



CROSSlink

2107 3 Oaks Rd, Cary, IL 60013
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)

November 2017

From the Pastor's Desk...



“The Church Triumphant”
Revelation 14:13

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

Our *Lutheran Service Book* has three sections dealing with what we call “church”. The first section is simply titled **The Church**. The next two sections are titled **The Church Militant** and **The Church Triumphant**, respectively.

The first section deals with the gathering together of all Christians around the Word and Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord’s Supper). Where this happens, there the Church is present.

The second section is an extension of the first. The Church Militant is the Church at war. The Church in the world is at war with the world, along with the devil and our own sinful flesh. What a battle it is!

The third section - on which I would like to comment presently - is the Church Triumphant. This is the Church now in heaven, free from sin and from all the effects and restraints of sin. These are the Christians who have “made it” into heaven. They are finally and forever home!

One of the most wonderful hymns dealing with the Church Triumphant is “For All the Saints”. It’s number 677 in *Lutheran Service Book*.

One of the Scripture references on which this hymn is based is **Revelation 14:13**:

“Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’”

Christians who depart in the faith are **blessed**. This means that they are in a perpetual state of perfect happiness!

Why are they **blessed**? Because they died **in the Lord**. They departed this life trusting in the perfect life, death and resurrection of Jesus! They die with no sin on their record. They die with no possibility of condemnation. They die with no charges against them. They die as if they were as perfect as Jesus! They die with the door to heaven unlocked and swung wide open-for them! All this is being **in the Lord**.

And because they die in Jesus, they really don’t die at all! Only their bodies die (see **John 11:25-26**). The Christian continues to live in perfect blessedness. Happy!

And this is **from now on**. Christians are in Paradise immediately when their bodies die. There is no waiting period. There is no delay. There is no place where you go until your sins are finally purged. Heaven is right now for Christians! If anyone should have experienced a delay entering eternal life, it

would have been the career criminal hanging next to Jesus on the Cross. What did Jesus say to this extreme sinner? **“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise”.** (Luke 23:43). Eternally saved. Forgiven unconditionally. Forever!

One of the prayers that is found in the *Pastoral Care Companion*, used by pastors at funeral services, says this:

“O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving kindness shown to (name) and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors...”

God’s Church triumphant consists of saints who “now rest from their labors”. Their struggling and striving is over and done!

“Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine”. (LSB 677:4)

WE remain here in the fight. THEY are home in peace, joy and rest.

And then there is this: **“Their works follow them”**. I thought that our works don’t count; they don’t matter. They don’t-concerning our salvation. Jesus’ works alone count for that.

These are the works that were done by believing Christians while on earth. They glorify God and His goodness! They in NO WAY save us; they are simply expressions of our gratitude for already being saved! (see **Ephesians 2:8-10**-note the order: saved first by God’s free gift alone; works naturally follow to glorify God’s goodness!).

All Saints Sunday (weekend) is observed November 4-5. The primary focus is on Jesus and His Church Triumphant. As we gather that weekend around the Word and Supper (there is also a Baptism that weekend!), we will sing:

“The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!” (LSB 677:6)

Under the Blood of the Lamb,

Pastor Bill Metzger
Hebrews 12:1-3

GIFT Class

Our next GIFT class will meet Tuesdays – November 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 7:00-8:30 PM in the lower level of the LOFT. Each class is 90 minutes and explores the gifts of Jesus, Baptism, Communion and fellowship. No registration is required. Completion of this class can lead to membership at Holy Cross if desired. Join us!

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Please join us Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary as we thank God through worship for the many blessings He has given us.

News from the Preschool

Jean Hoger, Director

Thank you to those who supported our Taffy Apple sale. We are happy with the response from church and preschool families!

Because we are off the week of Thanksgiving it is a shorter month for us. Both the teachers and parents are screening the kids using Ages & Stages. This helps to know if we are on the same page regarding the development of their preschooler.

During the next few weeks we will talk about being thankful. We will be reminded that every good and perfect thing is from God.

Our 4s head teacher, Laurie Charles, fell ill and had to take some time off to get better. I learned that I may not adjust well to transition. Sounds like something I'd tell parents about their child. I honestly realized how blessed I am.

I am **THANKFUL**. I have **Tenderhearted** parents who pooled together to get flowers for Mrs. Charles. I have **Helping** seniors who find time to read to our kids. Some also prepared and served us lunch when we had a longer school day. I have **Antsy** kids who are amazing little people. I have a "Never a dull moment" type of job and life. I have **Kind** and gracious co-workers. I have **Friends** in my co-workers. I have an **Understanding** that when I am down to nothing, God is up to something! I have **Learned** that I am never too old to learn.

The Taizé Contemplative Prayer Service – Saturday, November 10 at 7:00 PM

Stop, contemplate, meditate with us every second Saturday of the month. Do you need a moment to breathe? As reverent and reflective as our Saturday night and Sunday morning services can be, we could probably still use a little more time to just sit and be quiet.

In the midst of a time where meditation has become almost a fad in our culture, Holy Cross has been practicing this for several years in our monthly Taize Contemplative Prayer Service. A brief thirty minutes of quiet prayer, Bible readings and beautiful yet simple music, lit by candlelight.

During our October Taize prayer service, we experienced heavy rains and a thunderstorm. One couldn't help but be reminded of the famous psalm of the Reformation, Psalm 46 "God is our refuge and strength, a VERY PRESENT help in trouble" as the rain beat on the roof of the sanctuary and the thunder rumbled outside while we sat in silence. Such an appropriate reminder that though the storms of our lives rage outside, we can find rest and peace in the shelter of God's promises.

