

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WEEKEND WORSHIP

Saturday Contemporary Worship ~ 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Classic Praise Worship ~ 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School and Adult Bible Studies ~ 9:45 a.m.
Creative Praise Worship ~ 11:00 a.m.

Lent 2012

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22 and continues through Easter Sunday April 8. Throughout the season of Lent (the 40 days prior to Easter) we pause midweek to worship and reflect on what led to the death of Jesus and how that might impact our lives and our walk with God.

Midweek Vespers Services will be held each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. with **Congregational Soup Suppers** beginning at 5:45 p.m. The dates will be February 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21, & 28. **Maundy Thursday** worship will be April 5, and **Good Friday** worship will be April 6. **Easter Sunday** will offer FOUR opportunities for worship with a Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m., as well as our regular schedule of Sunday services at 8:30, 10:45 & 11:00 a.m.

"A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12
Join us as we fulfill our mission to **CONNECT, NURTURE and SERVE** in 2012!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church • Indianapolis February 2012 Newsletter



Holy Cross Lutheran Church Mission Statement

*"A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12
The mission of Holy Cross Lutheran Church is to make disciples by connecting families to Christ and each other, nurturing faith, and serving in Christian love.*

There's more to Christian discipleship than just knowing that your sins are forgiven. Jesus clearly encourages us to continually grow in our faith and discipleship. At Holy Cross, we call this Faith Life, and it has three components: **CONNECT, NURTURE, SERVE.**

The Life of Discipleship

As we are reading and studying “The Story” as a congregation, we are becoming more aware of how involved God has been throughout human history in the lives of people. The Story of the Bible is the story about a lot of different people, because the way God works in our world is through people. The way He works in the world around you is through YOU! You are how God plans to impact the world you live in. So our study of The Story prompts in us a desire to be the best disciples of Jesus we can possibly be! Our response is the be sure we are **CONNECTED** to God and each other, **NURTURED** in our faith, and that we are **SERVING** and using the gifts God has given us to impact the world.

That will be our emphasis throughout the month of February as we recommit ourselves to being the best disciples we can be. Join us especially for Super Bowl Weekend, February 4&5, as we will share way to help keep us focused on our walk with God while also serving as an excellent tool in our witness to family and friends.

Yours in Him,
Pastor John Sattler

Year End Statistics 2011

Received by Confirmation	33
Received by Baptism	21
Received by Transfer	18
<u>Received by Profession</u>	<u>21</u>
Total Received	79
Total Removed	22
Growth	57

Statistical Report		2011	2010
Worship Attendance (Year Average)		584	582
Sunday Adult Study of the Bible (December)		152	38
Baptized Membership		1416	1359
Communicant Membership		984	929
Membership Changes – December 2011			
<u>Received by Confirmation</u>		<u>Received by Profession of Faith</u>	
Bradley, Brittney Nichole		Ehlke, Jonathan and Evelyn	
Bradley, Mark & Lisa		Hammond, J. Andrew	
Ehlke, Heidi Elizabeth		Johnson, Bertil & Pauline	
Meares, Kendall		Schwanke, Ronald	
Muskopf, Anne Katherine			
Newell, Jack Wilfred		<u>Removed by Release</u>	
Pence, Kelli		Tennehouse, VerLee	
Wilson, Amy Jean			
		<u>Removed by Death</u>	
		Begley, Timothy, 12-22-11	

Noblesville Mission Congregation

We are SO pleased and excited to announce that **Pastor Jonathan van Sliedrecht** has ACCEPTED the Call to serve as the Mission Developer for our new Noblesville Mission Congregation that we are helping to develop along with Carmel Lutheran and Lord of Life Lutheran in Westfield. He and his family will be joining us here at Holy Cross in the coming weeks. We ask that you include him and his wife, Becky, and two daughters, in prayer during this time of transition. Also pray for First Immanuel Lutheran Church, Cedarburg, Wisconsin, where he currently serves as they bid farewell to their pastor. Initial startup information about our new Noblesville congregation will be made available in the weeks to come, especially after Pastor van Sliedrecht arrives. A huge thank you to God for His involvement in all this!

