

# Annual Report

## Year End 2014

### Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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*Rochester, MN 55901*

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[www.holycross-church.org](http://www.holycross-church.org)



# Welcome



Pastor Steve and Jane

**Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.**  
**(Ephesians 3:20-21)**

Every year about this time I receive numerous mailings promoting books, seminars, and programs promising to show the way to grow the church. They are always tempting. Some offers may sit on my desk for a while, but eventually most find their way to the wastebasket. That is not to say that these types of things are a waste of time and money. I am sure they offer good ideas and specific things that can be helpful in growing the church. I know that is true because over the years I have read some of the books and used some of the programs.

But the truth of the matter is this: I can't grow the church. That is something God does. Yes, God uses me and you and us together to grow His church. But that growth does not happen through the latest creative programs or high-tech systems. It happens when people encounter the love and life of Jesus Christ. Whether people realize it or not... believe it or not... Jesus is exactly what they need and what they are looking for in life.

Back in the 90s... Yes, way back then, those of us who were here at Holy Cross adopted a common purpose based on a simple Scripture verse that described the life of the first church. Their life together as the church is described this way: *All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer (Acts 2:42)*. From this verse we concluded that our life together should be characterized by the same things – a devotion to God's Word, to each other, to worship and to prayer. From there we adopted a common purpose for our life together. We would: *www@holycross!* The three W's did not stand for the world wide web. They stood for: *Welcome, Worship, and Witness!* This is how we would reach others, our community, and our world. And to this day, we have done this, and God has grown His church.

Today, we speak of our life together differently. We are a people who are focused on *Helping People Become Fully Alive in Jesus!* Our Biblical basis for that remains the same. As we devote ourselves to God's Word, each other, worship and prayer, we become more fully alive in Jesus, and God then uses us to help others do the same. In the early church we are told there were signs that made it evident that God was in their midst. Have you seen any signs of the same at Holy Cross – signs that God is at work among us and through us helping people become more fully alive in Jesus? I have. As I look back over my shoulder at 2014, I see what you will see and read on the following pages. Yes, there will be minutes and reports and statistics. But I hope you will see more than that. I hope you will see what I see: a church that is growing and becoming fully alive in Jesus... a church that is helping others come to know Jesus and begin the journey of becoming fully alive in Him. I hope you will see God growing His church. And, I hope you will see yourself as part of that! So, thank you from the bottom of my heart for being a part of God's Welcoming, Worshiping, Witnessing body of believers at Holy Cross in 2014!

But, that brings to mind one more *W* as I contemplate what might be ahead for us in 2015. *Wondering!* I am wondering what more the Lord might have for us to do together as His church in the coming year. I trust He will show us as we continue to devote ourselves to His Word, each other, worship, and prayer. As He does, I am trusting you will see how God wants to continue to use you or how He wants to use you in a new way to help grow His church. It is the reason we are here. Because purely by God's grace, we know that Jesus is what everyone truly needs. And we are here to bring His life and love into their lives. As we do? God will grow His church!

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# Official Business

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## Minutes of Congregational Meetings

### *January 26, 2014*

On January 26, 2014 the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Annual congregational meeting was held.

President Parks opened the meeting and Pastor Green offered a prayer.

The slate of candidates for Officers and Board Chairs was presented. The candidates presented for election to two year terms are the following (all are incumbent):

Vice President – Eric Cleveland

Treasurer-Roger Lindahl

Board of Fellowship – John Fibison

Board of Finance-Ken Schultz

Board of Personnel – Vicki Snyder

Board of Trustees-Dan Hayes

Board of Youth-Jim Krom

A motion was made and seconded to approve these candidates. The motion was approved.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2013 Annual Meeting. The minutes were approved.

Pastor Schauder presented 2014 Missions and Ministry Opportunities.

The Treasurer, Mr. Roger Lindahl presented the 2013 Financial Report.

President Keith Parks presented the 2014 Financial Ministry Plan.

RCLS Board President and Holy Cross Representative, Mr. Tim Heroff, gave an update on RCLS.

New members for 2013 were celebrated, announcements were made about the Lenten Schedule.

President Parks announced the meeting would be adjourned after the closing prayer if there were no objections. As there were none. Pastor Schauder closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Parks

Executive Council President

### *Special Meeting, April 6, 2014*

Purpose of the Meeting: To act upon a request from the RCLS Board of Directors

Meeting called to order at 10:45 a.m. by Vice President Eric Cleveland who chaired the meeting in the absence of President Keith Parks.

Vice President Cleveland called upon Pastor Schauder to open the meeting with prayer.

Vice President Cleveland requested all in attendance to read the prepared hand out (see attached).

The following motion was made and seconded:

To approve the request of the RCLS Board of Directors to refinance the current Rochester Central Lutheran School mortgage with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund according to the terms submitted by the Rochester Central Lutheran School Finance Committee.

After discussion Vice President Cleveland called for a vote. The motion was passed unanimously by the congregation.

Special thanks was given to Mr. Mark Matthias for his knowledge and understanding of the motion which was shared during the course of the discussion.

Vice President Cleveland adjourned the meeting and called upon Pastor Green to offer a closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Steven R. Schauder (acting Secretary)

#### ADDENDUM

#### SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING – APRIL 6

On Sunday, April 6, at 10:45 in the Parish Hall we will convene a special congregational meeting in order to act upon a request from the RCLS Board of Directors on behalf of Rochester Central Lutheran School. This is because certain matters can only be decided by the member congregations of the Rochester Central Lutheran School Association. Following is a summary of the request.

The RCLS Board of Directors requests congregational approval to refinance the current mortgage at Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Current Balance:	\$732,902.00
New Monies:	\$350,000.00
Total plus closing costs:	\$1,082,902.00

New interest rate will be reduced from 4.5% to 4.25%. This rate will be locked for the first 5 years. The origination fee will be reduced from 1% to .50%.

The term will remain the same. We currently have 13 years or 156 months remaining on the loan, we will maintain the current payment schedule.

New estimated payment will be \$9,047.00. Current payment is \$8,151.58.

Reasons for this refinance:

- Eliminate reliance on pre-collection of the next year's tuition to fund current year expenses.
- Eliminate reliance on the line of credit for long term debt.
- The discipline and desire is in place to maintain the budget set forth. We are currently on budget.
- This will allow the board to focus on many other important areas in the short and long range future at RCLS.

The motion to be discussed and voted upon at the meeting will be:

To approve the request of the RCLS Board of Directors to refinance the current Rochester Central Lutheran School mortgage with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund according to the terms submitted by the Rochester Central Lutheran School Finance Committee.

### *Special Meeting Dec 28, 2014*

Purpose of the Meeting: To inform the congregation of findings of the Board of Trustees regarding the need to replace the lighting in the sanctuary with more efficient lighting and to request approval for borrowing if necessary in light of upcoming deadlines for expiration of rebates for doing so.

Meeting called to order at 10:45 a.m. by President Keith Parks and Pastor Green opened the meeting with prayer.

President Parks explained the need for new sanctuary lighting as the old lighting is becoming difficult to find and is inefficient. The need for action is immediate as rebates for replacing the current lighting will be significantly reduced if not installed by March 1, 2015.

A motion was approved at the December 16, 2014 executive council meeting to accept the Board of Trustees proposal for re-lamping the sanctuary pending congregational approval of any funds necessary to proceed with the project.

The estimate of the cost for re-lamping the sanctuary as presented by the Board of Trustees is \$26,318. Included in this number is a rebate of \$5,436 and a sales tax exemption of \$1,086.

