



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!

Many of us can recall a scene, now many years old, perhaps from *Mission: Impossible* or *Scooby-Doo*, in which a character has been successfully imitating another person. Elaborate masks, a little acting, a voice modulator together fool many until the dramatic unmasking. It's fun when we think this masquerade is limited to elite spies and cartoon characters. Technology today, however, may be ready to overtake us like a tidal wave.

The ability of artificial intelligence (AI) to predict and mimic human beings is growing rapidly. The Writers Guild of America is on strike, concerned about AI's ability to mimic their talents. The expectation is that a studio could input a writer's past work into a program, and it would be able to predict the script for *Mission: Impossible IX*. Where we once talked about robots taking jobs from those working in factories, now we can see robots taking jobs from those working in cubicles. Soon, an algorithm may be a better salesman and advertiser than any limited human.

When new technology comes along, human beings tend to think of destructive things we can do with these abilities. How will this affect warfare (drones)? How can I scam people (car warranties)? Instead of imagining the possibility that unfinished or lost works of art could be replicated by AI or that tailored instruction manuals could keep me from missteps, we dwell on expected coming threats.

One such threat is called a "deepfake." A deepfake is like the mask a *Scooby-Doo* villain wears, fabricated in video by AI. With enough surveillance of my children's voices and faces, a scammer could create a video that looks like my child has been kidnapped and is begging, "Please, Dad, send them the money." Meanwhile, the child is actually safe and sound at camp. But seeing that video, how do you not comply with demands? With public figures, we may soon see an "October surprise," an entirely fabricated video that convinces large numbers of people that a politician is involved in a scandal that never happened.

While technology changes our landscape, the moral calculus of the heart remains steadfast. On the one hand, we recognize the sinfulness of human beings, how "the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed it cannot" (Romans 8:7). We don't need science fiction; history has proven original sin, justifying skepticism of general human motivation. As deception becomes more rampant and convincing, just like we've learned not to believe in cold-call extended car warranties, we will learn to give a second thought to digital video and audio.

We cannot let that justified general suspicion leak into the everyday charity we can give to one another. Jesus said, "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep amidst wolves, so be as wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16). He does not say, "I am sending you out as lions." He does not say,

“There are wolves, so stay inside.” We are sent as lambs, knowing sin is in the world. That wisdom, like the serpent, puts us on guard. Still, we are to love our neighbors, living out the innocence that is our baptismal birthright. After all, He also doesn’t say, “I am sending you as lambs without a shepherd.” He is with us.

Walking into the lands of AI giants means refocusing the teachings of the Eighth Commandment, “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.” The Catechism explains, “We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.”

We will be on our guard not to spread slanders we want to be true. The old proverb says, “A lie can travel halfway around the world before the truth can get its boots on.” That rapid travel—long before satellite technology—comes from our delight in passing lies on. A deepfake of a politician in a scandal only gets traction because so many people want to see and share it.

Asking myself, “Why do I want to believe this bad thing?” will help me uncover the sin in my own heart. Repentance will also help me desire to show charity to neighbors who are being slandered. As Christians, we know our Lord Jesus is at God’s right hand, speaking only justifying words to defend us. The devil would accuse and slander us, but Satan has been thrown out of God’s courtroom. Jesus declares us innocent on the grounds of His sacrifice for us on Calvary. It’s that same charity of words that we should become rich in sharing with others.

Charity, after all, is not something someone earns. It is given out of grace. As more convincing slanders spread in this world, the church can be salt and light, speaking well of our neighbors and explaining everything in the kindest way. It may feel like being sent as sheep among wolves, but we are not sheep without a shepherd. The Good Shepherd’s boots are already on. He has gone before us, not just into the valley of the shadow of death but into the throne room of God Almighty. All praise to Him, true man and true God. Amen.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti



Celebrations in June

June Birthdays

- 4- CHARLIE SCHUFER
- 8- BRITTANY FRERKING
- 9- TODD WIGGEN
- 11- CHARLIE MOODY
- 11- MERRIE FEOLE
- 15- ELIZA PIERCE
- 16- JESSICA ASH
- 16- LORIE RUSCH
- 18- KATHY ADAMS
- 18- DEBORA LEE
- 22- ELLIOTT GARRETT
- 24- THERESA TIPPETT
- 26- ANDY GUAGENTI
- 28- NATHANIEL SEMENIUK
- 28- ZACHARY SEMENIUK
- 30- JEFF HILBERT

