

# 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 = )



## POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

**Deadline for listing in Christmas Eve bulletin is Sunday, December 22nd.**  
Poinsettias are \$8.00 each.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print clearly)

# of plants ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLANT(S) DEDICATION: (please print clearly)

\_\_\_\_\_ To the Glory of God

\_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of Loved Ones: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Special dedication: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place this form, *with payment*, in the offering plate, or send to the office. Thank you.



## SPLASH Family Worship

Sunday, December 1  
9:00 am

This is an interactive event for our SPLASH children and their families. All children ages 0 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

### Christmas Food Baskets



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** 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 transported 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 with Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.



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



**December 1: 9:45** Combined Sanctuary and Bell Choirs rehearsal **in the church.**

**December 8:** 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.

**December 24: 6:45** 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



*4:00 pm*      Christmas Eve  
*Family Service*  
*with Holy Communion*

*7:00 pm*      *Traditional Candlelight Service*  
*with Holy Communion*

*10:00 pm*      *Traditional Candlelight Service*  
*with Holy Communion*

For  
unto  
us a  
CHILD  
is born,  
unto us a Son  
is given, and the  
Government shall be  
upon His shoulders,  
and His Name shall be called,  
Wonderful, Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace!  
Isaiah 9:6

Christmas Day  
*10:00 am*      *Worship Service*  
*with Holy Communion*

## 1st Week of Christmas

*Saturday, December 28*      *Worship Service, 5:30 pm*

*Sunday, December 29*      *Worship Service, 10:00 am*  
*(no Sunday School)*

**Annual Meeting - January 19, 2020 / 11:30 am**

**2019 Who's Who on Council**

<b>Pastor Susan Jones</b> sjones@holycrosstr.com	732/349-5108 (h)
<b>President, Janis Provost</b> janis1455@aol.com Family Faith Formation	732/267-1428
<b>VP Mark Stemmermann</b> markinbrick@gmail.com Worship and Music	732/228-0246
<b>Janet Formon, Treasurer</b> jformon@holycrosstr.com	732/600-5887
<b>Lisa Fobian, Secretary</b> mspmsn@aol.com Discipleship	732/245-8070
<b>Maija Cullen</b> magic357951@yahoo.com Family Faith Formation	732/232-2031
<b>Bonnie Hegarty</b> bonniehegarty@gmail.com Property	732/859-3757
<b>John Kane</b> jkane1620@gmail.com Community Outreach	732/674-8642
<b>Diane McCabe</b> dmccabe04@yahoo.com Fellowship	908/421-4488
<b>Brian Morgan</b> brianmorganholycross@gmail.com Mutual Ministry; Constitution and By-Laws	732/501-1055 © 732/255-6896 (h)
<b>Bev Prima</b> beverly.prima@pr1mabuilders.com Community Outreach; Discipleship	732/664-3350
<b>Laurel Reis</b> laurelreis71003@gmail.com Worship and Music	609/709-8613
<b>Matthew Scannicchio</b> mattscan142@cs.com Family Faith Formation	732/687-5230



**It takes!**  
**all types!**  
GIVING = LIVING

**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**