

# Abundant News

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

FEBRUARY 2025

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*This Epiphany lasts an especially long time—seven weeks! In this season, our Scripture readings are dominated by the image of light, the light of God that cuts through the darkness of sin and despair to bring hope to the hopeless and knowledge to the ignorant, knowledge of the unexpected power of God in a godless world.*

## Illumined

*As you read in my annual report, it seems that for the first time in more than a century, the Western world is waking up to its need for God... And those who are earnestly seeking the riches of God are not looking for churches that will affirm them or tell them what they want to hear; they are looking for churches that tell them the truth about both the human condition and the Bible. Moreover, they are seeking for churches that worship in ways that reflect those truths with deep, historically-rich, and faithful services.*

*We are blessed to be just such a church, which means that we are uniquely poised to meet the opportunities of this missional moment. While explaining the meaning of Advent and some of our Sunday liturgy to an Evangelical member of our homeschool co-op, they said to me appreciatively, "That is beautiful; I wish my church had all this."*

*As Lutherans in a faithful church body, we have both the form of godliness AND its power, for not only have the riches of Church history and liturgy, we have the true preaching of Christ, which unleashes the power of the Holy Spirit in those who hear it. We have the gift of His precious light in a world full of darkness. Do we have the heart to share it?*

*During this season I am preaching a sermon series entitled "Arise, Your Light Has Come." I hope the Lord will use it to stir a hunger in us to share what we so beautifully have here at Holy Cross with those who need that gift.*

*P. Britt*



## DECEMBER & JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS...



- ◆ Easter breakfast this year between services
  - ◆ Ash Wednesday is March 5, 2025
  - ◆ Altar flower sponsors are needed

See Council minutes on page 8

## February Altar Flower Sponsorships



### February 2

*Gerald & Suzanne Lewis to the Glory of God*  
**SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE**

### February 9

*Barbara Lynn-Sarley in memory of loved ones*  
**SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE**

### February 16

*James & Violet McCandless in loving memory of mother,  
Bertha Grube's birthday*  
**SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE**

### February 23

*Cindy Bonney to the Glory of Our Lord*  
**SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE**

Thank you to all our Altar Flower Sponsors!

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. See the binder in the Narthex, or contact the Church Office to sponsor fresh flowers. Payment can be submitted in a Designated Gift Envelope and checks can be made out to *Holy Cross Lutheran Church*.

**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.



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

### Our Hosts for February are...

February 2 ~ Choir/Worship Arts  
February 9 ~ NO Social Hour ~ Potluck Sunday  
February 16 ~ Women of Abundance  
February 23 ~ Hospitality/Funeral Servers



### We are looking for Social Hour Hosts!

If your **FAMILY** or **GROUP** would like to host Social Hour, please contact the church office to schedule a date.

## February Lessons

### February 2, 2025

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19

Psalms 71:1-6, 7-11

1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

Luke 4:31-44

### February 9, 2025

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 6:1-8, 9-13

Psalms 138:1-8

1 Corinthians 14:12b-20

Luke 5:1-11

### February 16, 2025

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Psalms 1:1-6 |

1 Corinthians 15:1-11, 12-20

Luke 6:17-26

### February 23, 2025

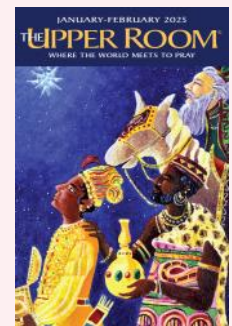
**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Genesis 45:3-15

Psalms 103:1-13

1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

Luke 6:27-38



### Copies of the

**JANUARY/  
FEBRUARY**

**Upper Room daily devo-**  
**tional are**

**available in the**

**Narthex, or contact the**  
**Church Office**



## Sing to the Lord a New Song

*As we keep working at the reshaping of our worship practices to include all the elements people love, we are now doing so with an eye toward to the trends I mention in my lead article—the trend toward people*

*looking for churches offering more traditional, not contemporary forms of worship.*

*Oh, this does not mean we will be eliminating contemporary music—far from it. Music is not really what structures a worship service, and most of the contemporary songs we use around here were chosen specifically because their lyric content is robustly Biblical (which is what all good worship music should be!) and congruent with a Lutheran confession of the faith. As soon as our contemporary musicians are “back in the saddle,” we will be hearing some of the music people have expressed missing lately.*

*What it does mean is that in addition to the many kinds of music we use in church—medieval, classic hymnody, contemporary—we will also be learning to sing more parts of the liturgy at both the 8am and 10:30am services. At the early service, this will mostly mean learning to sing the bits we usually speak. At the later service, we will be using contemporary musical versions of the worship words.*

