



Cross Beams

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

*The purpose of
Holy Cross
Evangelical Lutheran
Church
is to know, and
joyfully share, the love
of God
in Christ.*

The Pastor's Pulse

It was billed as an "once-in-a-lifetime-opportunity" - the one chance we would have in our lifetime to experience a total eclipse of the moon and the Winter Solstice simultaneously.

Astronomers- professional and amateur- looked forward to the event with great anticipation and excitement. Some people stayed up to watch the whole thing. Others, like me, set their alarm clocks, dressed, and went outside to view the eclipse and the strange coloring of the moon. Others just slept right through it, and ignored the whole thing

And so it is with the coming of the Christ. For human beings, his coming was to be once in their lifetime - the one opportunity to accept God's gift of His Son and - in accepting God's Son, or rejecting him, one's present and eternal destiny would be determined.

Prophets and religious leaders looked forward to his coming with great anticipation and excitement. Angelic hosts heralded the actual event when it happened.

And when the Son of God appeared, some forsook all and followed him. Others warmly welcomed him and rejoiced in the light and life he brought. . To some, he was nothing special at all, and they ignored the Christ altogether.

"But to those who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become the children of God ... "(John 1:12)



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LECTIONARY AIDS FOR JANUARY

January 2, 2011-John 1 :(1-9) 10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

January 9, 2011, the Baptism of Our Lord-Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins His ministry, He is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

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January 16, 2011-John 1:29-42

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as His disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

January 23, 2011-Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins His public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be His first disciples.

January 30, 2011-Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS RETURN
TO MONDAYS AT 4:00 PM**

Now that the Advent midweek services are over, choir rehearsals return to Monday afternoons at 4:00. We invite any of you who love music to come sing with us! Music is good for the soul, and we take time for a lot of laughter as well. Winter Texans are welcome!

Treasurer's Report Highlights - November

- Operating Fund spending for November was \$14,288 against our budget of \$15,113.
- Operating Fund spending YTD was \$161,332 against our budget of \$166,423.
- Operating Fund giving for November was \$16,437 and \$154,626 YTD. Operating Fund giving for November 2009 YTD was \$157,531 excluding a \$25,000 special gift.
- We had a total month-end balance of \$46,374 for all funds.

**CHRISTMAS TREES TO BE
BURNED ON JANUARY 6TH**

As explained in December's newsletter, we will be holding a Christmas tree burning service for Epiphany on Thursday, January 6, 2011, at 7:00PM. If you purchased a real tree for Christmas, bring it to the spot designated at the back of the church parking lot, after un-decorating it. The evening of Epiphany, we will burn the trees as a symbol accentuating Israel as a light to the nations and Jesus as the light of the world. Everyone then please come (whether you brought a tree or not) on the evening of January 6th to sing Christmas carols one last time as we reveal the glorious light of Christ to the community!



Come to the Polka Mass

on January 30th. The Polka Mass consists of the same basic worship service celebrated in the Roman Catholic tradition but utilizing a unique mode of music. Folk Music, cherished by generations of Slovenian and Croatian people, has been specially arranged and adapted with hymn lyrics in English. The songs and hymns we will be singing are from the polka masses celebrated by Father Frank Perkovich pastor of Resurrection Church in Eveleth, MN. The first Polka Mass in MN was held on May 5, 1973; these old ethnic melodies are presented in the polka and waltz stylings of Joe Cvek and his orchestra.

Hope you enjoy it,

Lil



Celebrate with Children

By Susan Schneider

We all probably remember a New Year's resolution that we made in the past. It is either the one that is still on our annual to-do list or it is the one that was accomplished! Perhaps, we try to make too many resolutions at one time.

Setting a goal can be a difficult task for children. However, they can benefit with the help of the entire family.

Getting everyone involved can show a child that goal setting can be fun and rewarding. For example, a family can set a realistic goal of having a family meal time together once a week. Children can help by writing the goal down, by helping to choose the time and day of the week for the meal, and by charting the accomplished meal time on a calendar. Each month this long-term goal can be re-evaluated by the entire family and adjusted to meet the needs of all family members.

If one month didn't go according to the set goal, an author once said, "Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."



Children see goals with a different approach - as a dream. Did you ever share your dreams with someone special in your life? Children have dreams but sometimes don't know how to share them. A dream journal can be a good way for children to express their goals. Adults can help children by taking an interest in their dreams and help them through the steps of

making their dreams become reality. "The Little Book of Goal Setting" by Jaki Bent says that goal setting can be used for both large and small dreams. It outlines the keys to making dreams come true. "Shoot for the moon, even if you miss, you'll land among the stars!" ~ Les Brown.

Proverbs 3:6 says, "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths." May all your 2011 dreams come true!

