
CRISS+CROSS



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

March 2017

Working together to connect people to Jesus

Adam & Eve's Family as part of God's plan

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. - Genesis 3:20

Moses records this event in the lives of Adam and Eve right after their fall into sin, right after God declares the curses upon the serpent, the man and woman, and the earth. Why is that significant?

We notice first that immediately after the Fall, God starts picking up the pieces with His plan of salvation for humanity. Just as the entire human family begins with the family of Adam and Eve, so too does God's plan of salvation. For even as God curses the serpent, God plants the seed of the Gospel for mankind when He mentions the woman's Seed in His curse of the serpent: "...I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." The Seed of the woman would crush the devil's head, though not without cost.

When Eve conceived and gave birth (in pain) to her first son, Cain, she thought that this was God's fulfillment of His promise. But after the devil tempted Cain to kill Eve's second son, Abel, it became obvious God's plan would take longer to develop. God's plan of salvation would be worked out through her third son, Seth, and his descendants, which would lead to Jesus. The coming of the Son of God into human flesh, His death on the cross for all the sins of humanity, and His resurrection proves how much God loves and values His human creatures. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16). The Son of God did not come as an animal nor as an angel. He came in human flesh - a descendant of Adam and Eve - just like us.

Eve is "the mother of all living" because we all are descended from her, including Jesus. Ever since Adam and Eve, God has been building His human family in order that we, by His grace in Jesus Christ, may share in His care and dominion over all creation. The marriage of a loving husband and a loving wife is His blueprint for building healthy families so that children have a loving father and a loving mother. The devil wants to destroy God's "building" by altering God's plan for marriage and family. Indeed, he hurts us. Our healing comes through the forgiveness shown us and taught us by Christ.

In the same way, the marriage of Christ to the Church builds the family of God. Christ loves the Church (the family of all believers in Him) so much that He suffered and died on her behalf. And the devil still seeks to destroy the Church by tempting us to take our eyes off Christ. Indeed, we may be bruised for now by his machinations. But God gives us the ultimate victory through Jesus Christ, the Seed of the woman, our brother, our Savior and our Lord.

-Pastor Nickel



Brown Bag Devotions During Lent

Unable to make Wednesday evening Lenten Services? Bring your lunch and join us in the Holy Cross Christian Center for “Brown Bag Devotions” at Noon on Wednesday during Lent. We will be doing a series of “lite” devotions on the same theme as “Living Lent as Resurrection People” reflecting on Luke Chapter 15. All are welcome! See Pastor Nickel for details.



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 to email: holycrossclarence@gmail.com that includes your child’s name and current grade level. Bring a friend!



Crossroads

March 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 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



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!



Weather Related Closings

We have had a very mild winter so far but 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

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** **March 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.

April Criss Cross **Deadline**

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



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 March 19th, April 16th, May 14th, and June 11th. "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.



2 YOUR RESCUE

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 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.

Living Lent As People of the Resurrection

A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

Wednesdays

March 8th St. Luke, Cheektowaga Theme: "Purpose"

March 15th Our Savior, Buffalo Theme: "People"

March 22nd Holy Cross, Clarence Theme: "Proclaim"

March 29th St. John's, Depew Theme: "Praise"

April 5th Nazareth, Buffalo Theme: "Pain"

Every Week: 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.

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).

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.





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.

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. 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.



u10323772 fotosearch.com

Our March Servants

Communion Assistants:

Kenny Grek & Joe Hughes
Peter Olsen & Scott Brooks

Ushers:

Ron Talboys & Kelly Roeser
Russell Ponivas & Doug Hartley

Altar Guild:

Helen Grinstead & Debbie Hamp

Lay Readers:

March 5:

Kenny Grek & Paula Cocco

March 12:

Ann Craig & Nancy Cote'

March 19:

Kurt Wozniak &

March 26:

Jo Corneck & Brian Humphreys

Acolytes:

March 5:

Christie Wood & Leah Roberts

March 12:

Morgan Chalmers & Madelyn Standish

March 19:

Lindsey Chalmers & David Hare

March 26:

Mason Kelkenberg & Lily Scarantine

AV Team:

March 5:

Bill Cook

March 12:

Scott Brooks

March 19:

Madeline Olsen

March 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 .



Events for the Lenten Season

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

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

March Anniversaries

Bob & Debby Hamp 3/2

Gordon & Pat Compo 3/5

Bob & Jo Corneck 3/11



Heritage Home

The next Heritage Home visit is Sunday, March 26, at 10 a.m. will be our monthly visit to the Heritage Home just west on Sheridan past Harris Hill Road We are there for 45 minutes with a Bible story, this month "Jesus Feeding the 5,000" from Luke 9 and Mark 6. As always we will talk about Jesus and the story, pray, sing, make a simple craft, and then visit and get caught up with birthdays, holidays, and odds and end This is truly a time of fellowship and caring. Join us...Alfrieda, Margaret, Ron

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.

March Birthdays

Mike Cocco 3/1

Blake Zachau 3/1

Catherine Ludwig 3/3

Meagan Myers 3/4

Russell Ponivas 3/6

Kent Grinstead 3/7

David Shelton 3/9

Christian Bauer 3/10

Christie Wood 3/11

David Hare 3/14

Larry NeGron 3/15

Nina Kirkland 3/17

Dolores Pelinat 3/17

Tom Roberts 3/17

Diana Zubrzycki 3/18

Cameron Cook 3/19

Ryan Standish 3/19

Nathan Tomaino 3/19

Tom Braunscheidel 3/20

James Houghton 3/21

Art Smith 3/21

Eliot Garner 3/23

Liam Prybylski 3/23

Marsha Bongiovanni 3/24

Marilyn Cook 3/24

Sammy Gugliuzza 3/25

Nicole Pellnat 3/26

Judy Diem 3/27

Madeline Olsen 3/28

Sue Pax 3/28

Kellie Folck 3/29

Gary Andress 3/30