

May 2024 Newsletter



May 2024

Special points of interest:

- 2024 Senior Celebration
- 2024 Fair Stand
- Thank yous
- Calendar
- Birthday Calendar
- Luther Point Bible Camp Celebrates 75 Years

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Pastor's Ponderings

Compassion — Love — Humanity — Unify Us

I invite you to spend a few moments reflecting on those words above. I, and probably you too, often wonder why we are so polarized as a nation – as though it is some unanswerable mystery. But I believe it is not so mysterious. If truth be told, it is because of a lack of compassion, a lack of love, a lack of humanity. See, if those three things are what unify us, then it only makes sense that a lack of them divides us. Last month I spoke about the importance of striving to always lead with love. “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.”

With tragic consequences, we are bombarded with messages that teach us to fear our neighbor and to always approach problems from a position of scarcity (as in, there’s not enough to go around). Hearing these kinds of messages can cause us to live in *isolation from* one another rather than in *community with* one another. But it doesn’t need to be that way. Because as you likely have experienced yourself at some point in time, when situations call for it, we will pull together. Unfortunately, it typically takes a crisis or a disaster for that to happen.

A flood, a tornado, or the like will often bring neighbors together.

So, without the catalyst of a disaster, how can we cultivate a culture of compassion, love, and humanity to unify us rather than succumb to hold beliefs and behaviors that cultivate the very opposite? An old phrase that comes to mind is “You are what you eat.” While this is rather obviously used in relation to one’s diet, I believe that the same can be said of what we consume in terms of media. I encourage you to use care in making these choices. It isn’t easy to find sources that help to foster compassion, love, and humanity but we can all find plenty that foster the opposite! In the same way that consuming



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Jam Youth News By Bruce Kelm

Congratulations to our 1st Communion participants on Maundy Thursday, March 28th.



Harper Hoffman, Jacob Thompson, Riley Brahmer, Camden Brahmer, Logan Brahmer, Montio Carothers, and Gracelin Krizan

These youth either attended classes at Holy Cross or viewed an instructional video presentation by Pastor Jonathan Zielske. Many parents, grandparents, God parents, friends and family were in attendance for this exciting faith event.

Confirmation Corner By Jill Logghe

Thank you parents and mentors for supporting our Confirmands at the "Healthy Relationships Presentation" led by Joy McElroy, Director of Cherish All Children.

Many of YOU were listed as that trusted adult whom they could turn to when needed. Handouts with more information are posted on bulletin boards in our classroom and fellowship hall.

A friendly reminder our February/March event was to share a visit/meal with elderly or someone they know who would appreciate a visit. We have many members at Glenhaven, Park View in Woodville and the Neighbors in Menomonie. This does not have to be a meal, simply a visit and sharing time is so much appreciated!

The JAM Team (Jesus and Music) provided some interesting lessons about the Easter story. We had a Parade of Palms along with lessons entitled The Last Supper, Jesus Betrayed, Christ the King, and the Day Jesus Died. After that, we learned about the Road to Emmaus which is where Jesus appeared after His crucifixion. In honor of that event, we did a prayer walk singing out specific concerns such as friends, family, pets, police, teachers, etc. Finally thanking God for all he does for us. A couple of dates to be aware of in the future is a Mother's Day performance during the Sunday 9:00 am service on May 12th. The last day of JAM will be May 15th.

Vacation Bible School will be upon us before we know it. The dates are July 29-August 1st. Any help with teaching, games, crafts or snacks would be greatly appreciated. The theme is SCUBA; Diving into a friendship with God. You can register by calling Holy Cross at 715-265-4411 or Bruce Kelm 715-495-5202.

Registrations are needed for Luther Point Bible Camp, July 21st – 26th!

We will be sending you info to register online and Holy Cross pays all expenses.

If you have questions or concerns please call Jill or Pastor Jonathan.

Our last day of class will be Wednesday, May 15th, with bonfire and games.

Please make note of the following
IMPORTANT DATES for SUMMER!

Cherish All Children 5K – June 22th

Son Fun – June 24th – 26th

Holy Cross Fair Stand – July 17th – 21st

Luther Point Bible Camp – July 21st – 26th

SCUBA – Vacation Bible School –

July 29 – August 1st

2024 Fair Stand

Happy Spring Holy Cross Members,
Just a friendly reminder that the St. Croix County Fair is only a few short months away. The dates this year are July 17th-21st. We are expected to be open for business all of them days and serving during the Fairground Open hours. Please look at your schedule and set aside time to be part of this important project. This is the largest "fundraiser" the church has each year and the success depends on volunteers like yourself! If you have Thrivent Action Teams you would like to contribute towards supplies it would be appreciated and we will also need fruit pies again this year!

