

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

School and Early Learning Center



May 26, 2024

"Holy, Holy, Holy Is the Lord!"

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608-249-3101
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WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS!

OUR SAVIOR WELCOMES YOU AND SO DO WE! Whether you are a first time visitor or returning guest, we are delighted to share our worship with you! Please come back and worship with us again!

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES We love to have children in worship! However, parents who find a need to take their children out of the service are welcome to use the narthex/lobby area while you quiet your little one. The infant care room is also available for nursing mothers. You'll be able to hear the service from the speaker system in the narthex and in the infant care room. A changing table is in the men's and women's bathrooms. If needed, please ask an usher for assistance.

REGISTRATION CARDS are in the hymnal racks. Guests may use the registration cards to let us know how we may further assist you. We encourage all members and guests to fill out a registration card and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

A HEARING LOOP is installed in our sanctuary for your convenience. If your hearing aid has a t-switch, you'll need to activate it when you're in the sanctuary, in order to benefit from the hearing loop.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES Holy Cross offers a full Christian elementary school (grades PreK3 – 8), Kids Crossing Early Learning Center (6 weeks – 5 years), Sunday School and children's youth activities.

PRAYER CONCERNS? Contact Sherri Bartels, sbbartels.sb@gmail.com. Our prayer chain is a large group of Holy Cross members who join you in calling upon God with your prayer concerns. Galatians 6:2 says "Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

USHERS are on duty during church services. Please speak with them if you need assistance.

LIVE STREAM WORSHIP If you or a loved one are unable to attend worship, our 8:30 am service is live streamed on the church website.

PHONE-IN WORSHIP Sundays at 8:30 a.m. (Call any time after 8:20 a.m.; dial 1 (978) 990-5164 followed by access code 6279900#)

ON DEMAND WORSHIP View or listen to any of our past worship services by visiting our website and click the tab labeled Live Stream/Sermons and click sermons.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE Sunday, 8:30 am 10:30 am and Monday, 6:30 pm.

TRANSPORTATION FUND If you have no other way to church, taxi rides to and from church are available. Please speak with the Pastor or call the church office at 249-3101.

THE LORD'S SUPPER is offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month and the following Mondays. We believe the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity of faith in our Savior as well as our unity in all scriptural teachings. Since the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod profess full unity in biblical teaching, members of these church bodies are welcome to commune with us. If you are a member of a different Christian church, we ask that you wait to commune until you have closely examined what we teach and are convinced that we are a church that preaches the true Word of God, and that you are in agreement with our teachings. Please speak with a pastor if you are a guest and would like to commune.

MISSION STATEMENT The mission of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School is to bring the Gospel of Christ to our community through the Means of Grace, reaching out to the lost, and nurturing our fellow believers. This we do through worship, education, service and fellowship that God's kingdom may grow.

"Holy, Holy, Holy Is the Lord!"

May 26, 2024

Holy Trinity Sunday

Service of the Word – Page 38

Opening Hymn #241....."Alleluia! Let Praises Ring"

1 Alleluia! Let praises ring!
To God the Father let us bring
Our songs of adoration.
To him through everlasting days
Be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise
Whose hand sustains creation.
Singing, Ringing: Holy, holy,
God is holy. Spread the story
Of our God, the Lord of glory.

2 Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto the Lamb of God we sing,
In whom we are elected.
He bought the Church with his own blood;
He cleansed her in that blessed flood
And as his bride selected.
Holy, Holy Is our union
And communion. His befriending
Gives us joy and peace unending.

3 Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto the Holy Ghost we sing
For our regeneration.
The saving faith in us he wrought
And us unto the Bridegroom brought,
Made us his chosen nation.
Glory! Glory! Joy eternal,
Bliss supernal; There is manna
And an endless, glad hosanna.

4 Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto our triune God we sing;
Blest be his name forever!
With angel hosts let us adore
And sing his praises more and more
For all his grace and favor.
Singing, Ringing: Holy, holy,
God is holy. Spread the story
Of our God the Lord of glory!

Invocation

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Taste and See



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God and Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, filling and renewing all creation by your eternal Spirit, and manifesting your saving grace through our Lord Jesus Christ: in mercy cleanse our hearts and lips that, free from doubt and fear, we may ever worship you, one true immortal God, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, living and reigning, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Psalm of the Day.....Psalm 150

Praise the LORD!

