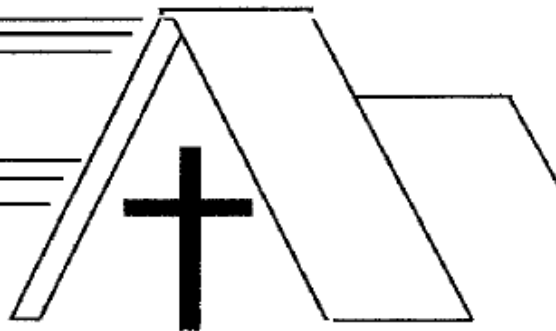


the CRISS + CROSS



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
8900 Sheridan Drive
Clarence, NY 14031

716-634-2332
HolyCrossClarence@gmail.com

February 2016

Working together to connect people to Jesus

“Give us this day our daily bread.” As we pray these words in the Lord’s Prayer, we are mindful that God certainly gives daily bread to people with or without our prayers, even to evil people, but we pray that He would lead us to realize this and receive our daily bread with thanksgiving to Him. Yet we are reminded, especially in the Gospel of Luke, that our Lord has a special heart for the poor – both those lacking for their physical needs as well as spiritual needs. Starting with a wedding feast in Cana, Jesus uses the occasions of meals to teach God’s Word. Not least of these meals is the Lord’s Supper, in which He gives Himself, transforming the commemoration of the Passover into a meal of forgiveness and salvation for us all. Finally, after His resurrection, He cooks breakfast for His disciples and charges them (and really the whole Church) to “Feed My lambs.” (John 21:15-17) Ever since then, the Church has been charged with serving the poor – those who hunger and thirst physically as well as those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. May we follow Christ’s example in our concern for the hungry, near and far, and make our own mealtimes an opportunity to nourish more than just our bodies, but a chance to pray together and share God’s Word as we grow closer together in Christ.

Pastor Nickel

FEBRUARY 2016 WORSHIP CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 3

6:00 pm Adult Inquirers Class (Lord’s Prayer)

Sunday, February 7

8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

9:30 am All ages Christian Education

11:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday, February 10

Noon – Devotions in Sanctuary (with ashes)

7:30 pm Lenten Service (with imposition of ashes)

Sunday, February 14 (Food for the Poor Sunday)

8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

9:30 am All ages Christian Education

11:00 am Worship with Praise Band

Wednesday, February 17

Noon – Devotions in HCCC conf. room

6:00 pm Soup Supper @ St. Luke

7:30 pm Lenten Service @ St. Luke, 900

Maryvale Dr., Cheektowaga

Sunday, February 21

8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

9:30 am All ages Christian Education

11:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesday, February 24

Noon – Devotions in HCCC conf. room

6:00 pm Soup Supper @ St. John’s

7:30 pm Lenten Service @ St. John’s

Lutheran, 67 Litchfield Ave., Depew

Sunday, February 28

8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

9:30 am All ages Christian Education

10:00 am Heritage House Visit

11:00 am Worship with Praise Band

Wednesday, March 2

Noon – Devotions in HCCC conf. room

6:00 pm Soup Supper @ Holy Cross

7:30 pm Lenten Worship @ Holy Cross

He-Brews

He-Brews is not a drinking club. Don't be misled! True it started as a brewing get together learning to make beer. But we have evolved.

It is intended to be a social and Bible study group for men interested in understanding the word of God. It provides a place for men to discuss understanding of God's Word as well as opportunities for service to church and the community.

There is still an interest in tasting beer, as well as wine; there are those who drink coffee; there are those who drink water. The only spirit I've come across at a He-Brews event is the Spirit of God.

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month, usually at 7:30 pm; at a member home or at a local restaurant. We do not stay out late as all but a few 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.

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.

Our February gathering will be at NYBP located at 6933 S. Transit Road, in Lockport (just past Niagara Produce) on Thursday, February 18th @ 7:30pm. Come join us!

Choir News



The Choir meets on Tuesdays @ 7:00pm.

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.

In January, we began a 10 week study called: SERVICE: 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.

