



Cross Beams

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

The purpose of

The Pastor's Pulse

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

It is Fall. I was reminded of that when, this morning, I took the trash can to the curb and picked up the morning paper; a cool breeze from the North was gently blowing. It really felt great!

is to know, and joyfully share, the love of God

I like Fall. The church calendar begins to come alive with increasing activity; we get ready to welcome 'home' our Winter guests. Two have already arrived, and we happily anticipate the arrival of our entire extended family.

in Christ.

There is an Autumn in the seasons of our life, as well. We don't change color, as do some leaves on the trees (though a few more grey or white hairs may be in evidence). But it does give us opportunity to contemplate a little more the marvelous ways in which our Lord and God continues to bless and enrich our lives. We get to celebrate the ways in which our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are maturing and achieving. It is also a time for remembering former friends, rejoicing in the fond memories that conjure up in our minds.

Rev. George Haynes
Pastor

We become a bit more keenly aware of how true it is that each new day is a gift from God, and that God's mercies are new unto us every morning. We take a little more time to reflect upon the beauty of sunrise and sunset, the song of the birds, the panorama of color which surrounds us. I even find myself, once in a while, reverting to an old game I used to play when younger...lying on my back, looking skyward, and finding faces, or animals, in the cloud formations that drift across the heavens. It is fun, I tell you, FUN to be living in the midst of God's creation, God's people, and God's presence.

P.O. Box 301
Rockport, TX 78381

Church Office
361-727-9140

For Pastoral Care call
361-727-9607

Regardless of season...as God's own children, we celebrate LIFE!
Thank You, God.

Lectionary Aids for October

October 2, 2011-Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting His death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

October 9, 2011-Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

October 16, 2011-Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap Him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

October 23, 2011-Matthew 22:34-46

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

October 30, 2011, Reformation Sunday- Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus encourages His disciples to obey the words of Moses they hear from their teachers, but to shun the hypocrisy and pretension of those who do not practice what they teach.



Y'all Come

Just a note to all our Winter Texan Guests from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, North Dakota, Colorado, New Mexico, Illinois, South Dakota, Nebraska, Michigan, Canada and Y'all come!

We are looking forward to you returning to Rockport and being a part of the Holy Cross church family. Come as soon as you can. Stay as long as you want. We look forward to seeing you again.

Stan Post,
Council President

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The Prayers of the Church for Sunday, September 11th, included this prayer ...

“Lead us to exercise justice for your creation. Move us to be good stewards of all you have made, and make us examples of how to care for every living thing.”

The new recycling program that was started at church last month has led to lots of recyclable materials being saved from just becoming garbage in the landfill! Old Sunday bulletins, newsletters, catalogues, typed and printed pages, clean cardboard, clean plastic have all found their way to the little blue bin placed beside the kitchen freezer.

Allied Waste is still trying to arrange for us to be on their pick-up map, so until that happens, two of our families have committed to taking the bin home with them to add to their own recycling at their homes. We leave an empty bin at the church when we the full one out and bring the other bin back the next time we come to church. So far, this is working fine. The bin is not heavy and easily fits in the back or trunk of a car. We would really appreciate it if a couple more

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families who recycle at their homes would be available to do this job when one of the two families happens not to be in town the same week. If you are already a recycler, you understand how significant this can be in order for us to be good stewards of our earth. If you would like to be a new recycler, all the better! Please call Lil Oseland, the church secretary, at church and leave your name with her if you could help with this simple but important project. One of us will give you a call to organize a schedule so that no one family has to do the job all the time.

Looking forward to your help!

TREASURER'S HIGHLIGHTS

Spending:

Operating Fund spending for August was \$12,915 versus our budget of \$15,300.

Operating Fund spending YTD was \$121,975 versus our budget of \$122,399.

Giving:

Operating Fund giving for August, 2011 was \$9,361 and \$106,915 YTD.

Operating Fund giving for August 2010 was \$13,470 and \$113,015 YTD.

Cash on Hand:

Cash balance as of August 31, 2011 was \$49,697.73.

We Can Do It We Need You

By now, I'm sure you have heard, or read in the newsletter, about our goal to pay off the church's mortgage early and make Holy Cross debt free.

