



March 2025

Thoughts in Print - from Pastor Sue

My Friends in Christ, this weekend we celebrated the Transfiguration and now Lent is upon us! We enter into this season with the Transfiguration and we end it with Easter, celebrations of the light of Christ in our lives and world. Yet, we remember that Lent is a holy season of Repentance and Renewal. Lately I've been thinking about the old saying, "May you live in interesting times." I think we can all relate to that particular saying in one way or another these days. Whether it's everything going on in our Country or around the world, or things much closer to home, there is a general feeling of uncertainty, and perhaps even fear, that seem to permeate so much of our lives.



We live in interesting times as a congregation as well. We have been through the ringer between COVID and the PC fire. And yet, we have come out the other side of the pandemic, and we are closing in on being able to celebrate the reopening of our building within the coming weeks. It feels in many ways that we've been living an extended Lent... and yet, we know where the Lenten journey ends... and we can almost reach out and touch the light at the end of this tunnel! I am truly prayerful that this time in our lives together at HC will be one of new opportunity and growth on many levels.

Lent has a significant emphasis on repentance, on the recognition of Jesus' sacrifice for us and how we are to take some time in this season to look in the mirror and ask ourselves how we miss the mark, Lent also reminds us of the possibilities born of renewal and that the end of the Lenten story is the glory of Easter and an empty cross and grave. It's a reminder to me that the idea of living in interesting times brings both challenge and opportunity. May we be both challenged in our reflections and lifted up in the promises of this season where we journey to the cross and beyond. May we be reassured that struggle, sin, and death NEVER have the last word for those who walk by faith.

May we always remember Isaiah's words in verse 9:2:

"The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined."

May the light at the end of this Lenten tunnel lead us always onward, together.

Peace, *Pastor Sue*



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

THE NJ SYNOD THANKS YOU!
In grateful appreciation of Holy Cross for giving
\$19,962.00
for 2024 Mission Support.

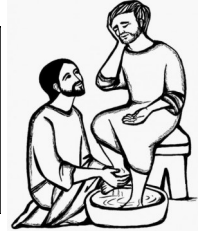


Finances	2024 Year End January 2025	Income vs Expenses = +\$1,316
		Income \$24,500
		Expenses <u>\$22,210</u>
		Balance + \$2,290



Holy Week / Easter Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday
11:00 AM and 7:00 PM
(7:00 pm also live-streamed)



Good Friday
March 29th
11:00 AM and 7:00 PM
(7:00 pm also live-streamed)



Easter Vigil
Saturday
April 19th
5:00 pm
(live-streamed)
Break the fast
after the service.
DESSERTS ONLY.



REJOICE!

He has been raised.
—Mark 16:6

Easter Sunday
9:00 am
(Family Friendly)
10:45 am *(Traditional)*
(Please note - Both Easter services will be live-streamed.)

EASTER PLANT ORDER FORM

Plants are \$9.00 each



Your Name _____
(Please write clearly)

of plants _____ Total amount due _____

DEDICATION:

_____ To the Glory of God _____ In Memory of Loved Ones
_____ In loving memory of _____

Special dedication/in honor of _____



Please place this form, with payment, in the offering plate
or turn in to the office. Thank you!

(All plant orders need to be submitted by April 13.)



*Blessed are those who
die in the Lord.
Laurelynn Reis
December 10, 2024
Karin Mason
January 28, 2025*

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



*We welcome the
newly baptized.*

*Lucas James Peaney, Jan. 12
Son of Jessica Raisner and
James Peaney*

Jessica Anne Raisner, Jan. 25

*Lillian Elsie White, Feb. 1
Daughter of Lauren and Cory White*

*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.*

**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

**Sunday School Help
Needed**



Each Sunday, we need 4 adults to lead Sunday School for children through 5th grade (2 teachers and 2 helpers). You do not need to commit to every week. For information or to volunteer, please speak with Pastor Sue or Janis Provost.



*Do you like to sing but
can't commit full-time
to the Sanctuary Choir?*

*Come join the "augmented" choir for
Holy Week and Easter. Rehearsals are
Thursdays at 7:30. See Jean Heidorn for
more information.*

Adult Bible Study

ELCA Daily Discipleship
Study for Lent begins on
March 9th.

Join us on Sunday
mornings at
8:45 AM.



