

Abundant News



I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly ~ Jesus

Lift High the Cross; the Love of Christ Proclaim!

September 2024

Inside this Issue...

- September Lessons ~ page 2
- Altar Flower Sponsors ~ page 2
- Pastor Brett article ~ page 3
- Family News ~ page 4
- Meet our new Secretary ~ page 4
- Upcoming Events ~ page 5, 6, 7
- Contact Us ~ page 8



Go and Make Disciples....

The last Sunday in August Anita Zaso, on behalf of the whole Christian Education team, helped Deacon Michael present the sermon to our congregation. She spoke about how learning about Our Lord should not be “torture” as her son once described it, but the best part of a person’s day.

That same day, Holy Cross graciously “loaned” me to Holy Trinity Lutheran in Abington, PA because their pastor wanted me to speak on Christian education because of both my doctoral work and the steps *we* at Holy Cross have already taken as a congregation to grow intentionally in our Bible knowledge and the broadcasting of those classes on the internet. Christian Education, is apparently a hot topic!

For many of us, it has been a long time since we were truly *excited* about Christian education. For ALL of us, there is more for us to learn, knowledge that the Spirit can and will use to draw us into a deeper relationship with Christ.

I will talk more about the need for solid Christian education at every age level in my article on page 3, but here I want to note that this need is so pressing at this particular moment in American history that our Council has made the momentous decision to change our Sunday worship schedule to provide for a Sunday School hour that is convenient for both early and late services as well as family-friendly for people with children.

We know the change will mean an inconvenience for people as they adjust to the new schedule, but we believe that Christ’s mission to “go and make disciples”—not merely *members* (like at Sam’s Club), but solid, Biblically-equipped, real world *followers* of Jesus Christ—requires us to do this. (Disciple means *follower*!)

I just want to take a moment to say how proud I am to serve a congregation that is embracing this change because of the spiritual growth and closeness to Christ that it will bring!

P. Brett



**August 14, 2024
Council Meeting**

- 9/13 African Children’s Choir.
- 9/14 50th Anniversary
- 9/15 Pastoral Vow Renewal.
- 10/6 Rally Sunday.
- Time change for services.

Meeting minutes be posted on the Bulletin Board pending approval.

September Lessons....

September 1

15th Sunday after Pentecost
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
Psalm 119:129-136
Ephesians 6:10-20
Mark 7:14-23

September 8

16th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146
James 2:1-10, 14-18
Mark 7:[24-30] 31-37

September 15

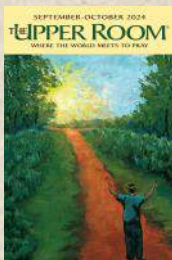
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 50:4-10
Psalm 116:1-8
James 3:1-12
Mark 9:14-29

September 22

18th Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalm 54
James 3:13-4:10
Mark 9:30-37

September 22

19th Sunday after Pentecost
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
Psalm 104:28-37*:
James 5:[1-12] 13-20
Mark 9:38-50



**Copies of the
SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER
Upper Room daily
devotional are
available in the
Narthex, or contact
the Church Office
to have one mailed
to you.**

September Altar Flower Sponsors....



September 1

*Gloria Longley, Arthur Edelman,
Charmaine Bartholomew, and Raymond Edelman
in memory Martha Edelman.
Renee & Ron Madea in honor of Parker's Birthday.*

September 8

*Debbie & Randy Letterhouse
in honor of Ginny Letterhouse Birthday.
Kathleen Unger in memory of Steve Unger.*

September 15

*Amanda Leindecker, Children & Grandchildren
in memory of John Leindecker.
Rich & RuthAnn Siegfried*

September 22

*SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE*

September 29

*Julie Millheim & The Drosnocks in memory of Stephen Drosnock.
Terry & Deb Johnson in honor of Joshua's Birthday.*

Please see the binder in the Narthex, or contact the Church Office to sponsor fresh Altar Flowers. **Two sponsors are sought for each Sunday of the year** at a cost of **\$25** per sponsorship. Please consider sponsoring Altar flowers in memory of someone, or in honor of a special occasion. Payment can be submitted in a Designated Gift Envelope.

