



# *Holy Cross Lutheran Church*

181 Old Seven Mile Pike, Shelbyville, KY 40065

Phone: (502) 647-3696 Fax: (502) 647-4994

[pastor@holycrosslutheran-ky.org](mailto:pastor@holycrosslutheran-ky.org)

*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!

As we publish this letter, I will be in Milwaukee for our Synod's Convention. I had a professor in college who used to joke, "Why do they call those Lutherans 'Missouri Synod'?" The answer he almost scowled, "They never *sin*, so they are very *odd*!" Would that it were so! If we never sinned, that would be odd, but it would also cut down immensely on the work it takes to do things together across the borders of nations and languages.

The word "synod" actually means "walking together." We don't call our national body a "church," because we reserve the word "church" for groups that baptize, celebrate the Lord's Supper, encourage one another in daily discipleship, forgive sins, and gather around God's Word. Instead, the Synod helps individual churches by organizing schools, training pastors, supporting missionaries, and publishing books from VBS craft guides to commentaries on Hebrew poetry. Synod organizes churches to walk together.

What is some of the business of this year's Synod Convention? A lot of our focus will be on the challenges our Lutheran schools face. We get to celebrate the formal recognition of unity with several Lutheran denominations around the world. We'll craft responses to cultural movements of our day. Leaders will be elected and re-elected.

Preparation for me has taken hours, learning about the issues. Why devote these hours, instead of focusing on matters closer to hand? **The institutions passed on to us are worth the work it takes to maintain them and pass them to the next generation.** Increasingly, I see around me people less inclined to do the work to maintain institutions. At a local level, a troop leader says, "I'll just do all this myself," rather than work with others in the institution. But when that leader burns out, there's no one who worked alongside and knows what the previous leader did or how she did it. It seems easier to do things on our own, but *walking together* is how work continues from one generation to the next. Why doesn't that worker ask for help? People promise to help and do not follow through. Others don't even offer to help. Walking together means both asking for help and answering that call.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-19 laments, "I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity." Solomon was indeed followed by a foolish son, Rehoboam. When Solomon was freshly buried, Rehoboam's foolish demands split Israel from a united kingdom into Samaria and Judah. Monarchies are unstable, rarely stringing together several good generations in a row. The institutions of our era were expected to be more durable, built with democratic buy-in. If instead we watch our institutions crumble, we can join Solomon's lament, "Vanity of vanities!"

But the day is not done. We can make wiser choices. If different choices are not made, we will see

schools and churches shuttered. We will be the generation who drops the ball, disappointing both those who went before and after. But the day is not done. We can put in the time and effort to pass on what was given to us.

It starts for most of us not at a Synod level. For all of us, we decide each week what kind of church we will be. Will we be a vibrant church where Sunday school teachers rejoice to find full classrooms with children eager to learn? Will we be a loving congregation, rejoicing to gather together weekly? Will we grow in the Word or choose instead the recreation that does not recharge us spiritually, recreation that does not build community, recreation that dissipates the good other generations had gathered?

I will come back from Synod Convention and go straight to working to gather us for Rally Day, August 20. Every year, I hope and pray and encourage Rally Day to regather us with enthusiasm and joy. Each week we pour time and energy and love into Holy Cross, we find we get so much more back. It never crosses our minds to regret those decisions. We are so thankful for Holy Cross and the work God does among our church when we gather around His Word.

Gathering as a church is the opposite of “vanity of vanities.” Gathering as a flock is humbling. You wait and see what God is doing, what He is bringing through His people. “Vanity of vanities” is anxious fear of when things will fall, but gathering with God’s people is thrilling security, knowing the Good Shepherd is providing. All praise to Him, the king who cannot be removed from the throne, Jesus, our Lord!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti



### **BIRTHDAYS**

3- Tommy Conder  
6- Anita Themer  
8- Aria Themer  
14- Ashley Lancaster  
15- Joel Franke  
16- Debbie Nelson  
16- Lisa McCarty  
25- Greg Rutledge  
29- Mary Ann Conder  
30- David Conder  
30- Chris McKinley  
30- Robert Myers

### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**

Zoom Bible Study on Wednesday nights. We'll meet at church and have Zoom access as well. Join us either in person or through the zoom link at 7pm. The Guagenti's new address is 1023 Windsor Dr., Shelbyville.

To Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89139535214?pwd=d3pSUxM5eWhMSWc3Y01FR3VLNwVnQTO9>

Meeting ID:89139535214 Passcode: holycross  
Zoom Bible Study is canceled August 2 and 9.

### **ADULT BIBLE CLASS**

Adult 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.