M: Praise God in his sanctuary. Praise him in the expanse that shows his might.

C: Praise him for his acts of power. Praise him according to his abundant greatness.

M: Praise him with a blast of the ram's horn. Praise him with the harp and the lyre.

C: Praise him with hand drums and dancing. Praise him with the strings and the flute.

M: Praise him with the sounding cymbals.

C: Praise him with loud cymbals.

M: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

C: Praise the Lord.

First Lesson.....Romans 8:14-17

Adopted by the Father, co-heirs with the Son, and led by the Spirit.

14 Indeed, those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you are afraid again, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we call out, "Abba, Father!" 16 The Spirit himself joins our spirit in testifying that we are God's children.

17 Now if we are children, we are also heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, since we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him.

Verse of the Day



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Lesson.....John 3:1-17

Jesus teaches Nicodemus about the Kingdom of God.

1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these miraculous signs you are doing unless God is with him."

3 Jesus replied, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

5 Jesus answered, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God! 6 Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. 8 The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

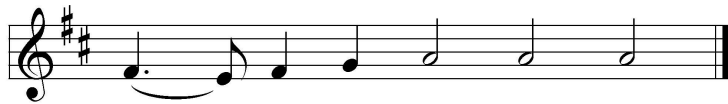
9 "How can these things be?" asked Nicodemus.

10 "You are the teacher of Israel," Jesus answered, "and you do not know these things? 11 Amen, Amen, I tell you: We speak what we know, and we testify about what we have seen. But you people do not accept our testimony.

12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven, except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.

14 "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Children's Sermon

Young children are invited forward to the chancel steps.

Hymn #195....."Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who was and is and evermore shall be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

SermonPastor Piet Van Kampen..... "Holy, Holy, Holy Is the Lord!"

Isaiah 6:1-8

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each one had six wings. With two they covered their faces. With two they covered their feet. With two they flew. 3 One called to another and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies! The whole earth is full of his glory!
4 The foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of the one who called, and the temple was filled with smoke.
5 Then I said, "I am doomed! I am ruined, because I am a man with unclean lips, and I dwell among a people with unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Armies!"
6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, carrying a glowing coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 He touched my mouth with the coal and said, "Look, this has touched your lips, so your guilt is taken away, and your sin is forgiven."
8 Then I heard the Lord's voice, saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"
Then I said, "Here I am. Send me!"

Athanasian Creed

*This creed is named after St. Athanasius, a staunch defender of the Christian faith in the fourth century. It was prepared to assist the Church in combating two errors. One error denied that God's Son and the Holy Spirit are of one essence or Godhead with the Father. The other error denied that Jesus Christ is true God and true man in one person. The Athanasian Creed continues to serve the Christian Church as a standard of biblical truth. It declares that whoever rejects the doctrine of the Trinity and the doctrine of Christ is without the saving faith. Those who do good—as fruits of saving faith in the Triune God—will enter eternal life. **The congregation reads the portions in bold.***

Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith.

Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.

Now this is the true Christian faith:

We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being.

For each person—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is distinct,

but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.

What the Father is, so is the Son, and so is the Holy Spirit. The Father is uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father is infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father is eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal;

yet they are not three who are eternal, but there is one who is eternal, just as they are not three who are uncreated, nor three who are infinite, but there is one who is uncreated and one who is infinite.

In the same way the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, and the Holy Spirit is almighty;

yet they are not three who are almighty, but there is one who is almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;

yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;

yet they are not three Lords, but one Lord.

For just as Christian truth compels us to confess each person individually to be God and Lord,

so the true Christian faith forbids us to speak of three Gods or three Lords.

The Father is neither made nor created nor begotten of anyone. The Son is neither made nor created, but is begotten of the Father alone. The Holy Spirit is neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeds from the Father and the Son.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And within this Trinity none comes before or after; none is greater or inferior,

but all three persons are coequal and coeternal,

so that in every way, as stated before, all three persons are to be worshiped as one God and one God worshiped as three persons.

Whoever wishes to be saved must have this conviction of the Trinity.

It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh. Now this is the true Christian faith:

We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh,

equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;

and though he is both God and Man, Christ is not two persons but one,

one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;

one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;

for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life,

but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.

This is the true Christian faith.

Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

M: Triune God, you are the one eternal God. We could not have known you, our only Savior, if you had not revealed yourself to us as Father, Son, and Spirit—three persons, yet one God.

