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# CRISS+CROSS

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**September 2016**

***Working together to connect people to Jesus***

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## ***How Does “Community in Christ” Look Different?***

*“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now.” - Philippians 1:3-5*

*It has been a little over a year since I was ordained and installed as pastor at Holy Cross, and friends and acquaintances still ask me what “my” congregation is like. Now, we know that Holy Cross belongs to the Lord; it is not “mine” or “yours” in a possessive sense. But Holy Cross is where the Lord has placed us together for His purpose for a time. Rather than Holy Cross belonging to us, we belong to the body of Christ at Holy Cross in Clarence. It is in that sense of us belonging to this community of believers that Holy Cross is “mine” and “yours.”*

*And when someone asks me to describe Holy Cross, the 3 short verses above from Paul’s letter to his beloved congregation in Philippi resound in my mind. I thank God for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from my ordination and installation until now.*

*There is true “community” only in Jesus Christ. The body of Christ, the universal (or “catholic”) Church, is an amazing community that, by God’s grace and power, spans across time, from Adam and Eve to the last person born before Judgment Day. The body of Christ spans across space to include the whole earth, plus astronauts who may be in orbit, plus the faithful whose souls are with Christ in heaven. And by God’s grace and power, the body of Christ spans all races, tribes and peoples.*

*Right now, in 2016, we at Holy Cross are a community of believers in Jesus Christ who gather around His Word and Sacraments here in Clarence, New York. We gather to receive grace from our Lord, and to practice grace. There is joy in the community created by Christ alone, in what He has done for us in His death, His resurrection and His ascension. And there is joy in what He gives this community to do in His name, for in Christ alone we are made “partners” in the Gospel. We are called as partners to advance the Good News of Jesus Christ in a world which desperately needs it. (Phil. 1:12) There is no more powerful witness than the Church being the Church. (Phil. 2:12-18) We get to be part of God’s plan!*

*As you think about how you might describe Holy Cross to a friend or neighbor, remember that this community - our community in Jesus Christ - is the place to receive His grace in the Word and Sacraments and the place to practice grace in hospitality and forgiveness.*

***-Pastor Nickel***

### **Holy Cross Outreach Ideas**

We are looking for prayerfully inspired ideas to share with the world OUTSIDE our front door of what is offered INSIDE our front door. As members of the Holy Cross family we are blessed each day by being part of God's community and the strength it provides us to resist what satan is peddling. Now imagine being just OUTSIDE our front door in need of Love, Salvation, Refuge & Strength and having no idea all that is available just INSIDE that building on Sheridan Drive. We believe to get anyone to step INSIDE the front door and take advantage of what is being offered; we will first have to go OUTSIDE (like removing the basket covering the candle). If you would like to be part of going OUTSIDE the front door to share the light of God's Holy Cross community story we will be holding an informational lunch meeting in the near future.

### **He-Brews**

He-Brews meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **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 will begin rehearsals on Tuesday Sept 6th. We will meet at the church on Tuesday nights at 7pm. If you are interested in joining this fall please contact William Cook, our choir director, at 741-0040. Men's Choir rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays at 8pm. Contact Bill



### **Radio Ministry Update**

Holy Cross has received a grant from the Lutheran Church Extension Society of Buffalo to help fund a radio ministry on WXML AM1300. We will be participating with other local congregations to produce a program called "Lutheran 3-0" which will be broadcast on Sundays at 9:00am. If you are interested in assisting (selecting, playing, recording music, or reading), please contact Pastor Nickel.



**Sunday School** Register your child today for the 2016/2017 Sunday School year @ [holycrossclarenc.com](http://holycrossclarenc.com) ! We are excited to share with you our new curriculum, "Growing in Christ". Throughout the year your child will learn about their Savior, Jesus Christ as we get to the heart of the Bible and engage them 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!



### **Praise Band News**

The Praise Band meets Wednesdays at 6:00pm.



### **LWML News**

September 16th- 18th 2016 LWML Eastern District will host their Fall Retreat at Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center, Angola, NY. Theme: "Love, joy, peace," based on Galatians 5:22 contact Camp Pioneer's office at (716) 549-1420 or [info@pioneerencamp.org](mailto:info@pioneerencamp.org). A campership application is also available.



### **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".

We begin our study of this book on September 6th., with a lesson titled; "God's Call and My Insecurity" from Joshua 1. We continue with Joshua 2 on September 20th with the lesson on "Life-Changing Faith". For September 27th, we read from Joshua 3 "Remembering What God Has Done".

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!

