



THE CROSS CONNECTION

Providing Strength for the Faith Journey

January 2018

CONGREGATIONAL Life Pages 1-8

BEYOND THE CONGREGATION PAGE 9

YOUTH MINISTRY PAGES 10-11

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY PAGE 12

> RELATIONAL MINISTRY PAGES 13-14

CALENDAR PAGE 15

From the Perspective of an Open Heart . . .

If I had to choose one word to characterize the end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018, it would be "uncertainty." We can't quite articulate what it is that makes us feel this way but I am sure that it has something to do with world events, the economic climate and circumstances in our personal lives. If we believe that we are constantly changing and growing then there is always present an element of uncertainty. But, there are times when maybe we perceive life to be more chaotic and uncertain. As people of faith we believe that the Christ events of the incarnation and the resurrection change us and ultimately the way we navigate through the uncertainty of our daily chaos.

There is a small cathedral outside Bethlehem which marks the supposed birthplace of Jesus. Behind a high altar in the church is a cave, a little cavern lit by silver lamps. You can enter the main edifice and admire the ancient church. You can also enter the quiet cave where a star embedded in the floor recognizes the birth of the King. There is one stipulation, however. You have to stoop. The door is so low you can't go in standing up. The same is true of the Christ. You can see the world standing tall, but to witness the Savior, you have to get on your knees.



Isn't it amazing how our "perspective" impacts even how we look at God's "incarnate" presence. The festival celebration of Christmas may be over for 2017, but the unfolding of God's gift of grace continues to occur daily in our lives as we now move through Epiphany and Lent towards the "resurrection" miracle.

Someone once observed that Mary's silence at the cross always amazed them. If they were being crucified in the middle of town, their mother would have "pitched a fit," but, according to scripture, Mary never said a word. I have often wondered if maybe what made the difference for her was remembering back to that first Christmas. Remembering touching his little hands and feet and counting his fingers and toes.

30+ years later she's standing on a hillside watching blood pour from His veins, from the side of her own son... and she didn't open her mouth. What a great testimony to the fact that Jesus wasn't just a great prophet. He wasn't just a great preacher. He wasn't just a great teacher. He was the virgin born son of God. He is our Savior. And, Jesus didn't just die for us, he died for his own mother. The baby boy she had delivered on that first Christmas was now on a cross delivering her.

At Holy Cross we recognize that people are on a faith journey. Consider Mary's journey of faith from the stable to the cross. As we embrace "another" new year maybe our energies might find direction through a faith perspective that encourages us to face "uncertainty" with an open heart.

Peace!

Pader Bot

SUNDAY WORSHIP SEPTEMBER - MAY 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

> June - August 8:00 & 10:00 am

SATURDAY WORSHIP 5:30 PM

September - May 1st Saturday of each Month + + + + +

JUNE - AUGUST EVERY SATURDAY

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

29700 N. Saint Marys Road Libertyville, IL 60048

Phone: (847) 367 - 4060 Fax: (847) 367 - 4346 Office@holycrosschurch.org

HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG

MINISTERS AND CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis, Senior Pastor
Rev. Sally Hanson, Associate Pastor
Sarah Accettura, Receptionist & Office Support
Randall Casey, Director of Music
Carmen & Abel Cervantes, Custodians
Roz Deigan, Admin. Congregational Activities
Carrie Mack, Director of Youth Music Ministries
Tim Mahoney, Property Director
Beth Malecha, Handbell Choir Director
Steve Oelschlager, Director of Engagement and Generosity
Mike Price, Business Director
Jennifer Radtke, Nursery Attendant
Ellie Rautenbach, Admin. Congregational Communications
Jan Schmieding, Bookkeeper & Membership
Dale Tippett Jr., Director of Contemporary Music

BUILDING BLOCKS CHILDHOOD CENTER STAFF

Kathy Pfister, Director of Celebration! Childcare Elizabeth Moy, Director of CrossWays Preschool

CHURCH COUNCIL

Katie Ormson (*President*), Eric Christensen (*Vice President*), Jessica Brown, Barb Cannon, Lori Fedyk, Judith Frank-Gonwa, Mick Garrison, Beth Ann Koenemann, Angie Lindsey, Bill Miksch, Karl Nygard, Maria Roberts *Council Secretary*, Lisa Dunbar *Council Treasurer*, Mark Fedyk *Financial Secretary*, Tom Miller

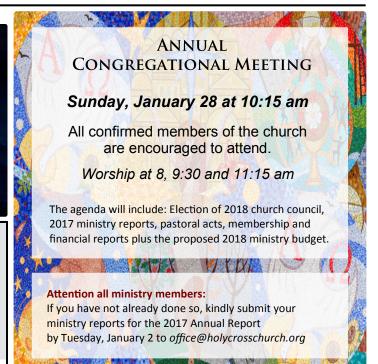
VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Sunday School Coordinators:

Felicia Brandt, age 3 - age 5/Kindergarten (Core Stories) Volunteers Requested, grades 1 - 5 (Deep Blue)

Altar Care: Julie Luczkiw Greeters: Therese Delli Paoli

The Cross Connection, parish newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, is published monthly and is available online for viewing in full color. Articles should be submitted by the **1st** of the month to Roz Deigan at roz@holycrosschurch.org



Building Blocks Childhood Center

presents the
3rd Annual Family Outreach Series

GROWING UP HEALTHY

Sunday, January 28 4 - 5:45 pm

FREE event for all families in the community.

Register by January 22 Using this case-sensitive link:

bit.ly/FOSJan28

Activities best suited for children ages 12 and under. Additional Sponsors: Thrivent Financial and Libertyville Bank and Trust

For more information, see page 4.



The Sounds of Silence

by Pastor Sally Hanson

"Hello darkness, my old friend
I've come to talk with you again
Because a vision softly creeping
Left its seeds while I was sleeping
And the vision that was planted in my brain
Still remains
Within the sound of silence"

As a child, Simon and Garfunkel was often playing in the car. The "Sound of Silence" quickly became one of my favorites and still remains. Perhaps you have thought of this before, or perhaps it is just me, but when I hear this song, I am brought to that quiet place that happens after something big comes to an end. This may be similar to a large crescendo in music and that moment where the conductor cuts off music and the last note just hangs in the air in amazing silence. To me, this crescendo and the conductor's cutoff is like the crossover between the season of Christmas into Epiphany, a season of light.

