



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 Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

At summer's close, my oldest will receive a permit from the state to begin driving under supervision. It is a rite of passage I remember from my youth. The parent clutches the side handle in the passenger seat, unconvinced the child is ready but also unwilling to say that out loud. It is a time to project as much confidence as we—both parent and child—can muster. Soon enough that passenger seat will be empty, the child alone behind the wheel of a 3000-pound machine running sixty miles per hour by combustion power.

Proverbs 14:26-27 relates, "In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death." In the wisdom literature of the Old Testament, "the fear of the Lord" is a description of one facet of faith. "The fear of the Lord" indicates that of all the things in this world I might fear, whether enemies, accidents, age, or grief, the Lord Himself stands Almighty overall. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

We do not fear God's character. His perfect love casts out fear of worldly terrors (1 John 4:18). But father passes down to son and son to grandson a healthy fear of an automobile. "Focus, son. Concentrate." Do not take for granted the power of these machines. Close to 800 people in Kentucky will die each year on account of the power of automobiles. It's not that cars are bad or mean. They are big and powerful.

The Lord is still more powerful. That fact begins our fear of Him. He is God. There is no other. He loves not only me and mine; He loves each person driving down that road. He sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay for their sins and ours.

Part of our faith in God is comforting. Jesus loves us. Jesus died for us. If God gave His own Son, how will He not also graciously give every good gift (Romans 8:32). Part of our faith is also unsettling, for it dislodges us from this very world. Hebrews 11 describes the faithful as "strangers and exiles on the earth" (11:13). That is the "fear of the Lord," the recognition that as sinners we are strangers in a strange land, that we have not yet come to our eternal home, that sins perturb a God of perfect love, that the Lord's awesomeness is not for tourism.

Rites of passage mark well the changes in life. Leaving the passenger seat of a car means also letting our teen go and drive off past our seeing. It is made easier, clutching the promise that "in the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge." Faith is tested. Just what do I fear more?

Months before my family gets to the rite of passage of a driver's permit, all of us at Holy Cross are sharing in two more rites of passage. On April 30, Eliza Pierce and Noa Themer will be baptized. On May 7, Eden Guagenti will confirm her faith. Seeing these rites back-to-back, we will recognize their connection. Confirmation is a public claiming of the gifts of baptism.

At confirmation, the catechumen says, "This faith was given me by my family. Now I claim it as my own." Beyond that, so much of how we remember our baptisms reflects work that is not our own. We are saved by grace through faith. Baptism is God's work, "the washing and regeneration of renewal by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5).

Birth is everyone's first rite of passage, our entrance into this world. Scripture describes baptism as being "born again" (John 3:5-8; 1 Peter 1:22-23). That marks these rites of passage not as final maturation, not a striking off on one's own. These are the rites of passage that give you a family, that gather you in, that find, through faith, the kingdom for which we've been waiting. As Paul puts it in Romans, baptism transfers us from one kingdom to another: "Sin will have no dominion over you" (Romans 6:1-14).

Jesus summarized all of this in His closing words to the apostles before His prayers, arrest, and trial. He said,

Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet, I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. (John 16:32-33)

In the world, our rites of passage put more and more responsibility on growing, lonesome shoulders. In the church, Christ has taken all the burden and He gives us to one another.

Thank God, we have this opportunity to celebrate and welcome Eliza, Noa, and Eden. That God for this dominion of grace. May we be bold in sharing this kingdom, a refuge for all.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti



Celebrations in May

Birthdays

- 4- Erica Flanery
- 7- John Cromeans
- 10- Kameron McKinley
- 10- Gracie McKinley
- 11- Max Semeniuk
- 11- Carly Dejarnette
- 12- Melissa Hardin
- 13- Chase Ragland
- 14- Ken Shreve
- 15- Jamie Lee
- 15- Olivia Botkins
- 19- Doug Boardman
- 19- Nancy Kovach
- 20- Cindy Alvano
- 23- Danielle Themer
- 25- Rebecca Spreitzer
- 25- Samuel Themer

Anniversaries

- 25- Charlie & Brenda Moody (1979)

THANK YOU

Thank you to Jason and Cindy for organizing a successful Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you also to Corrie and Annette for the delicious Easter breakfast. Thank you to all those who helped with the egg hunt and breakfast. It would not have been possible without all of you volunteering your time and donations. Thank you!!



Easter Lilies

*Given to the glory and praise
of God by...*

Charlie & Brenda Moody- 1 lily in memory of loved ones.

Rutledge family- 1 lily in memory of our passed family members.

Kathy Adams- 2 lilies in memory of loved ones and in honor of family and friends.

John & Merrie Feole- 2 lilies in memory of Raymond Kelly and in honor of our children, parents and church family.

Cindy Alvano- 2 lilies in memory of Richard VanEvera and in honor of Gloria Nielsen.

Dave & Roxana Pontius- 2 lilies in memory of Tammi Lee Jones and Brandi Lynn Taylor.