Holy Land Trip 2013

Pastor & Meg Sattler will be leading a tour of the Holy Land, June 11-19, 2013. Walking where Jesus walked and experiencing the land of the Bible will open God's Word to you in a profound way that will literally change your life! Reserve these dates and plan to join us for a once-in-a-lifetime experience! An excellent follow-up to your reading of The Story. Some of the details of the trip are available at www.hclc.info/HolyLand. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center. Interested in going? Contact Pastor Sattler at jsattler@hclc.info.

Worship Ministry

Paul Groth, Worship Director

Hymn of the Month (HOM)

Our hymn for February is #910—“Now the Silence”. It was introduced as a HOM last year, but is really not a new song to our church in that it has been around for decades. We are re-visiting it as a hymn of a general nature in that it describes all that transpires during the church year. Originally used primarily as a communion song, it really encompasses the whole worship experience. Our desire is to use this song more regularly as a worship aid as the year progresses.

Men's Choir

Once again the male singers at Holy Cross are being asked to participate in a special group to enhance our worship in song on Sunday, February 26, at both the 8:30 and 10:45 services. If you are a male vocalist high school age or older, and wish to be a part of this group, please attend a brief rehearsal on Wednesday, February 22, at 6:15 P.M. in the Worship Center. Another opportunity to rehearse will come on Sunday, February 26, at 8:10 A.M. in Room #303.

Volunteers SERVE

The worship volunteers at Holy Cross do a truly great job in all the various areas that worship encompasses. The regularity with which many have been involved continues to show itself and makes worship work. At this point, however, we are still in need of further assistance in two primary areas—Worship Nursery and Children's Church—especially, at the 10:45 service. We would like those of you parents who have young children, and have used the nursery in the past, or are using it presently, please consider giving of your time to help with this volunteer opportunity. Many of our worship volunteers have been truly diligent in their willingness to be involved. It would be great to see many more of our members would join in doing these important services as well.

Holy Cross Orchestra

Holy Cross has been blessed with much fine musical talent—especially with our young people. Diligence has been shown by so many of those instrumentalists who through the years have given of their musical talents to help enhance our worship. Our new orchestra is certainly a good example of the willing hearts and fine talent that so many of our musicians possess. The next performance by our orchestra this winter will be on Sunday, February 19. If you are an experienced instrumentalist, high school age or older, and wish to participate in this relatively new musical venture, join us in the Worship Center for three Wednesday rehearsals—February 1st, February 8th, and February 15th, all at 6:30 P.M. If you wish to play but can't make all the Wednesday rehearsals, other accommodations can be made. The goal is to get as many of our musicians involved to praise the Lord through this instrumental musical medium.

Worship Nursery Ministry Leader

The Holy Cross church and staff would like to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to Michele Saysana for her years of hard work and dedication while leading the Nursery Ministry. Her expertise as a doctor and working with children were of great value when it came to setting up safety and hazard guidelines, bringing in paging devices to reach parents in emergencies and the standards we use to this day to keep our children safe while parents are in worship. If you see her, please take the time to thank her for her time and service in this area.

THANK YOU to Heidi Mielke for her more than 15 years of service to God's Kingdom here on earth at Holy Cross! The time, talent and treasure that she brought to our ministries are invaluable! We wish her all the best in her retirement and with the coming of the newest addition to the Mielke household. God's blessings to you all!

THANK YOU to Hannah Frash for giving of her time to help address the envelopes for the special Christmas cards and delivering them to the church office for mailing.

Things Going On

Exciting News from the Library!

I can't tell you how exciting it is to see young children getting into reading!! We have 2 more 4th graders who gave reviews.

