



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)

May/June 2017

From the Pastor's Desk...

Pastor Bill Metzger



“Forty Days”
Acts 1:3, 9

Dear Fellow-Redeemed,

Forty days. This number shows up throughout the Bible. Forty days. What’s this all about? Why forty days?

The number “forty” doesn’t seem to have any special significance, but the fact that it’s a set period of time does.

The flood lasted “forty days” (Genesis 7:17).

Noah sent a raven out at the end of “forty days” (Genesis 8:6).

The embalming of Jacob lasted “forty days” (Genesis 50:3).

Moses fasted on the mountain “forty days” (Exodus 24:18; 24:28).

The spies were in the Land of Canaan “forty days” (Numbers 13:25).

Moses prayed for Israel “forty days” (Deuteronomy 9:25).

Goliath defied Israel “forty days” (1 Samuel 17:16).

Elijah’s meal lasted “forty days” (1 Kings 19:8).

Ezekiel used “forty days” as a typical period of significance (Ezekiel 4:6).

Jonah’s warning concerning the destruction of Nineveh lasted “forty days” (Jonah 3:4).

Jesus was tempted “forty days” (Luke 4:2).

Jesus appeared after the resurrection “forty days” (Acts 1:3).

So, what’s the big deal about “forty days”?

Looking at these examples from both the Old and New Testaments, do you notice a pattern? A theme? Each of these “forty day” periods was one of testing. Trial. Trouble. Hardship.

Why? One reason: to get us off of ourselves and onto Jesus.

“to whom (Jesus) also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”
(Acts 1:3).

Do you remember Easter Sunday? We celebrated Easter just a few weeks ago. Yet the memory of Easter is already fading. The feelings of joy and peace we had that day already seem to be a distant memory. We forget. We become distracted. We get self-involved. We need reminders. “Forty days” worth of reminders!

Jesus used “forty days” to be in the face of His followers. And the general public as well. He gave **“many infallible proofs”** that He was - and still is - alive.

Why? Because we have doubts. And fears. And failing memories. “Forty days” of struggle and challenges and trials and difficulties were met by Jesus’ real presence. He is risen! He is alive! He is here!

Once that is established, we have this: **“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”** (Acts 1:9)

Jesus had told His followers to wait in Jerusalem for a while. God would send the Holy Spirit to them to give them power. They would need it. Jesus was about to remove His visible presence from them. They would no longer be able to see Him with their physical eyes. And they would be speaking the Gospel to people the world over. Beginning locally. Then moving out in concentric circles until all humanity would hear the Good News. This is easier said than done. So the promise of the Holy Spirit is essential.

Have you ever been on a mission trip? No, I don't mean did you travel a thousand miles to cut someone's grass or paint their house. I mean have you ever walked the few feet to your neighbor's front door and tell them Jesus died for their sins?

I thought so. Neither have I. God, be merciful to me, a sinner. It's not easy being a missionary. That's why the Holy Spirit is necessary. HE provides ALL the power to accomplish HIS work. It's not up to us! Nothing depends on us!

“Forty days” provides you with the opportunity to realize how weak and sinful you are; how dependent you are on God's grace through Jesus. The ascended Jesus. The Jesus you cannot see with your physical eyes.

Jesus, the Sin-Bearer. He carries YOUR sin. (Isaiah 53:6)

Jesus, the sin-eliminating Lamb of God. YOUR sin. (John 1:29)

Jesus, the bleeding, dying, once for all time Sacrifice Who fully paid for YOUR sin. All of it. (Hebrews 10:12, 14)

Jesus, Whose suffering and death pacifies the anger of the holy God against sin. YOUR sin. (1 John 2:1-2)

Jesus, Who already set you free from a sinful past. YOUR sinful past. And YOUR sinful present. And YOUR sinful future. (Revelation 1:5)

“Forty days” of testing, trial, trouble, and hardship make you realize how badly you need Jesus.

As you go through your own personal “forty days”, pray a prayer of thanksgiving. Thank God that He loves you enough to send this period of time into your life. Then rejoice that the whole enterprise is about one thing: getting you to look AWAY from yourself, and TOWARD Jesus, YOUR Savior.

Awaiting His Return, Pastor Bill Metzger John 14:1-3

Upcoming GIFT Class

The next GIFT CLASS will be Tuesdays, May 16, 23, 30 and June 6 from 7:00-8:30PM. Join us as we listen to Jesus as He reveals what He says about:

The Gift of Jesus (May 16)

The Gift of Baptism (May 23)

The Gift of Holy Communion (May 30)

The Gift of Fellowship (June 6)

Join us for this exceptional opportunity to grow in faith and in relationship with Jesus Himself. We meet in the lower level of the LOFT. This is open to everyone. No registration is needed. There is no obligation. All materials are provided. Completion of this class may lead to membership at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, if desired. Come to the GIFT CLASS, and invite and bring a friend.

