

Save the Date 2022

May 25 – VBS Kickoff (6PM)

May 26 – ASCENSION DAY -
Prayer Service at Noon.

**May 29 – Easter 7 / Rogaté Sunday /
Memorial Day Observance**

8:30 & 10:45 AM – Praise

9:45 AM - 5th Sunday Brunch

June 5 – Pentecost Sunday / Godparent's Day

June 12 – Summer Psalms Luncheon

June 19 – Dads and Grads

June 26 – Young Ladies Tea Party

July 17-22 – VBS!!!

July 31 – 5th Sunday Brunch and Praise

August 2 – National Night Out

August 9 – Sight and Sound (“David”)

August 12 – Game Night

August 28 – Backpack Blessing

September 11 – Rally Day & Grandparents Day

September 18 – Church Picnic

October 29 – Trunk or Treat or Fall Family Fest (?)

**October 30 – Reformation/Confirmation/
5th Sunday Brunch**

November 6 – All Saints Sunday

November 23 – Community Thanksgiving Eve

November 25 – Black Friday Game Night

November 27 – Advent Workshop

December 10 – Luminaria Night/Caroling

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25 – Birthday Party for Jesus

January 1, 2023 – Visit Nursing Home

More events and details to come.

What will God do in 2022?

Two Words From Pastor David

Integration & Influence



Pentecost will be here soon. We will remember the first Pentecost after Jesus' death and resurrection, when God supernaturally intervened to enable people from all nations

and languages to hear and understand the gospel. Replacing confusion with understanding is a major theme of Pentecost season.

We have been commissioned and empowered to spread the good news of God's amazing wisdom throughout the world. Have you adopted this as your mission in life? Every one of us has a role to play in spreading God's wisdom. We are called to be a part of God's chain of *influence*. There are three links in this chain that we need to be concerned about.

The first link is our connection to God's wisdom – what we are doing to receive God's wisdom. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of as many opportunities as you can to feed upon God's word and truly get excited about God's wisdom. Whatever you do get wisdom.

The second link is how we allow God's wisdom to *influence* us. It's one thing to understand and appreciate God's wisdom in general. It's another to see how it directly applies to your life. We need to take God's wisdom to heart. We need to *integrate* it into our lives. This is a critical step, for our own sake and for the sake of our credibility in sharing God's wisdom with others. We are not likely get people to accept God's wisdom if we are not living by it ourselves.

The third link is our connection to other people. Do we have strong relationships with others, where we can be an *influence* and share the profound and

exciting things that God is teaching us? Based on my own experience, observations and the comments of others, this third link is our weakest link. If that's true for most Christians, it is critical that we focus on strengthening that link.

Over the past half century the church has lost much of its *influence* in our culture. If nearly all Christians do not feel they are equipped and ready to share God's wisdom with others, that could be a big reason why. For the sake of the church's future and our culture's future, we need to strengthen this weak link.

Now perhaps you're thinking to yourself, "I'm not one to tell other people how to live their lives." But the fact remains that one way or another, people are looking to us for wisdom about life. We are telling people how to live by our words and by our lives. The only question is whether we are communicating wisdom or folly.

We were all born sinners. It is our human nature to follow our sinful desires and reap destruction. God's wisdom has been revealed to show us the way of escape. We need to heed God's wisdom ourselves. We need to confess our sin and repent, turning from our sin and embracing God's way. And if we have any kind of love in our hearts, we will want to do what we can to rescue others from the path of destruction.

Some of us may be content to be saved and let the rest of the world go to hell. But if we have truly been saved, we cannot remain that way. If God has given us a new heart, replacing our heart of stone with a heart of flesh, a heart that is tender and filled with love, there is no way we can see others ruining their lives and not care. We will want to do all we can to *influence* them to chose the way of life instead of the way of death.

Let me change the analogy I've been using from a chain to a rope. We are called to be a rope, a lifeline that rescues people headed toward destruction. This rope needs to be tied securely to God's wisdom. And we need to extend our rope, ourselves, to sinners. As best we can we need to grab hold of them and pull them out of danger and bring them into the safety of God's grace.

