

---

# CRISS+CROSS

---



Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
8900 Sheridan Drive  
Clarence, NY 14031  
716-634-2332  
[holycrossclarence@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossclarence@gmail.com)  
[www.holycrossclarence.com](http://www.holycrossclarence.com)

**November 2017**

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

---

## The Righteous Shall Live By Faith

***“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith, for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” - Romans 1:16-17***

Imagine that you’re living a lie. Every day you put on a mask of righteousness in front of other people, but deep down, you know it’s a lie. You know the depravity of your own sinful desires and passions. And maybe you do all you can to atone by being a “good person,” but you know you can never make up for it before a holy God - an angry God who punishes sin... who knows your guiltiness. You might wish you had never been born.

Now imagine that you’re told to teach about God’s righteousness. You feel the weight of even greater hypocrisy dumped upon you... This was Dr. Martin Luther’s problem when he was appointed to lecture on the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Romans to students at Wittenberg University. As Luther studied Romans, he spent a long time considering the passage above:

At first I clearly saw that the free grace of God is absolutely necessary to attain to light and eternal life, and I anxiously and busily worked to understand the word of Paul... ‘the righteousness of God is revealed in the Gospel.’

I questioned this passage for a long time and labored over it, for the expression ‘righteousness of God’ barred my way. This phrase was customarily explained to mean that the righteousness of God is a virtue by which He is Himself righteous and condemns sinners. In this way, all the teachers of the church except Augustine had interpreted the passage. They had said: the righteousness of God... is the wrath of God. But as often as I read this passage, I wished that God had never revealed the Gospel, for who could love a God who was angry, who judged and condemned people?

This misunderstanding continued until, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, I finally examined more carefully the word of Habakkuk: ‘the righteous one shall live by his faith’ (Habakkuk 2:4). From this passage I concluded that life must be derived from faith... Then the entire Holy Scripture became clear to me, and heaven itself was opened to me. Now we see this brilliant light very clearly, and we are privileged to enjoy it abundantly.”

As the Christian Church marks the 500th anniversary of the date when Dr. Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses on the castle church door in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517, inviting debate on the abusive practice of indulgences, let us remember 4 key points:

We are saved from sin, the devil, and eternal damnation by God’s GRACE ALONE.

God’s grace comes to us through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of JESUS CHRIST ALONE. This is the “Gospel” or “Good News” of Jesus, the Messiah.

We receive God's saving gifts by FAITH ALONE - simply believing the Gospel.

God's truth about our Savior Jesus Christ is made known in the Bible: the Old Testament, which promises the coming Savior, and the New Testament, which tells of the Savior who has come. Therefore, we rely on HOLY SCRIPTURE ALONE - God's written word, the Bible - as the only final authority for Christian faith and life.

The Lord sent Paul to preach the Gospel to the Greeks and (non-Jewish) barbarians, to both the supposed "wise" and the "foolish." We might be tempted to keep the Gospel to ourselves and limit it to people like us, but Jesus did not limit His work to the descendants of Jacob. He redeemed the whole world - even barbarians and fools like us. So He sends us to reach out to all people. The world may consider the Gospel foolish, and may mock and ridicule Christians, but like Paul we are proud of what Christ has done for us.

Christ's suffering, death and resurrection give us absolute confidence that God loves us and has saved us. Our confidence is based on what God has done to save us, not what we try to do, even as the Holy Spirit works faith in us and bring salvation to us through the words of the Gospel. God's promises invite us to trust in Him - that's "faith."

