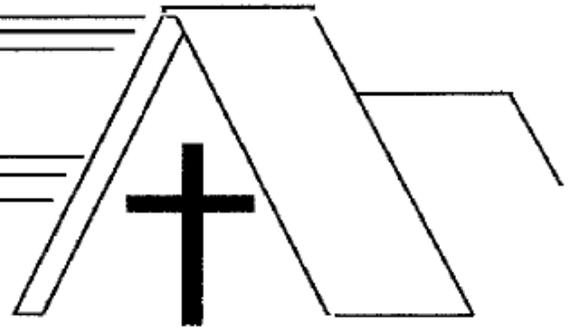


the **CRISS + CROSS**



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
8900 Sheridan Drive
Clarence, NY 14031
716-634-2332
E-Mail: HolyCrossClarence@gmail.com
The Reverend Randy Rozelle, Pastor

December 2014

Working together to connect people to Jesus

Dear Family and Friends in Christ,

By now it's no secret that stores are preparing for Christmas shoppers: classic carols, Christmas trees, glimmering lights, dangling ornaments.... It's the most colorful, wonderful, flashing, dazzling time of the year.

However, I believe that Christmas is also the most-busy time of the year: emails, phone calls, Christmas cards, ads, travel arrangements, parties, in-laws, family.... We need to hit the brakes, take a deep breath, and absorb the true meaning of Christmas in our frenzied culture—hence the blessing of Advent.

Advent is preparatory in its very nature. It comes from two Latin words: ad-venire meaning "to come to," and its about stepping back from the chaos to prepare our hearts and homes for what really matters—the coming of our Savior King.

How do we prepare for the coming King? We prepare in the same way that John the Baptist told his hearers to prepare for Jesus' first coming: with repentant hearts and firm faith in who Jesus really is: the Messiah, the Savior, the very Son of God

who has come into the world and is coming again!

To help us step back from the frenzy and prepare for the coming King, we offer family devotionals in the Narthex; mid-week Advent services with fellow believers; reflective Sunday worship; a children's Christmas play; and meaningful Christmas Eve worship.

May we step back this Advent season and prepare for our coming King!

Come, King Jesus!

Pastor Randy Rozelle

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 11-30 8:00 & 11:00 Worship (Praise Band)
- 12-07 8:00 & 11:00 Worship & 9:30 SS
- 12-14 8:00 & 11:00 Worship & 9:30 SS
Noon Voters Assembly in K-Hall
- 12-21 8:00 Worship
11:00 Childrens' Christmas Play
(No SS)
- 12-24 Christmas Eve 4:00, 7:00 &
10:00 PM [No Services Christmas Day]
- 12-28 8:00 & 11:00 Worship (No SS)

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Our theme this year is: "Comfort and Joy."
During these troubled and unsettled times, sense the true comfort and joy that Christ brings this Advent season. Join us on Wednesdays for soup suppers at 6:00; hymn sing at 7:15; and worship at 7:30 pm.

December 03rd at Holy Cross
December 10th at St. Luke, Cheektowaga
(900 Maryvale)

Please remember to sign up to help bake, serve, and clean up for our brothers and sisters in Christ when we host on December 3rd!

Calling a Few Good Men

On Thursday, April 02, 2015 we would like to repeat the "The Living Last Supper" by Ruth Schram. I will need 12 men to play Jesus' disciples; if everyone repeats from last year, we still have two openings. I would like to have all of the positions filled by late January. I will then get you your respective lines. Please email me at pastorrandy8900@gmail.com if you can commit. This is a fun time together too! Thank you, Pastor Randy

Youth Christian Education

Join us in the Upper Room on Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30! Remember your offering to support Godwin in Togo, Africa, through Compassion International.

Youth Group Activity

On Saturday, December 20 we will meet at Holy Cross at 4:30 PM and caravan to go Christmas caroling to some of our elderly shut-ins. Parents, we will need your help to drive us. We will then travel back to HC for food and a Christmas party! Please bring a Christmas gift (\$5 or less) to exchange, as well as something to drink and perhaps a dessert to share. Our ending time should be about 9:00-ish.



Adult Christian Education

We continue to open God's Word together in the Narthex (church lobby) from 9:30 - 10:30. Come and grow!!!

Choir News:

The Choir meets on Tuesday's, @ 7:00pm.



