

# CROSSROADS

Holy Cross Lutheran Church— ELCA



## Happy New Year!

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9*

I want to begin with a huge Thank You!

- Thank you to YOU, the people of God called Holy Cross Lutheran Church!
- Thank you for your continued growth in discipleship.
- Thank you for your realization of being a blessed people despite our nation's tough economic times. We are deeply grateful to have seen an increase in giving in 2009! Many thanks for your generosity! You help to fund God's work through the various ministries of Holy Cross.
- Thank you for your support in sharing of your time, talent and treasures. YOU make a difference!
  - ~ Thank you for our continued growth working with our partner congregations: Seela in Tanzania, Florist Avenue and Hephatha in Milwaukee.
  - ~ Thank you for serving in Faith Development, Ministry Teams, AOB guides, VBS, worship assistants (Altar Guild, Ushers, Lectors, Acolytes and Assistants), Prayer Chain, musicians and everything else!
- Thank you to a simply amazing Church Council whose wisdom, humor and guidance have served this congregation with tremendous integrity.
- Thank you to outgoing Executive Board members Randy Stowell, President, Robyn Zinda, Vice President, and Julie Bandt, Secretary, who have fulfilled their terms, serving the last three years with enthusiasm and deep commitment. We are grateful to Mark Nadolski for his continued wisdom when it comes to seeing numbers and finances as ministry. We are grateful that he continues to serve us as Treasurer of the congregation. Together with the council we have accomplished so much.
- Finally, thank you to a great staff who works above and beyond in all endeavors as they support the vision and the mission of this congregation! We couldn't do it without you all!

Jan. 12, 2010  
Volume MMX No. 1

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Together as a congregation we have walked with each other through job loss, death of loved ones, divorce and other struggles. However, we have also celebrated weddings, anniversaries, births, graduations and other milestones. We walk surrounded by the comfort and challenge of God's Word. We journey comforted with the promises of grace, forgiveness, and eternal life as we receive our Lord when we celebrate the sacraments regularly as God's family. I am grateful that we have turned more to growing spiritually in these tough times, with a renewed awareness that when other things in this life might fail us (i.e. stock markets, etc) the love of God never does.

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## Life at Holy Cross

### Upcoming Events

•The Young Adults Group is for twenty-to-thirty-something adults and their children in our congregation. We meet once a month for a pot luck dinner and fellowship on the first Saturday after the 5:00 service. If anyone has any questions, please contact Todd at 414-881-0235 or via email at tfochs1023@yahoo.com.

•Holy Cross will be traveling to Hephatha on January 31 to worship and serve lunch. Everyone is invited to attend. We will meet at Holy Cross at 8:00 am and travel by bus to Hephatha. We will return at 12:30 pm. Contact Sue Christiaansen in the church office if you would like to attend.

### Memorials

A memorial was received from Rick Binzak in memory of his wife Carol Binzak.

A memorial was received from Ruth Rogers in memory of Mabelle Rogers

A memorial was received from Vanda Pralle in memory of Maggie Zache.

### Thanks

The following letter was received by the Holy Cross Quilters from Hephatha Lutheran.

"Thank you for the beautiful load of warm items you delivered to Hephatha today. Your beautiful quilts will keep people warm this winter and into the years ahead. We are grateful for the time, talent, energy, materials, love and faith that you have put into these warm gifts. Thank you for your mission partnership. God's Peace to you, Pr. Mary Martha"

### Prayer Connection

#### •Hospitalized

Brian Braaten at CMH

#### •Births

To Brad & Rachel Tillman, a son named Micah.

To Andrew & Allison Krohn, a son named Riley.

#### •Christian Sympathy

To Ron & Kathy Bolstad and their family in the death of Ron's Mother, Eleanore.

### General Contributions

*Our 2009 budget calls for average weekly contributions of \$20, 269 to avoid an operating deficit.*

Week of December 27, 2009:

Offerings = \$64,135.00 (\$1,044.00 Simply Giving, \$63,091.00 plate offerings, includes Christmas and year end matching gifts)

### Attendance

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: 1,741

Week of December 27, 2009: Saturday 27; Sunday 213.

