

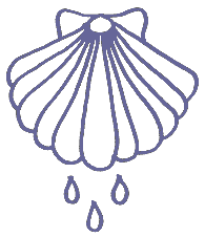
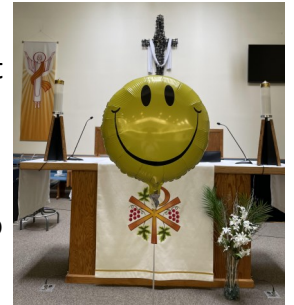


2024

Thoughts in Print - from Pastor Sue

"Good Morning Boys and Girls..." was how I began my day with our pre-schoolers in Chapel this morning. The story today was Jesus' Ascension which officially occurs this year on May 9th. Many times this day comes and goes without much notice as it frequently lands on a weekday. This year is no exception. I brought a helium-filled smiley balloon along with me to show the kids what ascension means and that it was a happy day for Jesus and the disciples. This is a really important story. But the more I thought about it, it strikes me that it's one of those happy/sad days in the story of Jesus. And it all started with the disciples so long ago when Jesus leaves them once and for all after his resurrection but promises them that the "advocate" the Holy Spirit will come and be with them always. How many times have I wondered what things would be like if Jesus would just show up once in a while? How many times has the whole idea of his second coming, as he promises in this story, filled me with both wonder and worry? How many times have I pondered what the disciples must have been feeling and wondered how to live up to their example of becoming Jesus' hands and feet and voice in a world that so desperately needs to hear and see his grace, forgiveness and love? As we enter into the last days of the Season of Easter and beyond, may we remember that we are called to be Easter people in a Good Friday world. We are called to be light in the darkness, peace in the chaos, as we are empowered by that very same Spirit that came to the disciples so long ago. Ya know, maybe it really is simply a happy day after all! Because Jesus is indeed with us always through the presence of the Spirit. And may we ever long for his coming again in glory! In the meantime, I will continue to say with gusto... Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! Amen! Peace!

Pastor Sue



We welcome the newly baptized.

*Maya Rose Garcia - April 14
Daughter of Jenna and Michael Garcia*

*Maija Yvonne Moore - April 21
Daughter of Jana and Justyn Moore*

*Quinn Josephine Mantel - April 28
Daughter of Samantha and Michael Mantel*



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.



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

THE NJ SYNOD THANKS YOU! Of our one hundred forty-five congregations in the NJ Synod, **138** responded to our 2024 Mission Support outreach. That is a 95% response! **Together, and due to your congregation's 'first fruits giving,' we estimate receiving nearly \$1, 680,000** in

the course of this year. Many thanks to all of you for learning, teaching and witnessing God's abundance in everyday ways through worship, service and giving. And thanks be to the Author of this redemptive life we observe together, that is, God Who has made such a life possible for each of us through faith in the Risen One: Christ our Lord!



Grief Group

Our next gathering is Sunday, May 19th at 11:15 AM in the youth room. Everybody is welcome.

(Please notice the date change for May)



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

Cindy Williams, Evelyn Hees, Leah Morgan, Valerie Horlacher, Scott, Maie Currie, Frank Lukasavage, Barbara Carlson, Dee Barbara, Kristine Schley, Susan and Sean Buglio, Jim Goubeaud, Lynn Ortiz, Lyn Fenwick, Carl, Audrey Lund



Blanketing Ceremony

June 23rd, 10:00 AM

A long-standing tradition at Holy Cross is the Blanketing Ceremony, honoring high school graduates. During the service on June 23rd, 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 4th. Any questions? Contact Janis Provost at 732-267-1428 or the office.)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We will celebrate
First Holy Communion
Sunday, May 5th
AND
Sunday May 12th.

May 5th - Abraham Jean Cullen
and Joseph Henry Giberson, V.

May 12th - Benjamin Raymond Haggerty, Jonah James Haggerty, Aurora Marie Mastodicasa, Ryder James Nesbihal, and Keith Logan Wyckoff.



The Holy Cross
Theater Group
presents:



Friday, May 24th @ 8PM
Saturday, May 25th @ 7PM
Sunday, May 26th @ 2PM

Tickets - \$10 (general admission)
Snacks and beverages available for purchase.

First United Methodist Church,
129 Chestnut St. Toms River, NJ

*We kindly ask you bring a Non-Perishable food item
for the Hope Center Food Bank*

Financial Update!

