

# September 2023

## Thoughts in Print—from Pastor Sue

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last week I arrived back in NJ from medical leave for my knee replacement and have been in the office as much as possible while still juggling PT appointments several days a week. While I was away I had a good deal of time to pray and ponder. Mostly about where we are in our ministry and where we are going. Of course there's the near-term with the beginning of a new program year looming large with our Fall Kick-Off on September 17th and just trying to get the usual things going after the Summer break. But I found myself thinking once again about the question of our purpose here at Holy Cross; my purpose at HC as your pastor. That may seem a little silly, I mean yes, we are here to share the Gospel of Jesus with each other and the community around us, and yes, we are here to grow in faith and support one another. But where we all need to put some energy is to define what that looks like for us and how we do that? What is unique about us as individuals, and collectively as a community, that we can clearly identify the specific things we should be doing together under the big umbrella of sharing and growing? To put it another way, what does God want us to be up to around here and how do we make it happen?

The other thing that I could clearly see in hindsight is how COVID and the shut down have changed us. It was a difficult time for everyone filled with change and even loss. It changed us personally and as people of God in this place. In order for us to move forward together in ministry, with and for each other, we all need to shake off the COVID doldrums (defined as a state or period of inactivity, stagnation, or depression), including me, roll up our sleeves, and get down to business. We have been operating in a way that we are trying to get many things back up and running and continuing without really asking ourselves if they are still the main things to focus on. We have also been operating with a smaller contingent of volunteers than ever before to make things happen. Worse yet, we have been operating for many years, even before I came to HC, with too high a dependency on the income from the Pre-School and balancing the budget from reserve/memorial funds.

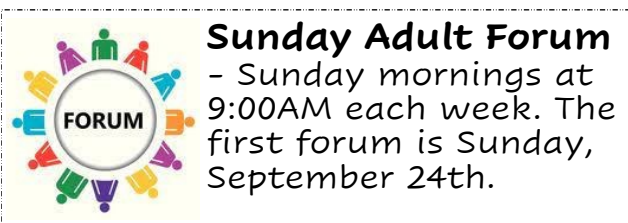
I honestly believe the time is now to be intentional about naming who we are at HC and what we believe to be the most important things to move forward. It's also important for all of us to prayerfully discern where we are called to actively participate in sharing the gifts each of us have been given in time, talent, and treasure to make it all happen.

I look forward to exploring the possibilities with all of you!

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9 NRSV*

Peace,

Pastor Sue



# Family Faith Formation Ministry

SUNDAY  
SCHOOL



**Sunday School Returns - Sunday, Sept. 17th**, Sunday School will begin again. Please note it will now be **during the 10 AM worship service**. Everyone will begin in worship together and our Sunday School students and their leaders will be dismissed after the children's message to their classroom. Children age three through 6th grade are eligible. Please note - this means no "drop-offs" as we believe it's important to begin in worship together as a family. All children must be accompanied by an adult while in worship. (Children will leave with their teachers for class after the children's message.)

**Blessing of the Backpacks - Sunday, Sept. 17th** during the Children's Message at worship. Everyone is encouraged to bring a backpack, school or work bag and participate in this important opportunity to begin a new program year with a special blessing.



## Sunday School Teachers and Volunteers Wanted -

If you are interested in helping with our Sunday School program, either in teaching or helping out as a second adult in the room on a rotating basis. Please contact Pastor Sue if you can help or sign-up on the Family Faith Formation bulletin board.

**Confirmation Ministry - October 1st** - For those returning to Confirmation for 8th grade and those entering 7th who will be starting the program this year! We'll meet in the trailer after church for an overview of the program. This is for both kids and at least one parent. Please contact Pastor Sue directly if you are interested in participating but are unable to make it on this day.



## God's Work. Our Hands

September 17th after worship. We'll be painting and sanding picnic tables on the playground, painting the Youth Room, putting together personal care kits for ministries

serving the homeless in our area, etc.

There is a box provided in the Narthex to collect travel size items. **Things to bring** - shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrush, nail clipper, band aids, wet wipes, comb, lip balm, tissues.

**Bring your lunch!**



"To our beloved Holy Cross family—our hearts are overflowing with love and gratitude for the outpouring of support we have received. It is especially evident in the wonderful tribute to Al on Saturday, August 12, when 191 family and friends attended his celebration of life service. May God continue to bless Holy Cross, Pastor Sue, and our amazing congregation."

Grace Jacobsen and family.



## National Night Out

Come check out the awesome first responder displays, participate in our police obstacle course, enjoy cuisine from local food trucks, don't forget the face painting, Around the World in TR walk, stop at our community partner tents (including Holy Cross), see the K9 and motorcycle demos, and enjoy some popcorn and cotton candy; all while listening music and having a blast with friends, family, and our awesome community!