In January, the light of Christ shines brighter into our lives now that we are on the other side of the winter solstice and our Christmas festivities. Yet the seeds and visions we planted during Advent and Christmas are ones that remain and grow even in the sounds of silence. Silence isn't a bad thing. In the silence, we find a sense of calm. In the silence, we reconnect to ourselves and become more aware of our being. In the silence, we are able to listen and hear the voice of God active in our lives.

The sound of silence looks a little different to each of us and it isn't a singular sound, it is different for each and every one of us. For me, it's the tranquility of slower times and days, and the dance of the light on the fresh white snow. It is as if the one who came to banish the darkness settled into our lives, blankets us with his love and invites the light to dance and reflect in all places – that Christ's love reaches everywhere.

I hope that this month and during the season of Epiphany, you are able to find some time to embrace the sound of silence; be it the stillness of creation as the earth rests, the inner voice of the Spirit reaching out to you or a sense of peace and calm that comes from spending time in silence . . . something that seems to be increasingly difficult to do.

May you find your own sounds of silence.

Blessings,

Pastor Sally

Generosity Through Hospitality

by Steve Oelschlager

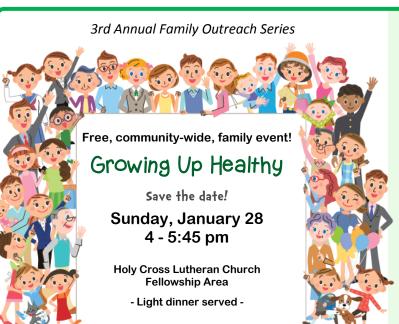
What would it mean for each of us to be more intentional about reaching out to those we do not know, not just on Sunday morning, but each and every day? Making ourselves available to others with care and concern is one of the most generous things we can do, yet with our frenetic lives, one of the most difficult.

Diana Butler Bass writes this about hospitality as a central practice to early Christians (from *A People's History of Christianity*):

We tend to equate hospitality with parties and social gatherings or gracious resorts and expensive restaurants. To us hospitality is an industry, not a practice, one that summons Martha Stewart to mind more quickly than Jesus Christ. But to ancient Christians hospitality was a virtue, part of the love of neighbor and fundamental to being a person of the way. While contemporary Christians tend to equate morality with sexual ethics, our ancestors defined morality as welcoming the stranger.

Hospitality is the practice that keeps the church from becoming a club, a members-only society. Through hospitality, historian Rowan Greer claims, "an inclusive ideal of community life is affirmed, and we may suppose that implementing this ideal was no easier in the ancient world than in ours." In greeting, meeting, eating, and caring, the church acted as a community with its arms open, attracting inquirers through a practical demonstration of God's love. "Observe, the hospitality here spoken of," preached John Chrysostom, "is not merely a friendly reception, but one given with zeal and alacrity, with readiness, as going about it as if one were receiving Christ himself." From what historians can gather, hospitality— not martyrdom— served as the main motivator for conversions. Early Christians found both spiritual and social power in such acts, for creating inclusive community, a community of radical welcome and love, can put one at odds with the authorities. "It is our care of the helpless, our practice of loving kindness that brands us in the eyes of our many opponents," claimed the African theologian Tertullian. "'Only look,' they say, 'look how they love one another!" "







sponsored by 💝 🔣 Building Blocks Childhood Center along with Thrivent Financial and Libertyville Bank and Trust. WHO should come to this event? Any family at Holy Cross or non-member family in the community who wants to spend quality time together, learn something and have fun! Building Blocks Childhood Center is the sponsor from an educational outreach perspective - you do not need to be a Building Blocks family to attend. In fact, we hope to make new friends!

WHAT will we do? Adults will enjoy a presentation given by a nutritionist from Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital about the importance of nutrition in children and easy ways to implement healthy choices. During that time children will enjoy music and movement from Dale Tippett, Jr., professional musician.

WHAT will we do as a family? Families will participate in crafts and yoga/movement together as they have fun and learn ways to easily incorporate a healthy lifestyle into their everyday lives.

WHERE will this be? The event takes place here at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Area.

WHEN is the event? Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 4 - 5:45 pm. Come and spend time together to kick off your week. A free light dinner will be served. No cooking for mom and dad! Just time to enjoy your family.

WHY should I attend the 3rd Annual Family Outreach Series **Growing Up Healthy?** Life always seems busy. This is a time to slow down and be with your family while learning and having fun. In busy lives, healthy choices sometimes get overlooked and the information from the event is important to everyone. Invite other family friends or grandparents to spend more time with people you care about. The past two events have been well attended and have received positive responses so you are guaranteed a good time!

Registration is easy! Use this case-sensitive registration link bit.ly/FOSJan28 and come join the fun!

If you have any additional questions, email Diane Gaines at pdgaines@sbcglobal.net

AT THE **TABLE**

AT THE TABLE Through informal conversation we share our thoughts about life and faith. All are welcome. We currently meet on the second Tuesday of most months from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at a restaurant in one of our surrounding communities. Individuals are responsible for their own meal charges.

As we gather At the Table:

- All thoughts are welcome without judgement.
- We practice community: we are all in this together.
- God is present and ready to connect in a fresh way.
- There is no pressure to talk.
- Listening brings renewal and insight.

