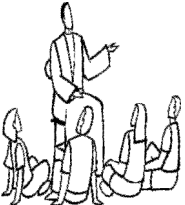




Cross Roads

The Newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church

July 2009



KIDZ CONNECTION will resume in September.

CONFIRMATION will resume in September.

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Leadership Team meeting is Monday, July 13 at 6:30pm. Per our constitution, President-Elect Heidi Morrissey will be taking over the task of formulating the agenda. Team members with agenda items to have added can email Heidi at heidi@kitchentuneup.com.

ADULT FORUM in recess for the summer.

ALL THE KING'S MEN Breakfast and Fellowship begins September 12 at 8:30 a.m. with good food and Bible study. Watch for further details.

God can do anything, you know – far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!

– Ephesians 3:20, *The Message*

Ushering Schedule July 2009

July 5

Gary & Mary Anne Sperle
Rusti, Jenni & Logan Flack

July 13

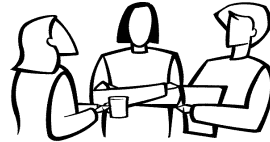
Billie Black
Janel Ellingson
Lisa, Jordan & Davis Gese

July 19

Terry & Brenda Brown
Sharon Hansen

July 26

Jim & Karen Buss
Virginia Hoff
Pat & Thomas Weisgram



Women's Group

**Monday
July 20, 6:00 p.m.**

All women are invited Monday, **July 20 at 6:00 p.m.** as we continue our three-session study on Mary. Please bring a salad to share. Copies of the Lutheran Women Today are available at the meeting and no preparation is required.

Join Us.

If questions, call Kathy Harris at 225-0014.



July 22-26,
2009

Chaperone Kelly Miller and youth members Jordan Gese, Davis Gese, Amber Bonn, Jillian Miller, Lynn Neidhardt and Hannah Lofke will be leaving from Bethlehem Lutheran on Tuesday, July 21 for the National ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Based on Philippians 2:1-8, the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering will look and feel like a servant school. At the center of the Gathering program is a deepening of our awareness of God's call to servanthood, and a deepening of the basic Christian practices by which we live our baptismal calling to servanthood throughout life.

Thank you to all who supported the fund raising efforts for this trip. We look forward to having them share their experiences with the congregation.

Please keep them in your prayers as they embark on this adventure.

Church Contact Info

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E-Mail

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wnelsonloe@aol.com

Rev. Bill Nelson-Loefke - Pastor
Tricia Mortensen - Office Assistant
Darlene Mohr - Financial Secretary
Anthony Morrissey - Worship Team
Bev Salwei - Pianist
Brandon Sterling - Pianist / Bass
Dewayne & Jon Hoffman - Custodians
Ellen Dinger / J. Ellingson - Altar Guild
Kent Edson - Building Fund Treasurer
Cindy Kocabinski - Head Teller
Lyle & Lois Chapin - Head Ushers
Heidi Morrissey - Kidz Connection
Kathy Harris - Women's Group

Leadership Team

Pam Fiechtner - President
Heidi Morrissey - President-Elect
Darlene Mohr - Treasurer
Cindy Kocabinski - Secretary

Nancy Palmer - Congregational Life
Lisa Gese - Congregational Life
Janet Shilman - Congregational Life

Jon Fogarty - Properties
Pearl Holt - Properties
Brent Klipfel - Properties

Char Hager - Youth & Education
Cynthia Haglund - Youth & Education
Barb Kelly - Youth & Education
Michelle Vilhauer - Youth & Education

Anthony Morrissey - Worship Planning
Sheri Weisgram - Worship Planning
Gary Martinmaas - Worship Planning

All Members Are Ministers!

*Here's some history behind a favorite hymn...
the BEST of the Story!*

Battle Hymn of the Republic

*Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.
Psalm 24: 8*

After the September 11, 2001 attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, a national service of prayer and remembrance was conducted at Washington's National Cathedral. America's most powerful leaders prayed together, listened to brief sermons by evangelist Billy Graham and others, then joined voices to sing the defiant anthem, "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Its words seemed to perfectly signal America's intentions to battle the forces of terror in the world.

