

April 2024 Newsletter



April 2024

Special points of interest:

- Calendar of Events
- April Birthdays
- Welcome New Employees
- Thank You
- Uncommon Conversation

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Pastors Ponderings—Lead with Love

I remember being taught to pay attention to my tears. Many of you, if you have heard me preach enough times, know that I cry fairly easily. Tears come for me in times of grief (not so surprising) but more often still, I realize how easily tears flow when I listen to or witness something beautiful – especially when it deals with reconciliation and justice. Recently, I was invited to a concert at Orchestra Hall featuring the artist Melanie DeMore and the choral group VocalEssence, and I figured I was going to need my handkerchief. Sure enough, I was right!

From the opening song, called *Indodana*, sung in Traditional isiXhosa (a language of South Africa), I was deeply moved. Another song that brought tears to my eyes was *Say Her Name* by Alysia Lee, a beautifully powerful song to remind us to say the names of those who have died, even when it can be painful to remember. There were several other songs that filled my heart but another that stood out was the traditional *Come By Here* (which you may know as *Kumbaya*). If you have not sung this for a long time, I encourage you to do so – it's not just for singing at Church camp! It's a prayer you can sing alone or with a group. And I know it will give you strength and hope through a difficult time.



Melanie DeMore

Perhaps the most profound part of the day for me though was the theme that was woven throughout. It's both a simple and memorable message, *Witness: Lead with Love*. It felt like a Holy Spirit moment when I read these words in the program because they tied in so closely to some of what I had attempted to convey in my sermon that morning:

We were created for community and need one another to truly survive. To *Lead with Love* is to acknowledge that everyone deserves the right to live in a world that allows them to be fully alive and thrive. Leading with love is not just a choice that we make or a mindset that we adopt, it is cultivating the

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JAM –Student News By Bruce

Children, Youth, and Family Activities

Our JAMmers have been hearing stories about Jesus's teachings prior to his death on the cross. We are preparing our hearts for Holy Week and Jesus's journey, Last Supper, and his inevitable crucifixion. We are humbled by God's love for us by sacrificing his only Son for us. Some third graders and older are attending First Communion classes on March 10th and 24th. This preparation includes both students and parents as they share their questions and experiences with each other. First Communion will be

held on Maundy Thursday, March 28th. We encourage all parents, grandparents, God parents, friends, and relatives to come and support and pray for our young people celebrating this milestone.

First Communion Students

Camden Brahmer	Logan Brahmer
Riley Brahmer	Montino Carothers
Harper Hoffman	Gracelin Krizan
Jacob Thompson	

Thank You

Dear Holy Cross,

Thank you so very much for the monetary donation to the West CAP food pantry from the Holy Cross Endowment Fund. Your generous support helps us to continue to provide necessary food and personal care supplies to those in need in our Glenwood City and Boyceville communities. We are forever thankful for your unending kindness and giving hearts.

West CAP's Food Access and Resource programs would not exist without the support and care from local churches, people and organizations that keep us at the heart of their giving. Thanks again for all you do to ensure our local families have a resource they can rely on. May you all have a happy and healthy Spring!
Sincerely,
Melissa J Larson



*Strong, Secure Families
Sustainable Communities*

High School Youth By Melanie

Happy Easter to everyone!

Our High School Youth were super busy in March. The winter sports season wrapped up and the school play prep and performances were completed. Our youth also hosted the Lenten meal on March 13. We had a great turnout. Thank you to the youth and the parents that helped out with food and with serving. It was great to be with such a great group.

The youth performed the Passion play during the Palm Sunday service and provided music during the Easter services.

During Holy Week our high schoolers also collected food from area residents, which had

them running from house to house for donations to Westcap's Food Bank. I hope our youth were able to collect from you. If not, the church always has the shopping cart just outside the sanctuary for all your donations. Please mark on your calendars the Cherish All Children 5k run for June 22nd.

For our youth and families please mark your calendars for our summer retreat: July 8 to 11.

Bless you all,
Melanie

Quilters By Mary Ann

19 quilts have been completed so far for the year. Our group has had a few more join us for which we are grateful.

