

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

School and Early Learning Center



February 26, 2023

A Righteousness That Really Counts

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 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 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.

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.

"A Righteousness That Really Counts"

February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

Service of the Word – Page 38

Opening Hymn CWS#754....."The Tree of Life"

1 The tree of life with ev'ry good In Eden's holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew Another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned Against whose eating God had warned.

2 The stillness of that sacred grove Was broken as the serpent strove
With tempting voice Eve to beguile And Adam to by sin defile.
Oh, day of sadness when the breath Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
Its awful poison first displayed Within the world so newly made.

3 What mercy God showed to our race, A plan of rescue by his grace:
In sending One from woman's seed, The One to fill our greatest need—
For on a tree uplifted high His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread To crush the ancient serpent's head!

4 Now from that tree of Jesus' shame Flows life eternal in his name;
For all who trust and will believe, Salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet The Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood The tree of life with ev'ry good.

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.**

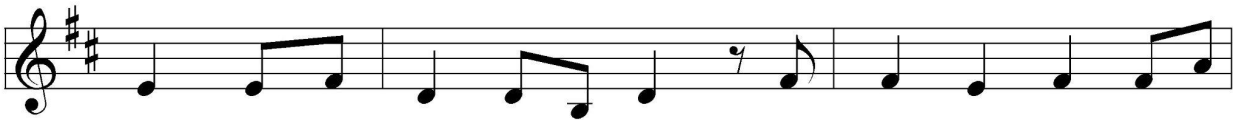
Prayer and Praise

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 our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

The First LessonGenesis 2:7-9,15-17, 3:1-7

Adam’s & Eve’s disobedience brought sin into the world

⁷The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸The Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the Lord God made every kind of tree grow—trees that are pleasant to look at and good for food, including the Tree of Life in the middle of the garden and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and settled him in the Garden of Eden to work it and to take care of it. ¹⁶The Lord God gave a command to the man. He said, “You may freely eat from every tree in the garden, ¹⁷but you shall not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, for on the day that you eat from it, you will certainly die.”

^{3:2}Now the serpent was more clever than any wild animal which the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, ³but not from the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it. You shall not touch it, or else you will die.’” ⁴The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die. ⁵In fact, God knows that the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was appealing to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She gave some also to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷The eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for their waists.

Psalm of the DayPsalm 130

M: Out of the depths I have called to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice.

C: **Let your ears be attentive to the sound of my cry for mercy.**

M: If you, Lord, kept a record of guilt, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with you there is pardon, so you are feared.**

M: I wait for the Lord. My soul waits, and in his word I have put my hope.

C: **My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,**

M: Israel, wait confidently for the Lord, because with the Lord there is mercy.

C: **With him there is abundant redemption.**

Grades K-2 (8:30am).....“Priceless Treasure”

Second LessonRomans 5:12-19

Christ’s obedience justifies all people

¹²So then, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned. ¹³For even before the law was given, sin was in the world. Now, sin is not charged to one’s account if there is no law, ¹⁴and yet death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those whose sin was not like the transgression of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the gracious gift is not like Adam’s trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of this one man, it is even more certain that God’s grace, and the gift given by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, overflowed to the many! ¹⁶And the gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin, for the judgment that followed the one trespass resulted in a verdict of condemnation, but the gracious gift that followed many trespasses resulted in a verdict of justification. ¹⁷Indeed, if by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through the one man, it is even more certain that those who receive the overflowing grace of the gift of righteousness will reign in life

through the one man Jesus Christ! ¹⁸So then, just as one trespass led to a verdict of condemnation for all people, so also one righteous verdict led to life-giving justification for all people. ¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of one man the many became sinners, so also through the obedience of one man the many will become righteous.

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!

Confirmation Questioning (8:30am)

Hymn of the Day #394....."Blessed Are the Saints of God"

1 Blessed are the saints of God;
They are bought with Christ's own blood.
They are ransomed from the grave;
Life eternal they shall have.
With them numbered may we be
Here and in eternity.

2 They are justified by grace;
They enjoy the Savior's peace.
All their sins are washed away;
They shall stand in God's great day.
With them numbered may we be
Here and in eternity.

