

Annual Report 2017



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

2703 Ninth Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901
507-289-1354

www.holycross-church.org



As we close out the year in ministry that was 2017, we pause to celebrate what God has done in our midst. More importantly we prepare for the ministries we are called to in 2018 and beyond, as each one of us discovers how we fit into our mission of "Helping People Become Fully Alive in Jesus".



Welcome



Pastor Steve and Jane

Steve Schauder serves as our Lead Pastor, leading and overseeing our overall mission of *Helping People Become Fully Alive in Jesus*. Steve's passion is to show people the Way to Jesus, share the Truth of Jesus and celebrate the Life that Jesus freely gives to all by grace through faith. His life-long partner in ministry is Jane who enjoys using her gifts of creativity, design, and music to help others experience the amazing love of Jesus.

Steve holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin with a double major in Geography and Religion. He earned his Masters of Divinity degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. Jane also graduated from Carthage College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art and Business Administration. They have served congregations in Raleigh, NC, Villa Park, Illinois, and Odessa Texas and have been at Holy Cross since 1988.

Pastor Steve and Jane have six children and are the proud grandparents of two. They love to study the Bible together, work in their gardens and take on home projects. Steve loves to cook and Jane is happiest when she can be tending to her flower gardens. Besides their passion for ministry they also enjoy cheering on their favorite team – the Green Bay Packers!

*It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,
For you, O Lord, have made me glad by what You have done! I sing for joy at the works of your hands.
(Psalm 92)*

I would call the above words of Psalm 92 my “go to” words of thanks and praise to God. These are the words that came to my mind as I reflected upon our year of mission and ministry in 2017 and as I look forward to all that the Lord has in store for us in 2018.

Truly, the Lord has made me glad by what He has done among us and through us in 2017. Much of this is well documented in the pages that follow. Please take time to read through this Annual Report. It will give you cause to give thanks to the Lord and sing praises to His name. In this report you will read about how the Lord used the hands and hearts, the faith and love, the gifts and offerings of God's people at Holy Cross to accomplish the work of His hands. Yes! There is great cause for joy and rejoicing, thanks and praising. The Lord has truly been good to us in our life together at Holy Cross in 2017.

I am personally grateful for a faithful, devoted, and gifted ministry team. Pastor Fran Green, Cindy Wessel and Curt Boger are a blessing to work with. Their love for the Lord and His people is seen in the many ways they have helped people become more fully alive in Jesus. Please join me in thanking the Lord for them and in taking a moment to thank them personally. In addition, I am blessed by the deeply devoted leaders of Holy Cross who serve on our Executive Council and ministry boards and the many who have faithfully served on our ministry teams in many ways.

Jane and I are humbled and grateful to have been blessed to serve yet another year at Holy Cross. 2017 concluded our 29th year. My greatest joy is to serve you as Pastor – celebrating life's joys at baptisms and weddings, preaching and teaching God's Word, providing pastoral counseling, praying with you and for you, discipling new members, providing spiritual care and support during the difficult and sometimes painful times of life. I am blessed beyond words by Jane's support and encouragement, prayers and willingness to work alongside me. We praise and thank the Lord for 40 years of marriage which we celebrated in 2017. And, we are grateful for the birth of our eighth grandchild.

But, as we close the chapter of 2017 at Holy Cross we turn the page on a new chapter of our life together in 2018. While we live in an ever-changing world and not knowing what this coming year has in store for us, some things do not and will not change. Our mission remains the same – *Helping People Become Fully Alive in Jesus!* And, as Psalm 92 declares, the Lord’s love will greet us each morning and His faithfulness will abide with us each night. Much of what we do to carry out our mission will remain the same. But, there will be some new things in store for us as well. And, as always, it will take each of us using our God-given gifts and resources to fulfill our mission in 2018.

I pray that 2018 finds each one of us becoming more fully alive in Jesus and devoted to showing others the way to Jesus, sharing with the truth of Jesus and celebrating the life that is ours in Jesus. As that happens there will be great cause for thanks and praise and rejoicing as the Lord does the “work of His hands” using our hearts and hands.

Pastor Steve Schauder
Sr. Pastor – Holy Cross

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Official Business

Minutes of Congregational Meetings

On January 29, 2017, the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Annual congregational meeting was held.

President Parks opened the meeting at 12:44 p.m. and Pastor Schauder 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):

- Corporate Officers
 - o President – Keith Parks (incumbent)
- Board Chairs
 - o Board of Education – Vicki Snyder
 - o Board of Elders – Brandon Marsh
 - o Board of Missions & Evangelism – Patricia Gerber (nominee)
 - o Board of Personnel – Rich Hinz

A motion was made and seconded to officially nominate Mrs. Gerber for the Chair of the Board of Missions & Evangelism. A motion was then made and seconded to approve the above-named candidates. The motion was approved.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2016, Annual Meeting. The minutes were approved.

The Treasurer, Mr. Roger Lindahl presented the 2016 Financial Report.

RCLS Representative, Doug Happel, provided the congregation with an update on RCLS, including a reminder of several ways to help RCLS raise money for projects (Box Tops for Education, smile.amazon.com, United Way, etc.) and that they are concentrating on upgrades to the facility in the coming year.

President Keith Parks presented the 2017 Financial Ministry Plan. The top three portions of our Financial Ministry Plan continue to be Personnel, RCLS obligations, and for the use of the Trustees (building maintenance and utilities). The Building Team came back with an update regarding remodeling the kitchen, which unfortunately, came back with the lowest estimates in the six-figure range due to multiple high-expense items to bring the building and kitchen up to code including the air-intake that services both the kitchen and the Parish Hall. The team has helped to move Kidz Alive into a more defined space in the Parish Hall, and has started to look at options for modular seating in the Sanctuary, which would allow for more growth of the adult Bible classes. Also, the #2 Boiler failed a few weeks ago, and we are still running on two boilers instead of three. The Board of Trustees is looking at whether it is worth continuing to attempt to repair the #2 boiler long term, or if replacing the 2 older boilers with a newer, more efficient boiler is a better way to go.

New members for 2016 were celebrated, and announcements were made about the upcoming Lenten Schedule, including the return of the Fabulous Friday Fish Fry.

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, and the congregation adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Cochran, Executive Council Secretary

Voting members in attendance:

2017 Annual Meeting Sign-In
(Please print!) (1)

Mona Geise
Tom Geise
Bruce Snyder
Vicki Snyder
Karen Ellis
Karen Ellison
Jo Deard
C. Lawrence
Richard Krom
Sharon Krom
Challe Jahnke
Jon Schott
Keri Kelly
Karin Kille
Laurie Happel
Pat Happel
Krista Bernd
Katie Parks
Lissa Park
Dina Park
Judith Hayes

Kathy Freudenburg
Emie Freudenburg
Pastor Steve Schauder
June Schauder
Shelley Beynon
Bill & Karen Hutton
Ken, Annie, Alyssa, Amy
Bob Ludebuhr
Dawn Beard
Jan Klyne
Keri Belar
Tom & Julie
Anna Luchtel
Dana Shaw
Tom Shore
Pam Matthews
Wendy Matthews
Sarah Marsh
Alyssa Marsh
Nancy Perry
John & Kay Wicker

Brandon Marsh
Tammy Green
Carol Regalant
Karen Keyes
Michelle Frank
PASTOR FLY GREEN
Tim Heroff
Phil Scott
Kathryn Hoff
Sandy Abertini
Don Johnson
MONA GEISER
Linda Wessel
Teresa Kuttler
Jim
Jacob Wessel
Cory Br

Corporate Officers

- President - Mark Matthias
- Vice President - Jo Dean (April Start)
- Treasurer – Roger Lindahl
- Secretary -Carole Cochran
- Board Chairs
 - Education - Open
 - Elders – Brandon Marsh, Tim Geise Pro-Tempore
 - Fellowship – Open – Lousette Schulz Pro-Tempore
 - Finance – Ken Schultz, Jay Gatzlaff Pro-Tempore
 - Missions & Evangelism – Patty Gerber, Sheila Parks Pro-Tempore
 - Personnel - Bill Hutton, Gary Lovelace Pro-Tempore
 - Trustees – Phil Scott, Dick Krom Pro-Tempore
 - Volunteer Ministries – Lynn Boger
 - Youth- Jim Krom
- RCLS Representatives (2)
 - Doug Happel
 - Bruce Snyder

Connecting

Fellowship

The fellowship board oversees things like wedding, funeral, and other event planning, Lent meal scheduling and planning, weekly Sunday Morning refreshments to make our members and guests feel welcome, and a lot more! Currently Lousette Schultz is the one to see if you can serve on any of the many teams that make sure Holy Cross is a welcoming, homey place for all who enter our doors.

Volunteer Ministry

YOU ARE UNIQUELY GIFTED

Volunteering, pitching in, joining a team, helping out here or there, leading a board, team or class ... these all matter greatly! You know the saying, 'it takes a team'. Well, it does! Many people, dare I say all people, are needed to work together to serve God at Holy Cross, giving Him the glory! God has made each of us unique, customized us for His purpose. I cry out to God Most high, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me. (Psalm 57:2). Life, work, busyness, distractions, and other things (like other interests, other activities, other commitments, and other plans) can all become time barriers for us. This could be likened to spiritual warfare strategy, to get us so occupied with so many plans that we just 'don't have the time'. You can make many plans, but the LORD's purpose will prevail. (Proverbs 19:21)

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY WORK

The Volunteer Ministry (VM) Board works to match people with serving roles at Holy Cross. We approach people to ask what they are interested in, share current openings and service opportunities, and do recruiting work. This may occur face to face after worship or via phone calls or email communication. However, being just a few of us, we haven't reached everyone. That's where publicity comes in. Our hope is that you would respond by contacting us or indicate your interest on your Connection Card any Sunday. Publicity for current openings and information on various ministry boards are published in the monthly Fully Alive Newsletter, the Sunday Worship Folder (WF), as announcements on the screen and on the Holy Cross web page at <http://www.holycross-church.org/announcements.php> The VM Board, with Curt's help, has begun working on volunteer roles to be accessed on our internal web site (CCB) for our church family. This continues to be a work in progress. Work has started on team definitions, roles, purpose, time commitment, structure to be accessed to help you learn what may be expected on that team /role. Internally, there has been much transferring and organizing of historical, working, procedural type VM documents into Holy Cross' leadership working web site on Office 365 so multiple leaders or team members can access to learn, share, or work from (a template). **Help is needed in this effort!**

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2017

Our VM team consists of Lynn Boger, Shirley Sjoberg and Linda Thesing, and now Sandy Abenstein. Sometimes a board will request extra help, other times we see opportunities or know of openings. So, our team worked on finding people to serve as /with: Ushers, Elders, KidZ Alive, and Dorothy Day House Meal Servers, to name a few. We sought out people for leadership positions for Missions & Evangelism, Fellowship, and Personnel.

2018 LEADERS & TEAMS

Earlier in this document is list of the Corporate Officers and Boards at Holy Cross, their leaders and some of the Teams within each board. This is not a complete list! But it does allow you to pray and consider where God may want you to serve. Do you see any area that resonates with your heart? Your gifts?

MORE TEAMS

Holy Cross' Worship Ministry, led by staff member Cindy Wessel, is another serving area to consider. Teams include: Worship (singing or playing an instrument), Acting (drama), running the Sound Board, programming the big screen for worship, Screen tech (running the screen during worship), and other ancillary tasks.

Another important team is the Holy Cross RCLS Tuition Assistance Team. Patty Clancy has faithfully worked with Pastor Steve on this team for many years now. Thank you, Patty!

The Fully Alive Newsletter is edited and prepared by Jennifer Heins. Additional volunteers help prepare the issues for mailing. Thank you to Jennifer and all the team helpers!

THANK YOU!

We extend a big thank-you to all those who served on the Executive Council in 2017!

Additional service recognition goes out to both Sheila Parks, Lousette Schultz, and Lynn Boger who faithfully, as chair pro-tems, are temporarily filling the role of chair until new leaders are enlisted. Thanks also to the many leaders who continue to volunteer, working a 2nd, 3rd, and even 4th term! You know who you are!

Thanks to the many, many people who give of their time and gifts by serving God through a variety of ways, volunteering at Holy Cross. Thank you for Helping People Become Fully Alive in Jesus!

Elders

The 2017 Board of Elders (BOE) membership consisted of Brandon Marsh (Chair), Tim Geise (Chair pro tem), Dan Johnson and Joe Keyes.

Highlights of 2017

The Board of Elders continued to reach out to those Holy Cross members that had not attended Sunday worship over an extended period. The primary goal of this activity is to stay connected with members, offer any needed support and extend an invitation back to service. The secondary goal is to maintain the Holy Cross membership rolls to reflect an accurate membership count.

During 2017, **14** Holy Cross members had their membership transferred to another church.

4 individuals were baptized at Holy Cross while **18** individuals were received as new members.

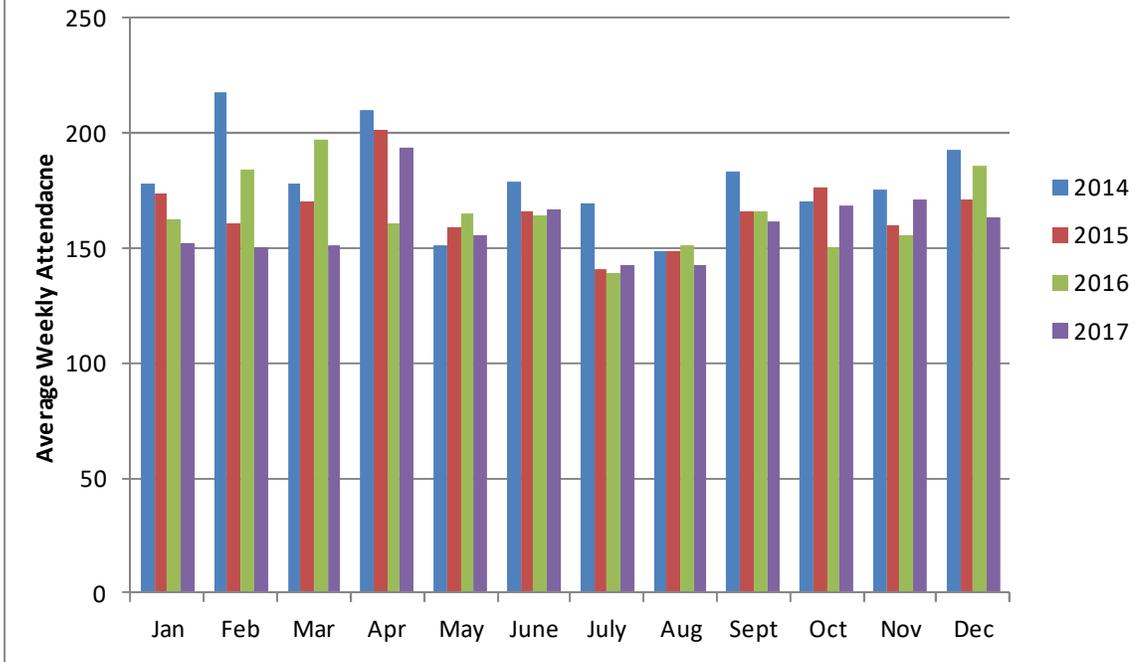
Holy Cross reported **286** baptized members to the LCMS Synod.

Weekly Sunday Worship Attendance

The table and graph below contains the average number of Sunday morning worship attendees for 2014 through 2017. This data does not contain attendance at any of the other worship services held throughout the remainder of the week at Holy Cross. Weekly average Sunday morning worship attendance dropped from 165 in 2016 to 160 in 2017, a decrease 3.1%.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Yearly Average
2014	178	218	178	210	151	179	169	149	183	170	175	193	179
2015	174	161	170	201	159	166	141	149	166	176	160	171	166
2016	163	184	197	160	165	164	139	152	166	150	156	186	165
2017	152	150	151	194	156	167	142	143	162	169	171	164	160
2015 vs 2014	-4	-57	-8	-9	8	-13	-28	0	-17	6	-15	-22	-13
% Difference	-2.2%	-26.1%	-4.5%	-4.3%	5.3%	-7.3%	-16.6%	0.0%	-9.3%	3.5%	-8.6%	-11.4%	-7.3%
2016 vs 2015	-11	23	27	-41	6	-2	-2	3	0	-26	-5	15	-1
% Difference	-6.4%	14.3%	15.9%	-20.3%	4.0%	-1.2%	-1.3%	1.7%	-0.2%	-14.5%	-2.8%	8.6%	-0.6%
2017 vs 2016	-11	-34	-46	34	-10	3	3	-9	-4	18	15	-22	-5
% Difference	-6.8%	-18.3%	-23.2%	20.9%	-6.0%	1.5%	2.2%	-5.9%	-2.4%	12.1%	9.8%	-11.9%	-3.1%

Holy Cross Average Weekly Sunday Worship Attendance



Board of Elder Goals for 2018

- Continue to support the Holy Cross Partners in Prayer ministry
- Support Pastor Schauder and Pastor Green in their ministry goals
- Continue to support Holy Cross staff and volunteers in the mission of “Helping People Become Fully Alive in Jesus”
- Grow Elder membership from 4 members to a minimum of 6 members
- Reach out to those Holy Cross members that have not attended service for an extended period as tracked in CCB

FULLY ALIVE 101 – New Members

Our Fully Alive 101 seminars are for those people who wish to take the step of becoming official “members” of Holy Cross. This year we welcomed the following families:



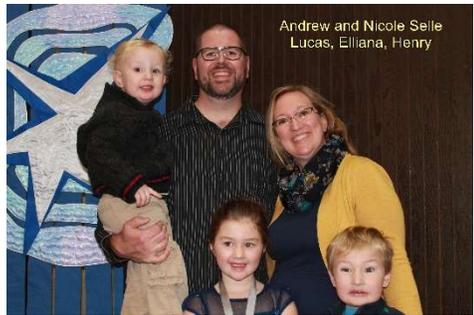
Dustin & Samantha
Draeger
Abby, Kaydence,
Nejaun, Maggie



Christopher Reed and Jamie Crowley
Maddie Reed



Bryant and Christin Frey
Roman and Grayson



Andrew and Nicole Selle
Lucas, Eliana, Henry

RCLS Partnership

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 for all the latest.

The enrollment process for the 2018-19 school year began on Thursday, January 11. Current total enrollment (PreK through 8th Grade) is 301 students.

RCLS derives about 13% of its annual budget from the generous support of the congregations of Holy Cross, Grace, Trinity and Family of Christ Churches. The amount of support each congregation provides is determined by their number of communicant members and the number of students from their congregation:

	Grace	Holy Cross	Trinity	FoC	TOTAL
Communicant Members	285	286	857	54	1,482
%	19.23%	19.30%	57.83%	3.64%	100.00%

	Grace	Holy Cross	Trinity	FoC	TOTAL
Students	12	20	35	13	80
%	15.00%	25.00%	43.75%	16.25%	100.00%

2018 Support	17.70%	20.89%	50.99%	10.41%	100.00%
2017 Support	18.88%	18.38%	51.40%	11.34%	100.00%

October 1, 2017 Communicant Numbers per LCMS Website Statistics

Holy Cross	Total	Monthly
2018 Support	\$72,217.80	\$6,018.15
2017 Support	\$62,019.13	\$5,168.26

RCLS now has an enrollment director, Robin Kaufmann. During this first semester Robin has been working on the following areas:

- Branding of all marketing materials, letterhead, etc.
- Research of the most effective school websites.
- Recommendation to the Board of Directors to move forward with a new website (to be completed by May 2018).
- Working on creating blogs designed to provide key information to perspective parents and then link this information to RCLS.

Partnered with the Minnesota Children's Museum on the Noon Year's Eve event. This allowed RCLS to provide marketing materials in the ditty bags that all attendees received (500 people attended).

Redesign of the Open House format. RCLS will now provide a presentation with a Q and A period within each of the Open Houses.

The Grace Foundation is now in charge of the Blue and White Night planning. They are working very hard to keep this event fresh and full of energy. This year's event will be in a new location - The Doubletree Hotel in downtown Rochester. There will be both a live and silent auction along with a special "ask". The special "ask" is to support a technology infrastructure renewal that will include fiber, new cabling and renewed internal networking. The total cost is approximately \$60K. In addition, the RCLS Trustees are researching new phone system options.

RCLS's curriculum committee is currently reviewing the Language Arts curriculum, K-8 and completing a study on the materials that support the curriculum. Material purchases are expected to happen this spring and into the summer of 2018.

RCLS is a major ministry for Holy Cross. Doug Happel and Bruce Snyder are honored to be your representatives on the RCLS Board of Directors, and they have been deeply blessed by their work. Please feel free to contact Doug or Bruce with any questions or comments you make have.

Missions & Evangelism

Holy Cross serves meals at Dorothy Day house on the 4th Friday of every month. Through your giving we bless others through our partner in India, Suresh. We provided personal care kits through Lutheran World Relief to those in need of basic personal care items. We also supported our military personnel through providing Bible sticks so they can hear the message and be spiritually strengthened. Additionally, there was a clothing drive of gently used or new clothing for the Lower Room. This year we collected items through the sharing tree. Through your generosity, we were able to provide items or funding for Minnesota Teen Challenge, Maple Manor & Golden Living Center West, the Women's Shelter, and the Samaritan Fund. Thank You for your continued support.



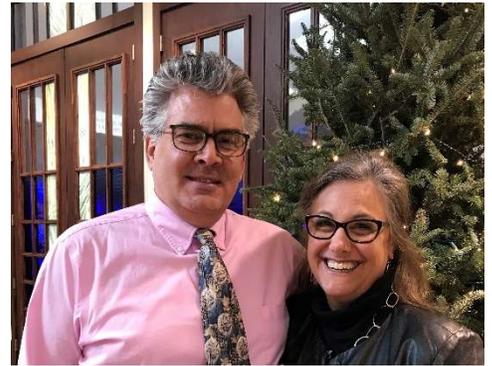
Worship

Cynthia Wessel, Director of Worship

Holy Cross' Director of Worship is Cindy Wessel; her responsibilities include planning and leading worship and overseeing the Worship Area ministry teams. Cindy's life passion is to help people worship God in awe and reverence, in Spirit and truth. Cindy's formal education includes a Bachelor of Science from University at Northwestern in St. Paul, MN, with a double-major in Bible and Church Music and emphases in Performance and Christian Education. She considers it a great privilege to have been on Holy Cross' Ministry Team since 1997. Thanks to God, Cindy and her beloved husband, Chris, will celebrate 33 years of marriage in February 2018. The Wessels have three grown children and a son-in-law. In addition to her love for Jesus, God's Word, her family, friends, and music, Cindy loves to read, bike, play games, swim, and spend time outdoors.

Thank you again, Holy Cross congregation, for your support of me and my family during my journey through cancer in 2017. I often thank God for Holy Cross and for His grace, mercy, and love. New days are ahead for us to fulfill our mission of Helping People Become Fully Alive in Jesus!

In 2017, it was especially gratifying for me to see God work through Jacob Wessel, who skillfully covered the Sunday morning worship responsibilities part of my position during my disability leave, and all the members of PraiseHym & Sights and Sounds for Christ, who faithfully did what was needed to lead people into God's presence, especially during my absence.



Celebrating Blessings!

Please join me in thanking God for these and many more blessings:



In-Ear Monitor Project: Adding In-ear Monitors for our musicians has been a big part of a solution of a long-standing “stage volume” challenge for PraiseHym and Sounds for Christ. The project is almost complete, and we pray that God uses the tools for His glory.

Electronic Drum set: Balancing the volume of the drum set is the other big part of the “stage volume” challenge. Holy Cross members have generously offered almost one-third of the cost of a new electronic drum set to be used to make God’s praise glorious. We are trusting God to provide the remainder soon.

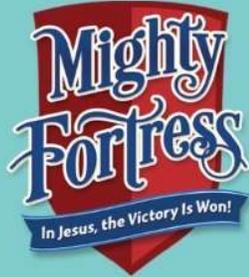


Whiteout 2017 (Spring)

				
Alysha Langford Leader and Vocals	Sam St. Peter Sound Tech	Katya Fields Vocals	Taryn Bellingar Screen Tech	
			<h1>Whiteout Fall 2017</h1>	
Jace Gerber Sound Tech	Olivia Trempe Vocals and Piano	Kaeli Giese Vocals and Guitar		



Mighty Fortress VBS 2017 Praise Team



PRAISEHYM & SIGHTS AND SOUNDS FOR CHRIST







Kidz Alive

Also, while I was on disability, Amanda Staven lovingly led the Kidz Alive Praise Team. I was excited to be able to join her again in the fall, along with Brittany Rosas. We have been focusing on songs that support the children's work learning the books of the Bible, plus other songs that help us praise Jesus.

Awesome Volunteers

I had the privilege of working closely with Lynn Boger to develop a training session for our Screen Techs and Programmers. We held Part I in November and are planning a make-up session for those who missed it as well as newly interested persons.



Starting in June 2017, Karen Kelle (pictured left) has graciously given her heart and time almost every two weeks to pray with and for me, seeking God regarding my part of our work at Holy Cross and beyond. We have already seen God's hand working in specific ways and have a peaceful assurance that He is answering our prayers for His glory and the building up of His kingdom.

God has blessed us greatly through Sandy Abenstein (pictured right), Jo Dean, and Esther Taheri (Esther created most of the collages for the Worship Area Annual Report) who have regularly provided considerable administrative help for the Worship Area ministries.



Coming in 2018:

-By God's grace, I am developing a systematic approach for our congregation to grow in our worship of Almighty God. He is worthy of our highest praise, deepest devotion, and most sincere adoration as we worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. Please pray that we would increasingly Excel in Worship until we see Him face to face.

-The year began with Sounds for Christ doing extensive work tuning the sound system in the sanctuary under the guidance of Aaron Shannon, sound professional (work provided free of charge; please ask God to bless Aaron for sharing his expertise and time).

-Kidz Alive are learning a Books of the New Testament song and are focusing on what it means to praise God.

-Plans are under way to hold continued training on using the sound system for Sounds for Christ and PraiseHym early in the year.

-After a bit more work on the In-Ear Monitor project, we will train the RCLS Chapel Praise Team on how to use them.

-We hope to hold Part II of the Sights for Christ screen training for the Programmers in February. In preparation for that, I am working with the software company with the hopes that we can make even better use of the software that we use.

-Asking God for His direction and blessing so that we can faithfully lead people into His presence and make His praise glorious!

Please pray with me that God would send workers into the harvest field and produce abundant fruit for His glory.

Cindy Wessel, Director of Worship

Equipping Ministries

Fran Green, Director of Equipping

Pastor Fran serves as Director of Equipping ministries 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. He has served as Director of Youth ministries at Hosanna Lutheran Rochester and Zion Lutheran Stewartville prior to completion of seminary.

Fran is married to Tammy, who serves in Cardiovascular Research at the Mayo Clinic. They have been married for 28 years and have two amazing boys Zeke (18) and Silas (14). The Greens are a close family enjoying spending time outdoors, camping, riding motorcycles and traveling.

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. *Ephesians 4:11-12, 16.*

This is such an exciting time to be a part of the church. We all need to be a part of the amazing Body of Christ and Family of Faith, the Church. We grow in our love of the Lord and we grow in our love for each other.

"But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love." *Jude 20-21*

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one other, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." *Hebrews 10:25*

We are "equipped" and we grow as we gather like the church has always gathered: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers." *Acts 2:42* The church, the Body of Christ, is where we will grow our image of God. We will grow in seeing Him for who He is and we will grow in our love of all people as well, as we are connected in Church.

There is certainly much to celebrate in our lives together here at Holy Cross as we show people the way to Jesus, share with people the truth of Jesus and celebrate with people the life of Jesus; we are living our mission as more and more people are becoming fully alive in Jesus. We are thankful that our Lord has blessed our church with many who are using their God-given gifts and talents, building and helping each other grow. The Lord is working powerfully in KidZ Alive! Confirmation, Band of Brothers, Women's Bible Studies, Connecting Hour, other adult Bible studies just to name a few areas. Praise God for His faithfulness in building His Church! 2017 has been a great year of ministry and we are excited for 2018!!

Serving together,

Pastor Fran Green

Youth Ministry

Curt Boger, Director of Youth Ministries

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. 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, beekeeping 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, or calling his cell phone at 269-4952



Youth Ministry Mission

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 2017 to go exactly where God tells us to go.

Volunteers!

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

Jon Lofquist – Workcamp Adult and chauffeur

Jim Krom – Board chair, Sunday Youth Now Leader

Tim Gerber – Garden, Breakfasts, all around fundraising guru

John Fibison – Nightlife/Confirmation Mentor

Kent Below – Nightlife Confirmation Mentor

Adam McClung – WHITEOUT leader

Jacob Wessel – WHITEOUT, YAM Leader

Phil Scott – YAM leader

Esther Taheri – Workcamp Adult

Carole Cochran – Workcamp Adult

Alysha Langford – WHITEOUT leader

Katya Fields – WHITEOUT

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 visit, 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.

2017 Workcamp Mission Trip – “The Road”

On July 27, the team of 21 adventure seekers gathered early in the morning for a send-off by Pastor Schauder, packing of the trailer, and loading into the three vehicles, headed to North Carolina. Most promptly fell asleep (thankfully not the drivers).

Once again we enjoyed the hospitality of St Mark’s Lutheran in Cincinnati, Ohio for the first night, then headed out to Fayetteville, West Virginia, where once again we conquered the rapids of the Lower New River.

We shared some special times at the campground, worshipping around the fire at night, walking in the woods, hammocking, and growing tight as a youth group. Memories were made that will last a lifetime.

Last year we had stayed in the same area and found a very popular local joint called Pies and Pints. We enjoyed a wide and exotic array of wood-fired pizzas and local root beer. Some folks enjoyed the cold leftovers for breakfast the next morning!

On Sunday morning we broke camp and headed for Thomasville, North Carolina. On arrival we checked in, found all the important places (cafeteria, showers were right up there), grabbed lunch and got ready for the 3:00 p.m. kickoff!

On Sunday evening, as always, we met our crews and looked over our project descriptions.

At this camp, there were several complex wheelchair ramp projects, interior and exterior painting, and more. There were 43 crews working on about 38 sites in Thomasville and neighboring Lexington.

There were several logistical challenges at this camp, as the local Lowes store that was contracted to deliver materials the week before camp had not lived up to expectations, and many sites were originally without needed lumber and other supplies. Curt and the other site coaches worked hard to get as many crews going as they could as soon as they could. Meanwhile, those crews that were temporarily idle used the opportunity to get to know their residents.

For our Wednesday afternoon off, we went to the "Bull Hole", a quaint little waterfall and swimming hole at a local state park. It was off the beaten path, and the water was refreshing. We topped the afternoon off with some great Carolina Barbeque!

Friday arrived much too quickly as we raced to finish all the projects. As always, the Friday night and early Saturday goodbyes were bittersweet, but with phones, twitter and such, solid bonds are maintained well after camp!



Daily crew check-in table

Sam, Taryn, and Juliana



Shopping for the local food shelf



Heading out in the morning



To be completed by RESIDENT:
What has this week meant to you?
Getting to meet a great group of youth, Getting alot of work done for my Mother's home. Just seeing how a group of young people that did not know each other and come together to work and worship the Lord Thank you All that had a part in this great mission





Workcamp 2018 – GRIT – HOUSTON WE ARE COMING!

30 Participants and 4 redshirt volunteers are now signed up to head to Houston next summer! They will be spending months fundraising and working together to prepare!

We need you

This is the largest group we have taken on a mission in quite some time, and we will need a lot of support to get there.

Financial donations can be made at church in the regular offering, Online gifts can be done at holycross-church.org, click on Support, then Give Online. It's one thing to just send money to an organization; it's even better when you know the people that will be serving!

Check out our Honey and other items at the new Produce Pantry at church. Tell friends and neighbors or offer to bring them some! 100% of the proceeds go directly to mission support.

About the Trip

Most people know of the destruction in the Houston area from Hurricane Harvey in September of 2017. By far the biggest impact has been flood waters; the damage that floodwaters can do must be seen to be truly understood. The effects are devastating and take a long time to completely overcome. By the summer of 2018, many of the residents of Houston will be tired, discouraged, overwhelmed, and feeling a little hopeless. Our goal is to bring what light we can to each situation, whether it be cleaning up, removing debris, redoing drywall, or whatever else needs doing as we come alongside the people affected.

We will depart July 5, and return July 15.



Group is already on the ground in Houston. This photo is from a November weekend camp.



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 2017

In 2018, we are looking to add options for families of young children, and adults. If you are interested in leading an adult offering on occasion, contact Curt

Here is our current schedule:

Students are welcome any time after school

- Supper for all at 5:45
- Connecting time in the Parish Hall 6:15
- Worship for all 6:45
- Breakout groups at 7:00
 - o Confirmation classes
 - o Other Youth
 - o YAMs

We are finished with our schedule at 8:00, but social time follows.







Our Young Adult Ministry is called YAM, so naturally we refer to those that attend as “Yammers”

YAM seeks to create a safe, welcoming community for persons aged 19-30, where they can develop positive relationships, share life together as the early church did, learn about and share the Love of Jesus and the Truth of God’s word, and more. The group employs “wise ones” with significant life experience (ok so they are “older”) to help guide

their growth.

Please keep this developing ministry in your prayers.



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 everyone for service in the mission of Holy Cross and to the world.

Confirmation classes are part of Nightlife! for youth on Wednesday evenings. Confirmation students worship with others at 6:45 (following supper), then when it comes time to break out, those enrolled in confirmation instruction meet in the Parish Hall 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 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 2018 this will be Saturday, May 12 from 8-3.

Gerten's plant pre-orders will be taken during the month of March.



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

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. In 2017 we expanded to the Zumbrota Farmers' market on Tuesday evenings. In 2018 we will be teaming up with Plainview Church of Christ for our mission trip, and therefore produce will be available at their church as well. 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.

Results

It was a wonderful year of blessing for the Garden. Rain was plentiful and timed perfectly. Bumper crops of Corn, beans, raspberries, peppers, beets, garlic, etc. were harvested.

Financially, we took in over \$8000 by the end of 2017. We were able to pay a portion of workcamp costs, all garden expenses, plus invest in more bee keeping equipment, fencing, and irrigation systems.

Our beekeeping operation produced over 600 lbs. of honey from 12 production hives; Comb honey was also harvested and sold, and pollination at our 4 garden plots has been tremendous since adding honeybee colonies 5 years ago.

Some expenses were paid through a Thrivent Action Team.

Zumbrota Farmer's Market



Extracting Honey



2018 Needs

We need donations of the following:

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

2018 Plans

We have been building up our facilities over time, and are in an outstanding position now to provide larger and larger amounts of support for youth missions. Pray for the Lord of the Harvest to richly bless our efforts!

In 2018 we are planning to expand sales to Plainview and possibly Pine Island.

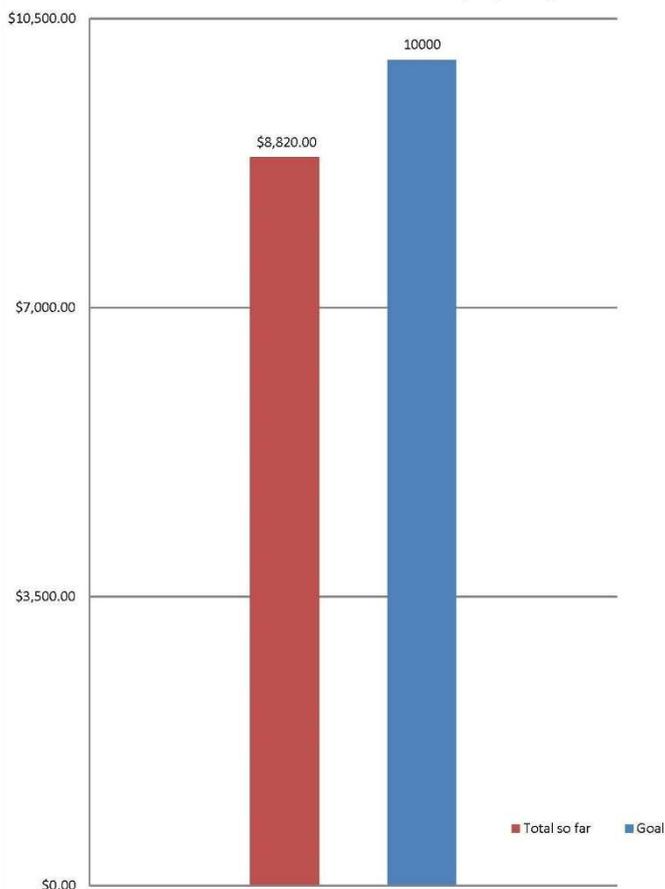
We will be purchasing our tractor in April of 2018.

We would like to expand to around 15 production honeybee colonies, but continue to struggle with that, given the plight of the Honeybee population in North America now.

Tractor Fund

We have reached nearly 90% of our goal of \$10,000 as of January 15, 2018! We therefore be moving forward with this purchase in time for planting season! Many, thanks to all who have taken part in this awesome project!

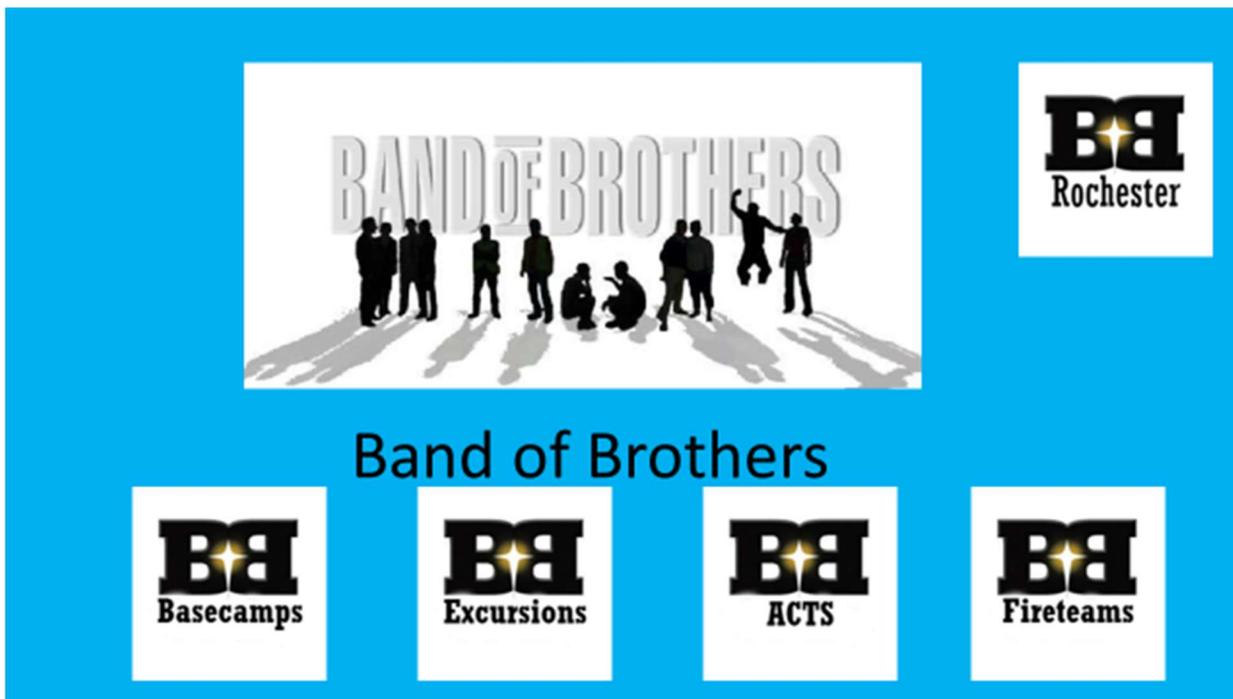
Garden Tractor Fund : Goal By Spring 2018



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
- See Curt about small construction projects.
- 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.





Band of Brothers is our men's ministry at Holy Cross. We strive to live a shared life of discipleship as we focus on four specific areas of ministry.

Basecamps are our primary meeting where we cover relevant and meaningful topics, such as the current study, *The Bible on Trial*. We meet on Monday evenings 6:30-7:45 in the lounge at Holy Cross. This group is open to all men.

Excursions are special events such as chili feeds and the annual Peak Challenge event. These events are intended to provide fun, fellowship, and/or adventure for our men and are also great opportunities to invite new men to join our group.

Acts are serving opportunities for our men, such as the brunch put on by the Band of Brothers for our hosting MN Adult and Teen Challenge and Friday Night Fish Fries during Lent. This past year we also served families within our church and we traveled to MN Adult and Teen Challenge to prepare and serve a Friday Night Fish Fry. We also helped two of our members move.

Fireteams are the final component of our men's ministry. A fireteam is a small group of men, 3-4 who gather to share the challenges and victories of everyday life. These groups provide the place for genuine discipleship to occur.

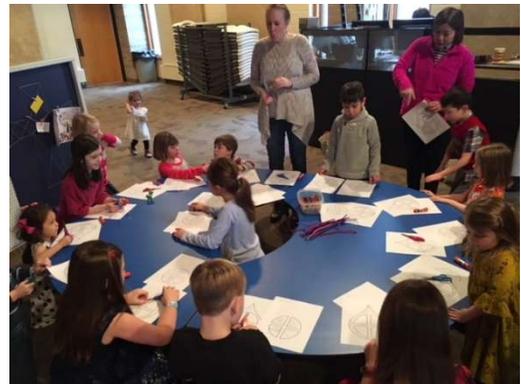
Contact Pastor Fran if you'd like to learn more about the Band of Brothers fran@holycross-church.org, 507-289-1354, x. 4.



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





Stewardship

Finance

Holy Cross had a challenging year with unexpected repairs to the boiler and air conditioning. Virtually all other revenues and expenses were generally in line with expectations. Thankfully we entered 2017 with a surplus from 2016 which allowed us to meet the unplanned expenses and accomplish our ministry plan. We continue to pay down (\$4,864) on our LCEF loan and ended the year at \$56,747 outstanding.

General fund spending was \$515,261, which included approximately \$15,000 spent on the Boiler replacement. We received \$502,212 in receipts, of which \$13,025 was special gifts for the boiler replacement. Receipts were slightly off pace to 2016 with some transition in giving members. As illustrated by the graph below on general fund receipts, giving has slight ups and downs, but the overall trend continues to support our ministry plans.

On the designated giving front, we also have many wonderful blessings. A few worth pointing out are:

We provided \$13,327 to Suresh's missionary outpost in India.

Youth fund raising exceeded \$34,475, with a \$7,820 balance in the tractor fund.

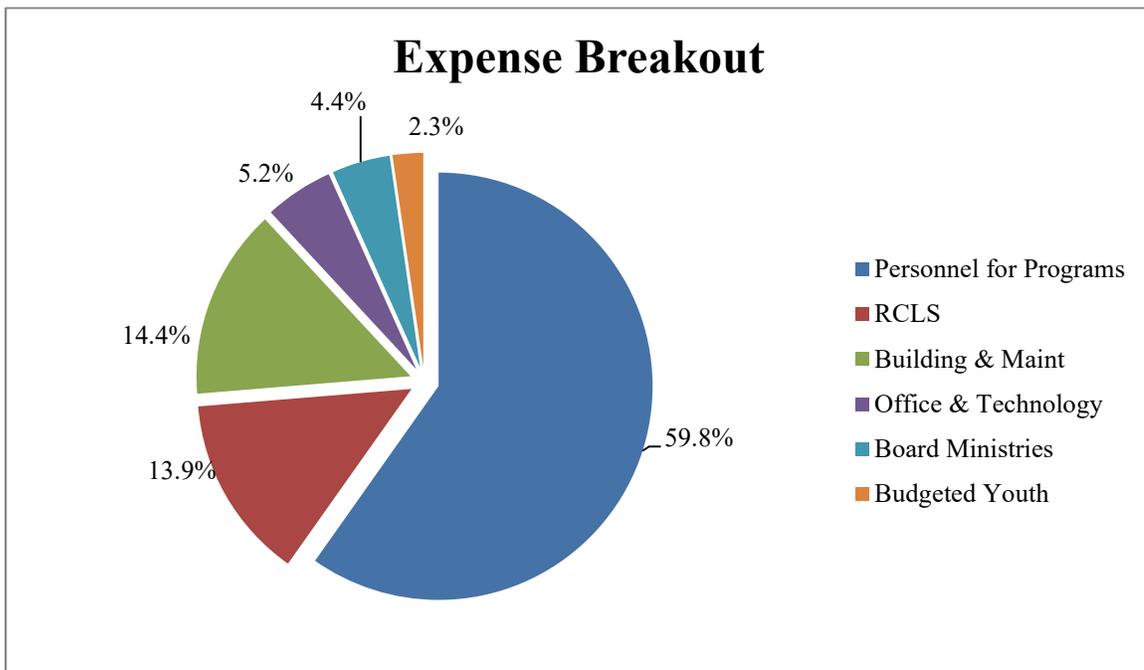
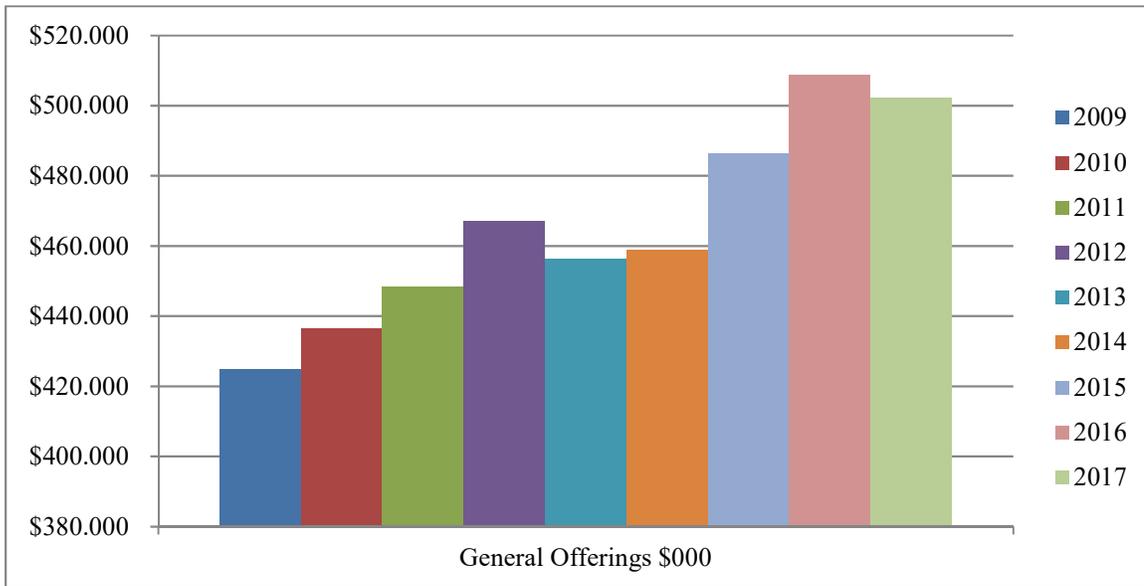
Our Good Samaritan fund supported persons in need on a confidential basis with over \$8,106.

Designated gifts of \$650 combined with budgeted funds to total \$4,000 of Holy Cross support to the POBLO ministry. In 2018 we are increasing our challenge to \$5,000 of support to POBLO.

Equally important is our general ministry where we supported our staff, which leverages the volunteer efforts of the congregation in reaching the Rochester community in various ways including worship, VBS, Life Tree Café and other programs helping individuals come to know Jesus and become more fully alive in Jesus. We also provided significant congregational support (\$62,019) to Rochester Central Lutheran School, as well as supported member families with tuition assistance for their child/children to attend a Christ centered education. Additionally, our facility requires heating, cooling, lighting, mowing and on-going maintenance to provide a welcoming environment to members and guests.

General Fund:	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Receipts	\$502,212	\$508,695	\$486,285
Expenses	<u>\$515,261</u>	<u>\$491,131</u>	<u>\$480,197</u>
Net surplus/deficit	(\$13,049)	\$17,564	\$6,088

We continue to have a strong checking balance of \$36,482 and a savings balance of \$15,587 which represents unspent designated gifts, the largest of which is the tractor fund. We held budgeted amounts for a couple boards, with plans to supplement with the designated funds which have accumulated over time.



Trustees

2017 Major Repairs

A NEW energy efficient modulating boiler system was installed to replace the legacy systems. This should result in significant cost savings. This required the encapsulation of asbestos insulation in the boiler room, plus other modifications.

Repaired the air conditioning condensers in the air exchanger room.

Replaced the shingles on the garage.

2018 and Future Projects

Air Conditioning in the Parish Hall - Determine the best option:

1- Install a new more efficient system

2- Repair the existing unit.

Stage 2 Lighting Parish hall – replace with LED lighting

Stage 3 Lighting Sanctuary lighting - implement efficient theatrical lighting for the altar.

Replace all fluorescent tubes with LED.

Estimated savings around \$2000/year

Kitchen Plan - Work closely with the Building team to Develop a long-range scheduled maintenance plan for the Kitchen

Develop a long-range plan for the parking lot and other major system repairs and replacement.

Conclusion

It is the important work of the Board of Trustees to ensure that we are good stewards of what previous generations have made available to us.

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.”

The Church Is Not Just a Building

When the New Testament talks about the Church, it speaks of an assembly of people.

Many people today understand the church as a building. This is not a biblical understanding of the church. In the Bible the word *church* is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia*, meaning "a calling out." It never refers to a building of cold, wood, brick, metal and stone, but always to his people - The Body of Christ.

So why is it important to have and maintain a building?

We are a forgetful people, and our buildings serve as powerful reminders.

As you read through the Old Testament, there was a practice of building altars to commemorate significant and historical events. This was done so that when an altar was seen, it would remind the Israelites and others that our living Father had done something powerful and wonderful here on earth. Just like the Israelites, we Americans are a forgetful people. Out of sight is out of mind. We are very busy and constantly distracted by our everyday lives.

Church buildings serve as those visible reminders of God's presence in our community. Clean, well-designed, and well-maintained facilities show the community that you care about your God and his facilities. Christians should try to be the best at everything they do, because this glorifies God. Our buildings need to reflect this by being attractive, inviting, and user-friendly to serve the Body of Christ.