## **September Birthdays**

*Ron Braunscheidel 9/1*

*Katie Chalmers 9/1*

*Andrea Wiepert 9/1*

*Scott Zachau 9/1*

*Nancy Herdic 9/4*

*Jim Ludwig 9/5*

*Sue Tichy 9/5*

*Nic Langiewicz 9/6*

*Sue Fay Allen 9/7*

*Kelly Leipold 9/8*

*Justin Rayner 9/11*

*George Schetter 9/11*

*Laura Scarantine 9/12*

*Robert Platt 9/13*

*Ray Pionessa 9/15*

*Morton Muchow 9/17*

*Carol Harrison 9/19*

*Connie Donnelly 9/20*

*Grace Ludwig 9/21*

*Ryan Ludwig 9/23*

*Michael Shelton 9/24*

*Emma Scarantine 9/25*

*Kristen Cocco 9/26*

*Henry Eckertson 9/27*

*Mike Tomaino 9/28*

*Pat Ludwig 9/29*

*Madison West 9/30*

*"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*



## **September Anniversaries**

*Brian & Lori Ropach September 4th*

*Richard & Donna Meka September 8th*

*Larry & Andrea Wiepert September 14th*

*Dave & Katie Chalmers September 21st*

*Robert & Dolores Pellnat September 21st*

*Duane & Laura Conners September 30th*

### **Update From Council**

We continue to prepare for the arrival of Samantha Brown, our Director of Christian Education Intern. We have formed an ad hoc committee called the Board of Discipleship. This team wants to help Samantha get acquainted and integrated with Holy Cross, and will also help implement programs Samantha will initiate. Please look for ways to help Samantha and our Discipleship team so we can gain as much value as possible during Samantha's short time with us. A review of the preliminary criteria that will be used to evaluate benevolences in 2017 was conducted. All interested members are directed to see any Council member for more details members are encouraged to bring questions or concerns to Elders or Council members.

**Our next meeting is September 29th.**

-Tom Marzano Council President



### **Heritage Home**

The end of summer visit with our friends at the Heritage Home will be on Sunday September 25th at 10:00am The visit will feature part 2 of the creation story from Genesis 1 "God Creates Living Creatures". We watch a filmstrip, pray, sing, and enjoy a time of fellowship and a simple craft during our visit which is about 45 minutes long. We would love to have you join us!

### **UPCOMING WORSHIP CALENDAR**

Sept. 27            8:00 Divine Service  
                         9:30 Christian  
                         Education Hour  
                         11:00 Divine Service  
                         with Praise Band

Oct. 4              8:00 Divine Service  
                         9:30 Christian  
                         Education Hour  
                         11:00 Divine Service

Oct. 11    8:00 Divine Service  
                         9:30 Christian  
                         Education Hour  
                         11:00 Divine Service  
                         with Praise Band

Oct. 18    8:00 Divine Service  
                         9:30 Christian  
                         Education Hour  
                         11:00 Divine Service

Oct. 25

### **REFORMATION SUNDAY (observed)**

8:00 Divine Service  
9:30 Christian  
Education Hour  
11:00 Divine Service

Nov. 1

### **ALL SAINTS DAY**

8:00 Divine Service  
9:30 Christian  
Education Hour  
11:00 Divine Service

## **Our September Servants**

### **Communion Assistants:**

Ken Grek & Joseph Hughes

Peter Olsen & Paula Cocco

### **Ushers:**

Michael Zubrycki & Scott Kelkenberg

Russell Ponivas & Doug Hartley

### **Lay Readers:**

September 4: 9:00 Ken Handley

11:00 Paula Cocco

September 11: 9:00 Ann Craig

11:00 Nancy Cote'

September 18: 9:00 Kurt Wozniak

11:00 Marilyn Cook

September 25: 9:00 Jo Corneck

11:00 Brian  
Humphreys

**Acolytes:** TBA  
(Names not provided at time of  
publication)

### **AV Team:**

September 4	Bill Cook
September 11	Scott Brooks
September 18	Madeline Olsen
September 25	Oscar Handley

**Coffee Fellowship:**  
**Thank you to all who volunteer.**

THANK YOU! On behalf of the Holy Cross Sunday School and Christian Education program, a hearty THANK-YOU goes out to all who helped prepare for HOLY CROSS SUNDAY and RALLY DAY, especially to Katie Chalmers who designed the logos for the day (and year), to those who set up for Rally Day, to those who arranged and cooked for our picnic, and to those who helped clean up afterwards! May the Lord bless you in His service.

### **October Criss Cross Deadline**

Please submit any items for the August Criss Cross **no later than September 13th**. Items may be left on the desk in the HCCC or in the secretary mailbox or may be emailed to [holycrossclarenc@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossclarenc@gmail.com)  
Thank you!

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**RALLY DAY!**  
**Save the Date**  
**Rally Day will be**  
**Sunday**  
**September 11th**

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### **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](mailto: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.

### **September 2016 WORSHIP CALENDAR**

#### **Sunday, September 4**

8:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion  
9:30 am All ages Christian Education  
11:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion

#### **Sunday, September 11**

8:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion  
9:30 am All ages Christian Education  
11:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion

#### **RALLY DAY!**

#### **Sunday, September 18**

8:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion  
9:30 am All ages Christian Education  
11:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion and HCLC Choir.

#### **Sunday September 25**

8:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion  
9:30am All ages Christian Education  
11:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion and the HCLC Choir.

### **HCLC Fall Worship Hours Will Begin on Sunday September**

**4th**

**8:00 am and 11am Services**