**2107 3**

 **Oaks Rd, Cary, IL**

**60013**

 **Church Office**

**847.639.1702**

**Worship Services:**

**Saturdays**

**5:**

**30**

**pm**

**(**

**)**

**Sanctuary**

# 260.804.3154 Pastor Patterson Sundays 8:30am (Sanctuary)

# 847.639.6533 School Office Sunday 9:45 am Bible Study/Fish Club

#  www.HolyCrossCary.org Sundays 10:45 am (LOFT)

**APRIL 2023**

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# FROM PASTOR’S DESK “Private Confession & Absolution” Pastor Zac Patterson

If you surveyed the Lutheran population around the United States concerning practices such as making the sign of the cross, chanting, genuflecting, and so on, many would be uncomfortable with these kinds of practices. The reason? For the most part, many are uncomfortable with these practices because they are “too Roman Catholic”, and therefore, we shouldn’t do them. This idea isn’t new, as the Radical Reformers in the 16th century put forward this idea as well; an idea that Martin Luther very much fought against. Instead, we should look at practices on their own merit and decide what is a faithful practice and what isn’t.

 Once such practice is Private Confession. Though the Lutheran practice is different than the Roman Catholic practice, many Lutherans scoff at the idea of coming to their pastor and privately confessing their sins before him. But this practice of Private Confession & Absolution is a very good practice and one encouraged by Lutheran theologians since the days of the Reformation.

Article 11 of the Augsburg Confession is specifically on Confession and it says, “Of Confession [Lutheran churches and pastors] teach that Private Absolution ought to be retained in the churches, although in confession an enumeration of all sins is not necessary.” In Luther’s *Small Catechism*, it says this about what sins you should confess, “Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer, but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.” This confession before the pastor is not in the context of the public confession at the beginning of the Divine Service, but in the context of Private Confession with the pastor. So, as you can see, Private Confession is most definitely a Lutheran practice.

 There is, however, a great difference between Roman Catholics and Lutherans on Private Confession: Absolution. For Roman Catholics, Private Confession is something that is required of all members, they must come and name all of their sins, and then are given a list of prayers to pray and things to do in order to make penance for their sins. For Lutherans, Private Confession is something that members are encouraged to do but not forced, they are only to name the sins that are greatly troubling them, and then they are promptly absolved of their sins by the pastor. For the Lutheran, the member comes in, confesses the sin that’s troubling them, and receives forgiveness. Unlike the Roman Catholic practice, which is one of guilt and burden, the Lutheran practice of Private Confession is a practice of comfort that brings peace.

 You can see this in the short example rite that Luther gives in the *Small Catechism*. It begins with the penitent saying, “Dear confessor, I ask you please to hear my confession and to pronounce forgiveness in order to fulfill God’s will.” The intention is to confess your sins, with the expectation that the pastor, with the authority given by God, will forgive you of those sins. To see this rite, you can look at the Confession section in Luther’s *Small Catechism* or look at pages 292-293 in our hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*.

 This practice of Private Confession & Absolution is a wonderful practice that should be retained and used in all Lutheran churches. It is especially beneficial during the season of Lent, in which you are to be reflecting on your sins. Lent is a perfect time to bring your sins before your pastor, confess those sins to him, and have the burden of those sins lifted off of you as your pastor declares to you, “I, by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Go in peace.” I am available for Private Confession & Absolution by appointment.

**Easter Season Service Schedule:**

**Sunday, April 2**, 8:30am Palm Sunday

10:45am Palm Sunday

9:40am Easter Egg Hunt on west lawn

**Sunday, April 9**, 8:30am- **Easter Service**

10:45am – **Easter Service**

8-10:30am Easter Breakfast

A Special Thank you to all who served us fabulous meals during the midweek Lent service days!!!!

**CARDS AND CALLS MINISTRY**

We have 10 volunteers who are working to reconnect with some of our  Holy Cross Members.  We have many more names. Would

you help us build relationships and connections with our Holy Cross members.? Call Elaine or email

**JULIET’S BOOK CLUB**

The JULIET’S Book Club meets the first Monday of every month at Panera Bread in Fox River Grove at 6:00pm. Please contact Kathy for more information.

**HOLY CROSS SCHOOL**

With days getting longer and Easter just around the corner, we spring into April with a renewed sense of excitement. We have 7 students enrolled for the 2023-2024 school year with a few more expected to come in this month.