A motion was introduced by President Parks to authorize the borrowing of up to \$26,318 to be exclusively used for the re-lamping of the sanctuary and was seconded.

The motion was discussed. A friendly amendment to change the amount specified to \$28,000 was made and seconded.

After discussion the motion as amended authorizing the borrowing of up to \$28,000 to be exclusively used for the re-lamping of the sanctuary was unanimously approved.

President Parks adjourned the meeting and called upon Pastor Green to offer a closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Parks, President

## 2015 Meeting Business

### *Elective Offices*

Corporate Officers (Those in Bold are up for election)

- **President - Keith Parks**



- Vice President - Eric Cleveland



- Treasurer – Roger Lindahl



- Secretary – Linda Hemerick**



- Board Chairs
  - Education – Open

- **Elders – Dan Johnson**



- **Fellowship – John Fibison**



- Finance –Ken Schultz**



- **Missions & Evangelism – Open**

- **Personnel - Vicki Snyder**



- Trustees –Dan Hayes**



- Volunteer Ministries - Jo Dean



Youth – Jim Krom



- RCLS Representatives (2)

- Doug Happel



**Bruce Snyder**



## New Business

Resolution on Debt Consolidation, Refinancing with LCEF:

Background:

**The treasurer has recommended to the Executive Council the consolidation of our existing debt and the lighting project refinancing of the LCEF loan, plus some additional funds for operating liquidity.**

Suggested Motion:

**“Be it Resolved**, the treasurer of Holy Cross may refinance the existing LCEF loan, which had a \$54,325 balance in December and approximately a 15 year remaining term, consolidating the sign loan, balance was at \$8,623 in December, the Lighting project, which was authorized for loan up to \$28,000, the existing \$1,250 on the MinnWest line of credit currently used for liquidity, and additional amount to restore liquidity to the checking balance to approximately \$15,000. Total refinancing not to exceed \$100,000. This resolution replaces the \$28,000 borrowing authorized on the lighting project. “

### Details

Current LCEF loan balance	\$54,325
Remaining Sign LOC balance	\$8,623
Approved Borrowing for Lighting	\$28,000
Other LOC	\$1,250
Less existing gifts for lighting	-\$2,500
Added Liquidity for checking account	\$10,302

Total Loan Proposed \$100,000

### Options

Option 1. Payment at 4.325 variable, 15 yr = \$753.80/mo

Option 2. Payment at 5% fixed 15 yr= \$788.41/mo

### Fees:

- 1% origination on new money \$456.75
- Mortgage tax & recording fees

**Our current LCEF loan payment is \$1,047/month and has about 15 years remaining.**

We will also proceed with a campaign to raise funds for the lighting and sign projects. All such early repayments go against principal. But our payment would still remain the same. This will reduce the life of the loan and reduce overall interest payments.



*So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. (Galatians 6:9 –NIV)*

Below is a list of the Boards at Holy Cross in 2014, their leaders **and some of the special teams** within each board. What are **your** gifts (talents, skills, likes)? Where do they fit below? **You** might choose to help out on a team, pitch in on a particular project /event here and there, or serve on a board. The option is **yours**, the time commitment flexible.

**Education** – chair (vacant)

Teams: Adult Bible Study, Confirmation, KidZ Alive, VBS

**Elders** –Tim Geise, Dan Johnson

Teams: Altar Society, Child Care Ministry, Communion Servers, Elders, Greeters, New: Military Outreach, Readers, Ushers

**Fellowship** –John Fibison

Teams: Events, Meals, Sunday morning Coffee, Lenten Supper & Worship, etc.

**Finance** – Ken Schultz and Jay Gatzlaff

Teams: Counters, Audit

**Missions & Evangelism** – chair (vacant), Sheila Parks (chair pro-temp)

Team: Dorothy Day House Meal Servers Serving various Local, National and International Missions, including Suresh –Missionary in India. Specific mission projects include: Angel Tree, Baskets of Hope, Community Clothesline, Dorothy Day House, the Lower Room, MN Adult & Teen Challenge, and more!

**Personnel** – Vicki Snyder

**RCLS Representatives** – Doug Happel

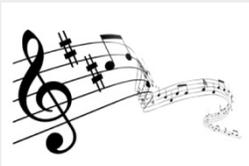
**Trustees** – Dan Hayes, Dick Krom

Teams: Indoor care & repair (pews, floors, furniture, lights, plumbing, electrical, church building interior, etc.) & Outdoor care & repair (gardening, lawn care, snow shoveling, lighting, church building exterior.)

**Volunteer Ministry** – Jo Dean, Lynn Boger

**Youth** – Jim Krom

Teams: NightLife! SummerTyme! Adult helpers, study leaders, food prep (snacks & meals), Sunday morning 'Ten45', workcamp, fundraising events, youth garden team, etc.



Another area **you** could consider serving is Worship Ministries. Participation might include: singing, instrumentation, drama, sound tech, programmer for the worship screen, Screen tech during worship, clerical tasks, etc. See Cindy Wessel to learn more about these opportunities.

A huge 'thank you' goes out to all the leaders who have served God through Holy Cross on the Executive Council this past year. Thank you to Tim Geise and Jon Giese who both faithfully served as leaders on the Board of Elders. Thanks also to the individuals who served as officers on the EC in 2014: Keith Parks –President, Eric Cleveland –Vice President, and Roger Lindahl –Treasurer.

Thanks to all of **YOU** who serve God through Holy Cross! Thanks for the gifts **you** share in many ways and in many areas at Holy Cross. Thank **you** for *helping people become more fully alive in Jesus!* May **you** continue to be used by God for His glory in 2015.



Submitted by Jo Dean – Board of Volunteer Ministry –Chair

## Elder's Report

The Board of Elders (BOE) currently consists of 4 members: Dan Johnson (Chair), Brandon Marsh (Chair pro tem), Tim Geise, and Joe Keyes.

### Highlights of 2014

Thirty-three new members were welcomed into the Holy Cross family in 2014 along with eleven children who were baptized. Holy Cross reported 485 baptized members to the LCMS Synod.

Attendance metrics for 2014:

- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter = 191
- 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter = 180
- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter = 167
- 4<sup>th</sup> quarter = 179
- Average Sunday attendance for 2014 = 179 (2013 = 190)

### Board of Elder Goals for 2015

- Continue to support the Holy Cross Partners in Prayer ministry
- Continue to support Holy Cross staff and volunteers in the mission of "Helping People Become Fully Alive in Jesus"
- Support Pastor Schauder and Pastor Green in their ministry goals
- Grow Elder membership from 4 members to a minimum of 6 members

## RCLS Partnership

What an amazing year at Rochester Central Lutheran School!

There are currently 300 students total enrolled, K-8 246, PS/PK 54 (PK 32, PS 22) with 28 students in 8th grade this year.

The RCLS Board of Directors feels strongly that a vision is needed for the future stability and growth of the school. With the help of Holy Cross and the other Association churches, the Board is partnering with LCEF to create just such a vision. The intent of this partnership is that RCLS will arrive at missional clarity that leads to ministry direction. Once this takes place, Board and Administrative goals, allocation of resources, marketing and communication, educational and ministry decisions, and advancement initiatives can all be brought into alignment.

The Long-Range Planning Committee focused on the next year and ways to increase growth of student numbers by reaching out to non-LCMS congregations while continuing to maintain our LCMS identity.

