

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE ILLUMINATOR

The Holy Cross Lutheran Church Newsletter

Pastor's Newsletter Article for September 2024

What is the importance of Holy Baptism?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:



A man lies in the recovery room after serious, life-saving heart surgery. The surgeon walks into the room and gets down on his knees beside the bed. With tears in his eyes the doctor says, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I can't thank you enough for what you have done for me!"

There's something backwards about that scene. Shouldn't the patient be the one thanking the doctor? After all, that surgeon saved his life. The patient owes that medical man a huge debt of gratitude. There's something backwards here!

Did you know that many people get Christian Baptism backwards? Many Christians (on the Reformed side of Christianity) think that Baptism is something WE DO for God, a way of showing obedience to him. That may SEEM appropriate. After all, parents are the ones who bring their children to the baptismal font. But in truth, in Baptism GOD is really the one who does something FOR US. That's the Lutheran (Biblical) understanding of Holy Baptism!

And what wonderful things God does for us in Baptism! The apostle Peter said, ***"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"*** (Acts 2:38). In those words, Peter describes two of the wondrous blessings of Baptism: the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). We are all sinners. Sin separates us from God. Sin takes away the blessings God wants us to have. Sin keeps us out of heaven. So, God did something about sin. He sent Jesus, his Son. Jesus lived perfectly in our place, died on the cross to pay for all our sins and rose again to assure us of eternal life. In Baptism, God gives us this forgiveness that Jesus won for us. It really has NOTHING to do with us at all! We merely receive from a loving and gracious God; hence, Baptism is ALL GOSPEL—a Means of Grace, not a work of the LAW.

The other blessing, the gift of the Holy Spirit, is faith or trust in Jesus. Faith is the hand that receives all the blessings that Jesus won for us. In Baptism God miraculously works faith in our hearts so that we don't miss out on a single blessing that Jesus won for us. Through faith worked in Baptism, God gives us all the blessings earned by our Savior: forgiveness of sins, a new life of peace and hope, and eternal life in heaven.

Is Baptism important? You better believe it is! In Baptism God is at work for us. Through Baptism God saves us. This month at Holy Cross, we'll be blessed to see several souls launched heavenward, as God begins His good work in their lives through water and the Word! What a joy to see the family of God grow and expand! It's all God's doing. All glory to Him alone!

I LOVE being your Vacancy Pastor!

(Next month: Why is the Bible call the Holy Bible?)

Rev. Gary Wright

Pastor Wright

Here are a few numbers for you to keep handy during the vacancy. I welcome your phone calls and am happy to hear from you about how I may be of service.

Zion Lutheran Church (309) 496-2186
Pastor's Cell Phone (309) 236-3882

Bless you for all you do for one another as the body of Christ! May we, by God's grace, be a blessing to one another, for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Under the completely sufficient imputed righteousness,

Rev. Gary Wright
Vacancy Pastor



September 2024

Dear Holy Cross,

President Mohr provided us a list of 20 pastoral candidates. One candidate accepted a call the week of Aug 12th 2024 reducing the list to 19. This is a reminder the list is not fixed and subject to change.

Voters, at the December 2023 Assembly, entrusted the call committee to condense the call list and present four candidates to the Assembly. The call committee at their 6th meeting, Friday, August 16th completed the assignment.

The quarterly Voters Assembly @ 2:30 pm Sunday, September 22, 2024 will consider the candidates and God willing extend a divine call.

Information needed for an informed decision can be evaluated in the church office during business hours. Opportunities to evaluate the information outside of office hours will be by appointment. Several identical folders in the office contain the following:

1. Summary of Pastoral Skills as identified by a congregational evaluation completed in November 2023. This document is in the back of the folder.
2. A Pastoral Information File (PIF) and Self Evaluation Tool (SET) for each of the **four** candidates. ***Please respect the sensitive nature of this information.*** Parishioners may make personal notes, but not photocopy, scan or photograph the documents.
3. The call list is included. The PIF/SET for one of the other candidates may be viewed upon request.