LEO KHAMIS - He read "The Last Olympian." It is about mythology. Leo reports, "In it four friends are trying to save and keep Kranos and his Titans away from Olympus." Leo says he would definitely recommend this book to others.

A. J. BRISBEN - A. J. read a book entitled "But Everybody Does It." This is about a young boy named Robbie who is trying to be accepted at a new school but gets in with the wrong crowd. A. J. hasn't had this experience but he says, "I can understand how there are some kids who feel as if they don't fit in." We wish you all many blessings in the New Year and look forward to seeing you soon. Get ready! Get set! READ ☺

New in the Library ☺ You can check out DVDs of our weekend worship for the past several months. If you know the date or topic of the sermon, we will be happy to look it up and reserve it for you.

Carol Young, Librarian

Vacation Bible School Dates

Save the Dates!!!! Vacation Bible School dates have been set. Please plan to join us June 11-15, 2012 from 9-11:45 for another exciting VBS. Details regarding this ministry including registration to come at a later date.

Rummage Sale Dates

Mark your Calendars for the Annual Rummage Sale being held on Friday, June 8th and Saturday, June 9th. More details will be coming.

BE the Church in February

We are collecting food items and clothing for the food and clothing banks at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. Collections begin on Sunday, February 5th. Please bring items to the collection area in the Crossing, next to the coffee pots.

Camp Lakeview

Now Registering Summer Campers

Camp Lakeview and Lake View Villages, near Seymour, IN, are currently registering campers, grades K-12, for its 2012 summer season. This is a great place to have fun and learn about God at the same time! To get more information and a registration form, pick up a summer brochure at the Welcome Center, visit the camp's website at www.camlakeview.com or call the camp office at 812-342-4815. Registration forms must be marked on or after February 1st.

The new Lakeview Villages campsite will be fully operational this summer when the Main Lodge and fourth Village Cluster are completed this spring. This exciting expansion project allows more kids to come to camp and allows youth to come throughout their high school years. Get your registration ready and mail it as soon as possible

Euchre Tournament and Game Night

Please join us for our Euchre Tournament, hosted by the Sharing Ministry Team, on Saturday, January 28th. We will begin at 6:45pm and will be done by 9:30pm. Prizes will be awarded and snacks and drinks will be provided. It is only \$5 per person to play. We will also have board games available for kids to play in the Great Room as well. If interested, please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Carrie Jung at 823-8218 or at cmjung03@gmail.com.

Coffee Hour Help Needed

Are you looking for a way to **SERVE** that is not a long term commitment? We would love to have your help with the Coffee Hour Refreshments on Sunday morning. You only need to make the coffee (all the ingredients are supplied), and pick up the delicious donuts (already ordered and paid for) and clean it up after the 11:00 a.m. service begins. If this is an area you are interested in, please contact Terri Newkirk at tnewkirk@comcast.net or at 823-1140.

Faith Life Ministry

Scott Jung, Faith Life Director

Don't Give Up!

In the month of February we will be exploring chapters 16-19. I have heard some express the opinion that we are entering the "boring chapters" of *The Story*. I pray that you will come to a different conclusion as you read these pivotal chapters that prepare us for the coming of our Savior in chapter 22. You began this journey with enthusiasm back in September, but now six months in, you may be finding it hard to keep going. I want to encourage you to read each chapter of *The Story* with your eyes firmly fixed on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). Ask yourself, *How is this chapter preparing me for Jesus? Where do I see evidence that this world needed a Savior? Where do I see pictures of what this Savior would be? Where do I see Jesus coming not only for certain people, but for the whole world?* As we keep our eyes on Jesus, the reason for *The Story*, we can regain the excitement of working through the greatest Story ever!

For adults, we offer Sunday Study of the Bible at 9:45 a.m., a Wednesday study ("Getting to the Heart of God's Story") at 6:00 p.m., and many Small Groups that meet periodically through the month. Contact Scott Jung for more information.