A sincere word of thanks to all of you who have been faithful in helping to make ministry happen here at Holy Cross. We continue to hold the line on expenses where possible while not compromising ministry. But the best news of all is that all of you, the disciples of Holy Cross, have increased your giving. Our financial status this year is trending positive, all without COVID grant related support or extraordinary gifts to date. Thank you for your willingness to listen to the leading of the Spirit in sharing your time, talent, and treasure!



- **January** - (\$741) less than needed
- Income for **February** = \$23,605; Actual Expenses for February = \$22,613
Income vs. Expenses for February = \$992 more than needed
- Income for **March** = \$28,278; Actual Expenses for March = \$23,154;
Income vs. Expenses for March = \$5,124; more than needed
- **2024 Year to Date = positive \$6,706**
- 2023 Year to Date = negative (\$3,063)



Also, your contributions to the Building Maintenance Fund have helped us stay ahead of unexpected maintenance and repair needs as they arise. Again, thank you! Please feel free to contact the office at any time if you have questions regarding your giving, how to get signed up for the Simply Giving program (where your contributions are automatically sent from your checking account), or with questions on the spending plan and how your generosity is used to support our ministry together!

PC Update!

As of this writing, we have finalized most of the details for the floor plan including ideas for how we plan to modify the area behind the building as outside space and how the new stage plan will be implemented. Some additional items of note:



Additional plans for the stage area including stage height, lighting, sound, and curtains/backdrop are being investigated.

The interior of the building has been cleaned out with the exception of the kitchen as we are still making decisions on what can and/or should be salvaged or redone.

A replacement stove, new commercial freezer and a new warming oven are being purchased. The steam table will be taken out.

The building contractor should be able to begin work on demolition of the damaged structure within a few weeks. The rear of the building will be shortened, framing steel and exterior siding salvaged where possible to be reused, and the roof and insulation will be replaced. The quote/contract for this is currently being finalized.

Plans are also underway to have the steel framing and side walls cleaned on the interior of the building where there is smoke damage/residue.

While the work is going on we are keeping track of the insurance money that we invested with the help of TD Bank and it is making us a good deal of interest. When needed, we are keeping appropriate amounts out as the T-bills come due and reinvest what we don't need until a later date.

Needless to say, it is wonderful to see progress, even if it's still too early in the process to have a propose completion date. We are grateful for the work of John Burgdorfer and Arvo Prima and company! Their expertise and willingness to serve are indeed a gift to us.



CROSSROADS CAMP OPEN HOUSE

June 8, 2024

Come and visit
Cross Roads
Camp & Retreat

Center for one of our open houses this spring! Learn all about our summer and year-round opportunities. Take a tour of camp, hear stories about summer camp, ask questions of our staff, and finish with a delicious lunch in the dining hall.

These are especially great opportunities for families interested in sending their children to camp for the first time (or attending Family Camp together) or for retreat leaders interested in one of our many buildings that are open year-round. These tours start at 10:30 am from the Lodge and conclude after lunch at noon. Please register by the Monday before the date attending.

Learn more and register at: <https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/open-houses/>

You can find brochures and camp registrations in the rack in the narthex.



*Blessed are those
who die
in the Lord.*

Madeline Weltz

January 12

Lillian Eitzen

April 20

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

Vacation Bible School

July 8-12

8:45 AM to Noon



Grab your dive buddies for a whale of a good time! At SCUBA, kids plunge into an undersea world brimming with colorful coral, flashy fish and abundant life. Immersed in oceans of fun, kids discover God is a real friend who loves them forever!

Come and join Tad the Frog Fish, Finnley the Dolphin, Fisher the Seal, Waylon the Whale Shark and Octavia the Octopus, as they teach us all about Elijah, Jonah, Jesus and Lydia.

Ages 3 (must be potty trained) through 5th grade; grades 6 and up can be VBS helpers.

Please contact Janis Provost at 732-267-1428 or email janis1455@aol.com for further information or if you are interested in helping.

(Registration forms are in this newsletter and in the narthex.)

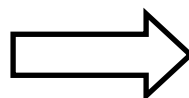


PICNIC and WORSHIP in the PARK

**When: Sunday, June 2, 11:00 AM
Worship Service 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.

The Picnic Team needs your help!
Contact Diane McCabe.



PLEASE NOTE - There will be NO Sunday service at the church on the day of the picnic.



Holy Cross has six committees. They are:

Community Outreach: is exactly that. This committee reaches out to the community by coordinating the Thanksgiving dinner, collaborating with the Toms River Housing and Homeless Coalition, Church Woman United, Caregivers and Your Grandmother's Cupboard. Nicki Schley and

Karen Brandt are the Council Reps.

Discipleship: focuses on the nurturing and supporting individuals to grow in their faith. This committee has started a grief support group that meets every second Sunday of the month at 11:30. Lisa Fobian is the Council Rep.

