
CRISS+CROSS



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May 2017

Working together to connect people to Jesus

Teaching the Children Diligently

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.” - Deuteronomy 6:4-7

The mission of the church is to “*go and make disciples of all nations.*” On April 30, 2017 we are blessed to witness the confirmation of Lindsey Chalmers, Morgan Chalmers, Mason Kelkenberg, Emma Scarantine and Christine Wood. Confirmation celebrates the teaching part of the mission that Jesus gave to us, the Church: to go “*baptizing... [in the name of the Triune God] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*” (Matthew 28:19-20) Confirmation expresses publicly - “in the presence of God and this congregation” - the beliefs “confessed” by one who has been baptized and now taught the basics of the Christian faith. But the Church is not done “making disciples” of Lindsey, Morgan, Mason, Emma and Christine on Confirmation Sunday. Confirmation is not graduation! As long as you breathe, the Holy Spirit is not finished making a disciple out of you yet, either. You only “graduate” when you see Christ face to face. In the meantime, the Holy Spirit continues to shape you. He does this by His means of grace - His Holy Word and the Sacraments - where you receive the forgiveness that remakes you to reflect the image of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Hebrew, the phrase “*teach them diligently*” implies repetition, like sharpening a knife blade over and over again on a whetstone. “Teaching our children diligently” is not just the work of the pastor, our Sunday School teachers, or even the parents of the children in our congregation. It is the task of everyone in the congregation - first and especially the family of the children: parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, sisters, brothers, etc. Any Christian can, and should, repeat God’s Word to children. In doing so, we are building up the body of Christ, right here at Holy Cross.

God instructs parents to “*teach them diligently*” by repeating His Word to them. When? How about:

“*when you sit in your house*” ... like parents having a designated Bible story time at home

“*when you walk by the way*” ... like when driving to or from church, school or a sports practice

“*when you lie down*” ... like having a Bible story time and prayer before bedtime

“*when you rise*” ... when you get up, have breakfast and perhaps read Portals of Prayer together.

Here’s a challenge for you: When you encounter children at Holy Cross, what is ONE Bible verse that you can share with them? The Apostle Thomas is known for saying, “*My Lord and my God*” when he encountered the risen Jesus Christ. (John 20:28) What verse would you like to be remembered for saying? How about something simple like, “*Peace be with you,*” as Jesus says in John 20:19? How about something encouraging like, “*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God,*” as Paul says in Romans 8:14? Perhaps your own confirmation verse?

-Pastor Nickel



Summer Schedule

Summer Hours:

In June, July, and August Holy Cross will have two Sunday services at 8:00am and 10:00am. This will begin on Sunday June 4th. We will resume our "regular hours" on Sunday, September 3rd and Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 10th. The last day of Sunday School is Sunday May 21st.



Help Wanted Nursery Attendant:

As the years fly by, Holy Cross will lose another trusted Nursery Attendant as Taylor moves on to pursue her college education. Many thanks and prayers go with Taylor on this next part of her adventure. And now we look for the next person (or persons) to provide this important service to the young families that join us at our late Sunday worship. Specifically, we are looking for someone able to watch children during the second service, entertain newborns to three year olds for the full hour of the service, and to lead children up to the age of 7 in activities during the sermon. The proper candidate must be able to change the occasional dirty diaper, and Red Cross or equivalent Babysitter Training is required for any youthful attendants. Please see any Council member or Pastor Nickel if you are interested in learning more about this compensated position. Thanks!



Crossroads

May 27th 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 May 27th 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 News:

Please re-register your child for the 2017/18 Sunday School Year on our website: holycrossclarence.com, the electronic registration forms are located under the "Sunday School Tab". We look forward to another year of Growing together in Christ! Mark your calendars for The Rally Day & Church Picnic on Sunday, August 27, 2017 @ The Clarence Town Park, Pavilion. Please join us for worship @ 10am followed by lunch, fun-games, and fellowship (hot dogs provided, please bring your own beverage & a dish to share). May Sunday School Dates to remember: **May 4th** @ 6pm: Sunday School Teacher Meeting **May 21st**: Last Day of Sunday School.

