



Save the Date 2023

January 29 – 5th Sunday Brunch & Praise
February 10 – Game Night
February 12 – Souper Bowl Sunday
February 22 – Ash Wednesday
March 10 – Cookies to College
March 12 – Shoe Box Sunday
March 26 – Easter Egg Hunt Workshop
April 2 – Palm Sunday
April 5 – Seder Meal
April 6 – Maundy Thursday
April 7 – Good Friday
April 8 – Community Easter Egg Hunt
April 9 – Easter Breakfast
April 30 – 5th Sunday Brunch & Praise
May 10 – Teacher Appreciation
May 12 – Game Night
May 14 – Mothers' Day
May 18 – Ascension Day

May 20 – Hawaiian Mothers' Day Buffet
May 24 – VBS Kickoff
May 28 – Pentecost
June 18 – Dads and Grads Breakfast
July 16-21 – VBS
July 30 – 5th Sunday Brunch & Praise
August 1 – National Night Out
August 11 – Game Night
August 27 – Backpack Blessing
September 10 – Rally Day
September 17 – Church Picnic
October 13 – Cookies to College
October 29 – 5th Sunday Brunch & Praise
November 4 – Fall Family Fest
December 2 – Christmas Luncheon
December 3 – Advent Workshop
December 9 – Luminaria Night & Caroling
December 24 – Birthday Party for Jesus

2 Words from Pastor David

Inerrancy & Authority



Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

A. A Shocking Declaration: “Not Peace, But Division”

In our gospel reading Jesus makes a Shocking Declaration:

“Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.”
(Luke 12:51)

“I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already.”
(Luke 12:49)

We think of Jesus as our merciful Savior. And He is. But He is also zealous for God’s truth and justice and longs to bring the fire of God’s judgment upon the earth. This is shocking because Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. We remember the words spoken by the angels at His birth,

“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”
(Luke 2:14)

But now Jesus says He hasn’t come to bring peace on earth. What gives? Has His mission changed? I don’t believe so. His ultimate mission is to bring peace to all the earth, but that cannot happen immediately for two reasons.

First, He must undergo a baptism, in other words, endure the cross, on which He would suffer for the sins of the whole world, before He can offer peace to the world. Have you ever noticed the remarkable change in His tone after His death and resurrection?

In nearly every post-resurrection appear His words of greeting are the same, “Peace be with you.”

Second, not all will accept His offer of peace. Instead, they will war against Him and His church. Thus there will be division about Him:

1. In the Family

Jesus specifically mentions family members divided against one another because some will accept Him and others will reject Him. If everyone in your family loves the Lord, count your blessings, because that is the exception, rather than the rule.

2. In the Nation

There will also be division In the Nation, our nation and every nation. As we see in Psalm 82, God desires to reign over every nation and He is displeased with the wickedness and injustice that rules the day. Eventually Jesus will come to “*rule the earth*,” and “*take all nations*” to be His own. But in the meantime there will be division. We should not be surprised by the increasing polarization in our country.

3. In Israel

There was and there remains division in Israel about Jesus. Some recognize Him as Messiah, but most do not. This kind of division is nothing new, but has been the case whenever God has acted on behalf of His chosen people.

a. Not All Israel Is Israel

As St. Paul put it

“Not All Israel Is Israel.” (Romans 9:6)

When Moses came to deliver Israel from slavery in Egypt, a few recognized that he was sent by God, but most did not. When God sent prophets to call the people to repentance, a few responded, but most did not. Instead they mistreated or killed the prophets.

b. True & False Prophets

Even among the prophets there was division. There were those who faithfully proclaimed God's word, but others

“prophesied the delusions of their own minds,” (Jeremiah 23:26)

telling the people what they wanted to hear, leading

“people astray with their reckless lies” (Jeremiah 23:32)

c. About Jesus

Ultimately all of these divisions are about Jesus. Do we recognize him as Lord, and do we submit to his Lordship over our lives?

