

Volume 25, Number 5  
May 1st, 2019

# East Cross News

Monthly Publication  
of East Cross United  
Methodist Church



# east cross



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Church Office:  
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*Confirmation Class of 2019 — Elena Haschke, Carinna Marling, Lily Bloom, Angel Gaines and Lily Weimer with Pastor Jeff and Pastor Chad. Not pictured is Aubrey Boswell.*



Newsletter  
articles for the  
next issue are due  
in the church office  
by noon on  
Monday,  
May 20th.

Email articles to  
office@eastcross.org

## Sermon Series Beginning May 12 “Lifted Up”

Failure, barrenness, doubt, death...  
We all experience situations that  
pull us down, but Jesus can lift us  
up with his resurrection power.

Come and be Lifted Up as we  
explore the way Jesus Lifted Up  
people from despair to joy, from  
failure to leadership, from doubt  
to belief, and from death to life.  
Together, we’ll explore the meaning  
of Easter for our lives today.



## Another step in our journey...

*“Plan for the best May ever... but don’t let your relationship with God and your church family suffer.”*

**M**ay is quite the exciting time for many of our families. We have ten youth graduating from high school that are a part of East

Cross. We also have some who are finishing college with either undergraduate or graduate level degrees, and almost every child and youth finishes another grade level in school and looks forward to the next grade. Add to that Prom, which just took place, all the field trips and other educational excursions, place all of that on top of the busy schedule for spring sports, and life is exciting and busy for many of our families.

For those who are not involved in school related activities, May is still a time that gets busy with all the springtime activities, yard work, and travels. I love being

busy, so I love May. It’s a great time for all these activities. What I see on occasion, though, is families getting so busy they let their spiritual growth and church participation get run over by the busyness.

Plan for the best May ever with all the great activities and fun, but don’t let your relationship with God and your church family suffer. I think of it as a step backwards after we have made significant movement forward in following Jesus Christ.

Happy May.

*Pastor Jeff*

## Contemporary Worship

**O**ur worship team at East Cross is incredible! So many of our musicians, vocalists, and sound and media techs give of themselves selflessly every single week. I want to give a huge thank you to every one of them and I hope that when you see them around the church you will too! We are extremely blessed to have talent like this in our church, and more importantly, we are blessed that those with talent desire to use it to lead us in worship each week. And the best part, there is always room

for more! If you have a desire to use a gift God has given you to help us in our worship services, whether you play an instrument, sing, are good with computers, or just want to find a place to get plugged in, we would love to talk to you about the many opportunities we have on our worship team! Come by and talk to either myself or someone in the church office, we would love for you to join our journey!

God Bless,

*Zack Michel,*  
**Contemporary Worship**

***“And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God’s diverse gifts. Whoever speaks should do so as those who speak God’s word. Whoever serves should do so from the strength that God furnishes. Do this so that in everything God may be honored through Jesus Christ. To him be honor and power forever and always. Amen.”***

**1 Peter 4:10-11 CEB**

## From Pastor Chad...

I always approach this time of year with mixed feelings. Mainly because “April showers bring May flowers” and with the blooming of the flowers come the high pollen content which wreaks havoc on my sinuses. The pollen in the air has been so extreme recently that it has left a visible yellow-green film all over my white truck. I have to be diligent to take my allergy medicine or else I spend months talking like Mickey Mouse instead of just a week. I say all of that to say, it seems that pollen and I are not friends. Flowering plants with all their pollen seem like an absolute negative.

It is easy to get caught up in the negative when that is all you are experiencing. However, if we can focus past our

current circumstances we might be able to see something beautiful and life-giving. If I focus past the sniffing, the sneezing and the coughing, then I get to witness the beauty of God’s creation as flowers bring a splash of color to a somewhat empty canvas. The beauty of the flowers also attract bees that take back the nectar and the pollen to their hive to make sweet honey (that can actually help with my allergies because of the pollen). I tend to miss all of this when all I am focused on is another tissue. It is time to shift my focus.

