



Fully Alive!

COMMUNICATING AND CELEBRATING THE MISSION AND MINISTRIES OF HOLY CROSS

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40 DAYS FOR LIFE

This fall there is a 40 Days For Life campaign in Rochester. If you have never participated in one before, then you should know that it is when the Christian community in an area agrees to pray for 40 days for the end of abortion at a particular location (usually at a clinic where abortions take place). The place of prayer for this campaign will be Planned Parenthood. The campaign is recommending prayer Monday through Friday anytime from 9 am-5 pm. There are specific instructions on the website about where to pray, park, etc. I hope that you will join me over this time in praying for the preservation of life. <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/rochester>

God is a god of life. It is vitally clear throughout the Scriptures that God is intricately involved in the lives of people in His creation and that He cherishes each and every person.

“Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.” (Psalm 139:16)

Scripturally, I would argue that the only thing God values more than human life is the human soul. Even in the Old Testament God demanded serious ramifications and consequences for those who took a human life.

“Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.” (Genesis 9:6)

Every single human being is made in the image of God. That includes young and old, born and unborn, fit and unfit, healthy and unhealthy, Jew and Gentile, male and female, black and white. God made them all – He is the author of life.

We just finished our Revelation sermon series, and in that book Jesus declares that He has the keys to death and hades. Anyone who takes life into their own hands is in a sense trying to take the keys away from Jesus with which He has been entrusted. Jesus conquered sin, death, and the devil, and He has authority over life and death. Anyone who attempts to usurp Jesus’ authority is on very dangerous ground. Jesus Himself, who is God in the flesh, said that He

came to give life and give it abundantly.

All this means that as Christians we should value human life, stand up for life, pray for life, preserve life, and try to stop anyone who is not. This is not meant to be a political statement, and we are never to hurt or hate others who don’t understand God’s will for humanity. God is big enough to handle the consequences, but we should still be faithful to speak up for all human life, because if it is precious to God, it should be precious to us as His followers. I encourage you to join the Christian Community in Rochester to peacefully pray for human life always, but especially during this 40 Days For Life campaign.

~Pastor Jeff Niederstadt



DISCIPLESHIP DIGEST – TTFN, TA TA FOR NOW

The popular children’s story, *Winnie the Pooh*, features a cast of winsome characters. If you have read those books, you likely remember the energetic and bouncing Tigger. Tigger infused any scene with boundless energy and endless bouncing. Upon his departure, he would quote this phrase, “TTFN, ta ta for now.”

It is difficult to say goodbye. One of the joys of doing life together in the body of God’s church is building bonds with fellow members. Together we endure life’s hardships, celebrate joys, and share all manners of experience while upholding one another in faith. As we mature, bidding farewell remains a challenge. It is here that we can learn from Tigger’s iconic “ta ta for now.”

Goodbyes are never forever for the Christian. We are united as the one body through Christ. Not many bodies, one body. Wherever you go, you remain one of the saints of Christ’s church. You remain one of the children of God. You remain with Jesus, who reminded His disciples in the Great Commission,

“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20b)

In my time at Holy Cross, Katie and I have come to know you as friends, dear brothers and sisters in Christ. I have had the privilege of speaking with many of you as you navigated the twists and turns of life. You have walked with Katie and me in joys, struggles, and everything in between. This

makes goodbyes all the harder. It is true, I will be departing Holy Cross to serve in a new field which God has prepared. Remember, goodbyes are never forever for the Christian.

God has prepared a place for us to be with Him in all eternity. This was a theme of The Revelation of Jesus and remains true today. No matter where our earthly lives lead us, we trust that He will reunite us in His kingdom. It is possible our paths will cross again in our interconnected world. Whether then or in God’s eternal kingdom, goodbyes are never forever for the Christian. So, with frenetic enthusiasm and eternal hope, “TTFN, ta ta for now.”

~Pastor Jordan Schut

MISSIONS: SURESH (CONT’D FROM LAST MONTH’S FULLY ALIVE)

Widow’s Care : At present we are supporting 36 poor widows in four rural villages. Every month we conduct a special meeting for these widows. We sing a song and then they hear a short message. Then they receive their support to meet their needs. It is an important work for the welfare of poor widows. Most of these widows are prayer warriors, and they pray for all our ministry and its activities. They encourage their local people to come to the worship centers to hear the glorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus. They help in house-visiting, too, when we plan to do house visitations in the rural villages. Whenever they need medical assistance and doctor’s appointments, we help them by providing the transportation to come to the district hospital from their rural villages. We provide provisions, clothing, bed sheets, vessels, and mosquito nets for poor widows.

