

Because your  
steadfast love  
is better than  
life, my lips  
will praise  
you. PSALM 63:3

July & August 2024



*“Shining the  
Light of Christ’s  
Cross in the  
World”*

## Pastor’s Proposal on Worship Services

Over the past couple months Holy Cross leadership has been having some discussions regarding our Saturday evening 5:30pm worship service. It is difficult for a sole pastor like myself who has children and a spouse who works full time during the work week to not be around much on weekends (add to this Sunday night youth group and occasional Saturday morning or afternoon events and you can imagine the strain on my family time). Changes will have to be made to my schedule to better prioritize time with my family.

Over the past year we have tried some new ideas to try to increase Saturday worship attendance, but it remains in the 20s. We definitely have space for more people to attend our Sunday worship at 10:00am, and it would be great to all be together for worship. I created a long survey that we handed out to all those who are regular on Saturday night and received good feedback. There were some responses that said they

might consider switching to Sunday if there was an earlier or later worship option. As a result of this feedback we put out a Connection Card survey about offering a Sunday two-service option (8:30am & 10:45am or 8:45am & 11:00am) and received good feedback. We continue to have discussions at the Elder and Council meetings regarding all of this.

As pastor of Holy Cross my concern is that we don't lose anyone to worship time & day changes, or as little as possible, although I know we can't fulfill everyone's preferences. Another solution would be to add a regular midweek worship service on Wednesday evenings (we already do this in Advent and Lent) to complement a one Sunday worship at 10:00am.

There are many factors to consider in all this, such as the current music and liturgical differences between Saturday and Sunday worship and bible study opportunities, choir and handbells etc. In the next month the Elders and Council will be making decisions regarding these questions and if you have feedback that you haven't offered yet you can email me or put a note in my mailbox. Thank you for your patience and understanding in all this. Join us in praying for wisdom from God and seeking his will together for the Glory of Jesus Christ.

-Pastor Eric



## NO MATTER WHAT

*Be thankful in all circumstances,  
for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.  
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

Sometimes being thankful seems almost impossible. How can I be thankful when I'm working as hard as I can and I'm still unable to pay off all my debt? How can I be thankful when my car dies, my water pump breaks, or my wallet is stolen?

We often experience hardships that make being thankful difficult. When Paul wrote this verse, he knew what it was to experience hardships and sufferings. But Paul also knew the wonderful power and blessing that come from having a relationship with Christ.

Jesus enables us to be thankful, and Jesus is the cause of our thankfulness. *No matter what happens*, we know that Jesus has given up His life to save ours. He sacrificed Himself on the cross so that we may live life to the fullest. We must *always* be thankful for the love that we experienced in Christ Jesus.

The first great characteristic of the true Christian is always a sense of thankfulness and gratitude to God.

*Dear Lord, thank you for Your love. Please let us be thankful, even in the midst of hardships. You have blessed us beyond measure. Amen*

Lary Llewellyn Zone 3

**REJOICE  
ALWAYS,  
PRAY  
CONTINUALLY,  
GIVE THANKS  
IN ALL  
CIRCUMSTANCES.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV



## NEW HOPE FOOD PANTRY

For the month of May New Hope Food Pantry served 83 families, 290 people, and gave 84 units. We gave out 14 Bibles and 10 packages of diapers. The year to date totals through May are: 220 families, 749 people, 221 units, 19 Bibles and 22 Packages of diapers.

We have been very busy these days with many needy people. The United States Postal Service had their annual food drive and we were very fortunate to receive thousands of pounds of nonperishables dropped off at our pantry door. Thank you to all of the church members who just happened to be there and carry it all in. Both tables and under both tables were packed with bags and boxes and the shopping carts and the flat bed was also full.

We still hope someone will step up in the months ahead to lend a SUV, car or a truck or drive to the warehouse themselves to pick up additional food, bread, fresh produce and meat. Please contact Joanne Vollbrecht if you are available any 1st or third Wednesday morning of the month. You may select the date of your choice. The warehouse is near Groesbeck and Hall Road and the workers there will do all the lifting and loading of the food. All that we need are drivers on one day.

Please come and join the Food Pantry this fall. Our meeting will be on Saturday, September 7th.



