

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Family Handbook 2023-2024



CONNECTED

*I am the vine; you are the branches.
Whoever abides in me and I in him,
he it is that bears much fruit, for
apart from me you can do nothing.*

John 15:5

Saturday Service
3:00PM After Labor Day
5:00PM After Memorial Day

Sunday Services
8:00AM & 10:45AM

Sunday Education Hour
Infant—Adult
9:30-10:30AM

Wednesday Nights
PreK –12th Grade
5:30-7:45PM

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Board of Youth & Board of Education

Please know that all the following dates and information are the best renderings from our boards. Information is subject to change and additional dates can be added. You will receive updated information via email. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please feel free to contact one of our board chairs.



Linda Ziolk
Board of Education Chair
education@hccross.com



Trudy Aston
Board of Youth Chair
youth@hccross.com

Board Members

Jenny Conrad
Karen Copper
Debbie Parks

Board Members

Nick Sampl
Jennifer Reed
Melissa Eaton



Goals of 2023

Board of Education & Board of Youth

- ⇒ Once a quarter have organized opportunities for minors to participate more actively in worship. Examples include: singing, collecting offerings, ushering, greeting, and reading.
- ⇒ Develop a plan to expand midweek by the Fall of 2023 by surveying parents, finding volunteers, and choosing a curriculum.
- ⇒ Provide weekly resources and opportunities for devotions and prayer time at home. Examples: CPH Growing in Christ worship bulletin, Visual Faith Ministry handouts, kids in divine worship, advent/lent devotions.
- ⇒ Create 2 milestone events for 9th grade and up that would recognize life events such as graduation (Mid May) from High school, trade school, and college, engagements, first job, and driver's license (key chain with confirmation verse on it), and military service, retirement (1st of the new year), 1st year of marriage.
- ⇒ Create a cradle roll program for families with children ages 0-3 to create a touchpoint for families at least twice a year.

Education Opportunities

Education Hour —Infant through Adult

Between services on Sunday morning all year round. Adult education happens in the gym. Contact DCE Smith for more information.

Wednesday Night—PreK through 12th Grade

Every Wednesday night late August through early May, starting at 5:30 PM, the church doors are open to families for dinner, with parent supervision until classes start. There will be music practice, class and games. PreK—5th grade (Midweek) dive into Preconfirmation lessons. 6th-8th grade (Confirmation) cover the Catechism and Highschool (LYF) learn how to apply Biblical principles to their lives. There is a time change during Advent and Lent. Contact DCE Smith for more information.

Youth Night—6th through 12th Grade

Every Wednesday night from 6:45-8:00PM May through August. Youth will play games, socialize and have Bible Study. Contact DCE Smith for more information.

20s & 30s Bible Study

Every Thursday night in Room 1 & 2 year round at 6:30PM. Contact Liz Belter lizzybelter@gmail.com.

Adult Bible Class

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month in Room 1 & 2 at 7PM OR every Wednesday at 9:30AM in Room 1 & 2. Contact the Church Office for more information.

Women's Bible Study

Every Tuesday at 10AM in Room 1 & 2. Contact Pastor Gimbel for more information.

Men's Bible Breakfast

2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30AM September through May in the Gym. Contact Sol Conrad at 2conrads98@charter.net

Parent's Role

“Parents remain the number one person who impacts the faith lives of young people. Nearly 3 in 4 young adults (72%) listed at least one parent as one of the most influential people in their lives. While that influence was usually positive, those who left the LCMS were more than twice as likely to say a parent had a negative influence (13% vs 5%).

Today's Active LCMS young adults were the most likely to see high levels of faith practiced by their parents. This included frequent Bible reading at home, praying as a family, regular church attendance of both parents together (continuing even today), and at least one parent having a service or leadership role in the church. Of all the other profiles, parents of Nominal LCMS are least likely to be leaders in the church, read the Bible with their children and attend worship regularly now or in the past. When parents don't prioritize worship and congregational engagement, young people won't either.

Today's Active LCMS were also the most likely to report having a good relationship with parents in high school. They related well with parents in general, specially with dad. They felt they could talk to both parents about life issues and could talk openly with at least one parent about faith. They felt safe bringing up their questions and doubts to their parents. When parents are open to tough conversations about life and faith, young people are more likely to stay in church.”