Support for Single Mothers: It is a big challenge to look after the kids being a single parent. These single mothers suffer a lot to provide the needs for their little children in the villages and slums. We are supporting eight single mothers in three villages. We provide monthly groceries and

vegetables for these single mothers. Our team members visit these single mothers once a week to deliver the vegetables, rice, and groceries. Last month we came to know that there are still six single mothers suffering a lot and looking for support. We give them support for their kids’ medical needs too. And these single mothers do not have proper houses and are living in poor huts. We are praying and looking unto the Lord for the doors to be opened for these mothers, too.

Distribution of Free Medicine and Food: In the rural communities, downtrodden people do not have better access to buy medicine during the months of seasonal diseases. We conduct medical camps 3-4 times a year in these villages, and we distribute medicine and vitamins to these poor people. We tell them about the importance of nutritional food, especially to pregnant women. We know three doctors, and whenever we request them to conduct health camps in the rural villages, they give us time and their service. It is a blessing!

In the service of our Lord,
~ Brother Suresh, India

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

Romans 15:13



TAKING UP THE SLACK

For you sailors out there, the phrase "slack" is rather popular. Have you heard the idiom, "cut him/her some slack?" For sailors, this means loosening a taut rope. For our purposes this month at Holy Cross, let us reverse this idiom, which refers to identifying a function in our church that is becoming loose and then doing what is necessary to tighten it to its full ministry potential.

Pastor Jordan and Katie will soon begin their new call in O'Neill, Nebraska (Go Huskers!). Pastor Jordan has been an invaluable asset to our congregation. Holy Cross will always be known for being their "first call." When Pastor departs, his absence will leave an impact on our ministry. We are here to be a light on this hill. We exist to dispel the gloom of this world. Pastor Jordan has actively offered a

ministry to disciple children, teenagers, and adults. Are we prepared to pick up the slack?

Let's explore "Picking up the SLACK" as an acronym. To slack is **S**ignificantly **L**oving and **A**bidings in **C**hrist's **K**ingdom. We're all sailors in God's Kingdom. We are to act as both salt and light. Now is the time to pick up the SLACK and participate by loving and abiding in Christ's Kingdom.

Our 10:45 am Adult Connecting Hour on Sunday mornings focuses on being UnDistracted by abiding in Christ with our attitude, service, relationships, faith, and purpose. Abiding in Christ does not imply that we simply rest in him, but that we use the gifts he has given us to promote his Kingdom. How can we individually find a way to pick up the SLACK?

If we are part of something that has a much bigger purpose and goal than we could ever accomplish on our own, we participate! Significantly Loving and Abiding in Christ's Kingdom is far more than attending. SLACK is participating! It is up to each of us to follow the Spirit's guidance in our SLACKing.

~ Ernie Freudenburg



TREASURER REPORT

	August 2024	YTD 2024	Prior YTD
General fund receipts	\$38,293	\$379,210	\$373,624
General fund expenses	\$53,510	\$438,855	\$403,896
Inflow/(outflow)	-\$15,217	-\$59,645	-\$30,252

August receipts were \$38,293, or \$9,573 per week. This is first summer month we have seen a significant giving shortfall for families vacationing. Holy Cross expenses do not take a vacation, so if you are able, please catch-up in September. August expenses had no notable unusual items.

Designated receipts:

\$2,015 came in on Raise the Roof, bringing the total to \$44,871 on the \$53,000 pledged. \$855 was received for Suresh and \$690 in garden funds. \$1,180 was sent to Suresh and \$1,671 of Garden funds transferred to CarePortal.

Cash Balance in checking has dropped to \$62,045 and \$199,995 in savings. Additionally we have LCEF funds in Certificates of Deposit with LCEF are \$85,418 (Regedahl) and we have

\$112,056 in money market at Stifel. Savings and/or investments will drop in September and October as we pay the roofing and insulation invoices.

	August 2024	YTD 2024
Designated fund receipts	\$3,668	\$58,322
Designated fund expenses	\$2,891	\$50,933
Inflow/(outflow)	\$778	\$7,389
Ruby's Pantry receipts	\$8,045	\$56,428
Ruby's Pantry expenses	\$7,982	\$54,162
Net In/(Out)	\$63	\$2,266
CarePortal receipts	\$3,469	\$16,283
CarePortal expenses	\$2,233	\$15,509
Net In/(Out)	\$1,236	\$776

SPECIAL EDITION OF ILLUMINATION STATION: NEW TEACHERS AT RCLS

In the September 2024 Fully Alive issue, we introduced the new RCLS teachers; here's a way for you to get to know them better.