There will also be some workdays coming up once we can get everything coordinated to replace the kitchen floor. Any help from the youth during these times would be greatly appreciated

as there is some heavy lifting, moving and such necessary to do this. Those dates will be shared and posted once available. Also, if you are interested in being a Day Chair, please reach out to me. We have some adjustments to make this year and have one opening as of now, possibly two. Please feel free to reach out with any questions! Enjoy your Spring and stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks! Thank you to those that have continued to support the Fair Stand and helped with the behind the scenes things year round!

Thank you,

Angela Jeske - Fair Stand Coordinator
715-781-5416 arjeske@hotmail.com
Amber Hoffman - Co-Coordinator

High School Youth By Melanie Hill

Our youth hosted a food drive during Holy Week this year. We trudged through a lot of snow to hang door hangers across town to notify people of the food drive and then we collected the food later in the week. It was a great success! The youth also performed the Palm Sunday Passion Play during worship and hosted the Easter brunch on Easter morning. Our Zach Hill played the timpani during both Easter services that woke quite a few people up that morning. Thank you to our youth that helped out. April was a busy month for our high schoolers. Along with church events most of them participated in the school musical, which was a wonderful success. We have very talented youth.

Come celebrate our seniors on May 5th during worship and stay for fellowship hour as we continue celebrating them.



l to r: Conner Tews, Will Standaert, Logan Tews, Emily Tews, Zach Hill, Ilan Anderson, Zeb Holden. Missing: Elsjia Meijer

Events for the Youth in May

May 5th - 9am Senior celebration day
May 18th - Graduation Day
May TBD - High schoolers to help put flags on our veteran gravesites.
(all are invited - time and date forthcoming)

Thank You

Dear Holy Cross Congregation,

Thank you so very much for your recent donations of food to the West CAP Food pantry located on Main street in Boyceville. Your support has been much appreciated by our volunteers and staff as well as for the participants that come to us seeking assistance.

We could not stand strong in this community helping families and individuals if it weren't for the unending support and pouring out of love and

kindness from organizations and churches such as your church. We thank you for your past and continued support and wish each and everyone of you a safe and healthy Spring!

Warm regards,
Melissa J Larson



Resources—Financial Update

How is it that we have already completed the first quarter of the year?! As we look at our numbers, our expenses are still outpacing our income, but we are closing the gap from the previous two months. Also important to note is that this is a typical trend if we look back the past several years, and we have made up the difference and have ended the past few years at, or very close, to our budget numbers. It has helped that our giving has increased this past month and it is also important to note that the Easter week giving is not included in this month's report. With Easter being on March 31st, the money was counted and deposited on April 1st. That deposit of \$2,929 will be reflected in the next newsletter report.

All that being said, we come to you with thankful hearts for your generosity towards the mission and ministry of Holy Cross. We also know that as the grass turns green and the weather turns warm, we often see a slump in giving as people are away on vacations or up north camping during the summer months. We ask you to prayerfully consider using the automated giving programs available to make sure your gifts are in church, even if you aren't. See Wanda in the church office for more information. If you are already making your gifts electronically, we ask you to consider how God has blessed you and prayerfully consider making an increase to your giving. We want to make sure we can keep doing the wonderful ministries that we have going here and we appreciate all of you helping to make sure this is possible. As we get ready to welcome camping season, we are reminded of a church camp favorite...God is Good – All the Time and All the Time, God is Good!

HOLY CROSS FINANCIAL UPDATE				
As of March 31, 2024				
	Monthly	2024 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget
Regular Giving	\$ 11,266	\$ 26,220	\$ 28,869	\$ 34,389
Simply Giving	\$ 2,154	\$ 6,388	\$ 7,790	\$ 8,000
Misc Giving/Income	\$ 1,941	\$ 3,306	\$ 1,193	\$ 5,025
Total Income	\$ 15,360	\$ 35,914	\$ 37,852	\$ 47,414
Total Expenses	\$ 16,777	\$ 42,590	\$ 42,207	\$ 47,265
Unrestricted Checkbook Balance:	\$	11,884		
Total Checkbook Balance	\$	28,243		

WELCA March Meeting

On March 28, at 1:00 our meeting was called to order with 7 ladies present.