DATE: Tuesday, January 9 TIME: 6:30 to 8:30 pm

LOCATION: Ristorante Bottaio

946 N. Milwaukee Ave.

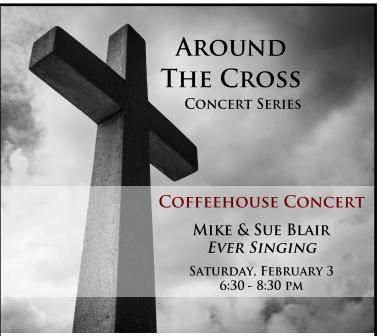
Libertyville, IL 60048

Please RSVP by Friday, January 5: bit.ly/Jan18ATT

At the Table Topic for January **Sharing Our Faith Journeys**

As we grow up, our thinking and the way we understand the world and our experiences changes and matures. The same is true when it comes to our faith: we start in one place, and over time we develop and grow, holding on, letting go, and adding to. Join us for a new year of At the Table dinner conversations as we share our Journeys of faith.







Our music tells the story of struggles and adversity transformed to gifts and blessings.

"You have turned my mourning into dancing...

Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing." - Psalm 30

Mike and Sue Blair of Decorah, Iowa are a folk duo - some say a folk trio with two voices and guitar. They offer a range of music from folk songs, blues, art songs, spirituals and love songs. Their CD, *Ever Singing*, is a collection of original works telling the story of struggles and grief transformed to gifts and blessings. As survivors of cancer and other detours, Mike and Sue's music is about gratitude for the gifts of life and well being and for the many faithful friends and loved ones who share the journey. You can listen to Mike and Sue Blair on Spotify and iTunes. Visit their website, *eversinging.com* to learn more about their music.

BONUS! Holy Cross members Mike and Carol Dikelsky (Sue's sister) will join in for a few tunes, as will Sue and Carol's sister Mary Shore (music director at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Rockford, Illinois). Music is all in the family!

This concert is a benefit for the youth of Holy Cross Lutheran Church who will be attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX in June. There is no admission fee, but free will donations will be accepted.

Former Intern Todd Wright Receives First Call

Todd Wright has accepted a call at First Lutheran Church in Glasgow, Montana, and will begin there in late January. You are cordially invited to attend his ordination.

Todd and his family would be honored to share this day with anyone from Holy Cross who is able to attend, as so many supported him on the path of discerning this call.

Saturday, January 13 at 4 pm

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church 25225 W. Ivanhoe Rd. Wauconda, IL 60084



Registration begins **January 12** for current students and Holy Cross members. Registration opens to the public on **January 22**. Spots fill up quickly. Pick up a registration form on the ushers table, and/or contact CrossWays Preschool Director Elizabeth Moy for more information at *crossways@holycrosschurch.org* or (847) 367-4367.



Help Undecorate the Sanctuary

It takes a village to decorate (and undecorate) the church for Christmas! Please check your calendars and sign up to help when you can.

Tuesday, January 2 at 11 am
Undecorate the Sanctuary, pack up decorations

Wednesday, January 3 at 11 am
Undecorate the Sanctuary, pack up decorations

Thursday, January 4 at 6 pm Pack/Heavy Lifters/Storage

RSVP: bit.ly/Christmashelp17 or office@holycrosschurch.org



6



Saturday, March 10 at 6:30 pm

Save the date for this fundraiser event to benefit the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering - featuring dinner, raffles and a silent auction. Texas grub will be on the menu. Free babysitting will be offered. More ticket information to come in February.

In preparation for the silent auction portion of this evening, we are asking members for donations of any new items, services, tickets, lodging donations or experiences. Please email Pastor Sally at *pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org* if you have something you would like to donate. Supplemental funds will be provided by Thrivent Financial.

Brighten Up Your Home in the Bleak Midwinter





In the bleak midwinter Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron Water like a stone...

Do you remember the hymn which begins with this verse?

As we look out on the January landscape, this might be an apt description - and the cold, short, days and frosty winds might make us feel that God's beautiful creation is under attack! However, if there is snow, it does make for gladness for the winter sports enthusiasts.

At any rate, the earth needs this time of rest, but our spirits can often be made more glad if there is something green and blooming, at least in the house. Have you ever planted an amaryllis bulb or maybe bought one in an already planted container? Watering this ugly looking bulb can result in an amazing growth - you can almost watch it grow!

The science teacher in me suggests you try measuring how long the main leaf is each day until at last it blooms in a burst of color with a flower as big as a plate! It surely helps with the midwinter blues and is a wonderful testament to our Lord's ability to bring beauty in such a dramatic way.

Women's Retreat

Date: Friday, February 23, 2018 at 6 pm

to Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 12 pm.

Location: Lutherdale Bible Camp,

Watson Retreat Center (Elkhorn, WI)

RSVP: Reserve by January 14. Spots are filling up!

Cost: \$200/person* (paid in full by January 14)
Includes lodging, four meals, a book and yoga

* Scholarships are available, please send an email to pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org

What's in your bucket?

The New Year has arrived! All of the hustle and bustle of the holiday seasons begins to come to a halt and we are left with the memories made new this last holiday season. As you reflect on the last year, what or who has made your life full... Full with love, joy, peace and grace? How have you been "filled up" physically, emotionally and spiritually in the last year or season? With 2017 coming to an end, do you reflect back and see a life full of things you desire and need to thrive or empty on all levels? The New Year often brings a time of reflection as well as a goal of renewal and insight of where one is heading next. Perhaps, it is a goal of a "full life."

Join us for a weekend of reflection and renewal with other women of faith at Lutherdale Bible Camp. The retreat will offer a time of fellowship, learning, meditation/prayer and worship as we explore individually, and as people of God, what is means to live into the promise of a "full life" and a life of abundance in Christ. Friends are welcome. Please register using a registration form which can be found at the welcome center. Final payments are due January 14.

Contact Pastor Sally with questions about the retreat. Scholarships are also available. pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org

Pastor Sally

Featuring speaker Deb Hornell Author of *Good Things for a Full Life*





Angie Miller, owner of Blue Sky Yoga in Libertyville, will be on-site to lead a yoga and meditation workshop.

MEMBERSHIP AT HOLY CROSS

Are you interested in becoming a member of Holy Cross? Our next **New Member Breakfast** is scheduled for **Saturday**, **February 10 at 8:30 am**. Individuals and families who are interested in joining Holy Cross Lutheran Church are welcome. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, February 2.

We will receive new members during worship on **Sunday**, **February 11 at the 9:30 am service**.