*We have already sung—and people enjoyed—the Agnus Dei or “Lamb of God” at our anniversary celebration in September. One piece at a time, we will be learning more music until we have a worship service that combines the best of the Church’s tradition with a modern musical vocabulary. In Lent we will be learning a new Kyrie. (“Lord have mercy”)*

*The historic worship services of the Church are structured by the Bible, and are usually quotes from it set to music so that we may more easily memorize sections of the Scripture key to our ongoing spiritual growth. As we bring modern energy together with the classically Lutheran Biblical content of the liturgy, we will have something special and unique to offer the Lehigh Valley.*



### Give Someone a Ride... To Meet Jesus!

*Would you be willing to give someone a ride to Church?*

A number of our members cannot drive but would still love to attend worship, to receive the body and blood of Christ and participate in our wonderful fellowship!

You may already be driving by the house of one of these members. Would you be willing to give one of these precious children of God a ride to worship Him?

Call the church office and let us know of your willingness to serve a brother or sister in need!



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

Thinking about getting more involved at church, but don't know how? Looking for ways to serve our Lord, using your time and talents? Fortunately for you, there are many opportunities available at Holy Cross! Currently we are in need of the following during Sunday Services...

**Usher Greeters ~ Lay Readers  
Communion Assistants ~  
Tech Ministry**

There are so many other opportunities to serve, in any capacity. Please contact the church office and let us know YOUR special talent, and we will find an opportunity for your talent to shine!

# Pastor's Answers

## Ecumenical Moment



If there is a theme in this issue, it seems to be recovering what we as modern Christians lost. As Lutherans, we are inheritors of a tradition that has the capacity for self reflection and thoughtful change, change for the better.

In the first congregation I served, one of the most popular segments in our newsletter was called “Ecumenical Moments.” In it I featured a prayer or Christian practice from one of our local partner churches that we Lutherans did not know well, but that I thought our people would find beautiful and helpful.

We are blessed as a church to have great ecumenical partners in our locale. These are other Christians with whom we pray, work, and cooperate in serving our community. One of these is Covenant United Methodist Church, with whom we will be doing Vacation Bible School this year. Since I was baptized in a Methodist church, I thought I would begin this feature by sharing a prayer from John Wesley, the founder of Methodism.

This prayer seems especially apt to begin this monthly feature because it sprang from a deeply ecumenical experience. In 1738 at the age of 40, Wesley was at a Moravian prayer meeting where he heard a reading of Martin Luther’s preface to the Epistle of Romans. He had been struggling to “do Christianity” in his own strength, and Luther’s reflection helped him understand that this was impossible. Reflecting upon this, Wesley reported that, “I felt my heart strangely warmed,” in what has come to be known as his “Aldersgate experience,” a spiritual epiphany that Methodists around the world celebrate much the same way we Lutherans commemorate the hanging of the *95 Theses*.

In response to this experience, John Wesley wrote a prayer known as his “prayer of consecration.” This prayer has inspired many throughout the centuries and helped others to feel what he felt in response to the love of God in Christ Jesus at that prayer meeting:

***O Lord, may nothing dwell in my soul  
But your pure love alone.  
Till my every thought, word, and act be love.  
Yes Lord, may your love possess me whole;  
You’re my joy, my treasure, my crown!***

An Anglican listening to Luther at a Moravian prayer meeting is inspired to give himself wholly into the hands of the living God... a good place to start enjoying the riches of what the Holy Spirit has cultivated among Christians of a different color.

This year’s NALC clergy gathering had as its focus “A Generous Confessionalism.” Confessionalism is the Christian principle of holding to (confessing) what is essential without compromise. Generosity is the practice of assuming the best of others unless it is demonstrated otherwise. Our Christian brothers and sisters in other denominations have riches to share with us as we have to share with them. Let us bless the Lord for the riches He gives to His whole body! Appreciating and using practices of other Christians is a way for us to struggle our way back toward the unity for which Our Lord prayed on the night before His passion.