4. In the Church

From its founding there has been division within the church.

a. Among the Apostles

From the beginning the Apostles had to contend with false teaching. In nearly every Epistle you can find a warning against false teachers, who claimed to be apostles, but they taught falsehoods about Jesus and either required good works to be saved, rather than trusting in the complete sufficiency of Christ, or dispensed with good works entirely. Jude described the second group this way,

“For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.” (Jude 4)

b. Throughout Church History

Throughout Church History these kinds of divisions have continued. I don't think I need to say anything more about this well-known and much-lamented

state of affairs.

c. In the Last Days

The Apostles warned us that these divisions would only increase in the Last Days.

“In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires. These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.” (Jude 18-19)

B. Division about the Word of God

These divisions center around Jesus, the Living Word and the scriptures, the written Word of God.

1. Images of the Word

In Jeremiah several images are used to describe God's word. The word is like a fire and like a hammer. Elsewhere it is described as a seed or like a sword. Hebrews 4:12 says,

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

All of these images convey the great power of God's word to accomplish exactly what God intends.

2. Inspired

Nearly all Christians would say that the Bible is inspired by God. But not everyone means the same thing when we say that. We use the word inspired in many different ways. We might say, “something you said inspired me to do such and such,” or “that person is an inspirational speaker” to name just a few. We mean that the person is influential or uplifting. We are not saying that what they say is the Word of God.

When we say the scriptures are inspired by God, we mean something much stronger. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says,

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Some translations say “inspired”, but the NIV translators recognized that word did not do justice to the Greek, so they used the term “God-breathed” to convey that every word of scripture has come, in a sense, from the mouth of God. That doesn’t mean that God audibly dictated every word of the Bible and writers simply recorded what God said. Some of the words of scripture came that way, but it is clear that the words of scripture came to the human authors in a variety of ways. Nonetheless, they are all the words of God. Just as Jesus, the Living Word, is fully divine and fully human, so the Bible, God’s written word, is fully the word of God and fully the word of man.

3. Infallible & Inerrant

And just like Jesus was without sin, so the word of God is without error, for it is impossible for God to err or to lie. To convey this the church has used words like Infallible & Inerrant to describe the scriptures. Psalm 18:30 says, “*As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless.*” Proverbs 30:5 says, “*Every word of God is flawless*” (NIV) or “*Every word of God proves true*” (ESV).

We can have confidence that everything the scriptures teaches is true. Jesus said,

“until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.” (Matthew 5:18)

Unfortunately, the ELCA is not comfortable saying these things about scripture. They are quite comfortable, however, using one scripture that they like to invalidate other scriptures that they don’t like.

Some people are quick to find what they believe are

contradictions in the Bible. But in most cases it is easy to see that they are badly misinterpreting the text. When one scripture says “don’t go to the right” and another, “don’t go to the left,” they are not contradicting one another, they are working together to keep us on the narrow path that leads to heaven.

4. Sola Scriptura

One of the key principles of the Reformation was the doctrine of *Sola Scriptura*, meaning the scriptures alone are the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

a. Scripture & Tradition

The Roman Catholic Church historically has agreed with what I have been saying about scripture, except that they have held that official church teaching or tradition was also authoritative on the same level as scripture. Luther refuted that claim by saying that Councils of the Church have contradicted one another and the scriptures and so cannot be viewed as an authority equal to scripture.

b. Not for Lay People

The Medieval Roman Catholic Church also believed that the scriptures were too hard for the average layperson to understand and so they opposed putting the scriptures in the people’s hands and in their own languages. Paul urged people to test everything he taught by the word of God. People can’t do that unless they have the scriptures. One of the first things Luther did was to translate the Bible into German so the common people could read it for themselves. He acknowledged that some passages are more difficult to understand, but the basic overall message is clear for all to see, all who have the Holy Spirit, that is. Without the Holy Spirit it is impossible for natural man to understand the things of God.

