
CRISS+CROSS



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

February 2017

Working together to connect people to Jesus

Be Fruitful and Multiply

Why did God make me? Why do I have a family? Why do we have a church? What's the purpose?

God reveals some answers to these questions in His Word. First, let's eavesdrop on a conversation of the Holy Trinity on the sixth day of creation: "Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing.'" - Genesis 1:26

So God did. Moses summarizes the creation of mankind so poetically:

"So God created man in His own image,
in the image of God He created him;
male and female He created them." - Genesis 1:27

About this verse, Martin Luther writes: "Moses put the two sexes together and says that God created male and female in order to indicate that Eve, too, was made by God as a partaker of the divine image and of the divine similitude, likewise of the rule over everything. Thus even today the woman is the partaker of the future life, just as Peter says they are joint heirs of the same grace (1 Peter 3:7). In the household, the wife is a partner in the management and has a common interest in the children and the property, and yet there is a great difference between the sexes."

Now imagine Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. They've just been created - two perfectly new, sentient beings. Immediately conscious of their own existence, they stand in awe of God who made them, in wonderment of themselves, and in amazement of His beautiful creation all around them. So what does God do next?

He blesses them. Then He tells them their purpose: "And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" - Genesis 1:28 God gave Adam and Eve to each other with His blessing. He encouraged them to have children with His blessing, thus blessing sex and childbearing in holy wedlock. In this way, the first family began. Likewise, the first congregation of believers was started - initially just Adam and Eve, man and wife.

And lest humanity become self-centered, God gave mankind a special role in caring for the earth. When we consider our purpose (individually, as a family or as a congregation), let us start by praying about how God has blessed us, individually and together. Where has God placed us and with whom? How can we care for them? How do we best take care of and share the blessings He has placed before us? Indeed, as adopted children of God by Holy Baptism, our greatest blessing is the life and grace given to us through Jesus Christ. Let us start to "be fruitful and multiply" by sharing Christ's blessings of forgiveness and mercy with those closest to us.

-Pastor Nickel



Crossroads

February 4th 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 February 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



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!



Soup-er Bowl Sunday

Come connect with fellow Holy Cross friends February 12th at 12:15. Please sign up with Laura Scarantine to enter a soup in our soup contest. Bring a pot of soup in a crock-pot or heat it up at church. All those not entering the competition are welcome to come be judges! Instead of an entry fee, or ticket sale, we are looking for free will donations toward the Clarence Food Pantry. Food items, and monetary donations are appreciated! We also need a few bakers to bring desert. Please see Laura to sign up!

High School Escape Room

On Sunday February 26th high school students are invited to join us at the Galleria Mall for an escape room experience. Time is TBD but will be in the afternoon. Please see Samantha Brown for details.



Holy Cross Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday April 1st from 1-3pm
More details coming soon!

Tables of 8

Here at Holy Cross we seek to connect with one another outside of the worship service so that we may build strong Christian relationships, and grow in our faith. As a part of that mission, we are starting a new program called Tables of 8. For the first few weeks of February, people will sign up with Samantha Brown. On February 15th She will break people into groups of 8, and let everyone know who is in your group. This could be 4 couples, 8 singles, or any combination thereof. The group will then discuss amongst themselves to find a time to meet once a month for the next 4 months. Members will take turns hosting and preparing food. It's going to be a lot of fun eating food and getting to know new people and staying in contact with old friends! Sign up with Samantha Brown!!!

Choir News

The Holy Cross Choir season has begun 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** **February 16th 7:30pm**

He-Brews generally meets on the 3rd 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.

March Criss Cross **Deadline**

Please submit any items for the December Criss Cross **no later than February 14th**. Items may be left on the desk in the HCCC or in the secretary mailbox or may be emailed to holycrossclarenc@gmail.com



Weather Related Closings

As we enter into the winter season it is good to remember that in the unlikely event of weather related closing, Holy Cross' closings and delays will be announced on WGRZ, Channel 2, and online at www.wgrz.com/closings

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 Feb 19th, and March 19th. "Lutheran 3-0" precedes the Lutheran the Lutheran Hour on WXRL on Sundays. 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 for more information.



