
CRISS+CROSS



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July 2018

"Together in God's Word and Love, we boldly go to sow and grow Christ's Kingdom."

Partnership and Blessing

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! ...For there the LORD bestows His blessing, even life forevermore. – Psalm 133

The Eastern District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod held its 2018 Convention June 14-15. Holy Cross' lay delegate to the convention was Bob Hamp. Ann Craig served as alternate delegate. Of all the places in New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland where it could be held, we were blessed that the convention was held close to home for us at Daemon College.

Rev. Dr. Chris Wicher was re-elected as President of the District. Rev. John Pingel (Salem Lutheran, Buffalo) was re-elected as Vice President (Buffalo Region). I was ratified as Circuit Visitor of the Buffalo-North Circuit. All are for a 3-year term, until the next District Convention.

The convention's theme was **"Always Reforming"** - in reference to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation we're observing. In his report to the District regarding our opportunities and challenges, President Wicher encouraged congregations to engage in "partnerships" and "blessings" as we seek to live out the love of Christ in our community.

In the words of President Wicher: *"Partnerships and blessings may not be the answer to all our woes, but they will help break us free from focusing on our troubles and refocus us more on doing what congregations ought to be doing in the first place - showing the saving good news of Jesus Christ in our communities."*

A congregational partnership is *"an intentional sharing of gifts and experience resources with other congregations for the sake of Christ's mission and not for survival."*

A congregation blessing its community is *"an intentional community engagement of activities that share the Good News while providing something physically or emotionally good for the community that do not necessarily impact directly, improve or benefit the congregation itself."*

Holy Cross' sponsoring of the Chiavetta's chicken dinner last month, with over \$1500 in net proceeds going to benefit the Clarence Food Pantry and Wear 'n Share, is a great example of our congregation blessing the community. We want to continue to do more of this kind of thing.

And in the case of Holy Cross, living out our vision, **"Together in God's Word and love, we boldly go to sow and grow Christ's Kingdom,"** the Holy Spirit is leading us to partner with Lutheran Church of Our Savior (in Buffalo) to strengthen both congregations "in faith toward God and fervent love toward one another."

What exactly does this mean? It means Christians approaching life together, supporting each other, and building each other up. And so far, it looks like:

- the Treasurer of one congregation sharing his experience by assisting, training and supporting the Treasurer, President and Council of another congregation;
- the Elders of one congregation meeting with the Elders of the other to pray for their congregations and each other;
- the IT support of congregation assisting with the IT support of the other congregation;
- one congregation inviting the youth of the other congregation to participate in their fish fry fundraising for the National Youth Gathering;
- men of both congregations getting together for Christian fellowship, prayer and discussion;
- both congregations supporting each other's fish fry and chicken dinner fundraisers in surprisingly bold fashion, and in ways which benefit the wider body of Christ and the community at large.

What will this look like in the near future?

Already, we have accepted Lutheran Church of Our Savior's gracious invitation to join them in worship at Ellicott Creek Park on Sunday, July 22 at 11:00, and for a picnic following. Our own praise band will be playing. (Carpools will depart Holy Cross' parking lot at 10:15 a.m.)

Then on Sunday, August 26, Holy Cross has invited the Our Savior congregation to join us as we host our 10:30 am "Service in the Park" at Clarence Town Park, to be followed by a picnic and games.

What will this look like in the distant future? God knows. But we know that through the unity won for us sinners through the blood of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, we *will* someday live in perfect unity with our fellow resurrected brothers and sisters in Christ – including those who have heard Christ's forgiveness through us. May the Lord bless our "head start" on what He will bring to completion in His everlasting grace and mercy.

