

HOLY CROSS

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

1500 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753
732-255-4455 * www.holycrosslutherannj.com

September 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" *Isaiah 6:8*

Everything in this life is a risk. You are given only two options. Take the risk and expect results or don't take the risk and expect nothing. What risks are you facing? Maybe a new job or a new house or even moving to another state.

But what about the risks God asked you to take on His behalf? God uses people who are willing to get out of their comfort zone. He uses people who are willing to take risks. Abram took a risk and become Abraham; Saul became Paul; the Leper approached Jesus for healing; Esther risked her life by approaching the king to save her people; Peter climbed out of the boat.

God uses people who are willing to get out of their comfort zone. He uses people who are willing to take risks.

The first time I heard the hymn, "Here I am, Lord" and had to sing it was in 1996 during graduation from Diakonia. I still cry every time I sing it. I ask myself am I worthy to go out and do what God has asked me to do. Taking risks can be very frightening.

Here at Holy Cross we take a risk every summer, knowing that folks are away and that we receive no income from the Preschool during July and August, we risk our financial stability as our income is decreased during this time. This can also be frightening. We pray that the disciples here at HC will take a risk, to remember our financial needs year round through online giving, the Simply Giving program, by simply mailing in their offerings even when not physically present, or by considering an additional gift during this time of year.

God uses people who are willing to get out of their comfort zone. If God has told you to do take a risk, what are you waiting for, take the risk. "The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you; He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." *Deuteronomy 31:8*.

Pray on taking the risk knowing how much God loves you and that He goes ahead of you. That is when fear of taking the risk begins to diminish.

Thank you for your support,
The Generosity Team



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



GRAND (RE)OPENING OF THE PARISH CENTER September 21, 1–4

Ribbon Cutting—1 PM

Dedication and Recognition—2 PM
(inside the Parish Center)

If you have photographs of the Parish Center, please send to the office.

Sign-up on the bulletin board
if you can help with the celebration.



God's Work, Our Hands

Sunday, Sept. 7 following Worship

Adult Study (8:45) and Sunday School (During 10AM Worship)

Begin Sunday, Sept. 14

New Member Information Gathering

Sunday, Sept. 14 following Worship

Parish Center Open House and Rededication

Sunday, Sept. 21 / 1-4

Confirmation Orientation

Sunday, Sept. 28 following Worship

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, Oct. 4 2PM

Oktoberfest

Sunday Oct. 26 (Time TBD)

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday Nov. 27 11 AM to 2 PM

Advent Family Night

Sunday Dec. 7 (Time TBD)

Blue Christmas Service

Sunday Dec. 21 3PM



We welcome the newly baptized.

Reed Martin Flohs

Rowan Leigh Flohs

August 3

Son and daughter of Nikki and Kyle Flohs.

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 MEMBER INFORMATION GATHERING

For anybody interested in joining our congregation, there is an informational gathering on Sunday, Sept. 14th immediately following Worship. If you are interested in joining but cannot make the meeting, see Pastor Sue.



Confirmation Program Orientation

Sunday, Sept. 28 following Worship for students and their parents. Any youth 6th grade and older are encouraged to attend. See Pastor Sue or call the church office to register for the classes.

**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**



HELP NEEDED! - Do You Like to Work with Children? Read Bible Stories? Do Crafts? - Do we have an opportunity for you!!!! Beginning Sunday, Sept. 14th, volunteers are needed to be teachers and helpers for Sunday mornings. The groups will be split with Pre-K–1st in one group and 2nd through 5th grade in another. A sign-up sheet for the fall is located on the FFFM bulletin board in the main hallway.



