



Three Words from Pastor David



Here We Stand

With a heavy heart Holy Cross Church has decided to withdraw from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

This is a time of cultural divide. We live in a post-Christian society that is rejecting more and more of the Judeo-Christian values that were once taken for granted. This should prompt the church to re-evaluate those assumed values to make sure they are truly Biblical, and reject, modify or reaffirm them accordingly. The church needs to stand strong for those reaffirmed values and warn people of the dire consequences of dismantling the foundations upon which our society was built. We do not see this happening in the ELCA and other mainline denominations. Rather, they seem to be caving to culture on every issue, or worse, trying to lead the charge toward destruction. We find ourselves in disagreement with nearly every position the ELCA and its leaders take on the key issues of the day. In order for our congregation to sound a clear clarion call, we need to sever our ties with the ELCA and join together with other Christians who share our values.

We feel called to take a stand for the following truths. We believe in:

The Triune God - We affirm the traditional Christian understanding of God, spelled out in the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, that God exists eternally as one God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ - Jesus is God in human flesh. He is the Messiah, the Son of God and the Son of man, fully human and fully divine. He was born of a virgin, lived a truly sinless life and then on the cross offered His life as a substitutionary atonement for the sins of the whole world. He rose from the dead and offers forgiveness and eternal life to all who put their faith in Him.

Sola Gracia, Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura - We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Holy Scripture is our sole authority for faith and practice. Reason, experience and tradition play a role in discerning God's will and understanding scripture, but they must never be exalted above scripture. The scriptures are God's inspired, infallible and inerrant word of God. We need to be anchored in the scriptures so that we

are not tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming (Ephesians 4:14).

The Sanctity of Human Life - We are made in the image of God and therefore the taking of human life is a serious sin. God knit each of us together in the womb. We agree with Luther that elective abortion is murder. We should call on government to promote justice and protect life from conception to natural death.

Male and Female - There are not multiple genders. God has made mankind male and female (Genesis 1: 27). God has assigned our gender. Those who struggle with gender dysphoria should be treated with tons of love and compassion. We need to teach them that their birth was not an accident and help them to accept and embrace the way God created them.

The Fatherhood of God - God is pure spirit. God does not have a body and does not have a sex, but He does have a gender. Throughout scripture He has declared His pronouns (He, Him). We should use them. He wants us to call Him, "Father."

Godly Patriarchy - We affirm the equality of men and women. We are equal, but not identical or interchangeable. Only men can be fathers. Only women can be mothers. We affirm the vital role women play in the ministry of the church and oppose sexism and male chauvinism. We do not, however, favor dismantling the patriarchy. Men are called to exercise headship (spiritual leadership) in the family and in the church (Ephesians 5:21-33). We are all impoverished when men abdicate this responsibility.

Racial Equality - We condemn racism of all kinds.

“From one man he made every nation of men” (Acts 17:26a).

We reject white supremacy. We should strive for racial diversity and inclusion. We also reject new Marxist theories, which are themselves racist, and

seek to divide us. You don't end discrimination by adopting an opposite form of discrimination. Racial quotas have utterly failed in the ELCA, which is still the least racially diverse denomination in the United States.

Sexual Purity -

“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality...”
(Ephesians 5:3).

Sex is good. It is a gift of God and God has every right to tell us what are appropriate and inappropriate ways of expressing our sexuality. Scripture forbids fornication, promiscuity and homosexuality. The only appropriate context for sex is in the marriage between one man and one woman. Those outside this context, either by choice or because of circumstances beyond their control, are called to celibacy. We understand that the sex drive is strong and many find it difficult to obey this teaching. God is merciful to restore those who have fallen and His power is real to deliver people from sexual addiction.

Repentance - Luther taught that repentance is the essence of the Christian life. The Good News is not that God doesn't care about our sin, or that what was once called sin is now celebrated, but that God has acted to free us from our sin. Sin has corrupted every aspect of our lives and so becoming free from sin is a lifelong process that is never complete in this life. God is incredibly patient with us and we should be patient with one another, but we still need to call one another to repentance.

