



Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church
 30650 Six Mile Road
 Livonia, MI 48152-3499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our mission:

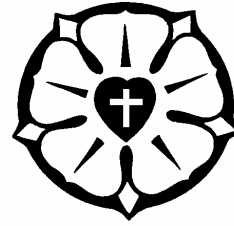
Claimed, Met, Called, Sent to be
 God's People Doing God's Work

Our vision:

To be a community of faith
 where people are inspired and equipped
 for a journey of living lives
 centered in Christ

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Holy Cross Lutheran Church Newsletter

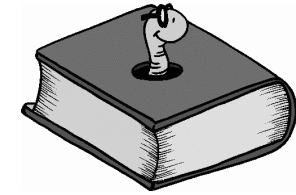
October 2011

CROP WALK SUNDAY, OCT. 2



Join us for a great event for youth and adults. Registration at 1:30 P.M. at Rosedale Presbyterian Church. The Walk begins at 2:00 PM and is 0.5, 2 or 4 miles.

Contact Pastor Ben for more info.



Book & Bake Sale

November 4 - 6

The Holy Cross Women of the ELCA will sponsor the Eighth Annual Book and Bake Sale on November 4, 5 and 6, 2011 (open to the public from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm on Friday and Saturday and open to Holy Cross members and visitors on Sunday immediately following worship services until 12:00 pm). Your book donations are needed and welcomed; drop off information will be provided at a later date.

Many volunteers will be needed to move stored books from various locations, donate baked goods, sort books, assist with advertising and work during the sale days. Specific information for volunteer opportunities will be provided soon.

This year the beneficiary will be First Step, a not-for-profit Domestic Violence Counseling and Crisis Center for women and children.

Ladies' Fall Retreat



Saturday, October 15, 2011
 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Zion Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor

Look for information in your mail boxes
 Presented by the
 Southeast Michigan W/ELCA

Sr. Pastor - Rev. Dana Runestad
 Assoc. Pastor - Rev. Benjamin Morris
 Ministers - The disciples at Holy Cross

Phone: 734-427-1414
 Fax: 734-427-1419

Website: <http://holycrosslivonia.org>



The Joys of Being A “Permission-Giving” Church

I received a request on a recent Tuesday from a Girl Scout troop at Webster School in Livonia. They needed a place to meet on Thursdays from 4:30-5:30. And, in fact, they needed that place the very next Thursday, as in *two days* from the first “ask.” How delighted I was to be able to simply check with Michelle and the office calendar, and respond immediately with a resounding “Yes, we are delighted to have you!” and a big, warm “Holy Cross Welcome.” How delighted I was to walk the Girl Scouts through the north section of the building and invite them to “make themselves at home” that very next Thursday. How delighted I was to be able to show the adult leaders our resource room overflowing with craft material at their disposal and invite them to use it. (They cried with gratitude.) How delighted I was to introduce them to Pastor Ben, who offered his expertise in camping, canoeing, and outdoor activities. How delighted I was to invite them to *hearts, hands and voices* knowing that two of the girls had already attended our summer camp two years ago. How delighted I was to see their parents walking our halls when they came to pick them up. How delighted I was to share this story with our Governance Council and thank them for their shared leadership in making such a response possible.

Interestingly, the Girl Scout leader had made requests at other churches in Livonia too. I asked the leader what the response was from them. She said, “They said they would have to check into it and run it by their council and get back to her.” Why didn’t I have to do that? Because Holy Cross is a “Permission-Giving Church.” What does that mean? That means that as long as an activity fits in with our mission and vision and is logistical-ly and practically feasible, the answer is YES. You don’t need “approval” and neither do I. We do, however, need to communicate with the office to avoid “traffic jams” in the building!

Permission-giving churches are mission driven, God-centered churches, not institutionally driven or maintenance and preservation-centered. This allows us to be nimble and to jump on opportunities as they present themselves, or as God presents them to us. One of the ways to back-test our mission effectiveness is to ask, “If this church were to fold up and close its doors tomorrow, would anyone in the surrounding community notice?” You and I know that the answer is becoming, more and more, as much of a resounding YES as the welcome I was able to offer the Webster Girl Scouts. We are well on our way to becoming a mission outpost in our neighborhood, incarnating God’s love through our acts of hospitality. Thanks be to God!

