

Holy Cross Words

Holy Cross Lutheran Church - 1500 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753 732-255-4455

September-May Sunday School-9:00 am

Worship Services: Saturdays-5:30 pm and Sundays-10 am

Check us out at www.facebook.com/holycrosstr, <http://holycrosslutherannj.com>
and follow us on Twitter @HolyCrossTR.

Check out our nursery school sites at www.holycrossnurseryschooltr.com
and <https://www.facebook.com/HolyCrossNurserySchool/>

April and May 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Wow, my first newsletter article here at Holy Cross! Let me begin by saying how blessed and honored I am to have been called to be your pastor. I have had a positive sense that God was calling all of us together in ministry from my very first meeting with the Call Committee all the way through worship and the congregational meeting on Feb. 7th. I am invigorated by the excitement I have witnessed from many of you now that God has tossed us together in this new day for Holy Cross.

Since my first official day here as your pastor I have had the opportunity to meet with Council, staff members, and a number of volunteers and committees and am looking forward to working and serving with all of you. Since that first day I have also been very active in supporting many of our church family who are ill, who have died, who have taken their first Communion, and who are preparing for baptisms and weddings, not to mention working on preparations for Holy Week worship. Needless to say my first couple of weeks with all of you have been more than a little busy. But I feel nothing but blessed to be able to serve and get to know all of you.

In my conversations with many of you I have become aware of many wonderful things already happening here at Holy Cross. As the "new kid" I feel my first job is to be a sponge; to observe all of you and your ministry in action and not to change what isn't broken. Hand in hand with this is the desire to get to know all of you. Please be patient though, it will take me a while to get all of your names. There are lots of you and only one of me. For now my primary focus for specific ministry lies in the areas that all pastors are called to be responsible for, especially Worship and Music, Christian Education, and Pastoral Care and Visitation. I am certain that our ministry together will grow and change as we get to know each other better and as we together discern God's will for us here in this place.

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Please know that my door is always open to those of you who would like to share your thoughts and ideas about our future together both inside our doors and in the community. And please, please, please, let me know if someone needs pastoral care either in the form of a visit or a phone call. I won't know unless you tell me.

I am committed to helping us to fully experience all that God has in store for us through the power of the Holy Spirit as we live out the call to be Christ's hands and feet to each other and the world.

I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Sue

PS - I am in the process of putting my house on the market so I can relocate from Medford to Toms River. In the meantime I have an hour commute. Please pray for patience for your pastor and for the deer to keep their morning and evening dashing across Route 70 to a minimum!

Correction to Community Outreach News

(February – March Newsletter)

Holy Cross generously supported 23 families (and their 30 children) with both food baskets and gifts at Christmas. In addition, with the help of a grant from Thrivent, Holy Cross members helped more than 100 children at the Hope Center have a bright Christmas.

Lutheran Disaster Response Update

Where in the world do the funds go? If you check their web site (www.elca.org/Resources/Lutheran-Disaster-Response) you can click on the "Situations Reports" link and you'll find reports on the following disasters: Haiti Earthquake, Horn of Africa Drought, Japan Earthquake, Hurricane Sandy, Syrian Conflict, and West Africa Sahel Drought. This is one of the important missions we support.

Community Outreach Team News

Submitted by Carl Nuermberger

Our **Easter food distribution** was conducted on March 21st. As usual, the pantry will need replenishing before our summer distribution.

Our next **Interfaith Hospitality Network** (IHN) date will be on Wednesday, April 6th at the House of Hope. **Pat Nuermberger** will be contacting people about preparing supper, and we still have no one to act as an overnight host. Call the **Nuermbergers** if you are interested in volunteering for this vital role.

Our **CareGivers** continue to serve shut-ins by shopping for food and driving them to medical appointments. Our contact is **Nancy Akins**. Please let her know if you can help.

We continue to volunteer at **Your Grandmother's Cupboard**, providing free clothing and some food items to needy people. There will be a special appeal in April to support the cupboard. Look for the "tear-off" in your Sunday bulletins, and please keep the Paradise family in your prayers.

Our work with **H.E.L.P** and **Clergy and People for Workforce Housing** to assist the homeless people in Ocean County is ongoing. We are continuing efforts to establish a Homeless Trust Fund by enacting a \$3 charge added to the fee for filing a document in the county clerk's office. The nine New Jersey counties where such a fund now exists have each been receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to help eradicate homelessness.

Your April envelope packet includes a special appeal for support of Lutheran Disaster Relief. The people involved in this outreach are usually among the first responders to arrive at a disaster site anywhere in the world and often the last to leave. Please search your hearts and give generously to this important program.