Barb Ugo  
Shirley Pontious  
Donna Marshall  
Donna Kaip  
Lotte Weber  
Harry Roberts  
Dolly Ferries  
Peggy Majeske  
Shirley Tallman

Barbara Unger  
Shirley Handy  
Jane Bennett  
Siegfried Tyburski  
**Keep them in your  
prayers.**



FOR THE MONTHS OF  
MAY AND JUNE

**IN MEMORY OF LARRY HOEFT**

**For the General Fund**

Frances Schaefer  
Randy Falk  
Mike & Marie Metcalfe  
Pat Stewart  
Ron & Joanne Vollbracht  
Toni Zimmerman  
Joann Farmilo  
Gerrie Bufford  
Earl & Pat Crilley  
Janet Cook  
Phyllis Ullmer  
Arlene Coon  
June Moore

**For the Music Ministry**

Joan VanHouteghen

**For the Sunday School**

Jeff & Wendy Hobert

**For Holy Cross Women's Ministry**

Roberta Hanka  
Shirley McClenahan

**IN MEMORY OF CAROL HEIDENREICH**

**For the General Fund**

Janet Cook  
Pat Stewart  
Earlene Carlisle  
Earl & Pat Crilley  
Peggy Majeske  
Lidia Wilson  
Carol Czerwienski  
Joan VanHouteghen  
Cathy Zeckzer  
Ron & Joanne Vollbracht  
Virginia Glinka  
Frances Schaefer  
Arlene Coon  
Randy Falk  
June Moore

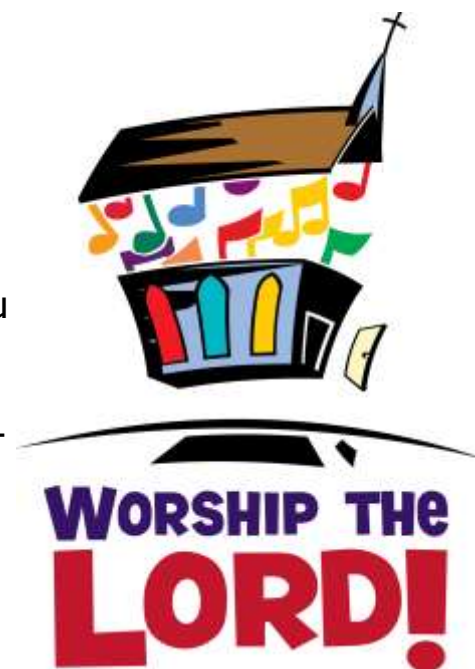
**For the Music Ministry**

Mike & Marie Metcalfe

# MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

What a fantastic year it's been for our Holy Cross Choir and Handbells. This year we welcomed quite a few new singers and ringers and are always ready to welcome more.

As you may have noticed -- the choir has moved from the balcony down to the left transept (Thank you John Batsikouras for moving all those chairs!); The Handbell tables have also been reoriented and a couple pews have been removed to make room for everyone. We decided to make this change so Handbells and Choir can work together more often, members who are in both groups need not traverse the entire church and run up and down stairs during the service, and a big plus -- the choir can be heard much better.



Our Contemporary services has also seen some changes -- adding Laura Krentkowski on vocals and regularly incorporating guitar and percussion (Pastor Eric and Steve D'Angelo).

Our Music Ministry is growing, and we're excited to have you be a part of it! Rehearsals will start up again on Thursday September 5th (tentative date).

**Handbells: 6:30-7:30pm**  
**Choir: 7:30-8:45pm**

Both groups require NO audition or experience for entry. Reading music is NOT a requirement. (If you are interested in being a part of our contemporary worship service - instrumental or vocals - see Michael Katopodes)

Keep an eye out on Facebook, the church calendar on our website, and the music ministry bulletin board for more info.

Michael Katopodes, Music Director and Choir Director  
Marie Metcalfe, Handbell Choir Director.



## BIRTHDAYS

## ANNIVERSARIES

Terry Grable	7/1
Nicole Bosca	7/3
Harry Roberts	7/3
Elaine Ziaya	7/3
Charlene Cucinella	7/4
John Batsikouras	7/6
Doug Conger	7/7
Olivia Haggerty	7/7
Doreen Fillmore	7/8
Frances Schaefer	7/8
Sadie Nowakowski	7/9
Kyle Green	7/11
Jim Hill	7/11
Morgan Bean	7/16
Rose Marquette	7/17
Megan Wiley	7/18
Charles DeMoss	7/19
Vern Parker	7/19
Darrell Brandenburg	7/24
Cathleen Jorgensen	7/24
Denise Vandenberghe	7/24
Christian Agudo-Honold	7/26
Kim Atkinson	7/26
Susan Williams	7/26
Rachael Edwards	7/27
Pam German	7/29
Ryan Ritthaler	7/29
Helen Heikkinen	7/31
Shirley McClenahan	7/31

Jim & Rose Marquette	July 16, 1960	64 years
Ron & Joanne Vollbrecht	July 17, 1994	30 years
Dan & Janet Garza	July 18, 1992	32 years
Ed & Helen Heikkinen	July 24, 1965	59 years
Jim & Cathleen Jorgensen	July 24, 2015	9 years
James & Cindy Pfahlert	July 24, 1982	42 years
Mike & Rachel Yusko	July 31, 2021	3 year





