

Cross Lines

Monthly Newsletter

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

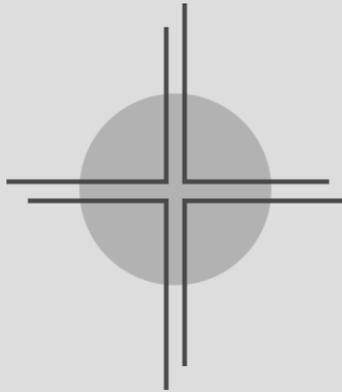
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February 2020

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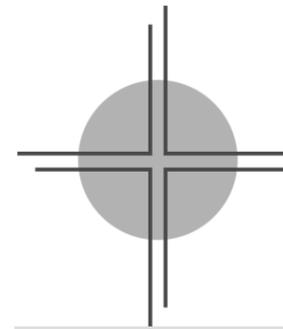
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CROSS LINES

Monthly Newsletter

Holy Cross Lutheran Church • Maple Lake, MN

February 2020

DIGGING WELLS & SHARING WATER

Dear Friends in Christ,

Many of you know that I attended a Christian retreat at the end of January. Throughout the weekend I was encouraged and strengthened by the witness of other Christians. In one session, the speaker challenged us to think about our environments and gave an inspiring reflection on wells in the Ancient Near East. She didn't mince words, digging wells is hard work. The significance of that work was not lost on ancient societies and wells were often named after the person responsible for such an important contribution to society. Take, for example, Jacob's well: "*Jesus left Judea and departed again for Galilee. And he had to pass through Samaria...Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well*" (John 4:3-6) Wells became meeting places, epicenters for encounter, life-giving locations in the desolate landscape of ancient Israel. Both citizens of the region and passersby would be attracted to these locations.

While I should not have been surprised, my mind went quickly to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. In what ways are we sharing the sweet water of life?

- Are we hoarding the water in case of a drought?
- Are we afraid to share the water because of how others will perceive its taste?
- Is our shared ministry providing "a spring of water welling up to eternal life?" (John 4:10, 13-14).

There is no doubt that our building is a well. People know to come here for the Word and the Sacraments. I pray that our bible-based learning and loving fellowship lure people. Even our benevolence dollars which are shared locally and globally (too many partners to list and number) are ways in which we let down the bucket and pour out Christ's love in the world.

But does our Sunday/Wednesday experience here translate into your worlds?

- Do we as individuals and families share the water from our community well?
- Where are there parched places and people in our own lives and environments? Your kindness to grocery attendants, baristas, co-workers, etc., are places where you can pour your bucket of cool water for the refreshment of the world.
- Your boldness to pray around the table, to ask for prayer requests from your kids are blatant ways in which we show that our run-in with Christ is transforming our hearts and lives.

When our lives are drenched in God's grace, we gain Christ-centered confidence and assurance to move freely throughout the world. When we react with love, rather than resentment and anger, people notice the difference. Drawing on the underground reservoir of Christ, you could become a well of living water in the places where you live, work, learn, and play.

Our well is not called "Pastor Culynn's well," it is called Holy Cross Lutheran Church. The Church: The people—all together—on a mission from God is our shared work. We are called to lower our bucket here in this place and pour it out in our homes, workplaces, and in the nine communities where we live (not to mention the communities where we go to work). We are called to invite others to the well where we meet Jesus. Let them taste the waters of life that never run dry and well up to eternity. Wells become popular over time and through word-of-mouth. Eventually, they are known for their life-giving water. The popularity and presence of a well in the desert can alter the path of travelers who are thirsty.

Sharing a cup of water with you and alongside you!

