

ANNUAL MEETING
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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January 29 , 2012

AGENDA

- I Call to Order – Congregation President, Sarah Accettura
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Adults Living and Learning (A.L.L.)	Lenten Services
Autumn Fest 2011	Lutheran World Relief – Coffee Project
Around the Cross Concert	Men’s Breakfast Group
Monday Afternoon Bible Study	Men’s Saturday Morning Discussion
Blue Christmas	New Members Breakfast
Book Club	Pilates
Career Transitions	Prayer Group
Casual Gourmet	Assistants in Prayer
Choir	Public Action to Deliver Shelter
Christian Outreach Of Lutherans	Quilting and More
Cookie Walk	Relational Ministries
Common Threads	Rosebud Indian Reservation
Contemporary Worship Music	Social Ministries Team
Feed My Starving Children	Summer Saturday Evening Services
Film Club	Holy Week Tableaux Vivants
Free Spirits	Winchester House
Giving Tree	Women’s Discussion Group, Tues. Mornings
Habitat for Humanity	Women’s Saturday Morning Lectionary
Holy Cross at Ravinia	Worship Coordinators
Lake County United	

Youth, Children and Family Ministry Boards

Milestone Ministries

- Baptism
- The Next Step: Stepping into Sunday School
- Rally Day Kick-Off
- First Communion Preparation and Follow-Up
- Bible Presentations and Bible Bootcamp
- On your MARK, get set, go...
- Playing with Fire—a.k.a. - Intro to Acolyting
- Intro to Confirmation
- Affirmation of Baptism
- High School Senior Graduation Recognition

Support to Families

- Nursery
- Parents of Children With Special Needs
- Up to Us
- Family Fun Events

Sunday/Funday School

VBS and Daycamp

Youth Music

Middle School Youth/Confirmation

High School Youth Group

College Students

Early Childhood Ministry Board:

Celebration! Childcare Center

Crossways Preschool

Mom’s Morning Out

VIII. Adjournment and Prayer

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Libertyville, Illinois
Annual Congregational Meeting
January 30, 2011**

Church Council President Harold Sargent called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. Pastor Henning-Ferkin opened the meeting with a prayer. Sarah Accettura, Dan Accettura, Roz Deigan and Carole Moroz were appointed as tellers. Quorum was established with 205 present.

Approval of the minutes from the congregational meeting on January 24, 2010. Chuck Chianelli moved to accept the minutes from January 24, 2010 as presented; motion seconded by Tom Miller; motion carried.

New Business

Mortgage Refinance Proposal - Russ Moroz moved "Whereas HCLC currently has a mortgage with Thrivent Financial consisting of 2 notes with a balance of approximately \$4.9M at rates of 6+% for each note, and whereas Thrivent Financial has approved a request from HCLC to refinance our two notes at 5.75% for a new 25-year term with a 1% refinance fee, and whereas the new rate would be locked for 15 years and would reduce HCLC current monthly payments by approx. 4K/month, and whereas the HCLC church council unanimously recommends that HCLC approve the refinance proposal, be it resolved that the congregation of HCLC authorizes the officers of HCLC to execute the refinancing of the current mortgage with Thrivent Financial in an amount not to exceed \$4.95M." Motion seconded by Jerry Frank. Steve Oelschlager explained the terms of our current mortgage as listed on page eight of the annual report. The current monthly mortgage payment is \$35,000. Steve said they did look into refinancing with ELCA Mission Investment Fund but they have certain constraints that would have made our monthly payment more even though the interest rate would be lower. Commercial institutions could not meet the interest rate that Thrivent is offering. We will have an opportunity to lower the rate to 5 1/2% in the future if we have significant member growth and surplus cash flow. The refinance will cost us a 1% fee of \$50,000 and the 25 year term will restart, extending our mortgage from 2032 to 2036. Bob Nordland asked when the numbers will be looked at again for lowering the interest rate. Harold said that each year Thrivent receives our annual report with membership numbers and financial reports. They have a set formula for size of congregations and finance rates. Harold said we will not let them forget us. Dan Berger asked why we have two notes and not one note. Harold said that was because of the size of our congregation. We qualified for three and half million dollars. The additional one and half million was beyond our qualifications so it constituted higher risk and rate. From Holy Cross' standpoint it does not matter if we have one or two notes. Ballots were passed out for the vote. Results reported as 215 yes and 2 no; motion carried

Election of Church Council Members - Harold said that four council members rotate off the church council each year. This year Janet Brownlie, who completed Sandy Evelt's term, Jerry Joiner, Dave Kenney and Harold will be leaving the council. The open positions are each three year terms. The nominating committee consisted of Dave Fischer, Jerry Joiner, Tracy Kinsella and Harold. Harold presented the slate of council nominees and opened the floor for nominations. Russ Moroz moved to close the nominations and elect the nominees by acclamation; motion seconded by Dave Kenney; motion carried.

2011 Budget – Van McClellan moved to adopt the 2011 budget as presented in the annual report; motion seconded by Kevin Marhenke; Harold thanked Holy Cross members for their stewardship response. So much so that we are presenting a balanced budget with no congregational challenge included. He also complimented the church staff for holding the line on the 2010 budget. The 2010 budget was favorable for income and for expenses. Motion carried.

Disbursement of Building Mission Outreach Funds – Felicia Brandt moved "Whereas the current Blessed to Bless – Forward Together Capital Appeal calls for the disbursement of 5% of each year's collections to Mission Outreach projects, and whereas total collections for 2010 were \$112,415 with 5% being \$5,620 and whereas the HCLC church council recommends that these funds be donated with 50% going to COOL (a local outreach ministry) and 50% going to Lutheran World Disaster Relief (a global outreach ministry), be it resolved that the HCLC treasurer be authorized to disburse \$2,810 to COOL and \$2,810 to Lutheran World Disaster

Relief.” Motion seconded by Joan Sheldon; motion carried.

New Three Year Building Appeal - Vince Zupkus moved “Whereas the current Blessed to Bless – Forward Together Capital Appeal will end on May 31, 2011 and whereas the revenue from the current appeal is one major source of funding for HCLC mortgage payments and whereas there are various capital maintenance / improvement projects that will need to be addressed on HCLC property over the next several years, be it resolved that the HCLC church council be authorized to launch a new capital appeal beginning in June 2011 with the proceeds to be utilized for debt service and capital maintenance / improvement projects.” Motion seconded by Jeff Meyer. Kevin Marhenke asked what the projects were. Harold said the list includes resurfacing the parking lot, a new roof on the parsonage and energy efficiency projects. There will be a full list available before the new appeal begins. First priority will again be debt service. Harold stated he feels this will be our last appeal for the current building. If we conduct another appeal it will be for something else not debt service; motion carried.

LSTC Internship - Deb Sherrock moved “Whereas HCLC has past experience in serving as an internship site for Lutheran School of Technology Chicago (LSTC) and whereas serving as an internship site is beneficial to LSTC, HCLC and the ELCA and whereas HCLC is an excellent learning site for interns due to the variety of experiences available in a congregation of this size and whereas both pastors have past experience in supervising interns and are willing to do so in the future and whereas the church council believes that our 2011 budget has sufficient flexibility to support an intern position, be it resolved the HCLC inform LSTC of our willingness to be an internship site for the 2011-12 academic year.” Motion seconded by Dale Brandt. Harold reminded the congregation of our past interns Vicar Dan and Vicar Jessica. We had taken a couple of years off from hosting an intern when Pastor Krista joined us. She has past experience in supervising interns. Dave Fischer asked what the cost would be. Harold said the cost varies by the intern. We need to pay a monthly stipend, health insurance but no housing. It will be about \$18,000 for the year. The intern will not start until July or August so less than one half of the \$18,000 is coming out of the 2011 budget. It was asked if the internship has been a successful operation thus far. Pastor Bob spoke to that point. He said we do benefit from new energy and eyes with a new perspective. We are a good site for interns. We would be classified as a restricted site which means a local intern, no housing required. Pastor Bob added that just because we begin the process does not mean that we will end up with an intern. It has to be the best fit for all involved. The seminary assigns the interns in March or April and we agree upon the starting date. He said the previous interns have said their time here was invaluable and they were very appreciative of their time here; motion carried.

Approval of the reports – Carol Kenney moved to accept the pastoral ministry reports as presented; motion seconded by Dave Fischer ; motion carried. Bob Nordland moved to accept the “Who We Are” ministry boards reports as presented; motion seconded by Lee Fischer; motion carried.

Old Business

Other

Harold wanted to thank outgoing council members Janet Brownlie, Jerry Joiner and Dave Kenney. He also thanked outgoing Financial Secretary, Eric Phillips. A special thanks to Betsy Wold as church council secretary for seventeen years of service. Church officers are only supposed to hold a position for three consecutive terms. We are in need of a church council secretary. If you are interested please contact Sarah Accetturra. The secretary takes council meeting minutes and annual meeting minutes. The secretary is also the signer of official documents. Deb Sherrock thanked Harold for his two terms on the council and the last two years as council president.

Adjournment

Jerry Votjko moved to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Russ Moroz; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Wold

Council Nominees

Sarah Accettura

As a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the past six and a half years, my family and I have been blessed to worship in a positive and vital church home. We have been blessed to grow in our faith, participate and serve in meaningful worship experiences and develop wonderful relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. My husband Dan, daughters Abby and Becky and I have cherished the activities and fellowship that we have experienced at Holy Cross from Sunday worship to Peder Eide concerts to productions such as "Noyes Fludde" or the Tableaux Vivants during Holy Week. Each of these activities have served to create a springboard for both faith and family discussion. During our tenure at Holy Cross, I have had the privilege to serve on the Celebration! Child-care Board, coordinate our Confirmation program and serve on the combined Early Childhood Ministry Board. I have participated in our social ministry program "In This Place", have taught Vacation Bible School and serve as both a reader and greeter on Sunday mornings. Three years ago, I was elected to a position on our church council and have served as Vice President and currently, President, of this leadership group. I am excited to have the opportunity to continue to serve and grow in my faith here at Holy Cross.

Mark Fedyk

Mark, his wife Lori, and her boys, Tommy (15) & Michael (13) Watson have been members of Holy Cross since 2008. After marrying in October 2006, they relocated to Green Oaks from Naperville, Illinois, where they were active members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

Since joining Holy Cross, Mark and Lori have been very active with the Holy Cross Confirmation Youth. Mark attends to the multi-media needs of the Sunday evening youth worship, and both Lori and Mark serve as Confirmation Service Project Leaders for PADS, FMSC, Winchester House, and other projects. Previous church experience for Mark includes serving as Chairman of the Finance Committee, Chairman of Stewardship, and Adult & Youth Sunday School leader.

Outside of church, both Mark and Lori can be found actively supporting their boys' participation on a host of school and community athletic teams. While Lori is a lifelong resident of Illinois, Mark has called several places home, including: Buffalo NY, Florida, Tennessee, and Alabama. Mark's two daughters, Sarah and Rachel, are currently attending school in Alabama.

Mark has spent over 25 years in the Retail industry with companies including Saks Department Store Group, Ulta Cosmetics, and Sears, overseeing businesses ranging in size from \$100 million to \$1 billion. Currently, he serves as Vice President of Retail Stores at Jockey International, a 100+ year old family owned company, headquartered in Kenosha, WI.

Roz Deigan

Roz and her family moved to Lake county from Chicago 15 years ago and started attending Holy Cross. Raised Lutheran and educated in Lutheran Schools (Kindergarten through a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Gustavus Adolphus College), Roz enjoyed her professional career in different service industries and finally as a corporate event planner before becoming a full time wife and mother. Roz wrote, *"Volunteering at church and in my community is an integral part of the faith journey to me, and one of the reasons I felt at home at Holy Cross from the beginning."*

Since becoming a member in 2001, Roz has been an active volunteer, and Sunday morning ministries are her favorite way to give back to the church; she volunteers reading the lessons, as a communion assistant, is a prayer assistant, and also is a coffee host. When her daughters were younger, Roz volunteered with Sunday/Funday School for 7 years and with Confirmation for 3. She served on the Call Committee (2008/2009) and was involved with the Care of Creation committee. She resides in Gurnee with her husband and daughters, and is looking forward to the opportunity to serve our church as a Council Member.

Angela Lindsey

Angie and her husband Jef joined Holy Cross in 2008 and have enjoyed being active members in the church family. Their son Max was baptized at Holy Cross in 2006 and son Charley in 2008. Angie has been a teacher and coordinator for Funday School, volunteer for Feed My Starving Children, and was involved in the Women of Faith bible study. Jef is a Shepherd for the 3rd graders and is a regular for the Men's Discussion Group. Angie grew up in a non-denomination Christian church, while Jef was raised Lutheran, and upon moving to Libertyville they found Holy Cross their church home. Angie has worked for Takeda Pharmaceuticals for 12 years where she currently is a Regional Sales Director, with past positions in training and marketing. Angie, Jef, Max and Charley reside in Libertyville, with their dog Kramer.

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH STAFF & PROGRAMS
STATEMENTS OF SURPLUS (DEFICIT)
Actual for years ended December 31, 2010 and 2011
Proposed Budget for 2012**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012 Budget</u>
RECEIPTS			
Member Contributions			
Member Contributions (Church)	719,388	756,382	798,106
Congregational Challenge	65,743	-	-
Special Benevolences	19,099	15,832	15,000
Festival Offerings	18,165	17,332	18,000
Flowers	3,697	3,649	3,500
Stewardship	235	189	-
Non Member Contributions	38,326	38,045	35,000
Program Receipts			
Christian Education	5,726	5,797	4,500
Youth Ministry	408	190	300
Relational Groups	2,408	3,353	2,800
Fellowship	4,605	1,353	1,400
Building Use			
Early Childhood Use	13,725	13,725	13,725
Building Use	6,885	8,802	9,000
Interest Income	92	44	-
Other Non Budgeted Receipts	10,811	15,889	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>909,313</u>	<u>880,582</u>	<u>901,331</u>
EXPENSES			
Benevolence			
Synod (ELCA) Benevolence	71,725	73,999	79,811
Special Benevolence	19,287	16,545	15,000
Mission Outreach	-	-	7,684
Program Expenses			
Christian Education	9,296	10,068	10,000
Youth Ministry	857	1,420	3,300
Relational Groups	3,129	3,031	3,200
Fellowship	6,271	3,513	3,800
Social Ministry	305	-	150
Evangelism	106	477	150
Administration Expenses			
Salaries and Benefits	467,647	453,441	466,764
Administration	77,991	79,610	80,000
Finance	2,081	2,971	3,200
Stewardship	3,666	2,941	3,300
Communications	1,828	2,385	2,200
Worship and Music	10,235	16,380	13,500
Property	48,287	53,318	55,600
Mortgage	153,672	153,672	153,672
Non Budgeted Expenses	9,290	12,049	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>885,673</u>	<u>885,820</u>	<u>901,331</u>
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>23,640</u>	<u>(5,238)</u>	<u>-</u>

Ministry Reports

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis

Have you noticed how each year seems to move at a faster pace. It seems like we were just beginning with 2011 and now it is finished. Another year of ministry moments that define who we are as a faith community and as people of faith. Another year where we embraced moments of grace and other moments that we may not have been as open to what God was calling us to be.