Week of January 3, 2010: Saturday 115; Sunday 431.

### Military Honor Roll

Please keep the following Holy Cross members and families in your prayers: Shannon Brusseau, Aaron Ferguson, Eric Hemming, Nick Gilson, Julie Lange, Jonathan Lange, Eric Nordseth, Patrick Remfrey, Joshua Braaten, Loren Braaten.

### *Seedlings from Earthkeepers*



The average person goes through 1.5 pounds of paper every day. A great way to cut this number down is using both sides of paper and recycling it when done.

"Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees, two barrels of oil (enough to run the average car for 1,260 miles), 4,100 kilowatts of energy (enough power for the average home for six months), 3.2 cubic yards of landfill space and 60 pounds of air pollution," according to the book, "Trash to Cash."



With that said, may we continue in the New Year to grow in our daily discipleship and walk with our Lord! Let's challenge one another in 2010 to worship weekly, pray daily, study the Bible, give of our financial resources to God's ministries and serve both inside and outside of our church doors.

As I write on this last day of 2009, may we all resolve to grow in faith and discipleship as a community of Christ in 2010. Happy New Year! Grow in Faith. Serve the Lord.

Pastor Meredith

**What  
Does  
Your  
Faith  
Look  
Like?**

### **What do you Resolve to do in 2010?**

Do you hope to gain a closer relationship with God? Learn more about the Bible? Pray more? Connect Sunday to Monday and the rest of the week? We can help you with that! Get on the Discipleship Wagon in 2010 where we will seek to grow in all of these areas.

- Worship Weekly
- Pray Daily
- Study the Bible
- Give of time, talents and treasure
- Serve in and outside the doors of Holy Cross.

If you want ideas on how to grow in these areas, please call one of the ministry staff, or check out our website for an ongoing update of adult education classes and service opportunities.

### **Get the Spring Back in your Step!**

What: HOLY CROSS WOMEN'S RETREAT

When: April 17-18

Where: Green Lake Conference Center...A beautiful 1000 acre retreat center on the shores of Green Lake. (About 1 ½ hours from Holy Cross)

Lodging: Hotel style accommodations with two double beds and a bath. Check out their website at [www.glcc.org](http://www.glcc.org) to learn more about this center and to see Kern Lodge

Cost: Lodging plus 4 meals...Single Room - \$ 120; Double Room - \$ 75; Triple Room - \$ 60 (only 6 of these rooms are available)

What will we do? Plans include a variety of opportunities including: worship, devotions, crafts, reading, games (bring your own materials to catch up on ~ scrapbooking, stamping, reading or a deck of cards). Pastor Meredith will lead a discussion on the popular book *The Shack*. HCLC member Cindi Schickert will lead some Yoga sessions as well as a conversation on health, nutrition and wellness. Hopefully, we'll have great spring weather and you can enjoy a walk along the lake! Delicious meals are provided by the folks at the conference center and served in a dining room overlooking the lake.

REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE Online (Tab "Forms") or in the church office.

# God's Work Our Hands

## **Men's Retreat; March 5th & 6th**

The Men in Mission are planning a retreat at Imago Dei Camp of Crossways Camping Ministry on March 5th & 6th. It will include cabin, meals and speakers, time of fellowship and support. The fee is \$75.00. See the Registration display in the Gathering Place on the bulletin board in the Men in Mission area, or contact Pastor David at the church office. Registrations are due as soon as possible. Men from other congregations will be part of the retreat.

## **Bible Stories for Adults**

This study takes place on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am (while kids are in FD) in room 109 from January 10 through Feb. 14 with Steve Trethewey. It will focus on a different Bible story each week. Whether you've heard the story, know and love it, have some questions about it, or just want to explore the story in more depth, (with no preparation) you're welcome to drop in each or any Sunday.

