

December 2021 & January 2022

- 12/1, 8, 15 & 22 – **Wednesdays in Advent**
5:30PM - Supper, 6:30PM - Worship
- 12/5 – **Second Sunday in Advent**
8:30 & 10:45AM - Holy Communion
9:45AM - Sunday School/New Members
- 12/11 – **Luminaria at 3PM, Christmas Caroling at 4:30PM**
- 12/12 – **Third Sunday in Advent** (Council Installation)
8:30 & 10:45AM – Worship; 9:45AM - SS
- 12/19 – **Fourth Sunday in Advent,**
8:30 & 10:45AM - Holy Communion
9:45AM - Sunday School/New Members
- 12/24 – **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** with Holy Communion at 7:00PM

- 12/25 – **Christmas Day**, 9:00AM, Holy Communion
- 12/26 – **First Sunday of Christmas,**
8:30 & 10:45AM – Praise Worship
9:45AM - SS Birthday Party for Jesus
- 1/2 – **2nd Sunday of Christmas/Epiphany,**
Carols & Lessons
- 1/9 – **The Baptism of Our Lord,** Holy Communion
- 1/16 – **2nd Sunday after Epiphany,**
- 1/23 – **3rd Sunday after Epiphany,** Holy Communion
- 1/30 – **4th Sunday after Epiphany,**
8:30AM-Worship, Reception of New Members
9:45-Fifth Sunday Brunch, 10:45-Worship

2 Words from Pastor David

Confident Faith

“So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.”

(Hebrews 10:35 NIV)



For the past few months my sermons have been going through the book of Hebrews. In chapter 10, having made the case for the superiority of Christ and the new covenant He has instituted, the author turns his focus to the practical consequences of

Christ's superiority for our lives. He begins by urging us to live with a confident faith.

Do You Have Confidence?

Confidence. Do you have it? You have every reason to. And you need it. Confidence can make a huge difference in your approach to life.

The Importance of Confidence

That's one of the things we learn from sports. Physical talent is not enough. Athletes need confidence to do well. Without confidence, they will be tentative and make mistakes.

When an athlete loses confidence that can be a tough hole to get out of. As the late Yogi Berra was quoted as saying, "Baseball is 90% mental, the other half is physical."

A gymnast, for example, has to throw herself into every move with total faith that she will land on her feet. Remember the controversy at the Summer Olympics when Simone Biles, arguably the best in the world, withdrew because she lost confidence and was afraid she would get hurt.

Confidence is not just for sports. We need it for every aspect of life. Our mental outlook makes a huge difference. The word "confidence" literally means "with faith." And so, for a Christian to lack confidence, to be without faith, is a contradiction in terms. Thus the author of Hebrews urges us not to throw away our confidence. You have every reason to be confident. Don't let that slip away.

The Source of Our Confidence: Christ Our Righteousness

The Source of our confidence can be summed up in one word: Christ. It is because of the finished work of Christ on the cross and the continuing intercession of Christ on our behalf that we can approach God with confidence and approach life with confidence.

Jeremiah 33:14-18 sums it up quite nicely. The prophet looks forward to a time when Jerusalem shall have a new name, "The Lord our righteousness." Because we are sinners, we should all dread coming into the presence of a holy God,

Who is a raging fire.

“It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

(Hebrews 10:31)

But, we've been given the righteousness of Christ as a gift. Because of that, because the Lord is our righteousness, we need not be afraid of approaching the Lord.

The Source of Our Confidence: Keeping Our Focus on Christ

As long as our focus is on Jesus, we can be perfectly confident. But it's so easy for us to lose focus. If we take our eyes off the Lord, and instead focus on our problems, our confidence slips away. Remember what happened to Peter when he was walking on water. As soon as he took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the wind and the waves, he began to sink.

As someone shared with me last week, we should glance at our problems, but gaze upon the Lord. It's as simple as that, and yet, how often do we do the opposite and as a result become ineffectual as believers and as a church. We have to keep our focus on Christ.

The Danger of Overconfidence

I think living by faith is a lot like walking a tightrope. On the one side is the danger of losing our confidence. On the other side is the danger of overconfidence. Another way of saying that is our confidence has to be in the Lord, not ourselves.

Using Peter again as an example, remember when the Lord told him he would deny Him three times the night Jesus was arrested. Peter said,

“Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

(Luke 22:33)

Peter did not realize how weak his faith was.