We come together as a community of believers for worship. When we do we hear again about the mighty acts of God and the grace that God has tried to make known to us in our lives. We remember key events and moments in Jesus' life.. Jesus as a baby in the manger....Jesus as an exile with his parents....Jesus baptized in the river Jordan by John the Baptist....Jesus inviting people to come and see for themselves what God's kingdom is all about. In these NT stories about Jesus it becomes clearer that he operates from a different perspective.

It is like the man who descended into a deep well by sliding down a rope which was supposed to be of ample length. But to his dismay he came to the end of it before his feet had touched the bottom. He didn't have enough strength left to climb up again, and to let go and drop would seemingly dash him to pieces in the unseen depths below. He held on until his strength was utterly exhausted, and then dropped, as he thought surely to his death. But he fell just three inches, and found himself safe on the bottom.

Sometimes we may discover that we are in a similar predicament: we are just three inches from trusting God, but we're afraid to let go. We are using all of our energy to cling to our doubts and fears. Jesus time and time again articulates the message that there is a difference between a life of scarcity and abundance.

Or how about the group of young students who were asked by their school teacher to make a list of what they thought were the present-day Seven Wonders of the World. Although there were some disagreements, the following seven things began to surface as contenders for the list: 1. The Great Pyramids of Egypt; 2. The Taj Mahal; 3. The Grand Canyon; 4. The Panama Canal; 5. The Empire State Building; 6. St. Peter's Basilica; 7. China's Great Wall.

In preparing the class to cast their final votes, the teacher noticed that one quiet student had not contributed to the discussion yet. So she asked the girl if she were having trouble deciding what would be on her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have – read your list and maybe we can help."

Hesitantly, the student stood up and then read from her paper out loud to the class. She said, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are: 1. To be able to see; 2. To be able to hear; 3. To be able to touch; 4. To be able to feel; 5. To be able to taste; 6. To be able to laugh; and, 7. To be able to love. The room was quiet when she finished. This young woman was clearly operating from a different place.

I often marvel how we overlook and take for granted the gifts that God has given us. We become so captivated by those things that are generated by our hands and our imaginations that we make the same mistake of overlooking or taking for granted the gifts that God has provided and sometimes forget not only the astounding generosity of God but God's presence in the first place.

God's presence in our lives and in the life of this congregation turns the possibility of transformation into reality. As you read through the pages of this year's annual report perhaps it might be helpful to use these lenses of God's generosity and presence to contextualize the efforts, energy and imagination of so many.

I think that we faithfully attempted to embrace both God's generosity and presence in 2011 and honored the tension that is produced when we walk by faith. I think Holy Cross provides opportunities for our members and friends of Holy Cross to grow in God's Word through all of the obvious ways. We provided opportunities for worship, study, conversation, celebration of the fine arts, education and nurture of people of all ages in their faith journey and fellowship within our own faith community and with our ecumenical and interfaith sisters and brothers.

Our interaction in significant and meaningful partnerships transcends the notion of just "talking" and embodies our "acting." Again, I am not convinced that we always take a moment and reflect upon the impact that Holy Cross' ministries have upon the lives of not only our members, those familiar faces known to us, but beyond our formal membership. When you account for all of the partnerships Holy Cross has culti-

vated over the years, the number of individuals who realize a benefit in their life because of Holy Cross' ministries are literally in the thousands. A quick review of local ministry partners like COOL, Winchester House, Rosebud, Habitat, Messiah Head Start preschool in Chicago, ELCA Disaster Relief in Japan and many others too numerous to name, the results are staggering with numbers in 2011 that exceed 60,000 individuals easily.

This does not even begin to take into account Holy Cross' presence through LSSI that impacts thousands of people served in Illinois and one out of every fifty individuals throughout the United States when you consider their participation through Lutheran Services of America. Another partner that has a more local "feel" is with Advocate Health through Advocate Condell in Libertyville. We offer chapel worship services to patients and their families on a weekly basis, provide leadership at a governing board level and through Advocate Health System over \$475,000,000 in charity care was provided in 2011 to individuals system wide. When you look at the pastoral acts and wonder about the funerals and weddings that were officiated because of Holy Cross, I hope you also think about the people who are in attendance at these very important moments. They may be hearing the "good news" about Jesus and God's love at a moment when they might be the most receptive to it. Finally, what about FMSC? We have completed four mobile packing events that have packed in excess of 3,000,000 meals with the help of over 16,000 volunteers from Lake County and beyond. Because of Holy Cross' involvement and vision to provide this ministry opportunity to so many, FMSC hopes to open a new permanent site in Lake County in 2012 with the hope of reaching an annual goal of packing 25 million meals each year at the Lake County sight. If this goal is realized that will mean that approximately 68,493 children would be fed daily each year. This continues to be an amazing journey of faith and would not be possible without Holy Cross' passion and generosity.

I was reminded recently that part of the Lutheran "personality" is to take a more quiet posture towards these amazing ministries that we participate in and make happen. However, I think it is time for us to make some noise about the ways that we faithfully provide moments for people to know that God cares through our caring.

As we begin the gift of another year, my hope is that we continue to be as authentic as we can in our faith and community life. My prayer is that we go even deeper into God's Word and we live more passionately as people of faith in the world.

What does going deeper into the Word mean? When the young Jesus felt called to live beyond business-as-usual and answered the call of God's business, he first went to the temple. In other words, he steeped himself in the meanings and messages of God's Word. Knowing what God intends for men and women, learning what God has already said and done and promised for this world, is a necessary first step in the transformative process.

What does living more passionately as people of faith in the world mean? Being about God's work doesn't mean we do nothing but sit in church all day long and discuss theology. Remember that while Jesus enjoyed time for prayer, reflection and Sabbath worship, he also accompanies us back out into the world. We cannot be a part of transforming the world unless we stand in its midst.

We are blessed in many ways at Holy Cross. I think as a congregation we operate from a perspective of abundance and not from a place of scarcity. Because we do, we practice authenticity in our life together that doesn't make us perfect, but, rather, makes our life together and our ministry vital and alive. Instead of holding on too tight out of fear of too little, we respond with hope and imagination. This type of congregational attitude defines who we are and for that I most grateful.

So, thank you for another wonder filled year of ministry through Holy Cross. Thank you to our members who share, participate and support our ministries. Thank you to our church staff, who are dedicated and gifted people that fulfill their responsibilities with passion. Finally, thank you to my wife and partner Nancy. She keeps me grounded and her graceful spirit fills my heart.

I look forward to the new adventure of another year of life and faith together.

Peace,
Pastor Robert A. Davis

Rev. Krista Henning-Ferkin

Dear partners in ministry,

Come and see... These are words of invitation and welcome. These are words of wonder and possibility. These are the words from the Gospel of John spoken by Philip to Nathanael after first meeting Jesus, and these are words that also invite us into the good news of Jesus Christ.

Come and see... Come and see what God is up to. Come and see what God is doing in this place. Come and see what God is doing in your own life and in the life of others. As we turn through the pages of this annual report, each report is an invitation to come and see what God is up to. Each report shares some of the highlight of God's work through us and in doing so each report also invites us into the wonder and possibility of what God will do through us and the ministries of Holy Cross in the future.

As pastor of youth and family ministries, I invite you to come and see what is happening in these areas of our ministry at Holy Cross. Often we think of all the ministries that children and families engage in on Sundays, but walk in to Holy Cross during any weekday, and even on many Saturdays, and you will also see children and families involved in ministry. Come and see...

- Building Blocks Childhood Center: Holy Cross' Early Childhood Ministries which includes Mom's Morning Out, CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare Center have now come together as Building Blocks Childhood Center to help provide ministry and communicate to others the love and learning we provide for both children and their families. Every week it's exciting to see the children and their families that come through the door. Whether planting seeds in the garden or sledding on the hill, singing in children's chapel or learning the alphabet, the directors, teachers, and assistants provide an environment of learning to develop each child's God given gifts socially, emotionally, physically, spiritually, and educationally.
- Sunday School and Funday School: Every Sunday at the 9:30 am service people see many of our young children gather for the children's sermon. What many do not see is the amount of activity and learning that happens when the children leave the sanctuary. Bible stories and God's love come to life, and our children then share this good news with the congregation through the annual Christmas program and Spring Sing. An incredible education program, expanded this past year by Summer Sunday S'kool is made possible by all those who volunteer.
- Milestone ministries: It's amazing to watch as children take their first steps to Sunday School or begin to use a Bible for the first time or make communion bread or light candles during worship. Through classes and worship and more we walk with our children and their families during these important milestones in which God is at work in their lives.
- Youth even with all the homework and activities in their lives our youth continue to reveal the love of God to others. Through confirmation youth have the opportunity not only to learn more about their faith but also to live out that faith through service. In high school this continues. The 2011 mission trip to the Rosebud Indian Reservation in SD was an eye opening experience for many. Life of the reservation is very different from life in Libertyville. Yet, despite tough circumstances our youth did an incredible job of reaching out and revealing God's love to the residents by serving meals, painting, teaching, playing, and simply loving the people around them. Our youth saw how God works in some amazing ways and helped give hope to the community of Two Strike at Rosebud. Over and over again our youth are stepping up as leaders, growing in their faith, and serving others. Whether it's high school youth who volunteer with confirmation or two youth who each raised \$500 for Feed My Starving Children, or youth who show up on a Sunday night for youth group God is certainly at work.
- Children and youth and families coming together: One of the blessings of 2011 was seeing the many different ways we come together to do ministry. For example, the Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday Tableaux Vivant brought together adults, youth, and children to show us a

scene from the Old Testament during worship. Feed My Starving Children provided us with another opportunity where the children of Sunday School and Funday School, the confirmation and high school youth, along with adults all joined together and raised funds to feed children around the world and then helped pack meals for those children. Another example of tying ministry together with different people of different ages is in our ministry to the Two Strike Community on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. The youth provided hands on ministry in July, and they also shared about their experience with the Funday School children who then made cards for the people of Rosebud. Adults who have been to Rosebud, youth who have been there, and children who made cards then all participated in the cookie walk to help fund future projects in the Two Strike community. Also, those who have and those who have not been to Rosebud helped provide needed Christmas gifts for the people of Two Strike.

There is so much to see. So many things that God is doing in us and through us and around us. I am thankful to serve God here in this place with you. Thank you to everyone who helps in those visible and behind the scenes not so visible ways. Thank you to the staff, the council, and all the volunteers at Holy Cross. We are blessed with much talent and commitment to the ministries of this congregation.

So, come and see what God is up to here at Holy Cross, and I also invite you to come and be part of the ministry that we are doing together.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Krista L. Henning-Ferkin

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

January 23, 2011	Nolan Lamont Brown	August 14, 2011	Abigail June Frier
February 13, 2011	Evelyn Rose Bemrich	August 28, 2011	Claire Sara Huffman
March 13, 2011	Evelyn Sharon Little	August 28, 2011	Michael John Gallo
March 20, 2011	Trevor James Graf	September 18, 2011	Elizabeth Erickson Brown
March 27, 2011	Tyler Jace Collins	September 25, 2011	Reagan Quay Turner
April 10, 2011	Anna Mae Eulberg	September 25, 2011	Camryn Ann Lewandowski
May 29, 2011	Violet Alhelies Jones	October 23, 2011	Ruth Louise McGinn
May 29, 2011	Alexis Marie Deuter	October 29, 2011	Nina Carolyn Thompson
June 5, 2011	Ethan William Drover	November 23, 2011	Madelyn Grace Greer
June 28, 2011	Oliver Scot Merryman	November 27, 2011	Peter David Harren
July 24, 2011	Alexis Ann Beckman	December 11, 2011	Benjamin Huennekens
		December 25, 2011	Janice Marie Hackett

Marriages

March 11, 2011	Matthew Russell Sargent & Briana Marie Naumann
April 20, 2011	William Fleischman & Betty Jean Finn
May 9, 2011	Jeremy Nielsen & Nicole Jean Sylvester
June 3, 2011	Roy Anthony Colver & Deborah Susan Krachtus
June 11, 2011	Zachary Michael Zimmer & Janell Callahan
June 18, 2011	Benjamin Thomas Lewis & Erin Marie Joiner
July 2, 2011	Nathan Joseph Baker & Kirsten Lind Eriksen
September 17, 2011	Ryan Patrick Granfeldt & Valerie Kaye Miller
October 1, 2011	John Steven Nagy III & Kimberly Elizabeth Dunlap
November 5, 2011	Kenneth Davis Pate II & Joy Ella Schaefer
November 5, 2011	Stephen Kenneth Maltas & Kendal Erin Dean
November 11, 2011	Martin Monroe Yundt & Dagmar Marina Galockin Hanrath

Funerals

January 25, 2011	James C. Nelson
January 27, 2011	Isabelle Franzke
March 12, 2011	Augusta Wilhelmina Victoria Hohertz
March 26, 2011	Jane S. Wojtana
April 16, 2011	Werner Doninger
August 16, 2011	Richard L. Tracy
October 1, 2011	Neal M. Harris
November 11, 2011	Robert Schaefer
November 22, 2011	Ruth C. Clements
December 28, 2011	Eleanor L. Torbeck

First Communion - April 21, 2011

Alec Maxwell Berger
 Jena Nicole Bjorseth
 Ana Barbara Boucek
 Nicholas Robert Bryson
 Kara Jane Cannon
 Ethan C. Casler
 Grant Andrew Danner
 Brenna Farrell
 Erin Fiedler
 Connor Edward Fuller
 Jonathan Hanscom
 Connor Joseph Harris
 Ainsley Elizabeth Johnson
 Alex James Johnson
 Derrik Arthur Lieding
 Maxwell Allen Lindsey
 Daniel Bruce Mack
 Jonathan Marquardt