Faithfully,

Pastor Dana

Remembering and Giving Thanks for Debbie Frank

October 28, 1953-September 3, 2011



Debbie joined Holy Cross in 1989 has been the bell choir director since we first got the handbells in 1993. She mentored many of our members, including our young people, in the art of ringing. Debbie also taught in our “hearts, hands and voices” program, both in summer and Monday nights, trained acolytes, served on our congregation council and our visioning team, served as Godmother to Seth Teachout (Organist Barb Myers’ grandson) and has been a very close friend, really family, to Barb and Seth over the years. Debbie was severely burned when she tripped and fell into the campfire on a Holy Cross camping trip in the early 2000s. Her Holy Cross friends rallied around her then just as they did during her hospitalization this past August. Debbie was admitted to St. Mary’s on August 11 with bone cancer. Doctors discovered the cancer had originated in the lungs and metastasized. Debbie died surrounded by her family (brothers Howard and Phil and their wives) and Seth, who was holding her hand. By profession, Debbie was a psychiatric social worker and shared those skills as a leader in the Holy Cross Stephens Ministry. Debbie enjoyed boating, gardening, music (she was a member of the Detroit Handbell Ensemble), and animals. Her dog Bairn was adopted by the Debusschere family. As of this writing, one cat went to Barb Myers and one cat to Joyce Olivier.

Friday, October 28 (Debbie’s Birthday)

7 PM: A service of Music, Word and Meal Celebrating the Life of Debbie Frank

Detroit Handbell Ensemble

Holy Cross Chancel Bells

hearts, hands and voices children

Holy Cross Choir

Organist Dr. Michael Burkhardt

Pastor Dana Runestad, Preaching and Presiding

FOLLOWED BY A PARTY WITH APPETIZERS AND DESSERTS IN THE HALL



ANNUAL PET BLESSING in conjunction with the commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4), friend to animals and creation, is **Sunday October 16** on the front lawn at Holy Cross at 1 pm.

As another option, Emmanuel Lutheran Church also invites us to join them with our furry friends at Rotary Park on Six Mile at Hubbard on **Saturday October 8 at 6 pm**. Refreshments will follow.

For either event, bring lawn chairs for seating and leash, cage or contain animals in some other way.

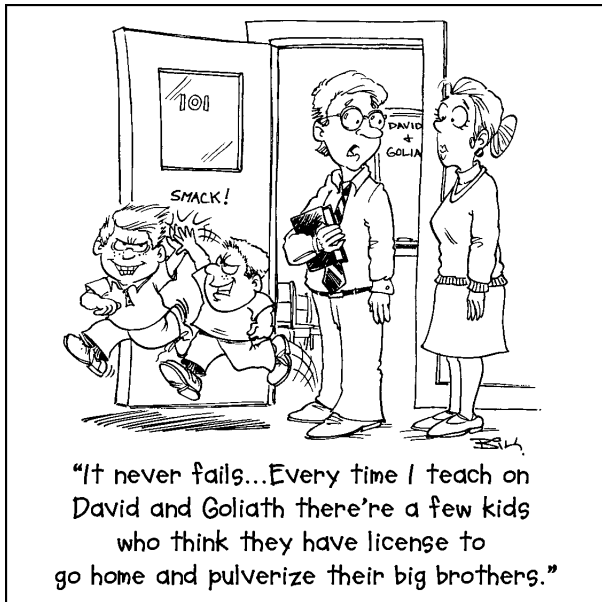
YOUTH NEWS AND EVENTS

Confirmation

Oct. 2	CROP WALK	1:00 PM
Oct. 9	Class at Emmanuel	12:30-2:30
Oct. 23	Class at Emmanuel	12:30-2:30
Oct. 30	Trunk or Treat	5-8 PM

Bring your lunch to class if you like. The first half-hour is Gathering when you'll have time to eat. Please, NO NUTS or NUT PRODUCTS should be brought to church.

A Halloween Party is in the works! Watch for more information to come.



hearts, hands
& voices

Monday Nights
6:30-8 PM
Ages 6 and up

The hearts, hands and voices camp experience continues on Monday nights under the leadership of Michael Burkhardt. The program is open to children of all faith and music backgrounds. We expect a number of our summer campers to continue throughout the year and hope they will extend an invitation to their friends.