Hell - Jesus talked more about hell than anyone else in the Bible. We take no delight in the thought of people suffering in hell, but we don't get to change the doctrines that are unpopular. Jesus clearly taught that hell is real and real people go there, if they refuse to repent. The universalism (that all go to heaven) taught by most ELCA pastor and teachers is not supported by scripture.

The Great Commission - Jesus commanded us to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). All

people everywhere need to hear and receive the Good News of Jesus Christ. The mission of the church needs to be taking the gospel to the farthest corners of the world. This should certainly be accompanied by providing aid to the needy, but that must not be a substitute for sharing the gospel.

Cultural Engagement - We are to be in the world, but not of the world. We should love the world as God loves the world, but we must not become friends with the world (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15). It is a serious mistake to equate politics or the latest cultural trends with the kingdom of God. We are not to conform to the patterns of this world (Romans 12:2), but to stand against them and continue to follow scriptural teaching, knowing that we will likely face persecution for doing so.

Humility - We are called to humble ourselves before God. To have the same attitude as Christ, who obeyed His Heavenly Father in all things, even humbling himself to the point of death on the cross (Philippians 2:3-11). We should humbly obey God's

word even when we don't fully understand it. This is the exact opposite of our culture's ethos of taking pride in ourselves and even our brokenness and perversity. We humbly acknowledge our own brokenness, our own sinful thoughts and desires which we cannot fully understand. We trust in God's power and love to heal and forgive and raise us up to a new way of living that is not fixated on self, but considers the needs of others before our own.

The Guidance of the Holy Spirit - The church is dependant upon the Holy Spirit to understand God's truth and discern His will. If we are in error about any of the above issues, we ask the Holy Spirit to make that clear to us. We know that those who are leading the ELCA in a radically different direction than traditional Christianity believe they are being guided by the Holy Spirit. The scriptures teach that there are many spirits and that we need to test those spirits by the word of God (1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11). We will continue to pray for God to give us understanding and discernment. We humbly ask those who disagree with us to do the same.

<p><i>A lady went to the Pastor and said ... "I won't be attending Church anymore."</i></p> <p><i>He said, "May I ask why??"</i></p> <p><i>She said, "I see people on their cell phones during the service, some are gossiping, some just ain't living right, they are all just hypocrites."</i></p> <p><i>The Pastor got silent and he said, "Ok... But can I ask you to do something for me before you make your final decision?"</i></p> <p><i>She said, "What's that?"</i></p> <p><i>He said, "Take a glass of water and walk around the Church 2 times and don't let any water fall out the glass."</i></p> <p><i>She said, "Yes I can do that."</i></p>	<p><i>She came back and said "it's done."</i></p> <p><i>He asked her 3 questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. Did you see anybody on their phone?</i><i>2. Did you see anybody gossiping?</i><i>3. Was anybody living wrong?</i> <p><i>She said, "I didn't see anything because I was so focused on this glass, so the water wouldn't fall."</i></p> <p><i>He told her, "When you come to Church, you should be just that focused on God, so that you don't fall. That's why Jesus said 'Follow me.' He did not say follow Christians. Don't let your relationship with God be determined by how others relate with God. Let it be determined by how focused YOU are on God."</i></p>
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Save the Date 2023

- October 13** – Cookies to College
- October 29** – 5th Sunday Brunch & Praise
- November 4** – Fall Family Fest
- November 30** – Sight & Sound bus trip
"The Miracle of Christmas"

- December 2** – Christmas Luncheon
- December 3** – Advent Workshop
- December 9** – Luminaria Night & Caroling
- December 24** – Birthday Party for Jesus

Easter Egg Hunt 2023

God blessed Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethlehem with a beautiful, sun-shining day (albeit cold) on Saturday, April 8 for its annual community Easter Egg Hunt. Although we have not been able to entertain the numbers we did pre-pandemic, those who attended were smiling and happy. Mike Bussen from "Open Air Campaigners" entertained the families in the sanctuary with a clear message of the true meaning of Easter for approximately 20 minutes before the hunt as parents registered the children with the opportunity to pre-register for our summer VBS program in July.