*The recycling in the City has changed and we discussed about treating this issue, using only one or two bins to address this new ordinance for our janitor. We will talk with Alyssa to see what works best for her. Gloria will check out some prices of containers and bring to next meeting for more discussion on this.

*Gloria also mentioned we could use some rugs in the kitchen instead of the pieces of carpet in the kitchen. She will check with Property and Management about these two things

*It was mentioned in having a white board placed in the kitchen, for people to write on when some supplies are getting low or out.

*We need to make sure that everyone knows that the dishwasher basket gets cleaned out after every time the dishwasher is used.

*The new speaker in kitchen works great for hearing Pastor but not for hearing Carol playing the piano. Could still be a problem at a funeral?

*Nancy asked about playing Bingo over at Glenhaven. She will check this out before our next meeting.

*Discussion on our Funeral Policy is still ongoing. Jeanne is working real hard to get the wording right on it.

*Karen gave the Treasurer's report.

Meeting adjourned, next Meeting April 25, after lunch, about 1:00. Please come and join us, all ladies of the church are WELCA members.

Velma Crosby

Women ^{of the} ELCA 

Guatemalan Mission Trip by Jeanne Jeske

It was a very early rise out of bed on Friday, April 6, 2024. Destination Guatemala via Atlanta. Six God-fearing parishioners were ready to do God's work with the help of the Holy Spirit. Our leaders included a Pastor, Jonathan Zielske, a Teacher, Anne Zielske, an LSS Leader, Joy McElroy, a Paraprofessional, Micah Zielske, a Barista, Erin McElroy, and a Grandma, Jeannie Jeske. We were accompanied by Pastor Karen Castillo, her daughter, Valeria Gil, and our driver Esduardo (codenamed "Tato").

Our mission was to share God's word with the ILAG community; specifically a rural congregation in Los Rosas called Milagro de Dios (Miracle of God). We started our mission first with a biblical story from Genesis, Noah's Ark. Anne, who could speak Spanish, was the narrator to our somewhat comical skit. The children enjoyed us being animals and I was the flying bird. We led them on a parade where they could also be animals. We sang silly songs.

Since we knew there was going to be an eclipse that day, we also shared the science aspect of it. Once again, Anne was the narrator. All children

received special black glasses so they could see the eclipse. Some of the rural families were afraid that bad things might happen on this day. So like in our story from Noah's Ark, we re-

minded them that with the sign of the rainbow, God promises not to destroy the earth.

Our mission that day was complete. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we would continue our mission in the days to come. Stay tuned for more. With special time spent with the MILAGROS girls, CLAG school teachers and the loving family of Pastor Karen, our mission was complete.



Council Meeting on 4/15/2024

Meeting called to order at 7:03PM

Attendance: April Goodwin, Pastor Jonathan, Derrick Oberle, Angela Jeske, Amber Hoffman, Anna Mewis, Angela Logghe, Wes Booth

Anna motioned to approve the agenda, Wes second.

Faith and Life Team

- JAM – Mothers Day Program, May 12th
- Confirmation Class/Midweek Worship
- Senior Class Reception, May 5th
- VBS – Scuba July 29th – Aug 1st

FUN Ministry Team Report

- Guatemala Partnership – investigate what options exist to support a 3-year partnership
- Uncommon conversations review
 - April 22nd at 7pm presented by Lidixie Montoya (Myths vs. Reality)
- Hwy Memorial officer Katie Leising (Monday, May 6th)
- Freeze Pops planned at the school end of May
- Cherish all Children 5K 6/22
- SonFun, 6/24-6/26
- Fairstand July 17th-21st

Property and Management

- Project updates
- Kitchen speaker additional mic for music
- Recycling changes upcoming

Resources

- Wes motioned to approve the financial report, Anna second.
- Simply giving sign-ups

Council Business

- Serving Coffee Hour on May 5th:
- NOTE: Next Meeting: May 20th @ 7:00PM
- Bylaws review on-going

Adjournment at 8:30PM

May Birthdays

5/1	Carlotta Anderson Clayton Thayer	5/18	Paul Rasmussen
5/3	Debbie Wagner Laura Teigen	5/19	Riley Brahmer
5/4	Travis Johnson Bailey Britton	5/20	LaVerne Hoitomt Roger Bonte
5/5	Ella Johnson	5/21	Ashley Wildenberg
5/7	Janine Jeske	5/22	Dan Goodwin
5/8	Tim Glenn	5/23	Denise Jeske Tammy Oberle Morgan Johnson
5/11	Nancy Stack Angela Hierlmeier	5/26	Sara Arsola
5/13	Jill Logghe Moriah Kuehndorf Peter Hill	5/27	Don Frieburg Jake Hierlmeier
		5/29	Robert Forrest Theresa Hoffman Waylon Wagner