Sponsors can pick up their flowers by the Monday after their sponsorship date. Any flowers left after Monday will be used for sick & shut-in visits.

Thank you to all our Altar Flowers Sponsors!



Offerings received during the month of
July totaled \$19,040.91
**Thank you for your
generous support of Holy Cross!**

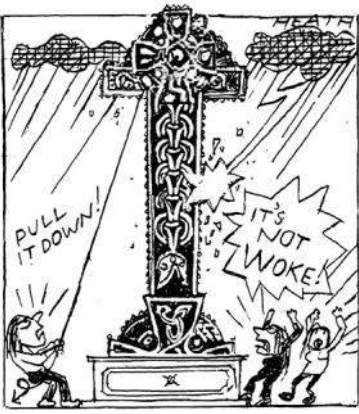
Giving online is
easy and convenient!
Visit our website at

<https://holycrossnazareth.org/support>



and click on the offering plate to access our online giving platform. If you do give online, please contact the church office at 610-759-7363 or secretary@holycrossnazareth.org, to discontinue receiving personalized offering envelopes.

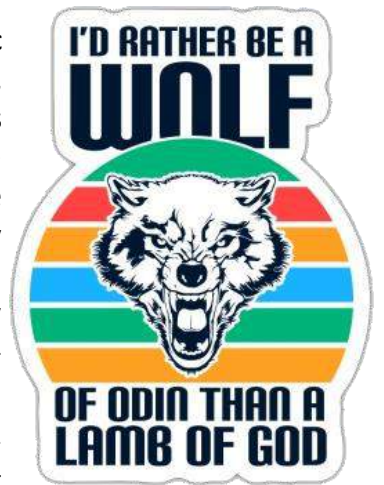
The Re-Paganization of the West



If the above title seems unnecessarily provocative, it isn't mine; I cribbed it from feminist Louise Perry. Ms. Perry, who graduated from university as a feminist, went to work immediately in domestic abuse shelters for women. What she saw there over the next several years made her begin to question what she had been taught at school, so she began reading history, searching for a sexual culture and ethic that truly served the needs of women. She came to a conclusion that shocked her; Christianity. It turned out that what Christians had always taught and embraced (however imperfectly) was the only ethic that truly served the deepest needs of women.

Ms. Perry, who still considers herself a feminist, now worships in a Christian church. Of course, her conclusion meant that she could never work again in collegiate setting, so now she hosts a podcast to which I subscribe. The title of this article was drawn from a recent episode of that podcast. "Pagan" is a word that first Jews and then Christians used to describe the diverse religious practices that surrounded them that despite their dissimilarities were united in their contempt and even hatred of the God of Israel.

And Western culture is indeed re-paganizing. If you doubt this, the T-shirt graphic pictured here came up as one of the first search results as I was image-searching, and Google's suggestion as I was typing was "pagan worship *near me*." When I was growing up, though I wasn't a Christian, I knew that everything surrounding me—the schools, the culture, the courts in which hung the Ten Commandments—were informed by Christian belief even if they didn't teach Christianity specifically. My Christian friends came to our public school with pagans like me, and their parents did not seem to worry about whether the school was undermining their faith any more than they worried about their employer passing them over for promotion because they were a churchgoer.



Neither of these is the case any more in America. Not only have most of our cultural institutions (including businesses) been "captured" by ideologies that detest Christianity, we generally assume that young people raised in the Church and who express a commitment to Jesus *will* lose their faith—or at least stop making their decisions with the Lordship of Jesus over their life in mind.

