
CRISS+CROSS



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

July 2017

Working together to connect people to Jesus

Jesus' Redemptive Purpose

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins according to the riches of His grace which He lavished upon us in all wisdom and insight, making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth. - Ephesians 1:7-10

With Jesus Christ as our cornerstone, we are embarking on a strategic planning process to envision how we at Holy Cross Lutheran Church may best use the gifts He has given us to serve build His kingdom. It all begins with Jesus Christ. As the Apostle Paul writes to the Ephesians, *"In Him we have redemption through His blood..."* The Ephesians were familiar with the Greco-Roman practice of redeeming, or "buying back", slaves who were freed by the payment of a redemption price. In our case, to free us from our bondage to sin (and the curse of the Law, death, and the chains of the devil), the redemption price is Christ's blood.

And God, in His wisdom, has revealed to us *"the mystery of His will, according to His purpose"* which is that the Good News of salvation is for all people – Gentiles as well as Jews. Things once hidden in God's plan are now revealed for all to see – in the person of Jesus. Jesus is "the Christ," which is Greek for "the Messiah," revealed first to the prophets and then to the apostles, and now to us through their testimony.

The "messianic" age, that is, the "Christian" age, thus began with the incarnation of the Christ – the Son of God assuming human flesh - "not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God," as the Athanasian Creed puts it. And because Jesus, the Christ, is both God and man, **humankind and God are reconciled in Him.**

In Holy Baptism, one is united to Christ. And because everyone who is baptized is *"in Christ,"* they are reconciled to the Triune God. (That's why Holy Baptism conveys the forgiveness of sins – because without it there is no reconciliation with the Holy God.) And because each baptized person is united to Christ, we are also reconciled to each other, and united to each other, through Christ. This is God's plan: to reconcile all of His creation to Himself, by uniting all things **through Christ.**

God has revealed this plan to us through Jesus. It is not a secret plan. He has declared it to the world. Even the devil and his fallen angels know it. So the mission of the Church in this messianic age, this Christian age, is simply to proclaim it as we go about our daily lives with those in this world who are yet unreconciled to God. By leading others to Holy Baptism, and by teaching them what Jesus has revealed, now in the time and at the place that God has given to us for this purpose.

And we don't do this alone. We gather together as a congregation around Christ, around His Gospel and His means of grace to this world in Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, because we are united in Christ. We are united for the purpose of doing this **together**, as members of His body, with Him as our head.

It all ends with Jesus Christ. When our part of His saving mission is done, He will either take us to Himself to await the full completion of God's plan, or He will come again in glory to consummate its conclusion in the resurrection of the dead, the judgment of the living and the dead, and the life of the world to come.

-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**.



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

Saturday July 29th

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! Please join us!



Sunday School News:

Please re-register your child for the 2017/18 Sunday School Year on our website: holycrossclarenc.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).



Would you like to get in shape?

Our Tuesday night exercise class has been a success so far! It is not too late to join us! We meet in Krampitz Hall at 5:30. The cost is \$3 per class (pay as you go) or \$2.50 per class if you prepay for a 6-week session. Wear good shoes and comfortable clothes. Bring a bottle of water, and light hand weights, if you have them. (Some are available for those who don't have their own.) This class is for all ages, abilities; men and women! Come get fit and have fun! For more information, contact Ruth Marzano at themarzanos@gmail.com.



Praise Band News:

The Praise Band meets Wednesdays at 6:00pm.

Choir News:

The Holy Cross Choir will resume in the fall. We 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.



VBS Help Wanted!

VBS planning is underway! Mark your calendars for August 7-11!

VBS Decorator Sought: Planning is well under way for this summer's Victory VBS. We have filled most volunteer needs, but we still need a creative person to be in charge of decorating. It is a pep rally theme, so decorations can be simple (balloons, pom poms, etc.). But the better it looks, the better the atmosphere we will present. If you have a good decorating eye and are willing to help, please let Ruth (themarzanos@gmail.com) or Katie Marzano (text 270-3170) know. We will be decorating after the late service on **August 6th**, so this is a good job for someone who cannot help us during the week, or for someone who can!

