

Holy Cross Lutheran Church



Claimed + Met + Called + Sent *A New Creation*

2015-16 Ministries Report
May 22, 2016

Prayer for the mission and ministry of this time and place . . .

Lord, as we enter this holy time and place, you are with us.
May we speak your peace and your grace.
May we surrender all that will be spoken,
decided and accomplished within this place to you.

Lord, we thank you for the gifts you have placed in us.
Help us not to take them lightly,
but to commit to using them responsibly and well.
Give us a fresh supply of truth and beauty on which to draw
as we do our work.

Anoint our creativity, our ideas, our energy,
so that even our smallest task may bring you honor.
When we are confused, guide us;
when we are weary, energize us;
when we are feeling burned out, infuse us with the light of Your Holy Spirit.

May the work that we do and the way we do it
bring hope, life, and courage to all with whom we come in contact.
And even in life's most stressful moments,
may we rest and hope in you.
In your most holy name we pray.
Amen.

Properties

Ministry of our building and grounds plays a vital role in making it possible for the community of Holy Cross to be "God's People Doing God's Work". Following the philosophy of "everything speaks", we work diligently to provide the physical surroundings that communicate our commitment to hospitality and welcome. We keep in mind everything from weekly worship to the dozens of opportunities to make an impression throughout any week – funerals and weddings, meetings for both inside and outside groups, Mother Hubbard, visitors to our labyrinth and The Abbey, and those coming to our nonfood pantry.

The primary property ministry report was included in the Business/Financial Report in February (2015 Annual Report Part 1) but we want to lift up this important opportunity to be involved in the overall mission of Holy Cross. Each year we tackle a handful of large projects and seemingly hundreds of small ones, all of which require help from our worship community. We are blessed with a core of talented and skilled volunteers who combine to create quite a formidable crew but they are always eager to add new hands and feet to their ranks.

Labyrinth & Grounds Beautification Team

Lisa Heise

313-520-7081, lkheise@comcast.net

Two large-scale efforts were conducted in the spring and fall of 2015. These efforts included general clean up, as well as removal of large bushes and trees, care of perennials, tree staking and grass fertilizing. In the spring, flats of annuals were planted along the labyrinth beds, planters and church perimeter. Ongoing efforts throughout the year included weeding, watering and cutting the lawn as well as snow removal.

Last fall, we contracted with Sunset landscaping to install up lighting along the east side parking lot in order to illuminate the Bradford pear trees. In addition, landscape lighting was install along the perimeter of the labyrinth itself to provide ambient lighting for evening walks. While funding was only available to place two up lights on the berm, it is our hope to raise sufficient funds for additional berm lights, patio and brick walkway.

The original plans also call for an entrance arbor at the east side parking lot and arbors over the fountain and fire pit circles. Finally, I am researching possible artwork for the brick wall to the left of the east side entrance (music center, fellowship hall). Again, we are hoping to raise funds to begin these projects at sometime in the near future.

Thank you to all of the many volunteers who have spent countless hours working to make the Holy Cross labyrinth such a beautiful place for prayer and quiet reflection. While there are far too many individuals to name here, please know that I thank God daily for your tireless help and cherished friendships.

An ongoing project is quilt making for Lutheran World Relief. In November, 2015, Susan Scholz mailed 16 quilts to LWR. In addition to women sewing at home, in January, at the suggestion of Cheryl Pearson, we began having sewing bees once a month. This is an enjoyable time of measuring, cutting, piecing, sewing, ironing, etc. and has produced 6 quilts in various stages of completion and 16 kits of squares to be put together. At present we have 18 quilts completed. Another “bee” will be held on May 26, 2016 beginning at 10:00 am. Bring a lunch and help make beautiful quilts. If you have any material and would like to donate it, it would be greatly appreciated. The quilt squares are 11” by 11”, with 48 squares for one quilt. Larger pieces are used for backing. Donations can be put into Arlene Fedoroff’s mailbox or contact Arlene. On the first Sunday of each month, Sue Scherbarth will be in the Fellowship Hall where we will work on completing quilts. There are also kits to sew at home. Please ask Sue. Monetary donations are always appreciated to pay for the quilt batting.

Plans are now underway for our second Rummage and Bake Sale which will be over at Annual Meeting time. The chairperson for this event is Susan Scholz and publicity handled by Cheryl Pearson. Local organizations will be the recipients of our funds.

In addition to the funds distributed in January, we also gave:
 50% of offerings received at Circle meetings and General meetings to Southeast Michigan ELCA
 \$200.00 Flint Water Crisis fund
 \$157.00 Lutheran Social Services

Many thanks to board officers: Virginia Smith, Vice President, D.J. Noechel, Treasurer, Carolyn Elliott, Recording Secretary, Karen Shreve, Corresponding Secretary and Circle Leaders: Lynda Ashbay, Cindy Channey, Judith Fussell, Marilyn Grable, Betty Ingraham, Cheryl Pearson and Trudy Rigg.

WELCA Purpose Statement

As a community of women
 Created in the image of Gods
 Called to discipleship in Jesus Christ
 Ad empowered by the Holy Spirit,
 We commit ourselves to
 Grow in faith
 Affirm our gifts
 Support one another in our callings
 Engage in ministry and action, and
 Promote healing and wholeness
 In the church, the society,
 And the world

We look forward to the coming year and encourage all women of Holy Cross to participate in our programs.

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

Our Mission
 We are claimed, met, called and sent
 to be
 God’s People Doing God’s Work

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

30650 Six Mile Road
 Livonia, MI 48152

Website: holycrosslivonia.org

Phone: (734) 427-1414

Email: office1@holycrosslivonia.org

Office Open: M-F 9am - 3pm

Worship Services: Sundays, 8 and 10 am

Lenten Services: Wednesdays (during Lent), 7:30 pm

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, learning and serving, 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;
 or all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28*




Table of Contents

Vision & Mission3

Reports

Pastor’s Report5

Official Pastoral Acts for 2015-166

Cantor’s Report

 Worship and the Arts7

 Holy Cross Organ Project8

 Chancel Bells, Choir, **hearts, hands & voices**, Altar Guild9

Christian Formation

CHILDREN & YOUTH

 Godly Play10

 6.1.211

ADULT

 GPS12

 Faith Forum, Lectionary, Women’s and Men’s Bible Studies13

Spiritual Care

 Homebound Communion and Grief Support,
 Intercessory Prayer and Card Ministry14

 Labyrinth & Prayer Park15

 Prayer Shawl Ministry16

Mission and Outreach

 Kid’s Hope USA17

 Methodist Children’s Home Society, Backpack Ministry,
 Livonia Cares, Non-Food Pantry18

hearts, hands & voices Worship and Fine Arts Program19

 New Hope Grief Support, Red Wagon Ministry,
 Building Use by Community20

 Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Fair Trade Sales21

Fellowship

 Field Trips, Sunday Fellowship Kitchen Ministry, Men’s Breakfast & Golf22

 Christian Fellowship, Book Club, Crop & Craft
 Brew & Stew and Brewers Guild23

 Movies & Munchies and Pizza & Games Night24

Women of the ELCA25

Properties

 Labyrinth & Grounds Beautification Team27



Holy Cross Women of the ELCA

Joan Onkka, President
734-525-0228; joanonkka@yahoo.com

Every women who is a member of Holy Cross is a member of WELCA and is welcome to attend any circle or activity. Holy Cross WELCA is comprised of five circles that meet monthly (except July and August) to study the Bible, seek ways to spread God’s word and have fellowship with one another. Esther Circle meets on the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 am; Lydia Circle on the fourth Thursday at 7:30 pm; Rachel Circle on the second Thursday at 7:00 pm; Ruth Circle on the second Monday at 7:00 pm; and Priscilla Circle which meets periodically. During the months of June, July and August, Bible

Study is held on the fourth Monday of these months in the Holy Cross Prayer Park. We meet at 11:00, study the lesson from *Gather* and our lunch which we bring.