"Battle Hymn of the Republic" was written by Julia Ward Howe, a leader in women's rights and an ardent foe of slavery. Julia, who came from a wealthy New York family, was married to a prominent Boston philanthropist and humanitarian, Dr. S. G. Howe. They were both crusaders for progressive political and moral issues of the day.

In 1861, as our nation plunged into the dark days of the Civil War, the Howes visited Washington, and Julia toured a nearby Union Army Camp on the Potomac in Virginia. There she heard soldiers singing a tribute to John Brown, who had been hanged in 1859 for attempting to lead an insurrection of slaves at Harper's Ferry: "John Brown's body lies a-mold'ring in the grave." The music was rousing, but the words needed improvement. Julia's pastor, who accompanied her, asked her to consider writing new and better verses. That night, after the Howes retired to their room at the Willard Hotel, the words came.

"I went to bed and slept as usual, but awoke the next morning in the gray of the early dawn, and to my astonishment found that the wished-for lines were arranging themselves in my brain. I lay quite still until the last verse had completed itself in my thoughts, then hastily arose, saying to myself, I shall lose this if I don't write it down immediately. I searched for an old sheet of paper and an old stub of a pencil which I had had the night before, and began to scrawl the lines almost without looking, as I learned to do by often scratching down verses in a darkened room when my little children were sleeping. Having completed this, I lay down again and fell asleep, but not before feeling that something of importance had happened to me."

Julia gave her song to a friend who worked at *The Atlantic Monthly*. The magazine published it in February of 1862. **She received a check for five dollars from the periodical!**

...and that's the BEST of the story!

The BEST of the Story!

It is a sign of the times! People are struggling to pay their bills and meet their financial obligations. Some in our community, our nation, are losing their jobs and some are working more than one job just to keep up. Parents and children are cutting back on the activities they once enjoyed on a regular basis. These indeed are challenging times and yet must we are all forced to deal with a changing economy.

All across the nation many churches find that the first place people begin to cut back is their tithe to the church. Perhaps we need to check ourselves and pray about this. I have known many people who have stood up during difficult times and spoke words of comfort and joy. I have heard stories of joyful giving and how God has continued to be faithful in their lives during hard times! Some years ago an old woman stood up at the church I was serving and said, God gave us His best...his only Son and because of that...I will always be faithful in my giving. I'll never forget that little woman. She was all of 4' 11" tall but she spoke truth. She spoke faith! Her words reverberated through the church that day! Not another word was spoken after that. The budget was passed and giving increased by over 30% the following year. If that's not faith like a mustard seed, I'm not sure what is.

From the earliest books of the Bible, God tells us that he is worthy of the best we have to offer. We also learn that God asks...No...he requires our First Fruits. Whether animals, birds, or grain, it was the first and finest to be given in order that it be pleasing to the Lord.

Jesus' words are recorded in Mark 12: 41-44 and in Luke 21: 1-4 as he draws attention to the widow who gave her last mite. She gave her best in spite of being poor. Many give out of their wealth; she gave out of her poverty.

In these days of living on fixed incomes, concern over job loss or reduced hours, we continue to be called by God to work in the Vineyard and to harvest the crop. We continue to be called to be cheerful and bold givers.

While many churches struggle today, Holy Cross walks faithfully toward what Jesus calls us to do. If your schedules prevent you from attending each Sunday...let the Holy Spirit guide you. May each of us continue the practice of giving of your first fruits. After all, God withheld nothing from us. He gave His only Son. As loving stewards of God's gifts...can we give any less? **Oh by the way...**

Bernice, that little lady with the big bold voice and faith, went to be with the Lord some years ago. I never knew this until after she left this earth. While she gave faithfully each and every Sunday...whether she was there or not because of health issues, she gave the church one final surprise after she received the gift of eternal life. I was called to her attorney's office about a week after her funeral. Bernice's attorney informed me that she had left the church \$390,000 and another \$150,000 in stocks. The congregation could never have known it, but Bernice was quite wealthy. This little lady could have used her money to shame everyone else into giving or perhaps even leaving the church. But no...she gave faithfully each Sunday from the interest she had earned on her investments! She taught us all a lesson with her words and her actions. Be cheerful in your giving, "For God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9: 7)

And that's the BEST of the story...my Friends!

