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# CRISS+CROSS

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**April 2017**

***Working together to connect people to Jesus***

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## ***Togetherness in the Ark of the Church***

***Baptism, which corresponds to [Noah's ark], now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.... - 1 Peter 3:21***

The apostle Peter, a fisherman by trade, compares the Church to Noah's ark. The Church exists because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which we joyfully celebrate every time we come together on Sunday, especially on Easter Sunday and during the Easter season.

Peter sought to emphasize that, in the Church, the faithful are drawn together in the unity and safety that God provides through the power of Jesus' resurrection. In the Church, the Holy Spirit calls us together. He gathers us to enlighten us together. And by calling, gathering and enlightening us together as the one body of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit inspires us to support each other as we journey towards our eternal home with Him. In other words, we are in this boat together.

When we come together as the Church, we remember that our faith in Christ is not just personal. Our faith is tied to others. Not that one person can believe for another, but that we belong together, united in faith, as the Holy Spirit works through His Word and Sacraments in us individually and in us together as Christ's body, the Church.

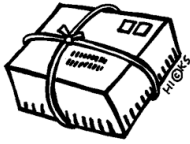
So when the Triune God places His holy name on us in Holy Baptism, God does more than just save us from our sins (although that is crucial to our eternal salvation!). He ties Jesus' resurrection to our resurrection. And He also brings us into His family, the community of believers ("saints") of all time and place. Because we are baptized into Jesus Christ - into Jesus' death and resurrection - we become part of God's plan for saving this world.

And God has a specific plan and a purpose for us, His baptized family here at Holy Cross, in this time and in this place. Last year we devoted significant effort and time considering how and where WE, TOGETHER, as a congregation of God's family in Western New York, are sharing God's blessings in terms of mercy, witness and service to others.

This year we will be beginning an intentional process of discerning what God's plan and purpose is for US TOGETHER as we look forward to our next 10 years as His family, His people, and His body right here. We are in this boat together. We each have a role, whether it's an oar to pull, a sail to trim, or a rudder to steer. But Christ calls us to do it together.

May our Savior and Lord guide us on this journey together.

*-Pastor Nickel*



**Care packages!** We are sending care packages to our young adults for some end-of-year cheer! I know our college kids will be especially grateful for a package as they prepare for their semester finals! In the vestibule outside the sanctuary, there is a tree with some small items that we need purchased for our care packages such as granola bars and coffee gift cards! Please take a tag or two and return your item by Palm Sunday-April 9th! accepted!



**The Sunday School is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt!!** Saturday, April 1st: 1pm-3pm rain or shine right here at Holy Cross! Children birth-8th grade (accompanied by their parent/guardian) from Holy Cross and the entire Clarence community are invited to join us for tons of fun. High school youth: grades 9-12, are invited serve before and during the event (youth sign-up sheet is posted in the HCCC youth lounge and K-hall) We will begin the event with an Egg Hunt, followed by a kid-friendly message centered around the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! This is an outdoor event so please be sure to dress for the weather. Sign-up: using the sign-up sheet located on the K-hall bulletin board or send an email: [holycrossclarence@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossclarence@gmail.com) that includes your child's name and current grade level. Bring a friend!



**Crossroads**  
**May 1st from**  
**5-6pm**

Holy Cross is hosting a once-a-month Saturday evening devotional experience. We praise God with some contemporary christian songs, meditate on the Word with a short devotion, and connect with others in God's love and peace. All are welcome! Mark your calendars for March 4th at 5:00 PM, and please join us for this exciting new devotional experience.

Please contact Samantha with any questions at [samanthabrown.holycross@gmail.com](mailto:samanthabrown.holycross@gmail.com)



**Sunday School** We have had a fantastic time in Sunday School so far "Growing in Christ". We are learning about our Savior, Jesus Christ as we get to the heart of the Bible and engage students to learn with age-appropriate discussions. Through crafts, games, and worship music your child will experience a hands-on way to learn and internalize Bible stories!

# Summer Schedule

## **Summer Hours:**

In June, July, and August Holy Cross will have two Sunday services at 8:00am and 10:00am. This will begin on Sunday June 4th. We will resume our "regular hours" on Sunday, September 3rd and Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 10th.

The last day of Sunday School is Sunday May 21st.

## **Choir News**

The Holy Cross Choir season is underway but we still have room for you! We will meet at the church on Tuesday nights at 7pm. If you are interested in joining please contact William Cook, our choir director, at 741-0040. Men's Choir rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays at 8pm. Contact Bill Cook for more information.



## **Praise Band News**

The Praise Band meets Wednesdays at 6:00pm.



