Holy Cross Lutheran Church School and Early Learning Center



April 28, 2024

"The Vine and the Branches"

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WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS!

OUR SAVIOR WELCOMES YOU AND SO DO WE! Whether you are a first time visitor or returning guest, we are delighted to share our worship with you! Please come back and worship with us again!

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES We love to have children in worship! However, parents who find a need to take their children out of the service are welcome to use the narthex/lobby area while you quiet your little one. The infant care room is also available for nursing mothers. You'll be able to hear the service from the speaker system in the narthex and in the infant care room. A changing table is in the men's and women's bathrooms. If needed, please ask an usher for assistance.

REGISTRATION CARDS are in the hymnal racks. Guests may use the registration cards to let us know how we may further assist you. We encourage all members and guests to fill out a registration card and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

A HEARING LOOP is installed in our sanctuary for your convenience. If your hearing aid has a t-switch, you'll need to activate it when you're in the sanctuary, in order to benefit from the hearing loop.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES Holy Cross offers a full Christian elementary school (grades PreK₃ – 8), Kids Crossing Early Learning Center (6 weeks – 5 years), Sunday School and children's youth activities.

PRAYER CONCERNS? Contact Sherri Bartels, sbbartels.sb@gmail.com. Our prayer chain is a large group of Holy Cross members who join you in calling upon God with your prayer concerns. Galatians 6:2 says "Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

USHERS are on duty during church services. Please speak with them if you need assistance.

LIVE STREAM WORSHIP If you or a loved one are unable to attend worship, our 8:30 am service is live streamed on the church website.

PHONE-IN WORSHIPSundays at 8:30 a.m. (Call any time after 8:20 a.m.; dial 1 (978) 990-5164 followed by access code 6279900#)

ON DEMAND WORSHIP View or listen to any of our past worship services by visiting our website and click the tab labeled Live Stream/Sermons and click sermons.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE Sunday, 8:30 am 10:30 am and Monday, 6:30 pm.

TRANSPORTATION FUND If you have no other way to church, taxi rides to and from church are available. Please speak with the Pastor or call the church office at 249-3101.

THE LORD'S SUPPER is offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month and the following Mondays. We believe the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity of faith in our Savior as well as our unity in all scriptural teachings. Since the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod profess full unity in biblical teaching, members of these church bodies are welcome to commune with us. If you are a member of a different Christian church, we ask that you wait to commune until you have closely examined what we teach and are convinced that we are a church that preaches the true Word of God, and that you are in agreement with our teachings. Please speak with a pastor if you are a guest and would like to commune.

MISSION STATEMENT The mission of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School is to bring the Gospel of Christ to our community through the Means of Grace, reaching out to the lost, and nurturing our fellow believers. This we do through worship, education, service and fellowship that God's kingdom may grow.

"The Vine and the Branches" April 28, 2024 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Service of the Word – Page 38 To the tune of #484 "Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly" 1 God, we praise you! God, we bless you! God, we name you sov'reign Lord! Mighty King whom angels worship, Father, by your Church adored: All creation shows your glory; Heav'n and earth draw near your throne, Singing, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord of hosts and God alone!" 2 True apostles, faithful prophets, Saints who set their world ablaze, Martyrs, once unknown, unheeded, Join one growing song of praise, While your Church on earth confesses One majestic Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God, our hope eternally. 3 Jesus Christ, the King of glory, Everlasting Son of God, Humble was your virgin mother, Hard the lonely path you trod: By your cross is sin defeated, Hell confronted face to face, Heaven opened to believers, Sinners justified by grace.

Confession of Sins

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

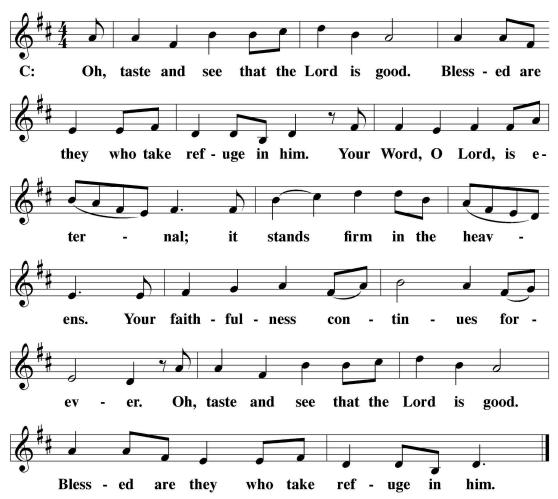
C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will. **C: Amen.**

Prayer and Praise

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Taste and See



Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Phillip convents the Ethiopian official

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is an isolated area.) 27 So he got up and went. And there was a man, an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship. 28 He was on his way home, sitting in his chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah.

