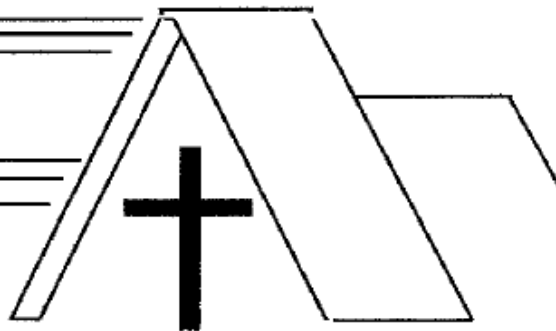


the CRISS + CROSS



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
8900 Sheridan Drive
Clarence, NY 14031
716-634-2332
HolyCrossClarence@gmail.com
Website: www.holycrossclarence.com

April 2016

Working together to connect people to Jesus

Surprise! Some say the greatest surprise about Easter is **not** that Jesus is alive, risen from the dead... not that He conquered death and hell... not that He comes to meet you as He promised. They say the greatest surprise is that He did all that and is **not angry**. We need not fear His return because He is not angry with those who believe in Him. He bears us no grudge. He seeks no revenge against us. He comes to give us peace, mercy, forgiveness and salvation.

While one might quibble over which surprise is bigger, it's true that Jesus lives and is not angry. He doesn't blame you. He doesn't even blame those who killed Him. He gives Himself into death to win us back from sin, death, and hell. He does it willingly. He does it sacrificially - Himself for us. He gave what was His to give. So what He asks the Father from the cross - "Forgive them" - is granted to you in His resurrection. He comes alive out of death to forgive you and to give His life to you.

Because Jesus is raised from the dead and is not angry with us, we need not fear. So we are truly free — free from worrying about how to make it up to Him, and free to give as He has given to us. He gave Himself as a gift, His life in exchange for our death, willingly and sacrificially. And so it is that we are now free to give of ourselves in like manner:

willingly, sacrificially, with what we have been given: mercy, forgiveness and the Word of salvation.

So do not be afraid. Jesus lives, and He is not angry. His sacrifice is complete, so our debt is canceled and forgotten. God declares us righteous - forgiven, clean, pure, holy, and filled with His good works in His Name. Jesus lives. Hallelujah!

Pastor Nickel

Applebee's Fundraiser for Holy Cross Youth



Enjoy a short stack for a tall cause. Join the Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Youth Group for breakfast on Saturday, May 7th from 8:00 – 10:00 am. Tickets go on sale April 3rd. They are \$7.00 and 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the cause. The breakfast will be at Applebee's located at 5017 Transit Road, Williamsville.

Update on DCE Internship at Holy Cross

After on-site visits, interviews and much thought and prayer, Concordia University–Chicago has informed us that they will be assigning a Director of Christian Education intern to Holy Cross Lutheran Church and Pioneer Camp for the 2016-17 academic year! While we are eager to share this news, Concordia has asked that we NOT post anything on the internet or social media (website, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) until after Concordia’s intern placement day on April 3. (Concordia considers the locations of intern sites to be “top secret” information until placement day, so your help in keeping our selection as an intern site quiet will be greatly appreciated.) We will find out the name of our intern during Concordia’s intern placement service, which will be on Sunday, April 3 at 2:30 p.m. (EDT). The service will be live-streamed into Krampitz fellowship hall, so please feel free to join and watch the service.

He-Brews



He-Brews meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month, usually at 7:30 pm; at a member home or at a local restaurant. In April we will meet at Mike Tomiano’s home. 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 (often from Right-Now Media) 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.

April 2016 WORSHIP CALENDAR

Sunday, April 3

8:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 am All ages Christian Education
11:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, April 10

8:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 am All ages Christian Education
11:00 am Divine Service with Praise Band

Sunday, April 17

8:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 am All ages Christian Education
11:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, April 24

8:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 am All ages Christian Education
10:00 am Heritage Home visit
11:00 am Divine Service with Praise Band

Sunday, May 1

8:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 am All ages Christian Education
11:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion

Thursday, May 5

12:05 pm Ascension Day Devotions

Sunday, May 8

8:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 am All ages Christian Education
11:00 am Divine Service with Praise Band

Sunday, May 15 – Pentecost and Confirmation

8:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
11:00 am Confirmation Service

Choir News



The Choir meets on Tuesdays @ 7:00pm.

LWML News



Information has been posted for the upcoming LWML convention in Krampitz Hall. I am unable to attend the meetings.

Holy Cross would benefit from having someone attend the meetings and learn how Holy Cross can help in other ways. Please consider getting involved in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

If you fill the mite boxes before I announce a collection date please just drop them in my mailbox. Thank you, Nancy Herdic

Dash's Receipts



Dash's receipts are now being donated to Hearts for the Homeless. The van they use to deliver meals 4 to 5 nights a week in downtown

Buffalo is dying. This van needs to be replaced. This wonderful mission really needs our support. We will be using the funds from the Dash's receipts to help Hearts for the Homeless moving forward. Thank you to everyone who faithfully brings in their receipts and to Lorraine Woodman who tallies them up. Keep up the good work!

Thank you, Jill Carl

Women's Bible Study Group



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

We will finish the 10 week study called: Ministry with Heart and Hands by R. Paul Stevens. These studies explore Biblical examples of service in many spheres of life that were motivated by imagination, passion, faith, hope and love. You will discover that whoever you are, you are a full-time servant of Jesus Christ.

The April 5th lesson completes this study with the title: "Doing Something Beautiful for God" - Mary, with the text from Mark 14: 1-9. We will then have lunch out to discuss this 10 week study book.

