
CRISS+CROSS



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

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Working together to connect people to Jesus

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.” - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Some of you have asked why it is important for the pastor and the congregation that I, your pastor, have vowed to teach and preach God’s Word according to the Lutheran Confessions. After all, isn’t pledging to “preach from the Bible” enough?

It is wise for you to inquire about this. Correct preaching and teaching illumines the glory of Christ. The eternal fate of souls in our congregation depends on it.

So what is “correct” preaching and teaching? How do you know the pastor isn’t reading his own interpretation into the text when he preaches?

The Lutheran Reformation, which started when Martin Luther offered to debate 95 points of faith on October 31, 1517, became concerned with this question: what is the true faith, and what is our authority for saying what it is? Our faith is based on God has revealed to us in Holy Scripture alone, not what other people tell us to believe.

So what are the “Lutheran Confessions?” The Lutheran Confessions are orthodox expressions of the Christian faith, anchored by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, drawn from the Holy Scriptures. This is the same Christian faith that has been confessed through the centuries ever since the time of the Apostles - just as the Apostle Paul says when he “delivered to you... what I also received....” Ours is a faith centered (i.e., “of first importance”) on the gospel message “that Christ died for our sins..., that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day.”

All that Jesus did was “in accordance with the Scriptures.” The Old Testament pointed ahead towards Christ. So just like St. Paul, we believe God does precisely what He says He is going to do. For our benefit, exactly what God reveals to us is written down in the Bible.

As C.F.W. Walther, the founder of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod wrote, when a pastor pledges to teach and preach according to the Lutheran Confessions, the congregation can be assured that: The content of the Christian faith that I am preaching and teaching your family and your brothers and sisters in Christ, even if you are not present at every sermons or Bible study, is centered on Jesus Christ;

- Your pastor has a guide for interpreting the Scriptures, and you know what it is;
- Your pastor preaches and teaches the pure doctrine of the orthodox Christian faith, in conformity with Scripture, as expressed in the Lutheran Confessions;
- You have a clear, written standard of the Christian faith by which to judge your pastor’s preaching and teaching; and
- I, as your pastor, have a clear, written standard by which the content of my preaching and teaching will be judged by you, a standard to which I have pledged myself, and the same standard by which I expect to be judged by our Lord Jesus Christ.

May our Lord Jesus Christ keep you and me in the one true faith now and forever,

-Pastor Nickel

A Very Brief History of the Lutheran Confessions

The “Lutheran” Confessions include the three great, universal statements of the apostolic faith - the faith passed down from the Apostles (Paul, John, Peter, etc.). We know them as the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. These statements of faith are drawn from the Holy Scriptures and are confessed by all Christians of both the Western Church and Eastern (“Orthodox”) Church, not just Lutherans. Beginning in the 100s A.D., not long after the death of the last Apostle (John), these creeds developed in the early centuries of the Christian Church. They identified the Church’s public message to the world and offered believers guidance for public instruction and witness. And they served to defend “the faith of the Apostles” in response to errors that attacked both the faith and biblical truth.

When the Reformation occurred, the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, called upon the “Lutheran” princes and cities to identify their public teaching in 1530 at Augsburg, Germany. They answered with a document they called their “confession of faith.” This became known as the Augsburg Confession, the reforming movement’s public statement centered on the Gospel teaching that our salvation is by God’s grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone, and that the source of authority for what we believe, teach and confess is Holy Scripture alone.

After 25 years of conflict, at the Religious Peace of Augsburg in 1555 (yes, at the same place!), a certain level of political toleration of the reforming movement was allowed. The Augsburg Confession became the definition of the faith that was “legally permitted” in territories that did not otherwise remain Roman Catholic. In the meantime, Martin Luther and his colleagues had further described and explained what they sought to reform in:

- the Defense of the Augsburg Confession - a document written in response to the opposition of the Augsburg Confession,
- the Smalcald Articles - a clear summary of doctrine that Luther wrote in 1537 for the allied princes gathered at Smalcald, Germany, in expectation of being summoned to a Council of the Western Church that Pope Paul III had convoked in Mantua, Italy, but never convened,
- Luther’s Small Catechism - a short booklet to be used by parents in instructing their children in the Christian faith, which we still use in confirmation classes,
- Luther’s Large Catechism, which explains the chief articles of the faith in greater depth for adults, teachers of the faith, and pastors, and
- the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope - a statement on papal authority (as contrasted with “Scripture alone”) that also was written in 1537 for the Council that was convoked but not convened.