Following a greeting and prayer by Pastor David Brown, the children were dismissed in five different age groups (from age 0 through sixth grade) to gather up as many eggs as they could. Each plastic egg is filled with candy for the children to keep. Some held "winner" tags that authorized them to claim a prize on the table by their grassy area. Every child took home a "goody bag" filled with flyers announcing various family-friendly ministries available to them at Holy Cross along with a special

surprise. A juice box was available to them to quench their thirst. Jonathan Miller came home from college especially to dress up as the "Easter Bunny" once again. He was seen waving down cars on Jacksonville Road prior to the hunt and taking pictures with the children after the festivities. A big thank you to the youth who showed up bright and early for breakfast and prayer before setting up for the hunt. Our numbers of high school students has dwindled in recent years as many are away at college or on jobs.

Two weeks before the big day, youth and adults gather in Fellowship Hall to fill eggs and goody bags in preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt that brings Holy Week to a close. We really appreciate all of those who do the work that makes this possible.

A special thank you to Thrivent and Dawn Schaeffer who provide the funds for us to have prizes to give out to the lucky winners with "winner eggs". What a blessing!

*When you carry the Bible,
Satan gets a headache...*

*When you open it,
he collapses...*

*When he sees you reading it,
he faints...*

*When he sees that you
are living what you read,
he flees...*

*And when you are about to
tell someone else...
He will try and discourage you...*

I Just Defeated Him!!



Think About It...

People are often unreasonable and self-centered...

Forgive them anyway!

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives...

Be kind anyway!

If you are honest, people may cheat you...

Be honest anyway!

If you find happiness, people may be jealous...

Be happy anyway!

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow...

Do good anyway!

Give the world the best you can and it may never be enough...

Give your best anyway!

For you see, in the end, IT IS BETWEEN YOU AND GOD!

It never was between you and them anyway!

Mother Theresa

Operation Christmas Child



Yes, you read that correctly...on March 12th about 20 Holy Cross friends put together 400 shoe boxes with missionary Nelson Randolph for "Operation Christmas Child", a division of Samaritan's Purse. Nelson works all year to collect these filled boxes to be sent to less fortunate children all over the world.

In less than two hours smiling, singing youth and adults could be seen and heard filling the boxes assembly-line fashion with all kinds of toys, school supplies and clothing items that Nelson has collected from businesses and individuals all over the country. When the work was done, they all enjoyed a bowl of soup and a salad.

Nelson shared with us in his "Mission Moment" during the worship service, that Operation Christmas Child enjoyed its best year ever in 2022, sending over 44,000 filled boxes overseas. What a fun and wonderful way to serve the Lord!



You received the most beautiful greeting cards for various occasions, but now they are piling up. Right? Would you like to recycle them?

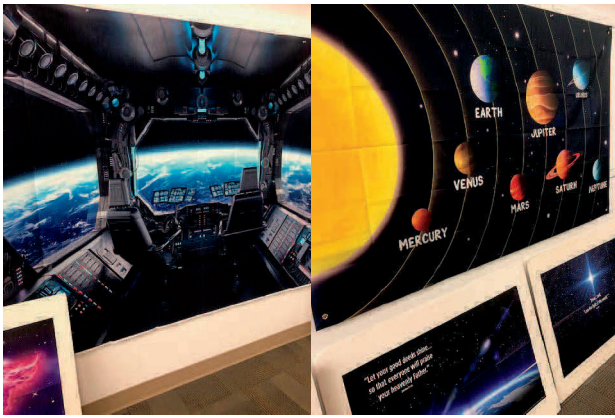
Look for a basket in the Gathering Place and drop them in. Then watch to see how we will be putting them to use.



We think you will be delighted!

Blast Off 2023

On Wednesday, May 24 at 6:00 PM, 24 people came together for the official kickoff to the 2023 VBS season. This year's theme title is Stellar, a biblical study of God's wondrous outer space creation. The purpose of the gathering is to introduce the theme, inspire those attending to get creative "juices" flowing, and allow volunteers to sign up for the roles they wish to fill the week of Vacation Bible School. This year's VBS week is July 16-21 from 6:00-8:30 PM. Theme appropriate foods were served, making this a dinner meeting with fun and fellowship abounding.



Fellowship Hall will be "Command Central" as we explore God's amazing creation, our universe.



We made star-shaped cosmic sandwiches,



alongside planet-shaped veggies and galactic pizzas.



We gobbled up moon rocks as green aliens invaded!