3 They are lights upon the earth,
Children of a heav'nly birth.
One with God, with Jesus one,
Glory is in them begun.
With them numbered may we be
Here and in eternity.

Sermon.....Pastor Eugene Kock..... "A Righteousness That Really Counts"

Matthew 5:20-24

20 Indeed I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and experts in the law, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 21 "You have heard that it was said to people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 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. 23 "So if you are about to offer your gift at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother. Then come and offer your gift.

Hymn #391 vs 1 & 2....."God Loved the World So that He Gave"

1 God loved the world so that he gave
His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

2 Christ is the solid rock of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death.
All who confide in him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

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

Prayer of the Church

M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

C: **We confess that without your love we are lost.**

M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: **Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

M: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

C: **By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

M: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

- C:** Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.
- M:** Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.
- C:** Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 #391 vs 4....."God Loved the World So that He Gave"

4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
 Forgives the sins that you have done.
 You're justified by Jesus' blood;
 Baptized, you are a child of God.

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, 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 26, 2023

Attendance Last Week: 327

Calendar for the Week - February 27th - March 5th

Monday

- Bible Information Class - 7:30 pm

Wednesday

- School Chapel - 8:10 am
- Bible Study-10 am
- Lenten Service - 3:30 pm
- Public School Catechism - 4:30 pm
- Lenten Service - 6:30 pm
- Senior Choir -7:15 pm

Thursday

- Ladies Aid - 1:00 pm

Sunday

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

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

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given by Ralph and Hope Weichbrod in memory of Dale Gulrud and Ralph Weichbrod Sr.

Seniors Appreciation Luncheon

The 12th of March marks Daylight Saving Time and the annual Seniors Appreciation Luncheon. We value our seniors and thank them for their commitment, sacrifice, and service over the years that has distinguished the Holy Cross congregation and grown God's kingdom. At noon we will serve salads, soups, and desserts to members who are 60 years and older. As always, there is no charge. Please use the sign up sheet located in the welcome center to let us know if you can attend.

Wednesday Lenten Services

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.

Our theme this year is 'His Final Steps'

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](#)

Funeral Planning

Monday, March 13, 1:00 pm

While your funeral may still be many years down the road, making plans for your funeral can be a great testament to your faith for your family and friends. The hymns you pick and the bible verses you would like read can be very comforting and thought-directing for your loved ones. The Senior Ministry Committee invites you to join us on Monday, March 13 at 1 pm. Pastor Bartels, along with a speaker from Gunderson Funeral Home, will help walk you through some of the things to think about as you do some future planning for your funeral. Please sign up at the Welcome Center. Thank you!

Call News

Pastor Kassera: On Sunday, February 12, the Holy Cross Voters extended a Call to Rev. James Kassera to serve as our Associate Pastor. Currently, Pastor Kassera serves as pastor at Divine Mercy Lutheran Church in Hudson Oaks, Texas. He has served there for 5 years. Prior to that he served at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Albert Lea, Minnesota for 6 years. Please keep Pastor Kassera, his wife, Jenny and their 5 children, as well as Holy Cross and the congregation he currently serves in your prayers as he deliberates where best to serve. We trust that the Holy Spirit will guide Pastor Kassera in his decision process as he determines where he can best serve Jesus' blood-bought lambs and sheep. If you would like to reach out to him and let him know you're praying for him, his email is: james.kassera@blc.edu

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.

Prayers: May the Holy Spirit grant wisdom and guidance to Pastor Kassera and Principal Poetter and as they deliberate their Calls.

Operation GO Mission Trip Program

Julianne Dollard, one of the LLHS teens from our congregation is readying to GO with the Gospel this summer under the Lakeside Lutheran Operation GO mission trip program, organized and run by Pastor Dustin Yahnke. We look forward to announcements after 1st service today, when Julianne will briefly share with us the plans for her upcoming mission trip. Thanks for keeping these teens in prayer as they get ready for their trip and taking other actions as you're able.

Chocolate Extravaganza

We are excited to announce that our Chocolate Extravaganza will be returning to Holy Cross this year on Saturday, April 1st, 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) or Nicolle Ward (dego88m@gmail.com).

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. Register at els.org/lya/ 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.