VBS Registration!: Parents, it's time to register your kids for VBS!

The dates are **August 7-11th** from 9 AM-Noon. You can register online at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/holycrossclarenc-victory2017>, fill out a paper registration form, available in Krampitz Hall and place it either in the Marzano or Scarantine mailbox, or fill out the fillable .pdf version available at <http://www.holycrossclarenc.com/vbs.html>. You can print it and give it to Ruth or Katie Marzano or Laura Scarantine or email it themarzanos@gmail.com. Please invite family, friends and neighbors! We want this to be the biggest pep rally for God ever!



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 holycrossclarence@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.



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 Sunday **July 9th**. 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.



He-Brews

NEXT Meeting Thursday July 20th 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.

All-Church Rally Day

Picnic: Mark your calendars for Sunday, **August 27th!** We will have a time of worship starting at 10:00am at the Clarence Town Park Pavillion, followed by lunch, games, fun, and fellowship. Hot dogs will be provided, please bring your own beverage and a dish to share.

Pastor's Trip to Israel

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

My daughter Laura and I will be embarking on a study trip to Israel June 20 - July 3. The trip is organized by Rev. James Thomas of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (St. Louis, MO). We will be visiting Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Judea, Mount Carmel, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan Valley, Jericho, Masada, the Dead Sea and the caves where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered.

During my absence, Rev. Spilman will preach on June 25 and Vicar Fox from Pioneer Camp will preach on July 2. In case of spiritual care emergency, please contact a Holy Cross Elder (Peter Olsen 406-2494, Francis Cote 568-1373, David Chalmers 759-7377 or Scott Brooks 636-4858).

I am excited to look out across the field where David and Goliath did battle, to look out across the waters of the Sea of Galilee that Jesus stilled, to walk on the shore where Jesus called His first disciples, to visit the synagogues where Jesus stood and preached, to stand at the very spot where Jesus was judged by Pilate, and even to see the places where He likely was crucified and buried and the mount of His ascension.

I expect that having this opportunity to stand in the footprints of our Lord, to hear His words from the very places they were spoken, to see with one's own eyes the places that He saw, will move Laura and me spiritually and will benefit my ministry at Holy Cross.

Dear brothers and sisters, this is the land where the actual story of our Lord Jesus Christ's gift to us of forgiveness, life and salvation unfolded. I pray, by God's grace, that I may bring back a sense of that to you. Please pray for Laura and me and our entire study group, that the Lord would use this trip to draw us closer in knowledge, wisdom and faith in Him. And thank you so much for your support.

May His peace be with you

-Pastor Nickel

August Criss Cross

Deadline

Please submit any items for the June Criss Cross **no later than July 18th**. 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!



Camp Pioneer Golf Benefit: The Camp Pioneer Golf Benefit on Monday, **July 17th**, has met its quota of 120 golfers. Thank you for your support of this Benefit that will enable children of our military to have a week's camping experience. Registration for the Benefit at Brierwood Country Club in Hamburg is 11:00 a.m., a buffet lunch at 12 Noon - and a Shot-gun start at 1:30 p.m.

Guest Preachers:

While Pastor Nickel is away we will be blessed with some wonderful guest speakers. Vicar Michael Fox from Pioneer Camp will preach on July 2, and Dr. David Wurster will be joining us on July 30th.



Holy Cross to Camp: Holy Cross is going to camp! Join us for a week of camp **July 9-14**. At "Seizing the City" we will get to run a VBS for Our Savior Lutheran Church downtown during the day, and experience the traditional fun camp activities during the evening! All 13-18-year-old students are invited to sign up! The cost of the camp is \$350, and financial assistance is available.

Camp Chaperones needed!

Experience camp with our amazing youth! If you are interested in going with some wonderful students to Camp Pioneer for a week this summer (July 9-14).

Soul Strollers: Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM, starting July 12th, as we walk the bike path to get fit with fellowship! We will meet at the parking lot by the Clarence Highway Department at 6185 Goodrich Road (just south of Clarence Pizza Company), then hop onto the bike path. All are welcome! Wear good shoes and bring a bottle of water.



