

# Newsletter



September 2023

## Special points of interest:

- September Birthdays
- Event Calendar of Events
- Birthday Calendar
- Event Calendar

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## Pastors Ponderings

With the arrival of September, there's no doubt that plenty of us have feelings of "here we go... again." Whether it is back to school, resuming a more regular weekly schedule, or looking ahead to fall and another change of seasons, the wheel of time keeps on turning. How we approach the change, either positively or negatively, can make all the difference. It is my wish that each of us will see a change as a new opportunity. Our Synod Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson asks the question, "What is your next most faithful step as a leader in your context for ministry?" I like that question very much because it places the focus on what I can do, what is my next



most faithful step. We so often tend to look to *others* to do more, or to blame *them* for our own dissatisfaction with our job, our homelife, our church, our community. But, if we are always looking to others to provide the joy or contentment that we seek, we are looking in the wrong direction. Turn your worries and anxieties over to God and I believe that led by the Holy Spirit, you will

discover your next most faithful step. With these thoughts in mind, I wish to reflect on the upcoming Bible readings that we will be using on Sunday morning at 9:00 and Wednesday evening at 7:00 as well as at Bible Study on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. (beginning Sept. 11). On Labor Day weekend we will hear once more about the importance of keeping Sabbath. As we hear in Exodus 20:8-11, if even God can take a day of rest, how valuable must it be that we do the same? We will also hear some other important readings about

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## JAM is Coming

A new season of Jesus And Music is on the horizon. The starting date is September 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 5:00. JAM is an after-school program every Wednesday for students in grades 1-6. We wel-

come any community members that might be interested in sending their child to Holy Cross to hear God's word and sing His praises. Activities also include snacks, crafts, and games. Don't miss out on this unique



opportunity to educate your child in the ways of Jesus.

### Holy Cross September Birthdays

9/1	Jeremy Wold Casey Nolde	9/11	Blake DeSmith	9/25	Jolene Bonte Scott Thompson Maxwell Janson
9/2	Kadie Wildenberg	9/13	Brad Hoitomt Jordan Bonte	9/26	Mark Gluege
9/3	Hanna Strehlo	9/14	Anna Brigham	9/27	Natasha Lagerstrom
9/4	Mark Voeltz Mark Eliason Tessa Wagner	9/15	Steve Lee Aryanna Lee	9/28	Darlene Waters Gabbie Gluege
9/5	Brent Standaert	9/18	Wes Booth	9/29	John Logghe Nicco Riley Camden Brahmer
9/6	Vanessa Brahmer Sali Mounce	9/19	Jenna Frieberg Abby Holmquist	9/30	Roger Lindelof
9/7	Nathan Hill Carson Anderson	9/20	Felisha Olson		
9/10	Luanne Flick Gracelin Krizan	9/21	April Goodwin		



# September

# 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	4 Labor Day	5	6 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship 7:30pm Youth Group	7	8	9
10 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	11 11:00am Bible Study 6:30-FUN/Faith & Life	12	13 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship	14	15	16
17 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	18 11:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Council Meeting	19 6pm-Threads of God's Love Newsletter Items Due	20 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship	21	22	23
24 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship 4:00pm—Guatemala Gala	25 11:00am Bible Study	26 Printing and mailing of Newsletter	27 3-30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship	28 8:00am Quilting	29	30

## Confirmation Corner

by Jill Logghe

Thank you to all Confirmands/ Parents who were able to help at the Holy Cross FairStand. Your help was greatly appreciated and from what I heard and experienced a fun time was had by ALL!

Orientation Night with all students and parents or grandparents of seventh and eighth graders was Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Discussion at this meeting includes the schedule, curriculum and expectations for the 2023-24 year. Families also sign up to serve a supper meal for the entire group.

Our seventh grade students will be looking to select a mentor. A mentor is an adult member of our congregation (though we ask that they are not a family member or parent of another 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade student). This person is someone who will come alongside the student to model the

faith and help the student grow in his or her own faith journey.

ney. Please prayerfully consider being a mentor. It can be a rewarding experience for both the student and the mentor that may last a lifetime!

Reminder for our 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmands to complete your service projects. Featured this month in our Newsletter is Kirah Krueger who made tie

blankets for kids going through chemotherapy. She also completed a second project making treat bags (with crackers, cookies and juice boxes)



for residents of Glenhaven, Havenwood and Grand Oaks. Way to go Kirah!!

**UPCOMING EVENTS – PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS! THANK YOU!**

- September 6 – FIRST DAY OF CLASS 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CONFIRMANDS
- October 18<sup>th</sup> – Fall Supper
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Retreat (9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmands)
- November 5<sup>th</sup> – Veteran’s Appreciation Program
- November 12<sup>th</sup> – CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – Christmas in the Barn

## Join the Choir

OPEN INVITATION ---  
JOIN THE CHOIR!

Can't read music?  
Never fear...  
If you can carry a tune,

We want you here!!!

Contact Lindsey Krueger at 715-265-4886 and leave a message with your name and number.

Thank you.



