



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)

February 2019

From the Pastor's Desk...

“Happy February”
Isaiah 1:18



Dear Fellow-Redeemed,

Dreary days. Dirty snow. A chilly dampness. A “this is getting old” mood. February. What’s not to love? What a month! And so I wish you a “Happy February”!

Why? For what possible reason would I wish you a Happy February? The answer lies in the origin of the Month of February.

The Roman month *Februarius* was named after the Latin term *februum*. Do you know what this word means? It means “purification”. The purification ritual *Februa* was held on February 15 (the full moon) in the old lunar Roman calendar.

January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar, since the Romans originally considered winter a month-less period (those Romans were smarter than they looked). They were added by Numa Pompilius about 713 BC. February remained the last month of the calendar year until about 450 BC, when it became the second month.

The symbols of February are interesting. Its birth flowers are the violet, the common primrose, and the iris. Its birthstone is the amethyst. It symbolizes piety, humility, spiritual wisdom, and sincerity. These attributes are in short supply! People simply aren’t that pious, humble, spiritually wise, or sincere. In fact, people are usually the opposite of these virtues. People are sinners. By nature. It’s what we are.

That’s why I wish you a “Happy February”. It is the month of purification. The cleansing of the soul. A badly-needed cleansing!

The Prophet Isaiah begins the book bearing his name with this: **“Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” (Isaiah 1:18 New King James Version)**

I’m not a huge fan of paraphrases; I prefer exact translations. But here is this same verse from the Living Bible. It really brings out the flavor of purification: **“No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can take it out and make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you white as wool!” (Isaiah 1:18 Living Bible)** THAT’S purification! Happy February!

When I think of February I think of the color red. That’s all you see in stores. Once Valentine’s Day passes, the stores turn green. There’s a correlation, at least in my convoluted mind. Red is the color of oxygenated blood. Blood gives life. Life would be impossible without blood. God used blood to purify sinners. Deeply stained sinners. **“The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7b)**

Having one's sins cleansed or purified gives that person a new life. Green is the color of life. Life follows cleansing/purification. Hence, green follows red. Green is for another CrossLink article.

The greeting "Happy February" comes from the fact that you have been purified. By blood. By the blood of the Lamb of God - Jesus. The same blood that caused the Angel of death to pass-over Israel while still in Egyptian bondage. The same blood that poured out of the fountain mentioned in **Zechariah 13:1**. Read this verse. Notice that the fountain was overflowing on a certain "Day". Good Friday. Purification by blood. The same blood that came out of Jesus' side after He died - blood that sprayed out on all standing at the foot of the Cross. Blood that caused the Roman Centurion to say: "**Truly this was the Son of God.**" (See **Matthew 27:54** and **John 19:34**) The blood of Jesus. The same blood that you receive when you drink from the Cup during the Sacrament of the Altar. You get the point. Blood purifies from sin. Blood is red. February's color is red. Hence: "Happy February"!!!

Have a wonderful February! Celebrate your purification before God by the blood of Jesus! Enjoy the new life which has been given to you by Jesus. Look forward to spring - the time of new life following the "deadness" of winter. "Happy February!"

Clean and Forgiven,

Pastor Bill Metzger
Isaiah 1:18

News from the Preschool

Jean Hoger, Director

We are bummed to have snow and cold days to finish our January. We want to make up those days because we planned some fun activities! When we return after the deep freeze, we'll be talking a lot about love. We'll count candy hearts, paint with heart shaped cookie cutters, make and receive Valentines! After our party, we have February 15 off for Parent/Teacher Conferences. We enjoy meeting with the parents to discuss their preschooler's progress!

Our Jesus time for February will be about Jesus' miracles. He heals many, but before he does, he forgives their sins. He forgives us and heals us because he loves us!

Our big event near the end of the month is a day for dads and preschoolers. We will have a Hawaiian Luau at Cary Gymnastics. The kids will climb, tumble and jump. We'll have a nice story and a delicious snack. Then climb, tumble and jump some more!

We are in the process of registering for next fall. We have a few openings in the 4s and are looking for more 3s for our T/Th class. If you know a family with a little one, send them our way! Our handbook, registration forms and a preschool brochure can be found on Holy Cross's website. They can also call the preschool office at 847-639-6533 for more information or to schedule a tour.

Let's pray that through our teachers, the children are able to see Jesus every day at school.

OWLS Hoots and Happenings



OWLS will meet at noon on February 7 in the lower LOFT. Israel's will be the hosts and prepare a devotion, a dessert and beverages. Bring a sandwich for yourself and join us for an afternoon with friends. We will play cards, dominoes and board games or any game you like. We exchange magazines and books and leftovers are taken to Bethesda's Shop in Crystal Lake to support the ministry of Bethesda Lutheran Home.

PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING IS A CHANGE FROM OUR PUBLISHED SCHEDULE.

On Thursday, February 28 there is an afternoon play production at Prairie Ridge High School in Crystal Lake. This is a special free performance for seniors and includes dessert after the performance. See the bulletin board to sign up and get info about parking. Please do not delay since tickets must be ordered. For more information, speak to Al or Nancy Israel.

ANOTHER PLAY PRODUCTION is coming in March at Cary-Grove High School - "All Shook Up!" Tickets will go on sale soon. Make your own arrangements for a date of your choice at \$10 per ticket.

The plan for lunch and a movie has been moved to March 21.

Human Care Ministry Thank You

Our Human Care ministry, along with Heartland Blood Centers, wishes to THANK EVERYONE who donated at the Blood Drive on January 14. Because of your kindness and generous donations, 18 units were collected. This means waiting patients will receive the gift of Hope and life because of your donations!! "SOME PEOPLE REALLY KNOW HOW TO GIVE." Continue to be regular blood donors. Holy Cross's next drive is August 19. Thanks again.

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 5:30P Worship
3 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	4	5 10:00A Adult Bible study 7:30P Dartball game	6 6:00P Handbells 7:00P KFC/Confirmation 7:00P Choir	7 9:30A Men's Bible study Noon OWLS	8	9 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
10 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible study 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 4:00P Valentine's Day Dinner	11 6:30P Elders	12 10:00A Adult Bible study	13 6:00P Handbells 7:00P KFC/Confirmation 7:00P Choir	14 9:30A Men's Bible study 10:00A Prayer Shawl	15	16 5:30P Worship
17 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	18 7:00P Governing Board	19 10:00A Adult Bible study	20 6:00P Handbells 7:00P KFC/Confirmation 7:00P Choir	21 9:30A Men's Bible study OWLS	22	23 5:30P Worship
24 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	25	26 10:00A Adult Bible study	27 6:00P Handbells 7:00P KFC/Confirmation 7:00P Choir	28 9:30A Men's Bible study 10:00A Prayer Shawl		

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