The fun started Monday September 12, 2011 at 6:30 PM at Holy Cross. Each evening begins with a light supper followed by singing and related instrumental experiences. Activities conclude at 8 p.m.

For registration information and questions contact Ellen Batkie or email:

The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.

- Benjamin Franklin



Altar Flowers
for
October

Oct. 2Phil Capion
Oct. 9Bill & Kathy Weaver
Oct. 16Betty Hendrickson
Chancel vase: Lynda Ashbay
Oct. 23 & 30 are open. Please sign up!

November

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
is set for
October 16

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church
NEWSLETTER**

REV. DANA RUNESTAD – PASTOR
REV. BEN MORRIS - ASSOC. PASTOR
(734) 427-1414
<http://holycrosslivonia.org>

SHARI DUDEK – EDITOR
(734) 331-2649
holycross_news@yahoo.com

**All Saints Sunday
November 6**

We will remember and give thanks for those who have died over the past year. If you would like a loved one acknowledged, turn in or email his or her picture to the office by Oct. 31 so he or she can be included in our “Communion of Saints” remembrance during the distribution of Holy Communion.

**Christmas Boutique
Vendor & Craft Fair
to Benefit Kids' Hope
Saturday, November 19th
10AM–3PM in the Fellowship Hall**

\$1 admission includes ticket for door prize drawing. Lunch available for purchase.

Would you like a table at this event?
Contact Shari Dudek.

**Women of the
ELCA** **New Daytime
Circle Forming**

There have been several inquiries and interest generated to offer a “day time” Circle to the Holy Cross Women of the ELCA. If you are interested, please contact Cheryl Pearson. or email rich-and-cher@comcast.net or Susan Scholz or email for more information.



Help Wanted!

We will be setting up the Christmas trees at 9:00 AM on Saturday, November 26, 2011. We need some strong bodies to help lift the sections into place. No prior experience required.

Starting at 9:00 on the same day, we will be decking the halls as well. About 10:00 we will also need some help putting the Chrismons on the trees. We have long poles to help hang them with so there is no need to be on a ladder, except for a couple of brave people to reach the very top. Please come and help. If you have any questions please contact Bob Ferrari Jr. at 734-634-1706. Thank you.

New to Holy Cross?

Interested in learning more? Be our guest for brunch on Sunday, October 30th in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30AM. Meet leaders and learn more about the ministries of our community of faith. No strings attached. Call or email the office by October 24 to make a reservation.

734-427-1414
office1@holycrosslivonia.org

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for OCTOBER

Lectors

October 2	John Hall
October 9	Carl Gerard
October 16	Bill Coughlin
October 23	Ben Miller
October 30	Karen Berean



Labyrinth Plants

Do you have plants in your yard that need to be divided? Are they taking over your yard? We'd love to have some around our labyrinth!

Some of the plants we'd like are hostas, Stella de Oro day lily, sedum autumn joy, wild grasses, cone flowers and black-eyed Susans. A full list of the specifically needed plants will be posted at church. If you need help digging up or dividing plants, that can be provided. Please contact Jeff Dudek if you have plants to donate or if you have questions.

PIZZA AND GAME NIGHT

Saturday, October 8th
6PM



Join us for a fun evening of pizza and games! Bring along your favorite board games and card games.

This event is for youth, young adults, families and seniors! That's EVERYONE!

