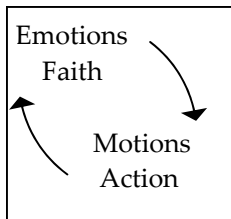


CROSSROADS

Holy Cross Lutheran Church—ELCA



Seeking first the kingdom of God...

It is from the 6th chapter of St. Matthew (vs 33), “*seeking first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you.*” Often people are too quick to read this as being a Christian means that you are to get everything you want. That is not the primary emphasis of the text. Rather, it carries the sense that in keeping your priorities straight (longing for & desiring the kingdom), the other parts of life fall into place. A famous commentary (Wycliffe’s) says that in ‘concentrating upon spiritual values, and resting their full confidence in God; God who knows their needs would supply what was necessary’.

It seems simple enough, seek first the kingdom. But, a parallel question of believing and trusting has always gnawed at church folks. In seeking the kingdom, which comes first? Does one trust God and therefore believe all the more? Or, do we believe, which allows us to trust more confidently in God?

Yes, we know that God alone creates faith. But, this faith of ours is lived out in daily, practical experiences and there are times we wonder what propels it forward or enriches the experience. Does doing faithful things enhance & deepen faith? Or, is it that being caught in the emotions of a faithful experience, we are propelled into action/doing that which we should always be doing?

Another way of saying it: A tsunami strikes and devastates a small island. Do we take action as people called to feed the hungry and then allow ourselves to be pulled into the compelling personal stories? Or, upon hearing the emotional, heart-wrenching stories, do we finally act? For a Christian, do emotions drive motion/actions or is it that simple faith-filled actions become that which lets us be involved in the emotional lives of those to whom we minister?

Nov. 3, 2009

Volume XLIV No. 22

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Maybe we have to acknowledge that it is not an either/or, but a both/and. God gives us direction/commands that bid us to act/move/do and He gives us emotions that bond us to real need. Seeking first the kingdom is about letting God move within us --- sometimes the simple command: **do**. Sometimes, being prodded to do the right thing because our emotions and heart are engaged.

BOTH/AND --- maybe faith is moving forward even if we don’t feel it and maybe when we don’t feel faith strongly, we are to still do what is practical -- doing what we are able to do.

May it be so for you this day & each day,

Pastor David

Life at Holy Cross

Upcoming Events

- The Mt. Meru coffee, tea and chocolate sale will be held on November 8th in the Crossways.
- Is your body feeling achy and stiff? Would you like to strengthen some of those 'ol muscles'? Our Tuesday evening yoga class will take a two week break so we can welcome more people who want to learn the basics of yoga. We're condensing a 6 week class into three 2 hour evenings scheduled for 11/10, 11/12 and 11/17 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The cost is \$50. If you have any questions call Cindi Schickert at 414-614-2463.

Memorials

- A memorial was given by Marilyn Heyde in memory of her husband David.
- Memorials were given by Bob & Sandy Schlag in memory of Eileen Momsen, David Markert and Marie Rooney.

Prayer Connection

- Hospitalized*
Magnus Randar at CMH
- Christian Sympathy*
To the family and friends of Frances Paff.
To the family and friends of Roy Bodendoerfer.
To the family and friends of Fran Mickelson.
To John Boebel and his family in the death of his father Harry Boebel.
- Births*
Congratulations to Melissa & Jason Rendel in the birth of their daughter Olivia.



General Contributions

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

Week of October 18, 2009:
Offerings = \$23,951.92 (\$1,204.00 Simply Giving, \$22,747.92 Plate Offerings)

Week of October 25, 2009:
Offerings = \$14,260.32 (\$1,204.00 Simply Giving, \$13,056.32 Plate Offerings)

In a Pickle Campaign

Week of October 18 (week 2):
\$13,757.00
Week of October 25 (week 3):
\$1,592.00

Attendance

Week of October 18, 2009:
Saturday 174: Sunday 466.

Week of October 25, 2009:
Saturday 167: Sunday 533

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.

Seedlings from Earthkeepers



Recycle a six-pack of aluminum cans every week; you will save enough energy to power a television for 936 hours.

MISSION ENDOWMENT BOARD NEWS

PAYMENTS FOR LIFE ? Are you aware that you can make a gift of appreciated securities/stocks or cash and receive an income tax reduction PLUS PAYMENTS for your lifetime. It is all tied to your age. Your attorney or the Mission Endowment Board of Holy Cross can point you in the right direction for these annuity options.

Our Annual Christmas Giving Tree

Each year, Holy Cross has responded to the annual Christmas Giving Tree that designates gifts needed for families at Christmas and for the needs of our partner churches. This year, the emphasis will be two-fold:

† Tags requesting Christmas gifts for families --- please return by Dec. 14. They'll designate a suggested item, gender and age of recipient. Gifts can be wrapped, but tags MUST be attached & they should be clearly labeled as to what is inside.

† Tags for Tanzania that will include options for animals (chickens for \$10 and goats for \$40) and 'owning an acre' in the Meru Diocese farm (\$20 gains a certificate to support an acre of the farm land).

