



# Holy Cross—St. Mark

## Newsletter

### October 2024



Facebook:

Holy Cross & St. Mark Lutheran Churches



Website:

[holycrossandstmark.org](http://holycrossandstmark.org)

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#### Upcoming Events

- Oct. 5: School of Outreach - 8:50am
- Oct. 7: HC Ladies' Aid - 1pm
- Oct. 12: LWMS at Trinity, Coleman - 9:45am
- Oct. 14: SM Voters' Meeting - 6pm
- Oct 17: HC Voters' Meeting - 6pm
- Oct. 26: Holy Cross Cleanup - 9am
- Oct 27: Fellowship After Both Services

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#### Devotional Thoughts

*By Pastor Crass*

How do you talk to your kids about sin? I think it's hard not to sound like a hypocrite when you call your children and grandchildren out for sins that you yourself have committed. What makes it even harder is if they know you've committed that sin. A conversation against premarital sex sounds strange when talking about it with a son or daughter who knows they were born out of wedlock. Encouragement for your children to raise their kids with God's word in the church rings hollow when you neglected bringing up your children in the word. Any kind of discussion on modest dress seems to fall on deaf ears when your photo albums or Facebook pages are filled with pictures of you in the past, clearly not following that advice.

Sadly, the response to this fear of hypocrisy is often silence. The parent who made mistakes in the past feels unable to speak. Maybe they'll even use the line, "They have to make their own mistakes and learn." This comes from a sense of pride, a refusal to admit to your kids that you've sinned. And I think the reason people refuse to own up to their own foolishness of the past is because they think that will give their children the moral high-ground. They are afraid that their children will lose respect for them or see them as less of a person.

Now, I'm not saying that you need to divulge every sin of your youth to your kids. There's a reason why during Confession and Absolution in the worship service we confess that we are sinners to each other and God instead of confessing all the grotesque thoughts, words, and actions we've produced in the last week. It's because sinful people don't forgive and forget like God does. That why when we do confess individual sins before other people, we make sure it's someone who will show us Jesus' forgiveness and not weaponize this secret against us. You do not need to share the sins of your youth with your kids.

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## WELS News

### Musical energy and talent a highlight at the National Worship Conference

After a seven-year hiatus, rather than the three-year pattern that began in 1996, it's not surprising that this year's conference unleashed a lot of musical energy and talent. One first-time attendee said, "I had heard it would be awesome, but it far exceeded my expectations." Some regular past attendees said "best ever" about the caliber of the orchestra . . . and the superb cafeteria menu choices.

The conference theme was "Sing to the Lord a New Song." While the song of the gospel is always new, this conference made extensive use of new songs from the 2021 WELS hymnal suite and beyond, accompanied by a wide variety of instruments in different styles.

Those who couldn't attend can still enjoy concerts and services at [welsworshipconference.net/media](https://welsworshipconference.net/media). This link also includes service folders, some presentation handouts, and photos. While the impact from these videos isn't the same as being present with 1,000 people (like a photo of the Grand Canyon can't compete with standing at the rim), viewers can still enjoy these events. Here are some "not to miss" items:

- Festival concert: Don't miss the thrilling final movement of Saint Saens' "Organ Symphony" and excellent choral music from a 115-voice choir.
- Plenary address: Jonathan Bauer presented "Lutheran Worship: What Now?" In a context of rapid change, Bauer demonstrates how, as we, confessional Lutherans, are fully equipped to answer this crucial question. It's available in both video and print.
- Morning "Alive in Christ" sermons: Hear sermons by Prof. Aaron Christie (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary), President Richard Gurgel (Martin Luther College), and President em. Paul Wendland (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary).
- Closing concert: A rendition of "Amazing Grace" starts with a whisper from the children's choir (50 voices singing with beautiful tone) accompanied by harp, handbells, and flute. It keeps building until the last stanza, a sonic roar from 1,200 people, full orchestra with lots of percussion, and a kilt-clad bagpiper. (The hymn begins at 1:15 in the video)

The conference wasn't only for musicians and pastors. Non-musical laypeople from congregations of all sizes selected from many presentation topics. A first-time non-musical attendee said, "My wife twisted my arm to come, but I won't miss another!"

## Dual Parish Update

- There is a WELS School of Outreach workshop taking place this month. Those attending will report back any ideas or suggestions that come out during that meeting.

### St. Mark Council Update

- The furnace has been replaced, and we are prepared for whatever winter has in store.
- The council has approved a bookshelf in the mothers' room and relocating some of the books from the basement for easier access for members. This will also allow members to share Christian books they have read and would like others to read too. If anyone has a bookshelf they are looking to get rid of, we might be able to put it to use in the mother's' room.