Fellowship: is the party committee. They organize the church picnic, Mardi Gras, Ocktoberfest, movie night, etc. Joe Ombres and Andrea Stemmermann are the Council Reps.

Family Faith Formation Ministry (FFFM): all Christian Education, SPLASH (baptismal roll), Sunday Church School, First Holy Communion and Confirmation instructions, youth activities, Vacation Bible School (VBS) and adult education fall under this committee. Nicki Nesbihal is the Council Rep.

Property: takes care of the maintenance of the church building and the surrounding grounds. They make repairs where and when needed. Pam Walter is the Council Rep.

Worship and Music: is just what it says, they are responsible for anything that pertains to Worship. Altar Guild, ushers, choirs, assisting ministers, communion assistants, all the music that is played in the church falls under this committee. Peter Riemschneider is the Council Rep.

If any of these committees interest you, please contact the council reps or Janis Provost or Pastor Sue for more information. There is no need to join a committee but helping out would be very much appreciated. Remember we are ALL part of the body of Christ, and we all need to work together

The 3rd Annual Golf Classic

May 20, 2024

Pebble Creek Golf Course

224 Route 537

Colts Neck, NJ



For more info or to register, go to

[The Hope Center \(houseofhopeocean.org\)](http://The Hope Center (houseofhopeocean.org))



The 2024 New Jersey Synod Assembly

Saturday, May 11 at The Grounds for Sculpture

Along with over 500 people from 146 ELCA churches in the New Jersey Synod, Pastor Sue, Nikki Schley and Karen Brandt will participate as voting members of Holy Cross.

Please keep Pastor Sue, Nikki and Karen in your prayers as they meet, pray, sing, praise God, and do the work of the NJ Synod!

BIBLE WORDSEARCH

H M V K V O X L W Z N E D E Z
 B X G H Q V Z F T C L P U J Z
 I T E H P O R P L K E J E A S
 P L N R L Y R M A I G Y L O H
 I O E Y F L J L S O N L S S A
 H R V I H C F E L C A R I M R
 S D A A A Z A I A T K R A Q V
 R S E H O C I T Q E W D M M M
 O M H S N J T X Z J X F A G E
 W R L U N S H H E U K E D G V
 T U O Z Z G A B H D D C A W E
 M O S E S A B P R E Y A R P J
 X E V L G K S U S E J R X O O
 N K I C Q E Y K M O D G N I K
 M S I T P A B L M F I D O G A

WORD LIST

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|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| ADAM | EVE | HOLY | MOSES |
| ANGEL | FAITH | JESUS | NOAH |
| ARK | GOD | KINGDOM | PRAYER |
| BAPTISM | GRACE | LORD | PROPHET |
| EDEN | HEAVEN | MIRACLE | WORSHIP |



2024 Who's Who on Council

Pastor Susan Jones
sjones@holycrosstr.com

President, Janis Provost
janis1455@aol.com

VP, Janice Hutchison
jjhutchison47@gmail.com

Secretary, Pam Walter
catgal5911@gmail.com

Treasurer, George Phillips
GPhill497@aol.com

Karen Brandt *Community Outreach*
kaybea@comcast.net

John Burgdorfer *Rebuilding Team*
jburgdorfer@studio200arch.com

Lisa Fobian *Discipleship*
mspmsn@aol.com

Nicki Nesbihal *Family Faith Formation*
nickinesbihal@gmail.com

Joe Ombres *Fellowship*
Joseph.Ombres@panalytical.com

Peter Riemschneider *Worship and Music*
riemschneiderrecycling@gmail.com

Nikki Schley *Community Outreach*
schley33@aol.com

Andrea Stemmermann *Fellowship*
emmajane801@gmail.com

Sunday, May 12, 10:00 am
First Holy Communion

Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 pm
Church Council

Sunday, May 19, 10:00 am
Pentecost with Confirmation
(wear red!)
AND
Grief Group at 11:15 am

Friday, May 24, 8:00 pm

Saturday, May 25, 7:00 pm

Sunday, May 26, 2:00 pm
Holy Cross Theater Group
"Footloose, the Musical"

Sunday, June 2, 11:00 am
Picnic and Worship in the Park
At Winding River Park

Monday—Friday

July 8—12

Vacation Bible School

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



Church Office: (732) 255-4455
Christian Preschool & Day Care: (732) 255-3112
info@holycrosstr.com
www.HolyCrossLutheranNJ.com
www.facebook.com/holycrosstr
Twitter - @HolyCrossTR

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

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