It was so much fun creating our own constellations.

The 2023 Bible Buddies and their Bible Points were introduced and excitement grew as the Bible Adventures team already started planning the Bible story settings. Some talented, artistic young people busily decorated the church to transform it to a galactic wonder! We covet your prayers for a successful week of learning with a full crew of volunteer commanders and a large force of astronauts in training!

VBS 2023



Another Holy Cross VBS is in the books. And it was a STELLAR week! The theme, of course, was “Stellar; Shine Jesus’ Light”. The very first evening the children learned that Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world.” We spent the rest of the week exploring ways that we can shine Jesus’ light in the world when life feels dark, when people don’t get along, when good things happen, when we are sad, and when someone needs help. These principles were presented and illustrated through drama, gizmos (rather than crafts), games, snacks and other demonstrations. We have been using GROUP publishers for more than 22 years and this is the format that has become familiar to our volunteers and regular attendees. This year the emphasis was on light and we used laser lights and flash lights and black lights and lava lamps to illustrate ideas...great fun!

This year we found our numbers to be down a bit. We had fewer children, fewer volunteers and a younger age group. Through it all God continued to shower His blessings and mercies on us. We had just enough crew leaders for the number of children, just enough adults to lead the stations and more than enough supplies. It was wonderful to see new friendships grow and new faces among the familiar ones.

It is true that I get to be the face of VBS and receive the accolades, but honestly the credit goes to those who work so hard to present the Gospel through interactive drama, those who help the kids construct gizmos, those who prepare delicious theme based snacks, those who lead fun-filled games in the heat of the day outdoors, and those who teach the incredible songs with motions. I can’t forget Mr. Stryker and Seth Miller (alias Micky Wey) who acted out the hilarious skits at the end of each evening as a review. Behind the scenes is one of my greatest supporters, Karen Brown, who does so many things I don’t know where to start. Everything from registration and compiling statics, to forming crews and matching them up with crew leaders, to spending time in prayer with the crew leaders before each session, to filling backpacks for our mission project, to printing up our bulletin for the closing program. Most of all, I heard from a dear friend that there were many of you praying for us all week. Thank you! Now as we face challenges to go on during times of income shortage, we appreciate any of you who contribute monetarily or through the donation station. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.



Games were so much fun!



We learned teamwork when we put a Bible Point puzzle together.

2022-23 Bible Study Closing Potluck

On Sunday, June 11th, about 18 people had lunch together to close out the Bible Study season. Lively conversation about their sessions together filled the room with sweet memories. After an abundant feast of wonderful dishes shared by those who came, Pastor David led a discussion about what each person remembered and treasured from the studies of 1st and 2nd Timothy and the Sermon on the

Mount. Then the group listened to a recording by Christian artist Don Moen entitled “Name Above All Names”. This introduced the theme for six informal Wednesday morning summer studies. By taking a trip through the entire Bible, anyone who comes will see how Jesus “whispers His name” through every book of the Bible.



Wow! What a spread! Oh boy! Barbara brought her “Buckeyes”!



How sweet to share social time together!



It was so good to see Jen Hero in person after she joined us along with her brother, Glade Schroeter, for the entire year by phone. Pastor said it is fitting to end the study with a shared feast because the Bible tells us in Psalm 34:8 to “taste and see that the Lord is good...”. That’s exactly what we do in our studies of His Word!



Name Above All Names

Summer Bible Study 2023

Inspired by a song written and sung by Don Moen and shared with us by Sally Stein, 22 Holy Cross friends completed a six-week summer Bible Study by the same name: Name Above All Names. Jim Femister, Pastor David, Jonathan Mosebach, Ruthann Kistler, Karen Brown and Lynden Stryker each led a Wednesday morning study session. All 66 Books of the Bible were touched in an exercise to discover how Jesus' name is "whispered" in every book from Genesis through Revelation.

The study helped us recognize the sovereignty of God. We could see God working His plan from day one through today. It proved Jesus' deity and we could feel God's love for us. As we traveled through the scriptures, we could see how all 66 books written by 40 different authors (by most opinions) over about 1500 years, not only agree, but prove each other.

