



Holy Cross—St. Mark

Newsletter

April 2024



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Upcoming Events

- Apr. 8: HC Ladies' Aid Meeting - 1pm
- Apr. 8: SM Voters' Meeting - 6pm
- Apr. 13: LWMS in Iron Mountain - 9:45am
- Apr. 18: HC Voters' Meeting - 6pm
- Apr. 20: School of Outreach - 8:50am
- Apr. 27: HC Spring Cleanup - 8am
- Apr. 28: SM Fellowship - 9:45am

Pastor Crass Contact Info:
 (309)798-0610 - text or call
pastorcrass@gmail.com

Devotional Thoughts

By Pastor Crass

A few weeks ago, I saw a clip from a guest speaker at UW-Madison who was answering a question about a number of social issues. The question that caught my attention was one from a young man who was dressed as a woman. It appeared that he thought he was born into the wrong body, and sought to change that. The young man respectfully asked his question about transgender rights and where he fit into society.

The speaker was candid. He said that whatever this young man was told he was going through was a lie that others were trying to convince him of or that he was trying to convince himself of. He said that people who loved this troubled kid would be willing to tell him the truth, and that he, the speaker, was not going to lie to him. Then the Q&A continued.

This conversation stood out to me. It reminded me of what Paul writes in Ephesians 4:14-15. It reads, “The goal is that we would no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, when people use tricks and invent clever ways to lead us astray. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we would in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head.”

The conversation didn't feel that contentious. The speaker (at least in that moment) wasn't trying to score political points and produce some viral sound bite. He cushioned the truth with what felt like genuine concern for this struggling guy. On the opposite side of the microphone, the young man seemed to be looking for clear and honest answers. Without any ability to read this kid's heart, it looked to me like the advice that dressing like a lady would solve his problem was not providing him the joy that many had promised him.

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Synod News

WELS Night at the Brewers

Join thousands of WELS members from around the Midwest for an evening of fellowship, fun, and baseball at the annual WELS Night at the Brewers on Fri., July 12, 2024! The Brewers take on the Washington Nationals in a 7:10 p.m. game time. WELS members will receive discounted tickets and be seated together within each seating category offered. Tickets range from \$10 to \$23, depending on the seating area. Visit brewers.com/wels to get your tickets.

WELS Women's Ministry Conference

Registration is open for the 2024 WELS Women's Ministry Conference, on Sunday, July 28-30, 2024, at the Ingleside Hotel, Pewaukee, WI. This conference is for any woman who is passionate about the spread of the Good News of Jesus in our world today, no matter her age and background. New to the faith or seasoned, married or single, the keynotes and wide variety of breakout sessions will encourage, equip, and empower you in your walk of faith. Registration runs through May 31. \$150 early-bird rate until April 30. \$175 conference rate runs May 1-31. Learn more at welswmconference.net.



Dual Parish Update

- WELS School of Outreach is holding a workshop on April 20 at Christ Lutheran in Menominee. The workshop will focus on how churches can reevaluate how they reach out to the community and welcome visitors. Keep an eye out for more information.

St. Mark Council Update

- The bathroom toilet has been replaced.
- Options for the replacement of the piano have been presented and are being reviewed.

Holy Cross Council Update

- The council had discussions on how to keep better communication with the congregation regarding what the council is working on and the ways congregational members are serving.
- The spring cleanup is set for April 27 at 8am.

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: those who serve as authorities over us in government, law enforcement, the workplace, and church; those who give of their time, talents, and treasures to serve the ministry here; those who bring both law and gospel to us with love and respect.

Supplication (Requests) - We ask God to: give us patience and love for the souls of others to speak the easy and hard truths of God's word to them; grant wisdom according to your word to those who have to make hard decisions in their lives; empower us to know and love your word.