## Lenten Focus and Dinners

*Lent begins the first week of next month, so we want to give you time to prioritize our offerings of **spiritual focus and renewal**.*

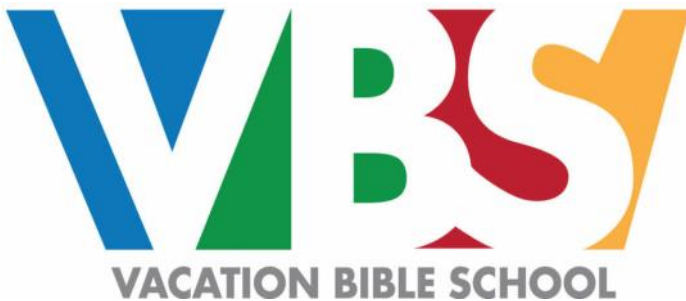
During the past year, a fair number of our members have come to me asking for help related to anxiety, hopelessness, loneliness, and even depression. The Church has helped people face these issues for centuries—for a lot longer than modern psychology, and to be frank, often with superior results.

But many people do not know about Christianity's rich resources to face this

cluster of related emotions that the our forefathers in the faith knew by the name *acedia*. We know what Christians believe, we even know our Bibles, but the resources Christians developed under the guidance of the Holy Spirit for living the abundant life that Christ said He came to give us is mostly unfamiliar to modern Christians.

This Lent we are going to change that. On Wednesdays during Lent, following a fellowship soup supper and evening worship in the social hall, we will be introducing some of these practices to our congregation. No matter how long you have been a Christian, these **spiritual practices**, which are **designed for daily use in the home and even workplace**, will help you develop a deeper relationship with God in Jesus Christ.

Of course, that means we need soup to share! Check the narthex to sign up for a chance to share your favorite recipe with your church family... as we learn together how to draw on the strength of Christ, Our Savior every single day.



*Yep, it's not too early to start thinking about summer!*

This year Holy Cross is partnering with Covenant United Methodist to offer VBS to the Nazareth community.

We are looking for moms and dads who would like to give their kids the benefit of a great Bible-based upbringing to help us this year!

Please contact Lisa Misiti at:  
misitihomeschool@gmail.com  
or call (646) 220-4097  
if you would like to help.

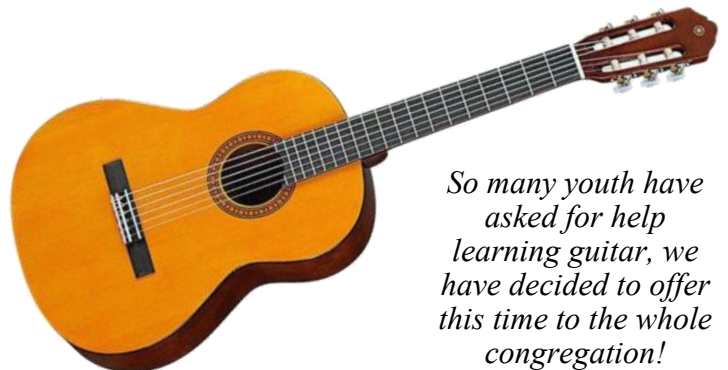
## GUITAR LESSONS!

2nd and 4th Sundays  
at 5:30pm

All Ages

No experience to intermediate

*(If you are advanced,  
come help teach!)*



*So many youth have asked for help learning guitar, we have decided to offer this time to the whole congregation!*

# Family News

## FEBRUARY *birthdays*

Bryce Bitler; Abigail Wisser; Jeanette Briody; Alyssa Young; Madelin Kocher; Deborah Schoeneberger; Daniel Kryman; Hannah Kryman; Edward Olenick Sr.; Emily Bartleson; Robert Wisser; Brianna DalFior; Karen Szczepanski; Robert Ingenito; Ingrid Yavorski; David Mulraney; Barbara Hower; Stephanie Moll; Adalynn Demyan; Cheryl Shafer; Marie Silfies; Randall Altemose; Jim Beck; Gabrielle Ludwig; Tamara Denger; Rita Weller; Harry Davenport; Evan Short; Cindy Bonney; Margaret Grube.

## February *ANNIVERSARIES*



James and Carole Craig; Nick & Stefanie Keblish; Frank and Marilyn Dalcin; Paul & Tiffany Blosser; Paul and Lynne Auger; Keith & Pamela Berlew.



*Joyce Lewis*

*August 2, 1931 - December 1, 2024*



**Let someone know you are thinking about them.**

An updated list of members who would appreciate receiving a card is available in the Narthex, or you can contact the Church Office.



Copies of the printed **Prayer List** 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!

Welcome to our new members:



*Louis & Carol Ann Coxe,  
Joseph DeAngelo,  
William & Shannon Godiska,  
John & Stephanie Moll,  
Marianne & Robert Nichols,  
Allison Werner, and  
Christine & Robert Wisser*

*We are so happy to have you be a part of the Holy Cross family!*

## *A note from Social Ministry ...*

Thank you to all the people who baked cookies and helped with the Christmas Shut-in bags and to all those who helped deliver the cookies and the poinsettias!