A Minute with Marilyn

It has been a wonderful and busy month – it seems like I sat at the computer only yesterday to dash off the December "Minute with Marilyn"! Our Advent services, the Holden Evening Prayer, were a pure joy, as was the Christmas Play, "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come." If you didn't get to those services, I encourage you to plan to do so next year. You'll be glad you did!

So now we look forward to beginning a new calendar year together, and perhaps even making a New Year's resolution or two. After breaking so many New Year's resolutions in the past, I am not real big on the idea anymore. But here is one to ponder in our hearts (and it came straight from Jesus as one of the two greatest commandments): Love your neighbor as yourself (Matt. 22:39). One of the ways the Holy Cross Women of the ELCA have responded to that commandment is to begin planning a Thank offering service for one Sunday worship during the month of February. A Thank offering service is planned and led solely by the women in the congregation. In conjunction with that service, we will have a "noisy offering" to benefit a women/children's shelter. More details of that special service will be forthcoming, so keep an eye out for it!

God bless you all, and I look forward to all that is to come at Holy Cross!

Intern Marilyn

STEPPING STONE PROJECT UPDATE

We have made a very good start on our stepping-stone project and I want to thank everyone who has participated thus far. We have completed about 20 stones but we still have 100 stones to cut, glue and grout so We Need Your Help! We will be resuming our work days right after the New Year and plan to meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings starting January 4, 2011.

We have received plenty of donations with much thanks to Jerry Mathre so we have disbanded any tuition fees at this time. We are now asking for all of you crafters and artisans to please join us in this fun project. Also if Tuesday and Thursday mornings do not work in your schedule, please call me at (361) 758-5154 and we will discuss optional times. We would like to have all of the stones completed by June if possible and we would like as many of you as possible to come join us to "Make Your Stone". Thank you so much for your participation and we look forward to starting anew in the New Year.



WHO IS PAID, WHO IS NOT

Who is paid for ministry and activity in the life of Holy Cross?

1. The Pastor
2. The Secretary
3. The Pianist
4. The Cleaning people.
5. The Intern (from a special fund set up by the people of St. Mark's, Corpus Christi.)

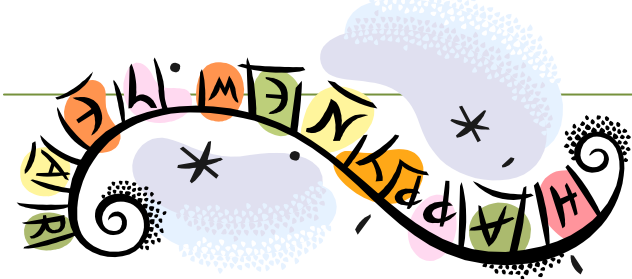
Who is NOT being paid, but who has provided, and provides, very important ministry in the life of Holy Cross?

- Bob Scherzer - mowing and lawn care
- Tom Oseland - maintenance
- Council members
- Choir members
- Sunday School teachers
- Communion assistants
- Readers
- Ushers
- Cookie bakers
- Community Table crews
- Altar Guild
- Artisans (stained glass and stepping stone experts and guides)
- Coffee makers
- Worshipers' prayer circles
- Banner makers
- Bill Bode, who plays the organ while he is here in the winter



January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship with Communion	3 4:00pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm Intern Committee Mtg	4	5 9:00 am Bible Study	6 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	7	89
9 9:15 Bible Study – Divine Drama 10:30 Worship	10 4:00pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Council Mtg	11 11:00 am Health & Healing Service	12 9:00 am Bible Study	13 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	14	15
16 9:15 Bible Study – Divine Drama 10:30 Worship with Communion	17 4:00pm Choir Practice 6:30 Altar Guild	18	19 9:00 am Bible Study	20 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	21	22
23 9:15 Bible Study – Divine Drama 10:30 Worship	24 4:00pm Choir Practice	25	26 9:00 am Bible Study	27 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	28	29
30 9:15 Bible Study – Divine Drama 10:30 Polka Mass with Noisy Offering	31 4:00pm Choir Practice					



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JANUARY MINISTRIES

Council Person of the Month: Linda Erwin

	Usher	Lector	Psalter	Cookies	Flowers
2	Open	Linda Erwin	Toni Post	Linda Erwin	Open
9	Murphy & Dee Baldwin Dick & Pat Weible	Open	Lil Oseland	Open	Open
16	Bob & Michele Scherzer	Open	Marilyn Larsen	Bob & Betty Olin	Tom & Chris Staley
23	Bob & Pat Reiner	Open	Choir	Pat Reiner	John & Jackie Grunenwald
30	Open	Open	Jane Remmert	Open	Open