## **A Big Thank You Quad Employees!**

Holy Cross has eleven member families employed by QuadGraphics who participated in Quad's Community Fund program this year. This program matches the gifts our members have designated for Holy Cross dollar for dollar. This year, we were blessed with the receipt of total contributions in the amount of \$26,274 at the end of the year! We are very thankful that these families chose to participate in Quad's matching gift program and to the Windhover Foundation for their community support.

Does your company have a matching gift program that you could participate in? Check with your employer and see if Holy Cross might be an eligible recipient for their program. What a thoughtful, easy way to increase support of Holy Cross.

### **MISSION ENDOWMENT BOARD MESSAGE..... FOR THE RECORD**

U.S. Savings Bonds have long been popular because they earned interest tax free for the 30 years of their lifespan. They are still popular, but they do not STAY tax free.

When sold or transferred to family members, Uncle Sam gets his cut. They can be a smart gift to Holy Cross if they become the basis for establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity through the ELCA for Holy Cross. A financial planner can demonstrate how this taxed item can be given, taxes saved and income gained for the rest of your (or jointly with spouse) life.

Yes, Savings Bonds have been a good investment. Now they can become a wonderful vehicle for making gifts for God's church.

REMEMBER: According to our Constitution, estate funds left to Holy Cross Lutheran Church go to the Mission Endowment Fund of Holy Cross. Should your desire to leave funds for other areas of the church, those areas should be specifically designated. For example: Ten percent of my estate is left to Holy Cross Lutheran Church for use "toward the mortgage", "operational expenses" or "to support the preschool".

## Offering Envelopes

In 2010, you will receive two packets (instead of four) of offering envelopes. The first will be for the months of January-June, the second packet will be for the months of July-December. Thanks for all you do and will continue to do in supporting God's mission through Holy Cross.

## Happy New Year from the Holy Cross Property Team! May God bless you and keep you safe in the New Year.

The past year has been a good one for the Property Ministry Team. New handicap parking signs have been installed, many walls were patched and painted, windows were cleaned, building repairs were made, light bulbs were changed – a seemingly endless parade of projects and tasks have been tackled. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who were key in accomplishing these efforts - Greg Darga, John Eilertson, Bill Frahm, Marty Kowatsch, Tim Knodl, Paul Tjaden – and of course the many volunteers who come out for the Spring and Fall project days or who help with special tasks as needed, giving selflessly of their time and talents. Thank you, Holy Cross is truly blessed to have you!

If you have not been able to help in the past but are moved to help in the future, let us know by completing a Event Sign Up sheet in the weekly bulletin or by contacting anyone on the Property Team or Church Council. As we embark on the New Year and continue to work through the countless projects and tasks, please consider donating some of your time and talent. Remember – Gods work, our hands!

## Blood Drive

We are working in conjunction with the Blood Center of Wisconsin to do our semi-annual blood drive at Holy Cross. It will be held on Monday, Feb. 1st from 2:00 – 7:00 pm in the Trinity Center. Over the past 1 ½ years, we have collected in excess of 105 units, which is over 300 blood products. Each is vital for someone's life & well-being. YOU CAN BE A PART OF IT! Being healthy and over 18 is a good starting point. You can sign up in the Gathering Place or on-line at [HolyCrossLutheran.org](http://HolyCrossLutheran.org); follow *The Caring for Each Other* tab and below the article is the link. Just enter the church code: DRV0100413 or call Pr. David.

## Joy to the World Nativity Collection to be Expanded

We had hundreds of people view our nativities during the months of November and December in scheduled presentations. Hundreds more enjoyed stopping by for a more informal look. One woman from Cedarburg brought her entire extended family and said to Pastor Meredith, "This is a wonderful outreach!" Indeed it is!

We will be expanding the cabinets by building a three door cabinet on the northeast wall of the Crossways when we receive enough funds for its construction. Memorials and special gifts are now being received to house the additional 250 Nativities. Please note that no budgeted monies or regular offerings will be used towards this endeavor.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Meredith or Beth Dorsey at the office.