We are all in the same boat as Peter. That's why we are given the exhortation,

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)

The Danger of Overconfidence: A Lone Ember

We need each other to live the Christian life. Perhaps you’ve heard this story before, but it’s a good one, worth repeating:

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for his pastor’s visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember’s flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and “dead as a doornail.” Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.

Just before the pastor was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said, “Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday.”

The Danger of Overconfidence: We Need Each Other

We need each other. We live in a world filled with dangers, spiritual and otherwise. The devil is real and seeking any opportunity to knock us off our game. The devil wants us to give in to temptation and then the devil will accuse us, “What kind of a Christian are you? Look what you’ve done,” and voila, your confidence is shattered. The devil is not acting alone in this. The world is filled with people doing his bidding. And each one of us has a sinful nature that is all too willing to give in to temptation. We are so vulnerable. That’s why we need encouragement. When we are feeling weak, we need the encouragement of those who are strong. When we are feeling strong, we are needed to encourage those who are feeling weak.

The Danger of Overconfidence: Sinners Anonymous

We can learn a lot about the need for fellowship from Alcoholics Anonymous. They understand how important it is to be faithful in attending meetings. If you think you can stand on your own, beware, you are about to fall. Jesus warns us,

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life...” (Luke 21:34)

We should think of our fellowship as sinners anonymous. We are all addicts of sin who need each other to stay strong and not plunge back into our addiction.

The Christian life is not meant to be lived alone. We’re in this together.

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.” (Hebrews 10:25)

The Danger of Half-heartedness: Holding onto Your Sin

Someone who withdraws from fellowship with other Christians either has a false confidence in his own ability to stand against temptation or maybe he has decided to give in to temptation and doesn't want anybody interfering with that. The author addresses that next, warning:

“If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.” (Hebrews 10:26-27)

Think of it like this: we were imprisoned by our sin. Jesus came and opened the door of the prison cell and called us to come out and follow Him. If we stay in the prison cell, if we keep on deliberately sinning, what more can the Lord do for us? He has done everything necessary for our salvation and we have refused it. The only thing we can expect is judgment.

So let me ask you, as you come before the Lord today, do you come fully submitting your life to Him, confessing and repenting of your sin? Or do you come half-heartedly? Are you trying to have it both ways? You want be saved, but you also want to hold onto your sin. If you come seeking forgiveness for your sin, but fully intend to go out from here and keep right on sinning, you need to know it doesn't work that way. Do you think you can fool the Lord? You are only fooling yourself.

The Danger of Half-heartedness: Theology as an Excuse

Here's where we can get tripped up by our theology as Lutherans. We teach that we are both saints and sinners at the same time. I believe that is sound theology, but it is so easy to use that as an excuse to hold onto our sin. Don't get me wrong, we are still sinners. Every one of us no matter how pure our intentions, will go out from here and sin. In fact, you received the full pardon of the Lord at the beginning

of this service, but I'll bet many of you entertained a sinful thought shortly thereafter. Though that is the reality of sin in our lives, we must not use it as an excuse.

It is one thing to repent and then stumble and repent again. It is something else entirely to come seeking the Lord's pardon while fully intending to keep on sinning. That is to make a mockery of Christ and to treat

“as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant.” (Hebrews 10:29)

This Advent: Make a Plan

The alcoholic needs to make a clean break from his past life. The alcoholic needs a plan to keep himself from falling into temptation. Having a secret stash of alcohol somewhere will not work. He needs to get rid of it all.

Let me urge you this Advent season to make a plan to stop sinning. Examine yourself honestly. Are you submitting yourself fully to the Lord, or are you holding back? Are you holding onto certain sins that you can't seem to bring yourself to part with. Perhaps you need to fast and pray for God to deliver you from that. Perhaps God is calling you to fast and pray also for this assembly, that we would be the encouraging and loving community we are called to be.

The devil loves to see half-hearted Christians who are mired down in sin, who have lost confidence, and who will accomplish little with their lives. The devil is looking to throw us off our game, individually, and as a team. The devil wants to keep us from working together. Instead of encouraging one another, the devil would love to see us tearing each other down, so that we accomplish little for God's kingdom. Don't let him have his way. Let us pull together to encourage one another and to work together to accomplish the mission we have as a congregation to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to this community. There are so many people who need to hear the gospel, who need to hear about the freedom and confidence we can have in

Christ. For us to be effective in spreading this news we need to be living it ourselves. It all comes back to faith.

Living By Faith with Confidence

To live by faith means to leave our sin behind, to step out of the prison cell of our sin and follow Christ and learn His ways. It means to live with confidence trusting that through Christ we can accomplish all things. Let us not throw away our confidence.