Austin Drew	8/2
Alexandria Mrosz	8/3
Gary Hill	8/4
Kathryn Clemons	8/5
Sue Jager	8/6
Ron Ratzow	8/7
Caesar DiCristofaro	8/8
Shirley Handy	8/9
Andrew Schwartz	8/10
Don Horton	8/12
Ashley Streufert	8/12
Siegfried Tyburski	8/12
Keith Quail III	8/13
Nicolas Schwartz	8/14
Gloria Shanburn	8/14
John Cunningham	8/15
Dave Difatta	8/15
Amy Fontana	8/16
Rachael Marchionda	8/16
Bonnie Esch	8/20
Michael Stewart	8/20
Hanna Garza	8/21
Dave Mutschler	8/24
Arlene Coon	8/28
Barb Ugo	8/28
John Shanburn	8/29
Sharon Smith	8/30
Ray Marchionda	8/31
Barbara Unger	8/31

Ray & Sue Marchionda	August 5, 1990	34 years
Mike & Marie Metcalfe	August 7, 2010	14 years
Justin & Jane Petretis	August 10, 2019	5 years
John & Dolly Ferries	August 12, 1950	74 years
Mike & Vickie Yuhase	August 12, 1977	47 years
Larry & Shirley vandenBerg	August 14, 2008	16 years
Charles & Brenda DeMoss III	August 20, 1999	25 years
Darrell & Mary Brandenburg	August 24, 2002	22 years





# Holy Cross Women's Ministries Ladies Guild

As you have probably heard, Ladies Guild disbanded on May 7, 2024. BUT things are still being handled and carried on - some in a new format while others are eliminated completely. Here's a summary of what has happened:

- 1) Lunch Bag Project for Family of God (FOG) for the months of August, September and October will be handled by Rev. Hanna's group. The ladies made a motion and approved if no one has expressed an interest in continuing this lunch bag project for FOG by November, whatever monies are remaining in the Church FOG account will be sent to FOG.
- 2) The ladies made a motion and approved to discontinue collecting used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries.
- 3) The ladies who handle the supplies for our Kitchen Pantry, along with the ladies who oversee the Funeral Luncheons and those who follow up on various items in the kitchen will now be on the Kitchen Team and this will help with better communication.
- 4) Carol Dehnke is the LWML Suburban Lights Zone President and will continue to pass along information, as well as keep the bulletin board updated with Laurel Clemons, on the various items for this group and other women's activities.
- 5) Cathy Zeckzer, our Sunshine Lady, will continue to send cards to those on our prayer list in the bulletin.
- 6) Roberta Hanka will be working with Laurel Clemons and Jennie Shanburn on various ideas and projects for the fall. Be certain to watch your bulletin or newsletter for any announcements.
- 7) Ladies Guild has been a member of CLW (Council of Lutheran Women) since 2000 and their information will be passed along as we receive it.

Ladies - there are various opportunities to serve within the Church. I encourage you to join in where your interest lies and if you have questions don't hesitate to ask anyone of us - we're here to work with you. THANK YOU to the congregation who helped and supported us through our various potlucks, fundraisers and your willingness to "pitch in" when we needed help in the past - we couldn't have done it without YOU!!

# Holy Cross Women's Ministries Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML)

## **GREAT NEWS!!**

We met our LWML Mite Goal of \$386,000 which means our 14 Mission Grants have been fully funded for this 2022-2024 biennium. To God be the glory. Thank you, Holy Cross members, for supporting these mission grants with your coins and dollars. May God bless each one of you.

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LWML MICHIGAN DISTRICT CONVENTION**

The 2024 LWML Michigan District Convention was June 28 – 30, 2024 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. Holy Cross delegates were Connie Haugan and Carol Dehnke. We had twenty NEW mission grant proposals on the ballot for the biennium 2024 – 2026. The mission grant proposals were quite diverse and included eight international, seven national, two state and three local mission grants to choose from. In addition to voting for new mission grants, the delegates voted for six new officers, and voted on bylaw changes. I will report the results in the September Newsletter. Connie and Carol thank you for the honor of representing Holy Cross at the convention.

- Holly Yusko was the Young Woman Representative (YWR) for our LWML Suburban Lights Zone.
- MaryBeth Heikkinen, former Holy Cross member, finished her 4-year term as President of the LWML Michigan District.
- Pastor Alan Eisinger was our speaker at the closing Worship service on Sunday, June 30.



**LWML**  
Michigan District

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Holy Cross is in need of volunteers in all of our ministries. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for one of these ministries.