Certain doctrinal controversies that arose after Martin Luther’s death were resolved, in unity, with greater definition of particular points of the Christian faith in the Formula of Concord, which was subscribed to by 8,188 theologians by 1580. Together with all of the above-mentioned documents, the Formula of Concord was published in the Book of Concord on June 25, 1580, the 50th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession.

All of these statements of faith, from the Apostles Creed through the Formula of Concord, comprise the “Lutheran Confessions.” As stated in the Constitution of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, these statements of faith, “taken from and in full agreement with the Holy Scriptures,” express the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at large, and what we believe, teach and confess to the world.

NEW WORSHIP HOURS

Now that we have your attention, and we know we are playing with dynamite here, but for NEXT summer, the church leadership is considering modifying the Sunday morning worship hours. To that end we are soliciting feedback. So without doing a formal survey or a congregational vote, the Elders and Council Members would like to know what people think about changing summer worship times from "9:00 Am and 11:00AM" to "8:00 AM and 10:00AM". Please consider this request for your input while we have a lot of time to think about it. Please be assured that no decision has been made and we know that there must be overwhelming support to make a change like this, but we figured if we didn't at least start asking, we will never know what people think. Please feel free to bend the ear of any Council Member or Elder and we will keep you posted as to what we are hearing Thanks!

Choir News

The 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.



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!



He-Brews **NEXT Meeting Thursday** **October 27th UB Bulls!**

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 (often from Right-Now Media) 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. Contact Dave Chalmers at daveyd399@gmail.com

November Criss Cross **Deadline**

Please submit any items for the August Criss Cross **no later than October 18th.**

Items may be left on the desk in the HCCC or in the secretary mailbox or may be emailed to

holycrossclarence@gmail.com



**A Note from Our Intern
Friends,**

I grew up just south of Chicago in the town of Kankakee. Clarence reminds me of home in that they are both a mix between suburban and rural communities. Growing up, I went to St. Paul's Lutheran Grade school. When I was in third grade, we got a Director of Christian Education (DCE) intern. Mr. K introduced us to family ministry, showed us that church can be fun, and taught us what it meant to be a servant. If during my time here, I am half the leader that Mr. K. was, we will all be blessed. In the upcoming months I will be working with the Sunday school, confirmation, youth, young adult, and adult populations. In Concordia University Chicago's DCE program, I was trained to do all types of ministry, and am excited about the opportunities Holy Cross provides. During my time here at Holy Cross, I pray that you all help me to learn how to be the best Christian educator that I can be. I know that I have a lot to learn and look forward to all that you and the Holy Spirit have to teach me! May God bless Holy Cross and our ministry. If you need to contact me, please do so any time at samanthabrown.holycross@gmail.com or (815)-573-1888.

**Your DCE intern, and partner in ministry,
Samantha Brown**

Crossroads

October 1st from 5-6pm

Beginning this October, Holy Cross will be Hosting a once a month Saturday evening devotional experience. We will 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 October 1st 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



PUMPKIN PRAISE!

Who: Families with
Children in Grades
pre-k thru 6th

What: Pumpkin Praise Night (Free Pancake Buffet & Pumpkin Carving fun!)

When: Friday October 28th @ 6pm (pancake buffet)
7pm (pumpkin carving with interactive Gospel message)

8pm (lighting of the pumpkins)

Where: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Krampitz Hall

Bring: Your own Pumpkin to Carve & A friend!
(carving utensils and candles provided)

RSVP: On the Sign-up Sheet located on the
Krampitz Hall Bulletin Board.

Youth Group

We will have a bi-weekly youth group for Sr. High youth on Sunday nights from 5-6. Samantha will lead this new group on Oct. 9th, & 23rd. We will meet in the upstairs of the Christian Center for games, the Word, and tons of fun!!! Please contact Samantha at samanthabrown.holycross@gmail.com with any questions!

Holy Cross Youth Ages 13-18

Looking for an opportunity to Serve Christ, His Church, and fulfill community service hours?

Then please join us on Friday October 28th

@5pm in the K-hall Kitchen to help make pancakes & sausage for Pumpkin Praise Night! Supplies and instructions will be provided.

Signup on the Krampitz Hall bulletin board. We look forward to serving with you!

Questions? please call or text Lindsay

Gugliuzza at (716)435-3007

Update From Council

Risk Management Policy:

After a few false starts Holy Cross has re-booted our Risk Management Policy. If you attended church on August 21st you have already hear about this but here is a brief summary of the new policy adopted by Council and being implemented at this time.