And if we have lost it, let us encourage one another to fix our eyes again on Christ. Without confidence we will be weak and ineffectual, but with it we can

accomplish much for Christ. We are not

“those who shrink back and are destroyed, but ... those who believe and are saved.” (Hebrews 10:39)

Let us live by faith,

“being sure of what we hope for.” (Hebrews 11:1)

For Christians hope is not something we wish for, hope is a sure confidence in the Lord.

— *Pastor David*

Council Actions

- Approved the hiring of Marianne Sands as our new Church Secretary. She has already begun her training, and surely would appreciate our prayers. (Note: Secretary’s Day will be April 27th.) Thanks again to Lyn for his many years volunteering in this position.
- Approved a leave of absence for our treasurer from approximately mid-December through sometime in March. This will allow her to focus on recovering from knee surgery. Please keep Lisa in your prayers.
- Approved continuing our current worship service schedule: 8:30AM and 10:45AM worship;

9:45AM Sunday School. Thanks to all who participated in the survey about our Fall schedule. 22 people felt it was working well; 16 people felt strongly that we should have one service. What persuaded us to continue with two services is the fact that over the past four months average attendance when we have two services is 18 higher than when we have one service. Subtracting duplication, a second service enables about 15 additional people to worship with us. Those people are important to us. Though it involves additional volunteers and effort, providing multiple worship times is one way we can serve one another in love.

The Mitten Christmas Tree

The Mitten / Bright Hope Pregnancy Center tree was set up in the Gathering Place. Please place children’s mittens & gloves on the tree.

There are also stars on the tree with items needed

for the Bright Hope Pregnancy Center (Baby Wash, Baby Shampoo, Baby Lotion, Unscented Baby Wipes, Diapers of all sizes). Please place unwrapped items under the tree. Thank you.

Home Delivered Groceries

Seniors with a lack of transportation can now get their groceries delivered by Meals on Wheels (MOW). Most people are familiar with meal deliveries from MOW, however, they are now assisting with grocery deliveries.

More information is available by calling their office at 610 691-1030 or log on to their website: MOWGLV.org (Meals on Wheels Greater Lehigh Valley).

Bits & Pieces

2022 ALTAR FLOWER CHART is posted through June.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS - You can have a Daily Advent Devotion sent to your email by signing up at the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP) website (www.lampministry.org) and click on "News and Devotions." You can also download a devotional booklet.

2022 ENVELOPES - Offering envelopes for 2022 will be mailed directly to your home each quarter. The 1st quarter (Jan, Feb & March) envelopes will arrive in December 2021, the 2nd quarter envelopes will arrive in March 2022 and so on for the rest of the year. If you don't receive yours contact the Financial Secretary (Jan Stryker) or the church office.

Member Changes and Updates

This section provides 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.

Miykael Zyskowski's new address is:
903 Greenhouse Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Lorraine Granacher passed away on November 18, 2021. Pastor David conducted a graveside service on November 29th.

Church Directory Update

We will be publishing an updated Church Directory soon. There is a loose sheet in this Epistle for you to update your information including name, address, phone etc. We are especially looking to add cell

phone numbers and email addresses. Please update your information and return it to the church office or email it (holycrossoffice@rcn.com) by **January 10, 2022**.

Homebound Members

Alan & Ruth Gilbert
3625 Stephen Crane Ln
BETHLEHEM, PA 18017 610-867-4382

Erma Gohn
32 Valley Pk South
BETHLEHEM, PA 18018 610-865-6236

Marilyn Harding
737 Main St APT 906
BETHLEHEM, PA 18018 484-635-0808

Margie Kucirka

Sally Lerch
129 Mill St APT 312
BATH, PA 18014 610-837-3827

Marlene Thomas
1470 Harmor Ln
BETHLEHEM, PA 1807 610-866-1122

Please keep our sick and homebound members in your prayers. Call or send a card to let them know you're thinking of them.

F.Y.I. Treasurer

The Treasurer will be out of the office starting on 12/13/2021 for approximately 6 to 12 weeks. Please

contact Pastor Brown or Lyn Stryker for assistance.

Lisa Wechsler

Card Ministry – II Corinthians 4:15



Friends, watch for the original “snail mail” mailbox to return to the Gathering Place on January 1. It is a new year and we are in need of cards and stamps to continue our card ministry.