WELCA provides many services to the church, its members and the community. In addition to monthly meetings, the Circles take turns providing refreshments after the 10:00 am service once a month and do the laundering of the kitchen linen. Twice a year (sometimes more) the women clean the kitchen thoroughly. Greeting cards are sent out during the year for all occasions, but especially for those who have been ill or homebound. In 2015-2016, 10 Thinking of You cards, 6 Get Well cards, 5 Sympathy cards, 4 Birthday cards and 32 Christmas cards were sent by our Corresponding Secretary, Karen Shreve. In the past 12 months, WELCA has prepared and served luncheons following funeral services or memorials for 12 families; totaling 775 meals.

We also sponsor the Christmas “wish tree” for The Wayne County Family Center and the Mitten Tree. Last year we provided 75 gifts for 15 people from three families (12 children and 3 adults). The Mitten Tree yielded 76 hats, 15 scarves, 111 pair of gloves and mittens and 11 pair of socks. We also received \$60.00 in cash to help pay for some of the items. Thanks to Peggy Hefner and Judith Fussell for their commitment to this project.

In January at the board meeting, we had the pleasure of disbursing funds to the following recipients:

- \$200 to Vista Maria
- \$300 to Hearts, Hands and Voices for an internship.
- \$200 to Detroit Rescue Mission
- \$300 to First Step
- \$200 to Wayne County Family Shelter
- \$300 to Good Hope Lutheran Church for their food pantry
- \$400 to Holy Cross Lutheran Church for their non-food pantry

On March 5, 2016, Susan Scholz, was recognized as our “Woman of the Year” at the annual “Katy York Honoring Women” luncheon held at the Italian American Banquet Hall in Livonia. 30 Holy Cross members attended.

Each year in March, a spiritual retreat is held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Ida, MI. which is attended by several of our members.

Virginia Smith, our Vice President, headed a new project this year of collecting used prescription bottles to be sent to Malawi where medications are handed out in pieces of paper. A total of 113 boxes of bottles were sent before the project was completed with a collection of over 2 million empty pill bottles.

Two General Meetings are held each year. Advent by Candlelight is held on the first Tuesday of the Advent Season. The entertainment in 2015 was provided by the Methodist Children’s Home “**hearts, hands and voices**” young men and Michael Burkhardt and Barbara Myers. Our second General Meeting was held in April. Election of Treasurer and Recording Secretary was not necessary as both, DJ Noechel and Carolyn Elliott agreed to serve for two more years. Our speaker was Linda Williams who showed slides and spoke about Tanzania and the Women’s Center. This was of great interest to us because we have contributed funds for the roof and windows of the center.

Movies & Munchies

Marilyn Grable

734-33-6722, marilmad@hotmail.com

On the third Saturday of each month at 2:00 pm in the lounge, a group of movie-buffs gather together to enjoy a thought-provoking movie. Each brings his or her favorite “munchie” to share as we enjoy the fellowship, watch and discuss the dynamics of the film. No reservations needed. Feel free to request a movie. Join us!

Pizza & Game Night

Peggy & Mike Hefner

313-255-6260, peggy56@yahoo.com

Many members and their friends have been enjoying Game Night for the past several years. There is always a range of favorite games, including the group favorite dice game “Farkel”. All are welcome, even if you just want to socialize and visit! It is a very casual gathering, on the 2nd Saturday of each month, 6:00 – 9:00 pm. We had originally held Game Night September through May, but the past two summers have made it a year round event! We currently gather in The Abbey at Holy Cross and have been known to spill over into the Narthex. We all look forward to the time when there are so many attending; we need to move to the fellowship hall! In the warmer weather we have taken advantage of the outside patio, with a beautiful view of the labyrinth. A small offering to cover the cost of pizza when purchased. We also occasionally have potlucks, as is the Lutheran custom! We have been fortunate to have our December gatherings at the home of Carol & Allen Schrecengost. Always a fun holiday night!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Mike & Peggy Hefner

Opera Talks (see page 7)

Marilyn Grable

734-33-6722, marilmad@hotmail.com

Pastor's Report

Reverend Krister Ulmanius

313-418-0575, pastorkrister@holycrosslvivonia.org

Dear Friends,

Following a delay in the visa process I was finally able to begin my journey with the people of Holy Cross on November 1, 2015 as your Interim Pastor. My role as Interim Pastor is to provide continuity in administration, pastoral care and worship leadership, as well as helping the congregation in the work of the Call Committee to recommend to Church Council a name of a candidate for a Call to become the new pastor of Holy Cross.

I want to take this opportunity to tell you what a blessing it is to be here among the wonderful people at Holy Cross. Reflecting on the time I have been at Holy Cross, mistakes made and good things happening, I can only offer an ever so humble, yet from the heart, **THANK YOU** for the incredible support I have received in all areas from the congregation throughout my time here. I have been much blessed by your grace, care, and love.

It has always been my feeling that the backbone of any congregation is its people. Holy Cross has proven once again for me that this is indeed the case. There are so many people from so many areas that all helped make sure the transitions over the last two years didn't become an end but a continuation and, in some cases, new beginnings. **THANK YOU ALL FOR THE INCREDIBLE WORK YOU HAVE DONE, ARE DOING, AND CONTINUE TO DO!!!!**

In my time here I have been privileged to work with many wonderful people. I would like to express my sincere **THANK YOU** to them for their work, the learning experience and insights they have provided for me, and for the laughs and collegiality. To the staff **Cantor Michael Burkhardt, Cindy Channey, and Kim Rowe** for their work and dedication to the congregation and its ministries. I would be remiss if I didn't express my thanks as well to **Andy Heise** for his leadership and dedication as President of Church Council, to **Ellen Batkie** who introduced me to GPS, a new learning for me, to **Jeff Schuman** for his leadership as chair person of the Call Committee, to **Joan Onkka** for her leadership in WELCA and organizer of funeral luncheons (we've had too many of those!), to **Betty Ingraham** for her faithful work as our treasurer and to **Chuck Lindquist** for his dedication and service. To the members of **Church Council** and the **Call Committee** who give of their time and talents to serve the congregation. There are of course so many more to mention. Your presence in my life has richly blessed me.

As much as an Annual Meeting is a time to reflect back on what has taken place it is also a time to look forward to things to come. The many ministries you see in this Bulletin of Reports will continue as will our excellence in worship. In the year to come there may be some new ministries as well coming onboard. Perhaps though, the major task in front of Holy Cross for 2016 will see the Call Committee continue their work in discerning candidates to the point of making a recommendation to Church Council for a new Pastor. We don't know how long this process will take but we do know that it will need to take as long as it needs to produce the right candidate.