-Pastor Nickel

Building & Grounds Committee: Can you donate some time occasionally to help maintain the buildings and grounds at Holy Cross? If so, we could use your help!! The By-Laws allow for establishing a "Board of Property Maintenance & Repair" coordinated by the Chairperson (a Council position). This will NOT require regular meetings, but rather, has complete flexibility as to your time schedule, your expertise and your comfort level. It can be as simple as scheduling & meeting with a contractor. It can be simple tasks such as re-setting timers and/or thermostats, or changing the sign. It can be larger jobs such as coordinating and overseeing a project, or actually doing a project. All totally dependent on your level of comfort and time availability. If you are willing to serve Holy Cross in this manner, please contact Doug Garlapo (home phone 438-7316, cell phone 908-0370). Thanks!! As we consider different ideas for how to enhance our Holy Cross campus, we are forming a committee that will be chaired by Doug Garlapo. If you have an interest in inside/outside beautification, what a new sign might look like, or other ideas please sign-up by seeing Doug or Scott Brooks.

Altar Guild News - Altar

Flowers: A flower chart has been placed on an easel near the vestry door in the Narthex. Individuals/families are invited to sign up to provide flowers for placement on the altar. Please indicate if they are for a special occasion. Directions for providing the flowers, located in the green pocket on the flower chart board, walk you through the four easy steps; please take one when you sign up. Altar guild will provide the flowers for special church celebrations as indicated on the chart.

August Criss Cross Deadline

Please submit any items for the August Criss Cross **no later than July 16th**. Items may be left on the desk in the HCCC, in the secretary mailbox or may be emailed to holycrossclarence@gmail.com Thank you!



Mission Trip: Jeff Allan, Rachel Nickel, and Tom Marzano are working on this. Anyone interested in planning, participating or embarking, please see one of them. They met with First Trinity Lutheran Church about their upcoming mission trip to China. Our Palm Sunday dinner at Holy Cross netted \$538.96 to purchase 180 Bibles for China. Stay tuned for more information!

National Youth Gathering Interest

Meeting: There will be an interest meeting between services on Sunday **July 8th** for students and parents who are interested in the National Youth Gathering. A group from Holy Cross will be going next year. The LCMS Youth Gathering is scheduled for July 11-15, 2019, in Minneapolis, and events will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center and U.S. Bank Stadium. Held every three years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. During the five days of the Gathering, youth will spend time together in God's word, worship, service, and fellowship with others from across the Synod.

Services in the Parks: Sunday July 22 we will have our regular 8:00am service here at Holy Cross but for our late service we will join Lutheran Church of Our Savior for a special 11:00am joint service at Ellicott Creek Park, followed by a picnic. Our Holy Cross praise band will be offering the music. Carpools will depart from the Holy Cross parking lot at 10:15. Bring your lawn chairs, a dish to pass, and lawn games.

Sunday, August 26 we will host our own Service in the Park at 10:30am at Clarence Town Park pavilion, to be followed by a picnic. and games.

Volunteers Needed!: VBS is coming soon! We want to build on the excitement generated last year with our Victory VBS and continue it with Shipwrecked. VBS will be **August 6-10, 2018**. We will need many volunteers to make it successful. Please contact Ruth Marzano at themarzanos@gmail.com or Katie Marzano by texting at 270-3170 if you are interested in helping in any way. There are jobs during that week, as well as things like decorating and publicity for those who can't help during the week but can help before. We also will need support through donations and, of course, prayer! Help us to spread the love of Christ to the children of our community!

DCE (Director of Christian Education):

If you are interested in working to develop a recommendation for a DCE resource, please see Pastor Nickel or Wendy Shelton. As we think about the many ministries we have currently and those we want to explore, the DCE role could be an important resource.

MOPS Update:

We are hoping for a mid-September program start. If anyone will be willing to volunteer, if member families would like to be registered, or if you have preferences for meeting times please contact Amy Olsen. We are also hoping to arrange a "MOPS alumni" get-together. Please stay tuned for more details!



2 YOUR RESCUE

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 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 we will be happy to advise you.

Pioneer Golf Classic - July 16 at 10:00 AM
Day Camp - July 16-20, July 23-27, July 30-Aug 3
Alumni Weekend - July 20-22

If you are interested in volunteering at an event, please contact info@pioneercamp.org



Welcome!

