



September 2022

Thoughts in Print from Pastor Sue

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11



This verse from Jeremiah was written at a time when the Israelites were in dire straits. Their leaders had failed them, they had been taken over by a foreign power, and many had been scattered or marched into exile. With this verse and the few that follow, God speaks through the prophet Jeremiah to his people that they are to have hope and that he will bring them back from the places they have been scattered to restore them as a people, as a community.

As we look upon a new beginning here at Holy Cross after being scattered physically, emotionally, and spiritually by the Pandemic and the challenges that came with it, in a way I feel as though we are a people returning from exile through God's call to hope. We have all been challenged during this time. We have all suffered loss on many different levels. We have had moments where we have been at our best and others where we have been at our worst. We have all been changed. But our God and his love for us never changes.

The circumstances of God's people as we live in the world have always been a bit of a roller-coaster ride. Such is the reality of our human existence. We have all had those times when we feel closer to God and other times when we wonder if God is really out there. This passage reassures us that even in the midst of the most challenging times God is never far from us. The gift of his son Jesus is evidence of God's desire to be with us, to be in relationship, to actually enable us to trust in him, especially when we feel like we are fighting to hang on.

As we begin a new program year here at Holy Cross, leaders and volunteers are working hard to begin again the work of shared ministry with and for each other and the community outside our doors. Some things will look and feel the same, but many will be different. But we are indeed moving forward in unwavering hope. The hope that as we listen to God's call, following the teaching and example of Jesus, we can once again return from COVID exile and move forward into a new and stronger future together. I hope and pray that all of you can find the strength to respond to the Spirit's tug on your heart and be part of it.

Peace!

Pastor Sue

Our Church's Anniversary



Save the Date / Sunday, December 11, 2022

Holy Cross 60th Anniversary Luncheon

Clarion Hotel, Route 37 West, Toms River from Noon to 4 PM.

Join us for a special Worship Service at 10.

*Bishop Tracie Bartholomew, Bishop of the NJ Synod
will be a special guest.*

Around the NJ Synod



New Jersey Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Join us for our NJ WELCA 2022 Annual Convention "Empowering Women" - Zoom Event

All are welcome to join us.

When: September 24th, 2022 (Saturday) 9:00 to 3:00 PM.

Where: Zoom – meeting ID 850 2646 1918 Passcode 36912

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85026461918?pwd=QVNaUDZzR1JTZk9MWkVjM0ZoWDZuQT09>

(More info can be found on the bulletin board outside the office.)

* * * * *



Fall Women's Retreat

"Who Do You Say That I Am?"

Led by Laurie Matarazzo and Dale Selover

October 21-23, 2022

(VIRTUAL RETREAT: Friday, October 21, 2022)

Jesus wonders how his followers understand him. He knows that how we "name" him is at the heart of our relationship with him and with others.

Come and hear Jesus' query yet again.

Hear it as an invitation to an ever deeper faith in him.

Check-in will begin at 4 pm on Friday, October 21, and dinner will be served at 5:30 pm.

Retreat programming begins at 7 pm. And will conclude on Sunday by 11 am after breakfast and a closing worship service.

There virtual retreat will be held on Friday from 10 am – 3 pm, via Zoom.

To learn more, visit: www.crossroadsretreat.com/womens-retreat

* * * * *

Transforming White Privilege



A 21st Century Leadership Capacity

The Transforming White Privilege (TWP) curriculum is designed to support leaders in better identifying, talking productively about, and addressing white privilege and its consequences in their many different spheres of influence.

Four learning opportunities are available, via zoom and in-person, beginning in September

(zoom) Thursdays - September 8, 15, 22 / 6:30-9:30 PM

(zoom) Saturdays - October 8, 15, 22 / 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

(zoom) Sundays - November 6, 13, 20 / 2:00-5:00

(In-Person) October 28-29 Retreat from 4:00 PM Friday- 4:00 PM Saturday (cost \$40)

Learn more and register now at <https://www.njsynod.org/twp>

Welcome

New Members

Sunday, Sept. 25 following worship, sponsored by our Discipleship Team. Have you been visiting with us for a while and would like to officially become part of us at Holy Cross? Are you a returning member that we simply haven't been able to invite to a New Member gathering because of COVID? Well then... Consider yourself invited to a luncheon in your honor. Pastor Sue will be reaching out to those already on our list but please feel free to call the church office if you are interested in being part of this gathering and a partner in mission and ministry here at Holy Cross.

God's Work. Our Hands
 September 18th after worship. Bring a lunch and join us for a variety of service projects.



Sunday Adult Forum - As part of our Fall Program Kick-Off on Sunday, Sept. 18, Pastor Sue will begin an Adult Study and Discussion opportunity on Sunday mornings at 9:00AM each week. Those participating are welcome to suggest topics of interest. See you there!



We welcome the newly baptized.

Juliana Jordyn DeMartine
 Sept. 17

Daughter of Alexis Knowlton and Joseph DeMartine

Georgia Ann Cook—Sept. 17
Daughter of Lindsay and George Cook

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.



Blessed are those who die in the Lord.
William A. Kaier
 August 17
Hertha Kluge
 August 29

Rest eternal grant them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.



Confirmation Ministry - New Group Starting this Fall!
 Learning Sessions will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 18th at 5:00PM and continue most of the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays through May. The program also includes worship, fellowship, and service components. If you have a young person 7th grade and up that has not yet had the chance to be part of the program, please contact Pastor Sue to get connected!



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

Leah Morgan, Valerie Horlacher, Maie Currie, Frank Lukasavage, Barbara Carlson, Paul Stenzel, Dee Barbara, Karen Ryan, Kristine Schley, Jackson

2022 Who's Who on Council

Pastor Susan Jones

sjones@holycrosstr.com

President, Janis Provost

janis1455@aol.com

VP, Kenn Kerr

kennkerr75@gmail.com

Secretary, Pam Walter

pwalter21@comcast.net

Treasurer, John Kane

jkane1620@gmail.com

jkane@holycrosstr.com

Maddy Brown

Maddyb405@yahoo.com

Lisa Fobian

mspmsn@aol.com

Janice Hutchison

jjhutchison47@gmail.com

Diane McCabe

dmccabe04@yahoo.com

Bev Prima

Beverly.prima@pr1mabuilders.com

Nikki Schley

Schley33@aol.com

Lyndsay Tricarico

Lyndsay.tricarico@gmail.com

Sept. 18	Adult Forum, 9:00 AM Sunday School Kick-off and Blessing of Backpacks 10:00 AM God's Work. Our Hands. 11:15 AM
Sept. 25	New Member Luncheon 11:15 AM
Oct. 9	Blessing of the Animals 4:00 PM



Help celebrate our
Anniversary!

Do you have any photos from
events, people, activities or cele-
brations from years gone by?

Send them to the 60th Anniversary Committee
at: holycrossis60@gmail.com

Parish Center Update: More to come very soon but we have finally settled part of the insurance claim regarding contents and are now working toward the final decision on the building itself. Regardless of when we finalize the insurance claim, it will take months to rebuild the Parish Center. In the meantime, we should soon have a classroom trailer located on the Great Lawn in order to give us some much needed additional gathering space. Please don't hesitate to contact the office or anyone on Council if you have questions about our progress.



To make an electronic donation
using your phone, just scan the
QR code.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HOMEWORK ALREADY!
I JUST GOT BACK TO
SCHOOL!



I HAVE TO WRITE A
PARAGRAPH ON WHAT
I DID OVER THE SUMMER!
A WHOLE PARAGRAPH!!



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 (and Facebook Live)

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 2:00