C: Remove from us all unbelief, and grant us humble faith as we contemplate this high and holy mystery.

M: God our Father, whatever good is in us, whatever good things we have, and whatever good we do comes from you alone.

C: Open our eyes to see the gifts you shower down on us daily.

M: Lord Jesus our Savior, you came into our world to make the Father known to us. You joined yourself to us by taking on our humanity. You shed your blood to bring us back to God.

C: In the light of your resurrection, teach us to offer our lives each day in praise to God and in love to our neighbor.

M: Creator Spirit, you have opened our eyes by the bright light of your Word. You have breathed into us new life by the power of the gospel. Through Word and sacrament, help us grow in our understanding of the love of God.

C: Make us firm in our resolve to do battle with sin. In every weakness be our strength, that we may show ourselves to be God's true children.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: O Holy Trinity, you are the God of glory, the God of grace, the God of every comfort.

C: We rejoice to call you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, praising your holy name forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn #334....."Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Closing Prayer

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



Attendance

If you attended online services at Holy Cross, please send an email to frontoffice@holycrossmadison.org, and in the subject line write "Attended" and after that the number of people who watched from your home. So if three of you watch the service on Sunday, your subject line would say, "Attended 3". Please don't write anything in the text of the email, since our secretary, Anna Poellet, will not be responding to emails that say "Attended" in the subject line. Thanks.

Holy Cross News & Notes

May 26, 2024

Calendar for the Week – May 27 - June 2

Monday

- NO WORSHIP - Memorial Day

Wednesday

- Bible Study - 10:00 am

Sunday

- Worship - 8:30 and 10:30 am
- Sunday School - 9:45 am

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK Judy Meder and Kay Milleur were hospitalized this week. Please pray for them and our homebound and for those in nursing homes.

GIVING TO HOLY CROSS

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: 5/14/24-5/20/24

\$13,915.38

TOTAL OFFERINGS FOR FISCAL YEAR: 7/1/23 - 5/20/24

\$713,998.90

FISCAL YTD BUDGET OFFERINGS

\$734,827.14

FISCAL YEAR BUDGETED

\$813,000.00

NO EVENING WORSHIP MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 27, 2024 is Memorial Day. There will not be Monday evening worship.

SERMON VIDEO LINKS

Want an easy way to witness to a friend, relative or neighbor? Share Sunday's sermon link with them. Or watch it devotionally yourself.

5/19/24 - "God Will Put His Spirit in You" - Pastor Piet Van Kampen

<https://vimeo.com/948039023>

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

Holy Cross has a Transportation Fund to provide free taxi rides to and from Holy Cross events, for members who have no other way of getting to church. The Holy Cross Senior Ministry Committee administers the Transportation Fund through Union Cab. This service has been a great blessing to a number of our members over the years. If you would like to make use of this service, please call one of the pastors at Holy Cross and we'll explain to you how it works.

Thanks!

BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS

Our next class begins Monday, June 3, at 7:30 pm and runs for 10 Monday evenings through early August. The goal of the class is to give you a ground-level view of what we believe at Holy Cross. Here are some reasons to be a part of this class: you're interested in learning basic Bible doctrine or teaching; you want to learn how Lutheran doctrine compares to the church you currently attend, or grew up attending; you're interested in becoming a member at Holy Cross; you want to explore what your spouse or fiancé (who may already be a Holy Cross member) believes, and why, and/or you would like to more fully understand the spiritual influence Holy Cross school is having on your children who may be attending here. The class will be informative, and we invite lots of questions. The class will be "team taught" by both of us pastors, so you can get to know us and we can get to know you :-)

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday, June 2 we will have one Sunday Service at 9 am.

Live-stream and Dial-in participants can join us Sundays at 9 am.

Monday Evening Worship will remain at 6:30 pm

ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING

Sunday, June 9 after Church. All voting members are encouraged to attend our annual voters meeting.

Agenda items include: The 2024-2025 budget will be presented for adoption. Elections will be held for Boards and Committees.

SENIOR MINISTRY COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP

Senior Ministry breakfast will be held at Perkins on Hayes Rd at 9AM on June 11, July 9, and August 13. We hope to see you there!

