

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

School and Early Learning Center



February 25, 2024

"While We Were Still Helpless, Christ Died"

Pastor Mark Bartels
mbartels@holycrossmadison.org

Pastor Piet Van Kampen
pvankampen@holycrossmadison.org

Principal Rick Holz
rholz@holycrossmadison.org

ELC Director Katie Krug
kkrug@holycrossmadison.org

608-249-3101

General Email: frontoffice@holycrossmadison.org

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS!

OUR SAVIOR WELCOMES YOU AND SO DO WE! Whether you are a first time visitor or returning guest, we are delighted to share our worship with you! Please come back and worship with us again!

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES We love to have children in worship! However, parents who find a need to take their children out of the service are welcome to use the narthex/lobby area while you quiet your little one. The infant care room is also available for nursing mothers. You'll be able to hear the service from the speaker system in the narthex and in the infant care room. A changing table is in the men's and women's bathrooms. If needed, please ask an usher for assistance.

REGISTRATION CARDS are in the hymnal racks. Guests may use the registration cards to let us know how we may further assist you. We encourage all members and guests to fill out a registration card and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

A HEARING LOOP is installed in our sanctuary for your convenience. If your hearing aid has a t-switch, you'll need to activate it when you're in the sanctuary, in order to benefit from the hearing loop.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES Holy Cross offers a full Christian elementary school (grades PreK3 – 8), Kids Crossing Early Learning Center (6 weeks – 5 years), Sunday School and children's youth activities.

PRAYER CONCERNS? Contact Sherri Bartels, sbbartels.sb@gmail.com. Our prayer chain is a large group of Holy Cross members who join you in calling upon God with your prayer concerns. Galatians 6:2 says "Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

USHERS are on duty during church services. Please speak with them if you need assistance.

LIVE STREAM WORSHIP If you or a loved one are unable to attend worship, our 8:30 am service is live streamed on the church website.

PHONE-IN WORSHIP Sundays at 8:30 a.m. (Call any time after 8:20 a.m.; dial 1 (978) 990-5164 followed by access code 6279900#)

ON DEMAND WORSHIP View or listen to any of our past worship services by visiting our website and click the tab labeled Live Stream/Sermons and click sermons.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE Sunday, 8:30 am 10:30am and Monday, 6:30 pm.

TRANSPORTATION FUND If you have no other way to church, taxi rides to and from church are available. Please speak with the Pastor or call the church office at 249-3101.

THE LORD'S SUPPER is offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month and the following Mondays. We believe the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity of faith in our Savior as well as our unity in all scriptural teachings. Since the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod profess full unity in biblical teaching, members of these church bodies are welcome to commune with us. If you are a member of a different Christian church, we ask that you wait to commune until you have closely examined what we teach and are convinced that we are a church that preaches the true Word of God, and that you are in agreement with our teachings. Please speak with a pastor if you are a guest and would like to commune.

MISSION STATEMENT The mission of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School is to bring the Gospel of Christ to our community through the Means of Grace, reaching out to the lost, and nurturing our fellow believers. This we do through worship, education, service and fellowship that God's kingdom may grow.

"While We Were Still Helpless, Christ Died"

February 25, 2024

The Second Sunday in Lent

Service of the Word – Page 38

Opening Hymn "By Faith"

CHOIR: We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward
'Til the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

CHOIR: By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight
By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the pow'r of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign

**ALL: We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward
'Til the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight**

CHOIR: By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave
By faith the church was called to go
In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth

**ALL: We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward
'Til the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight**

CHOIR: By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name

**ALL: We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward
'Til the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight**

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Taste and See



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



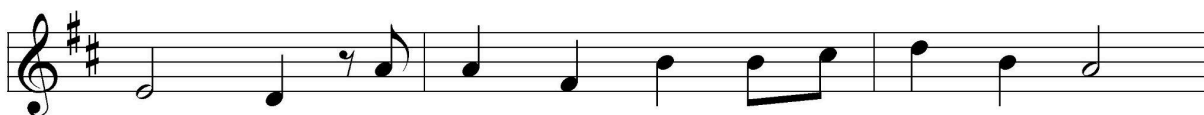
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Lesson Genesis 28:10-17

In Jacob's dream the LORD graciously promises help and blessing.