29 The Spirit told Philip, "Go over there and stay close to that chariot." 30Philip ran up to it and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet.

Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

31 The man replied, "How can I unless someone explains it to me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

32 Now the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading was this:

He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth. 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who will talk about his generation? For his life is taken from the earth. 34 The eunuch said to Philip, "I ask you, who is the prophet talking about—himself or someone else?" 35 Then Philip began to speak. Starting with that very passage of Scripture, he told him the good news about Jesus. 36As they were traveling along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What is there to prevent me from being baptized?"

38 He ordered the chariot to stop. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39 When they stepped up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away. The eunuch did not see him anymore, but went on his way rejoicing.

40 Philip, however, found himself at Azotus. And as he went from place to place, he preached the gospel in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Psalm of the Day

M: May God be gracious to us and bless us.

C: May his face shine on us—so that your way may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

M: May the peoples praise you, O God. May the peoples praise you—all of them.

C: May the countries be glad and sing for joy, because you rule the peoples with fairness, and you guide the countries of the earth.

M: The earth will yield its harvest. God, our God, will bless us.

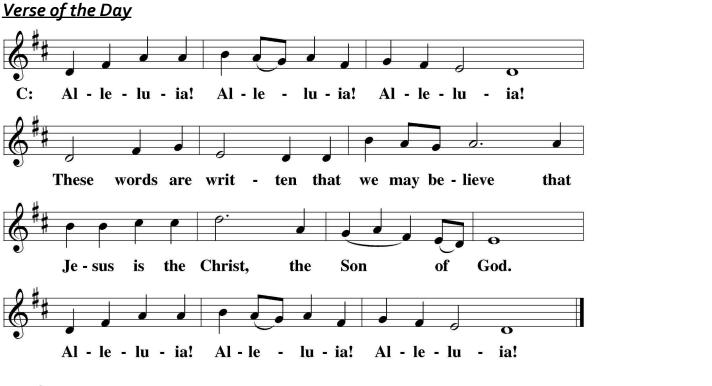
C: God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Second Lesson

Love one another

18 Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

19 This is how we know that we are of the truth and how we will set our hearts at rest in his presence: 20 If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. 22 We also receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. 23 This then is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another just as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. This is how we know that he remains in us: We know it from the Spirit, whom he has given to us.



Children's Sermon

Young children are invited forward to the chancel steps.

1 Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 2 Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of thy love. Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for thee.
 - 3 Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King. Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine; It shall be no longer mine. Take my heart - it is thine own; It shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for thee.

Sermon	"The Vine and the Branches"
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John 15:1–8

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he is going to cut off. And he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will bear more fruit.

3 "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I am going to remain in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Likewise, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this: that you continue to bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples."

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

M:O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

C: Risen Lord, live is us that we may live for you.

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

<u>Closing Verse</u>.....to the tune of #484 "Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly"

May I never boast or glory in the works my hands have done. When I boast, Lord, may I glory in the work of your dear Son. Send me forth to live for Jesus, guide by his Word alone As I center on his dear cross headed for my heav'nly home.

Closing Prayer

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction

M: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



<u>Attendance</u>

If you attended online services at Holy Cross, please send an email to frontoffice@holycrossmadison.org, and in the subject line write "Attended" and after that the number of people who watched from your home. So if three of you watch the service on Sunday, your subject line would say, "Attended 3". Please don't write anything in the text of the email, since our secretary, Anna Poellet, will not be responding to emails that say "Attended" in the subject line. Thanks.

Holy Cross News & Notes

April 28, 2024

Calendar for the Week – April 29 - May 5

Monday

• Worship - 6:30 pm

Tuesday

Bethany Auxiliary Meeting (Fireside Room) - 4:30 pm

Wednesday

- School Chapel 8:10 am
- Bible Study 10:00 am

Thursday

• Ladies Aid - 1:00 pm

Friday

Big Event (Gymnasium) - 6:oo pm

Sunday

- Worship 8:30 and 10:30 am
- Bible Class & Sunday School 9:45 am

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK Corrine Johnson was hospitalized this week. Please pray for her and our homebound and for those in nursing homes.

GIVING TO HOLY CROSS

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: 4/1624 - 4/22/24 \$11,529.92 TOTAL OFFERINGS FOR FISCAL YEAR: 7/1/23 - 4/22/24 \$658,789.47 FISCAL YTD BUDGET OFFERINGS \$672,288.66 FISCAL YEAR BUDGETED \$813,000.00

PASTOR BARTELS RETURNS CALL TO SEBRING

Dear Members of Holy Cross,

After prayerful deliberation, the Lord has led me to return the Call to New Life Lutheran Church in Sebring, Florida, and to remain in my current Call at Holy Cross.