Our Giving Tree will be located in the Gathering Place.

Hephetha Update

November 7th is a Partnership Celebration at Hephetha with worship and supper from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. This is an opportunity for the people of Hephetha to say "thanks" to their partner congregations. Holy Cross members/families are welcomed! Pastor Meredith and Paul are planning to attend, if you would like to join them, please call the church office 251-2740.

On November 8th we are pleased to welcome as our guest preacher Pastor Mary Martha Kanas, pastor at our sister congregation Hephetha Lutheran. Pr. Mary Martha is an excellent preacher you won't want to miss hearing her! The Hephetha Praise Dancers will also join Pastor Mary Martha at the 9:00 and 10:30 worship services.



Youth & Family

Faith Development Bake Sale for World Hunger

It's time again for our annual bake sale to help world hunger. This year's bake sale will be held on November 15. We are asking for everyone to donate baked or bought goodies that will help us raise money for this great cause. Some ideas are breads, cakes, pies, cookies, brownies or, make your favorite recipe. You can drop your items off in the old kitchen on or before November 14 (marked for bake sale). You can also bring your items in on November 16 before 9:00 am. If you are a 6th grader and would like to help, you can e-mail Sue at suec@holycrosslutheran.org or call the church office



Family Movie Night

Now Showing - Disney's *Nature Earth*. Join three families on an amazing journey. More Than A Movie Night will be held on Friday, November 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. All 2nd to 6th graders are invited to come and watch a great show. Snacks are on us and we will have a fun activity planned during intermission. Friends are always welcome to any Holy Cross event. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the MF food pantry.

Boston Store Community Day Sale

There is still time to purchase your coupon booklet for the Boston Store Community Day Sale on Saturday, November 14. Coupon Booklets are only \$5 and include a \$10 coupon and several for 20% and 30% off throughout the store. The best part is that the entire amount goes directly to the preschool.

Please support our preschool and get some great deals for yourself by picking up a coupon booklet in the Holy Cross Church office or the preschool office

Luther Manor

Many thanks to the 120 folks who so generously responded to the 2009 Luther Manor Auxiliary membership drive. Your membership "dues" will be pooled with those of 75 area ELCA congregations to ensure we reach our goal of \$9,000. These funds provide the many "extras" that enhance the lives of the senior saints living at Luther Manor.

Another pat on the back to those of you who have provided a whopping 277 dozen cookies so far this year! Each cookie provided by you brings with it a volunteer visit and a cheerful greeting from our congregation. God's Work... Your Hands

"Gifts of the World International Fair"

Looking to give a gift that will be remembered this holiday? Maybe you just want to spend your money where it counts. The Third World Handcrafts Shoppe is the place for you!

Please join them as they celebrate diversity and the arts at their first annual "Gifts of the World International Fair" on Saturday, November 14 from 10:00-2:30 pm. The Third World Handcrafts Shoppe offers unique items from various countries. They work directly with merchants promoting a fair trade economy. Come enjoy ethnic food, entertainment and great shopping at Capitol Drive Lutheran Church, (5305 W Capitol Drive).

If you can't make it on the 14th...the Third World Handcrafts Shoppe will be at Holy Cross on Dec. 6th.

The Readers' Corner

By Lois Heider

If you haven't stopped by our church library lately, you probably don't know that we've added a new section for large-print books. We received a generous donation of these books from one of our members. They're located along the wall next to the desk area. We'll be adding more as time goes on.

Another generous donation of teen books has enabled us to bring that section more up-to-date. All of the books we have there are now from the year 2000 up to the current time. This section is actually a combination of teen and pre-teen selections. If you haven't looked lately, be sure to check it out.

Just a reminder...we are always glad to receive current books to add to the library. If you have a recently published book that you read and enjoyed, consider donating it to help keep our library up-to-date. And many thanks to those of you who have already done this.

I Get by With a Little Help from my Friends!

Our new garbage disposal is officially up and running! For those of you who might not be aware, the motor blew on the Trinity Center garbage disposal a couple months ago. The cost of replacing the motor alone was \$1,700; this was money that Holy Cross did not have to spend right now! So, we have been living with a semi-clogged, smelly drain with no ability to scrape plates and easily dispose of waste.

But, with gifts from generous members, we were able to replace the old garbage disposal with a new one. We are very thankful for the gifts provided by three members to pay for the new garbage disposal and for Bill Wick who did the electrical work needed to connect it. This would have been an insurmountable problem right now without their gifts; what would Holy Cross do without the generosity of our members? Please accept our most humble thank you to all who helped.

**What
Does
Your
Faith
Look
Like?**



Please join us on Thanksgiving Eve.
(November 25th)

**for Worship, Fellowship and
PIE!**



This long standing Holy Cross
tradition will begin at 7:45 pm after
the worship service.

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

Phone: 262-251-2740
Fax: 262-251-2224
Preschool Phone: 262-502-4104

E-mail: holycross1@holycrosslutheran.org
Web Site: www.holycrosslutheran.org

Web Site ELCA: www.elca.org
Web Site Synod: 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!*