



# The Way of the Cross

*Empowering people in Christ to share His love while serving our neighbor.*

2011-12/2012-1

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Dec. 2011/Jan. 2012

## Church Office

6905 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Phone: (301) 345-5111  
Fax: (301) 220-0694  
E-mail: [myholycross@verizon.net](mailto:myholycross@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.myholycross.org](http://www.myholycross.org)

## Staff

Pastor: *Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Mentz*  
Organist: *Roberto Vela, Esq.*  
Office Manager: *Zari Malsawma*  
Custodian: *John Baluch*

## Executive Steering Committee

*Kristi Keller*  
*Amy Minor*  
(Vacancy)

## Mission & Ministry Committee

*Angie Evans*  
*Allen Clem*  
*Jennifer Riggins Garcia*

## Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Worship Schedule

## Sundays

**8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**  
Worship Services followed by Fellowship

**9:30 a.m.**  
Education Hour

**6:00 p.m.**  
Evening Worship

*(See page 2 for Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule)*

## From Pastor . . .



**“Then will I go to the altar of God,  
to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise  
You with the harp, O God, my God.”**

*(Psalm 43:4)*

I had felt for some time that it would be great if we had a movable altar that could serve smaller gatherings in the sanctuary, or services in other parts of the church building. Then, several months ago, I was at Community Forklift in Bladensburg (*a nonprofit organization selling surplus, salvaged building materials*) and found a hundred-year-old piece of mulberry wood. I was intrigued with this piece of wood and bought it, with the hope of using it as an altar top. But, until then, I had never considered crafting anything out of wood, since I am a complete novice at it.

It was providential that I was able to contact Marcus Sims, a master craftsman who uses old wood that he collects for

*Continued on page 2 →*



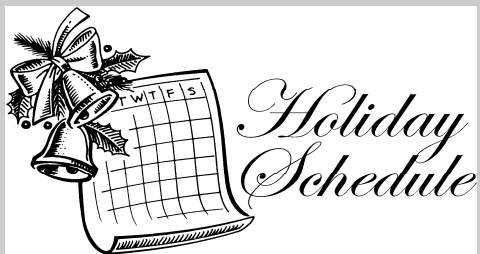
**Advent Sundays**  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Midweek Advent Services**  
Wednesdays  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011  
12:15 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

*The theme for our midweek Advent services is "Watch and Watch!"*



Wed., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
7:30 p.m.  
*Decorating the Church for Christmas!*



**Christmas Eve, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
12:15 p.m.

*Spoken Communion Service*

9:00 p.m.

*Festive Candlelight Communion Service*

**Christmas Day, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
9:30 a.m.

*Spoken Communion Service  
(NO Sunday School, Bible Study or  
Evening Service)*

**New Year's Day, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**  
9:30 a.m.

*Communion Service  
(No Sunday School or Bible Study)*

6:00 p.m.

*Sunday Evening Communion Service*

*Continued from page 1 . . .*

a variety of projects. I visited him and shared with him my idea of using the piece I bought as an altar top, and he designed and built the legs for the altar. I finished the altar by sanding and staining the wood and, I have to admit, there is something soothing about working with wood! I also feel good knowing that most of the wood of this altar, being over a hundred years old, is being used for the glory of God!

Crafting this altar has made me realize the need to recycle our resources and take good care of our world. God put us here to manage His creation – and it is *His* creation, not ours! I encourage all of you to be faithful caretakers of this world, as God directs us to do in Genesis 1:28.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Mentz



**Not a morning  
person?  
No Problem!!!  
You can join us Sunday  
evenings!**

Maybe you're not a morning person?! No problem – you can join us Sunday evenings for worship. Service begins at 6:00 p.m. and lasts approximately 40 minutes.

*There will be NO SERVICE on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.*

*We will have service on New Year's Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012!*

***Come as you are – dressed down!***

## Upcoming Events . . .



### Youth Christmas Cookie Bake

We will bake Christmas cookies on **Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** The delicious holiday cookies will be on sale the following Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, after both services. Please mark your calendars and plan to help make this annual fundraiser a success, as always!



- **Elsa Lester**, colleague of Dawn Felix (recurrence of cancer)
- **Family of Barry Haynes**, Allen Clem's cousin (Barry passed away on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011)
- **Henry Wilcox**, Amy Minor's brother (continuous health issues)
- **Ian Evans**, grandson of Marian Evans (has been diagnosed with Lyme Disease)
- **James David**, brother of Collin David (deployed on the USS George H. W. Bush)
- **Jan Beeching-Piper**, friend of Bill & Julene Pichel (recovering from treatment)
- **Lael Carriere** (at Hillhaven Nursing Center)
- **Mary Fink** (friend of Frances Jordan, fighting cancer)



### Newest members at Holy Cross!

We welcome **Sarah Martin & Collan Rosier**, who joined Holy Cross on Reformation Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. God's blessings go with you, Sarah and Collan!

### Decorating the Church



We will be decorating the church for Christmas at **7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011** after a shortened Midweek Advent Evening Service.

### Lunch with Pastor



**All are invited to the Christmas Luncheon with Pastor to be held at 12:00 noon on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in the Church Parlor.**

Come join us for a fun lunch & holiday celebration! ☺

### Town Hall Meetings



We plan to have quarterly Town Hall meetings throughout next year, with the agenda for each meeting announced at least one week before the meeting. Here is a tentative schedule: January 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, and October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

**The first Town Hall meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 in the Fellowship Hall.** All members & friends of Holy Cross are encouraged to mark their calendars and participate in as many of these as possible.

### Local Mission Outreach

During January 2012, donations will be received for groceries and gifts to support the Family Crisis Center. Please place your donations in the basket in the Narthex.

### Del-Mar-Va Depression Glass Club

We will not meet in December 2012. Our next meeting will be held from **10 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012** in the Church Parlor. Come join us for an interesting discussion on "Colored Glassware of the Depression-Era." For more information, please contact Helen & Sheldon Chazin at 301-565-2361 or ybrian@verizon.net.

### Save the Date for SAFE HAVEN 2012!



We will be hosting Safe Haven again from **January 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012.** We will need volunteers to prepare and serve food, drivers to the Aquatic Center for showers, stay overnight and do laundry. Look for sign-up sheets in the Narthex after January 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have questions, please contact Angie Evans (301-345-7874 or p4angy@juno.com) or Amy Minor (Cell: 301-641-1169 or Home: 301-559-5911).

### The Church Utility Bill:

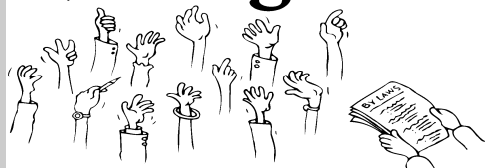
**Let's all do our part to keep it down!**

With the rising cost of utilities, we ask that ALL of you help keep costs down by making sure that lights are turned off if no one is in the room, and that thermostats are returned to the normal cycle after using a room! Remember the old saying: **"When not in use – Turn off the juice!"**

### Financial Report

<b>Source of Income</b>	<b>October 2011</b>
Offerings:	\$ 19,601
Facility Fees:	\$ 3,166
Other:	\$ 20
	-----
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 22,787</b>
<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 21,386</b>
(Budgeted)	(\$23,854)
<b>Deficit(-) or Surplus (+)</b>	<b>+ \$ 1,401</b>

## Congregational Meeting



**On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 there will be a congregational meeting after each service to vote on the 2012 budget.**

Copies of the proposed budget are on the Welcome Counter.

### February Newsletter Deadline

9:00 a.m.

Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

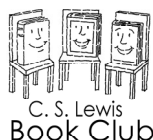


## Adult Education at Holy Cross Church is Expanding!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The adult education program at Holy Cross has expanded beyond the Sunday morning Bible Study to multiple evening programs. **As we enter the holiday season and make New Year's resolutions, we ask you to consider our new programs as an avenue to spiritual growth in 2012.**

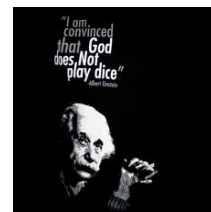
### C. S. Lewis Book Club

We will continue to meet once a month on Friday evenings, focusing on books by C. S. Lewis and authors that influenced or were influenced by him. We will start to reread some of his books, so all are welcome to join us in 2012. We also occasionally detour to other books. **On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, we will meet at 6:30 p.m.** for dinner and discuss *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.



### Religion & Science

In January, we will be starting a science and religion discussion group. The group will meet on the first Wednesday of the month, beginning with dinner at 6:30 p.m. **Our first gathering will be Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012.** We will discuss a set of articles by Albert Einstein that can be found at <http://www.sacredtexts.com/aor/einstein/einsci.htm>. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Kristi Keller at 301 642-1453 for a printed copy.



### Sunday Evenings at Holy Cross Church

The Sunday evening Bible study will continue on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. **Our next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012;** the topic will be the Crossways study on the *Parables of Jesus*.

### Poetics and the Bible

Finally, there is **a lecture on Poetics and the Bible at the Folger Shakespeare Library on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.** Tickets are free but registration is required. Registration can be made at <http://www.folger.edu/woSummary.cfm?woid=706>. **If you are interested in going, there will be a carpool from church at 5:00 p.m.** Please contact Kristi Keller (301 642-1453 or [kakeller@mad.scientist.com](mailto:kakeller@mad.scientist.com)) or Pastor Mentz for more information. Other trips will be planned in 2012 based on the upcoming exhibits or events in the area.

## Announcements . . .

### Holy Cross has FOR SALE:

Property in King George, VA, Section 4, Lot 44 McKinley Dr. ( Presidential Lakes).

If interested contact Richard Snow of Exit Realty at [richardsnow@mris.com](mailto:richardsnow@mris.com)

To view the property, go to any of the following:

- [www.Realtor.com](http://www.Realtor.com)
- [www.Homesdatabase.com](http://www.Homesdatabase.com)
- [www.ExitRealtyExpertise.com](http://www.ExitRealtyExpertise.com)
- [www.Craigslist.com](http://www.Craigslist.com)
- [www.NorthernNeckProperties.com](http://www.NorthernNeckProperties.com)
- [www.lot44mckinleydrivekinggeorgeva22485.NorthernNeckProperties.com](http://www.lot44mckinleydrivekinggeorgeva22485.NorthernNeckProperties.com)
- Youtube

If you are interested in this property or know of anyone who might be, please share this information. Any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Minor (Cell: 301-641-1169 or Home: 301-559-5911).



### Crafters Unite!

Is anyone interested in joining a group to make crafts for sale at the Thrift Shop and/or other events at Holy Cross? If so, please contact Shirley Lee at 301-345-2556. We are thinking of forming a group sometime in early January 2012.

## The true meaning of Christmas



A few years ago, my Christmas season centered on the arrival of a baby — our second child, due December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Exhausted with pregnancy, I skipped out on holiday gatherings, did less decorating and baking than usual, didn't send cards and didn't plan a holiday dinner, assuming — correctly, it turned out — I'd be in the hospital then.

It was a strangely quiet Christmas season, with our focus on the impending arrival. But once our baby was born, in the last hour of Christmas Day, all the missed parties, caroling, cookie-indulging and even present-opening paled in comparison. All that truly mattered was God's gift to our family of this one very special baby.

Isn't this how Christmas should always be? Seasonal activities are fun but hold meaning only if they deepen our focus on the coming of one very special Baby — the Christ-Child. Hold him in your heart this season, as I held my newborn that Christmas night. If the hustle and bustle distracts you from the Baby, put an end to it. If traditional activities prove more stressful than joyous, consider what you can let go of to embrace the true meaning of Christmas — the birth of Jesus, God's gift of love.

—Heidi Mann

## The Christmas heart

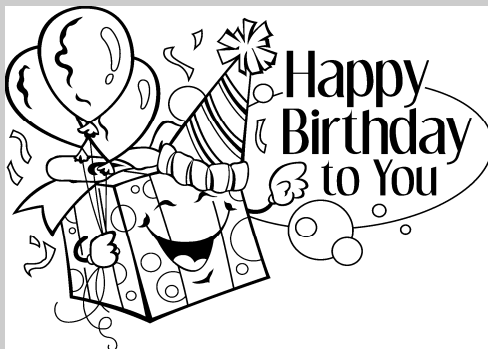


“Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history because it has meant the pouring into a sick world of the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost 2,000 years ... underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart.”

—George Matthew Adams



Frank & Diane Stultz Dec. 10



- Christian Byrnes Dec. 4
- Carl Roberson, Jr. Dec. 6
- Ann Burt Dec. 7
- Katherine Ridenour Dec. 7
- LeRoy Schwarzkopf Dec. 9
- Karin Walsh Dec. 9
- Patti Walter Dec. 9
- Jordan Proctor Dec. 13
- Julene Pichel Dec. 19
- Linda Salamon Dec. 20
- Matthew Holien Dec. 21
- John Lucero Dec. 22
- Tommy Underwood Dec. 23
- Pat Fitzenreiter Dec. 26
- Paul Commins Dec. 28
- Sharon Townsend Dec. 29
- Emmanuel Findlay Dec. 31

## Volunteers of the Month

December 2011

### Altar Guild:

- Saturday Lu Keys, Sherrie Alexander, Mary Anne Holien
- Sunday Mary Anne Holien

### Acolytes:

- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> J. P. Townsend (8:15 a.m.)
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Annie Belle Neugebauer (10:30 a.m.)
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> J. P. Townsend (8:15 a.m.)
- Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Martin Tanter (9:00 p.m.)
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Annina Commins (9:30 a.m.)

### Communion Assistants:

- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Mentz (8:15 a.m.)
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Angie Evans (10:30 a.m.)
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> Mindy Ittenbach (8:15 a.m.)
- Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Scott LaCross (9:00 p.m.)
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Toni F. Gore (9:30 a.m.)

### Counters:

- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Bill & Julene Pichel
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Bob Benson & Allen Clem
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> Ron Day, Jr. & Angie Evans
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Warren & Mary Lucy Winker

### Greeters

- |                       |   |                                  |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
|                       | <u>8:15 a.m.</u>                        | <u>10:30 a.m.</u>                |
| Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Pat Fitzenreiter                        | Dorothy Ball                     |
| Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup> | Barbara Green                           | Toni F. Gore<br>& Jordan Proctor |
| Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup> | Susan Lucero                            | Anna Stieger                     |
| Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup> | Pamela Brown (One service at 9:30 a.m.) |                                  |

### Lectors

- |                       |  |                   |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------|
|                       | <u>8:15 a.m.</u>                         | <u>10:30 a.m.</u> |
| Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Mary Miller                              | Warren Winker     |
| Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup> | Jennifer Garcia                          | Emmanuel Findlay  |
| Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup> | Meghan Costello                          | Bob Benson        |
| Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup> | Jim Ittenbach (One service at 9:30 a.m.) |                   |

### Ushers:

- John Minor (8:15 a.m.); Bill Pichel, Collin David (10:30 a.m.)