## Council Meeting Minutes 8/21/2023

Meeting called to order @ 7:05PM

Attendance: Amber Hoffman, Pastor Jonathan, Ned Hahn, Derrick Oberle, April Goodwin, Angela Jeske

Ned motioned to approve the agenda, April second.

Amber motioned to approve the secretary's report, Ned second.

### **Faith and Life Team**

- Wednesday worship schedule will resume September 6th
- Adult Bible Study will resume September 11th
- Jeanne Jeske has a Holy Moments book she wants to present to congregation
- Confirmation orientation on August 30, parents and students expected to attend. First day of confirmation class on September 6th, Mentor night is scheduled for either the 13th or 20th, watch for more information in weekly emails
- JAM Program to resume on September 13

### **FUN Ministry Team Report**

- Grace Place Meal was served by Peder & Anna Mewis-HUGE thank you to them & those that donated! As a congregation, we need all remember
- Bloodmobile- Thank you Melanie Hill & the High School Youth for helping with this!
- Trunk or Treat - Sunday October 29th
- Sundaes on Mondays- Continuing to build good relationships in the community with new people joining each week
- Hosting an Uncommon Conversation on Monday, October 2nd
  - o VIP Guests- Mayor Rob Unruh and Police Chief Joel Klatt joining

### **Property and Management**

- Bell Tower Work/Painting – done!
- Upcoming Plans? Gutters et al? Barry Peterson has been contacted for some exterior building work
- Fairstand Proposed work
  - o Ned Hahn will contact Tom Stack so he can contact Molly at the Insurance Agency to see if we can/need a claim for the Fair Stand from weather damage
  - o Next step will be following up with Clinton Rassbach regarding the concrete tear out and replacement at the Fair Stand

### **Resources**

- Fairstand was another successful year! Official Fair Stand Report will be available soon!
- Ned motioned to approve the Financial Reports for June/July, Amber second.
- Property Lease agreement, John Lindelof is working on cleaning up this agreement and working to get it signed with new people who would like to lease land for hunting

### **Council Business**

Next Meeting scheduled for September 18th @ 7:00

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

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## Financial Update

Thanks to everyone for their generous support of time and talents to make the fair stand a success again this year. While we are still waiting for final figures as a few more bills are coming in, we had a very good year. Since the numbers are not yet finalized and the funds have not been transferred from the fair stand account to the general unrestricted account, we have added a line to the above report to show both totals. Our general account went down significantly not only from fair stand expenses, but we also spent about \$3,200 on the belltower this month. Our fair stand account, however is up by more than \$15,000.

Rest assured this will all balance out and show more normal numbers by our next month's report. The bottom line is that we are under budget for expenses by \$3,473 year to date and only \$2,755 off our budgeted income numbers for the year.

As we get into our fall season soon and expect to see worship attendance increase again after a busy summer, we should be able to make up that amount and be on track to hit our budgeted numbers. We have all of you to thank for that and we are very appreciative of your ongoing support to the missions and ministries at Holy Cross.

Thanks be to God!!

<b>HOLY CROSS FINANCIAL UPDATE</b>				
<b>As of July 31st, 2023</b>				
	Monthly	2023 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budget
Regular Giving	\$ 8,305	\$ 66,759	\$ 66,366	\$ 74,538
Simply Giving	\$ 2,539	\$ 18,049	\$ 19,849	\$ 20,417
Misc Giving/Income	\$ 10,463	\$ 18,272	\$ 15,846	\$ 10,879
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 21,307</b>	<b>\$ 103,079</b>	<b>\$ 102,060</b>	<b>\$ 105,834</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 16,443</b>	<b>\$ 102,360</b>	<b>\$ 107,428</b>	<b>\$ 105,833</b>
Unrestricted Checkbook Balance:	\$	11,182		
Total Checkbook Balance	\$	38,927		

## Sundaes on Mondays coming to an end...

“Why are you guys doing this? Just to be nice?”

“Well yes, and to get to know some of our neighbors a bit better...”

This simple interaction from this past Monday will give you a flavor of who, what, and why we do this delicious summer outreach. Alas, it now comes to a close with the

school year beginning so soon. On any given week, we have had anywhere from a handful of people stop by (young and old) to a couple of dozen or more. Thanks to Bruce Kelm, Jeanne Jeske, Jill Logghe, many of our high school youth, and plenty of other super ice cream scoopers!





## Youth Group By Melanie

The high school youth is wrapping up their summer in August with many of them starting sports. We are all praying that this year is a fun, safe, and rewarding year.

The youth sponsored the August blood drive with many of our youth volunteering to help. We were able to collect 31 pints of blood. Thank you to all that worked and donated.

Some of our high school and middle school youth were also able to help with VBS this year as well. We had a blast decorating the church and working with the youngsters of our community. The weather held off for us all week so we were able to have our game unit outside all week. I hope you were able to see all the decorations or

connect with some of the youth that was at VBS.

Before our departing seniors left we were able to hold a send off party for them. Thank you to Jill for having us at her house. If you would like to send any of our seniors a note of encouragement please let me know.

September will be a quiet month for our group. We will plan to have our September meeting at 7:30pm on September 6. There will be worship before our meeting at 7.