**Screen Operators**  
**Ushers**  
**Tellers**  
**Food Pantry**  
**Lay Reader, Greeters**  
**Building & Property**

If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call in the church office.  
Thank you! Becky

## SAVE THE DATE

Pam German is bring back the American Red Cross Blood Drive. The date is July 24 from 1:00—7:00pm. She is going to need help with setup and cleanup. Please contact her if you are available to help. Watch for more information in the weekly Herald and the Newsletter. See you at the Blood Drive.



## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Beginning May 13th, we will start our summer hours. The summer hours are Monday thru Thursday 8:00am to 5:00pm and closed on Friday. Thank you for your co-operation. Becky



Do you have old eyeglasses that you are no longer wearing? How about those empty ink cartridges that you are hanging on to, or an old tattered or torn American flag? Or how about the Canadian coins that you are saving? What to do with all these items. I am working with some area Lutheran Churches to collect these items. So, beginning in July I will have a box in the office that I will be collecting old eyeglasses, empty ink cartridges, used American flags and Canadian coins. We are calling it The Collection Closet.

Here is what is going to happen with the items that are collected. Once the box is full I will be dropping it off at the host church and they in turn will distribute the items to the appropriate place.

### **\*\*Eyeglasses: A Vision of Compassion\*\***

Each year, MOST Ministries provides recycled eyeglasses to people living in the developing nations around the world. Generous individuals, churches and organizations across the US. collect and send used eyeglasses to MOST Ministries, where they are then sorted, tested and repackaged by volunteers for distribution on the mission field by our team members.

The cost of a pair of glasses in many developing nations can exceed a month's salary. Without assistance from MOST Ministries, hundreds of thousands of people would go without the glasses they need to work, read or attend school. MOST Ministries often provides the only pair of eyeglasses a person will ever own.

### **\*\*Empty Ink Cartridges: A Colorful Contribution\*\***

In another corner, a pile of empty ink cartridges awaits its transformation. While these small plastic containers might seem insignificant, their collection in the closet reflects a commitment to responsible e-waste disposal. Ink cartridges are notorious for their environmental impact, but the Collection Closet ensures they find new life. The Collection Closet benefits from the recycling program, receiving cash for every cartridge collected. This extra funding supports operating expenses and other outreach programs.

### **\*\*Used American Flags: Honoring the Stars and Stripes\*\***

A particularly moving aspect of the Collection Closet is its dedication to the respectful disposal of used American flags. Old, tattered, or torn flags, which might otherwise be forgotten or discarded, are collected here with reverence. Scouts and Knights of Columbus ensure that each flag is properly retired according to the United States Flag Code. This process involves a ceremonial burning, conducted in a solemn and respectful manner. The Collection Closet invites residents to bring in their worn flags, ensuring that these symbols of our nation are honored to the very end.

### **\*\*Canadian Coins: Supporting Lutheran Churches\*\***

The Collection Closet also serves as a repository for spare Canadian coins. Donate your leftover Canadian change, which accumulates over time. Once the piggy bank is full, the collected coins will be given to a Lutheran Church in Canada, fostering a spirit of generosity and cross-border support.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you, Becky



## **Sunday School/Youth News!**

Hello, and happy summer! I hope that you are enjoying the sunshine and warmer temps! I would like to take a moment to thank some very important people that made the 2023/2024 Sunday School year a success. Allison Hall, Denise Vandenberghe, Ashley Vandenberghe, Philip Green, Angela Leithead and Michael Katopodes. Thank you all so much for sharing your time and talents with us! -Laurel Clemons

### **July 30th - August 1st**

3 of our Junior High Youth will be attending the Junior High Youth Gathering in Frankenmuth, MI. We hope that they have an amazing time!

### **VBS Reunion**

**Wednesday August 14th 7pm-8pm**

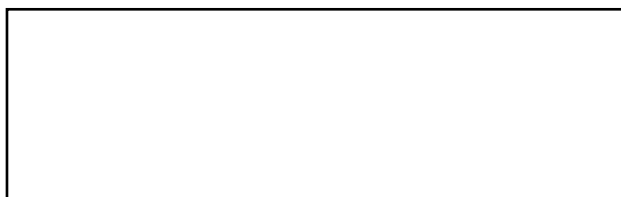
Join us for fun and fellowship as we get a chance to meet with our friends and their families from VBS!

### **Rally Sunday & HC Ministry Day Sunday September 8th**

Join us as we kick off a new year of Sunday School/Confirmation/Youth Bible Study! After service we will be hosting a HC Ministry Day complete with a Taco Bar! Come and listen to all the Ministries that HC has to offer and how you can get involved! Everyone is invited and we hope to see each and everyone of you there!

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**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**

**Saturday - 5:30pm**

**Sunday - 10:00am**

**BIBLE CLASS**

**Sunday - 9:00am Adult**