Derek John Matthei
 Reagan McGinn
 Reilly McGinn
 Trevor Glen Miksch
 Matthew Gerald Mueller
 Taryn Elizabeth Murphy
 Grace Margaret Neuberger
 Bryce Lee Nowicki
 Andrew August Oelschlager
 Darla Oleson
 Sarah Mackenzie Rosten
 Madelyn Mae-Qing Ryan
 Nathan Matthew Sanborn
 Kylie Skie
 Katherine Thomey
 Grace Elizabeth Towson
 Sarah Ann Villani

Affirmation of Baptism - October 30, 2011

Jacob Atkins Behling
 Grant Breckenridge
 Matthew Alexander Cordan
 Kyle Matthew Easterberg
 Amanda Marie Fischer
 Jonathan R. Frea
 Austin Fuller
 Nicholas Joseph Gaines
 Sarah Elizabeth Goebeler
 Austin Ellsworth Grundberg
 Jack Alan Hanson
 Richard A. Hill, Jr.
 Brandon Horn
 Amy Catherine Houser
 Duncan Edward Hughes

Ethan Robert Kocourek
 Jonathan James Koenemann
 John Thomas Lubenow
 Alexandra Kelsey Matheo
 Garrett McClellan
 Paul David McKeon
 Kyla F. McPherson
 Emily Ann Partlow
 Madison Mackenzie Revesz
 Maxwell Delohery Roberts
 Fox Anthony Sizemore
 Anna Christina Skelton
 Thomas James Watson
 Andrew Daniel Werner

Noah Everett Montague - June 19, 2011
 Heather Ashley Gonzales - December 25, 2011

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Congregational Report 2011		
	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Beginning of 2011	1817	1,313
Received		
Baptism	23	1
Affirmation of Faith	28	18
Transfer ELCA	21	20
Transfer Other	1	1
Other	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Received	73	40
Youth Confirmed	<u> </u>	<u>29</u>
Total Increase	73	69
Sub Total	1,890	1,382
Removed		
Transfer ELCA	12	8
Transfer Other	1	1
Death	1	1
Other	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>
Total Removed	28	20
END OF YEAR TOTALS	1,862	1,362

Council President's Report

One of my favorite bible quotes is from 2 Corinthians 5:7; "We live by faith, not by sight." Throughout 2011, the congregation of Holy Cross certainly lived out this quote time and time again. Our faith is strengthened each week through worship together as a congregation. Our faith is emboldened daily through prayer as individuals or even collectively through our prayer ministry program. Our faith is renewed through study and fellowship opportunities in small groups and bible classes. Our faith is the foundation for contemplation, communication and action.

We began the fourth decade of our ministry in 2011, trusting that God would lead us to accomplish the goals of financial stability, additional staffing, completion of capital repair projects and continued growth and development for our early childhood ministry programs. Through faith in action, we sought support for a one year capital campaign that successfully enabled the church council to approve the repair and resurfacing of the parking lot, to replace the parsonage roof and to establish a capital replacement fund for future needs. Through faith in action we were able to identify a candidate for the position of Director of Contemporary Music and we were blessed to add Dale Tippett, Jr. to the staff in that capacity. Through faith in action, the ministry of Celebration! Childcare Center, CrossWays PreSchool and Mom's Morning Out continue to grow and gain positive recognition within the community. Each of these accomplishments began from the same place as the quote from 2 Corinthians, they began from the point of "living by faith".

The Holy Cross church council is comprised of twelve elected members of the congregation and these leaders have graciously given of their time for monthly council meetings, ministry board meetings and additional leadership responsibilities. Three members will step down from their council posts in 2012. We are grateful for the years of service in leadership by Mike Dikelsky, Deb Sherrock and Vince Zupkus. It has been an honor to serve with these people and to have benefited from their insight, commitment and faithfulness.

In closing, it has been a privilege to serve as Council President during this past year. It would be impossible to thank each and every person who has supported, encouraged, counseled, guided and served with me in 2011 but know that each one of you have demonstrated servant hearts and have been important partners in this journey of faith with me. I would like to thank my family as well for your boundless patience and endless love.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Accettura

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Libertyville, IL

Who we are...

ACTS OF CELEBRATING CHRIST...

Vision Statement

"Providing Strength for the Faith Journey." As a Christian community we provide this strength and encourage people of faith to grow...by CELEBRATING Christ and his message of grace and hope in our lives, through our acts of COMPASSION which transforms peoples' lives, and, by nurturing COMMUNITY that reminds us that we are connected relationally.

Worship on Sunday mornings and special festivals throughout the year - Around the Cross Concert Series - Confirmation Choir - Youth Music Team - Sunday/Funday School - Mens Authentic Living series - Prayer Shawls - Counseling - CrossWays PreSchool - Baptisms and Holy Communion - Funerals - Ecumenical Partnerships - Internet Devotions - Vacation Bible School - Care of Creation emphasis - Performing Arts - Fair Trade ministry - Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago - Internship Ministry - Worship volunteers: greeters; ushers; readers; acolytes; acolyte assts.; Communion assts.; Assisting Ministers - Bread Bakers - Adult Choir - Instrumental Ensembles - Youth Choirs - Confirmation - Prayer Ministry - Pastoral Care and Visitation - Celebration Childcare - Moms Morning Out - Weddings - First Communion Instruction - New Member Reception - Third Grade Bible Presentations - Lutherdale Summer Camp - Visual Arts - Drama Ministry - Altar Care - "Blue Christmas" in Advent

ACTS OF NURTURING COMMUNITY...

High School Youth group - Kids of Promise - Kids of the Cross - Quilting - Mens Saturday Morning Discussion - Nursery ministry - Monday Night Bible Study - Interfaith Events - Womens Tuesday Morning Discussion - Church Picnic - Progressive Dinner - Monthly Newsletter - Spiritual Gifts Discernment classes - Red Rose Childrens Community Choir - Grief Support ministry - Fellowship events - Spiritual Disciplines - Book Club - Yoga Group - Bible Study groups - Middle School Youth group - Kids of the Kingdom - Common Threads - Gourmet Dinner Group - Mothering Matters - Parenting courses - Mother/Daughter Tea - Womens Saturday Morning Discussion - College Student Ministry - Thanksgiving Eve/St. Lawrence Episcopal - Lenten Soup Suppers - Leadership Development classes - Family Fall Festival - Hospitality through the building - Web Home Page - Creative writing - Tuesday Morning Mens Breakfast - Pilates Group- Abundant Life Group (financial practices) - Topical Study groups - Church Council - Ministry Boards

ACTS OF COMPASSION...

ELCA Benevolence - Lutheran World Relief - Youth mission trips - COOL food pantry/transitional housing - Lutheran Day Nursery, Chicago- PADS shelter ministry - Literacy Classes - Giving Tree - Meeting Space for community groups - South Africa AIDS/HIV clinic - Sagrado Corazon, Hispanic Mission in Waukegan (ESL, literacy, immigration, Bibles) - College Scholarship program, Mission Endowment Fund - ELCA World Hunger - Lutheran World Federation - Lutheran Social Services of Illinois - Rosebud Indian Reservation, S.D (housing, health, meals, VBS, literacy) - Advocate Health Care - Habitat for Humanity, Lake County - Malaria Net Project - Lake County United - ESL classes - Partnership with Glenkirk - Willow House ministry - CROP Walk Emergency assistance for individuals/families

THE BIBLE We teach that the Holy Bible is the Living Word of God and functions as the authority in matters of faith and life.

Mission Statement

We are a Christian community committed to celebrate God's Love for all creation. We boldly proclaim the Gospel that frees us to witness, minister, and live the Christian faith in our everyday lives.

Core Values

Core Values create the foundation that informs our ministry and life together. Core Values shape our congregational culture and character. Core Values drive our priorities and decision-making. Core values engage our creativity and imagination. Core Values communicate our distinctiveness and are descriptive of our life together in a faith community

- ◆ **"Come as You Are"** and **"Come Where You Are"** in your personal faith journey. You are welcome and will discover a place of hospitality as individuals and families move towards the ultimate goal of knowing God.
- ◆ Be inspired to **"Embrace God's Gift of Grace"** in a setting of openness and honesty through intentional engagement with the Christian tradition as embodied in faith practices.
- ◆ As people created in the image of God, we explore the connection between our passions and a sense of vocation as we **"Share our Gifts"** in a dynamic, authentic and genuine environment.
- ◆ **Compose a Christian way of life** through Christ-centered opportunities for personal transformation and discernment through sharing stories, risk taking, sharing the Word, praying, contemplating, and participating in truthful conversations around questions that surface in life.

Core Beliefs and Teachings

Core Beliefs and Teachings ground our investment in a relationship with God. Core Beliefs and Teachings connect us to a faith tradition. Core Beliefs and Teachings generate clarity in focus and purpose. Core Beliefs and Teachings define unity in midst of diversity. Core Beliefs and Teachings provide a framework of stability in a complex world of uncertainty.

GOD We teach that there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. A relationship with God is a gift not an accomplishment!

JESUS CHRIST We teach that Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully human, who by His death and resurrection has redeemed us.

THE HOLY SPIRIT The Holy Spirit is truly present at work in the community of believers. Its gifts vary from person to person and no one is left out .

HUMAN NATURE We teach that no one is perfect and that everyone has sin and needs the grace, love, and forgiveness of God.

PRAYER We are a people of prayer and believe that God will answer prayer and longs for all of us to grow in prayer.

THE SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER We believe, teach and confess that Jesus is truly present in, with and under the elements of water, bread, and wine nourishing our lives on earth with these gifts.

THE CHURCH Holy Cross Lutheran Church is a small part of a greater body of Christ alive in the world and affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

OUR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN HERITAGE AND IDENTITY We believe, teach, and confess our faith in the Lutheran reformation themes of: grace through faith alone, scripture alone, and Christ alone!

Administrative Ministry Board
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SURPLUS (DEFICIT)
Actual for years ended December 31, 2010 and 2011

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
RECEIPTS		
Early Childhood Ministries	942,912	1,071,695
Contributions		
Member	831,803	948,227
Congregational Challenge	65,743	-
Non Member Offerings	38,326	38,045
Special Benevolences	19,099	15,832
Festival & Other Offerings	22,097	21,170
Programs	13,147	10,693
Building Use	6,885	8,802
Interest Income	146	106
Other Non Budgeted	10,811	15,889
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>1,950,969</u>	<u>2,130,459</u>
EXPENSES		
Early Childhood Ministries	826,407	865,914
Administration Expenses		
Staff Salaries and Benefits	447,247	433,041
Administration	77,991	79,610
Buildings		
Mortgage	419,088	381,325
Property	57,991	165,211
Benevolence		
Synod (ELCA) Benevolence	71,725	73,999
Special Benevolences	26,677	22,165
Programs	27,539	26,806
Worship and Music	10,235	16,380
Other Non Budgeted	9,290	12,049
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,974,190</u>	<u>2,076,500</u>
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(23,221)</u>	<u>53,959</u>

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH BALANCES
Actual for years ended December 31, 2010 and 2011

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Cash - Building Fund	48,676	31,528
Cash - General Checking	12,557	29,556
Cash Contingency Reserve	51,030	61,299
CASH BALANCE, START OF YEAR	<u>112,263</u>	<u>122,383</u>
Operational Surplus (Deficit)	(23,221)	53,959
Interest Income on Contingency	269	170
Member Loans to Building Fund	30,000	-
Inc (Dec) in Other Assets/Liabilities	3,071	(10,585)
Changes in Cash Balance	<u>10,119</u>	<u>43,544</u>
CASH BALANCE, END OF YEAR	<u>122,382</u>	<u>165,927</u>

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED & RESTRICTED FUNDS
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF BENEVOLENCE
Actual for years ended December 31, 2010 and 2011**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
RECEIPTS		
Congregation Contributions	91,012	90,544
From Restricted Fund receipts	104,750	118,819
From Building Drive	7,390	5,620
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>203,152</u>	<u>214,983</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
Synod Benevolence	71,725	73,999
Other Benevolence		
World Hunger	3,017	6,773
COOL	10,657	7,554
Pads	2,384	1,692
Habitat for Humanity	2,964	2,501
Rosebud	2,455	3,718
Feed My Starving Children	102,295	115,101
Olivewood	317	
Willow House	-	365
ELCA Domestic Disaster Response	3,695	3,280
Haiti	3,424	
Village Markets of Africa	219	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>203,152</u>	<u>214,983</u>

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH STAFF & PROGRAMS
STATEMENTS OF CASH BALANCES
Actual for years ended December 31, 2010 and 2011**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Cash - General Checking	12,556	29,555
Cash Contingency Reserve	51,031	61,299
BALANCE, START OF YEAR	<u>63,587</u>	<u>90,854</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	23,640	(5,238)
Transfers		
Interest Income on Contingency	269	170
To Building Fund	(102,493)	(171,723)
From Early Childhood Ministries	102,780	192,056
Inc (Dec) in Other Assets/Liabilities	3,071	(10,544)
Changes in Cash Balance	<u>27,267</u>	<u>4,721</u>
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	<u>90,854</u>	<u>95,575</u>

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES
STATEMENTS OF SURPLUS (DEFICIT)
For years ended December 31, 2010 and 2011**