Lindsey and Eliza Pierce- 1 lily in celebration of Spring.

Max & Danielle Themer- 2 lilies in memory of lost loved ones and in honor of our daughters- Ellie, Arie, Darcy, and Noa.

Dave & Anita Themer- 2 lilies in honor of our parents and in celebration of our granddaughters.

Michelle Ewers- 2 lilies in memory of Frank Fratto and Gene Swella.

Jennie and Zoe Shreve- 1 lily in memory of Shelah Shreve and Rod Shreve.

Mike & Annette Semeniuk- 2 lilies in memory of our departed loved ones and in honor of our sons.

DAY-TIMERS: MAY 2

Day-timers will meet on Tuesday, May 2nd at 10am. Please see Charlie Moody for more information.

DAY-TIMERS COMMUNITY PROJECT

Holy Cross Day-timers participate in a community project the 3rd Monday of each month.

We prepare a meal for the women who reside at Awake Ministries in Shelbyville. The food does not have to be homemade. We provide a main dish, salad, dessert, bread, and drinks. The women are always so appreciative!

If anyone would like to help, please speak with Brenda Moody.

LOUISVILLE BATS

Fellowship is considering a baseball game one Sunday afternoon in June. The schedule will be posted soon. I will purchase the block of tickets in advance but this will need to be done a minimum of 4-6 weeks in advance. Ticket prices are running around \$25-30 each. I will check to see if I can get a lower price for groups. Is this something the congregation would be interested in doing? More information will be forthcoming.



ALC GIRLS NIGHT OUT: MAY 9

Girls Night Out May 9th - 5:00-7:00 ALC Shelbyville - 711 Henry Clay St. Painting Flower Pots - Devotional. Childcare will be provided - Dinner will be served. If you plan to attend, please call 502-647-0300

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.

ISSUES, ETC.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School and VBS 5/2023 Sunday Children's Sunday School will be in session through Sunday, May 21. We will then be on summer break until Rally Day. As the school year draws to a close, we want to thank all teachers and substitute teachers for their loving and faithful service. Also, a big thank you is due to parents and students for great attendance and participation! It is a pleasure working with all of you! Plans for this year's VBS are now underway. The dates are June 27 - 29, plus an additional special event you will be hearing more about in the coming weeks! Please check your bulletins for updates

CRAFT NIGHT: MAY 18

Starting the 3rd Thursday in May we will begin a monthly craft night from 6 to 8pm. All are welcome as well as all crafts. Bring what you would like to work on and enjoy the fellowship.



LUTHERANISM 101

Lutheranism 101 covers the basics of how to read the Bible, church history, and what makes Lutherans special. If you want to know more about your faith or are interested in learning about Lutherans, this is the class for you. Our new round of Lutheranism 101 will begin not too long after Easter. Contact pastor if you want in as our timing is flexible.

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 more information, visit www.lhm.org (<http://www.lhm.org>) or call 1-800-876-9880.

LIFE QUOTES

“God has chosen each one of us from the beginning of creation. God has also chosen our body to be a temple. He gave us the beautiful gift of a body, and we are called to be stewards of that body, to take care of it and be aware of what we do with it. God also chooses each one of us to belong. We all have a spot and purpose in God’s family—and not one of us is useless or random. God chose us with a purpose. Nothing He does is random.” *Kambria Steinhuis, Knights 4 Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life-
www.lutheransforlife.org**



KNOW YOUR BIBLE



Young Hero
What young man killed a lion and a bear to protect his father's sheep?

Look for the answer in the June/July Newsletter
April's Answer: Samson (see Judges 15:4-5)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHERS	CLEAN	NURSERY	MOWING	ALTAR GUILD
May 7	Brenyn Botkins	Charlie Moody	Charlie Moody R. Whitehouse	Franke family	Merrie Feole	Rita Whitehouse	G. Rutledge R. Chesher May 10-13
May 14	Gabriel Guagenti	Nancy Kovach	Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams	Sandy Runner	Anita Themer	No Communion	John Feole Anthony Ewers May 17-20
May 21	Zachary Semeniuk	David Franke	Corrie Brian Zoe Shreve	Theresa Tippet Jennifer Harrod	Suzanne Rutledge	Jennifer Harrod Rita Whitehouse	Pastor Guagenti Alex VanPelt May 24-27
May 28	Nathaniel Guagenti	Corrie Brian	Cindy Alvano John Feole	Roxana Pontius Guagenti family	Merrie Feole	No Communion	Dave Themer Max Themer May 31– Jun 3
June 4	Masyn Botkins	Jason VanEvera	Don Saltzman Greg Rutledge	Don Saltzman	Anita Themer	Brenda Moody Annette Semeniuk	Mike Semeniuk Max Semeniuk June 7-10
June 11	Nathaniel Semeniuk	Mark Murray	Charlie Moody Rita Whitehouse	Charlie Adams	Suzanne Rutledge	No Communion	David Themer Brian Gehrman June 14-17

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

Baby Bottle Boomerang



The ALC Pregnancy Resource Center, Inc. in Shelbyville will start their annual Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraising campaign beginning on Mother's Day May 14, 2023 and will conclude on Father's Day, June 18, 2023.

