

# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

School and Early Learning Center

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February 12, 2023

*Let Us Speak God's Wisdom*

## 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](mailto: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 WORSHIP** Sundays 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 10:30am 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**2023 FLOWER CHART** The flower chart for 2023 is now posted on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center near the Fireside Room. Sign up with your name, phone number and occasion if you would like to provide flowers for the altar. You can bring in your own flowers or the Altar Guild will order flowers for you. The usual bouquet is \$40, but you can make it any amount you like. Make checks payable to **Holy Cross Altar Guild**. Drop off or mail your check in an envelope marked ALTAR FLOWERS. You may take the bouquet after the last church service and enjoy it at your home.

**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.

# ***"Let us speak God's wisdom"***

***February 12, 2023***

***The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany***

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*Service of the Word – Page 38*

**Adult Handbells** (10:30 Pre-Service Music)....."Here I Am, Lord"

**Opening Hymn** #282....."Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear"

1 Lord, open now my heart to hear,  
And through your Word to me draw near.  
Let me your Word e'er pure retain;  
Let me your child and heir remain.

2 Your Word inspires my heart within;  
Your Word grants healing from my sin.  
Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless;  
Your Word brings peace and happiness.

3 To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Shall glory, praise, and honor be  
Now and throughout eternity.

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

## **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**



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



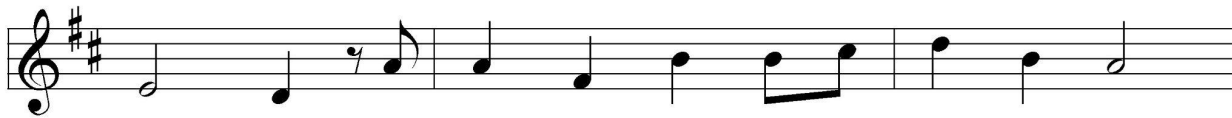
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

**Prayer of the Day**

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, in mercy receive the prayers of your people. Grant them the wisdom to know the things that please you and the grace and power always to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

**Adult Handbells** (8:30)....."Here I Am, Lord"

**Adult Handbells** (10:30)....."Fairest of Jesus"

*Piano accompaniment by Cindy Natvig*

**The First Lesson** .....Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*To obey God brings blessings. To disobey God brings curses.*

<sup>15</sup>See now, today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster. <sup>16</sup>This is what I am commanding you today: Love the Lord your God, walk in his ways, and keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances. Then you will live and increase in number, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are going to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away, and you do not listen, and you are lured away, and you bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>then I declare to you today that you will most certainly perish. You will not live a long life on the land that you are about to enter and possess by crossing over the Jordan. <sup>19</sup>I call the heavens and the earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live <sup>20</sup>by loving the Lord your God, by listening to his voice, and by clinging to him, because that means life for you, and you will live a long life on your land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**Psalm of the Day** .....Psalm 119a

M: How blessed are those who are blameless in their way, who walk in the law of the Lord.

C: **How blessed are those who keep his testimonies. With all their heart they seek him.**

M: You have commanded that your precepts be kept completely.

C: **If only my ways were unwavering in keeping your statutes!**

M: Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands.

C: **I will thank you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous judgments.**

**Second Lesson** .....Matthew 5:21-37

Jesus teaches God's will

<sup>21</sup>"You have heard that it was said to people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.' <sup>22</sup>But I tell you that everyone who is angry with his brother without a cause will be subject to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, '*Raca*,' will have to answer to the Sanhedrin. But whoever says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of hell fire. <sup>23</sup>"So if you are about to offer your gift at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there in front of the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother. Then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>"If someone accuses you, reach an agreement with him quickly, while you are with him on the way. Otherwise your accuser may bring you to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>Amen I tell you: You will never get out until you have paid the last penny. <sup>27</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery,' <sup>28</sup>but I tell you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to fall into sin, pluck it out and throw it away from you. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>If your right hand causes you to fall into sin, cut it off and throw it away from you. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>31</sup>"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' <sup>32</sup>But I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, causes her to be regarded as an adulteress. And whoever marries the divorced woman is regarded as an adulterer. <sup>33</sup>Again you have heard that it was said to people long ago, 'Do not break your oaths, but fulfill your vows to the Lord.' <sup>34</sup>But I tell you, do not swear at all: not by heaven, because it is God's throne; <sup>35</sup>and not by earth, because it is his footstool; and not by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not swear by your own head, since you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Instead, let your statement be, 'Yes, yes,' or 'No, no.' Whatever goes beyond these is from the Evil One.