	2010				2011			
	Celebration! Childcare	Crossways Preschool	Mom's Morning Out	Totals	Celebration! Childcare	Crossways Preschool	Mom's Morning Out	Totals
REVENUE								
Tuition	809,824	90,955	18,173	918,952	941,989	88,810	18,581	1,049,380
Fees & Other	16,110	2,001	50	18,161	16,075	305	-	16,380
Fund Raising Income	599	4,335	865	5,799	1,733	4,202	-	5,935
Total revenue	826,533	97,291	19,088	942,912	959,797	93,317	18,581	1,071,695
OPERATING EXPENSES								
Salaries and wages	565,092	71,717	11,782	648,591	606,311	58,969	12,175	677,455
Taxes and Insurance	81,657	5,255	897	87,809	80,767	4,289	860	85,916
Total payroll expense	646,749	76,972	12,679	736,400	687,078	63,258	13,035	763,371
Meals	30,270	-	-	30,270	36,884	-	-	36,884
Supplies	14,449	2,197	1,006	17,652	17,453	1,601	1,137	20,191
Building	575	1,925	428	2,928	867	2,077	445	3,389
Administrative	20,566	1,351	597	22,514	22,550	1,069	496	24,115
Fund Raising Expenses	754	4,128	-	4,882	-	3,935	-	3,935
Other	10,647	1,108	6	11,761	9,709	63	34	9,806
Total Operating Expenses	724,010	87,681	14,716	826,407	774,541	72,003	15,147	861,691
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	102,523	9,610	4,372	116,505	185,256	21,314	3,434	210,004
OTHER CHURCH ACTIVITY								
Building Use Expenses	-	(11,340)	(2,385)	(13,725)	-	(11,340)	(2,385)	(13,725)
Contribution to Mortgage Account	(102,493)	-	-	(102,493)	(171,723)	-	-	(171,723)
Other Transfers						(4,223)		(4,223)
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	30	(1,730)	1,987	287	13,533	5,751	1,049	20,333

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
BUILDING FUND BALANCES**
For years ended December 31, 2010 and 2011

	<u>2010</u>		<u>2011</u>	
	Receipts (Expenses)	Balance	Receipts (Expenses)	Balance
FUND BALANCE, beginning of year		<u>48,676</u>		<u>31,528</u>
PARSONAGE				
Parsonage Reimbursement	20,400		20,400	
Property Taxes & Other	<u>(9,704)</u>		<u>(17,735)</u>	
Subtotal - Parsonage		10,696		2,665
CHURCH BUILDING				
Receipts & Financing				
Member Contributions	112,415		191,845	
From Operating Budget	153,672		153,672	
Contribution from Celebration!	102,493		171,723	
Member Loans	30,000		-	
Interest Income	<u>54</u>		<u>64</u>	
Total Receipts		<u>398,634</u>		<u>517,304</u>
Expenses				
Parking Lot	-		(76,773)	
Other Repairs	-		(17,427)	
Mortgage Payments	(419,088)		(381,325)	
Mission Outreach	<u>(7,390)</u>		<u>(5,620)</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>(426,478)</u>		<u>(481,145)</u>
Subtotal - Church		(27,844)		36,159
Total Change for Year		<u>(17,148)</u>		<u>38,824</u>
FUND BALANCE, end of year		<u>31,528</u>		<u>70,352</u>

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
REPORT OF MORTGAGE BALANCE**
For years ended December 31, 2010 and 2011

	<u>2010</u>		<u>2011</u>	
	Activity	Balance	Activity	Balance
BALANCE, START OF YEAR		4,985,134		4,873,730
Interest Expense	307,684		286,945	
Budgeted Payments	(419,088)		(381,325)	
Net Refinancing Fees Added to Note	<u>-</u>		<u>48,545</u>	
		<u>(111,404)</u>		<u>(45,835)</u>
BALANCE, END OF YEAR		<u>4,873,730</u>		<u>4,827,895</u>

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES**
For years ended December 31, 2010 and 2011

	Balance 31-Dec-09	Receipts	Expenses	Balance Dec 31, 2010	Receipts	Expenses	Balance Dec 31, 2011
Operating Cash Contingency Reserve							
Operating Cash Contingency	46,382	14,917		61,299			61,299
Stock in transit	-			-			-
Interest Income	4,648	269	4,917	-	170		170
Fund Balance	51,030	15,186	4,917	61,299	170	-	61,469
Deferred Income							
Prepaid Pledges	1,621	12,000	13,618	3	43,952	25,486	18,469
Building Fund Prepaid Pledges	-			-	51,417	1,417	50,000
Fund Balance	1,621	12,000	13,618	3	95,369	26,903	68,469
Northern Conference Cash							
Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	5,191		5,191
Church Program Funds							
ECM	706	2,670		3,376	5,809	505	8,680
Youth	6,519	22,980	16,056	13,443	35,563	23,913	25,093
Around the Cross	(1,712)	29,239	11,383	16,144	8,123	9,201	15,066
Back to Work Program	1,732		150	1,582		1,582	-
Kitchen / Hall Runner	1,930			1,930	4,809	335	6,404
Other	-	3,090	1,160	-			-
Program Development	52,500			52,500		7,004	45,496
Fund Balance	59,745	57,979	28,749	88,975	54,304	42,540	100,739
Property Accounts							
Audio Visual Project	201			201		201	-
Eagle Scout Project	-	1,728	1,728	-	427	308	119
Playground Upgrade Project	501		501	-			-
Undesignated Memorials	32,589	33,942	22,179	44,352	175	11,902	32,625
Fund Balance	33,291	35,670	24,408	44,553	602	12,411	32,744
Mission Endowment - Drawn							
Undesignated Endowment Proceeds	-	2,736	1,900	836	2,714	2,708	842
Designated Endowment Proceeds							-
Scholarships	-	6,000	4,100	1,900	1,902	3,775	27
Pastor's Discretionary	333	317	75	575	300	796	79
Fund Balance	333	9,053	6,075	3,311	4,916	7,279	948
Restricted Benevolence Accounts							
Feed my Starving Children	840	102,295	103,394	(259)	115,101	112,509	2,333
Rosebud	884	3,088	3,130	842	4,320	298	4,864
Fund Balance	1,724	105,383	106,524	583	119,421	112,807	7,197
Total - ALL RESTRICTED	147,744	235,271	184,291	198,724	279,973	201,940	276,757

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT FUND**
For fiscal years ended September 30, 2010 and 2011

	Balance Sep 30, 2009	Receipts	Expenses	Balance Sep 30, 2010	Receipts	Expenses	Balance Sep 30, 2011
Mission Endowment - Invested							
ELCA Pooled Trust	52,457	-	2,736	49,721	-	2,714	47,007
Market Fluctuation	5,219	5,458	-	10,677	(1,127)	-	9,550
Fund Balance	57,676	5,458	2,736	60,398	(1,127)	2,714	56,557

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee has audited the 2011 Financial Statements of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. The Committee conducted the audit based upon the ELCA suggested guidelines for audit procedures for the Financial Secretary and Treasurer. The Committee audited the books and records of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer for all Holy Cross Lutheran Church funds.

An audit is intended to provide a reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements are free of material misstatements. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence surrounding the amounts and disclosures of the Financial Statements. Cash receipts, disbursements and bank statements were reviewed, along with benevolence computations and disbursements, insurance policies and coverage and payroll tax compliance and filing of returns. An audit also includes assessing the record-keeping policies in place, the procedures taken to follow approved policies and the overall presentation of the Financial Statements. The Committee believes the recently completed audit provides a reasonable basis for issuing an opinion.

In the joint opinion of the Audit Committee, the Financial Statements referred to above represent fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Holy Cross Lutheran Church on December 31, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Miller and Nancy Ryan

“Blessed to Bless – Forward in Faith 2011/2012” Capital Appeal **(June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012)**

“Blessed to Bless – *Forward in Faith 2011/2012*” is the theme for the capital appeal that began on June 1, 2011 and concludes on May 31, 2012. This one-year appeal was authorized at the January 2011 annual congregational meeting and was conducted in May 2011. Initially we heard from 44 member households. A follow-up mailing was conducted in late June together with a matching gift challenge. At that time we heard from an additional 41 member households. In addition, we have approximately 22 member households who are continuing to contribute to this appeal through Simply Giving.

As you will recall this one-year campaign had four stated goals:

- 1) Mortgage Debt Service
- 2) Parsonage Roof replacement
- 3) Church parking lot repair/maintenance
- 4) Establishing a capital "replacement" fund

Combining member pledges, Simply Giving anticipated receipts over the next year, and matching gift funds, we are anticipating receipts will exceed \$200,000. This is sufficient to cover all four goals above. In fact, initial receipts during the summer allowed us to proceed with both the parsonage roof replacement and the resurfacing of the church parking lot (i.e. items 2 and 3 above). Both projects were completed by the end of August, and both projects were under budget. Actual receipts and associated expenditures for the full calendar year are detailed in the financial reports.

Thank you for your continuing support.

“Blessed to Bless...Forward in Faith” Leadership Team

Harold Sargent

Eric Phillips

Sarah Accettura

Pastor Bob Davis

Mission Endowment

Created in 2000, the Mission Endowment Fund supports ministry beyond the operating budget of the congregation. An initial gift of \$75,000.00 established the endowment followed by additional gifts from Holy Cross members that were designated toward scholarships. Invested with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Foundation Pooled Trust, approximately 5% of the market value of the Fund is distributed annually in the following categories:

- Ministry opportunities within the congregation
- Ministry opportunities beyond the congregation
- College scholarship support for members of the congregation
- Discretionary needs determined by the pastors
- Other needs as decided by the Mission Endowment Fund Committee

In 2011, Twenty five scholarships, totaling \$3,775.00 were awarded to Andrea Guido, Ian Kinsella, Patrick Klein, Erin Jaffke, Kelsey Skutnick, Michelle Sendy, Brittany Murphy, Monica Jo Meyer, Steven Kveton, Andrea Lubenow, Erin Waehner, Kelly Jaffke, Alyssa Dahlke, Taylor Barnett, Eric Hanrath, David Johnson, Peter Johnson, Mark Brask, Lissy Pfister, Kerstin Taylor, Laura Brask, Travis Meyer, Leah Meyer, Lisa Kinsella, Steven Brask.

Social Ministry was granted \$602.00 (Rosebud Indian Reservation)

Worship and Music Ministry was given \$902.00.

A grant of \$300.00 was placed in the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

A special awards ceremony was held during the services on August 1, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Oelschlager
Mission Endowment Fund Ministry

Staff Support

The Staff Support Committee was responsible for executing the position assessment reviews for the church staff in 2011. The committee was divided into three teams of two members each to interview their assigned staff members according to an assessment questionnaire. All comments were compiled and distributed to the entire committee for review. From this review, several position descriptions were modified and will be approved by church council. Position assessment reviews will be completed for the pastoral staff in early February 2012.

The Staff Support Committee members are:

Janet Brownlie	Van McClellan	Diane Rammelsberg
Mark Remissong	Harold Sargent	Sarah Accettura

Director of Congregational Business Affairs

The responsibility of the DCBA may be divided into four categories.

Building and Grounds Maintenance

The campus occupies a ten acre site on St. Mary's Road. Lawn mowing, shrub trimming and seasonal flower bed clean up is provided by a landscaping service. Snow removal and salting of the parking lot in the winter is also contracted. The remainder of the grounds maintenance is performed by volunteers. In addition to the 40,000 sq. ft. main building, we own the house and garage south of the parking lot, which is used as a parsonage by Pastor Krista and her family.

Carmen and Abel Cervantes, our Custodians take care of all the cleaning of the church building, with the exception that Celebration! Child Care staff provides week day cleaning of their area. We contract for elevator service, heating and cooling system maintenance, and fire alarm and sprinkler system maintenance. Whenever possible the remaining building maintenance is provided by volunteers or staff.

Building and Grounds Special Projects

Most projects are completed by volunteers. Projects that may require special skills are contracted.

Work continues on the restoration of the prairie/savanna/wetland area south of the parsonage. David Husmoller and a crew continue to attack the non-natives, such as buckthorn and other invasive plants. The Spring weather was not cooperative this year, so we were unable to perform the controlled burn. An Eagle Scout project executed by Zack Alban cleared the area around the fire pit, re-mulched the path and reset the edging timbers. He also added a rack for fire wood and re-stacked all of the fire wood.

The parsonage roof was replaced and the parking lot was repaired and resurfaced. Several new outlet circuits were added in the sanctuary, fellowship area AV Room and offices. Additionally, the sanctuary lighting was re-wired, spreading the lighting over more circuits.

Business Affairs and Relationships

The DCBA is also the Business Administrator, handling contracts, legal issues and serves as the primary contact for Holy Cross to governmental units such as police, fire, zoning, etc. and for all users of the building. The elevator requires a permit and is inspected twice a year and requires an annual hydraulic pressure test. Fire alarm system, fire extinguishers, sprinkler system, and backflow valves require annual inspections and maintenance. The Libertyville Fire Department inspects the building at least annually.

The DCBA oversees the purchases of services, supplies and equipment. This year we replaced the computer in the AV room, replaced the sound mixer and added software for worship service presentations. This year we began purchasing energy from alternative sources. Natural gas continues to be delivered by North Shore Gas, but the gas is supplied by Realgy Energy Services. Commonwealth Edison continues to delivery electricity, but Liberty Power is the supplier.

Human Resource

The DCBA also serves to a limited extent as the HR manager. We maintain a group medical plan which is available to non-clergy fulltime staff. Several teachers in Celebration! Childcare are now carried on this plan. This plan includes a high deductible major medical plan, along with a HRA plan for the purpose of obtaining a lower premium.

As always, we appreciate the work of the many volunteers that help out in the office, on building and grounds projects, newsletter assemble, and many other special projects.

Respectfully submitted,

George Bueltmann, Director of Congregational Business Affairs

Adult Ministry Board

Adults Living and Learning (A.L.L.)

Adults gathered together periodically on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. to study and discuss a number of topics. Beginning in the month of January, the group studied "Symbols in Faith" that came from the Old and New Testaments, with a focus on the book of Revelation. During Lent, the group studied the Seven Last Words of Christ as understood from the Old Testament. Taking a break in the summer time, the group began the study of Evil: Defining Evil, Encountering Evil, and Overcoming Evil. In the year 2012, as the congregation reads the Bible in "Traveling With God's Word," specific topics will be chosen for study as Adults continue to Live and Learn. All adults are invited to attend any of these sessions during the 9:30 a.m. worship hour in Room 208.

Autumn Fest 2011

Holy Cross celebrated its first annual Autumn Fest in 2011, on October 22. We had beautiful weather, delicious and plentiful food, great music provided by Dale Tippett, Errol Brown and Mike Dikelsky and wonderful activities planned for both young people and those young at heart. Thank you to all the cooks and bar-b-que masters and volunteers who made this all possible!

Around the Cross Concerts

The Holy Cross Choir, accompanied by an ensemble of two flutes, oboe, English horn, and two bassoons, presented for the Christmas season **LAUD TO THE NATIVITY** by Ottorino Respighi on Sunday, December 19, 2010. Written in 1930 the work featured two soprano soloists in the role of an angel and Mary, and a tenor soloist in the role of a shepherd. Our guest soprano soloists were Anne Marie Ouverson and Lisann Barnes-Seymour, both of whom have sung previously at Holy Cross.

