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Our mission:
Claimed, Met, Called, Sent to be God’s People Doing God’s Work

Our vision:
To be a community of faith where people are inspired and equipped for a journey of living lives centered in Christ

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**The Tree of Life**

2015 Lenten Journey

ASH WEDNESDAY - February 18, 7:30 pm

Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. [Joel 2:13]

Invitation to the Lenten Journey, Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP - February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25, 7:30 pm

Holden Evening Prayer and Faith Talks

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LENT 1 - February 22, 8 and 10 am

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. [Matthew 4:4]

GPS Call to Renewal

LENT 2 - March 1, 8 and 10 am

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. [Galatians 6:14]

Welcome to the Table 1: Communion Preparation for children following 10 am worship

LENT 3 - March 8, 8 and 10 am

We proclaim Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God. [1 Corinthians 1:23-24]

LENT 4 - March 15, 8 and 10 am

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. [John 3:16a]

Welcome to the Table 2: Communion Preparation for children following 10 am worship

LENT 5 - March 22, 8 and 10 am

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain, but if it dies, it bears much fruit. [John 12:24]

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY - March 29, 8 and 10 am

Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. [Philippians 2:8]

Welcome to the Table 3: Holy Week Preparation for children following 10 am worship

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Phone: 734-427-1414 ● Email: office1@holycrosslivonia.org ● Website: www.holycrosslivonia.org
Council Corner

The focus this month will be on the two major items council is currently addressing, the merger discussion with Faith and the interim pastoral process.

Where are we in exploring a relationship with Faith Lutheran?
As you know, our Faith/Holy Cross Exploratory Team has completed its task. On January 19th, there was a joint meeting of the church councils of Holy Cross and Faith facilitated by Bishop Donald Kreiss and Pastor Jack Eggleston. Bishop Kreiss walked through what we have accomplished in the exploratory process and was impressed with the initial arrangement that has been agreed to by both church councils. The initial arrangement document was approved at the Faith annual meeting on January 18th by a vote of 59 to 1. Bishop Kreiss appreciated the spirit of cooperation among both councils and stated that there is no standard blueprint for mergers. However, it was acknowledged that we are on a path that should lead us to a point in the not-too-distant future where Faith merges into Holy Cross, and then will cease to exist.

At Council's next meeting on January 23rd, we will discuss whether asking the congregation to vote on the initial arrangement would be beneficial to the process. If so, that would be included in the Congregational Meeting on February 8th. Additionally, Pastor Eggleston recommended that the respective councils each identify 3 people to serve as a “transition team” and work through details of the merger process, the first of which is settling on a rough timeline that takes us to a merger date.

Where are we in the Interim/Call Process?
The Council is in the process of identifying a trained Intentional Interim Pastor who will walk with us until we call our permanent pastor. There will be an interview with a potential candidate on January 23rd. The interview will be conducted by the Holy Cross Church Council along with a non-voting contingent from Faith's Church Council. We hope to have the Interim Pastor identified by early February with a start date by mid/late February. Once the Interim Pastor begins, he/she can help us outline what our Interim Process should look like. That Process can take an unspecified amount of time but is an integral part of the journey our community is embarking on as we listen to where God is leading us. As the interim process unfolds, we will know when the time is right to form a Call Committee. This will likely happen sometime this summer. We will endeavor to keep everyone informed every step of the way. Please be diligent in lifting this entire process in prayer and wrapping it in your own listening as to what God is calling us to do and be.

As always, please feel free to contact any Church Council member (Mark Erickson, Jeff Schuman, Lynette Hoelter, Jeff Hattkeberg, Vern Adams, Melodie Provencher or Andy Heise) if you have any questions.

Andy Heise
Church Council

Holy Cross Statement of Welcome

Holy Cross is a Christ-centered community in the Lutheran tradition (ELCA).
We believe all people are created in God’s image.
We are passionate about the radical hospitality that Jesus showed all people.
We are committed to being a community of that same kind of hospitality.

We welcome all people to our life and ministry together…
…in worship, at the font, at the table and in fellowship, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age or any other category society uses to distinguish between people.

We are Holy Cross and you are welcome here.

