



The Way of the Cross

Empowering people in Christ to share His love while serving our neighbor.

2012-2

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (LCMS)

February 2012

Church Office

6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
Phone: (301) 345-5111
Fax: (301) 220-0694
E-mail: myholycross@verizon.net
Website: www.myholycross.org

Staff

Pastor: *Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Mentz*
Organist: *Roberto Vela, Esq.*
Office Manager: *Zari Malsawma*
Custodian: *John Baluch*

Executive Steering Committee

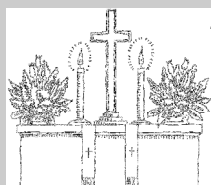
Kristi Keller
Amy Minor
(Vacancy)

Mission & Ministry Committee

Angie Evans
Allen Clem
Jennifer Riggins Garcia

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Worship Services followed by Fellowship

9:30 a.m.
Education Hour

6:00 p.m.
Evening Worship

From Pastor . . .

A Sign of the Times?

If a picture is worth a thousand words, what is a church sign worth? For the past year and a half, we have been discussing changing the Holy Cross Church sign.



Why the change? As you can see from this picture, our sign is showing signs of extensive decay. Upon closer examination, you can see in many places where it has rotted away! Our current church sign is at least 19 years

old – it has served our congregation well but, like all things, it has outlived its usefulness. It needs to be replaced.

“But Pastor,” some might protest, “Not everyone looks at the back side of our sign!” Well, look at the front. Again you can see cracks and weather staining! Our sign needs to go!



A church sign not only shares information, it symbolizes the church. It conveys an impression of what the church is like to all who see it, no matter how quickly that might be.

A good church sign is worth a thousand words. But what type of a sign do we need? There has been much discussion about buying an electronic sign vs a lighted sign. There are pluses and minuses for both.

An electronic sign board allows a church to advertise a variety of programs, activities, time of services, etc. very quickly. Electronic signs are a sign of the times (*no pun intended*). For good or bad, this is the media that is most effective today.

Continued on page 2 →



- **Dorothy Baluch**, mother of our Church Custodian John Baluch (*recovering from heart attack*)
- **Elsa Lester**, colleague of Dawn Felix (*recurrence of cancer*)
- **Family of Patricia Davis**, one of our newest members who passed away on Monday, January 16th, 2012.
- **Hank Stuvén** (*recovering from stroke at home*)
- **Henry Wilcox**, Amy Minor's brother (*continuous health issues*)
- **Ian Holstrom**, grandson of Marian Evans (*health issues*)
- **Irene Day**
- **Jan Beeching-Piper**, friend of Bill & Julene Pichel (*now in hospice care*)
- **Lael Carriere** (*at Hillhaven Nursing Center*)
- **Marty Pichel**, Bill & Julene Pichel's sister-in-law (*abdominal surgery*)
- **Mary Anne Holien** (*broken leg, recuperating at home*)
- **Mary Lucy Winker & Family** (*Mary Lucy's father, Joseph Gerard O'Brien, Sr., died on December 26th, 2011 and was given a Christian burial on January 11th, 2012*)
- **Patrick Fiddler**, teenaged son of John Minor's friend (*Lyme disease*)
- **Ron & Kelly Pichel**, son & daughter-in-law of Bill & Julene Pichel (*unborn child has heart problems*)
- **Susan Lucero & Family** (*husband John died suddenly on Sunday, January 8th, 2012*)

March Newsletter Deadline

9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 21st, 2012

Continued from page 1 . . .

A traditional sign with changeable letters is not flashy or gimmicky. The disadvantage is in changing the message by hand, and in the limitation on how many messages can be presented.

We all want a sign that is dignified, one that allows us to advertise and frees us from the clutter of having numerous signs, as we currently do. Is this the look we want for Holy Cross? How should we advertise Holy Cross Church?



No matter how good it is, no sign will magically bring new members into a church. But a sign is an indication as to how we want to present ourselves to the community. The question we need to ask is, "How do we want the community to know us?"

A new sign proposal that is being considered would have an electronic sign board facing the east-bound lanes of Greenbelt Road (*the side closer to the church*), and a more traditional, non-electronic sign facing the west-bound side of Greenbelt Road. This proposal would lower the cost of the sign while being an effective use of funds. To see a set-up like the one I'm describing, you can drive past Capital Christian Fellowship at 10411 Greenbelt Road. Capital Fellowship has an electronic sign on one side and a lighted sign board with just the name of the church on the other side.

A congregational meeting to discuss various proposals for the church sign will be held on Sunday, February 19th between the services. For those of you who will be out of town that weekend, I will be available to talk with you the following Sunday, February 26th. It is our hope to have a final vote on the sign sometime in early March.