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

Arline Chapman, Cindy Williams, Evelyn Hees, Leah Morgan, Valerie Horlacher, Maie Currie, Frank Lukasavage, Barbara Carlson, Dee Barbara, Lyn Fenwick, Marge Herr, Kristine Schley, Susan and Sean Buglio, Jim Goubeaud, Carole and Jerry, Anna Ricciardelli, Jim Hardesty, Lynn and Paul Owens, Carol Sims, Jackson, Deborah Gerstler, Carol Brink



*Blessed are those
who die
in the Lord.*

Ronald Harris - July 31

Dennis Brink - August 4

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



Bell Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays, 4:30 PM.

Rehearsals begin

September 17th.

Please speak with Carol Capor for
more information.

Grief Group

Meets every second
Sunday of the month,
at 11:15 AM in the youth
room. Everybody is
welcome.



Adult Forum

Begins Sunday,
September 14th
At 8:45 AM

The topic of the first study:
The Art of Biblical Words.

This 5 week study (not including Sept. 21st), we'll be looking at the "breadth of meaning words convey and learn how it helps and hinders communication" and biblical interpretation.

We will meet in the Parish Center.
All are welcome!



Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals:

Thursdays, 7:30 PM.

Rehearsals begin

September 11th.

WE NEED TENORS!!!

Please speak with Jean Heidorn
for more information.



Help! During the summer's clean-up (carpets steam-cleaned, floors waxed, painting, etc.), the bulletin boards were taken down. I need help putting them back up. If you can help, let me know!! Thanks—Carol.

Blessing of the Animals Saturday, Oct. 4 2PM





God's Work, Our Hands

Sunday, September 7th

Immediately following 10:00 service

Bring your lunch and dress to get grubby!

(If you have work gloves and/or tools, feel free to bring those.)

We'll be doing work around (inside and outside) the church.

Pastor has t-shirts for \$15—many sizes available.



Blue Christmas Service

Sunday Dec. 21 at 3PM

A "Blue Christmas" or "Longest Night" service is a reflective worship service during the holiday season providing comfort and support to those experiencing grief, loss, or difficult times. A space for acknowledging pain, finding hope, and experiencing God's presence amidst sorrow.



12th Annual Celebration of HOPE Walk

When: Saturday, September 6

Time: Check-in begins at 8 am

Where: Hiering Avenue Beach
in Seaside Hts

Distance: 2 miles

Rain or Shine

Cost: \$10 registration

First 1000 registrants receive
a T-shirt at the walk.

Featuring entertainment,
vendors and inspirational
speakers

Register online at: hopeshedslight.org



Plentiful Plates Wish List

So excited to have Plentiful Plates moving back to the Parish Center this Fall after so long away. We are so grateful to Christ Episcopal

Church for hosting them while we rebuilt after the fire. Please go to our FaceBook page and follow the link to purchase items to help restock the kitchen with some of the things that were lost in the fire.



Thank you to everyone who helped with the VBS Mission Project (Supporting Toms River Cooling Centers).

Lots of supplies and a little over \$200 was collected to support homeless and at-risk folks in the community!



2025 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, Vacant

Karen Brandt

kaybea@comcast.net

Community Outreach

John Burgdorfer

jburgdorfer@studio200arch.com

Rebuilding Team

Albert Dela Torre

DAlbertdeli@aol.com

Lisa Fobian

mspmns@aol.com

Discipleship

Joe Ombres

Joseph.Ombres@panalytical.com

Fellowship

Peter Riemschneider

riemschneiderrecycling@gmail.com

Worship and Music

Nikki Schley

schley33@aol.com

Community Outreach

Andrea Stemmermann

emmajane801@gmail.com

Fellowship

Paul Stenzel, Jr.

stenzinak219@verizon.net

Property



God's Work, Our Hands

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Adult Study (8:45) and

Sunday School

(During 10AM Worship)

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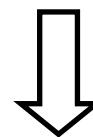
Confirmation Orientation

Sunday, Sept. 28 following Worship



The church office will be closed on Labor Day, September 1st.

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



Please note new office hours.

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:

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 - 2:00



It's school time!
Watch for children
and stop for the
school busses!