As always, we need more people to help with our outreach programs. To volunteer, just tell Pat or Carl (732) 349-8594 or cnuermbergerjr@gmail.com.

Things are Hopping in Our Nursery School!

Have you seen the large paper Easter eggs and rabbits in the hallways of the buildings? Our nursery school parents and their children created them. (Throughout the year there are times these seasonal, family-created projects are on display. It gives families a chance to work at home together on a fun activity.) Easter activities also included an Easter egg hunt throughout the nursery school. The children had a fun time searching for eggs.

As we move into the spring months there are many special events planned. Here are the highlights:

*In April, May, and June, **Mommy and Me** programs occur. These once-a-month, free events are for parents (or grandparents) and their toddlers to have a special time together. Stories and activities are planned for those under 2 ½ years of age. And in the evenings, **Family Fun Nights** occur. Again, these events give families a special time together here at the school. Children and parents can interact and get to know other nursery school families in this informal setting.

More April events:

*When **fire trucks** from the Silverton Fire Company arrive, you can bet EVERYONE is excited. Fire fighters talk about safety issues while the children can get “up close and personal” with the gear and equipment used by fire fighters.

*The fun continues with **Silly Sock Day** on April 19th and 20th. Staff and students alike come in the craziest foot attire they can find.

***ID cards** made by members of the Sheriff's Department and **eye screening** sessions are planned because we care about the children's health and safety.

*Our three-year-olds participate in **testing safety features** of containers that could some day be used in household products. It's fun for them, yet has a serious purpose. We're glad to work with Perritt Laboratory and help them determine future product development.

May events:

*The Annual Mother's Day Tea is one of the highlights of the year. It's a chance for children to experience a “grown-up” event tailored to their tastes. Moms, grandmothers, or a special aunt share this time with their young one.

*A field trip to the Ocean County Library lets the children see how the community loves reading by introducing them to this great facility right in our town.

*Field Days are scheduled toward the end of the month when the weather is (usually) warm and sunny. Games, pop corn, cotton candy, and drinks are on the agenda that day. Children wear colorful t-shirts and it is often a great opportunity for picture-taking.

* Speaking of picture-taking, portraits of our four year-olds and kindergarten students are scheduled for May 20th. By the end of the month our thoughts turn to graduation and the end of the school year.

If you know of someone with a child aged 2 ½ to 4 years old, tell them about our great school. Information for our school year programs and summer program can be found in this newsletter. Now is a great time to register. Contact Marion Callazzo at (732) 255-3112 to have your questions answered. You can check our web sites for more information about our school. You may also register for programs on-line at www.holycrossnurseryschooltr.com and www.facebook.com/HolyCrossNurserySchool/.

Synod Assembly Coming in May

The 2016 New Jersey Synod Assembly will be held Friday and Saturday, May 6-7 at Ocean Place Resort and Spa in Long Branch, NJ. The official voting members of Holy Cross going are: Pastor Sue, Mary Ann Petersen, Matthew Schannicchio, Pam Walter, and Melissa Manfredi. However, all are welcome!! Any of us can attend as a visitor. There is a registration fee. More information can be found on the Synod web site: www.njsynod.org

Time for Spring Cleaning!

Saturday, April 30th

8 AM to 2 PM

Come for an hour or two, or come for the day! We'll tackle outdoor projects (weather permitting) and indoor tasks, too. A special team of 5 or 6 is needed to clean the kitchen in the Parish Center. Look for sign-up charts in the narthex. Or contact Beverly Hirseman (hirseman@comcast.net) or (732) 270-2590.



Registration Now Open for Fall 2016 Nursery School Classes

Check out our nursery school sites at www.holycrossnurseryschooltr.com
and www.facebook.com/HolyCrossNurserySchool/

Application packets are now available for families looking for quality Christian childcare and nursery school experiences at affordable rates. Church members in good standing who register their children receive a 10% tuition scholarship. Nursery school programs begin in the morning for two, three, or five days a week. Childcare is available both before and after school. Contact Marion Callazzo at (732) 255-3112 to receive forms and to have your questions answered. You may also register on-line.

“Food, Glorious Food!”

“Consider Yourself” and

“I'd Do Anything For You” are just a few

of the many numbers you'll leave the theater singing when the Holy Cross Theater Group presents ***Oliver!*** during Memorial Day Weekend.

The cast began rehearsals in early March and want you to consider yourself part of our family!

Performances are 8 p.m. Friday, May 27, and 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, May 28.

The concession stand will be run by the youth group as a fundraiser for their projects.

So please mark your calendar so you don't miss this wonderful production and opportunity to support our youth. (Remember it's Friday and Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, so it's almost guaranteed to rain, making it a good time to go to the theater!)