## **He-Brews**

### **NEXT Meeting Thursday April 20th 7:30pm**

He-Brews generally meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, usually at 7:30 pm; at a member home or at a local restaurant. Watch the weekly announcements for the location. We do not stay out late as most have to work in the morning. A typical gathering starts with fellowship followed by a Christian video presentation and discussion. You do not need to drink beer to join us, other beverages both with and without alcohol are often enjoyed. All are welcome – including neighbors and friends, to come and see serious support given to fellow members and a willingness to help others and our church. He-Brews is open to all men, young and old.

## **May Criss Cross**

### **Deadline**

Please submit any items for the December Criss Cross **no later than April 18th**. Items may be left on the desk in the HCCC or in the secretary mailbox or may be emailed to [holycrossclarenc@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossclarenc@gmail.com) Thank you!

### **Men's Night of**

**Reflection:** Newman Center Men's Club Presents a Men's Night of Reflection Tuesday **April 4th** at 7:00pm . Pastor Nickel will be speaking on preparing ourselves for the Easter season with emphasis on men's issues in the twenty-first century. He will also give some insight on his special journey towards Christ. Prior to his ordination, he worked as Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel at Armstrong World Industries. For more information please contact Men's Club President Dominic Buccilli at 807-5223 or Francis Cote' at 510-8742.



**Easter Breakfast:** Holy Cross' annual Easter Breakfast will be held on Easter **Sunday April 16th** between the two services. Everyone is invited! Bring something to share if you would like. There is no sign up necessary. Everyone pitches in and it is truly lovely. For more information see Sue Fay.

### **Confirmation Reminders**

April 8th-Confirmation Review 10:00-HCCC

April 15th-Confirmation Review 10:00-HCCC

April 22nd-Confirmation Review 10:00-HCCC

April 29th Confirmation Examination

April 30th-Confirmation Sunday

**Jr/Sr High Late Night** Here at Holy Cross we believe that we were created for relationships. Come build relationships and start off your weekend by enjoying this late night. Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> we will start off out late night at 6:30 PM with dinner and have some games, service project, devotion, and movie time ending at 10:30 PM. Stay out late and have fun with friends! All 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited! Sign up in the upstairs of the HCCC or with Samantha to let her know you're coming!

### **YAM**

HolyCross's Young Adult Ministry will be gathering on May 21st @ 6:30 in K-Hall for a time of fellowship & fun. We don't often get to see one another, but being in town for summer has its benefits! Please join us for a good time as we hang out & with a good homemade dinner and fun game night! All young adults are welcome!



### **Lady's Tea** (and coffee of course!)

On **Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 AM Ladies of all ages are invited to join us in K-Hall for a time of fellowship over tea. Please bring your favorite tea cup to use and your classy conversation starters:) Sign up in K-Hall to bring a food item. Hope to see you all there!

**Holy Cross Spring Clean Up Day:** Holy Cross Spring clean up is scheduled for **April 22nd**, Earth Day at 8:30 am. More details to follow. Weather permitting.

## **Holy Cross 2016 Financial Report:**

Once again Holy Cross has been blessed by God with good stewardship on both sides of the accounting ledger. We are pleased to report that the offerings "subject to tithing" for 2016 totaled \$292,167 compared to the \$268,064 collected in 2015 which represents an increase of \$24,103 or 8.99%. Compared to the 2016 anticipated Budget of \$268,010, the amount received was greater than the amount budgeted by \$24,157 or 9.01%. Also, the "Total Income" for 2016 totaled \$296,149 compared to \$270,178 for 2015 which represents an increase of \$25,971 or 9.61%.

Holy Cross's expenses for 2016 totaled \$252,051 compared to \$242,212 expended in 2015, which represents an increase in spending of \$9,838 or 4.06%; however, compared to the budgeted amount of \$249,925 our expenses were less than the amount budgeted by \$2,126 or 0.85%. Combined, this resulted in an operating surplus of \$44,099 for 2016.

With this blessing and some carry over blessings from 2015, on January 28, 2016, the Church Council voted to utilize \$30,000 of excess Operating Fund cash to make a special principal reduction payment on the LCEF mortgage. And again on August 25, 2016 the Church Council voted to utilize \$40,000 of excess Operating Fund cash to make a second special principal reduction payment on the LCEF mortgage. This, in addition to \$2,100 in designated member debt reduction offerings, resulted in a mortgage balance at the end of 2016 of \$117,309, compared to \$212,998 at the end of 2015, and leaving Holy Cross with a yearend Operating Fund cash balance of \$61,890.

And, in addition to the Operating Fund, Holy Cross maintains several "Restricted Funds", the "Dream Fund", and a "Building Budget". On December 31st, 2016, Holy Cross had \$13,999 in miscellaneous restricted funds, \$28,729 in the Dream Fund and \$71,908 in the Building Fund.