NAOMI BENSDFORF AND FRIENDS, Sunday, January 30, 2011, 4 P.M. Naomi Bendsdorf Frisch, a well-known and respected oboist in the Chicago area, was featured in a concert accompanied by strings, harpsichord, and piano. Previously Naomi played for our BACHFEST, for our production of "Amahl and the Night Visitors," for our presentation of Distler's "A Little Advent Music, for our presentation of Handel's "My Song Shall Be Always," and on numerous other occasions.

THE DEROCHE-BREWER DUO, Saturday, November 5 presented our annual coffeehouse concert for the benefit of the youth of Holy Cross. These gentlemen played for this same program in 2010 and the reaction to them was so outstanding we brought them back after only a year. Their performance at Holy Cross was an evening of pleasant and easy listening music in a variety of styles.

CHANDOS ANTHEM NO. 3: HAVE MERCY UPON ME by George Frideric Handel, April 10, 2011. Holy Cross Choir, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services.

PEDER EIDE, Sunday, April 17, 2011— performed at Holy Cross on Palm Sunday morning and evening. He has sung at national conferences, conventions, concerts, and churches with a presentation geared to the entire family. Peder declares that his "goal is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through music, audience participation, and my example."

KURT JOHNSON, BARB CANNON, RANDY CASEY, Sunday, May 8, 2011, 4 p.m.—This trio of three members of Holy Cross returned to perform a program of American music, the highlight of which was the "Piano Trio" by Leonard Bernstein.

Bible Study, Monday Afternoon

This group changed its structure and time this year. They still meet on the first and third Monday of each month (with some changes due to holidays, etc.), but now meet at 3:00 PM rather than 7:00 PM. The format has changed to include movies relating to the books and/or areas of the Bible studied. The group may request a certain book and/or topic of the Bible. Some of the movies and related topics we covered in 2011 were, the book of Esther, the travels of St. Paul, the life of Jeremiah, to name only a few. Pastor Joleen leads this bible study.

Blue Christmas - December 11th, 2011

Once again, Holy Cross extended an invitation to a "Blue Christmas" worship service to those of us experiencing sadness around the Christmas season due to the loss of a loved one, or perhaps the loss of job or other concerns. Through sharing and hearing special prayers, scripture and music, it became a time to move from feeling "blue" to experiencing the wonder and hope of Christmas.

Book Club

The book club is a group of women who enjoy reading and gathering together to discuss a book each month. Books are selected to include biographies, classics, non-fiction, historical, science-fiction, to name only a few of the expectations in reading of this group. Some of the more interesting discussions came from such books as *The Sounds of Wings: the life of Amelia Earhart*, *The South of Broad*, *Cutting for Stone*, and *Robinson Crusoe*. The woman who provides her home and goodies also leads the discussion of the book; the questions are often taken from the internet. Individuals are invited to join at any time. The list of books for the year 2012 may be obtained by calling or e-mailing Pastor Joleen.

Career Transitions

When the economy became difficult this past year or two (2008-2009), individuals who were laid off, given early retirement, or in some way, lost their jobs gathered together for support and the sharing of ideas. This group meets periodically and the facilitators are available at any time for anyone needing guidance/support. They have changed from meeting monthly to an Ongoing Career Coaching and 1 on1 Ministry. Persons who would like information, skills, techniques, and more in-depth discussions may contact Matthew Coyne, Kay Meyer, or Van McClellan.

Casual Gourmet

This is a group of individuals who love to prepare, eat and discover unique foods through "casual gourmet" evenings. The group meets two to four times a year in the homes of individuals offering to host. We have changed the format from a dinner to heavy appetizers and wine usually with a theme of some kind. Example: Asian, French, Mexican, etc. The hosts plan the menu and provide recipes. With this kind of format we don't have to worry about seating everyone as in the dinner format. Reservations are made in advance so we know how to plan. If you would like to join us, please contact Judy Luplow or Kristin Skutnick.

Choir

The 2011 year of music making for the Holy Cross Choir was spent in large preparing for the January, 2012 concert of the Ralph Vaughan Williams HODIE. Otherwise, the choir continued to provide fine anthems from January through May and September through December for the worship services and a variety of soloists sang during the summer months. The only extended work the choir presented in 2011 was the Handel Chandos Anthem "Have Mercy on Me, O Lord," which was given on a Sunday morning during Lent.

Kurt Johnson, Barb Cannan, and yours truly played their annual trio recital on Mother's Day of 2011 with a program of all-American music, featuring a trio by Leonard Bernstein.

As always I am grateful for the leadership of Carrie Mack to our children, for the enthusiasm and support of Carl Hansen for the upkeep of the fine organ in our sanctuary, and for Owen Hill for turning the piano our sanctuary.

The most immediate project on hand for the Holy Cross Choir is the singing of Randall Thompson's

"Ode to the Virginian Voyage" in May with the Waukegan Concert Chorus. This will be unusual in two ways in that the music is secular and it will not be at Holy Cross.

Other musical adventures are planned in the fall of 2012 and the spring of 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Casey

Christian Outreach of Lutherans (C.O.O.L.)

Holy Cross continues to joyfully and actively support the important social ministry of COOL Ministries (Christian Outreach of Lutherans). Holy Cross is a founding member church along with other Lutheran churches in Lake County and is represented on the COOL Board of Directors.

Two food pantry locations - Pantry EAST Waukegan and Pantry WEST Ingleside served over 482,952 meals last year to 34,105 individuals.

The COOL Family Housing program provides housing for families who were previously homeless and a comprehensive program to develop life skills for long term self-sufficiency. Sixteen families participated during the year in this program.

Holy Cross supports COOL throughout the year in a number of ongoing and special projects including:

Weekly deliveries of food donations collected from members and as part of the Children's Message

Members donated 135 Easter "Baskets" containing items needed for Easter dinner meals including donations for purchase of Easter hams which were distributed to pantry guests during Holy Week.

The annual Spring Plant sale is supported by both volunteers and purchase of plants directly from a greenhouse in Michigan, which provides funding for COOL programs. A special thanks to Pat Canty for her work on both the sale at Holy Cross and the overall plant sale across all member churches. A wide variety of plants are available for ordering in March and are delivered in early May for pick-up at Bethel Lutheran in Gurnee.

Holy Cross members participated in the first annual COOL 5K run and walk at Old School Forest Preserve the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

In December, the Angel Tree included 69 gifts purchased for all current guests in the Transitional Housing programs. Gifts purchased are given to family members at the annual COOL Christmas Party in December.

COOL is supported by many members, a special note of thanks to Pat Canty for her ongoing support in many activities, Tracy Kinsella for her work on the Giving Tree, Pam Kula for her weekly delivery of food donations and Mick Garrison for pitching in whenever he is needed!

We are thankful for and appreciate your ongoing support and prayers for this social ministry to benefit Lake County residents.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Rammelsberg, January 2012

Christmas Cookie Walk

At our 3rd Annual Christmas Cookie Walk, we raised nearly \$2,475; yes, that's right, and not a cookie crumb was left after Sunday morning! All proceeds will go toward upgrading the Two Strike Community Center bathroom facilities, building additional benches, and perhaps providing insulation to keep the center warm as children gather there after school for snacks and help with their homework.

The idea of a cookie walk here at Holy Cross had its roots on the drive back from South Dakota 3 years ago. Little did we know what we started! The *abundance* of support for the cookie walk and for our mission work at Two Strike has grown each year. When we asked our talented bakers to donate an extra dozen cookies this year, the response was phenomenal...100 members signed up to donate cookies!

On Friday, plates and plates of cookies and candies were delivered in *abundance*! Holy Cross members, Kris and Morgan DeGregor, donated a homemade gingerbread log cabin for our raffle and what a hit it

was on Saturday! Alex Dikelsky was the lucky winner of the log cabin raffle, and his brother, Jacob, happily accepted on his behalf! Cindy Zywicki was the winner of our gift basket raffle.

Pastor Joleen wrote in her Christmas message, "As we enjoy the *abundance* of these cookies, let us remember the primitiveness and poverty of others in our country, specifically the Lakota tribe of Native Americans who live on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in Two Strike, South Dakota. Their comfort comes from our efforts to remember and share our *abundance* with them, through the gifts of our talents as we work with them to improve their community center, and to provide them with warm outdoor wear and various other everyday items throughout the year."

We are humbled by your continued support of our work to share God's word and love with the Two Strike community.

A special note of thanks to Susan Beck, Barb Sargent, Sara Delli Paoli, Jen Christensen, Sarah and Caitlin Fahey, Patty Kozak, Pat and George Bueltmann, Pastor Krista and Pastor Bob for your assistance!

See you next year!

Barb Fox, Pastor Joleen Gleasman, Beth Koenemann, Therese & Alex Delli Paoli, Kristin Skutnick, Tammy Early

Common Threads

Common Threads meets the second and fourth Monday nights of every month through the year. This group adopted the prayer shawl ministry. Prayer shawls are made by individual members, blessed in a worship service, and then given to someone ill, in the hospital, or in need of comfort by members of Holy Cross. Those who attend continue to work on their own projects as well. Judy Luplow and Cindy LeMieux are happy to answer any questions about the group and welcome anyone (member or not) to participate.

Contemporary Worship Music

Greetings all, and welcome to my annual report! Contemporary Music Ministry here at Holy Cross is a growing ministry that is showing more and more promise as the months roll by and as we get new singers, musicians, and media technicians to join in our efforts to bring new experiences and different levels of expression to worship. So far we're about a dozen or so folks who love to participate in creating a variety of musical styles that are proving to be a blessing to the worship of everyone who joins us on a Sunday morning. Right now, we're operating on a single band setup, but I'd love to get a second and maybe a third group started within the next couple of months. Anyone interested in joining us in exploring new possibilities in worship, whether musical or technical, can contact me directly at 773.987.2370

Blessings All Around!
Dale Tippett, Jr.

Feed My Starving Children - 2011 Packing Event

Holy Cross hosted its fourth FMSC Packing Event this year and again, it was a huge success. Volunteer spaces filled up almost entirely the day the sign-up site (onemillionmeals.info) went live online.

Meals packed: 800,925 [goal: 500,000 to 800,000], enough to feed 2,200 children for a year.

Number of volunteers: Around 4,000 = 10,000 volunteer hours

And....we met our financial goal! Thank you to all who participated, donated, planned and set up this year's event - for your time, effort and generosity. Since 2008, 16,000 volunteers have packed over 3,000,000 meals!!!

Film Club

Members (and guests!) who love the "old films" gathered together this past year. Following a delicious meal, participants were treated to a film selected from the Alfred Hitchcock library. The committee providing the food and film consisted of Judy Luplow, Ann Witbeck, and Pastor Joleen.

Free Spirits

This group of seniors over the age of 55 were on the road this past year. Some events held this year included a game afternoon, trips to Apple Treow (the apple orchard, cider, and winery) in Wisconsin, The Grove in Glenview, the antique car museum in Volo, the Chicago Botanic Garden, to name only a few. Details/information for each event are available from Ann Witbeck and Pastor Joleen.

Giving Tree

Thanks to the generous support of the Holy Cross congregation, in 2011 our Giving Tree ministry was able to reach out to three different populations:

Sixty-nine beautifully wrapped gifts were distributed to the residents of COOL Transitional Housing in Waukegan at their annual Christmas party.

Combining efforts with Celebration Childcare, Holy Cross collected 82 pair of snow boots to be given to preschoolers in two Lutheran Social Services Headstart programs in Chicago.

Gifts and necessities were sent to the Rosebud Indian reservation.

With sincere appreciation to the congregation, Tracy Kinsella

Habitat for Humanity

Gardening Together is a program where Master Gardeners are teamed with Habitat Homeowners to help them landscape their new homes. The primary goal of the organization is to obtain donations of tools and other gardening equipment, (basically anything that you would want to use in the garden would be an acceptable donation). They also like to have volunteers to help on work day which is planned in May to help with digging, planting etc. This year, Pastor Bob through his connection with Ace Hardware in Libertyville was able to procure a generous supply of rakes, shovels and other tools for our Homeowners.

My son & I find it to be very rewarding to be there on work day handing out these supplies. It's a wonderful feeling to help these people who are so appreciative and to be a part of building a community.

Melissa Maderer

Holy Cross at Ravinia

Holy Cross members interested in picnicking, fellowship and wonderful music attended three concerts at Ravinia Festival during the summer of 2011. The performers were Wynton Marsalis, Hall & Oates and Chicago.

Lake County United

Holy Cross is one of the founding institutions of Lake County United. We have various levels of involvement beginning with representation on the steering team; members involved with various working groups on aging with dignity Waukegan to College housing and healthcare; and, members who have participated in training opportunities. Here is a summary of Lake County United's activities and our partnership in ministry. You can find more information at www.lakecountyunited.org.

What is Lake County United?

Lake County United is an independent, non-partisan organization of churches, synagogues, mosques, civic and non-profit institutions from across Lake County that have joined together across religious, geographic, racial, and economic lines to fight for the common good on issues of shared concern. Founded in 2003, Lake County United is an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the oldest and largest network of community organizations in the U.S.

What does Lake County United do?

Builds Relationships

Lake County United puts a priority on organizing by building relationships and bringing together the broad diversity of Lake County. Lake County United leaders include Christians, Muslims, Jews, and seculars; blacks, whites, and Latinos; and people from every economic class. Out of this deliberate, painstaking work of building relationships, Lake County United is helping to create a vibrant and inclusive political culture in Lake County.

Since 2003, Lake County United has made a significant positive impact on the lives of families in its member institutions and thousands of others across Lake County. Examples include:

Education

Lake County United launched **Waukegan to College**, an innovative college readiness program assisting more than 30 mostly immigrant students and their families to achieve the American Dream of educational advancement and upward mobility.

Aging with Dignity

Lake County United reversed talk of shutting down Winchester House, Lake County's nursing home for anyone regardless of means; instead, the County will break ground on a \$31 million new, state-of-the-art facility in 2011.

Develops Leaders

Lake County United works with people from all walks of life to give them the opportunity to lead in their own congregations and communities as well as across the metro Chicago region. Through regular training and a steady routine of preparation, action, and evaluation, people from all walks of life are able to develop the skills and habits of strong leaders and to use them effectively.

