

May 2022



Group Opens Central Hub To Help Homeless

By Chris Lundy, Jersey Shore Online / April 29, 2022

TOMS RIVER – A new group to help the county's homeless just opened a new home of their own. The Housing Resource Center will be a centerpiece in providing services for our most at-risk residents.

The Toms River Housing and Homeless Coalition began operating out of 200 Corporate Circle, off of Route 37, several months ago, but they had an official ribbon cutting



recently. It's led by **Sue Jones, a pastor with Holy Cross Lutheran Church**. The goal is to be a nexus connecting different agencies. "Our goal is to work ourselves out of a job," she said.

They'll be working with Habcore, Inc., which provides housing and services for homeless in Ocean and Monmouth counties. Case manager Toni Ann Widmaier said that already, the center has helped 72 people. They ranged in age from 16 to 88.

"There is no one size fits all for homeless," Jones said. The profile is diverse and that's why it's a hard problem to fix.

"Homelessness is a symptom of something else," she explained. That other issue might be domestic violence, or addiction, or a debilitating health emergency.

When someone contacts their agency, they establish what their needs are and then reaches out to the resources available.

There are a lot of different groups already helping homeless, but each one has a niche that is sometimes very specific. Their funding might only allow them to help with substance abuse, for example. Or, they are only allowed to provide help for a short term. The Housing Resource Center hopes to connect all these different puzzle pieces into one complete picture. "A lot of different agencies are having the same conversation," Jones said. So, the idea is to have a central voice.

She spent 25 years in business before becoming a pastor, and one of the things you learn in business is cost avoidance. When many people are attempting to solve the same problem separately, it's not as efficient as working together.

"The one thing we need is a Homelessness Trust Fund," she said. This is an account fueled by a fee on any real estate transaction.

This money would generate enough to support a transitional living facility for the homeless, and it would likely cost less than the county is paying annually to put them up in hotels, she said. Ocean is the only county in New Jersey without such a location.

Con't on next page...

County Commissioner Barbara Jo Crea was on hand at the ribbon cutting. She's the liaison to the Board of Social Services.

County representatives have been consistent in their message that they aren't against having a temporary shelter, as long as it is operated by another group. "The county does not want to own or run a shelter, but very much want to help those in need," she said. "We realize that the people who this foundation serves need a hand up and this is what it's all about."

Toms River Mayor Maurice "Mo" Hill also vowed to work with the new group and be supportive.

The township has one of the largest responsibilities for affordable housing, looking at 3,000 units. Every town is assigned a number by the state based on an ever-changing formula. The town has to allow that many "affordable" homes or else be vulnerable to lawsuits.

So, permanent housing solutions are on the horizon, Hill said. But in the interim, "we need to find a way to bridge the gap. We're looking forward to solving this problem."

He credited former council members Laurie Huryk and Terrence Turnbach for spearheading the homeless support movement in town. Current Councilman Matthew Lotano was also in attendance at the ribbon cutting.



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Back by popular demand...
**POTLUCK AND
MOVIE NIGHT**

June 25th, 6:30 PM

Following worship service. Look for more info in the next newsletter.



Last Learning Session:
Monday, May 16th
at 6:30 pm
(Rehearsal Saturday, May
21st at 9:00 am)

Three families will be celebrating 1st Holy Communion this year during worship service on **May 22nd**.

Please pray for these families as their children take this next step in their faith journey.



*We welcome the
newly baptized.*

Aubrey Lynne Bond
May 1st

daughter of Jessica and Charles Bond

Piper Rebecca Koon - May 8th
daughter of Jenae and John Koon

*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.*



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

Leah Morgan, Valerie Horlacher, Maie Currie, Frank Lukasavage, Janet, Barbara Carlson, Arnie Johnson, Paul Stenzel, Dee Barbara, Bill Kaier, Karen Ryan, Kristine Schley, Jackson, John M.

PICNIC and WORSHIP 2022

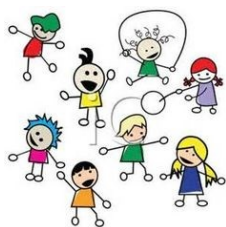
We are so pleased to announce that we will have a picnic this year!! Food, fun, fellowship and games for all.

