

Holy Cross Lutheran Church



You have a playlist, a mixed tape or a record that plays in your head.

It's filled with tunes and voices that tell you who we are not, who you should be and what you are worth. Ultimately, the voices of these tunes get stuck on shuffle, they beat us down and rob us of our confidence - the confidence God wants for you.

During this series, we want to turn up the volume on God's playlist - a playlist filled with all God has to say about you. We want to crank up God's voice in your ear so that you can live a life filled with the confidence God wants for you. We want you to begin to see yourself the same way that Jesus sees you so that real confidence can take root and grow.

Invite a friend and let's gain confidence together with some exciting, fast approaching opportunities to connect and enjoy the remaining days of Summer and the 1st steps of the Fall: Coffee Hour, VBS, National Night Out, Holy Cross Picnic @ Skyline, Volunteer Rally, Rally Day, and on and on.

God's blessings,

Pg. Noah



Long Term Success of Holy Cross

You may recall that earlier this year the Congregational Council identified the Long-Term Success of Holy Cross as one of our key priorities for this year and going forward. This is the first in a series of newsletter articles that will take place over the next four months to share with you our progress, and ultimately elicit your support.

Admittedly, a significant amount of attention and work has been recently placed towards the Roof & Building Project and the re-opening after the COVID pandemic. However, unseen and arguably more significant to the future of Holy Cross, is the Leadership Team's work on the Long-Term Success priority and the changes necessary to assure our future success.

There are several factors driving this need for change:

- 1) The long-time trend of spending more than we earn, each month, even though we have trimmed expenses.
- 2) The continuing decline of membership. Certainly, this trend is not specific to Holy Cross, nevertheless it is important for us to reverse this decline.
- 3) We continue to experience a decline of volunteer support and a continued reliance of a few loyal members. Since Holy Cross does not have a large staff, volunteerism is critical to accomplishing the work of the church.

All of these factors are not recent developments; however the pandemic has made us more aware and has created a greater recognition of the importance in reversing these trends. Over the past several months the Leadership Team has wrestled with this issue and how to begin addressing a solution. We have concluded that finding other ELCA churches that are successful and willing to share their best practices is the most prudent way to go. As you would expect, most churches are struggling with similar concerns as ours. Fortunately, through Pastor Noah's network of colleagues, we found the Calvary Partner Network, an affiliate of Calvary Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Minnesota. We have had preliminary discussions with Pastor Hans Dahl of Calvary, and in fact they have assisted us with some valuable insights and learnings. Our Leadership Team believes it is worth pursuing further discussions and, over the next several months, we will begin to explore the possibility of a working relationship with the Calvary Partner Network. We will continue to share the results of our progress. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me or any of our Leadership Team a call.

God Bless,

Scott Lipinski

Congregation President

Prayer Chain Meeting Weekly Via Zoom

"Leading All People to a Lifelong Faith in Jesus Christ."

Worship, Connect, Serve

Strength for today, hope for tomorrow, we connect with one another and pray.

As COVID-19 lingers, impacting individuals and families, we are here to help.

Whatever hardship you are facing—whether you are in need of prayer, care, a counseling referral, support group or assistance with groceries, supplies or paying the bills—we want to walk with you and support you, and always know, your church is praying for you.

For care or prayer, call the church office, email holycrossduluth@gmail.com, or share at the prayer desk in the lobby.

Holy Cross' prayer chain meets on Wednesdays at 11:30 am on Zoom. If you're interested in joining, give a call and we'll share the Zoom link with you.

Financial Notes

Through June 2021:

Actual Income \$98,820.35

Actual Expense \$106,213.65

Visit www.holycrossduluth.org/give to make a one time or recurring gift to Holy Cross!

A reminder to Holy Cross members who are making their offering through the Give+ app or on holycrossduluth.org – please make sure to include your name and/or giving envelope # when you complete the transaction. Without this information, we are unable to post the donation to your giving account.

Second quarter giving statement have been mailed. Please look yours over and contact our Treasurer, Marcia Hagen, at gmhagen@yahoo.com or call the church office.

Last Chance

We still need someone to lead the Swedish Meatball Drive Thru Dinner this October. Rich Brisbin has all the information from previous years and Scott Lipinski has the recipes. Both are willing to assist the leader(s)!

Preparations need to begin SOON if we are to have a successful event, so it is critical that the leader(s) step up now! Without someone agreeing to accept this responsibility as soon as possible, our hope of having the very popular dinner will end.

This is a great way for YOU to help your church continue to move forward as we work our way out from the past 15 months!

WE NEED YOU!

Please call Dale Thomalla at 721-2096 if you can help!!

Neighborhood Night Out on Tuesday, August 3



TUESDAY, AUGUST 3
5:30 - 7:00 PM
HOLY CROSS PARKING LOT

****FREE HOTDOGS/CONEYS, CHIPS & ROOTBEER FLOATS!****

COME ENJOY AN EVENING OF FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR NEIGHBORS AT HOLY CROSS! YOU WON'T FIND A BETTER DEAL ANYWHERE!

Sunday Worship/Picnic @ Skyline on August 22

WORSHIP & PICNIC ~ SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

SKYLINE LODGE/OUTDOOR PATIO

4894 MILLER TRUNK HWY

JOIN US FOR ONE, THE OTHER OR BOTH:

WORSHIP ON THE PATIO AT 11 AM

BBQ LUNCH STARTS AT NOON

\$16/ADULTS \$10/KIDS 10 & UNDER

(BURGERS, BRATS, HOT DOGS, COLESLAW, WATERMELON & DESSERT)

RSVP'S PREFERRED AT WWW.HOLYCROSSDULUTH.ORG/PICNIC OR CALL

JESSICA IN THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 722-0132.

Some Notes from the Congregational Life and Compassionate Care and Evangelism Ministry Teams

Do you need transportation to and from Church on Sunday morning? Please call Dale Thomalla 721-2096. We are also looking for drivers.

Home visits are part of how we serve. If you would like one of members to come with a visual recording of a service, Holy Communion, and just time to talk please call the Church office at 722-0132 anytime and leave a message to get our relationship started.

Our Food Shelf cart is in the Narthex. We are always in need of items to deliver to CHUM or anyone in need that drops by. Summer is a hard time for kids who do not receive meals at school.

Stay for coffee/lemonade and treats after Church. Everyone is welcome!

Think about becoming part of one new activity this fall. You will be we glad you did!

Worship Help Needed!

Worship Volunteers Needed!

**Ushers*

**Communion Assistants*

**Bible Lesson Readers*

**Coffee Servers*

Go to www.holycrossduluth.org and click on this graphic on the home page or contact Jessica in the church office at (218) 722-0132 or holycrossduluth@gmail.com to sign up to help!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

410 North Arlington Avenue

Duluth, MN 55811

(218) 722-0132

www.holycrossduluth.org

Return Service Requested



PRESSPLAY
GET IN THE MIX

Vacation Bible School 2021!

August 2-5 from 8:30 - 11:30 am

**Visit www.holycrossduluth.org for
more information and to register to
participate or volunteer!**