*-Pastor Nickel*



**Heating Season Heating Up:** Did you know that HCCC has two furnaces and four thermostats? The church proper has three furnaces and four thermostats. All this equipment helps keep us comfortable, but it also comes with a cost. All the thermostats are programmed to turn on and off to accommodate normally scheduled usage for the area monitored, but of course there will be times we find ourselves using a room outside of the normally programmed times. If you find yourself in this situation, you may adjust the temperature setting on the thermostat; but please do not set them to "hold". Many times over the years we have found a thermostat has been set to "hold" a temperature that will override the normal programming. Once "hold" has been selected, the heating system will maintain that temperature until someone notices and re-sets the thermostat to its "run program" configuration. So, for example, if a "hold" at 70°F is set for the upstairs at HCCC on Sunday afternoon, it may remain at 70°F for the next 6 days! The warmer a space is, the faster it will lose its heat to the outside environment, and the more it will cost the church on our natural gas bill. There is a simple solution. By simply pressing the "arrow up" or "arrow down" buttons, every thermostat's program can be temporarily overwritten to allow a temperature setting different than what is pre-programmed. When the temperature change is made this way the thermostat will return to its original programmed setting in 2 hours. If you find yourself in a space for longer than two hours, you can simply adjust the temperature setting by pressing the arrow button in again to extend this "temporary" setting for an additional two hours. We will be posting "simple" visual instructions, directly adjacent to each thermostat to make it easy. So when you find yourself in a situation where the heat needs to be adjusted please look for and follow the instructions. Thanking everyone for their cooperation,  
Your Council



### **Sunday School News:**

Welcome Back to Holy Cross Sunday School! 2017-2018

Get EXCITED for a new year of growing in Christ together with friends and family! We are going to have a great year! So many truths from God's Word to learn, so many friends to hang out with and share our faith with, and lots of fun activities planned along the way! Here's some great events to look forward to throughout the year ahead:

Christmas Crafts/Caroling

Christmas Program

Easter Egg-stravaganza!

VBS – Summer 2018

\*more info. to come!

\*Parents and Youth please be sure to sign up to help with any of these events as they come up! We are sure to have a great time! Contact Sallye NeGron at Negron5@roadrunner.com



### **Choir News:**

The Holy Cross Choir meets 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.

---



**Adult Bible Study:** Adult Bible Study Sundays at 9:30am. We have begun a 6-part series titled "We the Church: Priesthood of All Believers". All adults are welcome to join us each Sunday in the Narthex at 9:30 am for fellowship within the Word.



### **Volunteer Opportunity –**

**Nursery Attendants:** We are looking for someone able to watch children during the second service, entertain newborn 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. 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 volunteer position.



### **Praise Band News:**

The Praise Band meets Wednesdays at 6:00pm. See Dave Shelton for more information.

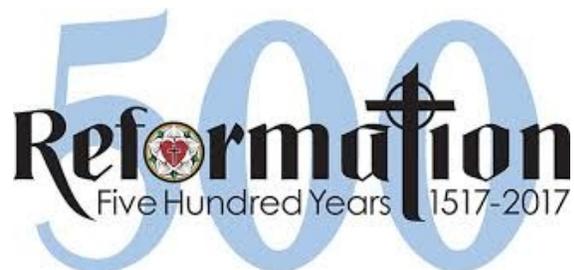


**He-Brews Handyman Service:** The He-Brew guys are willing to lend you a hand. We would particularly like to help those who are unable to do the work themselves. If you want advice or help around the house or yard ask us. If we can't help we probably have someone who can point you in the right direction. Call the church office (716) 634-2332 or email [holycrossclarenc@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossclarenc@gmail.com) and Lynda or the Pastor will contact us. A handyman will then get back to you to determine 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

**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](mailto:themarzanos@gmail.com).

**He-Brews**  
**NEXT Meeting Thursday**  
**November 16th 7:30pm**

He-Brews generally 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 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.



## **UPDATE: Where Are We Now in the Visioning Process?**

- Step 1 Introduction - COMPLETED
- Step 2 Building Our Foundation on Christ's Word –Ongoing
- Step 3 Understanding Ourselves and Our Strengths –Underway Now!
- Step 4 Small group reflection meetings -COMPLETED
- Step 5 Congregational Retreat was held on Saturday, October 28th -  
crystallize our current strengths
- identify 3-5 key values of our congregation
  - draft a mission statement that applies specifically to Holy Cross
- Step 6 Visioning Meetings in November/December – where the Lord's leading us**
- Step 7 Go and Serve the Lord!

### **Operation Christmas Child** - It's shoebox time!

New this year - the donation per box has increased to \$9 to cover shipping and ministry. Also, toothpaste and candy can no longer be accepted due to custom regulations. Please return your shoebox(es) by Sunday, **November 12th**. Thank you!