June Anniversaries

- 1- DAVE & ANITA THEMER (1991)
- 13- JASON & LINDSEY PIERCE (2009)
- 15- KELSEY & TYLER CARTON (2019)
- 19- JEREMY & DANIELLE BOTKINS (2010)
- 22- MIKE & JENNIFER HARROD (2002)
- 23- IAN & ERIKA FEOLE (2012)
- 26- ANTHONY & MICHELLE EWERS (2015)

NEW MEMBERS

On May 14, 2023 we welcomed new members Lindsey Pierce and Jens

Basberg. We thank the Lord for them and pray that they will be blessed here at Holy Cross.



Celebrations in July

July Birthdays

- 3- BILL CHAPMAN
- 3- MATTHEW RUTLEDGE
- 4- AMYE GARRETT
- 6- SANDY RUNNER
- 8- CASEY JAGER
- 10- TIMMOTHY MCCARTY
- 13- AARON FRANKE
- 14- CHARLES MOODY III
- 15- MAELYN BOTKINS
- 15- JEREMY BOTKINS
- 15- JOSHUA BOTKINS
- 15- DAVE THEMER
- 21- BRENNYN BOTKINS
- 21- COLESYN BOTKINS
- 22- FRED WILBUR
- 25- SHONTELLE ADAMS
- 28- LETHA BUTTS
- 29- SERENE LOPPNOW
- 29- MICHELLE EWERS

July Anniversaries

- 15- DAVID & DEBRA CONDER (1995)
- 20- PASTOR & ALENA GUAGENTI (2002)
- 25- PASTOR & SERENE LOPPNOW (1959)
- 27- ALEX & JANINE SHREVE (2002)

THANK YOU

A special thank you to Melissa Steinkuhl for the donation of beautiful Baptism towels to Holy Cross. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

USHER MEETING: JUNE 4

There will be an ushers meeting Sunday, June 4, following the Divine service.



BAPTISM

On Sunday, April 30, 2023, Noa Jane Themer and Eliza Marie Pierce were received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Noa is the daughter of Max and Danielle Themer. Her sponsors are Josh and Emily Doolin.

Eliza is the daughter of Jason and Lindsey Pierce. Her sponsors are Max and Danielle Themer. We wish Noa and Eliza God's continued blessings.



CONFIRMATION

On June 7, 2023 Eden Sophia Guagenti made public confession of her faith, re-affirmed her baptismal vows through the rite of confirmation and became a communicant member of Holy Cross. Eden is the daughter of Pastor A. Daniel and Alena Guagenti.

Please keep Eden in your prayers that she and we remain faithful to the vows she made and to the Lord who has blessed her with the gift of eternal life.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE!

Congratulations to Maximilian Andrew Semeniuk who graduated Magna Cum Laude from Shelby County High School Saturday, May 27th.

Max is the son of Mike and Anette Semeniuk. He will be attending University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the fall majoring in Business Administration. Congratulations and God's Blessings, Max.



Happy Father's Day

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Sunday, June 4, we'll start a new Bible class: "The World." John 1:10 says, "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him." At the heart of this summer Bible study, we'll spend time looking at how "the world" appears in John's Gospel. Topics covered will include creation, redemption, persecution, evangelism, and our overall attitude towards "the world." As a summer Bible class, we'll plan for people to jump in and out week-by-week. Sundays, 9:45 AM, beginning in June.



Dear Holy Cross Family,

Your outpouring of support, love, and prayers means more than I can put into words. The gifts you sent are so thoughtful and perfect for me right now. You are always so generous and caring. Being the recipient of that kindness has lifted my spirits when I am struggling. You have kept me mindful to count my blessings when times are difficult.

Thank you for your gifts, prayers, and support. I miss you and hope I feel like traveling to Kentucky soon. Please continue the prayer as I continue my treatment plan.

Sending love and thanks to all.

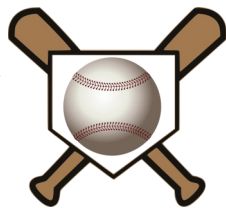
Kathy

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

LHM 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. **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 or call 1-800-876-9880.

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. Rita



DAY-TIMERS: JUNE 6

Day-Timers will meet on Tuesday, June 6, at 10am.

