December 2019



Thoughts in Print - from Pastor Sue

As I write this to all of you today I am preoccupied with thoughts of visiting my sister and her family in Michigan next week for Thanksgiving. I know she has been busy getting ready for my coming because she is excited for me to see the new decor in the guest room that will be mine for the week. Recently, I had the pleasure of welcoming into the world a new great nephew named Everett. I remember the excited calls, Facebook posts, and then text messages as he was coming into the world; the anticipation, the prayers for a safe birth and a healthy baby, and then the pictures! I'm also busy with preparations for the coming of the Advent season, an entire season dedicated to preparing for the coming of a baby in a manger. Every year we are encouraged to "prepare the way" anew as we anticipate Jesus' coming into the world. Isaiah 9:6 says: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Note that verse is from Isaiah; from the Old Testament. And yet it foreshadows for us as Christians the coming of Jesus so many, many, many years after it was written. Advent is a word that literally means "coming". We know what's coming, after all these years since his birth we know the routine of Advent and Christmas. And yet... I wonder... Does Jesus want the routine? Does Jesus want the usual celebration, the crazy preparation, the burst of energy and activity only to be left behind or put away on or before the New Year? Of course not! We celebrate the season of Advent to prepare for what Jesus wants most, a place in our hearts, a place in our lives! What will his coming mean for all our lives after the holiday season has run its course? It's worth thinking about, praying about, preparing for... After all, he gave his for you and me...

Peace, Pastor Sue =)



POINSCTTIM ORDER FORM

Deadline for listing in Christmas Eve bulletin is Sunday, December 22nd.

Poinsettias are \$8.00 each.

Your r	name:
	(please print clearly)
# of pla	ants ordered: Amount due: \$
PLANT(s) DEDICATION: (please print clearly)	
	To the Glory of God
	In Memory of Loved Ones:
	Special dedication:



SPLASH Family Worship

Sunday, December 1 9:00 am

This is an interactive event for our SPLASH children and their families. All children ages o thru kindergarten and their families are welcome!

(There will be no Communion at this service.)

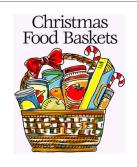


Family Cookie
Baking
and Christmas
Caroling

Friday, Dec. 13, 7:00 pm Cookie Baking in the Parish Center

Saturday, Dec. 14, 9:45 am Caroling and delivering cookies to our homebound members (meet at church)

Parents - We need your help! Please see Janis Provost



Needed for our food pantry for Christmas:

Canned fruit, Canned mixed vegetables, tomato sauce, soup, Canned pineapple,

canned sweet potatoes, cake mix, frosting, large bottles of apple juice, peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese. (No canned peas, corn or beans please!)



The HOPE Center's
"Star Light, Star Bright"
Event will be on Monday,
December 16, 2019. We
will be accepting donations of new toys,

clothes, gifts, etc. through 'December 13th. You can leave items in the box in the narthex. Thank you!



Midweek Advent Bible Study

Join Pastor Sue for an Advent Bible study on Thursdays, December

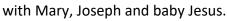
5th, 12th and 19th, beginning at 6:30 pm.



Come wander the streets of Bethlehem the night that Jesus was born!

On Saturday, December 7, the Forked River Baptist Church will once again be transformed into the city of Bethlehem. Guests will be trans-

ported back in time by the sights, smells and sounds of Bethlehem. First, with the live animals outside, then once inside, you will meet and interact with street vendors, beggars, villagers and more! The highlight is, of course, the manger scene



We will meet at Holy Cross at 1 PM. (We need parents to help!)

Please see Janis Provost.



How many gifts are there in total in the 12 Days of Christmas?

(the answer is on page 5)

Family Christmas Celebration



Join in the fun! Sunday, December 8th immediately after church service. Carols will be sung, crafts for the children, a bake sale, hot dogs, soda, photo opportunities, and the Memorial Tree. **Bring your friends and family!!**

Volunteer - We need people to donate baked goods and other food, AND people to help with the kitchen duties. (Any youth who would like to help either set up or work in the kitchen during the party, see Janis Provost. You will get credit for the money raised. And you'll have time to join in the festivities of the party - you won't be stuck in the kitchen the entire time!)