We are asking that you join us in reaching out. We often underestimate how happy a heartfelt note makes people feel. As long as your message is sincere, it’s likely to foster connection in a world that sometimes can feel cold.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays:

- 1 – Paige Sciarra
- 3 – Joshua Vetter/Nicholas Wechsler
- 4 – Bob Reppert
- 9 – Lisa Wechsler/Natasha Sazo
- 10 – Daniel Gilbert
- 18 – Keaton Westwood
- 19 – Martha Erney/Larry Wonderly
- 23 – Carol Stout
- 24 – Henry Lerch
- 26 – Pam McCandless

December Anniversaries:

- 20 – Rodney & Catherine Brown, Jr.
- 21 – Pastor David & Karen Brown
- 28 – Margaret & Wayne Woynovich

Cradle Roll



“NO, I will not rush!!!!” It’s never worth it. They...they are worth it...We’ll choose to slow down.” (Page 65)

In the hustle and bustle of the holidays let us pray that our families will slow down and take time to reflect on the real reason for the season as they teach their children about JESUS.

Please pass the names and contact information for any babies being born in your family or neighborhood. We would like to reach out to them through our Cradle Roll Ministry.

January Birthdays:

- 4 – Teri McLaughlin-Smith
- 5 – Gail Pillar
- 7 – Deborah Unangst
- 8 – Ruthann Kistler/Nathan Wertman
- 9 – Bruce Landis/Joseph Barlow
- 10 – Shirley Haug/Ingrid Ulshafer
- 11 – Carol Glasmire
- 15 – Judy Froehlich/Jacqueline Snyder
- 19 – Joseph Barlow
- 21 – Almorinda Demko
- 22 – Matthew Froehlich
- 23 – Dawn Schaeffer
- 25 – Alison Froehlich
- 28 – Ruth Gilbert

January Anniversaries:

- 30 – Nicholas & Melissa Kulesza

Winter/Spring 2022 Small Group Bible Studies

Holy Cross is committed to the Word of God. It is our goal to have every member involved in Bible Study.

1. Biblical Counseling 1 (BC-1) - Learn how to use the Bible to identify and solve your problems. Tuition (\$130) paid by the church. Participants will purchase books (\$65).

Meets every Monday at 7PM.

2. Biblical Counseling 2 (BC-2) - Learn how to counsel others Biblically. Tuition (\$130) paid by the church. Participants will purchase books (\$65).

Meets every Monday at 7PM.

3. Biblical Counseling 3 (BC-3) - Move to the next level of Biblical Counseling for God’s sake, yours and others. Tuition (\$130) paid by the church. Participants will purchase books (\$65).

Meets every Monday at 7PM.

4. 1 Peter - This epistle, a favorite of Luther, has

been called the Job of the New Testament, providing encouragement for believers dealing with severe hardship and persecution. Cost \$5.

A - Meets every other Tuesday at 4PM.

B - Meets every other Wednesday at 10AM.

Groups begin meeting the week of January 10th.

Contact the church office (610-867-6231 or

Holycrossoffice@rcn.com) to register (deadline January 10th) and indicate which course you want to take:

1 (BC-1) 2 (BC-2) 3 (BC-3)

4A (1 Peter -Tue) 4B (1 Peter -Wed).



Look for a **silver tree** in the Gathering Place.

It will have tags with names and Christmas wishes of residents from New Bethany Ministries. You may pick a tag, purchase the item listed and return it on **December 19th** during the Sunday School hour. (Place your tag on the gift and do **not** wrap it. New Bethany Ministries will wrap the gifts themselves)

If you would rather let Penny Miller do your shopping, you may donate money to pay for a gift. What a wonderful way to help someone less fortunate have a

Merry Christmas!

See Penny Miller for more information.
Or call or text her at 610-217-5706

THE MITTEN CHRISTMAS TREE

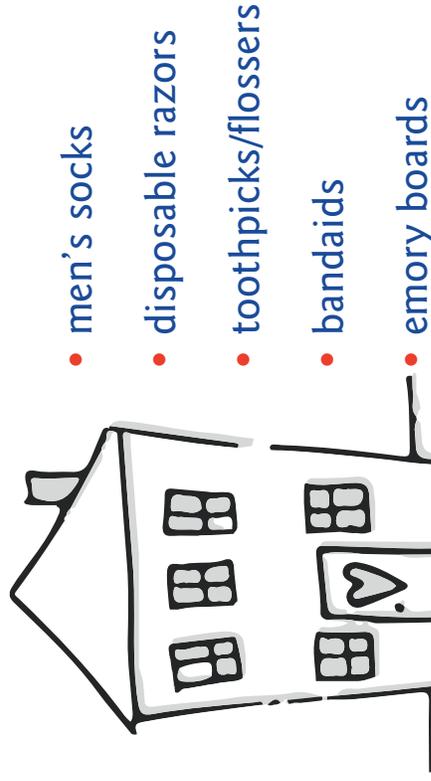
The Mitten / Bright Hope Pregnancy Center tree was set up in the Gathering Place. Please place children's mittens & gloves on the tree.

