

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

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Rev. Don Mulfinger, Vacancy Pastor

June 2019

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DON

**Sunday Worship Services at 9:30 am,
followed by Fellowship
Pledge Sunday and
Annual Voters Budget Meeting June 23**

“I Am a Christian”

Have you ever told someone that you were a Christian? What kind of reaction did the other person have? Pleasant? Skeptical? Maybe they thought you were bragging.

Or . . . perhaps you’ve listened to someone else claiming they were a Christian. What was that circumstance like? What were they trying to say when they claimed such a title?

A lot of times, the term “Christian” can be misunderstood – or misused. Consider the following short writing by an anonymous author.

“When I say that "I am a Christian," I am not shouting that "I am clean living." I'm whispering "I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven.”

When I say "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not holier than thou. I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!”

Pastor Don



It’s official, Holy Cross will be calling the Reverend Bruce Laabs to be our next pastor. Many of you will remember Pastor Laabs as one of our early vacancy pastors from last year. He was one of the men who was specifically requested by members of the congregation when we asked the South District for a list of candidates. So why did it take so long? Because we felt it was of the utmost importance that we allowed the Lord to work through this process. Many of you know how much effort was expended by the Call Committee to rigorously assess the list of very fine pastors that we were provided

HOLY CROSS GARDENS

Please consider signing up to water and weed the flower beds, flowers pots and planters this summer. The calendar is in the narthex. We need your help! During your week try to come once or twice (or more) to water especially if we've hit a dry stretch of weather and spruce everything up and water again — so everything looks great on Sunday morning!

If you're new to the process or you're considering volunteering for the first time, here's all you have to do:

Pull out the hose from the southeast corner of the church and water the flower bed in front of the sign by the steps and the hostas behind the sign.

Next water the planters on either side of the front steps along with the forsythia and crabapple tree to the right.

Then head down the hill and water the planter in front of the sign.

Then head back up the hill and water the Memorial Garden including the grasses in the corners. When you're done with the front of the church, pull the hose back to the starting point and continue along the side of the church. Water the two round pots by the bench and the hostas up by the bench.

Then coil up the hose back in its spot.

If you've been weeding while watering, having a bag along for the debris is a good idea.

You're done! If you're signed up this summer but a conflict comes up, please call the next person on the list and see if they can switch with you. The weekly gardener's name will be posted on the church calendar and in the bulletin.

with. We compared each of these men to the list of traits the congregation provided as a result of the survey we did last year. After much prayer and discussion, we pared our list down to six candidates. Of those six three felt that they would not be interested in considering a call at this time. That left us with three, each of whom agreed to have a telephone conversation with the Committee. As a result of these conversations we had a vote that resulted in two exceptional candidates, each of which visited with us face to face. A final vote resulted with our preferred candidate Rev. Bruce Laabs.

I wish to thank all of the members of the Call Committee who brought their wisdom and discernment to the process at every step. We did not always agree but we were never disagreeable. And with every difference of opinion each of us became wiser as a result of the discussions that ensued. The committee members were: Becky Swenson-Dennis, Lynnae Skogerboe, Trinda Jevne, Linda McConley, Doris DuBois, Judy Sorenson, Jim Scanlon, Jim Hoeft, Lyle Horrmann, Bruce Grimm, Peter Klatt and Steve Blomberg; Reuben Woodraska, alternate; and Phil Brandvold, Advisor. Please express your gratitude to these fine people next time you see them in church.

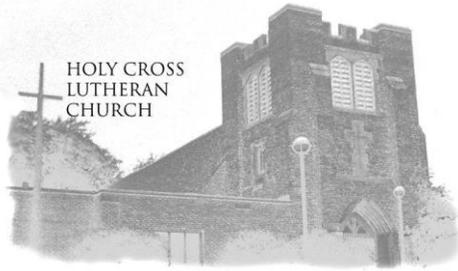
Our next step is to prepare the eleven-page call document, present it to Rev. Laabs and await his decision. We will then prepare for the joyous installation after which we can begin the next exciting chapter in the blessed history of Holy Cross. I pray that you will all continue to walk with us as we begin this phase of our journey with God as a congregation.

