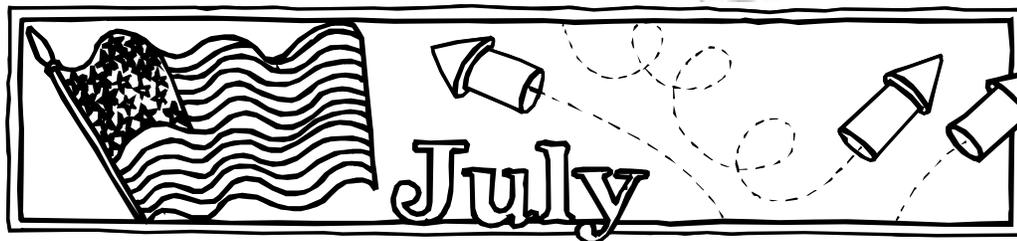


THE EPISTLE



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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July/August 2021

THE EPISTLE

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER WORSHIP - 9:00AM. (& 10:30AM on 7/4 & 8/1)
(& 11:30AM on 8/15 & 8/29)

SUNDAY SCHOOL continues thru the summer at 10:30AM.
See announcement of children's and adult lesson series.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - "Treasured...Discovering
You're Priceless to God", July 18-23, 6-8:30PM. See
enclosed announcement. Adult track will be offered.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT! - Tuesday, August 3rd, 6-
8:30PM rain or shine, at Hanover Township Community
Center. We will once again have a table. This is a great
night to have fun and witness to our neighbors!

FAMILY GAME NIGHT - Friday, August 6th at 6:30PM.

SIGHT & SOUND "QUEEN ESTHER" BUS TRIP -
Tuesday, August 10th leaving the church at 8:15AM. Late
lunch at Shady Maple after the show.

ADULT FORUM begins August 15th, 10:30AM to discuss
changing our denominational affiliation. We'll focus first
on our primary point of disagreement with the ELCA -- our
view of Scripture.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS - August 22nd. All backpacks
welcome.

FIFTH SUNDAY BRUNCH IS BACK! Bring your appetite
and a friend August 29th, 10:30AM.

2 WORDS FROM PASTOR DAVID

New Normal

Are you longing for a return to normalcy? Many are saying it's going to be a new normal. Not everything can be the same as it was before the pandemic.

How do you react to the phrase "new normal?" I think many resent the idea that change they did not choose is being forced on them. It's human nature to resist change. Of course, we realize there are things we need to change, but we want to be in control of that change. We'll change when we're good and ready. Sadly, many of us never feel ready and we continue to resist changing until our back is against the wall and there's no viable alternative.

Another reason we resist the idea of a new normal is that we fear it will be a worse normal than before. What if rights or privileges we cherish are lost forever? We certainly do need to be on guard against powerful opportunists who would use a crisis to force their idea of a better new normal on the rest of us.

I think we should be open to a new normal that would be a better normal. No matter who or what we hold responsible for the pandemic, we need to remember that God is sovereign and nothing happens without His permission. He has promised to work all things for the good of those who love Him (*Romans 8:28*). A better normal is possible, but it won't happen automatically. It will take concerted effort and divine intervention. It won't happen without prayer. My prayer is that God will lead us to a better new normal.

As we seek to return to normal this Fall, what are some things at Holy Cross we can make better? I'd like to mention three things I've been thinking of. Perhaps you can add to my list. Please pray for God to give Church Council wisdom as we make decisions about these and other important matters.

Sunday Morning Schedule

For most of us it has been nice to have one service. It has also worked well to have Sunday School after worship. Of course, 9:00 did not work for everyone and so we added monthly 10:30 services concurrent with Sunday School. Our 10:30 people are eager to return to weekly worship, but having Sunday School at the same time as worship every week will not work. Is there something else that will work? Let us know your thoughts. We're going to try an 11:30AM service on August 15th and 29th to see if a later service is feasible and for the following reason.

