Holy Cross
LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

March 5, 2023 - 9:30 am

2nd Sunday in Lent



GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Prelude
Welcome and Announcements
Special Music *"God is So Good"* K-2 Radical Ringers
Confession and Forgiveness
Call to Worship
Opening Hymn *"How Firm a Foundation"* ELW 796
Greeting
Kyrie
Prayer of the Day
Special Music *"Fairest Lord Jesus"* 3rd-5th Grade Radical Ringers

WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

Children's Message

Genesis 12:1-4a... The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2]I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3]I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." [4a]So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17... What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2]For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3]For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4]Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5]But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. [13]For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14]If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15]For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. [16]For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, [17]as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

John 3:1-17... Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2]He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." [3]Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4]Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be

born?” [5]Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6]What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7]Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ [8]The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” [9]Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” [10]Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? [11]“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. [12]If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13]No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14]And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15]that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. [16]“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. [17]“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message Pastor Heather Grell

Hymn of the Day *“Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone”*

Prayers

Sharing God’s Peace

MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

Offering

Special Music *“God With Us”* Jerry Joseph

Offertory *“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”* ELW 334

Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Communion

Communion Songs *“Lamb of God”*
“Goodness of God“

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

Blessing

Sending Song *“Your Grace is Enough”*

Dismissal

Postlude

Announcements

⇒ **Call Process Update** Throughout the building, you will see **Call Process** posters. We are currently in the Preparation Phase, steps 2 & 3. In **Step 2** (The Transition Projects) the church council has been looking at community demographics, compiling a digital view book about the ministry of Holy Cross, and ensuring that our governing documents are up to date. In **Step 3** (The Ministry Site Profile) the church council has begun to compile and draft a ministry site profile for the congregation. We are working with Pr. Gregory Berger. Pastor Heather will continue to serve as our full-time interim pastor throughout the call process.

⇒ **Centering Prayer Group** will meet Monday's at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room here at Holy Cross. Questions, contact Paula McDonald at 402-210-6040.

⇒ **Food Pantry** Our first Saturday of the month Food Pantry is Saturday, March 4th. CLICK HERE to help. We are in need of cereal, ramen, cookies, juice, bar soap, and paper sacks.

⇒ **Blood Drive** There will be a Blood Drive at Holy Cross Sunday, March 12th from 9:30 to 3:30. To sign up visit www.redcrossblood.org and search March 12th.

⇒ **Adult Forum** following worship today is on centering prayer presented by a member of Nebraska Contemplative Outreach.

⇒ **Lenten Worship** Rejuvenate your soul at 6:30 pm with the Holden Evening Prayer Service March 8, 15, 22, and 29.

⇒ **Tai Chi** A beginning Tai Chi Class is offered weekly on Wednesday's from 12:30—1:30 pm in the HCLC Narthex. A free-will donation will be accepted for our instructor, Cynthia Simon. Bring a friend and discover that you really do have balance!

⇒ **Prayer Faith Mile Marker** The 3rd-5th grade Sunday school class will be participating in our Prayer Faith Mile Marker class on March 19 and March 26 during the Sunday school hour. We will dive deeper into the Lord's Prayer and talk about what prayer means to our faith lives. We will celebrate the completion of this class during worship on April 2nd.

⇒ **Easter Eggs** In the Narthex, you'll find bags of empty Easter eggs. If you are able, please take a bag home and fill the eggs with individually wrapped candy or small trinkets/stickers/etc. for our Sunday School Egg Hunt on April 2. Please have filled eggs back to Kelsey by Sunday March 26.

⇒ **Reminder: Designate your Thrivent Dollars!!** All Thrivent Benefits members are allowed to help designate where Thrivent sends part of their charitable donations every year. Please consider choosing Holy Cross to receive your Thrivent Choice Dollars.
The deadline for designating where your 2022 funds are sent is March 31, 2023. See the March newsletter for more information.

Calendar for Upcoming Week

Sunday, March 5
9:30 am Worship
10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Forum
10:45 am Endowment Board Meeting
10:50 am Youth Ensemble
11:00 am Middle School/High School Bells

Monday, March 6
1:00 pm Centering Prayer Group
6:30 pm Boy Scouts
9:00 pm CMA Meeting

Tuesday, March 7
7:30 pm A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, March 8
6:00 pm Confirmation/Uke Choir
6:30 pm Lent Worship
7:00 pm Radical Ringers/Youth Group

Thursday, March 9
6:30 pm Carolon Bell Choir
7:00 pm Boy Scout Committee Mtg
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, March 10
7:00 pm Belles N Beaus

Saturday, March 11
9:30 am Sarah Circle
12:00 pm Wedding Shower

Sunday, March 12
9:30 am Blood Drive
9:30 am Worship
10:45 am Sunday School
10:50 am Youth Ensemble
11:00 am Middle School/High School Bells
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 48012 Mtg

Prayer Requests from our Church Community

Member Concerns: **Barb Hannon** as she deals with medical concerns. **Jan Swanson** as she recovers from a fall. **Connie Mertz** as she deals with medical concerns.

On-Going Member Concerns: **Edie Nabity** at Hillcrest Papillion

Friends and Relatives: **Tom Victor**, father of Jen Gitt; **LaDonna Downing,** mother of Rinda Howard; **Karen Schramm**, grandmother of Valerie Birch; **Timothy Poole,** cousin of Ben Poole; **Roger Kay**, brother of Barb Kay; **Todd Erickson,** brother of Wendy Erickson; **Walt Weaver & Carson Rich**, family of Carol Rich; **Ronda Bayer,** friend of Debbie Risinger; **Debbie Haacke**, coworker of Debbie Risinger; **George Adamson**, friend of Sue Spengler; **Tatyana Povazhnaya**, friend of Sue Spengler; **Gaylen Grunke**, Wes Grunke's Brother; **Jason West,** Sue Spengler's boyfriend's cousin; **Andie Hunter**, Elizabeth Yearwood's sister; **Linda Anderson**, Barb Kay's sister; **Amy Churchill,** friend of Barb Kay; **Ronald Gulbranson,** Julie Noteman's brother; **Josh Prochotsky and family,** Paula McDonald's nephews son and family; **Aaron McDonald and Family and Caregivers,** McDonald's grandson.