Though we don't know what is ahead of us in this world, we know one thing with certainty: in front of us is another year of God's presence in our midst and God's grace in our lives; a fact that is enough for us to move ahead faithfully into the unknown as people of Holy Cross. I am much blessed to be part of this journey and look forward to the time we have together in the year to come.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. J. Krister Ulmanis
Interim Pastor

Official Pastoral Acts of 2015 - 16

Baptisms

Lola Whitmore, June 7, 2015
Martin Zetty, July 19, 2015
Makenna Sparks, August 23, 2015
Elena Thomas, January 3, 2016
Harper VanHulle, January 10, 2016
Mikayla Rahaley, January 10, 2016
Wesley Lambrix, January 17, 2016

Marriages

Jason & Amanda Gorski, October 10, 2015
Brandon & Nicolette Mazzacco, September 19, 2015

Funerals/Memorial Services

Royce Subject, October 23, 2015
Doris Knapp, November 5, 2015
Wilhelm Walter, November 26, 2015
Matthew Kingsley, January 4, 2016
Ed Arndt, February 11, 2016
Henry Habarek, February 14, 2016
Betty Dahlstrom, February 25, 2016
John Hobart, March 18, 2016
Amy Oellerich, April 1, 2016

Pastoral Acts officiated by the following:

Reverend Martha Butzier, Interim Pastor
Reverend David Vinciguerra, Pulpit Supply
Reverend Krister Ulmanis, Interim Pastor

Christian Fellowship

Rhema Subject

734-422-0193, rsubject@ameritech.net

For all those 50 years or older, or retired. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at noon at local restaurants.

Book Club

Barb Lewis

734-261-3019, barb122768@sbcglobal.net

On the third Thursday of every month at 3:30 p.m. the Holy Cross Book Club meets in the Abbey and an hour of lively discussion follows as we dissect the current book of the month.

The Plymouth District Library owns a large number of book club kits and we have taken full advantage of this wonderful service. Every month a new kit, consisting of ten copies of a particular title, is selected by our book club's coordinator. Although most of the books we read are fiction, we have also enjoyed a number of biographies, memoirs and historical accounts.

Whether a book rates a "thumbs up", a "thumbs down" or gets a mixed review, the discussion about it is always worthwhile. In an atmosphere of mutual respect, everyone's opinion is valued and quite often by the end of the hour, one's own view of the book may have been swayed by fresh insights from others at the table. We don't take ourselves too seriously, though, and can usually always find a good bit of humor whether it's in the foibles of the characters or our own reaction to the storyline.

If you are someone who enjoys reading, please feel free to stop by the Abbey on the third Thursday of any month. We'd love to have you join us!

Crop & Craft

Shari Dudek

734-331-2649, jsdudek@comcast.net

Meets every other month on a Saturday from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a relaxing day of scrapping, stamping, beading, sewing, knitting, painting or whatever other craft you enjoy. Invite your friends! Bring your own lunch, snacks and beverages. We'll order out for dinner. Come for a few hours or stay all day. Looking forward to crafting with you!

Brew & Stew

Harry Jachym

734-459-5087, hjachym@gmail.com

This past year marked the Fourth Annual Holy Cross Brew & Stew. Originally started by Pastor Ben it sponsored by the Holy Cross Brewers Guild. This is one of the social events we have at Holy Cross. It features a friendly chili cook off and home brew competition. This year we had approximately nine chili entries and three homebrewers. This year's event brought in about \$500 which was shared with the hearts, hands and voices Fine Arts Program and Lutheran Social Services. Next year the event will be held the Saturday before the start of Lent.

Holy Cross Brewers Guild

Harry Jachym

Keeping in mind that Lutherans have their origins in Germany, which is known for some fine beers and even Martin Luther's wife, Katherine, was known to be fine brewer, a group of people from Holy Cross formed the Holy Cross Brewers Guild. This is a relatively new ministry at Holy Cross. It is a rather casual group of those interested in ales, lagers, ciders, meads and the like. We meet periodically at various locations. Our goal is to promote fellowship and appreciation of these fine liquids. It is open to all (of age of course). One of first fellowship gatherings was a brewing session at Holy Cross where we brewed two styles of beer, one being a recipe attributed to the Luthers. We have plans for other brewing sessions using advanced techniques.

Fellowship

Holy Cross is always happy to share happy moments of fellowship. Our goal is to share a sense of family and community in our relationships with God and one another, which nurture our journey through life and faith.

Field Trips and Activities

Marilyn Grable

734-33-6722, marilmad@hotmail.com

Holy Cross is always happy to share happy moments of fellowship. Throughout the past few years we have had some wonderful times together taking trips on the bus around Detroit, touring various churches, eating ethnic foods and learning about other cultures and faiths. In 2015-2016 we toured the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, Pewabic Pottery, Cranbrook House and Gardens, a backstage tour of the Fox Theatre with lunch at Hockeytown Cafe, touring Dragonmead Microbrewery, two opera talks presented by Austin Stewart and soloists of the Detroit Opera House, a trip to an apple orchard and in May 2016, a tour of Historic Shrine of the Little Flower. We're putting together ideas for 2016-2017 and are open at all ideas. Please tell us what you'd enjoy doing and we'll try to put it together. Thanks to all who have helped in this ministry.

Sunday Fellowship

Susan Scholz

248-348-0217, susanscholz@gmail.com

The coffee hour following church is coordinated by Susan Scholz and a special thank-you goes to Laura Baker for always preparing the coffee on Sunday mornings. This important ministry is made possible by volunteers taking a single week to provide/serve light refreshments to 'feed' our communal fellowship following worship.

Kitchen Ministry

Kathy Weaver

313-533-9461, WeaverK@cintas.com

Holy Cross has a long tradition of gathering for fellowship and that continues today. Whether it's for catching up with old friends or making new friends, fellowship is very important in the life of the Church.

There are many opportunities for fellowship every week at Holy Cross. Some of the best known fellowship occurs on Sunday morning either in the Abbey or in the Fellowship Hall after each worship service. Jim Najjar does a wonderful job of providing coffee and sweets to the group in the Abbey every Sunday and another group of rotating volunteers and WELCA groups provide the coffee and snacks in the Fellowship Hall. A special thanks to Laura Baker for continuing to make the coffee every Sunday that is enjoyed by the Sunday Forum and the Coffee Hour groups. Thanks also to Susan Scholz for organizing the Sunday morning coffee hour.

We also have a few pot-lucks through the year that provide more opportunities to gather together. Thanks to all of the members who bring favorite dishes to share. A special thanks again to Glenn & Christine Newa and their family and friends for planning and preparing our Easter Breakfast every year. There are a few other fellowship meals that occur during congregational meetings, the ministry fair and Reformation celebrations.

More thanks go to the volunteers who come to clean the kitchen on a regular basis. A lot of different groups use the kitchen and it needs constant upkeep.

As always, if you have an idea for a fellowship event, please don't hesitate to schedule it with the office and plan away.

Men's Breakfast & Golf

Art Lewis

734-261-3019, papalew@sbcglobal.net

Join this group for breakfast before a morning of golf. Or, just come have breakfast or just golf.

Cantor's Report

Dr. Michael Burkhardt

262-939-0750, michael.burkhardt1@gmail.com

WORSHIP AND THE ARTS AT A GLANCE

**As people claimed, met, called, and sent,
worship is central to the life, mission and ministry of Holy Cross.**

Worship and the Arts at Holy Cross seeks to

to lead the assembly in word and song in worship guided by the rhythm of the seasons of the Church Year;
to inspire and equip God's people in offering themselves, their talents, and treasures to the Triune God both in worship and in the work and daily activities of the week; and
to provide enriching and educational opportunities in worship and the arts for the Holy Cross faith community and the surrounding geographic community.