Our school is excited to offer Fun Fridays and other options to homeschool children in grade Kindergarten, First and Second Grade. Activities will include music, art, library, chapel, and a special study of the Revolutionary War.

Don’t forget to attend our Cane’s fundraiser on Tuesday, April 18 from 4:00-10:00 pm at the Crystal Lake location. Mention our school, and we will receive 15% of your order total!

Interested in working at Holy Cross Lutheran School? We need paid employees and volunteers to staff our before and after school care, serve as classroom assistants, and a full-time classroom teacher.  For more information, contact Chrissy Heiss, Principal at the school office, principal@holycrosscary.org

**FISH CLUB**

Please join us- 3 to 8 years old- every Sunday from 9:35am - 10:30am in the Lower LOFT**!** We're sure the kids will grow in their relationship with Jesus and meet a few new friends along the way.

**KIDS FOR CHRIST**

Kids for Christ meets from 5-6:30pm. Dinner will be provided. KFC is for all kids grades 1-8. This includes Confirmation instruction for grades 7-8.

**LWML**

LUTHERAN WOMEN of the Northern Illinois District will meet on Saturday, March 18 for a Lenten Inspiration with President Allan Buss and others for a full day.  St. John's Church in LaGrange is hosting the event.  More information and registration forms are on the LWML bulletin board or at [Lutheran Women’s Missionary League – Northern Illinois District](http://www.LWMLNID.org).

LUTHERAN WOMEN from across the U.S. will meet in convention in Milwaukee Wisconsin June 21-25, 2023.  In preparation, women of Holy Cross will be gathering items in April and May to take to the convention and pack into hygiene kits to be sent to disaster areas.  Watch this Newsletter and weekend bulletins for more information.  Consider attending the convention for one day or the entire time.  You will benefit from this experience and see where MITE money is spent on missionary projects.  Workers for the convention ( men, women and teens ) are needed, too.

 **OWLS**

OWLS will meet at noon April 6 in the lower LOFT.  Tom and Joan will host and provide dessert and a devotion to start our meeting.  Bring your lunch and join us for an afternoon with friends.  Cards, dominoes and active games are available and there is always fellowship and conversation.  You may bring books and magazines you have finished to trade or donate to Ablelight Thrift Shop in Crystal Lake, an agency of Bethesda Lutheran Home.

OWLS will meet at noon April 20 at Hill Climb Park in Algonquin to share a picnic lunch and take in the view of the Fox River Valley below.  Bring your camera and binoculars and see if you can spot an eagle fishing in the river.  Bring your lunch and join us!  Directions are posted on the OWLS bulletin board.

(DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER this season, all outdoor activities will move to the Lower LOFT when necessary.)

**DINE TO DONATE**

Every Sunday, at the Crystal Lake Texas Roadhouse, 10% of your food bill will be donated back to Holy Cross when you bring in your church bulletin, flyer, or mention our church name. Call ahead seating 815-356-7427!

**TRUSTEES – WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Romans 12: 6-8

 We have different gifts, according to the Grace given to each of us. If your gift is ….. serving, then serve.

 Our Board of Trustees is offering members of Holy Cross a wonderful opportunity to share your Time and Talents and ……. Serve!

 At present, we have some Trustees …… but not enough! Ideally we would like to have between 5 and 10 people, which would help lighten the load and would allow us to get more things accomplished.

 Membership is open to Men AND Women. Being a skilled carpenter, electrician, plumber or multi-talented craftsman is NOT necessarily a prerequisite. All we need are people who want to SERVE….. and who can help oversee an individual project. You would be asked to manage the project…. not perform the task yourself.

 All members are encouraged to help; especially those not presently involved who would like to jump in. Retirees or Semiretired people with schedule flexibility would be especially well suited for this great opportunity.

 To learn more please contact Ellen at the church office; Steve, Board of Trustees Chairman; or Mark, Finance Committee Member.

 Thank you….Your prayerful consideration of the above would be much appreciated!



**🕆 Easter Resurrection Story Cookies 🕆**

**Ingredients:**

1 cup pecans 1 Tsp Vinegar 3 egg whites(large eggs)

Pinch of salt 1 cup sugar

**Supplies:**

Resealable bag wooden spoon or rolling pin Bible tape

2 cookie sheets parchment paper teaspoon mixer and bowl

**Instructions:**

1. Preheat oven to 300°F/150°C.

2.Place pecans in bag and let the children beat them with the wooden spoon to break them into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. *Read John 19:1-3*.