Tickets will be on sale soon. Please check the bulletin or email debbiemura19@gmail.com.



**Children's Choir
Rehearsals
Sundays from
11 to 11:30
Classroom 3
Ages 4-12**

Worship and Music Newsletter

April and May 2016

Thank you, Bill Markwalt, for assisting me with the singing of "Holden Evening Prayer" for our morning and evening midweek Lenten services. Thank you, Bill Luko, for volunteering to play the morning midweek services. Thanks to the choirs and directors for making our Holy Week and Easter services so meaningful.

We had our first worship and music meeting with Pastor Sue March 13. After much discussion, it was decided that we will begin to commune at the railing on April 10th. I must digress a bit and thank Brian Morgan for finding the material for the kneeling pads and Leah Morgan for covering the pads. They look great! Back to communion, Pastor Sue has asked that the assisting minister help her distribute the host (bread). This means we really will need people to sign up as assisting ministers and deacons. Please, if you are able, sign up! At a future date to be determined, Janis Provost will run another session for those who would like to become a deacon and/or assisting minister. Janis is also going to be training the youth in the duties of being an acolyte, torch bearer and crucifer. Pam Walter suggested that a session be run for recruiting members for the altar guild after the 10:00 service. Keep an eye open for announcements in the Sunday bulletins about opportunities to get involved in the worship services.

Jean A Heidorn



Vacation Bible School Plans Are Being Made Now!

Mark your calendar for the week of July 25th-July 30th for our Vacation Bible School program. We will reveal the theme and other details in the next newsletter. But it's not too soon to look forward to a great experience for children age 3 through those finishing 5th grade.

Happy April Birthday!



Biff Jones	April 1
Christibeth Palombo	April 2
Lahra Dooner	April 3
Brittany McCabe	April 5
Rich Duriske	April 6
Keith Friend	April 8
John Elsbree	April 9
Marion Callazzo	April 13
Clark Paradise	April 15
Jean Heidorn	April 18
Livia Coombs	April 20
Cliff Corbet	April 22
Ryker Vandenkooy	April 27
Bill Luko	April 29
Nancy Hoffman	April 30

(If you would like a birthday acknowledged in a future newsletter, send the name and month and day of the birthday to hirseman@comcast.net or put it in writing and leave in the Newsletter mailbox in the church office. Information must be submitted at least a month in advance. Remember we now publish six times a year.)

Graduations are Coming

Submitted by the Editors



Holy Cross would love to acknowledge those who are graduating this spring from intermediate school, high school, technical schools, colleges, universities, or military academies. You can make sure your graduates are included in our summer newsletter by submitting their name and the school from which they are graduating. There are two ways to do this. One way is to go to the church office and ask for the graduates lists and write the name and school there. The other way is to send the information to us electronically (hirseman@comcast.net). You can also include special honors the person is receiving or the next school the person will attend. (We will include this information if space allows.) Please submit the information by June 8th so that it can be included in the summer newsletter.



Easter Splendor



Pam Walter, chair of Altar Guild, and the entire team deserve a huge thank you for the transformation of our sanctuary from the somberness of Holy Week to the splendor of Easter! Their dedication is truly appreciated.

Thank you again.

Jean A Heidorn

Handbells

Submitted by Carol Capor

I'll begin this article with a question – Who is Asaph? I came across that name recently in something I read and curiosity got the best of me, so I did some research. I learned that Asaph was a young priest from the tribe of Levi, living during the reign of King David. He was also a gifted musician and writer.

When King David brought the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem, *“he appointed some of the Levites to lead the worship of the Lord, the God of Israel. Asaph was appointed leader, with Zechariah (his brother) as his assistant.”* (1 Chr. 16:4)

Asaph served in Jerusalem during all of King David's reign, and probably set music to many of David's psalms. In addition, Asaph himself is credited as the writer of twelve Psalms (50 and 73 to 83). He understood the value of music to stir the hearts of men when he wrote: *“Shout for joy to God our defender; sing praise to the God of Jacob! Start the music and beat the tambourines; play pleasant music on the harps and lyres. Blow the trumpet for the festival, when the moon is new and when the moon is full.”* (Ps. 81:1-3)

I hope your hearts were likewise stirred this Easter by the handbell rendition of “Easter Joy”. Our ringers worked very hard to learn the music and I thank them for their dedication. Thank you also to Brian Morgan for augmenting the music with your trumpet. I think Asaph would have been well pleased with all of you!

Handbell rehearsals resume on Wed. April 6th, and we will be ringing once again in the month of May.



