



# Cross Lines

## The Monthly Newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church

*A Member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)*

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**Volume XXVII, No. 2**

**February 2012**

### **“FIRST OF ALL”**

*“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.” - 1 Timothy 2:1*



We all know that prayer is a key part of the Christian life, right? Of course, we do; all of us pray at various times, giving thanks to God and asking for His protection, healing and provision.

Have we reached the fullness of what God wants to give us? *Hardly.* When we consider the depths of God’s promises and of our needs, all of us can say that we still have much to learn about praying.

I invite you to be part of a **PRAYER INITIATIVE** at Holy Cross. Here are some of the “pieces:”

- **“FIRST OF ALL”** prayer group will meet **the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm** in my office. Taking its name from the Bible verse above, this group will meet for about an hour and study how to practically grow in the life-giving practice of prayer. This time will include fellowship, Bible study, mutual support and praying. Even if you’ve never been part of a group like this, give it a try; I think we’ll all be surprised by what God can do!

**\*Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.**

- **The “DAILY PRAYER GUIDE”** will be a printed piece that suggests a group, a need or a ministry at Holy Cross or elsewhere in God’s kingdom for which we can pray on each day of the month or season. The first **“DAILY PRAYER GUIDE”** will be out in time for Lent, which begins on Feb. 22nd.



## Electronic Giving Available at Holy Cross



This year, we hope you will keep in mind your offerings to Holy Cross. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work. To help us achieve a more consistent level of funding, we encourage you to use electronic giving for your regular offerings. Authorization forms and additional information are available in the church office.

### THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS: CHOICE DOLLARS

Through the Thrivent Choice Program, eligible benefit members 16 or older, can help direct where Thrivent Financial distributes part of its charitable outreach funds each year. By directing designated Choice Dollars, you can request funding for Lutheran camps, schools, seminaries, campus ministries and [Holy Cross Church](#).



We are happy to announce that through Thrivent Choice Dollars, Holy Cross Church received \$4,300.00 in 2011. You can still allocate Thrivent Choice Dollars through March 31st, 2012 - for 2011! Just email to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](mailto:Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call at 800-847-4836.

For more information on Thrivent Financial and its products, and also any questions you may have about membership eligibility for Thrivent Choice Dollars, please contact Mark Worner at 763-682-6011.

### \$ "Adopt-A-Bill" from Holy Cross \$



The Adopt-A-Bill Program at Holy Cross is a special way you can help out. On the bulletin board in the narthex are cards with descriptions of several of the church's current bills awaiting payment. You are invited to "adopt" these bills on behalf of the church. All gifts are appreciated and welcomed. Thank you for helping to support the day-to-day operation of the congregation!

### Holy Cross Endowment Fund

The Holy Cross Endowment Fund is for those who would like to make a contribution that will generate interest income for years into the future! The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to enhance the ministry in specific areas, including: Music, Education, Youth, Outreach, and Seminary support. You can make a donation to the Endowment Fund in the church office.



## "Souper" Bowl of Caring World Hunger Ingathering - February 5th

Sponsored by our Holy Cross Youth

On Super-bowl **Sunday, February 5th**, the High School youth of Holy Cross will be collecting donations to go toward world hunger. Each member is asked to bring one dollar or one can of soup with them to church. "The Souper Bowl of Caring" is a national effort that has included over 2000 Lutheran congregations.



### ALSO ON FEBRUARY 5TH - SCOUT SUNDAY!



The Cub Scout and Boy Scouts from the local areas will be honored at the 10:30 am service. If you have a Cub or Boy Scout in your family, please RSVP to the church office ASAP so that we can reserve your seat. Please wear your uniform. The boys are asked to open doors and greet the congregation.

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### It is time to sign up for Bible Camp!

This is the month for registering kids for Green Lake and Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camps. Pick up a brochure on the table in the narthex if you are interested in hearing more about it.



Holy Cross families pay the non-member fee this year, but there are "camperships" available from the Holy Cross Youth account between \$50-\$100 (depending on funds raised) to defray the cost, and will be mailed directly to families on May 10th. There is also an "Early Bird" discount and a "Sibling" discount if your registration is postmarked by March 15th.

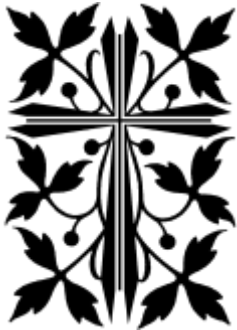
Please register directly with the camp. There are online options and payment plans available. Final payment is due by May 31st.

WINTER ADULT FORUM SERIES 2012  
(and Saturday Evening Sermon Series)

“Through This Vain World”  
Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes

“Through this vain world He guides our feet, and leads us to His heavenly seat.  
His mercies ever shall endure, “when this vain world shall be no more.”

— Isaac Watts —



The Book of Ecclesiastes takes an honest look at life. The writer struggles with the same kind of disappointments and doubts we all share, as he looks for purpose and hope in the real world.