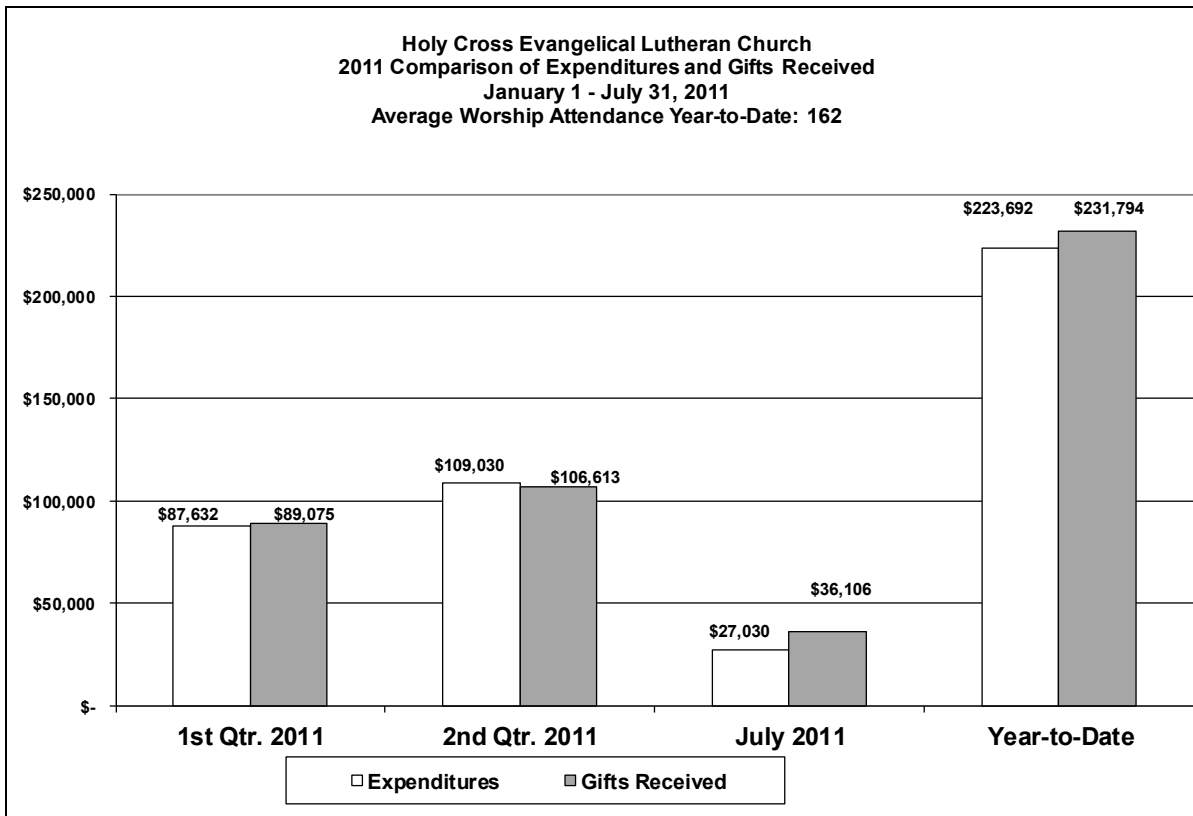


Coffee and Tea Servers for October



Oct. 2	...	Lisa Grimble
Oct. 9	...	Mary Foster
Oct. 16	...	Cheryl & Rich Pearson
Oct. 23	...	W/ELCA: Lydia Circle
Oct. 30	...	Lillian May & Karen Anastasiow

Please sign up for this much-appreciated ministry. Contact Susan Scholz to volunteer.



Fellowship Hall Tablecloths

If you have taken any tablecloths home to launder, please return them as soon as possible! We are currently missing two round tablecloths.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Writing my first newsletter article is a fun challenge; there is so much to talk about it is hard to know where to begin. Well, that is not true, it is easy to know where to begin....Thank you!!! Thank you for a warm and beautiful house to go home to at the end of the day (or middle of the day for lunch, the commute is not bad). Thank you for a warm installation and reception into this congregation. Thank you for welcoming my family as well. Thank you for being a community who has called me to join you in caring for our youth. Thank you, all who participated in the lock-in, what a wonderful way to kick off confirmation. Thank you for your openness to me and Jenni as we begin ministry together. I look with thankfulness to the ministry ahead of us all.

Peace,

Pastor Ben

On behalf of Audrey Williams-Burton
and the Lutheran Social Service
Foster Care Program

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

for all the filled backpacks!

FAITH FORUM

Sundays at 9 am in the LIBRARY

GALATIANS: The "Magna Carta" of Christian Freedom

Oct. 2 - New Testament seminary professor Dr. David Rhoads reflects on Paul's letter to the Galatians and Paul's theological view of the world and how it relates to the challenges of our time.

HOW CAN THE BIBLE INFORM OUR UNDERSTANDINGS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY? How does freedom in Christ guide our choices, shape our attitudes, and determine responsibility?

Starting Sunday, October 9, 2011, the 9 am Forum will begin a new series using Paul's letter to the Galatians and Martin Luther's "The Freedom of a Christian" to guide us in an eight-session study on Human Sexuality.

