

September 2024

Thoughts in Print—from Pastor Sue

Ephesians 4:4-6, 15-16. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all...



¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

We read this passage a couple of weeks ago in church. Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus is one of my favorite books in the bible. The letter begins by reminding the folks there that, as gentiles, they are adopted into the covenant people of God through his grace shown to us in Jesus. That all who believe are now part of God's family for all time. In this passage, he talks about how we are all a new creation in Christ; that as a community of believers in Jesus, we are all one body and that each of us has a function within that body, for ourselves, for each other, and for the community in which we live and serve.

So... a little Pastor Sue "speaking the truth in love" as we look forward to a new program year. The "body" that is Holy Cross needs YOU!!!! And maybe, just maybe, something is missing in your life because you need the "body" that is Holy Cross. Time to get out of the bad habits we adopted because of COVID and grow as believers who worship, learn and serve TOGETHER. Without the gifts you have, the gifts you have been given by God, we are not the body of Christ both for each other and others. Quite frankly it feels as though we're missing some parts... Discipleship calls us not only to be believers, but followers. We are called to MOVE and LIVE and ACT into our faith. If we as a community of faith are to continue to serve one another, to discern and fulfill our calling, and quite honestly, to continue to exist in a challenging world, just as the folks in Ephesus that Paul was trying to encourage, it will take all of us to share who we are and what we have through prayerful discernment and participation. It is through community that we are able to share the love and grace we have been given as a gift with and for each other. Just as we need nourishment and rest to sustain our bodies, we need nourishment and rest to sustain our souls; the nourishment and rest that comes as we are together and are sustained for life in the world.

For those of you who have stuck it out through COVID and beyond; those who have sustained this ministry through challenging times and through thick and thin, you are truly examples of God's grace and love and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. For those of you who may need to reconnect, WELCOME HOME! Please seriously consider being part of our Fall Kick-Off/God's Work, Our Hands Day Event as we look toward our future in this place, as we get to know each other better or again, and as we seek what God has in store for us. See you on Sept. 15th!

Peace,

Pastor Sue



*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, Lyn Fenwick, Carl, Audrey Lund, Carole and Jerry, Robert Rively

Family Faith Formation Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL



HELP NEEDED! - Do You Like to Work with Children? Read Bible Stories? Do Crafts? - Do we have an opportunity for you!!!! Beginning with our Fall Kick-off on Sunday Sept. 15, we are hoping to have two Sunday School classes up and running. We have the children to support it and now WE NEED YOU! Volunteers are needed to be teachers and helpers for Sunday mornings. The groups will be split with Pre-K/K in one group and 1st through 5th grade in another. A sign-up sheet for the Fall is located on the FFFM bulletin board in the main hallway by the Church Office.

Blessing of the Backpacks - Sunday, Sept. 15th 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. Our Sunday School teachers will be commissioned as well.



A Teacher Orientation/Training session will be held on Sunday, Aug. 25th immediately following worship for new volunteers, anyone who has any questions, or needs a little refresher on how the program works, where materials can be found, etc. We look forward to seeing you hangin' with the kids!

Confirmation Program - Will begin in October (exact date TBD). Any youth 7th grade and older are encouraged to attend. See Pastor Sue or call the church office to register for the classes. Letters to known eligible youth will be sent in early September.



In the sacrament of Holy Communion, Jesus invites us to share a meal with family and friends that nourishes us for that journey. "Welcome to the Lord's table. We thank God for you. We pray that you will find joy and strength in this meal, until we feast forever at God's table in heaven."

Abraham Jean Cullen
Joseph Henry Giberson, V
Benjamin Raymond Haggerty
Jonah James Haggerty
Aurora Marie Mastrodicasa
Ryder James Nesbihal
Keith Logan Wyckoff



Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen

Gianna Frances Fernicola
Jaclyn Christine Ferone



Sunday Adult Forum - Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM each week. The first forum is Sunday, September 22nd at 8:45 AM. Join us as we begin a several week Study on the Book of Acts. At our first gathering we will do a general overview of the book and a reading plan will be provided for the rest of the study.



**LABOR DAY WEEK-
END WORSHIP!**

There will be NO in-person worship at Holy Cross on Saturday Aug. 31 or Sunday Sept. 1. Pastor Sue will be on vacation but will be broadcasting LIVE on Facebook at 10:00AM on Sunday, September 1st. Feel free to join her live or watch the recorded service as you are able.



Coffee Hours
Beginning in
October

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!!



We welcome the newly baptized.
Zacarias Wilberto Santiago

July 28
Son of Monica Ponce and Edward Santiago

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.



**11th Annual
Celebration of
Hope Walk**

September 7 @ 8:00 am-12:00 pm
Hieron Avenue Beach, Seaside Heights
\$10.00 (the 1st thousand receives a 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/>

Blessed are those who die in the Lord.



*Benjamin Pulcrano -
May 23*

*Rest eternal grant them
O Lord, and let light per-
petual shine upon them.*



Sanctuary Choir

Rehearsals:

Thursdays, 7:30 PM.

Rehearsals begin
September 12th.

Please speak with
Jean Heidorn for

more information.

Bell Choir

Rehearsals

Wednesdays, 4:30 PM.

Rehearsals begin
September 18th.

Please speak with Carol Capor for
more information.



The Hope Center Tools for School Collection

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our Tools for School collection for the Hope Center - especially our VBS families! A special shout-out to the folks at Target for the snack packs too! We received a bounty of backpacks (27!); a flood of folders; a cacophony of crayons; and a plethora of paper, pens and pencils. Pastor Sue delivered everything to grateful staff and volunteers for the much needed supplies for kids in our area returning to school!



