

Freedom and Happiness



"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things." – Philippians 4:8

As our nation celebrates its independence and as people enjoy their summer activities, free from many of the Covid-19 restrictions, I think this is a great time to praise our God for the freedom from the judgment of sin that He earned for us through His death and resurrection. As we prepare to ease back into a sense of normalcy in worship this month by passing the offering plates and kneeling at the altar rail again for communion, I read an interesting article recently about how easy it is to put off contentment and happiness in life and I thought it definitely applied to many of us during the pandemic.

The article said, *"We convince ourselves that life will be better after we get married, find the right job, and have children. However, we get frustrated when the kids are not old enough and we think we'll be more content when they get older. After that, we're frustrated that we have teenagers to deal with in our homes. We will certainly be happy when they are out of that stage. We tell ourselves that our life will be complete when we have a better paying job, get a nicer car, go on vacation, or retire."*

"The truth is, there's no better time to be happy than right now. Our lives will always be filled with challenges. It's best to admit this to yourself and decide to be happy anyway. So treasure every moment that you have and treasure it more because you shared it with someone. Stop waiting – until your car is paid off, your children leave home, you finish school, you get married, you get divorced, you have children, you lose 10 lbs., you retire, you go on vacation, or you get a better job," (and I'm sure we could add, "until the pandemic is over.") *"There is no better time than right now to be happy. Happiness is a journey, not a destination."*



I agree with the article, and I will also add that our happiness, which can come and go since it's so dependent on circumstances, can be turned into lasting joy through God living in our hearts by faith. Happiness and joy take on different meanings when experienced as a Christian. It's only through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus that we have any real hope and strength, which allows us to have real and lasting happiness.

Take a moment this month to let the people around you know how much you love and appreciate them. Circumstances in life change often, but through all of our ups and downs we can have real lasting joy, because our hope rests in Jesus, who loves and values us more than anything in our world.

In God's Service,

Pastor Bill Feyr

Pastor Bill



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Lutheran Women in Mission



You are invited to our "Ladies' Fall Event"

When: Sat. 10/23/2021

Where: Reese Hall at Holy Cross Lutheran Church

What Time: 8:30am-5:00pm

The purpose of any get together like this is to get away from all the clamor around us in our daily lives and to replenish our hearts a little bit...while having tremendous fun with our friends!

The theme for the day will be on "Faith, Family and Friends" which seems to have taken on an entirely new meaning in our lives after this exceptionally long year of isolation from each other.

Mark your calendars, now, and invite your dearest friends to join us.

Debbie Fick, Event Coordinator

debbie.fick1014@gmail.com

HC Quilting Group



Unfortunately, at this time visitors are not allowed to be in the building due to Covid protocols within Open Arms. Therefore, we have to put a hold on the quilting group meeting at the church. We are sorry for the inconvenience, and we hope to resume again in August. Please stay tuned for more information as guidelines are updated, and call the church office with any questions. Thank you!

We are in need of service assistants.

We need the follow service assistants:



Acolytes: help serve by lighting the candles and assisting Pastor Bill during communion.

Greeters: welcome and assist visitors and members as they arrive.



Readers: read scripture verses during worship. Scripture verses are provided to you.

Sound Booth: help run the slides for in-house services and online services.



Altar Guild: prepare for communion, change paraments, check candles

Training is provided for all positions, no experience necessary, no sign on bonus, and your “pay” is our sincere appreciation! Please contact Rebekah Bajwa with any questions or to sign up. 919.553.4784 or Rebekah.Bajwa@HolyCrossClayton.com

Thank you!

YOUTH MINISTRY

holycrossyouth

CONFIRMATION (CY1, CY2, & CY3)

Confirmation: Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2021! It was a joy to see you confirm your faith on June 6th!

Get Connected: Use the Remind App for both parents and youth to stay informed about upcoming events. Please send a text to 81010 with the message below:

- @cy2hcc is for rising second year students.
- @cy3hcc is for rising third year students.



Did your child just finish 5th Grade? If

yes, please sign them up for our Confirmation Program. What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a 3-year program for middle school students where they learn the foundations of the Christian faith. The goal of the Confirmation process is to engage youth in a life-long journey of faith including participation in the body of Christ (the Church). The purpose of confirmation ministry is to provide an intentional opportunity for baptized Christians who desire to deepen and explore their faith, read and study scripture in community, and learn about Christ's church through the lens of the Lutheran tradition. During the first year (CY1) the students will learn about the Lord's Prayer, Sacraments, and Bible fundamentals. Second year students (CY2) learn about the 10 Commandments and the Apostle's Creed (a statement of faith). Third year students (CY3) learn how God's Word applies to their life today. In CY3 students select a Bible verse which has significant meaning to them to be their confirmation verse. At the end of Confirmation the students stand before the congregation and confirm their faith.

