

Holy Crossings

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

January 2021

Youth's Faith is Shining Brightly at Holy Cross



Congratulations to the 6 Youth of Holy Cross that reaffirmed their baptismal vows on December 6th, 2020. Please continue to remember our Confirmands in your prayers. Confirmands in order of the picture. Back left, Blake Dobberstein, back right, Jonas Petrie, front row left to right Megan Anderson, Colin Kruse, Allie Wagner and Morgan Schulze. The leaders of the class include Pastor Jobst and Jon Dobberstein.

Blessings!

THE YOUTH & SS CHRISTMAS PLAY

"The Murdocks, the Pandemic and Christmas with a French Twist"

This year finds Mother Paula (Vivian Jobst) without a job and concerns for her husband and son Seth who are essential workers. She is also even more worried for her daughters Charlotte (Allie Wagner) and Melanie (Morgan Schulze) who are living in a French village with Aunt Agatha and their French tutor Eric' (Eric Brown). Mother calms her fears and finds work by caring for her neighbor children Coin and Tate Kruse (playing themselves). During the play, Paula and the children share a French poem, "Mon Ami Est Jésus" and the Christmas story is read from Luke. The play was narrated by Dylan and Daniel Vannett, written by Bonnie Nowak and directed by Sheri Brunner.

BASIC Zooms and Kicks off Food Drive

"I Have Loved You with an Everlasting Love" is the title of this year's play for youth Sunday scheduled for Jan. 31. The play was written by Bonnie Nowak and will be directed by Sheri Brunner. The play begins with BASIC's first Zoom meeting. Youth leaders, Kelly Kruse and Ralph Wager, are both performing in the play. Any youth interested in participating are invited to attend the first readthrough during the Sunday School hour on Jan. 10. Scripts will be available at that time.

The youth will also be sponsoring a food drive that will officially kick off Jan. 31. Dorene Oak is requesting a Thrivent action team grant for seed money. The food will be donated to the CAP Agency in Shakopee. Local officials have stated that the need for food shelf donations is great—especially during this time with so many people unemployed because of the pandemic. Members are requested to bring non-perishable food items to Holy Cross and place them in the designated area. The food items can be brought at any time.



Epiphany Sermon

January 3, 2021

2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY OBSERVANCE

Theme: The things of God outweigh everything else in importance.

Text: Ephesians 1:3-14

January 10, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Theme: Baptism reveals that God is the one acting through it to bring us forgiveness and the assurance of salvation.

Text: Mark 1:4-1

January 17, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Theme: God's Word calls us back to the truth that our bodies really belong to him and that this is a great blessing indeed!

Text: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

January 24, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Theme: As the Gospel fulfills what the Law prepared, Jesus' call fulfills what John's call began.

Text: Mark 1:14-20

January 31, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY AND YOUTH SUNDAY

Theme: God promised to raise up a Prophet like Moses, and in doing so, he raised up a Savior for you.

Text: Deuteronomy 18:15-20



The Lutheran Hour

Under-the-weather? Out of town? Why not the **Lutheran Hour**. It can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am. And it can be streamed online too, www.lhm.org.

January 3

"Too Much"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Gospel according to St. Mark shows us the Savior Who is always on the move.
(Mark 1:1 - 2:12)

January 10

"The Backstory Behind a Bible 'Contradiction'"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

When you open yourself up to hearing the backstory behind the apparent contradiction, you may encounter what the Bible is all about.
(Mark 2: 13-28)



January 17

"Lost in Wonder, Love, and Praise!"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

The word of Jesus turns us out from ourselves and our problems to the faith, hope, and love that He brings. (Mark 3)

January 24

"Why Jesus Told Parables"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Jesus' parables draw His followers out of the crowd and into the circle of His disciples.
(Mark 4)

January 31

"Under the Impression"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Jesus overturned and upended people's first impressions of Him.
(Mark 5-6)



Sunday Schedule

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 AM

Traditional Worship

At Church &

On Zoom

10:15 AM

Christian Education Hour

Drive Up Communion

**“LCMS Council of Presidents encourages LCMS President Rev. Matthew Harrison to invite congregational vote on convention delay.
(From Official Newspaper of the LCMS – The Reporter)”**

“COVID-19 continues to impact both the world and the work of the church. Due to ongoing effects of the pandemic, some district presidents have expressed uncertainty that their district conventions will be able to convene at all during 2021.

The LCMS Council of Presidents (COP) voted unanimously at their November 2020 meeting to encourage LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison to put before congregations a proposal, per LCMS Constitution Article XI B 8, to delay the 2022 Synod convention one year (to 2023), thus extending the window for district conventions to include also the calendar year 2022. Harrison also consulted with the Synod Board of Directors in accordance with Article XI B 8.

The participation of each LCMS congregation in this deliberation and decision is vital as the Synod navigates this historic vote. In a Dec. 7 letter to the entire Synod, Harrison noted:

“There are two main problems: The hotel/hospitality/restaurant/convention industry is barely functioning in many places, making preparation difficult or even impossible; and government restrictions on public meetings are placing in doubt the possibility of even holding a district convention. There are currently many states in which our districts cannot legally meet.

“This is not about undue fear of COVID. We face a situation in which a number of districts may only be able to meet barely long enough to get a minimum amount of business done, or they may be unable to meet at all.”

Harrison concluded: “While this is an important matter to consider for our walking together as Synod, it is not a church-dividing issue. Let’s hear each other out, act in good conscience, and together make a decision, one way or another, for the good of our Synod and our shared commitment to proclaim Christ crucified, the hope of the world.”

While congregations can begin considering the issue immediately, instructions on the electronic voting process will be sent to member congregations by mail early in January; the vote, which requires participation of at least one quarter of the Synod’s congregations, will conclude Feb. 15.”

Read more:

- The Synod president’s full letter: lcms.org/delay-vote-letter
- A list of FAQs about the delay-vote process: lcms.org/delay-vote-faqs
- The minutes from the Commission on Constitutional Matters’ discussion of the process: lcms.org/delay-vote-minutes

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PRAY!

I tracked my box and it was sent to a hard to reach area. Starting its trip on Dec. 15. So, I wanted to remind everyone to continue to pray and know your gifts and service to others are not over, but have an ongoing impact!

SO...

*Please don’t stop praying for the boy or girl who will receive your shoebox gift. Continue to ask God to soften his or her heart to the Gospel and give them the courage to follow Christ even if others around them do not—yet!

*Pray that communities in these hard-to-reach areas will be transformed by light of the Gospel they experience through shoebox gifts.

*Ask God to guide, guard, and protect the local believers who distribute them and make them effective ambassadors for Him. ~*Vivian Jobst*

January Stewardship Article- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often, we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless, but it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So, here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions:

- Who are you?
- To whom do I give?
- And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the Luther's Small Catechism informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, and family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties, and our questions arise in giving to the Church.

So, what is our duty as members of the Church with regard to giving? Again, the Table of Duties, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer – a member of the Church who receives instruction – St. Paul taught: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who

teaches" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the Church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord commanded that those who pro-claim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are to give:

- Regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2);
- Proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12);
- Generously (2 Cor. 8:20);
- Of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30); and
- With a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the Church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: Do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the Gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