Pastor Culynn

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WORD

God's Story and Our Story

February Readings:

- 1—Galatians 6:1-18
- 2— Mark 5:21-43
- 3—Ephesians 1:1-23
- 4—Ephesians 2:1-22
- 5—Ephesians 3:1-21
- 6— Ephesians 4:1-32
- 7—Ephesians 5:1-33
- 8—Ephesians 6:1-24
- 9—Mark 6:1-13
- 10—Mark 6:14-29
- 11—Mark 6:30-44
- 12—Psalm 23:1-6
- 13—Ezekiel 34:11-24
- 14—Mark 6:45-56
- 15—Ezekiel 34:25-31
- 16—Mark 7:1-23
- 17—Isaiah 29:13-24
- 18—Micah 4:1-13
- 19— Micah 6:1-8
- 20—Mark 7:24-30
- 21—Mark 7:31-37
- 22—Mark 8:11-21
- 23—Mark 8:27-9:8
- 24—Mark 9:9-29
- 25—2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10
- 26—Mark 9:30-37
- 27—Mark 9:42-50
- 28 —Mark 10:1-12
- 29— Mark 10:13-16

Children's Faith Formation

Feed My Sheep breakfast will be February 9 @ 9:00am. Please join us!

Youth4Him

All 6-12 grade students are welcome to join us Sunday mornings during the Faith Formation hour. We meet in the last room on the left in the education wing. Join us in February to help plan our next service project and fun social activities.

The Bethel Series

The Bethel Series has made it through the Torah/Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. Students have also received a take-home Midterm Exam. This exam covers the Biblical concepts, poster concepts, as well as synthesis of ideas which have been studied to this point.

The Sunday Bethel Class will meet on February 16. Luncheon will be provided by Dan and Jean at 11:30am. Class will begin at 12:00Noon and wrap up by 3:30pm.

20/20 Vision

Many of you took the reading schedules in January. It was exciting to see so many of you interested in the Word of God as part of our 2020 Vision Initiative. May our reading, hearing, and study of God's Word lead us to a clear vision for God's will in our lives and the ministry of our congregation.

If you are reading through the whole Bible, you find yourself in the book of Leviticus. While the laws and requirements of Jewish sacrifice can bog you down, be on the lookout for Jesus Christ; the imprint of Messiah is everywhere.

If you are reading one story each week from the "52 Stories You Should Know," you are just wrapping up in Genesis and moving into the Exodus stories in the Old Testament. The New Testament has you celebrating Christmas again as you hear of the birth of our Savior!

RIGHT NOW MEDIA

Our congregation has a partnership with Right Now Media, an online streaming resource for Christians to grow in their faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ. This is available to all of our members and friends.



You may want to tune into Francis Chan's study on The Gospel of Mark to supplement Pastor Culynn's preaching. If you have a confirmation student reading through The Essential Bible, you might want to see the videos: "Read Scripture" by The Bible Project. Alongside the learning content of PBS or the cartoons of Netflix, we encourage you to check out the countless videos of Kids content, which teaches spiritual truths to

your children.

Don't delay! Text **Rightnow HCLMN** (the space between the 2 keywords is necessary) to 41411 and start watching, downloading, and growing in faith today!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:00a- Traditional Service 9:15a- Faith Formation Hour 10:30a- Contemporary Service 1:30p- Annandale Care Center Hymn Sing Augustana District Convocation	3 11a- Prayer Group 1p- Women's Bible Study 7p- Bethel Series	4	5 6p- WOW 7p- Choir 7p- Confirmation	6	7 Pastor Culynn's Sabbath	8
9 8:00a- Traditional Service 9:00a- Feed My Sheep Breakfast 9:15a- Faith Formation Hour 9:15a- Band Practice 10:30a- Contemporary Service	10 10a- 6p LSS Counselor Here 11a- Prayer Group 2p- Women's Group 7p- Bethel Series	11 2pm- Book Club	12 6p- WOW 7p- Choir 7p- Confirmation	13	14 Pastor Culynn's Sabbath	15 Berg & Westendorf Wedding
16 8:00a- Traditional Service 9:15a- Faith Formation Hour 10:30a- Contemporary Service 11:30a- Bethel Series	17 President's Day 10a- 6p LSS Counselor Here 11a- Prayer Group 2p- Women's Group 7p- Bethel Series	18	19 6p- WOW 7p- Choir 7p- Confirmation	20	21 Pastor Culynn's Sabbath	22
23 8:00a- Traditional Service 9:15a- Faith Formation Hour 9:15a- Band Practice 10:30a- Contemporary Service 11:30a- 3p 2020 Vision Retreat 3:00p- Council Meeting	24 10a- 6p LSS Counselor Here 11a- Prayer Group 2p- Women's Group 7p- Bethel Series	25	26 Ash Wednesday 2p- Service 5:30p- Soup Supper 7p- Service	27	28 Pastor Culynn's Sabbath	