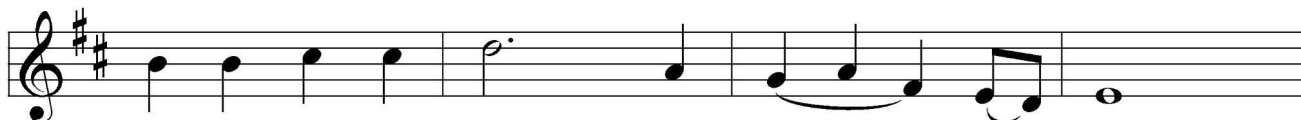
**Verse of the Day**



**C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!**



**These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that**



**Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.**



**Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Children's Sermon**

*Young children are invited forward to the chancel steps.*

**Hymn #279....."O Word of God Incarnate"**

- 1 O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky,  
We praise you for the radiance That from the hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.
- 2 The Church from you, dear Master, Received the gift divine,  
And still that light is lifted O'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass That, all life's journey through,  
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands Still guides, O Christ, to you.
- 3 Oh, make your Church, dear Savior, A lamp of burnished gold  
To bear before the nations Your true light, as of old.  
Oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims By this their path to trace  
Till, clouds and darkness ended, They see you face to face.

**Sermon**.....Pastor Thomas Heyn..... "Let us speak God's wisdom"

*1 Corinthians 2:6-13*

**6** Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature, but it is not a wisdom of this world or of the rulers of this world, who are being reduced to nothing. **7** Instead we speak God's wisdom that has been hidden in mystery—before the ages, God foreordained that this wisdom would result in our glory. **8** None of the rulers of this world knew it. (If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.) **9** But as it is written: What no eye has seen and no ear has heard and no human mind has conceived—that is what God has prepared for those who love him. **10** But God revealed it to us through his Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. **11** Indeed, who among men knows a man's thoughts except the man's spirit within him? So also, no one else knows God's thoughts except God's Spirit. **12** What we received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we might know the blessings freely given to us by God. **13** We also speak about these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual truths with spiritual words.

**Hymn** #284..... "How Precious Is the Book Divine"

- 1 How precious is the Book divine, By inspiration giv'n!  
Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine To guide our souls to heav'n.
- 2 Its light, descending from above Our gloomy world to cheer,  
Displays a Savior's boundless love And brings his glories near.
- 3 It shows to us our wand'ring ways And where our feet have trod  
But brings to view the matchless grace Of a forgiving God.
- 4 This lamp through all the dreary night Of life shall guide our way  
Till we behold the clearer light Of an eternal day.

**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.

**Offering**

**Adult Handbells**..... "Fairest Lord Jesus"

*Piano accompaniment by Cindy Natvig*

## **Prayer of the Church**

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

**C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

**C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

M: Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

**C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

**C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

**C: 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.**

**Closing Verse** #290 vs 3....."One Thing's Needful"

3 Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure, Jesus, can be found in you.  
Let me find in you my pleasure; Make my will and actions true,  
Humility there and simplicity reigning,  
In paths of true wisdom my steps ever training.  
If I learn from Jesus this knowledge divine,  
The blessing of heavenly wisdom is mine.



### Closing Prayer

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

### Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

### Announcements

If you attended online services at Holy Cross, please send an email to [frontoffice@holycrossmadison.org](mailto: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, Jodi Hougan, will not be responding to emails that say "Attended" in the subject line.  
Thanks.

## **Holy Cross News & Notes**

February 12, 2023

**Attendance Last Week: 336**

### **Calendar for the Week - February 13th - February 19th**

#### **Monday**

- Worship - 6:30 pm
- Bible Information Class - 7:30 pm

#### **Tuesday**

- Coffee at Elie's - 9:00 am

#### **Wednesday**

- School Chapel - 8:10 am
- Bible Study - 10 am
- Public School Catechism - 4:30 pm
- Senior Handbells - 6:15 pm
- Senior Choir - 7:00 pm

#### **Thursday**

- Esther Circle - 1:00 pm
- All Boards Meeting - 6:00 pm
- Church Council - 7:30 pm

#### **Sunday**

- Worship - 8:30 and 10:30 am
- Sunday School - 9:45 am
- Adult Bible Study - 9:45 am

**HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK** Greg Griffin, Eric Christenson and Wanda Julseth were hospitalized this week. Please pray for them and our homebound and for those in nursing homes.

#### **Altar Flowers**

The flowers on the altar are given by Zack and Anna Gavin in loving memory of Camilo Luis Gavin.