There is no longer Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

Worship Assistants for FEBRUARY

Lectors 8 am/10 am

February 1 Carol Schreengost Karen Berean
February 8 Jack Keck Sue Scherbarth
February 15 Carol Schreengost Linda Carlucci
February 22 Mary Foster Jack Dahlstrom

Communion Teams

February 1 Dudek Team
February 8 Hall Team
February 15 Berean Team
February 22 WELCA Team

Book Club News

Our book this month will be "the Husband’s Secret" by Liane Moriarty. Join us on February 19th at 3:30 pm.

Coffee and Tea Servers for February

Feb. 1 Vern & Betty Adams
Feb. 8 Annual Mtg. w/ Lunch
Feb. 15 Trudi Feenstra
Feb. 22 Priscilla Circle

Please sign up for this much-appreciated ministry.
Contact Susan Scholz to volunteer.

Christian Fellowship will meet at Logan’s Restaurant on Tuesday, February 10 at 11:30 am.

Altar Flowers for February

Please sign up on the board outside the office to provide altar flowers.
**FELLOWSHIP EVENTS**

Saturday, February 14, 6:00 pm
**Pizza & Game Night**

Saturday, February 28, 10:30 am
**Opera House Backstage Tour**
Costs include: $5 - Tour / $12 - Box Lunch
(Plan to meet at Holy Cross to carpool at 10 am)

Saturday, February 28, 2:00 pm
**Movies & Munchies** featuring *Babbette’s Feast*

**Note:** The data in this chart are preliminary and may be adjusted once year-end closing entries are posted. Final information will be presented at the Congregational Meeting on February 8, 2015.

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church
2014 Comparison of Operating Expenditures and Receipts [PRELIMINARY]
January 1 - December 31, 2014
Average Worship Attendance Year-to-Date: 182

Expenditures
Receipts

$98,706 $93,458
$88,807 $28,278 $30,398 $39,152
$378,799 $92,382 $88,368 $84,309
$33,223 $45,271
$369,179

**Plan to join us for Lenten Suppers**
As part of our Lenten focus, we gather for a light supper each Wed at 6:30 before 7:30 worship. The suppers, which begin on Feb 25, provide a wonderful sense of community and preparation for worship. Each week will be sponsored by a different ministry team.

**FAITH FORUM**
Our new study, “Why Did JESUS Have to Die,” begins on February 8th.
Topics include:
Week 1 - Lamb of God
Week 2 - A Ransom for Many
Week 3 - SEE What Love
Week 4 - The Happy Exchange
Week 5 - Father, Forgive Them
Week 6 - Thine is the Glory.
All are invited at 9:00 am every Sunday morning. New faces are always welcome!

Sunday, February 18
**Transfiguration of Our Lord**
8:00 am - Worship as usual
10:00 am - Hymn Festival led by Cantor Michael Burkhardt

You’ve Got Mail...
Or do you? If you are NOT receiving weekly email from the church and would like to keep up with all that is going on, please send a brief message to the office at office1@holycrosslivonia.org.

Holy Cross Fine Arts Series - Opera Talk #3
**Sunday, March 22, 3 pm**
featuring arias from *The Merry Widow*

Presented by Arthur White, Audience Engagement Coordinator, The Michigan Opera Theater
Joined by performers from The Michigan Opera Theater
Wine & Appetizers to follow
Reservations are required **by March 15**, for this FREE event.
Sign up on bulletin board.
Dearest friends,

I am still overwhelmed by the day you bid us farewell, sending my family and me off with your well wishes. It was a beautiful worship service. The luncheon was, to use the word again, overwhelming. Thank you for letting me be part of your life together for four years. Thank you for the computer (from which I am writing this), and for your generous, over-the-top monetary gift. We will use it to spiff up our new house and (hurrah) Jenni has agreed to the much-wished-for canoe. I will think of you all every time I load up my family, camping gear and Edel to go out and explore God’s good creation. I cannot wait to hear about how you all change another pastor for the better! Know that we are still connected in Christ’s mystical body as we continue to be God’s People, doing God’s work, wherever we are!

PB

The Michigan Treasure Hunters would like to take a moment and thank everyone at Holy Cross for extending and embracing a new opportunity for our organization to have a new home and meeting place. Our group, as well as others, called Faith Lutheran Church our home. We were the senior group, meeting nearly 40 years at that location.