SPIRITUAL GIFTS & SERVICE

Mission of the Month / Noisy Offering

February's mission project will support Love, INC., a group of Wright County churches reaching out to families in need. Love, INC. ministries include clothing, household and furniture needs, car repairs, school supply items, toys and other items for babies and young children and the Coats for Kids project. Our "Noisy Offering" on **Sunday, February 9** for Love, INC. will be received. We also now have a Love, INC. donation drop-off site in downtown Maple Lake.

Thank you to those who gave to the Christian Recovery Counseling Center in January. We sent them **\$242.87**.

Counters Needed

We are in need of more people for counting the offerings. Leanne Kramer will be leading a training session on Sunday, March 8th, at 11:30am. Current counters are also welcome to attend.

Contact Jean Wagner if you are interested.

WORSHIP DUTIES—FEBRUARY 2020

DATE	USHERS	GREETERS	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION SET-UP	COMMUNION	REFRESHMENTS
Feb. 2 8:00a	Dan Willey Family	Tracy & Jamie Jankord & Jill Connelly	Rosanna Chambliss	Olivia Willey	Mike Connelly	Clare Swenson	Brian Warner, Gene Wadman, Mark Weber, Gloria Westphal Households
Feb. 2 10:30a	Karina Jurgens Family	Darci & Steve Kvam	Phil Greenhagen	Emily Jurgens	Craig & Tami Blahut	Steve & Darci Kvam, Ben Reilley, Craig Blahut	
Feb. 9 8:00a	Ron, Nancy & Nathan Elam	Mayville Family	Brian Warner	Ryan Mayville	Jon Podolske	Mark Weber	Dan Willey, Glen Willey, Karsten Williams, John Wisecarver Households
Feb. 9 10:30a	Karina Jurgens Family	Kathy Jacobson	Emily Fisher	Emily Jurgens		Jan Phillip, Ben & Missy Reilley, Brooke Torkelson	
Feb. 16 8:00a	Brian & Tyler Warner	Martin Family	Anastasia Martin	Noah Elam	Gary & Wendy Lankki	Kelly Gustavson	Gordy Wurm, Ben Youngs, Sandy Becker, Doug Beehler Households
Feb. 16 10:30a	Steve & Lora Loch	Rosanna Chambliss	Jan Sonicker	Danny Reilley		Jan Phillip, Ben Reilley, Jana Stockham	
Feb. 23 8:00a	Jason George Family	Jim Brickle & Malissa Bechtold	Al Burke	Clare Martins	Brian & Tyler Warner	Barbie Berg	Brian Bentley, Steve Berg, Crais Blahut, Dave Borrell Households
Feb. 23 10:30a	Karina Jurgens Family	Barb & Larry Thomsen	Brenda Dalbec	Emily Jurgens		Ben Reilley, Connie Klemz, Teresa Kintop, Brian Bentley	
COUNTERS					If you are unable to fulfill your duty, please find a replacement.		
2/2/20 Clare Swenson & Dave Dorow							
2/9/20 Rosanna Chambliss & Barbie Berg							
2/16/20 Jan Sonicker & Julie Preusser							
2/23/20 Sue Klassen & Teresa Kintop							

WORSHIP

Baptismal Birthday Medallions

On January 12, we celebrated the Baptism of Our Lord. As part of that celebration, we wanted to give gifts to the newly baptized. If you were unable to join us for the service, please stop by the church and pick up the medallion for your child today. Sitting on a dresser or bedside table, it can be a constant reminder of God's promise and presence to you all.

Liturgical Learnings: Confession and Forgiveness

In a world committed to positive thinking and confident self-talk, our services begin with a surprising declaration: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:9). This biblical truth declares that no amount of positive thinking or confident self-talk can unravel the problems and the pain in which we find ourselves. Those who are sinful can only profane what is holy and stand condemned to death before the Holy God. Confession and Forgiveness is the door mat of God's house.

