

Cross Beams

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A. August 2011

The purpose of

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

is to know, and joyfully

share, the love of God

in Christ.

Rev. George Haynes
Pastor

P.O. Box 301
Rockport, TX 78381

Church Office
361-727-9140

For Pastoral Care call
361-727-9607

The Pastor's Pulse

Let me tell you - the pastor's pulse is beating rapidly! Why? Because the end of our indebtedness is in sight! Rejoice with me in the knowledge that ***in just seventeen months we can pay off our mortgage!!*** Isn't that exciting?! Think of it - ***in just seventeen months we can be debt free!***

My dear people, it is time to dream dreams and see visions. What do you suppose our Lord and God would have us do with all of that money that is now being used to pay down our mortgage? What new ministries or bold ventures might our Lord have in mind for us? With what we are now paying for mortgage, we could underwrite the cost of starting a brand new mission someplace. I do not know to what the Lord might be calling us, but the resources will be there to do it!

You, my good people - year-round members, Associate members, Winter Texans - you are the reason we are on the threshold of this exciting possibility. Your generous gifts and offerings have enabled us to make a **strong** mortgage payment each and every month. One month, thanks to a generous gift, we were able to **double** the payment.

As exciting as this prospect of paying off our mortgage is, let us not lose sight of the fact that accomplishing that goal is strictly dependent upon our continuing to be generous in giving our offerings and gifts. (If we cannot keep this present pace, we shall have to reduce the amount we now pay each month. That would result in having to extend our loan and pay an additional \$34,000 over eighteen months).

Take hold of the vision - completely paying off our mortgage in just seventeen months! We **can** do it! We **will** do it, by giving generously and regularly. What the heck...why not go ahead and pay it off ahead of schedule?!

REFLECTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S LOVE

Celebrate with Children

By Susan Schneider

What did you do this summer? Have you enjoyed traveling this summer? Did you make some summer memories? It is time for the children to be thinking of school again! They will be asked to identify the best of their summer memories.

I can list many memories from summer I enjoyed, but none as much as VBS Nazareth 2011! I truly believe that many of the children who traveled with us to Nazareth will list this experience on their summer memories writing topic. I cannot tell you how much joy each of our volunteers brought to the children of Nazareth and to me. One parent indicated to me that her daughter was so happy the week of VBS that even her grandfather noticed a difference in her! Absolutely amazing! I appreciate all of the volunteers who gave their time and talents to VBS! I also want to thank all those behind the scenes volunteers who provided props, baked goods, and prayers! It definitely took all of us to pull off such a successful event!

You are probably wondering what's next? Sunday School this year is just around the corner! We will begin at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, September 11th. Our focus this year will be "The Ten Commandments." We will be using the same curriculum. This will be the last year in the three-year series. This means we will have covered many Bible stories. We also have some children that will be on their "First Communion" journey. We are very thankful that Toni Post and Rita Hartman will be sharing their musical talents with our Sunday School children this school year. We hope you look forward to hearing the children sing in church once and awhile.

One of the Bible points we learned in VBS is "Jesus served others...we do too!" I thank you all for making my summer so wonderful! May each of you have a memorable story to take into Autumn.

F U N

Fun, a three letter word. VBS, three letters Standing for Vacation Bible School and for Fun!

What a great VBS Holy Cross had this year. Thirty-one (31) registered kids. Wow! And, most were not members of Holy Cross. What outreach! Seeds were sown!

A huh tip of the hat to Susan Schneider and her team of teachers and helpers. Can you believe there were, in total over twenty of them! Just terrific.

Stan Post

Council President

Editor's Note: Stan, Toni and Rita prepared VBS Nazareth music CD's for all the kids to take home to enjoy. Be sure and look at all the new pictures of the amazing kids at VBS on the bulletin board.



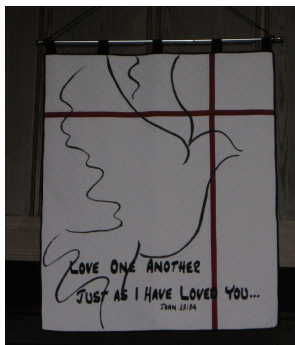
Thank You Children
of VBS Nazareth
for your Offering!

Your gift of \$80.21 will be used to
purchase through World Relief -
One Goat and
One Pig
to help nourish and enrich the
lives of people in need.

A Minute with Marilyn

As most of you know, this is my last “Minute with Marilyn” contribution to the newsletter at Holy Cross. My internship here will come to an end on August 31, 2011. It is simply incredible that a year has passed so quickly! It has been an honor and a blessing to be the very first intern to serve at Holy Cross. My internship scrapbook project will be filled with so many beautiful memories of this past year.....the pet blessing, the Thank offering service, Holden Evening Prayer, the Christmas program, catechism and confirmation, Vacation Bible School, and presiding at the Lord’s Table for the very first time. In fact, this year has been filled with so very many “firsts” for all of us!