Memorial Tree - Purchase a memorial ornament for \$10 for the remembrance of a loved one. It will be placed on the Memorial Tree and a short prayer will be said during the Family Christmas Celebration. After the event, please take your ornament home for you to enjoy. Questions? See Lisa Fobian, 732-245-8070 or mspmsn@aol.com. (Sign-up forms are in the narthex. Last day to purchase an ornament is December 1st.)





Nativity Scenes - If you would like to display your favorite nativity at the Family Christmas Celebration, please bring it to the office by December 1st. Be sure to put your name on it!

(All proceeds from the event will go toward the fund for the Youth Gathering Trip.)

To sign-up to donate baked goods and other items needed, go to: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084CA9A629ABFB6-donations

Sanctuary Choir Notes December 2019



<u>December 1: 9:45</u> Combined Sanctuary and Bell Choirs rehearsal in the church.

<u>December 8</u>: Sanctuary Choir leads caroling at the Congregational Christmas Party in the Parish Center. (TBA).

December 12: 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Christmas party at Jean's house.

<u>December 24: 6:45</u> Sanctuary Choir rehearsal in room #4 for the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service.

December 26: No Sanctuary Choir rehearsal. Rehearsals resume January 2.

December 29: No Sanctuary Choir anthem.

Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Family Service

with Holy Communion



7:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Service

with Holy Communion

10:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Service

with Holy Communion



Christmas Day

10:00 am Worship Service

with Holy Communion

<u>1st Week of Christmas</u>

Saturday, December 28 Worship Service, 5:30 pm

Sunday, December 29 Worship Service, 10:00 am

(no Sunday School)



2019 Who's Who on Council

Pastor Susan Jones 732/349-5108 (h)

sjones@holycrosstr.com

President, Janis Provost 732/267-1428

janis1455@aol.com Family Faith Formation

VP Mark Stemmermann 732/228-0246

markinbrick@gmail.com Worship and Music

Janet Formon, Treasurer 732/600-5887

iformon@holycrosstr.com

Lisa Fobian, Secretary 732/245-8070

mspmsn@aol.com

Discipleship

Maija Cullen 732/232-2031

magic357951@yahoo.com Family Faith Formation

Bonnie Hegarty 732/859-3757

bonniehegarty@gmail.com

Property

John Kane 732/674-8642

jkane1620@gmail.com Community Outreach

Diane McCabe 908/421-4488

dmccabe04@yahoo.com

Fellowship

732/501-1055 © **Brian Morgan**

732/255-6896 (h)

brianmorganholycross@gmail.com

Mutual Ministry; Constitution and By-Laws

732/664-3350 **Bev Prima**

beverly.prima@pr1mabuilders.com Community Outreach; Discipleship

Laurel Reis 609/709-8613

laurelreis71003@gmail.com

Worship and Music

Matthew Scannicchio 732/687-5230

mattscan142@cs.com Family Faith Formation



Blood Drive January 18 8:00 - 1:00

Parish Center

How many gifts are there in total in the 12 Days of Christmas?

If you were receive all the presents in the song, you'd get 364 gifts!!

Day 1 - receive 1 gift

Day 2 - receives 3 additional gifts, making 4 total gifts

Day 3 - receives 6 additional gifts, making 10 total gifts

Day 4 - receives 10 additional gifts, making 20 total gifts

Day 5 - receives 15 additional gifts, making 35 total gifts

Day 6 - receives 21 additional gifts, making 56 total gifts

Day 7 - receives 28 additional gifts, making 84 total gifts

Day 8 - receives 36 additional gifts, making 120 total gifts

Day 9 - receives 45 additional gifts, making 165 total gifts

Day 10 - receives 55 additional gifts, making 220 total gifts

Day 11 - receives 66 additional gifts, making 286 total gifts

Day 12 - receives 78 additional gifts, making 364 total gifts

received.

Alassë a Hristomerendë , which is Quenyan for "Joyous Feast of Christ" (from Lord of the Rings)



The office will be closed on Thursday Nov. 28th and Friday, Nov. 29th (Thanksgiving); and Wednesday Dec. 25th and Thursday, Dec. 26th (Christmas); and Wednesday, January 1st

Church Office: P (732) 255-4455 Christian Preschool & Day Care: (732) 255-3112 www.HolyCrossLutheranNJ.com www.facebook.com/holycrosstr Twitter - @HolyCrossTR

> **Worship Services:** Saturday, 5:30 pm Sunday, 10:00 am Sunday School, 9:45 am (September - May)

Office hours (school year): Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 2:00