To learn more about membership at Holy Cross, please contact the church office staff at (847) 367-4060 or email office@holycrosschurch.org



Wedding December 8, 2017

Benjamin McDonough & Brandy Capaccio

WE WELCOMED NEW MEMBERS

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Holly Griffith

Kevin & Erin Jessen

Richard & Kristine Kosowski

Gerard & Kristi Leeson Aiden, Everett

Michelle Vavrusa

Mike & Jill Wechselberger Lia, Kylee

First Saturday Worship

September - May

Saturday evenings at 5:30 pm with Holy Communion. These are relaxed services - please join us as you are.

January 6
February 3

March 3 April 7

May 5

Cookie Walk Update

by Therese Delli Paoli

The 9th annual Cookie Walk was once again a festive success! A special thank you to all of our bakers, our valuable volunteers and those who came back to purchase items for the Cookie Walk.

From your overwhelming and generous donations, we raised over \$4,000 (a new record!). We could not have accomplished this effort without YOU! These funds will be used for projects on the Rosebud Reservation and to support our missionary, Dorothy Peterson. From your valuable donations, Holy Cross sent 150 blankets to our Lakota friends on the Two Strike Reservation in Rosebud, SD. They were passed out at a Christmas party in December to the Two Strike families, and I am confident that these blankets will bring them much warmth in the chilly South Dakota climate.

Our raffle this year was very popular! Our raffle winners include Kristen Skutnick, who won the "Cheer Basket", Gail Kelly who won the "Peace, Love & Joy" basket, Jen and Kayla Schmidt won the "Ladies Night In basket", Mick Garrison won the "Mommy and Me" basket and Jan Moomey won the "Baker's Thank You" basket. Debbie Stokovich won the beautiful Gingerbread House designed and donated by Kris DeGregor. It was a fun event and we are thankful that we can carry on this tradition at Holy Cross. A special thank you to Pastor Bob, Pastor Sally, and the entire office staff who so graciously supported our effort.

We wish you God's blessings and peace this holiday season!

The Cookie Walk Team Karla Boucek, Jennifer Clark, Therese Delli Paoli, Gail Kelly, Carole Kenney, Amanda Komaschka, Joyce Kveton, Melody Schneider, Kristen Skutnick and Karen Yocius



Jen and Kayla Schmidt holding their "Ladies Night In" basket!

Debbie Stokovich and her son were excited about winning the Gingerbread House, designed, created and donated by Kris DeGregor. Thank you, Kris!



AROUND THE CROSS CONCERT SERIES

Life After Poulenc? More Poulenc!

by Randy Casey

Now that I have finished my Poulenc program, having performed an entire concert from memory on November 25, I could ask myself, "What's next?" The answer is that my piano practice will enter a more relaxed period than it has undergone in the past year or so, and my primary thoughts will now concern literature selection for the Holy Cross Choir.

I will be making my annual pilgrimage to a music store in Toledo, Ohio to search for music for the choir for the 2018 - 2019 season. During that search I will be looking for, among other works, a cappella pieces the choir might sing during its June, 2019 trip to Germany. At the moment I am only planning to repeat one piece from our 2013 trip, and that piece is "Bow Down Low" by Bridges. Besides being very well liked by the singers, it is pure Americana and is just the type of work I like to take abroad. I revel in finding singable, delightful, unaccompanied pieces that we can enjoy singing in German churches where our sound bounces off the stone of the old church floors.

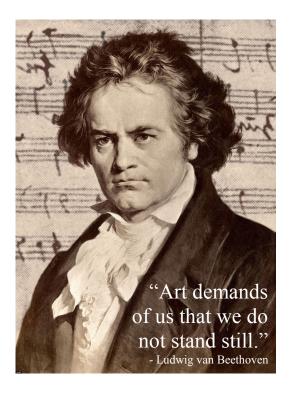
Every time I walk into a music store I am looking for a new, or at least new to me, setting of Psalm 23, whether unaccompanied or not. The popularity of that psalm, on Easter IV and other times, demands an ongoing quest for settings of that beloved text. Other passages that draw my attention are those suitable for All Saints Sunday, Advent, and Good Friday.

While actually making out the choir schedule for the fall of 2018, I will be quick to remember that the major of work the Holy Cross Choir will be singing in December of 2018 is "Gloria" by Francis Poulenc. (Yes, more Poulenc, but this time choral.) To my way of thinking this piece is in the top five of choral works written in the 20th century. And part of the reason I recently played a Poulenc program in church was to introduce listeners to the "Poulenc" sound.

The Poulenc "Gloria" was the first major choral work I accompanied after moving to Evanston in August of 1976. I was organist at the 1st Presbyterian Church of Evanston and the choir, with some paid singers brought in, presented the "Gloria" in December of that year. We will be borrowing choral scores from the 1st Presbyterian Church of Evanston for our presentation. I walked into that building over a year ago and politely introduced myself to the choir director. After explaining my history with the church and the piece, she wanted me to walk out with the music in my hands that

very day. I declined to do so then, but will make a return trip to Evanston before we begin rehearsing the "Gloria" the week after Easter, 2018. Please know that we will not be presenting the Poulenc "Gloria" alone because the piece is so challenging. A friend of mine, Kevin Burrow, is the organist and choir director at a Roman Catholic church in Glen Ellyn. We will present the work with Kevin's choir both at Holy Cross and at his church. Our choirs are comparable in size and ability, and together we can sing the Poulenc "Gloria." We will be presenting it with only organ accompaniment. I will play the organ at both churches and Kevin will be conducting.

Assuming an acceptable degree of ability at the organ and the piano, selecting music for the Holy Cross Choir may be my most important task at church. The good news is that is not a "task" for me at all. I enjoy the hunt for choral literature and delight in finding of an occasional gem. Of course, Beethoven did not have to go around looking for a new piece of music. He wrote what he heard in his head, just like you and I might write the thoughts of a letter or an e-mail today that we have in our heads. I am not a composer, but I am a seeker who will hopefully strive to keep playing, reading, and learning Beethoven's native language until I lose more than just my hearing.