Jr/Sr High Late Night Here at Holy Cross we believe that we were created for relationships. Come build relationships and start off your weekend by enjoying this late night. Friday, **May 19th** we will start off out late night at 6:30 PM with dinner and have some games, service project, devotion, and movie time ending at 10:30 PM. Stay out late and have fun with friends! All 7th-12th grade students are invited! Sign up in the upstairs of the HCCC or with Samantha to let her know you're coming!



Choir News:

The Holy Cross Choir season is underway 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
May 18th 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.

June Criss Cross

Deadline

Please submit any items for the June Criss Cross **no later than MAY 17th**. Items may be left on the desk in the HCCC or in the secretary mailbox or may be emailed to holycrossclarenc@gmail.com
Thank you!

Thoughts from the Intern:

As I think about my time here at Holy Cross, the words that come to mind are "Thank you." Thank you for taking me in these past months; thank you for making me a part of your community, thank you for teaching me, thank you for allowing me to try new things, and granting me forgiveness when they didn't go as planned. Thank you for allowing me the space to grow as an individual and professional. I am saddened that my time here is coming to a close, but excited for the future of Holy Cross. I pray that as individuals, and as a congregation, you continue to grow in the grace of God. As I wrap up my time here, I hope that I can spend some quality time with many of you, and if in this next month you ever want to get coffee, you know where to find me. Again, I cannot say it enough, Thank you.

EXERCISE CLASS



Would you like to get in shape?

Looking for an opportunity to move and have fun with friends? Starting **May 2nd**, Ruth Marzano will be offering an exercise class on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 in the back room of the HCCC. Bring friends! This class will be appropriate for all fitness levels. If you have any questions, please contact her at themarzanos@gmail.com.

YAM

HolyCross's Young Adult Ministry will be gathering on May 21st @ 6:30 in K-Hall for a time of fellowship & fun. We don't often get to see one another, but being in town for summer has its benefits! Please join us for a good time as we hang out & with a good homemade dinner and fun game night! All young adults are welcome!



VBS Help Wanted!

VBS planning is underway! Mark your calendars for August 7-11! Many volunteers of all ages are needed! Please plan on attending an informational meeting on **June 4th** after the late service. This quick meeting will answer any questions you might have about volunteering.

If you would like to help us or have any questions, please contact Ruth Marzano at themarzanos@gmail.com or text Katie Marzano at 270-3170. Help us spread the word about God's Victory!

Greenfield Manor and Greenfield

Court Services: Please join us at 10:45 on June 3rd for the Greenfield Court Services and/or 1:00pm for the Greenfield Manor Service.

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.

Book and Bake Sale We will be having a Book and Bake Sale on Saturday, **May 20** from 8:30am-3pm. Please search your house for books you no longer read and ask neighbors and friends to donate their old books also. We'll also be collecting CDs and DVDs. Linda Cummings and Pat Ludwig will be running the bake sale portion of the event. Please contact them to donate baked goods. If you need to have your books picked up, just call Nancy Cote at 818-1175.

Calling Bakers of All Ages: We need your sweet stuff for the book sale/ bake sale on May 20th. If you like to make cakes, cookies, breads, rolls, cupcakes, coffeecakes, brownies, any sweet baked item, we need them for the sale!!!! Please bring them to Krampitz Hall on Friday, **May 19th** by 4pm, so we can label and price your "goodies". Let us know what the item is called AND if there are any nuts in it. Any questions--- email or call us: Pat Ludwig pludwig@yahoo.com, 510-8839 or Linda Cummings



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 **May 14th**, and June 11th. 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.



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.



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 study Titus and resume our study of Isaiah in the fall. 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!