Denominational Affiliation

We are going to start Adult Forum meetings on August 15th at 10:30 to discuss changing our denominational affiliation. We'd like everyone to attend. From the beginning we have had concerns about the theological foundations upon which the ELCA was built. The primary issue is a faulty and inadequate view of Scripture which undermines the authority of Scripture. For many years we have felt out of step with the ELCA. It seems we have gotten further and further apart over more and more issues, at an accelerating rate. Please join us as we begin a congregation conversation about the issues that divide us and where the Lord would have us go.

Small Group Bible Studies

Having the right view of Scripture does little good if we are not actively reading and studying the Word and submitting to the Scripture's authority. It is our goal to have every member involved in Bible Study. In mid-August we will unveil some changes to our Small Group Bible Studies that we hope will convince everyone to join one. Understanding and obeying God's Word is essential for our growth as disciples of Jesus. What will it take for you to join a Bible Study this Fall? I believe it is key to forging ahead toward a better new normal.

~ Pastor David

Council Actions:

- We on Council appreciate your prayers on our behalf! Council meets from 6:30pm until about 8:30pm the third Wednesday of each month. (Our July meeting is postponed one week until the 28th due to VBS the week before.)

- Pastor Dave will be on vacation from June 24th through July 14th. Supply preachers are lined up.

- We need your help as we decide on worship times for the fall. On August 15th and on the 29th we will add an 11:30am service (in addition to our 9am service and 10:30am Sunday school). We hope this will be a good solution to those who want a later service and those who want Sunday School after a 9am service. Our August worship schedule is thus:
 - 8/1 - 9 & 10:30am communion, 10:30 SS
 - 8/8 - 9am worship, 10:30am SS
 - 8/15 - 9 & 11:30am communion, 10:30am SS
 - 8/22 - 9am worship, 10:30am SS
 - 8/29 - 9 & 11:30am communion,
10:30am brunch (see below).

- On August 29th we also hope to bring back the Fifth Sunday Brunch in place of 10:30am Sunday School. Please contact the Social Ministry committee and let them know you can help out!

- Holy Cross has an opportunity to host a Biblical Counseling course for the fall semester. BC-1, as it's called, teaches how to apply your life to Scripture. Struggling to change a bad or sinful habit? Want to understand the source of conflict? Wish you had a working knowledge of God's Word to encourage others? This may be the step you should take. For more information, please call or text Karen Brown (484-280-8356) or email Nancy Porambo (rnporambo@yahoo.com).

- September 25th has been chosen as the date of our community yard sale (rain date 10/2). Everyone has a role to play, even if it's simply to stay home and pray! For more details, please contact Ruthann Kistler.

Worship and Music Update

We're back! Our attendance numbers are growing as more people are returning to in-person worship. While we have many members we still miss, those who are back are back with smiles. We've also seen some regular visitors, both in-person and online.

We are still live-streaming the service at 9 am but it's not foolproof. We've had glitches. One week was not actually streaming and another had sound from outer space. These are Facebook issues and not on our end. We're looking at other options such as just recording the service and putting it on YouTube. We'll let you know of any changes we might make so stay tuned.

Some people are anxious to have a later service weekly instead of monthly. Rest assured we are looking at options to make that happen. We'll keep you posted on that as well.

In the meantime, mark your calendars for August 22nd for Backpack Blessings. Students (including adult students) should bring their backpacks to church that day.

On August 29th we'll have praise time followed by a 5th Sunday brunch. Yes, brunch is also back!

For those going on vacation, God be with you and keep you safe. Feel free to bring back a bulletin and share it with this committee. For those who still need to stay home we miss you! Stay safe and we hope to see you back soon. For everyone: have a great and blessed summer!

~ Jan Stryker, Worship & Music Chair



Summer Sunday School will be

At the Beach

Life in the Sun

All ages will join in the fun when we stop letting the tidal waves rock us, bask in the “son”, build our lives on Jesus instead of the shifting sands, and more.

Every Sunday from June 27 through August 8.