What is happening in the ELCA today is a return to the viewpoint that the average lay person cannot understand what the scriptures are teaching. Instead we have church leaders and theologians telling that what appears to be the clear teaching of scripture is not true, in fact they teach the exact opposite.

c. God is Still Speaking

Another division is over the phrase, “God is Still Speaking.” We believe that God does continue to speak through his word. But others teach that the Holy Spirit is continuing to reveal things to the church, things that contradict the scriptures. I remind you of what Jesus taught about *“until heaven and earth disappear, not the least stroke of a pen, will disappear from God Word”*

C. Faithfully Handling the Word of God

So how can we, God’s people, Faithfully Handle the Word of God?

1. Translation

It begins with careful Translation. No translation is perfect. When we say the scriptures are inerrant, we are talking about the original manuscripts. But when I say “no translation is perfect,” I’m talking about very minor errors that do not obscure the overall message of scripture, which remains clear. Translating the scriptures into every language on earth is a key part of the mission of the church.

2. Hearing, Reading, Meditating, Memorizing

Once a translation of the Bible is placed in our hands, we need to dig into this most valuable treasure. This involves Hearing, Reading, Meditating and Memorizing the scriptures.

3. Faithful Interpretation

We have to go beyond reading or even memorizing the text. We need to understand what it says. We need to take care that we not twist the scripture to say what we want them to say, but do our best to hear what it actually says. This is the task of Faithful Interpretation.

4. Thorough Application

Understanding what it says is still not enough. I need to understand what it says to me and I need to put that into practice. Jesus said,

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46)

We don’t get to pick and choose what to obey. We

need Thorough Application of the Bible in our lives and in the life of the church.

D. Why We Need God’s Word

Why do we need God’s word? The word of God is absolutely essential for our life and health as believers. Just as the universe came into being through God’s word, so it is through the word of God that we have spiritual life.

1. Spiritual Rebirth

The word of God is the seed that is planted in our hearts that produces faith. Paul asked, how can people believe unless the word of God is preached to them?

“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

(Romans 10:17)

2. Interpreting the Times

We also need the word of God for Interpreting the Times, so we know what are appropriate actions to take. Jesus was critical of the people of His age saying,

“When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?” (Luke 12:54-56)

Wouldn’t He say the same to us. Think how much we invest in being able to predict the weather. Are we anywhere near as concerned about understanding the spiritual climate and what needs to be done about it?

1 Chronicles 12:31 mentions those from the tribe of Issachar, “men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do...” We need people like that in

our day. How can we gain such wisdom? Through careful and thorough study of the word of God.

3. Run the Race

Hebrews 12:1 exhorts us to “*run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*” How do we know what is “*the race marked out for us*” and how are we equipped to run that race? Through the word of God.

4. Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

We are instructed further to run with our eyes on the prize, “*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus*” (Hebrews 12:2).

Since, Jesus is not physically with us, how do we keep focused on Him? We can read the Gospels that tell us all about His mighty acts and profound teachings.

How do lovers who are apart keep their love alive? They write love notes. The scriptures are God’s love notes to us. Which will it be for you “out of sight, out of mind” or “absence makes the heart grow fonder?” That will depend mainly on whether you are feeding on the word of God on a regular

basis or not. It really should be our daily bread.

Let us pray.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us Your Inspired, Infallible, Inerrant Word to be our sure guide for life and faith. Forgive us for taking it for granted. Help us appreciate what a valuable treasure it is, and give us an eagerness to dig into that treasure and mine it for all it’s worth, that we will be transformed by Your word and made into the people You want us to be who carry out the mission You have given us to do in this time. Through the Living Word, Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

This sermon was preached on August 14, 2022 as part of a five-part series: “Here We Stand: Why We Are Leaving the ELCA.” If you would like to receive the manuscripts of these sermons by mail or email, please contact the church office.

– Pastor David

2022-23 Small Group Bible Studies



After much thought and prayer, Pastor David has decided that Holy Cross should study the books of **1 Timothy** and **2 Timothy** in small group Bible studies starting this fall. We have not studied these two books of the Bible previously as a congregation

and they address some of the issues that we should consider as we choose to join another denomination.

