
CRISS+CROSS



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January 2017

Working together to connect people to Jesus

Where Are You Going?

“So Joshua sent the people away, everyone to his inheritance.” - Joshua 24:28

As we come to the beginning of a new calendar, it's natural to take stock of where we've been and where we're going. Ask yourself: where am I going? What's my “inheritance”?

The Holy Cross Tuesday morning women's Bible study just completed a study of the Book of Joshua.

We learned how the Lord prepared Joshua to lead Israel into the Promised Land after Moses' death. God instructed Joshua to “...be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b) We saw that Joshua succeeded because he trusted God's Holy Word.

And Joshua continually emphasizes that the Lord gave them their land as an “inheritance” according to God's promise. This theme begins in the very first chapter - “Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.” (Joshua 1:6)

The inheritance theme continues to the very last chapter: “So Joshua sent the people away, everyone to his inheritance. After these things Joshua, the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being 110 years old. And they buried him in his own inheritance. ...” (Joshua 24:28-30a) Our Lord always fulfills His Word and grants success according to His purpose and timing (not ours).

Just as the name Joshua (or Yeshua in Hebrew) points forward to a later and greater leader of God's people, Jesus (also Yeshua in Hebrew), the same Jesus gives us a decisive victory - over death itself - in His resurrection. Through Jesus Christ, we are led safely through the “Jordan River” of our Baptism to our inheritance - our Promised Land of salvation and eternal life.

So, as we face this new year together in Christ, let's listen to God's encouragement: “...be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

-Pastor Nickel



Crossroads
January 7th 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 January 7th 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!

Youth Group

A new year means new things & this year we are changing up our youth program! We will now be meeting Saturday, January 14th & 28th at 7:00 PM. We will be diving into the Word, asking tough questions like "Is the Bible reliable?" and "Can I be a Christian and believe in evolution?" All High school students are welcome to join us! Please contact Samantha Brown with any questions at samanthabrown.holycross@gmail.com

Afternoon Out!

On Monday, January 16th high school students are invited to join us at 2:00 at the Panera on Transit (just off Maple Rd). Bring a few dollars to grab a bite to eat, or a drink, and join us for a time hang out and talk, before a short devotion.

Fun Night

This year's confirmation class will be having some bonding time with an outing the evening of January 20th! It is a time for us to just get out and have fun together!

AED's Arrive at Holy Cross

Per our voters' meeting, Holy Cross has purchased and received two new AED's for installation in both the church and in the Holy Cross Christian Center. And in case you are wondering, AED stands for "automated external defibrillator". Along with the AED's, about 15 of our members and friends received American Heart Association training in basic lifesaving CPR and AED usage. Many thanks to all who stepped forward to help protect the safety of our congregation, and a special thanks to Council Secretary Courtney West, who spearheaded the project through to completion. We pray that we never need to use these tools, but we also thank our Lord for providing us with these resources and the people willing to serve in this capacity, and trusting in His will for all.



He-Brews **NEXT Meeting Thursday** **January 19th 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.

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.

February Criss Cross

Deadline

Please submit any items for the December Criss Cross **no later than January 17th.**

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 Dec 25th, Jan 22nd, 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 January 11th- February 15th at 7pm in the HCCC upstairs. See Samantha Brown for more information.

Update From Council

December 2016 Voters Meeting Overview

The semiannual voters meeting was held on December 11th following the second service, and for those that could not attend, here are the highlights.

Based on the Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports we are pleased to announce that 2016 should be closing out ahead of budget in giving and under budget in operating expenses. (These reports were e-mailed to the congregation and hardcopies are available upon request. The final 2016 report will be sent out in late January or early February.)

We have completed 7 of 8 Building projects slated for 2016, with realized expenses approximately 50% less than what was budgeted. This included the Narthex Welcome Center, and the training of 15 members in CPR and the installation of Automatic External Defibrillators in both buildings.

With the help of our Director of Christian Education Intern, Samantha Brown, we have launched two new missions, one directed toward "Discipleship" growth and the other towards community "Outreach". Look for more information on both groups as we progress through 2017. These are excellent opportunities for all members to be more active in putting faith into action.

The congregation voted to approve three changes to the LCMS constitution. (Details of these changes have been posted ON the bulletin board for several months.)

Our Risk Management and Youth Protection process continues to be strengthened as more members are completing screening and training. If you work with youth or have a position of responsibility in the church, look for more information from Melinda Wood on how you can help protect others, (and yourself).

We thanked Linda Ponivas and Ellie Stevenson for their tireless work as our Kitchen Mission Managers, and we welcomed Debby Hamp, who has agreed to manage the Kitchen in 2017, (and hopefully beyond).