Hunger to Hope Lake County MobilePack 544,320 Meals Are On Their Way!

Over the course of three days, we reached our goal of packing 70 pallets (2,520 boxes) of food to feed malnourished children around the world. A big thank you to all the packing volunteers, event staff, generous donors, Tom Miller and all the staff at Pet Factory!

Comment by a participant: "It's a good feeling to make a meaningful difference in some children's lives."

Jesus taught, "When you saw the least of us hungry . . . you saw me."



Hope Ambassador Ornaments

by Jen Christensen and Karen Karris

Thank you to everyone who purchased Ugandan Christmas ornaments to sponsor meals for Feed My Starving Children this fall. At this writing we sold 110 ornaments! At 45 meals provided per ornament, that equals 4,950 meals. Thank you!



- ► Peanut Butter is the food of the month for January. Thank you to all the Sunday School children at Holy Cross who bring non-perishable food items before the Children's Message each Sunday morning.
- ► Holiday Meal Boxes In November and December, Holy Cross members contributed \$1,430 towards Holiday Meal Boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas, which is the equivalent of 72 families receiving holiday meals.
- ► Volunteer at COOL To volunteer at the pantries or help with COOL Family Housing or other opportunities at COOL please call our Volunteer Manager at (847) 662-1230.
- ▶ Paper and plastic grocery bags are needed by COOL. They use these bags to give out food pantry items. Bags may be dropped off in the COOL cart next to the church office.
- ► Please check expiration dates! COOL Food Pantries will not dispense expired food to their clients.

Scouting Sunday

On a Sunday morning in February we will celebrate scouting during a 9:30 am worship service which will include a special blessing for all involved in scouting. As soon as a date is selected we will mention in Sunday bulletins. If your scout is interested in participating in the worship services as a reader, usher, acolyte, acolyte assistant (if a communion Sunday) or greeter, please contact *office@holycrosschurch.org*.











Winchester House 2018 Worship Dates

The fourth Sunday of every month, from January through October, Holy Cross pastors, confirmation students and other volunteers bring a worship experience to the residents of Winchester House in Libertyville. (Just west of the intersection of Milwaukee/Rte. 21 and Winchester Rd.) This is a great way to volunteer as a family. Please arrive at 2 pm at the entrance from the parking lot. We assist residents to and from the worship space and hold a worship service from 2:30 - 3 pm.

If you are a pianist and would be willing to accompany our hymns, or if you know a young musician who would enjoy playing pieces to enhance our worship, please contact the church office (office@holycrosschurch.org).

2018 Winchester House worship service dates:

January 28
February 25
March 25
April 22
May 27
June 24
July 22
August 26
September 23
October 28

We hope you will join us at the Winchester House worship services in 2018.



Please sign up to bring a food item for the PADS shelter in Grayslake on the whiteboard in the narthex. Donations should be brought to the kitchen by noon on **Sunday**, **January 21**.

Other items that are greatly appreciated: small body powder, lip balm, foot powder, new women's underwear sizes 5-7 and new men's boxer briefs (not white) in sizes L and XL, new warm socks in all sizes.

We received word from Green Oaks Holiday Chorus that they raised \$1,785 at their Christmas concert for PADS which is a new record. Thank you to all those who attended and contributed!

10

SUNDAY +

A New Year Brings New Bible Stories

by Judith Frank-Gonwa & Felicia Brandt

Our Sunday School children delighted the Holy Cross congregation with a wonderful musical Christmas Program, "A Red Letter Christmas." 4th and 5th graders narrated the program while all of the Sunday School participants sang favorite Christmas songs as well as songs taught in Sunday School. The children created the decorations used in the program. We gratefully thank Carrie and Jamey Mack for their continued leadership in providing the music component of Sunday School.

You may view the video here: bit.ly/ChristmasProgram17

2018 is underway and Sunday School welcomes the new year with stories about Moses. Sunday School will resume on January 14. This series of new lessons for grades one through five will focus on the Exodus Story and Freedom. Our 3 - 5 year olds will also hear stories about Moses and David and Goliath.

The children will learn about Moses' difficult task to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and into the promised land. It was a long and difficult journey but Moses continued to remind the Israelites to put their trust in God. We will help the children see how this can apply to them when they are afraid or sad.

Grades 1 - 5 are in need of shepherds.

Parental support is a critical component of our Sunday School program. All parents have been emailed a calendar of Sunday School dates that shows where shepherds are needed. Please volunteer in your child's class.

Happy New Year!

Sunday School Coordinators: Ages 3-5/K: Felicia Brandt (847) 362-0924 Grades 1-5: Judith Frank-Gonwa (847) 363-8783

Dates to Remember

January 10: Rotation 3 Teacher & Shepherd Prep, 7 pm

who will be leading during **Rotation 3: Freedom.** Join us as we explore the Exodus Story and learn more about it to help

This is a time for all teachers and shepherds

us teach our students!

January 14: Sunday School Resumes

January 28: Family Outreach Series:

Growing Up Healthy, 4 to 5:45 pm (see p.4)



Support for their faith journey..

Our faith journey occurs from birth through life eternal. Milestone Ministries serve as an important way of connecting, supporting, and equipping families and the congregation to pass on the faith, to live out the promises that are made when someone is baptized and to

Milestone Ministry:

16 year olds*: Blessing of the Keys

Saturday, January 20, 2018 from 9:30 - 11 amConversations about faith and the responsibility of driving, with youth and their parents/guardians.

Sunday, January 21 at 9:30 am worship Special blessing of new drivers and their parents.

* and older teens who received their license in the last two years and didn't participate in this milestone previously.

RSVP by January 15 to office@holycrosschurch.org

Milestone Ministry:

Fourth Grade: Ten Commandments Saturday, February 10, 2018 9:30 to 11 am

The Ten Commandments are one of the things that parent(s), sponsors and the congregation promise to place in each baptized person's hands. What are the Ten Commandments really all about? How does that apply to your family or the life of a fourth grader? Join us as we explore these questions and dive deeper into scripture.