- LCMS Young Adult Research from 2017-2018

Guidelines

Expectations

Everyone is expected to be punctual, prepared and ready to learn. 2nd grade and up are expected to bring an ESV (English Standard Version) Bible to class. Confirmands are expected to bring The Story and Luther's Small Catechisms to Confirmation. Bibles and Catechisms are handed out to families at Back 2 School Bash in August.

Drop off & Pick Up Procedures

Make sure to sign you child in and out after every class using our tablet. Sunday School's check in is by the choir room and on Wednesday nights it is located by the gym.

Advent & Lent

During these seasons of the church year on Wednesday nights dinner will be served prior to our regular activities starting at 5:45PM. This is dinner for your family to enjoy and spend time together. Do not drop your child off for dinner without accompanying them. There will be a worship service after regular activities. We believe that worship is an important part of a family's life and we encourage families to participate in worship together.

Assignments and Memory Work

Confirmation students will be assigned homework to do at home with their parents. There is also a memory verse challenge that anyone can participate in. You will find more information on the "Memory Work" page.

Music Opportunities

On Wednesdays practice for PreK—5th grade choir and 6th grade through adults beginners bell choir will be available. Ability to participate in performances will be dictated by attendance at practices.

Attendance

Worship and class attendance is essential to the spiritual life of every Christian. Therefore we expect our youth and parents to participate in weekly worship and Bible Study for the strengthening of faith. Regular attendance is essential for the learning process, continuity of the class plus modeling behavior and values as mentioned in the "Parent's Roles". Attendance in worship and class is a requirement to be confirmed.

Discipline

Our youth are expected to respect each other and their surroundings. Each teacher has a different way of handling disciplinary issues in his/her classroom. If a teacher feels it is necessary for further disciplinary action DCE Smith will be notified. DCE Smith will have a face to face conversation with the adult picking up the minor about the behavior exhibited and actions taken.

Weather Cancellations

If there is a cancelation of any type parents are to watch their emails or Holy Cross's Facebook page for updates. Decisions will be made between called staff and issued 2 hours ahead of time if able.

Parent Participation

As a parent, please fervently pray for your child, the youth of your congregation, your called staff, teachers and our church. Ask your child about what he/she is learning and share your thoughts with them. Any parent who wants to volunteer is welcomed to do so. All volunteers are required to go through a background check and training beforehand. In Confirmation classes parental attendance is required for all 100 level and optional for level 200.



Whether you memorize 1 verse or 15, you will receive the benefits of knowing God's Word, plus some cool rewards.

All ages are invited to participate in our memory verse challenge. Once you have memorized 3 verses you will receive 1 king size candy bar if recited correctly.

Anyone who is able to memorize all 15 Bible verses will win a pizza party for their family!

Anyone with food allergies that would prevent them from enjoying their prize is allowed to name their own comparable prize.

A simplified list of these verses will also be available.

2023-2024 Verse List

- 1) I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **John 15:5**
(Theme verse for the year)
- 2) I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. **Psalms 139:14**
- 3) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **1 John 4:7**
- 4) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. **Proverbs 3:5**
- 5) Let all that you do be done in love. **1 Corinthians 16:14**
- 6) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. **Ephesians 4:32**
- 7) Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. **John 6:35**
- 8) [Jesus says,] "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink." **John 7:37**
- 9) You shall have no other gods before Me. **Exodus 20:3**
- 10) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14**
- 11) The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. **Numbers 6:25**
- 12) Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. **Psalms 25:5**
- 13) Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:57**
- 14) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. **Proverbs 1:7**
- 15) Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! **Psalms 95:6**

4 Family Life

“Educating and supporting parents and caregivers as they lead their children and youth”

Board of Youth Goals 2022-24

How can I help my child find their vocation?

November 12, 2023

**Having tough conversations with
your kids**

January 21, 2024

RSVPs Due **1 WEEK** in advance to DCE Smith.

Childcare and Lunch provided!

Events are from 12:30 to 2:00pm.

Family Events

Come One, Come All!
We have something for everyone!