For the children, we offer Sunday School for all ages. Sunday School resumes January 8th. Our Genesis Midweek Program is open to 1st-6th grades and meets Wednesday evening from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Individual and family devotions, Small Group studies, and additional material to guide you through *The Story* can be found at www.hclc.info/TheStory.

This Month in *The Story*

Week of February 5, 2012 ~ The Beginning of the End (of the Kingdom of Israel) (Chapter 16).
2 Kings 17—19; Isaiah 3; 6; 13—14; 49; 53

Week of February 12, 2012 ~ The Kingdoms' Fall (Chapter 17)
2 Kings 21; 23—25; 2 Chronicles 33; 36; Jeremiah 1—2; 4—5; 13; 21;
Lamentations 1—3; 5; Ezekiel 1—2; 6—7; 36—37

Week of February 19, 2012 ~ Daniel in Exile (Chapter 18)
Daniel 1—3; 6; Jeremiah 29—31

Week of February 26, 2012 ~ The Return Home (Chapter 19)
Ezra 1—6; Haggai 1—2; Zechariah 1; 8

THANK YOU to the generous member who donated ten extra *The Story* books to have available during Bible Study. What a great demonstration of Christian love – to provide for someone who forgets their copy OR even a visitor! These extra books will eventually be donated to the library!

Thrivent Choice Dollars program benefited HCLC ministries in 2011

Did you know that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans distributed a total of \$7532 in Choice Dollar Grant Funds to Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School in 2011? We appreciate our generous Thrivent members who have chosen to support our ministries by designating their Choice Dollars to us!

Do you have insurance or an investment through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans? If you have not yet designated a Lutheran charity to benefit from your 2011 Choice Dollars, you still have until March 30, 2012 to do so! Simply visit Thrivent.com/choicedollars and log in to view your designated Choice Dollars. You may also call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice". When next prompted, say, "Choice Dollars."

Again, **thank you** to our generous Thrivent members who have recognized the impact we are making with our ministries here at Holy Cross! If you are interested in knowing more about Thrivent, contact Michele Wisely at 823-5801 x310.

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School Ministry

Karen Geiger, Principal

Reflections from Holy Cross Lutheran School

The new year is well under way and so is registration for 2012-2013. Don't forget to share with friends and neighbors about Holy Cross (age 2 - grade 7) for next year. The second semester is like running a race. The end is near but there is much more to complete with the pace picking up. The teachers are working diligently to create better disciples by being the great cloud of witnesses. (Hebrews 12:1) The staff strives to be the inspiring examples which can be challenging and exhausting. But as we fix our eyes on Jesus, the prize is very clear. Eternal life for all our families!!! So it is worth the extra time and hard work. Please pray for the staff at Holy Cross as they run this race with perseverance and conviction. We invite you to visit us as well as sign up to be a pen pal with one of our students. This is a great way to experience first hand what is happening at school!! Another way to feel the impact of Holy Cross school, is to attend chapel Wednesday mornings at 9:00.

See you there!!

In Christ,

Karen Geiger

THANK YOU to school mom, Angela Dant, who volunteers with such a happy heart while doing everything with excellence, such as leading our Market Day Fundraiser and organizing our PTO as Records Chairperson! She is an advocate for Holy Cross and sings our praises at her home church, Carmel Lutheran!

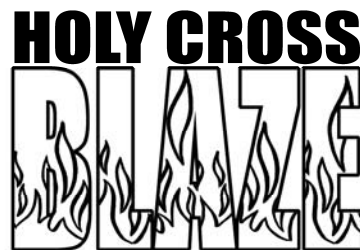
THANK YOU to Jenny Hohnbaum, our fabulous HCLS 2nd grade room mom, who organized and led the second graders in making Christmas cards to send to people who were on our prayer list, or members who have not been able to come to church lately. The remainder of the cards (because the 2nd graders were so **GENEROUS** with their time and talent), are being taken to Westminster Village by Ken Carlson, to be distributed to residents who need some love and cheer!