### Thursday Office Volunteers:

- |                      |            |                       |            |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> | Bob Smith  | Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup> | Allen Clem |
| Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup> | Allen Clem | Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Bob Smith  |

### Friday Night NA Volunteers:

- |                      |               |                       |               |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Warren Winker | Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup> | Kristi Keller |
| Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup> | Bill Pichel   | Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Collin David  |
|                      |               | Dec. 30 <sup>th</sup> | Pastor Mentz  |



Mike Stevens & Sabine Hentrich	Jan. 4
Emmanuel & Adelaide Findlay	Jan. 5
Dick & Pat Fitzenreiter	Jan. 25
Hank & Sue Stuvan	Jan. 29



Ryan Day	Jan. 2
Alex Hanavin	Jan. 2
Aaron Ittenbach	Jan. 6
Jeanne Scammon	Jan. 7
Jeremy Silver	Jan. 10
Kim Klingenstein	Jan. 13
John Baluch	Jan. 14
Lorrie Lauer	Jan. 16
Lael Carriere	Jan. 18
Walt Klingner	Jan. 20
Mary Roberts	Jan. 20
Helen Bladen	Jan. 24
Roberto Vela	Jan. 26
Bella Onwumbiko	Jan. 29
Vern Graunke	Jan. 30
Jessica Silver	Jan. 30
Anthony Stevens	Jan. 31

## Volunteers of the Month

January 2012

### Altar Guild:

Saturday	Lu Keys, Sherrie Alexander, Mary Anne Holien
Sunday	Irene Day

### Acolytes:

Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	J. P. Townsend (One service at 9:30 a.m.)
Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Annie Belle Neugebauer (10:30 a.m.)
Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup>	J. P. Townsend (8:15 a.m.)
Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Martin Tanter (10:30 a.m.)
Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup>	J. P. Townsend (8:15 a.m.) Annina Commins (10:30 a.m.)

### Communion Assistants:

Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Allen Clem (One service at 9:30 a.m.)
Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Amber Day (10:30 a.m.)
Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Virginia Mentz (8:15 a.m.)
Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Paul Commins (10:30 a.m.)
Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Mindy Ittentach (8:15 a.m.) Scott LaCross (10:30 a.m.)

### Counters: TBA

### Greeters

	<u>8:15 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pat Fitzenreiter (One service at 9:30 a.m.)	
Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Burt	Ruth Embrey
Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Wayne & Mary Anne Holien	Anna Stieger
Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ashley Pinder	Fran West-Poma
Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Lucero	Pamela Brown

### Lectors

	<u>8:15 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bob Krueger (One service at 9:30 a.m.)	
Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	John Minor	Rochelle Commins
Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Miller	Warren Winker
Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jennifer Garcia	Emmanuel Findlay
Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Meghan Costello	Bob Benson

### Ushers:







8:15 a.m.	Jeff Burt, Stephanie Burt
10:30 a.m.	Warren Winker, Ed Allinson




### Thursday Office Volunteers:

Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Smith	Jan. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Allen Clem
Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Allen Clem	Jan. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Smith

### Friday Night NA Volunteers:

Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Warren Winker	Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Kristi Keller
Jan. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Bill Pichel	Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Collin David

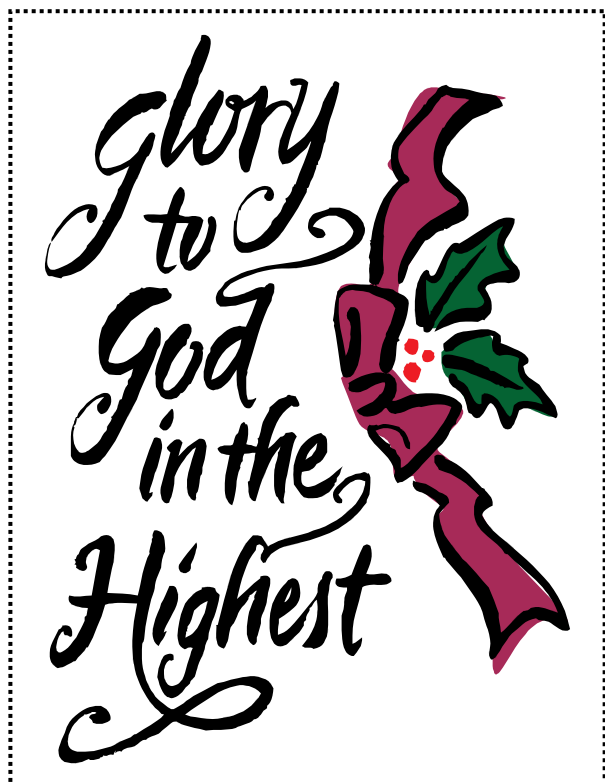
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><b>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</b>  <b>Missouri Synod</b>          6905 Greenbelt Road          Greenbelt, MD 20770          Phone: (301)345-5111          Fax: (301)220-0694          E-mail: <a href="mailto:myholycross@verizon.net">myholycross@verizon.net</a>          Website: <a href="http://www.myholycross.org">www.myholycross.org</a></p>		 <p><b>DECEMBER</b>  <b>2011</b></p>		<p><b>1</b>          10:00 am - 4:00 pm          Thrift Store Open          10:30 am - 12:30 pm          Rethink Education (P)          11:00 am - Bible          Study (Greenridge          House Dining Room)</p> <p>5:00 - 6:00 pm - Re-          think Education (P)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)          7 - 11 pm - IDDP          (Parlor &amp; Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>  <p><b>CHRISTMAS</b>  <b>BAZAR</b></p> <p>9:00 am - 2:00 pm          (Fellowship Hall)          3 p.m. - 12 a.m.          NA Dinner &amp; Dance          (FH &amp; Kitchen)</p>
<p><b>4</b> *2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. of Advent          8:15 am - Worship Svc.          9:00 am - Fellowship          9:30 am - Education Hr.          10:30 am - Worship Svc.</p> <p>2 - 7 pm - IDDP (P, S &amp;          SS Rooms)</p> <p>6:00 pm - <i>Evening Svc.</i></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)</p>	<p><b>6</b>          12:00 - 2:00 p.m.          Rethink Education (P)</p> <p>5:30 - 9:30 p.m.          4 Positive Paws (FH)          7 - 10 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>7</b>          9:00 am - Sunday          bulletin notices due!          12:00 pm - 2:00 pm          Rethink Education (P)</p> <p>12:15 pm &amp; 7:00 pm  <i>Midweek Advent Svcs</i></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA Regional          Meeting (FH)          8 - 11 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>8</b>          10:00 am - 4:00 pm          Thrift Store Open          10:30 am - 12:30 pm          Rethink Education (P)          11:00 am - Bible          Study (Greenridge          House Dining Room)</p> <p>5:00 - 6:00 pm - Re-          think Education (P)</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)          6:30 pm - C.S. Lewis  <i>Book Club</i> (SS Rm.)          7 - 11 pm - IDDP          (Parlor &amp; Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>10</b>          9 am - 3:00 pm  <i>Youth Christmas</i>  <i>Cookie Bake</i>          (Kitchen)</p>
<p><b>11</b> *3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Advent          *Vote on 2012 Budget          after each service!          8:15 am - Worship Svc.          9:00 am - Fellowship          9:30 am - Education Hr.          10:30 am - Worship Svc.          12:30 pm - <i>Hot Meals</i>  <i>Ministry</i> (FH)          2 - 7 pm - IDDP (P, S &amp;          SS Rooms)          6:00 pm - <i>Evening Svc.</i>          7:00 - 8:30 pm - <i>Xmas:</i>  <i>The Real Story</i> (Parlor)</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)</p>	<p><b>13</b>          12:00 - 2:00 p.m.          Rethink Education (P)</p> <p>5:30 - 9:30 p.m.          4 Positive Paws (FH)          7 - 10 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>14</b>          9:00 am - Sunday          bulletin notices due!          12:00 pm - 2:00 pm          Rethink Education (P)</p> <p>12:15 pm &amp; 7:00 pm  <i>Midweek Advent Svcs</i></p> <p>7:30 pm - <i>Decorating</i>  <i>the Church for Xmas</i></p> <p>7:00 pm - NTL Toast-          masters Club (P)          8 - 11 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>15</b>          *8:30 am - 5:00 pm          Mobile Health Fair          (Church Parking Lot)          10:00 am - 4:00 pm          Thrift Store Open          10:30 am - 12:30 pm          Rethink Education (P)          11:00 am - Bible          Study (Greenridge          House Dining Room)</p> <p>5:00 - 6:00 pm - Re-          think Education (P)</p>	<p><b>16</b>          12:00 p.m. - <i>Christ-</i>  <i>mas Lunch with</i>  <i>Pastor</i> (Parlor)</p> <p>5:30 pm - <i>Meet at</i>  <i>church for trip to</i>  <i>Folger Shakespeare</i>  <i>Library</i></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)          7 - 11 pm - IDDP          (Parlor &amp; Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>17</b>          6:00 am - 12:00 pm          IDDP Retreat (S)</p> <p>5:00 - 8:00 p.m.  <i>Animato Suzuki</i>  <i>Violin Program's</i>  <i>Winter Solo Recital</i>  <i>&amp; Reception</i>          (Sanctuary &amp; Parlor)</p>
<p><b>18</b> *4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Advent          8:15 am - Worship Svc.          9:00 am - Fellowship          9:30 am - Education Hr.          10:30 am - <i>Sunday</i>  <i>School Christmas</i>  <i>Program</i></p> <p>2 - 7 pm - IDDP (P, S &amp;          SS Rooms)</p> <p>6:00 pm - <i>Evening Svc.</i></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)</p>	<p><b>20</b>          5:30 - 9:30 p.m.          4 Positive Paws (FH)          7 - 10 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>21</b>          9:00 am - Sunday          bulletin notices due!          12:00 pm - 2:00 pm          Rethink Education (P)</p> <p>12:15 pm &amp; 7:00 pm  <i>Midweek Advent Svcs</i></p> <p>8 - 11 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>22</b> *Winter begins!          10:00 am - 4:00 pm          Thrift Store Open          10:30 am - 12:30 pm          Rethink Education (P)          11:00 am - Bible          Study (Greenridge          House Dining Room)</p> <p>5:00 - 6:00 pm - Re-          think Education (P)</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)          7 - 11 pm - IDDP          (Parlor &amp; Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>24</b> *Xmas Eve!          12:15 p.m.  <i>Spoken Com-</i>  <i>munion Service</i></p>  <p>9:00 p.m.  <i>Festive Candlelight</i>  <i>Communion</i>  <i>Service</i></p>
<p><b>25</b> *Christmas Day!           9:30 am - <i>Spoken</i>  <i>Communion Service</i></p> <p>2 - 7 pm - IDDP (P, S &amp;          SS Rooms)</p> <p>*No Evening Service</p>	<p><b>26</b>          Christmas Holiday          Church Office Closed</p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)</p>	<p><b>27</b>          Christmas Holiday          Church Office Closed</p> <p>5:30 - 9:30 p.m.          4 Positive Paws (FH)          7 - 10 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>28</b>          Christmas Holiday          Church Office Closed</p> <p>7 - 10 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>29</b>          Christmas Holiday          Church Office Closed</p>	<p><b>30</b>          Christmas Holiday          Church Office Closed</p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)          7 pm - 2 am - IDDP          Prayer Vigil (Parlor &amp;          Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>31</b> *New Year's          Eve</p> 