Thursday, August 31, 2023

Huddy Park, Toms River

5:00—8:00 PM



## Contemporary Hymn Sing

September 24th

immediately following worship. Come join us as we learn new hymns and share pizza and drinks for lunch.



## Coffee Hours

Beginning October 1st

If you can host a coffee hour, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Pastries, coffee, tea, etc. are provided. All you need to do is set-up the coffee, put out the pastries, cups and napkins, and clean-up afterwards. Thank you!!



## 10th Annual Celebration of Hope Walk

September 9 @ 8:00 am-12:00 pm

Hiering Avenue Beach, Seaside Heights

\$10.00 (includes t-shirt)

This annual two-mile walk on the Seaside Heights boardwalk is an awareness and fundraising effort to benefit HOPE Sheds Light. The walk highlights resources for family members and friends impacted by substance use disorder, inspirational speakers, a Tree of HOPE, onsite vendors, a raffle and more!

Start or join a team, or register individually to support HOPE Sheds Light in their mission to educate individuals, families and the community about the disease of addiction and to provide hope and resources for recovery. Once your registration is complete, you are ready to begin fundraising! Thank you for supporting our cause.

<https://ssl.charityweb.net/hopeshedslight/walk/>



## We welcome the newly baptized.

Olivia Grace Kopf—June 11  
daughter of Ashley Kopf

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.

**Albert Jacobsen**

June 24

**Lambert "Bert" Cooper**  
July 7

**John Rabito**  
August 7

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

## Bell Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays, 4:30 PM.

Rehearsals begin

September 13

Please speak with Carol Capor for  
more information.



### Assisting Opportunities



IN

## WORSHIP

### Communion/ Worship Assistants and Ushers

Ushers, Communion  
and Worship

assistants are needed  
for both services.

Please sign-up on the bulletin board OR  
talk to Rich Provost.

**Spending Plan Update**—While projecting a \$50,000+ deficit at the beginning of this year, we are currently in the black as of the end of July. A sincere THANK YOU to all of you for your support to date that has helped us get to this point. A large portion of this is also due to a few extraordinary gifts from members/former members and to grants related to the Pre-School. Many thanks to Cindy Kane, our PreSchool Director, and Janet Formon, our school Treasurer, for all their diligence and hard work in tracking and applying for opportunities we were eligible for. We thank God for finding a way for us this year but we can't count on these sources of funding on an on-going basis. Please continue to be faithful in your giving so we can continue this trend through the end of this year and beyond.



## Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals:

Thursdays, 7:30 PM.

Rehearsals begin

September 14

Please speak with

Jean Heidorn for

more information.

### LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE - MAUI WILDFIRES

The significant loss of life and damage caused by the wildfires in Hawaii have turned our prayers and attention to mourning those lost, supporting the survivors and how Lutheran Disaster Response can assist with recovery. Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed over 100 lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. The Big Island of Hawaii has also been impacted by wildfires, and more islands remain vulnerable to additional fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and long-term recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

By standing with Maui's wildfire survivors, we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need.

Checks or money orders can be sent to:  
(Please do NOT make checks out to Holy Cross.)

Lutheran Disaster Response  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009  
(write US wildfires on memo line.)

Give by phone at 800-638-3522  
Monday through Friday,  
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Central time

OR online at [elca.org](http://elca.org)





### 2023 Who's Who on Council

**Pastor Susan Jones**

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**President, Janis Provost**

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**VP, Janice Hutchison**

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**Secretary, Pam Walter**

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**Lyndsay Tricarico**

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*Family Faith  
Formation*

dates  
to Remember

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| August 31 | National Night Out<br>Huddy Park, Toms River<br>5:00 - 8:00 PM   |
| Sept. 9   | Hope Sheds Light<br>10th Annual Walk<br>8:00 AM, Seaside Heights   |
| Sept. 13  | Handbell Rehearsals begin<br>4:30 PM   |
| Sept. 14  | Sanctuary Choir<br>Rehearsals begin - 7:00 pm  |
| Sept. 17  | Fall Kick-Off - 10:00 AM<br>Sunday School begins<br>Backpack blessing<br>God's Work. Our Hands<br>11:30 AM |
| Sept. 24  | Hymn Sing - 11:30 AM   |



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



**Church Office: P (732) 255-4455**  
**Christian Preschool & Day Care: (732) 255-3112**  
[Info@holycrosstr.com](mailto:Info@holycrosstr.com)  
[www.HolyCrossLutheranNJ.com](http://www.HolyCrossLutheranNJ.com)  
[www.facebook.com/holycrosstr](https://www.facebook.com/holycrosstr)  
 Twitter - @HolyCrossTR

**Worship Services:**  
**Saturday, 5:00 pm**  
**Sunday, 10:00 am (and Facebook Live)**

**Office hours:**  
**Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 2:00**