New Member Class:

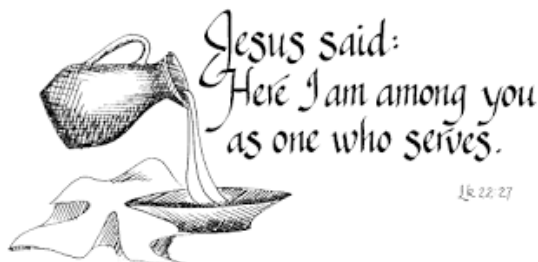
Pastor Nickel will teach a class on the basics of the Christian faith, as believed and confessed by the Lutheran Church, on Wednesdays at 7:00pm from January 11- February 15th. In commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, the class will focus on the book of Roma and the Augsburg Confession (the basics of Christian faith). Everyone is welcome.

Wednesday Night Small Group:

Join us for a study entitled "Better Together: Connecting with God & Others". As we dive into Bible passages for each session, we'll reflect on how God connects people to Him through His church and through each other. Take this time to reflect and discover together how we can grow in Christ and grow as the Body of Christ. Wednesday evenings through February 15th at 7pm in the HCCC upstairs. See Samantha Brown for more information.

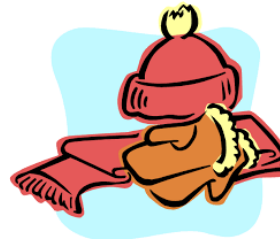
Update From Council:

As we start 2017 we are pleased to announce that almost all of the serving Council members are returning again this year, with two exceptions. Bob Hamp will now be serving as Vice-President, filling the shoes of Sam Gugliuzza. Unlike the V-P of the United States, our V-P is the "go to guy", (or gal), for special projects, such as the Narthex update that Sam oversaw last year. Please be sure to thank Sam for all his tireless work, and thank Bob for stepping into this critical position. We also welcome past president Doug Garlapo back to Council, where he will be responsible for Building and Grounds, taking the reins from Paul Donnelly. It should be remembered that the harder the B&G people work, the less you will notice. Please be sure to thank Paul for his many years of dedicated service, and thank Doug for sharing his skills and wisdom with us. One other notable change, Linda Ponivas and her co-leader Ellie Stevenson are stepping down from leading the Kitchen Committee, with Debbie Hamp stepping up to fill their shoes. Please thank Linda and Ellie for their hard work, while we all should look for ways to help Debbie carry the load. Lastly, it wouldn't be right to not mention the 40 other people serving as leaders in different aspects of our church life, (and this count does not include all the helpers that support these leaders). A "scatter plot" showing these different "missions", their leaders, and how we all "orbit" around the church, is found in the directory, and on the Bulletin Board in Krampitz Hall. Remember that just as there are many different parts of the body, there are many different ways we all can serve in the mission of building the Kingdom of God, and if you are not already, please think about ways you can help with this mission.



Swap and Shop

February 23rd, 2017 7-9pm in Krampitz Hall Bring as many items as you would like to trade. All items should be gently used and in good condition. Adult size clothing only please. Leftover clothing will be donated to Hearts for the Homeless. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert or snack to share, drinks will be provided. A signup sheet is available so we can plan for drinks and tables. Volunteers needed to set up, clean up and/or lend tables. Be sure to invite a friend! Please see Jill Carl or Nancy Cote' with questions. Hope to see you there for a fun evening!



Winter is here in Western New York

Hearts for the Homeless has sent out an urgent request for new or gently used men's and women's hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, heavy socks, blankets and adult backpacks. There will be a collection box available. We will be collecting January 15, 22, 29 and February 5th. Please consider giving to help our neighbors in need. The Sunday School and youth will also be participating in the collection. Thank you Jill Carl



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 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!