10 Jacob set out from Beersheba and traveled toward Haran. 11 He came to a certain place and decided to spend the night there, because the sun had set. He took one of the stones from that place, put it under his head, and lay down to sleep in that place. 12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway set up on the earth with its top reaching to heaven. There were angels of God ascending and descending on it. 13 There at the top stood the Lord, who said, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. The land on which you are lying, I give to you and to your descendants. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. In you and in your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed. 15 Now, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back again into this land. Indeed, I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised to you."

16 Jacob woke up from his sleep, and he said, "Certainly the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." 17 He was afraid and he said, "How awe-inspiring is this place! This is nothing other than the house of God, and this is the gate to heaven."

Psalms of the Day Psalm 73

M: I am always with you. You hold me by my right hand.

C: With your guidance you lead me, and afterward, you will take me to glory.

M: Who else is there for me in heaven?

C: And beside you I desire no one else on earth.

M: My flesh and my heart fail,

C: But God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.

Gospel Lesson Mark 8:31-38

The way of salvation is the way of the cross--both for Jesus and his followers.

31 Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the experts in the law; be killed; and after three days rise again. 32 He was speaking plainly to them. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men."

34 He called the crowd and his disciples together and said to them, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 After all, what good is it for a man to gain the whole world and yet forfeit his soul? 37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 In fact, whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."



Oral Examination of Confirmands (8:30)

Hymn #120 (vs 1, 3, 4)....."What Wondrous Love Is This"

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing his love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

SermonPastor Piet Van Kampen..... "While We Were Still Helpless, Christ Died"

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory of God.

3 Not only this, but we also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance, 4 and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope. 5 And hope will not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us.

6 For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. 8 But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. 10 For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. 11 And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

C: We confess that without your love we are lost.

M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the Gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or cost.

M: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

M: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in this life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

M: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

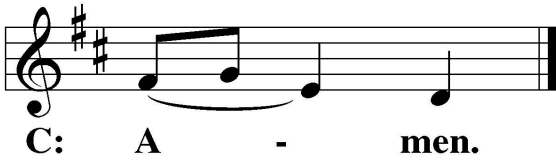
Closing Hymn #536 (vs 1, 4)....."Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head"

1 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's head,
You are her one foundation;
In you she trusts, before you bows,
And waits for your salvation.
Built on this rock secure,
Your Church shall endure
Though all the world decay
And all things pass away.
O hear, O hear us, Jesus!

4 And for your gospel let us dare
To sacrifice all treasure;
Teach us to bear your blessed cross,
To find in you all pleasure.
O grant us steadfastness
In joy and distress.
Lord, for your mercy's sake,
Let us by grace partake
Of endless joy and glory.

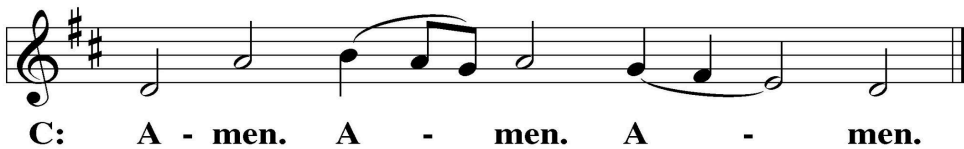
Closing Prayer

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



Announcements

If you attended online services at Holy Cross, please send an email to frontoffice@holycrossmadison.org, and in the subject line write "Attended" and after that the number of people who watched from your home. So if three of you watch the service on Sunday, your subject line would say, "Attended 3". Please don't write anything in the text of the email, since our secretary, Anna Poellet, will not be responding to emails that say "Attended" in the subject line. Thanks.