There are many who are going through times of trial right now – struggles much deeper than the battle against pollen. Therefore, I want to encourage you with a scripture that has

been on my heart for the last few months that really speaks to where we put our focus. It comes from Psalm 30, and, in this chapter, David is expressing what it looks like for him to shift his focus off his troubles and place his trust in the Lord God. In the second half of verse 5, we read these words: “Weeping may stay all night, but by morning, joy!”

It is not always easy to see past the struggles in which we find ourselves. However, if we can shift our focus back towards God we might just be able to find that joy that seems to be elusive.

Blessings!

*Pastor Chad*

## Traditional Worship

Signs of spring are everywhere! People are out working in the yard, cleaning up the old and planting the new! In the house, we “spring clean” decluttering the mess and wiping away winter’s grit and grime! Why does the spring cleaning have to stop with our homes? How about we spring

clean our minds—decluttering our thoughts and getting rid of the stresses and worries! With a clean, fresh start in our minds, we can focus more on what God has planned for us without distraction!

*Margie Green,*  
**Traditional Worship**

***“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”***

**Romans 12:2**



## Student Ministry

**W**hen I was in school, a long, long time ago in a galaxy far away, I loved when the calendar hit May 1<sup>st</sup>! I loved it for two reasons—Cinco De Mayo was only four days away and the end of school was rapidly approaching. Summer was on its way! I remember sitting in class and wondering how I would fill my days when I should have been preparing for my finals. My friends would write in my yearbook stuff like “KIT” (keep in touch) complete with their phone numbers and “Man, we are going to have a kickin’ summer.” Then that final bell would ring and I was out of there. Summer would start rolling along and I would spend my days working or just sitting at the house. I had some great ideas for how to spend my summer, but I never made any plans. As a result, the summer would end and I really did not have a lot to show for it.

I tell you this to ask you two questions: “What are your plans for the summer? How are you

including God in those plans?” Oswald Chambers once wrote: “God seems to have a delightful way of upsetting the plans we have made, when we have not taken Him into account. We get ourselves into circumstances that were not chosen by God, and suddenly we realize that we have been making our plans without Him — that we have not even considered Him to be a vital, living factor in the planning of our lives. And yet the only thing that will keep us from even the possibility of worrying is to bring God in as the greatest factor in all of our planning.”

As you plan how you will spend your summer, keep Proverbs 19:21 (CEB) in mind: “Many plans are in a person’s mind, but the Lord’s purpose will succeed.”

Blessings on your final month of school!

*Chad*

### **EAST CROSS YOUTH MINISTER!!!**

We are seeking someone to help lead the youth at East Cross. To learn more about this exciting opportunity, go to our East Cross facebook page or stop by the church office for a copy of the job description. If interested, send your letter of interest and resume’ to:

East Cross Methodist Church  
c/o Bob Fraser, Staff-Parish Chair  
820 S Madison Blvd  
Bartlesville OK 74006

### **High School Senior Reminder**

If you have a graduating Senior and have not been on Chad’s emails reminding all about Senior Sunday, please contact Chad at [associate@eastcross.org](mailto:associate@eastcross.org).

Formal invitations have been mailed requesting RSVP’s for the May 19 Senior Sunday Breakfast. If you have not received an invitation or if you have any other questions, contact Kendra Deffenbaugh at 918-914-2355.

## EC Kids



**T**hroughout history, God has offered strength to help people persevere through difficult situations. Jesus persevered through death itself to make it possible for us to have a forever relationship with God. Because of what Jesus did for us, we can trust Him to help us find the strength to persevere through whatever we face.

We start the month in **Matthew 28:16-20** and **Acts 1-2** as we listen in on the last conversation Jesus had with His disciples before going back to heaven. He gave them a huge mission—to share His message to the ends of the earth.