Continuing on in February, on the 2nd, our lesson is about "Serving with Heart and Hands"--Bezalel and Dorcas with text from Exodus 35 and Acts 9.

"Edifying Others Through the Arts" is the lesson for February 16th. It is about David with the text from 2 Samuel 6.

We end February, the 23rd, with a lesson on "Helping Friends Find Strength in God". It is about Jonathan, with texts from 1 Samuel 17, 18, 20 and 23.

We invite women of all ages to join us for an in-depth study hour with lots of sharing and fellowship. The coffee pot is on and we always have sweet treats to accompany it! So join us anytime you can!

Holy Cross Mission Managers & Liaisons

Adult Bible Study Mission Managers: Ken & Beth Handley

Altar Guild Mission Managers: Karen Langiewicz and Ann Craig

AV Team Mission Manager: Scott Brooks

Beautification Mission Manager: Lindsay Gugliuzza

Boy Scout Troop: Doug Hartley (Holy Cross's Charter Organization Representative)

Care-Ring Circle Mission Manager: Doreen Borschel

Church Choir Mission Manager: Bill Cook

Clarence Community Food

Pantry Liaison: Nancy Herdic

Coffee Hour Mission Manager: Sue Fay Allen

College Youth Ministry Mission Manager: Wendy Shelton

Evangelism Mission Manager: Open

Family Breakfast Mission Manager: Dave Chalmers

Habitat for Humanity Liaison: Jill Carl

Hearts for the Homeless Liaisons: Jill Carl and Pat Garlapo,

He-Brew Mission Manager: Bob Corneck
High School Youth Group Mission

Managers: Dave Chalmers and Ken Grek
IT Manager: Francis Cote

Junior Youth Group Mission Managers: Peter and Amy Olsen

Kitchen Managers: Linda Ponivas & Ellie Stevenson

LCES Delegates: Russ Ponivas and Bob Hamp

Librarian Mission Manager: Open
New Member Coordinator Mission Manager: Wendy Shelton

Parish Nursing Mission Manager: Barbara Wachtel

Praise Band Leaders: Lindsay Gugliuzza & David Shelton

Scheduler Mission Manager: Paul Donnelly

Social Media/Website: Mission Manager Katie Chalmers

Spiritual Care: Jo Corneck

Sunday School Mission Manager: Patricia Ludwig and Linda Cummings

Vacation Bible School Mission Managers: Cory Shelton and Courtney Stefanik

Volunteer Coordinator Mission Manager: Nancy Cote

Women's Bible Study Mission Manager: Linda Cummings

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

holycrossclarenc@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 House

THE HERITAGE HOUSE

Sunday, February 28, at 10 a.m. is Holy Cross' monthly visit to the Heritage Home at 8300

Sheridan Drive, the day before the leap year date. Our Bible story will be "Zacchaeus meets Jesus," Luke 19:1-10. And we will talk about Jesus love for all people, including each of us, and sing praises to Him, our Lord and Savior. Prayer, a simple craft, and lots of interaction makes up the rest of the 45-minute time we are there. Join us between the worship services.

Operation Christmas Child Update

Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes are simple gifts that in so many cases make an eternal impact. Because of the bountiful blessings of God, through the generous donations of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and other Churches in Erie and Niagara counties, we collected 21,844 shoe boxes this year, or an increase of over 15% from our 2014 total. Praise Him! To put this into context, we would fill every seat in the First Niagara Center with a child and a shoe box, and still have over 3,000 more standing in the middle of the arena. Talk about making an impact! Thanks again Holy Cross for making this a blessed Christmas for children throughout the world! Thank you to our Operation Christmas Child Mission Manager: Connie Donnelly

Dash's Receipts



Our mighty mini mission did it again! We continue to receive checks from Dash's so please keep saving and sharing those receipts.

Thanks to everyone who faithfully brings in their receipts and to Lorraine Woodman for doing the tallying. Keep up the good work! Thank you, Jill Carl

Praise Band News

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



March Criss Cross Deadline:



Please submit any items for the March **Criss Cross no later than February 13th.** Items can be left on my desk, in my mailbox, or can sent via email to holycrossclarenc@gmail.com
Thank you. Ann

"Food for the Poor" Sunday

For many years God's faithful people at Holy Cross have helped the poor in countless ways, both locally and non-locally. Please join us on Sunday, February 14, 2016 to hear guest preacher Rev. Gary Bauch speak about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor in Latin America and the Caribbean. Rev. Bauch will share his personal witness about Food For The Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another.