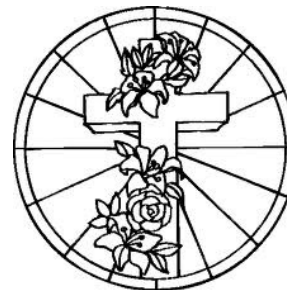
Happy May Birthday!



Sean Corbet	May 10
Rich Coombs	May 10
Olivia Palombo	May 13
Bruce Chesney Elsbree	May 20
Sue Oram	May 21
Scott Cullen	May 21
Susan Riemschneider	May 24

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Entering the Church Triumphant



We give thanks for all the saints whose lives point to Christ crucified. We turn our own eyes to the cross, where we find holy justice, mercy, compassion, and hope. Amen.

Hertha Richter
Harriet Peters
Naomi Buechner
Mary Szalay
Ella Schulze
Alma Antonavage

Who's Who on Council & Staff

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(con't.)

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Mark Your Calendar!

Coming in April

Sunday, April 10
-Capital Campaign Kick-Off Luncheon
-1 PM at the Clarion on Rte. 37 West

Saturday, April 30
Churchwide Clean-up Day 8 AM to 2 PM

Coming in May

Sunday, May 8
-Mother's Day

Sunday, May 15
-Confirmation Service 10 AM

Friday, May 27
-Theater Group Production of Oliver

Saturday, May 28
-Theater Group Production of Oliver

Summer Programs for Our Children

Are you looking for fun activities, field trips, and learning right here at Holy Cross for your young ones? Our nursery school will have a two-week program beginning July 11th. It will run from 9:00 to 11:30 AM five days each week. Parents of children ages 2 ½ to 6 by July 1 of this year are invited to register them now to assure them of a place. The fee for the two weeks is \$155 plus a registration fee of \$15.

Contact Marion Callazzo at (732) 255-3112 for more details and to register.

We Welcome the Newly Baptized



Rhett Charles Elsbree
February 14, 2016

Keith Logan Wyckoff
February 20, 2016

Jaymelyn Reis
February 21, 2016

Logan James Hunt
February 28, 2016

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

From Pastor Carlson

Parents Magazine had an article that I think is worthwhile. It was about the benefits of music. This is more about children, although you can understand it's pretty applicable to adults as well. First, nobody encourages music lessons with a guarantee a child will become the next Beethoven. This is about Every Kid/Person.

Next, music and math are strongly interrelated. Music wires a child's brain to help him better understand areas of math and as they get older they'll start reciting songs, all helping out the old memory.

Next, when you play an instrument, your motor skills are developed. Playing in a band or orchestra or singing in a choir gives both the joy of group experience and the lessons in working with others. Sing too loud? Play off-tune? You'll be told, hopefully kindly, and grow as a musician in the process.

Finally, you can learn patience, especially with certain instruments. It often takes a long time to learn to play even slightly respectable sounds, hence the patience.

There's more, of course — with accomplishment comes self-esteem. And, too, when you play or sing music from other cultures, doors are open to more than the music. Obviously most of us are not at the point of considering lessons for primary-age children. But think about the above for you, and your own role in music-making. Obviously I am thinking about choir. As I write this, the Sanctuary Choir sang their passion cantata this morning. They did a fantastic job — some of the best singing I've heard them do. And just watching them at the end (they were too busy until the end) I saw the pride that each one of them had. That's not only because they worked hard — they always do. But it's also because they are a tremendously faithful group. Nobody's a 'I'll come when I feel like it' member, because — well, you'll have to ask them.

I've often said that people join church choirs for one of two reasons: they want to serve their Lord, and they enjoy singing. It's the job of the choir director, I think, to help them experience the other. The faithful

Christian learns the joy of singing together, and those who wanted to enjoy singing discover the dimension of being a part of the Christian proclamation. Make no mistake — church music is proclamation, or it has no excuse for being!

Which, of course, makes me lead up to this: if you want to sing, join us on Thursday nights at 7:30. If you want to ring, join Carol and her group on Wednesdays at 6:15. And if you want your children to begin to enjoy music, have them join Brian Morgan Sundays at 11 AM in the Sunday School room at the end of the hallway!

Whatever the option, I really do hope you'll be part of the Joining group!

First Communion at Holy Cross



On March 13th friends and family filled our sanctuary as we celebrated this step in the faith step of our youth.

Gabriel Sean Chiarello
 Brady Frank Cicala
 Anthony Cruz
 Sean Fergie Currie
 Jaclyn Christine Ferone
 Joshua Andrew Girtain
 Travis Cole Langan
 Richard Allan O'Connor, III
 Jayden Daniel Policastro
 Jaymelyn Reis