## ADD GOD'S WORD TO YOUR DAY!

Holy Cross sermons are available as a podcast!

Scan the box or go to this link:

<https://holycrossnazarethchurch.org/messages-sermons/>

Share these with a friend and introduce them to Jesus... and our life together at Holy Cross!



# Church News

## Women of Abundance UPDATE

This year over 40 Blessing Boxes were collected and distributed. A drive-thru was held on December 14, 2024 and the remainder of the boxes were delivered to Kenneth N. Butz, Jr. Elementary School in Bushkill Township to be distributed to families in need. Thank you to everyone who filled a box to make Christmas a little more special for so many families in need.



We had a wonderful response to the Giving Tree. On December 9, 2024 over 50 presents were delivered to the Northampton County Children and Youth. Thank you to everyone who granted the wishes of these children! Your love and support were a true blessing.

## LETTER OF INVITATION FROM WOMEN OF ABUNDANCE

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Women of Abundance is a group of women that meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month at 10:00 am, for a potluck breakfast, fellowship, and planning of projects and events. The Women of Abundance's focus is to use our collective strengths to help those in need and to be a blessing to others.

As this new year is upon us, we are planning projects for the coming year. **Please consider joining us at a meeting. You do not need to register or do anything other than come.**

Over the last several years some of the projects coordinated by Women of Abundance have been: Clothing drive for Bloom (My Sister's Closet), clothing drive for Veteran's Home, publishing a Holy Cross cookbook, collecting toilet paper for the food bank, collection for families affected by cancer, help with Bloom presentation, clothing drive for LV Foster Care, collection for Pregnancy Resource Center, collection of kits for disaster relief, decorations for Golden Age Sunday, upkeep of children activity bags, Blessing boxes, gifts for foster care children and one new idea that has been discussed is to possibly do a Tricky Tray Event in March or April as a fundraiser.

If you have ideas or suggestions for projects, feel free to share them so they can be discussed.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to ask me or one of the women who have been attending, Catherine DeBoeser, Kate Grube, Lois Iasiello, Lisa Jenkins, Carol Joseph, Suzanne Lewis, Barbara Lynn-Sarley, Marie Silfies, Bev Wisser, Anita Zaso, or Trish Henry.

Hope to see you at a meeting!

Cindy Bonney, Coordinator

[CEB6118@aol.com](mailto:CEB6118@aol.com)

610-704-1266

# Church News



## Prayer Group

Join us on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm in the Chapel/Prayer Room. We will be praying for our country, for our leaders, for individuals, as well as for the concerns and needs of the church and congregation of Holy Cross. Should anyone desire to be prayed over, you are also welcome.

## Reminders...

### ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contact the Church Office to receive a copy of your 2024 Annual Contribution Statement.

### KEEP US UPDATED!

Please help keep our church records updated by informing the church office when your address, phone number or email address changes. THANK YOU!

### CHURCH KEYS

If you have a key to the church building that you are no longer using, please return it to the Church Office. Also, just a reminder, that **church keys are not to be shared with others, or transferred to someone** who is taking your place on a committee or group that you no longer belong to. **When you leave a committee or group, all keys are to be returned to the Church Office**, and will be redistributed as needed.

*Thank You!*



## Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs vs. Worcester Woo Sox

Friday, June 13 ~ 7:05 pm

at Coca Cola Park in the

First Commonwealth Credit Union Picnic Patio

**\$30.00 per person**

### Includes:

- ~ Game ticket
- ~ 2-1/2 hour all-you-can-eat buffet
- ~ Unlimited Soft Drinks through the middle of the 8th inning.
- ~ Post Game Fireworks!

**Sign up in the Narthex to reserve your tickets!**  
(only 40 tickets available!)

Payment is due May 4th and can be placed in a Designated Gift Envelope marked "Iron Pigs tickets".

Be sure to include your Name & # of tickets.

See Dave or Diane Breinig with questions.

## Stewardship...

Offerings received during the month of January totaled **\$18,988.40**

**Thank you for your generous support of Holy Cross!**



## Capital Campaign Update...

As of January 30th, we have received donations totaling **\$102,854.45**

toward our goal of \$500,000.00.

Thank you for your generosity!

