

Get CONNECTED

GROW. CARE. EXPERIENCE.

2009-2010



“a growing and caring community in Christ”

About Getting Connected

We invite you to explore ways to get connected to God and fellow Christians through the ministries of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. In these pages, you will find a number of ways to get connected to our “growing and caring community in Christ.” This booklet will also provide an overview of what our congregation is all about.

We encourage you first of all to be served by God in worship and Bible study, and then to find a place where you can serve others and enjoy the relationships that we have as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The ways to get connected are organized according to our mission statement: *“To be a growing and caring community in Christ.”*

Growing in Faith:

You can get connected to God and fellow Christians by worshiping and studying God’s Word with others.

Caring for Others:

You can get connected by offering your time, talents, and passions in many ways that can impact your congregation, your local community and even the world.

Experiencing Community:

You can get connected to a caring community that is committed to creating and renewing meaningful friendships and fostering healthy relationships at home, church and where ever you may be.

How to Get Connected

This booklet serves as an invitation for you and yours to serve or be served in any of the groups and activities listed on these pages. There are two steps to the connection process:

- 1) Complete the Connection Form in this booklet, indicating which groups and activities interest you; then turn it in to the church office.
- 2) You will be contacted by a ministry leader who will provide you with more information and all the assistance you need to get connected.

We hope this resource will assist you in finding several meaningful ways to connect to our awesome God and His people at Holy Cross Lutheran Church!

GROWING IN FAITH

Those involved in the ministries of Holy Cross are “Growing in Faith” through Worship, Bible Study, and Prayer so that Christians of all ages and in all vocations “know and rely on the love God has for us” with an ever increasing trust in God.

Worship

Our worship is centered around God’s presence and power in His Word and Sacrament. We receive God’s forgiveness and grace and respond in worship and praise! We offer two styles of worship. Our early service utilizes the traditional Lutheran liturgy and classic Christian hymns accompanied by the organ. Our late service is led by our praise team and has a more contemporary feel. Both services are centered around Jesus Christ and how He transforms our lives by the power of His Spirit.

Worship is for all ages, and all ages can assist in worship through music groups, usher teams, tech support, or drama. For ways to serve in worship, check out page 10. Children are very welcome in worship, and every service has a special message just for them. For little ones, the nursery is always available.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class

Adults are encouraged to bring their Bibles as we dive into God’s Word and apply it to our lives. Whether you’ve attended Bible Class your whole life or are new to the Christian faith, this class will have something for you! This class meets in the Mission Hall on Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Everyone is welcome to jump in at any time.

Wednesday Adult Education

Wednesday evenings are another opportunity for adults to grow in their faith through the study of God’s Word and Christian living topics after the fellowship meal and during the Education Hour on Wednesday Evenings, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Mission Hall.

Fall Session:

- *Luther & Calvin* (September 23-30)
- *MyPlace – Experiencing Community* (October 7-28)
- *Pray Continuously* (November 4-18)
- *Christian Leadership* (December 2-9)

Winter Session:

- *Joy in Philippians* (January 13-27)
- *Life at It’s Best* (February 3-10)

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible studies are offered throughout the year to provide opportunities for spiritual enrichment and encouragement.

Fall Session:

- *Esther, Becoming a Woman God Can Use*, 6 week study, Friday mornings October 2–November 6, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
- *Study of the Old Testament*, 4 week study, Tuesday evenings October 27–November 17, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Winter Session:

- *5 Conversations you must have with your daughter*, 6 week study offered morning and evening.
Friday mornings, 9:30 – 11 a.m. on January 15–February 19
Tuesday evenings, 6:30 – 8 p.m. on January 12–February 16

Spring Session:

- *Study of the New Testament*, 4 week study, Thursday evenings

Friday Morning Men's Bible Study

Men of all ages are invited to come together weekly around God's Word, a hot breakfast, and coffee as we grow together in our faith and encourage one another. Friday mornings in the Fellowship Hall, 6:30-7:45 a.m.

Seniors' Bible Study

This group meets on Monday mornings at 10:30 am in the Conference Room and provides seniors with Christian fellowship, the study of God's Word, and prayer.

Small Groups

Small groups meet regularly in homes on various days and times throughout the year. Most groups have a Bible study or book study. Small groups allow you to get to know other Christians on a more personal level, to pray for each other, and to encourage each other in your walk with Christ.

New Member Class

This 10-week class is offered twice a year for anyone interested in the basics of the Christian faith and what it means to be a Lutheran Christian, and prepares people for membership at Holy Cross. This class also discusses how to be connected to the Holy Cross community as we worship together, study the Bible, and serve and care for one another. The Fall semester begins September 24th. The Winter semester begins on January 12th.