RSVP by February 5 to office@holycrosschurch.org



Milestone Ministry: Baptism

For most of us the formal beginning of our faith journey occurred at the baptismal font. Through the waters of baptism, we are publically claimed as a Child of God and become a part of God's family.

If you have not yet been baptized, or are interested in having your child baptized, we promise to support you in this way to grow in age and wisdom through God's love. Please contact the church office at (847) 367-4060 or office@holycrosschurch.org for more information.

11

2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

JUNE 26 - JULY 1, 2018 HOUSTON, TX

Participant Prep Meeting Sunday, January 21, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Meet in the fellowship area
This is for all participants who are attending the
2018 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Save the dates for helping with upcoming fundraisers:

Coffeehouse Concert Fundraiser - February 3, 2018 at 6:30 pm Lone Star BBQ Dinner & Silent Auction - March 10 at 6:30 pm

Open for Last-minute Reservations!

Peer Ministry Leadership Training Retreat

Friday, January 12 to Saturday, January 13

Lutherdale Bible Camp, Elkhorn, WI

Cost: \$100 per person. Registration due immediately. *Registration forms are in the church office and gathering space.*

Do you find that your friends often ask you some tough questions you aren't sure how to answer? Do you struggle to know what to say when you meet someone new? Are you a leader in what you already do but wish you knew more about relational leadership?

If you answered in a positive way, then Peer Ministry Leadership Training is for you! Come to the training retreat! This is open to all high school students - both those who have been Peer Ministers for years and those just starting for the first time. There will be pieces done together and portions separate for those who have already been trained. There is something for everyone. Those who have already been trained, come and share and utilize your skills with new participants!

Please email Pastor Sally with any questions. pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org





High School Breathers/Youth Group Sundays, January 21, February 11 & March 4 6:30 - 8 pm

Meet in the fellowship area

High School Breathers are a chance to do just that... breathe! This is a time for Christian fellowship in doing a little homework, joining in prayer and discussing life. Topics vary based on the conversations of the group from week to week. You do not need to be attending a trip or have regular attendance to join High School Youth Group.... it is a come when you can kind of group!

High School Youth Group Game Night Friday, January 26 from 6:30 - 8 pm

Please bring a snack to share and \$5 for pizza

RSVP by January 24 requested pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org

Come beat the winter blues by sharing time with friends. Bring along that great new game you got for Christmas or play ones provided. Both table games and large group activities like sardines or pew battleship will be available. Bring a friend!

Confirmation

Confirmation instruction at Holy Cross is for all students who are in grades 6, 7 & 8. Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation occurs fall of 9th grade year.

Important Dates

<u>January Confirmation Sessions</u> (sessions 10 - 12) <u>Meets Sundays, January 7, 21 and 28</u> (no confirmation January 14)

<u>Confirmation Retreat: Discipleship</u> (sessions 13-15) February 2 - 3

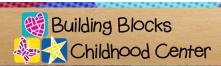
Phantom Lake Bible Camp \$95/ participant. Registrations are due immediately if you have not already registered.

Confirmation Service Opportunities

7th grade boys pack PADS lunches

Sunday, January 21, following the 9:30 am service. Families welcome to assist.

6th grade girls assist with Winchester House worship Sunday, January 28, 2 pm to 3:15 pm. Families welcome to assist.



Where Love and Learning Me



Celebration! Childcare

Community Service Project

Celebration! Childcare will be collecting cans of food for COOL Food Pantry during the months of January and February. Holy Cross members and Celebration! Childcare children are invited to bring in as many cans as possible.

While the cans are being collected, the children will construct a large, "Can Castle." The themes in some of our classrooms are "Fantasy" and "Let's Pretend." With the goal of building a castle made out of cans, we hope that the children will be motivated to add to the collection!

Cans may be dropped off down at the Celebration! Childcare wing in the west end of the building at our main entrance. Please check that the expiration dates on the cans are valid through at least the end of February. We are unable to accept/donate expired food.

During mid-February the cans will be packed up and delivered to the pantry to help them restock their shelves.

> Kathy Pfister, Celebration! Childcare Director celebration@holycrosschurch.org (847) 367-6208



Celebration! Childcare staff decorated their entrance with Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus (made out of terra cotta pots, bouncy balls and fabric).



Santa visited the children of Celebration! Childcare on December 11. He was very excited to see our Mickey Mouse themed Christmas tree!



🌇 CrossWays Preschool

Happy New Year!

What a wonderful holiday season we had! In December, we were very busy crafting, singing, playing with our friends, learning about the birth of Jesus, and enjoying the wonders of the season. We had a restful winter break, but are now ready for 2018 and all the fun that a new year brings. Our classes will be enjoying field trips, visits from the bookmobile, Children's Chapel, as well as exciting new topics to explore in our classrooms.

CrossWays Preschool registration begins January 12 for current students and all Holy Cross members. Registration opens to the public on January 22.

The new calendar year also brings the time for registration for the 2018/19 school year. We will open registration to current CrossWays families and Holy Cross congregation members on Friday, January 12. On Monday, January 22, we will open registration to the general public. Retrieve a registration form

using this link bit.ly/CWP1819 or pick up paper copies in the church building. This coming school year, we will have a variety of traditional and enrichment classes for children ages 2 - 5, including extend-the-day options. You may contact me with any questions about our offerings for next year. We can be flexible and build a program to suit your needs!

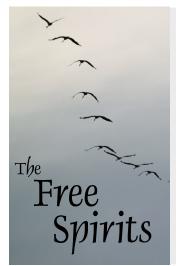
Starting this month, CrossWays Preschool will be collecting goods for troops stationed overseas through Operation Support Our Troops. We will be collecting a variety of items that



make serving overseas a little bit easier for the brave men and women who serve there. The congregation is invited to participate as well. Please visit osotamerica.org/get-involved/ itemsneeded to see the complete list of what we are collecting. (Items range from personal toiletries such as hand sanitizer, single toothbrushes, floss, deodorant to cough drops, nasal spray, white athletic socks to batteries. Food items are also needed such as granola bars, nuts, gum, jerky, oatmeal packets etc. The list is extensive!)