During this deliberation process I have learned about the congregation in Florida, and have been heartened to hear about their commitment to remain faithful to Jesus and to his Word. The Lord has given them a heart for their fellow members and a heart for the Gospel, Please join me in praying that the Lord be with them and bless their labors, and that he lead the right pastor to shepherd the flock at Sebring.

The Lord has blessed our dear Holy Cross with a love for one another and a love for the lost. The Lord has given us a ripe field here in the Madison area and has graciously blessed our efforts. I look forward to continuing working shoulder to shoulder with all of you as we strive to be built up in our faith and as we strive to grow the kingdom! Sherri and I pray every evening that the Lord help all of the members of Holy Cross to be good and faithful witnesses. Please join us in that prayer!

In Christ,

Pastor Mark Bartels

SERMON VIDEO LINKS

Want an easy way to witness to a friend, relative or neighbor? Share Sunday's sermon link with them. Or watch it devotionally yourself. 4/21/24 - "How to Recognize the Good Shepherd" - Pastor Piet Van Kampen <u>https://vimeo.com/937388276?share=copy</u>

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

Holy Cross has a Transportation Fund to provide free taxi rides to and from Holy Cross events, for members who have no other way of getting to church. The Holy Cross Senior Ministry Committee administers the Transportation Fund through Union Cab. This service has been a great blessing to a number of our members over the years. If you would like to make use of this service, please call one of the pastors at Holy Cross and we'll explain to you how it works. Thanks!

SERVE IN GOD'S HOUSE

At Holy Cross, thankfully, we have people who work behind-the-scenes to help with necessary aspects of our worship services. One of our important behind-the-scenes teams is a group of people who make sure that the communion bread and wine are prepared and on the altar for the services where we celebrate the Lord's Supper. If you would be willing to join this team and help set up for communion several times a year, please contact Rhonda Christenson or one of the Pastors. Thank you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to DIVE IN to God's Word with ocean-themed crafts, songs, bible stories, snacks, and more!

- June 24-27, 2024
- 9:00 am 11:30 am
- Ages: 3 years old (must be toilet-trained) to completing 6th grade

Visit the welcome center for a registration form.

ADDITIONALLY, if you have helped out in the past or are interested in helping this year, please contact Katie Krug at <u>kkrug@holycrossmadison.org</u>. We will need help with decorating, crafts, games, bible stories, leading children from group to group, welcoming families at the registration tables, and donating materials. It takes a community to make Vacation Bible School a success. We hope that God can use you to make a SPLASH in a child's spiritual life.

BETHANY AUXILIARY MEETING (NEW DATE)

Please join us! The Madison Area Bethany Lutheran College Auxiliary will meet on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 734 Holy Cross Way, Madison. The evening will begin with a delicious salad supper at 6:00 p.m. Following the meal, Don Westphal, Director of the Bethany Fund, will give a college update (there are many things to share!) and answer questions guests may have. All ladies and gentlemen are invited and urged to attend. A sign-up sheet is located in the Welcome Center. Questions? Please contact Joan Behr at (608) 669-3182; joanbehr@aol.com.

COMING SOON: BIG EVENT!

Look out! Holy Cross Lutheran School's "Big Event" is approaching soon! We will have performances from all grades, including a musical from our littles, a ukulele concert from grades 3 &4, and Fine Arts Fair/band & handbell pieces from our big kids! We will have two opportunities for you to see our students' God given talents shine! The first will be our dress rehearsal at 10AM and the second will be our final performance at 6PM. All festivities will be in the gym on Friday, May 3. We hope you will join us!

HYMN FESTIVAL

You are invited to a hymn festival. Holy Cross will host an afternoon of music on <u>April 28, 2024 beginning at 3:00 pm</u>. This Madison area Association of Church Musicians program will present five organists, local choirs and nine hymns from our Christian Worship Hymnal for you to add your voice. Hymns programmed include: "I Know My Redeemer Lives," "This Joyful Eastertide," "The Day of Resurrection," "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" and more. There is no fee for this event and you are welcome to invite family and friends to join us in singing praises to our Lord. Please contact Jim Baxter (<u>baxter4822@qmail.com</u>) if you have any questions.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

All current members and all who have a desire to help, but have limited time. It's hard to believe, that Spring is here! Which means it's time to get our landscape plan in place. We are taking the same approach this year, as last year. Meaning anyone that would like to help maintain the Church and School grounds in any way, large or small, can on their own time schedule. All helpers are appreciated! If you are interested in joining, or if you are already a member and need guidance regarding what needs to be done, you can contact me at: sherrie2450@gmail.com

SUMMER ADVENTURES 2024

This summer we will welcome kids ages 5 - 12 years old for a fun, daily program! Days will be 6AM - 5:30PM between June 3 - August 15, 2024. Activities will include: picnics in the park, off-site field trips, water days, bike/scooter days, arts and crafts, story time, and more! The rate will be billed weekly and is as follows:

- Monday Friday (5 days): \$275/week
- 4 days: \$225/week
- 3 days: \$175/week
- 2 days: \$125/week
- 1 day: \$75/week

There is a 10% off multi-child discount for each additional full time child. Registration will open for Holy Cross and returning families on <u>February 5, 2024</u>. Registration will open for new families on <u>April 3, 2024</u>. There is a \$150 non-refundable registration fee. Other information to note: Children may be in our care for a maximum of 10 hours per day. Tuition will be charged on a weekly basis through an automatic withdrawal using our Brightwheel App. Tuition includes breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack following USDA Food Guidelines. Rate builds in several days OFF: holidays and up to 5 vacation days for the child. Rate is charged weekly even if the child misses his/her scheduled days. If you have any questions, contact Katie Krug at <u>kkrug@holycrossmadison.org</u> or call 608-249-3101.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES: ELC/SUMMER ADVENTURES

Do you or someone you know have a love for children and a passion for creativity? Kids Crossing Early Learning Center is looking for enthusiastic and responsible individuals to join our team in either teaching in the ELC or leading 5-12 year olds in an enjoyable summer.

Job Description

- Maintain safety of all children.
- Lead or assist in the implementation of activities.
- Actively engage with children
- Maintain cleanliness
- Maintain communication and relationships with families
- Assists in keeping records and attendance

Qualifications

- Must be 16 years or older to work in Summer Adventures, and 18 or older to work in the ELC.
- Enjoys being in the company of children
- Great teamwork, communication, and problem solving skills
- Is alert, patient, and caring
- First Aid and CPR certified, or willing to complete certification

For more information or interest, contact Katie Krug at kkrug@holycrossmadison.org

LUTHERAN YOUTH HONOR CHOIR

The Lutheran Youth Honor Choir is Saturday, June 15 - Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN. This immersive study in our Lutheran Musical Heritage is for high school-aged youth (completed 8th grade). Registration is \$225 and open until June 1. For more information and to register, please go to <u>ELS.org/honorchoir</u>

LUTHERAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The LYA National Youth Convention is Thursday, July 25 - Sunday, July 28, 2024 at Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, IL. The theme is exploring the freedom that comes from being justified outside of ourselves. This convention is for high school-aged youth (confirmed or completed 8th grade). Early registration is \$300 and open until June 1. Late registration is \$350 and available from June 2-July 1. For more information and to register, please go to <u>ELS.org/LYA</u>

CAMP BASIC

We would like to invite you to experience Camp BASIC as a camper, counselor, or volunteer this summer. Camp BASIC is a camp for the cognitively and developmentally disabled from ages 10 and up. BASIC is an acronym for Brothers and Sisters in Christ, and is a part of WELS Special Ministries. The camp is held in the summer for two weeks at the indoor group camp in Wyalusing State Park near Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin. This year week one camp runs from June 10th-15th, with staff and counselors arriving on June 9th. Week two camp runs from June 16th-21st, with staff and counselors arriving on June 9th.

Each week has a different staff. We are looking for a camp nurse for week one, and we are also looking for more campers and counselors for both weeks. There is a camper fee of \$400 for campers, but a scholarship is available for campers who can not afford the entire amount. There is no fee for counselors or staff, but mileage reimbursement is available for counselors and staff. We try to have one counselor per camper, and the counselor helps their camper with any of his/her needs and enjoying the camp. Each morning starts off with breakfast, a devotion, crafts, Bible skits, and outside activities. Then there's lunch, rest, followed by a group outing. It may be bowling, fishing, swimming, or an on the grounds carnival. On the second to last day, it's always a Walmart shopping excursion. After supper, there will be more planned activities, such as Karaoke night, Counselor Talent Night, Camper Talent and Awards Night, Movie Night, Bingo Night, etc.

If interested please visit our website: <u>campbasic.com</u> or contact Anne or Tim Mackey <u>annetimmackey@hotmail.com</u>; Anne (608-445-5008); Tim (608-445-5405)

CAMP RISE

Camp Rise 2024 takes place <u>Sunday</u>, July 7 to Friday, July 12 at Camp Luwisomo in Wild Rose, Wisconsin. Camp is open to all youth who will have completed grades 4 through 9! All registration info and forms can be downloaded at camprise.org, or can be obtained at the church office. Registration cost is \$430 if registered by April 15; after that the cost goes up to \$460 with the deadline of May 15. In case the cost is too burdensome for some families, please speak with either Pastor Bartels or Pastor Van Kampen. Holy Cross has a fund dedicated to helping kids attend Camp Rise, and families can also apply to the Camp Rise Scholarship Fund by May 1 to help ease the costs of registering children for camp.