We will plan on a fun night for all of our high schoolers on Sunday, September 17 at 5:30pm. Maybe we can get a kick ball tournament going or gaga ball tournament. Let's see how many high schoolers we can get. All high schoolers are welcome: this year's freshman to seniors.

October 4 at 7:30 will be the official start of our new year. We welcome all our parents and new and current members to a quick informational meeting.

I hope to see you at any of our upcoming meetings and fun nights.

### Events

**September 6: 7pm Worship and 7:30pm meeting**

**September 17: 5:30 Fun night for all high schoolers.**

**October 4: 7pm worship and 7:30 parent/new and current member informational meeting.**

God Bless you all.  
Melanie

## 10th Annual Guatemala Gala by Pastor

The 10th Annual Guatemala Gala is coming up quickly! Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. It will be on **Sunday, September 24 from 4-8 p.m.** at Mendakota Country Club in Mendota Heights, Minnesota. The Gala is a truly fun fundraiser to support the work and ministry of the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala

(ILAG). This year's special guests will include Pastor Beatriz Castillo, Director of the CLAG (Christian) school that we have been supporting for several years now along with Diego Gil, Director of the SEED Agricultural program. The cost to attend is \$50 per person and includes a delicious Guatemalan meal and enjoyable program.

Proceeds from the Gala will support the elementary school, scholarships for students, leadership development for pastors and leaders, and more exciting initiatives. Please speak with Pastor Jonathan for more information and/or to be sure to secure your spot at the Holy Cross table!

## Quilters Work Day By Marion Ross

Our group in July was smaller, but we still managed to get 8 quilts completed. We have a very dedicated group of workers. We hope more of you can join us in the future months. A huge thank you to everyone who has donated items to you in our quilting in recent weeks. It all helps us get as many done as we do. If you would like to make tops at home, the recommended size is

60 inches by 80 inches. They can be made of large pieces of fabric or squares. It is best to use fabric that is washable.

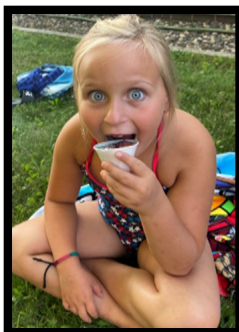
Also blankets work well as filler. We can use most everything for something. As always, we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month except in November & December because of

the holidays. We have a potluck lunch at noon & coffee about 9:30. We'd love to have you join us.



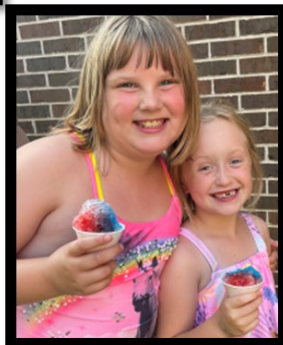
## VBS is a Wrap By Bruce

“On Earth As It Is In Heaven” was the theme of this year’s Vacation Bible School on July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We explored the meaning of the Lord’s Prayer during those four days. Along with that, discussions during the week delved into world hunger, health care, equality in education, and peace. The schedule included an opening, story time, crafts, games, snacks, and music all based on the following countries: Mexico, Zimbabwe, Guatemala, and Kenya. Our last



day included a splash pad, water slide, snow cones, and Bouncy House. All told we had close to 30 students and a good time was had by all.

Many thanks to all who made the week a success. Our teachers were Emily Tews, Barb Eliason, and Jill



Logghe. Helpers included April Goodwin, Anaka Eliason, Anna Mewis, Alyssa Kelm and Amber Hoffman.

Our snack people were Sue Kahler and Linda Krizan. The crafts were headed by Kristen



Konder and games by Melanie Hill. Music was led by Bruce and Carol Kelm. The openings and closings were handled by Paster Jonathan and Bruce Kelm.

A shout-out to Brian Teigen for the use of the bouncy house and to Topper Hangtime for the use of their water slide.



**HOLY CROSS  
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**September 2023 Newsletter**

**Pastors Ponderings Continued...**

*(Continued from page 1)*

how to honor (or dishonor) God, such as in Matthew 15:1-9.

With the next three weeks of September, we may get that “here we go... again” feeling as we go back to the beginning of the Bible and hear on September 10 and 13 the incredible second story of creation, in Genesis 2:4b-25 – the story of the Garden of Eden.

On September 17 and 20 we surge ahead in the Biblical narrative to Genesis 18 and 21, the story of Isaac born to Sarah

and Abraham. God’s goodness is seen in the birth of this child of promise; bringing laughter and joy to Isaac’s parents in their old age.

On September 24 and 27 we hear in Genesis 32 an amazing story of Jacob wrestling with God. The match ends with the angel of God blessing Jacob and giving him the name Israel “for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed” (32:28). In this wrestling however, we also hear that Jacob has his hip put out of joint.

This leaves me wondering, what was Jacob’s next most faithful step after his dramatic encounter?

We may not have such incredible things happen to us as these Biblical characters yet, at the same time, their stories are our story. So I hope that for many of you, your next most faithful step will be to become more deeply engaged with these stories and the God who loves us so profoundly.