# Council Update

## November Council Minutes

### Unfinished Business

Ongoing discussion of a formal Fundraiser Policy (copies of the Policy are available in the office) continued to provide a framework for review and approval of Fundraisers conducted at HCLC. With the understanding that Fundraising activities serve at least two important purposes other than the obvious one of raising needed money for church ministries; they highlight a specific missions, importance and needs and they help to build community within the church and enthusiasm for its ministries.

The purpose of this policy is to allow HCLC to take advantage of fundraising opportunities in a way that preserves congregational relationships, protects our tax-exempt status, and upholds our vision, mission, and values. This policy sets forth criteria for approval of a fundraiser, preparation of a yearly calendar of fundraisers and greater accountability to the church community. This policy is to be administered by the Senior Pastor, Executive Committee and Church Council. The Policy includes guidelines and procedures for fundraising activity, provides an application and follow up process, appropriate Beneficiaries and definitions to provide additional clarity. A motion was made to accept the Fundraising Policy with verbal changes submitted by the Preschool Board. The motion was seconded and carried.

### New Business:

A Resolution Regarding Settlement of HVAC issues in the 2003 Addition was passed. HCLC contracted with Voss Jorgensen Schueler ("VJS") in 2002 to be the general contractor for the addition to the church; who contracted with Bredan Mechanical Systems, Inc. to install and provide maintenance for a period following the initial construction; after the one-year post construction warranty period, HCLC experienced significant HVAC related expenses for repair and replacement of parts, which exceeded expected maintenance and upkeep costs of the system. A group of HCLC leaders and advisors (Pastor Meredith, Beth Dorsey, Randy Stowell and John Booher) negotiated a settlement with VJS to compensate HCLC for some of the costs incurred.

The Council of HCLC approved a settlement of the dispute with VJS for their liability in the HVAC related expenses, documented in a settlement agreement which is (a) acceptable to the Executive Committee and (b) includes a payment to HCLC of not less than \$5,000. The motion was seconded, discussion followed with John Booher and Beth Dorsey answering Council's questions. The motion carried.

### Reports Executive Board and Staff

Randy explained the Visioning Meetings and asked all Council and their teams to attend. Randy asked Council for nominations to fill on Ministry Teams to fill openings.

### Treasurer's Report

Mark Nadolski gave the Treasurer's report. Contributions were up 1% over last year. Expenses were \$83,032 for the month, slightly higher than the previous year. The deficit is \$87,177. Attendance was down 1%. The pickle campaign gave us a 3% increase in giving. The finance team is taking a hard look at refinancing. Initial estimates on savings are \$1300 - \$2900/month. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report as written. The motion was seconded and carried.

1<sup>st</sup> reading of the 2010 Budget...Mark asked everyone to review the budget summary. There is an overall decrease of 3%. We will take another look at the budget at the next Council Meeting.

### Ministry Gift policy

A motion was made for acceptance of a Ministry Gift Policy which states the intent and usage of a \$100,000 gift to Holy Cross in July of 2009. Intent: to be used to enhance the worship, ministry, and spiritual life of this congregation, but not to be used to cover shortfalls for budgeted expenses. Brief Policy Summary (copies can be obtained from the office): the Executive Board (EB) receives requests for use of funds submitted by leadership, ministry teams or staff to either the Sr. Pastor or Council president; the EB will reject/accept requests not to exceed \$1,000 and report disbursements to Council at the next meeting; the EB will receive requests over \$1,000 and prepare a recommendation for action at the next meeting of Council; Council must vote, by majority of those present, for disbursement of any funds over \$1,000.00; a record of all expenditures from the gift shall be provided in the Treasurers Report; \$25,000 of the original gift will be held in reserve to fund future concerts. This policy, along with the specific wishes of the donor, will be used as a framework for developing oversight of similar ministry gifts in the future. The motion was seconded, there was discussion. A motion was made to amend the motion to provide clarification of the gift. The motion to amend was accepted, voted on and carried.

#### Noisy Offerings

The motion was made that we designate of the November Noisy Offering to Emmaus/Redeemer Latino Mission in Racine. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made that the December Noisy Offering go towards transportation costs needed to ship medical supplies to Tanzania. The motion was seconded and carried.

