We will be taking down Christmas decorations on **Saturday, January 13 beginning at 8:00AM**. There are lots of decorations to put away so please join us. Your help is appreciated.

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## OWLS Hoots and Happenings

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Join us on Thursday, January 4 at noon in the lower level of the LOFT as we plan activities for 2018. Bring a sandwich; drinks and dessert will be provided. Come fellowship with friends and give your ideas for what you'd like to do in the new year.



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## 2017 Financial Statements

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If you had requested an annual Financial Statement in years past, I will automatically generate one for you this year as well. The statements will be ready before the end of January. Please watch your News & Notes. I will include a notice in the weekly bulletin when they are available. If you've not previously requested an annual Financial Statement before but would like to be added to the list, please contact Viki Dettmann, Financial Secretary.

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## Save the Date

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Save the date of January 28, 2018 for our next Fellowship Event! We will be having **Dinner & a Movie** beginning at 4:00PM. There will also be a surprise ?? event for those who want to participate. We are asking that every family "dress up" in your best "date" clothes as this will be a **Valentine Theme**. Sign up will begin December 30 and 31 with a donation request for \$5 per person or \$20 per family of 4 or more.

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## 2018 Human Care Ministry Blood Drive

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The Human Care Ministry is sponsoring a blood drive for the Aurora Heartland Blood Centers at Holy Cross on January 15 from 3:30-7:30PM. There is a critical shortage of blood during the winter months and flu season, therefore the donations are down by 50 percent. The Blood Center is short of the 600 donations needed every week to cover the 59 area hospitals. Please consider donating and inviting a family member or friend to join you. By donating just 1 pint of blood you can help as many as 3 patients in need. Start the 2018 New Year by giving A FREE GIFT of donating blood so that others may live and regain their health. Let's GIVE FROM THE HEART!! Call Barb Molzer at 847-639-8024 to schedule your donation or with any questions. Watch the News & Notes for more information and appointment sign-up

times. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Walk-ins are always welcome. All donors will receive a \$13 Noodles & Company Gift Card as a thank-you!! Remember, blood can't be manufactured so we all must continue to be regular blood donors. Please encourage someone to be a NEW DONOR with you. Mark your calendar to be a LIFESAVER on January 15!

When you give blood you give another birthday, another anniversary, another day at the beach, another night under the stars, another talk with a friend, another laugh, another hug, and another chance!!!

# January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 New Year's Day Offices closed	2	3	4 Noon OWLS	5 Preschool Open House 9:00A-1:00P	6 5:30P Worship
7 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Youth/Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	8 6:30P Board of Elders  Preschool fall registration begins	9 10:00A Adult Bible study	10 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir 7:00P KFC/Confirmation	11 10:00A Prayer Shawl	12	13 8:00A Christmas decoration takedown 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
14 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Youth/Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	15 3:30-7:30P Blood Drive 7:00P Governing Board	16 10:00A Adult Bible study	17 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir 7:00P KFC/Confirmation	18 OWLS	19	20 5:30P Worship
21 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Youth/Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	22	23 10:00A Adult Bible study	24 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir 7:00P KFC/Confirmation	25 10:00A Prayer Shawl	26	27 5:30P Worship
28 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Youth/Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 4:00P Dinner & a Movie	29	30 10:00A Adult Bible study	31 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir 7:00P KFC/Confirmation			

2018