Next, we head to **Acts 16:16-40** to discover what happens when Paul and Silas were arrested. They could have given up their calling to spread the message of Jesus. However, even in the middle of this difficult situation they decided to worship God.

Next we head to **Hebrews 12:1** where the author of Hebrews reminds us that when life gets hard, we can look to the heroes of faith and see how they trusted God through some extremely difficult circumstances.

We finish out the month with another passage in Hebrews. In **Hebrews 12:2-3** the author notes that to run the race of life with perseverance, we should focus our attention on Jesus.

Difficult situations are going to happen and pushing through isn't always easy, but we can do it with God's help—if we refuse to give up when life gets hard. If you want to make it through the may-hem, you need perseverance!

### Christians In Action

Our next CIA (Christians In Action) mission project will be on Saturday, May 4 from 3:00-5:00pm at East Cross. We will meet on the patio near the back entrance to the church. The kiddos will be digging in the dirt, planting flowers, and spreading mulch to give our gardens a fresh new look! Sign up at our Check-In Desk!

CIA is for mission minded children in 2nd-5th grades who want to serve God by sharing His love.



### DINE AND SHINE

One of our FAVORITE annual events is coming up: Our DINE & SHINE Talent Show! Join us on Wednesday, May 15 with dinner starting at 5:30pm then a fantastic talent show at 6:00pm. Youth and children are invited to take part in the performance either as a solo act or as a group. If your child would like to perform, a sign-up sheet will be at the EC Kids Check-In Desk, or email [aimeeb@eastcross.org](mailto:aimeeb@eastcross.org).

*Aimee Hall, Director of Children's Ministries*



## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

**W**hen families enroll their child(ren) to “come to school” *ALL* should feel loved, comfortable and safe – we feel we can provide each of these every day in our program’s ministry to our church and our community!

*Many thanks and blessings to each of these wonderful teachers who shared their love, time and compassion with each one of the children in their classes for our recent school-year session! Without each and every one of these teachers, our program would not be as highly sought-out as it seems to be by many families in our community.*



### **Parent Day Out Teaching Staff:**

~ Ms Lacey Robertson, Ms Liz VanDeVenter,  
Ms Chandler Henderson, Ms Persia Charbonneau,  
Ms Genna Adkins, Ms Colleen Buck and  
Ms Jennifer Glisson

### **3-Year Old Preschool Classes:**

~ Ms Christy Hanks and Ms Nancy Banks  
~ Ms Valerie Wall and Ms Gloria Goheen  
~ Ms Melissa Yardley and Ms Tasha Schaper

### **4-Year Old Preschool Classes:**

~ Ms Sonia Davis, Ms Lisa Reddout and  
Ms Genna Adkins  
  
~ Ms Becky Balli, periodic substitute teaching staff  
~ Ms Nora Wegener, Director’s Assistant

The month of May will be the end of yet another school-year session and we will again host our annual “**Preschool Program**” for the 43 children in our four separate Preschool classes!

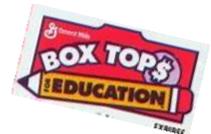
Each class will share several of their favorite classroom songs with family and friends on Friday, May 10 in our Christian Life Center (aka, “the gym”). The children in our 4-year-old Preschool class will be part of a *brief* graduation recognition at the conclusion of the program.

Our **Summer Session** class enrollment has already *FILLED* all openings – thank you!

Our 2019/2020 **School-Year Session** classes are quickly filling up as well. Please contact our Early Childhood Center office for enrollment forms or if more information is needed!

*We appreciate everyone’s support and ask for continued collection throughout the year of...*

### **Box-Tops for Education and Used Ink-Jet Cartridges.**



Please continue to place these in our “Early Childhood Center’s/Coleen mailbox” in the church office copy room or drop off at our Early Childhood Center’s office!