I'm excited - I pray that you are as well.

Steve Blomberg

With all of us working together, we can keep our beautiful grounds looking that way. We need someone to sign up each week between now and mid-September. Feel free to take more than one week, thanks so much for your help!

Questions? Comments? Call Sally Gorski or Carol Horrmann



The hill below the Pastor's office has been shored up with a new retaining wall to help prevent sand and ice buildup on the public sidewalk. This project has been in the discussion and planning stages for over a year and was finally completed on May 27. It was paid for using the following memorial funds, plus \$1000 from our general fund:

Bill Bartlett Memorial
Edna Beelow Memorial
Eliason Memorial
Howard Kise Memorial
Pastor Keith Meyer Memorial
Sharlene Mitchell Memorial
Marcia Mulhausen Memorial
Mary Treziok Memorial

Thanks to everyone who contributed their time, talents and funding to make this possible.

Pledge cards for this fiscal year are in the basket in the narthex, and are printed in this newsletter. **Please bring your card for Pledge Sunday, June 23.**

We're proud of Doris duBois' grandson Alex Reyes, who graduated in the first ever class of Civil Engineers at St Thomas last weekend. Way to go, Alex!

Old towels and small blankets are needed for bedding for cats and dogs at veterinary clinics. If you have any that are worn or damaged and not being used, please bring them in and put them in the box in the narthex, thank you! If you have questions, call Errol Sorenson 612 722-1138.

Please notify the trustees about any issues with the building or grounds. Trustees are Lynnae Skogerboe, Dave and Tena Ubl, Mike Dennis, and Gerry Rusk. Trustee email address is holycrosstrustees@gmail.com.

Spring Cleanup is continuing. Please sign up in the narthex and let the trustees know if you need help or resources. Thank you for your time and help keeping Holy Cross beautiful.

We thank those who direct Thrivent Choice dollars to Holy Cross, they make a big impact.

Errol and Judy Sorenson **picked up \$1394.00 of baked goods from Cub** last month, sharing them with CES. Thank you both for your dedication and hard work!

Our We Care Fund provides a way of helping the families and friends of Holy Cross with financial assistance when they need it. Please contact Pastor Don if you need assistance, all requests are confidential. If you would like to make a contribution to the fund, please put your gift in the offering plate and mark it "We Care Fund".



DEACONS

James Blomberg and Jim Scanlon

ALTAR GUILD

Arlene Kise

GARDENERS

2 *Needed*

9 *Needed*

16 Donna Daniels

23 *Needed*

30 *Needed*

Jon and Deni Woltmann 6/2

Roger and Jan Holland 6/25

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Karen Dibble 6/1

Tena Ubl 6/2

Katie Dennis 6/3

Linda McConley 6/5

Judy Sorenson 6/10

Kalin Woltmann 6/10

John Protzner 6/11

Lucas Sorenson 6/16

George Price 6/19

Julie Brammer 6/21

Erick Horrmann 6/23

Carrie Yeager 6/24

Jasmine Witt 6/25

Barbara Schlueter 6/28

Reagan Riddle 6/29

Mike Dennis 6/30

Janell Trapp 6/30

USHERS

2 Oolman and Tatham

9 Phelon and Lange

16 Blomberg and Copeland

23 Horrmann and Horrmann

30 Oolman and Tatham

COUNTERS

2 Woodraska and Oolman

9 M and K Lange

16 Klatt and Blomberg

23 Woodraska and Horrmann

30 Klatt and Oolman

WORDS TO LIVE BY

Remember that happiness is a way of travel,
not a destination.

Your dreams will come true if you let them.

Be generous with your love, it's never
wasted.

Cherish all your happy moments – they
make a fine cushion for old age.

Embrace the unexpected! It keeps life
interesting.

Imagination is more important than
knowledge.