Pastor Bill

**Vacation Bible School Day Camp
with NeSoDak**

June 29 through July 2

At Wylie Park

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Grades 1-5

July 2 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for

4 and 5 year olds.



Things to bring:

Sack Lunch

Bug Spray

Sun Tan Lotion

Completed Health History Form

A story to make you smile...

A scout master was teaching his boy scouts about survival in the desert. "What are the three most important things you should bring with you in case you get lost in the desert?" he asked.

Several hands went up, and many important things were suggested such as food, matches, etc. Then one little boy in the back eagerly raised his hand. "Yes, Davey, what are the three most important things you would bring with you?" asked the scout master.

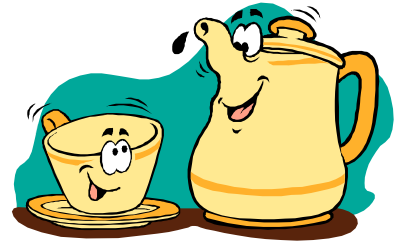
Davey replied, "A compass, a canteen of water, and a deck of cards."

"Why is that, Davey?" asked the scout master.

"Well," answered Davey, "the compass is to find the right direction, and the water is to prevent dehydration."

"And what about the deck of cards?" asked the scout master impatiently.

Davey replied, "Well, sir, as soon as you start playing solitaire, someone is bound to come up behind you and say, 'Put that red nine on top of that black ten.'"



July

Serving Team Schedule

Team Leaders: Brent & Shauna Klipfel

July 5 2009

Karen Evenson
Mildred Hieb
Gaye Petrie
Ray Bower & Heidi Krueger

July 12, 2009

Clint & Lorraine Dumire
Dave & Deb Jung
Korey & Wanda Freudenthal
Lionel & Misty Bruemmer

July 19, 2009

Gary & Jennifer Martinmaas
Paul & Paula Winther
Kevin & Jolene Brick
Boyd & Jessica Perkins

July 26, 2009

Kent & Susan Edson
Jennifer & Jason Fritz
Will & Molly Genzler
Jessica & Adam Jorgensen
Mark & JoAnn Lehrkamp

General Fund Giving Recap

Monthly General Fund Giving Goal	\$ 11,000
YTD General Fund Giving	\$ 61,843
YTD General Fund Giving Goal	\$ 67,912
YTD General Fund Giving Shortfall	\$ 6,069

We invite your continued prayerful consideration..

As summer gets closer, we find ourselves thinking about vacations, swimming, or just a little time off! While we are away, the work of the church continues and so do the monthly expenses. As you plan fun activities for your families, or just decide you need a little "down" time, we ask that you keep Holy Cross in your prayers. Please remember your church needs the on-going financial support you provide each week/month. May your summer be both safe and joyful and may you continue to give cheerfully!

Holy Cross Leadership Team

Minutes

June 8, 2009

Members Present: Pastor Bill, Pam Fiechtner, Anthony Morrissey, Heidi Morrissey, Michelle Vilhauer, Char Hager, Pearl Holt, Brent Klipfel, Darlene Mohr, Janet Shilman, Nancy Palmer, Cindy Haglund, Jon Fogarty, Lisa Gese, Lyle Chapin, Lois Chapin and Cindy Kocabinski.

Pam called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Pastor Bill led us in the opening prayer.

Heidi made a motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting. Anthony and Nancy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Properties Team: Brent reported that the lawn has been mowed, the front door was not locking, but has been fixed and they are considering changing the code to enter the building. Everyone agreed that the problem with the cars parked on the street leading into our parking lot has improved.

Youth & Family Team: Planning for Bible School continues, nothing different than reported previously. The Fogarty family will provide housing for the staff from NeSoDak, but meals are still needed for the staff.

Worship Planning Team: Music has been chosen through August. They will meet again in late July to pick out music through October. Trish is now taking care of the singers' binders. Trish and Pastor Bill are working on the slides for the Power Point and there has been improvement shown.

Congregational Life Team: The annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 2, at the church like it was last year. The committee is looking for entertainment for the day.