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 New Year's Day!</b>  9:30 am <b>Communion Service</b> 2 – 7 pm IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – <b>Evening Communion Service</b>	<b>2 *New Year's Holiday</b> Church Office Closed 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	<b>3</b> 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>4</b> 9:00 am – Sunday bulletin notices due! 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 6:30 pm – <b>Dinner &amp; Discussion Group</b> (Parlor) 6:30 pm – NA Regional Meeting (FH) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>5</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thrift Store Open 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Rethink Education (P) 11:00 am – Bible Study (Greenridge House Dining Room) 5:00 – 6:00 pm - Rethink Education (P) 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. 4 Positive Paws (FH)	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm – NA (FH) 7 - 11 pm – IDDP (Parlor & Sanctuary)	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:15 am - Worship Svc. 9:00 am - Fellowship 9:30 am – Education Hr. 10:30 am – Worship Svc. 12:30 pm - <b>Hot Meals Ministry</b> (FH) 2 – 7 pm – IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – <b>Evening Svc.</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	<b>10</b> 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>11</b> 9:00 am – Sunday bulletin notices due! 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 7:00 pm – NTL Toastmasters Club (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>12</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thrift Store Open 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Rethink Education (P) 11:00 am – Bible Study (Greenridge House Dining Room) 5:00 – 6:00 pm - Rethink Education (P) 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. 4 Positive Paws (FH)	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm – NA (FH) 7 - 11 pm – IDDP (Parlor & Sanctuary)	<b>14</b> 10:00 – 11:30 am DMV Depression Glass Club (P)
<b>15 *SAFE HAVEN</b> Week begins at 7:00 pm 8:15 am - Worship Svc. 9:00 am - Fellowship 9:30 am – Education Hr. 10:30 am – Worship Svc. 2 – 7 pm – IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – <b>Evening Svc.</b>	<b>16 *SAFE HAVEN</b>  <b>Holiday</b> Church Office Closed 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	<b>17 *SAFE HAVEN</b> 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>18 *SAFE HAVEN</b> 9:00 am – Sunday bulletin notices due! 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>19 *SAFE HAVEN</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thrift Store Open 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Rethink Education (P) 11:00 am – Bible Study (Greenridge House Dining Room) 5:00 – 6:00 pm - Rethink Education (P) 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. 4 Positive Paws (FH)	<b>20 *SAFE HAVEN</b> 12:00 pm – <b>Lunch with Pastor</b> (Parlor) 6:30 pm – <b>C.S. Lewis Book Club</b> (P) 6:30 pm – NA (FH) 7 - 11 pm – IDDP (Parlor & Sanctuary)	<b>21 *SAFE HAVEN</b> 6:00 am - 12 pm IDDP Retreat (S)
<b>22 *SAFE HAVEN</b> Week ends at 7:00 a.m. 8:15 am - Worship Svc. 9:00 am - Fellowship 9:30 am – Education Hr. <b>*Town Hall Meeting in the Fellowship Hall!</b> 10:30 am – Worship Svc. 2 – 7 pm – IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – <b>Evening Svc.</b> 7:00 pm – <b>Bible Study</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 am – <b>February Newsletter deadline!</b> 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	<b>24</b> 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>25</b> 9:00 am – Sunday bulletin notices due! 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>26</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thrift Store Open 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Rethink Education (P) 11:00 am – Bible Study (Greenridge House Dining Room) 5:00 – 6:00 pm - Rethink Education (P) 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. 4 Positive Paws (FH)	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm – NA (FH) 7 pm – 2 am – IDDP Prayer Vigil (Parlor & Sanctuary)	<b>28</b> 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. <b>Animato Suzuki Violin Program's Winter Group Recital &amp; Reception</b> (Sanctuary & Parlor)
<b>29</b> 8:15 am - Worship Svc. 9:30 am – Education Hr. 9:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am – Worship Svc. 2 – 7 pm – IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – <b>Evening Svc.</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	<b>31</b> 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)			 <b>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</b> <b>Missouri Synod</b> 6905 Greenbelt Road Greenbelt, MD 20770 Phone: (301)345-5111 Fax: (301)220-0694 E-mail: <a href="mailto:myholycross@verizon.net">myholycross@verizon.net</a> Website: <a href="http://www.myholycross.org">www.myholycross.org</a>	

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
6905 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dated Material

## Address Service Requested



## Dare to hope

If you've ever given up on a dream, then you have something in common with Zechariah. When an angel brought news that Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, would soon have a son, Zechariah had trouble believing it (Luke 1:13-18).

How long had it been since Zechariah first prayed for a son? More to the point, how long had it been since he'd given up praying for a son? With the couple's childbearing years long past, Zechariah likely felt compelled to emphasize the impossibility of the angel's proclamation.

Perhaps you know what it's like to lose hope. Zechariah's story reminds us that God's plans cannot be hampered, even when the laws of nature stand in the way. Hold on to your hope because God works miracles.





