



December 10, 2017

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA



Dear Disciples of Holy Cross,

Last weekend we celebrated Zac Meyer's nine years among us. During this time, we saw the transformation of our confirmation and youth ministries. Our ability to attract and retain gifted staff like Zac is made possible by your offerings.

Many of you have inquired *what is next* in filling the position of Minister of Youth Faith Formation. This position has grown to include preaching, teaching, lifting up small group relationships and inspiring our young people to service. An ideal candidate would have theological training, public speaking proficiency and a passion for inspiring young people and young adults in faith and service. It is essential the candidate relate to young people and their parents/guardians, while understanding the culture, pressures and challenges that surround them.

Our plan is to call a pastor or theologically trained lay person to serve in this specialized area of ministry. We have eight people ready to serve on a Call Committee to begin the process in January.

Although we are excited about this possibility, let us share our concern. Like other churches, Holy Cross typically operates with a deficit throughout the first ten months of the year, anticipating that the usual year-end up-turn in giving will offset the deficit. However, in the month of November we experienced a sharp and unexpected decline of \$25,000 in offerings.

Although we have underspent our budget by 5%, as of November 30 we have a deficit of \$86,708. Presently, the new youth pastor position is included in the proposed 2018 budget, but we feel unable to move forward unless the 2017 deficit is significantly reduced.

God works through all of us to make ministry happen. Please consider additional offerings during December so that we can begin the new year in a strong financial position.

Children's Events

Bible Zoo will not be held on December 21 due to the 7:00 Children's Nativity Worship Service. We will be back on January 18 at 6:30. Our puppets, Oreo, Leo, and Simon will all be joining us.

Please join us for the Faith Development Christmas Program, *Silent Night, Smart Phone Night* on December 17 at 9:00 and 10:30 am. The FD kids are excited to be performing two songs for you, and there will be a skit that explains the true meaning of Christmas.

We invite you to the Nativity Experience Worship Service, on Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 pm. You will hear the retelling of the Christmas story through the eyes of the shepherds, angels, wise men, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and more. Plus there will be plenty of your favorite songs to sing! Make this night a Christmas tradition.

Luther Manor

A huge thank you to all who responded to the Annual Friends of Luther Manor Drive for 2017. A total of \$700.00 was given to benefit the residents. Several dozen cookies were given (that is an ongoing ministry) and the Blue Bin was filled several times over with wonderful items for the Bingo Party that was held on November 28. Many Holy Cross members volunteered that evening to assist with Bingo and serve delicious apple cakes. I am grateful to Holy Cross for the continued support of the Luther Manor residents in a variety of ways throughout the year. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Sandy, Holy Cross keyperson at 251-6225.



Preschool News

The fall months at Holy Cross Preschool have been busy and fun. The teachers have transformed the classrooms into creative and exciting learning places. The children have settled into a routine, made new friends, and are always hard at their work: PLAY! Play has an important influence on every aspect of a child's development, laying the foundation for reading, writing mathematical reasoning and creativity. The next couple of weeks are filled with a Christmas play field trip, Preschool Dinner/Movie Night, Stay-n-Play lunch program, and of course our annual Christmas Program. You are invited to check us out anytime!!

Kohl's Wild Theater is coming to Holy Cross! Please join us on Wednesday, January 17 at 11:00 am in the Trinity Center when KWT (sponsored by the Zoological Society & Kohl's Cares) will perform "Misunderstood: Musicals for the Underappreciated". Bats, frogs, and other underappreciated animals take center stage in this collection of musicals about Wisconsin animals. Parents/grandparents/babysitters and children are invited to attend. There is NO charge for the performance.

Giving Tree Thanks & Invitation

Thanks to all who donated gifts and money to the Giving Tree this year. The response has been incredible. We have been able to give a Christmas gift to over 300 adult students and preschoolers who attend the International Learn-

Save The Date

Hearts in Unity is a local non-profit that supports sewing, food security, and other projects across the country of Tanzania. The organization will be selling hand crafted items created by Tanzanian artisans next weekend following all worship services.

ing Center in Milwaukee. We invite you to meet the folks who attend the ILC by joining us at their Holiday Party on Thursday, December 21. There will be a program, followed by a potluck lunch prepared by the students. Sign up on the board in the narthex to carpool. We will depart Holy Cross at 8:00 am and return around 1:00 pm.

Did you grab a tag and forget to drop off your gift? There is still time to drop of your gift! Please drop off gifts in the office no later than Tuesday December 12.