Januray Criss Cross Deadline:



Please submit any items for the January Criss Cross no later than December 17th. Items can be left on my desk, in my

mailbox, or can sent via email to holycrosslcarence@gmail.com

Thank you Ann



YOUR INVITED

To The Holy Cross Sunday School
Christmas Program:

"JESUS- GOD'S GREATEST GIFT"

Sunday December 21st at 11am in the
Sanctuary

Please join us after the program for a
reception in Krampitz Hall

Habitat Buffalo



Thank you to Holy Cross for the October benevolence of \$158. On December 7, at 3:30 p.m. on site at 94 Fox Street, Habitat will dedicate its first Veteran Build with Ken Hodge, the new homeowner. You are cordially invited to attend and see the fine new build he and his family will move into for the holidays.



We are trying to keep our Church directory up to date and in your hands. Please take a look at your directory. If you have any changes to your address/phone/email or want a new picture, or have changes to the "missions" section please contact me at ssnebrooks@gmail.com or see me at

church. I want to have all updates in by 12/15/14 so the 2015 directory will be available in early January via email and limited black and white copies. Thank you Susan Brooks

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

Pastor Randy at pastorrandy8900@gmail.com and let me 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. In Jesus, Pastor Randy and Barb Wachtel (Parish Nurse)

Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible Study Group meets every Tuesday morning from 9:30am to 11am in Krampitz Hall. We are in the second half of the study, THE STORY: THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. About this study: God goes to great lengths to rescue lost and hurting people. That is what THE STORY is all about-- the story of the Bible, God's great love affair with humanity. Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, THE STORY sweeps you into the unfolding progression

of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. Using the clear, accessible text of the NIV Bible, it allows the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. And like any good story, THE STORY is filled with intrigue, drama, conflict, romance, and redemption- and this story is true! (A study guide and DVD will help us in understanding each chapter.)

Scheduled meetings for December center around the death and resurrection of Jesus and are the 2nd. "Jesus the Son of God", the 16th. "The Hour of Darkness" , the 23rd. "The Resurrection" and the 30th. "New Beginnings". We plan to conclude the entire 33 sessions of THE STORY in January.

So ladies, the coffee pot is always on along with sweets to enjoy, so feel free to join us whenever you can. It's always a great way to start your day, when you "dig" into God's Word!

Sunday School News

We are staying LinkedIn as our children are hearing the word of God and studying the scriptures every Sunday. Our teachers are doing some wonderful, creative and fun education with our kids. We encourage our parents to discuss what your child(ren) are learning every Sunday and hope you set aside time every day for some family devotion time to reinforce what the children have studied and to keep us all in touch and LinkedIn with our God and Savior!!

Excitement is growing as the children are practicing the music with Bill and Curtis Cook and their lines with their Sunday school teachers in preparation for our Christmas Program on December 21st at the 11:00 am service. We hope everyone will come and join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, both at the program and then following in Krampitz Hall for some goodies and fellowship. Stay LinkedIn with us!!!!

Important Dates:

November 30th -- no Sunday School
 Rehearsal during Sunday School on Sunday, December 14th
 Rehearsal in the sanctuary on Saturday December 20th at 9:30 am
 Christmas Program on Sunday December 21st at 11:00 am
 December 28th-- no Sunday School



December Calendar Dates

Sundays: (See worship schedule on front page)
 Mon: CAYA Gathering 12/01 @ 7pm
 Family Days
 Wed: 3rd Advent Soup/Worship at Holy Cross @ 6:00pm
 10th Advent Soup/Worship St. Luke
 24th Christmas Eve Worship at 4, 7, 10pm
 Thu: 4th Council Meeting @ 7pm
 11th Bake n Pray, Dadswell
 Automotive
 19th He-Brew @ 7:30pm
 Fri: nothing
 Sat: 13th - Men's Breakfast at 9:00 AM in K-Hall
 20th - Youth Christmas Caroling & Party 4:30-9pm

Heritage Home

The Tichy family will lead a Christmas Carol Sing at the Heritage Home on Sunday, December 28, at 10 a.m. It will be followed by punch and cookies. This is a wonderful way to share our Lord's birth with our friends west on Sheridan Drive. Come and rejoice!

Ronald Talboys

President

Habitat for Humanity Buffalo



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thanks to all those who filled boxes for Operation Christmas Child again this year. Your generosity was felt by many children around the world.

A huge thank you to Jill Carl and Connie Donnelly who handed out the boxes in between services and to Linda Bauer for obtaining cardboard boxes for us again this year. Thanks also to those packed and transported the boxes to the Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church around the corner from us.