All things are difficult before they are easy.

Self-respect is the cornerstone of all virtue.

Sometimes, it takes just one person to work
a miracle.

We don't know who we are until we see
what we can do.

Find someone to encourage. It will lift you
up, too!

You can't build a reputation on what you are
going to do.

Be a dreamer. They make things happen.

Compiled and submitted by Errol Sorenson



My Brothers and Sisters of the World,

We have reached a crucial point in history and I would like to ask everyone to stop and

listen. Listen, because the Earth, our mother and nurturer of all living, is talking to us and she is very angry. Global warming is a reality and we must pay attention to the signs. In a very short period of time the human race has damaged and killed off hundreds of species of birds, animals, fish and plants. The loss is devastating to the delicate ecological balance of the natural world that we as humans depend on for our survival.

Ecuador has one of the largest species of birds and plants in the whole world. The Amazon is considered the lungs of the earth's ecosystem. Due to poor government regulations and foreign business interested in seeking out quick, short term, mass profits, many species of trees and wildlife have been exterminated in this region.

As a musician, native to Ecuador and raised in a traditional, ecological way, I was taught from a young age that the earth and natural world are sacred and essential to the survival of man. Similar to the relationship between people, we must respect the earth and in return the earth will respect us.

Please take a moment to reflect on your own life and to think about the consequences of your actions here on earth. Think of how to make the changes necessary in order to preserve our natural world and to work toward healing the damage that has already been done to the earth. There are many simple and easy steps towards making environmental change but we will have to work together and quickly.

If we stand together as one, regardless of race, culture and social status, recognize the connection and responsibility we all have to one another, we can work hard to make ecological change. We will then wake up to another rhythm, to another time where man respects himself, his people, his children and above all, the Earth, the Nurturer of all living things.

Alfonso Burga, Ecuador Manta, on The Best of the Panflute CD cover liner.

Ecuador Manta is a group of Andean and Latin musicians, originating from Ecuador, sharing our culture for more than 20 years in the United States.

Submitted by Errol Sorenson

THE KINDNESS CLUB

Fifth-grade teacher Matt Greenhoe has never seen "major problems" among his students as they interact with one another. "But we could use a little more kindness in our school," he said. While that could be said for most schools - and lots of grown-up work places - Greenhoe's students have responded to his challenge.

Nearly a dozen of Greenhoe's fifth-graders at Parker Elementary School in Elk River are wrapping up their first year as founders of the Kindness Club. The club meets weekly to discuss new ways to bring happiness to those around them.

Walk the halls of Parker Elementary and you'll find a box for random acts of kindness. A hallway sign that reads: "Bullies not allowed in our house." Stickers on lockers with affirmations for the littlest students.

"One girl kept hers up for a month," said Kindness Club member Ava Kallunki, 11. "It really just made her feel good."

Last November, Greenhoe showed his students a link to the Good News Network which, for 20 years, has curated positive news stories from around the world. He suggested that they use the concept to inspire their own goodwill project.

The students leapt in. Every Tuesday, they give up recess to gather in school social worker Ashley Justen's office to plan events and kindness challenges.

"We all wanted kids to feel welcome," said Ady Bollinger, a key driver of the club. She pulls out the group's organizational binder and opens a green notebook to the club's first meeting where its mission was established.

"This club's purpose is to stop bullying and improve self-esteem!" Ady wrote. "Most of all, it is to spread kindness to the school!"

Every member helps run the meetings, Ady said, "because we're all leaders."

In addition to notes placed on lockers, they've planned events including Operation Candy Cane at Christmas and Operation Spring Bunny, passing out colorful eggs and greetings such as "Hoppy Spring."

"Some people don't celebrate Easter," Ady noted, regarding the event's inclusive name.

Sometimes, their outreach is more subtle, maybe as simple as stopping to give attention to a kindergarten crying in the hall.

"It just feels good helping kids," said 11-year-old member Elsie Ostmo. "Sometimes, it's hard for a kid to go to an adult. It's easier to go to a kid your age."