The yearly report of where the quilts are sent has been received. There are only two warehouses in the country where the quilts are collected. We are very fortunate to have one in St. Paul and so far have been very lucky to have Paula, Carson & Clem Anderson volunteer to take them there for us. Thank you to them. The other warehouse is in Maryland so there are many who have to travel 100's of miles to deliver them. The ones in Minnesota have been sent to Angola, Georgia, Guatemala, Mali and Tanzania.

I need to thank several people for their recent donations to our project. Thank you to

LaVonne Casselluis who had again donated fabric, tops, filler and backs. She has done this several times over the years and we do thank her. Also, Jane Dettmann gave us a monetary donation, as did Karen Marlette in memory of Al Anderson. The endowment Fund also gave us a check. They always remember our group at the end of the year. Thank you to all of you and also those who leave items throughout the year.

Hope more of you will consider joining us in the new year. We will find something for you to do, even if you don't sew. If you can thread a needle, you can quilt.

We always have coffee around 9:30 am and then share a delicious potluck lunch at noon.

Hope everyone has a great Easter and Spring.

Confirmation By Jill

“Anyone can be a disciple, because anyone can serve!” Thank you to all the disciples who served Wednesday night Lenten Suppers as our Confirmands appreciated them and all meals were delicious! We took our turn serving the last Wednesday with a baked potato bar and ice cream sundaes! Our free will donations helped support **Luther Point Bible Camp** which our 7th Grade Confirmands will be attending **July 21st-26th**.

We appreciated the mentor and parent participation with the Lenten sermon notes and compliment our Confirmands in taking time to complete and share their insight and prayer concern/requests. Peter was a disciple with whom we all can relate!

On Wednesday April 3rd at 6:00 pm confirmation youth, parents, mentors, and anyone and everyone else with concerns about keeping children safe online - all are welcome to attend this interactive session.

Joy McElroy, Executive Director of Cherish All Children, will lead us in activities and conversa-

tion based on their Safe & Healthy Relationships Youth Guide to support youth's understanding of healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, vulnerabilities, and online safety including staying clear of sextortion. Youth and parents will leave equipped to continue these conversations in your home, school and community. Opening these important topics in the safe spaces of our faith communities can help youth gain lifelong skills and a support network to make safe and healthy decisions for themselves.

Our **April Mentor Event** is to share a meal with elderly or individual(s) in need of a special visit and/or meal shared. A list of names will be posted on the Confirmation bulletin board. Dates to acolyte and assist with Holy Communion are also listed. Opportunities for discipleship are many...JAM, VBS! All are welcome!

“Spring adds new life and new joy to all that is!” Happy Spring!

Council Meeting on 3/18/2024

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm

Attendance: John Lindelof, April Goodwin, Pastor Jonathan, Derrick Oberle, Angela Jeske, Amber Hoffman and Anna Mewis.

April motioned to approve the agenda, with addendum to add Church Directory Pictures under Council Business, John second.

Faith and Life Team

- JAM Update-Group of 4 leaders met, everything seems to be going well.
- Easter Holy Week – Easter Services on March 31st 7 am & 9 am Services, simple continental breakfast served by the High School Youth at 8 am.
- Last Lent supper this week – served by Confirmation Students and Parents.
- Food Shelf Drive done by the youth during Holy Week.
- Thank you to Arvid & Jeanne Jeske for coordination getting the food to the Food Shelf

FUN Ministry Team Report

- Uncommon Conversation
 - Next Event: April 22nd at 7 pm presented by Lidicie Montoya (Myths vs Reality)
- Easter Egg Hunt March 23rd 9-12 hosted by Glenwood City Area Community Club – Special thank you to Ellen, Nancy, Alex and team for making this happen for the community!
- VBS – SCUBA! July 29-August 1st, 4-7 pm.

Property and Management

- Project updates
 - New Speaker system has been installed and works well, Still unable to hear Carol or the Piano because she is not connected, John Lindelof will help remedy this.
- Narthex lighting, could brighten the area and replace some bulbs?
- Cord that is hanging in the front of the church (believe to be heat tape?)
- Men's urinal is Out of Order, needs to be fixed.