Hospice Memorial Walk:

The family of Pat Garlapo will be celebrating her life by participating in the Hospice Memorial Walk on **May 21st** at 11am. We would love for you to join us on this walk to remember Pat and all the loved ones helped by Hospice. If you are unable to walk and would like to support Hospice and their mission of bringing comfort to those who suffer and grieve you can do that also. Please visit HOSPICEMEMORIALWALK.com and search our team name...Our Forever Angel to register to walk or donate. Thank you so much, Doug, Carrie and Laura.

Our May Servants

May Communion Assistants: Kenny Grek & Joe Hughes
May Ushers: Michael Zubrzycki & Robert Hamp
May Altar Guild: Francis Cote' & Gary Andrees
Doug Hartley & Sam Gugliuzza
Connie Donnelly & Karen Langiewicz

Lay Readers May 7: Kenny Grek
Acolytes May 7: Morgan Chalmers
AV Team May 7: Paula Cocco
Helene Olsen
Larry NeGron

Lay Readers May 14: Jo Corneck
Acolytes May 14: Lindsey Chalmers
AV Team May 14: Brian Humphreys
Lily Scarantine
Matthew Weipert

Lay Readers May 21: Jeffrey Allan
Acolytes May 21: Mason Kelkenberg
AV Team May 21: Sue Tichy
David Hare
Christopher Diem

Lay Readers May 28: Jill Carl
Acolytes May 28:
AV Team May 28: Sue Fay Allen
Sammy Gugliuzza
Bill Cook

Thank you for serving!

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." - 1 Peter 4:10-11 NIV



Heritage Home: Our next visit to the Heritage Home will be **May 28** at 10 a.m. "Jesus Ascends to Heaven" (Luke 24, Matthew 28, Acts 1) will be the Bible story filmstrip. And because it is Memorial Day weekend, we will sing, "God Bless America." A flag project will be on hand along with much singing, prayer, and celebrating birthdays. It is good to be together!
-Alfrieda, Ron, Margaret



Camp Pioneer Golf Benefit: The Camp Pioneer Golf Benefit is set for Monday, **July 17th** at the Brierwood Country Club in Hamburg. The early bird price (before June 1st) is \$135 per golfer. Please call Camp Pioneer at 549-1420 to register. The proceeds will assist children of our military to have a camp experience. Copy of the golf brochure contains all the details – and is available in the church office and is posted on the Bulletin board in K-Hall. Church organizations and businesses are urged to sponsor a hole at the benefit for a donation of \$150.

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.



Hearts For the Homeless: December 2016 marked our 26th year of feeding the poor and homeless in our area. Holy Cross has supported "Hearts" from the beginning. Ron has shared the vision and ministry of Hearts For the Homeless and the congregation has responded with donations, prayer, and continued support. Our most recent \$200 check from Dash's (March) receipts went to the fund to purchase a new van to reach more clients. Thank you Holy Cross for 26 years of support! -Ron and Jill.

May Anniversaries

Jason & Katie Flores 5/23

Peter & Amy Olsen 5/23

Mike & Paula Cocco 5/25

Hunter & Jennifer Dulaney 5/25

Kenny & Jenny Grek 5/25

Scott & Courtney West 5/27

May Birthdays

Gabriella Lindell 5/1

Richard Meka 5/1

Scott West 5/1

Kim Liskiewicz 5/2

Dorothy Tupper 5/2

Zachary Randall 5/3

Cindy Zachau 5/4

Kevin Zachau 5/4

Rich Craig 5/5

Hudson Lindell 5/5

Emily Craig 5/6

Lance Leipold 5/6

Laurie Garner 5/7

Brian Humphreys 5/7

Taylor Stefanik 5/8

Carrie Garlapo 5/10

Jack Hare 5/15

Samuel Harrison 5/15

Max Shroyer 5/16

Debby Dirmyer 5/18

Debby Hamp 5/18

Andy Zubrzycki 5/19

Christopher Diem 5/20

Leah Roberts 5/22

Sarah Craig 5/26

Kimberly Keiper 5/26

Cataldo Scarantine 5/30

Courtney Stefanik 5/30

