

January Newsletter



January 2024

Special points of interest:

- Note from the Sunshine Lady
- Volunteer Snow Shovelers needed
- Thank yous

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Pastors Ponderings...

The world may feel like one long stretch of night, like an endless winter, or a hovering rain cloud.

And life may feel like walking into the wind, an uphill climb in every direction, but we can still open the door. We can't calm every storm, but we can turn on the porch lights.

We can add chairs to the table. We can keep clean sheets on the guest bed, just in case.

We can hold the elevator, and learn pronouns.

We can tell stories of belonging, and take turns listening.

We can learn each other's names, and plant trees for our children.

We can study privilege and advocate for mental health.

We can insist, every single day, in a million different ways:

there is room,
there is room,
there is room for you here.

We can't calm every storm, but we can turn on the porch lights.

Poem by
Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

Make Room

ST. LOUIS ("O Little Town of Bethlehem")

Text: Anna Strickland (2023)

Music: Lewis H. Redner (1868)

A - lone with - in our sil - oed hearts, the
In clut - tered minds we hoard our thoughts though
When fear and an - ger lead to walls a -

walls are clos - ing in A co - zy home where
an - xious or un - true Our past mis - takes, our
- round our cal - loused souls Where wounds and scars have

all is known, fa - mil - iar as a friend But
re - cent aches are framed and left in view The
made us hard and pressed us for con - trol Ex -

through the cracks and win - dows the star - light finds a
Spi - rit's winds are rag - ing to blow it all a -
- pan - sive Christ, ex - pand us to ev - er make more

way To break in - to our grief and gloom and
- way To make more space for love and grace we'll
room Crack souls a - part and sprout our hearts so

fill it bright as day
find with each new day
har - dened seeds can bloom

Rev Sarah Speed Founding Creative Partner of SA Sarah (Are) Speed (she/her) is the Associate Pastor for Young Adults and Membership at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. Sarah feels called to welcome people into the church by using her energy and passion for beautifully scripted words, raw and relevant liturgy, and hands-on worship experiences to engage our longing for God and the need for justice in this messy world.

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Council Minutes

12-18-2023 Church Council Meeting

Hosted at John & Jill Logghe Home

In attendance: Derrick Oberle, John Lindelof, Ned Hahn, Jess Olson, Angie Jeske, Dave Anderson, Amber Hoffman.

- Looking for new recruits for open church council positions. Discussed the expectations of the position. Developed a recruitment list of possible prospects. Derrick and the recruiting committee will be reaching out to those people and follow up.
- Motion made and unanimously voted to no longer have Casa por Cristo (Guatemala) funds or donations organized by Glen Hills-Joan Bartz Thrivent Office associated with Holy Cross financial books, in addition to no further donations or funds accepted going forward.
- Dave motioned to approve financial report as printed for November, Jill second. Motion carries.
- Council reviewed budgets for 2024 year with numbers to date. Swill discuss in more detail at January meeting prior to Annual Meeting
- Meeting was adjourned.

JAM News

Jesus and Music put on their Christmas program called Christmas Letters on December 17th for our congregation. About 20 JAMmers came to tell the story of Mary and Joseph, the Angels, the Shepherds, the Innkeeper, and most importantly Jesus' birth. Many parents, grandparents, family

members and friends enjoyed the readings and beautiful singing. Thank you to our illustrious JAM team for helping to make this a success!



News from the Sunshine Lady



I have sent out 505 cards this year 2023.

If you know anyone that would need or would like a card please let me know or contact the church office at gholycross@cltcomm.net.

Thank you,
Nancy Wold



WELCA News

WELCA met on Thursday, after lunch with 7 members in attendance.

We discussed our old business, which wasn't much.

New business- Sending some Christmas Flowers to some special people within our group.

Also, to give a donation to the Shaun Miller-mon Family from the women of Holy Cross.

Jeannie will take care of these two things.

A big thank you to Norm Hagen donating coffee to the kitchen.

We discussed our Designated Gifts and have added Stepping Stones to our list.

Thanks to Maryann for wonderful platter of Christmas cookies and candies, also the gifts she always gives us, what a generous heart she has.

Last is our Advent supper menu for next Wednesday night, December 20, two soups, grilled cheese, dessert and etc. Please come and join us next week, serving starts at 6:00.

Merry Christmas to all and God's Blessings

Women ^{of the} ELCA 

Confirmation Corner

Our Confirmation students and their mentors delivered poinsettia flowers to many of our seniors during December. The students also had fun before Advent worship services playing hide-and-go-seek in the hallways. This month we shift our focus in the classroom

from the Old Testament to stories of Jesus. They are a super group of young people! Please consider attending worship with them on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 if your Sunday mornings are busy or you are out of town.

Thank You

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

A little Thank you for the generous donation to the School District of Glenwood City Angel Fund and Backpack Program. We are grateful for the big difference you are helping to make in our students lives.