But God does not leave us to rot in the prison and grave of our sin. Through the gift of confession and repentance, God asks us to come clean before him. By his grace, he washes us clean of sin and death and clears the record. With our sin confessed and the declaration of forgiveness in our ear, we rise to new life and give praise to God.

The Season of Lent

The Solemn Observance of Ash Wednesday is February 26. There will be two services that day: 2:00pm and 7:00pm. The season of Lent guides the faithful through intentional self-examination, repentance, and reflection as we follow Christ on the way of the cross. This solemnity will lead us the Great Three Days, where we will behold the Tree of Life and the Empty Tomb.

January Worship & Offerings

Dates	8:00am	10:30am	Wed	Total	Offerings
January 5/8	71	87	19	177	\$ 4,921.46
January 12/15	65	62	15	142	\$3,524.00
January 19/22	59	55	28	142	\$5,197.00
January 26/29	65	58	29	152	\$2,298.76
Total Income: \$15,941.22 (as of 01/29/2020)					
Monthly Expenses: \$22,330.08					

Themes for the Services of God's House

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany February 2

Exceeding Expectations
Mark 5:21-43

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany February 9

Even in Death
Mark 6:1-13

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany February 16

You are Not What you Eat
Mark 7:1-23

Transfiguration of Our Lord February 23

To See the Transformation
Mark 9:2-10

Save the Date:

April 5th @ 10:45am
First Communion Instruction
For all 5th grade students and
parents. Lunch will be provided.

COMMUNITY

January Council Minutes

Administration/Personnel: Roland Hagel has been hired as the new custodian.

Faith and Learning: Fellowship Event: Tubing at Powder Ridge, scheduled for Saturday, February 1.

Worship and Music: No report.

Congregational Care: No report.

Spiritual Growth: No report.

Property and Grounds: LED bulbs installed in parking lot. Security cameras installed Monday, January 27.

Missions: No report.

Old Business: Motion: Approval of contract with Lutheran Social Services to provide Counseling Services at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, on Mondays, providing supplemental financial support on as-needed basis.

New Business: Discussion about partnership with PushPay. Initial discussions regarding 2020 Vision Initiative review and goals.

Our next Council Meeting will be held on February 23: 2020 Vision Initiative meeting 11:45-3:00pm; Council meeting to follow.

Women's Group

Women's Group meets the first Monday of each month at 1:00pm for Bible Study and the other Mondays of each month at 2:00pm for coffee and fellowship. Please join us!

School Year Office Hours

Monday	Noon – 3pm
Tuesday	Noon – 3pm
Wednesday	Noon – 3pm
Thursday	Noon – 3pm
Fri. – Sun.	Closed

2020 Vision

On Sunday, February 23, we will welcome Pastor Randy Freund, Service Coordinator of the Augustana District who will be with us to present a Visioning Retreat for the church council and long-range planning. The event is open to all members of the congregation as we prepare and listen for God's future for us as Holy Cross Church. We encourage you to continue to be reading the Scripture schedules which were given out in January.

We also ask that you would hold Pastor Culynn, the church council, and members of the Long-Range planning committee in your prayers. During the Soup Suppers in March, we will be asking members of the congregation to join in conversation circles to provide further input regarding our identity, discernment, and hopes for the future of our mission and ministry.

Prayer Intention for February

Throughout the year 2020, we will provide a monthly prayer intention to unite our community's prayer around a theme.

During the month of February, you are encouraged to pray for the children of the world:

O Lord, you bless the family and grant children in our midst. We thank you for their wonder and innocence. We ask that you guide them through the maze of life, that as they grow, your presence would be their constant peace and joy. May the Spirit keep them in your wonderful image, that they may receive their birthright of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Holy Cross Library Book Club

Our book selection for February is *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr (2014). This novel won the Pulitzer prize and is about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Join us on **Tuesday, February 11, at 2:00 pm.** at Holy Cross to discuss this book. Call Marilyn (320-963-5510) or Jean (320-237-3915) with any questions.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Holy Cross will host its annual Lenten Soup suppers again this year. This is a wonderful time to be together for fellowship around food, conversation and encouragement. We hope you will join us. Soup is served from 5:30pm-6:30pm.