And the challenges are not just to our young people. None of us who embrace Jesus Christ as Lord and who turn to Him as both Savior and Teacher can expect to live our lives without significant challenge to that identity. Some of that challenge will come from within our families. Some will come from well-meaning but woefully-misguided friends. Some will come from employers who insist we adopt the latest moral fad promoted by the HR department, and *all of us* will experience the soft, constant pressure to conform to the ways of our increasingly paganized world.

"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind," St. Paul reminds us in Romans 12:2. Our minds are renewed—made new again—by the Word of God, which the Holy Spirit uses to draw us back to or into a deeper, living relationship with Jesus Christ. It is in order to have that kind of robust relationship with God in the face of overwhelming cultural and even familial pressure that Holy Cross is changing its worship schedule... to make it easier for YOU and those you love to be transformed by the Word of God, "that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm." (Eph 6:13)

The upside to all this is that we no longer have to send missionaries abroad; the opportunity to witness to Christ is all around us. If we are being changed day-by-day, week-by-week, month-by-month, year-by-year by His love through our Christian study, we will become ambassadors of the Kingdom when we aren't even trying!

New Sunday Schedule:
8:00am Traditional Worship
9:15am All Ages Sunday School
10:30am Modern Worship



Juan Daniel-Perez; Peggy Nagy; William Murphy; JoAnn Vanhorn; Renee Madea; Pearl Wambold; Emma Burslem; Catherine DeBoeser; Angelica Newell; Skylar Skurjunis; Sandra Muschlitz; Ryan Ortutay; Barbara McMullen; Pamela Berlew; Dennis Briody; Kerry Livermore; Daniel Drosnack; Madalin Hahn; Anita Trach; Todd Wallace; Trisha Norton; Carla Pinguelo; Declan Rowohlt; Megan Abbott; John Struss; Amy Demyan; Priscilla Hahn; Scott MacDonald; Violet McCandless; Rachel Shoup; Lucas Schoeneberger IV; Cooper Seibert; Matthew Hahn; Michael Koehler; Adam Struss; Kelsi Yotter; Tyler Yazujian; Michael McMullen; Judy Odenwelder; Dennis Diefenderfer; Victoria Knauss; Molly Kryman; Caleb Misiti; Staci Searfoss; Luke Fisher; Ronald Madea; Kirsten McMullen; Amanda Maenza.

Sunday Fellowship is when we get to know each other and become family to one another. Stop by after services and join us for Christian friendship with your Church family! Each week a different committee hosts Fellowship time.



Your September Hosts are....

September 1 ~ Deacon Michael's Tuesday Class
September 8 ~ Spiritual Growth & Property
September 15 9:30 only ~ Youth Families
September 22 ~ Prayer Shawl & Spiritual Care
September 29 ~ Church Council

We are looking for FAMILIES and GROUPS OF FRIENDS to serve as Social Hour Hosts!

If your FAMILY or GROUP would like to host Social Hour, please sign up in Social Hall, or contact the church office.



*Congratulations to
Kyle & Allison Werner,
 who were married by Pastor Brett
 on August 10, 2024.
 May Gold bless them on their
 journey through life.*



Kevin & Beth Taby; Raymond & Carly Scuderi; Allen & Kay Tomko; Richard & Ruth Ann Siegfried; Joe & Lynn DiBiase; James Jr. & JoAnn Vanhorn; Randall & Constance Huth; Walter & Catherine Rupp; Steward & Tracey Silfies; Todd & LouAnn Wallace; Matthew & Nicole Diefenderfer; Jacob & Laura Sutton; Anthony & Amanda Bombico; Gene & Diane Dickson; George & Tami Denger; Bruce & Karen Stem; AJ & Kami Arfanella; Dennis & Virginia Soffera; Dave & Kimberly Altomose; Christopher & Amanda Maenza; William & Shannon Godiska; Michael & Roseann Mohn.



Hi! I'm Laura Longley and I'll be your new office secretary as of Sept. 9th. I know I have big shoes to fill, so I would appreciate your patience through this transition and welcome your helpful advice. I am excited for this new chapter and I am looking forward to getting to know all of you!