We plan to offer three meeting time options to accommodate various schedules and commitments. Look for these options to be announced shortly. Then pray about which time slot beginning in September, works best for you and sign up or call the office at 610-867-6231 to become part of the study.

“Summer Psalms” proved to many how exciting it is to dig into God’s Word. Tell a friend and join the discussions around a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate. You will be so glad you did!

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.

How To Become An Effective Communicator

Make a list of circuit jammers (hindrances to good communication) found in these verses:

- Proverbs 19: 5
- Proverbs 20: 19
- Proverbs 20: 25
- Proverbs 25: 24
- Proverbs 26: 18, 19
- Proverbs 26: 20, 21
- Proverbs 26:22
- Proverbs 28: 2
- Proverbs 29: 20
- Proverbs 29: 21

Bus Trip Recap

Our bus trip this past August to Sight and Sound was a blessing, and is recommended to you by those who saw it. A big thank you to Ruthann Kistler for organizing the event and her many encouraging words during our time together! She also printed some questions for us to answer and help us process the show, *David*. These are anonymously summarized, below, as a reminder for us and an encouragement for anyone who couldn't make it.

The way Goliath was depicted, along with his four brothers, and David's victory over them was awesome! We don't know how they do these special effects on the stage, but it is impressive. Along with the expanded stage and its sets were other special effects. Many of us were delighted by the way Sight and Sound depicted what we read about in Isaiah 1:18 - *though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow*. David understood God's great forgiveness, and we can, too.

In I Chronicles 28 we learn that David was not the one to build the temple because he was a man of war. The play reminded us how true this was by alluding to many battles that David and his mighty men fought. Some commentators have said that David's betrayal of one of his loyal men, Uriah (Bathsheba's husband), was another reason he was denied this honor. It was a warning to us as we viewed this part of the drama, a low point in David's reign as king and relationship with God.

David couldn't hide his sin, for God sees everything we do even if no one else does. The show illustrated the importance of God's dwelling deep within us, knowing even the thoughts of our hearts. Concerns and responsibilities intrude, just like they do for kings and those in command, but all of us need time with God, time to confess our sins and receive His gracious forgiveness.

The show was not just a good story, for it dealt with real struggles. As we watched David's life being lived out before us, we rooted for him and his band of friends, mourned with him in his failures, and praised God and His faithfulness that even though we might forget Him, He will not forget us. Recall God's promise through a quote from Isaiah 49: *Even though a mother may forget her child, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands....* Let us remember to pray for one another, for each of us are precious to God. Half of those on the trip who responded to the questions asked for prayer: for healing, wisdom and guidance, protection, and stronger faith.

The “You Are My S

Sunday, June 26 from 2:00-3:30 PM, eight precious little girls in pretty dresses, came together for tea at Holy Cross. This was our first tea party since the pandemic hit and excitement was high! After addressing some basic manners, we practiced introducing ourselves to each other in a polite way. We shared our excitement about summertime and memorized a Bible verse about the sun...Psalm 113:3, which states that “From the rising of the sun to the setting of the sun, the Lord’s name is to be praised.”

Next we learned how to arrange a place setting using real glass plates and china tea cups, noting just where the knife, fork and spoon are correctly placed. We shaped our cloth napkins into flowers and laid them next to our places. Our simple craft was a mini garden of sunflowers made from cupcake papers. The girls just love to create something for the refrigerator at home to remember this fun time together.

Now it was time to make the goodies for our plates. The menu included peanut and jelly “tea sandwiches” cut into the



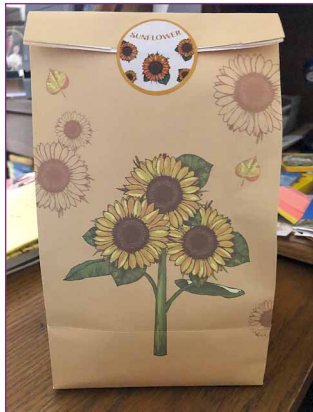
“Sunshine” Tea Party

shape of flowers, edible “caterpillars” made from celery and grapes or blueberries, and cupcakes with pretzel butterflies on top for dessert.