Guest Preachers: Pastor Nickel will be on vacation from July 26th through August 8th. Pastor Spilman will be preaching on Sunday July 29th and Pastor Dr. Wicher will be preaching on Sunday August 5th.



He-Brews: Our June meeting will be on **July 19th**. Kurt Wozniak and Bob Hamp are working with Pastor Anas of Lutheran Church of Our Savior as we continue to define how we can "together sow and grow" Christ's kingdom. He-Brews is open to all men, young and old.

Opportunity to Use Your Musical Gifts: Pastor Nickel will be preaching for services at the Greenfields Lutheran Retirement home on Saturday, **July 14th** and Saturday **August 11th**. Services are at 10:45 at the Greenfield Health and Rehabilitation Center chapel and at 1:00pm at Greenfield Manor. Holy Cross members Betty Bissonette and Bob Mank often attend one of these services. Vocalists and instrumentalists interested in offering a solo or group arrangement, or accompanying the organist on hymns, for any of the services are encouraged to speak to Pastor Nickel.

BBQ Thank you!: We had a great BBQ event last Sunday. We sold out of dinners at 300...more than we had a planned. Even better...we raised over \$1,500 for Wear N Share and the Clarence Food Pantry (which we will split \$750 each). What a blessing for those great organizations. We also raised over \$150 for the National Youth event with donations from the baked goods and water (and there were some very yummy desserts). Thank you for your tremendous support and buying tickets. Thanks to a few families who also donated meals for our shut-in's, and our delivery drivers who brought the dinners to them. They were so very appreciative.

Electronic giving is here!

Holy Cross is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular or one time donations. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking/savings account (free service) or processed using your credit/debit card (fees apply but you can opt to pay them instead of the church). Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and donation consistency for our congregation. Three convenient ways to sign up:

1. Directly from the **HolyCrossClarence.com** website using the new **GIVING** option at the top of the page. Click on Create Profile, then follow the easy onscreen instructions to create an online profile and make your donation.
2. Donate from your smart phone using the **GIVE+ App**. Search "Give Plus Church" in your phone App Store, download, find Holy Cross by zip code 14031 then follow the instructions to set up your account.
3. **Text to Donate** – Make a donation via Text message! Text to: **716-229-5848** Simply text an amount (no dollar sign needed) to the number above and follow the prompts to complete your donation. *Fees cannot be offset for credit cards via text giving at this time.* Sign up today! Any questions contact Susan Brooks at 636-4858 or ssnebrooks@gmail.com.



Gary Andrees, US Air Force
Darwin Borschel, US Army
Delbert Borschel, US Army
Robert Borschel, US Navy
Jack Carl, US Army
Carlton Carter, US Navy
Francis Cote, US Marine Corps
William Dannebrock, US Army
Chauncey Dixon, US Army
Daniel Dixon, US Army
Nicholas Dixon, US Army
Alvin Doebler, US Army
Larry Eberhardt, US Army
Henry Eckertson, US Army

Chuck Fiegl, US Navy
Ted Fisk, US Army
Doug Garlapo, US Army
Doug Hartley, US Marine Corps and US Air Force
Jim Houghton, US Navy
Neil James, US Army
Bob Mank, US Navy

Genevieve McQuillin, US Army
Russell Ponivas, US Navy
George Schettler, US Army
Richard Schurkus, US Army
Robert Schurkus, US Navy
Larry Wiepert, US Air Force
Andrew Zubrzycki, US Army
Mike Zubrzycki, US Navy
Seabees

***Holy Cross thanks
and honors those
who serve or have
served in the
armed forces!***

2018 June Voters Assembly Meeting Review

Holy Cross held its semi-annual Voters Assembly Meeting (VAM) on Sunday, June 3rd, between services. Some highlights and takeaways from this meeting include:

Financial News: While 2017 closed strong, there has been a trend in reduced offerings which started in 2017, and continues in 2018. As previously reported, in January 2018 the Council approved using surplus operating funds to satisfy the Mortgage on the Holy Cross Christian Center (HCCC). This has removed approximately \$2,400 in monthly expenses from the approved operating budget. So that the benefit of eliminating our monthly mortgage payment has been cancelled out by the reduction in offering. At this point the Council is not recommending any changes to the approved operating budget, but we will continue to monitor the situation and this may lead to a special VAM in the Fall. And if this trend in offerings continues, this would also negatively affect our ability to implement the church's priorities as disclosed by the Visioning process. Please feel free to see any Council member for a copy of the financial reports.