"Free in Christ to Serve the Neighbor"

- Oct. 9 - Christian Foundations for Deliberation
- Oct. 16 - Created as Sexual Beings
- Oct. 23 - Sexuality, Culture and Freedom
- Oct. 30 - Sexuality and Social Institutions
- Nov. 6 - Sexuality, Power and Abuse
- Nov. 13- Sexuality, Money and the Bottom Line
- Nov. 20 - Sexuality and Economic Justice
- Nov. 27 - Facing Our Responsibility in the Freedom of the Gospel

We will begin each session reading from Galatians and our discussion and conversation will be guided accordingly. We encourage you to join us!

potluck night at



**thursday, october 20th
6:15 pm**

All interested are invited for a fun night at Dragonmead Microbrewery. This is a family-friendly event; soft drinks and great beer will be available for purchase. Bring your favorite dish to share. Tours will be given by our own Earl Scherbarth! Come and enjoy the fun!

Carpool leaving Holy Cross at 5:00 PM.

A Healthy Congregation (Are we there yet?)

People are constantly expressing disagreement and they do it right out in the open. The pastor is always behind in her work. The Council can never seem to make ends meet financially, and they are forever giving money away. New groups keep cropping up and bumping into each other over schedules and competing over volunteers. A number of people miss meetings and insist on spending time with their families. The choir is filled with a lot of amateurs. The kids are noisy and all over the place, including in worship. The worship books are wearing out, the coffee hour is crowded and confusing, the front door is almost off its hinges, the electric bill is way over budget, and it seems that an awful lot of people have keys and all kinds of groups are coming and going. The place is full of losers. People who have lost their loved ones, people who know they can't make it on their own. People who are losing, but also finding their lives in receiving and giving a lot of love, for Christ's sake.

In short, a healthy, growing, lively church!

Dear Friends at Holy Cross,

I would like to thank you for all your cards and prayers while I was recuperating from my knee surgery. I know it helped me to heal faster and better. I am sorry that it took so long to get this information to you. I hope I thanked you all verbally, when I got back to church.

Thanks again,
Jayne Rautenberg

A HUGE THANK YOU

To EVERYONE who worked on and/or donated to the renovation of our "white house" to make a cozy home for Pastor Ben and Jenni. With your help (and our anonymous donor) we only spent @ \$3,000!

HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OCTOBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						9:00 am Youth Ministry Training Event ACTION for LSSM Annual Convention
16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Faith Forum 10:00 am Worship & Sunday School 3:00 pm Choir Retreat 1:30 pm Crop Walk	9:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 pm hearts, hands & voices	9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 am Men's Breakfast & Golf 6:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm W/ELCA Board 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry		9:00 am DHE Retreat 6:00 pm Pizza & Game Night 6:00 pm Pet Blessing Rotary Park
17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Faith Forum 9:00 am Fair Trade Sales 10:00 am Worship & Sunday School 11:00 am Fair Trade Sales 12:30 pm Confirmation - Emmanuel	7:00 pm Ruth Circle	9:30 am Bible Study 11:30 am Christian Fellowship 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm God Sightings	OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 am Men's Breakfast & Golf 6:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm Lydia Circle 7:30 pm Rachel Circle		8:00 am SEMI Synod Council 8:30 am Ladies' Fall Retreat-Zion Lutheran Ann Arbor
18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Faith Forum 10:00 am Worship & Sunday School 11:30 am Sr. High Breakfast 1:00 pm Pet Blessing-Front Lawn		9:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Worship - Chapel 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 am Men's Breakfast & Golf 6:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	5:00 pm Carpool to Dragonmead 6:15 pm Potluck at Dragonmead 7:00 pm Governance Council	10:30 am Hymn Sing at American House Plymouth & Farmington	
19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Faith Forum 10:00 am Worship & Sunday School 12:30 pm Confirmation - Emmanuel	6:30 pm hearts, hands & voices	9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 am Men's Breakfast & Golf 6:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm Program Council	7:00 pm Celebration of the Life of Debbie Frank Reception Following	9:00 am Licensed Ministry Worship Class
REFORMATION SUNDAY 30	31					
8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Faith Forum 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am New to Holy Cross Brunch 5:00 pm Trunk or Treat	6:30 pm hearts, hands & voices					