



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

April 2024 Newsletter

Nominations Open for Council Candidates

The Nominating Committee is in the process of identifying candidates to run for Church Council, to be elected at the Congregation Meeting in May. We are looking for five candidates to fill three three-year terms. This process is one of discernment on all levels, and is wrapped in prayer. The Church Council plays an important role in listening for where God is working among and through us, and supporting that work to make it happen.

Are you feeling called to be part of that effort? Does someone come to mind who you believe would be a good fit? Do you have questions about what this means in terms of time and responsibilities? Do you think God cannot possibly mean **ME?**

(continued page 2)

Community Garden: Next Steps

There will be a meeting to discuss the next steps for a Community Garden here at Holy Cross. Whether you were at the first meeting or not, you are welcome! We will gather in the Meeting Room at 11:15 am on Sunday, April 28. If you can't make the meeting but are interested, email Pastor Scott, pastorscottseeke@holycrosslivonia.org



If you attended the first meeting, please note that the piece of paper on which everyone's name was recorded has been misplaced. If you want to be part of this ministry, please kindly remind me. - Pastor Scott

Membership Inquiry Program Sundays, April 14, 21, 28 and May 5

Are you a new attender or frequent visitor? If so, then the Membership Inquiry Program is for you! This program will help you get to know Holy Cross by giving you the chance to meet others and learn about what's happening. It's not a class: there's no test, no curriculum, and there is 100% no commitment. Just come and meet others on the journey in a casual, comfortable atmosphere. Join us at 9 am in the Meeting Room at church.

Please let me know you are interested by emailing me, Pastor Scott,
pastorscottseeke@holycrosslivonia.org

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor: Rev. Scott Seeke

Ministers: The disciples at Holy Cross

Phone: 734-427-1414

Email: office1@holycrosslivonia.org

Website: www.holycrosslivonia.org



Update: Reconciling in Christ Journey at Holy Cross

Holy Cross is continuing its exploration of becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) church practicing full inclusion of LGBT+ folks.

On four Sundays in March, Pastor Scott led a bible study designed to help us explore the scriptural underpinnings that sometimes become stumbling blocks to radical hospitality. The study, “Journey Together Faithfully: Bible Study for RIC Skeptics”, provided a valuable opportunity to learn more about the historical and theological context behind those stumbling blocks.

Each week up to 24 people gathered to listen to Pastor Scott and to each other, providing a safe space for discussion. Many thanks to all who participated; it was a powerful time for all involved. If you were unable to participate but would like to hear the recorded sessions, copies of the bible study are available in the church office and links to the recorded sessions can be found in The Happenings on Fridays.

The RIC Team continues to look for opportunities for open discussion for those with remaining concerns or questions. We are moving into the final phase of the process leading up to a congregational vote at the Congregation Meeting in May. Look for more information on the specifics of that vote as we get closer to the Meeting.

In the meantime, reach out to our Team by using the question/comment sheets on the table in the Narthex. We will answer using the method that works best for you. Also, feel free to approach one of us in person before or after services, or anytime you see us at church. Many of us will be wearing “Ask Me About RIC” badges.

Thanks for faithfully journeying,

Your RIC Team: Harvey Gist, Lunice Clay, Ellen Batkie, Lynda Ashbay, Tami Klopher, Shari Dudek, Margie Kober, Linda Bozgan, Rose Dillon, Kim Rowe, Emma Swartz, Merrissa Hoffman, Marilyn Grable, Judy Kunnert,

(continued from cover) Bring your questions and share your suggestions by reaching out to a member of the Nominating Committee or Pastor Scott.

Please help us expand this conversation and discernment. Pray with us and for us. As you ponder, a reminder from Pastor Scott: God does not call the equipped, he equips the called.

Trusting in the Holy Spirit,
Your Nominating Committee: Ellen Batkie,
Eric Haupt, Tami Klopher, Susan Scholz,
and Dennis Walker



*As a way to get to know our Godly Play team, we are going to highlight a member of the team.
This month we introduce Lynda Ashbay.*



Godly Play And Me - I have had a passion for children’s ministry all of my life. At 18 years old, I began teaching Sunday School and I joined Holy Cross Christian Education Ministry in 1980.