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

May is mental health month. Did you know that one in five adults in the U.S. lives with some sort of mental health disorder? As compassionate Christians, we have the opportunity to extend support, resources, and access to Christ-centered care. As much as we try to cope with life circumstances, sometimes we need a little extra help. Our pastors are experienced in sharing God's healing Word in every situation. They are willing to offer assistance and/or recommend professional counseling if needed. If you're interested in mental health resources, please contact one of our pastors and also take a look at the brochures in the Welcome Center.

UPDATE!!! An anonymous Holy Cross and Lutheran Military Support Group member will match the first \$500 for our LMSG Memorial Day Ammo Can campaign.

MAY AMMO CAN CAMPAIGN

In the month of May, there are special dates such as Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day. May is Military Appreciation Month and also Mental Health Awareness Month. May is also the month when Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) holds a fundraising campaign. Through your gifts to our Ammo Can Campaign (at the Welcome Center), you and Holy Cross are supporting programs like the following:

- One day workshops for Veterans and 1st Responders that address spiritual and mental health issues
- Assistance grants for service members.
- Four-day Spiritual Retreats for Combat Veterans that focus on spiritual and mental health issues in a supportive atmosphere surrounded by fellow Combat Veterans
- Scholarships for Christian Veterans who are interested in pursuing ministry.

GREECE/PAUL TOUR

You are invited to join a 11 day tour of Greece; in the Footsteps of the Apostle Paul. The tour, April 22-May 2, 2025 will be hosted by retired pastor Eugene Kock (a well-known friend of Holy Cross), who has been there about 10 times. It includes a 3 day cruise on the Mediterranean Sea as well as an optional 3 day tour to Rome. Some of the Biblical places to be visited: Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus etc. For more information contact pastorkock@yahoo.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to DIVE IN to God's Word with ocean-themed crafts, songs, bible stories, snacks, and more!

- June 24-27, 2024
- 9:00 am - 11:30 am
- Ages: 3 years old (must be toilet-trained) to completing 6th grade

Visit the welcome center for a registration form.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

All current members and all who have a desire to help, but have limited time. It's hard to believe, that Spring is here! Which means it's time to get our landscape plan in place. We are taking the same approach this year, as last year. Meaning anyone that would like to help maintain the Church and School grounds in any way, large or small, can on their own time schedule. All helpers are appreciated! If you are interested in joining, or if you are already a member and need guidance regarding what needs to be done, you can contact me at: sherrie2450@gmail.com

LUTHERAN YOUTH HONOR CHOIR

The Lutheran Youth Honor Choir is Saturday, June 15 - Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN. This immersive study in our Lutheran Musical Heritage is for high school-aged youth (completed 8th grade). Registration is \$225 and open until June 1. For more information and to register, please go to ELS.org/honorchoir

NORTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE EXTRA

Northwestern Publishing House Extra is a free program that allows you to designate an organization to receive a portion of the dollars you spend at Northwestern Publishing House. This benefits our church because we receive 1% of the purchases made by those who sign up for NPH EXTRA and designate Holy Cross as their organization! It's super easy too! Go to nph.net/extra and click "Sign Up," fill out all pertinent information, designate an organization, and hit submit. That's all YOU have to do! Then, anytime you shop Northwestern Publishing House, a portion of your purchase will go to Holy Cross. We appreciate your support in our ministry!

BETHANY FUND

Our Bethany Lutheran College is wrapping up its fiscal year on June 30, 2024. The College is striving to meet a fundraising goal of \$750,000 for The Bethany Fund, and is still seeking roughly \$200,000 in gifts to meet the goal. Many of our ELS pastors, congregations and individual members make regular contributions to our College with some sort of financial gift; please consider joining them in this effort. Visit blc.edu/bethanyfund or call the Advancement Office at 507-344-7000 to learn more about how you can help support our ELS college. Thank you for your support and prayers for Bethany!

