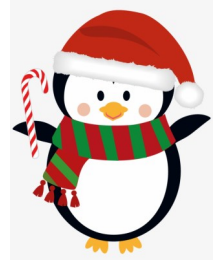




December 2021



Thoughts in Print - from Pastor Sue



Well, here we are once again, Christmas is upon us. These last few weeks have been filled with making plans for our upcoming celebration of Jesus' birth but also filled with the memories of how, blessedly, things will be just a bit different this year than last. Last year we were blessed with volunteers who were willing to help make memorable worship happen, but for most of you it was an experience over Facebook. Not exactly how most of us think of celebrating such a special day in our lives as people of faith and people who are part of the Holy Cross community. I look forward to welcoming those of you who will once again join us in person in the Sanctuary for worship on Christmas Eve. Being able to be together, to share communion, the singing of silent night, the fellowship of one another, is something I am very much looking forward to. For those of you who are still unable to attend or uncomfortable about being with us in person, we will be broadcasting the 5:00PM Family Service as well as the 7:00PM Traditional Service over Facebook. Please know that we are all worshiping together whether near or far.

As we look back through Advent - we call forward these words: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love - into our celebration of Christmas and beyond - and yet they are so much more than just words because they are gifts that Jesus brings to us to help us find our way in a challenging world. He is the true embodiment of the saying "the gift that keeps on giving"; the one who comes to comfort and to save. I for one am grateful for that gift maybe more than ever before as we continue to live through unprecedented times, as we continue to find our way as a community of faith, as we all once again ponder what the baby born in a manger means to us and for how we live in the world.

"For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6



I pray all of us can find Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love this Christmas.

I pray that Jesus, the word made flesh, the living savior of the whole world, reaches into your heart and touches you this Christmas where you need it most. I pray you all have a blessed Christmas and a joy filled New Year!

Pastor Sue



Saturday worship services will NO LONGER be live-streamed.
Sunday worship services will continue to be live-streamed.

Christmas Eve Services

This year we are worshipping IN PERSON as well as over Facebook Live on Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24th. Services times are:

Family Friendly - 3:00 and 5:00 PM (*Same program both times*)

Traditional Candlelight - 7:00 and 9:00PM (*Same program both times*
Choirs at 7:00 only)



NO WORSHIP - Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25th
(no Christmas morning worship or Saturday Evening service)

NO WORSHIP - Sunday, December 26th -

The Office of the Bishop is providing a YouTube service on December 26th at 8:00 AM.

The link is NJSynodELCA - YouTube



Christmas Eve Worship Assistants

Worship assistants and ushers are needed for all four services. Use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Thank you!!



New Year's Weekend Services

Regular times:
Saturday, 5:30 PM
Sunday, 10:00 AM

(no 9:00 Family Service)

Special liturgy-Lessons and Carols with a healing rite to begin the New Year.



Don't forget to take home your poinsettia after the last Christmas Eve service. (Or you can pick up the following week during office hours.)



During the Annual Meeting on January 30th, we will be electing new Council Members for 2022. Several seats are available. Please consider running for Council.

Talk to Beverly Prima, Kenn Kerr, Diane McCabe or Pam Walter if interested.



Advent Midweek Services- Join us for an in-person worship experience Thursdays during Advent with the theme of "Holy Darkness: a Service of Word and Prayer for Advent" - Two opportunities each week at 11:00AM and 6:30PM. Thursday, December 23rd is the last service.. Hope to see you there. (*These services will not be live broadcast on Facebook but will be recorded and posted at a later date before Christmas on our Youtube channel.*)

Advent devotional materials—will be available in print form and in links on FaceBook.



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, Karen Ryan

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
jkane@holycrosstr.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



Blood Drive—Saturday,
January 15th, 2022
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM,
in the Parish Center

Go to redcrossblood.com
to make an appointment, or call Eric Corbet.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Immediately following the 10:00 service.



Have a Merry and
Blessed Christmas
and a VERY healthy
New Year.

**The office will be closed
on
Friday, December 24th
and
Friday, December 31st.**

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

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