For April 19th and 26th, Pastor Nickel will lead us in the study of the Apostle's Creed and the 10 Commandments.

For those of you who missed his Adult Inquirer's class in January, we would like you to join us. That includes not only ladies, but gentlemen too!

The coffee pot is on and we always have sweet treats to accompany it! So join us anytime you can!

Confirmation Sunday

This year, Confirmation Sunday is May 15 (Pentecost Sunday), when our confirmands will publicly confess ("put a voice to") their baptismal faith before God and the Holy Cross congregation. Our confirmation students (and parents!) have been working diligently: memorizing the books of the Bible, studying Bible history and the Small Catechism, and working out what they actually believe and how they will live their faith in Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, May 8, our five 1st-year confirmands (7th graders) will take an oral examination (by Pastor Nickel) in which they will show their ability to share the good news of Jesus Christ in the course of a 5-7 minute conversation. They will complete their confirmation instruction during the next year (with a strong focus on the Small Catechism).

On Saturday, May 14, our thirteen 2nd-year confirmands will take their final examination on the six chief parts of the Small Catechism with their meanings, selected Bible verses, and selected catechism questions & answers before the Pastor, elders, parents & families.

Our 2nd year confirmands are: Evan Brooks, James DiCostanzo, Christopher Diem, Aidan Folck, Anthony Ludwig, Madeline Olsen, Logan Overton, Lauren Roberts, Emma Roland, Erin Roland, Ian Ropach, Madison West and Charles Wood.

Please keep our confirmands (and their families) in your prayers as they prepare for their vow "to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it" (Revelation 2:10) as part of their lifelong process of maturing in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

May Criss Cross Deadline:



Please submit any items for the April **Criss Cross no later than April 19th**. Items can be left on my desk, in my mailbox, or can

sent via email to

holycrossclarenc@gmail.com

Thank you. Ann

Spring Adult Inquirers Class Beginning April 5

Holy Cross offers a Spring "Adult Inquirers" class for members, prospective members and the community to better understand how Lutherans teach and apply the Christian faith. This class focuses specifically on what *the Bible* teaches about key elements of the Christian faith. The class will be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays, beginning April 5, in the Holy Cross Christian Center (next door to the church). The schedule is:

- ~ April 5 What is the Bible and how do we use it?
- ~ April 12 What are the Bible's central teachings?
- ~ April 19 (no class - pastor at conference)
- ~ April 26 What does the Bible say about human weakness and what's to be done about it?
- ~ May 3 What does the Bible say God does today to assure our salvation?
- ~ May 10 What does the Bible say about prayer?

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.

Camp Pioneer Golf Benefit

**Join Our
Golf Outing**



The annual Pioneer golf benefit is set for Friday, June 10th, at the Diamond Hawk Golf Course in

Cheektowaga.

Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.

Early registrations (before May 1st) are only \$130.00 per golfer (includes super-ticket for all contests).

If you are not a golfer, please consider sponsoring a hole (cost of \$150). Proceeds of the benefit will assist children of our military enjoy a week at Camp. For more information about the Benefit (registration and sponsorships) please call Camp Pioneer at 549-1420.

Last year the quota of 120 golfers was reached very early. Thank you in advance for your participation.

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 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.

Heritage Home

THE HERITAGE HOUSE

Our next visit with our friends at the Heritage Home will be on Sunday, April 24, at 10 a.m. The Easter story, "Jesus Is Alive Again," from Luke 24 and John 20 will be the Bible piece of the hour along with singing, praying, and making a simple craft, all to share our Lord's love again and again.

Praise Band News

The Praise Band meets on Wednesdays @ 6:00 pm.



April Servants

Communion Assistants:

Jo Corneck & Ken Handley
Tom Marzano & Paula Cocco

Ushers:

Dave Gardner & Robert Hamp
Robert Diem & Ellie Stevenson

Lay Readers:

April 3 8:00 Kurt Wozniak
11:00 Nancy Cote'
April 10 8:00 Ann Craig
11:00 Brian Humphreys
April 17 8:00 Joe Hughes
11:00 Wendy Shelton
April 24 8:00 Ken Handley
11:00 Sue Tichy

Acolytes:

April 3 8:00 Maddie West
11:00 Charlie Wood
April 10 8:00 Lindsay Chalmers
11:00 Madeline Standish
April 17 8:00 Mason Kelkenberg
11:00 Emily Hare
April 24 8:00 Morgan Chalmers
11:00 Evan Brooks

AV Team:

April 3 Stephen Marzano
April 10 Preston Kelkenberg
April 17 Matthew Wiepert
April 24 Ken Handley

Coffee Fellowship:

**Please contact Nancy Cote
for information!
Thank you to all who volunteer.**

Happy April Birthday

Ponivas, Linda	4/2
Roeser, Tammy	4/2
Diem, Emily	4/4
Tichy, Matthew	4/8
Rayner, Faith	4/9
Roland, James	4/10
Roberts, Karen	4/13
Wagner, Kelsee	4/14
Fisk, Anne	4/15
Hare, Jack	4/15
Kloc, Pam	4/19
Wellsby Jr., Terry	4/19
Corneck, Josephine	4/20
Wachtel, Barbara	4/22
Ropach, Ian	4/24
Bissonette, Betty	4/25
Talboys, Gary	4/26
Folck, Aidan	4/27
Cook, Curtis	4/30
Roland, Emma	4/30
Roland, Erin	4/30



Robert & Joan Spilman	4/9
Matthew & Amanda Zubrzycki	4/14
Jason & Kellie Folck	4/18
Scott & Susan Brooks	4/23