Homeless Ministry

Friends, thank you for your continued support of the Homeless Ministry.

Winter is fast approaching and the homeless are in great need. (John 12:8)

The Benevolence Committee is continuing to support the Homeless Ministry by collecting the following items:



Look for the "house" sitting on the table in the Gathering Place for your donations. Thank you.



Issues of the Heart

Some Things to Ponder

Issues of the Heart are short devotional thoughts based on the principles from the DEEP Biblical Counseling Institute. Please read, consider, look up the Biblical passages, and ask God to help you apply yourself to them.

FORGIVENESS:

- Write on a sheet of paper the names of persons who offended you. Describe in writing the specific wrongs you suffered (e.g. rejection, deprivation of love, injustice, unfairness, physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, betrayal, neglect, etc.)
- Face the hurt and the hate. Write down how you feel about these people and their offenses.
- Acknowledge the significance of the cross. It is the cross of Christ that makes forgiveness legally and morally right.
- Decide that you will bear the burden of each person's sin. (Gal. 6: 1-2)
- Decide to forgive.
- Take your list to God and pray the following: "I forgive (name) for (list for offense)."
- Destroy the list.
- Do not expect that your decision to forgive will result in major changes in the other persons.
- Try to understand the people you have forgiven. They are victims also.
- Expect positive results of forgiveness in you.
- Thank God for the lessons you have learned and the maturity you have gained as a result of the offenses and your decision to forgive the offenders (Romans 8: 28-29)
- Be sure to accept your part of the blame for the offenses you suffered.

At this point it is important to point out that forgiveness is not usually a one-time event but a process. You may make an initial decision to forgive, but that does not mean that you have completely or permanently forgiven. You must continue to work on forgiving and make the decision to forgive again if your anger and hate return. In some situations, complete and permanent forgiveness comes only after years of intense effort.

For His Glory

There has been some potential misinformation being shared recently, so I thought I would weigh in with some information.

Waiting to get sick from COVID-19 instead of immunized is dangerous. First, you have to get the infection, and risk serious illness and/or long-term health consequences. I know a few of our congregation are still battling aftereffects of having COVID. Second, you risk spreading the virus to friends and loved ones who might get a serious illness even if you don't. Third, the unvaccinated are more likely to spread COVID than vaccinated persons, especially if they don't have serious symptoms.

No vaccine is 100%, but natural immunity also fades after time. Vaccination reduces the risk of getting the disease and helps to protect you from severe illness or death from COVID. The number of cases being reported are largely in the unvaccinated population. According to the CDC, in August 2021 the unvaccinated had a 6.1 times greater risk of testing positive and 11.3 times greater risk of dying from COVID.

The COVID vaccine is relatively new, but the virus has been around for nearly 20 years. The vaccine has been in production for that time and with roadblocks and red tape taken out of the equation, the vaccine has been able to be tested and monitored for safety before being available to the public.

Being vaccinated after infection is called "hybrid" immunity. The CDC recommends that people who have previously had COVID get vaccinated because it's not known how long natural immunity will last. I have spoken to several positive cases who had COVID earlier in the year and have been re-infected with COVID. If you are one of the few to experience a breakthrough case of COVID, it will be a less severe case and much less chance of hospitalization.

Children have been less affected by COVID compared with adults. But children CAN get sick and spread COVID to others. Children with underlying medical conditions are at an increased risk, especially if the child is relatively healthy and parents are unaware of any underlying conditions. Children are also at a risk of developing Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) after being infected.

State prevention measures are put in place for our safety. It is recommended at this time that if you cannot or will not maintain a 6-foot distance, or if you are in a crowded indoor location, you should be wearing a mask.

I understand that there is anger about wearing a mask at all, even when it was a mandate and not a recommendation. At the very beginning of the pandemic, officials told us that my mask protects you; your mask protects me. I would love nothing more than to go mask free, but for the safety of people I encounter, I will wear my mask. This isn't due to fear of COVID, but protection for our congregation and our greater community. We are in a high community transmission region, until the case numbers go down, I will continue to be masked.

