

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

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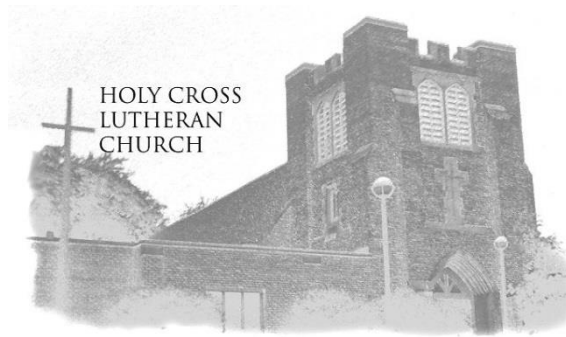
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April 2018

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR KEITH

LOOKING AHEAD

Celebrations of the Completion Of Jesus' Mission Here On Earth
April 1st - 7:00 am and 9:30 am, with a time of Fellowship in between
May 13th Confirmation Day

Bible Verse of the Month

1 John 4:7-11

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because GOD IS LOVE. This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son Jesus into the world that we might live through Him. This is love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

Prayer of the Month

O Lord, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your Son Jesus to sacrifice His life so that we might have life with You. Help us to love others in this same way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers for our Staff

Shelley Kivipelto, Phillip Brandvold, David Hinrichs, Julie Wright, Wendy Kofoot, and Pastor Keith

Prayers for our Members

Kelly (Jacques), Madison, and Jon Adams; Jesse and Kendra Jenson; Trinda and Paul Jevne; Marsha Katasonova and Nicholas Katasonov; Arlene Kise and Kurt Kise; Gail and Peter Klatt; Jon and Wendy Kofoot; Tom Kulberg; Keith and Mary Lange; Jim, Sandi, Caleb, and Steven Likely; Jason, Jamie, Makenzie, and Braydon Lustfield; Jasmine, Peter, and Aryanne Macht; Steve, Linda, Jack, Matthew, and Katie McConley; Keith and Trish Meyer; Joanne Minnetti.

Thought for the Month

Do the math. Count your blessings.

If you worry, you didn't pray. If you prayed, don't worry.

As a child of God, prayer is like calling home every day.

When we get tangled up in our problems, be still so God can untangle the knot.

Food for Thought

Setting a good example for children takes all the fun out of middle age.

Too many people today see the Ten Commandments as the Ten Suggestions.

A Special Thought

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, the kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that this enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master Builder and the worker. We are workers, not master Builders, ministers not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen.

Archbishop Oscar Romero

As the Sunday school teacher described how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, little John interrupted and said, "My mommy looked back once while she was driving and she turned into a telephone pole."

The Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan and asked, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the silence and said, "I think I'd throw up."

One morning the Sunday school teacher asked, "Do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the ark?" Joey spoke up and said, "How could he with just two worms?"

The Sunday school teacher told her class, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in the Bible, but there is a higher power, can anybody tell me what it is?" A child shouted, "Aces!"

Tommy was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. "Well mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved." "Tommy, is that what your teacher taught you?" asked his mother. "Well, no," he said. "But if I told it the way the teacher did you'd never believe it."

The Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorize the 23rd Psalm, and gave the children one month to learn it. Little Ricky was excited but he just couldn't remember it, only the first line. When the time came for the children to recite, Ricky proudly stood up and said, "The Lord's my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

The pastor's daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. When she asked him why, he was proud that she paid attention to his sermons. "I'm asking God to help me preach a good sermon." She replied, "Then how come He doesn't do it?"

When a girl said her prayers at bedtime she always asked God to bless every family member, every friend, and every animal she could think of. For several weeks, after she finished she would say, "All Girls". Her father's curiosity got the better of him, and he asked her why she ended her prayers that way. "Well", she replied, "Everyone else always finishes their prayers with All Men!"