Once, several members of the Kindness Club were called to action to find a jacket a younger student had misplaced. They looked everywhere for it. They never found it, but they found invaluable camaraderie.

Their reach expands to Parker Elementary students in the special education program. "If other kids aren't nice to them," Tessa Boche,

11, said, "we say, 'The Kindness Club is here' and they change immediately."

The Kindness Club organized a GoFundMe campaign a while back and raised \$465 to fund their projects, including buying Popsicles and eggs for the Hoppy Spring event.

"When we did that," Ady said, "we made an oath that we were not to spend the money on us."

They also created a Google slides presentation sharing what kindness is, and is not, which included the ills of cyberbullying, bus bullying ("tell the bus driver"), and name calling which, Tessa said, "can be as harsh as hitting someone. It hurts."

Not surprisingly, Greenhoe said, "Now everybody wants to be part of this, which is great."

But the success of the Kindness Club means a new challenge: Keeping the good feeling going as every single member heads off to middle school in the fall.

Fourth-graders are being invited to write an essay about why they'd be a good choice to continue the Kindness Club next year. The essay, members clarified, "must be at least a paragraph long and it must say why you would make a good leader for the next fifth-grade Kindness Club."

In a kind aside, they added: "Don't worry if you don't become a leader; you can still become a member if the leader lets you in."

Greenhoe is also helping the youngsters develop a blueprint for other schools interested in starting a Kindness Club. Schools are invited to e-mail him at matthew.greenhoe@isd728.org.

Ava's advice on starting a club? "Start small."

Added Elsie: "Make a poster, then progress."

New clubs or not, Greenhoe has seen the impact of the students' efforts every single day.

"Other kids are seeing that being kind is cool," he said. "It's having a ripple effect. I really have seen a change in attitudes."

***Gail Rosenblum** is editor of the Star Tribune's Inspired section. She's also an author, journalism instructor and public speaker who has worked for newspapers and magazines for nearly 40 years.*

Submitted by Shelley Kivipelto

Pledge Sunday is June 23rd. To enable Holy Cross to move forward in its ministry, it remains crucial in our planning process. It is also an opportunity for everyone to reflect upon our faith towards God and our commitment to keeping Gods work moving ahead through our worship at Holy Cross.

This is your pledge card for fiscal year, July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Please bring it to church on Sunday June 23rd, or pick up a card in the narthex. If you are unable to join us on the 23rd , your pledge card may be placed in the offering plate at a future service or mailed to the church office.

This pledge is made to
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
July 1 to June 30

For CURRENT EXPENSES \$_____weekly
BUILDING FUND \$_____weekly

For MISSIONS: Synod \$_____weekly
_____ Other \$_____weekly

Signed _____

JUNE 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8-10:30 AA Meeting 3-5 GA Intergroup
2 Mite Offering 9:30 am Worship Service Cong. Meeting to Vote for Pastor 7:00 pm GA	3	4	5 10:30 am Bible Study	6 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Deacons Meeting	7 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting	8 8-10:30 AA Meeting
9 9:30 am Worship w/Communion Service 7:00 pm GA	10 10:30 Prayer Group 6:30 ICAN	11 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	12 10:30 am Bible Study	13 2-4 pm Hands in Ministry 7:00 pm AA Meeting	14 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting	15 8-10:30 AA Meeting
16 9:30 am Worship Service 7:00 pm GA	17	18	19 10:30 am Bible Study	20 7:00 pm AA Meeting	21 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting	22 8-10:30 AA Meeting Lopez Party Fellowship Hall Noon-8pm
23 PLEDGE SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship Service ANNUAL VOTER'S MEETING after Worship Svce 7:00 pm GA	24	25	26 10:30 am Bible Study	27 7:00 pm AA Meeting	28 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting	29 8-10:30 AA Meeting Lopez using Fellowship Hall 11am - 3
30 9:30 am Worship Service w/Communion 7:00 pm GA						