#### **Special Voters Meeting for the Calling of a Pastor-TODAY @ 11:30**

The Holy Cross Board of Elders and Church Council are calling a special Voters Meeting **TODAY!** The purpose of this special Voters Meeting is to extend a Divine Call to fill the Pastoral vacancy here at Holy Cross. Please pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in this very important matter and please plan to attend this special meeting.

#### **Bean Bag Tournament**

On Sunday February 19th, starting after the second service we will gather for our annual Holy Cross Bean Bag Tournament. We plan to play in the school gym and will have sub sandwiches, water and a trophy for the winners. Adult and kid teams are welcome to compete. Use the Sign Up Genius link to register as individuals or 2-man teams and we will set up brackets. Please let us know if you have an extra board set you are willing to bring.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BADA92FA5F5C70-bean>

#### **Wednesday Lenten Services Coming Soon!**

The season of Lenten is a special time of looking first at the depth of our sin, and then at the depth of Christ's love for us in his passion and suffering. Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

#### ***Our theme this year is 'His Final Steps'***

February 22 - His Final Steps Led to a Tomb

March 1 - His Final Steps Led to a Dinner Celebration

March 8 - His Final Steps Led to His Father's House

March 15 - His Final Steps Led to Some Greeks

March 22 - His Final Steps Led to a Fig Tree

March 29 - His Final Steps Led to His Enemies

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

Even though Easter isn't until April 9, it's time to order Easter flowers for the altar. You may order Easter lilies or pink azaleas. Orders must be in by Monday, February 20. There is a box on the counter in the Welcome Center with order forms. Easter lilies are \$18.00 and pink azaleas are \$38.00. You may pick up your plant(s) after the second service on Easter Sunday or during the following week to enjoy at home or to give to a home-bound member, family member or friend. Make checks payable to Holy Cross Altar Guild.

## **Chocolate Extravaganza**

We are excited to announce that our Chocolate Extravaganza will be returning to Holy Cross this year on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, from 5:30pm to 9:00pm. The evening will be filled with fine-chocolate tasting, hors d'oeuvres, great fellowship and a silent auction. You'll have fun, get to spend time with fellow Christians, and best of all, funds raised will go to Partners in Christ, which provides tuition and educational assistance to families here at Holy Cross. Please reserve April 1 on your calendar, and watch announcements for more information. If you or someone you know would like to make a monetary contribution or donate a silent auction item, please reach out to Tricia Blaschka ([troachie1@hotmail.com](mailto:troachie1@hotmail.com)) or Nicolle Ward ([dego88m@gmail.com](mailto:dego88m@gmail.com)).

## **Call News**

**Pastor:** Our next Call meeting/Voters' meeting for Associate Pastor will be on Sunday, February 12 at 11:30 am  
**Principal Poetter:** Chris Poetter has received a Call to be principal and upper grades teacher at Peace Lutheran School in Kissimmee, Florida. Please keep him in your prayers as he deliberates where he can best serve.  
**Teachers:** This current year Mrs. Angela Braatz and Mrs. Becky Collyard are serving one-year Calls in our school. Holy Cross has now extended permanent Calls to Mrs. Braatz (3rd grade homeroom) and Mrs. Collyard (4th grade homeroom).  
**Prayers:** May the Holy Spirit grant wisdom and guidance to Angela and Becky as they deliberate their Calls, and may the Holy Spirit guide our congregation in the Calling of a pastor.

## **Call Announcement**

Mr. Poetter (our principal) received a divine call from Peace Lutheran Church and School (ELS) located in Kissimmee, Florida. The positions and duties listed as principal and half-time teacher for the K-12 program. In 2004, the congregation opened a Kindergarten program. Ever since then, the school added a grade each year. The high school started in 2015/2016. Currently the school has 68 students from K - 8 and 28 preschool students and toddlers. Peace Lutheran School has five teachers in the K-12 program and two preschool teachers with two teachers aids. Peace Lutheran Church and School motto is "Sharing Peace in Jesus." Their mission statement is "Peace in Jesus - Know it. Live it. Share it."

For the next few weeks, I ask for your prayers and feedback on where I may best serve, at Holy Cross or at Peace.  
In Christ,  
Chris Poetter

## **Summer ELS Youth Convention**

The ELS Board for Youth Outreach is excited to announce that the 2023 LYA Youth Convention will be held at Bethany Lutheran College from Thursday, July 27 - Sunday, July 30. This annual event brings together youth from across the country. The Convention theme is "Created" (based on Genesis 1:27) and will feature keynote speaker, Seminary President Timothy Hartwig. Registration opens on February 15 at [ELS.org](http://ELS.org). Cost is \$250 per person. After June 1, the cost increases to \$300. Register early to ensure your top picks for classes and activities! Please watch for more information on financial assistance and transportation.