Then around 2014, Pastor Dana brought Godly Play to Holy Cross and I attended a 3-day Godly Play training, along with several other HC members. As soon as the training began, I felt the strong sense of the Holy Spirit’s presence. This program invites the children to connect to God through faith stories, parables and liturgical action using simple manipulatives. The children are given

opportunities to develop their relationship with God through wondering questions, and open-ended responses.

My favorite Godly Play story is The Good Shepherd and World Communion. It expresses Jesus as our Good Shepherd and brings the children into sense of community and His love as it ends the story with all the people of the world gathering for communion at the table of the Good Shepherd. In one session telling this story a child answered the wondering question “Have you ever been at the table of the Good Shepherd and where was that?” She said, ”Oh yes, here at church when we go for communion!!”

Godly Play is both inspirational and spiritual.



32nd Annual Katy York Honoring Women Luncheon Saturday, May 18, 2024

This event is for all women in the Southeast Michigan Synod. Held this year at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile Road, (next to the Italian/American Hall). The program will begin at 10:00 am. Holy Cross will be honoring Jean Medlen. The guest speaker is the Rev. Jen Kiefer, Assistant to the Bishop for Congregation and Synod Life Candidacy.

The event costs \$35 and includes a “family style” luncheon, the menu and registration forms are available on the WELC bulletin board. Please give your registration form and check made out to “SEMI WELCA” to Joan Onkka by April 15, 2024, they will be mailed as a group.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those Ill or Recovering or in need of Special Prayers:

Pat Barton	Pat Ferrari	Robert Kunz	Earl Scherbarth
Joe Beckerman	Judi Feutz	Julia Machnak	Sue Scherbarth
Norma Beckerman	Larry Foster	Doris Miller	Pastor Scott Seeke
Joyce Bigelow	Geri Gerard	David Nims	Virginia Smith
Carolyn Elliott	Maureen Hatteberg	Betty Parsley	Terry Snider
Marti Enzmann	Shelby Haupt	Betty Pierrard	Virgina Sorenson
Ron Ferrari	Jack Keck	Jerry Ransom	

The Family & Friends of the Following Persons Who Have Died:

Bill Barton	Ron Klinect	Herb Lewis
-------------	-------------	------------

To add a name to this list:

Call or email the office, office1@holycrosslivonia.org, put "Prayer Request" in the subject line: include only the request information and a general reason for the request.

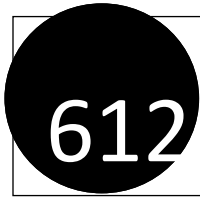
Names will be removed after 3 months unless we are updated. Thank you!



Mother Hubbard Preschool

This month we loved partnering with our Holy Cross family and assembled Easter baskets for the wonderful Samaritas organization. What a way for the children to learn how to be nice, kind and helpful. We talked about community helpers, animals, and ended our month with tons of Easter fun!





Upcoming Events

April 3 - Dinner & Faith Formation
April 17 - Dinner & Faith Formation

With help from our Mother Hubbard Preschool families, we joyfully donated 22 Easter baskets to children in adoption and foster homes with Samaritas!

Thank you to everyone who made this possible — your efforts will not only brighten the holiday of deserving children, but also make Jesus better known in the world.



Holy Cross Annual Flower & Plant Sale

Our annual Flower Sale to benefit the Prayer Park and grounds has begun! Show your appreciation for that special mom in your life, buy them for yourself, or just make a donation. Printed forms will be available in the narthex and office. A downloadable form will be available in the weekly email that will do the calculations for you, but also includes a second sheet (tab at the bottom) you can print and calculate on your own.

Please note that flats that previously contained 48 plants now contain 36 plants. We are also selling some of the larger potted plants and vegetables as individual plants rather than pairs (to avoid previous confusion). If you have any questions or need to schedule pickup outside of the offered days and times, please contact Susan Scholz using the information on the top of the form.

Orders are due **Tues., April 16th** with plant pickup available on the two days prior to Mother's Day (times shown on the top of the form). Thanks for your participation!



hearts, hands and voices

presents



Beginnings, Rebirth, Resurrection, and Caring for Creation

Saturday, May 4, 2024
7 p.m.