You have welcomed me into your faith family and made me a part of your lives. And if I had to name one Bible verse that sums up this congregation’s greatest gift, it would be the verse chosen by my graduating class at Wartburg as the motto for our senior banner: “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12).



I will miss you and remember with gratitude all that I have learned here.

+God’s Peace+
Intern Marilyn



Join us for a pot luck dinner on Aug 14

August 14 will be Marilyn’s last Sunday with us here at Holy Cross. We plan to have a pot luck dinner immediately following the 10:30 worship service that morning. Please join us in wishing her a fond farewell and thank her for all she has done while being here.

B L E S S E D

Holy Cross has been blessed to have had Marilyn Larsen as an Intern. It is special for a church to be entrusted with an Intern, and Marilyn has been a true blessing. She has touched our lives with her sermons, songs, visitations, teaching and witness to her faith and call to ordained ministry.

Sunday, August 14th, will be Marilyn’s last day as an Intern at Holy Cross. We will celebrate her time with u and wish her God’s blessing in her future service to him. Hope you can be at church on August 14th.

Stan Post

Council President

TREASURER'S HIGHLIGHTS

Spending:

Operating Fund spending for June was \$16,155 versus our budget of \$15,300.
 Operating Fund spending YTD was \$94,295 versus our budget of \$91,799.

Giving:

Operating Fund giving for June 2011 was \$9,967 and \$85,623 YTD.
 Operating Fund giving for June 2010 was \$10,497 and \$90,683 YTD.

Cash on Hand:

Cash balance as of June 30, 2011 was \$38,726.24



FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, please see the sign up calendar on the bulletin board. Please let the church office know what information to put in the church bulletin.

Thank you.

AUGUST MINISTRIES

Council Person of the Month:
Deborah Schulze

	Usher	Lector	Psalter	Cookies
7	Stan & Toni	Stan	Toni	Stan & Toni
14	Bob & Michele	_____	Marilyn Larsen	Terry & Deborah Schulze
21	_____	_____	_____	Stan & Toni
28	_____	_____	_____	Stan & Toni



This is your invitation to participate in the Sunday Ministries.

Please check the signup sheet to volunteer for usher, lector, to bring cookies and flowers.

If you can help, we can help find someone to help with you if needed.

*Your support is appreciated.
 God Blessing*

Lectionary Aids for August

August 7, 2011-Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith" who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their hour of fear and doubt.

August 14, 2011-Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

Jesus teaches His disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be pagan and unclean approaches Him for help.

August 21, 2011-Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

August 28, 2011-Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God"(16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of His ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."



SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

The Holy Who?

Starting August 17

5:30 pm

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

Here is an opportunity you won't want to miss! Starting Wednesday, August 17 at 5:30, Lyndal Remmert will moderate a six-week presentation/open discussion of **The Holy Who?** Who, really, is the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit relate to the Father and the Son? What does the Holy Spirit do? What real difference does the Holy Spirit make as concerns my faith and life in Christ?

Lyndal has moderated this forum in other places and times. There has always been vigorous discussion, inspired experiences, measurable growth in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. This is a special opportunity, and each of us will want to take advantage of it.

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:30, starting August 17th. Bring a sack supper.



Holy Cross Welcomes New Pianist

We at Holy Cross are blessed to have Mary Allen become our regular pianist for Sunday services! Those of you

who were at the church on July 24th were able to welcome Mary during a cake and coffee reception. If you were not present, you may be interested to know some of Mary's background so that you can make connections and begin including her as a part of our church family.

Mary was born in Oklahoma, and began playing the piano around the age of 5. She grew up in the First Christian Church. In 1950, she began attending nursing school but left to marry at a time when nursing students could not continue their education if they were married. She ultimately had four children, and since her husband was in the oil business, they moved around quite a bit. Wherever they moved, Mary always registered at the local music store to be a supply church pianist and the local funeral home to play for funerals.

Mary's four children are scattered all over the United States, and her grandchildren all over the world. The children currently reside in California, near San Francisco, Golden, Colorado, New York City, and Williamsburg, Virginia. She has six grandchildren and tries to stay in their lives as much as possible, especially at important times such as graduations. All but one of her grandchildren are accomplished in some form of music, and the other one loves computers!

She moved to Rockport in 1986, then her friend Jan Wendell got her involved in the Catholic church choir around 1992. In 1995, she got a real estate license and had her own company. 2006 saw her working with Jackie Shaw to raise the money for a keyboard to be played at the Stella Maris Catholic chapel on Lamar Peninsula, and she wound up playing for them each Saturday evening and Sunday morning since then.

Recently, the Lord has led her to feel that the distance out there and back twice each weekend is more than she needs to be doing, and we at Holy Cross are so fortunate to have her be willing to continue to serve Him at a closer location. The hand of the Lord at work!

Welcome, Mary!



CHOIR: On Vacation

They will start practice again in September.