Ascension

ASCENSION WORSHIP is Thursday, May 25 at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Join us as we remember Jesus' going to His Father to prepare a place for us, to intercede on our behalf, and to rule His kingdom before He returns to take us home. The Christ Candle will be removed from the chancel during this service. Join us, and invite and bring a friend.

News from the Preschool

Jean Hoger, Director

This year has flown by! May will be busy. We start with our Mother's Tea. The kids will sing some songs, dance with mom and enjoy a sweet treat. Of course there will be hand-made gifts for mom. Every year we also do a video or DVD as a keepsake.

We have our Bike Rally for St. Jude's Children's Hospital taking place in May also. The parking lot is decorated with flags and paint so the 4 year olds can ride with their friends. It's truly one of the highlights of the year.

The 3s have a pajama party where we eat breakfast at school in our pajamas. We also have a pizza party before the year ends.

We've really come to love these kids and young families. Each has their own story as we all do. We send some onto kindergarten where they will enter with a strong foundation and a love for learning. They also have learned to love each other and show kindness and patience. We look forward to seeing the 3s return next year. "Children are not things to be molded, but people to be unfolded." -Jess Lair

Please keep the ministry of the preschool in your prayers as we prepare for next year.

In Christ,
Jean Hoger

Summer Bible Camp

Join us for Summer Bible Camp! It runs June 19-22 (Monday-Thursday) from 9:00AM-1:00PM. It's open to kids ages 4-9. Every day at camp the kids will enjoy *Festival Crafts, Stronghold Storytelling, Songs, Tournament Games and a Victory Bible Challenge*.

Registration forms are in the narthex of the sanctuary and the LOFT lobby. The form can also be found on the Holy Cross website: www.holycrosscary.org. Completed forms can be returned to the church office or put in mailbox #85. You will get a confirmation email.

Congregational Planning Meeting -- May 20 from 9:00 to 11:00AM

The Governing Board has been working on long term goals originally established in 2010. The time has come for the congregation and the board to review these goals so that completed items can be removed and new goals can be offered by the congregation for discussion.

These goals are important because they are the basis that the board uses for its forward planning. We hope that as many people as possible will attend this meeting so that many diverse ideas concerning our road forward will be brought out.

During the meeting, we will quickly review the previous goals that have been completed but the majority of time will be spent looking to the future.

In addition to this discussion, we will have an update on the Disaster Planning program that started about two years ago.

The meeting will be on Saturday, May 20 from 9:00–11:00AM. If the discussions go longer, we will run until all ideas have been heard.

Please put on your thinking caps and bring your thoughts to this meeting.

Lutheran Composer Corner

Laura Schmuldt, Sanctuary Music Director

Born in Magdeburg in 1681, Georg Philipp Telemann belonged to a family that had long been connected with the Lutheran Church. His father was a clergyman, his mother the daughter of a clergyman, and his elder brother also took orders, a path that he too might have followed had it not been for his exceptional musical ability. As a child he showed considerable musical talent, mastering the violin, flute, zither and keyboard by the age of ten and composing an opera two years later to the consternation of his maternal family who disapproved of music. He is yet another composer and musician among those whose family insisted he study law. The fact that he made a stop on his trip to study in Leipzig to meet a young G.F. Handel proved he had little desire to cease his study of music. Within a year as a student at Leipzig he founded the student Collegium Musicum with which he gave public concerts (and which Bach was later to direct), wrote operatic works for the Leipzig Theater, and in 1703 became musical director of the Leipzig Opera and was appointed organist at the Neue Kirche in 1704.

He composed occasional music for civic ceremonies, five year-long cycles of church cantatas, oratorios, orchestral music and a wealth of chamber music, much of which was published. Over his long career, spanning from the late 17th century through the 1760s, he was at the forefront of the development of new genres, such as the orchestral overture and the Lutheran cantata in its proper sense (a mixture of traditional chorale and biblical texts with newly composed poetry, as developed by his friend and colleague Erdmann Neumeister). He pioneered novel genres, such as the unaccompanied *Fantasias* for flute, violin, and viola da gamba. Though not as well known in modern times, Telemann was far more renowned in his time than his friend Johann Sebastian Bach (to whose son, Carl Philipp Emmanuel, he was godfather), and virtually every German writer on music at the time praised his works. He was also a pioneer in music publishing, engraving, printing, and marketing most of his own printed collections.

OWLS Hoots and Happenings

OWLS will meet at noon on May 4 in the lower level of the LOFT. Maureen from Eastgate Manor is coming to speak to us and will bring an assortment of sandwiches for everyone. Mary Jane and Robert are providing the devotion, dessert and beverages. Bring along your favorite game to play and any books or magazines you would like to exchange or donate to charity.



Look for our annual Weekend-Before-Mother's-Day Bake and Craft Sale on Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7 after each service. Enjoy the goodies!