So we would like to give you permission to take a moment to allow yourself to "be still" and practice emptying your mind of your cares and allow God's strength to fill you. Join us on the second Saturday of each month beginning on Saturday, November 10 at 7:00 PM.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our Human Care Ministry is sponsoring a food drive for the Cary Grove Food Pantry. Please bring shelf-stable food to the worship services for Thanksgiving Eve or the following weekend (November 25/26). The pantry increases its client number by about 20 percent during the holiday season. Consider also those foods used for holidays. (No cranberry please, we have enough for years!!) Thanks for helping others in your community. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, checks can be made out to the Cary Grove Food Pantry and placed in the collection plate. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Job Opening

The Holy Cross Trustees are looking to hire a handyman or handywoman to complete small jobs around the church.

Handyperson Job Description:

Under the general supervision of the Trustees and in cooperation with the parish administrator and preschool director will be responsible for the following tasks:

1. Available for daytime situations that require immediate attention.
2. Assist staff as needed to help on various requests – setup, replace light bulbs, plumbing issues, etc.
3. Weekly walk around the building verifying that all lighting works – inside and outside.
4. Monthly check of furnace filters.
5. Keep outside water drains clear of debris.

Requirements:

1. Able to lift 40 pounds.
2. Communicate well.
3. Have a basic knowledge of electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems.
4. Able to work independently.
5. Neat and clean appearance.

Hours: 5 hours per week. More if situations arise that warrant extra time.

If interested, please give your name and contact information to the church office. One of the Trustees will contact you to discuss further.

OWLS Hoots and Happenings



OWLS will meet on Thursday, November 2 at noon in the lower level of the LOFT. Thelanders and Moslanders will host and provide a devotion, dessert and beverages. Please bring a sandwich for yourself and join us for an afternoon with friends. You may bring your favorite game and any books or magazines you would like to exchange or donate to charity.

If you would like to make a quick Christmas craft at our November 2 gathering, please bring a large bar of soap for a fun project.

OWLS will volunteer at the Libertyville location of FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN on November 16 from noon until 2:00 PM. We are planning to meet at 9:45 AM at Brunch Cafe in Fox River Grove before driving to Libertyville. **You must sign up on the bulletin board by Nov. 12th if you plan to go.**

ADDITIONAL INVITATION FOR EVERYONE AT HOLY CROSS:

You are invited to join with OWLS to volunteer to pack food supplements at FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN on November 16. Our shift is from noon until 2:00 PM at the Libertyville location. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome to come, **BUT YOU MUST SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD BY NOVEMBER 12.** Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Christmas Season Angel Tree - The Giving Tree



This year, the Angel Tree will be a symbol of how we can help our neighbors who have been victimized by natural disasters. There is an organization, which began under the guidance of The Lutheran Hour Ministries, called the Orphan Grain Train, headquartered in Norfolk, Nebraska. When disaster strikes, they are asked to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of the people who are hurt by an unexpected disaster event. When these events happen their supplies get depleted in the warehouse. Our goal this year is to provide them with supplies for when they need them next.

Each Wednesday night during Advent, we will have a theme for an item for you to bring to help add to these depleted supplies. What we are asking from you is to bring items to make up layette kits, school supply kits and hygiene kits. **We only ask for 1 item each week per family.** We will gather these items under the Angel Christmas Tree located in the front of church during December. Items may also be brought during the weekends in December.

Right after Christmas, the plan is to deliver these items to the Orphan Grain Train headquarters with anyone who wishes to go and bring gifts for those in need.

If there are any questions, please direct them to Barb Molzer or Jeannine Thelander.

Here's the list of items we'll be collecting:

For December 6 - Personal Hygiene Items

Toothpaste/toothbrush
Bar soaps
Hand wipes/ hand gels
Wash cloth/hand towels
Shampoo/conditioner
Deodorant
Body lotions
Feminine products for women

For December 13 - School Kits

New coloring books
Crayons
Scissors
Notebooks
Loose leaf paper
Pencils/pens
Backpacks
Soccer balls, basketballs, baseball equipment

For December 20 - Layette Items

Cloth or disposable diapers
Baby wipes
Onesies
Baby wash and lotion
Wash clothes
Sleepers

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00P Handbells 9:30A Women's Bible Study 7:00P KFC/Confirmation 7:00P Choir	2 Noon OWLS	3	4 5:30P Worship
5 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	6	7 10:00A Adult Bible study 7:00P Bible study 7:00P GIFT Class 7:30P Dartball game	8 6:00P Handbells 9:30A Women's Bible Study 7:00P KFC/Confirmation 7:00P Choir	9 10:00A Prayer Shawl	10	11 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
12 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	13 6:30P Board of Elders	14 10:00A Adult Bible study 7:00P Bible study 7:00P GIFT Class	15 6:00P Handbells 9:30A Women's Bible Study 7:00P KFC/Confirmation 7:00P Choir	16 OWLS to Feed My Starving Children	17	18 5:30P Worship
19 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Voters' meeting 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	20 7:00P Governing Board	21 10:00A Adult Bible study 7:00P Bible study 7:00P GIFT Class	22 9:30A Women's Bible Study 7:00P Thanksgiving worship	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 Offices closed	25 5:30P Worship
26 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	27	28 10:00A Adult Bible study 7:00P Bible study 7:00P GIFT Class	29 6:00P Handbells 9:30A Women's Bible Study 7:00P KFC/Confirmation 7:00P Choir	30		

2017