Renews Congregations & Institutions

Whenever clergy and lay leaders are seeking to strengthen their institutions, Lake County United offers training and support on how to use organizing tools and techniques in revitalizing and renewing leadership teams and a clear sense of mission and direction. With the IAF, Lake County recently published *Effective Organizing for Congregational Renewal* highlighting several local examples of this work.

Who is Lake County United?

Lake County United's membership includes a variety of churches, synagogues, mosques and other non-profit institutions from across Lake County.

CONGREGATIONS:

Annunciation Episcopal, Gurnee
Christ Episcopal, Waukegan
Christ United Methodist, Deerfield
Church of the Holy Spirit Episcopal, Lake Forest
Congregation Beth Judea, Long Grove
Congregation Or Shalom, Vernon Hills
Congregation Solel, Highland Park
First Presbyterian, Libertyville
Grace United Methodist, Lake Bluff
Holy Cross Lutheran, Libertyville
Immaculate Conception Catholic, Highland Park
Islamic Foundation North, Waukegan
Libertyville United Methodist, Libertyville
Living Faith United Methodist, Waukegan
Most Blessed Trinity Catholic, Waukegan
North Shore Unitarian, Bannockburn
Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Episcopal, Waukegan
St. Francis de Sales Catholic, Lake Zurich

St. Gregory Episcopal, Deerfield
St. James Lutheran, Lake Forest
St. Joseph Catholic, Libertyville
St. Lawrence Episcopal, Libertyville
St. Mary of Vernon Catholic, Vernon Hills
St. Patrick Catholic, Wadsworth
St. Paul the Apostle Catholic, Gurnee
St. Paul Lutheran, Waukegan
Trinity Episcopal, Highland Park
Waukegan Community Church, Waukegan

NON-PROFITS:

Affordable Housing Corp. of Lake County, Libertyville
Barat Education Foundation, Lake Forest
Lake County Center for Independent Living, Mundelein
Lion's Math & Science Christian Academy, Waukegan
Perfomigence, North Chicago
St. Martin de Porres High School, Waukegan
Waukegan Public Library, Waukegan

Lenten Services

Holy Cross invited you to Encounter God beyond the walls of the church during Lent 2011 with "A Geography of Faith" as the theme. After our traditional soup supper on Wednesday nights, we gathered for the mid-week evening worship. The themes covered were: Waking up to God, Paying Attention, Getting Lost, Living with Purpose, Saying No, Feeling Pain. We discovered meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see from simple practices such as walking or working a prayer—How by paying attention to what we are doing, we open ourselves up to new discoveries of slowing down and practicing reverence in what then becomes an act of meditation.

Lutheran World Relief—Coffee Project

In 1996 the LWR Coffee Project was born. The Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project enables Holy Cross to enjoy great coffee and tea while helping small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the U.S. as they build a better future for themselves and their families. Farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit and gain a long-term trading partner they can trust, namely Equal Exchange. Holy Cross buys its coffee from Equal Exchange and the first Sunday of the every month, people at Holy Cross have the opportunity to purchase coffee, chocolate and tea. For each pound of coffee, tea or cocoa purchased by Lutheran churches, Equal Exchange makes a contribution to the LWR “Small Farmer Fund.”

Lutherans have committed to the use of Fair Trade Coffee for 15 years. Here is what Lutherans have done through the LWR Coffee Project as reported in the Lutheran World Relief Newsletter for December 2011.

- Lutherans drank 2.5 million pounds of Fair Trade Coffee
- Lutherans raised \$566,000 for LWR Small Farmer Fund

Holy Cross has sold \$2700. of Fair Trade Products in 2011.

We appreciate your continued support. We sold \$2700. of Fair Trade Products in 2011.

Susan Munch & Jeri Powers

Men’s Breakfast Group

This group meets every Tuesday morning at 7 am at the Wildberry Restaurant. Their topics for discussion come from conversation raised by the individuals, usually focusing around the activities of the congregation, etc. For further information, men may contact Pastor Bob.

2011 Men’s Saturday Morning Discussion...

Throughout the year a group of men gather for meaningful conversation and fellowship on Saturday mornings. Our morning begins with prayer, coffee, food and finishes with thoughtful and sustaining relationships. We begin at 7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. Some of the books/topics we discussed were:

The People’s Companion to the Bible - a study of the Hebrew Bible, New Testament and the Apocrypha. Topics: The Bible as a text of, and in, cultures: The Bible as an instrument of reconciliation: A responsible Christian interpretation of the Hebrew Scripture: Reading the scriptures through “others eyes,” a self-inventory for Bible readers: Jesus and cultures: The “People of God” and the “peoples of the earth.”

America’s Four Gods— by Paul Froese & Christopher Bader. Topic: America’s greatest rifts are not between atheists and believers, or between those of different faiths. What divides us is how we conceive of God and the role He plays in our daily lives. The group discussed four distinct deities: the Authoritative God, the Benevolent God, the Critical God and the Distant God.

Forgiveness—A Time to Love & a Time to Hate— a PBS film with writer/director/producer Helen Whitney. The group discussed the definition of forgiveness and the fact that however it’s defined, it’s powerful—and never more so than when it struggles with the unforgiveable....Apartheid, the shooting of Amish children in Pennsylvania, the Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide... What is the power of forgiveness? What are its limitations? Has it been cheapened, deepened or both?

Surprised by Hope: Rethinking heaven, the resurrection, and the mission of the church by N.T. Wright—Topic: “If you died tonight, do you know where you would go?” After reading the author’s convincing argument, the group discussed how what we believe about life after death directly affects what we believe about life before death.

New Member Breakfasts

Four times a year we welcome new members to our congregation. Part of that welcome is a new member breakfast on the Saturday before the Reception of New Members the next day during worship. The new member breakfast team gathers together and prepares a light repast of fresh fruit and pastries that are enjoyed while visiting with the new members. A brief introduction is then given to explain the workings of the church and the faith opportunities available to all members. The 2011 Breakfast Team was: Cheryl Miller, Steve Oelschlager, Kris Petlak, Kathy Roscher, Warren Thummel, Susan Williamson, and Ann Witbeck. They were assisted by Pastor Bob. Thank you to all of them for their contributions and for helping our new members feel comfortable and at home at Holy Cross.

Pilates

The Pilates group meets at Holy Cross Church most Monday evenings of the month for a session of exercise that keeps the body flexible and strong. Sessions are lead by an employed trainer and the cost is shared by the group. Jodi Zombolo coordinates the times and dates with the trainer and receives the donations needed for each session. A wonderful way to exercise and share fellowship at the same time!

Prayer Group

In response to the many requests for prayer, this group was formed and together lifts up the prayers and concerns of this congregation. The people they pray for are those listed on the prayer concerns and those listed in the book provided in the prayer corner, as well as the personal prayers of those praying. Individual cards are sent (when addresses are available) to the members of Holy Cross who are listed on the prayer concerns in the church bulletin and on the website, and at certain times of the year to remind them someone is praying for them. Individuals with any special prayer request or anyone who would like to become a part of this ministry may contact Ann Witbeck or Pastor Joleen.

Assistants in Prayer

Beginning in 2011, an "Assistant in Prayer" was made available for private prayer following communion during the worship service at the rear of the sanctuary. These individuals make themselves available for instantaneous prayers for those to be prayed for. The list of prayer assistants is growing but we continue to need volunteers who wish to become Assistants in Prayer. Anyone interested is asked to contact Ann Witbeck or Pastor Joleen for training and activity.

Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS)

Support for PADS, which continued in 2011, ministering to the homeless in our communities, comes from many different people. The first Sunday of every month from October through April, our congregation helps to provide a warm and healthy meal and shelter for over fifty homeless men, women and children at the Community Christian Church in Waukegan. This past year, church members donated food, beverages, paper goods and their time. The Holy Cross Confirmation classes provided a bagged lunch for the homeless to take with them the next morning.

We would like to thank all of those members, who have contributed to this ministry. Through your continued support we are able to help the less fortunate.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Munch PADS Coordinator

Quilting and More

This quilting group meets in the computer room each Wednesday morning beginning at 9 a.m. Quilts are created and donated to Habitat for Humanity, COOL Transitional Housing, Project Linus, Quilts of Valor, and Lutherdale. Other projects may be decided on by the individuals present for quilting. Jenet Bakke, Deb Sherrock, and Nancy Joiner welcome anyone who is interested in participating in this group

Relational Ministries

This past year has been an incredibly fun year. Seeing relationships bud and grow, new relationships beginning, and all from knowing that Christ is the center and the one loving and providing it is truly the definition of rejoicing.

The most important relationships we have are the one with our LORD and the ones we have with each other. (It looks a lot like a triangle – or the symbol of the holy trinity.) To see these develop and to be a part of it is humbling and I am honored to be in this position.

The willingness to study and learn, to grow in our faith, and the flow of concerns for one another - both in our congregation and the world-at-large, is shown in all of our prayer ministries.

This is also shown in the work behind the scenes for our upcoming journey, “Traveling with God’s Word in 2012.” Blind acceptance of any and all requests to open their homes, the interest and purchase of Bibles to include children in our journey, and the interest enough to ask questions, assures us that “it is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for God’s good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13) Such a relationship is worth any time and effort it takes and comes with results beyond our imaginations.

As we look forward to the upcoming year, may God continue to bless our relationships that tell of God’s work within us, around us, and through us – to the growth and well-being of God’s people here and throughout the world.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Dr. Joleen M. Gleasman, Director of Relational Ministries

Rosebud Indian Reservation - *Rosebud Mission Trip 2011 = Mission Accomplished!*

The Community Center looks inviting and has great “curb appeal” thanks to the efforts of our talented youth team under the leadership of Beth Marhenke. The kids got into the action too-they were proud to be able to assist and I am praying that nobody tries to deface the building.

We all were able to put on weight thanks to the incredible creations Jen Christensen and her junior chefs whipped out of the kitchen and delivered to us. Homemade apple pies [yummers!J] Cinnamon rolls...to die for! This will be a hard act to follow in years to come.

I believe our real mission out at Rosebud is to provide a week of joy for the children and to continue to build on our relationships there. I applaud Ernie Rogalla and our “high schoolers” for the smiles and screams of laughter from young and old members of the community. Ernie was in charge of Vacation Bible School. He kept them involved and entertained and I recommend teaching as a 2nd career for Ernie. I will be the first reference.

Carole Kenney was my “right hand” as she has been to Rosebud in the past and was able to assist whenever a “situation or opportunity” would come up. The children adore her-she was like the Momma Bear of hugs ...prayers you will join in the fun next summer!!!

Last but certainly not least I wish to acknowledge Pastor Krista and her contributions in making this an incredible faith journey for our youth and our friends at Rosebud. You always managed to find the perfect bible passage for the moment or just inspiring words of comfort for so many during the week. Thanks for your organizational skills!!!

Best for last - our 18 talented, caring, smart young adults that continued their faith journey at Rosebud this summer. Anna Basten, Caitlin Fahey, Sarah Fahey, Ali Heidecke, Aaron Houser, Alison Kelly, Emmy Denison, Mitch Kenney, Katy Marhenke, Robert McCormick, Paige Vaughn, Taylor Miksch, Claudia Morin, Emma McGee, Hannah McClellan, Andy Rogalla, Colleen Rooney and Beth Winegardner-God bless each of you for being YOU! Thanks for your positive attitudes no matter what was asked of you. Thanks for stepping out of your comfort zone so many times-it was fun for me to watch you grow... that experience will serve you well as you continue on in your faith journeys. Believe in yourselves because each of you will succeed.

I thank you for your continued support in this relationship commitment we have at Rosebud. The 3rd Annual Cookie Walk was a huge success-I have never seen so many varieties of cookies in my life-and what a great way to do outreach in the Community! The Giving Tree Gifts have been received and I will

include Dorothy Peterson's thank you note in my next newsletter article. Thank you for praying for our friends...especially the children and those trying to break free from the addictions that are so prevalent on the reservation.

Please contact me should you have any questions about Rosebud. We will be going out again this summer (date yet to be determined) so IF you are interested call me.

Faithfully yours,
Barb Fox

P.S. Julia Child also sends her thanks for the wonderful turnout of those who came out to "bake and buy"you are amazing!

Social Ministries Team

The Social Ministries Team coordinates Holy Cross's outreach to ministries such as COOL, Habitat for Humanity, Lake County United, PADS, Rosebud Indian Reservation, and Winchester House as well as fair trade sales and donations supporting ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran World Relief. Our team is made up of dedicated volunteer coordinators, who spend many hours planning and leading projects with Holy Cross members in support of these ministries.

As always, we are very appreciative of the support of Holy Cross members, who generously share their resources and time with those in need.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Moyer

Summer Saturday Evening Services

Holy Cross adopts a different worship schedule during the summer months of June, July, and August. Saturday Evening worship begins at 5:30 pm and we celebrate Holy Communion each week. The third Saturday of each month offers the opportunity for special prayers of healing to be offered during the worship service. This worship time is more "casual" and relies upon acts of confession/forgiveness, prayer, music, sacraments and God's Word to provide the structure and substance of the service. We also enjoy special vocal and instrumental offerings. We have two Sunday morning worship services at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. with fellowship and educational time in between.

Holy Week Tableaux Vivants

A **Tableau vivant** (plural: **tableaux vivants**) is French for "living picture." The term describes a striking group of suitably costumed actors or artist's models, carefully posed and often theatrically lit. Throughout the duration of the display, the people shown do not speak or move. The approach thus marries the art forms of the stage with those of painting/photography.

A series of "living pictures" were utilized in the performance of the 2010 Passionsspiele Oberammergau (Passion Play). The Oberammergau passion play dates back to a vow made in the year 1633 at the time that the plague ravaged Europe. The people of Oberammergau vowed to portray the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus every ten years. In 2010 "tableaux vivants" were inserted between the passion scenes pointing to Old Testament events that help frame a theological/biblical focus that illuminates the passion of Christ and provides an opportunity for meditation.

2011 Holy Week at Holy Cross utilized this technique for the worship services that comprised the journey we take throughout the various worship moments of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

These living art offerings were accompanied with narration, a choral piece and instrumental selections at the beginning of each of the services.

Winchester House

Holy Cross leads worship services at Winchester House, a Lake County long-term care facility in Libertyville. Volunteers of all ages from Holy Cross help bring residents to a common room, participate in the worship service, and share in Christian fellowship with the residents. During the school year, confirmation small groups often attend the services as part of their service ministry.