#### Preschool Board

A motion was made to accept the nomination of Melissa Rendel as a voting member of the Preschool Board acknowledging that this departs from the Employee Handbook. The motion was seconded and carried.

#### Servant towel

A motion was made that we give Servant Towels for the month of November to Marlene Lammi, Becky Zingsheim and Judy Paul for their work with the Prayer Chain. The motion was seconded and carried.

#### Thanksgiving Offering

A motion was made that the special offering envelopes marked "Thanksgiving" and loose money offerings be designated for the Menomonee Falls Food Pantry. The motion was seconded and carried.

#### New Member

A motion was made to accept the following new members: Dennis & Charlene Byrne; Randy & Sue Charles; Ardell Dorr; David Doucette; Kristen Grove; Debbie Grove; Anthony, Cheryl & Brayden Donovan; Brian Espinosa; Jennifer, Kaitlyn & Megan Hauser; Sue, Stephanie & Sarah Nagel; Eric, Angie & Ben Nelson; Jason Olejniczak; Frank & Allison Piotrowski; Judith Preuss; Joshua & Christina Prost; Robert & Jennifer Redding; Dan Shaffer; Bill & Judy Wester. The motion was seconded and carried.

#### Nativity Cabinets

A motion was made to reopen the opportunity to receive funds for additional cabinets for the nativity display. The motion was seconded and carried.

#### VII. Ministry Team Reports and Highlights

A. Christian Ed: Birthday Party for Jesus is set for December 11<sup>th</sup>.

B. Church in Society: Holiday Giving - Collecting fleece lap blankets under the Giving Wreath and Global Barnyard gifts for Tanzania on the Giving Tree.

C. Evangelism: Discussing website enhancements.

D. Youth: Wreath fundraising is down. Plans are started for Pie Fest. Fused is focusing on middle school. Jan 22-24 is cookie dough retreat. Plans are being made and a sign up sheet is available for the Flathead Lake Bible Camping & Hiking Adventure in Montana.

E. Mission Endowment: Fund is up over \$100,000.

F. Fellowship & Community:

G. Property: Fall clean up was a success.

H. Worship: Jeff Young will plan another CPR class in spring.

I. Stewardship: Jack asked that everyone attend one of the planned visioning meetings

J. Finance:

K. Preschool Board: Celebrating their 10 year anniversary. Pastor Meredith read a letter from the ELCA on appreciation for the Holy Cross Preschool.

#### VIII. Pastors Report & Final Thoughts

Pastor David gave an update on the memory care program Jump Start. The group is still hoping for a December start. He also told us that Sue Werner has been twittering updates on her trip to Tanzania. Also, the Cluster met today and discussed the candidates for Bishop. Finally, he shared that Florist Avenue has received a new Pastor.

Pastor Meredith inquired about The Lutheran use by Council and their teams. Currently, HCLC pays for subscriptions for all Ministry Team members, approximate cost \$800/year. Pastor Meredith asked Council to check with their teams to find out if they are reading it.

## 2010-2011 School Year – OPEN HOUSE and REGISTRATION!!

The Holy Cross Preschool will be holding registration for current Holy Cross Church members and current preschool families on February 6th, from 9:00 -11:00 am. Registration for the general public will begin on February 22nd.

All children who are three by December 31st through five-year-olds are welcome to attend. Priority will be given to those who turn three by September 1st. Classes are held from 9:00 am - 12:00pm, either two days per week (T-Th) or three days per week (M-W-F). Preschool registration forms and brochures are available online at the Holy Cross website. Registration is on a first come, first-served basis. No early registrations will be accepted. However, you may send your registration with another individual or family on the day of registration.

An Open House will be held the evening of February 9th from 6:00-7:00 pm. All are welcome to visit our wonderful preschool and see all that we offer to the young children here at Holy Cross!

## PJ'S & Prayers

Our Bible story for this month's PJ'S and Prayers will be "*The Israelites Build a Tabernacle*" from Exodus 35. Come and join in the fun and learn a Bible story at the same time. We meet on Thursday, January 21 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Parents, make this a New Year tradition for you and your 3 year olds to 1st graders. All are welcome and you can even come in your Pajamas.