Resources

- Anna motioned to approve the financial report, April second.
- Discussion of approved signatures for Hiawatha Bank Accounts.

Council Business

- Serving Coffee Hour on April 7th: April Goodwin & Anna Mewis
- NOTE: Next Meeting : April 15th @ 7:00 pm.
- Bylaws review in April
- Church Photo Directory – Universal Church Directories wondering if Holy Cross would like to update their Church Directory – Council discussed, ideal time would be Spring of 2025, but will check availability with Universal Church Directories.

Adjournment at 8:20 pm

April

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 6:00pm- CAC Presentation 7:00pm-Worship 7:30pm-Youth Group	4	5	6 Guatemala Delegation Leaves
7 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	8 11:00am Bible Study 6:30 pm Faith & Life / FUN	9 10:30am— Glenhaven Worship 6:00pm Threads of God's Love	10 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship	11	12 Guatemala Delegation Returns	13
14 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	15 11:00am Bible Study 1:30 pm Resource Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	16 Newsletter Article Deadline	17 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship	18 8:00am Quilting 1:00pm WELCA	19	20
21 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	22 11:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Uncommon Conversation	23	24 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship	25	26	27
28 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship 10:15—Altar Guild	29 11:00am Bible Study	30				

April Birthdays

4/1 Debbie Zielsdorf Sigurd Teigen	4/9 Ed Waters Travis Bonte	Ryker Groves
4/2 Michael Wakeling William Standaert	4/10 Ericka Petersen	4/24 Mary Ann Ross Joseph Hill
4/3 Robin Hendrickson Tucker Lagerstrom	4/11 Bruce Kelm	4/25 Michael Johnson
4/4 Charlotte Ploszay	4/12 Duane Schreiber	4/26 Cynthia Drury
4/5 Barbara Schrank Eric DeSmith	4/15 Velma Crosby Gloria Hill Brenda Larson	4/28 Kirsten Ludtke Kelly Fisher Sarah Brahmer
4/6 Robert Ludtke Dean LeMay Eli Oberle	4/16 Jeanne Jeske William Koosmann	4/30 Lois Kilde Jennifer Teigen Neven Polmanter
4/7 Melissa Rott Benjamin Standaert Kirah Krueger	4/17 Randy Larson	
	4/19 Chip Hobbick	
	4/20 Oslo Teigen Lisa Berends	
	4/22 Brian Smith	
	4/23 Damian Indykiewicz Avery Brahmer	



Resources Financial Update

A few things to note on our financial report for this month. The total checkbook balance shows a big loss, but most of that is due to the fact that the money for the insurance claim on the roof was put into a CD to get better growth. That being said, our check book balance has been going down as our giving has been on a decreasing trend lately. Thankfully, our expenses are also under budget, but not by as much. The bottom line is that our expenses are outpacing our income. We ask you to prayerfully consider your giving and whether you are able to help us turn this trend around. The Resource Team and the Council are looking at new ways to give. We have Simply Giving now which is a great way to give electronically on a weekly or monthly basis and it helps the church to know what to expect on a monthly basis. We are also looking at things like Venmo and QR codes for giving options. Watch for more to come on this. Thanks for all that you do for Holy Cross. Whether through your time or talents, please know we appreciate you! God is good, all the time.

HOLY CROSS FINANCIAL UPDATE				
As of February 29, 2024				
	Monthly	2024 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget
Regular Giving	\$ 9,707	\$ 14,954	\$ 16,583	\$ 22,926
Simply Giving	\$ 2,009	\$ 4,235	\$ 5,220	\$ 5,333
Misc Giving/Income	\$ 1,298	\$ 1,365	\$ 594	\$ 3,350
Total Income	\$ 13,014	\$ 20,554	\$ 22,396	\$ 31,609
Total Expenses	\$ 14,311	\$ 25,257	\$ 25,689	\$ 31,510
Unrestricted Checkbook Balance:	\$	13,690		
Total Checkbook Balance	\$	29,213		

Pastor's Ponderings Continued...