### **THANK YOU**

What a wonderful surprise you gave us last Sunday, celebrating twenty years in ministry! It is truly a joy to serve in the work of God's gifts and in the fellowship of God's people. Thank you for the planning, the thoughtfulness and generosity of the gifts, for the gathering, and the privilege to serve among you for so many years. When we came to Holy Cross eighteen years ago, we came with no children and only a handful of years of experience. Holy Cross has been forgiving and understanding, a beautiful place to grow in ministry. Even more so, Holy Cross has been a phenomenal church family to raise our kids with so much love from you all. Thank you not only for last Sunday's celebration but for all that Holy Cross has given us over so many years.

Love, Dan and Alena

### **FELLOWSHIP EVENTS**

August 27-is the date set for the Louisville Slugger game. Time is 1:05pm.

A sign up sheet for the event has been posted on the bulletin board. Please see Rita Whitehouse to purchase tickets or for more information.

The picnic was great. We could not have had better weather and the food was fantastic. We have some wonderful cooks at Holy Cross. 27 people attended.

### **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.

### **RALLY DAY**

Rally Day is set for August 20, and we look forward to welcoming our students back to Sunday School. Please plan to join us for festivities after the Sunday service. Stay tuned for more information



### 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.

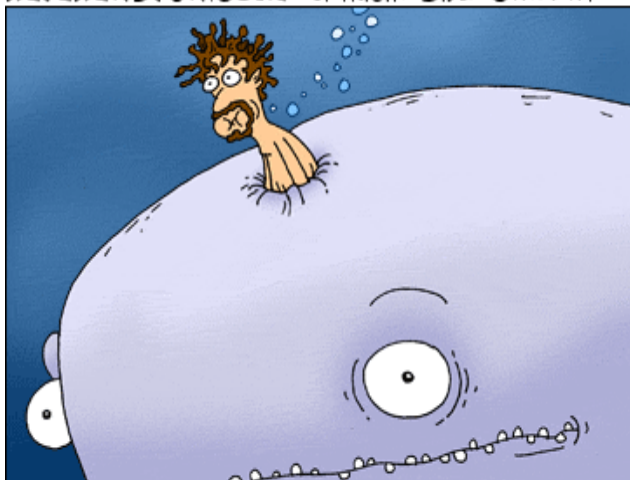
Canned foods, cereal, mac & cheese, ramen noodles, puddings, etc. are all needed. As well as household items like dish detergent, and personal hygiene items such as soap tooth brushes, etc. This ministry is helping someone to eat better than they might have otherwise been able to do. Thanks to all who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

Day-Timers Group

#### YOU KNOW YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN IF...

- You actually think the pastor's jokes are funny.
- Requests you hear are preceded or followed by the phrase, "If It's not too much trouble then..."

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Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Jonah 1-4) 08-16-2010

JONAH'S ONE AND ONLY ESCAPE ATTEMPT

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

## FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

September 24, 2023

**WE ALWAYS THANK GOD FOR ALL OF YOU,  
MENTIONING YOU IN OUR PRAYERS.**

1 Thessalonians 1:2

Mark your calendars! Friendship Sunday is September 24th. On Friendship Sunday, you are encouraged to reach out to people in your life with the message that we are indeed thankful for having them in our life, we are thankful for our amazing Savior, and we are thankful for our church family. Next month, let's act on that thankfulness by inviting any and all of our unchurched friends to learn about that amazing love and mercy.

There will be a pot luck dinner following the service. Meat, rolls, and drinks will be provided. We hope to have lots of guests so, if you can, please bring generous amounts of food.

Statistics show that personal invitation is the most effective tool in encouraging unchurched people to visit a church. Please make a list of people you know who do not attend a church. Think "outside the box" to include some of the many people we often take for granted such as babysitters, hairstylists, co-workers, etc. Each of us comes into contact a wide variety of people in a week, so take a minute and really think about these contacts. Then pray for the opportunity and words to invite. Don't give up. Statistics also have shown that 1 in 7 invitations to church are accepted. Invite 7 people and you should get at least one "yes". Invitations will soon be available on the credenza for you to use if you wish. Don't forget to pray.!

We would like to have ALL MEMBERS present that day as well to welcome our guests and be ambassadors for our church. Wear your best smiles! There will be no Sunday School on this day. Contact Pastor for information or questions.





## Battle of the Badges

Battle of the Badges Red Cross Blood Drive - August 16 - 1-5 PM

For the third year in a row, we will be hosting the Battle of the Badges American Red Cross blood drive. For those who are interested in donating blood or red blood cells, there is no age limit. You can learn more about donating and schedule your appointment in the American Red Cross website or in their app.

We will be moving around nearly all the moveable furniture in the sanctuary and lobby area on Sunday, August 13. Please assist however you are able to that Sunday. Corrie Brian will provide needed direction that day so that everything is moved and placed correctly and fully.

We will also need help setting the sanctuary back up either after the drive is over at approximately 5:30 on the 16th. Please let Corrie know if you can assist then.