A little girl asked her father how the human race got started. He told her that God made Adam and Eve and they had children who had children. Two days later the little girl asked her mother the same question and she told her that people came from monkeys. That confused the little girl and so she went back to her father and asked him how it was possible for God to make people when her mother said people came from monkeys. The father told his daughter this, "It's simple, I told you about my side of the family and your mother told you about her side."

Bible Quiz

- 1) At what time of day was Adam born?
- 2) How were Adam and Eve prevented from gambling?
- 3) What evidence have we that Adam and Eve were rowdy?
- 4) Why couldn't Noah play cards?
- 5) What man from the Bible has no parents?
- 6) Who is the smallest man mentioned in the Bible?
- 7) When was baseball mentioned in the Bible?
- 8) Who was the straightest man in the Bible?
- 9) Who was the best financier in the Bible?
- 10) What simple affliction brought about the death of Samson?

Answers: 1 *a little before Eve* 2 *Their paradise was taken away from them*
3 *Because they raised Cain* 4 *Because his wife sat on the deck* 5 *Joshua, he was the son of Nun* 6 *Bildad the Shuhite* 7 *When Rebecca walked to the well with the pitcher and when the Prodigal made a home run. It's also mentioned in the book of Genesis: In the big inning* 8 *Joseph, when Pharaoh made a ruler out of him* 9 *Noah, he floated his stock while the whole world was in liquidation* 10 *He died of fallen arches.*



Time, Talents, Treasures

Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and take without forgetting. There's a story of a pastor who announced to his congregation, "I have good news and bad news. The good news is we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is it's still in your pockets."

"Now on the first day of the week ..."
John 20:1

All is made new by the Resurrection of Jesus! Even the day of worship has transitioned from the Old Testament's Saturday Sabbath to the Lord's Day of the New Testament. He has begun a new week for a

new creation in rising from the dead as the New Adam. We are also made new in Him – a new heart, a new life, new desires, a new outlook toward God. All this comes from our Risen Lord's grace.

"Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." "
John 20:19

The peace we have in Jesus is what makes a life of good works possible. Since we know that it is Jesus who saved us, we are free to do good works not out of self-interest, but out of thanksgiving toward God and love for our neighbors.

"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."
1 John 3:2

The essence of our sanctification is becoming like our Lord. As St. John notes, this will

only be completed in the Resurrection. Until then we are called to trust His grace and to grow into His image more and more.

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.” John 10:14

What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord. He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Once we are His, we learn to know Him, and we learn to imitate Him. That is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord’s grace.

“Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” John 15:2

God is interested in the fruit that we bear in good works. Trusting in our Lord’s work for us, being grafted by grace into His vine, we desire to be more like Him, to grow into His image.

Our Father in heaven sent His Son to be our savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first-fruits of all the dead, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism, and He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood. Since we have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word.

By faith and by trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says. For *“without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” Hebrews 11:6.*

And so the Lord promises: *“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” Proverbs 3:9-10.*

How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us? By giving it generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support - our family, our society, and our church. And His promise is that in so doing, we will never lack.

That’s from the Old Testament, but Jesus gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents, *“For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” Matthew.25:29.*

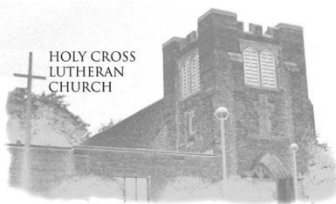
At the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: *“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” Luke 16:10–13.*

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” Matthew 6:19–21.*

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse, by people on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And so we miss out on the fact that God does reward faithfulness with blessings. It's not quid pro quo, but from God's grace, His divine goodness and mercy.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: *"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need"* Malachai 3:10.

And so, while we don't give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless our giving with more receiving. For *"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things"* Romans 8:32?



We celebrated with Ralph and Lynnae the baptism of their daughter, Esther Asher March 18. Esther's sponsors are Eric Skogerboe, Martha Hansen and Grace Mataika. A good time was had by all at the brunch following the worship service.