Each candidate has an online presence. A password protected page w/links to all 19 candidates is on the Holy Cross home page. This resource has limitations. Some candidates have a smaller online presence. The information online is not all inclusive. "For example 1-on-1 personal ministry, such as grief or marital pastoral care, etc. will not, for obvious reasons, be found "online." The link for this page and the password will be shared directly with the voters.

Our Circuit Visitor is the point of contact for all questions not answered by PIF/SET or online information. ***Please respect the relationship a pastoral candidate has with his current parish and display Christian concern for a sister congregation by not individually contacting a candidate or his church.***

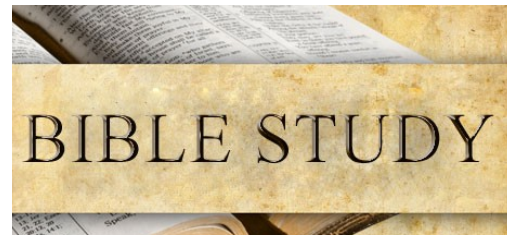
But all things must be done properly and in an orderly way. 1 Corinthians 14:40

Peace be with you,

Don Freeman,
Congregational President

You are always welcome to any of our Bible classes!

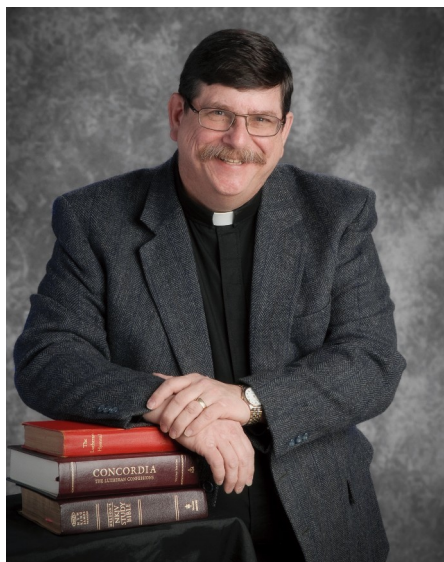
Held in the fellowship hall on Wednesday's at 9am. You do not need to start at the beginning of a unit or topic. Please come whenever you can.



For those who have been attending church for decades, it may seem that the historic liturgy is boring or vain repetition. In this Bible study, however, we will note how much of the liturgy is actually God's Word as it first appeared in the lives God's people. In a practical and vibrant way, these sessions will help enrich and deepen our worship life and appreciation for Word and Sacrament in a way that has proven tried-and-true over the centuries.

Pastor Joel A. Brondos

Served as a parish pastor and as a parochial headmaster of classical Lutheran schools for over 30 years in urban, suburban, and rural settings (retiring in 2019). He has lectured around the country and has published numerous devotions and Bible studies for CPH and other synodical publications. In 2008, he received the middle school teacher of the year award in the Northern Illinois District. He currently serves on the Board of Regents for Concordia Seminary - St. Louis. His wife of 43 years, Marilyn, has served as a teacher in the primary grades, and they currently live in Geneseo. Benjamin and Melissa Brondos, son and daughter-in-law, are members of Holy Cross.





In September we will celebrate Sunday School Rally Day! Join us on Sunday, September 1st to celebrate moving up to the next grade! After Sunday School and after church service we will enjoy a hot dog lunch together to celebrate!

The Sunday School Activity will be held on September 21st at 2 pm, subject to be determined. Keep an eye on the bulletin for more information!

*Thank you for all of your support, and remember that Sunday School is weekly at 9:30.
See you then!*

*In Christ,
Susan Serre*

Voter's at the December 2023 Assembly, entrusted the call committee to condense the call list and present four candidates to the Assembly.

The information needed for an informed decision may be evaluated in the church office during business hours. Opportunities to evaluate the information outside of office hours will be by appointment. Six identical folders are prepared and ready for viewing. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

The Voters established the Call Committee at the December 2023 meeting.

Here are the members for those that were not able to attend. Michelle Bowser, Ben Brondos, Don Freeman, Marcia Green, Alan Schmidt, Lew Steinbrecher, Tom Stuenkel, Jan Tutskey and Rev. Nerud, Circuit Visitor.



