

Holy Crossings

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

December 2019

IFC THANKSGIVING DINNER SERVES UP A NIGHT OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Many gathered together on Friday November 22 to enjoy bingo, gift drawings and of course a delicious Thanksgiving meal.



Nearly 60 people enjoyed the meal.



Pastor Parrish of Fish Lake makes the gravy and Tess readies the pies.



Thanks to Jack & Pam Hunter, Robert & Bonnie Nowak, the Petrie family Pastor Jim and others that helped to make the evening a success.



Sunday Worship Schedule

8:15 AM

Traditional Worship Service

9:45 AM

Christian Education Hour

11:00 AM

Contemporary Worship Service



Holiday Services

ADVENT

December 4, December 11, and
December 18 at 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24 at 4:00pm & 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25 at 9:00 am





Savor the Season

Wow, the holiday season is here! ... And it will be over before we know it, too! We pray you can take a break almost daily to stop, take a breath and savor all the happenings! I encourage you to really try and "be still" . . . it's okay to rest and relax during this time. Consider the importance of our God that came to earth through His Son to be part of humanity. What a real gift He gave us in Jesus Christ! . . . He is a real and present God! *Psalm 46:10-"Be still, and know that I am God."*

Special Sunday School Event this Month

Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 15 at 9:30 AM, during the Education hour right after Early Service, with fellowship to follow before the Late Service begins. There will be special music, hopefully some singing and blessed fellowship time together. Time to 'be still', enjoy each other and the gifts of God. Invite someone to join you, and all of us, at this special time of celebration!

children's
program



December Sermons



December 1

Advent 1

Theme: What are You Waiting For? Advent Past, Advent Present and Advent Future!

Text: *Matthew 24: 36-44*

Midweek Dec 4

Theme: "Life in the Womb, When it is Impossible: Is Anything Too Hard for the Lord?"

Text: *Genesis 21:1-7*

December 8

Advent 2

Theme: What Are You Hoping For?

Text: *Romans 15:4-13*

Midweek Dec 11

Theme: "The Lord Opens the Womb, Israel Delivered – It is Wonderful!"

Text: *Judges 13:1-24*



December 15

Advent 3

Theme: Rejoice: God Changes Everything

Text: *Isaiah 35:1-10*

Midweek Dec 18

Theme: "Prayers to The Lord to Open the Womb: Heard by God"

Text: *1 Samuel 1:1-2:11*

Dec 22, 2018

Advent 4

Theme: The King of Glory Enters In For Us!

Text: *Psalm 24*

Dec 24

Christmas Eve

Theme: Love has Come! Merry Christmas!

Text: *1 John 4:7-16*

Dec 25

Christmas Day

Theme: Great Joy for All People!

Text: *Luke 2: 1-20*

Dec 29, 2019

Theme: The Power and Beauty of His Name that Saves!

Text: *Isaiah 63:7-13*

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.

December 1

"Enough with the Self-Talk"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We are not always who we say we are. What you say to yourself about yourself may or may not be what's true. Dr. Michael Zeigler says, "Enough with the self-talk!" Who does God say you are? You'll find that you are worse than you thought, and yet, more loved than you could ever imagine. (Luke 18:9-14)

December 8

"God's Yes"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Loved and Sent Series - "If we say that God's purpose is simply to take our souls to heaven when we die, we might miss God's bigger 'yes' ... God's 'yes' to putting bodies and souls back together again in the resurrection; God's 'yes' to creation as He intended it to be." (Romans 8:18-39)

December 15

"Love Is Enough "

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Loved and Sent Series - God shows us a different kind of love. It's love for the world that is not of this world, love that is focused outward, love that gives without requiring anything in return. (Matthew 22:35-40)

December 22

"Christmas"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Matthew 1:18-25)

December 29

"Dreams"

Guest Speaker: Pastor John Nunes
(Jeremiah 23:24)



THE CHRISTMAS STORY YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW

Nativity sets, Christmas cards, carols, the church Christmas play ... they're filled with treasured traditions and beautiful art.

But ... how close are they to the REAL Christmas story?

Just in time for the holidays, we've created a new Christmas quiz: "[The Christmas Story You THOUGHT You Knew.](#)" In five true or false questions, find out how well you can spot the difference between the Christmas story we all learned as kids and what the Bible actually says.

I hope you'll challenge yourself with the quiz today. But I also hope you'll share it with family and friends. It can be a great way to start a discussion about the real meaning of Christmas—and introduce more people to Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM).

Today, more and more people are rejecting what they think Christianity stands for—the misconceptions and downright twisting that are rampant in popular culture. Together, we need to share what Christianity is actually about—because it's the most hope-filled, compelling, life-changing message in history.

Please [Take the Quiz](#) yourself and share it as widely as possible!

Your partner in His mission,
Kurt Buchholz
President & CEO

WE  **VOLUNTEERS**

Night to Shine is Friday, Feb. 7, 2020.

We are currently looking for volunteers ONLY. We filled our guest registration in 40 hours!! If you would like to volunteer, please go to our website. www.nighttoshinemn.org

Night To Shine - Bloomington, MN

Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and older. On one night, February 8, 2019, more than 500 churches from around the world will come together to host Night to Shine for approximately 90,000 honored guests through the support of 175,000 volunteers! Holy Cross Lutheran Church and St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

www.nighttoshinemn.org

Please share with friends, family, coworkers! We need you. If you would like to donate, we are accepting monetary donations, and gift cards (VISA, Costco, Cub). Thank you for continuing to make the Night to Shine a success!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry December 2019

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, is teaching those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. This is because worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and to what we're devoted. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument.

Your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds and clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you when you are worth more than they are?

For you know that you are worth more than them. You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No!

He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserve because of it. He was raised again on the third day to overcome sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about this and find security in it, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God is risen from the dead, lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that God – who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son, and sanctifies you by His Spirit – will not keep His promises of sustaining you in this life.

Jesus says this: Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness. God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need – food and clothing, house and home, etc. – and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. Those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.



Christ was born to die. A sobering thought yet this was God's fulfilled promise to us. Our Winter Women's Event, "FROM the CRADLE to the CROSS" will be held at Holy Cross on **Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 2:00pm.** Come & gather with other women as we explore this theme while also enjoying home-baked goodies, tea and wassail. Mark your calendars and invite your friends, neighbors and family members... now! Questions? Contact Pam Hunter at 952-250-1756 or pamhunter216@gmail.com

BIBLE BOOKENDERS – Will be reading "Angel Unaware" by Dale Evans Rogers. We will be meeting on Monday, January 27, 2020, at 7:00 pm. All are welcomed!



Christmas Bake Sale

The Holy Cross Ladies Guild will be selling a variety of baked goods during the fellowship hour Sunday, December 15. If you love baking, please make extra and donate a dozen or two for the sale. The bake sale offers a chance to load up on Christmas goodies and helps support missions!

Super Saturday VBS 2019

We had a GREAT Saturday at 'Miraculous Mission' crafting, singing, eating and learning of God's great love for us! The weather cooperated, and though chilly, the kids were able to burn off energy outside. We had 20 students, up from last year, 13 adult volunteers and 6 super youth guides. Thank you for making this Super Saturday possible.

Pam - VBS Director



We wish you God's richest blessings upon your holiday season!

For
Unto
us a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jim

Meg

Dorene

Mui

Becca