This is our calling as believers. If we are not engaged in this task, then it would be better for the Lord to just take us, for us to go to be with the Lord in heaven. But as long as we are on this planet, we need to help rescue people who are headed toward destruction.

Of course, being a rescue workers or a lifeline is dangerous. If our rope is not anchored securely in God's wisdom, there is the danger that in reaching out to sinners, instead of rescuing them, they will pull us back into the world. Hearing and *integrating* God's wisdom into our lives is a life-long priority.

It is scary and dangerous to reach out to sinners. I think that's why the Pharisees came to have the attitude they did toward sinners. They knew that if you spend time with sinners there is a real possibility that they will *influence* us more than we *influence* them. So to stay safe, the Pharisees sought to avoid any contact with sinners. They thought by doing this, they were being holy. They were appalled that Jesus regularly associated with sinners. He spent time with them, he talked with them, he ate with them, he even let them touch him. Horrors!

The Pharisees had set themselves up as the authorities on holiness. Their mindset had a powerful *influence* on anyone who was trying to be a good Jew. God had made it clear to Peter and the other Apostles that they were not to avoid contact with the world, but that they were to reach out to the world, they were to reach out to sinners with God's

love. Peter had been doing that, but he allowed himself to be *influenced* by the Pharisee mindset, so that he drew back from reaching out to Gentiles and sinners.

Paul wrote about this in *Galatians 2:11-14*:

“When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.”

Paul made it clear to them that “they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel.”

What would Paul or Jesus say if they came to Holy Cross? Would they be pleased to see that we are reaching out to sinners with the Good News of God's grace? Or would they see that many of us spend hardly any time with sinners. We are so busy with church stuff and with church people that we have no time for the world. If we have our rope firmly anchored in God's wisdom, but it is just dangling, we are not extending ourselves to sinners, what good are we? We need to be reaching out.

So what can we do to extend our lifeline to sinners? Let me offer four suggestions. And let me say first that this is my weakest link. I'm preaching this to myself as much as I am to you.

First, there is no substitute for time. We need to spend time with sinners. If your schedule is so full that you don't have time to spend with people, you need to reevaluate how you use your time. What

can you do to spend more time with people, particularly unbelievers?

Second, we need to be other-focused in our thinking. If you are so consumed with your own problems that you don't even see the needs of others, you will miss key opportunities for *influence*. We all have our own issues to deal with. Are you trying to solve all your problems yourself? Or are you giving them to God, putting them in God's hands, so that you can focus on serving others? We need to do that.

Third, we need to reach out in humility. We dare not see ourselves as better than the sinners we are reaching out to. We aren't better than them. We are sinners too. It is only by God's grace that our lives aren't as messed up as others. We should not approach people with the attitude that we know better than them and are going to show them the right way. What we say with that attitude is not likely to be well received. Instead, we need to approach them as fellow sinners who have been touched by the grace of God. As Luther put it, we are merely beggars showing others where the food is.

Now here is where it is so important that we are taking God's wisdom to heart and *integrating* it into our own lives. If we have a firm grasp on God's wisdom and we also have a firm grasp on people, but we don't have personal integrity, then our rope will not hold, we will be torn apart. Or another way of putting it, we will end up living a double life.

When we are with church people we will act all holy and righteous. But when we are with sinners we will go along with the crowd and allow sinners to *influence* us more than we *influence* them.

Fourth, we need to speak up in love and in wisdom. How much do you care for others? When others around you are heading toward destruction, are you oblivious, unaffected? Or do you care enough to take a risk, to reach out and try to help them find the path of life.

Are you willing to be a Nathan for someone? Many of us will be going to see "David" at Sight & Sound this Summer. The story of David and Nathan is a

great example of speaking up in love and in wisdom.

In 2nd Samuel, chapters 11 and 12, we have the story of David's fall. King David was a truly great man and a great leader. He was called a man after God's own heart. But he was still human, susceptible to temptation. And he gave into the temptations of power, that as King he could do whatever he wanted. He saw a beautiful woman, lusted after her and had her brought to his palace. Now as they say in politics, the cover-up is always worse than the original crime. To hide his adultery, David ended up committing murder. He thought he had gotten away with it, but God saw what he did and He was not pleased. Nevertheless, He still loved David and He called upon Nathan to bring David to repentance.