During . . .

August

- 73 campers and alumni filled the halls and meeting space of the Holy Cross Campus for the Seventh Annual **hearts, hands and voices** Worship and Fine Arts Summer Camp Experience

September

- Holy Cross Chancel Choir participated in "Singing the Psalms of Life," a Festival of Hymns, at Eastern Michigan University with a massed choir, organ, handbells, woodwinds, brass, and percussion under the direction of EMU Artist-Professor of Organ Michael Burkhardt

October

- The 2015-2016 Holy Cross Fine Arts Concert Series opened the with the first of two opera talks presented by Michigan Opera Theatre

November

- **hearts, hands and voices** took its program to the boys of the Methodist Children's Home for five consecutive weeks, the program culminated in a presentation by the boys at "Advent by Candlelight" in December

December

- The musicians of **hearts, hands and voices** and the Detroit Handbell Ensemble presented "Love Came Down at Christmas," an Advent-Christmas Season Concert, as part of the Fine Arts Concert Series
- Soloists Lisa Heise and Ben Miller, Flautist Lynette Hoelter, Trumpeter David Jenvey, Solo and Chancel Bells joined Cantor Michael (organ and piano) for Music of the Season (December 24, 10:30 p.m.) and Lessons and Carols (December 27)

January

- Holy Cross members joined Cantor Michael at his faculty organ recital in Pease Auditorium on the EMU Campus
- Cantor Michael began music experiences once a week to the four-year-old children of Mother Hubbard Pre-school on the Holy Cross Campus

February

- Lent began on Wednesday, February 10 with the call to the discipline of Lent and the Imposition of Ashes
- Ron Waligora, Joyce Oliver, Gary Ewing, Beth Hare, and Jeff Schuman shared their faith stories during the Midweek Lent Evening Prayer Services
- Cantor Michael shared Welcome to the Table: Communion Preparation and Instruction for young children in three post-worship sessions culminating in a special communion for participants and their families on Maundy Thursday

March

- Holy Cross Chancel Bells and Sunday School Children called the assembly to worship on Palm/Passion Sunday worship with the African Song, “Sanna, Sannanina”
- Readings from the Gospel of John and by poet Ann Weems (Cantor Michael’s friend and colleague who died on March 17, 2016) as well as music shared by soloists Barb Myers, Michael Burkhardt, and Ben Miller, Good Friday Midday Worship
- Holy Cross Chancel Choir, soloists, and readers led Good Friday Tenebrae, “Service of Darkness,” with readings from the Gospel of John and music from “Love Unknown”
- 6.1.2. youth along with Pastor Krister and Cantor Michael presented Old Testament stories (Creation, Exodus, Ezekiel, and Daniel) at the “on-the-move” Easter Vigil using a variety of media (storytelling, pantomime, dramatic reading)
- Jerome Pruitt, GPS Journeymen and the Assembly affirmed their Baptisms at the Easter Vigil
- Holy Cross Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells joined voices with Trumpeter David Jenvey in celebrating the resurrection on Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter Season

April

- Michigan Opera Theatre presented the second of two opera talks as part of the Fine Arts Concert Series

May

- Musicians of **hearts, hands and voices** presented “A New Creation” as part of the Fine Arts Concert Series; over \$4,500 was raised for scholarships for summer camp participants
- Holy Cross Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells, Soloists, and Trumpeter David Jenvey presented “Blowin’ in the Wind” as the final program of the Fine Arts Concert Series on Pentecost Sunday

HOLY CROSS ORGAN PROJECT

Initial work began in 2016 for planning and preparing for the merger of the Casavant Pipe Organ from Faith Lutheran Church with the Wicks Pipe Organ of Holy Cross

The goals of the Holy Cross Organ Project are to create a merged-evolved instrument (symbolic of the merger of Faith and Holy Cross Lutheran Churches) that will

lead God’s people (claimed, met, called and sent) in praise, proclamation, prayer and thanksgiving, accompany choirs and instrumentalists, present solo organ and chamber music spanning over eight centuries, and be a musical gift of invitation and witness to the people of Southeast Michigan.

SPECIAL THANKS . . .

to all the musicians of the Chancel Choir, the Chancel Bells, and the **hearts, hands and voices** Fine Arts Program as well as instrumentalists, vocal soloists, and ensembles for leading us in worship faithfully, beautifully and meaningfully throughout the Church Year

to all of the worship support staff (altar guild, liturgical art committee, assisting ministers, communion assistants, lectors, and ushers) for preparing, shaping, leading and assisting in worship

to Marilyn Grable for her tireless devotion to arranging for the Fine Arts Series Opera Talks

to Ellen Batkie for all her “behind-the-scenes” efforts on behalf of the Chancel Choir and **hearts, hands and voices** children

REACHING OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Lutheran World Relief Quilts (see page 26)

Sue Scherbarth

734-261-6668, deskscherbarth@sbcglobal.net

Fair Trade Sales

Nancy Erickson

313-318-2365, nerickson5@att.net

This Ministry is a partnership between Lutheran World Relief and Equal Exchange. Fair Trade helps set up Co-ops to provide small farmers around the world with not only a “fair trade” for their goods, but also putting money into their village or community to improve schools, roads, and to educate farmers on improving farm practices, post-harvest processing, and marketing skills.

We help at Holy Cross by purchasing coffee, tea, and chocolate that has been purchased at a fair price from small farmer co-ops. Since 2005 we have been providing Fair Trade Items for sale and have many loyal purchasers. Fair Trade Sales are on the second Sunday of the month and sold at whole-sale prices. Average sales each month are about \$160.

This year Lutheran World Relief began selling its own Fair Trade chocolate which due to packaging changes and free shipping, reduced the cost of the chocolate bars, which was passed on to you, the consumer!

REACHING OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY

New Hope Grief Support

Charles Lindquist

This service to our community is provided by New Hope Center for Grief Support located in Northville and the RG and GR Harris Funeral Homes. Holy Cross offers their facility to house this service for the East Livonia/Redford area. The Program is an 8-week course meeting on Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm. The agenda includes a 30-45 minute professional presentation on the topics of the week, followed by small group meetings with persons with similar losses.

The weekly topics include:

The Grief Journey, Pitfalls Along the Path, But, I'm not angry, Feeling the Pain, Holidays and Other Special Days, My Family's not the same, Letting go of the pain and Moving forward with Hope.

This service is provided at no cost to the participants. Please encourage your family and friends to participate when there is a need.

From May 2015 through May 2016, Holy Cross sponsored two 8-week sessions. One in the Fall of 2015 and the other is the Spring of 2016.

Red Wagon Project

Marti Enzmann

313-533-2568, menzmann@gmail.com

Joan Carr, a parishioner from Saints Simon and Jude, visualized a Ministry to provide low income children, in the Norwayne School district of Wayne County, a reading opportunity during the summer months that school would not be in session. Beginning in June and continuing through the months of August volunteers will travel the neighborhoods with book filled red wagons dispensing books to the many eagerly awaiting children.