# The Way of the Cross

*Empowering people in Christ to share His love while serving our neighbor.*

2011-12/2012-1

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Dec. 2011/Jan. 2012

## Church Office

6905 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Phone: (301) 345-5111  
Fax: (301) 220-0694  
E-mail: [myholycross@verizon.net](mailto:myholycross@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.myholycross.org](http://www.myholycross.org)

## Staff

Pastor: *Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Mentz*  
Organist: *Roberto Vela, Esq.*  
Office Manager: *Zari Malsawma*  
Custodian: *John Baluch*

## Executive Steering Committee

*Kristi Keller*  
*Amy Minor*  
(Vacancy)

## Mission & Ministry Committee

*Angie Evans*  
*Allen Clem*  
*Jennifer Riggins Garcia*

## Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Worship Schedule

## Sundays

**8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**  
Worship Services followed by Fellowship

**9:30 a.m.**  
Education Hour

**6:00 p.m.**  
Evening Worship

(See page 2 for Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule)

## From Pastor . . .



**“Then will I go to the altar of God,  
to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise  
You with the harp, O God, my God.”**

*(Psalm 43:4)*

I had felt for some time that it would be great if we had a movable altar that could serve smaller gatherings in the sanctuary, or services in other parts of the church building. Then, several months ago, I was at Community Forklift in Bladensburg (a nonprofit organization selling surplus, salvaged building materials) and found a hundred-year-old piece of mulberry wood. I was intrigued with this piece of wood and bought it, with the hope of using it as an altar top. But, until then, I had never considered crafting anything out of wood, since I am a complete novice at it.

It was providential that I was able to contact Marcus Sims, a master craftsman who uses old wood that he collects for

*Continued on page 2 →*



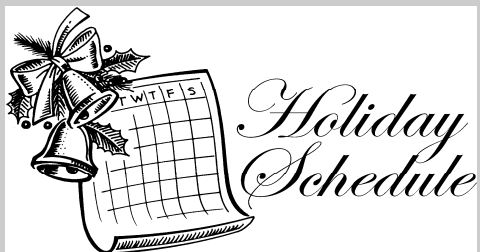
**Advent Sundays**  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Midweek Advent Services**  
Wednesdays  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011  
12:15 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

*The theme for our midweek Advent services is "Watch and Watch!"*



Wed., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
7:30 p.m.  
*Decorating the Church for Christmas!*



**Christmas Eve, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
12:15 p.m.

*Spoken Communion Service*

9:00 p.m.

*Festive Candlelight Communion Service*

**Christmas Day, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
9:30 a.m.

*Spoken Communion Service  
(NO Sunday School, Bible Study or  
Evening Service)*

**New Year's Day, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**  
9:30 a.m.

*Communion Service  
(No Sunday School or Bible Study)*

6:00 p.m.

*Sunday Evening Communion Service*

*Continued from page 1 . . .*

a variety of projects. I visited him and shared with him my idea of using the piece I bought as an altar top, and he designed and built the legs for the altar. I finished the altar by sanding and staining the wood and, I have to admit, there is something soothing about working with wood! I also feel good knowing that most of the wood of this altar, being over a hundred years old, is being used for the glory of God!

Crafting this altar has made me realize the need to recycle our resources and take good care of our world. God put us here to manage His creation – and it is *His* creation, not ours! I encourage all of you to be faithful caretakers of this world, as God directs us to do in Genesis 1:28.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Mentz



**Not a morning  
person?  
No Problem!!!  
You can join us Sunday  
evenings!**

Maybe you're not a morning person?! No problem – you can join us Sunday evenings for worship. Service begins at 6:00 p.m. and lasts approximately 40 minutes.

*There will be NO SERVICE on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.*

*We will have service on New Year's Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012!*

***Come as you are – dressed down!***

### Upcoming Events . . .



### Youth Christmas Cookie Bake

We will bake Christmas cookies on **Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** The delicious holiday cookies will be on sale the following Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, after both services. Please mark your calendars and plan to help make this annual fundraiser a success, as always!



- **Elsa Lester**, colleague of Dawn Felix (*recurrence of cancer*)
- **Family of Barry Haynes**, Allen Clem's cousin (*Barry passed away on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011*)
- **Henry Wilcox**, Amy Minor's brother (*continuous health issues*)
- **Ian Evans**, grandson of Marian Evans (*has been diagnosed with Lyme Disease*)
- **James David**, brother of Collin David (*deployed on the USS George H. W. Bush*)
- **Jan Beeching-Piper**, friend of Bill & Julene Pichel (*recovering from treatment*)
- **Lael Carriere** (*at Hillhaven Nursing Center*)
- **Mary Fink** (*friend of Frances Jordan, fighting cancer*)



### Newest members at Holy Cross!

We welcome **Sarah Martin & Collan Rosier**, who joined Holy Cross on Reformation Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. God's blessings go with you, Sarah and Collan!

### Decorating the Church



We will be decorating the church for Christmas at **7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011** after a shortened Midweek Advent Evening Service.

### Lunch with Pastor



**All are invited to the Christmas Luncheon with Pastor to be held at 12:00 noon on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in the Church Parlor.**

Come join us for a fun lunch & holiday celebration! ☺

### Town Hall Meetings



We plan to have quarterly Town Hall meetings throughout next year, with the agenda for each meeting announced at least one week before the meeting. Here is a tentative schedule: January 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, and October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

**The first Town Hall meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 in the Fellowship Hall.** All members & friends of Holy Cross are encouraged to mark their calendars and participate in as many of these as possible.

### Local Mission Outreach

During January 2012, donations will be received for groceries and gifts to support the Family Crisis Center. Please place your donations in the basket in the Narthex.

### Del-Mar-Va Depression Glass Club

We will not meet in December 2012. Our next meeting will be held from **10 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012** in the Church Parlor. Come join us for an interesting discussion on "Colored Glassware of the Depression-Era." For more information, please contact Helen & Sheldon Chazin at 301-565-2361 or ybrian@verizon.net.

### Save the Date for SAFE HAVEN 2012!



We will be hosting Safe Haven again from **January 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**. We will need volunteers to prepare and serve food, drivers to the Aquatic Center for showers, stay overnight and do laundry. Look for sign-up sheets in the Narthex after January 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have questions, please contact Angie Evans (301-345-7874 or p4angy@juno.com) or Amy Minor (Cell: 301-641-1169 or Home: 301-559-5911).

### The Church Utility Bill:

**Let's all do our part to keep it down!**

With the rising cost of utilities, we ask that ALL of you help keep costs down by making sure that lights are turned off if no one is in the room, and that thermostats are returned to the normal cycle after using a room! Remember the old saying: **"When not in use – Turn off the juice!"**

### Financial Report

<b>Source of Income</b>	<b>October 2011</b>
Offerings:	\$ 19,601
Facility Fees:	\$ 3,166
Other:	\$ 20
	-----
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 22,787</b>
<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 21,386</b>
(Budgeted)	(\$23,854)
<b>Deficit(-) or Surplus (+)</b>	<b>+ \$ 1,401</b>

## Congregational Meeting



**On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 there will be a congregational meeting after each service to vote on the 2012 budget.**

Copies of the proposed budget are on the Welcome Counter.

### February Newsletter Deadline

9:00 a.m.

Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012



## Adult Education at Holy Cross Church is Expanding!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The adult education program at Holy Cross has expanded beyond the Sunday morning Bible Study to multiple evening programs. **As we enter the holiday season and make New Year's resolutions, we ask you to consider our new programs as an avenue to spiritual growth in 2012.**

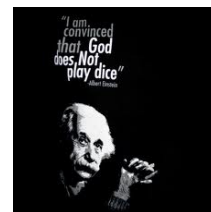
### C. S. Lewis Book Club

We will continue to meet once a month on Friday evenings, focusing on books by C. S. Lewis and authors that influenced or were influenced by him. We will start to reread some of his books, so all are welcome to join us in 2012. We also occasionally detour to other books. **On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, we will meet at 6:30 p.m.** for dinner and discuss *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.