Financial Peace University

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University is offered for 13 weeks on Tuesday evenings starting in January. This class teaches practical, biblical principles for managing finances in a healthy, God-pleasing way.

Milestone Ministry

Milestone Ministry intentionally connects individuals and families at different stages of life and provides sessions to strengthen faith and help with the challenges that each life stage presents. Some examples are: *Learning to Pray for 4 year olds*, *First Grade Bible*, and *Freshman Mentors*. More detailed descriptions for each milestone can be found in the Milestone Ministry brochure located throughout the church, or on our website www.holycrossjenison.org under Family Ministry.

Sunday School

Utilizing station rotation, children, 2 years old through 6th grade, participate in Bible story lessons, singing, crafts and activities on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Children's Education: Akaloo

Children, pre-kindergarten through 5th grade, will gather for singing and then break into small groups to explore God's Word as they answer their questions about the Bible, God, the World, Church, and Discipleship on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Vacation Bible School

Children, 3 years old through completed 6th grade, will gather in small groups to learn more about Jesus through worship, Bible teachings, crafts, and games, June 14-17, 2010.

Confirmation Instruction

Youth in 6th grade study the Scriptures and learn to apply the lessons to their daily lives on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. In grades 7 & 8, youth and their parents study the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism, learning to apply Christian teachings to their daily lives on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

High School Sunday School: Breakfast with Jesus

High school students gather on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for breakfast and to study the Word of God, wrestling with how it applies to their everyday lives.

High School Wednesday Bible Study: FILTER

High school students gather to have fun with one another, care for each other, and grow in faith. Bring your Bible to dive into God's Word and connect it to your daily life on Wednesday evenings from 7-9 p.m.

CARING FOR OTHERS

Those involved in the ministries of Holy Cross are “Caring for Others” through Service, Witness and Financial Stewardship by meeting others’ physical and spiritual needs according to Jesus’ great command to “Love one another.” Such care is characterized by a spirit of compassion, generosity, and mercy and includes leading people into a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ. Christians of all ages manage life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.

Impacting our Community and World

Food Pantry

Holy Cross houses a food pantry for Love INC that provides food to families in need right here in our own community, including our church and Daily Shepherd families. Volunteers help stock shelves or prepare food orders for pick up. All congregation members may help this much needed ministry with food or monetary donations.

Red Cross Blood Drives

Holy Cross supports our community by hosting Red Cross Blood Drives throughout the year. Congregation members support this ministry by donating blood, home-baked cookies or volunteering for a shift during the blood drive.

Back-to-School Ministry

This ministry provides opportunities for members to donate new school supplies for children in need to help them succeed in school.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Holy Cross adopts families in need from our community (Love INC), our congregation, and Daily Shepherd. Members donate groceries and supplies needed to prepare and enjoy a complete Thanksgiving dinner.

Christmas is for Sharing

Holy Cross adopts families in need from our community (Love INC), our congregation, and Daily Shepherd in order to bless them with Christmas gifts. Members choose which gifts they would like to provide.

Kid’s Time

Our nursery provides child care for children infant through kindergarten, on Wednesdays, September through May, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., so that parents can have a much-deserved break. Your child will experience a day full of structured activities: bible stories, songs, and even participate in a special activity each time.

Service to Others

Confirmation youth in grades 7 and 8 gather on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to complete service projects that benefit our community, September 23-February 10.

CityServe

People with a heart for serving the city have the opportunity to work with GRASP (Grand Rapids Area Service Projects) to do service projects in the city of Grand Rapids. GRASP can accommodate teams of any size and age group. The next CityServe event is June 26, 2010.

Haiti Mission Support Team

This team coordinates Holy Cross' mission work related to our partner church in Haiti. This involves running the Shine the Light sponsorship program, coordinating with other Haiti mission societies, and keeping the congregation informed about the mission work in Haiti.

First Impressions Team

This team helps Holy Cross welcome guests and visitors by coordinating welcome center volunteers, visitor gifts, follow-up contacts, and special outreach invitations.

Mission Trips

Weeklong opportunities are provided to serve others throughout the country and world while sharing the message of salvation. These trips are offered for youth and adults.

Loving and Serving One Another

Prayer Chain

The Holy Cross Prayer Chain is a group of highly dedicated people willing to bring the requests of others before the Lord in prayer. Prayer requests are given to the Prayer Coordinator who informs all Prayer Chain members of the request.

Meals Ministry

Members provide a few meals for those in our congregation who are having difficulty due to illness, hospitalization/surgery, family loss, or to help support families who have recently had a baby.

Holy Cross Helpers

This ministry connects willing volunteers with our elderly members and members with health restrictions. Holy Cross Helpers will assist those in need with basic home maintenance tasks to maintain independent living.