Public Health is "the science and art of preventing disease." To make a blanket statement that Public Health officials are corrupt is dangerous. Public Health emergencies should not be political. Wouldn't it be better to put our differences and opinions aside and do what is in the best interest and health of one another?

Public Health in the Lehigh Valley is boots on the ground. We are exceptionally fortunate in our area that we have so many dedicated Public Health Workers striving to make the Lehigh Valley as safe as we can by investigating cases, contact tracing, vaccinating, and educating the population about preventable diseases and prevention methods.

Patty Stein
Acting President of Council
Public Health Official

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church
10/2021 Monthly Treasurer's Report

INCOME	MONTH		YTD
Transfer Money In (CHURCH)	\$	-	\$ 20,195.66
TRANSFER MONEY IN (PRESCHOOL)	\$	3,707.54	\$ 13,427.96
Transfer Money Out	\$	22,635.25	\$ 22,635.25
Regular General Fund Receipts	\$	13,308.75	\$ 134,381.39
Specified General Fund Receipts	\$	1,881.06	\$ 29,786.23
Benevolence	\$	2,388.00	\$ 26,360.99
Special Benevolences	\$	154.00	\$ 2,414.79
Total	\$	17,731.81	\$ 192,943.40

EXPENSES	MONTH		YTD
Pastor		4,619.19	\$ 68,433.61
Salaries		3,364.50	\$ 33,645.00
Administration		2,629.86	\$ 6,607.93
Stewardship		31.93	\$ 579.65
Benevolence		0.00	\$ -
Church Property		46.81	\$ 14,393.88
Utilities		605.88	\$ 8,800.64
Publicity		0.00	\$ 152.00
Christian Education		35.96	\$ 3,838.71
Outreach		0.00	\$ 417.31
Social Ministry		0.00	\$ 274.43
Worship and Music		208.86	\$ 632.71
Total Expenditures	\$	11,542.99	\$ 137,775.87

Surplus/Deficit	\$	6,188.82	\$ 55,167.53
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General Fund Surplus/Deficit	\$	1,765.76	\$ (3,394.48)
NOT IN TOTALS			

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

11/2021 Monthly Treasurer's Report

INCOME	MONTH		YTD
Transfer Money In (CHURCH)	\$	-	\$ 20,195.66
TRANSFER MONEY IN (PRESCHOOL)	\$	-	\$ 13,427.96
Transfer Money Out	\$	-	\$ 22,635.25
Regular General Fund Receipts	\$	13,383.00	\$ 148,314.39
Specified General Fund Receipts	\$	744.00	\$ 30,530.23
Benevolence	\$	2,211.00	\$ 28,571.99
Special Benevolences	\$	144.76	\$ 2,559.55
Total	\$	16,482.76	\$ 209,976.16

EXPENSES	MONTH		YTD
Pastor		10,490.89	\$ 78,924.50
Salaries		3,364.50	\$ 37,009.50
Administration		603.53	\$ 7,211.46
Stewardship		31.60	\$ 611.25
Benevolence		0.00	\$ -
Church Property		1,696.00	\$ 16,089.88
Utilities		611.22	\$ 9,411.86
Publicity		0.00	\$ 152.00
Christian Education		319.15	\$ 4,157.86
Outreach		266.20	\$ 683.51
Social Ministry		51.50	\$ 325.93
Worship and Music		0.00	\$ 632.71
Total Expenditures	\$	17,434.59	\$ 155,210.46