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

**Thank you!**



# Church Council

**COMPLETE Church Council Minutes are posted on the board in the Narthex. Attachments are filed in the church office with the originals. \*The meeting minutes summarized here are pending Council approval at next month's meeting.\***

## Meeting HIGHLIGHTS for December 11, 2024

Eight members were present. Absent: Rob Ingenito & Tim Kryman  
GUESTS: Pastor Brett

### Review of Reports:

**Church Secretary** - All ministries/committee leaders will need to turn in a year-end report by 12/31/24 for the Annual Meeting packet. The annual alarm inspection was completed by Kistler O'Brien on 12/11/24.

**Treasurer's Report** - A thorough update of accounts was presented.

**The Pastor's report** - Pastor attended the Bath Area Council of Churches Thanksgiving service. Took the youth group to see the Bonhoeffer movie and would like to use it for a dinner/movie/discussion event. Elder training has been delayed due to attendance issues. We're providing to the small congregation at Hillside Community Church in Springfield, Kansas (since they do not have a current pastor) by streaming our services and blessing communion elements that were sent to them.

### Committee Reports:

**Christian Ed** - See hard copy of report.

**Finance** - Proposal of 2025 Budget distributed.

**Man Alive** - See hard copy of report.

**Women of Abundance** - See hard copy of report.

**New Business:** Approval of 2025 Budget. Easter Dawn service on 4/20/25 with food between services. Possible shed onsite for the Boy Scouts, proposal needs to be provided. Women of Abundance discussed a display of current ministries of Holy Cross to invite service from members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

## Meeting HIGHLIGHTS for January 8, 2025

Eight members present. Absent: AJ Arfanella & Lynne Auger.  
GUESTS: Pastor Brett

### Review of Reports:

**Secretary's Report** - Eagle Scout Court of Honor set for 1/18. Council discussed ensuring communication and getting all event dates into the calendar for planning purposes.

**Treasurer's Report** - Reviewed financial reports.

**The Pastor's report** - Reviewed totals from Christmas service, in line with previous year. Received good

feedback on Christmas services and change to services. Next focus will be on improvements to social ministry. In place of going to the NALC clergy retreat, Pastor will use the time to work on his doctoral degree.

### Committee Reports:

**Fellowship Committee** - Discussed Easter schedule and breakfast. 8:00am worship service, breakfast served between 9:15-10:45am, then 11:00am worship service.

**Finance** - Discussed 2025 budget and noted shortfall (\$26k) in budget vs. actual receipts based on 2024. Agreed to review shortfall with congregation at meeting and discussed increased tithing to support. Budget has been adjusted to remove all non-essentials with shortfall remaining.

**Prayer Team** - See hard copy of report.

**Women of Abundance** - See hard copy of report.

**New Business:** Reviewed correspondence from local groups looking for support and discussed ability to support donations at this time due to shortfall in the 2025 budget. Council agreed to review budget status at future meetings and determine if/when appropriate to donate. Discussed new council members and youth representation.

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★  
★ *WELCOME new 2025 Council Members...* ★  
★ *Manuel Pinguelo* ★  
★ & ★  
★ *Linda Rissmiller* ★  
★ *GOOD-BYE Former Council Member...* ★  
★ *Kate Grube* ★  
★ *Thank you for your service* ★  
★ *to Holy Cross!* ★  
★

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### **The following items are posted in the Narthex:**

- Jan 2025 Church Council Minutes
- December 2024 Treasurer's Report
- February 2025 Church Calendar
- GSTL for February

# 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

**Sexton:** Kerry Livermore

**Treasurer:** Lois Iasiello

**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*

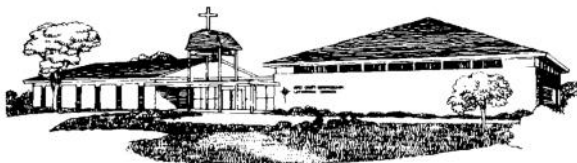
## Our Church

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church  
696 Johnson Road  
Nazareth, PA 18064-8828

Phone ~ 610-759-7363

Fax ~ 610-759-3431

Website ~ [holycrossnazareth.org](http://holycrossnazareth.org)



NALC website ~ [the.nalc.org](http://the.nalc.org)

## 2025 Church Council

A.J. Arfanella	717-903-0521
Lynne Auger	484-634-1347
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
Manuel Pinguelo	
Linda Rissmiller	
Richard Siegfried	610-360-5949
Andrew Zaso	570-424-5651

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## 2024 Congregational Officers

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

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sundays with Holy Communion:

**8:00 am** ~ Traditional Liturgy

**10:30 am** ~ Informal Worship

**9:15-10:00am** Sunday School all ages  
(October to May)

**Tuesdays at 12:15pm**

Lunchtime Prayer with Holy Communion

**Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**

Prayer Service with Holy Communion