



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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Making peace by the blood of his cross – Colossians 1:15-20

Grace, peace, and mercy to you from our great High Priest, Jesus Christ!

Ash Wednesday is February 17. This Lent, we will ask, “What is a priest?” The New Testament proclaims all Christians to be part of a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). Furthermore, significant parts of the Bible explain Jesus' mission and ministry in terms of the priesthood (e.g., Hebrews 4). For modern Christians, however, the work of a Jewish priest is very foreign. This is an area we can all stand to understand better, not just for history's sake, but to understand all Jesus has done for us and what it means for us to be priests in His house.

Our Lenten daily devotions will explore significant priests and sacrifices in the Old Testament. Some will examine stories you know well, like Abraham's near sacrifice of Isaac. We'll also re-introduce ourselves to high priests like Zadok and Eliezer. Always, we'll be looking ahead to Christ and how He fulfills both the role of priest and Lamb.

Our Wednesday vespers will look more closely at the place of the priest. Priests worked behind curtains through which no one else could pass, cast lots to know the will of God, ate sanctified foods, and underwent special rites. Each of these aspects of priesthood, we will see, has fulfillment in the new covenant for us.

It all leads up to Holy Week, Jesus' last sacrifice, once for all, paying for every sin. I pray that our preparations during Lent deepen our understanding of all that Jesus has done for us and continues to do at the right hand of the Father, interceding on our behalf.

Then on Easter, we find something new and wonderful. After all these sacrifices added up to things lost to us, given away, the sacrifice of Jesus works the opposite. It gives everything to us. He has defeated death and made our lives.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti

Lent Series 2021, What makes a priest?

February 17, 2021 - Ash Wednesday, "Between the Vestibule and the Altar"

Psalm 51:1-13

Joel 2:12-19

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-5, 16-21

The priests of the old covenant interceded for the people in the tabernacle. The Christian intercedes by prayer, hidden in Christ. There is no earthly glory for our ministry, but there is mercy and grace.

February 24, 2021 - St. Matthias, Apostle, "What is the house that you would build for me?"

Psalm 134

Isaiah 66:1-2

Acts 1:15-26

Matthew 11:25-30

For all the verses in the Bible describing holy places and sacrifices, there are also passages in which God says no house can contain Him and sacrifices give Him no pleasure. The humble and contrite spirit is the priest's most important raiment. So, Jesus is "gentle and lowly in heart" and gives rest.

March 3, 2021 - "Bearing the Urim and Thummim"

Psalm 5

1 Samuel 14:36-46

Romans 8:26-30

John 16:5-15

Can religion reveal hidden mysteries of God? The old priests could answer questions of judgment with the Urim and Thummim, and yet this knowledge did not guarantee wisdom. We have been given the Holy Spirit and all we need to know in the public teaching of Christ's apostles.

March 10, 2021 - "Eating the holy bread" Psalm 41

1 Samuel 21:1-6

1 Corinthians 10:15-21

Matthew 12:1-8

Priests eat of the holy sacrifice. The boundaries and gates of holiness include our mouths. While we guard participation in the altar to give honor to Christ and to cast out the old leaven, He dipped His bread with the one who betrayed Him.

March 17, 2021 - "Sprinkled with clean water"

Psalm 42

Leviticus 8:5-13

Hebrews 10:19-25

Mark 10:35-45

Washing with clean water marks the priest as holy to stand before God. But Jesus' baptism marked Him as servant, sin-bearer, a ransom.

March 24, 2021 - "Spiritual sacrifices"

Psalm 118:1-7, 14-15b, v. 22 antiphon

Amos 3:13-4:5

1 Peter 2:1-10

John 6:4-14

As royal priests we are called to make sacrifices of thanksgiving. Excess riches often cheapen thanksgiving as we take things for granted. To thrive in thanksgiving, we do well to look to the stone the builders rejected, to taste and see that the Lord is good.



Celebrations in February

Birthdays

- 4- Robert T. Chesher
- 7- Dave Pontius
- 11- Logan Skellie
- 12- Lexi Powell
- 13- Tanner Shreve
- 15- Ruth Hacker
- 17- Travis Jager
- 18- Preston Garrett
- 22- Dottie Weed
- 23- David Franke
- 24- Cathy Delk
- 24- Tracy Lancaster
- 26- Judy Chapman

Anniversaries

- 1- Andy & Nancy Guagenti (1974)
- 7- Dave & Roxana Pontius (1980)
- 21- David & Lori Franke (1987)
- 27- Cecil & Lisa McCarty (2006)

VICTORIOUS IN THE LORD

Rod Shreve, a founding member of Holy Cross, passed away on January 1, 2021. May our risen Lord comfort those who mourn.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."