We look forward to a new beginning and relationship with Holy Cross. We would also like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to attend one of our meetings. We will be meeting the fourth Tuesday of each month, with the exception of December, at 7:30 pm. Once again, a heartfelt thank you on behalf of the Michigan Treasure Hunters.

Respectfully,
Mark Branton - President and Bonnie Klisz - Secretary
www.michigantreasurehunters.com

Wanted: Day Camp Co-Director
Do you enjoy children and seeing the joy in their eyes when singing camp songs or learning a new game? Then this is perfect for you!

For the past two summers Holy Cross has co-hosted LW Day Camp with Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Living Waters sends out college-aged students trained to run camp, we just need an overseeing adult to co-direct with very organized adult from Emmanuel. This year camp will be held June 15-19 at Emmanuel. Contact the office if you would like more information!

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, Feb. 8th, after 10 am Worship
This is primarily a financial/governance meeting. We will also provide updates on both our relationship with Faith Lutheran and our interim/call process. Actions will include voting on our annual budget and next steps with Faith. A light lunch will be served. We need volunteers to prepare soup, salad and rolls (or meal of your choice). Please contact Kathy Weaver to volunteer.

How We Manage Our Prayer Request Lists
With many new faces among us, it seems a good time to review our prayer request list process. Prayer requests can be submitted at any time. When a request is received, it is placed in the bulletin insert, the newsletter list and, if the situation warrants, in the “Prayers of Intercession” during Sunday worship. General guidelines for how long names remain on the lists:

- The bulletin insert starts fresh each month, except for those grieving which are included for 6 months. The bulletin insert is a supplement to the comprehensive newsletter list that appears monthly. Requests received by Wednesday will be added to that week’s insert.
- The newsletter list includes those ill or needing special prayers for 3 months unless there is a request to remove or continue. Those confined to home remain on list until the situation changes.

Requests can be submitted in writing and put in the box outside the office, or emailed to office1@holycrosslivonia.org, please put “Prayers” in the subject line.

Spiritual Care Team
We have an active Spiritual Care Team that offers comfort, prayer, scripture and communion to our homebound members and members recovering from illnesses. We invite Holy Cross and Faith members to participate approximately once a month in visitations to the homebound and hospital patients. Communion kits and booklets are provided and reports are sent to record the communion visits. Meetings are held twice a year. Please contact Chuck Hunter or Marilyn Grable if you are interested in adding your spirit to this important ministry.

Kitchen Clean-Up Day
Friday, February 20th at 9 am
Come join the fun as we clean, purge and shine the kitchen. The concept of “Too many cooks in the kitchen” does not apply to this endeavor! Many hands make for light work, so the more the merrier!

The Honoring Women Luncheon is scheduled for March 7, 2015 at the Best Western in Sterling Heights.
This year our honoree is Sue Scherbarth! Watch for details

The Honoring Women Luncheon

Women of the
ELCA

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Those in Service to Our Country:

Max Brown
Morgan Anastasiow
Karen Anastasio*
Gard Andrews*
Dolores Ardnt*
Ed Ardnt*
Mary Ann Asher*
Matias Asuma
Joyce Bigelow
Kevin Bajis
Bob Alexander
James Adams
Beverly Kunz*
Bob Kunz*
Larue Kriner
Gary Koval
Elsie Enzmann
Joseph Comeau
Nathan Bordach*
Andrew Barr
Bob Ferrari, Sr.*
Lori Jermont
Muriel Harper
Donovan Kesler
Teri DeCoster
Lori Jermont
Muriel Harper
John Calloway
Dick Christopherson
Henry Habarek*
Dennis Ammons
David Mc Elijah
Dennis Ammons
Derek Firth
Dorothy Collins
Susan Scholz, President Holy Cross WELCA

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those Ill or Recovering or in need of Special Prayers:

Names will be removed after 3 months unless we are contacted. Thank you!

To add a name to this list:
Call or email the office, office1@holycrosslivonia.org, put “Prayer Request” in the subject line: include only the request information and a general reason for the request.

Names will be removed after 3 months unless we are contacted. Thank you!
### HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEBRUARY 2015

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### Community Building Use
- Th 11am AA
- Th 7:30pm AIM
- T & Th 6:15pm CK Cardio
- T 6:30pm DHE
- W & Th 7am AA
- W & F 8pm AA
- W 8pm Alanon

Building use by outside groups is shown in gray. *Italicized activities are off site.*