Treasurer's Report: Darlene reported that we are still doing well. We have approximately \$18,000 in the checking account which is good because giving always is slower in the summer. The Building Fund balance is \$2,552.09 and will be paid off in June or July.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Bill reported that he has developed cards to send to visitors. He is also working on reaching out to former members who have drifted away for one reason or another. If you have any names of people you would like to see him contact, please let him know. He is also working on updating the Holy Cross Yellow Pages and will be adding pages for Properties, Men's Ministries, Jr-Sr High and Audio/Visual ministries. Pastor Bill attended Synod Assembly the end of May. He reported that there were some emotionally charged resolutions. They voted against same-sex marriage and the delegates were strongly divided. We need to focus on loving and caring about each other and work together. All churches and pastors struggle with this issue. Pastor Bill is working on studies for fall. Trish is making improvements in her work and Pastor Bill continues to work with her. He was wondering if we should start having her work on the newsletter, but it was decided to wait awhile on that. Pastor Bill will talk to Carla to see where she is with doing the newsletter, whether she wants to continue doing it or not. Pastor Bill is also starting to edit the Holy Cross website. There will be a workshop on contemporary music at Bethlehem Lutheran this fall.

Old Business: Last month we discussed what we wanted to do when people contact Holy Cross asking for money. Pastor Bill contacted three other pastors to see what their churches do. They indicated they normally give out gift cards instead of cash. Pastor Bill would like to have a person help him in determining needs as situations arise. It was suggested this fall when the budget is worked on we could include this in the budget. A suggestion was made that we could have a rummage sale for clothes only and instead of selling the clothes, we could give them away.

(continued on page 6)

Nothing has been done about the possibility of forming a task force for considering the need for extra space. It may be part of the planning and visioning retreat scheduled for this fall.

The subject of us being behind in our budget was again brought up. Suggestions made included having a spot on the website where donations can be made, giving out envelopes addressed to the church to people who will be gone for a certain time and putting antidotes about cheerful giving in the newsletter.

New Business: About a year ago, Holy Cross received a grant of \$2,720 from Bethesda to use for a cultural diversity project of our choosing. An e-mail was received from Kathy Harris wondering what, if anything, had been done with it. Nothing has been done with it due to the interim period between pastors. The following ideas were brought up as possibilities: Spanish classes, English classes with daycare provided, holding a special service on the Sunday of the car and airplane show, some special event at Holy Cross, a special project on the campus of NSU.

A call was received from Habitat for Humanity wondering if their executive team could meet at Holy Cross. Pastor Bill asked if there was any room for exception to our policy of charging \$50 for groups to use our building for a half day. After much discussion, it was decided that every group that meets at Holy Cross must pay the \$50 for a half day or \$100 for a full day. Heidi made a motion that we allow Habitat for Humanity to use our building for their meetings for the fee of \$50 per meeting. Darlene seconded it. Motion carried. (Following the meeting, Pam sent out an e-mail that an anonymous donor has paid the meeting fees for Habitat for Humanity for one year.)

Our next meeting will be July 13 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Cindy Kocabinski
Secretary

Is Church a Place to Go...Really!

The Church is one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; She is his new creation by water and the Word. From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride; With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

The Easter Season is now over and we once again find ourselves celebrating the festival of Pentecost. Now we are in the longest season of the church year. With Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit given by God to His people. Given first to the disciples of Jesus, gathered together in Jerusalem after their risen Lord had ascended into heaven; then to those who heard them preach in the city's streets the message of Christ crucified and risen. We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, given

first with tongues of fire, as had been promised by John the Baptizer years before, then given by water and the Word to those who followed in the footsteps of Christ, baptized in his name. We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit that gives birth to Christ's church, his body of believers in this time and place. This Holy Spirit allows us to experience a real presence of the living Lord in our midst, even though he has physically ascended to our heavenly Father.

(continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

I grew up the way many of us did. The church was someplace where we went on Sunday mornings. Well at least most Sunday mornings. Although my grandparents were in church every Sunday, my parents religiously dropped me off for Sunday school each week. When I was very young, to help ward off any separation anxiety I might be feeling, my Mom stayed and help teach. Though I enjoyed Sunday school once I got there, I hated having to be one of kids in my neighborhood who had to go. While other kids were playing I was roused out of bed, scrubbed within an inch of my life, dressed in my Sunday best (no matter how warm it was outside) and chauffeured to the church. I can remember waking up early and laying in my bed, as quietly as I could, hoping my folks would sleep in past the appointed hour. I was rarely, if ever, successful. As I got older my parents resorted to bribery. The promise of a comic book or some sports cards with a stick of gum, purchased on the way home worked for a while. This resulted in me not only receiving religious education, but a pretty fine and substantial comic book and sport cards collection as well which I still have today. And yes, there were those occasions when we went to worship as well!