Council has adopted a Risk Management policy that is designed to protect our youth, protect our volunteers and associates, and to protect the church from physical, spiritual, and financial injury. As a part of that policy we have subscribed to a service provided by Protect My Ministry Inc.. This organization will, at our request and with the permission of the associate, to run a confidential criminal background check; but more importantly this organization provides online training for our associates to help prevent injury and protect ourselves. Melinda Wood has agreed to be the Risk Management Coordinator for this. Some may be contacted to enroll in this system and are encouraged to bring any questions to our Pastor or a council member. Please be assured that all background checks are confidential and limited to the Pastor for his review. Parents may also see changes such as permission slips for off premises activities, or requests for more helpers to provide redundant (two deep) levels of supervision. A copy of the policy is available upon request. While this may seem a little "over the top" for a small country church, the world is changing, and it is our responsibility to provide the safest environment for all our members and guests. We appreciate everyone's help and understanding with this and welcome any suggestions to further improve the safety of all.

**Our next meeting is
October 20th.**

-Tom Marzano Council President

UPCOMING WORSHIP CALENDAR

Oct. 2	8:00 Divine Service 9:30 Christian Education Hour 11:00 Divine Service
Oct. 9	8:00 Divine Service 9:30 Christian Education Hour 11:00 Divine Service with Praise Band
Oct. 16	8:00 Divine Service 9:30 Christian Education Hour 11:00 Divine Service
Oct. 23	8:00 Divine Service 9:30 Christian Education Hour 11:00 Divine Service
Oct. 30	REFORMATION SUNDAY (observed) 8:00 Divine Service 9:30 Christian Education Hour 11:00 Divine Service



Praise Band News

The Praise Band meets
Wednesdays at
6:00pm.

Our October Servants

Communion Assistants:

Jo Corneck & Ken Handley

Tom Marzano & Ted Fisk

Ushers:

David Gardner & Paul Donnelly

Robert Diem & Larry Wiepert

Lay Readers:

October 2: 8:00 Ken Handley

11:00 Sue Tichy

October 9: 8:00 Jill Carl

11:00 Sue Fay Allen

October 16: 8:00 Jo Hughes

11:00 Wendy Shelton

October 23: 8:00 Ann Tichy

11:00 Kristy Long

October 30: 8:00 Ken Handley

11:00 Paula Cocco

Acolytes:

October 2: 8:00 Lindsey Chalmers

11:00 Sammy Gugliuzza

October 9: 8:00 Mason Kelkenberg

11:00 Lily Scarantine

October 16: 8:00 Morgan Chalmers

11:00 Emma Scarantine

October 23 8:00 Christie Wood

11:00 Maisie Standish

October 30 8:00 Lindsey Chalmers

11:00 David Hare

Our October Servants

AV Team:

October 2 Matthew Wiepert

October 9 Kenny Handley

October 16 Christopher Diem

October 23 Bill Cook

October 30 Scott Brooks

Coffee Fellowship:

**Thank you to all who
volunteer!**

**Please see Nancy Cote' for
volunteer opportunities**



Servant Leadership Opportunity!

Sunday, October 30th, the Jr. & Sr. High will be doing some fall yard work for some individuals in our community who are unable to themselves. This event enables us to go out as leaders in the community through the servanthood of the Gospel. Jr. & Sr. high students as well as parents are welcome. Please join us for this fun service opportunity! Did I mention that there will be doughnuts and cider!? Please contact Samantha-samanthabrown.holycross@gmail.com or (815)-573-1888 so we can anticipate your participation!



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 fall our Bible study is on the book of Joshua. Our study guide is titled: JOSHUA---"The Power of God's Promises" by Donald Baker. He writes: "The book of Joshua reads like an exciting novel--from the miraculous crossing of the Jordan to the crash of the walls of Jericho and the sun stopping in the sky. Through it all, we see God's faithfulness and power. Studying Joshua encourages us to persevere in our own daily battles, arming us with the powerful weapons we need-- God's promises".

Our study continues for the month of October with the text from Joshua 5 & 6. The lesson for October 4th is titled: "Claiming God's Victories". On the 18th, we explore Joshua 7 & 8 with the lesson being: "Defeat, Confession & Victory. Joshua 9 concludes the month on the 25th with the lesson titled: "Deceived".

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!