The long term goal of the Council is an early satisfaction of the mortgage on the Holy Cross Christian Center, (before April 2026), which when paid off, would free up approximately \$2,400 each month, that could then be used to further grow His Kingdom. Another goal we have is to prepare for anticipated building maintenance expenses, such as the heating units in Holy Cross and other large property maintenance costs.

But lest we forget, giving all thanks and glory to God, by His grace our congregation was blessed to share in the mission and ministry of the whole Christian Church, and with our prayers we were able to participate and support the efforts of our Circuit, our District and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; our Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Operation Christmas Child missions; our in-kind donations to Hearts for the Homeless, the Clarence Food Pantry, and others, and our collective financial support to mission and mercy work outside Holy Cross in the amount of \$39,811 in 2016 (compared to \$27,852 in 2015).

## **Living Lent As People of the Resurrection**

A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

Wednesday

April 5th Nazareth, Buffalo Theme: "Pain"

**Soup and sandwich supper at 6:15pm**

**Hymn sing at 7:15pm**

**Worship at 7:30pm**

Loose Plate offering directed to Our Savior Lutheran Church- to be used as seed money for community mission.

### **Nailed It! Holy Cross Work Day:**

Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the Castle Church door 500 years ago- join us in celebrating this historic anniversary! On **Saturday, May 6th** we will be doing some nailing ourselves, as we venture downtown for a day of service with Habitat for Humanity. We will meet at church at 8:15 AM and return 2-3 that afternoon. More details to come. See Peter Olson with questions.



### **Lutheran "3-0" Radio:**

Broadcast Schedule and a call for volunteers: Holy Cross will sponsor "Lutheran 3-0" on WXRL 1300 AM from 9:00-9:30am on Sundays April 16th, May 14th, and June 11th. If you would like to help be a part of this ministry as a lay reader, sound or technical person or in any other capacity please see Pastor.

**Book and Bake Sale** We will be having a Book and Bake Sale on Saturday, **May 20** from 8:30am-3pm. Please search your house for books you no longer read and ask neighbors and friends to donate their old books also. We'll also be collecting CDs and DVDs. Linda Cummings and Pat Ludwig will be running the bake sale portion of the event. Please contact them to donate baked goods. If you need to have your books picked up, just call Nancy Cote at 818-1175.

**Buffalo Zone LWML:** The Buffalo Zone LWML Spring Mission Workshop is to be held **April 22** at Salem Lutheran Church in Buffalo from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. There will be a \$5.00 registration fee and lunch will be served. We will have a speaker from Cornerstone Manor, sharing their mission and ministry for women and children, at the Buffalo City Mission. The items listed on the In gathering attachment below, that we call our "Gift From the Heart", will benefit Conerstone Manor.



### **NEW! He-Brews Handyman**

**Service:** The He-Brew guys are willing to lend you a hand. We would particularly like to help those who are unable to do the work themselves. If you want advice or help around the house or yard ask us. If we can't help we probably have someone who can point you in the right direction. Call the church office (716) 634-2332 or email [holycrossclarenc@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossclarenc@gmail.com) and Lynda the church secretary or the Pastor will contact us. A handyman will then get back to you to determine who may be the best fit for your needs and when they can come help. There are certain jobs that may be beyond our scope but even if that's the case will be happy to advise you.



### **Care-Ring Circle**

To all the Care-Ringers who provide meals for those in need, Thank you! Until you have experienced the love and generosity from our Holy Cross family, you couldn't know how much it is appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering to make a meal for those in need please contact Doreen Borschel at 688-8096. I will add you to the list of volunteers in our email group.



### **Visitation Care**

If you are or will be hospitalized or homebound and desire Christian care from the Holy Cross staff, please phone the church office at 634-2332 and/or email [holycrossclarence@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossclarence@gmail.com) to let us know. Please do not assume that we know your situation because for many reasons we often don't. We will do our best to visit you, and if homebound, see that you receive communion.



### **Women's Bible Study Group**

The Women's Bible Study Group meets on Tuesdays (except the 2nd Tuesday of the month) in the conference room of HCCC. We begin our social time at 9:30am with a study begin time of 9:45- to conclude about 11am. We are lay led, participants volunteer each week to facilitate a particular lesson. We also volunteer to bring "goodies" from our kitchens to go with our coffee.

This month we will continue our study of the book of Isaiah. So join us whenever you are able! The coffee pot is on, sweet treats await to be tasted, but we need you to share the Word and fellowship with us. Remember, it is always good to begin the day in God's word!