John 11:25



BIBLE STUDY

Our newest Bible study will look at the Psalms, particularly Psalms that Jesus and the Apostles used in their prayers and teaching. Each class will be self-contained so if you miss one, you can jump in easily to the next class at 7:00pm on Wednesdays.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

New Sunday School packets are available for anyone interested. These packets consist of activity sheets as well as a small lesson. We will have a number of activity sheets per packet so please take one packet per family. If we run out of packets and you would like one for your family please let Max or Danielle Themer know and we will create additional copies.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY: FEBRUARY 15

Ladies Bible Study will meet February 15, at 6:30 for 45 minutes. The topic will be "Fear." We will meet in church with masks and social distancing. There will be a Zoom option for those who would prefer. Let Nancy or Corrie know so we can send a zoom invite.



EQUIPPING THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS...

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen on-demand at www.issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Next Council Meeting: 1:30 pm, Sunday February 21, 2021, via zoom video-conference.

Next Voter's Meeting: March 21, 2021, in person (tentative).

Note: a special meeting may be required before this date to discuss roof and soffit repair.

CAMP LAKEVIEW

Camp Lakeview and Lakeview Villages (near Seymour, IN) are currently registering campers, grades K-12, for the 2021 summer season. What a great place to have fun and learn about God at the same time! To get more information, visit the camp's website at www.lakeview.camp or call the camp office at 812-342-4815. Online registration for Lakeview Ministries opens on **February 8th**. Campers whose sessions were cancelled in 2020 will get to register a week earlier. Last year, many programs were filled quickly, so register online today!



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nation—and the Nations to Church*. Lutheran Hour Ministries produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM's flagship program **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs Sundays at 9am on 102.7FM. For information, visit www.lhm.org (<http://www.lhm.org>)

KFUO.ORG RADIO

Listen to Worldwide KFUO.org, your radio station for practical Lutheran talk, daily Bible and Confession studies, daily worship opportunities, and current issues from a Lutheran worldview. Programs are archived at KFUO.org for 24/7 on-demand listening. You can also find our programming wherever you get your podcasts! Have a question or comment? Find us at @KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

HOLY CROSS 2021 DIRECTORY

The 2021 Directory is available. You may pick one up from the credenza at the front entrance of the church. If you would like to have one mailed to you please let me know. Merrie
secretary@holycrosslutheran-ky.org



THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who donated to the in-gathering for A Loving Choice Pregnancy Center. My trunk was packed due to your generosity! The center was very appreciative and surprised by how many items I was able to drop off to them. Even during these difficult times, our church family demonstrates a loving, caring, generous spirit. Thanks also to Thrivent for the Action Team grant.



Word Search Puzzle

JOHN 3:16

Happy Valentine's Day!

- You notice Kool Aid stock shoots up during the Vacation Bible School season.
- You wonder why bread and wine are used for communion instead of coffee and donuts.
- Commandment #11—If it's never been done that way before, don't do it.

Thanks to Don (See Numbers 14)

01-15-2010

LIFE QUOTE

"If your boyfriend or girlfriend won't go to church with you while you are dating, he or she probably won't when you're married either. How long can you keep your faith life going if your spouse thinks praying, Bible reading, and churchgoing are stupid wastes of time? Abraham went to great lengths to find a believing wife for Isaac."

Pastor Mark Jeske, Time of Grace

A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •
www.lutheransforlife.org



KNOW YOUR BIBLE



Basket Escape

Who escaped his enemies by going over the city wall in a basket?

Look for the answer in the March Newsletter
 January's Answer: Gideon (see Judges 7:13-22)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHERS	CLEAN	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
February 7	n/a	n/a	Don Saltzman Bob Myers	Theresa Tippet Jennifer Harrod	n/a	Jennifer Harrod Jennifer Dillard
February 14	n/a	n/a	Charlie Moody Rita Whitehouse	Rozanne Pontius Guagenti family	n/a	No communion
February 21	n/a	n/a	Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams	Dave Pontius Don Williams	n/a	Brenda Moody Jennifer Dillard
February 28	n/a	n/a	Corrie Brian Greg Rutledge	Charlie Adams	n/a	No communion
March 7	n/a	n/a	John Feole Cindy Alvano	Franke family	n/a	Jennifer Harrod Nancy Guagenti
March 14	n/a	n/a	Don Saltzman Bob Myers	Sandy Runner	n/a	No communion

If you cannot serve on the appointed day, please call someone to serve in your place.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – February 2021

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It's not so much that we stop giving, but we don't put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God's Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.



SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

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EVERY SUNDAY
BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE-11:00AM

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2021



February 17, 2021
7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service