For many years the members of our Holy Cross Family have purchased new books which they have brought to our Church during the month of May. Since I have been a part of this ministry our congregation has donated over 1500 new books to this worthy cause.

hearts, hands & voices (see page 19)

Michael Burkhardt

262-939-0750, michael.burkhardt1@gmail.com

Building Use by the Community

Cindy Channey

734-427-1414, cindy@holycrosslivonia.org

Holy Cross firmly believes that "everything speaks", including opening our doors to a wide variety of groups that share our mandate to serve and love all. We are the home of the Detroit Handbell Ensemble and Mother Hubbard Pre-school. We frequently open The Abbey and Labyrinth to host retreats for other churches and organizations. Our building welcomes chapters of a number of community groups including Anxiety Disorder Support Group, Adult Children of Alcoholics, Alanon, Alcoholics Anonymous (six groups), Ellie's Weigh, the Michigan Treasure Hunters, the Model Airplane Club, Overeaters Anonymous and Spinners (yes, they gather to spin yarn with actual spinning wheels).

CHANCEL BELLS AND CHANCEL CHOIR

Chancel Bells

Meets on Wednesday evenings in the Music Center from 6:00-7:15 p.m.
Rings throughout the Church Year and on Major Feast Days
Occasionally joins other bell ensembles for special music presentations
There are openings in all sections: low, middle, and high bells!

Chancel Choir

Meets on Wednesday evenings in the Music Center from 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Sings throughout the Church Year and on all Feast Days
Occasionally joins other choirs for special music and worship events
There are openings in all sections: soprano, alto, tenor, bass, and undecided!

HEARTS, HANDS AND VOICES WORSHIP AND FINE ARTS

Meets on Monday evenings in the Music Center, Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary from 6:30-8:00 p.m.
For children in grades 2-7
Presents programs in the Fall and Spring at Holy Cross and in the community
See page 19 for more information

ALTAR GUILD

Members of the Altar Guild provide necessary and most valuable contributions to worship at Holy Cross. This includes preparing the chancel appropriately for the Sundays, Feast Days, and seasons of the Church Year as well as setting the Lord's table, cleaning up after each service, and laundering the linens as necessary. As a bonus, sometimes you will hear Dr. Michael on the organ or the choir rehearsing.

Worship Leadership and Support

Choirs, Soloists, & Instrumentalists - Dr. Michael Burkhardt: 262-939-0750, michael.burkhardt1@gmail.com
Altar Guild - *Seeking a Point Person*
Ushers (8 a.m.) - Nancy Tierney: 734-427-5381, NTierneyeye@gmail.com
Ushers (10 a.m.) - Dave Wheeler: 248-667-9193, dwheeker@comcast.net
Lectors - Karen Berean: 734-326-2367, klberean@wowway.com
Communion Teams - Joan Onkka: 734-525-0228, joanonkka@yahoo.com
Assisting Ministers - Cindy Channey: 734-427-1414, cindy@holycrosslivonia.org

Christian Formation

We take faith formation very seriously at Holy Cross and have a multi-faceted approach to provide growth opportunities for all ages and for all stages of faith journeys. The goal is to integrate learning across these programs to develop a rich environment where our faith becomes a natural part of our daily life. The continuum of learning starts with Godly Play and the hearts, hands and voices Worship and Fine Arts Program and extends into 6.1.2., our youth learning/ serving experience. Adults engage scripture and faith formation through a number of bible study opportunities and are invited to participate in our intentional faith journey process, “GPS: ancient faith to navigate a modern world”.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Godly Play

Lynda Ashbay

734-764-8344, lynda.ashbay@gmail.com

Our journey of faith formation for the children of the Holy Cross community has far exceeded our expectations. In January 2015 we began to implement our vision of transforming our traditional Sunday School format to the more spirit-filled program of wondering that is **Godly Play**.

In October 2014 after meetings and encouragement from Pastor Dana, six lay people attended a 3 -day training in the art of Godly Play as outlined by the renown, Jerome Berryman. We are so blessed by the dedication, passion and creative energy of these team members, Peggy Hefner, Jeff Hatteberg, Jack Keck, Kaarina Bodnar, Linda Goodrich and Lynda Ashbay. This team has been joined by the following dedicated storytellers and doorkeepers: Lisa Grimble, Bill Coughlin, Vern Adams, Laura Sroka, Tami Klopfer and Linda Kortesoja.

Following our training guidelines, our team has created a sacred space especially designed for Godly Play ministry. The response from our children to this new ministry has been amazing. One parent remarked, “My child kept asking is today we get to go to Godly Play?” Another child remarked, “I just love being here and I wish I could stay here all afternoon. As one storyteller said, “I am not sure who is feeling the spirit more the children or the leaders.” Surely God is in this space and we are so very thankful to be part of this witness to his children.

Additionally, last summer I was able to attend a three day Godly Play conference in Sewanee, Tennessee for further training and inspiration. Godly Play is for all ages. In Advent, we brought the Godly Play story, “The Holy Family” into the sanctuary as a way to center the congregation before worship began.

Lynda Ashbay- Godly Play Team Coordinator

hearts, hands & voices (see page 19)

Michael Burkhardt

262-939-0750, michael.burkhardt1@gmail.com

hearts, hands and voices Worship and Fine Arts Program

Children, Grades 2-7



The vision for **hearts, hands and voices** was introduced in 2008 by artistic director Dr. Michael Burkhardt as a unique opportunity for churches of Southeast Michigan to invite young people of all Christian faith and music backgrounds to come together in a safe and welcoming environment to grow spiritually and musically.

Through hands-on experiences **hearts, hands and voices** endeavors to provide children, grades 2-7, with lifelong tools for creating, appreciating and sharing music, participating in worship, and leading productive lives in society.

A joint venture of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and the Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, **hearts, hands and voices** seeks to

- *involve* children in worship leadership roles in meaningful ways appropriate to their gifts, abilities, and language skills through a variety of worship experiences
- *prepare* children to lead worship with confidence and understanding through electives in leading worship and instrumental and choral experiences
- *provide* children with unique and various opportunities to sing, play, and visualize the faith through music and art from throughout time in a variety of languages and styles, including great hymns of the Church, anthems, and music of the liturgy
- *prepare* children to connect with music and art through aural (ear), visual (eyes), and kinesthetic (body) experiences

The **summer camp** program includes daily experiences (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) in worship, singing, playing, creating, and moving for children entering grades 2-7. In addition, it invites camp alumni to return to the camp as shepherds and teaching assistants during the day and then to participate in an advanced worship and arts experience designed especially for them from 3-4 p.m. In the evening the program offers a workshop for choir directors and music educators from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Monday-Wednesday.

The **program during the academic year** meets on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m., September – May, continues the work begun in the summer, and presents a variety of programs at Holy Cross and in the community.

DID YOU KNOW? . . .

