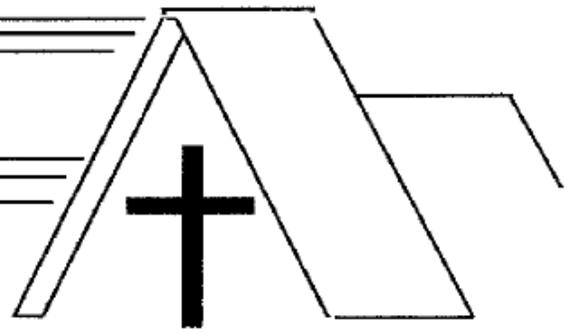


the CRISS + CROSS



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

July/August 2015

Working together to connect people to Jesus

Dear Holy Cross,

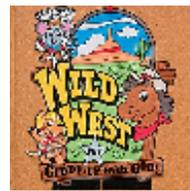
Thank you so much for the very emotional goodbye. The band, the choir, the singing, the road sign! To God be the glory! Our parents were deeply moved too. The memory scrapbook was so thoughtful of you; thank you for taking the time to put that together for us. It will remain a treasured possession of our ministry together for many years to come. Thank you also for the BBQ and potluck reception. I know that many helping hands made that possible, and we are grateful for them all. As you face this transition between pastors, be strong and be bold! Hold fast to God's Word! The LORD is with Holy Cross as you follow an even Greater Joshua (Jesus) into the Promised Land. There we will all worship and serve the LORD together forever!

Our deepest love in Christ,
Pastor Randy, Angie, Kayla, Ethan, and Adam

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.



VBS is coming!

August 3 - 7th / 9am until high noon ** kids - make sure that you are inviting your friends and having your

parents register you for fast check-in on the first day! Registration forms can be found on the HCLC website

(www.holycrossclarence.com) or in the Narthex at church. Fill them out 'lickety-split' and email them to

wildwestvbs@gmail.com OR .. put the completed forms in the box on the smaller information table at church.

DO NOT MISS OUT!! and for adult and teenage volunteers -- WE NEED YOU!~ >>> still looking for a MUSIC LEADER, adult or older group leaders, a snack coordinator, etc.

PLEASE help Cory and Courtney have a hugely successful VBS this year and let our new Pastor Nickel see how great Holy Cross can reach out to our community!! If you can't donate your specific time that week - maybe you can help donate to our snacks!

*cases of water bottles, juice boxes, healthy snack bars, cookies, etc. - see the list near the VBS sign at the entry of the church.

Contact Cory Shelton or Courtney Stefanik to be a part of the tremendous volunteers that make this all happen!

Email them at the wildwestvbs@gmail.com email address or see them directly. ~ THANK YA'LL !!

Calendar Dates to Remember

Sundays:

7/5: 9:00 11:00 worship

7/12: 9:00, 11:00 worship

7/19: 9:00, 11:00 worship

7/26: 4:00 pm Ordination and Installation for Pastor Jeff - Light supper to follow



Heritage Home

Summertime is outdoor time! So our visits with our friends at the Heritage Home in July and August will feature God's creation story in Genesis 1 and 2. The residents and staff welcome us with open arms and hears along with a big smile. We sing, pray, and do a simple craft along with much talk about birthdays, activities, the weather, etc.

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.

Holy Cross Family and Friends,

As anyone who made the worship on June 21st knows, we have the results back from our "Natural Church Development" survey. These results are also attached to this e-mail. The results created quite the buzz after both worships, which is a good thing, but now it's time to consider what this means and what we should be doing next.

But first some background. After Pastor Rozelle gave us notice that he was leaving, the Council thought it would be good to take a survey of our church members, to help assess the strengths and weaknesses of Holy Cross. Remember we weren't sure from where, or how long it would take, to get our next Pastor. We contacted Eastern District President Chris Wicher and asked him for a recommendation for an organization that would help us with a church focused survey. Rev. Wicher recommended that we contact Jim Brese and his Black Diamond Ministry consulting,

and its connections with the Natural Church Development (NCD) organization. Without going into too much detail here, the reader is directed to their website for that information, NCD is all about growing the health of a congregation. It is not a program that promises to increase membership, but rather it is a program designed to improve the health of a church, which as a byproduct, not a goal, usually includes growing membership. This seemed to fit with our vision for Holy Cross and we thought this would help us call a Pastor who not only compliments our vision, but also would strengthen areas in need of improvement.