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practice of belovedness and hospitality each and every day.

Along with that, they included a *Lead with Love* pledge of twelve statements that invite us to nurture habits of caring and connection. Take note of the verbs, as they form an acrostic.

I will **L**ISTEN.

I will **E**NCOURAGE others to be the best versions of themselves.

I will **A**SK questions so I can better understand the perspectives of those around me.

I will **D**EEPEN my awareness of the needs that exist in our communities.

I will **W**ORK with others to strengthen our communities.

I will **I**NVEST my time, talents, and resources to help improve the lives of those around me.

I will **T**AKE TIME for reflection and **T**AKE ACTION when the situation calls for it.

I will **H**OLD OTHERS UP when they experience difficulties and disappointments.

I will **L**ET MY VOICE BE HEARD and speak up in the face of injustice.

I will **O**PEN DOORS through conversation and compromise.

I will **V**ALIDATE the differences that make us unique.

I will **E**MBRACE changes that allow us to better live in community with one another.

Living as the Easter people God created us to be, I hope you will join me as we Lead with Love!

Thank You to the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Endowment Committee

In January the Endowment Committee sent out several checks for various amounts. Here are the Thank Yous we have received.

- Turningpoint: On behalf of Turningpoint, thank you very much. We are very grateful for your gift, which will support general operations of Turningpoint. Amy Berg, Resource Development Director.
- Lutheran Campus Ministry-UW Stout: On behalf of Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) at UW-Stout I would like to thank you for your generous gift. Your commitment to help LCM students share their faith and ministry here at Stout and in our community is genuinely appreciated. Sara McCullough, LCM Director
- Cherish All Children: Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors. Thank you for your generous gift to support the work of CAC, a ministry of Lutheran Social Services. Jesse M. Stremcha, Vice President of Development.
- Salvation Army Grace Place Shelter: On behalf of The Salvation Army and the families that benefit from the services provided at Grace Place, we wish to thank you for your generous donations. We want you to know that your gift will make a real and tangible difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate in your community. Duana Bremer, Shelter Director

Welcome Alyssa Cassellius



Hi All, Many of the congregation members know me, but it has been a few years, so I'll share a little about me. After graduating from Glenwood City, I moved to Minnesota where I have lived and worked for the last 18 years. I have a dog named Murphy who has accompanied me the last 13 years on all of my adventures. This past summer I bought a house in the Downing area and happily moved back to Wisconsin. I am a Special Education teacher. Working at church is a nice little perk. It's great to see familiar faces when at church. You might catch me attending city sporting events and activities because it's great to be back in my

Welcome Jenny Hansen

Hi, I am Jenny Hansen the bookkeeper at Holy Cross. I live in Glenwood City with my husband Keith and son Cody. We purchased our house in 1998 and have lived here ever since. I have been doing accounting/bookkeeping for almost 30 years and currently work for Logghe Trucking as well as Holy Cross. We love to travel especially with our camper. I look forward to working with everyone at Holy Cross.



Called by the Holy Spirit to Come, to Grow, to Live as Disciples of Jesus Christ

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Uncommon Conversation



Our next Uncommon Conversation will be held in our fellowship hall on Monday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. We are pleased to host Deacon Lidixe Montoya, a mission developer and leader of Neighbor to Neighbor, a ministry that creates bridges between Anglo Christians and the Hispanic Community in the Eau Claire area.

Deacon Montoya is from El Salvador, Central America. She is also a physician and worked 8 years as a rural medical doctor for the public health department. She came to the U.S. with her (then) 5 years old son and earned a degree in Human Resources Management with

emphasis in Public Health from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She has also earned a Master degree in Leadership and Innovation for Ministry from Luther Seminary in Saint Paul.

This evening will offer us a wonderful opportunity to *lead with love* as we listen, encourage others, ask questions, and deepen our awareness of needs that exist in our community. If you have not been to an Uncommon Conversation yet, I am sure you will enjoy it! If you have been to some in the past, you know how we strive to let your voice be heard, open doors through conversation, validate differences that make us unique, and embrace changes and growth to better live in community with one another. It's free to attend!