### Holy Cross Council Update

- October 26 has been scheduled as a cleanup and reorganization day at Holy Cross. The goal will be to sort through the shed and the cupboards and closets in church and determine what we can get rid of and what is useful to keep. We will also work to better organize what is kept so we can find it when we need it.
- The current ovens have been tested and found to be working. Council will work with Ladies' Aid to keep an eye on this.

## Who Can I Pray For?

*Below are some of our shut-ins that you can pray for, call, and even visit (please call ahead before any visits).*

- Luella Dahlberg - (906)788-4228 - W4642 County Rd. 346, Wallace, MI 49893
- Carol Heydn - (906)788-4445 - W5744 14 Lane, Wallace, MI 49893
- Kristin Bates - (906)280-8276 - W6450 Cty. Rd. 358, Daggett, MI 49821
- Harold and Virginia Schlenvogt - (906)753-4326 - W5209 Cty Rd 348, Stephenson, MI 49887
- Evelyn Smith - (920)370-2361 - W3124 Cty Rd 366, Daggett, MI 49821 (currently living at Menominee Health Services in Menominee)
- George and Cheryl Bussler - (906)290-0881 - N222 Willow St, Stephenson, MI 49887
- Jim and Carlyn Lynch - (906)241-1488 - N10438 M-35, Cedar River, MI 49887

*Would you like to be included on this list? Please reach out to Pastor Crass.*

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But if the young men and women you are raising know about your past, don't shy away from it. These are sins you have been forgiven for. It does not mean you are proud of them, but it does mean that you no longer carry the shame. Don't shy away from talking about sin. Whether it makes you uncomfortable or not call it out head-on.

"You cannot bless sin." These were the words of an Anglican deacon as he debated the truth of God's word over in England. The statement is true. But it doesn't stop people from trying to bless sin. They'll try to get around sin, looking for a church or a spiritual leader who downplays their sin and tells them it's ok. They'll try to run away from it, thinking that if they stay away from God's word, then they won't have to hear about their misdeeds. But no one can bless sin. No one can make it better. No one but God. There is only one way out of sin. It's the cross. It's there that we come to grips with the complete ruin sin has brought to our souls. And it's there that we find true forgiveness. There's no escaping sin. There's no blessing sin. There is only forgiving sin, and that's what God does.

As you prepare your kids to live as sinners in this sinful world, don't sidestep the fact that your life is filled with your sin and God's grace. Don't try and bless sin. Embrace its realities. Tell your kids what is right and wrong in God's sight, encourage them to live in thanks for him, and when they inevitably sin, be quick to show them their sin and even quicker to show them the Savior whose blood paid for that sin.

## Member Announcements

We are thanking God each day that he has blessed our family with a baby that we will meet, God-willing, next March. Please keep our growing family in your prayers. - Pastor and Christa Crass

*Do you have any announcements you would like shared with the congregation in next month's newsletter? Please talk to Pastor Crass.*

# October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>8am Bible Class at Holy Cross 8:45am Worship at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at St. Mark 11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross</p>	<p>2</p> <p>3:30pm Catechism Class</p>		<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:50am WELS School of Outreach at Christ Lutheran in Menominee</p>
<p>6</p> <p>8am Bible Class 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</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1pm Holy Cross Ladies' Aid</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross</p>	<p>9</p> <p>3:30pm Catechism Class</p>		<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:45am LWMS Rally at Trinity Lutheran in Coleman, WI</p>
<p>13</p> <p>8am Bible Class 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</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6pm St. Mark Council Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross</p>	<p>16</p> <p>3:30pm Catechism Class</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6pm Holy Cross Council Meeting</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>8am Bible Class 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</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross</p>	<p>23</p> <p>3:30pm Catechism Class</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9am Holy Cross Fall Reorganization</p>
<p>27</p> <p>8am Bible Class 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 Fellowship Meal at Holy Cross</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Pastor Gone for Conference</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pastor Gone for Conference 3:30pm Catechism Class</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>

**St. Mark**  
**Altar:** Sue Blake & Sally Theuerkauf  
**Hostess:** Nancy Larsen

Holy Cross	
Date	Ushers
10/6	Team 4: Tauscher
10/13	Team 5: Sivula
10/20	Team 1: Trout/Kary
10/27	Team 2: Kuntze

Holy Cross	
Date	Counters
10/6	Team 2: Heather Tauscher & Terri Sivula
10/13	Team 3: Sean Trout & Jeff Hacker
10/20	Team 1: John Tauscher & Kristin Sivula
10/27	Team 2: Heather Tauscher & Terri Sivula