This Bible Study series will be led by Pastor King during the Sunday Adult Forum Hour (9:15-10:15 am), and also used as the basis for his Saturday Evening Sermon Series (5:00 pm) — from January 29th to Palm Sunday. \*Recordings available.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Session Title</i>	<i>Primary Scripture</i>
Jan 29th	1) This Vain World	Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
Feb 5th	2) The Futile Quest	Ecclesiastes 1:12 - 2:24
Feb 12th	► Series Break — <i>Pastor Tom on “The Will of God”</i>	
Feb 19th	3) Stuff Happens	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
Feb 26th	4) We’re All In This Together	Ecclesiastes 4:1-16
Mar 4th	5) You Can’t Take It With You	Ecclesiastes 5:10-6:9
Mar 11th	6) Simple Earthly Good	Ecclesiastes 7:1-18
Mar 18th	7) The Shadow of Death	Ecclesiastes 3:16-22, 9:1-6
Mar 25th	8) Joy in Real Life	Ecclesiastes 8:14-17, 9:7-10
Apr 1st	9) Remember Your Creator	Ecclesiastes 11:5-12:14

Holy Cross Youth Connection

**CONFIRMATION NEWS**



◆ Turn in your “Youth Time & Abilities” sheets as soon as you can. Copies are in the narthex.

◆ On Feb. 8th & 15th: 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> graders meet from 7- 8:15 pm to see “Luther” on DVD. Parents welcome. Popcorn & pop will be provided.

◆ During Lent, which begins February 22<sup>nd</sup>, there are no Wednesday Confirmation classes. Students are expected to attend the 7:00 Wednesday Lenten worship services. Each Confirmation student will be given a sheet with two or three questions about the service and message to discuss with their parents at church immediately after the service. If parents are not available, students can meet with another adult they know. Students should also take worship notes during the Lenten midweek services.

◆ **There will be no Confirmation classes after Feb. 15th.**

◆ 9<sup>th</sup> Graders and Parents: As you approach your Confirmation Sunday next September, you students will be asked to write an essay about your faith in Christ. Together with two or three of your friends, you will also have a conference with Pastor Pete. These assignments are meant to help you pull together what you have learned and give expression to how your faith is growing. In February you will be given initial information about these assignments and will be given the date for Confirmation Sunday.

**\*If you have any questions, contact Pastor Pete or Pastor Tom.\***

**YOUTH NEWS**

➤ We are looking for some PARENTS OR OTHER INTERESTED ADULTS to sit in on the Sunday morning YOUTH 4HIM (9:15 in the Activity Room), get to know the kids and be part of the discussion. Maybe you and your spouse or a friend would like to do this for a couple of weeks; then others can do it for two or three Sundays. If you are interested or have questions, contact Pastor Pete or Judy Van Lith.

**YOUTH 4Him is for all teens in grades 7 through 12. Invite your Friends for the FUN! We meet every Sunday at 9:15 am for Games, Food, and a fun and interesting Bible Discussion.**


## Faith and Fellowship Groups at Holy Cross

### Weekly Quilter's Group

The Quilters Group meets **every Monday at 1pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We have a Bible Study on the first Monday of the month, and dedicate the rest of our time to quilting. If you are interested in participating, contact Alice Schupp: 963-3326.



### Evening Quilting & Fellowship Night


 **Quilting schedule - 7:00 pm, Tuesdays: February 28th, March 13th, April 10th, & May 8th.** *You're welcome to join us anytime!* This group helps sew quilt tops to be finished by the daytime quilters. Some quilts are donated and some are sold with proceeds going to the youth fund for camp scholarships. Come and meet new friends while working on a worthy project! Kits can be made up for you to work on at home also. For more information, please call: Ella (320-558-9280) or LoAnn (320-274-6046).

### Monthly Book & Brunch Club

Book information is to be determined. Hope to see some new faces! Call Judy if interested, and for times and dates: 963-3665.

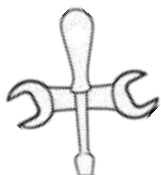


### Mom's in Prayer at Holy Cross

 **Every Thursday at 1:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall. The Purpose of Moms in Prayer International: To pray that our children will receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, then stand boldly in their faith; To pray for teachers and school staff and pray that teachers, administrative staff, & students come to faith in Jesus Christ; To provide support and encouragement to moms who carry heavy burdens for their children; To pray that our schools will be directed by biblical values and high moral standards; To be an encouragement and a positive support to our schools. Everyone is welcome! Contact Wendy for more information: 320-963-6119.

### Wednesday Whittlers

The Wednesday Whittlers is a small group of handymen doing important jobs around church on the **1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 9am**. If interested, contact Dave Sehlin at 763-682-6336.



## LCMC Missions Forum

A Google-Group Venue for Sharing Experiences, Ideas and Needs

Sponsored by the Augustana District Board of World Missions  
Moderated by Mr. Jim Dix

We invite all people who are passionate about missions to join this discussion group! It gives us an opportunity to network together in several areas related to our mission to serve Christ.