~ *Coleen Williams, Director @  
East Cross Early Childhood Center*

Phone # 918-333-3814  
Email: [ecc@eastcross.org](mailto:ecc@eastcross.org)

## EAST CROSS NURSERY

It's hard to believe it's already May. This month we celebrate three special occasions; Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Graduation. All of these are celebrated for great reasons. They offer specific times to praise and honor people.

This month we are losing a Sunday school teacher and friend. Mr. Rick will be retiring after 26 years of teaching the 3 year old PreK class. He will truly be missed. If you see him around please thank him for all he has done and for teaching our children about Jesus.

Ms. Rachel will be the new teacher in that class. She has been working with Mr. Rick for a few

months and the children love her. She's very excited to be teaching our children about Jesus and I know she's going to do a great job.

Our Easter Egg hunt on April 14 was a great success! Everyone had a great time. We had 18 kids and the weather was great. I want to thank the youth for hiding all the eggs for our little ones.

The nursery council met on April 3. We talked about Easter, Mr. Rick's retirement and the hiring of two new staff in June.

*Liz VanDeVenter,*  
**Childcare/Nursery Director**

## VBS Power Up! - June 10-13 // 6:00-8:15pm

Attention all students! If you will be entering Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall, you will not want to miss out on this free event! Are you ready to Raise Your Game?

Get ready to plug in and know God, know God's Word and change the world! Because God's power gives us everything we need to do just that!

We want kids to know that:

- God wants you to know Him.
- You can know God through His Word.
- God sent Jesus to save us.
- God sent His Spirit to help you.
- You can help others know God.



Register your kids or grandkids today!

<https://eastcrossumc.breezechms.com/form/PowerUpVBS>

## May Outreach News

### DHS Foster Children Easter Buckets

Another AWESOME year from East Cross Christians. We only had 69 children this year but more than half were adopted the first day available. The buckets were returned bulging with goodies, delivered to DHS and taken to the children during the week before Easter. THANKS to all who participated. These children are less fortunate but our East Cross people always step up and share.

### Generosity Boxes

The Lighthouse Homeless Center will receive your donations to our Generosity Boxes during May. They are in need of personal care items such as:

bars of soap, deodorant  
shampoo, conditioner  
toothbrushes, toothpaste  
disposable razors  
men's and ladies socks

When you are shopping, could you please place a few of these items in your cart and drop them in one of our Generosity donation boxes that are located at each entrance to our church? It's amazing how a few of these items will build their confidence and self-esteem. Let's see if we can overflow these boxes this month!

### VIM (Volunteers In Mission) COSTA RICA

East Cross has a team of 11 heading to Costa Rica this summer, July 6-13. The team members are: Chad and Riley Perceful, Hadley Davis, Donna Jo Guilfoyle, Bill and Jeretta Amburn, Jill and Lily Weimer, Carinna Marling, Meghan Kirchner, and Bruce Potter.

However, these 11 are not in mission alone. We as a church are all involved in this VIM. Some of us have made dresses for the little girls we will meet in Costa Rica. Some have donated t-shirts for the little boys. Some of us will be pray-ers... people who will pray for the team every day. Some of us cannot go to Costa Rica but can help financially. Watch for the opportunity to purchase bags for the rice and beans that will be delivered during the VIM. They cost only \$12 each and we have accepted the challenge to deliver at least 200 of them. Still others of us will decorate those bags during VBS. Yep, we are ALL on this team! Thank you, East Cross for being such a generous church! This is a very exciting time!!

### New Day Camp at Crosspoint Camp

This camp is for children who have at least one incarcerated parent, and, while at camp helps them experience a New Day. Bill and Jeretta Amburn will be attending as counselors this summer.

### **Family Bereavement Meal Ministry**

If you would like to serve your church family in this important ministry, please contact the church office at 918-333-0810 or contact Linda Shoemaker at 918-914-2044 or email her at [stressalot@aol.com](mailto:stressalot@aol.com).