Text and music covered under OneLicense.net License #A-725579.

Holy Cross News & Notes

February 25, 2024

Calendar for the Week – February 26 - March 3

Monday

- Bible Information Class - 7:30 pm

Wednesday

- School Chapel - 8:10 am
- Lenten Service - 3:30 & 6:30 pm
- Senior Choir - 7:15 pm

Sunday

- Worship - 8:30 and 10:30 am
- Bible Class & Sunday School - 9:45 am
- Adult Handbell Choir - in between services

ALTAR FLOWERS given by Ralph and Hope Weichbrod to honor the memory of their parents.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK Judy Meder and Jackie Sharpee were hospitalized this week. Please pray for them and our homebound and for those in nursing homes.

GIVING TO HOLY CROSS

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: 2/13/24 - 2/19/24

\$13,789.65

TOTAL OFFERINGS FOR FISCAL YEAR: 7/1/23 - 2/19/24

\$516,636.19

FISCAL YTD BUDGET OFFERINGS

\$531,577.08

FISCAL YEAR BUDGETED

\$813,000.00

GOOD PROBLEMS TO HAVE

It's such a joy to have such a great mix of generations at Holy Cross... the wisdom of age and the exuberance of youth! We wouldn't want it any other way! For the safety of both generations, please remind our children to be careful in the narthex around our senior members. We don't want any accidents for either generation! Jesus loves children and said, "Let the little children come to me." We understand snacks help Jesus' little lambs stay focused, therefore we ask you to please be careful with food in the pews that could easily stain the pew fabric. Thank you for helping keep God's house safe and looking great for His glory!

SERMON VIDEO LINKS

Want an easy way to witness to a friend, relative or neighbor? Share Sunday's sermon link with them. Or watch it devotionally yourself.

2/21/24 - "God on Trial - Restraint" - Pastor Mark Bartels

<https://vimeo.com/915410076?share=copy>

NO MONDAY EVENING CHURCH DURING LENT

Beginning February 12 until April 8 there will be no Monday evening worship services. If you normally attend on Monday evenings, we encourage you to join us on Wednesday evenings (3:30 pm or 6:30 pm) instead during the season of Lent.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

The season of Lenten is a special time of looking first at the depth of our sin, and then at the depth of Christ's love for us in his passion and suffering. Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Services will be at 3:30pm (In-Person Only) and 6:30pm (In-Person and Live Streamed)

The 6:30 service will also be recorded and available On Demand. Please note the service times.

The 3:30pm service makes attendance easier for school families and those who do not like to drive at night.

Our theme this year is 'God on Trial' (February 14 - Accusation, February 21 - Restraint, February 28 - Testimony, March 6 - Misconceptions, March 13 - Truth, March 20 - Sympathy)

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent Member, you have the option to direct your 2023 Choice Dollars to Holy Cross until March 31. If you haven't already done so, don't miss this opportunity to recommend where Thrivent gives back! Directing Choice Dollars online is fast and easy (<https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice>). If you need assistance, call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt.

LUTHERAN YOUTH HONOR CHOIR

- June 15-19 (Sat.-Wed.), 2024, at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN.
- For high school-aged youth (completed 8th grade)
- Registration open until June 1: \$225

Lutheran Youth Honor Choir is a perfect opportunity for high school aged youth to learn from the best. Prof. Dennis Marzolf created the camp in 1986 and will be serving as choir director this summer. He will be joined by Prof. Mark DeGarmeaux (accompanist) and Prof. David Paulson (handbells). The five day camp is an immersive study and performance in our rich Lutheran Musical Heritage, and high school students will be collaborating with both current and alumni members of the Bethany Concert Choir. The Lutheran Youth Honor Choir plans to sing and ring at several performances during the ELS Synod Convention. Don't miss this opportunity to study great music and learn from the best! Information available at <https://els.org/honorchoir/>

SUMMER ADVENTURES 2024

This summer we will welcome kids ages 5 - 12 years old for a fun, daily program! Days will be 6AM - 5:30PM between June 3 - August 15, 2024. Activities will include: picnics in the park, off-site field trips, water days, bike/scooter days, arts and crafts, story time, and more! The rate will be billed weekly and is as follows:

- Monday - Friday (5 days): \$275/week
- 4 days: \$225/week
- 3 days: \$175/week
- 2 days: \$125/week
- 1 day: \$75/week

There is a 10% off multi-child discount for each additional full time child.