The best part is saved for last...dress up time! From a huge pile of hats and gloves and high heels and beads and other lady things, the girls adorned themselves and sat down at their places for tea (lemonade). As they bowed their heads, one of the girls said grace and all of them dug in.

What a joy this is each and every time!

The tea parties started in 2011 with a different theme each time. Now some of those first attendees have grown up and are my assistants. I couldn't do it without them. This time, I am so grateful to Sarah Barlow, Bella McGill and Alexis Nemeth. Thank you so much. A special thanks to Bella who came in full Victorian dress to show the girls how ladies came to tea parties many years ago.



Are You Using Your Time & Talents Wisely?

Church Stewardship can be viewed as a 3-legged stool – where the 3 legs are represented by our Time, Talents and Treasure. While we need to continue to keep our finances in our prayers and each one of us to continue our giving, the urgent need for our ministry here at Holy Cross that I want to discuss involves the Time & Talents of our members.

We need more laborers for all aspects of our ministry whether it be worship, property, education, outreach, social ministry, finances, stewardship etc. Unfortunately, we are operating on the 80:20 rule: 80% of the work is being done by 20% of our members. We need more laborers! Let's talk about Time & Talents separately.

Let's start with our **Talents**, sometimes described as gifts. The Bible tells us that God has given each one of us at least one Spiritual Gift and you have developed other expertise & talents through work experiences and hobbies. Do you know what your gifts are? You can figure it out by looking at what you are passionate about, what do you gravitate to when you have free time? What activities and accomplishments give you joy and happiness while you are working at them. These are strong clues what your gifts are. Have you ever heard a retired person say that they are busier than when they were working or raising a family? It's true! I believe it is because they are free to use their God given gifts to do the things they really enjoy.

Paul describes in Chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians the functioning of the body. This is an analogy of the church where the body only functions efficiently if each body part is healthy and working properly. Each member of Holy Cross is represented by one of those body parts and our ministry does not work well unless we are all doing our part. Now what about our retired members? If you are retired, do you have the attitude that you worked hard for your time off and are turning it over to the younger members? Are you going to deny God and our ministry the wealth of your experience, talents and

wisdom? What a waste! The Bible says we should stay active until our last breath, after all it is healthier and more satisfying to serve than to focus on yourself. Being a part of the Holy Cross team gives you the satisfaction of ownership in our ministry.

Let's switch to **Time**. Do you have enough time? Do you use your time wisely? Do you treat time as an endless commodity or as a precious finite gift? That perspective changes as we get older and wiser. If you are honest with yourself, you will conclude that you waste a lot of time and your conscience will quickly identify your major time thieves. Is it time to reevaluate how you spend your time and make some changes? Do you choose to watch the negative nightly news, sit coms or other purely entertainment shows instead of reading an inspirational book or the Bible? I know that I have to say that I am guilty. Who do you associate with and who's influencing you? Recent research indicates you are the average of the 5 people that you spend the most time with. Are you moving in the right direction or do you need to make some adjustments? Are you disorganized and the physical and spiritual clutter in your life occupies a big chunk of your time? All of these things can rob you of your ability to serve the Lord with your time & talents.

If you aren't already aware of our ministry's needs, please speak to Pastor or any church council member and they can help match your interests and talents up with the appropriate ministry area. There are a number of areas that can be done from home. Don't be afraid to take on a new and different challenge as a learning experience. We have some wonderful talented people in our congregation that can assist and mentor you in a new area. Change can be fun and rewarding.

Finally, you can always pray! There are no acceptable excuses for not participating here. Make a list of our ministry needs and ask the Lord where you can contribute and pray that He will bring the laborers to our Holy Cross ministry.

Lynden Stryker, Stewardship Chair

Council Highlights

June 2022

VBS is just around the corner! Please be praying for good attendance and helpers. Also note that no checks will be cut that week (7/17-22). Please plan accordingly.