Now try to imagine being in Nathan's position. What would you say? How would you muster the courage to confront the king, a man who ruled with absolute power? He had already taken one life to cover up his sin, he could take yours too.

Nathan bravely did as he was commanded. Nathan was not only brave, but wise. He knew that it is easier for us to see the sin in others than in ourselves. So he began with a story of a rich man and a poor man. When a traveler came to the rich man, instead of using one of his own very large number of sheep to prepare a meal for the traveler, he took the only lamb that belonged to the poor man, which was like a daughter to him, and prepared it.

David could instantly see that this was a terrible injustice and he was filled with righteous anger toward the man. "**This man deserves to die!**" And then Nathan showed David that he had condemned himself. "**You are that man!**" And he spelled out that what David did was far worse. David could not escape the *influence* of Nathan's argument. He had to acknowledge his guilt, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Amazingly, Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die." He didn't

have a list of penance for David to do. He pronounced immediate forgiveness. And we are promised the same thing. If we acknowledge our sin, God is faithful and just and will completely forgive us our sin.

Now that doesn't mean that David got off scot-free. There would be serious consequences in his family life and in his kingdom, because of what he had done. But those consequences would be confined to this life. In the next life, in eternity, he would have complete forgiveness.

“Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, ...
When I kept silent ... Your hand was heavy upon me; ...
Then I acknowledged my sin to You ... and You forgave the guilt of my sin.
(Psalm 32:1-5)”

God has called us to help people experience the joy of forgiveness. This may be for unbelievers or as in the case of David, for believers who have fallen into serious sin and need to be restored. Are you committed to *integrating* God's wisdom into your life? Are you determined to be a good *influence* on others? Do you see spreading God's wisdom to whomever you can as your mission in life? If so, please work on these four things we need to reach out to others with God's wisdom: time with people, an other-focused mentality, humility, and speaking up in love and wisdom. God is counting on you to keep the chain going. Others will be eternally grateful to us if we do.

– Pastor David



All donations at the

Fifth Sunday Brunch

May 29th

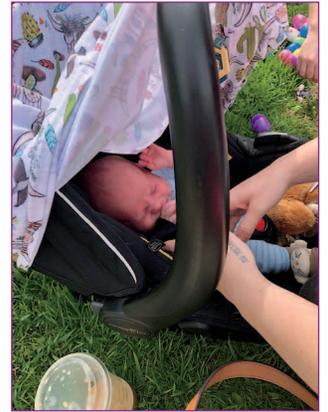
9:45 AM

will go toward the cost of the youth retreat in Harrisburg. The four youth who attended will prepare, serve and cleanup. Please come out to support them and to enjoy the fellowship.

2022 Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

2700 Jacksonville Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18017



Holy Cross held its annual community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16, at 10:00 AM. This is an outreach to spread the truth of the Gospel and information about Holy Cross's family-friendly ministries to our neighbors. Mr. and Mrs. Mike Bussen of Open Air Campaigners, presented the message of salvation using creative and entertaining art and magic techniques. Following that, the children were sent outdoors to hunt for eggs on the lawn in five different age groups. Thanks to Thrivent, many of the children went home with prizes for eggs marked accordingly.

The pandemic caused a drop of attendance in the

past two years, but a slight increase this year is encouraging. We had a total of 57 guests from 18 families. Five children listed no church home on their registration form. We will keep in touch with them in various ways throughout the year. We had 5 children pre-register for VBS in July and one new family returned the next day for church and Sunday School, expressing interest in our children's library, Sunday School and preschool in the future. PTL! It was delightful to have 10 of our youth come to prepare and lead. One of our youth directors was our "Easter Bunny". Beautiful weather added to a very pleasant experience.



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.

Have You Heard of the **FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS?**

LAW 1 God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.

LAW 2 Man is sinful.

LAW 3 Jesus Christ is God's **only** provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.

LAW 4 We must individually **receive** Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

Preschool



This year was the preschool's 20th year in operation. We continue to offer a combined 3 and 4 year old class. The school operates on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays only. The class is taught by Karen Steiner and Kathryn Steiner is the assistant.