Rev. Bauch currently lives in the Rochester, NY area. He graduated Concordia Theological Seminary (Fort Wayne, IN) and was ordained a pastor in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in 1987. Rev. Bauch served congregations in Gary, IN; New Kensington, PA; West Henrietta, NY; and Hamlin, NY. He also served as chaplain in the Veterans Administration, Monroe County Hospital and Unity Health System. Pastor Bauch is married to Jean, and they have 3 sons, two daughters-in-law, and 4 grandchildren. Please join me in welcoming Pastor Bauch. - Pastor Nickel

Lenten Devotions & Lenten Services

Midweek Lenten Devotions begin on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 10) at noon in the Sanctuary (with imposition of ashes) and continue on Wednesdays at noon in the HCCC conference room through March 16.

Evening Lenten services will be held at Holy Cross on Ash Wednesday and on March 2, and will be at our sister LCMS congregations in the area on other Wednesday evenings throughout Lent. The theme for these services is "The Parables of Lent".

Three-In-One Impact Drive

On Sunday January 31st we met at Holy Cross and assembled the care packages with the collected supplies. We then went down to Hearts for the Homeless for a tour and discussion. Thank you to all of the youth and adult volunteers.

For those that are interested in volunteering one evening with the Mobile Soup Kitchen, please let us know and we will be scheduling that separately. The mobile soup kitchen (RV) goes out every Tuesday through Saturday nights. Peter and Amy Olsen