Holy Cross Sunday & Church Picnic	September 17 12:30—5PM
Fall Festival	October 29 12:30-3PM
Advent Meals 5:45-6:45PM Advent Services 7-8PM	November 29, December 6, 13 & 20
Family Christmas Service, Service Project & Dinner	December 2 3-6:30PM
Walk through the Park at Ft Zumwalt Park	December 4-5
Caroling to the Shut-ins	December 2023
Family Game Day	Jan 13 & June 29 12:30—3:30PM
Family Movie Night	February 9
Lenten Meals 5:45-6:45PM Lenten Services 7-8PM	February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13
Holy Cross Youth Presents: Trivia Night	March 2
Easter Egg Hunt	March 24 12:30PM
Easter Breakfast	March 31 7:30-11AM
VBS	Summer 2024
Family Pool Day	July 2024
Petting Zoo at Holy Cross	August 2024
Rummage Sale	March & August 2024
Blessing of the Backpacks	August 11

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Holy Cross Sunday– Serve the Lord with Gladness September 17

Birthday Party for Jesus December 17

Palm Sunday– Serve the Lord with Gladness March 24

Graduation Recognition– Serve the Lord with Gladness May 19

First Day of Summer Sunday School June 2

No Sunday School December 24 & March 31

Back 2 School Bash August 11



Midweek includes children's choir, handbell choir, and instructional classes for PreK -5th grade.

Midweek Orientation August 23 6:30PM

First Day of Midweek August 30

RSVPs due for speaking parts at the Family Christmas Service October 1

Playtime Party Center for 2nd-5th grade April 28 1-3PM

End of the Year Ice Cream Party May 1 6:30-8PM

Back 2 School Bash August 11

No Midweek Nov 22, Dec 27, Jan 3, March 27

Lord Explorers provide fellowship, service and faith development for grades 6-8.



Acolyte Training, Confirmation & Youth Group Orientation	August 23 6:30PM
First Day of Confirmation	August 30
Confirmation Retreat at Camp Wartburg	September 15-16
Urban Air	September 24 1PM
Escape Room	October 15 1PM
Kokomo Joe's and Laser Tag	November 10 6-9PM
Circuit Event	January
Holy Cross Youth Presents: Trivia Night Prep	March 1 6-8PM
Holy Cross Youth Presents: Trivia Night	March 2
District Youth Gathering at Cross Pointe Retreat Center	March
Pretzel Making Party	March 24
Easter Breakfast Prep	March 30 9-1PM
Serve Easter Breakfast	March 31 5AM– Noon
Scavenger Hunt in Hannibal, MO	April 1
Lock-in	April 19 6PM-6AM
End of the Year Ice Cream Party	May 1 6:30-8PM
Rockin' Jump	May 18 7-9PM
Higher Things Conference in Clarksville, AR	July 16-19, 2024
Back 2 School Bash	August 11
Youth Pool Party	August 11 1-3PM
No Confirmation	Nov 22, Dec 27, Jan 3, March 27



Youth Group Orientation	August 23 6:30PM
Urban Air	September 24 1PM
Escape Room	October 15 1PM
Kokomo Joe's and Laser Tag	November 10 6-9PM
Circuit Event	January
Holy Cross Youth Presents: Trivia Night Prep	March 1 6-8PM
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Back 2 School Bash	August 11
Youth Pool Party	August 11 1-3PM
No Youth Group	Nov 22, Dec 27, March 27

Scan a QR Code and sync the google calendars with your calendar. Receive updated dates and information automatically.

Family Events



LUTHERAN YOUTH
FELLOWSHIP





FAMILY

RESOURCES



Parents, please see the following resources as tools in the trade of life! You will find podcasts, articles, books and more!



Concordia
Publishing House



LUTHERAN HOUR
MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

1517.®

AFFIRM
FILMS
a Sony Company



VISUAL
FAITH™
MINISTRY

TELLING THE STORY OF HIS FAITHFULNESS



Answers
IN GENESIS™



LCEF's Young Investor's Club

Benefits You'll Enjoy

- ⇒ When you help your child save for the future through LCEF's Young Investor's Club, those dollars can also help someone learn about Jesus.
- ⇒ Only \$25 to open an account
- ⇒ Premium interest rates on balances up to \$1,000
- ⇒ Savings grow with your child
- ⇒ Access the savings account at any time
- ⇒ Starting at age 7 kids can earn up to \$25 for good grades and service hours.
- ⇒ Debit card available at age 16
- ⇒ College scholarship program for high school seniors

Want More Information?

**Contact LCEF at (1-800-THE-LCEF) or
lcef.org/young-investors-club/**