At the present rate of making our mortgage payments, about \$5,000 per month, we would have the mortgage paid off in January, 2013. But, with gifts already given, the date has already been moved back four months to September, 2012. That's less than a year from now. And, by the time you read this, it may well be moved back even more.

What an exciting time in the life of Holy Cross. If you have already made a special contribution to help make Holy Cross debt free, THANK YOU! If you have not yet contributed, please give this your prayerful consideration. We need you. We hope and pray everyone will be a part of this special project.

Any amount you give will be appreciated and will make a difference, and please be sure to note on your check or envelope to reflect that it is a special gift to help pay off the mortgage.

We can do it. We need you.

*Stan Post
Council President*

YOUR CHOICE

Well, actually, it's called Thrivent Choice, a benefit of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Eligible members are designated Choice Dollars, based on insurance premiums, contract values, and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Choice Dollars can be directed to Lutheran organizations you prefer nationwide, including your local Lutheran congregation.

If you are a part of Thrivent, you could possibly have your Choice Dollars, given by Thrivent, directed to Holy Cross. It's easy to participate in this. Some of our members already do, and over \$500 has already been given by Thrivent to Holy Cross this year!

If you have any questions about this, please just talk to Sterling Frank or Stan Post.

OCTOBER MINISTRIES

Council Person of the Month: **Tom Staley**

	Usher	Lector	Psalter	Cookies	Flowers
2	Tom & Lil Oseland	Linda Erwin	Sunday School Class	Linda Erwin	Ed & Mary Lou Janecek
9	Craig & Darla Brown		Lil Oseland	John & Jackie Grunenwald	
16	Bob & Michele Scherzer				
23				Marsha Ingram	Bill & Myrna Groth
30					The Remmerts

Many dates and ministries are open so please prayerfully consider serving in one of these important Ministries. See the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

CLASS CONTINUES ON “THE HOLY WHO?”

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 for a presentation/open discussion of “The Holy Who?” moderated by Lyndal Remmert. 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?

Bring your sack supper.

Celebrate with Children

By Susan Schneider

Autumn's splendor is among us! Fall has officially arrived on our 2011 calendars. Maybe you have begun decorating with scarecrows, pumpkins and gourds. Perhaps you have baked a fresh apple pie or two. Many of you have cheered at our local football games. Autumn is the season of the saints as well.

For Lutherans, All Saints Day is a celebration of remembering Christian saints - both living and deceased. There are many saints that make a difference in our lives today. Can you think of a person whom you admire in our community or our church? There are many saints that have made a difference in the past. I am sure you are quite familiar with these names: Mother Teresa, Martin Luther, Florence Nightingale, or Joan of Arc. Mother Teresa was quoted to have said, "Keep in mind that our community is not composed of those who are already saints, but those who are trying to become saints..."

Children can connect with the lessons that the saints teach. Children can aspire to be saintly if we provide an opportunity for them to explore the lives of a saint. The library can be a good resource for giving children a hands-on glimpse of a saint they choose to research and admire. On the internet, www.wikipedia.com can show children photos and give a brief description of the saint. Children can also be read stories from the Bible about those who are good examples. A children's book that was recommended to me and one you may want to check into is called [Children's Book of Saints](#) by Louis M. Savary.

"A man does not have to be an angel in order to be a saint," said Albert Schweitzer. We can celebrate the saints among us by lighting a candle in honor of them or by doing activities. Children can make cards for a saintly person

that says, "You're special to me because you follow Jesus!" Another good website is ehow.com. It has all kinds of activities and ideas for All Saints Day, including how to plan your very own All Saints Day party.

Autumn is here, it is time to celebrate a



Outstanding opportunity for every adult -

"The Greatest Story: Jesus" will be presented each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall. This has been hailed nationwide as one of the most excellent presentations on the life, ministry, and meaning of Jesus for Christian faith and life. Please sign up to make sure there is adequate material for everyone.

Choir will be doing unison pieces for a while and we hope to encourage others to join the choir as they practice on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. This is your chance to sing a melody with others. It isn't necessary for you to be able to read music for these unison pieces. Come join us for musical fun and enjoy serving our Lord!