The church will provide soup for Ash Wednesday. We encourage you to come for supper. Is it possible that you could bring soup or bread to share with the congregation? Would you be willing to serve in the kitchen as a server or clean-up crew? The ministry we do, we share together. Please consider participating in the fellowship and care of your fellow members and friends here at Holy Cross during this Lenten tradition.

Soup Supper proceeds will again support our Lenten offering project, school lunch debt in the Maple Lake Schools.

CONFESSION

Confirmation

Confirmation classes will wrap up on Wednesday, February 19, with a parent-student night. Together, parents and students, pastor and catechists have read through the narrative of Scripture. We will play Bible Jeopardy and test our knowledge of God's Word. Students are encouraged to attend 4 of the 7 midweek Lenten services.

Confirmation Retreat (March 6-8, 2020)

Luther Crest Bible Camp

The Augustana District Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for March 6-8 (beginning at 7:30pm on Friday and ending at 11:30am on Sunday), at Luther Crest Bible Camp, Alexandria, MN. This is a wonderful event to connect with other confirmation groups from around the district. The cost is \$25 per student (the church will cover the remaining costs). We are looking for two chaperones as well (at no cost). Please let Pastor Culynn know if you plan to attend by Wednesday, February 12.

New Member Sunday – March 1 & 15

If you or someone you know is interested in membership at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, please join us for a brief informational meeting on Sunday, March 1. Pastor Culynn will provide a brief history and share the core values of our mission and ministry together. There will be time for you to ask questions, provide vital information, and plan for the Reception of New Members which will take place on Sunday, March 15 at both services.

You Believe WHAT?! Continues

February 2 – Word Made Flesh (Arianism)

February 9 – Be Good! Play Nice! (Pelagianism & Socinianism)

February 16 – The God of My Mind (Rationalism & Enlightenment)

February 23 – Modern Problems (Deism, Unitarianism, Pluralism, & Relativism)

Coming Soon: JUDAS - The Troubling Disciple. During the season of Lent, we will explore this complexity of Judas' character, history's response to his actions, and the truth of the Gospel from the one disciple who set our salvation in motion.

The Dust of Your Rabbi

Do you ever feel like you are a follower of Jesus, but from a distance? "Follow a Rabbi, drink in his words, and be covered with the dust of his feet," says the ancient Jewish proverb. Ray VanderLaan is a Jewish trained Bible scholar, who leads Christians into a deeper understanding of discipleship. Beginning on Wednesday, March 4, following the 7:00pm midweek services, you are invited to join us for "The Dust of the Rabbi." We will watch Ray's rich biblical teaching and on-site video production, thanks to our partnership with Right Now Media, and then have time for group discussion.

"In Jesus' day, disciples followed their Rabbi so closely that they would be covered with the dust kicked up by the Rabbi's feet. Come, discover how you can get dusty and be closer to your Rabbi, Jesus, by doing what he does, hearing his promises, and growing together in community."

Introducing Markie Gohman:

During Pastor Culynn's tenure, his office has always been open for pastoral care. Along the way, however, there have been some instances where additional support has been needed. Although Maple Lake is halfway between two large city centers, obtaining additional support has been challenging because of transportation troubles and financial strain. Last summer, Pastor Culynn proposed becoming a host site for mental health counseling within our building. This model is not unfamiliar to Lutheran Social Services or Holy Cross. Several congregations in Minnesota provide office space for mental health professionals to counsel and work. Recently, Sola Publishing's operations office was held in our building.

After months of conversations as a church council and with the regional director in Saint Cloud, we are excited to announce that Markie Gohman will now be taking appointments for counseling youth and adults on Mondays, beginning February 10. You will have a chance to meet Markie on Sunday, February 9. If you or someone you know is in need of a counselor, please let Pastor Culynn know. In addition to providing office space, it was our hope to provide financial support to individuals and families who are inadequately insured to receive mental health care. These funds were made available thanks to an anonymous gift from Holy Cross members. We pray that this new partnership will provide much-needed support within our community and surrounding areas.