The Brooks family is in our prayers. Meals, rides for Steve to chemotherapy, and being with him while Roberta is working are

ways that you can help. Steve and Roberta are posting their requests for help, meals and the like on the Caring Bridge website planner, you can check that and sign up to help without needing to reach Roberta. <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/stevebrooks82/planner>

Caringbridge/ ways to help/ visit planner

Our We Care fund is dedicated to help Holy Cross families who are in need. A donation box for the We Care fund is now located in the narthex. If God is calling you to support this mission please donate. If your family needs financial assistance, please contact Pastor - all inquiries will remain confidential.

We're taking orders for plants again this spring. Brochures with pictures are in the narthex, **please order by Sunday April 8th.** The plants will be available in May.

Hanging baskets

Vegetables and herbs

Bedding plants

Perennials

Tubs

Novelty items

If you'd rather buy a plant gift card than choose plants now, that info is in the brochure as well. Thank you, call *Darcy Tatham* with questions. 651-552-1625

We thank all who supported our Lenten Soup Suppers cooking, baking, working and monetarily. The suppers nourish body and soul, and are an important part of our Holy Cross community, bringing us closer to being one bread and one body.

We so appreciate that Dave Schlueter hosted our Easter Prayer Vigil again this year.

The Sorensons worked their buns off this month bringing more than \$1478 of bakery from Cub, for us and for CES. That is not easy and doesn't do itself, thank you, thank you, thank you!

Congratulations to Kate McConley, who qualified for the State Gymnastics competition in the horizontal bars and took third place!

Holy Cross is listed in the Church Directory of our neighborhood paper, Southside Pride Nokomis. The cost is \$22.00 per month, if you would like to sponsor our ad, please write that on your offering envelope. Thank you for your support!

Plan on Holy Cross Game Night Saturday April 21, 4-8 pm.

Our next Feed My Starving Children event is April 28th from 9-11am. If you are planning on attending, please let Phil know. Please sign up before Wednesday April 25th - if no one has signed up, the reserved spots will be released and the event will be cancelled. *Phil*

Thank you to all who donated hats, scarves and mittens for the Holy Cross "Pillar of Warmth and Love." Because of your generosity, we were able to provide approximately 100 items for our Holy Cross neighbors. We have already started collecting new and gently used hats, scarves and mittens for next year. If you have items you would like to donate, please place them in the bin located in the family room. *Hands in Ministry*

We welcome the Gideons to Holy Cross on Sunday April 15th. The Gideons International is an association of Christians dedicated to telling people about Jesus through meeting for service, sharing personal testimony, and by providing Bibles and New Testaments. They place and distribute Scriptures in strategic locations so they are available to those who want them, as well as to those who may not know they need them.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28:19

"Thank you for your gift of \$70 for our Diaper Drive. Your kind gift helped restore a family's dignity and build a community in which all children have the support they need to develop their full capacity to thrive; we are grateful to have you in our community. Thank you so very much,"
Noah Gerding, People Serving People

"Thank you for your January and February donations totaling 559 pounds of food. As you know, food insecurity hits many in our society. It is silent and affects kids and retirees alike. During this year, one in ten Minnesotans will experience not knowing where their next meals will come from. Eight percent of all seniors experience hunger and will have to skip meals for lack of food this year! It is through gifts like yours that CES continues to be, "a place where people come hungry and leave hopeful.""
Chris Nelson, Community Emergency Service

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY Holy Cross

Phillip Brandvold, DCE/DCO

Through education we become rooted in Christ, through community we become tangled together and through service to others we are branching out.

