

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

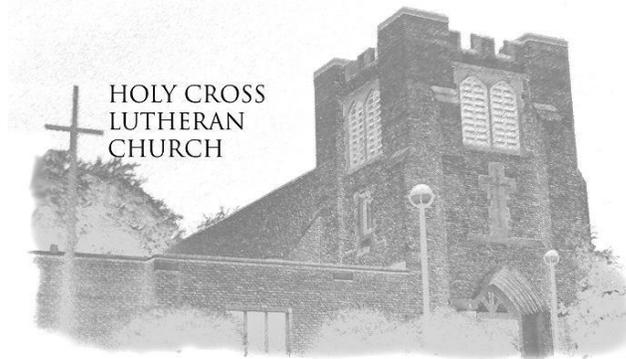
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August 2018

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday Worship Services at 9:30 am, followed by Fellowship

Wednesday Bible Class at 10:30 am

Wednesday Small Group Fellowship 5:30 pm

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am going to start this month's column by thanking all of you who attended the meeting on July 25th with Rev. Dean Nadasdy. I am hearing that those who attended feel like they have a better understanding of the call process, a process that can be confusing to many who have not gone through it before. Rev. Nadasdy helped us understand that the process will likely take a minimum of six months so we should be prepared to be patient and trust the Lord as we prayerfully move down the path to

meeting our new pastor, a pastor chosen for us by God.

One of the things we must do this month is complete the Self Study process, and the forms are available on our Member page, in the sanctuary and in this newsletter. Filling out the form doesn't take long and there are no wrong answers. This is your opportunity to let us know where you think we are as a congregation, what our strengths and weaknesses are and what you think are the most important characteristics our new pastor should possess. Please take a moment or two to fill out the survey and turn it in

when you are done. All of the members of the call committee will be filling out the survey as part of their duty as a committee member. The other thing we can start doing right now is submit names of pastors that you would like to be considered for a call to Holy Cross. The submitted names will be passed on to the district president who will contact the pastor and see if they are interested in being on the call list. We already have three names to pass along if you know of others please submit them in writing or by email including your name and contact information so we can let you know what happens.

I am hoping to finalize the Call Committee by August 12th. The committee will have a minimum of 9 members and a maximum of 12. I have 11 names but not all have committed yet. As soon as the list is complete it will be published in the bulletin and on the new "Member Resources" section of our website. By the way, we all should thank Linda McConley for her efforts on the Holy Cross web page. The new "Member Resources" section will be your one stop resource for information on what's happening here at the church

There are a couple of things that Rev. Nadasdy warned us about. First, we must all renew our commitment to attending services and second we must also be steadfast in our pledge to stewardship. Our stewardship should not only be our monetary obligation but also our obligation to make ourselves available to help shoulder the load here at the Church. From what I've seen so far you are stepping forward, willing to help where you can and when you can. It looks like we may have filled our open slots on Deacons and Trustees, although some of these volunteers will be temporary. Please

prayerfully consider where you could be of service. Thank you.

That's enough for this month, Keep praying and I'll see you in church!

Steve Blomberg
President



When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3).

And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures, who gave her everything she had, who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil, who called her by the Gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament, would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small

gifts it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us.

We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant (Gal. 4). We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

So what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Cor. 8:7).

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, without resources for the poor and needy – in short,

we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us.

For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matt. 22:34-.40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said, "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God's gifts for what you need and let the rest fall through your fingers to your neighbors – your family, your friends, your community, your church.

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry*

We put our arms around the family of Doris DuBois, whose brother Rick and uncles Louie and Glen have all died within the last few weeks.

"From the bottom of our hearts, **thank you so much for all of the prayers, support and help that you have provided to us during this difficult time.** We are so grateful that Trish has such a caring and loving church family to help her and us navigate through all that comes with the loss of a loved one. Thank you also for the church service that was done in Keith's honor. It was absolutely beautiful; we enjoyed the sermon and the choir, and we loved having the opportunity to listen to everyone's memories of Keith. God Bless,"
Michael, Darla and Hannah

Please pick up a Holy Cross Self-Study and complete it, they're in the back of the

sanctuary and on our Member Page. It's important that we examine our Congregational Culture and Pastoral Expectations, every voice counts as we work towards our future.