If you are interested in learning more about Confirmation please email Rebekah Bajwa. Rebekah.bajwa@holycrossclayton.com



FUNDRAISERS FOR THE YOUTH GATHERING 2022:

Thank you very much for all of your support on our Sprit Night at Simple Twist, we made \$350!!! Our Yard Sale was another great success, and we were able to raise \$2,322.50! Thank you for all of your donated items and support. Neither of these events could have been this successful without your help, thank you!!!

Scrip Fundraiser

We are starting Scrip! Scrip is a great way to help raise funds towards The Gathering without spending additional money. Gift card fundraising is the right way to raise money. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to use for your daily purchases. It's the easiest way to create opportunities for our youth. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted. Every church member can easily earn \$1,000 or more for youth ministry.

On **July 18th** there will be an information meeting between services at **10:00am in Reese Hall**. At this meeting you will learn how to set up your scrip account to support youth ministry, or a specific child from church. We will share how anyone can use scrip for their regular daily purchases, and at the same time, give money back without additional spending. If you have questions please contact BJ Johns bjkjohns@gmail.com.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Get Connected: Use the Remind App for both parents and youth to stay informed about upcoming events. Please send a text to 81010 with the message below

@hsmhhc for general High School information

@hclcnyc for specific information regarding The Youth Gathering 2022

- **Saturday July 3rd 8am – 12pm.** Do yard work in Clayton, and make money towards the Gathering. Please email Rebekah if you are available to come, and she will give you more details. This is an individual account fundraiser.
- **SAVE the Date: Date Change -Gathering Registration Meeting** Sunday, September 26th 1pm.

Children's Ministry

Christian Education

We had a great time at VBS Knights of the North Castle. 79 travelers came to VBS to help us find the Great Armor. At the end of the week all the students discovered the Great Armor from Ephesians and were Knighted. This could not have happened without our Director Donna Harlow, Assistant Director Val Feick, Decorator Dewie Francis along with the other 40 volunteers who helped the week of VBS.



OUR PRAISE BAND IS LOOKING FOR:



- ★ Male Singers
- ★ Drummers
- ★ Guitar Players
- ★ Bass Players

If interested, or for more information, please contact our music director—
Melissa Sultan at: Melissa.Sultan@HolyCrossClayton.com

TRIANGLE FAITH.ORG

*“Proclaiming the Message of the Gospel in a
Culture Dominated by Shame and Honor”*

August 8-9, 2021
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

FREE Evening Summer Seminars

Gather for two evenings to learn more about Muslims and the Gospel moving
from challenges to opportunities for knowing our Muslim neighbors.

Sunday, August 8 – Evening Session Part 1

- Islam is the only major world religion to use many of Christian scriptures, symbols, thoughts, and sentiments but interpret them with a different conclusion.
- Why should we in the West be interested in Islam?
- What challenges presents to us as Disciples of Christ?

Monday, August 9 – Evening Session Part 2

- Where do we start when it comes to sharing the Good News of the Gospel?
- The Seminar will encourage and equip you to meet Muslims as friends and people who God loved and wants to include in his family.

Seminar Location



Resurrection Lutheran Church
100 W. Lochmere Dr., Cary, NC

*TriangleFaith.org is a cooperative effort of congregations in
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod that seeks to bring the message
of forgiveness to the greater Raleigh Triangle community.*



Dr. Abjar Bahkou

Associate Professor
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Dr. Abjar Bahkou is associate professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He joined the faculty in June 2018. Before that he served in several capacities at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Bahkou has written numerous articles and has done translation work from English into Arabic. He brings a rich background of experiences to the task of thinking through Christian witness to our Muslim neighbors.



**Concordia
Seminary**
ST. LOUIS

**HOLY CROSS
PRAYER MINISTRY
“YEAR of PRAYER 2021”**



**Together as a “Church Family” we are making 2021 a
“YEAR of PRAYER”**

**In July we at Holy Cross are offering up PRAYERS for
“government officials”**

**In this stressful time of division, turmoil and great uncertainty PRAYER
is as important than ever AND is one thing we all can and should do.**

**Everyone is invited to join in. It is really simple!!
You can PRAY from home, work, in the car, anywhere and
anytime the Holy Spirit leads you to PRAY
Your PRAYERS can be formal or even better just have a conversation
with GOD, after all HE is your Heavenly FATHER and BEST FRIEND.**

PRIORITIZE - Set a time to do this EVERY DAY, with your whole family.