- We welcomed 73 campers and alumni into our 2015 summer camp experience. Add in our faculty and staff and our head count swells to over 100 enthusiastic musicians filling the rooms and halls of Holy Cross! Looking back over the years since 2009, 322 young people have participated in at least one session of our summer camp. And what’s really exciting is that nearly 100 of those campers have participated in multiple camp years.
- **hearts, hands and voices** is offered weekly from September through April, 24 young musicians and 4 alumni participated during 2015-2016; the musicians performed and presented in three programs during the academic year: an Advent-Christmas Concert in December with the Detroit Handbell Ensemble, the Second Annual Bell Fest at EMU in March, and an end-of-the-season Spring Concert in May.
- Holy Cross took the **hearts, hands and voices** program to the boys of the Methodist Children’s Home in November. The boys presented a program for the Holy Cross Advent by Candlelight in December.
- Since its inception in 2009, the dream of the **hearts, hands and voices** Worship and Fine Arts Program has been made possible by the generosity many, many people. Through 2015, gifts and grants have totaled over \$60,000! Included in that amazing total is over \$48,000 in individual gifts (the majority coming from the Holy Cross community), \$7,000 from the Mt. Zion Foundation and \$5,000 from the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA. These gifts have allowed us make our summer camp experience available for young people who would not otherwise be able to attend. Each year around 20% of our campers have received at least a partial scholarship. These gifts have also funded our growing collection of instruments that are a critical piece of our curriculum. Since 2009, we have purchased a total of \$13,300 in instruments, split between our Orff ensemble, African drums and rhythm instruments. What a gift to the community and to these young people!

Methodist Children's Home Society



The Children's Home is located at 26645 West Six Mile Road in Redford. The home was founded in 1917 and is now a private, non-profit, non-sectarian childcare agency — that is, they are no longer “Methodist.” They are very unique in the services that they provide and they fulfill such a vital and challenging purpose within the state of Michigan with their broad range of services to children and families in crisis. Their mission is to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the children in their care; to develop personal, family, and community relationships that will contribute to healthy opportunities for the children to reach their fullest potential; and to advocate on behalf of all children. They provide residential care, adoption, foster care, transition out of foster care, and literacy programs.

Over the past couple of years, we have organized various collections to support specific programs designed to equip young men for independent living and enrich the lives of residents by providing special items. Additionally, our hearts, hands and voices program offers the residents seasonal fine arts experiences and learning opportunities (see page 19).

Backpack Ministry

Each August as parents prepare for their children starting back to school, we at Holy Cross take home backpacks to fill with necessary school supplies for the boys and foster children at the Methodist Children's Home.

During the month of July we receive a list of supplies for children in grades K-3rd, 4th-8th, and 9th-12th. All empty backpacks are given a tag with the grade appropriate supply list which is to be returned to the church by the last Sunday in August so the boys will be ready for school.

The generosity of our Holy Cross family has so far helped over 300 boys.

Labyrinth & Prayer Park (see page 15)

Livonia Cares

“A collaboration of Churches, Social Service agencies and City of Livonia services who provide to persons of need in our community”. Holy Cross has been a member of this group since it was formed in 2011. “Livonia Cares” is a group of more than 20 churches and area agencies inspired by Christ's call to serve the poor, this ecumenical group of churches and community organizations fosters an understanding and cooperation to address poverty issues in our community. Monthly meetings are held at rotating locations normally on the 2nd Monday of the month at 1:00 pm. All are welcome at these meetings. Chuck Lindquist has attended as our representative over the past year.

Non-Food Pantry

This ministry effort is sponsored by Livonia Cares, City of Livonia and Holy Cross Lutheran Church. It is operated in our facility by the Men's Bible Study group. We supply non-food items to the people of need in Livonia. Clients are identified by the Livonia Community Food Program (TEFAP) and come to us on a monthly basis. Last year we served 446 boxes of household supplies to Livonia families. We serve approximately 39 families per month. Boxes include toilet tissue, paper towels, Kleenex, toothpaste, hand soap bars, garbage bags, shampoo, dish washing soap, floor cleaning liquid, bleach, laundry soap. This endeavor is supported by the gift of dollars and products from Holy Cross, but also items collected by St. Collette Catholic Church and Emmanuel Lutheran, for which we proudly proclaim a mighty THANK YOU!

Peggy Hefner

313-255-6260, peggysu56@yahoo.com

Marti Enzmann

313-533-2568, menzmann@gmail.com

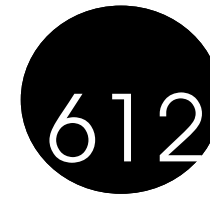
Lunice Clay

734-748-3493, lunice9951@aol.com

Charles Lindquist

248-348-9813, cklindquist@yahoo.com

Charles Lindquist



Since its inception, 6.1.2 has been focused on the spiritual growth of our youth (6-12th grade). The program is committed to support our church's mission "To be a community of Faith where people are inspired and equipped for a journey of living lives centered in Christ." Traditional confirmation, once perceived by many as a graduation from church, has been replaced with a process designed to allow our youth to become more integrated into the congregation. 6.1.2 was created to bring in our youth earlier into the confirmation process and, once confirmed, to have them continue with the group through 12th grade to develop the skills that would allow them to become future leaders in our congregation. Confirmation was moved from the late spring where the traditional model helped support the "graduation feeling" to Reformation Sunday in October, deep in our tradition, and a celebration of the church.

Thanks be to God, and the congregation for the addition of the position of Director of Youth Ministries, which was voted in by the congregation last June. I am honored to have been chosen for this position of enriching the youth's lives in such a critical time. Within the world we live today the need is greater than ever. The everyday lives of the youth are complicated; they constantly have to dodge temptations, decisions, and expectations that they would generally not have to face until later in life. The one constant should be God. I hope to achieve that with the 6.1.2 program. As Director of Youth Ministries, I have had the opportunity to dedicate my time to growing our youth group. As a result, 6.1.2 has had a very busy year.

Our weekly meetings during the school year have been fruitful. After some fellowship and a light meal, the group sits together for a bible study. We also engage gross motor activities to run some of that young kid energy out. At this point we break into two groups, high-schoolers (confirmed youth) and middle-schoolers. The high-schoolers discuss a weekly “Faith Lens” BLOG from the ELCA. The series highlights current events in the news, and contrasts them with Jesus's teachings. A series of thought-provoking questions are asked designed to allow each youth to fully digest the message. Jeff Hatteberg has been meeting with the middle-schoolers as they are going through the traditional confirmation information found in Luther's Catechism. This year the middle schoolers have been going through the history of the Lutheran church, the reformation, and Luther's small Catechism. Mixed into the lesson are activities such as "Pictionary" in which one of the youth will attempt to get the lowest amount of time having the group guess that they have drawn... "an Ark" for instance.

Last summer, the 6.1.2 youth had a camping and canoeing trip down the Au Sable River. The trip allowed the group to bond and to spend some quality time with their Creator, away from the electronic world that they have been so much in tune. The trip also provided challenges for them which strengthened their sense of team work and built up their self-confidence. We also found time to spend a day at Cedar Point. In the fall, the group participated in a congregational field trip to a local cider mill which included a Corn Maze adventure, and a bowling outing. Our youth also attended Youth Gathering in Lansing this past December. The Lansing Gathering allows the youth to participate in a common worship and to meet youth from other ELCA churches throughout the state. They get to meet in small groups about what their group is doing, as well as participate in a community service project. We also have an opportunity for congregational time which includes us meeting together and seeing how each individual is growing in their faith from the experiences at the Gathering.