St. John Lutheran Church
23225 Gill Road
Farmington Hills

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

for April

Assisting 8 am/10 am

April 7	Kathy Weaver (8 am) Shari Dudek (10 am)
April 14	Lynda Ashbay (8 am) Cara Nims (10 am)
April 21	Lynda Ashbay (8 am) Lunice Clay (10 am)
April 28	Lynda Ashbay (8 am) Laura Baker (10 am)

Lectors 8 am/10 am

April 7	Carol Schrecengost (8 am) Jan Wheeker (10 am)
April 14	Tami Klopfer (8 am) Cara Nims (10 am)
April 21	Jack Keck (8 am) Lunice Clay (10 am)
April 28	Tami Klopfer (8 am) Barb Brown (10 am)

Communion Teams (10 am)

April 7	Dudek Team
April 14	Berean Team
April 21	Adams Team
April 28	WELCA Team

Tech Teams (10 am)

April 7	Doug & Karen MacKenzie
April 14	Eric Koponen & Tim Smith
April 21	Rachel & Nate Eroh
April 28	Elyse & Catilyn Hare

Fellowship Servers for April

April 7	Klopfer's (8 am) Please sign up! (10 am)
April 14	Please sign up!
April 21	Weaver's (8 am) Ruth Circle (10 am)
April 28	Please sign up! (8 am) Chris Neslund-Dudas (10am)

Altar Flowers For April

April 7	Please sign up!
April 14	Please sign up!
April 21	Cindy Channey
April 28	Please sign up!



MICAH 6 COMMUNITY Sock Donations

April is the last month to donate socks to Micah 6. These will be used to supply the students of the Micah 6 community with new socks at their Summer Slam in August when they will receive new shoes before the start of school. Socks of any color and size are appreciated. There will be a basket in the narthex labeled for the socks and we will be collecting them through April. If you have any questions please contact Kathy Weaver, 313-460-0922.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

VBS - June 17-20



May
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
 is set for
April 15th

Pizza & Game Night

Saturday, April 13, 6 pm



Open Mic Night

Friday, April 19

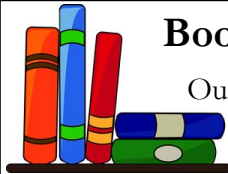


Refreshments and socializing in the Abbey begins at 6:30, Open Mic at 7 p.m. Come play and sing, share your original poetry, or just enjoy.

Join our little community!

All are welcome!

Book Club News



Our book for April is

The Month of Borrowed

Dreams by Felicity Hayes-

McCoy. Join us on April 18, 2:30 pm, for a discussion. Contact Joan Onkka if you would like a copy. We have copies to share!

QUILTING BEE

Mark your calendar
 for upcoming quilting days!

April 4 & 18

Please join us for this much loved ministry!

Questions? Contact Susan, 248-974-8899.

Registration is OPEN!

Worship and Fine Arts
 SUMMER CAMP



August 5-8, 2024, 9 am - 3 pm

St. John Lutheran Church,
 23225 Gill Rd., Farmington Hills

www.heartshandsvoices.org

Holy Cross Statement of Welcome

Holy Cross is a Christ-centered community in the Lutheran tradition (ELCA).

We believe *all* people are created in God's image.

We are passionate about the radical hospitality that Jesus showed all people.

We are committed to being a community of that same kind of hospitality.

We welcome *all* people to our life and ministry together...

...in worship, at the font, at the table and in fellowship,

regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age

or any other category society uses to distinguish between people.

We are Holy Cross and you are welcome here.



There is no longer Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
30650 Six Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48152-3499

Our mission:
Claimed, Met, Called and Sent to be
God's People Doing God's Work

Our vision:
To be a community of faith
where people are inspired and equipped
for a journey of living lives
centered in Christ

In this issue:
RIC Update Page 2
Godly Play Page 3
Prayers Page 4
Youth Events Page 5
Worship Support Page 6

*You are invited to give
an offering using this
QR code.*



Find us on social media:



fb.com/holycrosslivonia



Instagram.com/holycrosslivonia



TikTok.com/@holycrosslivonia



YouTube.com/@holycrosslivonia