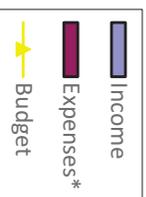
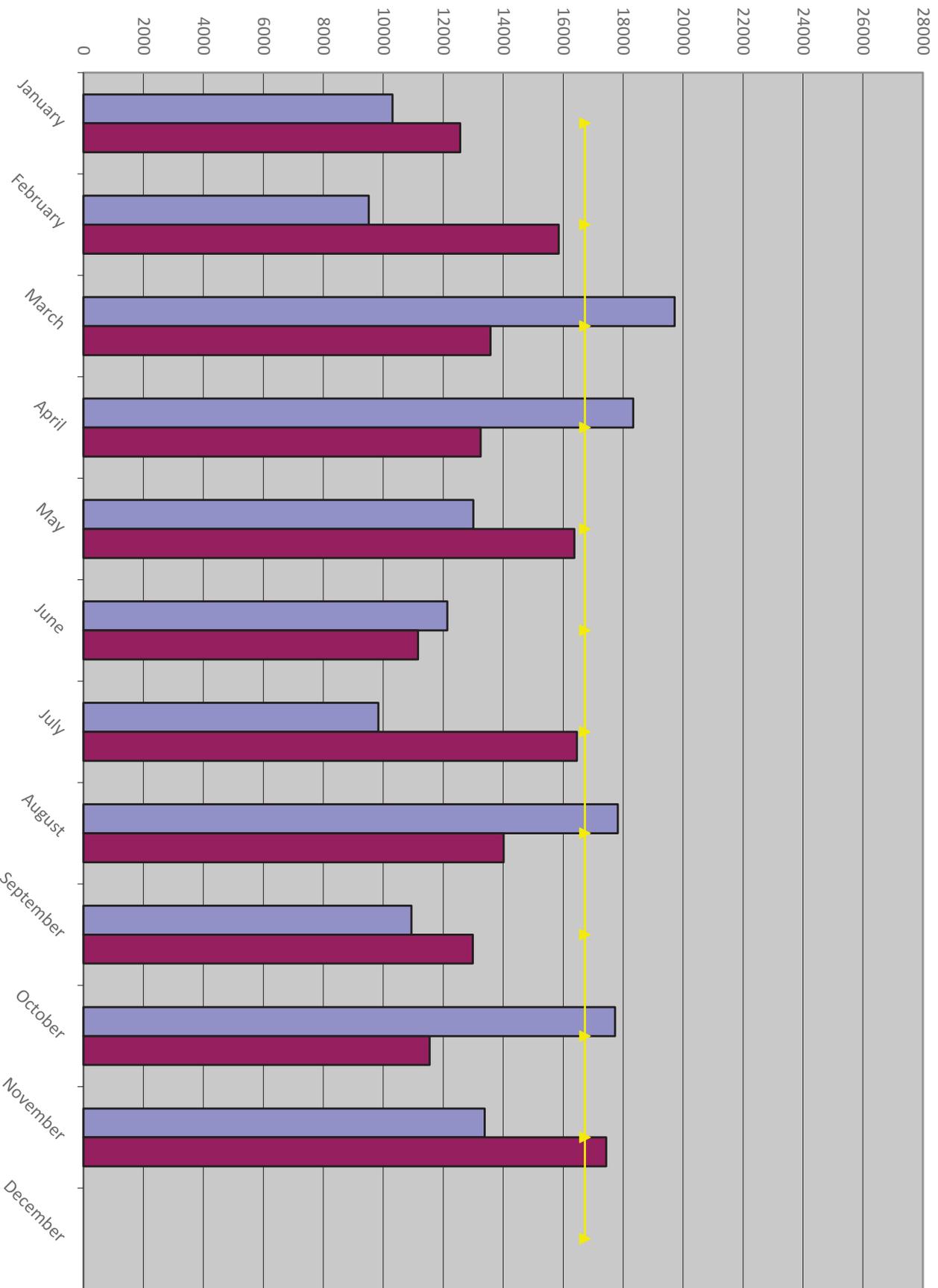
Surplus/Deficit	\$	(951.83)	\$ 54,765.70
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NOT IN TOTALS

General Fund Surplus/Deficit	\$	(4,051.59)	\$ (6,896.07)
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November 2021

Income and Expenses Compared to Budget (Monthly)





You are invited to a

Birthday Party for Jesus

Sunday, December 26, 2021

During the Sunday School hour

Fellowship Hall

**This will be a real celebration of
the most wonderful gift ever given
our world!**

If you filled an

Advent Reverse Calendar gift box,

please bring it to the party to be donated to

Everlasting Life Ministries

Reverse Advent Calendars



Time for one of Holy Cross's favorite traditions.

Here is a way to give back this Christmas season as you count down the days till December 25th!

1. Take a decorated box from the Gathering Place home with you.
2. Donate an item to the box each day of Advent.

A paper calendar with a suggestion list and daily scripture are inside each box. You may use the scripture for family or personal devotions. Please write in each day what you are donating as a help to Everlasting Life Ministries who will be receiving the filled boxes Christmas week.

It has become custom for our youth to deliver the filled boxes to ELM...a wonderful experience for them! Pastor Gus and his staff are so appreciative!