In preparation for her session, Karen Brown came across a perfect analysis of our discoveries as she perused *The Name* by Franklin Graham. He shared this list of truths from his friend Roy Gustafson:

The Harmony of the Old and New Testaments

The New Testament is contained in the
Old Testament;
the Old Testament is explained in the
New Testament.

The New Testament is concealed
in the Old Testament;
the Old Testament is revealed
in the New Testament.

The Old Testament anticipates
the New Testament;
the New Testament authenticates
the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament
the New Testament lies hidden;
in the New Testament
the Old Testament lies open.

The Old Testament
foreshadows the New Testament;
the New Testament fulfills
the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament they were always seeking;
in the New Testament they found.

The Old Testament predicts a Person;
The New Testament presents a Person.

And that Person is the Lord Jesus Christ—Who fully
Validates the Old Testament;

The Pentateuch presents the figures of Christ;
The Psalms present the feelings of Christ;
The prophets present the foretellings of Christ.

The Gospels present the facts of Christ;
The Epistles present the fruits of Christ.

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for loving us so much
that you gave us Your Word and continue to reveal
Yourself to us through nature around us, through
others who love You, through workings in our lives
and through answered prayer.

The Cookies Went to College Again!

On March 10th we packed 18 boxes with home-made cookies and other goodies for our favorite college students and one military couple. These boxes traveled to North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, Colorado and various colleges here in Pennsylvania. Included in each box was a sheet filled with “love notes” written by many well-wishers from Holy Cross.

Twice a year, we send these “care packages” right around mid-terms when our students are busy studying for exams. It is our way of letting them know that we think about them often and pray for their protection and success. We want them to know that they are never forgotten and are always welcome here at Holy Cross whenever they are home on a break.

A special treat this time was the artwork done on the otherwise boring brown boxes. The children from the Holy Cross Christian Preschool painted them with adorable “springy” pictures. We hope it will bring an extra smile to each of the young people when they get them.

The lucky recipients include children, grandchildren,

nieces, nephews and God children. If you have a loved one who would appreciate a box of home-made cookies next fall, please let us know and we will add them to the list. If you would like to join in on the fun of packing them or contributing homemade cookies, watch for the next announcement. We plan to pack again on October 13th for the midterms next fall. Many of us get an excited “thank you” when the boxes arrive at their destinations, and we find out that our kiddos are very popular in the dorms! How fun!



Holy Cross is going to see



At Sight and Sound

In Lancaster

Thursday, November 30

Followed by dinner at

Hometown Kitchen

8:15 AM– depart from Holy Cross parking lot

11:00 AM-Miracle of Christmas show

2:30 PM-approximate time for dinner

6:00 PM-approximate time of return

\$146.00 each for adults

\$107.00 for children 13 and under

Interested? See Ruthann Kistler

Final payment due October 8, 2023

SOMETHING NEW FOR HOLY CROSS

An Outdoor Live Concert!



Two different crowds of approximately 50 people each enjoyed music provided by Blazing Glory Ministries on Friday evening June 30th and Saturday evening July 1st on the grounds of Holy Cross.



The new porch on the garage constructed as a result of Jonathan Miller's Eagle project, was put to good use both evenings when two different musical groups entertained us with oldies, inspirational and patriotic tunes. It was wonderful to sing praises to our Heavenly Father outdoors on a beautiful evening.



Everyone was feeling patriotic on the weekend before Independence Day 2023.



And there was something for all ages! Including popcorn!

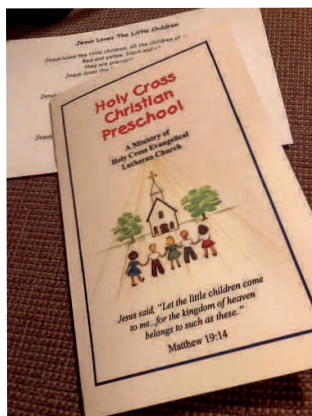


Even the neighbor's dog decided to join in on the singing!



We are so thankful to God for His provision of a perfect facility for an event such as this and there have been calls to do it again.

Holy Cross Christian Preschool Graduation



May 12, 2023 marked the graduation of the 21st class from Holy Cross Christian Preschool. What an achievement...especially for the six precious children who completed their preschool education with director Karen Steiner! If you did not have the opportunity to enjoy the pomp and circumstance with them, here are some highlights for you to peruse.



