Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Our Mission

We gather as an open community of Christians, responding to God’s call. We welcome all people as members of our extended family. We gather to support and nourish one another in the faith, equipping people to live the Gospel in the world. Our purpose is to encounter the Gospel in worship, play, study, music, work, prayer, and activism. We provide worship that is diverse, flexible, thought provoking and relevant to our challenging times. We are a voice for compassion and actively seek justice and peace in the world. We identify and serve our neighbors in need. We offer programs that encourage spiritual growth by teaching the Gospel in the Lutheran tradition. We provide opportunities to work, play, and pray together.

Everyone Is Welcome!

In response to the overwhelming love of God we stand in awe of the wideness of God’s mercy. In faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, mindful of our Lutheran emphasis on grace, and rejoicing in the celebration of our shared baptismal journey, we welcome as members of our extended family, all those who have ever felt excluded by the Church because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental challenges, financial resources, or family status.

As followers of Christ, all members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church are compelled by the Gospel to seek reconciliation and wholeness in a world that is all too often an unloving place. Therefore, rejoicing in God’s abundant grace, we extend a special welcome to all. Whether you are gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender; whatever your country of origin or ancestry; whether you are a believer, a doubter or a seeker; in Christ’s love, we welcome you, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we can work together to usher in God’s Reign of justice, peace, and mercy.
We pray for those in special need of God’s care: Terry & Phyllis Hutchings, Daniel Smyth (Sharon’s son), David Applegate (Kate’s husband), Nora & Dave Curran (Gary’s Parents), Fred Bell (Karen McIntyre’s father) June Phillips (Madeline Montpool’s extended family), Katherine Nesbitt (Jackie Nesbitt (Fleming’s mother), Barb Green (friend of the congregation) Max Glass (friend of Jackie Nesbitt & Scott Fleming), Beverly (Sharon Smyth’s sister-in-law) Joe & Fran Martin (Marney Curran’s family), Cheryl Mandel (friend of Janice Wiehe), and Shellie Broddy (friend of Chris & Rick Payne).

MINISTERS TODAY Next Sunday April 7th 2013

Worship Assistant Gary Curran Anthony de Boer
Communion Assistant Neil Nauman Maryann Doherty
Rose Orfanakos Cherilyn Spraakman
Carol Wegford Cherilyn Spraakman
Rick Michel Michael Smith
Vreny Mathis Lawrence McCutcheon
Coffee Hosts EASTER BREAKFAST Bev Metzger Noble
Counters Jeremy Heinze Cherilyn Spraakman
Rose Orfanakos Petra Vollmerhausen
Sylvia McCutcheon Linda Fleming
Neil Nauman Bob Fleming
Barb Weber & Mike Bois Neil Nauman

This Week at Holy Cross

Wednesday Choir 7:30 pm
Thursday Meditation Space – soup supper 5:30 pm
Friday Good Friday Worship 10:00 am
Sunday Adult Education: Progressive Christianity 9:30 am WORSHIP: Holy Communion 10:45 am

Blessing Announcements
Closing Hymn: #382 Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!
Dismissal
A: Christ is risen!
C: Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!
At the breaking of the bread  

Round and Round the Table of God

Distribution by continuous Communion.
You may choose to take the wine from the Common Cup or the individual glasses.
For those who are accustomed to intinction:
in compliance with public health recommendations, we do not offer intinction
and so we would encourage you to use the individual glasses.

Grape-Juice Option: is served in the individual glasses – white juice

Everyone is welcome to participate in Communion!

Communion Hymns:

#376 Thine is the Glory
1st verse accompanied, remaining verses sing a cappella
#367 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds
#674 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

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Before the sermon, Children will be invited to the front of the church to join in Children’s Time after which they will be encouraged to go downstairs for activities and then return to worship in time for Communion.

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the inclusive bible:
The First Egalitarian Translation

Translations of the Hebrew and Greek texts of the Bible are many and varied. During worship we will use:

the inclusive bible:
The First Egalitarian Translation.

This translation is the work of the Priests for Equality Project of the Quixote Center Collective. Published by Rowman and Littlefield in 2007, this translation seeks to be faithful to the original languages while using non-sexist language to express the ancient writings.
**Easter Sunday**

**GATHERING**

at ♦ Please Stand if you are able

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**Welcome**

*P:* Christ is risen!

*C:* Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**Opening Hymn:**

#365 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!

**Greeting**

*P:* The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

*C:* And also with you

**Hymn of Praise**

#389 Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

**Prayer of the Day**

*P:* Christ is risen!

*C:* Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*P:* Let us pray:

*C:* The shadows and gloom of Good Friday have been dispersed by the light and colour of this glorious morning. And so, we offer thanks and praise to God the source and giver of all life. We rejoice in the power of God’s Spirit, which lives and breathes in, with, and through us, to turn our sorrow into joy, our despair into hope, our defeat into victory and evil into goodness. Trusting the resurrecting power of the Spirit of God, we burst forth from our tombs to be Christ’s Body here in this place, so that God’s grace can live to transform the world. We praise God who is the source of new life, Christ who embodies love, and the Spirit who inspires us to live life abundantly. Amen.