Visioning News: As previously reported, the Vitality Visioning Process has revealed to us the following top 5 priorities. A brief update on these initiatives follows:

-MOPS: Pastor Nickel, Amy Olsen and others have initiated the work to enable Holy Cross to re-start a Moms of Preschoolers (MOPs) program in the Fall. They have worked with the MOPs national office and have secured a program discount, and scholarships for Holy Cross members. The MOPs organization indicated to us that last year they received over one hundred inquiries about available MOPs programs from our zip code. It would seem that all we need to be successful here is to have the commitment of volunteers to make this program run. More information to follow.

- Holy Cross Building Improvements: Doug Garlapo, Scott Brooks and others have done some brainstorming and proposed different options available to Holy Cross to make our spaces, more inviting, comfortable and functional; however, some recent problems with the church heating system has taken the priority over these initiatives. They continue to gather ideas and look for greater involvement from our members; but before we can consider any work we will first need to see what the heating system repairs will cost, and monitor how our giving continues in 2018. See Doug or Scott for more information on this project.

-Building Relationships with a "Sister" congregations: As there is strength in numbers, the Visioning process showed us how we can do more Kingdom work by being more connected with our fellow believers in neighboring congregations. Coincidentally, some Holy Cross members have been building relationships with members at Our Savior in Buffalo. At the meeting an invitation from Our Savior to join them for their equivalent to our "Worship in the Park" was discussed and our members voted to join them on July 22nd at 11:00AM worship at the Ellicott Creek Park, with a fellowship to follow. Look for more information on carpooling and other logistics in the coming weeks. So, as this mission seems to be growing spontaneously, we look forward to the Holy Spirit showing us ways we can help each other.

- Participation in Mission Trips: Rachel Nickel, Jeff Allan and Tom Marzano have been organizing this. We believe that Mission Trips are beneficial to both the recipients and the givers. While the blessing to the recipients may be obvious, the gift back to the givers is growing in the process of discipleship. And while Holy Cross does not have a lot of experience in this field, we are looking to join with sister congregations so that with their help, we may be able to learn by doing. Please feel free to join this team and look for more opportunities to serve in the future.

-Director of Christian Education Update: Pastor Nickel, Wendy Shelton and others have been researching the costs of, and the process to get, a DCE, either as an Intern, or as a new staff member. We believe that a DCE could bring added vitality to all our discipleship opportunities and would be the next step in a growing church. As our experience with our Intern Samantha Brown has shown, a DCE brings value to all members of our church, and this is something that volunteers have been unable to equal. But there is great moral and financial responsibility in calling a DCE, (either from the field, or from a seminary), so much of this will depend on the congregation's physical, material and spiritual support; and as such, our financial ability to Call a DCE must be secured. Look for more information on this in the Fall.

With the elimination of all debt, Holy Cross is in a good financial position; but we face both challenges and opportunities. We invite all members to join us as we seek to serve our Lord in service to our community and support of each other.