### Religion & Science

In January, we will be starting a science and religion discussion group. The group will meet on the first Wednesday of the month, beginning with dinner at 6:30 p.m. **Our first gathering will be Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012.** We will discuss a set of articles by Albert Einstein that can be found at <http://www.sacredtexts.com/aor/einstein/einsci.htm>. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Kristi Keller at 301 642-1453 for a printed copy.



### Sunday Evenings at Holy Cross Church

The Sunday evening Bible study will continue on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. **Our next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012;** the topic will be the Crossways study on the *Parables of Jesus*.

### Poetics and the Bible

Finally, there is **a lecture on Poetics and the Bible at the Folger Shakespeare Library on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.** Tickets are free but registration is required. Registration can be made at <http://www.folger.edu/woSummary.cfm?woid=706>. **If you are interested in going, there will be a carpool from church at 5:00 p.m.** Please contact Kristi Keller (301 642-1453 or [kakeller@mad.scientist.com](mailto:kakeller@mad.scientist.com)) or Pastor Mentz for more information. Other trips will be planned in 2012 based on the upcoming exhibits or events in the area.

## Announcements . . .

### Holy Cross has FOR SALE:

Property in King George, VA, Section 4, Lot 44 McKinley Dr. ( Presidential Lakes).

If interested contact Richard Snow of Exit Realty at [richardsnow@mris.com](mailto:richardsnow@mris.com)

To view the property, go to any of the following:

- [www.Realtor.com](http://www.Realtor.com)
- [www.Homesdatabase.com](http://www.Homesdatabase.com)
- [www.ExitRealtyExpertise.com](http://www.ExitRealtyExpertise.com)
- [www.Craigslist.com](http://www.Craigslist.com)
- [www.NorthernNeckProperties.com](http://www.NorthernNeckProperties.com)
- [www.lot44mckinleydrivekinggeorgeva22485.NorthernNeckProperties.com](http://www.lot44mckinleydrivekinggeorgeva22485.NorthernNeckProperties.com)
- Youtube

If you are interested in this property or know of anyone who might be, please share this information. Any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Minor (Cell: 301-641-1169 or Home: 301-559-5911).



### Crafters Unite!

Is anyone interested in joining a group to make crafts for sale at the Thrift Shop and/or other events at Holy Cross? If so, please contact Shirley Lee at 301-345-2556. We are thinking of forming a group sometime in early January 2012.

## The true meaning of Christmas



A few years ago, my Christmas season centered on the arrival of a baby — our second child, due December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Exhausted with pregnancy, I skipped out on holiday gatherings, did less decorating and baking than usual, didn't send cards and didn't plan a holiday dinner, assuming — correctly, it turned out — I'd be in the hospital then.

It was a strangely quiet Christmas season, with our focus on the impending arrival. But once our baby was born, in the last hour of Christmas Day, all the missed parties, caroling, cookie-indulging and even present-opening paled in comparison. All that truly mattered was God's gift to our family of this one very special baby.

Isn't this how Christmas should always be? Seasonal activities are fun but hold meaning only if they deepen our focus on the coming of one very special Baby — the Christ-Child. Hold him in your heart this season, as I held my newborn that Christmas night. If the hustle and bustle distracts you from the Baby, put an end to it. If traditional activities prove more stressful than joyous, consider what you can let go of to embrace the true meaning of Christmas — the birth of Jesus, God's gift of love.

—Heidi Mann

## The Christmas heart

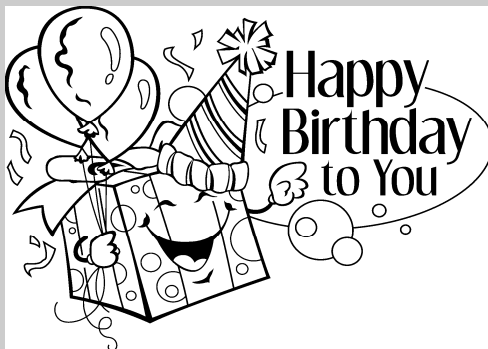


“Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history because it has meant the pouring into a sick world of the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost 2,000 years ... underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart.”

—George Matthew Adams



Frank & Diane Stultz Dec. 10



- Christian Byrnes Dec. 4
- Carl Roberson, Jr. Dec. 6
- Ann Burt Dec. 7
- Katherine Ridenour Dec. 7
- LeRoy Schwarzkopf Dec. 9
- Karin Walsh Dec. 9
- Patti Walter Dec. 9
- Jordan Proctor Dec. 13
- Julene Pichel Dec. 19
- Linda Salamon Dec. 20
- Matthew Holien Dec. 21
- John Lucero Dec. 22
- Tommy Underwood Dec. 23
- Pat Fitzenreiter Dec. 26
- Paul Commins Dec. 28
- Sharon Townsend Dec. 29
- Emmanuel Findlay Dec. 31

## Volunteers of the Month

December 2011

### Altar Guild:

- Saturday Lu Keys, Sherrie Alexander, Mary Anne Holien
- Sunday Mary Anne Holien

### Acolytes:

- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> J. P. Townsend (8:15 a.m.)
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Annie Belle Neugebauer (10:30 a.m.)
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> J. P. Townsend (8:15 a.m.)
- Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Martin Tanter (9:00 p.m.)
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Annina Commins (9:30 a.m.)

### Communion Assistants:

- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Mentz (8:15 a.m.)
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Angie Evans (10:30 a.m.)
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> Mindy Ittenbach (8:15 a.m.)
- Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Scott LaCross (9:00 p.m.)
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Toni F. Gore (9:30 a.m.)

### Counters:

- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Bill & Julene Pichel
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Bob Benson & Allen Clem
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> Ron Day, Jr. & Angie Evans
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Warren & Mary Lucy Winker

### Greeters

- |                       |   |                                  |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
|                       | <u>8:15 a.m.</u>                        | <u>10:30 a.m.</u>                |
| Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Pat Fitzenreiter                        | Dorothy Ball                     |
| Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup> | Barbara Green                           | Toni F. Gore<br>& Jordan Proctor |
| Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup> | Susan Lucero                            | Anna Stieger                     |
| Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup> | Pamela Brown (One service at 9:30 a.m.) |                                  |

### Lectors

- |                       |  |                   |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------|
|                       | <u>8:15 a.m.</u>                         | <u>10:30 a.m.</u> |
| Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Mary Miller                              | Warren Winker     |
| Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup> | Jennifer Garcia                          | Emmanuel Findlay  |
| Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup> | Meghan Costello                          | Bob Benson        |
| Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup> | Jim Ittenbach (One service at 9:30 a.m.) |                   |

### Ushers:

- John Minor (8:15 a.m.); Bill Pichel, Collin David (10:30 a.m.)