DECEMBER 2021 SERVANTS OF THE LORD

	Prayer Care	Liturgist	Live Stream	Lectors	Control Operator	Communion	Altar Guild	Wreath
Dec 5	Sharon Branigan	8:30-Patty Stein 10:45-Marianne Sands	8:30-Jan Stryker	8:30-Ruthann Kistler 10:45-Marianne Sands	8:30-Chris Chmela 10:45-Ken Yoxheimer	9:00-Patty S/Jonathan & Josh M 10:45-Marianne Sands	Jan S/ Sharon B	8:30-Miller Family 10:45-Sands Family
Dec 12	Ruthann Kistler	8:30-Jonathan Miller 10:45-Lynden Stryker	8:30-Michele Sciarra	8:30-Alyce Stein 10:45-Lynden Stryker	8:30-Chris Chmela 10:45-Ken Yoxheimer		Jan S/ Sharon B	8:30-Hahn Family 10:45-Sands Family
Dec 19	Pat Gilbert	8:30-Michele Sciarra 10:45-Marianne Sands	8:30-Mike Zyskowski	8:30-Lauri Barlow 10:45-Marianne Sands	8:30-Chris Chmela 10:45-Ken Yoxheimer	8:30-Michele S/Joseph & Sarah B 10:45-Marianne Sands	Jan S/ Sharon B	8:30-Barlow Family 10:45-Sciarra Family
Dec 24	Acolytes Tyler S/ Adam B/ Seth M	Marianne Sands	Amanda Wechsler	Michele Sciarra	Lyn Stryker	Marianne Sands/Michele Sciarra/Lyn Stryker	Jan S/ Sharon B	
Dec 25	Acolyte Seth M	Patty Stein	Amanda Wechsler		Lyn Stryker	Patty S/Jonathan & Josh M	Jan S/ Sharon B	
Dec 26	Darlene Treasurer	8:30-Patty Stein 10:45-Michele Sciarra	8:30-Amanda Wechsler	8:30-Pat G/Penny M 10:45-Michele S/ Sharon B	8:30-Chris Chmela 10:45-Jim Steiner		Jan S/ Sharon B	

COUNTERS: Michele S/Karen B/Jan S
PHONE TREE: Michele Sciarra

HOME COMMUNION - Pastor David
CHILDREN'S CHAT: 12/12 & 24 Ruthann Kistler

December 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 9AM- Preschool 10AM-Bible Study 5:30PM-Soup/Salad 6:30PM- Advent Worship (Chapel) 7:30PM-AA (TR)	2 9AM- Preschool 12N-AA (TR) 6:30PM- Worship & Music	3 10:00AM- Bulletins	4 7:30PM-AA (TR)
5 Advent 2 8:30- Communion 9:45-Sunday School 10:45- Communion 4:00- Outside Group (FH) 6:30PM-Bridge of Hope	6 7PM-BC-1 (Adult SS)	7 9AM- Preschool 4PM-Bible Study 6PM-Finance/Stew 6PM-Cubs (TR) 7PM-Christian Ed	8 9AM- Preschool 5:30PM-Soup/Salad 6:30PM- Advent Worship (Chapel) 7:30PM-AA (TR)	9 9AM- Preschool (FH) 12N-AA (TR)	10 10:00AM- Bulletins	11 10AM- Quilters (Adult SS) 3 PM Luminarias 4:30 PM Christmas Caroling/Lite Supper 7:30PM-AA (TR)
12 Advent 3 8:30-Praise Worship 9:45-Sunday School 10:45-Praise Worship 6:30PM Bridge of Hope	13 7PM-BC-1 (Adult SS)	14 9AM- Preschool 4PM-Bible Study 4:30PM-Benevo- lence 6PM- Cubs (TR) 6PM-Quilters (FH)	15 9AM- Preschool 10AM-Bible Study 5:30PM-Soup/Salad 6:30PM- Advent Worship (Chapel) 7:30PM-Council 7:30PM-AA (TR)	16 9AM- Preschool 12N-AA (TR)	17 10:00AM- Bulletins	18 7:30PM-AA (TR) O Full Moon
19 Advent 4 8:30- Communion 9:45-Sunday School 10:45- Communion 6:30-Bridge of Hope	20	21 9AM- Preschool 6PM-Cubs (TR)	22 5:30PM-Soup/Salad 6:30PM- Advent Worship (Chapel)	23 12N-AA (TR)	24 10:00AM- Bulletins 7PM-Candle- light Service/ Communion	25 Merry Christmas 9 AM-Holy Communion 7:30 PM AA (TR)
26 CHRISTMAS 1 8:30 - -Praise Worship 9:45- Happy Birthday Jesus Party 10:45- -Praise Worship	27	28 6PM-Cubs (TR)	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 10:00AM- Bulletins	