



Holy Cross—St. Mark Newsletter March 2024



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Upcoming Events

- Mar. 4: HC Ladies' Aid Meeting - 1pm
- Mar. 11: SM Council Meeting - 6pm
- Mar. 21: HC Council Meeting - 6pm
- Mar. 24: SM Fellowship - 9:45am
- Mar. 31: Easter (see calendar for times)

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Devotional Thoughts

By Pastor Crass

There was a young lady, high school aged, who had been wrestling with an important question for months. It had eaten away at her. It had worried her for her future. One day she said to me, “I’m really struggling to figure out what God wants me to do with my life. I worry that I’ll choose the wrong profession.”

There is a trend found in polling over the last couple decades that shows young people want careers that shape the world. They want to leave their stamp on society, something they can look back on and say, “I did that.” If you don’t believe the polling on this and want more proof, just see how many TV commercials focus less on how good their product is and more on what kinds of initiatives the company is involved in to better the world.

The answer I gave that young girl wasn’t particularly uplifting, and thinking back, wasn’t really all that doctrinally sound. I told her that God didn’t care much what she did, that he had not called her to do anything in particular except to serve him. I was partly right, but I was also partly wrong.

It is true that when God created you, he did not stamp you on the head with your would-be occupation. Electrician. Lumberjack. Nurse. Mother. It is equally true that there is not one calling for each person. The woman who puts her career on hold (temporarily or for good) for the sake of her kids should not feel like she is walking away from service to God or into greater service to God. The man who considers a career change should not think one of his choices is more blessed than others. The pastor who decides he would like to do something else with his career is not taking a demotion in the kingdom of God.

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Synod News

WELS Annual Report

“Your gifts, God’s blessings: An annual report to our members” is now available. The 24-page report includes photos of Christian brothers and sisters around the world, stories of faith, and updates on WELS’ ministry. View the stories and updates, download a PDF or Powerpoint, or order copies at wels.net/annualreport.

Connecting WELS members

Connection is more important now than ever. The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod offers many ways for members to connect through social media. Join the WELS online community at facebook.com/welslutherans, instagram.com/welslutherans, and vimeo.com/wels.

2024 WELS International Youth Rally

It’s time to start planning for the 2024 WELS International Youth Rally, which will be held June 25-28, 2024, at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo. Teens from across the country will gather at the foot of the Rocky Mountains to explore the many messages God delivers “From the Mountaintops” of Scripture. Find out more at welsyouthrally.net.



Dual Parish Update

- Postcards will be printed for Easter services, with the encouragement that members will think about friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors (FRANs) who do not have a church home and consider inviting them.

St. Mark Council Update

- The council approved the replacement of the toilet in the bathroom.
- Continued work is being done on the update to the church bylaws. There are tentative plans to present it to the congregation in the next couple months for feedback before it faces final approval from the voters.

Holy Cross Council Update

- Council approved the replacement of the roof over the sign out by the road. The plan is to find a day in spring and gather a group from church to make the repair.
- The pews in the back row of the south side of church have been removed to allow easier exit to those sitting on that side of church.

Who/What Can I Pray For?

Prayer sometimes feels difficult. What should I pray for? How do I organize my thoughts? We know that God hears what's on our hearts in spite of our stammers and stutters (Romans 8:26), however, he also calls on us to pray publicly with others. In order to foster prayers that cover a variety of topics, some Christians will use the ACTS formula. Our prayer requests will follow this formula.

Adoration - As always, we praise God because he deserves our praise for so many aspects of his goodness.

Confession - We confess the sins we have committed against him and against others. Confess your sins knowing that he has forgiven each and every one of them.

Thanksgiving - We give thanks for: family and friends who keep us in their prayers; a church family that treasures the truths of God's word; parents who cherish the opportunity and responsibility to raise their children to know Jesus' love for them; the unwavering commitment of the Savior to carry our sins to their destruction at the cross.