*Copies of the printed **Prayer List for September** are available in the Narthex. Please keep all who are ill or hospitalized in your prayers and remember them with your cards or phone calls. Your caring is deeply appreciated and can mean so very much!*

Church Events



What an exciting month we have planned! Mark your calendar and plan to be part of everything coming up the weekend of September 13-15!

Friday 9/13	7pm	African Children's Choir Concert
Saturday 9/14	1pm	Holy Cross Day Festival Worship
Saturday 9/14	3pm	50th Anniversary Banquet
Sunday 9/15	9:30am	Regular worship with renewal of ordination vows for Pr. Brett

Pet Blessing

Wednesday, October 2, 2024



Blessing is a long part of the Christian tradition; it is part of how Christians, who are being saved by God's grace, begin to exercise once again our primordial priesthood, extending God's blessing out to the creation that "waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God." (Romans 8:19)

Bring your pet on October 2nd to the Wednesday evening service (which will be outdoors, weather permitting) and have them receive the blessing of Christ through the hands of His Church! In the event of rain, the service will be moved to the social hall.



Turkey Drive
October 6 — November 3.
Youth Helpers will be needed
after services each week.
Watch for sign-ups coming soon!



GOLDEN AGE SUNDAY

On **October 13th**, we will honor our **members and guests aged 70+** and they will share a luncheon prepared by Nathan Grube in Fellowship Hall.

Watch for sign-ups.
Youth Helpers will be needed.

Harvest Home Sunday

October 20, 2024

Please bring donations of non-perishable food items to share with those less fortunate in our community by October 16.





Regular choir rehearsals begin again in September! If you would like to be part of helping us celebrate special days in the church year, or just want to try it out, we would love to have you!

Rehearsals begin
Thursday, September 5th
Adult Choir ~ 7:00pm
Trinity Worship Team ~ 8:00pm

Please talk to Karl
 or contact him at
karl.deboeser@gmail.com
 if you are interested!

*'He put a new song in my mouth, a
 song of praise to our God.'*



Bethel Series begins
 Sunday, October 13, 9:15-10:00am.
 Sign up in the Narthex.
 See Jerry Lewis with any questions.



Confirmation Class for
 7th & 8th graders, and
 any unconfirmed youth,
 will be held at **5:30pm**
on the 1st and 3rd
Sunday of the month
 beginning **October 6th.**

*Youth: Watch your mail for a letter
 from Pastor Brett with more details.*

New Sunday Worship Times Begin Oct. 6th

8am Traditional LBW Liturgy
10:30am Contemporary Worship

Other Starting Dates:

Bible Study The Book of Romans	<i>ongoing</i> Tuesdays, 11am
Deacon Michael's Study One Year Bible	<i>ongoing</i> Tuesdays, 6:15pm
Youth Group	Sept. 8 Sundays, 6:30pm
Choirs Adult Choir Trinity Worship Team	Sept. 5 Thursdays, 7:00pm Thursdays, 8:00pm
All Ages Sunday School Children K-6 Youth 7-12 Bible Highlighting Bethel Series—New Testament (Adults) Real Christian Living (Adults) <i>Co-taught by Pr. Brett and Dn. Michael</i>	Oct. 6 Sundays, 9:15am
Confirmation Class 1st & 3rd Sundays	Oct. 6 Sundays, 5:30pm



Weekly Youth Group Meetings

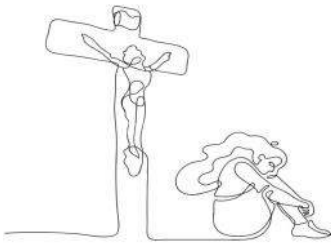
Every Sunday night
 beginning September 8 from
 6:30-8:00pm. Youth in 7th-12th grade
 are invited for a time of friendship and
 growth in Christ!