Karen also continues to serve as the Director of the program. Our enrollment remains low with a total of 13 students in the combined class this year.

Our playground continues to be weed free!! Thanks to Lyn Stryker and all of those who contribute in keeping it that way! Lyn has worked diligently to keep the weeds at bay and has been instrumental in contacting Joe Fenza to supply us with wood mulch free of charge. Many thanks to Joe, Lyn and his crew, as well as to everyone who helped in any way. The Children love it!

The class enjoyed a trip to Unangst Tree Farm/Pumpkin Patch. The children were able to take a hayride, pick a pumpkin, wander through a corn maze, pet and feed the farm animals, and play in the giant "corn box". A great day was had by all who attended. Also, this year our school pictures were taken by Jim Williams Photography for the sixth year in a row, and the parents were pleased with the result. Jim donates his time and talents!

Enrollment will begin this month for those families

presently enrolled and will open to the public shortly thereafter. Due to the love and generous financial support from the congregation we are able to meet our budget needs through this difficult time. Many thanks to all who have contributed this year and will continue to do so in the future. We surely appreciate you! We are in need of your prayers to ensure that the Lord will provide us with the number of students He sees fit.

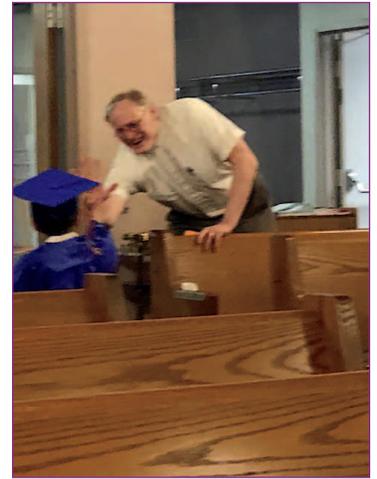
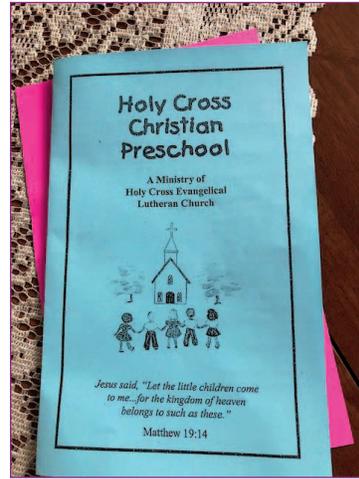
As always, the preschool has gratefully received many gifts and donations this year! Some of you, who wish to remain anonymous, are always thinking of us and what we could possibly use in our program. Thank you to all who continue to support us financially, as well as spiritually by holding the program, the children and the staff, up in prayer. and finally, thank you to Gary Mosser who continues to serve as our treasurer and to Pat Chmela, Yvonne Frankenfield, Dawn Schaffer, and Lyn Stryker, who continue to serve on the Board of Trustees; to Sally Stein for being our Council Representative; Ruthann Kistler, Jim Steiner and Rich Stein for their support in any way necessary; and also, to Kathryn, who has continued this year and is blessed with the joy of putting up with her mother at home and at WORK!

Yours in Christian Love,

Mrs. Karen Steiner

Preschool Graduation

Eight precious four-year-olds graduated from the Holy Cross Christian Preschool, Friday, May 13th. Adoring family members watched as the seven boys and one girl sang some of the songs and recited some of the poems they learned throughout the year. Not only did they illustrate that they mastered their numbers and alphabet, but witnessed that their loving and competent teachers, Mrs. Karen Steiner and her assistant and daughter, Miss Katie, introduced them to Jesus. This was the 20th class to be taught and graduated from this ministry of Holy Cross of which we are very proud! Let us all pray that these adorable children continue to grow in the Lord and find success in their future endeavors!



Our own Knoxville (Knoxie) Grasser gets a "high five" from Pastor David as he leaves graduation ceremonies.

Card Ministry – II Corinthians 4:15



The original SNAIL MAIL mailbox is resting in the Gathering place.