When Sunday, June 5th
Worship Service begins at 11:00 with the Picnic immediately following

Where Winding River Park Pavilion



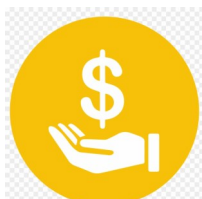
This is a completely ADA accessible park with plenty of parking, picnic tables and bathrooms. Please sign-up on the sheets in the narthex so we know how many to plan for.



Holy Cross Nursery School 2022 -2023 School Year Registration

Registrations are going very well. There is still space available for most classes. For more information or to schedule a tour, contact the director, Mrs. Cindy Kane at 732-255-3112.

ATTENTION ALL SOON-TO-BE GRADUATES - Are you or somebody in your family graduating this spring? Intermediate school, high school, college/university, military school, trade school, voc tech? Let the office know so that we can include them in the next newsletter.



Special Funds

Introducing the Holy Cross FIRE FUND...

Since word spread about the fire in the Parish Center, we have had a number of offers of financial support from folks who are NOT members of the congregation. Council has established a FIRE FUND especially for the purpose of making sure that we collect, record, and thank these individuals and organizations properly for their generosity. We have agreed to use these funds to support anything our insurance will not cover and will then donate those gifts back into the community to pay it forward. Members of Holy Cross are encouraged to continue to give to the general fund so we can continue to cover our regular expenses, however, you are welcome to make an additional gift to the FIRE FUND over and above your regular offering should you choose to do so. We thank all of you and our friends in the community for your willingness to share during this challenging time.

Update on the Parish Center

Just a quick few words about where things stand with the Parish Center...

- Council has formed a team to lead the conversation on plans for rebuilding.
- There will be an information session after worship in the near future.
- We are still awaiting the final decision on the fate of the building - total tear down or partial tear down and refit the rest.
- An inventory of our "personal property" losses is underway and will be reviewed when completed.
- We are dealing with the challenges of space allocation for meetings/gatherings as best we can as needed. Keep you eyes and ears open just in case a meeting or event will be held off-site!

As of this writing, we have received a report from our insurance company and are in the process of review.

Pastor Sue



Spring Cleaning

The week after Easter was our Spring Clean-Up Week. Some of the tasks that we accomplished were cleaning pews, weeding and other gardening tasks, spreading mulch, painting, repairing lights and replacing light bulbs. Plus, repair techs, installers (to hang TVs in classrooms), carpet cleaners and a plumber (to work on the sink in the kitchen and in the altar room) were here to assist us in the work.

Thanks to all who came out to help: Bev, Paul and Spike Hirseman, Pam Walter, Bonnie Hegarty, George and Kathleen Phillips, Kara Moore, Rich Lipnick, Mindy Stecher and Chelsea, John and Janice Hutchison, Mike Fobian, Carol Dorn, Diane Hawks, The Cullen Family (Scott, Maija, Abe, Hugh, Ava) and Mary Ann Petersen.

We still have several other projects that need completing. If you can give us an hour or two on a Saturday, let me know (848-238-7286 or hirseman@comcast.net). If we have a small group the work goes much quicker.



VBS 2022 "Food Truck Party"

Monday—Thursday, July 11th—14th

9:00 AM - Noon

Registration fees: \$10 for ONE child and
\$5 for each additional
child in the same family

This VBS invites children to pray as Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread." These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God — and that it's by turning to God in prayer that all of our daily needs are met.

A VBS planning meeting will be on May 15th after church at 11 AM. Youth Volunteers entering 6th grade and up and Adult Leaders and Volunteers are needed!

VBS registration forms can be found in this newsletter, in the narthex or on our website at HolyCrossLutheranNJ.com.



Blanketing Ceremony June 26th, 10:00 AM

A long-standing tradition at Holy Cross is the Blanketing Ceremony, honoring high school graduates. During the service on June 26th, we will "blanket" our graduates, reminding them that wherever the next step in their life and faith journey may take them, their church family holds them in prayer.

(Each blanket is \$30. Names, high schools, any future plans after graduation and a \$30 check is due in the office by June 5th. Any questions? Contact Janis Provost at 732-267-1428 or the office.)

Patrizsha and The Soultierior Worldwide Band Concert

Thursday, July 21st @ 7pm
Boardwalk Pavilion in
Ocean Grove

We would like to plan a
night out as a group.
More info to come.





Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1500 Hooper Ave. Toms River, NJ
732/255-4455

Vacation Bible School

July 11th—14th (Monday - THURSDAY)

9:00 am to Noon

Pre-k through grade 5

Registration fees: \$10 for ONE child and
\$5 for each additional
child in the same family

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH CHILD

CHILD'S NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

(street address)

(town, state, zip)

CHILD'S BIRTHDATE: ____/____/____ AGE AS OF JULY 1st ____ **GRADE COMPLETED:** ____

PARENTS' NAME(S): _____

PREFERRED CONTACT PHONE: _____ CELL _____ HOME _____

PARENT EMAIL: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT: _____

Who will be dropping off your child? _____

Relationship to child? _____

Who will be picking up your child? _____

Relationship to child? _____

please fill out other side and sign

CHILD’S HEALTH HISTORY (please check all that apply)

☐ Frequent colds

☐ Seizure disorder

☐ Stomach upsets

☐ Diabetes

☐ Motion sickness

☐ Asthma

☐ Emotional upsets

☐ Sleep disturbances

☐ Physical disability

☐ Learning disability

☐ Behavioral disability

☐ Vision (glasses, contact lenses)

☐ Hearing disability

ANY ALLERGIES TO FOOD OR MEDICATION? YES___ NO___

If Yes, please list_____

Will your child be taking any medications Vacation Bible School? YES___ NO___

If yes, please explain:_____

Any disabilities, please explain_____

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PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE BOXES

☐ I am aware that pictures and/or videos of my child/youth may be taken at various events and programs hosted by Holy Cross Lutheran Church including, but not limited to: Sunday school, service, Youth Group Functions, and Vacation Bible School. I am aware and agree that these pictures and/or videos may be posted to social media sites or Holy Cross’ website. These pictures and/or videos will not be captioned with my child/youth’s name. The pictures and/or videos will be used for the purpose of illustrating and promoting the activities of the church.

I further understand that photos and/or videos may be posted to media sites by individual participants and these photos are outside the control of Holy Cross. Pictures and/or videos posted to the church’s website are considered the property of Holy Cross and may not be sold or reused without the expressed consent of the church administrators.

===== **OR** =====

☐ I have special concerns or requirements regarding photography &/or videography of my child/youth and agree to contact any Holy Cross administrators in advance of each event or program. The youth will be specially identified during the event indicating the youth may not be photographed by representative(s) of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

I have read the foregoing disclaimer and agree to be bound by it.

PARENT’S SIGNATURE_____ DATE _____

2022 Who's Who on Council

Pastor Susan Jones sjones@holycrosstr.com	732/349-5108 (h)
President, Janis Provost janis1455@aol.com	732/267-1428
VP, Kenn Kerr kennkerr75@gmail.com	908/278-1906
Secretary, Pam Walter pwalter21@comcast.net	732/585-6453
Treasurer, John Kane jkane1620@gmail.com jkane@holycrosstr.com	732/674-8642
Maddy Brown Maddyb405@yahoo.com	609/548-6996
Lisa Fobian mspmsn@aol.com	732/245-8070
Janice Hutchison jjhutchison47@gmail.com	732/276-8074
Diane McCabe dmccabe04@yahoo.com	908/421-4488
Bev Prima Beverly.prima@pr1mabuilders.com	732/664-3350
Nikki Schley Schley33@aol.com	732/573-9634

dates
to Remember

May 15th	VBS Meeting, 11:00 (after Worship)
May 16th	1st Holy Communion Class at 6:30 pm
May 21st	1st Holy Communion Rehearsal at 9:00 am
May 22	1st Holy Communion 10:00 am Worship



**Upcoming
Events**

June 5th	Worship Service and Picnic at the Park 11:00 at Winding River Park
June 25th	Potluck and Movie 6:30 PM
June 26th	Blanketing Sunday 10:00 AM Worship
Boundaries Training June (date/time TBD)	



Did you know we now have a
new way to support mission and
ministry at Holy Cross? Scan this
symbol to make a donation.

Coming soon.....

Summer Adult Forum at
9:00 AM on the 2nd Sunday
of the month (June, July
and August).
More info to follow later....



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