Upon recommendation of the Treasurer, Council approved the transfer of \$10,000 from savings into the checking account. In a separate decision, an additional \$10,600 will be moved from the Kerschmar fund to cover Pastor Dave's housing. Both measures will help with cash flow through June, but nothing would help more than increased giving to the Current Fund.

Have you ever gone to a Billy Graham Rally? Franklin Graham is bringing such an event to Allentown on September 24th. For more information, see this link:
<https://godlovesyoutour.com/events/allentown/>

The choir room and the adult Sunday School room are getting a face lift! The walls are currently bare, awaiting a fresh coat of paint. If you haven't already done so, make sure you check out the good job that was done in the triple room.

Pastor Dave and Karen will be on vacation the last week of June and first two weeks of July (6/22-7/13).

August 2022

ELCA Task Force: This committee will be recommending a denomination to the Council as early as this autumn. The Council will then schedule the congregational vote about leaving the ELCA. Please continue to pray for wisdom and unity. Committee members include Pastor Dave, Joan Rosenthal, Dawn Schaeffer, Jan Stryker, Lyn Stryker, and Ken Yoxheimer.

Church Treasurer: We ask that you contact Lisa Wechsler about matters relating to her role as treasurer during her posted office hours. Please refrain from discussing treasurer work during Sunday worship. You can email her anytime with questions: hctreasurer3@gmail.com.

Yard Sale: Approval was given for an indoor yard sale to be held Friday, August 26 from 9-3pm and Saturday, August 27 from 9-1pm. You may come on Thursday, 8/25 between 4-6pm to set up your table. Tables are for Holy Cross members, and can be reserved for \$10. Proceeds will be donated to Benevolence. For more information contact Jan Stryker (dolakjm@yahoo.com or 215-565-6844) or Karen Brown (karen.brady.brown@gmail.com or 484-280-8356).

Free Table: A table in the west hallway alcove is laden with donated items which are free to a good home. You may also add to the table, but please be judicious since space is limited. You may take as much as you like, however! Items which are not taken will be regularly removed.

October 2022

We thank God for His continued provision for Holy Cross! Jonathan Mosebach, a member at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, has been hired as our church secretary. We thank Jonathan for his willingness to respond to God's call and our need.

The Council has recommended a budget for 2023. It will be available for review beginning 11/6/22.

A Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, 11/20/22, to vote on the church budget. Please plan on attending! It will begin after the second service, at approximately 12 noon, for the purpose of approving the budget. A potluck will follow: bring your favorite covered dish!

Everlasting Life Ministries

Our featured Benevolence for September is Everlasting Life Ministries, located in Allentown, PA.. E.L.M was founded by Rev. Gus Al Khal in 1982. He has a vision to reach the hurt and abandoned people in the inner cities of the Lehigh Valley. He has provided food distribution, cloth distribution, senior luncheons, free medical clinic and holiday dinners. Holy Cross Lutheran church has been for many years, supported Pastor Gus in his efforts with our coat drives, food collection and even turkeys for their annual Thanksgiving dinners. Pastor Gus not only provides to participants physical needs, but also Spiritual needs through the sharing of the Gospel. We are proud to provide our Benevolence giving to such a man of God, in his efforts to take care of God's sheep. Thank you for all your prayers and support.

Eric W. Quan
Member of Benevolence)

Thank you to all who have been providing food supplies and personal care items to Everlasting Life Ministries. Another grocery cart of supplies has been delivered to their food bank

We just learned that thanks should also be given to Jonathan Miller as another volunteer in delivering coat donations to Everlasting Life Ministries.

***Thank you.
Dawn Schaeffer***



Let There Be Light!

Christians everywhere have become more and more aware of the interest in satanism and the growth of "Satan Clubs" in schools and communities near and far. If this concerns you, please join many believers in prayer daily against the forces of darkness in our world.