Wednesday Fellowship Dinners

Home-cooked meals are prepared and served by volunteers on Wednesday nights during the program year offering members a delicious meal and the opportunity for Christian fellowship. From September 23 through February 10 meals will be served from 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. From February 17 through March 24, our Lent season, our meals will be served from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Card Ministry

Greeting cards are sent to our members to offer words of hope, encouragement, support, and celebration during times of difficulty and rejoicing.

Nursery

The Holy Cross nursery is available to serve parents and children while they are in the building for worship, Bible study, meetings, practices, or programs. We are committed to maintaining a Christian environment that is healthy, comfortable, and safe for children.

Sunday Morning Breakfast

This ministry provides coffee and a light breakfast for a low price each Sunday morning before the Education Hour.

Care Packages

Care packages are sent out to our college students and military personnel who are away from home two times per year. Congregation members donate items and prepare packages for mailing.

Funeral Luncheons

Holy Cross prepares and provides a luncheon to be served after funerals.

Unemployment Ministry

Those facing job loss have monthly meetings to talk with people who “have been there” and who can walk side by side to face challenges together, focusing on faith and God’s presence in our lives.

Caring for the Church Building

This group helps with minor repairs and building upkeep. Skilled and unskilled work crews or individuals are needed.

Caring for the Church Grounds

Do you have a green thumb? This group helps with general gardening (weeding, planting flowers) and landscaping needs of the church property - one time help and ongoing tasks.

Office Help

Main Office Secretary Coverage: Provide substitute coverage for our secretaries. This includes answering phones, greeting visitors, and light clerical projects.

Collating: Individuals collate our weekly worship folders and monthly newsletters.

Printing: Volunteers print our weekly worship folders, announcements, and monthly newsletters.

Serving in Worship

Greeters

Prepared with a warm smile and a welcoming handshake, Sunday morning greeters welcome members and guests alike before both worship services.

Welcome Center

Members with a friendly face, a helpful spirit, and who have some knowledge about Holy Cross are available to offer information and answer questions at our welcome center on Sunday mornings before and after services.

Ushers

Ushers assist people in worship by distributing worship bulletins and announcements, taking the offering, and assisting the deacons in the general running of worship services. Men, women, and youth are welcome to serve as ushers.

Scripture Readers

Members of the congregation who are able to read aloud well in front of large groups and have a passion for worship and Scripture are scheduled to read the Scripture lessons during worship services.

Altar Guild

This group cares for the altar and also the paraments (altar cloths). They learn about the many worship aids and practices of the Lutheran Church. They set up for Holy Communion, Baptisms, and decorate for special worship services.

Sound Techs

Trained individuals assist with operating the lights and sound system during worship services and for special events.

Fine Arts in Worship

Children's Choir

This choir meets on Wednesday nights from 5:45-6:25 p.m. and welcomes any child in grades 1 through 5. They sing a variety of music several times a year at both worship services.

Joyful Noise Camp

Children entering 1st through 7th grade are invited to be a part of an upbeat musical presentation each summer. August 2-6, 2010 the children will participate in daily practice, behind the scenes preparations, and fun. Then, on Sunday, August 8, 2010 the children will present the musical during Sunday worship.

Teen Choir

Teen Choir is open to anyone in 6th through 12th grade. They meet a few weeks before Christmas and again before Easter to prepare anthems for these special occasions.

Youth Praise Team

The Youth Praise Team assists in leading worship a few times throughout the year (normally, on the 5th Sunday of the month). Vocalists and instrumentalists, in grades 6 through 12, are welcome to share their musical gifts in this way.

Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir welcomes anyone 9th grade and above to join in singing a variety of music at both worship services throughout the year. There is no requirement to read music, but a good singing voice is much appreciated!

Praise Team

Using both instrumentalists and vocalists, the Praise Team at Holy Cross assists with the leading of worship at the late contemporary service, utilizing a mix of present and recent contemporary Christian music, as well as adapted classics from the past.

Handbell Choir

This special music group offers an opportunity to “ring to the Lord a new song!” at both worship services on a scheduled basis throughout the year. No musical experience is necessary.

Orchestra

The Holy Cross Orchestra joins our worship for special services. This ensemble is open to all members and friends who play a band or orchestra instrument. The orchestra rehearses several times prior to our festival services.

Stick Ministry

The Stick Ministry is a worshipful dance group that sets stick choreography to music during worship on special occasions.

Serving on Church Boards

Each church board has a unique and needed focus that advances the mission of Holy Cross. Candidates whose gifts and talents are a good fit for each board are sought by the Nomination Committee. Election and selection of board leaders takes place the first Sunday in May.

Vestry

The Vestry operates by setting and monitoring policies that attempt to 1) wisely guide the business activities of the congregation, and 2) accomplish our biblical mission to be “a growing and caring community in Christ.”