During this campaign baby bottles will be available in our church for members / friends of our congregation. Please consider taking one or more bottles and filling them with loose change (cash or checks if you prefer).

Monies raised will fund the ministry of ALC which is a 501c3 nonprofit offering services free of charge to anyone experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and / or who needs peer counseling, pregnancy tests, baby clothing and items, food and formula, diapers, classes in Parenting, Bible Study and Homemaking, Abstinence information, Adoption referrals, Male Mentoring or Post Abortion Recovery.

Please take as many bottles as you like, fill them, and return them to the church on Father's Day, June 18. You may also drop them off at ALC if you'd prefer. They are located at: 7121 Henry Clay Street in the back of the same building as Operation Care. Their hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10am to 5pm or you may call them at (502) 647-0300. Your donation assists them in saving the lives of unborn children and ministering to their parents. Last year Holy Cross donated \$346.77.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are looking for quarterly updates for prayer requests. We want to know when prayers are answered, when prayers need a new direction, and even when things are just going on as before. To keep any name that is on the prayer request list on for April, May and June please send in a prayer request or update.

You can email our church secretary Merrie at secretary@holycrosslutheran-ky.org or Alena running the prayer chain at prayers@holycrosslutheran-ky.org or pastor for any private prayer requests. There are also prayer request cards on the credenza that can be returned in the basket in the secretary's office.

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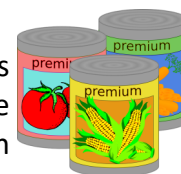


(See Exodus 20:1-21)

06-04-2012

DID YOU HEAR THAT? DID YOU? HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER, SUCKER!!! AH HAH HA HAH HA HAH AH HAH

HOLY CROSS FOOD BOX



The food box in our driveway is the result of an idea from the Day-Timers group. This is an outreach to the community that all the members of Holy Cross can share and participate in.

Several have been very generous in stocking the box but we continue to need help. There is a list of items on the kitchen door that are suggestions for donations. However, the food box is getting low. We need canned tuna and chicken, beef stew, ravioli, spaghetti o's, soups, fruit cups, jello, pudding cups, mac & cheese, spaghetti, tomato sauce, vegetables, peanut butter and jelly. Money donations, or if those of you who have the Thrivent card would like to share, that too would be appreciated. Thanks to all who are helping and we look forward to future donations. Day-Timers Group

YOU KNOW YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN IF...

- When you were little you actually thought the Reverend's first name was "Pastor."
- You hear something really funny and smile as loud as you can.
- It takes 10 minutes to say good-bye.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Newsletter Article – May 2023

FOLLOW HIM IN GENEROSITY

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Lakeview Springs Historic Lodge Renovation

Renovations on the Historic Lakeview Springs Lodge will begin on **May 2nd!** Visit lakeview.camp/lakeviewsprings to sign up to volunteer for this exciting restoration of one of Harrison County's oldest landmarks.

Regular workdays will be Tues – Sat from 7am – 4pm, and you can sign up for whatever shifts fit best into your schedule. Lunches, drinks & snacks will be available most days thanks to a grant from the Kentuckiana Federation of Lutheran Churches. There are also paid opportunities for skilled laborers who can sign on for an extended period of time – if this is you, contact Jose or David so we can work out those details.

Contact Jose – jose@lakeviewministries.camp or 910-803-1098 with any questions.





SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

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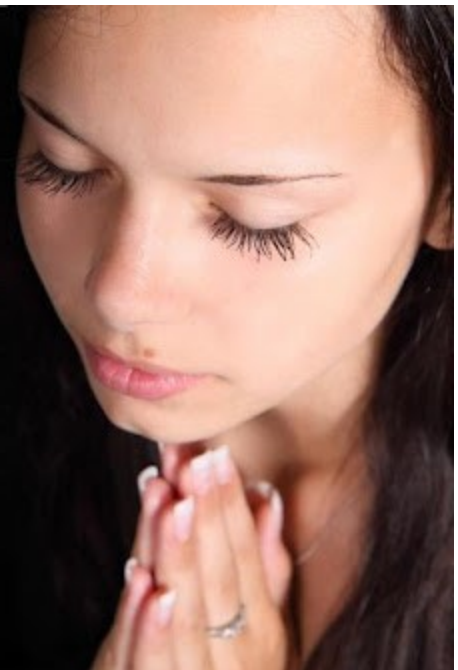
EVERY SUNDAY
BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE-11:00AM

MAY NEWSLETTER 2023

If my people, which are called
by my name, shall humble
themselves, and pray, and seek
my face, and turn from their
wicked ways; then will I hear
from heaven, and will forgive
their sin, and will heal
their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

DailyVerses.net



*National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 4*