



Cross Beams

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A. March 2019

*The purpose of
Holy Cross Evangelical
Lutheran Church
is to know, and joyfully
share, the love of God
in Christ.*

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Pastor's Pulse

This month's Pulse has but one purpose and that is to commend you all very highly for your wonderful hospitality in greeting and welcoming persons who are visitors.

Three of the people that I visited Monday made a special point of saying how much they were made to feel welcome and how friendly everyone was to them. They felt like they were really wanted and made to feel at home.

Truly, I commend you all for exhibiting that welcoming spirit. I have been in churches where I was completely ignored and even made to feel like I was not welcome. No one seemed to want to bother with us. Once, my wife and I were even asked to move because we were sitting in someone's pew! Wow, that was a totally welcoming attitude. Can you even imagine that happening here at Holy Cross Lutheran Church?

Hospitality is crucial in our outreach ministry. Jesus reminds us that welcoming the stranger is, in fact, welcoming Him. The Bible tells of many instances where strangers were welcome and the host ultimately discovered that they had "entertained" the Lord.

For the third time, I commend you highly for the wonderful way you greet visitors and make them feel wanted and welcome. Thank you so much!



All in the Family by Stan Post

If you drive by the Rockport swimming pool at the right time you may well catch a glimpse of this member doing water aerobics. She is a dedicated member of Chickies of the Pool.

This is another member who was born and grew up in a far away place called Sunbury, Pennsylvania, a town smaller than Rockport. She went to both grade school and high school in Sunbury and was both baptized and married in the Lutheran church there. It's interesting to note that her father was the Fire Chief in town.

After high school and getting married she went to work for Bell Telephone Company as an Operator. Folks, this was back in the days when Operators connected calls by inserting plugs into switchboards. Eventually she became a supervisor and in total spent thirty years with Bell and then AT&T when they took over Bell. She played on the company baseball team but says she can't remember them ever winning a game!

At one point she and her husband had a large cabin in the mountains at Loch Haven. When the kids were all gone her husband built a small cabin next to the larger one and they lived there. When in Loch Haven AT&T asked her to come back to work for them to close some of their offices.

In 1989 her husband bought a 5th wheel and pickup and they came to Rockport. Initially they stayed at Sun Harbor on Fulton Beach Road. Later they purchased a small piece of land and a manufactured home.

About six years ago a neighbor, who was a member of Holy Cross, invited her to come along with her to church. She did and has become an active and faithful part of our church family.

By the way, she has a favorite food, CAKE!

REFLECTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S LOVE



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



We have a new Activity Board located in the Fellowship Hall. Look for information on upcoming events on the new magnetic board!

The installation of Council Members was held on February 17, 2019.



The annual 2019 Choir Picnic was held and hosted by Toni and Stan Post. All had a wonderful time with country fried chicken, potatoes, bean salad and plenty of rolls. Desserts were scrumptious! Thanks to you, Toni and Stan, for this wonderful treat and fun fellowship!



Lent

Look for these special banners on the fellowship tables during the season of Lent. We will be discussing the "Cross Words" during this devotional period. Come join us for a light supper at 5:30 with service to follow at 6:00 on Tuesday evenings beginning March 12, 2019.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Sterling Frank : Treasurer

Jan. Treasurer's Report

Operating Fund Spending: \$13,508
Operating Fund Giving: \$12,458
2018 January Giving: \$13,477

Insurance claim cash available for Contents: \$15,401



Ephesians

Women's Bible Study will be held on March 14, 2019. We will begin our study of Ephesians 4. Our teaching host for this session will be Sue Green. All women of the church and their friends, please invite a guest, are encouraged to attend. We have excellent discussions and fellowship.

March 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 9:00 Bible Class 10:30 Worship with Communion | 4 | 5 | 6 Ash Wednesday 4:30 Choir Pract. 5:30 Light Supper 6:00 Service | 7 8:00 Men's Breakfast | 8 | 9 |
| 10 9:00 Bible Class 10:30 Worship Good Samaritans Collection | 11 7:00 Council Meeting | 12 4:30 Choir Prac- tice 5:30 Light Supper 6:00 Service | 13 | 14 8:00 Men's Breakfast | 15 | 16 |
| 17 9:00 Bible Class 10:30 Worship with Communion | 18 | 19 4:30 Choir Prac- tice 5:30 Light Supper 6:00 Service | 20 | 21 8:00 Men's Breakfast | 22 3:00 pm Choir presenta- tion at Gulf Point Plaza | 23 |
| 24 9:00 Bible Class 10:30 Worship | 25 | 26 4:30 Choir Prac- tice 5:30 Light Supper 6:00 Service | 27 | 28 8:00 Men's Breakfast | 29 | 30 |
| 31 9:00 Bible Class 10:30 worship Noisy Offering | | | | | | |

Council Person of the Week: Mar.3 -Butch Porter, Mar.10 - Monica Morris, Mar. 17 - Angela Jeschke,
Mar. 24 -Rhonda Hahn, Mar. 31 -Craig Brown

Assisting Ministers: Mar.3 -George Johnson, Mar. 10 -Vicky Hingst, Mar. 17 -George Johnson, Mar. 24
Vicky Hingst, Mar. 31 - Linda Haynes

Ash Wednesday: The laying on of ashes will be available from 7-10am March 6 at the church.

