

Holy Crossings

Our Mission... to seek, share, and serve our Savior

August 2019



REAL.PRESENT.GOD.
2019 LCMS Youth Gathering

Held once every three years, the National Youth Gathering is sure to leave a person feeling spiritually revived and ready to face life knowing that Christ is always present. Holy Cross had 14 representatives at the Gathering held in downtown Minneapolis, July 11-15. The group that attended included 5 youth, 4 chaperons and 5 volunteers. Church members were blessed to hear about the gathering on Sunday July 28th. The youth and chaperons that attended shared their experiences and told of their favorite parts of the Gathering. Some of the experiences shared included: over 85,000 steps taken, 1,500 free hugs given out, new friendships made, old friendships revived, over one million meals packed for "Feed My Starving Children", coffee in the morning, great food and snacks throughout the day. Attendees joined in on Bible studies, group sessions, concerts, guest speakers, and even one of our own, Emily, sang a solo in the mass choir event. As the group shared their experiences it wasn't hard to feel their excitement and energy for the Lord. Over 23,000 youth came together that weekend each one of them filled with the love of Jesus Christ. If you missed out on the experience and would like to be a part of it in 2022. Dust off your cowboy boots and dig out your hat as the Gathering will be heading to Houston, Texas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT EDUCATION RALLY DAY COMING SOON

Registration is coming soon for SS for ages PK through 12th grade. Rally Day is Sunday, September 8, 2019. We will dedicate and pray for our teachers that Sunday in our services, have breakfast during the SS hour and introductions of our year.

SEEKING TEACHERS/FACILITATORS

Being a SS 'teacher' keeps you in God's Word weekly, at the very least! It can be a challenge, but it is always a blessing! Please pray about and consider if you would like to volunteer to be a SS teacher this year! Classes are small and this is an opportunity for you to share and grow in your faith, to share your blessings with the children and youth in our congregation. Contact: Vivian Jobst by email: vrjobst@gmail.com, on her cell ph # 913-486-2626 or in person if you can. You may also let the Office Administrator know by calling the church office or by email: holycross@holycross-pl.org



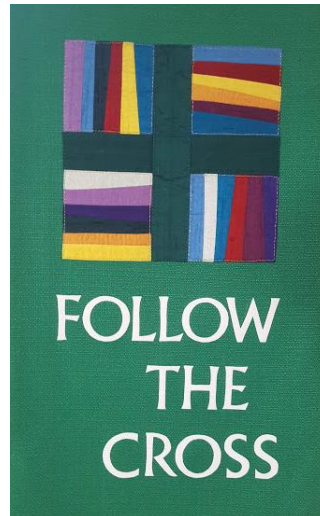
BAKE & PRODUCE SALE

The Holy Cross Ladies Guild/LWML will be hosting a baked good & produce sale on Sunday, August 11. A major emphasis of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League is the support of mission and ministry throughout the world. All funds raised go towards our various monthly mission projects. Bakers, Farmers and Buyers wanted! Contact Joy Anderson at 612-423-1204 if you want to help or have questions. If you want to know more about the LWML visit www.lwml.org and www.mnslwml.org.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Represent Holy Cross at Lakefront Days on Saturday, August 10th. Volunteers will be handing out postcards with information about Holy Cross, IFC brochures, chip clips and candy. Please talk to Diane, 952-212-3404 or sign up for a shift located on the bulletin board.



August Sermons

August 4, 2019

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: The Foolish Wealth of the World and The Everlasting Treasure of Christ!

Text: Luke 12: 13-21

August 11, 2019

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Growing in Faith – Living by Faith. God is in Control!

Text: Luke 12: 22-34 (35-40)

August 18, 2019

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: The Gospel of Peace and Division – What Does this Mean?

Text: Luke 12:49–53 (54–56)

August 25, 2019

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: The Lord Gathers Us to Himself then Sends Us to Gather the Nations.

Text: Luke 13:22–30

Sept. 1, 2019

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: The Glory of Humility through Christ Towards Others.

Text: Luke 14:1–14

ADULT FALL BIBLE STUDY

Join us as our POBLO missionary Nadar Alaraj teaches us about the second largest religion in the world. For seven weeks, you will get a chance to learn and ask about the basics of Islam, teachings of the prophet of Islam, and evangelism attempts by Muslims towards Christians. Know Islamic culture and how to deliver the Gospel in such a cultural contest.

Session 1: Intro to Islam

Session 2: Islamic pillars laws and scriptures

Session 3: Muhammad, Caliphate and Sects

Session 4: Islamic Jihad, Janna & Jahannam (heaven & hell)

Session 5: How to Dialogue 1

Sessions 6: How to Dialogue 2

Session 7: Jerusalem & US Politics (nothing political)

Please join us for a fascinating topic & discussion!