Respectfully,

Erin Spaeth and the GCSD Team

Financial Update

As we look back at this month’s financials, there are a few explanations needed as our numbers look very different than they did just a month ago. It appears that we are over budget on income, and while technically that is true, we need to be transparent to say that \$37,826 of the income this month came from an insurance claim for hail damage to the church roof. This money shows as misc. income and is in a restricted fund to be used next summer when we get the roof fixed. The reality is that without this insurance claim, we are about \$10,350 off our budgeted income. Both our regular giving and our electronic giving were down significantly in November. Also note that our November expenses included a payment to Casas por Cristo for \$9,342. This is a pass-through from donations that came in throughout the year to cover expenses for building materials for a home to be built in January. We should note that without this expense, we are well under our budgeted expenses. This is a feat to be proud of as we have had some significant projects done this year including getting the front doors fixed and major maintenance done on the bell tower. As we come to the conclusion of the year, the Resource Committee wants to challenge you to pray about your giving to Holy Cross. If you are not giving electronically, we encourage you to do so. Whether you are giving electronically or not, we ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your giving to Holy Cross as we get ready to enter a new year.

HOLY CROSS FINANCIAL UPDATE				
As of November 30th, 2023				
	Monthly	2023 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budget
Regular Giving	\$ 8,039	\$ 109,073	\$ 101,207	\$ 117,131
Simply Giving	\$ 1,911	\$ 26,952	\$ 30,753	\$ 32,083
Misc Giving/Income	\$ 39,018	\$ 57,762	\$ 20,467	\$ 17,096
Total Income	\$ 48,967	\$ 193,788	\$ 152,426	\$ 166,311
Total Expenses	\$ 25,137	\$ 169,326	\$ 161,669	\$ 166,309
Unrestricted Checkbook Balance:	\$	9,324		
Total Checkbook Balance	\$	63,078		

Looking for Volunteer Show Shovelers

We are in need of volunteers to help shovel the sidewalks here at the church. If you able to help with this please contact Tom Stack [@thomasrstack@gmail.com](mailto:thomasrstack@gmail.com).



January Birthdays

1/1 Millie Broberg	1/12 Zachary Hill	1/23 Rob Unruh
1/2 Jim Eliason	Olivia Janson	1/24 Dillon Hierlmeier
Brian Teigen	1/13 Addisyn Petersen	1/25 Lynanne Jeske
Amy Postle	1/15 Ruby Lindelof	1/26 Logan Tews
1/3 Christine Thompson	Adam Holmquist	1/27 Ethan Polmanter
Brian Anderson	Natasha Rassbach	Megan Talbert
1/4 Eldon Hoffman	1/16 Betty Booth	Zachariah Dewitt
Madalyne Booth	1/17 Sadie Stansbury	Casey Wagner
1/5 Beau Hoffman	Hadley Goossen	1/28 Debra Tryggestad
Jessica Goosman	Pam Larson	1/29 Alex Anderson
1/9 Kyle Hoffman	1/18 Jordan Drinkman	Shawn Dewitt
1/11 Esdyn Swenby	1/19 Nick Swenby	1/30 Bailey Drinkman
Aubrie Petersen	1/20 Lynne' Cassellius	Kylie Ohman
	1/21 Lindsey Kruger	1/31 Les Olson
	1/22 Randy Hanson	



January

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship 7:30pm-Youth Group	4	5	6
7 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	8 11:00am Bible Study 7:00 pm Faith & Life / FUN	9 10:30am— Glenhaven Worship 6:30pm Threads	10 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship	11	12	13
14 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	15 11:00am Bible Study 1:30 Resource Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	16	17 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship	18	19	20
21 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	22 11:00am Bible Study	23	24 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship	25 8:30am Quilting	26	27
28 9am—Worship 10:10 —Annual Meeting 11:30—Lunch	29 11:00am Bible Study	30	31 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship			

Called by the Holy Spirit to Come, to Grow, to Live as Disciples of Jesus Christ

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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High School Youth



Happy New Year to you. The youth did a spectacular job preparing and performing the Christmas in the Barn program. It was a great time as we welcomed youth from our community along with our congregation. Then we quickly followed up this performance with the first Advent Meal of the season.

The youth also had a cookie decorating day. Several youth and adults helped decorate sugar cookies that we donated to Christmas in the

Barn. We had some Christmas music and a movie going. It was a fun day.

The youth choose to donate the free will donations from the Christmas in the Barn and the Advent meal to the Backpack program and the Angel Fund, which helps the students with negative school lunch balances. With your help we donated \$317! THANK YOU!



We finished up the year with a secret santa Christmas party that all of our youth group members were able to attend. Spending time with these young adults is always exciting. I hope Christmas was a wonderful time for you and your family.

We have a youth group meeting coming up on January 3rd at 7:30 and we will sponsor the Grace Place Meal for January. Keep an eye out for a request for food donations. Thank you for your support.

Melanie