Pictures from our first annual Musical Jubilee held February 9, 2019



Castaways held their annual awards Ceremony on February 17, 2019 and gave an unprecedented \$438,500 dollars in grant money to non-profits in the greater Rockport area. What an accomplishment for a town of this size! They support such worthy causes in our community.



Our "All in the Family" mystery couple was Dick and Judy Goth from the Feb. newsletter.



The Choir once again sang at Gulf Pointe Plaza Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in February. Everyone enjoyed the music and guitar playing. Come join us for our next session which will be March 22, 2019 at 3:00 pm. Ya'll can wear your cowboy hats and boots!! See you there.

We have a busy calendar of events coming up in March and April. First, we have Transfiguration Sunday on March 3. Please look at the table decorations in the fellowship hall for various depictions of the Transfiguration. Next we have Ash Wednesday Service on March 6. We will serve a solemn light supper at 5:30 with the service to follow. For the next 5 Tuesdays we will have our Lenten services at 6:00 pm with a light supper before that at 5:30. We will be discussing the "Cross Words". Please join us for all of these opportunities to worship and reflect on our Lord's greatest gift to us - His suffering and death on the cross and His Resurrection on Easter Morning.

We then will have Palm Sunday on April 14th. Maundy Thursday Service and Good Friday Service will be at 6:00 pm on Thursday and Friday respectively. On Easter Sunday we will start the day with breakfast at 9:00 am and Easter Sunday Service at 10:30. We hope to see you at all of these services.



ABOUT ASHES

On Ash Wednesday, we use the ancient practice of the imposition of ashes-an ancient sign of penitence. The ashes used today were prepared by burning palm leaves in past years. This is a reminder of where the Lenten journey is leading - to Jerusalem, to death, and to resurrection.

In Biblical times, sackcloth and ashes were used to symbolize repentance and confession of sins (Jonah 3:5-9, Job 42:6, Jeremiah 6:26, Matthew 11:21). Ashes are a sign of frailty and penitence, as well as renewal and cleansing. They were often used as a cleansing agent in the absence of soap; on Ash Wednesday the ashes are understood to be a penitential substitute for water as a sign of Baptism.

Ashes tell of both death and renewal. In the spring, some farmers burn fields to destroy the old dead grass and prepare for the new. The ashes become the nutrients which stimulate new growth. So may our ashes remind us not only of our frailty as sinful human beings but also of the new growth in faith which is ours through the suffering and death of our Lord.

Transfiguration

The transfiguration of Christ is one of the central events recorded in the gospels. Immediately after the Lord was recognized by His disciples as "the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the Living God," He told them that "He must go up to Jerusalem and suffer many thingsand be killed and on the third day be raised" (Mt 16). The announcement of Christ's approaching passion and death was met with indignation by the disciples. And then, after rebuking them, the Lord took Peter, James, and John "up to a high mountain" -by tradition Mount Tabor- and was "transfigured before them."

...and his face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as snow and behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish I will make three booths here, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead" (Mt 17.1-9, see also Mk 9.1-9; Lk 9.28-36; 2 Pet 1.16-18).

In the transfiguration, the apostles see the glory of the Kingdom of God present in majesty in the person of Christ; they see that "in Him, indeed, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell," that "in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" (Col 1.19,2.9).

They see this before the crucifixion so that in the resurrection they might know Who it is Who has suffered for them, and what it is that this one, Who is God, has prepared for those who love Him.. This is what the Church celebrates in the feast of Transfiguration.

But why Moses and Elijah? Moses and Elijah, according to the liturgical verses, are not only the greatest figures of the Old Testament who now come to worship the Son of God in glory, they also are not merely two of the holy men to whom God has revealed himself in the prefiguration theophanies of the old Covenant of Israel. These two figures actually stand for the old Testament itself: Moses for the Law and Elijah for the Prophets. And Christ is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets (Mt 5. 17). They also stand for the living and the dead. Moses died and his burial place is known. Elijah was taken alive into heaven in order to appear again to announce the time of God's salvation in Christ the Messiah.