Just as important to having the knowledge of the Catechism, is the youth developing a sense of how they feel they fit into God's picture for them. Fellowship and community service are a big part of laying that groundwork. Yes, there are fellowship activities like Cider mills, hay rides and canoe trips which are focused on binding the youth together, but there are also community service projects such as the trip to the east side of Detroit where the Youth helped pick up trash, board up and paint 15 abandoned houses. In January, we visited Focus Hope where we were able to package boxes for low-income senior citizens. In April, the Youth helped with Lenten, Maundy Thursday and Easter Vigil services. This summer the high school students will be taking a trip to Warrensburg, NY, in the Adirondack Mountains. This mission trip will focus on serving the community through home repair projects, planning and leading day camp for the children within the community and building relationships with a community that struggles from poverty and economic insecurity. All of these activities, including the community service projects are teaching them how to be “God's people doing God's work”, as well as building up their self-confidence, so that one day they can be leaders in our congregation.

We are so thankful to the congregation of Holy Cross for the love and support they have provided for our youth. We are truly blessed.

Yours in Christ,

Kim Rowe, Director of Youth Ministries

Kim Rowe

734-716-1635, youthministries@holycrosslivonia.org

ADULT



Ellen Batkie
248-497-1451, elbatkie@gmail.com

Launched in 2012, GPS is our version of the “catechumenate process”, an ancient rite of baptism preparation which the early church referred to as “The Way.” Our initial goals were to do a better job of bringing new members into the community, guiding people at all stages of faith formation, building new relationships and counseling adults discerning baptism. What emerged is a process formed by all those needs geared to inspiring and equipping spiritual journeys strengthened by community.

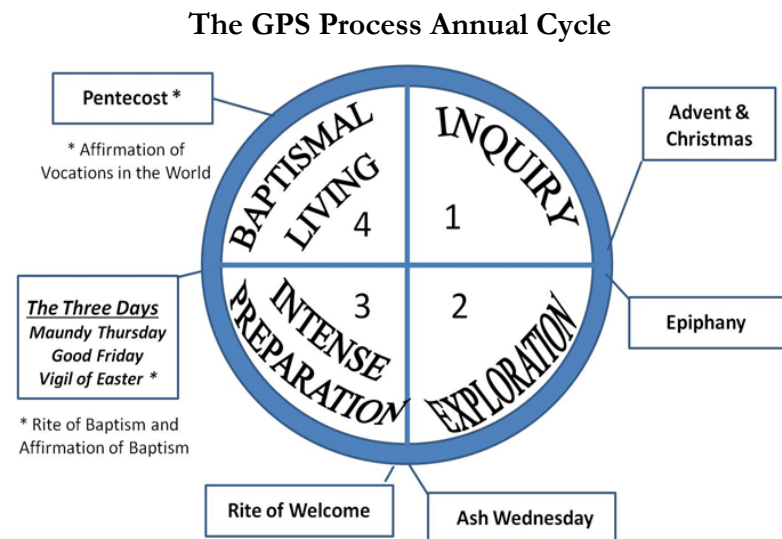
The GPS cycle includes four distinct stages and runs from October thru Pentecost. We launch in the Fall, encouraging our participants to bring all their inquiries as we answer Jesus’ call to simply “Come and See” what this is about. Questions range from “Why Lutheran and not Catholic or Buddhist?” to “How do you know God is really there?” and “What does God want from my life?” Epiphany is spent exploring faith practices as we hear Jesus invitation to “Come and Be” with me. Lent is spent in intense preparation as we move toward the Easter Vigil and Baptism/Affirmation of Baptism. This is when we hear Jesus’ command to “Follow Me”. Our final stage during the Easter season introduces baptismal living or Jesus’ command to “Abide in Me and Go!”

What sets this apart from our original idea of a catechumenate process? 1) The people coming together share a yearning to explore their relationship with God and each other; they enter the room because they want to, not because it is a requirement. 2) Their questions and doubts determine the direction of our time together. 3) The Spirit present creates an amazing space for both an individual and a collective journey of faith formation. Each Fall we welcome a new cohort of GPS journeyers. And year after year, our community is fundamentally changed through the collective experience.

GPS took a bit of a hiatus in the Fall 2015/Spring 2016 cycle as Holy Cross walked through pastoral transitions. We offered a capsule of GPS during Lent 2016, with 22 participants exploring what it means to “Remember Your Baptism.” It is our hope that some of these participants will travel the full cycle starting in Fall 2016.

Since our first cohort in 2012, 58 individuals have walked at least part of a GPS cycle with 45 journeying to the Easter Vigil and 8 participating in multiple years. Not all of these 58 participants remain at Holy Cross making GPS truly a stewardship of faith formation. Wherever life leads them, the work done in our midst travels along... for the sake of the Gospel and the world.

Challenge for 2016/17: Exploring Baptismal Living is a life-long adventure. As our ranks of experienced GPS journeyers layer with each annual cohort, what are we collectively called to in terms of continuing the journey started, both individually and collectively? How do we nurture the journey on behalf of the world around us? How does it inform the ever-evolving missional heart at Holy Cross?



Mission and Outreach

Holy Cross is a community of faith active in love. We seek to meet our neighbors’ needs, sharing the love we have always been shown by Him. Our outreach is organizing in three main areas where we are creating and maintaining very deep relationships. We are ministering in our local, regional and global communities. Our local community is the focus of our long-term Kids Hope ministry to Coolidge Elementary School, our ongoing partnership with the City of Livonia to provide a nonfood pantry for needy residents, .and our developing relationships with the Methodist Children’s Home Society down Six Mile Road. Our regional outreach includes projects to support Lutheran Social Services’ Wayne County Family Center (the only homeless shelter for families in SE MI), the Gleaners Food Bank. Looking globally has drawn us into projects of the Lutheran World Relief Fund and an active Fair Trade program.

REACHING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



Cindy Swift and Diane Nichols
248-633-6681, swiftc@mac.com

It was ten years ago that Michael Burkhardt introduced Holy Cross to a mentoring program called Kids Hope USA. He explained that it is a partnership between a church and its neighborhood elementary school in which volunteers are paired up with at risk children to provide an hour of one on one mentoring each week. We immediately began exploring this idea. Kids Hope USA is a national program based out of West Michigan. They provide guidelines, training and support for participating churches.

We contacted Coolidge Elementary School to find out whether they would be interested in pursuing this partnership. The staff at Coolidge was thrilled at the idea of support for their most at risk children. The members of Holy Cross were equally thrilled at the idea of living their faith in this way and so we moved ahead.

Our first director attended the mandatory three days of training at the Kids Hope headquarters in Zeeland, and 25 volunteer mentors and 25 prayer partners stepped up to the challenge. Each mentor has a prayer partner who provides ongoing prayer and support.

The theme of Kids Hope is *One Church, One School, One Mentor, One Child, One Hour per Week*. The mentors are provided with training and on-going support from the directors. In addition to the weekly mentoring session, we always have a Christmas lunch and an end of the year picnic for the children, mentors, prayer partners, and parents of the children. We become a Kids Hope family!

During these ten years, the lives of hundreds of children have been changed. There is strong evidence that one caring adult can change the life of an at risk child. The mentors are there simply to be their friend. They play, talk, read and provide some academic support with their child.

This year, we have 19 children, 19 mentors and 19 prayer partners participating in Kids Hope. We continue to be extremely grateful to Coolidge School for their extraordinary cooperation for without that, the program would fail. The need for mentors seems to become greater every year, and we are looking forward to even more participation in this rewarding ministry next school year.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Swift and Diane Nichols; Co-directors

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Pat Ferrari

734-464-7444, rpferrari@sbglobal.net

A little history. I am a strong believer in the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Let me tell you if the Holy Spirit has a job for you, you might as well say yes on the first tap on your shoulder because if you don't that tap just keeps coming. (Personal experience and why I lead the Prayer Shawl Ministry.)