Long story short, we got the results back and we are all somewhere between shock, denial and disbelief. Remember that the surveys were given at random, to members only, and with no more than one household being represented by their first member randomly selected. And remember the atmosphere in which the survey was given, (Pastor leaving). And remember for instance our low score on Inspiring Worship was not, as Jim Brese pointed out, and indication of poor worship, but rather an indication of a church in turmoil, (which we were and to some extent still are). It should also be pointed out that what Jim Brese went over with the congregation in a 20 minute message last Sunday, is usually done in a 2 to 3 hour workshop.

So, what's next? Our next steps will be to review this survey and the NCD process with Pastor Nickel (after he arrives) to determine if this is something he would like to continue with. If so, then we would bring Jim Brese back for a 3 hour workshop, on a weekend afternoon, where

all members are invited to attend, and in which Jim will do a deeper dive into what the NCD process is, and what survey results are saying; and also to have us think why the survey is saying what it does, and think of things we could try to change it. Ultimately, in a couple of years, we would picture using the same survey again as a measure of the effectiveness of our changes, ++ and to validate that this is indeed making us a healthier church.

Thanks for reading, we will keep you posted, and please feel free to share any questions or concerns with church leadership.

Holy Cross Announces a New Kitchen Manager



Holy Cross is pleased and blessed that Linda Ponivas has taken on the role as Kitchen Manager. Linda, and her trusty deputy Ellie Stevenson, and a posse of volunteers are now managing the kitchen and our kitchen supplies. Specifically, the Kitchen Committee are our first responders when there is a need for an event that would involve the preparation or eating of food.

They are not necessarily the people that would run every function, but that's where we should start when we want to check on the availability of the kitchen, and or the committee's availability to help. More important is what they are not responsible for. They are not responsible to clean the mess of others, they are not responsible for the set-up of Krampitz Hall, and they

are not responsible for the weekly Coffee Hour setup and cleanup. But, if you need the kitchen, or need help to run a function, or noticed that we are running low on a kitchen supply, please see Linda or one of the posse and they can help you get your request fulfilled. Again, we are blessed to have these volunteers and more are always appreciated. Please see Linda if you have any questions or are interested in serving. FYI - Linda P. and Ellie have been doing this for some time, but now that the new kitchen is open we wanted to be sure everyone knew about this.

Holy Cross Organization Chart:

In an attempt to communicate all the different "missions" that Holy Cross is involved in, please take some time to review the Organization Chart on the following page. The Council knows that this looks more like chaos, then organization, but that is intentional. It is important to note that none of us are more important than others. That we are all equally supporting our church's mission, the great commission; that is sharing the Good News of Jesus, with each other, our friends, our community, and anyone else that might listen. Whether our "mission" is Acolyting or chairing an Evangelism team (which is open), we are all using our gifts to reflect Gods love to our community through our service. It is also important that we all know the work that our brothers and sisters are doing, much of it goes 'unsung'.

And lastly we hope this will serve us by directing us to the right person, either with our need, or to offer our help. Since this is the first draft, there will undoubtedly be errors of omission and commission. Please see anyone on Council and we can get the record set straight. Thanks!

September Criss Cross Deadline:



Please submit any items for the September Criss Cross no later than August 15th. Items can be left on my desk, in my mailbox,