Here is an idea of what you can PRAY this Month.

DEAR Heavenly Father, You have given us a great country, founded on principles and truths from Your Word.

We PRAY for leaders, men and women who will honor You, trust You, and lead us back to You. We PRAY for servant leaders to love the things You love and who care more about others than themselves.

We pray, in the Name of the Lord Jesus, for our president, the vice president, all the Cabinet and the chief justice and associate justices of the Supreme Court to seek and receive the wisdom of God, to act in obedience to that wisdom and for the power of God to flow in their lives. We pray for the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives and for our Governor as well as all our State and local Government officials to find Your peace and direction, and for these men and women to act and lead according to Your Word.

We Pray further for UNITY of all Your Children in this time of turmoil and change.

We pray these things in the name of JESUS. AMEN

We are becoming a “PRAYER SATURATED CHURCH”.

We can't wait to meet you.

Come Pray with Us!

Find Community. Find Purpose.

We are moms just like you who have concerns about our kids and the influences around them.

In prayer, we know we're not alone
and this gives us reassurance and hope.

MomsInPrayer.org

Impacting children and schools worldwide for Christ
by gathering mothers to pray



Moms in Prayer will resume meeting in August. Stay tuned and keep watch for updates

Enjoy your summer!

Thank you!

Lizy Coleman
919-455-8788

Lizy@e-colemans.com

the.prayer wall

B E C A U S E P R A Y E R M A T T E R S

We are praying for—Those receiving cancer care:

- ♥ Reid Yapple, brother of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Kris, mother of Travis Bjorklund
- ♥ David Coleman, brother of Paul Coleman
- ♥ James Atkins
- ♥ Deshawna Zazueta, friend of Dale & Ashley Cranford
- ♥ Roger Hamann, friend of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Dave Zimmerman, cousin of Lizy Coleman
- ♥ Paul, brother of Chris Urban
- ♥ “Sonny” Edward C, Leigh, Sr., father of Ed Leigh
- ♥ Joanne Morse, friend of Ellie Shep
- ♥ Pam Denning, friend of Candice Patterson
- ♥ Tim Ziezula, relative of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Mark, brother of Todd Samsa
- ♥ Bettina, daughter of Christa Schroeder
- ♥ Bill Berry, friend of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Peggy Davis, niece of Linda Beers
- ♥ Clyde Williams, uncle of Jamie Brannon
- ♥ Sonja Coull
- ♥ Ralph Souter, friend of Harold Winkle
- ♥ Tonya Gordon, friend of Dinae Reczek
- ♥ Faye Runyon, aunt of BJ Johns

We are praying for—Those with health issues:

- ♥ Ernie Creech
- ♥ Jacob Boyd
- ♥ Luke Boyd
- ♥ Elisabeth Junker
- ♥ Nancy Studley
- ♥ Kathy Savoy
- ♥ Shirley Van Gilder
- ♥ Rebecca Lavery
- ♥ Tom Hansen
- ♥ Kathy Savoy
- ♥ Barbara Denning
- ♥ Werner & Ursula Fick
- ♥ Arlene Behr
- ♥ Jo Abma
- ♥ Lucille Nicklow
- ♥ Judy Fowler
- ♥ Peggy Lorton
- ♥ Mark Wilson
- ♥ Connie Reid
- ♥ Margaret Lee
- ♥ Richard Lavery
- ♥ Dewie Francis
- ♥ Amanda Kearney, friend of Tara Webb
- ♥ Sue, grandmother of Brian Lawrence
- ♥ Nicholas & Family, grandson of Christa Schroeder
- ♥ Ronald Browning, friend of John & Amy Klein
- ♥ Lois Lintner, mother of Madonna Bennett
- ♥ Lee Hartman, Open Arms parent
- ♥ Sherry Whalen, friend of Judy Fowler
- ♥ Little Ester, needing heart surgery
- ♥ Josiah Miller, Open Arms parent
- ♥
- ♥ Spenser Goldman, grandson of Penny Schneider
- ♥ Sandy & Bill, friends of Edie Voorhees
- ♥ Donnie Whitman, brother-in-law of Robert Bennett
- ♥ Wayne Ausley, step-father of Brandy Bjorklund
- ♥ Joseph & Mary Littleton
- ♥ Elihu Biggers, father of Shaunna Voorhees
- ♥ Charlotte Bucklen & Steven Kelley, friends of the Coleman Family
- ♥ Craig Drenkow and Family, friends of Rebekah Bajwa
- ♥ Brian Blatchley, brother-in-law of Bill McElwain
- ♥ Steve Estes, husband of Gail Estes
- ♥ Donna, daughter of Caroline Schust
- ♥ Patty, daughter of Gayle Keen, friend of Ellie Shep
- ♥ Barbara Ekerdt Creecy, niece of Herman & Donna Steele
- ♥ Thomas Craig, brother of Caroline Shust
- ♥ James Norris, father of Meredith Marsh
- ♥ Danny McCarthy, friend of Michele Capozzi
- ♥ Stevie Tibbett, friend of Eunice Burch
- ♥ Monica Clonts, sister of Blake Ball
- ♥ Janie Bruton, friend of Bob Lotter
- ♥ James Fowler & Ryan Hudson, friends of Robin Oelrich
- ♥
- ♥ Faith Hicks & her daughter Grace, goddaughter of the Colemans
- ♥ Charlie & Joyce Pike, friend of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Tod & Karen, parents of Sean Pritchard
- ♥ Natalie, niece of Jerry & Karen Benditz
- ♥ Joyce Moore
- ♥ Gretchen Sneider & Heidi Goldman, daughters of Penny Schneider
- ♥ Evelyn Goldapple, mother of Jennifer McNally
- ♥ Matthew Marek, cousin of Robert McNally
- ♥ Amy, step-mother of Marvin Fordham
- ♥ Rosie Villamil & Mahtob Mahmoody, friends of Elisabeth Junker
- ♥ Patricia, mother of Kurt Miller
- ♥ Patty Anderson, sister of Lanny Scroggs
- ♥ Linda Smith, friend of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Alyssa, friend of Diane Wessel
- ♥ Sophia Allen, niece of Gene & Jeannie Gevers
- ♥ Mitch & Christy Fehr, friends of Gene and Jeannie Gevers
- ♥ Mark Morgan, nephew of Tim & Billie Shank
- ♥ Linda Williams, aunt of Jamie Brannon
- ♥ Carmen Witt, Niece of Joye Fields

We are praying for—Those with other prayer needs:

- ♥ Lexi, friend of Olivia Bishop
- ♥ Ryan Underwood, nephew of Beth Otto



Family Night on Wednesday!

5:30-6:30 Dinner is served
**6:45-7:30 Christian
Education
Kindergarten-Adults**

Family Night starts in September.
We need help to make it a success. If
you are interested in helping set up,
cook, clean up, or teach, please
contact Rebekah Bajwa.

This year Family Night will be held in Reese Hall! We are excited to use the new building each week, but realize with more space, we need more help! Each week for Family Night we set up tables and chairs for about 200 people. It sounds like a lot,

but with a good set up crew, it goes really fast. Bobbie and Blaine Hall organize the cooks to keep us fed before our Education classes. From 6:30-6:45pm families finish eating, help clean up and then drop their child(ren) off in their classrooms, before their education class. From 6:45 – 7:30pm we offer education classes for all age levels. If you have a child under the age of 4 we offer free childcare.

To make Family Night a success it takes a lot of HELP. We NEED HELP for the 2021-2022 year. If you are interested in cooking a meal please contact Bobbie and Blaine Hall at Blaine.Hall@nc.rr.com or 919- 285-4576. If you are interested in being a helper to set up the tables and chairs, take down the tables and chairs, or teach please contact Rebekah Bajwa Rebekah.bajwa@holycrossclayton.com."

Ladies, Are you facing a mountain in life? Let a Stephen Minister walk with you on the journey.



Contact the
church
office
919.553.4784.
Ask for
Rebekah.

STEPHEN MINISTRIES

Here at Holy Cross we have Stephen Ministers who are here to care for people going through life struggles. If you are going through a struggle and would like someone to walk with you on this journey please contact Rebekah.Bajwa@holycrossclayton.com.

What is a Stephen Minister? A Stephen Minister is a person who offers one-to-one lay caring where they listen to their care receiver. Each Stephen Minister can have one care receiver at a time.

Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

SERVING THE CHURCH IN JULY

	7/4 8:30am	7/4 11:00am	7/11 8:30am	7/11 11:00am	7/18 8:30am	7/18 11:00am	7/25 8:30am	7/25 11:00am
Altar Guild (1-2)	Ella	Jane Wilson	Brandy Bjorklund	Helen Comeford	Diane Wessel	Kris Popilek	Madonna Bennett	Jeanie Scroggs
Sound Booth (2)	Lincoln	Tom Schoenberg	Connor Davis	Sarah Beyer	Madison Sherwin	Ethan Skibins	Connor Davis	Tom Schoenberg
	Logan Bjorklund	Jane Wilson	Natalie Sherwin	Faith Skibins	Dayna	Faith Skibins	Natalie Sherwin	Jane
Ushers (3)	Mark Beal	Art Berger	Robin	Val Feick	Bob	Jeff Skibins	Steve	Art Berger
	Gene Gevers	Tony Swann	Robert Bennett	Wilson Feick	Mark Sherwin	Brad deCathelineau	Mark Beal	Tony Swann
	Ron Harrison	Brad deCathelineau	Tom Hansen	Jeff Skibins	Brad Palmer	Tony Swann	Robert Bennett	Brad deCathelineau
Acolyte (1)	Connor Davis		Dillon Smith	Zoe Skibins	Joe Alaniz	Kinsey Squires	Hayden Bishop	
Readers	Blake Ball	Brenda Gay	Todd Hinton	Harold Winkle	Blake Ball	Brenda Gay	Todd Hinton	Bailey deCathelineau
Greeters (2)	Jim & Charlotte Rybinski	Dennis & Elaine Reese	Berta Hinton Todd Hinton	Liz & Gary Scrofani	Diane & Gary Wessel	Mary Lkou & Ron Mackenzie	Ella McBrayer	Dennis & Elaine Reese



Paul and Doris Niewoehner extend their heartfelt appreciation and thanks for the cards, thoughts and prayers as they grieve the loss of their great grandson, Anthony Carrol.

Vital Stats

Date	Online Attendance	Offerings
5/2	236 views	\$ 5,840
5/9	214 views	\$ 8,479
5/16	241 views	\$ 6,915
5/23	170 (101 & 69)	\$ 10,059
5/30	153 (77 & 76)	\$ 5,450
Direct Deposit Offering (May.):		<u>\$ 10,638</u>
Total Envelope/Plate Giving:		\$ 47,381
Total offerings received thru 5/31/21:		\$223,093
Total projected offerings thru 5/31/21:		\$228,316
Avg. weekly offerings 22 weeks 2020:		\$10,508
Avg. weekly offerings 22 weeks 2021:		\$10,141
Special Gifts (to Holy Cross):		
Building Fund		\$ 2,704
MATTHEW Ministry		\$ 800
Backpack Buddies		\$ 60
2020 Mission Offerings (from Holy Cross):		
iChoose Pregnancy Support Services:		\$ 1,250
Southeastern District—LCMS		\$11,467



Your Ministry Team



Senior Pastor:	Rev. Bill Beyer	william.beyer@holycrossclayton.com
Dir. of Family Ministry:	Rebekah Bajwa	rebekah.bajwa@holycrossclayton.com
Admin. Assistant:	Sarah Elliott	sarah.elliott@holycrossclayton.com
Open Arms Director:	Cindy Elliott	openarms@holycrossclayton.com
Music Director:	Melissa Sultan	melissa.sultan@holycrossclayton.com
President:	Travis Bjorklund	bork@zombiehive.com
Vice President:	Diane Wessel	crew512@hotmail.com
Board of Elders:	Ron Harrison	rshnc@nc.rr.com
	Chuck Fox	cfox13@nc.rr.com
	Tony Swann	rtraviator@nc.rr.com
	Robert Bennett	rbennett6@nc.rr.com
	Brad deCathelineau	braddecath1@gmail.com
Open Arms Board:	John Michael Harlow	jmharlow2011@gmail.com
Social Ministries:	Debbie Fick	debbie.fick1014@gmail.com
Board of Education:	Tara Webb	taradawnwebb@hotmail.com
Board of Properties:	John Neuner	jkneuner@gmail.com
Financial Secretary:	BJ Johns	bjkjohns@gmail.com
Asst. Fin. Secretary:	Todd Hinton	toddhinton60@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Kelly Derflinger	kellycpa@mail.com

Building To Serve UPDATE

as of May 31st

To prepare God's people for
works of service, so that the
body of Christ may be built up.

—Ephesians 4:12