Our Ministry began in June of 2004. Our first shawl was presented to Grace Goschnick, Ellen Batkie's mother, a member of the ministry, on July 10, 2004. To date we have presented 373 shawls and many hats, caps and mittens. You do not have to be a member of Holy Cross to receive a shawl. Some of our shawls have been given to a Rabbi, a Catholic Priest and several ministers in the Holy Land. Our group decided to give shawl for concerns physical, personal or spiritual. If you need a shawl for someone just ask Pr. Krister, Pat Ferrari or Cindy Channey. We also do hats and mittens for the Mitten Tree at Christmas and baby hats for groups in need. A blessing is done before anything leaves the church.

We are a blended group with members of 3 other churches and a second generation member, Katie Shepherd the granddaughter of an original member Shirley Shepherd.

We meet the first Monday of the month, except September which is the second Monday because of the holiday, from 9:30-11:30 am. We also meet the first Thursday from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Several members do not attend a meeting but work at home.

I want to thank everyone who has participated in this most rewarding Ministry. Without your gift of time and talent we would not be able to comfort those who are suffering or in need of comfort for any reason.

We are always looking for new members feel free to contact me.

God's Blessings on all,
Pat Ferrari

Faith Forum

This is the Adult Sunday School Group. We meet weekly on Sunday mornings at 9am. All are welcome and encouraged to join us whenever you can. We meet to study the Bible; we use video series when available and venture into current topics when appropriate. Our loyal group of 6 to 8 persons has room for you. Hope to see you next Sunday morning!

Lectionary Bible Study

Led by the pastor on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am, these small group sessions facilitate friendships and explore the Scripture lessons read in worship each week. Come weekly or when you can.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 pm to study the scripture readings for the following Sunday. We average 3-5 women. Come, join us for prayer, study, fellowship and support of one another.

Men's Bible Study

This group of men meets on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm to study the Bible and its meaning for each of us here in this place at this time. A small loyal group of 8 to 10 men hope to encourage others to join this endeavor. Our studies take many forms: we study the Bible, we use video series when available, we use study books and guides when we find topics to our liking. Open to all men. Won't you please join us!!

Spiritual Care

At Holy Cross, we strive to walk together with Christ through times of joy and trouble. We support one another in times of need and are strengthened through the mutual encouragement of others. Over the years, various facets of our ministry have come together to create a "Healing Place of Quiet Welcome" not only for members of our worship community but for all those we touch, however we touch them. The Spiritual Care Team is composed of many individuals directly involved in supporting the spiritual care of others. New ministries have evolved from newer members and the Spirit of God just keeps growing.

Homebound Communion

Marilyn Grable

734-338-6722, marilmad@hotmail.com

Chuck Hunter

248-615-4834, charles.barbara@yahoo.com

Beth Hare

313-333-0643, bahare8486@aol.com

A vital part of our congregation is the faithfulness of our Homebound Communion Team whose members make regular visits to the homebound, nursing home and hospitalized members. The team consists of Lynda Ashbay, Bill and Pat Barton, Harvey Gist, Marilyn Grable, Marion Hansen, Beth Hare, Barbara and Chuck Hunter, Chuck Lindquist, Carol Mazurek, Cara and David Nims, Sue Scherbarth, Dottie Taylor and Pastor Krister. We not only pray with them and offer holy communion but also remind them that we care about them even when they are unable to worship with us on Sunday. Regardless of their situations they are with us in our prayers.

Chuck Hunter is quick to respond to members admitted to the hospital with an offer of communion. It's important to call the church office or Chuck when emergencies arise so we can minister to those people as soon as possible.

Each member has a communion kit that is refreshed periodically on the altar during service. We follow the service that is used in our own church service. Our Home Touch flyer is also available to cheer up the patient. These visits keep members connected to our church and comfort them with word from our Lord.

Thanks to everyone on this team whose time and love keep the spirit alive for our homebound. New members for this team are always invited and welcomed. Please contact the church office or one of the names below if you are interested in joining us in this ministry. Blessings abound for all!

Grief Support (see page 20)

Chuck Lindquist

248-348-9813, ckindquist@yahoo.com

Intercessory Prayer

Patty Gorton

248-505-8135, pattyanneg@gmail.com

Holy Cross is a community who cares for one another. One of our caring ministries is Intercessory Prayer. We meet weekly on Sundays after the 10 am worship service. As a group we pray for members of Holy Cross as well as friends and relatives in need. Our prayers are lifted up for comfort, strength, peace, healing and thanksgiving. We believe in the power of prayer and in God's love for his children. We welcome new prayer partners, join us. Lynda Ashbay, Patti and Don Gorton, Marion Hansen, Barb Lewis and Kim Chartrand.

Card Ministry

Joan Onkka

734-525-0228, joanonkka@yahoo.com

The Holy Cross Card Ministry is devoted to send a loving touch to all in our midst who are journeying through times of challenge as well as joy. From May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016, the Ministry sent 489 Thinking of You cards and 15 Sympathy cards.

Labyrinth & Prayer Park

Lunice Clay

734-748-3493, lunice9951@aol.com



This past year, the Holy Cross Labyrinth, set in the heart of our beautiful Prayer Garden has continued as a vital component of our 'front porch' by offering welcome and healing to all in our congregation and community. The Labyrinth Ministry has provided increased opportunities for learning how to use this resource in prayer, meditation and community building.

These opportunities have included:

"An Invitation to Walk"- A presentation on the history and various uses of labyrinths, the reasons why many find them beneficial and 'tips' for labyrinth walking. This is accompanied by a facilitated labyrinth walk. This service was provided to students from the Ecumenical Theological Seminary (June, 2015), four of Holy Cross' Women's Circles and congregation members. A women's group from Salem United Church of Christ has requested a presentation in May, and we are expecting a return visit of students from the Ecumenical Theological Seminary.

The Labyrinth Ministry facilitated the 'planting' of a peace pole at the entrance to the Prayer Park to recognize the International Day of Peace last September. This event was reported in the Livonia community newspaper, and the congregation attended the blessing and dedication of the peace pole.

On September 28, 2015, Holy Cross and community members came together for the first Harvest Moon Community Labyrinth Walk and Celebration. This was a joyous and well-attended event which demonstrated the power of the labyrinth in bringing us together in fellowship.

On 12/6/15 a Labyrinth Advent Prayer Journey was provided to encourage meditation on how we prepare for the birth of our Lord.

A labyrinth walk was offered for participants prior to the "Blue Christmas" service, designed for those who are grieving. This walk was co-facilitated by our Labyrinth Ministry leader and the director of New Hope Grief Support. New Hope Grief Support continues to see our labyrinth as a valuable resource to assist in grief work.

In March, the Labyrinth Ministry provided a presentation and facilitated walk to members of First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor at that church.

During Lenten services this year, a 5-circuit canvas labyrinth was set up in the meeting room, along with finger labyrinths to provide a quiet, meditative setting and opportunity to walk a labyrinth while it was still too cold to do so outside.

On May 7, Holy Cross again invited congregation and community to celebrate World Labyrinth Day by providing on-site information, refreshments and facilitated walks.

As always, thanks to all those who provide such loving care to the labyrinth and prayer park, weeding, raking, planting and tending, to maintain this beautiful sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,
Lunice Clay