The point of this little piece of personal history is that **when I was young, the church was someplace we went.** I think it's that way for many of us! But Jesus doesn't call us to go to church. **Rather Jesus calls us to be THE CHURCH!** This is a distinct and important difference. One that is very evident as we look to scripture and the beginnings of the early church.

The second chapter of the Book of Acts tells us of the miracle of Pentecost. The disciples receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire. Immediately they go into the streets of Jerusalem, which are bustling with Jewish pilgrims, from all over the known world, who have come to the Holy City for their annual celebration of the giving of the Law of Moses. The disciples begin to proclaim the gospel. All hear the words in their own language. Peter preaches Christ crucified and risen. Thousands were converted on the spot! In one fell swoop the Church exploded onto the scene.

In the following chapters we hear of life in this new Church. Those who converted didn't just "go to church." They *WERE* the Church! They devoted themselves to the teaching and fellowship of

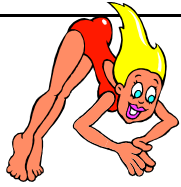
the Apostles. They gathered regularly for worship, including prayer and Holy Communion. They sold their possessions and lived communally, assuring the needs of their sisters and brothers were met. They ministered to the poor and shared the good news with all who would listen. (for more details, please read the Book of Acts through the fifth chapter.) While the world went on around them, while some accepted the Good News and some denied it, they were the Church, the living Body of Christ in that time and place.

Well this isn't Kansas and it isn't Jerusalem either! It's Aberdeen, South Dakota (Boy it's good to write those words!) We may not experience the Holy Spirit through tongues of fire, but we do receive it just as powerfully in the Waters of Baptism. We are not asked to sell everything and live the communal life, but we do give our time and talents for the ministry of the Church. The first Apostles have been resting in the arms of their heavenly father for twenty centuries, but we still gather for worship, prayers, Holy Communion, teaching, learning, and fellowship. We are the Church here at Holy Cross in Aberdeen, South Dakota. We gather to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Lord of our Life and our world. We are the living Body of Christ in this time and place, called to revel in the Good News of Christ crucified and risen, called to reach out and minister in Christ's name, called to share Jesus with all who will listen, until we too are called to our Father's embrace.

As we recognize **WE ARE THE CHURCH** our focus shifts. No longer do we wake up on Sunday morning debating whether or not we'll "go to church." Instead we recognize that we are called together to worship God in the name of Christ our Lord. No longer do we see the Bible as something that is in competition for our time, but rather we hunger for the Word of God! No longer do we see the opportunity to minister and share the gospel as something we have to or should be doing, but rather give freely of our time, talent, and resources to bring healing to God's broken world. **WE ARE THE CHURCH**, by water and the Word, purchased by the blood of Christ our Lord. He died so that we may live in him. Thanks be to God. **WE ARE THE CHURCH!**

In the Peace That Passes All Understanding

Pastor Bill



July 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00-3:00 VBS Wylie Park Grades 1-5	2 9:00-11:30 VBS Wylie Park 4-5 year olds 9:00-3:00 VBS Wylie Park Grades 1-5	3 Office Closed	4 Independence Day 
5 8:45 WPT Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee & Treats	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 8:45 WPT Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee & Treats	13 6:30 Leadership Team Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19 8:45 WPT Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee & Treats	20 6:00 Women's Group with Salad Potluck	21 Youth leaving for New Orleans from Bethlehem	22 23 24 25 Youth Gathering - Jesus - Justice - Jazz in New Orleans -through			
26 8:45 WPT Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee & Treats Sunday	27 Youth home from New Orleans	28	29	30	31	

The ancient Romans called July “Quintilius” or “Fifth” because it was the fifth month in their calendar. The Roman senate later changed the name to “July” to honor Julius Caesar, born on July 12. The Anglo-Saxons called it “Heymonath” for “Hay-making month” or “Maed” for “flowering meadows.” In the southern hemisphere, July marks mid-winter.