July Servants

July Communion Assistants:	Kenny Grek & Kurt Wozniak	Peter Olsen & Ted Fisk
July Ushers:	Ron Talboys & Kelly Roeser	Robert Diem & Larry Wiepert
July Altar Guild:		Jo Corneck & Nancy Herdic
Lay Readers July 1:	Audrey Dannebrock	Wendy Shelton
AV Team July 1:		Madeline Olsen
Nursery July 1:		Katie Marzano
Lay Readers July 8:	Sarah Craig	Mary Sue Tichy
AV Team July 8:		Larry NeGron
Nursery July 8:		Katie Marzano
Lay Readers July 15:	Kenny Grek	Mary Ann Schettler
AV Team July 15:		Matthew Wiepert
Nursery July 15:		Emma Wiepert
Lay Readers July 22:	Jo Corneck	Marilynn Cook
AV Team July 22:		Christopher Diem
Nursery July 22:		Madi West
Lay Readers July 29:	Kurt Wozniak	Brian Humphreys
AV Team July 29:		Bill Cook
Nursery July 29:		Madelyn Standish

2018 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends Announced: Please make 2018 the year you resolve to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to maximize the joy and intimacy that God intends for your marriage.

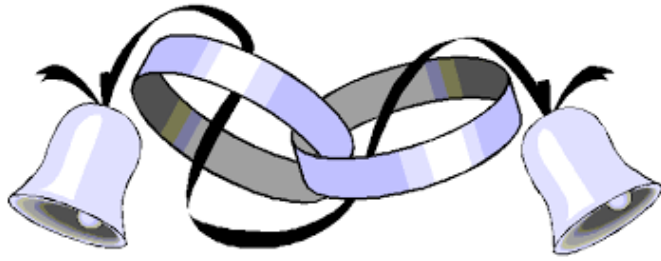
The following Weekends have been scheduled with one more to be added in Massachusetts in the fall.

* September 14-16, 2018 at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, PA. A lovely hotel-style facility in a wooded area of the Poconos, an hour north of Allentown.

* October 19-21, 2018 at Olmsted Retreat Center. A stunning, hotel-style retreat next to Olmsted Mansion in Allegheny National Forest, 2 hours north of Pittsburgh.

* November 9-11, 2018 at Hampton Inn Berkshires in Lenox, Mass. Situated at the edge of a nature preserve in the heart of the Berkshires, an hour northwest of Springfield, Mass.

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. To be sure to get the Weekend of your choice, sign up at your earliest convenience by going to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and paying the registration fee 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 [724-325-3166](tel:724-325-3166) or fjschamber@comcast.net.



July Anniversaries

Jeffrey & Rachel Nickel July 3rd
William & Audrey Dannebrock July 9th
Rev. Richard & Cheryl Blemaster July 15th
Gary & Gail Andrees July 22nd
James & Carolyn Houghton July 22nd
Lance & Kelly Leipold July 24th
Tom & Ruth Marzano July 25th
Jim & Catherine Ludwig July 26th



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 8th**. 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.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Jeffrey Nickel

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Curtis Cook, Organist
Bill Cook, Choir Director
Dave Shelton, Praise Band Director
Tom Marzano, President
Lynda Steuer, Administrative Assistant



July Birthdays

David Gardner 7/3
Duane Conners 7/5
Aric Cook 7/7
Landon Leipold 7/7
Lara Darling 7/10
Earline James 7/10
MaryAnn Schettler 7/11
Laura Conners 7/12
Helen Grinstead 7/12
Lauren Roberts 7/12
Linda Cummings 7/13
Cheryl Blemaster 7/15
Holly Standish 7/15
Alfrieda 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
Nick Brooks 7/28
Christy Diem 7/28



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 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.

Hearts for the Homeless: Holy Cross does two collections a year for Hearts for the Homeless. Hearts is on the front lines every week preparing meals and taking them downtown to the homeless people in Buffalo. Socks, toiletries, shaving supplies, snacks, granola bars are always welcome. Items can be new or gently used. You'll see boxes for your donations in the Narthex. Cash will also help and I will purchase some things at Dollar General. Please help people of Buffalo who really need a helping hand. Thanks Jill



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! The Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays, at 9:30am in the Holy Cross Christian Center (HCCC). We have adopted Rev. Micah Glenn and his family, missionaries to Ferguson, MO. as our service project. 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. In the summer we do a project. 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!