May

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship 7:30pm-Youth	2	3	4
5 9am—Worship Senior Class Recognition 10:10—Fellowship	6 11:00am Bible Study TBD Prayer event for Officer Katie Leising	7	8 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day 9am—Worship JAM Sunday 10:10—Fellowship	13 11:00am Bible Study 6:30 pm Faith & Life / FUN	14 10:30am— Glenhaven Worship 6:00pm Threads of God's Love	15 3:30pm-JAM LAST 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship	16	17	18
19 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	20 11:00am Bible Study 12-6:00pm Blood Mobile 1:30 pm Resource Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	21	22	23 8:00am Quilting 1:00pm WELCA	24	25
26 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	27 Memorial Day (No Bible Study)	28	29	30	31	

Luther Point Bible Camp

CELEBRATES

75 years

IN MINISTRY

August 2-4, 2024

Join us for all or some of the weekend!

Friday, August 2
4pm move into camp,
Supper and Campfire.

Saturday, August 3
Continental Breakfast,
Carnival, and food,
Games, Supper, Worship
event and campfire.

Sunday, August 4
Continental Breakfast.
11AM Worship
followed by Pig Roast
1pm. Silent Auction
begins.
2pm Anniversary
Program and Auction.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Please RSVP

www.LutherPoint.org, 715-689-2347



Senior Celebration

You are invited to celebrate with our graduating seniors during the May 5, 2024 worship service and the celebration following in the fellowship hall. We will have food and drinks for our celebration.



Riley Krueger

Son of Morgan & Lisa Krueger.
His mentor was Angela Jeske.



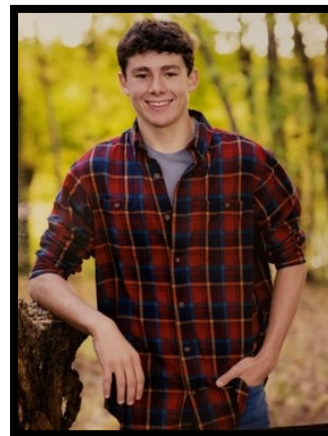
Nelson Polen

Son of Dawn & Tom Polen.
His mentor was Don Klatt.



Libby Wagner

Daughter of Casey and Heidi Wagner.



Zachary Hill

Son of Melanie Hill and Jeff Hill.
His mentor were John & Jill Logghe.



Kloe Dahl

Daughter of Andy Dahl and Lynn Wood.
Her mentor was Dean LeMay.



Brett Peterson

Son of Barry & Carrie Peterson.
His mentor was Christine Thompson.



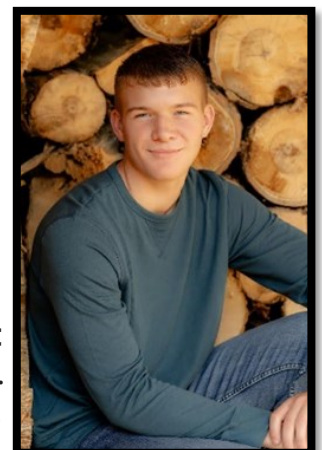
Aryanna Lee

Daughter of Laura Lee.
Her mentor was Brian Teigen.

No picture available

Eli Nerby

Son of Randy Nerby and
Molly Rassbach.



William Standaert

Son of Brent & Sally Standaert.
His mentor was Ed Waters.

**HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Pastor's Ponderings Continued...

(Continued from page 1)

unhealthy food (especially in large quantities) can make you feel physically sick, consuming unhealthy media will almost certainly make you and I feel spiritually ill.

On the positive side, just as planting good seeds helps to ensure healthy growth and a bountiful harvest, we can plant the seeds of compassion, love, and humanity in our everyday interactions with one another. Strive to listen, really listen... don't interrupt and/or just wait until another person is done to jump in with your thought. Be curious. Ask someone a follow up question. Try to make room for another perspec-

tive and/or try to gently challenge their assumptions. Jesus often dared to take a conversation to another level with people – to either go deeper, or to a higher plane. Strive to recognize that this other person is also a beloved child of God and honor that truth about them. Cultivating these kinds of practices may seem awkward at first, just like other activities we are unaccustomed to doing. But, with the Holy Spirit as our Advocate and Guide, the rewards of repairing that which is broken in ourselves and our relationships with others will transform you – and in turn, our community and our world.