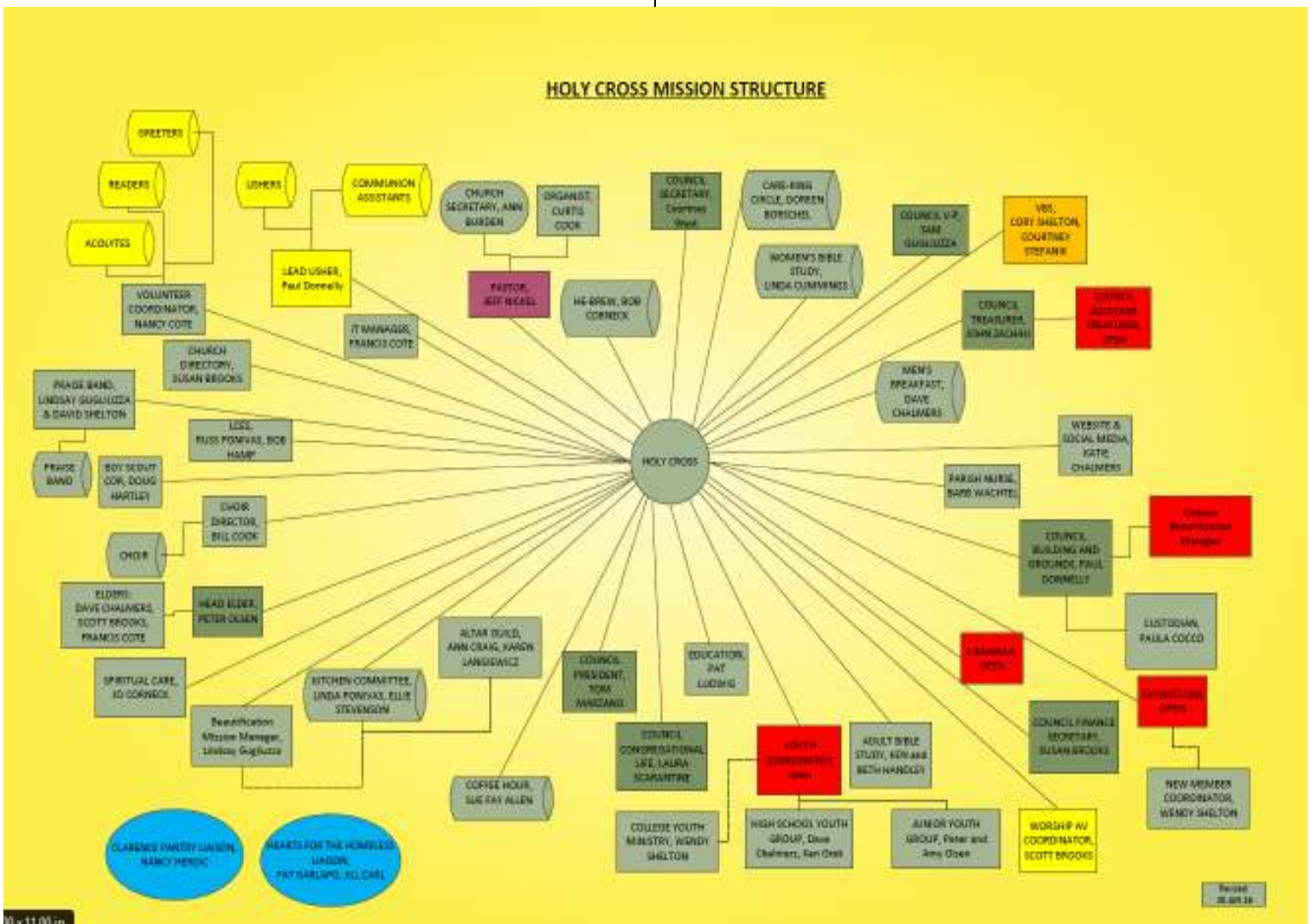
LWML News



Thanks to everyone who faithfully fills up the mite boxes with change. These boxes are in the Narthex. It doesn't take long to fill up a box with spare change. I will collect them again in March or April.

If you fill them before then, just drop them in my mailbox. Announcements from LWML are posted in Krampitz Hall.

Thank you, Nancy Herdic



February Servants

Elders and Communion Assistants:

Joe Hughes & Dave Chalmers
Francis Cote' & Ted Fisk

Ushers:

Bob Corneck & Dave Gardner
Paula Cocco & Sam Gugliuzza

Lay Readers:

February 7 Ann Craig
Nancy Cote
February 14 Kristy Long
Joe Hughes
February 21 Russ Ponivas
Ken Handley
February 28 Jill Carl
Wendy Shelton

Acolytes:

February 7 Emma Roland
Sam Gugliuzza &
Christopher Diem
February 14 Erin Roland
Leah Roberts &
Helene Olsen
February 21 Mason Kelkenberg
Emma & Lilly
Scarantine
February 28 Madie West
Charlie Wood &
Aidan Folck

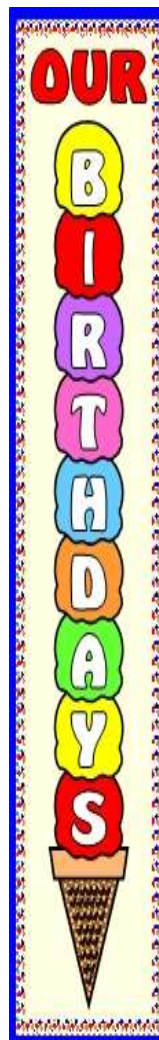
AV Team:

February 7 Bill Cook
February 14 Scott Brooks
February 21 Stephen Marzano
February 28 Preston Kelkenberg

Coffee Fellowship:

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

Happy February Birthday



Randall, Paige	2/3
Randall, Sydney	2/3
Humphreys, Anita	2/5
Standish, Tyler	2/5
Shelton, Wendy	2/8
Leman, Kenneth	2/10
Hare, Emily	2/11
Zubrzycki, Michael	2/11
Meka, Donna	2/12
Talboys, Ronald	2/12
Ropach, Lori	2/13
Standish, Maisie	2/14
Carey, Judith	2/15
Garlapo, Doug	2/15
Handley, Kenny	2/17
Randall, Jacob	2/18
Andrees, Gail	2/24
Kelkenberg, Preston	2/25
DiCostanzo, Colleen	2/26



Ronald & Margaret Talboys	2/9
Michael & Alycia Tomaino	2/25