

Holy Crossings

Our Mission... to seek, share, and serve our Savior

January 2018

Epiphany Tea

Date:

Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 10:00 am

Location:

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

The ladies of the congregation are invited to an Epiphany Tea. All ages are welcome and you are encouraged to invite friends and family.

Together, we will explore the burning question . . .
"What exactly is Epiphany"?!?

Join us for treats, tea and a morning of fellowship. Please RSVP on the LWML board in the Commons Area. Please see Pam Hunter with any questions.



Who's in Charge of . . . ?

We all know that it takes many volunteers for all the programs and services Holy Cross offers. The Board of Stewardship wants to make sure that the work of the church gets done and that the people of the church know the needs of the church. Every so often we'll highlight groups, boards, and needs so that you know who to contact and how to get involved.

Volunteers are currently needed for the coffee fellowship hour. Volunteers are responsible for baking or purchasing cookies or donuts, providing juice or milk,

making the coffee and clean up each week. Coffee and paper products are provided and are available in the kitchen.

Volunteers make the coffee and set up the serving table in the fellowship area prior to the 1st services so the coffee is ready by the end of the worship service. They pour beverages and visit during the fellowship hour. Extra coffee is then



placed into coffee pots and distributed to the tables in the Sanctuary for use during Bible Study. After Bible Study the coffee pots, trays and tables are cleaned and prepped for the next week's use.

If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Matt Lehman in the church office.

Serving Him with You,

Joy Anderson, Janean Johnston
and Judy Weimer
Board of Stewardship

Epiphany Sermon

January 7, 2018

EPIPHANY/BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Theme: "Chaos Controlled? How?"

Text: Genesis 1:1-5

Synopsis: The Spirit of the Lord is present in Chaos, and the Lord says, "Let there be light."



January 14, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Theme: "Listen! God is Calling You to Himself! (The Silence is Shattered!)"

Texts: 1 Samuel 3:1-20; John 1:43-51

Synopsis: God calls to Samuel to be His prophet. And Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael to follow Him.

January 28, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Theme: "Can but Won't!

Respecting a Weaker Conscience."

Text: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Synopsis: Caring about a friend's conscience.

February 4, 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Theme: Renewing Your Strength!

Texts: Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39

Synopsis: Do you not know? Do you not hear? He lifts us up as on wings of eagles. And Jesus heals many. Jesus prays early in the morning and then continues to preach and heal.

January 21, 2018

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE & THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Theme: "Life Matters to God! May it Matter to Us!"

Text: Jonah 3:1-5,10

Synopsis: God calls an unwilling Jonah to warn Nineveh of destruction to save lives!

Lent Begins



February 14, 2018

Ash Wednesday
Service
7:00 pm

February 11, 2018

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Theme: The Surprising Glory!

Text: Mark 9:2-9.

Synopsis: Jesus is revealed in all His glory in front of Peter, James, and John.



Sunday Schedule

8:15 AM

Traditional Worship Service

9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study
and Sunday School

11:00 AM

Contemporary Worship Service



Prayer for a New Year

Lord God, heavenly Father, because You sent us Your only-begotten Son for our salvation and gave Him the name of Jesus, grant that we may begin the New Year trusting in His saving name and live all our days in His service and praise to the glory of His holy name; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lutheran Hour



Under-the-weather? Out of town? Why not listen to **The Lutheran Hour**. It can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am. And it can be streamed online too, www.lhm.org.

January 7

"Breaking News!"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer
Epiphany calls us to believe that the Light has come into the world. A New Year's message about confidence, if you'll believe it!

Isaiah 60:1-6 ("Arise, shine, for your light has come.")

January 14

"How Well Does Jesus Know Me?"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour:
Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

It's nice to have someone know and understand you. Today the Lutheran Hour asks, "How do you feel about Jesus knowing you?"

(John 1: 48-51)

January 21

"Meeting Millennials Where They're at"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer
Robots can't produce disciples. How can we mentor those who don't know Jesus, or don't know Him well enough? (Mark 1:14-20)

January 28

"Cause I Said So"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour:
Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Many have pretended to be the Messiah. In today's text, Jesus authority is recognized and obeyed by His competition.

(Mark 1: 21-28)

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

In case you missed it the first time, FPU will be offered again starting Tuesday, January 16th Through March 13th at 7:00 pm. FPU is a nine week class that teaches you common sense and Biblical application of personal finance. Each week a different topic is covered from saving and paying off debt to insurance and stewardship.

The class is open to the public and to people of all ages.



The class study kit is \$109 which now includes shipping; a full year of online access to all the class materials and videos; a one year subscription to EveryDollar Plus; and other valuable resources designed to help you gain a better understanding of personal finance.

Sign up online at <https://fpu.com/1052218>



Stuffed Toy Collection

The youth of Holy Cross are collecting NEW stuffed toys (with tags on) for the first responders of Scott County. We cannot accept used stuffed toys. The first responders will share these stuffed toys with children when they make emergency calls. The collection runs from December 17 thru February 4. Drop-off basket is under the Youth bulletin board Thank you for your donations of kindness and love.

Youth Activities

Wondering what the youth have been doing? Snag a peek at photo boards on their bulletin board in the Commons area!



Bible Bookenders

You still have plenty of time to read the **"The Scarlet Thread"** before the next Bible Bookenders gathering. Join us on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 7:00 pm. This enchanting book is about two women, separated by centuries, yet they share an incredible journey. Check-out how it all unfolds.

Copies of the book are available for checkout on the church office counter or in our church library located in the youth "Gamma" room. Come, share in the discussion and Christian fellowship!

January Stewardship Article

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless. But it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions: Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the Small Catechism informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties and our questions arise in giving to the church.