Quarterly Voter's Assembly will be at 2:30 pm, Sunday, September 22nd!

Please remember to complete one of the attendance cards in the pew rack. This information is used for many planning purposes.

Our Pantry Sunday recipient for the month of September is YouthHope (Christian Friendliness). Please keep them in your thoughts while you're out and about!



Holy Cross will be serving a spaghetti dinner at Rock Island Christian Care on Monday, September 9th.



(This dinner is provided the second Monday of every month). Monetary donations are always welcome and are used to purchase spaghetti ingredients, salad and garlic bread. A sign-up sheet is located in the entryway for those interested in providing desserts or fresh fruit. These clearly marked items can be left in the Holy Cross kitchen on Monday or the Sunday preceding. Space is limited in the mission kitchen, so those signing up to serve must be limited to four. Jerry Tutskey and the Mutual Encouragement Committee thank you in advance for your kind participation.

Welcome Luncheon for Rev. Wright and Members of Zion Lutheran Church!

On Sunday, September 15th at noon, The Evangelism Committee will be hosting a welcome potluck luncheon for Rev. Wright and members of Zion Lutheran Church. All are invited! If you will be attending, please sign the RSVP sheet that is posted in the church's entryway so the committee will know how many to plan for. Chicken from Mulkey's Restaurant will be served. There will also be a sign-up sheet available to bring a salad or dessert. For more information, contact Jeff Welvaert, chair or any member of the Evangelism Committee; Gerri Stolze, Martha Kroll, Deb Lindley, Melissa Thorngren, Marcia Green.



The Rock Island Zone Fall Rally is Tuesday, September 17, 2024
at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Milan, IL. beginning at 8:30 am.
The theme is “Seek the Lord”. Registration is \$15 and is due by
September 10th.

There are registration forms in the entryway.
Any questions, call Mary Pement at 309-797-6367.

**Greetings, we will be electing a new Zone Secretary/Treasurer at the LWML
Rock Island Zone Fall Rally**

on September 17th at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Milan.

*If you are interested in serving the Lord in this way, please call or text
Janet Mau at 563-209-0723.*

FYI...

Bell practice **WILL** resume this month. New players are always welcome! Thanks!

Just a Reminder... There will be **NO** Peace Quilters in September
and October.



LWML Garage Sale will be October 3rd & 4th

It's time to start cleaning out your closets and set aside items for our
next Garage Sale in October. Items will be accepted beginning September 30th. For more
information, contact Marcia Green (309) 236-2923 or Jan Tutskey (309) 781-1624.

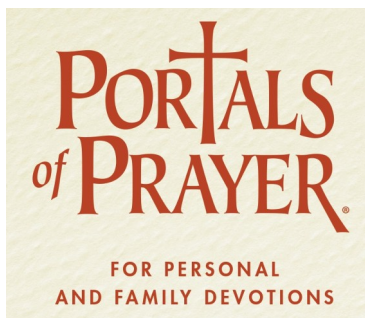
Volunteers are needed to watch the security monitor during our services!



If you can help in this way, please sign the sheet in the
church entryway. If you have any questions, please talk
to a member of the Board of Elders.

Exercise Class and Fellowship Hour: New Time!

Exercise Class begins at 10:15 A.M. Immediately following the 9 A.M. - 10 A.M. Bible Class led by Pastor Gary Wright. Come and join us for Fellowship Hour following the Exercise Class!



The July – September 2024 Edition: Portals of Prayer have arrived!

Three sizes are available. Please help yourself to this devotional resource and share with others.

In retirement Wilfred L. Karsten will be writing again for the publication's November 2025 edition.

*Newsletter and Calendar Announcements for the month of October **MUST** be submitted to the office by Monday, September 23rd*



ATTENTION!!! the staff at Holy Cross is currently in the process of updating our records of contact information for members, etc. If you need to update your address, phone number or email, please contact the office at your earliest convenience. Thank you!