With over 60 kids, Vacation Bible School was a week of singing, dancing, crafts, a few skinned knees, and learning about God. At SCUBA, kids plunged into an undersea world brimming with colorful coral, flashy fish and abundant life. Immersed in oceans of fun, kids discovered God is a real friend who loves them forever!

With Tad the Frog Fish, Finnley the Dolphin, Fisher the Seal, Waylon the Whale Shark and Octavia the Octopus, we learned all about Elijah, Jonah, Jesus and Lydia.

Thanks to all who helped - Madeline Abatemarco, Morgan Capezzer, Maija Cullen, Eva Dooner, Carol Dorn, Lyn Fenwick, Gianna Fernicola, Janet Formon, Nancy Grimes, Janice Hutchison, Grace Jacobsen, Caroline Keenan, Scott Keenan, Diane McCabe, Jana Moore, Nicki Nesbihal, Karen Nolan, Laurel Reis, Rylee Robinson; our head diver, Pastor Sue and our fearless director, Janis Provost.

See you all next year!!



Financial Update - First of all a big THANK YOU to all of you for your faithfulness, even as we are working our way through the summer months. I also want to thank the members of the Council and folks leading ministry areas for holding the line on overall spending. For the most part we have been holding our own. The deficit you see reported below is because the school pays the church "rent" of \$6000 a month except during July and August. What you see reflected below is the impact the school has on our overall ability to pay our bills.

We have been pretty much breaking even for the year to date until July. We're prayerful that as we get back into the normal program year in September and attendance goes up again that our giving will as well.

- Income for May = \$26,629; Actual Expenses for May = \$29,688;
Income vs. Expenses for May = \$3,059; less than needed
- Income for June = \$25,133; Actual Expenses for June = \$23,534;
Income vs. Expenses for June = \$1599; more than needed
- Income for July = \$14,849*; Actual Expenses for July = \$24,599;
Income vs. Expenses for July = \$9,750; less than needed*

2024 Year to Date = negative (\$7152) including \$6000 loss from the school as they don't pay the church rent in July and August

2023 Year to Date = positive \$26,516 - this was far more than usual due to grant income related to the school



PC UPDATE - In case you haven't had the chance to peek in the Parish Center recently, we are making GREAT progress on getting the building back together! FINALLY! As of now, the building has been completely cleaned and cleared out and the structural work to repair the fire damaged steel and replace the roof is underway. Once that's completed we will move right in to refinishing the inside. The building will have two additional meeting rooms and a patio area when completed. As of right now we are on budget and hope to have some funds left over to address some issues with the main building but we won't know for certain for a little while yet. At the very least we know that the funding we have will be enough to complete the rebuilding work without needing any additional funds. Please feel free to speak to Pastor Sue, Janis Provost, or John Burgdorfer if you have any questions.



SAVE THE DATE

A Synod memorial service celebrating the life of
Pastor Bruce Ewen will take place on
Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 11:00 AM,
at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
5800 Long Beach Blvd., Brant Beach, NJ 08008.

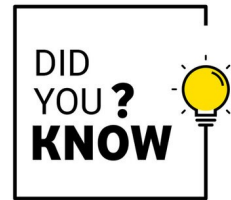




**Welcome to our new
(and returning) members**

Dennis and Carol Brink
Albert and Virgen DeLaTorre
Ricki Minix
Rosalie and Neil Petermann
Allison and Michael Rykaczewski (and Ellie)
Allison Salamon (and Victoria and William)
Paul Stenzel, Jr.

Almighty God, by the love of Jesus Christ you draw people to yourself and welcome them into the household of faith. May we show your love and joy by embracing our new brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen



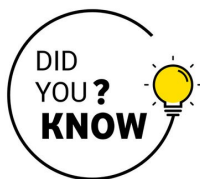
Did You Know???
The NJ Synod shares prayer opportunities each day at noon on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NJSynodELCA. You can also find NJ Synod news and events of interest.

KICK OFF

Fall Program Kick-off/God's Work, Our Hands Day

Sunday, Sept. 15th - COME JOIN THE FUN!

Worship at 10:00 with Sunday School followed by lunch and a time of fellowship. Activities for kids 5th grade and under provided. The rest of us will be gathering back in the Sanctuary for an opportunity to have some fun with finding out who we are in the "body" of Christ? Do you know what part you are? Hand, eye, maybe even a kidney? Please plan to attend!!! Lunch will be provided.



Did You Know??? - That Holy Cross has a "Wall of Heroes"? There is a bulletin board in the main hallway where we display the pictures and names of congregation members or their family members who are currently serving in the active military or reserves. This serves as a way to remember them in our prayers and place faces to names as we do so. Take a look and say a prayer as you go by and let us know if you have a hero we need to add to the Wall.



OCEAN COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Telling the Stories of Ocean County

Ocean County Historical Society Presents—

Eleanor Roosevelt:

The First Lady of Today's First Ladies

Sunday, October 20th at 2:00 pm.

27 Hadley Avenue, Toms River

Please register with Cindy Williams at 908-783-5182 OR sign-up on the bulletin board.

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

- Aug. 25 Teacher Orientation and Training, after 10 service
- Sept. 7 Hope Sheds Light
11th Annual Walk
8:00 AM, Seaside Heights
- Sept. 12 Sanctuary Choir
Rehearsals begin - 7:30 pm
- Sept. 15 Fall Kick-Off - 10:00 AM
Backpack blessing
God's Work. Our Hands
11:30 AM
- Sept. 18 Handbell Rehearsals begin
4:30 PM
- Sept. 22 Adult Forum begins
8:45 AM



Church Office: P (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:
 Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 2:00

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