New Adult Sunday School Series

Begins June 27

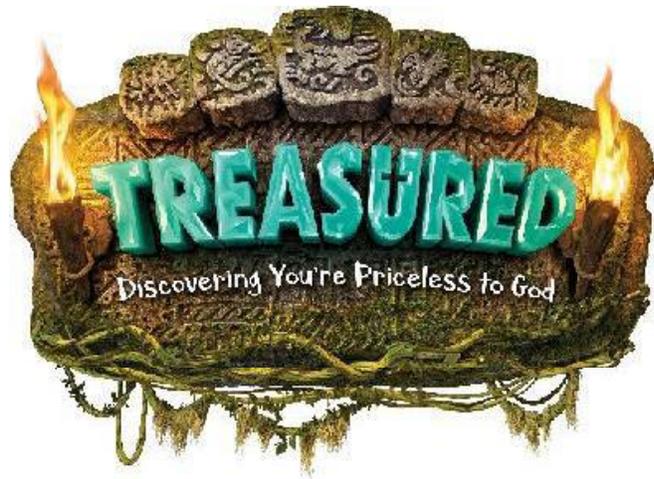
We've all seen *Antiques Roadshow* or *American Pickers* or some such show where a common, household object is found to have great value. Perhaps you've dreamed about finding a rare treasure in Grandmom's old jewelry box. Maybe you reached into a pocket of last summer's jacket and found some forgotten cash in there. Discovering an object of worth is a delightful surprise for us all!

Now imagine if your study of Scripture was filled with the same emotion! This is the effect that the OIA Bible study tool can have for you. It helps you really consider a passage of Scripture and what it means, finding insights that were almost hidden in plain sight. Think of it as the shovel used to dig for the treasure in the field.

This simple technique is helpful to the most reluctant student of the Word to the most learned among us. The "OIA" stands for "Observation, Interpretation, and Application," and this is simply the tools we use to learn anything. "Observation" refers to the standard questions of "who, what, when, where," such as "Who are the main characters mentioned in this passage?" and "Where is this action taking place?" "Interpretation" seeks to make sense of such information, answering "why" and "how" kinds of questions about the text you're reading. The final step, "application," helps us to apply ourselves to do what God is calling us to do in light of the Biblical passage we're reading.

Jim Femister will be leading the adult Sunday School class in this method beginning on June 27th. Jim has been teaching this technique to college students over the past several decades.

We hope you'll find new joy as Scripture opens up to you, and that you are encouraged in your faith and love of Christ as you consider His Word in this way.



VBS 2021

JULY 18-23

6:00 TO 8:30 pm

Kids 3 years through 6th Grade

7th Grade through age 99...we need your help!



Tell your friends and neighbors...
it will be a gem of an adventure!

What can a drunken brawler married to two wives have to tell us about salvation? You'd be surprised!

Welcome to Treasured! VBS Adult Track

Sunday - Thursday, July 18-22, 6:30-8:00pm

We'll read and discuss the fascinating tale of *Robinson Crusoe*, a story of pirates and life on the sea, shipwreck and desert islands, survival, and most importantly: rescue and redemption.

Though the class will be entertaining enough, you will benefit the most by reading the story beforehand. It can be accessed online here (<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/521/521-h/521-h.htm>) or a paper copy may be borrowed from Karen Brown (karen.brady.brown@gmail.com or 484-280-8356). If you prefer to listen to the story, a free version can be found on Librivox: https://ia800208.us.archive.org/0/items/robinson_crusoe_librivox/robinson_crusoe_01_defoe.mp3

Classic stories are classics for a reason, and you won't be sorry for taking the time to read this one!



Karen began teaching English (and other subjects) when she homeschooled her son, Jeremiah. She progressed into teaching various courses at a local homeschool co-op, and after Jeremiah's graduation in 2012, she applied and was hired as a science teacher at a local Christian high school. In addition to numerous science courses she picked up teaching literature and composition based on the classics and relies heavily on the wonderful Omnibus curriculum by Veritas Press. All such accreditations pale in light of her students' recommendations that "She makes class fun."