Please look for a final count in the January Criss Cross. Thanks again for helping to make Christmas just a little brighter for these children. Please remember to keep them in your prayers during the year.

God's Blessings,

Pat Garlapo



Holy Cross Joins the Joyful Response Program:

Tired of writing a check every Sunday? (Tired of having to pay for more blank checks?) Holy Cross is pleased to announce that we have joined the Lutheran Church Extension Society's "Joyful Response" program. This automatic banking system enables Holy Cross members and friends to use electronic banking for their donations. The donor can select any amount for their donation, and have this done at whatever frequency the donor desires. This system even allows donors to designate their gift to established restricted funds, (e.g. Dream Fund or Building Fund, etc..). Best of all, the LCES does not take any fees or commissions for doing this. Please feel free to see any council member if you have questions. Enrollment forms are in the narthex, and for your privacy, completed forms should be returned to our Financial Secretary, Susan Brooks. Thanks for considering!

Dash's Receipts



Please remember to save those Dash's receipts and get them turned in! The money we receive goes to Habitat for Humanity. Thanks to Lorraine Woodman who continues to tabulate the receipts.
Jill Carl

Shop with Scrip:



As our Christmas season is upon us! We are once again promoting the Great Lakes Scrip gift card program which is a wonderful and easy fundraiser that benefits our youth attending the 2016 Gathering in New Orleans.

As a reminder this program offers gift cards to hundreds of local and national retailers. You purchase these gift cards at face value and a percentage of that value remains with Holy Cross. Since you will likely purchase several gift cards this Christmas season what better way to do so AND help out our Holy Cross youth?

And I remind you that it's not just about giving these cards as gifts but also using them for your every day purchases. Places like Home Depot, Walmart, Target, Kohl's, etc., we shop at these stores daily - so why not purchase gift cards to them BEFORE you shop and raise some money, too?

Updated Family Order forms are on the table in the Narthex. We will be placing one more order before Christmas so take a look at the awesome retailers and order, order, order!! The order due date is Sunday, December 7. Please make checks payable to Holy Cross for the full face value of the cards you are ordering.

As always, I am happy to field any questions you have about this program. I can be reached @

thewiepert@gmail.com or at 688-0864.

It's a great fund raiser!

~Andrea Wiepert ~ Holy Cross Youth Coordinator ~ DV

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

The second annual ladies Shop and Swap event will be January 14th from 7-9 in Krampitz Hall. A signup sheet will be set up in mid-December. We need volunteers to help set up, clean up, bring tables. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert or snack. So ladies--start to clean out those closets, gather things to re-gift or trade, invite a friend to come enjoy a fun night out. Any questions see Jill Carl or Nancy Cote.



December Servants

Altar Guild:

Need information from Ann & Sara Craig

Elders and Communion Assistants:

D. Chalmers & K. Grek
F. Cote & D. Hartley

Ushers:

R. Corneck & D. Garlapo
P. Cocco & S. Gugliuzza

Lay Readers:

December 7	Ken Handley Wendy Shelton
December 14	Jill Carl Paula Cocco
December 21	Pat Garlapo Bob Diem
December 28	Joe Hughes Kristy Long

Acolytes:

December 7	Morgan Chalmers M. Wiepert & E. Garner
December 14	Volunteers
December 21	S. Hare & J. DiCostanzo Lindsey Chalmers C. Diem & C. Wood
December 28	Volunteers
Needed	L. Roberts & A. Ludwig

AV Team:

December 7	Nick Brooks
December 14	Matthew Wiepert
December 21	Kenny Handley
December 28	Bill Cook

Coffee Fellowship:

Volunteers Needed!

Flowers Donated by: December 21, 2014
Marlene Hiemenz in honor of all December Birthdays!

Happy December Birthday

Lauren Angelucci	12/28
Jill Carl	12/4
Nancy Cote	12/30
PJ Donnelly	12/5
Charles Fiegl	12/13
Nathan Grek	12/11
Elizabeth Handley	12/15
Alexander Hartley	12/16
Marlene Hiemenz	12/25
Michael Kowarko	12/27
Vincent Pionessa	12/15
Randy Rozelle	12/12
Janice Watson	12/7
Charlie Wood	12/21
Kylie Zubrzycki	12/1
Lillian Zubrzycki	12/5



Happy Birthday