In 2011, Holy Cross led worship services at Winchester House on nine Sunday afternoons: February 27, March 27, April 24 (Easter Sunday), May 22, June 26, July 24, August 28, September 25 and October 23. (Our January service was cancelled by Winchester House because the residents wanted to watch the Chicago Bears vs. Green Bay Packers play-off game.)

Special thanks to our talented pianists (Nicki Panega, Nancy Alban, Jean Moyer, Susan Williamson, and Pastor Joleen Gleasman) and all those who attended the services. If you play the piano or a musical instrument, please consider sharing your gifts during a worship service.

We will continue this ministry in 2012 by hosting the worship services on the fourth Sunday of each month from January through October. Please consider choosing one or two Sundays in 2012 to attend a Winchester House worship service. Families and volunteers of all ages are welcome. Residents especially enjoy seeing children and youth from Holy Cross.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Moyer

Women's Discussion Group—Tuesday Mornings

This group of women meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month in the gathering space at 9:30 a.m. Participants bring goodies (they are many and oh, so, delicious) to eat with coffee. The books studied this past year have been *Lessons from the Sheep Dog* by Philip Keller and *The Ten Commandments* by Joan Chittister. The next book we will be studying is *Love Beyond Reason* by John Ortberg. Women may come to the group at any time. For any questions, please contact women in the group or Pastor Joleen.

Women's Saturday Morning Lectionary

The texts from the lectionary for the next day's worship service provide the topic discussed in the Saturday 7 a.m. morning group. Using the bulletins already prepared for the worship service, the group goes in depth into the text, discussing interesting phrases, words, etc. The food is provided by the group and facilitator for the group is Pastor Joleen.

Worship Coordinators

The primary responsibility of the Worship and Music Ministry is to support the regular schedule of services for our church, including the three on Sunday mornings, mid-week during Lent, and festival observances such as Christmas and Holy Week.

We are very thankful to have had very dedicated worship coordinators who scheduled and oversaw the participation of over 40 volunteers each week in support of our worship services. The following people served as worship coordinators for a number of years and we thank them heartily for their help:

Pat Bueltmann & Patty Kozak: Acolytes, Assistant Acolytes, Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants, Readers, Ushers, Counters, Coffee Hosts

Art Schmieding: Greeters

Jennifer Radtke: Nursery

Julie Luczkiw: Altar Care

Linda Keating: Bread Bakers

Church Council: Worship Coordinators

Every week there are plenty of opportunities to participate and assist in our worship services. New volunteers are always needed and welcome. If you would like to help, please contact a worship coordinator or the church office.

*The Church Council schedules its members to serve as worship coordinators for each Sunday morning service to verify that scheduled volunteers have arrived and to get on-the-spot replacements when needed.

Youth, Children and Family Ministry

Milestone Ministries:

Our journey of faith occurs from the cradle to the grave. Along the way, there are important milestone events in our lives. At Holy Cross we seek to honor and lift up those milestone events. Through milestone ministries we celebrate and mark the important events and times in the lives of children and youth. By doing so, we as a congregation and as families of faith live out the promises that are made when someone is baptized. Milestone ministries serve as an important way of connecting, supporting and equipping families and the congregation to pass on the faith. The following is a list of milestone ministries we are offering at Holy Cross:

Baptism

For most of us the formal beginnings of our faith journey occurred at the baptismal font. Last year 24 individuals were baptized at Holy Cross. Through the waters of baptism, not only are we given the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation, but we also become a part of God's family, brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Next Step: Stepping into Sunday School

In September 2011, the day before Sunday School started, parents and their three year olds were treated to a special welcoming event. Parents and their children gathered in the sanctuary and then followed the foot steps of those who have gone before them to visit the three year old Sunday School classroom. During this time together children experienced what it's like to go up for the children's sermon and then walk with their parents to Sunday School, as well as getting a preview of what happens during Sunday School.

Rally Day Kick-off

Since Rally Day was also the 10 year anniversary of September 11th, we used this opportunity to thank and hear from those who help serve our communities.

First Communion Preparation and Follow-up

The invitation is extended for those children who are in 2nd grade or older to prepare to receive Communion. Children and parents attend a class to learn more about the mystery and gift that is Holy Communion. Classes include making bread, learning about the Passover, tasting some of the foods of the Passover meal, what happens in Holy Communion and the general "how-to's" of receiving Communion. On Maundy Thursday 36 children received their first communion. A few weeks later these same children attended a follow up class to learn more about how and why communion is set up like it is, to talk about what difference it makes to receive communion, and to ask any questions that they might now have since receiving their first communion. In addition, the follow-up class provided training on how to be an acolyte assistant in worship. When children have finished 2nd grade, they are a part of the assistant acolyte ministry of the church on communion Sundays.

Bible Presentations and Bible Bootcamp – a.k.a. Get to Know Your Bible

At baptism, parents promise to place in their child's hands the Holy Scriptures. During Sunday morning worship on October 16, third graders received a Bible to help parents fulfill this promise, and to bring families together around God's Word. Following the Bible presentation, two opportunities were offered for third graders and their families to gather together to learn more about why we read the Bible, how the Bible is put together, and how to read the Bible.

On your MARK, get set, go...

In 2012 we will be adding a milestone event for 4th graders. During the season of Lent, 4th graders will be invited to gather with Pastor Krista to learn more about the Gospel of Mark. This will be a

great opportunity for students to renew their interest in the Bible, and Pastor Krista will challenge the 4th graders (and their parents) to read the Gospel of Mark during the season of Lent.

Playing with Fire – a.k.a. Intro to Acolyting

In 2011 we added a milestone event for 5th graders. In May of 2011 those in 5th grade and their parents were invited to gather together to learn more about what worship is, why we do what we do in worship, and how to acolyte (light the candles in church). All students who attended were given the opportunity to practice lighting and extinguishing the candles.

Intro to Confirmation

Confirmation classes are offered for students in grades six through eight. In the fall of 2011, we held an orientation event for 6th graders and their parents. During this time, students were introduced to their small group leaders and families were given an overview of what happens in confirmation, the goals of confirmation, and why confirmation events are an important part of the faith journey.

Affirmation of Baptism

After completing the confirmation program, students in 9th grade are invited to affirm their baptism. In addition to the preparation that has occurred through the confirmation program, each student writes about their own faith journey and sits down to discuss their faith journey with one of the pastors. Then on Reformation Sunday (the last Sunday in October), 9th graders publicly affirm their faith during worship. In 2011, there were 29 students who made public affirmation of their baptism, proclaiming the baptismal promises that their parents and sponsors previously had made on their behalf.

High School Senior Graduation Recognition

Graduating from high school is an important milestone and time of transition for students and families. In May of 2011 we marked this occasion in worship with prayer and a blessing for the graduates and their families.

Support to Families

Nursery

Welcome to the nursery! Each Sunday the nursery room is open for all services for children 3 and under. While in the nursery the children make friends while playing in a safe environment. We read stories, sing songs, have pretend play, plus some art time. During the course of the year, we are fortunate to have some members donate their time with us. This is so important and appreciated. We are always looking for volunteers during the 9:30 am worship service. Please call the church office if you are interested in joining our team of volunteers! (This usually only constitutes 2-3 services per year, per volunteer).

Peace and Love,
Jennifer Radtke, Nursery Director

Parents of Children with Special Needs

Parents of Children with Special Needs was formed as a venue for parents to share ideas and mutual support. This group has been meeting regularly and continues to invite other parents, regardless of religious affiliation. This group meets on the fourth Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. It is open to all people in the community. For more information, please contact Lisa Dunbar or Terry Berger. Food is furnished by the Kazian Foundation and the members who attend.

Family Fun Events

Holy Cross seeks to provide ministry opportunities for the whole family. In many places this family approach is evident whether it's offering a nursery during worship or families joining together to do Feed My Starving Children or families participating in this past year's Tableaux Vivant during Holy Week. In addition to this holistic approach to ministry, Holy Cross also offers specific events where families can get together for fun and fellowship with one another. In February of 2011, a fun night was

offered for families to come together to have pizza, pack care packages, make Valentine's for the college students, and watch a movie. In April many families came out on a Sunday night for the Peder Eide concert. Peder Eide's message and music touch all ages and made for a great event. In October, Holy Cross offered Autumnfest. There was music and food, incredible weather and for the children games, crafts, a bounce house, and a straw maze. Looks for events in 2012 and bring the family!

Sunday/Funday School

Sunday/Funday School at Holy Cross brings together children, youth volunteers and adult volunteers to learn about God and God's love for all of us. Our program involves approximately 120 children from age 3 through 5th grade, 40 youth volunteers, and 60 adult volunteers.

Our theme for the 2011-12 school year is "Walking With God." This is our third year using the Spark! curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. This curriculum gives teachers easy-to-follow lesson plans, suggestions for introducing the Bible story and discussing it with the class, and a variety of creative activities to supplement the lesson.

Our Sunday School children (age 3 through kindergarten) use the Spark Classroom model, which presents a new Bible story each week. Children hear the story from the Spark Story Bible and participate in activities (circle games, poems) to help them understand the message. They take home a learner leaflet each week so they can share this lesson with their families. Our Sunday School teachers teach in teams with assistance from youth helpers so that our youngest students see familiar faces each week.

Our Funday School children (1st through 5th graders) use the Spark Rotation model, which presents a new Bible story every four to five weeks. Each week, classes rotate among different learning centers (Art, Bible Skills and Games, Cooking, Drama, Science, and Video) where students read the Bible story, engage in discussion and then participate in an activity that corresponds with the lesson. Our Funday School teachers sign up for a four-to-five week commitment to teach for one rotation. A team of Funday School shepherds and youth helpers supports each class by getting to know the students and helping to guide them. The shepherds also lead a time of prayer before and after each class.

Our Sunday/Funday School program is supplemented by weekly music time, led by Carrie Mack, youth music director, Jamey Mack, accompanist, and an enthusiastic group of youth music helpers. The children learn a lively mix of songs, many of which are shared with the congregation during the Spring Sing, the Christmas Program, and informal performances during the children's message at the 9:30 worship service.

Throughout the year, the Funday School children also participate in several service projects to help them connect their Bible lessons with ways in which they can share God's love with others. This past year, our service projects included:

- making thank-you cards for police and fire department members in our community as part of our Rally Day events on the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Thank you to Deputy Kevin Harris of the Lake County Sheriff's Department (a member of Holy Cross) and Lt. Sarby of the Libertyville Fire Department for speaking to both our Sunday School and Funday School students about how they help others and how they ask God to help them.
- creating Easter treat bags and cards to share with children whose families are served by the COOL Food Pantries. Thank you to parents for their donations for the treat bags.
- collecting donations for Feed My Starving Children. This year, our students raised over \$116, which was enough to pay for 485 meals.
- painting beautiful sun catcher crosses and making Christmas cards to send to families at the Rosebud

Indian Reservation. Thank you to high scholars Sarah Fahey, Caitlin Fahey and Alison Kelly for speaking about their experiences at Rosebud.

- making inspirational Christmas cards to send to a Lutheran Social Services of Illinois prison ministry, which delivered them to women at the Lincoln Correctional Center.

This past year, we had several opportunities for volunteers to get to know each other better and share ideas, including January mid-year meetings, a May dessert and thank-you party, and an August kick-off meeting. Shepherd Ann Johnston also created and analyzed end-of-the-school-year surveys so students, parents, and volunteers could share their feedback about Sunday/Funday School.

We would like to add a huge thank-you to Carol Dikelsky, who served as a Sunday/Funday School coordinator and teacher for many years before transitioning this fall to the confirmation program. Her creativity and countless hours of behind-the-scenes work helped Sunday/Funday School run smoothly and become even more dynamic.

Volunteering with Sunday/Funday School is a wonderful way to show our children that our congregation cares about them. There are many ways to get involved — opportunities to help on Sunday morning or during the week, and a variety of positions and time commitments. We encourage you to volunteer and help nurture our Sunday/Funday School children in their faith journeys.

Respectfully submitted,

2011-12 Sunday School Coordinators: Felicia Brandt, Kristin Vollen

2011-12 Funday School Coordinators: Melissa Bryson, Ann Johnston, Angie Lindsey
Patty Moyer, Gretchen Towson

Summer Sunday S’kool

In the summer of 2011 we offered Sunday School for the month of June for children, ages 3 through those entering 5th grade. Following the children’s message at the 10 AM service, children participated in a time to learn more about God’s love through story, video, games, or art. Thank you to all of the adult teachers and youth helpers who made Summer Sunday S’Kool a success!

VBS/Day Camp July 18-22, 2011

Jesus Chooses Us

Theme verse: “You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.” John 15:16

Stories, games, songs, skits, crafts and snacks are all woven in with daily devotions and worship to show us how Jesus calls, protects, speaks and comes to us in our daily lives.

Our Lutherdale camp staff, Meg, Megan, Jacob and Seth, really enjoyed staying with Pastor Krista and family all week. Our own youth helpers made the week run extra smoothly as well. Thank you: Paige Vaughn, Stefani Hancock, Taylor Skie, Mia Clark, Alison Southwick, Morgan Zupkus, Jennifer Cruz, Michael Jones, Ana Karris and Amanda Fischer. Your help to guide, coach, teach, sing, play and nurture our VBS/Campers was a great example of how God has chosen to work in your lives.

Day Camp is for graduated Kindergarten through graduated 5th grade. We had 31 Day Campers. VBS is a half day program for ages 3 – 5. We had 9 VBS participants.

Look for a week of “Spirit Life” coming in July 2012.

Respectfully Submitted, Felicia Brandt

Youth Music

Youth Music at Holy Cross was exciting in 2011! I feel that the Youth of Holy Cross look forward to participating in worship through music. Children participate in Funday and Sunday school music each week as a part of the Sunday/Funday School Curriculum. The music ties in directly with the Bible lessons in the curriculum, the theme of the curriculum or the church calendar. The excitement and joy of sharing God's Word through music is evident in the students' participation each week.

This year Sunday/Funday School music is team taught by myself and a group of middle and high school students. Jamey Mack accompanies us on piano each week. The student leaders are such an integral part of the program. They set an example for our youngest learners about how to worship and be an active part of the congregation. The student leaders' enthusiasm is evident in their involvement in music each week. This is a key component to the successful children's music at Holy Cross. This is where our youngest members first get a chance to learn to praise and worship.