I ask that you prayerfully consider what is best for Holy Cross with regards to a new church sign.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mentz

Walking with God

The essence of the Christian life is knowing God and walking with Him. It's about sticking with Him when the sky is blue and also when it's filled with clouds or choked with smoke. It's about walking with the Lord through thick and thin, and pressing on through every heartache and trial that happens to come our way.

— Greg Laurie



Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, 2012. Holy Cross Church will mark this season with *Ash Wednesday services at 12:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.* (Imposition of ashes at both services)



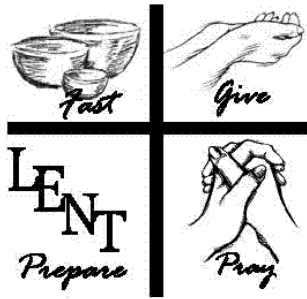
Mid-week Lenten services will be held on Wednesdays at 12:15 & 7:00p.m. Starting at 6:15 p.m., a light supper will be provided for those attending the evening service.



Newest Members

On Sunday, December 18th, 2011 we welcomed *Patricia Davis* and *Issa Kamara* into membership at Holy Cross Church. Unfortunately, Patricia became ill in early January and died on January 16th, 2012. She was given a Christian burial the following week. We pray God's blessings upon her family and pray that they find comfort and strength in Jesus' promise of being "the Resurrection and the Life."

Upcoming Events . . .



"Woe is me!"

This old expression was first spoken in the book of Job: "If I am guilty, woe to me!" (*Job 10:15*). It is repeated several more times in both the Old and New Testaments. William Shakespeare used the phrase in several of his plays.

"Woe is me!" was, and still is, an expression indicating sadness or acknowledgment of trouble. As in this picture, many of us have felt we were under a blanket of doom and, while we may not have spoken it, we felt it in our hearts: "Woe is me!"



Jesus used this expression 7 (seven) times as He addressed the religious leaders of His day shortly before His death. For Jesus, the expression summarized the agony, frustration and hurt He felt. Time after time, Jesus challenged His audience to live out their faith in words and in deeds.

I want to use these 7 woes as a way of looking at our own lives and examining how snug we often become in our relationship with God, which often causes us to ignore those around us. I invite you to join me as we look at ourselves, our piety, and our commitment during this holy season of Lent.

- Pastor Mentz

Lunch with Pastor



Lunch with Pastor

All are warmly invited to bring a bag lunch and dine with Pastor at 12:00 noon on Friday, February 17th, in the Church Parlor. Come join us for vibrant fellowship & thought-provoking discussions! ☺

Del-Mar-Va Depression Glass Club

Our meeting on Saturday, February 11th, 2012 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Church Parlor will feature Club members' discussion and presentation of "Red Glass/St.Valentine's Day." All are welcome. For more information, please contact Helen & Sheldon Chazin at 301-565-2361 or ybrian@verizon.net.

Adult Education . . .

Science & Religion Book Club

We will meet at 6:30 p.m.

on Wednesday, February 1st, 2012

for dinner & discussion of John Polkinghorne's
Belief in God in an Age of Science.

The topic for our March 7th, 2012 meeting is
Chapter 1 in Mario Livio's *Is God a
Mathematician?*

Sunday Evening Bible Study

*Parables of Luke: The Good Samaritan,
February 12th, 2012*

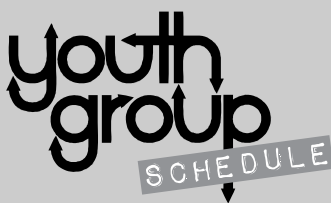
Jesus' parables are timeless, powerful, and
profound. Yet there is a dimension to them
that can be appreciated fully only when
seen through ancient Middle Eastern eyes.

Drawing on remarkable cultural and
historical insights from renowned New
Testament and Middle East scholar Dr.
Kenneth Bailey, this course explores how
Jesus' audience would have understood
eleven of Jesus' parables as recorded in
Luke. Come join us on this journey!

C. S. Lewis Book Club

*On Friday, February 17th, 2012 we will
meet at 6:30 p.m.* for dinner and discuss
Reason for God, Part 2 by Timothy Keller.

**Please contact Kristi Keller at 301-642-
1453 or kakeller@mad.scientist.com with
any questions you may have about these.*



*A special meeting is being called for
Sunday, February 5th
after the 10:30 a.m. service.*

At this time, we will look at youth ministry
and examine how we can strengthen our
youth program. Lunch will be provided.

Local Mission Outreach

Safe Haven Week in Review

The Safe Haven Ministry had a great start with the Youth Group serving dinner and staying the evening on Sunday, January 15th, 2012. During the week, Holy Cross hosted up to 13 men per night with a hot meal and a warm place to stay.