Rebecca Fratzke—Pre-K “Becoming a teacher is one of the biggest ways I have seen God in my life. I never planned to teach, but it was the path God had for me and now I cannot image doing anything else! I started teaching while I was living in Taiwan as it sounded like a fun new adventure. Saying goodbye to my first preschool class at the end of the school year was emotional! I knew they would all do well in kindergarten, but it was a bit-sweet moment for me. In my free time I enjoy gardening, reading, painting, hiking, and swimming.”

Carmen Zuelsdorff—Pre-K “I decided to become a Lutheran school teacher because my mom was a Lutheran school teacher, and I enjoyed working with kids. As a student, I remember the fun tie-dyeing a purple T-shirt in Kindergarten with my teacher Mrs. Moses. My most memorable moment as a teacher was when we brought our oldest son to Concordia College-Mequon, WI, and a former student came up to me. She told me she decided to become a Lutheran teacher after being in my 1st grade classroom in Lakefield, MN! I enjoy time with family, running, playing organ/piano, walking, and I like animals. I have seen God working in my life every day. His mercy and grace are everywhere and having three sons I know God is with me all the time!! One of my greatest hopes was to be able to move back to the area (I am originally from Lake City and my parents still live there) to help with my ailing parents. Here we are! My husband is the principal at Immanuel Plainview. God is good! I could not be happier to be a part of RCLS!!!”



Emily Barlow—Phys Ed “Ever since I was a teenager, I have enjoyed working with children. I spent summers during high school and college nannying, babysitting, teaching gymnastics, and working at the school age child-care center in my hometown. I have also always loved physical activity, sports and fitness. I played volleyball, gymnastics, and track in school and have continued to run. I wanted to combine these two passions into my career, so decided to become a physical education teacher. As a mom of four, my very favorite thing to do is watch my kids do the things they love. Watching them develop a love of sports, music, and the great outdoors is such a joy! I also love hiking, reading, sewing, and movie nights with my family. My most memorable moment as a teacher came when I was pregnant with my first child. I was in the middle of teaching an 8th grade boys' health class when my water broke 8 weeks early. It was quite a surprise and memorable experience for all of us! God has been at work in my life in both big and small ways. The biggest lessons He has taught me is patience and trust in His plan. When it feels like my prayers are going unanswered, He is working things out in His perfect timing. My husband and I waited a long time to be able to have children, then he miraculously blessed us with four. He healed both my father and father-in-law from life threatening diseases. We have moved four times for my husband's career, and each time He provided us with a supportive community through church, school, and Bible studies. I also get to see God's work every day through the eyes of the children at RCLS. They are joyful, kind, and love life. They are an everyday reminder to me of God's grace and love!”

JOINING JESUS CONTINUED

How are you doing with inviting others to Join Jesus? Or how are you doing Joining Jesus in what He is doing in your life? Both of these are part of the process of making disciples and teaching people to follow all that He has commanded.

Unless someone hears the Good News it is highly unlikely that they would ever encoun-

ter God. Who is God prompting you to talk to? How is God prompting you to serve? What is God prompting you to do? These are all great questions to consider as you aim to continue in your growth as one who Joins Jesus in His mission.

As we ended our Revelation Series, we looked at Revelation 22:17 which says,

“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.”

This is your reminder to continue to ask others to come to Jesus and to continue to ask Jesus to come until He does.

ILLUMINATION STATION (CONTINUED)



Mark Belli—3rd Grade “God works in mysterious ways. My mom was a teacher in both the public school setting and in a Lutheran school. As a child I remember going into her classroom to help her set up for the coming school year. She was always so excited as she described her plan for her room. I guess that piqued my interest at an early age. I taught my first class at the age of 9 or 10. One day when our Sunday School teacher didn't show up, I took over the class. I took attendance and collected the offering. Then we sang songs and drew pictures of Bible stories. When the Sunday School Superintendent came to collect the offering, she was surprised to find us in the room without an adult. Later, as my family was getting ready to head home, she stopped my mother and explained what had happened. I remember her telling my mom I would be a good teacher someday. In high

school it became obvious I wasn't going to be a professional athlete. That is when teaching became my focus. My sophomore year in college, God used two separate experiences that led me into Lutheran elementary education. The first was being part of a second grade class full of energy and excitement for learning. The second was the death of my best friend. When he died, I realized I had never taken the many opportunities I had been given to share with him how much he was loved by God. I became determined not to let that happen again. Lutheran schools give me almost daily opportunities to tell others how much Jesus loves them. I enjoy time with my family, games, driving (I find long road trips relaxing), cooking, sports, and reading or listening to a good book. As a teacher I love the smiles, hugs, and hearing students say, “I love science”, or “math”, etc. I am daily blessed that God chose me to be the husband of my wife Karen, and our six children, Dorothee, Celia, Ruth, Esther, Gideon, and Josiah.”