MESSAGE FROM THE ELS BOARD OF APOLOGETICS

The Ark and the Darkness Movie

One of the most well-known Genesis accounts is that of Noah and the Flood. But did it really happen? Did it really happen the way it's laid out in Scripture? Over the years, many have questioned the feasibility of a global flood and the deliverance of Noah and family as recorded in Genesis 6-9. In an effort to defend the biblical account, the non-profit ministry Genesis Apologetics (genesisapologetics.com) has produced the documentary/movie The Ark and the Darkness. The movie was shown in select theaters around the country on March 20 and 21. Due to demand, the movie was given an encore showing on April 1st. It is now available on DVD and select streaming services. Is this a helpful and useful presentation? We would say that it most definitely is. The Ark and the Darkness gives a good apologetic presentation. In defending the Global Flood record, 10 scholars discuss flood geology, the formation of the deep-sea trenches, and how other evidence (fossil and otherwise) supports the biblical flood account. The movie also defends (though to a lesser extent) the Creation and the Tower of Babel accounts, as recorded in Genesis. In all cases, good apologetic arguments are given that help in our defense of Scripture. As with any ecumenical Christian presentations, we want to use discretion and be mindful of teachings we cannot agree with. Regarding the apologetic presentation, there are no areas of concern. However, towards the end of the documentary, there were a couple eschatological points regarding Zionism and the Antichrist that raise concerns. Attendees should be mindful of these and are advised to ask your ELS/WELS pastor if you have questions. But for those looking for physical evidence and logical support for the Flood, the movie is a wonderful resource!

— Rev. Peter Heyn & Mr. Donald Kleman, Members of the ELS Board on Apologetics

About the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews: www.apologeticscenter.org

Questions /topics you would like addressed? Email: apologetics@blc.edu

DEFENDING THE GOSPEL OF GOD

The Apologetics of Jesus, Paul, and the Historical Reliability of the New Testament Records

June 20, 2024 - Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN - Free Admission - In Person and Live Streamed

When bringing Christ to others, we rightly assume the historical reliability of the gospel records. But our neighbor does not. We may also think that the saving gospel cannot or does not need to be defended – evidence for its truthfulness becomes unnecessary, at best. And so our unbelieving neighbor views Christian faith as nothing more than a blind leap. Three questions will be discussed and answered at this apologetics conference.

Can the gospel records of Jesus of Nazareth be shown to be reliable? Something much more than exaggerations, myths, legends, or worse? If they are reliable, is the gospel that saves defended by Jesus and the apostles? Is evidence given that it is true? And if the records are reliable and the gospel is defended by Jesus, Paul, and others, how can the Christian make use of these for the sake of his neighbor – both non-Christian and Christian?

Schedule

- 10:00 a.m. – “Defending the Historical Reliability of the Gospels” – Dr. Adam Francisco, LCMS
- 12:30 p.m. – “Understanding and Applying the Apologetics of Paul” – Prof. Luke Thompson, Martin Luther College, WELS
- 2:00 p.m. – “Understanding and Applying the Apologetics of Jesus” – Rev. David Thompson, Center for Apologetics and Worldviews, ELS
- 3:30 p.m. – Table Talk with presenters

To livestream go to <https://apologeticscenter.org/upcoming-conference/> and click on the livestream link.

LUTHERAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The LYA National Youth Convention is Thursday, July 25 - Sunday, July 28, 2024 at Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, IL. This year's convention theme is "Justified," exploring the freedom that comes from being justified outside of ourselves. There are a number of keynote speakers and various optional Bible studies students can choose to attend. We'll also be gathering for worship on Sunday morning and celebrating the Lord's Supper together. For fun, you have a choice between touring downtown Chicago and going to the Museum of Science and Industry.

- This convention is for high school-aged youth (those who have been confirmed or completed 8th grade and up). Early registration is \$300 and open until June 1. Late registration is \$350 and available from June 2-July 1. For more information and to register, please go to ELS.org/LYA. **The early registration deadline is here before you know it, so if you'd like to attend, please sign up quickly (if you haven't already done so.)**
- *We need chaperones--at least one male and one female--to accompany our group. So, parents, if you are interested in serving as a chaperone, simply register as a chaperone at the above link, and send an email to Pastor Van Kampen at pvankampen@holycrossmadison.org.*
- For transportation this year, Holy Cross is planning on **taking the Amtrak Empire Builder** with a few other area congregations, departing Thursday, July 25 from Columbus at 1:45 p.m. to Chicago, arriving around 4:45 p.m., and then using public transportation from the train station to arrive at Concordia University. For the return trip, we will take public transport back to Union Station and the train will depart from Chicago on Sunday, July 28 at 3:05 p.m. and arrive in Columbus at about 5:55 p.m. As in years past, **Holy Cross will cover the cost of group transportation (on the train) for all students/chaperones who register. The sign-up deadline, however, if you'd like to ride the train is Sunday, June 16. Once you have registered, if you can please send notice to Pastor Van Kampen via email.**