Holy Cross's support of Rev. Mahlburg's Sri Lanka mission work is going very well!!

Thus far \$3,510 of the \$4000 pledged has been collected. This goal too will soon be met.

Thank – you



The current Dollar for Missions project is for replacement of furnaces at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb.



which is expected to cost some \$25,000. The Student Center was built 55 years ago. Equipment replacement like this is important so the Gospel can continue to be proclaimed and students can go on being reached there for years into the future.

For more information visit:

<https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html>.

Thank you to those at St. John's who consistently support the work of Missions on the District and Synodical level.

You are a blessing

The Mission of the LCMS Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund

Is to aid The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations, schools, and agencies of the LCMS Central Illinois District (CID) in building and expanding their facilities and ministries for the growth of God's Kingdom.



**CHURCH EXTENSION
FUND, INC.**
Central Illinois District–LCMS



Christ the King (Cristo Rey) Lutheran Church

1301-19th Street, East Moline, IL 61244

E-mail: cristorey-em@sbcglobal.net

Ph. (309) 738-6124

Rev. Pablo G. Domínguez



Newsletter SEPTEMBER 2024

“not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” Hebrews 10:25

Over the past few weeks, I have heard these responses from different people: “It’s very early, it’s too far from my house, or I feel embarrassed to go”.

I heard these excuses when I invited people to Cristo Rey to participate in our worship. I’m sure that you have heard excuses, too, haven’t you?

I remember very well when I participated as a volunteer with a nonprofit local agency a few years ago and an invitation was extended to the people to celebrate Las Posadas. The event was on a wintery, December Saturday afternoon. This particular night was so very cold, and it was snowing. I was amazed when entire families started to arrive at the location. There were parents with babies and toddlers. You can imagine how these people were talking about the bad weather, but it didn’t seem that important to them. They wanted to come and have a good time at this party even if their children might get sick. I even heard that some people traveled to Iowa City to hear a popular music group and enjoy a time of dancing. I’m not saying that I am opposed to parties or dances, but we need to determine priorities correctly.

For people who do not attend worship, it’s so easy to reject the invitation to come to church, right? People who used to go to church but aren’t faithful in attendance, might say, “Maybe next week or when I have a certain feeling in my heart”. I’m sure that you can add even more excuses that you have heard.

According to God’s Word, if we go to church, it’s because the Holy Spirit put that desire in our hearts. We remember that we aren’t perfect or better than the people who don’t attend. As sinners we come to church to receive God’s forgiveness. As I recently told one of my contacts; “I’m in front of you as the first sinner to arrive at church and the last forgiven one to leave because I have the key to unlock the church building and then lock it again”.

Let’s go to church and worship our merciful Lord and receive that spiritual rest that only He can give!

“I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord” Psalm 122:1

Thank you so very much, dear friends, for your loyal support of the Hispanic ministry at

Cristo Rey with prayers, donations and monetary gifts!

Camp CILCA's Men's Shooting Retreat

Saturday, September 21, 2024



9am-3pm



Bible study



camp@cilca.org



Lunch provided



\$15 per person



4124 Camp CILCA Road
Cantrall, IL 62625



Camp CILCA's G.R.I.T Run

Saturday October 5, 2024

open run starts at 11:30 am

Grueling
Rugged
Intense
Trail
Run- 5K

More information



camp@cilca.org



Adults (19+): \$30
Kids (18-under): \$10



4124 Camp CILCA Road
Cantrall, IL 62625



MUSIC FOR MISSIONS

Is a sacred music concert and hymn sing in support of Cristo Rey (Christ the King) Lutheran Church, East Moline. The event is scheduled for Sunday, October 13, 2024, 2:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 711 Court St., Pekin. Music for Missions will feature guest organist Samuel Bishop, vocalists Allison Harley and Jennifer Rosa, the Bells of St. John's, St. John's Sanctuary Choir, and ample congregational singing. A free will offering will be gathered to support Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, a mission congregation of the Central Illinois District, LC-MS. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Everyone is welcome!

For more information contact the St. John's, Pekin church office at [309-347-2136](tel:309-347-2136).