George Schroll—4th Grade “Growing up, I was always surrounded by teachers because my mom was a teacher.

They all influenced me greatly, leading me to want to become a teacher. I love learning new things and making learning exciting for my students. The best part of teaching is sharing the love of Jesus, our Master Teacher. I will never forget my teachers. I remember every single one of them from my preschool days to college. I have so many memorable moments, but I will share one in particular. I was scared to tears on my first day of preschool. Mrs. Wilke knew exactly what to do to make me feel warm and welcome in a new place. I was a baseball player until I became a runner. I went out for track freshman year of high school instead of trying out for baseball, and I never looked back, leaving baseball in the dust. I ran cross country and track in high school and college. I have raced distances from 5K to marathon and was very competitive with my running in my 20s and 30s. It's more recreational now. I love taking long walks with my wife. We also love reading, watching movies, and ballroom dancing. Over the years, I have seen God unfold His plans for me in so many ways. His timing is perfect. I may not always understand His plans or His timing, but I fully trust in Him and follow His lead. I know His blessings will flow no matter what I do or where I go. To God be the glory!”



CONNECTING HOUR UPDATE

“You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” (Hebrews 5:12b-14)

In the early stages of life, we grow by consuming what is appropriate for our age. The same is true of our faith lives. To aid in our growth, Holy Cross offers various means by which we can grow in faith at different ages:

- **Kidz Alive** is swinging into a new season of Bible verses, stories, and animal pals. Join the crew anytime this month to learn from Roo the Kangaroo that “God is kind.” We continue to seek adults and parents to join the team in teaching faith to these kids.
- **Youth NOW** takes teens through the intersections of faith and life. Spend time with friends and check out what God has to speak into your lives here and now!
- **Our Adult Connecting Hour** is unpacking what it means to be *UnDistracted*. In this study, participants discover how easily distracted we are by audacious headlines, endless to-do lists, and smartphone scrolling. Join during these weeks to rediscover your undistracted, attentive self and place your eyes upon Jesus, the author and founder of our lives.

From Kidz Alive to Youth Now to our *UnDistracted* adult study, there is a place for you to sit down, dive in, and mature in faith after Sunday morning worship.

NEW IN ONE CHURCH SOFTWARE

Two newly revised forms are available now in One Church Software:

1. **Communication Request:** Use this form to request announcements or other types of communication (think posters, emails, postcards, articles here in Fully Alive, etc.). Go directly to the **Communication Request** at: <https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/holycross-church/forms/1099>
2. **Event Planning Request:** Use this form to request the use of rooms and other resources for an event at Holy Cross (think Bible Study, family event, meeting, etc.). Go directly to the **Event Planning Request** at: <https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/holycross-church/forms/1100>

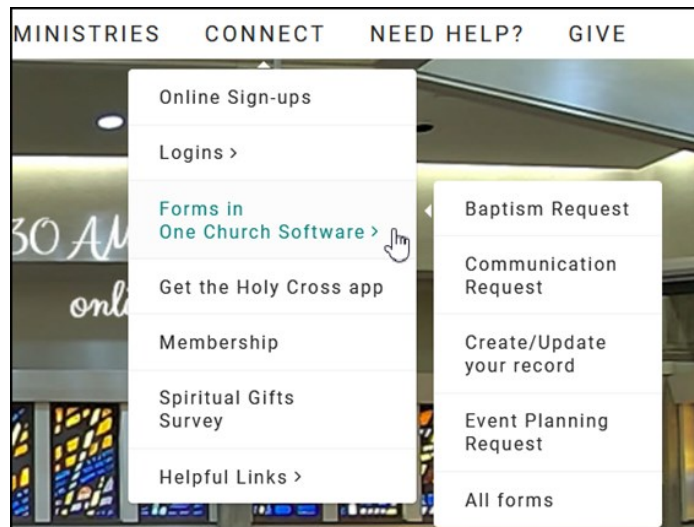
Alternatively, you can access the newly updated forms in either of the following ways.

- In the HC mobile app, click on **Forms**, and select the desired form.
- On our website, click on **Connect -> Forms in One Church Software**, and then select the desired form.

Try out these newly updated forms!