Any questions, please see Lori Ropach.



### **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, **Nov 26th, and Dec 24th**. 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.

### **December Criss Cross**

#### **Deadline**

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

Crossroads: Please stay tuned for future dates.  
Crossroads is a month worship time from 5-6pm on Saturday evenings.

Hello Church Family,

Pastor and the Elders would like to update on what happened at the retreat on Saturday 10/28. Holy Cross started this process on June 4th. We followed in July and August with foundational sermons from Pastor and Bible Study in our many ministry groups. 72 out of approximately 150 members completed the Vitality Survey. The responses were extremely strong and exceeded our expectations with about 50% participation and giving us a very strong baseline on 14 attributes of our church. In September, we had 10 small group sessions and 67 people participated, some several times. All this information was critical to understanding who Holy Cross IS and SHOULD BE and set the stage for the retreat. At the retreat, 25 members spent 5 hours with each other and enjoyed lunch and fellowship together. We had fun too and engaged in some excellent discussion on our new draft Mission Statement. During our time together; we heard God's Word, reviewed the results of the Vitality Survey, discussed the feedback from the small focus group discussions and prayed together, thanking God for his blessings on all of us during this process now and during the next steps.

We also heard an important message from Reverend Chris Wicher on the importance of having a mission that Holy Cross will embrace and use as the foundation for everything we do. He challenged us to stay focused; to understand who we are and not try to be something we are not...and remember to balance our missions between internal and external as well, to remember the "empty chair" and that what we do should bring people to Jesus and fill the empty chair we have for them at Holy Cross Clarence.

So how did we come up with the new mission statement? Well, we had some fun doing that by first splitting up into small table groups. We had some time for ice breakers and also were challenged to identify 3-5 unique characteristics or values based on all the survey and focus group data we just reviewed. Each table group then had to come to consensus on 3-5 of those values and report them to the rest of participants. Using sticky notes, each table's 3-5 values were posted on the board and 4 very strong common themes came out of the work from each of the 6 table groups. Reverend Chris Wicher reminded us that a mission statement needs to be clear, concise and useful before leading us through the creation of our draft mission statement. It was amazing to see God working through all of us as the new draft mission statement unfolded before our eyes with loving input from everyone in the room over the course of the last hour of the retreat. In the end, we are very pleased with the result.

Our proposed new mission statement draft is...

**"Together in God's Word, we Go to Sow and Grow Christ's Love."** What a powerful statement this is for Holy Cross Clarence, knowing that almost everyone in our church provided input, spent personal time to take the survey, open their hearts during the small focus groups and for those who spent 5 hours on Saturday the 28th to thoughtfully resonate on God's word as the foundation, understand the survey results and revel in Holy Cross's values to thoughtfully and carefully craft the new proposed mission statement for all of us to prayerfully consider as we move forward.

So what is next? During November, we are asking you to think about the new proposed mission statement and ask Pastor or the Elders any questions you might have. Make recommendations to any fine tuning of the wording or simply affirm that you are comfortable with it and will embrace and live it. On **December 10th**, we will be asking you to vote on the proposed draft mission statement at the Voters Assembly Meeting. Once the new mission is approved, the fun part will start! We will need your help to review all the many missions we have today and to begin to identify new missions that we may want to start. All these missions should support our newly affirmed Mission Statement. If the small focus groups are an indicator, there will be no shortage of ideas from everyone for all of us to consider.

In Christ's Love; Peter, Francis, Dave, Scott and Pastor Nickel



### **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 Jo Corneck at 741-4311 to be added to the volunteer list or if you are in need of meals.



### **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](mailto: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.

On **November 12th** we will have a special Lutheran Heritage Sunday and Pastor Marshall will be preaching and leading Sunday school. On Sunday November 19th Pastor Spilman will be preaching while Pastor Nickel is in New Orleans at the LCEF fall leadership conference.