Several security enhancements have been implemented with more planned. There will be staged lockdown drills, both soft lockdowns and intruder lockdowns (The lockdown procedure will be in the PawPrint). The school will also begin locking the doors during school and Stepping Stones (after school care) hours, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and then again from 3:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Important and exciting technology updates:

- The RCLS website received a much-needed update.
- All faculty are now utilizing new Lenovo laptops (the old laptops are being refurbished to be used with the SMART Boards).
- The increased number of Chromebooks has been a blessing at all the grade levels.

While RCLS's future is bright indeed, there will be many challenges along the way. The Faculty and Board of Directors of RCLS would appreciate your prayers, as we strive to prepare our children for tomorrow with a Christ-centered education today.

*RCLS carries out the Great Commission in partnership with Holy Cross and each of the Association churches, in partnership with you and all individuals who support Christian education. May God bless it for years to come! Check out the RCLS web site at [www.rcls.net](http://www.rcls.net) for all the latest.*

## Missions & Evangelism

The Board of Missions and Evangelism thanks you for your support throughout 2014. It is a blessing to be able to serve others through our many opportunities. Recently we had the opportunity to serve through the gifts given to the sharing tree during Christmas season. The groups we helped were very appreciative of our support. As an example, many of the items on the tree for the senior citizens centers were small. They were so thankful and appreciative of receiving these small items that it was a joy to be able to provide them. Similar stories exist for our continuing monthly service to Dorothy Day House and other groups served on a periodic basis. Thanks again for your support during 2014 and we look forward to 2015 opportunities to serve others.

## India Missionary Suresh

During 2014 the government of Andhra Pradesh in India dealt with the decisions on bifurcation – the splitting of the state into two separate states. It is hard to imagine the challenges of splitting the resources, duplicating already strained services and countless issues of people and boundaries.

Suresh and his wife Suneela continued together in Christ's ministry. The worship center built in the previous year provided shelter for many people in need throughout the year. Frequent worship gatherings where God's guiding word, Christian love and time were shared with community, widows, orphans and others in need. Further away, permission had been granted for eight years for another building to be used as a "mission station" for gatherings but now the permission is undergoing pressure to be removed. After sharing the good that was being done through the "mission station" the ministry is continuing but under a tentative existence. Suresh reminds me where one door closes God opens another. A story is shared of a Hindu woman who says now "I used to praise all creation. Now I praise the Savior creator." Another witness of 6 people coming forward to accept Jesus. Suresh shares reading through emails from Pastor Eberly of Wykoff, MN in the beginning of partnering in ministry nearly 15 years ago this year.... We can't really put ourselves in someone else's shoes. God gives us our own and places to connect to one another and help each other with the gifts He has given and at times to receive those He has given through others.



### *Excerpts of days with India missionary Suresh*

**12/26/2014** ....We distributed new clothes to the poor widows and poor women in a slum area. We conducted a love feast and invited all the people to come and eat. Praise God for we had a wonderful time of fellowship and prayer. And on the Christmas day morning we distributed new clothes to our Children in the Home. Our children are so happy to receive their new clothes. 12/10/2014 ...By His grace we are all fine. This evening we celebrated Mercy's birthday (One of our children in our Home). She is very happy and praising Jesus for His love, grace and care. This morning I sent two packets of chocolates along with her to school in order to distribute to her friends and classmates in the school.

This evening we conducted prayer meeting and we sang songs of praise unto the Lord. My wife Suneela made a cake for her happy birthday and she did the cake cutting with a great joy in her heart. Mercy lost her father when she was so young. Her mother came this evening and she also participated in this meeting and spent her time with her daughter in our children home. Jesus loves the little children and we know that they are future soldiers of the cross.

**11/24/2014** ....Last month and in this month so far we conducted 17 Gospel meetings in the villages. People in the villages and hamlets heard the Good News of our Lord Jesus in these meetings. We are so thankful to the Lord for 98 people accepted the Lord as their personal Saviour and Lord. We distributed Gospel tracts and Bibles to the people in these villages. Young students were so happy to receive them. To God be the glory! Our children in the homes and in the schools are fine and they are doing well. We ask for your prayers as they are given the key to help them out of the cycle of poverty. We are thankful to our mighty God for the homes and schools that we operate and the quality of education that is given....Our School sent their seventh batch of students for the 10th grade state exam and got 100% results. We are thankful to dedicated faculty and staff who educate these children and to you for helping us keep the homes and schools open.... Mercy is 12 years old and in grade 6. Her father died two years ago from heart failure. Her mother works as labor in the fields and owing to her health problems cannot work consistently. Mercy was brought to our children home and now can stay in school, live in a safe and nurturing environment, and just be a child. She now can dream of realizing her goal of being a nurse and caring for her family. She loves the Lord and she sings for His glory! From her and all the children, we say thank you for your love, prayers and generous support.... By His grace, at present we are taking care of 127 children in three places and 45 poor widows in the villages. We are in the need of sponsors to meet the monthly needs of these children and widows. We trust in Him for the provision.

**10/14/2014** Brother, They named this cyclone "Hududh". This killer cyclone caused a lot of damage in our state. Our neighboring districts in the state got fully damaged in all the dimensions and it almost washed away everything. Now people are in the great need and much distress. They need much support in all the ways. Still the Government officials are unable to calculate the damage caused by this hurricane. Some people died and cattle too. Thousands of hectares of the present crops (paddy, coconut, sugarcane, papaya, turmeric) were completely devastated. Farmers lost everything and people lost their homes and many of the house roofs were blown away because of the heavy winds. Many government offices buildings were collapsed and the compound walls too smashed. And 80% of the trees (many of them were huge size) were cut off and the roads were blocked. Still some roads are being cleared. There is no better access to the clean water and milk. Countless people are in the temporary rehabilitation centers.... The state Government and other agencies are supplying food packets and water packets to the hurricane victims in the rehabilitation centers. There was no electricity for three days. They say thousands of the electrical poles and transformers were destroyed by this hurricane. It takes few days for the people to see the lights in some areas. It takes much time to come back to the normal shape. Now people are in the need of rice, cooking vessels, bed spreads, mats, clean water, medicine and support for their repair works.... Brother Jim, 17 families of our fellowship went to these districts to work in the fields. These families also affected by this hurricane. There was no communication to contact them earlier. This morning I was able to speak with few people. Praise God they are safe. They will come back to the villages within 2-3 days. Our Mighty God is with us and He is ABLE to save His people. We need much prayer support.

**10/2/2014** I was in the villages yesterday and this evening I came home. The Lord blessed my time with our believers in the villages and I had wonderful fellowship with them. Three elders also joined with me in my trip to the villages. We had heavy rain yesterday and the canals, rivers and pools are filled with much water. And the farmers are happy because they need much water at this time. Still the plantation work is going on in the village fields and the daily laborers are working so hard in the fields. I pray for them and most of them (especially women) are poor Christians.

**9/12/2014** The children are fine in our children home. They are studying well. Tomorrow is holiday for them (in every month, the second Saturday is holiday here in the schools). Tomorrow they want to learn two new Gospel songs. I know that they will catch the tune of these two songs and they will practice singing the new songs and then they will sing in the Sunday service. What a great joy it is to see them in the light of the Lord!! .... This evening I went to the fish market and bought one dozen medium size fishes for making curry for all of them. We cleaned the fish and cooked very tasty fish curry! They all enjoyed it. Our Good Shepherd is feeding HIS Children!! He is our everything!!

**9/2/2014** Today I have two meetings. Please pray for these Gospel meetings.

**4/20/2014** Message: JESUS CHRIST IS ALIVE!!! I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever (Rev 1:18).... On behalf of my family, ministry, and myself, I convey my heart-felt Easter Greetings to you. Easter is the day when we remember the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He who is the same yesterday, today and forever is alive.... It is true that the Lord Jesus died but He is still alive and for ever more.... As long as we live in this world, the only plan, purpose, goal and intention of Satan is to destroy us. He comes to steal our blessings, joy and destroy our souls according to John 10:10. He moves about like a roaring lion seeking whom he could devour (1 Peter 5:8).... On the other hand, the Lord Jesus Christ promises to abide with us until the end of ages (Matthew 28:20). He desires to send His life into us to grant us abundance of life. It is for this purpose I always plead, "Please invite the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart. Let Him enter your heart and dwell in you." When He who is life lives inside you, He destroys the fiery darts sent by the evil one and protects you under His mighty wings. Therefore, be of good cheer! What good thing can you lack when He is alive?

**2/15/2014** I thank God for the travel mercies He has given me to reach the place where the fire accident took place. Visited our people there and encouraged them. I prayed for them. They have lost everything. They need much prayer support at this time of pain and loss. They have no idea how it took place. All of them (nine families) went into the fields to do their routine work. When I was there I saw electrical pole with the meter set and it is burned fully and also I saw the LPG gas cylinder burst out completely and it is broken into two pieces. It is such a big loss for all these families. They lost all their household stuff (clothes, vessels, furniture, children books, cycles and etc.)

**1/24/2014** Yesterday we visited few believers in a slum area. Recently six people got baptized from this area. These people are from the tribal community and most of them are illiterates. They need much prayer support and strong encouragement to grow in the Lord. We conducted a special service for these tribal children. I shared a Bible story and taught a new Sunday school song to the children (It is a song with action). They enjoyed it so much and I praise God for these precious children. The Lord loves them so much and we know the children are the future soldiers of the Cross and they are part of God's holy family. Here with I attached two pictures for you to see Today's weather is a bit different and it seems the beginning of the summer season. Already the electrical department announced the timings of the power cut for 4 hours during the day time.

**1/19/2014** Thank you very much for your kind appreciation. The Lord blessed our services today and I shared the Word in two villages. We had power cut almost for one hour during the service time. We face this problem many times on Sundays. Devil cannot stop the divine work of the Lord. **1/18/2014** By His grace the meeting went well. It is a regular weekly meeting (Saturday Evening) and we pray for all the families of our fellowship. We sang three songs and I shared the word of God.

There were 23 people. Blessed be the name of the Lord! We know that the Lord is not interested in the numbers. He wants the pure hearts in order to worship Him in the truth and in the Spirit.

**1/13/2014** The Lord blessed last night Gospel meeting and there were about 170 people plus children. I shared about the "The Holy Spirit- Our Divine Comforter". Please pray for Nageswara Rao (45 years old). He is one of our church members. He is a Hindu convert. He got saved four years ago during one of our open air Gospel meetings. Last year he got paralyzed partially. He has wife and two children. Please pray for his healing and now he is under the medical treatment.... My wife Suneela is doing well and she prays for all of you.... She likes to do the ministerial things very fast and she loves the Lord and the ministry. She loves the children very much and she shares the Bible stories with them in Sunday school. I thank God for her and she is a wonderful blessing in my life with God given ministry.....1/4/2014 Please pray for me for I will be sharing the Word of God in three different places tomorrow (Sunday). When my Mother was alive, she reached few families in one of these villages. My parents formed a small group of believers and they meet in the believers homes for the services. There is no church/worship center building in this village. There are few Hindu converts. I miss my Mother very much and I know that she is with Jesus in Heaven. She led many people into the light of Salvation. She was a Gospel Singer too. Her anointed voice touched many lives in the villages and small towns.

## People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO)



POBLO is working to transform the way missions is approached in the United States by responding to the changing demographics that have brought the mission field to our own front yard. We establish grassroots community engagement programs, enabling American Christians to befriend and serve immigrants and refugees. We train and educate churches on how to engage in cross-cultural outreach to Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs. We share the Gospel message. We train and send ethnic missionaries. We plant churches. We love people. POBLO's office is at 225 5th Ave SW, Rochester, on the Southeast corner of the block of Trinity Lutheran Church. People from LCMS Churches in the area volunteer.

Holy Cross members are serving at POBLO in various ways. Two profiles: Kristine Murray, Director of ESL at POBLO and Wendy Dieter, who, once a week for two semesters, taught a 2-hour accent reduction class to internationals.

As of today, POBLO is growing but has to turn people away due to not enough volunteers. Please consider serving the Lord in this way so many more can come to know Jesus as their Savior. If you have questions or need more information please contact: Kristine Murray at (507) 258-5134. [www.poblo.org/contact-minnseota](http://www.poblo.org/contact-minnseota)

Here are photos from the POBLO Potluck held at Holy Cross in June 2014. Over 90 people attended, representing China, Egypt, Iraq, India, and other countries.



# Worship

## Cindy Wessel - Director of Worship



Wessel family: Jacob, Cindy (Director of Worship), Chris, Katrina, and Ehren

Cindy Wessel serves as Director of Worship at Holy Cross, planning and leading worship and overseeing the Worship Area ministry teams. Cindy's passion in life is to help people grow in their awe of God so they respond by worshiping Him with their lives.

Cindy holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Northwestern College in St. Paul, MN, with a double-major in Bible and Church Music and emphases in Performance and Christian Education. She has been on staff at Holy Cross since 1997. Cindy is married to Chris Wessel, also a musician, and they have three grown children, Ehren, Jacob, and Katrina. In addition to her love for Jesus, her family, friends, and music, Cindy loves to read, bike, play games, and swim.

## 2014 Worship Highlights

**What the Worship Area Ministries are about:** Leading people into the presence of God.

**Here are a few notes regarding how God showed Holy Cross individuals His presence in 2014:**

- I find great peace walking with God in the Holy Cross Courtyard in the early morning while the Birds are singing to their Creator. I sing, "In the Garden" while God walks with me and talks to me.
- Ephesians series - direct Bible teaching, explicit congregational application, significant personal value.
- God shows Himself to me while I change the Altar paraments in the sanctuary. I liken the Altar to the Ark of the Covenant. I think of Moses and his travels with the Ark, how they carried it for those 40 Years. It is truly a reflective time for me.
- As part of the worship team, it brought me great joy in 2014 to be able to lead others in praising God and drawing them (and myself) closer to His heart. To look out on the congregation and see the Holy Spirit moving in people is amazing. We are blessed to serve!
- In Psalm 103, there are many promises to those who fear the Lord. Throughout 2014, I grew in my awareness of the magnitude of God, and He helped me to respond with more fear of the Lord. I am in awe that God is so powerful.

**On Sunday, Dec. 7,** we saw a powerful display of God’s healing power when 40+ men from MN Adult and Teen Challenge visited Holy Cross and shared songs and stories of hope and freedom from addiction!



## PraiseHym

PURPOSE: Make God’s praise glorious! (based on Psalm 66:2).

More than 30 youth and adults regularly serve God on Sundays and at special worship services by singing or playing an instrument.

### Highlight in 2014:

PraiseHym has offered several a cappella worship services where we simply exalt God with our voices, including An A Cappella Christmas Eve. The song, “Now to Him” has been our theme song, based on Ephesians 3:20-21, “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”



**PraiseHym Future Note:** Cindy Wessel has been working on developing a system for regularly auditioning new instrumentalists and vocalists to PraiseHym. Interested adults and students (middle school and high school) can contact Cindy for more information.

## Sights and Sounds for Christ

Sights and Sounds for Christ have been continually honing their skills so we can honor the Lord more and more effectively, using the tools of technology in our worship of Him. We currently have openings for two Screen Programmers (to prepare the screen display for Sunday mornings), one Sound Engineer, and up to four Screen Techs (to control the screen on Sunday mornings).

We welcomed Ken Langford to “Sounds for Christ”, Holy Cross’ Sound team in 2014! He joins Adam Erickson, Kevin Erickson, Marcus Romenesko (when it’s not soccer season), and Jon Schottler. Sounds for Christ are devoted to ensuring that God’s Word is heard during worship services and other events that are enhanced by amplifying the sound. The team also helps make it possible for us to worship God in the outdoor courtyard in the summer by handling the set-up and take-down of equipment. Adam Erickson has developed and maintains a system that helps the congregation smoothly transition from indoor worship.



**NEW DIGITAL SOUND BOARD:** We are praying for God to provide the funds for a digital sound board which we anticipate will immensely help PraiseHym more skillfully sing and play praises to God and will simplify much of the process of mixing sound for the spoken word and music in the sanctuary, making it more intelligible and pleasing to the ear and be a huge time-saver due to the ability to save settings and recall them when needed.

**Sights for Christ Programmers & Techs FUTURE NOTE:** We have installed a major software upgrade on the sanctuary computer but need to provide training for the programmers and techs before we use it on a Sunday.

## Outdoor Worship

Holy Cross’ outdoor worship is a change of pace that gives the opportunity for us to worship God in the beauty of His creation. It can also provide a very welcoming environment to invite friends to come to Holy Cross to hear the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.



## Whiteout

Whiteout is made up of youth who are committed to leading youth in authentic worship of God, especially through music. Youth who attend NightLife! have the opportunity to audition for Whiteout, the youth worship team. From August through June, youth in Whiteout commit to a weekly commitment of a two-hour practice and to be at NightLife! from 6 – 9 p.m. It is such a blessing to see youth who love the Lord and desire to worship Him in song and with their lives.

**Christian Jurgensen** has been the student leader of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Whiteout teams and this year is joined by Jackson Gerber. New members of Whiteout in 2014 are Kaeli Giese on piano and Julia Stowe on vocals and guitar.



**WHITEOUT FUTURE NOTE:** Many Wednesdays after school, Cindy Wessel and Christian Jurgensen meet with one or two youth to help them learn how to play their instruments to help prepare them to serve in Whiteout or PraiseHym.

**2014 Highlight:** Our new format opens up Wednesday evenings so that adults and families (middle school and up) may eat supper at Holy Cross between 5:30-6:00 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m., spend time worshipping God, led by Whiteout, all before attending Confirmation, Simply Youth, or Lifetree Café.

## Night of Worship

An old hymn, “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing,” presents the idea that one person alone can’t sing enough of God’s praise and glory, so they desire to have a thousand tongues to multiply God’s praises. A similar concept is at work in Night of Worship, but it considers that God is worthy of being praised ALL the time. So, beginning in February 2014 on the fourth Sunday of most months, James Earley and a team of musicians/tech people have offered an hour-long time of worship in song, prayer, and scripture. We took a hiatus during the season after James’ wedding and through Christmas and are hoping to pick it up again in February.



## KidZAlive Praise



Psalm 8:2 says that God silences His enemies when children praise God: "Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger." KidZAlive children serve that role as they praise God each week. In addition to serving this role, the KidZAlive helped the entire congregation praise God several times during the year by sharing their music during our Sunday morning worship service. Thanks to Michael Zarling for his leadership, for loving the children, and helping them grow in God's love through song.



## Worship Prayer Ministry

The Holy Cross Worship Prayer Ministry provides opportunities for people to have someone pray for them or with them following worship on Sunday mornings. Prayer requests are kept confidential, bringing requests before the throne of God's grace. Wendy Dieter coordinates and schedules the group of male and female prayer ministers. Contact her to serve on this team.

## Altar Care

The Altar Care team cares for the paraments according to the Church year, each set with a unique, deeply symbolic depiction of God's glorious love for us. The team's hope is that what people see will draw them closer to God. If you sense God calling you to serve on the Altar Care team, please contact Pastor Schauder, Cindy Wessel, Harriet Rudd, or Lousette Schultz.

*"I love your sanctuary, Lord, the place where your glorious presence dwells."* -Psalm 26:8



Beautiful Resurrection Morning scene!

## Lenten Fellowship Meals



Lenten Fellowship Meals and Friday Fish Fries have been delightful and meaningful ways for us to be committed to the people of God at Holy Cross and worship God during Lent.

## Confirmation Service

When Holy Cross youth confirm their faith in Jesus publicly, we give each of them an opportunity to participate in the worship service. This helps them celebrate the event, and it helps them realize that they can serve God in various ways as part of the congregation. In 2014, Kaeli Giese (piano) and Kayelynn Below (saxophone) offered gifts of music in worship to the Lord on this special Sunday.



## In the Community

**WORSHIPING GOD WITH RCLS:** To help make God's praise glorious and train up another generation of worshipers, Cindy Wessel has worked with a group of RCLS 8th graders to lead the worship for chapel several times a year. It is an amazing opportunity to encourage them to think more deeply about what it means to worship God.



Each year, RCLS schedules one or more of their music groups to worship with us on a Sunday. This past year, the RCLS Bells joined us in February, and the Concert Band in November. For the first time ever, the Concert Band helped accompany a congregational song (“Mighty to Save”). It was a lot of work for the band to prepare, but it was a huge blessing to have so many instruments (played by youth, besides!) playing praises to God. On that same Sunday in November, the “8th Grade Chapel Band” that Cindy worked with led the rest of the worship songs.



**MOMS IN PRAYER:** Cindy Wessel was privileged to lead a group of women in praise of God at the Moms in Prayer Perennial Brunch in March 2014.

**PEOPLE OF THE BOOK LUTHERAN OUTREACH:** To make a difference in a powerful evangelistic outreach here in Rochester, commit to praying for individuals served through POBLO, as well as the volunteers and John and Miriam Gayed. Contact Cindy Wessel for a list of first names and prayer needs or to pray AT the POBLO center in downtown Rochester.



# Equipping Ministries

## Fran Green, Associate Pastor - Director of Equipping



**Fran, Tammy, Zeke, Silas**

“Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.” Proverbs 16:3

It’s hard to believe we are already looking back on the year 2014; but it is a great blessing to do so and to anticipate as we plan for what the Lord will do at Holy Cross in 2015.

We are so blessed and thankful for a dedicated team who serve faithfully in our KidZ Alive! children’s Sunday School ministry. This core group has been together many years; they do an amazing job in teaching our kids the love of Jesus and I believe they even have some fun while doing it. Please thank these incredible servants of the Lord and ask them how you too may get in on the action: Tammy Green, Zeke Green, Anna Sanchez, Michael Zarlino, Sharon Krom, Pam Matthias, Carol Lofquist, Jon Lofquist, Grace Kelle, Mariann Bowles, and Kent Below.

Our summer vacation Bible school was once again a hit as we traveled to SonTreasure Island. I am always amazed and grateful at the number of people, youth and adults, who step forward to lead this effort. Space does not allow a list of all 40-50 people who step forward to help with this awesome week of learning and fun. Thank you to all who helped make SonTreasure island a grand success! Check out a few of the pictures included in this report.

Stephen Ministry continues to operate in the background of Holy Cross life. Our group is serving and also continues to meet monthly for continuing education. Please remember these folks, thank them, keep them in your prayers and also do not hesitate to take advantage of this confidential, Christian caregiving that is vital for the healing ministry of the body of Christ. Tim Gerber, Patty Gerber, Carol Lofquist, Denise Frey, Ronda Lovelace, Sarah Marsh, Harriet Rudd, Karla Schottler, and Ruth Earley.

Fran serves as our associate pastor overseeing adult, children’s, youth and small group ministries. *Ephesians 4:11-16* is the heartbeat of this ministry area as people are equipped to live lives of continual growth and service to others *becoming Fully Alive in Jesus*.

Fran received a Bachelor of Science degree from Winona State University Winona, MN with a major in Social Work. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Bethel Seminary, St. Paul, MN and completed the colloquy program in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and was ordained in February 2013.

Fran is married to Tammy, a cardiac sonographer at the Mayo Clinic. They have been married for 25 years and have two amazing boys Zeke (15) and Silas (11). The Greens are a close family enjoying spending time outdoors, camping, riding motorcycles and traveling.

Adult education has been growing here at Holy Cross with the change to a “Connecting Hour” format. Our group has been blessed through studying Islam, Mormonism, The Great Deceiver, and Death to name just a few of the studies that were completed this past year. We are thankful for the opportunity to gather, connect, and grow in our relationships with each other and our Lord. Also, there are a number of Bible studies that meet at various times throughout the week. Julie Beise continues to lead a group for women on Thursday mornings (thank you Julie) and our men, the Band of Brothers, have been meeting on Monday evenings and are a priority for 2015. We are thankful for all of these opportunities and are always open to starting new groups. If you have an idea for a group please let me know.

It has been a great year of ministry and we are excited for 2015!!

Serving together,

Pastor Fran Green



## Youth Ministry

### Curt Boger, Director of Youth Ministries



Our statement of purpose is ***“Reaching teens and young adults with the love of Jesus, Connecting them with other caring Christians, Strengthening them in becoming fully alive in Jesus!”*** In some way, everything we do ties back to this overall purpose.

We have a solid set of Adult volunteer leaders who demonstrate their love for people and dedication to God’s purpose, for which we are eternally grateful. In addition, the support of many other people through our prayer team, fundraising, Confirmation Secret Prayer Partners, and other things is invaluable. We have helped God build a foundation for a lasting and effective ministry here, and hope to continue in 2015 to go exactly where God tells us to go.

***Many thanks go out to our fabulous volunteers.*** Volunteers are employed to a large degree in youth ministry. Any adult interested in becoming a part of our flourishing ministries should talk to Curt Boger to discuss how your gifts might be best put to work in the Kingdom of God.

*Lisa St Peter – Wednesday Nightlife Meals and listening ear*

*Bob Ledebuhr – Nightlife mentor, workcamp leader, many other things*

*Mark Peterson – Vending machine and all around handy person*

*Cassie Jo Hill – Nightlife mentor*

*Joy Peterson – Nightlife mentor, workcamp leader*

*Jim Krom – Board chair, Sunday Youth Ten-45 leader*

*Ronda Lovelace – Sunday Youth Ten-45 leader*

*Karen Edlund – Workcamp leader*

*Chris Bany – Workcamp leader*

*Kathryn Heroff – Workcamp leader*

*Tim Gerber – Garden, Firewood, all around fundraising guru*

*Doug Happel – Retiring Youth Ten-45 leader*

*Kevin Kelle – Confirmation Class mentor*

*Greg Romenesko – Vending machine*

Curt Boger serves as Director of Youth Ministry at Holy Cross, working with middle and high school ministry programs since 2007.

After high school Curt enrolled at the University of North Dakota, where he graduated with majors in Math and Computer science in 1981.

He started his first job in June of that year in the Twin Cities, where he met his future wife, Lynn, on the first day of work. While employed there he finished a Master’s degree in Computer Science with some psychology work. Lynn and Curt were married in June of 1986, and Timmy was born in March of 1990. In 1992, the family moved to Rochester where Bryan was born in July of 1994. Curt was employed as an engineer at IBM from 1996 - January of 2007.

Curt has been an active volunteer with youth ministry since 1985, working with Jr High and Senior High youth through those years at various churches in the Twin Cities and here at Holy Cross.

He enjoys hanging out with teens, landscaping & gardening, home improvement projects, fishing, and puttering with just about anything mechanical, electronic, or computer related. He asks for your constant prayers, your help and support, and is always available for questions or to help deal with a problem in the life of a young person. He can be reached by calling the church, emailing [curt@holycross-church.org](mailto:curt@holycross-church.org), or calling his cell phone at 269-4952

## Workcamp Mission Trips

Since the summer of 2002, the Youth of Holy Cross have taken part in a program run by Group Workcamps Foundation, based out of Loveland CO. Group Workcamps has been giving teens a unique service and faith growth experience since 1977. Each summer, around 50 such camps are set up in towns all over North America, where teens spend a week doing light construction and repairs on the homes of people in need in those communities, growing close to other Christians, and growing enormously in their faith. Not to mention learning a few skills and gaining self-confidence in the process.

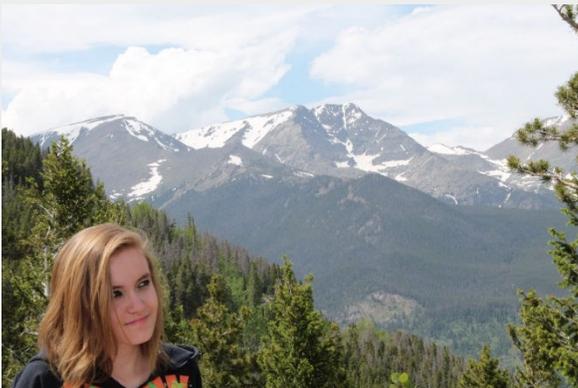
These camp experiences have provided the backbone for our youth ministries. The Workcamp experience is a full one including service, worship, and Bible study components aspects of faith life. In addition, preparations and fundraising activities teach teamwork, management skills, life skills, and cultural awareness. The trips themselves take many teens to places they would otherwise not get the chance to visits, and to meet the peoples and take part in the cultures of radically different areas of the United States.

**WORKCAMP SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE:** The adventure begins on a Sunday afternoon with a program where students learn more about the camp, get to know other campers, and receive important training. On Monday the work starts. Adults & young people start each day with an early breakfast, and then “off to the project sites”. At about 3:30 p.m., students start returning from the project sites for free time and to get cleaned up before dinner. After dinner there is a gathering of all campers (usually around 400) in the gym for a fun and inspirational time to draw closer to God and one another. Afterwards, there are youth group devotions and late night activities, until lights out at 11:00 p.m.

**OUR TRIPS INCLUDE MORE!:** On each trip, we try to incorporate recreational opportunities that may not be available in our area; we try to visit places that participants may not have a chance to see otherwise, giving them a better sense of what various parts of our great country are really like. Youth are involved in the preparations, fundraising, and more. We travel in private vehicles and usually stay with hospitable churches during our travels.

### *Workcamps 2014*

In 2014, we provided two opportunities for a workcamp mission experience. The first was for older youth, destination Loveland, CO. In the fall of 2013, the Loveland area, and especially the canyons of the Big Thompson River, were hit by record flash flooding, destroying everything in their paths. 25 people from Holy Cross responded. We worked on 50+ homes, doing tasks such as muck cleanup, sheetrock installation, saving trees, rebuilding livestock fences, painting, demolition, etc. We tried to accomplish whatever step needed to be done next for the resident we each found ourselves helping. It was a tiring trip, but we managed to get in some white water rafting on the Poudre river and see Rocky Mountain national park.





Later in the summer, another group of us traveled to Centralia, IL for another workcamp experience. The town of Centralia is in the mining region of western Illinois, and has seen its better days. Here we worked on repairs and construction of wheelchair ramps and porches, did painting and other items that residents were unable to do or afford for themselves.



## 2015 Workcamp

The tradition continues in 2015! As of this writing, 20 youth and adults are signed up for our 19<sup>th</sup> camp experience! Our destination will be Greenwood, SC July 25-July 5. Watch our progress on the youth web site!

## NightLife!

*"Nightlife! is just awesome. There's no better word to describe it. Everyone welcomes you with open arms no matter who you are. It's a fun environment to be able to worship in. I love being able to praise God with friends that I don't normally get to worship with on Sundays. I love having it in the middle of the week when I'm stressed and tired. It revives me and keeps me going. I always look forward to the next week."*

NightLife! for teens and college age continued to flourish in 2014. We made some changes to the evening to encourage participation by more parents and all adults:

- Supper for all at 5:30
- Games/Mixers at 6:15
- Worship for all 6:30
- Breakout groups at 7:00
  - Confirmation classes
  - Simply Youth Group
  - LifeTree Café

As is normal in Youth Ministry, graduation of many key leaders meant yet another reload with new people stepping up. The next generation of WHITEOUT has picked up right where the previous group left off, as our worship segment each week remains a true highlight.



The addition of the Simply Youth Group material from Group publishing this year has been a great addition. Each week a new episode is released for us via the web. This means the topics are current and the look is fresh. Essential questions such as "What is Love?" and "Is this all there is?" are the basis for each of the topics. We have talked about "Going all in", "Taking Risks for God", "Dealing with Abuse", Bullying, and many more.

## Youth Ten Forty-Five

Sunday Mornings, right after the 9:30 worship grade 6 and older gather in the youth center for food, discussion, and more. Ronda Lovelace, Curt Boger, and Jim Krom split youth by age and maturity and lead discussions.

## Confirmation

Youth Confirmation at Holy Cross is a two year process of helping Youth become more fully alive in Jesus through Bible study, mentoring, relationships, and prayer. Upon completion of this program of study, a public confirmation of faith in Jesus Christ is made. In addition, through the laying on of hands and prayer, the Church commissions each individual for service in the mission of Holy Cross and to the world.



The rite of confirmation is celebrated at Holy Cross in October of each year.

On the right, confirmation and other youth gather for worship, a key component of faith growth.



Confirmation classes are part of Nightlife! for youth on Wednesday evenings. Confirmation students worship with others at 6:30 (following supper and games), then when it comes time to break out, those enrolled in confirmation instruction meet in the youth room from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Our two-year program covers the Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, Holy Communion, Baptism, and Confession.

Please contact Pastor Fran Green if you are new to Holy Cross and/or desire to join our group. Any student seventh grade and above who have not been confirmed may participate. Fran's email is [fran@holycross-church.org](mailto:fran@holycross-church.org) or you can call him at church at 507-289-1354.

## Youth Ministry and fundraising

The success and popularity of our mission trips over the past few years and our desire to never price anyone out of a mission experience have forced us to do some creative thinking about funding the mission. [Here are some of the considerations we use in determining what to offer:](#)

- *Provide products or services people really want and need, and would buy somewhere anyway.*
- *Provide products that present exceptional value for the money.*
- *Provide opportunities for youth to learn technical and management skills, teamwork, and more.*
- *Provide fellowship/service opportunities for the people of God.*

Our annual "Mission Mania" is held in May of each year, and includes plants from Gerten's, a rummage sale, cookout, and carwash. All proceeds go to help fund our workcamp mission trips. In 2015 this will be May 9 from 8-3



## *Fruits of the Spirit Gardens*

Located at the farm of Al and Anne Mickow (about 8 miles north of Rochester right on U.S. 63,) The Fruits of the Spirit youth garden is operated by Holy Cross Youth Ministry. We have just over an acre of fine land there to work with. In addition, other members with gardens donate extra produce for the benefit of others.

### Purpose

- Grow teamwork, leadership, planning and other life skills
- Promote healthy eating
- Promote understanding of God's creation and other Biblical principles
- Finance Youth Mission Trips
- Promote locally grown products

### Results!

It was a wonderful year of blessing for the Garden. Here are just a few of the totals

Financially, we took in a little over \$4000. We were able to pay a portion of workcamp costs, all garden expenses, plus invest in fencing, irrigation systems for two of our plots, beekeeping equipment (now at 9+ hives). Thank you for your support of this ministry! The benefits have been many!

Our expenses were paid in part by a grant of \$1500 from the Medcity Thrivent chapter.

New Fence and Irrigation system





## 2015 Plans

We will be looking for the following in the spring:

- 6' steel T posts
- Harvesting tubs, baskets
- Canning jars and caps – Pint and half pint. Bring us all you have!

2015 should be a great year financially. We have more ground available for planting, and no major investments in equipment to make. Pray for the Lord of the Harvest to richly bless our efforts!

## How you can help

- **Purchase produce and tell your friends!**
- **Volunteer to help at the garden or with planning**
- Make suggestions for other things to grow
- Donate money, equipment, or expertise
- Volunteer to take excess to a food shelf
- Let your friends and neighbors know about the garden. Take names and addresses of those who want to be on our mailing list.

## Harvest

Produce is harvested and made available at Holy Cross twice a week from June-October, including Sunday Mornings before and after worship, and on Wednesday afternoons before our Nightlife events. **Net proceeds go to help finance youth mission trips; excess produce is donated to local food shelves. Watch for the signs at the street and near the church entrance.**

[www.holycrossyouth.org/Garden.htm](http://www.holycrossyouth.org/Garden.htm)

## Children's Ministry



### Kidz Alive!

*God has taught children and infants to tell of His strength, silencing His enemies and all who oppose Him. – from Psalm 8:2*

Kidz Alive ministers to about 32 kids ages 3 years old to 5th grade on Sunday mornings during the Connecting Hour. The classes are led by Tammy Green assisted by Grace Kelle (3 year olds), Jon and Carol Lofquist and Meriann Bowles (4 year olds-Kindergarten), Mike Zarling and Anna Sanchez (1st and 2nd grade), and Sharon Krom (3rd -5th grade). Zeke Green coordinates Kidz Alive Operations and Mike Zarling leads music. Our average attendance is about 15 kids per week, with some weeks as low as 6 kids and others as high as 20. This year we are trying a new curriculum by Group Publishing called Buzz. It's marketed as a fast-paced curriculum requiring minimal teacher preparation time. The advantages of this curriculum are that it is easy to pass off from teacher to teacher when staffing needs call for flexibility and the materials are all included in the kit. The downsides are that there are not a lot of crafts and the kids miss the puppet shows from past years. We will continue to evaluate whether or not this curriculum is meeting our needs and look for other options.

Kidz Alive also engages the kids in ministry opportunities. The weekly offerings are sent to Brother Suresh in India for his ministry to orphans and widows. Our winter mission project was making cards to send to the Holy Cross members serving in the military. We also minister to the congregation through singing. The Kidz Alive children sang in church on December 14th and will sing one more time in the spring.

The Kidz Alive teachers and children appreciate the ongoing support and prayers from the Holy Cross congregation!



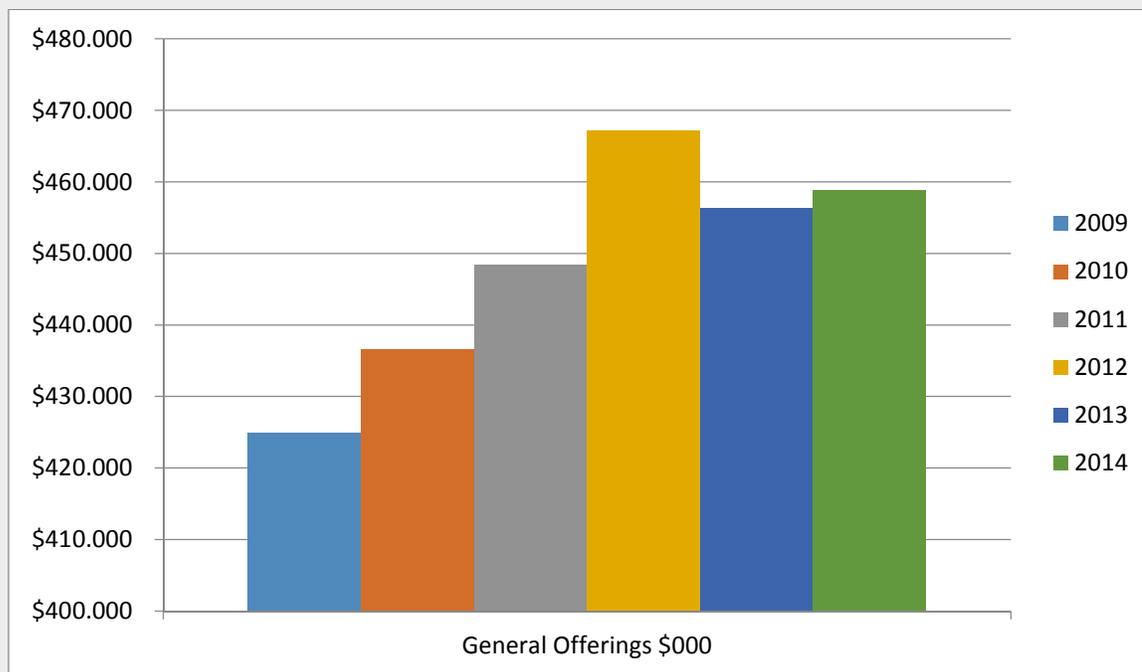
# VBS 2014 – SonTreasure Island



# Stewardship

## Finance

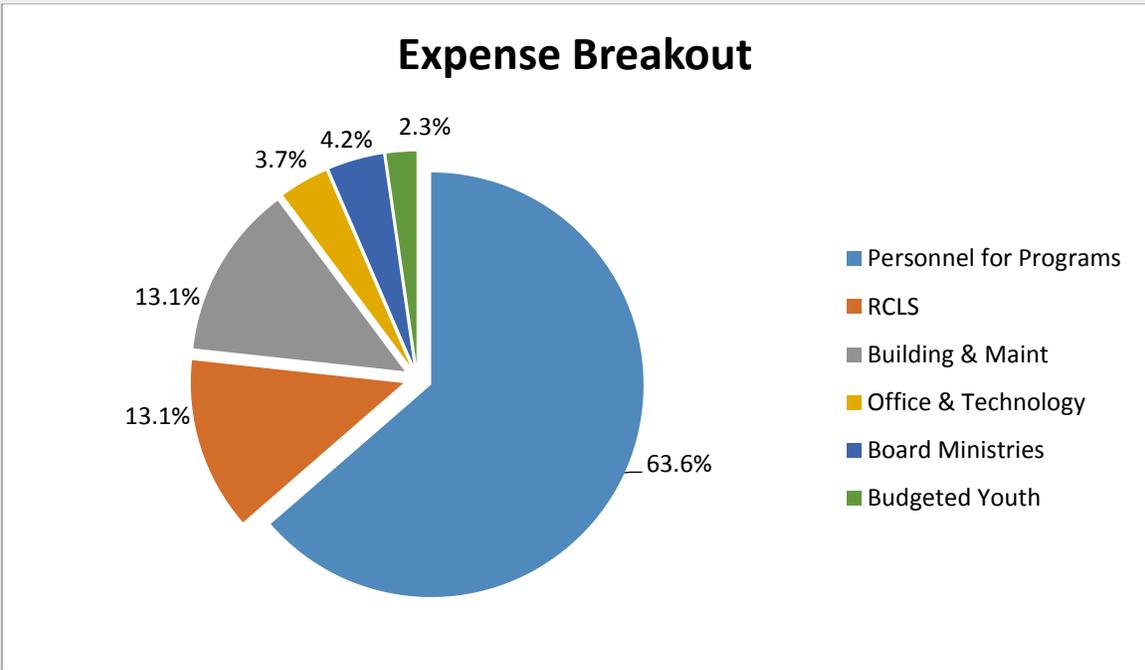
To summarize 2014, we had general fund gifts of \$468,887 compared to \$456,320 in 2013, for a 2.7% increase in general offerings. Growth is good, but as indicated below we fell short of growth in expenses.



Our expenditures in 2013 totaled \$478,053 compared to \$464,028 in 2012 or 3.0% increase. We ended 2013 with an \$8,593 decrease to checking following a \$7,708 decrease in 2012. This has hurt the checking balance bringing it down to \$6,479 which is not adequate liquidity entering into 2015. A single payroll is \$12,767 with taxes. We currently have \$1,250 on our Line of Credit to improve liquidity, but we really need a balance that exceeds what is required for a payroll cycle and a bit more for normal bills.

While this sounds disappointing there are some bright spots to consider:

- The LCEF loan was paid down \$9,445.
- The loan on the \$35,000 sign project was paid down to \$8,623 with designated gifts.
- We supported Suresh with \$ 9,500 of designated gifts.
- We have kick started the lighting project with \$2,500 in designated gifts.
- We supported many in desperate need through the Good Samaritan fund gifts of \$2,990
- We supported our youth ministry. The youth fundraising exceeded prior year for work camp and other activities, plus we spent \$10,872 of budgeted general funds.



We ended 2014 with outstanding loans to LCEF of \$54,325 compared to \$63,770 in December 2013. During 2012 we initiated a line of credit to complete the \$35,000 sign project, complementing the designated gifts. The balance at December 31, 2013 was \$8,623.

I am asking for a resolution to refinance the LCEF loan, incorporating the lighting project and the existing sign loan balance, plus restoration of checking balance so we can remain focused on our ministry plan and less on day to day cash. I can attest to the boards are judicious in spending. Having small cash balance doesn't drive spending; funds are spent when budgeted in accordance with the ministry plan.

As congregation treasurer I want to thank the staff and boards for regularly taking my recommendations on timing of budgeted spending, as well as our Financial Secretary and weekly offering counters for accurate and timely counts and Laurie Happel for excellent and timely attention to all the details in performing the book keeping duties. Thank you all.

Roger Lindahl

# Trustees

## 2014 Projects

- Landscaping Around State of the Art Electronic Message Center
- Landscaping in courtyard - continuous improvement project
- Continued to upgrade the facilities into compliance with Fire, Health & Safety Codes
- Special Thanks to Craig Frey for building North Hall storage units
- Installed GFI Outlets in Kitchen and Bathrooms
- Relocated storage of combustibles
- Removed extension cords and installed electrical outlets where needed
- Wrote necessary personnel policies and procedures
- Purchased lighting to upgrade Sanctuary

## 2015 Projects

- Develop a long-range scheduled maintenance plan for the facilities
- Repair and Stain courtyard structures

## Conclusion

The Holy Cross Board of Trustees has received a legacy of property, investments and buildings. It is the important work of the Board of Trustees to insure that the congregation is a good steward of what previous generations have made available to them.

In this way, the mission of the church to make disciples and love one another as Christ loved us, is fulfilled at Holy Cross as we live our Holy Cross mission: "To Help People Become Fully Alive in Jesus."