Volunteers are needed to help with:

- Food Preparation (bring a food dish for the meal)
- Assist with Hosting the day of the meal (set tables, make coffee, tea, clean up)

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.



Dear East Cross Members,

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, concerns and cards during my loss and health issues. It's great to have a church family. Also, thank you to those who made possible and attended the Remember George Lennon hour. I am so blessed. Thank you, *Emmalene Lennon*

Dear East Cross Family,

Thank you for helping our family to celebrate my mom's life in our home church. East Cross was always an important part of her life and faith. Thank you to those who prepared and served the memorial meal. You gave us good food and a place to gather with family and friends. Thank you, Pastor Chad, for your words during the service and for letting us occupy the Fellowship Hall for several hours. Thank you all for being a solid foundation, built on the solid rock of Jesus! May God continue to bless this congregation.

In Christ, *Kathy and Jim Garrison and the Doris Howard Family*

East Cross Church,

My family and I would like to thank everyone for their cards, phone calls and prayers for the passing of my one and only sister. Thank you to all my church family and I love you all. *Colleen Oldfather and family*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm sending my profound thanks to East Cross Methodist Church for praying for me during my struggle with gastric cancer. We've had to stop chemo treatments which were creating major kidney problems. The first weeks at home, I was fairly shaky, but I seem to have stabilized now. I am grateful for every good day and night I have. I feel God will help me through whatever may come. Again, thank you so much for your prayers and concerns.

Sending love and prayers, *Carol Ehman* (Family friend of Rick and Becky Bryant)

## May is Military Appreciation Month There are four days that are of particular interest...

**May 8 ~ Victory in Europe Day AKA V-E Day or VE Day** ~ May 8, 1945 was the day when Germans throughout Europe unconditionally surrendered to the Allies. This day marked the end of World War II in Europe.

**May 10 ~ Military Spouse Appreciation Day** ~ This is a day to recognize the many sacrifices of military spouses and is traditionally set for the Friday before Mother's Day.

**May 18 ~ Armed Forces Day** ~ This day honors everyone currently serving in any branch of the U.S. Military; Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. It is a day for citizens to come together and thank our active duty military members for their patriotic service to our country.

**May 27 ~ Memorial Day** ~ May 27 is a Federal holiday observed on the last Monday in May to commemorate the men and women who have died while in military service.

*(Memorial Day is not to be confused with Armed Forces Day which celebrates the service of our active duty military members or Veteran's Day, celebrated annually on November 11, which honors military veterans, that is, all living persons who have served in the military.)*

Please make note of these days and take the opportunity to thank and appreciate military spouses and active military members and, also, to remember those who have died in service to our country. You might consider visiting the **East Cross Wall of Honor** (located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor to the left of the youth activity room) to get the address of one of our own active duty military members and write him/her a note of appreciation. We all benefit from their service and sacrifice.

## PRAYER LIST

### New Prayer Requests...

Kate Callaway (Drew and Debbie Coffee's granddaughter), Barbara Nissan (friend of Teresa Dietz), Colleen Oldfather, Susan Shoemaker (Larry and Linda Shoemaker's daughter)

Alan Beckworth (Diana Trammel's cousin), Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Kathy Christian, Carol Ehman (family friend of Rick and Becky Bryant), Dave Faust (Melda and Gary Howard's son-in-law), Muriel Faust (Dave Faust's mother), Don Fleming (Teresa Dietz' friend), Summer Flenniken (Diana Trammel's granddaughter), Marcia Goode, Janice and Bruce Holt (Emmalene Lennon's daughter and son-in-law), Don Keeler, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Barry Knuth, Emily Kuntz, James Kuntz, Mike and Ronda Paxon (Coleen Williams' brother-in-law and sister), Marie Puckett, Deb Richardson, Spence Rigdon, Jeana Smith (Tim Smith's sister), Greg Spears (Charlene's son), Kermit Tanzey, Joyce Taylor, Jan Waldorf, Jeremy Waldorf, Chris Watson (Chad Perceful's aunt), Michele Willoughby, Keith Wyrick (Erville Orndorff's nephew), Allie Zoldoske

If you know someone that needs to be added or removed from the Prayer List, call the church office at 918-333-0810.