All card/stationery donations are greatly appreciated

Cradle Roll



Council Highlights from Our April Meeting, 4/20/22:

Did you notice how nice the courtyard looked for Easter? Thank you to the youth who power-washed it and all who helped get it into shape.

Our choir room is also getting cleaned up and straightened out. Thank you to Nancy Porambo & Jan Stryker for spearheading this project for the church.

Please note that the mailboxes were re-labeled to reflect current Council assignments. A directory for mailboxes can be found to the left of the boxes, and Council and chairperson contact information is posted on the right side.

Benevolence reported that support of our missionaries and outside ministries takes \$3650 a month.

Council adopted Worship & Music's recommendation to forego communion on Memorial Day weekend, 5/29/22. This is also a Fifth Sunday Brunch.

Don't discard those Annual Reports after our congregational meeting! Please use them to guide your prayers for our church's committees and ministries over this coming year.

Benevolence Report

As I turn the pages of not (1), not (2) but three large calendars on the desks, I am appalled at the fact that I am running way behind on a Benevolence report for the month. How can that be? I should have more time with less to do at my stage of life! My intention had been to “humanize” the many missionaries we support at Holy Cross with a glimpse into their background on a personal level. Are you following a family tradition? Did God speak to you in high school, in college? And with time running out, my sister, Linda got in contact with a Wycliffe Bible translator where she worked for many years in that position in Brazil. We had started supporting this young family a short time ago.

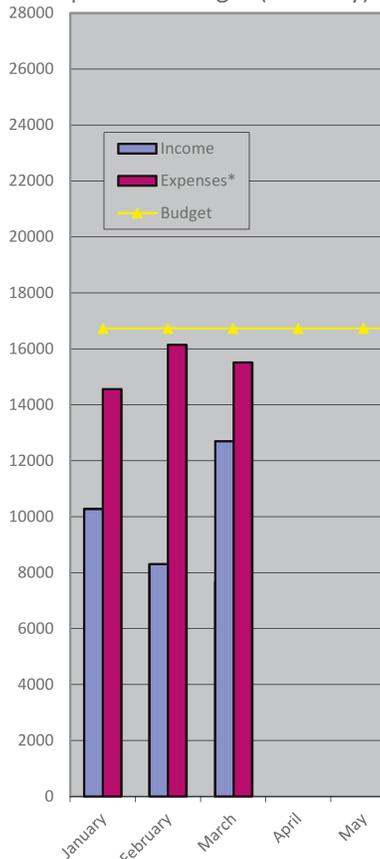
I received a 5 page email with photos of The Baughman family who have served in Brazil for several years after Marcos, the dad, had completed his training on the small single engine planes used in Jungle territory for transportation of passengers (sometimes very ill) or other services as needed. Marcos’ family consists of Sarah, his wife, Micah

who is 8, daughter Chloe who is 6 and Josiah who is 3. They will be flying back to the states on June 6th after their several years in Brazil. The year spent here in the states is to refresh with family and friends and to renew bonds with those who support the work of spreading God’s word to those who do not know of salvation. The itinerary of the Baughman’s is staggering from the list given, but PA was an intended destination! There is contact information for the family as well as for Sarah. While I have that info, my one goal of stories they might enjoy telling will have to wait. I’d like to know what kind of cookies they were able to enjoy in a trip to town. Was town close by, etc.? But bear with me. There’s lots to learn from folks who have spent a good deal of their lives in an environment alien but interesting to so many of us. And each month we’ll try to learn more about those we support at Holy Cross.

Please pray for these folks/families who give so much than we are asked to give.

Joan Rosenthal

Income and Expenses Compared to Budget (Monthly)



Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church 3/2022 Monthly Treasurer's Report

INCOME	MONTH	YTD
Regular General Fund Receipts	\$ 12,837.99	\$ 31,418.76
Specified General Fund Receipts	\$ 890.00	\$ 4,575.00
Benevolence	\$ 2,442.00	\$ 4,949.00
Special Benevolences	\$ 533.78	\$ 1,610.98
Total	\$ 16,703.77	\$ 42,553.74

EXPENSES	MONTH	YTD
Total Expenditures	\$ 15,450.22	\$ 46,153.38

Overall Surplus/Deficit	\$ 1,253.55	\$ (3,599.64)
General Fund Surplus/Deficit	\$ (2,612.23)	\$ (14,734.62)

At the end March, we are behind by more than 4 week(s) -4.72. We have met 15.92% of the 2022 budget. We spent 23.39% of the 2022 budget.