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 breaks for the summer but 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.

We may host a service project for the summer months. Details coming soon. Remember, it is always good to begin the day in God's word!



Heritage Home: Summer dates for our regular visits include June 25 and July 23, both at 10 a.m. We enjoy working through the Bible creation stories in Genesis 1, "God Creates Land, Water, Plants" and then "Living Creatures." The residents have a lovely patio on the east side of the house where they can enjoy God's nature more fully. It is good to be with them over the summer months. Join us! -Ron, Alfrieda, Margaret

Our July Servants

July Communion Assistants: Kenny Grek & Kurt Wozniak
July Ushers: David Gardner & Doug Garlapo
July Altar Guild:

Tom Marzano & Susan Brooks
Russell Ponivas & Doug Hartley
Jo Corneck & Nancy Herdic

Lay Readers July 2: Jeff Allan
Acolytes July 2: Nate Grek & Morgan Chalmers
AV Team July 2:

Gail Audrees
Tyler & Madelyn Standish
Christopher Diem

Lay Readers July 9: Audrey Dannebrock
Acolytes July 9: Alexis Grek/Lindsey Chalmers
AV Team July 9:

Cataldo Scarantine
Sammy Gugliuzza
Bill Cook

Lay Readers July 16: Sarah Craig
Acolytes July 16: Mason Kelkenberg
AV Team July 16:

Mary Sue Tichy
Julia & Lily Scarantine
Scott Brooks

Lay Readers July 23: Kenny Grek
Acolytes July 23: Nate Grek
AV Team July 23:

Mary Ann Schettler
Leah Roberts
Madeline Olsen

Lay Readers July 30: Kurt Wozniak
Acolytes July 30: Alexis Grek & Lindsey Chalmers
AV Team July 30:

Marilynn Cook
Maisie Standish
Larry NeGron

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: Have you signed up for your fall Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend? Both of our spring Weekends had waiting lists, so sign up now for a fall Weekend to avoid disappointment! Couples overwhelmingly report that the Weekend is the best thing they have ever done for their marriage.

The fall Weekends are:

September 15-17, 2017 at Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA, a new hotel-style facility on Spruce Lake in the heart of the Pocono Mountains – an hour north of Allentown.

October 6-8, 2017 at the Black Swan Inn in Lee, Massachusetts. Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains, a hidden gem overlooking Laurel Lake – an hour north of Hartford, CT.

Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program.

Registrations are limited, so sign up today by going to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and paying the registration with your credit card, or marking the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at fjschamber@comcast.net or 724-325-3166.

**Register for the 2017 International LCMS
Disaster Response Conference:**

The 2017 International LCMS Disaster Response Conference will be Sept. 26-28 at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., under the theme "Lutherans in the Midst of Disaster."

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, will make a special banquet presentation. Registration is \$30, including meals.



July Anniversaries

Jeffrey & Rachel Nickel 7/3
William & Audrey Dannebrock 7/9
James & Carolyn Houghton 7/22
Craig & Laurie Garner 7/23
Lance & Kelly Leipold 7/24
Tom & Ruth Marzano 7/25
Jim & Catherine Ludwig 7/26



July Birthdays

Emily Platt 7/1
David Gardner 7/3
Duane Conners 7/5
Aric Cook 7/7
Landon Leipold 7/7
Earline James 7/10
Katy Platt 7/10
MaryAnn Schettler 7/11
Laura Conners 7/12
Helen Grinstead 7/12
Lauren Roberts 7/12
Linda Cummings 7/13
Holly Standish 7/15
Alfreida Schurkus 7/16
Ryan Langiewicz 7/17
Joe Rayner 7/17
Mercedes Handley 7/18
Charles Greaves 7/24
Ann Craig 7/25
Trenton Kelkenberg 7/25
Helene Olsen 7/25
Katie Brunner-Flores 7/27
Nick Brooks 7/28
Christy Diem 7/28