Sunday School

Submitted by Anita Zaso

We are pleased to announce the revision of the Sunday School program here at Holy Cross. We are blessed to have a wonderful, dedicated, and spiritual coaching staff. The classes will be separated into the following sections: Kindergarten through 2nd grade, 3rd & 4th grade, and 5th & 6th grade. These classes will be based on the stained glass windows in our Sanctuary. Children will be learning scripture through fun arts and crafts projects, story telling, and colorful depictions of scripture, all at grade level. We have classes designed specifically for 7th through 12th grade and we will also have Large Catechism and The Bethel Bible Series for adults. Holy Cross prides itself on taking Christian Education seriously from early childhood through adulthood, and we pray that you will support this initiative. **Click this link, scan the QR code on the left, or call the church office to register for Sunday School!** You can also use the link, code, or call to register for the adult classes! **Classes will begin on October 6th.**



SACRED SORROW

The pain of loss under the shadow of the cross

THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE / WORSHIP

There is a praise/worship that we can only render here and now on planet earth. Praise uttered out of pain and surrender. Praise that "even though He slay me yet will I trust Him." (Job) Here and now is the only and unique opportunity to do this. The past is gone and eternity will render a different praise. When my praise declares His value and worth—a prayer lifted out of pain and anxiety—it becomes the highest worship and honor. As the Spirit draws and lifts this praise from my heart—when I see no human sense in it—will it not echo through all eternity to His glory? ...because He is God and there is no other.

~Alice Prall

Capital Campaign Update...



As of August 27, 2024 we have received donations totaling **\$95,347.65** toward our goal of \$500,000.00.

Thank you for your generosity!

PLEASE NOTE: When making donations to the church, a **separate check is needed for the Capital Campaign, made out to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Thank you!**



The following items are posted on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex:

- July 2024 Financial Reports
- September 2024 Calendar & GSTL

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (NALC)

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (NALC) is to respond to the Love of God shown most fully to us in the great gift of his Son Jesus Christ. We engage in five ministry areas – **WORSHIP, WITNESS, LEARNING, SERVICE,** and **SUPPORT** – to boldly confess Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Our Staff

Pastor: Rev. Brett Jenkins, STS
Pastor@holycrossnazareth.org
Office Hours by appointment

Deacon Michael Grube

Director of Worship Arts: Karl DeBoeser

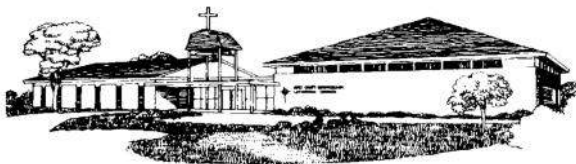
Traditional Music Worship Leader: Ben Watson

Church Secretary: Laura Longley
Secretary@holycrossnazareth.org
Office Hours: M/T/F ~ 9 a.m.-1 p.m; Th ~ 1-6 p.m.
OFFICE IS CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS

Sexton: Kerry Livermore

Our Church

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church
696 Johnson Road
Nazareth, PA 18064-8828
Phone ~ 610-759-7363
Fax ~ 610-759-3431
Website ~ holycrossnazareth.org
NALC website ~ the.nalc.org



2024 Church Council

A.J. Arfanella	717-903-0521
Lynne Auger	484-634-1347
Kate Grube	610-972-2219
Lois Iasiello	484-761-4589
Robert Ingenito	908-652-1828
Tom Kneisly	570-840-7481
Tim Kryman	908-727-3932
Gerald Lewis	610-657-3961
Richard Siegfried	610-360-5949
Michele Verdi	570-807-6393
Andrew Zaso	570-424-5651

2024 Congregational Officers

President ~ Richard Siegfried
Vice President ~ Gerald Lewis
Secretary ~ Tim Kryman
Treasurer ~ Lois Iasiello

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday:

8:00 am ~ Traditional Liturgy
9:30 am ~ Informal Worship

Tuesdays at 12:15pm
Lunchtime Prayer with Holy Communion

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
Prayer Service with Holy Communion