### **Looking ahead to the Advent and Christmas Season**

November 26th Regular Sunday Services at 8:00am and 11:00am

### **Wednesday evening Advent Services**

Dec 6th St. Luke Lutheran Church, Cheektowaga

Dec 13th We host at Holy Cross, Clarence

Dec 20th Lutheran Church of our Savior, Buffalo

Sunday Dec 17th Special Children's Christmas Service at Holy Cross

Sunday Dec 24th Regular Sunday Services at 8:00am and 11:00am

Lessons and Carols in the evening December 24th (details will be coming shortly)



### **Women's Bible Study Group**

The Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays, at 9:30am in the Holy Cross Christian Center (HCCC). New Members are always welcome! We are currently studying the book of Isaiah. We begin our social time at 9:30am with a study begin time of 9:45- to conclude about 11am. We do not meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. 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. Remember, it is always good to begin the day in God's word!

## November Servants

**Nov Communion Assistants:** Kenny Grek & Kurt Wozniak

**Nov Ushers:** Bob Corneck & Doug Garlapo

**Nov Altar Guild:**

Francis Cote' & Scott Brooks

Paula Cocco & TBD

Ann Craig & Sarah Craig

**Lay Readers Nov 5:** Joe Hughes

**Acolytes Nov 5:** Alexis Grek

**AV Team Nov 5:**

**Nursery Nov 5:**

Kristy Long

David Hare & Aidyn Collins

Bill Cook

Emily Hare

**Lay Readers Nov 12:**

Kurt Wozniack

**Acolytes Nov 12:**

Lindsey Chalmers

**AV Team Nov 12:**

**Nursery Nov 12:**

Paula Cocco

Tyler Standish

Scott Brooks

Allie Negron

**Lay Readers Nov 19:**

Jeff Allan

**Acolytes Nov 19:**

Mason Kelkenberg

**AV Team Nov 19:**

**Nursery Nov 19:**

Gail Andrees

Helene Olsen

Madeline Olsen

Madi West

**Lay Readers Nov 26:**

Audrey Dannebrock

**Acolytes Nov 26:**

Nathan Grek

**AV Team Nov 26:**

**Nursery Nov 26:**

Cataldo Scarantine

Lily Scarantine

Larry NeGron

Emma Scarantine

***Thank you for serving!***

TO COMMEMORATE THE 500<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION, WE'VE PRODUCED THIS COMIC STRIP ON AN *ACTUAL* GLUTENBERG PRINTING PRESS.

*IT'S ARTISANAL!*



## November Anniversaries

*Carl and Sue Fay Klinenschmitt Nov 16th*

*Larry & Sallye NeGron Nov 18th*

*Doug & Kristy Hartley Nov 23rd*

*Jack & Jill Carl Nov 26th*



**Christmas is Coming!!** and we still have room for you! If you have a love for working with Children and enjoy helping them to have fun and make special memories.... We need you! Whether your gift is organizing, costume creation, singing, directing, etc. This year's Children's Christmas Program is currently set to be on Sunday, **December 17th**. We will have practices on the two Sunday's prior to that (Dec. 3rd and Dec. 10th) during our Sunday School hour of 9:30-10:30. This is always such an extra special time full of wonderful memories! I just know you will want to be a part of it! Please contact me [sallye.negron@gmail.com](mailto:sallye.negron@gmail.com) or sign up in the Narthex as soon as possible!



## November Birthdays

*Jill Lindell 11/1*

*Elizabeth Ropach 11/2*

*Robin Smith 11/2*

*Pastor Nickel 11/4*

*Traci Roland 11/4*

*Scott Brooks 11/5*

*Hannah Donley 11/6*

*Sophia Handley 11/6*

*Logan NeGron 11/6*

*Cassandra Stefanik 11/11*

*John Zachau 11/11*

*Cory Shelton 11/12*

*Alycia Tomaino 11/12*

*Linda Bauer 11/14*

*Ryan NeGron 11/15*

*Kathy Braunscheidel 11/16*

*Mason Kelkenberg 11/16*

*Jack Carl 11/21*

*Kenneth Keiper 11/21*

*Allinee NeGron 11/21*

*Elijah Garner 11/23*

*Ethan Garner 11/23*

*Aizlyn Przybylski 11/25*

*Megynn Cocco 11/26*

*Robert Diem 11/28*

*Stephan Hare 11/28*

*Peter Olsen 11/28*

*Robert Pellnat 11/30*