Any questions, let Corrie know. Thanks in advance to everyone.

### 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](http://www.lhm.org) (<http://www.lhm.org>) or call 1-800-876-9880.

### LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

A few weeks ago, we celebrated the Fourth of July here in the United States. In our country, this is a time when we remember those who served and currently serve in our military and celebrate the freedom they have fought for. Many of **The Lutheran Hour's** listeners and financial supporters are military veterans. They remember the loneliness of basic training or deployment overseas as new recruits, far from family and friends. They recall frequent reassignments to new towns, a sacrifice that often uproots spouses and children.

They tell us how much the broadcast meant to them in unfamiliar environments. The Gospel brought them comfort and peace. And they want today's troops to receive that Good News, too.

We hear from troops who receive encouragement from our Daily Devotions as they acclimate to new surroundings. We also offer print and audio booklets on prayer, stress, mental health, and redemption in Jesus. One booklet, *The Conflict at Home*, addresses post-traumatic stress disorder for those returning home.

Lutheran Hour Ministries continues to plan for new resources dedicated to veterans—led by veterans themselves—to help them discover and share their God-given gifts with their families, churches, and communities.

Thank you for telling our military and many others that Jesus loves them and gave His life to rescue them. May God bless you!

Our Savior Lutheran School  
is looking to hire a  
**Language Arts  
Middle School Teacher**

**Qualifications Required:**

- Bachelor's degree in Education or a related field
- Valid teaching certification or license
- Prior experience teaching middle school students
- In-depth knowledge of Lutheran beliefs, values, and teachings (preferred)
- Effective classroom management abilities
- Ability to differentiate instruction and meet the diverse needs of students
- Familiarity with technology tools and resources for instructional purposes
- Collaborative mindset and willingness to work as part of a team

Click anywhere on this graphic  
to see a full job description  
and details on Indeed.com

The graphic features a globe, a clock, a pencil holder with pens and pencils, and a stack of books, including one titled 'EDUCATION'.

## LIFE QUOTES

“Be as patient with others as you know God is with you. In so doing, you will be keeping your head in all circumstances’ (2 Timothy 4:5). You will find the resolve to remain calm and patient, even though ideologically you may become incensed. Theologically, you know what it means to be the object of perfect love. Let Christ be your role model.” *Rev. Robert Fleischmann, Director of Christian Life Resource – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*



## KNOW YOUR BIBLE



### Long Struggle

What famous Old Testament personality wrestled with an angel “until the breaking of the day”?

Look for the answer in the September’s Newsletter  
June/July’s Answer: Baruch (see Jeremiah 36:32)

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Sunday	ACOLYTE	READER	USHERS	CLEANING	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD	MOWING
August 6	Eliza Pierce	Nancy Kovach	Greg Rutledge Cindy Alvano	Sandy Runner	Anita Themer	Jennifer Harrod Rita Whitehouse	John Feole Anthony Ewers Aug 9-12
August 13	Brenyn Botkins	Corrie Brian	Don Saltzman John Feole	Theresa Tippet Jennifer Harrod	Suzanne Rutledge	No Communion	Pastor Guagenti Alex VanPelt Aug 16-19
August 20	Gabriel Guagenti	David Franke	Charlie Moody Tammy Clark	Roxanne Pontius Guagenti family	Merrie Feole	Rita Whitehouse	Dave Franke Max Themer Aug 23-26
August 27	Zachary Semeniuk	Jason VanEvera	Rita Whitehouse Zoe Shreve	Don Saltzman	Anita Themer	No Communion	Mike Semeniuk Max Semeniuk Aug 30- Sep 2
September 3	Nathaniel Guagenti	Mark Murray	Alex VanPelt Jason VanEvera	Charlie Adams	Suzanne Rutledge	Brenda Moody Annette Semeniuk	Dave Themer Brian Gehrman Sep 6-9
September 10	Masyn Botkins	Charlie Moody	Charlie Adams Corrie Brian	Franke family	Merrie Feole	No Communion	Greg Rutledge Jeremy Botkins Sep 13-16

**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 – August 2023**

##### **DEFINE YOUR LIFE BY HOW YOU GIVE**

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others,” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we do not become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

- LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewards](https://lcms.org/stewards)

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### **Lakeview Springs Historic Lodge Renovation**

Renovations on the Historic Lakeview Springs Lodge will begin on **May 2nd!** Visit [lakeview.camp/lakeviewsprings](https://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](mailto:jose@lakeviewministries.camp) or 910-803-1098 with any questions.



## SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
181 OLD SEVEN MILE PIKE  
SHELBYVILLE, KY 40065  
PHONE-502-647-3696  
EMAIL-SECRETARY@HOLYCROSSLUTHERAN-KY.ORG

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

AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2023



***Rally Day***  
***Celebrate Sunday School***  
***Sunday, August 20***