3.Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, he was given vinegar to drink. *Read John19:28-30.*

4. Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. *Read John 10:10-11*

5. Sprinkle a little salt into each child’s hand. Let them taste It and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus’ followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. *Read Luke 23:27.*

6. So far the ingredients are not very appetizing, are they? Now add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. *Read Psalms 34:8 and John 3:16.*

7. Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12-15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God’s eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. *Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.*

8. Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto the parchment lined cookie sheets. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus’ body was laid. *Read Matthew 27:57-60.*

9. Put the cookies in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF. (If you have a gas oven, leave on for 8-10 mins., then turn off.) Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door closed. Explain that Jesus’ tomb was sealed. *Read Matthew 27:65-66.*

10. Go to bed! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight, however Jesus’ followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. *Read John 16:20 & 22.*

11. On Easter morning open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, Jesus’ followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. *Read Matthew 28:1-9.*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!!



**HOLY CROSS** Invites Children to Stellar VBS: Shine Jesus’ Light!

A summer kids’ event called Stellar VBS will be hosted at **Holy Cross** from **June 19** to **23, 2023 from 5:00-7:30pm**. At Stellar, kids discover how they can shine Jesus’ love and hope in everyday life! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, devour yummy dinner, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of Jesus’ light, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they’ll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Cosmic Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they’ve learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at **7:15.**

Kids at Stellar VBS will join a missions effort to provide Bibles for families in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Stellar is for kids ages 3 (potty trained) through rising 5th graders**.** The cost is $35 per child and includes a T-shirt and dinner each night.  **Ages 6th grade through adult are encouraged to volunteer.** To register your child or sign up to volunteer, use this link: https://vbspro.events/p/events/holycrosscaryvbs. REGISTRATION OPENS ON MARCH 15, 2023.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!!

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|      Sunday |  Monday |  Tuesday |  Wednesday |  Thursday |  Friday |  Saturday |
| **April 2023**   |    |  |   |    |    | 15:30pm Worship    |
|  2 **PALM SUNDAY**8:30am Worship (Sanct)  9:45am Bible Study/Easter Egg Hunt (West Lawn)10:45am Worship (LOFT)   |  3 6:00 pm Juliet’s  At FRG Panera   | 4 VOTING – lower LOFT- all day6:30 Elder’s |  5 7:00pm Choir |  6 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**7:00pm WORSHIP12:00pm OWLS  |  7 **GOOD FRIDAY**12:00pm Worship3:00 Rotary Walk7:00pm WorshipPrayer Vigil begins |  8   No ServicesOngoing Prayer Vigil |
|  9**EASTER SUNDAY** 8:30am Worship (Sanct)8-10:30am Easter Breakfast10:45am Worship (LOFT) No Fish Club  |  10Office Closed-Easter Monday  |  11  7:00pm Cultured Pearls |  12 No Choir |  1310:00am Prayer  Shawl5-6:30pm K4C 6:45pm Compline Service  |  14  |  155:30pm Worship  |
|  16   8:30am Worship (Sanct)   9:45am Bible Study/Fish Club10:45am Worship (LOFT)  |  17     |  18  6:30pm Governing  Board 4-10:00pm“Raising Canes”School Fundraiser |  19 7:00pm Choir |  2012:00pm OWLS Picnic - Algonquin5-6:30pm K4C 6:45pm Compline Service  |  21   |  22  5:30 pm Worship |
|  23 8:30am Worship (Sanct)   9:45am Bible Study/FishClub10:45am Worship (LOFT)  |  24  |  25  |  26 7:00pm Choir |  27 10:00am Prayer Shawl @ Panera5-6:30pm K4C 6:45pm Compline Service  |  28  |  29 5:30pm Worship |
|  30 8:30am Worship (Sanct)   9:45am Bible Study/NO Fish Club10:45am Worship (LOFT)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER

AT RAISING CANE’S!

**Mention the fundraiser** at the register.

And Cane’s will donate 15% of sales to:

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

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Date & Time:

**April 18, 2023, from 4:00pm to 10:00pm**

Location:

**5417 Northwest Highway, Crystal Lake, IL 60014**

**1-815-356-9264 raisingcanes.com**

***Thank you for your continued support!!!***