Ephesians 6:12 says:

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Let's pray that the enemy will be defeated and that anyone who is involved in satanism will turn from darkness into light found in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Set your phone alarm for a certain time each day and pray for one minute that God's will be done and that those searching for spiritual fulfillment will find it in God's truth, not in the father of lies.

Calling all volunteers...

Easter Egg Hunt Workshop

**Sunday, March 26th
Following the 9:45
Sunday School hour**



Everyone is welcome!

**Egg-celent pizza for lunch, then...
help us prepare for the big hunt!**

Good News Club



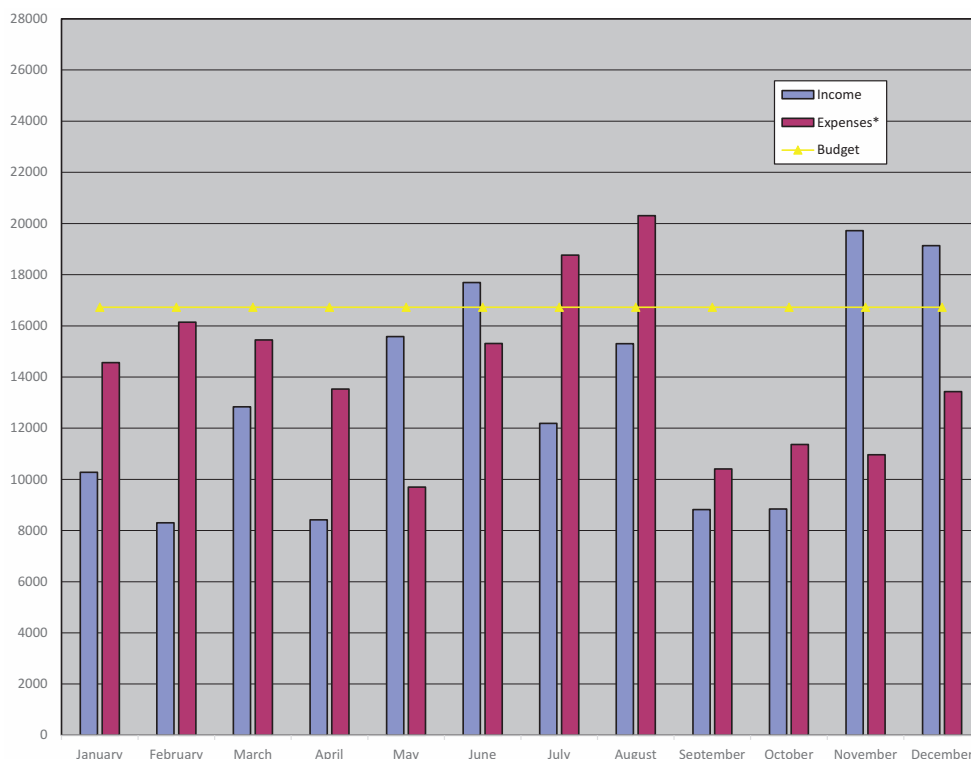
Four of our Holy Cross friends were blessed to participate in a Christian Evangelism Fellowship activity this fall called "Good News Club". Karen Brown, Pat Gilbert, Dennis Gilbert and Ruthann Kistler assisted Miss Beth of CEF in a six-week program before Christmas. They visited a day care center in Bethlehem from 3:30-5:00 PM for six Wednesdays when approximately 22 children from the grades of one through six come after school. Bible stories are told and scripture is memorized through games and song. The gospel is clearly related each and every time.

Research shows that most of these children come

from unchurched families and often from single-parent homes. Many of them leave home by 6:00 AM, stay at the center until a school bus picks them up for school and then they finish the day at the center again until a parent takes them home. They are hungry for the gospel and for a loving message. They love to memorize scripture. Most of them are bilingual. And as the pictures show...sometimes they just find the day too long to last without a quick nap.

Those of us who took on this challenge found it to be a huge blessing. We have 22 precious children to add to our prayer list.