Thanks to all who contributed food and those who served the food and cleaned up afterwards! Our members certainly like to cook! The Youth Group started the week off with a delicious ham dinner – four hams and 20 lbs of mashed potatoes went a long way! Other provisions throughout the week included lasagna, bread, salad, chicken & dumplings, chili mac, roast beef, mixed vegetables, green bean casserole and ice cream, brownies, cookies, pie, and much more.

We had plenty of warm blankets, linens and towels to keep the men warm during the snowiest days of this winter. We also had a few folks staying each night to keep track of our guests - a service that is greatly appreciated! On Sunday, January 22nd, we moved the Safe Haven materials to Capital Christian Fellowship Church on Greenbelt Road for the next week.

Sheltering the homeless is not an easy job for our parish, but it is a real service to the community. We participate in Safe Haven with other Christian churches in the northern part of the county. Without the support of such churches, these men would be without shelter. While some were new to the program, we have seen some many times before. Often they have jobs, like standing at the top of the Metro escalator, handing commuters the morning *Express* paper. Some have distant families that they are supporting.

We would like to thank everyone who participated this year! If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to talk with us.

- Angie Evans, Angela Fu, Jeanne Byrnes, Amy Minor

Thanks & Appreciation

Dear Friends at Holy Cross,

Thank you very much for the Christmas gifts! Your generosity during these tough economic times truly ministered God's love to us, and we thank Him for you.

May you be richly blessed in return!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor, John, Roberto and Zari



John & Amy Minor	Feb. 17
Jeff & Donna Silver	Feb. 28
John & Donna Trupe	Feb. 28



Kaylene Klingenstein	Feb. 1
Frances Jordan	Feb. 5
Diane Stultz	Feb. 7
Brian Rudy	Feb. 8
Jacob Silver	Feb. 10
Susanne Roberts	Feb. 14
Dorothy Ball	Feb. 15
Irene Day	Feb. 16
Carolyn Madison	Feb. 17

Thanks & Appreciation

I wish to thank the congregation of Holy Cross for the many prayers and well wishes following my fall and hip surgery. I am slowly getting stronger each day.

Thanks for your thoughtfulness.

– Sherie Alexander

Volunteers of the Month

February 2012

Altar Guild:

<i>Saturday</i>	Mary Lucy Winker
<i>Sunday</i>	Shirley Lee, Lorrie Lauer

Acolytes:

<i>Feb. 5th</i>	J. P. Townsend (8:15 a.m.)
<i>Feb. 12th</i>	Annie Belle Neugebauer (10:30 a.m.)
<i>Feb. 19th</i>	J. P. Townsend (8:15 a.m.)
<i>Feb. 26th</i>	Martin Tanter (10:30 a.m.)

Communion Assistants:

<i>Feb. 5th</i>	Allen Clem (8:15 a.m.)
<i>Feb. 12th</i>	Tristan Mentz (10:30 a.m.)
<i>Feb. 19th</i>	Virginia Mentz (8:15 a.m.)
<i>Feb. 26th</i>	Toni F. Gore (10:30 a.m.)

Counters:

<i>Feb. 5th</i>	Warren & Mary Lucy Winker
<i>Feb. 12th</i>	Warren & Mary Lucy Winker
<i>Feb. 19th</i>	Warren & Mary Lucy Winker
<i>Feb. 26th</i>	Warren & Mary Lucy Winker

Greeters

	<u>8:15 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
<i>Feb. 5th</i>	Pat Fitzenreiter	Dorothy Ball
<i>Feb. 12th</i>	TBA	Sabrina David
<i>Feb. 19th</i>	TBA	Anna Stieger
<i>Feb. 26th</i>	Barbara Green	Toni F. Gore & Jordan Proctor

Lectors

	<u>8:15 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
<i>Feb. 5th</i>	Jim Ittenbach	Rochelle Commins
<i>Feb. 12th</i>	Bob Krueger	Collin David
<i>Feb. 19th</i>	John Minor	Sabrina David
<i>Feb. 26th</i>	Mary Miller	Warren Winker

Ushers:

<i>8:15 a.m.</i>	Bob Krueger; Meghan Costello
<i>10:30 a.m.</i>	Paul Commins; Bob Benson

Thursday Office Volunteers:

<i>Feb. 2nd</i>	Bob Smith	<i>Feb. 9th</i>	Allen Clem
<i>Feb. 16th</i>	Allen Clem	<i>Feb. 23rd</i>	Bob Smith

Friday Night NA Volunteers:

<i>Feb. 3rd</i>	Warren Winker	<i>Feb. 10th</i>	Bill Pichel
<i>Feb. 17th</i>	Kristi Keller	<i>Feb. 24th</i>	Collin David

FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the "music person," who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.



FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

•••• DIRECTIONS ••••

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.

gain as or ear van an for give
gave her on it one other he an a

B _____ w _____ h each

ot _____ d _____ give

_____ e an _____ if _____ y

of you h _____ grie _____ ce

a _____ st some _____ .

For _____ as t _____ L _____ d

for _____ you."

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		 February 2012	1 9:00 am – Sunday bulletin notices due! 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 6:30 p.m. – <i>Science & Religion Book Club</i> (Parlor) 6:30 pm – NA Regional Meeting (FH)	2 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thrift Store Open 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Rethink Education (P) 11:00 am – Bible Study (Greenridge House Dining Room)	3 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 6:30 pm – NA (FH) 7 - 11 pm – IDDP (Parlor & Sanctuary)	4 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Confirmation Class (Pastor's Office)
5 8:15 am - Worship Svc. 9:00 am - Fellowship 9:30 am – Education Hr. 10:30 am – Worship Svc. *Youth Group Meeting after late service 2 – 7 pm – IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – Evening Svc.	6 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	7 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. 4 Positive Paws (FH) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (Parlor & Sanctuary)	8 9:00 am – Sunday bulletin notices due! 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 7:00 pm – NTL Toast- masters Club (P)	9 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thrift Store Open 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Rethink Education (P) 11:00 am – Bible Study (Greenridge House Dining Room)	10 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 6:30 pm – NA (FH) 7 - 11 pm – IDDP (Parlor & Sanctuary)	11 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Del-Mar-Va Depression Glass Club (Parlor)
12 8:15 am - Worship Svc. 9:00 am - Fellowship 9:30 am – Education Hr. 10:30 am – Worship Svc. 12:30 pm - <i>Hot Meals Ministry</i> (FH) 2 – 7 pm – IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – Evening Svc. 7:00 – 8:30 pm – <i>Bible Study: Parables of Luke</i> (Parlor)	13 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	 14 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. 4 Positive Paws (FH) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (Parlor & Sanctuary)	15 9:00 am – Sunday bulletin notices due! 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Rethink Education (P)	16 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thrift Store Open 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Rethink Education (P) 11:00 am – Bible Study (Greenridge House Dining Room)	17 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 12:00 p.m. – <i>Lunch with Pastor</i> (Parlor) 6:30 pm – NA (FH) 6:30 pm – <i>C.S. Lewis Book Club</i> (SS Rm.) 7 - 11 pm – IDDP (Parlor & Sanctuary)	18 6:00 am – 12:00 pm IDDP Retreat (S) 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Confirmation Class (Pastor's Office) 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Thrift Store Open
19 *Transfiguration Sunday! 8:15 am - Worship Svc. 9:00 am - Fellowship 9:30 am – Education Hr. 10:30 am – Worship Svc. *Congregational Mtg. after late service! 2 – 7 pm – IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – Evening Svc.	20 *Presidents Day  Holiday Church Office Closed 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Mobile Health Fair (Church Parking Lot) 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	21 9:00 am – March newsletter deadline! 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. 4 Positive Paws (FH) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (Parlor & Sanctuary)	22 *Ash Wednesday 9:00 am – Sunday bulletin notices due! 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Rethink Education (P)  12:15 & 7:00 p.m. Service with <i>Imposition of Ashes</i>	23 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thrift Store Open 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Rethink Education (P) 11:00 am – Bible Study (Greenridge House Dining Room)	24 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 6:30 pm – NA (FH) 7 pm – 2 am – IDDP Prayer Vigil (P & S)	25
26 *1st Sunday in Lent  8:15 am - Worship Svc. 9:00 am - Fellowship 9:30 am – Education Hr. 10:30 am – Worship Svc. 2 – 7 pm – IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – Evening Svc.	27 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	28 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. 4 Positive Paws (FH) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (Parlor & Sanctuary)	29 9:00 am – Sunday bulletin notices due! 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 12:15 pm – <i>Midweek Lenten Service</i> 6:15 pm – <i>Lenten Supper</i> (Parlor) 7:00 pm – <i>Lenten Svc.</i>		 Holy Cross Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 6905 Greenbelt Road Greenbelt, MD 20770 Phone: (301)345-5111 Fax: (301)220-0694 E-mail: myholycross@verizon.net Website: www.myholycross.org	

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dated Material

Address Service Requested



Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
Give up worry — trust God to provide.
Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred — return good for evil.
Give up anger — be more patient.
Give up pettiness — become mature.
Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
Give up sin — turn to virtue.
Give up giving up — persevere.

—*Author unknown*