What a handsome class!



Your diploma, Anthony!



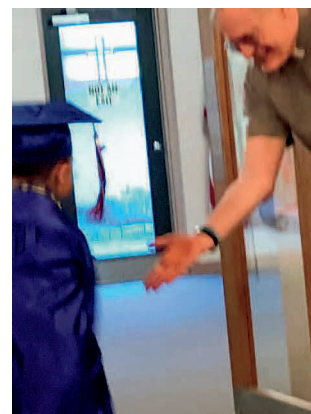
Congratulations, Jaxon!



You're all dressed up!



A hug from big sister!



And a high five from Pastor!



Elijah, you look so excited!

You have every reason to be excited! Now you are ready for Kindergarten! Congratulations, Adrian, Anthony, Elijah, Gabriel, Jaxon and Matenin! May God bless you always and may you grow in your faith and love for our Lord, Jesus!

And...God bless you too, Mrs. Steiner and Katie! We appreciate you!

Comparison Of 2022 Income And Expenses

Earlier this year we reported the comparison of our 2022 income and expenses in the Stewardship Annual Report. Unfortunately, the expenses were incorrect and required a correction after the report went to press. Consequently, this report contains the correct numbers for last year.

A comparison of the giving for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 is repeated and is shown below:

4 Year Giving Comparison	2019	2020	2021	2022
Local Ministries/Current	188,610*	170,890**	168,180	158,640
Benevolence	29,870	34,890	33,830	25,700
Capital Improvement	<u>10,190</u>	<u>6,440</u>	<u>4,030</u>	<u>3,900</u>
Total	\$228,670	\$212,220	\$206,040	\$188,240

*Includes \$15,000 from 2018 but not the \$10,000 2019 Bequest

**Does not include \$32,523 Covid-19 PPP Government Grant

As noted earlier, our giving shows a disturbing downward trend over the last four years. We can be thankful for our committees and staff for holding the line on expenses focusing only on our needs. We had a spartan attitude but we did not jeopardize our essential ministries. We challenge you again to “Step Up” your giving to change the direction of our finances. We continue to trust God to support His work and ministry here at Holy Cross.

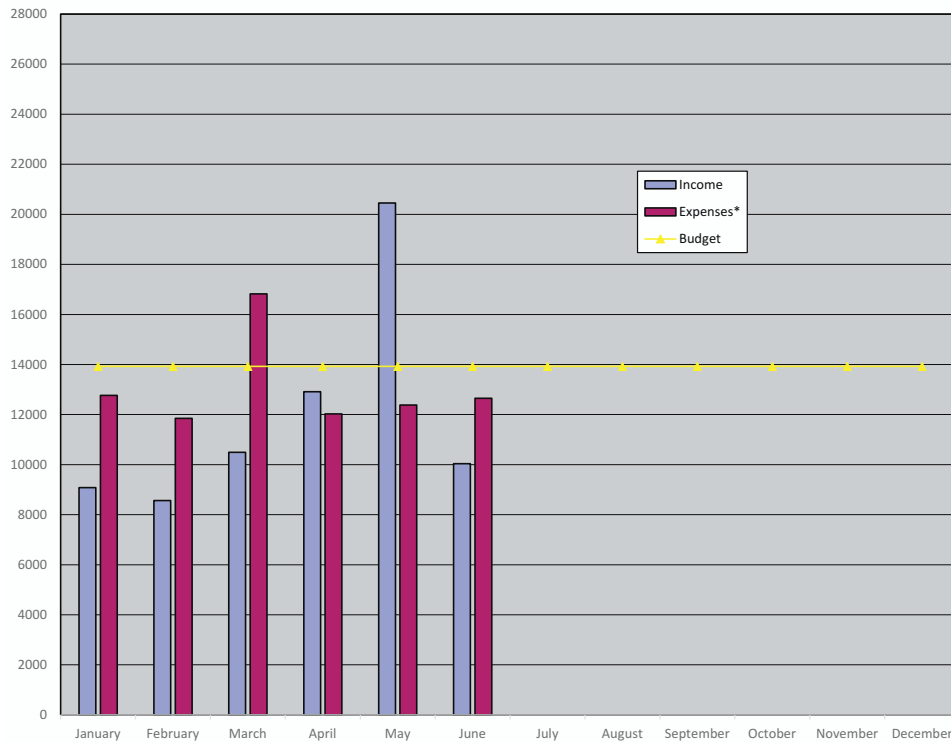
Originally, our 2022 expenses were reported as \$158,880, however, the actual number is \$172,360.