Worship with our Partners at Hephatha next weekend

Join us next Sunday, December 17 as we spend a Sunday worshipping with our partners at Hephatha Lutheran Church. After worship we will serve the congregation and community a taco lunch. The bus to Hephatha departs at 8:00 am and will return by 1:00 pm. Please sign up on the board in the narthex to ride the bus. Have questions? Contact Amanda, our Minister of Partnership and Mission at amandaj@holycrosslutheran.org

Coffee and Chocolate Make Great Christmas Gifts

Stop by the table in the atrium to purchase Mt. Meru Coffee and Divine Chocolates today! Our fair trade Mt. Meru coffee supports local farmers in the Meru Diocese of Tanzania. Also available are newly designed Mt. Meru Coffee mugs and jute bags.



PRAYER CONNECTION

Join the Prayer Chain or submit a request by emailing prayerchain@holycrosslutheran.org

MEMORIAL CHART

- Flower support is given by Bob & Linda Ferguson in honor of their 41st wedding anniversary.
 - Flower support is given by Kim McCarty in honor of December birthdays.
- NOISY OFFERING
- ELCA Disaster Relief

SERVING on December 16 & 17

Ushers:

5:00 pm Dave & Janet Blank Team
7:45 am Randy Kressin team
9:00 am Bill Marohl team
10:30 am Oliver Olsen team

Lector:

5:00 pm Pete Deubler
7:45 am Jill Konicek
9:00 am Brian Espinosa
10:30 am Miranda Montijo

Worship Assistant:

Deni Naumann

Altar Guild:

Donita Bruder, Dianne Donnell, Sandra Lembke, Bev Mehring

Greeters:


5:00 pm Paul & Anne Lindemann, Kaeley Gensler, Stephanie Truckenmiller
7:30 am Don & Sandy Earnest, Marilyn Heyde, Sandy & Bob Schlag
9:00 am Bob & Coleen Reshel, Betty Redding
10:30 am George & Donita Bruder, Darlene Kullmann, Nick & Vicki Montijo

Welcome Center:

4:40 pm Mary Ann Holt
8:30 am Jill Konicek
10:00 am Carol Miller

So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

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Web Site: www.holycrosslutheran.org

Worship Schedule: Saturday-5:00 pm, Sunday-7:45, 9:00 & 10:30 am



TODAY

Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Worship Asst./Lectors: Avis Dallman, Lowell Carl, Bill Winge, Phil Smith

TODAY-Sunday 10

Scrip Sale, Blood Pressure Screening, Coffee & Chocolate Sale
Worship 7:45, 9:00 & 10:30 am
Celebration Band & Choir 9:00 am
Faith Development 9:00 & 10:30 am
Breakfast Club 9:30 am
Blue Christmas 12:00 pm

Monday 11

Preschool 9:00 am
Stephen Ministry 6:00 pm

Tuesday 12

Preschool 9:00 am
Staff Meeting 10:00 am
God Squad 6:00 pm
King's Kids 6:00 pm
MEB 6:00 pm
Preschool Christmas Program 6:00 pm
Celebration Band & Choir 7:00 pm

Wednesday 13

Preschool 9:00 am
Young At Heart 11:30 am
Martha Circle 1:00 pm
Hephatha Meal Prep 5:30 pm
Heavenly Sounds Handbells 6:00 pm
Chancel & Festival Choir 7:00 pm
Student Ministry Night 7:00 pm

Thursday 14

Preschool 9:00 am
Pr. David Bible Study 11:00 am
Community Dinner 5:30 pm
Internship Meeting 5:30 pm
Worship Team 6:00 pm
Council 7:00 pm

Friday 15

Church Office Closes At Noon
Preschool 9:00 pm



Saturday 16

Scrip Sale, Kringle Pick Up, Hearts In Unity Sale
Men In Mission 7:30 am
Worship 5:00 pm

Sunday 17

Scrip Sale, Kringle Pick Up, Hearts In Unity Sale,
Worship 7:45, 9:00 & 10:30 am
Bus Departs For Hephatha 8:00 am
Celebration Band & Choir 9:00 am
Faith Development 9:00 & 10:30 am-Sing During Worship

Poinsettia Orders Due Today

We will be decorating the altar with poinsettia plants for Christmas. You may purchase them for \$10 each, and give them in honor or memory of someone. Please use the order form enclosed; orders are due Sunday, December 10.



Last Weekend to Order Kringle

This weekend is your last opportunity to taste and order O & H Bakery Danish Kringle for your holiday events. Kringle orders can be picked up next weekend following all worship services. All proceeds from Kringle sales support high school youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. Stop by the table in the narthex to order today and try some samples!

JOIN US FOR

Seniors

●Young at Heart will be holding their Christmas Party on December 13 at Village Bowl on Main Street from 11:30-3:30 pm in the Mardi Gras Room. If you signed up, we hope to see you there. Cost is \$22.00.

PRACTICE 7 SERVE

What we often wait for God to do for us, He wants to do through us.

Unknown