Board of Deacons

The deacons, in support of the Pastoral Office, give their efforts and attention to the worship life of the congregation, as well as the care and welfare of all members, staff, and pastors.

Daily Shepherd Board

This board provides for the needs of young families in our community by wisely managing the business of the Daily Shepherd Child Care Center.

Holy Cross Foundation

The Foundation seeks and manages perpetual gifts to expand the work of God through Holy Cross and the Christian church in the community and world. Only interest income is used to fund approved grant requests.

EXPERIENCING COMMUNITY

Those involved in the ministries of Holy Cross are “Experiencing Community” through Servant Leadership, Holy Manners and Fellowship according to the biblical call for Christians of all ages and in every vocation to “live at peace with everyone.” In this community, Christians work for, experience, and celebrate healthy relationships and meaningful friendships characterized by unity, peace, reconciliation, and forgiveness.

Confirmation Ministry

In addition to confirmation instruction, this ministry offers youth in grades 6-8 opportunities to connect with each other at monthly special events which include a fall retreat, winter retreat, fellowship events and service projects.

High School Ministry

In addition to Breakfast with Jesus and FILTER, this ministry offers high school students the opportunity to connect with others through retreats and special events held throughout the year.

Oasis

This group of 20-somethings meets monthly throughout the year for fellowship, Bible Studies and service projects, so that Christian young people can connect and discuss how to live out their faith during a decade with many transitions. Search “Holy Cross Oasis” on Facebook.

Women’s Ministry

Women of all ages gather for spiritual growth and the nurturing of friendships. Several events are planned throughout the year that include: shopping trips, seminars, entertainment, and pottery painting.

Mothers of Preschoolers (M.O.P.S.)

M.O.P.S. is a ministry for mothers of children infant to kindergarten. M.O.P.S. nurtures mothers so that they can nurture their children. Paid teachers and volunteers care for the children during the meetings. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, September through May. More information can be found on our website at www.holycrossmops.org.

Marriage Ministry

Marriage enrichment opportunities are offered each year in the form of classes, workshops, seminars, or offsite retreats. These opportunities strive to offer encouragement and support for Christian marriages. Look on page 15 for information on the “Marriage God’s Way” seminar in February 2010.

Men’s Ministry

Several events are held throughout the year to equip men in their vocations and to live out their lives as men of faith. Speakers, books, fellowship events, and Bible studies are available. Events include Father & Son Campout, Fall outdoors event, breakfasts, and retreats.

Small Groups

Small groups allow you to get to know other Christians on a more personal level, to pray for each other, and to encourage each other in your walk with Christ. Small groups meet regularly in homes on various days and times throughout the year. Most groups have a Bible study or book study.

Gathering 4...

Build adult Christian friendships at Gathering 4's regular events and activities held throughout the year. Previous examples are: Soup Cook-Off, Euchre tournaments, catered dinners and entertainment.

Seasoned Crowd

Individuals age 65 and up get together monthly for a variety of fellowship events, planned activities, and/or entertainment.

Golf League

Anyone who enjoys a round of golf and Christian fellowship and fun is invited to Holy Cross' golf league that plays during the summer months.

Softball Leagues

Holy Cross fields a men's team and a co-ed team that participate in a local recreational league playing for fun and fellowship with other Christian adults.

MARRIAGE SEMINAR

2.13.10

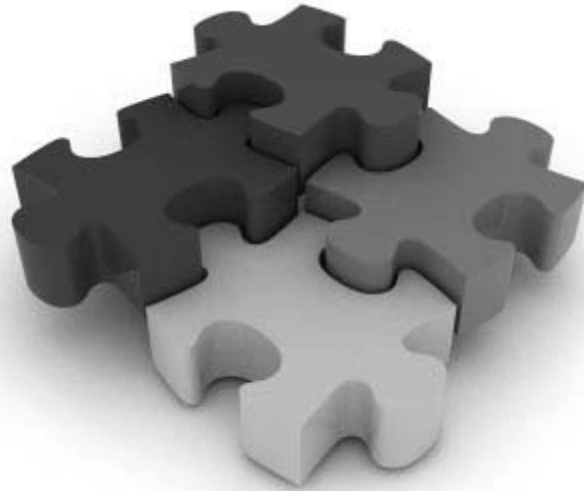


Marriage God's Way

PASTOR TODD & HEATHER BIERMANN

“Marriage God’s Way” is a seminar designed to bless married, engaged, or seriously dating couples with an understanding of the way God intends for them to relate to one another and to give them the tools to put this knowledge into practice.

The seminar has three major components: the Biblical model for marriage, tools for building and strengthening a marriage in God’s Way and time to work as a couple to apply new insights.



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We invite you to explore the ways to get connected to God and fellow Christians through the ministries of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. In this booklet, you will find a number of ways to find your fit in our “growing and caring community in Christ.”



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