Important reminder is that we need \$3,795.02 given to the general fund each week to make budget. We are over \$6,000 behind from last year at this time and going with the number above we are \$17,916.50 behind for 2022. Changes may be coming in the future if this continues.

As always, please ask me any questions you have. I am willing to sit down with anyone who doesn't understand the reports and where the figures pull from. If anyone needs a refresher on the reports, let me know.

Lisa Wechsler



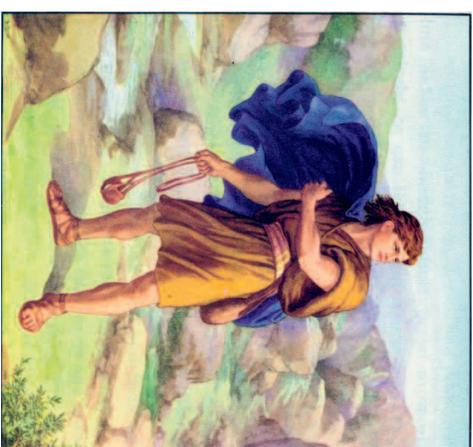
Are you or is someone you know in need of

Grief Ministry?

To learn more email

rnporambo@yahoo.com

Here are the details promised!



Holy Cross is going to Sight and Sound to see

DAVID

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

Adults: \$121.00 each

Children 13 and under: \$85.00 each

Due by June 19, 2022

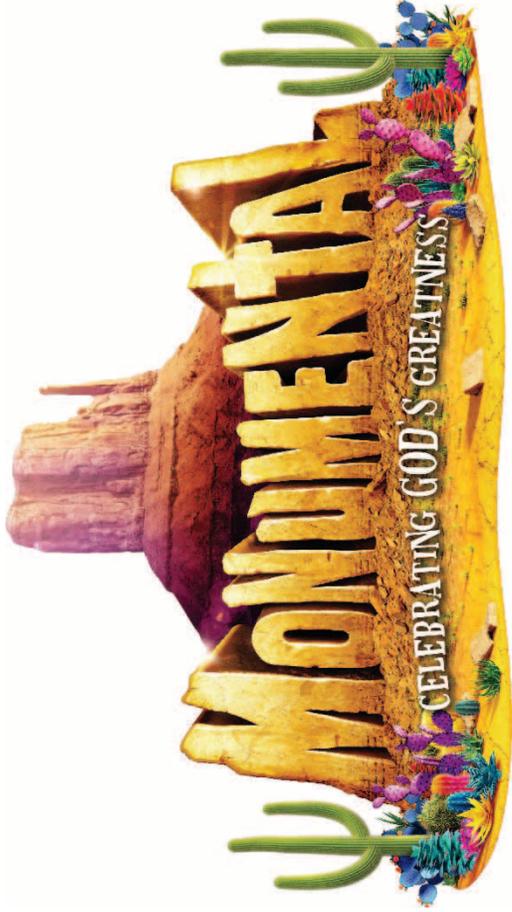
(Includes bus, show and dinner at Shady Maple!)

We will depart from the parking lot at Holy Cross at 8:15 AM for the 11:00 AM show. We have balcony seats (our favorite) at Sight and Sound. We should arrive at Shady Maple Smorgasbord at 2:15 PM. If all goes well, we will be back by 6:00 PM.

You can put a small amount into our bus trip fund each month by marking your envelope "Sight and Sound" or "David".

Announcing

VBS 2022



**Sunday, July 17
through**

Friday, July 22

6:00 PM-8:30 PM

**Bible adventures, games, music, snacks, hugs,
high-fives, and sciency-fun "wows"!**

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

2700 Jacksonville Rd., Bethlehem, Pa. 18017



SUMMER PSALMS

What is that?

Come to the Potluck
lunch at **12:00 noon**

Sunday, June 12

to find out. You won't
want to be left out!

What is your favorite Psalm?