

# Cross Beams

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A. September 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***

I had no idea, when I wrote about retiring the mortgage and being debt-free in January of 2013 - and ended that article "What the heck- let's just go ahead and do it now" - that the reaction would be so immediate and so positive!! Immediately, four families in the congregation came forward to give a total of \$18,000. Another family, on hearing that, said, "Count on us for another \$2,000.

Holy Mackerel! That is \$20,000 already! Do you know what means? Instead of paying off our mortgage in January of 2013, we can now do it in September 2012!!! That is four whole months sooner than scheduled. Isn't that great?! When the Church Council heard what has happened, they said, "What are we waiting for- let's do it! Let's mount as full-fledged effort to "get 'er done."

And, if you will read the article by the President of the congregation on another page in this newsletter, you will begin to discover how YOU or YOUR FAMILY can be an active participant in this exciting venture.

What do you think will be the final outcome of this spontaneous venture? Whatever it may be, it will certainly be loaded with a lot of excitement and celebration.

Rev. George Haynes  
Pastor

### **LECTIONARY AIDS FOR SEPTEMBER**

#### September 4, 2011-Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to His disciples on how individuals...and the church as a whole...should show wrongdoers their need for repentance.

#### September 11, 2011-Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

#### September 18, 2011-Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity , challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserved.

#### September 25,2011-Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple, Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

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## THANK YOU

I want to thank every single one of you for the important role you played in accepting the role as an intern education congregation, and, secondly, for the very successful conclusion to that adventure. We had no real ideas of what was expected of us when we started last September; we only knew we were to do everything we could possibly do to prepare Marilyn for pastoral ministry. On August 11, after meeting with the Synodical Candidacy Committee, Marilyn was approved for ordination!

You were all magnificent as you received her into your homes to gain experience in pastoral visiting; you commented on her sermons and the occasions of her teaching. You gave encouragement and helpful suggestions. In short, you did an outstanding job. I am very proud of the Intern Supervisory Committee that shepherded Marilyn all year, and thankful for their dedicated work. I am very proud and thankful where you, our members, are concerned. I believe we did an excellent job of getting Marilyn ready to be a pastor.

*Pastor Haynes*

## Coming in October

Coming in October - an outstanding opportunity for every adult. "The Greatest Story: Jesus" will be presented on Sunday mornings 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. Be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

## Choir Practice to Begin!

Calling all lovers of music! Choir practices will begin on Wednesday, September 7th, at 4:30 PM.

We will be doing unison pieces for a while, so it isn't at all necessary for you to be able to read music as long as you can sing a melody with others around you! Come join us for musical fun and a great way to serve our Lord!

## Jesus

Read at least the first two lines....Never thought of it!

- Jesus died over 2000 years ago.
- Nobody has ever referred to him as the late Jesus, Not even the heathens.
- Nowhere in history.
- Nowhere has He EVER been referred to in the past tense!
- He is the Living God!  
*"May God Smile at You Today."*

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

*The Prayers of the Church for Sunday, August 7th included this prayer...* "From the tiniest ladybug to the grandest ocean, your entire creation is a masterpiece, full of power and beauty. Help us treat this gift with respect and care. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Some of us here at Holy Cross believe that a recycling program at our church would be one way to practice what we preach...or pray! We have placed a city recycling bin in the church kitchen for items such as old Sunday bulletins, old newsletters, church catalogues, clean cardboard, clean plastic, and such. It's been amazing how much of those items can be built up in just one week's worth of collecting. Just imagine how much we can contribute to the city's recycling efforts in a month or a year!

We are not asking you to bring your own recycling to the church with this...enough will be generated right here at the church. But, if you consider yourself a recycler and a conservationist, we are looking for "a few good people" who could rotate putting the bin out and bringing it back in. Allied Waste comes by our church on Wednesday morning and asks that the bin be placed out by the road around 7AM, so if you are an early riser, have a job to get to and could do it on the way, or just would like a significant job that won't take much time once every 2 weeks or once a month for your church, we are looking for you. The bin can even be placed outside Tuesday evening as long as it isn't going to rain and then brought back into the kitchen on Wednesday.

Say a little prayer about this new possibility, and if you feel our Lord calling you to help out, please call Lil Oseland, our church secretary, at church and leave your name with her. One of us will give you a call to organize a schedule so that no one person has to do the job all the time.