Later, when the supper was over, knowing that his life was to be poured out, Jesus took a cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to his friends saying, “Drink this all of you, this cup in the new covenant, poured out for you and for all people. Drink this in remembrance of me.”

Remembering Christ’s life, death and resurrection we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

*C:* Christ has died. Christ is risen! Christ will come again, and again.

Here we break bread for freedom. Here we pour wine for justice. Here we celebrate this meal for all the world—a meal of faith and hope, God’s love, shared among us. The Risen Christ, was made known to the disciples in the breaking of the bread and so we break at this table as a sign of the brokenness of the world; through our sharing in the Bread of Life let our eyes and hands be opened to the needs of all people.

Let our hearts burn to share Christ’s gifts as we share with one another in the Bread of Hope, the Bread of Life, and the Bread of Peace. United in the power of love with all who stand for justice, let us worship God, in songs of everlasting praise. Blessing, and honour and glory be to God here and everywhere, now and forever. AMEN

**Abba Prayer**

As Jesus taught us we pray,

God, lover of us all, most holy one, help us to respond to you to create what you want for us here on earth. Give us today enough for our needs; forgive our weak and deliberate offences, as we forgive others when they hurt us. Help us to resist evil, and to do what is good; for we are yours, endowed with your power to make the world whole. All praise and honor is yours forever. Amen.
Great Thanksgiving

P: God is with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Open your hearts.
C: We open our hearts to God.
P: Let us give thanks to our God Most Holy
C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give thanks for this great festival celebration. In the resurrection stories we celebrate the triumph of God-in-Christ over the powers of despair, greed, lust for power, destruction, violence and death. In Christ, freedom replaces fear. Love forgives hate. We give thanks and praise for the transforming love that will not be overcome, which can never be taken away, and resolutely goes on creating, bringing good out of evil, and life out of death.

Therefore with all who have suffered for the cause of love and justice; with all the communities of faith and creation, we join in the unending hymn of thanksgiving:

Sanctus:

#472 Holy, Holy, Holy

We give thanks for Jesus of Nazareth, who loved so greatly and taught so clearly and courageously that he was able to set people free from images and ideas and religious practices that bound them into fear and a false sense of separation from the Spirit of all Life.

Through Jesus we have learned that to love is to share in the Spirit. In Jesus we see God challenging all of us to make visible and tangible the Spirit's presence on earth.

From our ancestors in the faith we have learned the story of the night before Jesus' death, when Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying, “Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

First Lesson:

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Choir:

*Where the Light of Easter Day*

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray; MUSIC: Marney Curran
Flute: Katherine Smith

Second Lesson:

1 Corinthians 15:35-44

Gospel Acclamation

*Allelu, Allelu, Alleluia!*

Refrain

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Al-le-lu, Al-le-lu, Al-le-lu-ia!
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Verse

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Christ is ris-en, Christ is ris'n a-gain.
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Repeat Refrain

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Al-le-lu, Al-le-lu, Al-le-lu-ia!
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Christ is ris-en, Christ is ris'n a-gain.
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Sermon

Luke 24:1-12

*The power of the empty tomb*
Can we now believe in life, singing "Christ is risen!?"
Death is everywhere where the norm, feared, familiar, given,
yet, if Easter Faith is true, great new things can happen.
Dark is giving way to dawn. Earth is lit by heaven.

Though our world embraces death (anger, war, and killing),
Easter blooms a Tree of Life, fragrant and fulfilling.
Justice, joy, compassion, peace, set our new direction,
as a people sent and steered by the Resurrection.

All the life that Jesus lived, teaching, meeting, healing,
every deed and every word, ripens into meaning
as our Rabbi's stirring voice summons us to follow,
calling not from ages past, but from God's tomorrow.

Christ, untameably alive, breathe our life upon us
Compass, governor and guide, with us and beyond us,
Sky and Sunlight, spreading Vine. Spring of living water
Truth and Wisdom, Way and Word, here, and then here after.

Prayers of the Body
as we pray
You are invited to respond to the words:
"Spirit of the Risen Christ...
with the words: "Let us be LOVE in the world!"

Peace
P: The peace of Christ, which surpasses all our understanding, is with you all.
C: And also with you
We greet each other with a sign of God's peace.
Early Christians used a kiss to symbolize the peace.
Hugs and handshakes are also appropriate.
As we greet one another with a sign of the peace we say:
"Peace be with you."

Prayer
A: Christ is risen.
C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
A: Let us pray:

C: rejoicing in the gifts of abundant life, we offer these gifts as a sign of our desire to be God’s Easter people: a community of friends dedicated to loving all of God’s splendid creation. We have been richly blessed, so let us reach out to the world in need with compassion so that our neighbours will see God’s love embodied in the work of this congregation. Let the power of Easter’s promise move us to do all that we can to seek justice and to work for peace; so that all may know the love of God, the peace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.