Supplication (Requests) - We ask God to: bless our efforts to reach the lost and hurting with the gospel of free grace; give safe travel to everyone who's traveling this Easter season; use the extra time we spend in worship to instill in us the love of God in carrying out his plan of salvation across history; keep our eyes fixed on eternity.

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This simple truth is, the different vocations we carry out are not needed by God in the slightest. If God wanted to rock the crib, he could do it without the mother. If God wanted to weld together and outfit the ships down at the yard, he wouldn't need the fleet of laborers. If he wanted the seeds to grow and feed the countryside, he wouldn't need the farmer, and he wouldn't need the John Deere tractor. If he wanted the gospel preached, he could do it without the preacher. So why doesn't God fire us? Why doesn't he do it himself?

The answer to that question is not because those jobs are beneath him. But those of us who work these and all other jobs might think so. What is the person working data entry at the local hospital doing to change the world? How much of a mark does the local plumber who bathes his hands less-than-sanitary water each day leave on society? Why should God not take these jobs off our hands? Since he can do them better, why does he leave us to spin and toil in thanklessness and unimportance?

Here's the part that I missed from my conversation with the young lady perplexed about serving God: God might not have stamped you to serve in any particular vocation when you were born, and God will not lock you into any line of work throughout your career, but your work matters deeply. As the mother changes the third poopy diaper that day, these are God's hands making sure his children are well taken care of. As the police officer or paramedic responds to the scene of an accident, God's feet rush to bring comfort to the injured and justice to the mistreated. As the nurse takes blood from another moody patient, God's watchful eye catches the abnormality that might prolong another person's life. Dear Christian laboring in seeming-insignificance, you might think what you do is not all that important sometimes. You might be led to believe that your job is secular, while a job that directly handles God's word like that of the pastor is sacred. But in the kingdom of God, every job is sacred. Your job is as important to God as any other. And he provides for the needs of so many through your work, whether you know it or not. Do the work he's called you to today well, and that will affect the world in ways you could never have imagined.

Member Announcements

Do you have any announcements you'd like shared in the church newsletter? Reach out to Pastor Crass.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8am Bible Class/Sunday School at St. Mark 8:45am Worship at St. Mark w/Communion 9:30am Sunday School at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at Holy Cross w/Communion 11:30am Bible Class at Holy Cross	1pm Holy Cross Ladies' Aid Catechism Class this week TBD	1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross	5:30pm Lenten Supper at Holy Cross 6:30pm Lenten Worship at Holy Cross			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8am Bible Class/Sunday School at St. Mark 8:45am Worship at St. Mark 9:30am Sunday School at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at Holy Cross 11:30am Bible Class at Holy Cross	6pm St. Mark Council Meeting Catechism Class this week TBD	1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross	5:30pm Lenten Supper at Holy Cross 6:30pm Lenten Worship at Holy Cross			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8am Bible Class/Sunday School at St. Mark 8:45am Worship at St. Mark w/Communion 9:30am Sunday School at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at Holy Cross w/Communion 11:30am Bible Class at Holy Cross		1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross	3:10pm Catechism Class 5:30pm Lenten Supper at Holy Cross 6:30pm Lenten Worship at Holy Cross	6pm Holy Cross Council Meeting		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8am Bible Class/Sunday School at St. Mark 8:45am Worship at St. Mark 9:30am Sunday School at Holy Cross 9:45am Fellowship at St. Mark 10:30am Worship at Holy Cross 11:30am Bible Class at Holy Cross		1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross	3:10am Catechism Class	6:30pm Holy Thursday Worship at Holy Cross w/Communion	6:30pm Good Friday at St. Mark	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:45am Easter Worship at St. Mark 9:30 am Easter Breakfast at Holy Cross 10:30am Easter Worship at Holy Cross	St. Mark Altar: Kathy Ludwig & Kay Keefer Hostess: Kathy Ludwig					
Holy Cross						
Counters						
Date	Ushers					
3/3	Team 3: Kedsch					
3/10	Team 4: Tauscher					
3/17	Team 5: Sivula					
3/24	Team 1: Trout/Karry					
3/31	Team 2: Knutze					