It is easy to sign up: just email the moderator, Mr. Jim Dix, at [jdix501@gmail.com](mailto:jdix501@gmail.com). A full description of the group's purpose is included in a letter on the bulletin board in the church hallway.

### Thursday Night Bible Study

A continuance of a lay-led bible study has started up again on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to join in anytime to study in depth: "THE BOOK OF JOHN"


Contact Brian Bentley if you're interested or have questions.



 **>Needed:** Drummers, Bass players, Guitarists, and Pianists who can sub occasionally with the Sunday morning praise band. Contact Becky King or the church office.

## SENIOR HIGH BREAKFAST CLUB

ANY SR. HIGH STUDENT (GRADES 10-12) INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF THE HOLY CROSS BREAKFAST CLUB, STOP BY WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FROM 7:00 TO 8:30 PM

 FOR FOOD, DRINK, AND A GOOD MOVIE WITH DISCUSSION. IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT CHURCH HAS TO DO WITH *SOME 80'S FLICK* TITLE- COME CHECK IT OUT! THE MOVIE TELLS THE STORY, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS SIT BACK AND LOOK FOR THE ANSWER. INVITE ALL YOUR FRIENDS! QUESTIONS? CALL BRIAN AT 763-300-9951. SEE YOU THERE!

**\*\* THERE WILL BE NO BREAKFAST CLUB DURING LENT. \*\***

## The Season of Lent Begins This Month

*"Return to the Lord your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful." (Joel 2:13)*



### **Ash Wednesday, February 22nd**

#### **Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with a Holy Communion service at 7:00 pm. During this service, those who wish to do so may receive the sign of ashes, a biblical symbol of repentance and remembrance of human mortality.

#### Wednesday Lenten Mid-week Schedule:

- 6:00 pm - Soup & Sandwich Supper (\*see below)
- 7:00 pm - Lenten Midweek Service

The focus of our Lenten midweek services this year is:

### **"Great Prayers of the Bible"**

Leading this six-week series will be Pastors Jim Tetlie, Tom Wright, Steve King, and Pete Martinson from Faith in Silver Creek, Abounding Joy in Sartell, and Holy Cross Lutheran churches.

As we study together these prayers of God's people, we'll be inspired in worship and brought more deeply into God's promises for our prayer life.

*Invite your friends and neighbors to join you for these special services,  
beginning February 22nd.*



### **Lenten Soup Suppers: We Need You!**

The Lenten Soup Suppers, shared in fellowship, are enjoyed by many. As you may know, \* all proceeds from this six week event are used to help our youth with summer Bible camp scholarships.

**\*\*Soup Supper Attendance:** This year, there will be no confirmation or first communion classes before the 7pm church service during Lenten Wednesdays. To determine if there's enough interest to continue the suppers, please sign up in the narthex or call the church by 2/10 if you plan to attend these suppers weekly. We'll plan on continuing the suppers if at least 25 people per week are planning to attend. (Suggested Donation is \$5.00 each)



## **Meet and Greet with Pastor Tom**



Though I've been serving at Holy Cross for over a year, because I am part-time here there are many of you I have not had the chance to get to know very well. So, I'm inviting you to one of three brief, informal gatherings (with light refreshments) where we can become better acquainted. I hope you'll be able to attend one of the events.

- **THOSE WITH LAST NAMES THAT BEGIN WITH A-H**  
Wednesday, February 29th 7:45-8:30 pm (after the 7pm service)
  - **THOSE WITH LAST NAMES THAT BEGIN WITH I-M**  
Sunday, March 4th 11:45 am-12:30 pm (after the 10:30 service)
  - **THOSE WITH LAST NAMES THAT BEGIN WITH N-Z**  
Tuesday, March 6th 6:30-7:30 pm (come anytime in that period)
- NOTE: If you can't make it at the time assigned, feel free to come on another date.** ~ Pastor Tom

### **Church Phone Calls**

You may have noticed that if you call Holy Cross lately, you will get an automatic recording to prompt who you wish to speak with during the weekdays. This will make it easier for Holy Cross staff to be able to receive their direct calls more confidentially, and also help in not disrupting various groups that meet within the church. This phone system option will be turned on Monday through Friday.

Often times people call on the weekends, so on Saturdays and Sundays, we will opt to have the phones ring throughout the church so that people will be more likely to reach an individual versus a voicemail, since they are not usually checked on the weekends. This will aid in members needing to cancel worship duties last minute if they are unable to make it, or get messages to the pastors, etc.

**\* We ask that if you are here on a weekend and hear the phone ring, you will please answer it, "Holy Cross, how may I help you?" so that people have a better chance of getting through when needed. We appreciate your assistance!**



#### **BOOK SALE: \*Special Prices Too Great to Pass Up!**

- ESV Study Bible (Regular size): \$54.99 on sale for \$37.00
  - Concordia - Lutheran Confessions (hrdbck) \$32 on sale for \$20
  - Concordia - Lutheran Confessions (pprbck) \$17 on sale for \$15
- \*Leave a note in the office or speak with Pastor Tom if interested