If you are willing and able, please place your items in the box in the CrossWays space by **Monday**, **February 5**. Thank you in advance for your generous hearts!

> Elizabeth Moy, CrossWays Preschool Director crossways@holycrosschurch.org (847) 367-4367



The Free Spirits Thursday, January 18 at 11 am at Holy Cross, Fellowship area

The Free Spirits are a group of retirees and others age 55 and more who enjoy participating in outings together.

You are invited to the Free spirits annual potluck lunch on Thursday, January 18 at 11am. Bring a dish to share and your ideas for 2018 activities. After lunch and discussion of future programs, *The Shack* (2 hour video) will be shown in the sanctuary for those who wish to stay.

The Shack is a 2017 American Christian drama film directed by Stuart Hazeldine and written by John Fusco, based on the 2007 novel of the same name by William P. Young. The film stars Sam Worthington, Octavia Spencer, Graham Greene, Radha Mitchell, Alice Braga, Sumire Matsubara, Aviv Alush and Tim McGraw.

Contact Carol Wasemiller with questions at (847) 625-0046 or clinnea@yahoo.com



Parents of Children with Special Needs Sunday, January 21 at 4 pm, Room 208

This self-guided support group is for parents of children with special needs. We meet on the third Sunday of every month. Snacks are provided by the Lexi Kazian Foundation. If you would like to speak with someone prior to our next meeting, please contact either: Terry Berger (847) 680-3578 or Lisa Dunbar (847) 309-6035.



PROJECT HEALING WATERS (PHW) FLY FISHING NORTH CHICAGO

DAY SESSION: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, AT 11:30AM

LOCATION: FELLOWSHIP AREA

EVENING SESSION: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, AT 7 PM, ROOM 208

This month we will only meet once, enjoying a meal and creating flies for the spring. We always welcome more volunteers to help with hospitality. If you would like to help in this way, please contact office@holycrosschurch.org



GROUNDED IN GRACE: FRIDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP FRIDAY - JANUARY 5, FROM 6:30 - 8:30 PM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

"...and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." - Ephesians 3:17-19

Begin the New Year by investing in your greatest asset - you! Come and be enriched and refreshed in the Word and with other women of faith. This group meets once a month - come when you can, leave when you must! No prep work is required, but if you would like to read ahead, pick up the book *Twelve Extraordinary Women* (available in the church office for \$5). On **Friday, January 5**, we will discuss Chapter 5 *Hannah: A Portrait of Feminine Grace*. Please bring a beverage and a snack to share. Contact Pastor Sally with any questions at *PastorSally@holycrosschurch.org* Save the date for February 9 when we will discuss *Chapter 6: Mary*.



PILATES

MONDAYS, JANUARY 8, 15, 22 & 29 AND FEBRUARY 5, 12, 19 & 26 6 - 7 PM, CELEBRATION! ATRIUM (WEST WING)

Join us for our January/February session. We will meet each Monday starting at 6 pm. The fee for this session is \$75. Not sure if pilates is for you? Try one class for free! Questions about pilates may be directed toward the organizer, Jodi Zombolo at (224) 595-8573.



BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 AT 7 PM

LOCATION: HOME OF JERI POWERS, 1401 RUIDOSO CT., LIBERTYVILLE *Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis - that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays, January 9 and January 23 at 11 am - 12:30 pm, Fellowship Area

Throughout the year, this Bible study meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Biblical scholarship is not required. All you need to join the conversation is an open heart and any translation of the Bible. The group will begin their study of the **Book of Revelation** with Pastor Bob on January 9.



COMMON THREADS

Monday, January 8 at 1 pm, Fellowship Area

The Common Threads relational group is made up of volunteers who like to knit and/or crochet. They get together once a month to work on personal handiwork projects as well as prayer shawls and blankets for the prayer ministry. All are welcome to join us. Questions? Please contact Judy Luplow at (847) 367-0242.



WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday, January 16 from 9:30 - 11 am, Fellowship Area

This group, led by Pastor Sally, will only meet once in January. We will cover the last chapter of *Twelve Extraordinary Women* by John MacArthur. Join us to discuss *Chapter 11: Lydia* at our meeting on Tuesday, January 16. All are welcome!

Watch for a new book title to be announced, which we will begin discussing on Tuesday, February 6.



MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

EVERY TUESDAY MORNING FROM 6:30 TO 7:30 AM

LOCATION: THE LIBERTY RESTAURANT, 419 S. MILWAUKEE AVE, LIBERTYVILLE

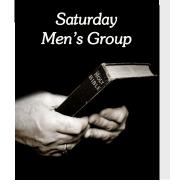
This is a wonderful way to begin the day. We promise to provide you with thought-provoking and stimulating fellowship and conversation. All men are welcome to join us.



CARE OF CREATION - WINE CORK COLLECTION



We will collect natural wine corks for recycling and re-purposing, using the narrow cardboard box that is next to the Care of Creation kiosk in the gathering space. Corks made of natural material help support a sustainable industry that harvests the bark of the trees but doesn't harm them, sort of like shearing sheep. The cork regrows for a future harvest in the areas of Portugal where most wine corks are produced. There is an active market for recycled corks, which makes collecting them a real "win-win". Choose real corks (vs. plastic corks) and bring them to church to protect God's beautiful creation. *The bin will be removed following the Annual Congregational Meeting, January 28*.



Saturday Men's Group Saturdays - January 13 & 27 at 7 am, Fellowship Area

"Living the Questions 2.0" (LtQ2) is an open-minded alternative to studies that create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. LtQ2 consists of 21 sessions which may be offered in sequence or as three independent flights of seven units each: "Invitation to Journey," "Honoring Creation" and "Call to Covenant." Recently updated to include Diana Butler Bass, Brian McLaren and Robin Meyers, LtQ2 is a popular video and internet-based small group exploration of progressive Christianity featuring premier religion voices of our day. The 20-minute video segments include conversations with leading voices of faith, digital stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith, and concrete spiritual practices and disciplines.



Monday, January 1 New Year's Day - Building Closed **Newsletter content due for February**

Tuesday, January 2 Please RSVP for At the Table on 1/9

6:30 am Men's Breakfast @ The Liberty 11:00 am Dismantle Christmas Decor 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404

Wednesday, January 3

9:00 am Quilting & More, 404 11:00 am Dismantle Christmas Decor Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404 3:30 pm BSA Troop #194 Committee 7:00 pm Holy Cross Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm

Thursday, January 4

11:00 am Dismantle Christmas Decor 6:00 pm Christmas Decor to Storage 7:00 pm Handbell Choir, 402

Friday, January 5

6:30 pm Grounded in Grace: Friday Night Women's Group

Saturday, January 6

5:30 pm First Saturday Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, January 7 **Baptism of Our Lord**

8, 9:30 & 11 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am Leeson Baptism 6:30 pm Confirmation resumes

Monday, January 8

CrossWays Preschool back in session

1:00 pm Common Threads 6:00 pm Pilates Celebration! atrium

7:00 pm Willow House Meeting

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 am Men's Breakfast @ The Liberty 11:00 am Adult Bible Study Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404 3:30 pm 6:00 pm BSA Roundtable, main level 6:30 pm At the Table, Ristorante Bottaio, Libertyville

Wednesday, January 10

9:00 am Ouilting & More, 404 11:30 am PHW Day Program Session Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404 3:30 pm Rotation 3 Sunday School Prep 7:00 pm 7:00 pm PHW Evening Program, 208 7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 11

7:00 pm Handbell Choir, 402 7:00 pm ECM Board Meeting, 208

Friday, January 12

CrossWavs Preschool Registration opens to current CrossWays families and Holy **Cross members**

6:00 pm Peer Ministry Retreat Departs

Saturday, January 13

Saturday Men's Group 7:00 am Todd Wright's Ordination, 4:00 pm Messiah Lutheran Church 9:00 pm Peer Ministry Retreat Returns

Sunday, January 14

8, 9:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School NO Confirmation

Monday, January 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day CrossWays Preschool Closed

6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium 7:00 pm BSA Troop # 194, 402

Tuesday, January 16

6:30 am Men's Breakfast @ The Liberty 9:30 am Women's Discussion Group 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404

Wednesday, January 17

9:00 am Ouilting & More, 404 **ECM Marketing Meeting** 9:30 am 12:30 pm Building Blocks Bible Study 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404 7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 18

11:00 am Free Spirits: Pot luck lunch & The Shack movie 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 402 7:00 pm Church Council

Saturday, January 20

9:30 am Milestone Ministry: Blessing of the Keys (16 yrs. +) Conversations with kids/parents

Sunday, January 21

PADS Donations Due Today, Kitchen Worship with Holy Communion 8:00 am 9:30 & 11am Contemporary Worship

with Holy Communion

9:30 am Milestone Ministry:

Blessing of the Keys (16 yrs. +)

9:45 am Sunday School

10:30 am Confirmation 7th gr. boys Pack PADS Lunches, kitchen

12:30 pm 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, Prep Meeting

4:00 pm Parents of Children with Special Needs

6:30 pm Confirmation

High School Breathers/Youth Grp.

Monday, January 22

CrossWays Preschool Public Registration RSVP Due for Family Outreach Series: Growing Up Healthy 1/28

6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium 7:00 pm BSA Troop #194, 402

Tuesday, January 23

6:30 am Men's Breakfast @ The Liberty 11:00 am Adult Bible Study 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404 7:00 pm Book Club, Jeri Powers' home

Wednesday, January 24

9:00 am Ouilting & More, 404 12:00 pm Feed My Starving Children pack 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404 7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 25

9:30 am Newsletter Assembly

Friday, January 26

6:30 pm High School Game Night

Saturday, January 27

7:00 am Saturday Men's Group

Sunday, January 28

8, 9:30 & 11:15 am Worship 10:15 am Annual Congregational Meeting 2:00 pm 6th gr. girls assist at Winchester 2:30 pm Winchester House worship 4:00 pm Family Outreach Series: **Growing Up Healthy**

6:30 pm Confirmation

Monday, January 29

6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium 7:00 pm BSA Troop #194, 402

Tuesday, January 30

6:30 am Men's Breakfast @ The Liberty 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404

Wednesday, January 31

9:00 am Ouilting & More, 404 9:30 am ECM Marketing Meeting 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404 7:00 pm Holy Cross Choir Rehearsal

Newsletter Assembly

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 29700 N. SAINT MARYS ROAD LIBERTYVILLE. IL 60048 – 1575

Postmaster: Request in home by JANUARY 1

Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Libertyville, IL 60048 Permit No. 14





Pardon our missing parts! Exciting new updates are coming to HolyCrossChurch.org soon.





Tuesday, Jan. 9: Ristorante Bottaio
- See page 5 for more details -

Please plan to attend the
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 10:15 am
Worship at 8, 9:30 or 11:15 am
Annual Reports will be available on January 21, online and at church.

Family Outreach Series

Growing Up Healthy

Sunday, January 28 4 - 5:45 pm FREE! All Families invited!

See pages 2 & 4 for info and to register.



CURRENT EVENTS

January 2018

- 2, 3 & 4 Help needed with packing up Christmas decor
- 6 First Saturday Worship
- 9 At The Table, Ristorante Bottaio
- 12-13 Peer Ministry Retreat
- 14 Sunday School Resumes
- 28 Annual Congregational Meeting
- 28 Family Outreach Series: *Growing Up Healthy*

February 2018

- 2-3 Confirmation Retreat
- 3 First Saturday Worship

 Around the Cross Coffeehouse

 Concert with Mike & Sue Blair
- 10 New Member Breakfast 8:30 am
- 11 Reception of New Members 9:30 am
- 13 At the Table, The Liberty Restaurant
- 14 Ash Wednesday Service, 7:30 pm
- 18 First Sunday in Lent
- 21 Midweek Soup Supper and Midweek Lenten Worship
- 23-25 Women's Retreat at Lutherdale
- 28 Midweek Soup Supper and Midweek Lenten Worship