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I can't put my finger exactly on why I've been thinking about this exchange for the last few weeks. Maybe it's because I see plenty of clips where people are trying to demean those who struggle with the temptations that lead to transgenderism or any other number of sins. There's no love in their rant. There is no understanding that all sinners struggle with various kinds of sins. Yes, I hear plenty of voices calling to accept this sin too, to normalize it. They are just as wrong. But when someone is genuinely asking, "Who am I?" "Where do I fit in?" "Did God get me wrong?", closing the door in their face is the least loving thing.

Understand, I am not talking only about transgenderism. I'm talking about those sins that we have for a long time elevated above the rest. If we, as Christians, want to keep yelling at people and looking at them like they are the most disgusting creature to ever breathe the same air we do, don't be surprised if they turn their backs on the truth of God's word altogether. If they see no love in us, if they don't see Jesus in the way we talk to them and deliver the hard news to them, if they then see us as hypocrites, then we are failing in our calling and we're not seeing lost sinners the same way our Father does.

It is my prayer that as you encounter people in your life that are living lives contrary to God's will and are looking for help, you would be willing to look them in the eyes, show them you care about them, and lovingly tell them what the truth of God's word states plainly. And if you don't know how to do this, or you struggle even interacting with people living in open sin, be in the word. See God's love in rescuing a sinner like you from hell. That's where you deserved to go until Jesus died for you. See that God's love didn't stop at you. You were not the last one let in before the bouncer hung the red satin rope back on the metal stanchion to keep everybody else out. Jesus' love for the lost extends to you, his disciple, sharing the truth in love with those who don't know their Savior. And see that God promises you that his word that you share in compassion to people who are struggling in this sinful world will not return to him empty. Speak the truth in love to win souls!

Member Announcements

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

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>8:45am Easter Worship at St. Mark</p> <p>10:30am Easter Worship at Holy Cross</p> <p style="text-align: right;">31</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p>	<p>1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark</p> <p>6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p>3:10pm Catechism Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>
<p>8am Bible Class at Holy Cross</p> <p>8:45am Worship at Holy Cross w/Communion</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School at Holy Cross</p> <p>10:30am Worship at St. Mark w/Communion</p> <p>11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>1pm Holy Cross Ladies' Aid</p> <p>6pm St. Mark Voters' Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	<p>1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark</p> <p>6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	<p>3:10pm Catechism Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>9:45am LWMS Rally at Mt. Olive, Iron Mountain</p>
<p>8am Bible Class at Holy Cross</p> <p>8:45am Worship at Holy Cross</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School at Holy Cross</p> <p>10:30am Worship at St. Mark</p> <p>11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p>	<p>1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark</p> <p>6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross</p> <p style="text-align: center;">16</p>	<p>3:10pm Catechism Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17</p>	<p>6pm Holy Cross Voters' Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>8:50am WELS School of Outreach at Christ in Menominee</p>
<p>8am Bible Class at Holy Cross</p> <p>8:45am Worship at Holy Cross w/Communion</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School at Holy Cross</p> <p>10:30am Worship at St. Mark w/Communion</p> <p>11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark</p> <p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p>	<p>Pastor Gone for Conference</p> <p style="text-align: center;">23</p>	<p>Pastor Gone for Conference</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>8am Holy Cross Spring Cleanup</p>
<p>8am Bible Class at Holy Cross</p> <p>8:45am Worship at Holy Cross</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School at Holy Cross</p> <p>10:30am Worship at St. Mark</p> <p>11:30am Fellowship at St. Mark</p> <p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p>	<p>1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark</p> <p>6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross</p> <p style="text-align: center;">30</p>	<p>3:10pm Catechism Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>

St. Mark
 Altar: Peggy Grille & Sandy Toupalik
 Hostess: Lois Pfizer

Holy Cross		
Date	Ushers	Counters
4/7	Team 3: Kedsch	Team 3: Sean Trout & Jeff Hacker
4/14	Team 4: Tauscher	Team 1: Pat Trout & Kristin Sivula
4/21	Team 5: Sivula	Team 2: Heather Tauscher & Terri Sivula
4/28	Team 1: Trout/Kary	Team 3: Sean Trout & Jeff Hacker