*Please keep the following
people in your prayers:
(long-term illnesses)*

Cindy Williams, Evelyn Hees, Leah Morgan, Valerie Horlacher, Maie Currie, Frank Lukasavage, Barbara Carlson, Dee Barbara, Lyn Fenwick, Robert Rively, Tom and Marge Herr, Kristine Schley, Susan and Sean Buglio, Jim Goubeaud, Carl, Carole and Jerry, Anna Ricciardelli, Jim Hardesty, Lynn and Paul Owens, Carol Sims, Jackson, Carolyn Augustensen, Deborah Gersler

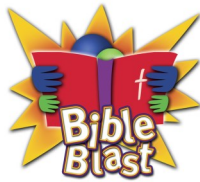


**The 37th NJ Synod Assembly
June 5 - 7, 2025**

East Brunswick, NJ 08816
**"Behold! I Make All Things
New." (Revelation 21:5)**

Along with over 500 people from 146 ELCA churches in the New Jersey Synod, Pastor Sue, Grace Jacobsen and Cindy Williams will participate as voting members of Holy Cross.

Please keep Pastor Sue, Grace and Cindy in your prayers as they meet, pray, sing, praise God, and do the work of the NJ Synod! Of special importance is the choosing of a new Bishop. Bishop Tracie Bartholomew has faithfully served the NJ Synod for the past 12 years and has earned a well-deserved retirement.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM

BEGINS WITH A BIBLE BLAST

For those in 2nd grade or older who haven't participated in the past.

- Monday, March 17th - 6:00 - Bible Blast
Learning Session 1
- Monday, March 24th - 6:30 - Learning Session 2
- Monday, April 7th - 6:30 - Learning Session 3
- Monday, April 28th - 6:30 - Learning Session 4
- Saturday, May 3rd - TBD - Wrap Up and Rehearsal
- Sunday, May 4th - 9:30 - Arrival for 1st HC
Worship service at 10:00

Please send an email to Pastor Sue at sjones@holycrosstr.com, Janis Provost at janis1455@aol.com or call the church office if interested in participating or for questions about the program.

(PARENTAL/ADULT PRESENCE IS REQUIRED.)

Midweek Lenten Services

Conversational Lent -
Beginning March 13th
Worship with an interactive
message
at 11 AM or 6:30 PM



Soup suppers
Soup supper at 6:00 prior to evening worship.
Sign-up sheet to help with Soup supper posted on the bulletin board.

preschool registration



Holy Cross Nursery School is now accepting registrations for the 2025–2026 school year. Church members receive a 5% discount on tuition. Call the school office at 732/255-3112 for information and registration forms.

AND

The nursery school is in need of substitutes! If you or someone you know is interested, have them stop by the nursery school office to pick up an application or call 732/255-3112 and speak with Mrs. Kane.



Holy Cross Theater Group
Open auditions for "High School Musical"
Friday, March 14, 7-9 pm
Saturday, March 15, 10-Noon
Sunday, March 16, 1-3 pm
Call the church office or more information.



2025 Who's Who on Council

Pastor Susan Jones
sjones@holycrosstr.com

President, TBD

VP, Janice Hutchison
jjhutchison47@gmail.com

Secretary, Pam Walter
catgal5911@gmail.com

Treasurer, Vacant

Karen Brandt *Community Outreach*
kaybea@comcast.net

John Burgdorfer *Rebuilding Team*
jburgdorfer@studio200arch.com

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

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

Janis Provost
janis1455@aol.com

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

Nikki Schley *Community Outreach*
schley33@aol.com

Paul Stenzel, Jr. *Property*
stenzinak219@verizon.net

Lenten Mid-week Services
March 13th, 20th and 27th
April 3rd and 10th
11:00 AM OR 6:30 PM
(Soup suppers at 6:00 PM)

- March 9 Grief Group, 11:15 AM
- March 11 Church Council, 6:30 PM
- March 17 1st Communion Class
6:00 PM
- March 24 1st Communion Class
6:30 PM

Confirmation Classes (Wednesdays)
March 19 at 6:00 PM

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



At the Annual Meeting,
a new Council member
was elected: Paul Stenzel, Jr.

Re-elected were:
Nicki Nesbihal and Janis Provost

Still needed:
Treasurer,
Remainder of a 2 year term,
And an open 3 year term

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

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