Initially, we were celebrating that our income matched our expenses when in reality we were \$13,480 short. This shortage was covered by the unspent reserves in our savings so that all of our bills were timely paid.

Finance and Stewardship apologize for incorrectly reporting our finances and any confusion that may have caused during our budgeting process. If you have any questions/comments please see anyone on the Finance or Stewardship Committees.

Lynden Stryker, Stewardship Chair

Income and Expenses Compared to Budget (Monthly)



Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church 6/2023 Monthly Treasurer's Report

INCOME	MONTH		YTD
Transfer Money In (CHURCH)	\$	-	\$ -
TRANSFER MONEY IN (PRESCHOOL)	\$	1,971.90	\$ 9,409.80
Transfer Money Out	\$	-	\$ -
Regular General Fund Receipts	\$	10,037.65	\$ 71,548.84
Specified General Fund Receipts	\$	510.00	\$ 4,940.00
Benevolence	\$	1,801.00	\$ 9,314.00
Special Benevolences	\$	121.00	\$ 1,172.17
Total	\$	12,469.65	\$ 86,975.01

EXPENSES	MONTH		YTD
Pastor	\$	5,141.40	\$ 38,260.47
Salaries	\$	3,113.38	\$ 18,680.28
Administration	\$	919.00	\$ 4,251.63
Stewardship	\$	166.22	\$ 818.28
Benevolence	\$	-	\$ -
Church Property	\$	2,515.53	\$ 10,140.06
Utilities	\$	510.74	\$ 5,084.55
Publicity	\$	-	\$ -
Christian Education	\$	100.00	\$ 636.20
Outreach	\$	-	\$ 184.19
Social Ministry	\$	-	\$ 54.99
Worship and Music	\$	185.38	\$ 379.31
Total Expenditures	\$	12,651.65	\$ 78,489.96

Overall Surplus/Deficit	\$	(182.00)	\$ 8,485.05
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General Fund Surplus/Deficit	\$	(2,614.00)	\$ (6,941.12)
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NOT IN TOTALS

A Christian Seder Meal

“Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts.”
Psalms 145:4

On Wednesday, April 5th, 27 members of Holy Cross kicked off the worship activities of Holy Week by celebrating the Passover with a Seder Meal. The Seder is an excellent way to pass our faith from one generation to the next with a strong flavor of Jewish culture as it relates to our Christian heritage. The Seder is a very orderly, structured event complete with a script (Haggadah) of readings and prayers, intertwined with songs and actions.

Specific foods are prepared in specific ways. For example, bitter herbs symbolize the bitterness and harshness of the slavery the Jews endured in Ancient Egypt. A sweet, dark, lumpy paste made of fruits and nuts recalls the mortar with which the Israelites bonded bricks when they were slaves in Ancient Egypt. We remember how bitter slavery is and how it can be sweetened when Jesus sets us free. Some foods were dipped in salt water which represented the tears we shed the moment Jesus identified Judas as His betrayer. It was noted that

the matza, or unleavened bread, is pierced and striped reminiscent of the beating and torture suffered by our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Nothing made with yeast is allowed at the Seder Meal to remind us of the night the Israelites hurriedly escaped Egypt when the angel of death passed over the homes whose door posts were painted with the blood of a lamb. Mike, Penny, Faith and Seth Miller beautifully acted out the story of the first Passover. Pastor David acted as the father in this family-oriented event while Jonathan Mosebach, who has past experience with Seder Meals, acted as leader. There were five readers and the children who attended got to hunt for the “Afikomen” (a wrapped, hidden piece of unleavened bread) and look for the prophet Elijah.

Forty minutes is all it took to experience this monumental event, rich in symbolism, pointing to our Savior. Many of us found it was a meaningful way to capture the true weight of the events of Holy Week.