Bible Study Sunday mornings at 10:45

HOLY CROSS YELLOW PAGES

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DEACONS

Lyle Horrmann and Ralph Asher

ALTAR GUILD

Donna Bristol and Jean Anderson



BIRTHDAYS

Kaitie Beiersdorf Derosier	4/1
Roberta Brooks	4/2
Don Ellerton	4/4
Nicholas Katasonov	4/6
Sheila Platt	4/9
Matt Derosier	4/ 10
Lynn Oolman	4/12
Bill Christ	4/13
James Scanlon	4/18
Katherine McConley	4/26
Matthew McConley	4/26
Sally Gorski	4/27
Aryanne Macht	4/28
Jesse Jenson	4/29

USHERS

1	J and M Blomberg
8	Oolman and Tatham
15	Phelon and Phelon
22	L and A Horrmann
29	J and M Blomberg

COUNTERS

1	M Blomberg and R Woodraska
8	L Oolman and G Klatt
15	G Klattt and R Woodraska
22	A Horrmann and L Oolman
29	M Blomberg and G Klatt



“I thought I had it all figured out. But I got caught up in the whole thing – the wrong crowd, the boys, the partying. And one night I found myself in a hospital bed with alcohol poisoning. I knew something had to change, but I didn’t know what, exactly. So here I am.”

This is what Bella told Courtney at our Cru meeting. Through tears, Bella told how she felt a deep urge to go back to church, but that something was missing. Courtney discussed with her how to have a personal relationship with Jesus, that all she had to do was to receive Jesus’ gift and believe that He is her Savior. She got this text from Bella a few days later:

“I went home to go to church this weekend where we talked about Mark 14:1-11, and that with prayer was the final step I needed! I am so excited to live my life for and with God!

Women’s Month has always been a super fun time for the women’s community at UWSP. Instead of Bible studies in each hall, all the women come together for fun, teaching, and discussion. We’ve had more than 90 women come out, and it’s been exceptional as our junior and senior women have been doing the teaching on “Encounters with Jesus” in the Gospels. A woman named Ashley has grown exponentially in her walk with God during college and it was so encouraging to learn from her, and to hear from other students how Ashley’s ministry has impacted their lives.

Please pray for Hannah and Carla, who are very influential here on campus, and are seeking ways to be a Gospel light to their fellow sorority sisters and fraternity brothers. Pray for courage and boldness for them, and for them to grow in their walks with Jesus and to trust Him with their lives.

Praise God for the many men who applied to Jersey Shore summer mission. 21 have applied and twelve have been accepted, to grow in their faith in God and to reach the lost this summer.

Thank you for praying for Courtney’s brother who has been deployed overseas, he came home March 6th! We’re grateful for God’s protection of his life and his team, and to have him home with us again.

Serving with you in Christ,
Erick and Courtney Horrmann

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7:00 and 9:30 am Easter Worship Easter Breakfast 8am -9:15 7:00 pm GA	2 6:00 pm Craft Group	3 7 pm Deacons' Meeting 7 pm Russian Soul Rehearsal	4 10:30 am Bible Study 6 Confirmation here 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	5 7:00 pm AA Meeting	6 7:00 pm AA Meeting	7 8 am AA Meeting 3-5 pm GA Intergroup 5 pm Worship Service
8 Mite Offering 9:30 am Worship w/Communion 10:45 Intergen. Bible Study and Sunday School 7:00 pm GA	9 10:30 Prayer Group 6:30 ICAN	10 7 pm Russian Soul	11 10:30 am Bible Study 6 Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 2-4 pm Hands in Ministry 7:00 Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting	13 7:00 pm AA Meeting	14 8 am AA Meeting 5 pm Worship Service w/Communion
15 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Intergen. Bible Study and Sunday School 7:00 pm GA	16 Shelley's office hours will now be 1-4 pm until November	17 7 pm Russian Soul	18 10:30 am Bible Study 6 Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 7:00 pm AA Meeting	20 7:00 pm AA Meeting	21 8 am AA Meeting 4pm – 8 Game Night 5 pm Worship Service w/Communion
22 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Intergen. Bible Study and Sunday School 7:00 pm GA	23	24 7 pm Russian Soul	25 10:30 am Bible Study 6 Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	26 7:00 pm AA Meeting	27 7:00 pm AA Meeting	28 8 am AA Meeting 5 pm Worship Service w/Communion
29 9:30 am Worship w/Communion 10:45 Intergen. Bible Study and Sunday School 7:00 pm GA	30					