The Lutheran Hour

The Lutheran Hour can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am. And it can be streamed online too, www.lhm.org. Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.



August 4

"Live Life, Traveling Well"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

August Archives - God's Word guides us along life's journey, where Christ is the Way and heaven our destination. We revisit a classic message from former Speaker, Dr. Gregory Seltz. (1 Peter 1:17-25)

August 11

"How to Pray"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann

August Archives - Prayer flows from faith in Christ and the Holy Spirit helps us when we don't know how to pray. A classic message from former Speaker, Dr. Oswald Hoffmann. (Romans 8:26)

August 18

"An Open Mind for the Future"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

August Archives - Closing our minds to spiritual fads and embracing the words of Jesus opens up a great future for all who believe. (Acts 17:18-32)

August 25

"Does He Know You?"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

August Archives - People often do what they do because they think the rules don't apply to them.

(Luke 13:23-25)



What is Financial Peace University?

The Knowledge You Need to Win With Money

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University classes start Sunday Sept. 8th at 6:30pm and will run every Sunday through Nov. 3rd. Financial Peace University includes nine video lessons featuring Dave Ramsey, Rachel Cruze, and Chris Hogan. Follow along in your workbook as they teach you:

Lesson 1: Build a Starter Emergency Fund and Learn How to Budget

Lesson 2: Pay Off All Debt

Lesson 3: Save a Fully Funded Emergency Fund

Lesson 4: Invest for the Future and Build Wealth

Lesson 5: Buyer Beware

Lesson 6: The Role of Insurance

Lesson 7: Retirement Planning

Lesson 8: Real Estate and Mortgages

Lesson 9: Living and Giving Like No One Else

If you're interested in learning more about the class, talk to Jimmy or go to fpu.com/1069574.



Stewardship Ministry

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – August 2019 Newsletter

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony of receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? The offerings are collected in plates or baskets, and they are brought forward and given to the pastor or an assistant. The pastor turns toward the altar, and, as he slightly bows his head, the offerings are raised slightly to the Lord and placed on the altar or an adjacent table.

Why do we have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does – it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1–3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion – the bread and the wine – were brought forward with the offerings. The offerings and elements were lifted toward the Lord and placed upon the altar. The altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord's Supper.

Gifts brought to the altar come from the sweat of His people's brow. They are the bread and wine, the fruits of His people's labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people are to bring a generous proportion for the Lord's work. Gifts set upon the altar are offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into service for His gracious work.

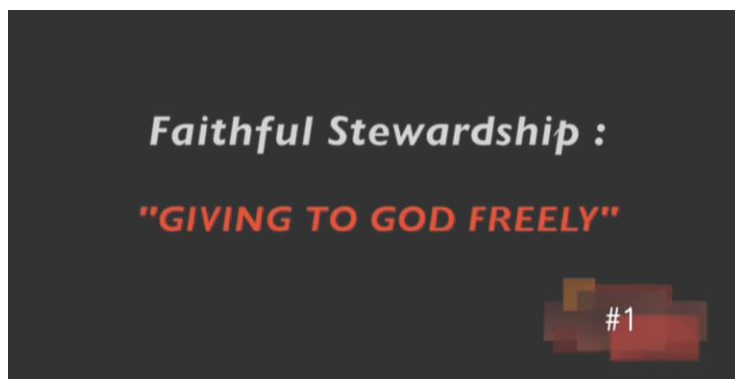
For what is offered to the Lord from the sweat of His people's brow – the bread of anxious toil – comes back to us as the bread of life. The bread comes down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup will receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire – oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household." (Deut. 14:22-26)

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows. He receives this from us in the first-fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise, and He turns these into spiritual bread. He gives this heavenly bread – the bread of eternal life – back to us so we might have joy.

So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder. The offerings we have given to Him, the Lord gives back to us in His supper so that we may rejoice in the salvation He won for us upon the cross.





Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Esther 4:14b

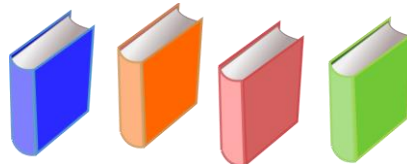
The Prior Lake International Friendship Center went live Tuesday, July 16th. While we have several potential students for the classes, only one immigrant came on Tuesday. But that one person was greeted with over a dozen happy volunteers. What struck me was that every volunteer was so happy to be there and excited to be able to show Christ's love for this one person through this exciting ministry. It's a good time to be at Holy Cross. Has Christ been nudging your heart to share your talent in some way through this ministry? Do you want to serve joyfully? There's a place for you right here, right now. Volunteer positions include teachers for English, citizenship, computer literacy, cooking, sewing, knitting, crocheting, tutors for children through youth group age, sitters for children, drivers to transport students to class, publications person and prayer team members.