THANK YOU to Mike Springer, Tom Hannahan, Chris Gift, Jeff Brisben, Kevin Eggers, Tracey Chandler, for giving so generously of their time and talents in coaching our HCLS students in basketball this season!

Thanks to EVERYONE!

The entire staff of Holy Cross wishes to express our deepest thanks to everyone for the gifts and cards received over the holidays. We are very grateful for your generosity and your kindness.

THANK YOU for your financial generosity in 2011! Even while running a capital campaign concurrently, our giving increased significantly in the last quarter of 2011. Way to go, Holy Cross family and friends, for helping to fulfill our mission to make disciples by connecting families to Christ and each other, nurturing faith and serving in Christian love.



Stephen Ministry

Holy Cross is a Stephen Ministry Caring Congregation

An Invitation to Commissioning

On January 8, Holy Cross commissioned nine (9) new Stephen Ministers.

Our Stephen Ministers have completed substantial training to equip them for their task. Now our Stephen Ministers will be depending on our support in the time ahead as they assume the duties of their ministry.

How can we help?

First of all, we can pray for our Stephen Leaders, our Stephen Ministers, and their care receivers. This ministry calls for both time and effort. At times they may feel tired, discouraged, or convinced that they are not accomplishing anything. The assurance of our prayers and appreciation will help them keep moving forward.

We can also affirm and show our appreciation for this valuable ministry.

We can tell them how much their hard work means to us, tell others how much we value our Stephen Ministry, and focus attention on our Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers to bless and affirm them in special ways—as we do with our commissioning services.

We can become involved in this ministry in many ways. Some of us may recognize a call to use our special gifts in this ministry and may apply to be a Stephen Leader or Stephen Minister. Others may accept the care of a Stephen Minister. We can be ministers of referral, watching for people in need and suggesting a Stephen Minister's care. We all can give our enthusiastic support by keeping Stephen Ministry always before us and by praying for and affirming those who have answered God's call to serve in this way.

Let us thank God for all that our Stephen Ministers will bring to this congregation in providing care to others, and let us promise them our daily prayer and support as we send them out to minister among us.

For information about Stephen Ministry, contact Stephen Ministry Leaders, Susan Scheiwe (thescheiwe@sbcglobal.net) or Mark Branaman (markbranaman@yahoo.com), or contact the Church Office (823-5801)



Development Ministry

Michele Wiseley, Director of Development

The mission of Holy Cross Lutheran Church is to make disciples by connecting families to Christ and each other, nurturing faith, and serving in Christian love.

As we go to print for the February newsletter, I have seen so much news coverage on the recent Italian cruise ship tragedy – and I must admit, have formed my opinion of the ship's captain, who reportedly "abandoned ship" instead of making sure everyone was safely evacuated, not to mention the reported "disorganization" amongst the ship's crew in general. One survivor reported, "It was every man for himself!" It is so easy to get caught up in these "larger than life" events that touch our hearts in sadness for the unnecessary loss of life, while we also stand in judgment of those "at fault".

How is this different from our responsibility as Christians to make sure everyone is safely evacuated from Earth when Jesus comes again to call us home to Heaven? We are commissioned by Jesus to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 In addition, our mission here at Holy Cross is to make disciples by **CONNECTING** families to Christ and each other, **NURTURING** faith and **SERVING** in Christian love!

I am guilty of "abandoning ship" sometimes, even though my intentions are good! My fear of rejection, uncertainty about my Bible knowledge, or just not wanting to step out of my comfort zone to tell others about the saving grace and love of Jesus makes it impossible for me to fulfill this Great Commission. Don't you think that saddens God? But, with His help, I know that I am forgiven and can return to the ship for lost souls, and my prayer each day is that I don't leave somebody saying, "it was every man for himself"!

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangle, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12: 1-3

"A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12

Join us as we fulfill our mission to **CONNECT, NURTURE and SERVE** in 2012!