## The Readers' Corner

By Lois Heider

This first novel by short-story writer Jamie Ford will win your heart! Look for it in the NEW ARRIVALS section of our church library.

*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford (2009) (Fiction)

In 1986, Henry Lee joins a crowd outside the Panama Hotel, once the gateway to Seattle's Japantown. It has been boarded up for decades, but now the new owner has discovered the belongings of Japanese families who were sent to internment camps during World War II.

As the owner displays and unfurls a Japanese parasol, Henry, a Chinese American, remembers a young Japanese American girl from his childhood in the 1940's—Keiko Okabe, with whom he forged a bond of friendship and innocent love that transcended the prejudices of their Old World ancestors. After Keiko and her family were evacuated to the internment camps, she and Henry could only hope that their promises to each other would be kept.

Now, forty years later, Henry explores the hotel's basement for the Okabe family's belongings and for a long-lost object whose value he cannot even begin to measure. His search will take him on a journey to revisit the sacrifices he has made for family, for love, and for country.

Author Garth Stein says of this book, "It's a tender and satisfying novel set in a time and place lost forever. It gives us a glimpse of the damage that is caused by war—not the sweeping damage of the battlefield but the cold, cruel damage to the hearts and humanity of individual people. This is a beautifully written book that will make you think. And, more important, it will make you feel."

## **Giving Tree Gifts**

Would you believe over \$2,000 was collected for animals for Seela? The Partnership Task Force will work to provide the needed animals. In other words, your money may not provide a chicken, but may instead provide cows that will yield calves, provide milk or be sold. It may otherwise purchase a grinding mill for their maize (corn) that will become a service to the community and food for the cows. The Task Force works in conjunction with Seela Parish to get them what they need.

Approximately 25 square meters of the Makimira farm were supported through the Giving Tree by the Meru Farm Project. The farm, owned by the Meru Diocese, is a means of support. It is being redeveloped to assist folks with such things as new farming techniques and auto repair.

## **Medical Transport**

The Council had designated the Noisy Offering for December to go to the Greater Milwaukee Synod's efforts to transport two containers of medical supplies to the Meru Diocese of Tanzania. Holy Cross donated a dental chair and helped pack the containers last summer. With a matching gift of \$12,000 from the Siebert Foundation, the Synod churches who partner with Tanzanian churches had to raise the balance. Holy Cross has forward approximately \$875.00, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> container should be on its way. Thank you, good & faithful servants!

## **Community Meal**

Throughout the year, Holy Cross participates with other community churches, in offering a Thursday evening meal twice a month. Eight times a year, we either prepare and serve the meal; set-up and provide deserts or do the clean up. Would you like to be involved? Contact Pr David in the church office.

## **Repairers of the Breach – Day Homeless Shelter**

Need to challenge yourself to move outside of your comfort zone in 2010? On the first and third Tuesdays of the month, Hephatha leads a Bible Study at Repairers of the Breach in downtown Milwaukee. Recently, Pastor Meredith and her husband Paul participated in this study; it was an amazing experience. The depth of faith, joy and struggle were very evident by Hephatha leaders and participants.

Would you be interested in attending one of these Tuesday studies? Paul is willing to drive and attend with anyone interested in participating in the New Year. Please call Paul at home at 262-293-3234. The study lasts about 45 minutes, from 11:30 – 12:30.

# Holy Cross Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 31st at 11:30 am

*All confirmed members are encouraged to attend  
this important meeting.*



*Come and exercise your privilege as a voting  
member of this congregation.*

Childcare will be available.

HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA



W156 N8131 Pilgrim Road  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

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

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Preschool Phone: 262-502-4104

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Web Site ELCA: [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)  
Web Site Synod: [www.milwaukeeesynod.org](http://www.milwaukeeesynod.org)

*A place where we worship weekly, pray  
daily, give joyfully, study the Bible and  
serve the Lord in our community and  
throughout the world!*