All of the classes help to develop a student's English which will help them to survive in the United States. And we have the privilege of loving the people that God brings to us.

To be a part of this mission team talk to Pastor-pjjobst@gmail.com, Diane Mullenbach-dianemullenbach@msn.com or Pam Hunter-pamhunter216@gmail.com

BIBLE BOOKENDERS

We will be meeting Monday August 12. There will be a light meal served at 6:00 with discussion of the book God in a God-Forsaken Land starting at 6:45. We will be inviting Emmanuel- Fish Lake and St. Paul's Lutheran Church to this event also. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Feel free to bring a salad or dessert to share. If you have questions you can contact Bonnie Nowak or Pam Hunter.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men please join us for our Bible Study, Tuesday mornings at 8:00 am followed by breakfast.



HOLY CROSS & OUR COMMUNITY- THE BLESSING OF PRAYER FOR US AND FOR OTHERS!

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD!

*By Pastor Jim Jobst and Pastor
James Buckman*

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good for His love endures forever!" (Psalm 118:1 and again in Psalm 136:1) We have much to give thanks to the Lord but most of all that we are His children to pass on the good news of His saving love for others!

Last month with the National Youth Gathering Prayer Walking Servant Event at Holy Cross the students and adult leaders that came to our location made contact with 65 individuals in a two mile radius around our community to share God's love. (240 plus homes and apartments were contacted overall, but 2/3 were not at home.) Pastor Jim and several members have been able to follow up with about 25 of the individuals that chose to share their name and address. Due to that openness we can continue the blessing of building relationships with our community neighbors. We also learned in our follow up how the Lord answered the prayers offered up by the prayer walking groups during the July 12 and 13 servant event mornings. We truly give thanks to the Lord!

We also want to give thanks for Pastor James Buckman who helped lead the training for the prayer walking and the use of the Prayer Application (iPrayU) that he developed and is working to upgrade. This app allows us to connect the community to our congregation at Holy Cross.

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With the results of the NYG prayer walking and shared prayer requests, the Lord has blessed us with insight into the needs of our neighbors. We do not have to guess about our community outreach and ministry focus. We have been blessed to be a blessing to our neighbors. We are learning how to support our community more with the talents and gifts we've been given by the Lord to minister to the needs of our neighbors. Let us give thanks!

Another blessing is that in the past 4 weeks we've had eight visitors from our community. We believe it was do to the prayer walking and the door hangers that were left that shared that our church would like to pray for their household and also share about the IFC (International Friendship Center) start up. We have even had a phone call to ask if we had an AA group ministry and our response was not yet, however, we hope to be able to offer that to our neighbors soon. A phone number and name were taken to follow up with this person. It is a time to seek God's will and give thanks to the Lord with what has happened and is happening!

Included in this article are some of Pastor James Buckman's scriptural blessings about prayer. The Lord bless you and all His flock here at Holy Cross as we grow in our faith and prayer life to reach out to build relationships in Christ! Sincerely, In Christ's love, Pastor Jim

PASTOR JAMES BUCKMAN from his *iPrayU* Book (chapter 1, pg. 15)

I. PRAYER IN SCRIPTURE

A. What does God tell us about Prayer? Before we talk about any aspect of Prayer, let's first look at what God says about Prayer. For us, Scripture is the foundation and the measurement of anything we say about ministry. This chapter has almost 100 passages revealing God's thoughts on Prayer. There are many books about Prayer and it is common to hear preachers talk about Prayer; opinions regarding Prayer are endless; but it is critical that we dig down to the bedrock of Scripture and begin with Christ as our cornerstone. The second chapter looks at our teaching regarding Prayer. The third chapter looks at Prayer in worship. The fourth chapter looks at Mercy Ministry--serving our neighbor in Christ's love and how Mercy Ministry is the key to connecting Prayer to members, visitors and our community. Let us now give God our full attention.

B. What Is Prayer?

1. Prayer is the belief that we are talking with God, that He listens and responds. A person with a strong faith may even attempt to get God to change His mind about something. "Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "O LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?" (Exodus 32:11) "Does he who implanted the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see? (Psalm 94:9) "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him. (Romans 8:28)

2. Prayer is the expression of the desire to commune with God: "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." (Psalm 42:2)

3. Prayer is a public statement of a personal sentiment: "Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD." (Genesis 26:25)

4. Prayer is properly presented by the Holy Spirit Himself on our behalf: "We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us." (Romans 8:26)

5. Believers pray God's Word to Him: "When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. (Acts 4:24) "You are my portion, O LORD; I have promised to obey your words. I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise. I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes." (Psalm 119:57-59)

Discipleship Question:

***Describe your parents' prayer life and its impact on you:**