Income and Expenses Compared to Budget (Monthly)



Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

12/2022 Monthly Treasurer's Report

INCOME	MONTH	YTD
Regular General Fund Receipts	\$ 19,136.50	\$ 157,033.46
Specified General Fund Receipts	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 19,730.00
Benevolence	\$ 2,833.50	\$ 25,700.00
Special Benevolences	\$ 143.00	\$ 3,012.74
Total	\$ 23,113.00	\$ 205,476.20

EXPENSES	MONTH	YTD
Total Expenditures	\$ 13,429.79	\$ 158,878.55

Overall Surplus/Deficit	\$ 9,683.21	\$ 46,597.65
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General Fund Surplus/Deficit	\$	5,706.71	\$	(1,845.09)
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At the end Dec, we are behind by more than 11 week(s) –11.04

We took in 79.57% of the 2022 budget.

We spent 79.57% of the 2022 budget.

The register balance at the time of this report is \$30,423.76

Important reminder is that we need \$3,795.02 given to the general fund each week to make budget. With the number above we are \$42,056.95 behind for 2022.

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

Game Night Was a Hoot



Twenty-one fun-loving people came together on Friday, February 10th for “Game Night” at Holy Cross. Chicken Feet Dominoes is definitely back, as two tables competed in this exciting game. Some were serious veterans and some were new learners. One table, led by Lisa Wechsler and

family, played a new card game. The loudest giggles came from that corner of the room! And... there was fun for all ages when the Dunn family enjoyed playing games appropriate for their young children. Let’s not forget about the snacks...yumm!



Holy Cross will participate in
“Shoe Box Sunday”
 for Samaritan’s Purse’s
 Operation Christmas Child
 with missionary Nelson Randolph
Sunday, March 12

following the Sunday School hour.

A light lunch will be provided.



The cookies are going to college again!

(It’s mid-terms time!)

Please bring your home baked cookies to the church kitchen by

Thursday, March 9th

We will pack the cookies for mailing to our favorite college students and military personnel on Friday, March 10th. If you wish to help, join us in the kitchen at 10:00 am.

We are still collecting names of students and soldiers. If you know of someone, please let us know. (Children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, Godchildren, etc.)

VBS Makes A Difference...

Hello Friends!



If ever you thought that all your hard work at our summer VBS programs was for nothing, let me reassure you! Ten years ago (2012) the theme of VBS was "Sky, Everything is Possible With God". Irene Graham's four grandchildren, Cailah, McKenna, Jacob and

Logan, came to VBS. (The boys are from Tennessee) The day after the program was over, they went to a photographer and had their picture taken in their VBS t-shirts. This picture has been in my home office since then:



Recently, at a combined graduation party for McKenna and Jacob, they got together to re-create the picture. Today after church, Irene handed this to me:

Surely you will not be shocked to know that this brought tears to my eyes. These precious kids are all

grown up and they still remember VBS and the impact it had on their lives. Thank you to all of you for allowing God to use you to reach the younger generation for Christ.

The Power of Prayer



With all of the horrible things going on in this world, I can't help but think that God is working a miracle through a young man who is being asked to sacrifice his way of life for the good of many. After hearing about the unbelievable recovery Damar is making, how can we not believe in the power of prayer! Even if ONE person comes to Christ through it all, it is worth it. This gives me great hope in the wake of so many bad news reports. Won't you come and invite others to join us for prayer at our Holy Cross prayer meeting on Wednesday at 3:45 PM?

Reverse Advent Calendar Boxes

What A Blessing!

Christmas morning 20 boxes filled with donations for Everlasting Life Ministries were blessed before they are sent on their way. Each box contains at least 28 items, one for each day of Advent. There will probably be one or two more boxes to add to the pile by the time Friday rolls around when Miss Patty and Jonathan load them up in Jonathan's truck and take them to Pastor Gus's facility for families of the Lehigh Valley that find themselves down and out at this time.

Thank you so much to all of you at Holy Cross for your generosity. Even when our numbers dwindle, we find so many of you who find joy in giving. What a wonderful way to thank God for the greatest gift of all...His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior!