We are continuing to meet for Bible study on Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 am Please join us for learning, fellowship and delicious baked goods to keep our group strong until we have a pastor to lead us again.

“We picked up \$2371.00 of baked goods from Cub in July, sharing them with CES food shelf!” *Errol and Judy*

Phil Brandvold and Ralph Asher have installed US Internet for us so our internet speed should be significantly faster and we have WiFi now. In the next few weeks they will be working to get the newer computers up and running and then transition out our older computers.

Join us for Small Group Fellowship at Likely's Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. We'll meet for a potluck dinner and discuss topics of faith and life. If you're interested, please talk to Phil.

Learn how to maximize your Thriven Member Benefits at an informational event hosted at McCoy's Public House Restaurant with a complimentary breakfast
Thursday, August 23rd @ 9am
3801 Grand Way, St. Louis Park, MN 55416

*Please RSVP by August 15 to Patti Sinykin: psinykin@loavesandfishesmn.org



AUGUST

WEDDINGS

Michael and Darla Meyer	8/2
Paul and Trinda Jevne	8/15
Ralph Asher and Lynnae Skogerboe	8/22
Klaus and Heidi Guenther	8/24
James and Sandi Likely	8/29

BIRTHDAYS

Steven Brooks	8/2
Michael Blomberg	8/2
Arlene Kise	8/6
Errol Sorenson	8/6
Becky Dennis	8/8
James Hoeft	8/12
Ralph Asher	8/13
Braydon Lustfield	8/13
Reuben Woodraska	8/15
Kelly (Jaques)Adams	8/21
Alexander Reyes	8/23
Elliott Brooks	8/25
Logan Meyer	8/31

ALTAR GUILD

Arlene Kise

LEAD DEACON AND ASSISTANT

James Blomberg and Jim Scanlon

USHERS

Aug 5	Horrmann and Horrmann
Aug 12	Oolman and Tatham
Aug 19	Copeland and Blomberg
Aug 26	Phelon and Lange

COUNTERS

Aug 5	A Horrmann and G Klatt
Aug 12	Oolman and Woodraska
Aug 19	M Blomberg and G Klatt
Aug 26	M and K Lange

FLOWER GARDENERS

Aug 5	Carol Horrmann
Aug 12	<i>Needed</i>
Aug 19	<i>Needed</i>
Aug 26	<i>Needed</i>

SCRIPTURE READERS

Aug 5	Andy Tatham
Aug 12	Kimberly Blomberg
Aug 19	Steve Blomberg
Aug 26	<i>Needed</i>



At Jersey

Shore 2018, both Courtney and I had opportunities to teach and lead when just the men, and just the women were together for the evening, such unique community and conversation can happen during these events. The women talked about being free in Christ and specifically 2 Timothy 1:7. We're empowered by God to not live in fear but with power, love, and self control. The

men talked about looking to God's greater reward—an eternity with Him. To fix our eyes not on the temporary pleasures this world offers, but to live with eternity in mind and surrendering all we've been given by Him, back to Him. They were some of the best times we've been a part of, and we feel super encouraged by them.

Each summer mission we "Kill the Giants", challenging the students and staff to set specific goals related to evangelism. This summer, we invited students to set a numeric goal for the number of Gospel initiations they would have with people on the beaches and boardwalk, as well as a specific evangelistic goal with someone back home and someone locally. It was amazing to watch our students make phone calls to parents, siblings, roommates and friends to share the Gospel with them. There were 4,172 initiated conversations, 2,222 gospel initiations, 1,017 gospel presentations, and 25 indicated decisions for Christ!

Pray for the transition of students taking over the summer mission for the next four weeks. Pray for them to lean on the Lord first, and that they would follow each other as they follow Him. Their community is so tight, and we're praying that continues for the rest of the summer.