*Looking forward to your help!*

### Altar Guild Potluck Supper

Altar Guild will meet September 19th at 6pm for potluck supper. Bring your special dish to share with the group. All women are welcome. Sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in church. Call Mary Anne McBride at 790-3832 if you have any questions.

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## Celebrate with Children

By Susan Schneider

What makes you special? Is it one talent that makes you special? Or is it something more? The definition of the word special from the dictionary says, "Surpassing what is common or usual; exceptional." In the Lord's eyes, we are all exactly that - exceptional!

God created all of us in His own special way. He calls us by our special names. 2 Timothy 2:19 says "...the Lord knows those who are His..." He knows all about us and loves us just the way we are. He is the one who makes us special.

Children love to feel special. Adults are instrumental in helping a child feel special. There are many simple things an adult can do that will assist a child to develop their self-esteem. First, telling your child how special they are will be positively received. Second, just listening to your child when they talk and hearing their thoughts shows them how special you think they are. Last, giving your child a unique, creative nickname can make your child feel special.

If you would like to do an activity on the computer with your child, here is a suggestion: type in [www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net). This wonderful program allows users to type in words and then places the words in all directions joined together on the page. You can include your child's name and all the words describing how they are special. Your child can be involved in the describing, if you wish. You can also adjust the color, font, and size before you print it out and hang it on the fridge or place it in a frame.

"Every child born into the world is a new thought of God, an ever fresh and radiant possibility," said Kate Douglas Wiggin, author and educator. You are a child of God and you are exceptional! May you take joy in knowing you are His.



## WOW

The bible is filled with WOW stories. Your life and mine, and our walks of faith, include many WOW experiences. The same is true for Holy Cross. And, now, another WOW experience!

Recently the Pastor talked and wrote in the newsletter about how well we are doing in paying off the mortgage on the church property. He noted that if we continue to make our escalated payment, of roughly \$5,000.00 a month, we would make our final payment in January 2013 and we would then be debt free. WOW! He stressed how important this would be to funding the future operation and ministries of the church. Then, he said, "What the heck ... why not go ahead and pay it off ahead of schedule"!

Well, a handful of folks took all of this seriously. Together, but by no means in equal amounts, they are contributing \$20,000.00 to help pay off the mortgage early and have the church be debt free. WOW!

With just these gifts, it means that in just twelve months from when you are reading this, September 2012, Holy Cross will be debt free. WOW!

This is not the end of the story though. It could be paid off even sooner. It is the hope, and prayer, of these folks who have given, that other members, friends and visitors of Holy Cross will also join in giving to help pay off the mortgage early. Please give this your prayerful consideration and know that all gifts are important, and will be appreciated, and will help in making Holy Cross debt free.

A final thought: If you make a special gift to help pay off the mortgage, be sure to clearly note this on your check or envelope, or both. It is also very important that your regular giving not be impacted by this. Your regular giving is vital to the ongoing operation and health of Holy Cross.

May you give this your prayerful consideration and be at peace with where the Spirit leads you.

*Stan Post, Council President*

## September Ministries

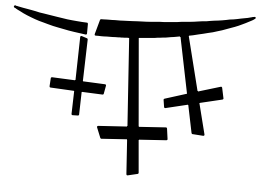
Sept 4th. Ushers - Tom Oseland and Stan Post  
Lector- Stan Post  
Psalter- Toni  
Cookies - Stan and Toni

Sept 11<sup>th</sup>. Ushers - Bob and Michele Scherzer  
Lector - Linda Erwin  
Psalter - Lil Oseland  
Cookies - Linda Erwin

**ALL other dates and ministries are open so please prayerfully consider serving in one of these important ministries. See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.**

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## September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 Men's breakfast	2	3
4 10:30 Worship with communion	5	6	7 4:30 Choir practice 5:30 Bible Study	8 8:00 Men's breakfast	9	10
11 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	12 <b>Council meeting</b>	13	14 4:30 Choir practice 5:30 Bible Study	15 8:00 Men's breakfast 9:00 Women's Bible Study	16	17
18 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship with communion	19 <b>Altar Guild 6:00 Pot Luck Supper</b>	20	21 4:30 Choir practice 5:30 Bible Study	22 8:00 Men's breakfast	23	24
25 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship with noisy offering	25	27	28 4:30 Choir practice	29 8:00 Men's breakfast	30	