You may continue to access our other forms either through our mobile app or through our website (under **Connect -> Forms in One Church Software -> All forms**).

If you have questions or comments about any of the forms in One Church Software, please contact: webmaster@holycross-church.org.



CAREPORTAL UPDATE



Holy Cross is hosting another CarePortal Community Gathering on Saturday, October 19, from 8-10 am. Please plan to attend and hear some powerful testimonies from those in our community who have been positively impacted through your generous prayers, donations, and deliveries.

Our community gatherings bring together people from across Olmsted County who are involved in CarePortal and/or want to learn more about this awesome care-sharing ministry. Ample time is provided to connect with each other. Coffee, pastries, and kid-friendly activities will be provided. Invite your neighbors, family, and friends!



Scan this QRC to register your kids (so we can get a head count) or if you would like a meeting notice to add to your calendar. For questions, please get in touch with Denise Frey at denise.frey@careportal.org.



COUNCIL CORNER: HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Council met Tuesday: September 24, 2024

Joining Jesus “Take Ten”: Discussion regarding what we see God doing in our lives and the lives of the people around us and how we follow God’s leading with baby steps.

Devotions and Prayer: Keeping with the 2024 Holy Cross focus of Evangelism, Pastor Jeff shared the devotion ‘First Importance’, based on 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. Paul’s words include the simple yet profound story of the gospel that we will never finish experiencing. Make a life-long quest to dig deeper! Suggestion to memorize Romans 6:23 and communicate the gospel using this single verse.

Discipleship: Highlighted Creative Women’s Gatherings, Lifetime Gift workshop on October 21, and Christian Caregiving LifeGroup.

Elders: Attendance figures reported for worship services in August: an average of 119 in person weekly plus 51 at Chester

Woods worship night; online units worshiping via hclt.tv averaged 23. Archiving for former members in OneChurchSoftware.

Finance: Note Treasurer’s report on p. 3.

Outreach Ministry: CarePortal Gathering on Saturday, October 19, 8–10 am! All are welcome! Hope Summit church joined CarePortal network, which has served 1,434 children in Olmsted Country since February 2021 launch. September Ruby’s Pop-up Pantry distributed 388 shares (including 7.72 Blessings Shares); 235 vehicles drove through.

RCLS: See article below to attend or volunteer for the 2004 Hallelujah Carnival. Investigation is underway for a permanent Principal. Enrollment stands at 435, with 5-6 additional children in progress. Search is underway for future Principal.

Staff: *UnDistracted* study in Adult Connecting Hour. Chosen Season 4 LifeGroups. Sanctuary Update will be proposed next

month with Informational Meeting on Sunday, November 10, at 10:45 am.

Technology: See article on p. 6 about Communication and Event Planning Requests.

Transition notes with Pastor Jordan’s call: Pastor Jeff will lead NightLife Youth; Kidz Alive leadership being discussed; Pastor Jordan’s encouragement: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” (Romans 15:13).

Trustees: North parking lot work taking place weeks of September 23 and 30. Arborists of Rochester will trim trees in Courtyard and treat diseased ironwood and locust trees. Above All Roofing is providing a roof maintenance program for Holy Cross.

Please keep the Council, Elders, Staff, and all Holy Cross leaders in your prayers, that everyone at Holy Cross would be effectively Helping People Know, Live, and Share the Love of Christ.

VOLUNTEER AT THE RCLS HALLELUJAH CARNIVAL!

RCLS needs you!

We are pleased to announce the return of a beloved RCLS tradition...the Hallelujah Carnival, on Saturday, October 26, from 4-7 pm! The carnival is a family-friendly event for students, families and our community. Participants can enjoy games, prizes, face painting, balloon animals, cake walk, a photo booth, and a pumpkin decorating contest. Families can enjoy dinner in the

cafeteria and a book fair in the library. We cannot do this without you! We are asking for members of the three Association Churches, Holy Cross, Trinity, and Grace Lutheran, to volunteer for the carnival. We’ll have everything you need to manage a game, sell tickets or concessions, run the pumpkin decorating contest, or help set up or clean up. Oh, and did you know that nearly 20% of our student body is unchurched? What a way to spend a Saturday

evening sharing the love of Jesus with children and their families!

Sign up to help at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA8AE2CA7FDO-50869218-hallelujah>. The sign up is also linked on the rcls.net home page under Current Families. Contact Laura Rhee at larhee@rcls.net with any questions.

~Laura Rhee, Holy Cross Rep for RCLS



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Thursday, October 31st

5:30 TO 7:30 PM
HOLY CROSS PARKING LOT