Jonah Study

There was a fish who once ate a man named Jonah, now it's our time to be fed by the Word of God! Holy Cross is beginning a once a week Wednesday evening Bible study from 7:00-8:00 PM. Please join us for 4 weeks starting October 5th as Pastor leads us through the story of Jonah!

Prayer Partners This year we have 11 confirmation students. As they go on their journey of learning the word of God we ask that you as a congregation member would keep them in your prayers. We are also looking for people to sign up to be prayer partners and receive the name of a specific student to pray for. No matter if you think you are terrible at praying, or a master-God hears each beautiful word of your heart. Please prayerfully consider becoming a prayer partner. E-mail samanthabrown.holycross@gmail.com to sign up.

Jr. & Sr. High School Retreat

Jr. & Sr. High Retreat
Camp Pioneer is having a Jr. Sr. High retreat October 14th at 7pm through the 16th at 12pm. The theme is "By Grace Through Faith." Campers will explore what it means to have faith by faith, as well as experience all the fun that camp has to offer while meeting new people and making new friends! The cost is \$85 per camper. Please sign up with Samantha by September 26th. Contact: Samantha at samanthabrown.holycross@gmail.com If cost is an issue, please see Samantha, as financial aid is available.

AED TRAINING In preparation for the AEDs (automatic electronic defibrillators) being installed at Holy Cross in October we are holding a Training / Certification Class on Wednesday, October 5th at 6 pm in Krampitz Hall. You can register by contacting Lynda our Church Secretary via e-mail holycrossclarenc@gmail.com or by phone at 634-2332. Additional information will be sent out in an e-mail and if you have questions regarding the class please contact Courtney West at c1swest@roadrunner.com or 580-3441

Only a few spots left.....sign up today!!!!

"Connect To Discipleship" Training:

What does it mean to be a Christian? While there are many ways to be a Christian, there is only one answer, that is to follow Jesus' example in all that we do. While this is a "tall order"; and one that we will never perfectly achieve in this lifetime, we are all called to be His disciples. So what does that mean? Well it just so happens that our the LCMS national organization has prepared a program to help us all understand and implement that in our Christian Walk. The program is called "Connect to Discipleship" and Holy Cross has the fantastic opportunity to host onsite training provided by the Synod. The seminar will be on Friday, October 14th from 6:30 to 9:30 PM and Saturday, October 15th, from 8:30 to noon. Space is limited to the first 18 respondents, so please see Sam Harrison (716-515-5679) or Pastor Nickel if you would like to attend.



Heritage Home

Our fall visit with our Heritage Home friends will take place on Saturday, October 23, at 10 a.m. The Bible filmstrip story will be "The Lost Lamb," Luke 15 and Psalm 23. We will talk about how Jesus takes care of us as the shepherd took care of the lost lamb. There will be singing, prayer, and a simple craft. This ministry has been in effect for 25 years. The current team is Alfrieda, Ron, and Margaret. We invite you to come visit with us (after early service and before late service.)



October Anniversaries

Michael & Wendy Shelton Oct 1
Peter & Colleen DiCostanzo Oct 2
Paul & Connie Donnelly Oct 2
Scott & Kelli Kelkenberg Oct 2
Kent & Helen Grinstead Oct 4
Adam & Diana Overton Oct 10
Ryan & Holly Standish Oct 14
Larry & Linda Cummings Oct 15
Joe & Faith Rayner Oct 18
Cataldo & Laura Scarantine Oct 19
Bill & Roberta Cook Jr. Oct 23
George & MaryAnn Schettler Oct 23
Francis & Nancy Cote' Oct 27

October Birthdays

Steven Braunscheidel 10/1

Lorraine Hope 10/1

Michael Smith 10/3

Terry Wellsby III 10/4

Larry Cummings 10/6

Emma Wiepert 10/6

Hunter Dulaney 10/8

Genevieve McQuillin 10/11

Katie Marzano 10/13

Joyce Greaves 10/14

Doreen Borschel 10/15

Alexis Grek 10/15

Matthew Diem 10/17

Amy Olsen 10/17

Courtney West 10/18

Jered Overton 10/21

Lilly Scarantine 10/22

Robert Hamp 10/23

Ellie Hare 10/23

Stephen Marzano 10/25

Tom Marzano 10/26

Kenny Grek 10/27

Anthony Ludwig 10/27

Larry Wiepert 10/28

Sallye NeGron 10/31

*"The LORD BLESS you and KEEP you;
the LORD make his face SHINE on you
and be GRACIOUS to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you PEACE."*
NUMBERS 6:24-26