INGATHERING 2021

The Bethlehem/Easton Mission District
Ingathering for December 2020, postponed due
to COVID 19, is scheduled for **July 28, 2021**.

All donations are due by **Saturday, July 18** and
can be placed in the "Ingathering Box" located in
the Gathering Place

Holy Cross is responsible for 175 each of wash
cloths and bars of soap.

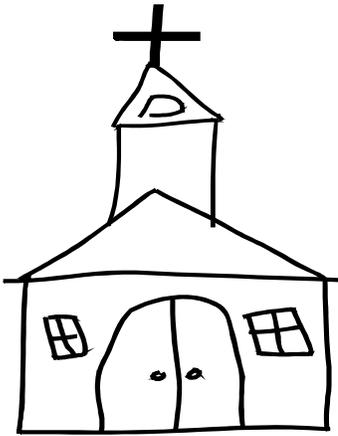
The following Institutions will benefit:

New Bethany Ministries	Turning Point
Safe Harbor Shelter	Victory House
Third Street Alliance	ProJeCt
Community Services	Hellertown Food Bank
Bright Hope (formally Care Net)	

Also, donations of new or good used towels,
blankets, sheets, pillow cases, caps, gloves,
mittens, socks & sweatshirts, scarves, baby
clothes and any new or good used board games,
toys, puzzles, playing cards and cleaning supplies.

Monetary donations can be made to Darlene
Treisner, Yvonne Frankenfield or Sally Stein.
Please, no stained, torn or frayed items.

Questions, please call Darlene at 610 442-8494.



Preschool News

Enrollment is underway! Keep prospective students and their parents in your prayers. Do you know someone to share a brochure with? Please help our program grow.

Contact Karen Steiner for further information.

Many thanks to all of those who helped to make this year a successful one. It was an all new, interesting, and very unforgettable school year.

The coming year will see an increase in our tuition. Our tuition fees have not increased in seven years and the preschool board decided to do so at this time. The three year old class will be two days per week at \$150 per month (9 months) for a yearly tuition of \$1,350 and the four year old class will be three days per week at \$180 per month (9 months) for a yearly tuition of \$1,620. This is about a 10% increase overall. The currently enrolled families were very understanding!

The preschool is officially finished for the 2020-2021 school year at the end of June and will reopen on Tuesday September 14th!

Happy Summer!!

~ Karen Steiner, Director

EAGLE PROJECT

Preschool Playground Restoration

To update the congregation, there will be an Eagle Scout project conducted by Joseph Barlow. This project has been approved by the property committee, church council, and Minsi Trails council.

The project will involve replacing the preschool playground fence and mulch as well as purchasing new playground equipment. The project has a total cost of \$12,000 to be completed.

In order to move forward in the planning process, we will need to fundraise \$4,000. Throughout this first stage of fundraising, you will find fundraising projects in the bulletin and gathering place.

You can also make donations to the preschool playground project on your offering envelope at any time.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please contact Mike Miller or Joseph Barlow (barlowjm23@gmail.com).

~ Joseph Barlow

A Summer Reading List

Heading to the beach? Or maybe you prefer the mountains where you enjoy sitting on an Adirondack chair by the lake. Do you like to go camping and lounge by a campfire? Perhaps you are planning a “staycation” where you just want to relax on the side porch in the shade. Wherever you find yourself this summer you may be taking some reading material with you for those down times. Holy Cross has a wealth of good reading material available in its two well-stocked libraries from which you may choose. Here are a few ideas:

Desiring God by John Piper

Summer is all about vacations and enjoyment, but how do we make that last? Why not take a pleasurable stroll with Piper as he makes the case for Christian hedonism. His premise is that our desire for delight is not wrong, but we simply settle for lesser things when God promises eternal, fulfilling joys.