Higher Things seeks to make the Gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults...but what does this mean?

HT offers a variety of resources like conferences, retreats, camps, mission events, videos, devotions, podcasts, and books. Higher Things points youth and young adults toward Christ crucified for them, the very message they hear in your sanctuary!



Higher Things is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Throughout the last 25 years, HT has supported the congregations, universities, and seminaries of the LCMS by helping to create a distinctly Lutheran identity in our youth and young adults. We help your church equip youth and young adults to stand firm in Christ Jesus.

Prayer Request

*Please help to keep this list current by calling the church office when a name can be added or removed.
This list is also printed in the Sunday bulletin.*

Members in Facilities: **Mercer Manor, Aledo** – Bob Koehler; **Cedarhurst** – Susan Wyant, Jan Phillips; **Friendship Manor** - Dick Hochstetler, Phyllis Thorngren; **Woodridge Supportive Living, Galesburg** - Dick Ristau; **Illini Restorative Care** – Henry Setton; **Park Vista:** Ron & Caroline Luecke.

Serving in the Military: Jakob Ryckeghem, Alexa Ellis, Brett Kramer (Grandson of Terry Kramer), Logan Noard (Son of Kyle and Marilyn Noard), Leith Masri (son of Peggy Jones), Stephen Waugaman (grandsons of Donna Knudtson), Cameron Moore (grandson of Lew and Maria Steinbrecher), Andrew Tolley (son of Carole Tolley), David Revel (son of Craig & Laurie Revel), Jeffrey Teuscher (nephew of Willie Swain), Matthew Glider (grandson of Doris Glider), Austin Cox (grandson-in-law of Sieg Paulsen), Matthew Patterson (son-in-law of Mike Waters, serving in Kuwait).

Members of the Congregation Receiving Cancer Treatment: Pastor Murdock, Kathrine Hopkins, Kim Trask (sister of Robbie Garrison)

Friends of the Congregation Receiving Treatment for Cancer: Ryan Ramshaw (brother-in-law of Melissa and Benjamin Brondos), Gail Stuenkel (sister-in-law of Tom & Donna Stuenkel), Lisa Dingeldein (cousin of Justina), Mike Dingeldein (uncle of Justina), Lisa Crawford (friend of Melissa Thorngren), Tristan Blume (friend of Teresa Brown), Joanne Lyons (friend of Joyce Spidle), Dave Patterson (brother of Bev Wagner), Harold Foster (brother-in-law of Bob Hellstrom), Judy Knudsen (sister of Allen Stegemann), Hannah Clark (relative of Marilyn Noard) Kim Trask (sister of Robbie Garrison).

Serious Health Concerns: Tony Loritz (son of friends of Jennifer Swanberg), Phyllis Murdock, Pam & Bill (friends of Gwen Shrake), Scarlet Durbin (granddaughter of Beverly Carlise; great-granddaughter of Martha Kroll), Susan Raber (sister of Terry Kramer), Gwen Shrake, Hazel White (mother of Robbie Garrison), Ken Lackey (brother of Gwen Shrake), Heidi Sias, Maureen DeLassus, Kelly Teuscher (niece of Willie Swain).

Recovering/Ongoing Health Concerns: Bethany Albrecht (granddaughter of Wilfred & Lynette Karsten), Sherry Lohse, David Kramer, Donald Dawson, Gary Johnson, Alyssa Jones (granddaughter of Marian Jones), Fred Poe (grandson of Virginia Koontz), Carol Ferrell, Susan Jamieson, Joshua Duburg (cousin of Jill Safe), Sieg Paulsen, Cindy Davenport.

