



October 2021

Thoughts in Print

As many of you know, early in the first year of my call as your pastor, I was introduced to several folks who had a true calling and passion for serving the homeless here in our area. Carl and Pat Nuernberger, long time members and leaders of our Outreach Team, introduced me to a group of folks here in Toms River, who were doing some wonderful advocacy work, in particular, working toward making the dream of providing 24/7 emergency housing support for folks finding themselves homeless a reality. That group has grown into the non-profit organization, The Toms River Housing and Homeless Coalition of which I am a member of the Board of Trustees. The mission of the Coalition is to "Address the Unmet Needs of the Homeless in Toms River and Ocean County". There are several counties in the state who have no way of addressing safe and secure placement for homeless individuals and families and Ocean County is one of them. While there are a number of agencies and service providers who will step in after the completion of an assessment and application process, there is nowhere for people to go where they can get essential upfront services, essentially, a one-stop-shop that can also help them connect to those services and agencies without a time consuming trial and error process.

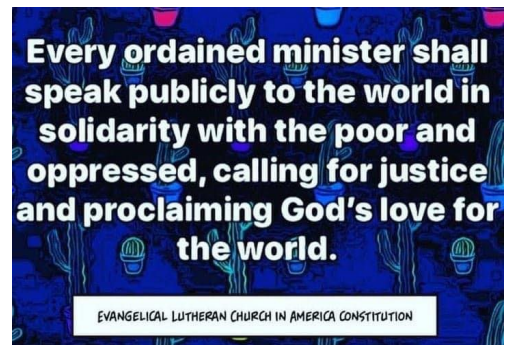
The Coalition is now ready to begin the process of working toward a facility here in Toms River with the support of faith leaders, local and state government representatives, and service providers. The first step is the establishment of a daytime Resource Center that would provide those upfront services. The Coalition is actively seeking a location in Toms River to set up a temporary site, operating a few days a week for one year, to begin to meet these needs. While the Coalition is actively pursuing several options for a location, I have, on their behalf, approached the Congregation Council with the possibility of locating at Holy Cross in a trailer that would be placed on the site in the old playground parallel to the north side of the Parish Center. Council has approved putting the option before the Congregation for conversation and a vote. It is important to note that the Coalition would pay a rental fee to the congregation for the use of the site and for any utility costs incurred as well as to point out that there will be no overnight housing at this location.

More details on this will be provided via email and at worship over the next two weeks with an information/Q&A session with the congregation planned after worship on Sunday, Sept. 26th, and a formal Congregational Meeting to vote on the proposal on Sunday, Oct 3rd. Both meetings will be immediately following the Sunday worship service to make it as easy as possible for members to participate.

While this is a true opportunity for us as the people of God in this place to continue to grow in our support of the needs of the community around us, we on Council also recognize that this needs to be a Congregational decision and that there are questions and concerns that need to be discussed before we would enter into such an agreement. I hope you will consider participating in these two meetings.

At the heart of all of this for us is this question - Why us, why here, Pastor? First and foremost, for me it is personal as due to the untimely death of my father when I was a teenager, my family could easily have found ourselves homeless on a couple of occasions. Second, as a follower of Jesus Christ, and as a Pastor, the ELCA Constitution calls me to the words in the picture you see here. And last but not least, the opportunity to support our community in such a tangible way will bring both spiritual and practical blessings to this Congregation as well as making a clear statement of who we are here at Holy Cross as disciples. I hope you will participate in the conversation.

Peace - Pastor Sue





Don't Miss

Congregational Meeting - Sunday 10/3 at 11:15AM following worship in the Sanctuary



Fall Schedule

Fall Program Opening Delayed Through October -

For the safety of all concerned, Council has decided to extend the delay in the start of our normal fall programming until the beginning of November due to the current situation with the COVID Pandemic. (Some *limited* program activities will still take place.) We will continue to worship on Saturday at 5:30PM and Sunday at 10:00AM.

However! God's Work, Our Hands, our Sunday 9:00AM Children's worship, Coffee Hour, etc. are currently on hold. We are all anxious to get beyond such restrictions but the time isn't right just yet. Please contact the office if you have any questions.