Pray for Courtney and our baby as our pregnancy continues to go well. We praise God for that!

Pray that she would get good rest, feel healthy, and that our baby would be getting the same.

Praise God for the community that has been built this summer, both for staff and students! We're sad to leave, but also excited to be back home with friends and family. *Erick and Courtney Horrmann*

TRINITY FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL His Grace is Sufficient for the Day

We are so completely blessed. Every once in a while, I feel a strong sense of clarity of just how blessed we are; not just at Trinity First, but in general as well.

This morning as I walked up to the front door I saw that we had guests sleeping next to our door. This is almost an everyday occurrence. In the dead of winter, it is a protected spot from the wind and in the summer, when there are more people out in the streets that could pose a threat, it seems safer. In short, it is sheltered.

The saying, “There but for the grace of God, go I”, almost always goes through my mind.

I also can't help but think that THIS is one of the reasons we serve our families each day. It breaks my heart to think this could be one of our students in the future. I know full well we HAVE had students end up on the streets, in fact worse: in prison and in the grave – all too young. What comforts us is that we also know that we have helped students avoid this fate. Some families have so much trauma and so few margins in their lives that their downward direction seems inevitable. Yet we have witnessed incredible transitions!

The school has recently taken over the full cost of our facility. Prior to May, our tiny congregation was paying the property and liability insurance, utilities, facility services, etc. Our Sunday morning congregation has been sacrificial in their support since the beginning of the school back in 1859! It amazes me, that in the years I've served here, not once has it really been questioned that they will care for their school to the very best of their ability. Every day when

we show up to work we can turn on the lights and open our doors!

If we stopped and pondered this next step too long we might be tempted to cast our eyes down toward our feet to tread lightly, but that's not what we've been called to do. Indeed, our eyes are open and lifted up; we have trusted Jesus to provide for our every need and He has never – not once – let us down. In fact, we have been blessed abundantly in every way. Like the wandering Israelites of old, we have learned to trust in God's provision for each day. However, also like them, our sinful human nature fights to take control at almost every point. Our best defense is to begin each day in prayer and in the Word.

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. Together, God is using each of us to care for His children.

Will you consider giving us a gift? Here's what your gifts and our hands do:

Share the Good News with 158 students each day.

Partner with the parents, grandparents and guardians of our students and show them how Jesus is the answer to every problem they face.

Hide God's word in our students' hearts through song and memorization.

Prepare our students for the next step in their education by teaching reading, math, science and much more.

Teach our students important life skills like being respectful, how to talk to adults, and how to resolve conflict in a way that honors Christ.

Thank you for believing in this messy ministry. Thank you for loving our students. Thank you for praying for us.

AUGUST 2018

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 10:30 Bible Class 5:30 Fellowship Group	2 7:00 pm AA Meeting	3 7:00 pm AA Meeting	4 8:30-10:30 AA 3-5 pm GA Intergroup
5 Mite Offering 9:30 am Worship Service 7:00 pm GA	6 6:30 pm Craft Group	7 7 pm Deacon's Meeting	8 10:30 Bible Class 5:30 Fellowship Group	9 2-4 pm Hands in Ministry 7:00 pm AA Meeting	10 7:00 pm AA Meeting	11 8:30-1:00AA Meeting and Birthday Party
12 9:30 am Worship Service w/Communion 7:00 pm GA	13 10:30 Prayer Group 6:30 ICAN	14	15 10:30 Bible Class 5:30 Fellowship Group	16 6:00 -8:30 pm AA Meeting and Anniv Party	17 7:00 pm AA Meeting	18 8:30-10:30 AA
19 9:30 am Worship Service 7:00 pm GA	20	21	22 10:30 Bible Class 5:30 Fellowship Group	23 7:00 pm AA Meeting	24 7:00 pm AA Meeting	25 8:30-10:30 AA Sandra Peterson Funeral 10 - 2
26 9:30 am Worship Service w/Communion 7:00 pm GA	27	28	29	30	31	