The OWLS are once again hosting a Tailgate Sale in the church parking lot on Saturday, June 3. A sign-up sheet is posted on the OWLS board. If anyone in the congregation is interested in joining us, please write your name and phone number. The deadline is May 15. We are asking \$5 per space in the parking lot to cover advertising expenses.

OWLS are planning a trip to the Railroad Museum in Union, Illinois on Thursday, May 18. Meet in the parking lot at 10:00AM to carpool. Bring your lunch or purchase food at the museum. There is an admission fee. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board along with further information.

OWLS will meet at noon on June 1 in the lower level of the LOFT for a potluck cookout. Bring your own meat to grill and a small dish to share. Bring along your favorite game to play and any books or magazines you would like to exchange or donate to charity.

OWLS are planning a boat ride on the Fox River on June 15 hosted by Brad and Mary Beth at their home. Watch the bulletin board and weekend bulletins for further information.

Spring Planting

Spring Planting and watering season is just around the corner. If you would like to develop a 'green thumb', we know just how to start! Help will be needed in May to plant flowers and then through the season to water. Last year, we had enough watering volunteers that it amounted to a once every 6 week commitment. It is a small amount of time that reaps a huge impact. Interested? Call Diane or Henry Bishop.

Life Line Screening

Holy Cross will host a Preventative Health Screening for the community through Life Line Screening on Wednesday, May 17 from 9:00AM-4:00PM in the LOFT lower level. Screenings using ultrasound technology will be offered that scan for potential health and stroke problems related to: blocked carotid arteries, abdominal aortic aneurysms, hardening of the arteries in the legs and irregular heartbeat. Bone density to assess the risk of osteoporosis is also offered. All five tests are \$149. **To register for this event and receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.** You must register to participate. Medicare doesn't cover these tests and Life Line doesn't file any insurance forms. Watch News/Notes for more information or check the flyers available at church. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Your Health is in Your Hands! Protect your health by participating in a health screening!

Food Pantry Mobile Market

Holy Cross is sponsoring a mobile market truck with the Cary Grove Food Pantry on Saturday, June 10. This truck will bring 10,000 pounds of food for distribution to families in need of food assistance. We need about 25 people to help with the market to unload the truck, pass out food, help customers shop and clean up.

The market will run from 9:00AM-noon on June 10 but you don't have to come the whole time. We have had a lot of fun in years past. We will put up a sign-up sheet at a later date. The cost of the truck is \$1,000. If you would like to assist with the market financially, please make your check out to the Cary Grove Food Pantry and write mobile market on the memo line.

Diaper and Equipment Drive

Get a head start on Spring Cleaning! The Human Care Ministry is conducting a Diaper and Equipment drive to support our local Senior Care Volunteer Network. This organization strives to keep seniors independent at home as long as possible. Among the many services they offer, they have an Adult Diaper Bank and they do medical equipment loans.

This organization supplies 1500 diapers a month to those in need. The sizes they need most are: Men's/Women's pullups (underwear) in L and XL. They can also use Women's Small/Medium pullups.

If you have any of the following equipment, please consider donating: Bed Rails, Bedside tables, Grabbers, Knee walkers, Shower chairs with or without backs, Transport Chairs, 4 wheel Walkers (Rollators), or Wheelchairs.

Look for the big yellow boxes as you enter Holy Cross. The collection will run through the end of May.

May

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 10:00A Adult Bible Study	3 6:00P Handbells 7:45P Choir	4 Noon OWLS	5	6 5:30P Worship OWLS Bake/Craft sale
7 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) OWLS Bake/Craft sale 9:45A Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	8 6:30P Board of Elders	9 10:00A Adult Bible Study	10 6:00P Handbells 7:45P Choir	11 10:00A Prayer Shawl	12	13 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
14 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	15 7:00P Governing Board	16 10:00A Adult Bible Study 7:00P GIFT Class	17 9:00A-4:00P Life Line Screening 9:30A Women's Bible Study 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir	18 OWLS to Union Railroad Museum	19	20 9:00-11:00A Congregational Meeting 5:30P Worship
21 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	22	23 10:00A Adult Bible Study 7:00P GIFT Class	24 9:30A Women's Bible Study 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir	25 10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P Ascension Worship	26	27 5:30P Worship
28 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	29 Memorial Day Offices closed	30 7:00P GIFT Class	31 9:30A Women's Bible Study 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir			

2017

June

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 Noon OWLS	2	3 OWLS Tailgate Sale 5:30P Worship
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18 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	19 9:00A-1:00P Summer Bible Camp 7:00P Governing Board	20 9:00A-1:00P Summer Bible Camp	21 9:00A-1:00P Summer Bible Camp 9:30A Women's Bible Study	22 9:00A-1:00P Summer Bible Camp 10:00A Prayer Shawl	23	24 5:30P Worship
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