Kitchen News

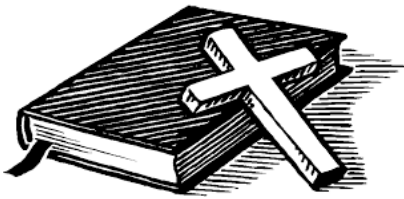
We have purchased a 100 cup coffee urn, towels, a 3 piece place of Corelleware in white to serve 24 people, 3 serving bowls, and 3 serving platters. This is available for use by everyone.

When you have an event please remove all leftover items including all food, drinks, and dishes.

We hope to maintain a "correct" date on all perishable items for the health & safety of all.

Feel free to help out. Questions email debby518@yahoo.com or 651-0974.

Thanks for your support. Debby Hamp



Our February Servants

Communion Assistants:

Jo Corneck & Dave Chalmers
Francis Cote' & Ted Fisk

Ushers:

Bob Corneck & David Gardner
Paula Cocco & Sam Gugliuzza

Altar Guild:

Jo Corneck & Laura Scarantine

Lay Readers:

Feb 5:

& Sue Tichy

Feb 12:

Jill Carl & Sue Fay Allen

Feb 19:

Ann Craig & Wendy Shelton

Feb 26:

Joe Hughes & Kristy Long

Acolytes:

Feb 5:

Morgan Chalmers & Emma Scarantine

Feb 12:

Christie Wood & Maisie Standish

Feb 19:

Lindsey Chalmers & David Hare

Feb 26:

Mason Kelkenberg & Helene Olsen

AV Team:

Feb 5:

Madeline Olsen

Feb 12:

Larry Negron

Feb 19:

Matthew Wiepert

Feb 26:

Christopher Diem

Defensive Driver Class

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Saturday, March 11, 2017

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Tuition - \$25.00 per person

All members & families & friends are welcome.

Receive 10% off your auto insurance for 3 years!

Seating is limited - advanced registration is required

Please contact Diana Zubrzycki at 741-5150 or email her at dzubes@verizon.net

Looking ahead to the Lenten Season

March 1st 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service at Holy Cross

March 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th Lenten Services at area churches. Holy Cross is hosting on March 22nd.

Midweek Lenten Devotions throughout the season

April 9th Palm Sunday

April 13th Maundy Thursday/ First Communion Service

April 14th Good Friday

April 16th Easter Sunday



Heritage Home

The next Heritage Home visit is Sunday, February 26, at 10 a.m. The Bible story filmstrip is "Jesus Chooses Helpers," as found in the four Gospels. We will discuss how we are all helpers of Jesus in the big and little acts of love we do every day. Then we sing, pray, make a simple craft that ties in with the story, and, of course, visit and catch up with their activities and whose

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.

SAVE THE DATE: Holy Cross Work Day with Habitat for Humanity. Saturday, May 6th. We will plan on meeting at church at 8:15 am and returning to Holy Cross between 2-3pm. We will be working on a project in the City of Buffalo. More details and an opportunity to sign up coming soon! For more information please see Peter Olsen.

February Birthdays

Karen Brunner 2/1

Ayla Dulaney 2/1

Audrey Dannebrock 2/2

Paige Randall 2/3

Sydney Randall 2/3

Anita Humphreys 2/5

Tyler Standish 2/5

Wendy Shelton 2/8

Ken Leman 2/10

Emily Hare 2/11

Mike Zubrzycki 2/11

Donna Meka 2/12

Ron Talboys 2/12

Lori Ropach 2/13

Maisie Standish 2/14

Judith Carey 2/15

Christopher Cote' 2/15

Doug Garlapo 2/15

Kurt Wozniak 2/15

Kenny Handley 2/17

Jacob Randall 2/18

Gail Andrees 2/24

Preston Kelkenberg 2/25

Colleen DiCostanzo 2/26

February

ANNIVERSARIES

Ronald & Margaret Talboys 2/9

Michael & Alycia Tomaino 2/25