Blessing of the Animals

October 10 at 4:00 outside on the great lawn.

All fuzzy, swimming, Creepy Crawlies are welcome!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Financial Results as of August 31, 2021

	August 2021	Current Year to Date	Projected Year End 2021
Total Operating Revenue	\$13,624	\$184,617	\$284,008
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$22,434</u>	<u>\$201,284</u>	<u>\$289,509</u>
Net Gain or (Loss)	(\$8,810)	(\$16,667)	(\$5,501)

A Friendly Reminder

Garden of Remembrance - For centuries, the churches of the Christian faith often had cemeteries adjacent to or surrounding them. Such a final resting place was seen as a statement of faith in the resurrection and as a constant, inspirational reminder to the living of the

saints who had gone before and passed on their faith to those living now. Holy Cross' Garden of Remembrance offers such a connection and reminder by allowing the ashes of our saints who have died in the Lord to be interred on our grounds. The peaceful and quiet place apart also offers us a space for us to meditate and remember our loved ones.

We currently have over 50 interred ashes of saints "resting" in our garden (with many people who have made arrangements for future interment). In keeping with the concept of a peaceful, holy and meditative space, it is requested that no other decorations, wreaths, statues, etc. be placed in the garden. The guidelines set by the original Garden of Remembrance committee stated that, "Rather than using a receptacle, the ashes will be returned directly to God's earth, and there will be no marker of any kind to indicate the place," and "aside from the day of interment, families may not place flower arrangements, wreaths, plants of any variety, or other objects in the garden."

Thank you for your cooperation!



Holy Cross Pre-School News

Welcome Cindy Kane as our new Director! Meagan Reis had been hired for the position earlier in the summer, but due to some unforeseen challenges, was no longer able to continue in that position. We are very happy that Cindy was able to step up to the challenge of director just a few weeks before school started. Cindy comes to us with an impressive background in early education and is committed to maintaining the quality of HCNS. Welcome, Cindy!!

Holy Cross Christian Nursery School is searching for help with our afternoon childcare for the 2021-2022 school year.

The position is a great opportunity to work with children in one of our 4 year old classrooms. We are looking for someone that has a love of children and preferably some experience interacting with children (babysitting, children, grandchildren, etc).

We are in need of one or more people that would be available between the hours of 1:30 p.m. and 5:30-6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Anyone hired will need to be over the age of 18, will need to complete some state mandated training and must consent to a background check. If you, or someone you know, might be interested, please contact Cindy Kane, in the school office; 732-255-3112 or via email at nurseryschool@holycrossstr.com.



NEW WORSHIP SERVICES FOR FAMILIES

Beginning in November, every first and third Sunday, we will have a 9:00 AM Family Service. Included in these interactive services is confession, a special children's sermon, communion, and a song (or two), etc.

The first Sunday of the month will be geared for younger children (preschool through kindergarten) and the third Sunday will be geared more for elementary children. Brian Morgan has agreed to teach songs on the third Sunday. After worship there will be a craft for the families in Founders' Hall (by the church kitchen) to coincide with the lesson of the day. (No "regular" Sunday School is scheduled at this time.)



All are welcome! Please join us!



HCLC Theater group has restarted their auditions and rehearsals for their previously postponed production of the "Addams Family". Show times will be December 10, 11 and 12. If interested in being part of the cast or crew, contact Debbie Mura at debbiemura19@gmail.com.



Wednesday Study Group / 7:00 PM

Pastor Sue is continuing the Wednesday Study program begun by Vicar Garth during his Internship. The following is the schedule (with topics) for the fall. Feel free to join us at any time on Wednesdays at 7:00PM on Zoom. Please note there are couple of weeks where there will not be a study as Pastor Sue will be on vacation.