### Thursday Office Volunteers:

- |                      |            |                       |            |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> | Bob Smith  | Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup> | Allen Clem |
| Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup> | Allen Clem | Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Bob Smith  |

### Friday Night NA Volunteers:

- |                      |               |                       |               |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Warren Winker | Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup> | Kristi Keller |
| Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup> | Bill Pichel   | Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Collin David  |
|                      |               | Dec. 30 <sup>th</sup> | Pastor Mentz  |



Mike Stevens & Sabine Hentrich	Jan. 4
Emmanuel & Adelaide Findlay	Jan. 5
Dick & Pat Fitzenreiter	Jan. 25
Hank & Sue Stuvan	Jan. 29



Ryan Day	Jan. 2
Alex Hanavin	Jan. 2
Aaron Ittenbach	Jan. 6
Jeanne Scammon	Jan. 7
Jeremy Silver	Jan. 10
Kim Klingenstein	Jan. 13
John Baluch	Jan. 14
Lorrie Lauer	Jan. 16
Lael Carriere	Jan. 18
Walt Klingner	Jan. 20
Mary Roberts	Jan. 20
Helen Bladen	Jan. 24
Roberto Vela	Jan. 26
Bella Onwumbiko	Jan. 29
Vern Graunke	Jan. 30
Jessica Silver	Jan. 30
Anthony Stevens	Jan. 31

## Volunteers of the Month

January 2012

### Altar Guild:

Saturday	Lu Keys, Sherrie Alexander, Mary Anne Holien
Sunday	Irene Day

### Acolytes:

Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	J. P. Townsend (One service at 9:30 a.m.)
Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Annie Belle Neugebauer (10:30 a.m.)
Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup>	J. P. Townsend (8:15 a.m.)
Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Martin Tanter (10:30 a.m.)
Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup>	J. P. Townsend (8:15 a.m.) Annina Commins (10:30 a.m.)

### Communion Assistants:

Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Allen Clem (One service at 9:30 a.m.)
Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Amber Day (10:30 a.m.)
Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Virginia Mentz (8:15 a.m.)
Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Paul Commins (10:30 a.m.)
Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Mindy Ittentach (8:15 a.m.) Scott LaCross (10:30 a.m.)

### Counters: TBA

### Greeters

	<u>8:15 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pat Fitzenreiter (One service at 9:30 a.m.)	
Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Burt	Ruth Embrey
Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Wayne & Mary Anne Holien	Anna Stieger
Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ashley Pinder	Fran West-Poma
Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Lucero	Pamela Brown

### Lectors

	<u>8:15 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bob Krueger (One service at 9:30 a.m.)	
Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	John Minor	Rochelle Commins
Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Miller	Warren Winker
Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jennifer Garcia	Emmanuel Findlay
Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Meghan Costello	Bob Benson

### Ushers:







8:15 a.m.	Jeff Burt, Stephanie Burt
10:30 a.m.	Warren Winker, Ed Allinson

### Thursday Office Volunteers:

Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Smith	Jan. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Allen Clem
Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Allen Clem	Jan. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Smith

### Friday Night NA Volunteers:

Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Warren Winker	Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Kristi Keller
Jan. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Bill Pichel	Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Collin David