### **See the NEW Martin Luther Film:**

A special screening of the new Martin Luther film will be on **April 6th**, at 6:30pm at the Transit Regal Cinemas 6707 Transit Road, Williamsville. All tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets can be purchased online through this dedicated site <http://williamsville.NewLutherMovie.com> or if you would rather not purchase tickets online you can contact Bob Hamp at (716) 863-8367 or email him at [rlhp64@yahoo.com](mailto:rlhp64@yahoo.com). Everyone is welcome. Invite your friends! A portion of the ticket sales will be returned to the Holy Cross congregation for our mission and ministry projects.

## **Our April Servants**



### **Communion Assistants:**

Jo Corneck & Robert Hamp  
Tom Marzano & Doug Hartley

### **Ushers:**

David Gardner & Paul Donnelly  
Robert Diem & Larry Weipert

### **Altar Guild:**

Pat Ludwig & Linda Cummings

### **Lay Readers:**

#### **April 2:**

Jill Carl & Sue Tichy

#### **April 9:**

Palm Sunday Various Readers

#### **April 16:**

Ann Craig & Sue Fay Allen

#### **April 23:**

Joe Hughes & Wendy Shelton

#### **April 30:**

Ann Craig & Kristy Long

### **Acolytes:**

#### **April 2:**

Christie Wood & David Hare

#### **April 9:**

Morgan Chalmers & Leah Roberts

#### **April 16:**

TBD

#### **April 23:**

Mason Kelkenberg & Maisie Standish

#### **April 30:**

Kristie Wood & Emily Hare

### **AV Team:**

#### **April 2:**

Larry NeGron

#### **April 9:**

Christopher Diem

#### **April 16:**

Scott Brooks

#### **April 23:**

Scott Brooks

#### **April 30:**

Madeline Olsen

### **Help Wanted!**

Before we know it, VBS will be here! We have scheduled it for August 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM-12 PM. MARK YOUR CALENDARS! In order for it to be a success, many helpers are needed! We need group leaders, station "directors"(crafts, snacks, etc.), helpers, donors, actors, prayers and more! If you are willing to help in any way, please contact Ruth Marzano at [themarzos@gmail.com](mailto:themarzos@gmail.com) or text Katie Marzano at 716-270-3170. This is a HUGE outreach opportunity! We want to bring many children to Christ. Help us to do so as we celebrate God's Victories!

### *Events for the Lenten Season*

April 5th Lenten Service will be hosted by Nazareth in Buffalo.

Midweek "Brown Bag Devotions"  
Wednesdays at noon in the HCCC throughout the season.

April 9th Palm Sunday

April 13th Maundy Thursday/ First Communion Service

April 14th Good Friday

April 16th Easter Sunday



### **April Anniversaries**

*Bob & Joan Spiliman 4/9*

*Matt & Amanda Zubrzycki 4/14*

*Jason & Kellie Folck 4/18*

*Scott & Susan Brooks 4/23*



### **Heritage Home**

The Sunday after Easter is our regular visit at 10 a.m. with our friends at the Heritage Home. Of course, we will talk about "Jesus Goes to Calvary" and then His resurrection, from the Gospels of Matthew and John. Always, we give thanks and praise to Him for His forgiveness and love. Jesus is very important in their lives, and it is good to share His love for all of us day by day and especially at this Easter time. Ronald Talboys  
Habitat for Humanity Buffalo

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEWS**

Habitat provides housing for low income people who do not qualify for a traditional mortgage. The applicant must meet certain qualifications and work 500 volunteer hours in order to obtain an interest free mortgage.

Habitat also has 2 stores called ReStores. The stores are not for profit. They sell new and gently used appliances, building supplies and materials, furniture and home accessories. They do not sell clothing. Many of the items are donated by stores and construction companies as well as individuals and are re-sold at a fraction of the cost of retail. The proceeds are then used to help build more homes. If you wish to donate items they can arrange a pickup. The stores are at 1675 South Park Ave in South Buffalo and at 501 Amherst Street in Buffalo. To arrange for a pickup call 8526607 x 203 any questions see Jill Carl.



### **April Birthdays**

*Logan Overton 4/1*

*Linda Ponivas 4/2*

*Tammy Roeser 4/2*

*Emily Diem 4/4*

*Matthew Tichy 4/8*

*Faith Rayner 4/9*

*Elizabeth Allen 4/10*

*Karen Roberts 4/13*

*Kenneth Keiper Sr. 4/14*

*Kelsee Wagner 4/14*

*Anne Fisk 4/15*

*Jack Hare 4/15*

*Pam Kloc 4/19*

*Terry Wellsby Jr. 4/19*

*Jo Corneck 4/20*

*Barbara Wachtel 4/22*

*Ian Ropach 4/24*

*Betty Bissonette 4/25*

*Gary Talboys 4/26*

*Aiden Folck 4/27*

*Curtis Cook 4/30*