## Pray for our Military

- |                   |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| * SSG Gary Mabry  | SPC Luis Balli    | LCDR Eric Rolfs   |
| * SSG Jared Seat  | LTC Darrin Cox    | CPT Daniel Smith  |
| * CPT Derek Smith | LTJG Lisa Freeman | CDR Robert Staten |
| * <i>deployed</i> | Mark Hathaway     | SFC Clifton White |



Please keep our active duty military and our veterans in your prayers. If you have a loved one or a friend currently on active duty in the military and would like them added to our Wall of Honor, please contact Charlie and

LeAnne Christensen at [chasleanne@gmail.com](mailto:chasleanne@gmail.com) or 918-327-1226.

*May is Military Appreciation Month. See related article on page 9.*

**All East Cross men are invited to meet for breakfast and fellowship at Eggbert's on Saturday, May 4 at 8am!**



**Church Women United Celebrates—May Friendship Day**  
*"The Time is Now!"* Friday, May 3 11:30am Potluck luncheon  
Our Savior Lutheran Church 300 N. Madison Blvd

## SUNDAY MORNING VAN MINISTRY



Call the church office at 918-333-0810 and **leave a message on extension 105** before 7:30am on Sunday mornings. You may also have a standing request to be picked up each week.

**ONLINE GIVING...** You can give electronically by going to our website [www.eastcross.org](http://www.eastcross.org). Click the menu tab on top of the Welcome page and click on "Give Online" OR scroll to the bottom of our Welcome page and click on "Give." Funds can also be withdrawn automatically weekly or monthly by completing a request form available in the treasurer's office.



East Cross also offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image to the left using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader.

learning to follow Jesus,  
inviting others to join the journey

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>May 2019</b>			1  Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	2  6:30p Children's Council	3  6p S.A.L.T. Fellowship	4  8a Men's Breakfast at Eggbert's  3p CIA
5  Communion 3rd Grade Bibles  5p PG Small Group	6  6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	7	8  Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	9	10  11a ECECC PreK Year End Program  7p Church Bridge	11
12  <i>Mother's Day</i>	13  6:30p Young Adults  7p Miriam	14  7p Outreach	15  Connections 5:30p Meal  6p Dine and Shine	16  9:30a Rebecca	17	18
19  <i>HS Senior Sunday</i> 4p VBS Volunteer Mtg 5p PG Small Group	20  6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry  7p Trustees	21  6p Piecemaker Quilters	22	23  Last Day Bartlesville Public Schools 	24  Bartlesville High School Graduation	25
26  9:45a One Combined Worship Service	27  <i>Memorial Day Holiday</i>  <i>Church Office Closed</i>	28	29	30	31  CIA @ Sunfest	
<b>Annual Conference — OCU</b>						

## Weekly Activities at East Cross

### Sunday

8:30am Traditional Worship Service  
9:45am Small Groups for all ages  
11:00am Contemporary Worship Service  
11:15am Children's Church  
12:00pm S.A.L.T. Lunch  
5:00pm C3 Youth Ministry

### Monday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center (May 6)

### Tuesday

4:00pm Prayer Group

### Wednesday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center  
(May 1 & 8)  
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir  
7:30pm Praise Band Practice

### Thursday

### Friday

9:30am-12:00Noon Early Childhood Center PreK  
(May 3 & 10)

### Saturday

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Chad Perceful  
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Linda Thornton

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Zack Michel

*Contemporary Worship Director*  
Charles Binau

*Coordinator Audio Equipment/Volunteers*  
Jon Colliver

*Building & Maintenance Coordinator*

*learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey*



## EASTER EGG HUNT 2019