Funday School students continue to have music before they break into their grade level classes for their lessons for Funday School each week. The students gather in the basement as a whole group for a short music lesson on the songs that accompany the lessons they are learning about. Large group openings are also a part of this music time that help introduce the Bible lesson as well as give the opportunity to sing about it. The Elementary School age students know the expectations and always achieve or surpass my expectations in our music time together. Again the youth music leaders are such an important part of this program. They help with Funday School music each and every week by singing, doing motions, helping organize and plan lessons or leading the music. This is an active way for them to be involved as a leadership role in our congregation.

The Christmas program and Spring sings are always a highlight for our youth musical calendar. Both Sunday School and Funday School groups gave wonderful performances. The older Funday school students know they are expected to lead these programs with speaking parts as well. These two larger scale performances not only give the students a chance to share what they are learning, but it allows them to lead the adults in worship as well.

The middle school youth has once again surpassed my expectations. In 2011 we again had many middle school students participate in confirmation band. We have adults, high school students and middle schoolers coming together to lead the music portion of the confirmation family service on Sunday evenings during our confirmation time. Students are performing contemporary Christian music as well as some standard hymns revamped and old favorites. Thank you to all who give their time to be part of this team! I feel that the middle school musicians are really committed at Holy Cross.

I want to take the opportunity to thank the adult volunteers that help with Youth Music at Holy Cross. Parents help make our program a success from singing or playing with the Confirmation band to getting their youth helper to Sunday school each week or even helping sing with our students. A special thank you to my husband, Jamey. He accompanies all of the youth music groups at Holy Cross. Without his help, leadership and support, youth music at Holy Cross wouldn't be what it is!

Respectfully Submitted,
Carrie Mack

Middle School Youth/Confirmation

The Affirmation of Baptism program at Holy Cross is a vital part of our education process that began with Holy Baptism, continued through Sunday/Funday School and Vacation Bible School and culminates in the middle school age program known as Confirmation.

We host a three year Confirmation experience that allows us to teach the material at a comfortable tempo and provides for large group worship and small group learning during ten consecutive weeks in each semester of the academic year. Our sixth, seventh and eighth grade students are led by a fantastic team of Small Group Leaders and additional ministry volunteers who have chosen to walk this faith journey with these young people. They give of their time to serve as mentors and role models and while many of these leaders are parents of students in our program, we are also blessed to have high school

aged leaders as well as ministry team leaders who have no students involved but who have a love for serving with this program and with these kids.

Our goal for the Affirmation of Baptism program is to provide a deeper understanding of biblical teachings and our Lutheran faith in an open discussion format with a strong focus on faith in action as well. Each of the Sunday sessions begins with worship for students, parents, family members, friends and small group leaders. We follow a liturgy, read lessons, share requests for prayer, sing and listen to music and share a teaching message serves as the focus of study for the evening. Following worship, our students are dismissed to their small groups for further exploration of the topic lesson.

In each of the two ten week sessions, small groups are encouraged to participate in two servant life events that allow students to practice their faith either within Holy Cross itself (PADS lunch preparation, Feed My Starving Children meal packing, St. Mary's Road clean up, etc...) or within the local community. Additionally, we offer the opportunity for fellowship through Confirmation dinners, movie nights and "Sundaes on Sunday", our annual Ice Cream Social, at our final gathering at the end of the spring semester.

A unique opportunity for grade level learning is also offered to each grade in the form of a group retreat and field trip throughout the year. The sixth grade retreat focused upon learning about sacred text and included a trip to the Rare Books Room at the Lutheran School of Theology – Chicago. The seventh grade retreat focuses upon studying different world religion and will include a trip to the Hindu Temple Mandir of Lake County. Our eighth grade students will have the opportunity to participate in an overnight retreat at Lutherdale Bible Camp where we will discuss putting our faith into practice.

The Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Program could not possibly exist without the support and leadership of our pastoral staff or the myriad of volunteers who give of their time and talents. Small group leadership, worship music and planning, hospitality support, retreat coordination – all of these things are accomplished through the special gifts of the many volunteers who work with this program.

On October 30th, 2011, thirty two young people who had completed their instruction, faith papers and personal interviews with the pastors, affirmed their baptism at the 11 a.m. worship service. Our prayers go with these brothers and sisters that they may continue to walk hand in hand with Christ Jesus. Our thanks to the congregation for continued prayer in support of this ministry, to the individuals who serve diligently within it and to the students who come each Sunday evening to worship, learn and grow in their journey of faith.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Accettura, Confirmation Coordinator

High School Youth Group

Throughout the year, high school youth gather to learn, serve, and have fun, often doing all three at the same time.

In the first part of 2011 we offered youth group activities a couple of times a month. In the fall, we more closely followed the middle school confirmation schedule and offered high school youth group on the same nights (unless there was a long weekend or there was a Saturday event). A big thank you to our youth board and all of the parents and adults who stepped up and helped make these nights possible. Fun events are of course a big part of youth group. This past year we gathered around food on numerous occasions, participated in the synod eSkape lock-in, went to the Corn Maze, held a church scavenger hunt, did indoor microwave 'smares (we were rained out in doing a bonfire), Whirlyball, and had movie nights. As we gather together for fun and fellowship, we also incorporate a time of devotions and prayer into these activities.

Service is also an important part of youth group. In 2011 we participated in food distribution at the Mobile Food Pantry in Libertyville, 1 By Youth (a day of youth coming together to do service projects in the Chicago metro area), Feed My Starving Children, a mission trip to Rosebud, SD, going to Winchester House to deliver Christmas cards and sing Christmas carols, and we collected over 30 pairs of boots for preschool children for LSSI.

In addition to the above events, we also have a goal of bringing in an educational event. This past fall we hosted "College Matters," a college preparation night sponsored by Thrivent. Parents and high school youth who attended learned more about the college application process as well as ways to help with college financing.

As is often the case, the highlight for many of the youth was the summer mission trip. In 2011 the youth and adult leaders journeyed to Two Strike on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in SD. Our youth painted the community building, provided meals for the residents, and lead a Vacation Bible School time for children. Over forty children from the surrounding area of Two Strike came together to play, learn more about God, and be loved by someone. Thank you to Barb Fox, Carole Kenney, Jen Christensen, Ernie Rogalla, and Beth Marhenke who gave up a week of their summer to accompany our youth and do ministry out at Rosebud.

Thank you to everyone who supported us in the mission trip and participated in fund raisers and donations to make the mission trip possible. The youth hosted a Coffee House for the Around the Cross concert series, the Easter Breakfast, and an Irish Celebration Night complete with Irish Dancers. These events were great opportunities for people to come together in a time of fun and fellowship, while also supporting the youth. Other fundraisers included candy sales, raffle baskets, and the car wash.

College Students

During winter break, college students gathered with Pastor Bob and Pastor Krista at Wildberry Restaurant. In addition to enjoying a great breakfast together, the group enjoyed catching up with one another and hearing more about each other's time in college. In addition to the college breakfast, care packages were sent to college students by families with Sunday/Funday School children. Another way, Holy Cross seeks to walk with college students is by providing college scholarships through the endowment fund.



Early Childhood Ministries

Welcome to Building Blocks Childhood Center where love and learning meet!

Building Blocks is the new name we are using to talk about the early childhood ministries at Holy Cross which include Mom's Morning Out, CrossWays PreSchool, and Celebration! Childcare Center. All three of these programs provide the same outstanding quality of ministry to children and their families, and all three work together to do an incredible job of education, outreach, and care. To help reflect who we are and what we do in early childhood ministry, we are using the name Building Blocks. Help us spread the word of how we can build the right program to meet a family's early childhood needs.

Celebration! Childcare Center



It has been a fun packed year for Celebration! We reached our 5 year Anniversary this last October. The economy continues to be a factor in our enrollment numbers. The changing outlook of Childcare continues, due to work schedules and different family needs. It has caused us to look out of the box and offer different variations of programs to meet the needs of our families. Several of our classes are close to capacity 3 days a week. We are thankful of our steady growth with so many Centers closing around us.

Elective classes continue to grow. Parents continually express how nice it is for them not to have to drag their children to ballet or gymnastics on Saturdays. The children take classes Tuesday thru Thursday in the Atrium area during Celebration hours. Our newest elective will begin December 8th. Private Piano lessons are being introduced by Mrs. Sara Yost, we have a small group signed up to kick off the program. Hopefully piano lessons will grow to the successful size that gym, computer and dance classes have achieved.

The excitement over our Outdoor Classroom exceeded all expectations. For our first year we grew tomatoes, onions, squash, beans, sunflowers and pumpkins. The children really enjoyed being out in the garden. Each class had a day for watering the garden and weeding. Vegetables were eaten at Celebration and taken home by the families of Celebration. I have had many parents tell me that there were certain vegetables that their children never ate until they grew them in the Celebration garden. We hope next year to expand the program to give us enough yield to bring items over to C.O.O.L. Food Pantry. It was very nice to have pumpkins in our classrooms that the children grew on their own.

Our staff moves forward to develop with Continuing Education Units that Celebration provides. Barb Sargent has been very helpful to develop programs that can educate the staff and keep us informed of health situations that are currently going on in the area. It has greatly helped us to stay on top of things that arise in the community with communicable diseases and to hit things with precautionary tactics.

The staff has enjoyed the Staff Bible Study on Thursdays lead by Pastor Krista. We have interesting discussions that make the half hour to forty minute discussions go by very quickly. This is a time for our talented and giving staff to get together and share their thoughts and beliefs with each other.

The staff is thankful for the opportunity that Celebration offers with ministry for the families and staff in Lake County. We appreciate the continued support from the Holy Cross congregation with referrals and sharing of talents by many congregation members.

The growth over the last five years has been a blessing to the program. We look forward to continued growth and the opportunity of serving as an extension of family with the Celebration ministry.

Kathy Pfister
Director of Celebration Childcare

Crossways Preschool



In September of this year we were blessed to begin our 20th year of ministry to young children and their families. Our overall enrollment is down again this year which has created continuing staffing and budgeting challenges. I am blessed to report that we are, however, still successfully and happily operating three traditional classes, two enrichment classes, and a Lunch Bunch program, with a total enrollment of 34 students and seven very dedicated and talented staff members.

Our program is continuously supported by the many dedicated parents and other adult family members who regularly volunteer in their children's classrooms. Others help by making play dough, by doing laundry or sewing, and with generous donations of materials and gift cards. Our Helping Hands program allows interested parents to take projects home to complete for the teachers. We are blessed by this involvement and investment of time and energy!

May Sprenger continues to help us clean every Friday afternoon - she is a very special blessing!

Parent-Teachers Conferences were held twice throughout the school year to enhance communication and teamwork between parents and teachers.

Traditional Classes enjoyed regular visits to Children's Chapel with Pastor Bob and Pastor Krista and to Music with Miss Mary Ann.

Our annual Pretend Trip was 'Growing Up with Jesus,' in which children helped transform the classrooms and then spent one morning in each area - The Home, Work and Play. In The Home children pretended to carry water, grind grains, cook bread and fish, and tend the animals. They pretended to sleep in an upper room on top of a table and they made fish print wall hangings to take home. In the Work area they washed clothes, did wood work, made bricks, crushed grapes and wrote like scribes. In the Play area they rode a pretend camel, played musical instruments and shopped in the marketplace. It was a joyous journey to ancient Nazareth and an inspiring educational experience for all!

Other special events throughout this calendar year included a Saturday Men's Day and a Ladies' Day celebration. The Lake County Health Department provided vision and hearing screening which was paid for by a greatly appreciated anonymous donor. Field Trips were taken by Traditional Classes to Ryerson Woods and to visit a student's chickens. Special visitors included Marilyn LaCrosse, doctor; Melissa Graf, doctor; Dan Hill, police officer; Johann Asiata, football player; Dennis Smith, Navy; Steve Benningfield, pilot; and John Oleson, pilot. The Science Sensation class went to Kohl Children's Museum and the 26 Letters 'n More class toured the new Cook Memorial Library. The 2009-10 school year ended with fun-filled gatherings at Independence Grove's Children's Grove Playground.

Our 3rd Annual Children's Items Resale, spearheaded by Kerry Nowicki, was successfully held in early spring and our annual fall fund raiser, the Christmas greenery sale, was beautifully organized by Lisa Perrone and Jennifer Liu. We are encouraged by the continuing support of these events.

Through our Christmas outreach program, known as 'We Care,' our staff and families were able to provide a large variety of items to "Stock the Pantry" for six grateful Habitat for Humanity families. Our classes made Christmas decorations for each of the families as well. We are blessed to be a blessing!

The Holy Cross Early Childhood Ministries Board has continued to competently guide and govern us. Current members include President Kerry Nowicki, Vice-President Barb Fox, Secretary Lisa Partlow, Treasurer Jan Schmeiding, Holy Cross Council Liaison Deb Sherrock, CWPS Director Mindy Doss, Mom's Morning Out Director Lisa Valentine, 2 year-old MMO Parent Representative Donna Thomey, 3 year-old CWPS Parent Representatives Kim Tijnelis and Amy Smith, 4 year-old CWPS Parent Representative Jennifer Liu, and CCC Parent Representatives Jodi Zombolo and Sonja Causemaker, and guided by Pastor Krista Henning-Ferkin. We are deeply grateful for their service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindy Doss, Director

Mom's Morning Out



Mother's Morning Out (MMO) celebrates another successful year as an early childhood education provider. This year, 24 two-year-olds from the community enrolled in the program.

Lisa Valentine (director) and Haydon Paquin continue as MMO teachers and were joined by Tania Zombolo, a Holy Cross Church member. All three teachers are parents of former MMO and Crossways Preschool students.

MMO is a Christian-based program that provides age-appropriate themes and activities to keep its young students enthused and stimulated. For a few hours each week, students are exposed to a wide variety of learning opportunities. A benefit of being part of the Holy Cross ministry is the ability to expose our little ones to the works of God through weekly gatherings at Children's Chapel. Music, dance, and nature appreciation are other curricular areas we use to broaden our toddlers' learning experience. Our team of educators brings enthusiasm, creativity, and a love of children to the classroom. As a result, MMO provides an atmosphere where students socialize through play and discovery resulting in a positive early learning experience.

MMO is looking forward to the remainder of the 2011-2012 school season, as well as to a successful 2012-2013 school year, as another group of children enters our ministry.

Respectfully Submitted, Lisa Valentine, Director