September Bible Reading Guide

09/01 1 Chronicles 29:10-13/Job 31-33	09/17 Psalm 101/Ecclesiastes 7-9
09/02 Psalm 86/Job 34-36	09/18 Psalm 102/Ecclesiastes 10-12
09/03 Psalm 87/Job 37-39	09/19 Psalm 103/Song of Solomon 1-4
09/04 Psalm 88/Job 40-42	09/20 Psalm 104/Song of Solomon 5-8
09/05 Psalm 89/Proverbs 1-3	09/21 Psalm 105/Jeremiah 1-3
09/06 Psalm 90/Proverbs 4-7	09/22 Psalm 106/Jeremiah 4-6
09/07 Psalm 91/Proverbs 8-10	09/23 Psalm 107/Jeremiah 7-9
09/08 Psalm 92/Proverbs 11-13	09/24 Psalm 108/Jeremiah 10-12
09/09 Psalm 93/Proverbs 14-16	09/25 Psalm 109/Jeremiah 13-15
09/10 Psalm 94/Proverbs 17-19	09/26 Psalm 110/Jeremiah 16-18
09/11 Psalm 95/Proverbs 20-22	09/27 Psalm 111/Jeremiah 19-22
09/12 Psalm 96/Proverbs 23-25	09/28 Psalm 112/Jeremiah 23-25
09/13 Psalm 97/Proverbs 26-28	09/29 Psalm 113/Jeremiah 26-28
09/14 Psalm 98/Proverbs 29-31	09/30 1 Chron. 29:10-13/ Jeremiah 29-31
09/15 Psalm 99/Ecclesiastes 1-3	
09/16 Psalm 100/Ecclesiastes 4-6	

September Birthdays!!!




Cathy Pastorek	9/1	Daniel Thorngren	9/19
Norma Koontz	9/3	Teresa Brown	9/20
Evelyn Van Hemert	9/3	Jeanne Eastman	9/21
Scott Paller	9/4	Jennifer Zecher	9/21
James Kubatzke	9/4	Rick Serre	9/24
Bonnie Terrell	9/10	Carole Tolley	9/25
John Stewart	9/12	Barbara Sellmann	9/25
Tom Stuenkel	9/13	Joseph Thorngren	9/25
Autumn Mahlborg	9/13	Edwin Corrigan	9/25
Jill Safe	9/15	Thomas McKean	9/29
Maria Steinbrecher	9/18	Kaitlyn Stewart	9/29
Armando Chavez	9/19	Alexander Waters	9/30

According to our records, God has blessed you with the privilege of celebrating a birthday this month. Please inform the Holy Cross office if this information is incorrect. Have you remembered the Lord's work in your will and estate planning?



Holy Cross Lutheran Church – Moline, IL

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 15 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Bible Class/SS 10:45 Divine Service HC <i>Sunday School Rally Day!</i> <i>Pantry Sunday -YouthHope</i>	2  Office Closed <i>Labor Day</i> 	3	4 9:00 Bible Class 10:15 Fitness 10:40 Fellowship 4:30 Bells	5	6 Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The office is closed on Fridays	7
8 16 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Bible Class/SS 10:45 Divine Service HC	9 5:30 Christian Care Mission Service & Dinner	10 5:30 Property Meeting	11 9:00 Bible Class 10:15 Fitness 10:40 Fellowship 4:30 Bells 5:30 BOE Meeting	12 12:30 LWML	13	14
15 17 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Bible Class/SS 10:45 Divine Service HC <i>Welcome Luncheon - Zion</i>	16	17 8:30 LWML Fall Rally <i>St. Matthew Lutheran Church</i>	18 9:00 Bible Class 10:15 Fitness 10:40 Fellowship 4:30 Bells	19 <i>NO Peace Quilters</i>	20	21 <i>2:00 Sunday School Activity</i>
22 18 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Bible Class/SS 10:45 Divine Service HC 2:30 Voter's Assembly	23 <i>October Calendar & Newsletter Items Due!!!</i>	24	25 9:00 Bible Class 10:15 Fitness 10:40 Fellowship 4:30 Bells	26	27	28
29 19 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Bible Class/SS 10:45 Divine Service HC	30 <i>*Drop-Off Garage Sale Items</i>	1	2 9:00 Bible Class 10:15 Fitness 10:40 Fellowship 4:30 Bells	3 <i>LWML Garage Sale!!</i>	4 <i>LWML Garage Sale!!</i>	5