Registration will open for Holy Cross and returning families on February 5, 2024.

Registration will open for new families on April 3, 2024.

There is a \$150 non-refundable registration fee.

Other information to note: Children may be in our care for a maximum of 10 hours per day. Tuition will be charged on a weekly basis through an automatic withdrawal using our Brightwheel App. Tuition includes breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack following USDA Food Guidelines. Rate builds in several days OFF: holidays and up to 5 vacation days for the child. Rate is charged weekly even if the child misses his/her scheduled days.

If you have any questions, contact Katie Krug at kkrug@holycrossmadison.org or call 608-249-3101.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

Holy Cross has teamed up with Harmann Studios to establish an updated picture directory as there have been many changes since our last directory in 2019. The dates available to have your pictures taken are Wednesday, February 28th through Saturday, March 2nd and Tuesday, March 5th. Available check in times are:

- 1-8pm Tuesday-Thursday
- 11am-6pm Friday
- 9am-3pm on Saturday

Each family/individual who is in the directory will receive a free photo directory. Each family/individual will get a complimentary 5x7 or 8x10 directory pose. **No purchase is necessary**, however, anyone who chooses to purchase a print product will have the opportunity to purchase any extra prints or digital media.

To sign up for an appointment, please scan the QR code below or on the poster in the narthex.



It is first-come, first-served, so book early. If you are unable to sign up online or need to cancel/modify an existing appointment time, please speak with **Max John** (who will be sitting in the narthex between services the next few weeks) or email at 1johnm2@gmail.com. We would love it if every participant took their picture in-person, but, if unable due to homebound constraints or scheduling conflicts, please contact Max John about ways to submit your own photograph for the directory. We are also in need of volunteers to be greeters for this event to ensure proper check in for appointments and calling members who may not show up for their scheduled times. If you are able to assist any day(s) or time(s) please contact Max John.

CAMP RISE

Camp Rise 2024 takes place Sunday, July 7 to Friday, July 12 at Camp Luwisomo in Wild Rose, Wisconsin. Camp is open to all youth who will have completed grades 4 through 9! All registration info and forms can be downloaded at camprise.org, or can be obtained at the church office. Registration cost is \$430 if registered by April 15; after that the cost goes up to \$460 with the deadline of May 15. In case the cost is too burdensome for some families, please speak with either Pastor Bartels or Pastor Van Kampen. Holy Cross has a fund dedicated to helping kids attend Camp Rise, and families can also apply to the Camp Rise Scholarship Fund by May 1 to help ease the costs of registering children for camp.

LYA NATIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION

- July 25-28 (Thurs.-Sun.), 2024, at Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL
- For high school-aged youth (confirmed or completed 8th grade)
- Early Registration until June 1: \$300
- Late Registration from June 2-July 1: \$350

The 2024 Lutheran Youth Association Convention will explore the freedom that comes from being justified outside of ourselves. The setting of Chicago will form the backdrop to these topics and will allow us the opportunity to explore, and even serve, the city. Keynote speakers will be Rev. David Locklair and Prof. Pete Bloedel. Highlights of the 2024 LYA Youth Convention include:

- A Divine Service where you will get to commune with hundreds of your brothers and sisters in Christ
- Engaging small group sectionals – register early to get the sectionals of your choice!
- Daily offices: Morning and evening chapel services
- Excursion to either downtown Chicago via the L Train or the Museum of Science and Industry
- Recreation time on Concordia University's campus

For more information and to register, go to <https://els.org/LYA/>.