We thanked Paul Donnelly and Sam Gugliuzza for their many years serving on our Church Council. While both gentlemen are stepping down from Council, both plan to continuing serving Holy Cross in different functions in the future.

The voters approved the 2017 Operating Budget and Building Budget. Copies of these are available upon request.

And the slate proposed for 2017 Council was accepted by the voters as seen below.

And we were pleased to point out that on our church's organization chart, there are 43 different names performing services in our congregation; (but there is always room for more). We encourage everyone to find new and challenging ways that they may be able serve both Holy Cross and the Kingdom of God.

We thank everyone that was able to attend this meeting, and as always, we encourage anyone with questions or concerns to see Pastor, an Elder or Council Member. And we thank you for your support.

In His Service,

Your 2017 Council



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 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.



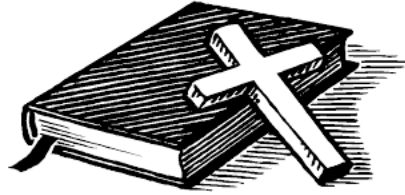
Women's Bible Study Group

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.

Winter 2017 will begin our study of the book of Isaiah. Our booklet is titled "Isaiah: Trusting God in Troubled Times." As the book describes what we will encounter that sometimes we look at our world and wonder what good could possibly come out of it. That's exactly what we find in the book of Isaiah. Here you will see how a prophet raises a cry for revival in the midst of a rotting society and you may find comfort for your own troubles.

We will begin this study on January 3rd, looking to Isaiah 1 in lesson 1 titled: "No More Religion!" For January 17th we explore Isaiah 2 : "Longing and Living for THAT DAY!" January 24th's lesson is "A Song of Injustice from Isaiah 5 and for January 31st from Isaiah 6 the lesson is titled: "Responding to God's Call."

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!



Our January Servants

Communion Assistants: Kenny Grek & Joe Hughes Tom Marzano & Doug Hartley

Ushers: Michael Zubrzycki & Scott Kelkenberg Robert Diem & Larry Wiepert

January Altar Guild: Ann Craig & Sarah Craig

Lay Readers:

Jan 1:	Joe Hughes	Kristy Long
Jan 8:	Ken Handley	Paula Cocco
Jan 15:	Ann Craig	Nancy Cote'
Jan 22:	Kurt Wozniak	Marilynn Cook
Jan 29:	Jo Corneck	Brian Humphreys

Acolytes:

Jan 1:	Mason Kelkenberg	
Jan 8:	Morgan Chalmers	Madelyn Standish
Jan 15:	Christie Wood	Emily Hare
Jan 22:	Lindsey Chalmers	Sammy Gugliuzza
Jan 29:	Mason Kelkenberg	Lily Scarantine

AV Team:

Jan 1:	Larry NeGron
Jan 8:	Matthew Wiepert
Jan 15:	Christopher Diem
Jan 22:	Bill Cook





Heritage Home

Our regular visit to the Heritage Home would be right on Christmas Day. Our friends there will have family doings so the plan is to go January 1 instead at 10 a.m. The Tichys will accompany us with instruments as we Christmas carol. You are invited to come to add to the chorus of Christmas praise to our Lord that day. What a day of sharing with others the joy of Christmas is as we begin a new year. Christmas cookies are fun that day so bring some along. Alfrieda, Ron, Margaret



Praise Corner!

- Holy Cross Donated 30 dozen cookies to Hearts for the Homeless. Thank you to everyone who baked!
- We collected \$99.70 in Mite boxes which were sent to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.
- 23 families participated in our gift card fundraiser and we raised \$622.54 to go toward the 2019 National Youth Gathering!
- We donated 40 pounds of frozen chicken to the Clarence Food Panty.
- Thank you to all who helped with this year's Sunday School Christmas Program!

January Birthdays

Susan Tichy 1/3
Ken Handley 1/6
Melinda Wood 1/6
Janet Kowarko 1/7
Kristy Long 1/8
Katie Przybylski 1/10
Madelyn Standish 1/12
Rachel Nickel 1/13
Matt Donnelly 1/14
Michael Donnelly 1/14
Kelly Roeser 1/15
Susan Brooks 1/16
Colin Folck 1/16
Scott Kelkenberg 1/18
Doug Hartley 1/23
Tim Langiewicz 1/23
Lucille Hoffmeister 1/24
Justin Flores 1/27
Adam Overton 1/27
Paul Donnelly 1/28
Daniel Liszkiewicz 1/28

JANUARY

ANNIVERSARIES

Art & Donna Smith 1/6
Michael & Janet Kowarko 1/23