Anything Austen

If you liked the story of Esther, you might enjoy reading a work of Jane Austen. Set in the time just before Victorian England, Austen’s heroines confront their own weaknesses and grow in grace. Like Esther, God’s hand is not explicitly mentioned and yet clearly at work.

“Treasured”

To help get into the spirit of our VBS theme, “Treasured,” you may want to pick up a copy of Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Treasure Island*, or Daniel Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe*. The former is a swashbuckling tale focusing on escaping the clutches of pirates, and there’s a fun Muppets’ version on DVD. The latter is an interesting tale of isolation that touches on themes of conversion, God’s provision, and survival. Oh, and there are also pirates! Both books are suitable for younger children, and,

along with the *Swiss Family Robinson*, would be great read-aloud book for families.

The Biography of George Mueller, by Faith Coxe Bailey

This book is part of a series of biographies published by Moody Publishers and prepared for children. It's a quick but inspirational read about a stubborn man used mightily by God. Whether you are tested in a large or small way, this account will encourage you in your faith.

The Hero Code by William H. McRaven (U.S. Navy Retired)

You may recognize this name from his famous book and motivational speech (often given at commencements) ***Make Your Bed***. This short, quick read is Admiral McRaven's ringing tribute to real, everyday heroes he has met over the years and the part they are playing to save the world.

The Women of the Bible Speak by Shannon Bream

This newly released book touts the wisdom of 16 women from scripture and their lessons for today. This will be especially interesting for those who have been studying the book of Esther or who plan to see the stage production at Sight and Sound. The author pairs the women together in a most interesting way, highlighting commonalities and differences.

Make Your Own Sunshine by Janice Dean

Another new book, this is a collection of inspiring stories of people who have found light in dark times. This is a very timely book that is easy to pick up any time and read any portion as time allows.

Anything Max Lucado

Max writes real page-turners that are easy to read during those lazy days of summer. A brand new one is ***How Happiness Happens***. The subtitle tells it all: "Finding Lasting Joy in a world of comparison, disappointment, and unmet expectations."

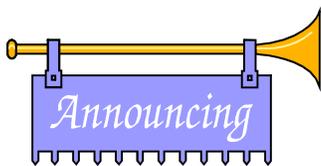
Mr. Lucado gives wonderful word pictures of how Jesus illustrated ways we can find happiness and real joy by serving others. The reader learns about 10 “one-anothers” we can exercise (serve one another, accept one another, etc.) to find true happiness.

An older work of Lucado’s, but just as relevant, is *He Chose the Nails*. In this book we learn about 13 different promises from God that are evident in the most menial elements of the crucifixion and resurrection, such as the crown of thorns, the sign above Christ’s head on the cross, and even the spit from the soldiers! In the end we learn: and He did it for me!!!

Certainly, these are not the only books available from which you can receive inspiration and refreshment this summer. We encourage you to span the shelves of the church libraries for others that might interest you. If one of the above tickles your fancy, we will have them on display for your convenience in the gathering place outside the sanctuary. Simply sign the binder in the library with your name and the date you take the book with you and return it as soon as you can for the next reader.

If you are planning a road trip or your eyes are just not holding up to a long read, you might consider an audio book. Jan Stryker is well-versed in listening to great books for times when she walks and drives. See her for some advice in this regard.

If you wish to share, we would also love to get your brief summaries of books you have found inspiring.



MEN'S RETREAT at Lake Champion will be September 23-26, 2021. Mark your calendar. Registration is open.

Go to <https://lv.priorityone.org/lc-registration>.



Yay!!

Game Night

Friday

August 6, 2021

6:30-8:30 PM

**Fun for the whole family!
Invite your friends and neighbors.
Holy Cross Fellowship Hall**



Holy Cross is going to see

QUEEN ESTHER

At Sight and Sound in Lancaster

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Adults: \$111

Children: \$79.00 (13 & under)

**Includes bus, show and meal at
Shady Maple**

**Bus will depart from the Holy Cross parking lot at
8:15 AM to view the 11:00 AM show.**

**We will enjoy a meal at Shady Maple at approximately
2:15 PM. Payment due by June 27, 2021.**

**Call 610-867-6231 or submit payment in church
envelope.**

Backpack Blessing

Sunday, August 22



All students may bring their backpacks to the 9:00 AM worship service for a blessing and a new ID tag!