So, what is our duty as members of the church with regard to giving? The Table of Duties, again, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer, a member of the church who receives instruction, St. Paul taught: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where

those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor. 6:1-2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments,



God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

February Newsletter

Articles for the February issue of the Holy Crossings are due on **January 15, 2018** at 11:57 pm. If you have an activity, event, or meeting date that needs to be added to the church calendar, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Send all items to holycross@holycross-pl.org or lehman.ml@gmail.com. Thank you for your assistance.

A Glimpse at Epiphany

A couple straightforward questions for you: “when is Epiphany?” and “what is Epiphany?” Surprisingly, a handful of good Christian folks can answer these questions confidently. Can you?

First, when is Epiphany?

Epiphany’s date is January 6.

Unfortunately, the day of Epiphany is seldom celebrated, especially in America. As good Americans, we rush to the end of the story, making the magi miraculously arrive the night that Christ Child was born, even though Scripture states differently. The following summary gives a glimpse concerning **what is Epiphany** and the readings for the day.

The Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East.

In that respect, it is a “Thirteenth Day” of Christmas; and yet, it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. While Christmas has focused on the Incarnation of our Lord—that is, on God becoming flesh—the season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Isaiah 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth—not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Ephesians 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matthew 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word, to find and worship Him within His Church (Isaiah 60:3–6). With gold they confess His

royalty; with incense, His deity; and with myrrh, His priestly sacrifice (Matthew 2:11).

Epiphany is a Greek word *ἐπιφάνεια* which means “reveal”, “appearance”, or “make manifest.” The great Epiphany hymn, “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” (LSB 394), poetically walks the singing through the entire Epiphany season; ending each of the five stanzas with “God in man made manifest.”

*“In darkness there is no choice.
It is light that enables us to see
the differences between things;
and it is Christ who gives us
light.”*

—Augustus Hare



THANK YOU

Dear members of Holy Cross,

Your generosity, kindness, and gifts during the Christmastide warmed our hearts, along with our families. Thank you for Christian love and support! We feel abundantly blessed to have every one of you in our life. Prayers for each of you ascend with thanksgiving to the LORD. May God graciously bless you in this New Year.

In the peace of Christ,
Pastors Jim and Matt

The New Year Begins?

The Roman emperor Julius Caesar, in 46 B.C., selected January 1 as the date of the new year. About six hundred years later, the church in Rome announced that the new year would be March 25, the date of the Feast of the Annunciation (when the angel spoke to Mary). Christ’s birth is nine month later, Christmas Day, December 25.

For almost 1,000 years, March 25 was acknowledged as New Year’s Day. But in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII changed everything. New Year’s Day was changed back to January 1.

Did you know that . . .

- There are 66 books in the Bible?
- Micah and Nahum are the middle books of the Bible?
- 3 John is the book with the fewest words?
- Psalms has the most chapters?
- There are 1,189 chapters in the Bible?
- Psalm 117 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible?
- Psalm 117 is also the shortest chapter in the Bible?
- Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible?
- There are 31,101 verses in the Bible?
- Psalm 118:8 is the middle verse of the entire Bible?
"It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man" (NIV).
- John 11:35 is the shortest verse in the Bible? It has two words: "Jesus wept."
- Esther 8:9 is the longest verse in the Bible? It has 78 words.



Amazing Appreciation

An early church father, John Chrysostom, who lived in Constantinople (modern day Istanbul) in the fourth century A.D., spoke clearly against all kinds of evils. Unfortunately, he was exiled from the city, for his preaching made immoral people uncomfortable.

To the people who befriended him, Chrysostom ended his letters to them with the exquisite idiom, "Praise God for all things!"

Those who are faithful truly do praise God for all things. In spite of everything, it is life's hurtful, agonizing wallops that compel us to seek His mercy and grace. God's love, in Christ, empowers us to praise Him for everything. No matter what.

LWML Notes

Ladies of Holy Cross, winter issues the Lutheran Women's Quarterly and Minnesota South District Newsletter "Women On a Mission" (WOM) have arrived. Copies are available at the wall pocket unit by the LWML bulletin board in the Commons area, along with Mite calendars and boxes.

The Women's Quarterly features three fascinating Bible studies, "Listen to the Sounds!", "Living a God-sized Dream", and "Knowing Jesus Gives My Life Balance". It highlights the life and work of Dr. Rosa J. Young, the mother of Black Lutheranism in Alabama.

Important Upcoming Dates:

1. **Epiphany Tea** – Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 10 am
2. **Holy Cross Ladies Guild Meeting** – Monday, January 15, 2018 at 7 pm
3. **27th Biennial Minnesota South District Convention**
June 29-30, 2018 (Verizon Wireless Center, Mankato, MN)

A BIG thank you to all who supported the LWML Christmas Bake Sale! We hope you enjoyed your Christmas treats.

Voter's Meeting

The Holy Cross January Voter's Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 28, 2018, at 12:30 pm**. A pot-luck lunch is being organized, and will start at 12:00 noon. The Voter's meeting will promptly begin at 12:30 pm. If you have any questions please reach out to Michael Hentges (Chairman), any of the Elders, or Pastor Jobst.

New Staff Member

We are pleased to welcome, Meg Batchelder, to the office staff at Holy Cross in 2018. Meg will join the ministry team on January 16 as part-time Office Ministry Assistant. Let us warmly welcome Meg!

Christian Concert

NEWSBOYS United

Together again under one roof.
All the hits.

With special guest: Zealand

Grace Church
Eden Prairie, MN
Friday, March 9, 2018
7:00 pm

Tickets start at \$18.00 with additional fees.

Sign-up sheet on Music bulletin board in the Commons Area.