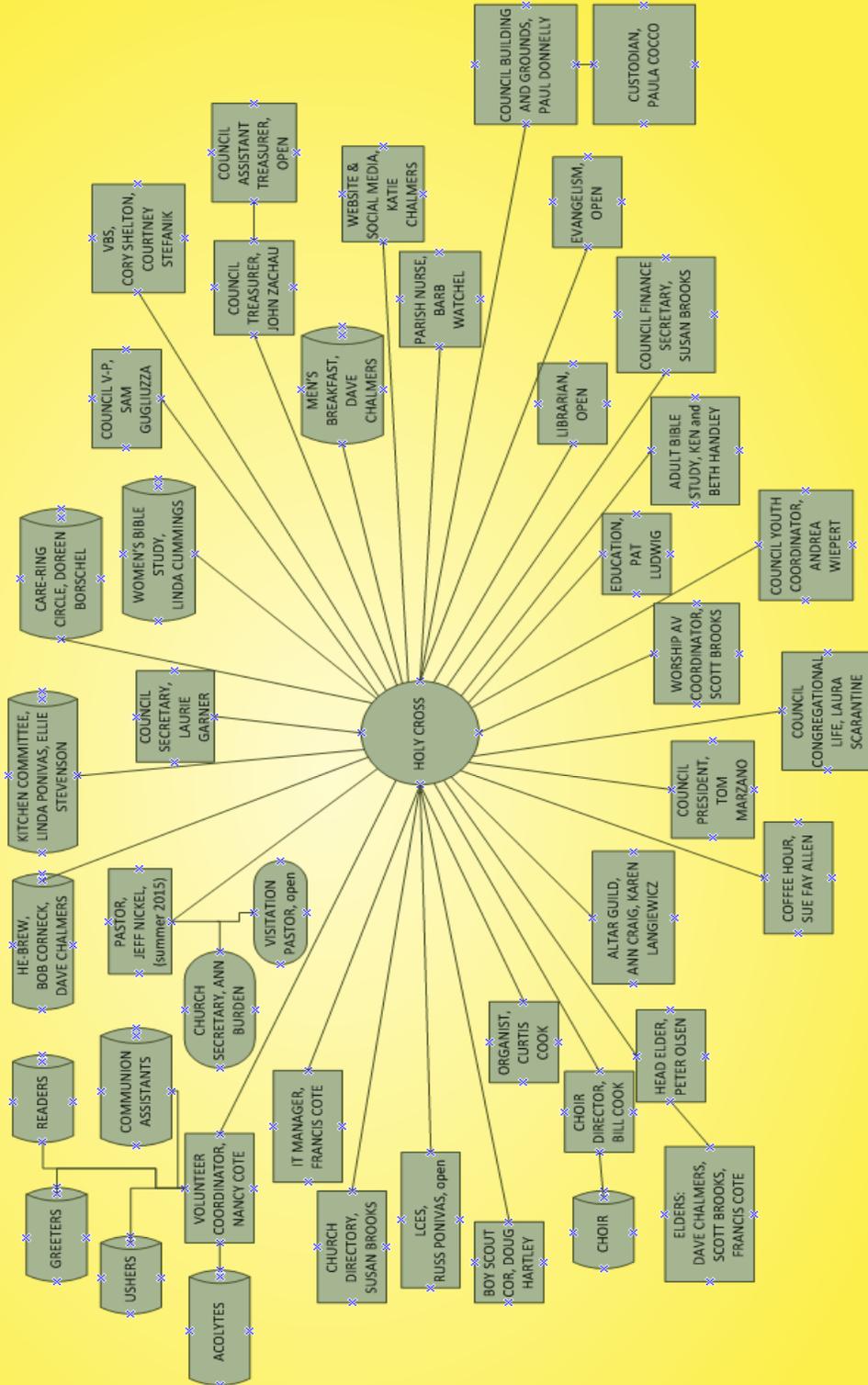
or can sent via email to

holycrosslcarence@gmail.com

Thank you Ann



HOLY CROSS MISSION STRUCTURE



Revised: 12 JUN 15

July Servants

Elders and Communion Assistants:

K. Grek & K. Handley
T. Marzano & T. Fisk

Ushers:

R. Corneck & D. Garlapo
R. Ponivas & E. Stevenson

Lay Readers:

July 5 Jill Carl
Nancy Cote
July 12 Pat Garlapo
Marilyn Cook
July 19 Joe Hughes
Russ Ponivas
July 26 Ann Craig
Brian Humphreys

Acolytes:

July 5 Volunteers Needed
L. Roberts & J. DiCostanzo
July 12 M. Chalmers
E. Brooks & C. Wood
July 19 Volunteers Needed
A. Ludwig
July 26 L. Chalmers
M. Olsen & H. Olsen

AV Team:

July 5 Scott Brooks
July 12 Stephen Marzano
July 19 Preston Kelkenberg
July 26 Matthew Wiefert

Coffee Fellowship:

**Thank you to all who volunteer
Volunteers are still needed please
contact Nancy Cote for
information!**

Happy July Birthday

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



Randy & Angela Rozelle	7/3
James & Carolyn Houghton	7/22
Craig & Laurie Garner	7/23
Tom & Ruth Marzano	7/25
Jim & Catherine Ludwig	7/26