DAY-TIMERS COMMUNITY PROJECT

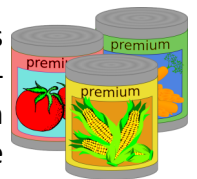
Holy Cross Day-timers participate in a community project the 3rd Monday of each month.

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.

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. Money donations, or if those of you who have the Thrivent card would like to share, that too would be appreciated.

Canned foods, cereal, mac & cheese, ramen noodles, puddings, etc. are all needed. As well as household items like dish detergent, and personal hygiene items such as soap tooth brushes, etc. This ministry is helping someone to eat better than they might have otherwise been able to do.

Thanks to all who are helping and we look forward to future donations.

Day-Timers Group

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.

GOD'S LIVING WATER VBS: JUNE 27-29

Save the dates for this year's Vacation Bible School! We are set for Tuesday through Thursday, June 27 - 29. Dinner and registration will start at 5:00, followed by a great time of learning and fun as we explore how Jesus is God's Living Water!

Kids, don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors!

This is a true "all hands on deck" event, and we need everybody's help. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered as team leaders. However, we still need team leads for:

1. Opening/Closing
2. Bible Storytelling
3. Bible Challenge

Please prayerfully consider taking one of these key spots. We also need additional help in all areas. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board this weekend, or talk to Marilyn or Mark Murray if you have questions.



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.



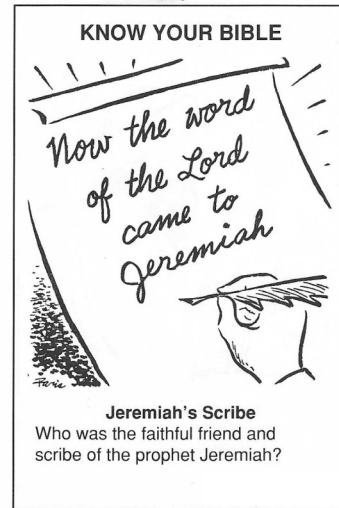
PRAYER REQUESTS

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 June, July, and August 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.

LIFE QUOTES

"Have confidence in God. Jesus Christ died for you, and Jesus Christ lives for you ... By faith in Christ, enjoy real life without that constant covetousness which makes life a living hell for so many people. By faith in Christ, know once and for all what this means: A man's real life in no way depends upon the number of his possessions. A man's life does not consist of the abundance of the things he possesses." Rev. Dr. Oswald Hoffman, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



Look for the answer in the August Newsletter
May's Answer: David (see 1 Samuel 17:34-35)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

| Week of | Acolyte | Reader | Ushers | Cleaning | Nursery | Altar Guild | Mowing |
|---------|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 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 |
| June 18 | Eliza Pierce | Charlie Moody | Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams | Sandy Runner | Merrie Feole | Rita Whitehouse Annette Semeniuk | Greg Rutledge Jeremy Botkins June 21-24 |
| June 25 | Brenyn Botkins | Nancy Kovach | Corrie Brian Zoe Shreve | Franke family | Anita Themer | No Communion | John Feole Anthony Ewers June 28-Jul1 |
| July 2 | Gabriel Guagenti | Corrie Brian | Cindy Alvano John Feole | Theresa Tippet Jennifer Harrod | Suzanne Rutledge | Rita Whitehouse Cindy Alvano | Pastor Guagenti Alex VanPelt July 5-8 |
| July 9 | Zachary Semeniuk | David Franke | Don Saltzman Greg Rutledge | Roxanna Pontius Guagenti family | Danielle Themer | No Communion | Dave Franke Max Themer July 12-15 |
| July 16 | Nathaniel Guagenti | Jason VanEvera | Charlie moody Rita Whitehouse | Don Saltzman | Merrie Feole | Jennifer Harrod Cindy Alvano | Mike Semeniuk Max Semeniuk July 19-22 |
| July 23 | Masyn Botkins | Mark Murray | Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams | Franke family | Anita Themer | No Communion | David Themer Brian Gehrman July 26-29 |
| July 30 | Nathaniel Semeniuk | Charlie Moody | Corrie Brian Zoe Shree | Charlie Adams | Suzanne Rutledge | Cindy Alvano | Greg Rutledge Robert Chesher Aug 2-5 |

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 – June 2023

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.

– 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

JUNE / JULY NEWSLETTER 2023



Vacation Bible School June 27-29