- 9/22 "Jonah and the Great Fish: A Whale of a Tale" (if you have time, please read the Book of Jonah prior the study)
- 9/29 "Homeward Bound: Heaven Through the Lens of Scripture and Art"
- 10/6 "Walking Through Life with Faith-Colored Glasses" - A study on 2 Corinthians 5:7
- 10/13 "Taking Root: Living Into God's Abundant Grace" - A study on the Parable of the Sower (Can be found in Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-15)
- 10/20 No Study
- 10/27 "Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers: Exploring Christian Faith" - Part 1 - from the book by Martin Marty
- 11/3 "Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers: Exploring Christian Faith" - Part 2 - from the book by Martin Marty
- 11/10 "Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers: Exploring Christian Faith" - Part 3 - from the book by Martin Marty
- 11/17 & 24 No Study

After that we will be headed into Advent and will provide additional information once Holy Cross and St. Paul have decided what they want to do for Advent Midweek.

The Zoom link is as follows:

Topic: Wednesday Study Group

Time: 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89521545527?pwd=T0w3T2hWSitHb2ttK3NaeS9EbEdTQT09>

Meeting ID: 895 2154 5527

Passcode: 075655

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,89521545527#,,,,*075655# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 895 2154 5527

Passcode: 075655

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kekjB4dWx>



Assisting Opportunities



IN

WORSHIP

Communion/Worship Assistants and Ushers

Now that we have returned to worshipping in the church sanctuary, communion, worship assistants and ushers are needed.

Please sign-up on the bulletin board.

(Please note - ALL communion assistants are required to wear masks.)



*Keep the following people in your prayers
(long-term illnesses)*

Maie Currie, Nancy Grimes, Frank Lukasavage, Edward Mayer, Barbara Carlson, Arnie Johnson, Paul Stenzel, Dee Barbara, Norm Meidling, Bill Kaier, Amy Corbett, Karen Ryan



*We welcome the
newly baptized.*

Lillian Rose Gauker

August 1

*Daughter of
Samantha Johnson
and Donovan Gauker*

Michael Joseph Viola - August 15

*Son of Danielle Nuernberg
and Louis Viola*

Ryan Matthew Fay - August 15

*Son of Melissa Muniz
and Jacob Fay*

Chase Douglas Sullivan - September 29

Son of Lindsey and Michael Sullivan

*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.*



**Calling all 7th and
8th Graders!!**

If you are entering
7th or 8th grade this
fall and would like to
participate in our
Confirmation Programs (called Lu-
ther's Rookies), please contact
Pastor Sue as soon as possible at
sjones@holycrosstr.com or 732-
255-4455.



Looking to make a
difference in someone's
life by making the most
of your talents? Come join a team of warm, wel-
coming volunteers that love what they do! We
prepare Federal and state income tax returns,
free of charge, for people who cannot afford
paid tax preparation - especially people over age
50. We'll provide the training and support to
help you learn new skills, and you'll get a great
feeling from helping someone else. We need
people, not only to prepare tax returns, but also
to be greeters, interpreters, appointment takers,
etc. If interested, please call 732-908-8142 or
email gail.re.taxes@gmail.com for details.



2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
JULY 24-28 | MINNEAPOLIS, MN

All youth and their friends entering 8th through 12th grade this fall
are eligible to participate in the Youth Gathering next summer. If
you are interested, you need to confirm your interest no later than
October 17th. Planning team coordinators are Janis Provost

(janis1455@aol.com) and Pastor Sue

(sjones@holycrosstr.com). Please contact one of them or
call the church office (732-255-4455) to confirm your
interest or get more information. Additional information
will be provided in a mailing soon.

Church Council Highlights

July:

1. Presentation made by Plentiful Plates, a free-meals provider to the larger community, subject to a contract with Holy Cross. Council approved the contract.
2. A new, improved reporting format was presented by the Treasurer and Bookkeeper and approved for future financial reports.
3. Ministry Moments will resume every third Sunday of the month summarizing the efforts and focus of one of the Council committees.
4. The Generosity Team of the Discipleship Committee has agreed to participate in a "Building a Culture of Generosity" program with the N.J. Synod. Program information will be shared throughout this fall.
5. The N.J. Synod has offered a "Bishop's Challenge for the next year to increase the focus on racial diversity, specifically the African-American experience. Holy Cross will support this challenge.