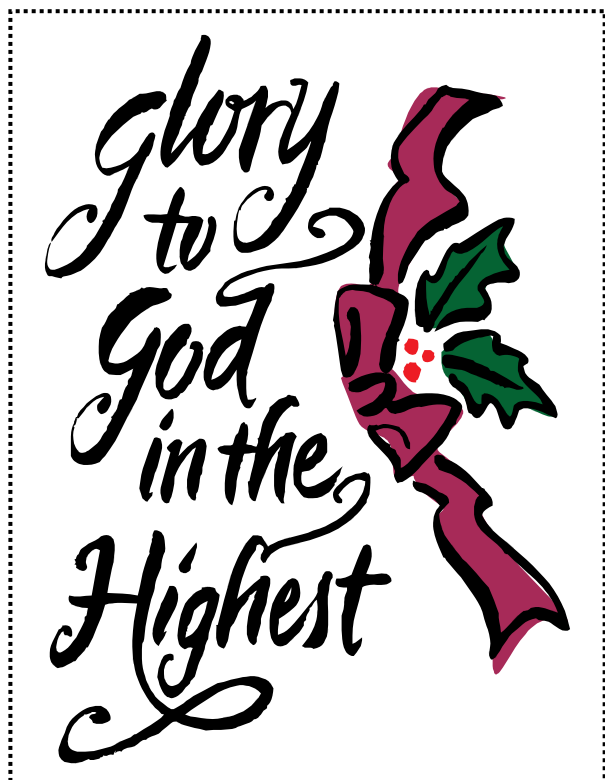
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><b>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</b>  <b>Missouri Synod</b>          6905 Greenbelt Road          Greenbelt, MD 20770          Phone: (301)345-5111          Fax: (301)220-0694          E-mail: <a href="mailto:myholycross@verizon.net">myholycross@verizon.net</a>          Website: <a href="http://www.myholycross.org">www.myholycross.org</a></p>		 <p><b>DECEMBER</b>  <b>2011</b></p>		<p><b>1</b>          10:00 am - 4:00 pm          Thrift Store Open          10:30 am - 12:30 pm          Rethink Education (P)          11:00 am - Bible          Study (Greenridge          House Dining Room)</p> <p>5:00 - 6:00 pm - Re-          think Education (P)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)          7 - 11 pm - IDDP          (Parlor &amp; Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>  <p><b>CHRISTMAS</b>  <b>BAZAR</b></p> <p>9:00 am - 2:00 pm          (Fellowship Hall)          3 p.m. - 12 a.m.          NA Dinner &amp; Dance          (FH &amp; Kitchen)</p>
<p><b>4</b> *2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. of Advent          8:15 am - Worship Svc.          9:00 am - Fellowship          9:30 am - Education Hr.          10:30 am - Worship Svc.</p> <p>2 - 7 pm - IDDP (P, S &amp;          SS Rooms)</p> <p>6:00 pm - <i>Evening Svc.</i></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)</p>	<p><b>6</b>          12:00 - 2:00 p.m.          Rethink Education (P)</p> <p>5:30 - 9:30 p.m.          4 Positive Paws (FH)          7 - 10 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>7</b>          9:00 am - Sunday          bulletin notices due!          12:00 pm - 2:00 pm          Rethink Education (P)</p> <p>12:15 pm &amp; 7:00 pm  <i>Midweek Advent Svcs</i></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA Regional          Meeting (FH)          8 - 11 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>8</b>          10:00 am - 4:00 pm          Thrift Store Open          10:30 am - 12:30 pm          Rethink Education (P)          11:00 am - Bible          Study (Greenridge          House Dining Room)</p> <p>5:00 - 6:00 pm - Re-          think Education (P)</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)          6:30 pm - C.S. Lewis  <i>Book Club</i> (SS Rm.)          7 - 11 pm - IDDP          (Parlor &amp; Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>10</b>          9 am - 3:00 pm  <i>Youth Christmas</i>  <i>Cookie Bake</i>          (Kitchen)</p>
<p><b>11</b> *3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Advent          *Vote on 2012 Budget          after each service!          8:15 am - Worship Svc.          9:00 am - Fellowship          9:30 am - Education Hr.          10:30 am - Worship Svc.          12:30 pm - <i>Hot Meals</i>  <i>Ministry</i> (FH)          2 - 7 pm - IDDP (P, S &amp;          SS Rooms)          6:00 pm - <i>Evening Svc.</i>          7:00 - 8:30 pm - <i>Xmas:</i>  <i>The Real Story</i> (Parlor)</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)</p>	<p><b>13</b>          12:00 - 2:00 p.m.          Rethink Education (P)</p> <p>5:30 - 9:30 p.m.          4 Positive Paws (FH)          7 - 10 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>14</b>          9:00 am - Sunday          bulletin notices due!          12:00 pm - 2:00 pm          Rethink Education (P)</p> <p>12:15 pm &amp; 7:00 pm  <i>Midweek Advent Svcs</i></p> <p>7:30 pm - <i>Decorating</i>  <i>the Church for Xmas</i></p> <p>7:00 pm - NTL Toast-          masters Club (P)          8 - 11 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>15</b>          *8:30 am - 5:00 pm          Mobile Health Fair          (Church Parking Lot)          10:00 am - 4:00 pm          Thrift Store Open          10:30 am - 12:30 pm          Rethink Education (P)          11:00 am - Bible          Study (Greenridge          House Dining Room)</p> <p>5:00 - 6:00 pm - Re-          think Education (P)</p>	<p><b>16</b>          12:00 p.m. - <i>Christ-</i>  <i>mas Lunch with</i>  <i>Pastor</i> (Parlor)</p> <p>5:30 pm - <i>Meet at</i>  <i>church for trip to</i>  <i>Folger Shakespeare</i>  <i>Library</i></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)          7 - 11 pm - IDDP          (Parlor &amp; Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>17</b>          6:00 am - 12:00 pm          IDDP Retreat (S)</p> <p>5:00 - 8:00 p.m.  <i>Animato Suzuki</i>  <i>Violin Program's</i>  <i>Winter Solo Recital</i>  <i>&amp; Reception</i>          (Sanctuary &amp; Parlor)</p>
<p><b>18</b> *4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Advent          8:15 am - Worship Svc.          9:00 am - Fellowship          9:30 am - Education Hr.          10:30 am - <i>Sunday</i>  <i>School Christmas</i>  <i>Program</i></p> <p>2 - 7 pm - IDDP (P, S &amp;          SS Rooms)</p> <p>6:00 pm - <i>Evening Svc.</i></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>5:30 - 9:30 p.m.          4 Positive Paws (FH)          7 - 10 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>21</b>          9:00 am - Sunday          bulletin notices due!          12:00 pm - 2:00 pm          Rethink Education (P)</p> <p>12:15 pm &amp; 7:00 pm  <i>Midweek Advent Svcs</i></p> <p>8 - 11 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>22</b> *Winter begins!          10:00 am - 4:00 pm          Thrift Store Open          10:30 am - 12:30 pm          Rethink Education (P)          11:00 am - Bible          Study (Greenridge          House Dining Room)</p> <p>5:00 - 6:00 pm - Re-          think Education (P)</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)          7 - 11 pm - IDDP          (Parlor &amp; Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>24</b> *Xmas Eve!          12:15 p.m.  <i>Spoken Com-</i>  <i>munion Service</i></p>  <p>9:00 p.m.  <i>Festive Candlelight</i>  <i>Communion</i>  <i>Service</i></p>
<p><b>25</b> *Christmas Day!           9:30 am - <i>Spoken</i>  <i>Communion Service</i></p> <p>2 - 7 pm - IDDP (P, S &amp;          SS Rooms)</p> <p>*No Evening Service</p>	<p><b>26</b>          Christmas Holiday          Church Office Closed</p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)</p>	<p><b>27</b>          Christmas Holiday          Church Office Closed</p> <p>5:30 - 9:30 p.m.          4 Positive Paws (FH)          7 - 10 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>28</b>          Christmas Holiday          Church Office Closed</p> <p>7 - 10 pm - IDDP (S)</p>	<p><b>29</b>          Christmas Holiday          Church Office Closed</p>	<p><b>30</b>          Christmas Holiday          Church Office Closed</p> <p>6:30 pm - NA (FH)          7 pm - 2 am - IDDP          Prayer Vigil (Parlor &amp;          Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>31</b> *New Year's          Eve  </p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 New Year's Day!</b>  9:30 am <b>Communion Service</b> 2 – 7 pm IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – <b>Evening Communion Service</b>	<b>2 *New Year's Holiday</b> Church Office Closed 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	<b>3</b> 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>4</b> 9:00 am – Sunday bulletin notices due! 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 6:30 pm – <b>Dinner &amp; Discussion Group</b> (Parlor) 6:30 pm – NA Regional Meeting (FH) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>5</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thrift Store Open 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Rethink Education (P) 11:00 am – Bible Study (Greenridge House Dining Room) 5:00 – 6:00 pm - Rethink Education (P) 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. 4 Positive Paws (FH)	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm – NA (FH) 7 - 11 pm – IDDP (Parlor & Sanctuary)	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:15 am - Worship Svc. 9:00 am - Fellowship 9:30 am – Education Hr. 10:30 am – Worship Svc. 12:30 pm - <b>Hot Meals Ministry</b> (FH) 2 – 7 pm – IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – <b>Evening Svc.</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	<b>10</b> 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>11</b> 9:00 am – Sunday bulletin notices due! 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 7:00 pm – NTL Toastmasters Club (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>12</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thrift Store Open 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Rethink Education (P) 11:00 am – Bible Study (Greenridge House Dining Room) 5:00 – 6:00 pm - Rethink Education (P) 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. 4 Positive Paws (FH)	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm – NA (FH) 7 - 11 pm – IDDP (Parlor & Sanctuary)	<b>14</b> 10:00 – 11:30 am DMV Depression Glass Club (P)
<b>15 *SAFE HAVEN</b> Week begins at 7:00 pm 8:15 am - Worship Svc. 9:00 am - Fellowship 9:30 am – Education Hr. 10:30 am – Worship Svc. 2 – 7 pm – IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – <b>Evening Svc.</b>	<b>16 *SAFE HAVEN</b>  <b>Holiday</b> Church Office Closed 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	<b>17 *SAFE HAVEN</b> 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>18 *SAFE HAVEN</b> 9:00 am – Sunday bulletin notices due! 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>19 *SAFE HAVEN</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thrift Store Open 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Rethink Education (P) 11:00 am – Bible Study (Greenridge House Dining Room) 5:00 – 6:00 pm - Rethink Education (P) 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. 4 Positive Paws (FH)	<b>20 *SAFE HAVEN</b> 12:00 pm – <b>Lunch with Pastor</b> (Parlor) 6:30 pm – <b>C.S. Lewis Book Club</b> (P) 6:30 pm – NA (FH) 7 - 11 pm – IDDP (Parlor & Sanctuary)	<b>21 *SAFE HAVEN</b> 6:00 am - 12 pm IDDP Retreat (S)
<b>22 *SAFE HAVEN</b> Week ends at 7:00 a.m. 8:15 am - Worship Svc. 9:00 am - Fellowship 9:30 am – Education Hr. <b>*Town Hall Meeting in the Fellowship Hall!</b> 10:30 am – Worship Svc. 2 – 7 pm – IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – <b>Evening Svc.</b> 7:00 pm – <b>Bible Study</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 am – <b>February Newsletter deadline!</b> 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	<b>24</b> 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>25</b> 9:00 am – Sunday bulletin notices due! 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	<b>26</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thrift Store Open 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Rethink Education (P) 11:00 am – Bible Study (Greenridge House Dining Room) 5:00 – 6:00 pm - Rethink Education (P) 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. 4 Positive Paws (FH)	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm – NA (FH) 7 pm – 2 am – IDDP Prayer Vigil (Parlor & Sanctuary)	<b>28</b> 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. <b>Animato Suzuki Violin Program's Winter Group Recital &amp; Reception</b> (Sanctuary & Parlor)
<b>29</b> 8:15 am - Worship Svc. 9:30 am – Education Hr. 9:00 am - Fellowship 10:30 am – Worship Svc. 2 – 7 pm – IDDP (P, S & SS Rooms) 6:00 pm – <b>Evening Svc.</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm – NA (FH)	<b>31</b> 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Rethink Education (P) 7 – 10 pm – IDDP (S)	 <b>January</b>  <b>2012</b>		 <b>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</b> <b>Missouri Synod</b> 6905 Greenbelt Road Greenbelt, MD 20770 Phone: (301)345-5111 Fax: (301)220-0694 E-mail: <a href="mailto:myholycross@verizon.net">myholycross@verizon.net</a> Website: <a href="http://www.myholycross.org">www.myholycross.org</a>	

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
6905 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dated Material

## Address Service Requested



## Dare to hope

If you've ever given up on a dream, then you have something in common with Zechariah. When an angel brought news that Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, would soon have a son, Zechariah had trouble believing it (Luke 1:13-18).

How long had it been since Zechariah first prayed for a son? More to the point, how long had it been since he'd given up praying for a son? With the couple's childbearing years long past, Zechariah likely felt compelled to emphasize the impossibility of the angel's proclamation.

Perhaps you know what it's like to lose hope. Zechariah's story reminds us that God's plans cannot be hampered, even when the laws of nature stand in the way. Hold on to your hope because God works miracles.