CONGRATULATIONS **2021 GRADUATES**

Holy Cross Christian Preschool Graduates

Addison Doncsecz

Dominik Klinpaka

Peyton Redfield

Arya Stark

High School Graduates

Luke Gutman (grandson of Sharon Branigan) graduated from Parkland High School and will attend University of North Carolina in Charlotte, NC in the fall.

Skylre Hahn graduated from Liberty High School.

Joshua Miller graduated from Lehigh Valley Academy and plans to attend Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA in the fall.

Member Changes and Updates

This new section will provide address changes and other updates of our church family in an effort to keep you connected and up to date. Feel free to make contributions by contacting the church office by phone (610 867-6237) or email holycrossoffice@rcn.com.

Alan & Pat Davis have moved to 6305 Overview Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

Jennifer LoConte moved to 663 Walker Drive, Northampton, PA 18067.

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Dawn Mickelson
- 3 - Orlo Hulock/Crissy Stokes/Sarah Barlow
- 5 - Jeanette Brinker
- 6 - John Fuesler
- 9 - Kelsea Warren
- 14 - Ed Tkacik/Jan Stryker
- 16 - Alan Gilbert/Jonathan Miller
- 19 - Berlina Trapp
- 20 - Melissa Kulesza
- 21 - Carole Franceski
- 22 - Jeremiah Brown
- 24 - Ron Ballek
- 25 - Pastor David Brown
- 26 - Bryan Himmelwright

Jason & Megan McKnight - 7/3/11
Ken & Cindy Yoxheimer - 7/19/75
Michael & Penny Miller - 7/20/96
Brian & Michelle Yeakel - 7/25/98

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 - Truman Eshbach
- 3 - Judy Iasiello
- 5 - Richard Trapp
- 12 - Jessica Steiner/Becky Bennett/Layla Stark
- 13 - Gary Graham/Michele Sciarra/Zoë Stark
- 15 - Dante Smith
- 22 - Sandra Krisanda/Faith Miller
- 24 - William Margeson
- 25 - Seth Miller
- 26 - Bob Harwick/Julia LoConte
- 27 - Penny Miller/Terry Iasiello
- 30 - Marianne Sands/Cailah Baran

Jim & Karen Steiner - 8/5/89

Herb & Sally Stein - 8/14/93

Bob & Wendy Harwick - 8/21/82

Alan & Ruth Gilbert - 8/26/61

First Half 2021 Giving Statements

The January 1 - June 30, 2021 Giving Statements will be available in early July and will be located by the mailboxes for you to pick up. If you have any questions please contact Jan Stryker.

Looking Ahead Calendar Update!

Next 2 Months:

Sun, July 18 thru Fri, July 23, VBS

Tue, August 3 - National Night Out

Fri, August 6 - Game Night

Tue, August 10 - Sight and Sound Bus Trip, "Queen Esther"

Sun, August 22 - Backpack Blessing Sunday

Sun, August 29 - 5th Sunday Praise

Next Four Months:

Sun, Sept 12 - Rally Day/VBS Reunion/Grandparent Day

Sun, September 19 - Church Picnic

September 23-26 - MEN'S RETREAT at Lake Champion

Sun, October 10 - Shoe Box Sunday

Sat, October 30 - Trunk or Treat/Family Fall Fest

Sun, October 31—Reformation/Confirmation/Brunch

Wed, November 24--Community Thanksgiving Eve

Sun, November 28—Advent Workshop

Sat, December 11—Luminaria Night & Caroling

December 19—Birthday Party for Jesus

December 24--Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The Community Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 25.

More events and details to come.

Let's make 2021 great!!