August:

1. The Council endorsed Pastor Sue's recommended proactive policies and practices in response to Covid-19 and similar health issues. These have been already shared with the congregation.
2. Due to continuing conflict with her work schedule, Valerie Horlacher's letter of resignation from the Council was accepted.
3. Vicar Garth shared his departing thoughts of his internship this past year and wished the Council well in all future endeavors. The Council members reciprocated with extensive thanks and best wishes.



Luther and Lutheranism

Martin Luther (1483—1546)

Martin Luther was eight years old when Christopher Columbus set sail from Europe and landed in the Western Hemisphere. Luther was a young monk and priest when Michaelangelo was painting the Sistine Chapel in Rome. A few years later, he was a junior faculty member at a new university in small-town Germany, intently studying the Scriptures, "captivated with an extraordinary ardor for understanding Paul in the Epistle to the Romans."

In these days Luther was tormented by the demand for righteousness before God. "I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God." Then, in the midst of that struggle with God, the message of the Scriptures became clear, like a long-shut door opening wide. When he realized that a "merciful God justifies us by faith ... I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates."

What Luther discovered is the freedom of Christians trusting God's mercy in Christ. As he later wrote, "Faith is God's work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. This faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that believers would stake their lives on it a thousand times."

This discovery set Luther's life on a new course —both his own life and his public service as a preacher and teacher. When a church-endorsed sales team came to the Wittenberg area in October, 1517, Luther was concerned that the promotion and sale of indulgences undermined the promise of God's unreserved mercy in Jesus and the faith that trusts that promise. His *95 Theses* or *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences* became the first of a life-long stream of books, sermons, letters, essays, even hymns in which he expressed his confidence in this life-giving promise from God, the Gospel, and its liberating implications for all of life in church and society.

(from the ELCA website, elca.org)

2021 Who's Who on Council

Pastor Susan Jones	732/349-5108 (h)
sjones@holycrosstr.com	
President, Bev Prima	732/664-3350
beverly.prima@pr1mabuilders.com	
VP, Diane McCabe	908/421-4488
dmccabe04@yahoo.com	
Treasurer, Pam Walter	732/585-6453
pwalter21@comcast.net	
Secretary, Kenn Kerr	908/278-1906
kennkerr75@gmail.com	
Constitution/Bylaws, Mutual Ministry	
Bookkeeper, John Kane	732/674-8642
jkane1620@gmail.com	
Maddy Brown	609/548-6996
Maddyb405@yahoo.com	
Family Faith Formation	
Maija Cullen	732/232-2031
magic357951@yahoo.com	
Family Faith Formation	
Janice Hutchison	732/276-8074
jjhutchison47@gmail.com	
Fellowship	
Nikki Schley	732/573-9634
Schley33@aol.com	
Community Outreach	

**Congregational Meeting -
Sunday 10/3 at 11:15AM
following worship
in the Sanctuary**



Please be sure the office has up to date contact information for you: address, home and/or cell phone numbers and an email address, if you have one, so that we can get the word out concerning updates as quickly as possible!

Thank You!



**Introducing our new
Holy Cross
YouTube Channel**

Here you will find videos related to our ministry and life together. Our first offering is a set of videos from the Wednesday evening studies we shared with St. Paul in Beachwood, led by Vicar Garth, Pastor Sue and Pastor Pete, called Luther's Small Catechism Boot Camp. Check it out! More to come!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7ZqePRoMyNQo2_LV-edbng?



**Now returning to our
"regular"
Office Hours**

The church office is open
Mon. thru Friday
9:00 - 2:00.

*Now that the nursery school has resumed,
we request that everybody entering the
building to please wear a mask.*

Council Meeting Visitors - Congregation members are welcome to participate in our monthly Congregation Council meetings by contacting either Bev Prima (Council President - beverly.prima@pr1mabuilders.com) or Kenn Kerr (Council Secretary - kennkerr75@gmail.com) at least one week prior to the meeting. Visitors must state their reason for their desire to attend and be able to participate via ZOOM. Council meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM.