

PARTNERS NEWSLETTER

“Equipping and sending God’s people to make a Christ-like difference in the world”

Dear Partners in Faith,

The mission statement of Holy Cross – *Equipping and sending God’s people to make a Christ-like difference in the world* – finds its way into just about every leadership conversation regarding planning or evaluating what we do as a congregation and school.

Especially during the month of May, when the rite of Confirmation causes us to focus more intently upon the “next generation” of Christian disciples, we think more deeply upon what it means to *equip and send* young people.

How would you go about this task? How would you describe a young person, indeed, a person of any age, who is *equipped and sent to make a Christ-like difference in the world*?

A publication of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod recently ran a year-long series where it gave the following twelve *Portraits of a Mature Christians*:

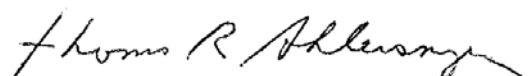
- Know that they are at peace with God through Jesus Christ (Luke 7:36-50)
- A deep trust in the power of Jesus’ Gospel (Titus 2:11-14)
- A sense of mission for Christ (John 21:1-19)
- Unconditional love in all relationships (Genesis 45:1-15)
- A strong desire and ability to practice spiritual discernment (Hebrews 5:11-14)
- An aptitude for using the Scriptures properly (2 Timothy 2:15)
- A balanced view of one’s gifts and weaknesses (Romans 12:3-8)
- Trust in God over our experience (Romans 8:37-39)
- Prioritizing marriage and family (1 Peter 3:7-9)
- Freedom from materialism (Luke 5:4-11)
- A sense of community (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)
- Realizing the brevity of life (Psalm 90:10-17; Psalm 39:4-7)

(You can find this entire series on the internet at <http://www.wels.net/news-events/forward-in-christ/november-2009/portraits-mature-christian>.)

The explanation of Luther’s *Small Catechism* describes confirmation as “a public rite of the church preceded by a period of instruction designed to help baptized Christians identify with the life and mission of the Christian community. . . . [It] provides an opportunity for the individual Christian, relying on God’s promises given in Holy Baptism, to make a personal confession of the faith and a lifelong pledge of fidelity to Christ.”

Our leadership team within the next few months will be devoting special time to discussing how we might best *equip and send* young people through the Confirmation process. I would value deeply any thoughts you might have (483-3173, ext. 308 ... tahlersmeyer@holycrossfw.org).

Scripture exhorts us: *I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done* (Psalm 78:2b-4). Please join me in praying that God makes us faithful and effective in the privileged task. Please join me, as well, in praying for our 2011 Confirmands and the lifelong journey of Christian faith to which they have committed.



Treasurer's Corner

April 2011 Reporting on March 2011 Results

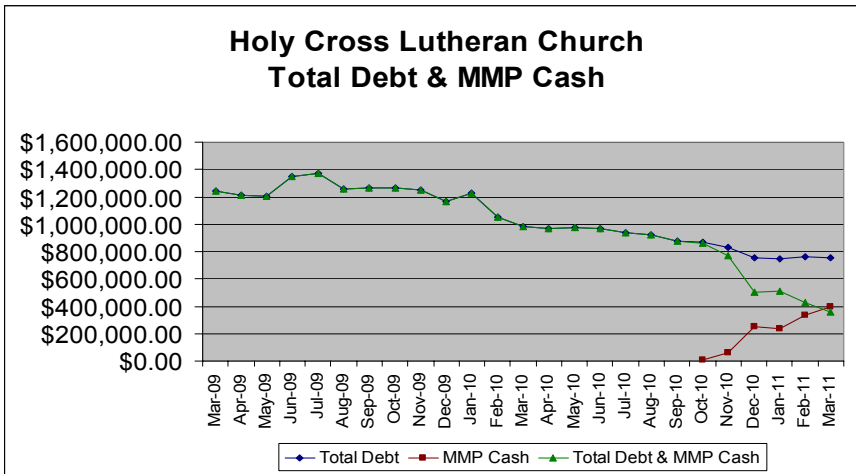
By Todd Seiman

In total, the month of March was unfavorable to plan but March year-to-date remains favorable. For the month of March, income from tuition and external sources were off from plan, while envelope giving remained positive. A \$15,000 external funds request was not received; it is a timing issue and should be deposited in April. Expenses were slightly higher in the facilities and payroll taxes budget line items, while the balance of all other categories remained on plan. March actual operating results are showing a gain of \$19,820, but are off compared to a plan gain of \$67,764, for an unfavorable swing of (\$47,944). The actual results for the month of March have both revenue (\$41,876) and expenses (\$6,088) unfavorable against budgeted levels. Overall the 1st quarter of 2011 has revenue and expenses favorable to plan. The year-to-date revenue gain of \$24,402 against budget and favorable expenses of \$30,231 results in the net favorable impact for the year of \$54,633 as compared to the 2011 plan.

Year-to-date Results:

	Actual Results	Financial Plan	Difference (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$ 668,067	\$ 643,665	\$ 24,402
Total Expenses	\$ 615,339	\$ 645,570	\$ 30,231
Income Less Expenses	\$ 52,728	(\$ -1,905)	\$ 54,633

As mentioned before, by December 31st, 2010, the operating "Line of Credit" was \$0,000, the first piece of "MMP" (Making Mission Possible) debt reduction. This is a significant change in the debt level at Holy Cross.



Here you will see a new graph; "Total Debt & MMP Cash". The graph shows total debt, MMP cash and the two netted together. The total line indicates how the MMP cash is starting to offset the current debt levels. As MMP funds are received they are deposited into the cash account. These funds will then be applied to pay down debt at the appropriate time. In total, "MMP" contributions total over \$378,000. The North Anthony Center "NAC" has about \$70,000 left on its mortgage. It will be the next piece of debt to remove – anticipated timing of June 2011.

SIMPLY GIVING

A simple way to give your tithes and offerings



What Simply Giving Is: Your gifts are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency of your automatic gift - weekly, semimonthly or monthly - the option is yours. Your gift is deposited into Holy Cross' bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account. You can designate your contributions for your regular tithe and/or for your "Making Mission Possible" offering. Simply Giving forms are available in the Welcome Center's Ministry Info Center, Holy Cross website or by calling the church office.

Benefits You and Holy Cross: Simply Giving is a reliable, safe way to share your gifts through planned giving and moves your generosity into ongoing stewardship. Because your gift is given consistently, you won't need to play "catch-up" at year-end or worry about forgotten checkbooks or missed Sunday offerings. But you're not the only one that benefits. Holy Cross benefits from steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year, more efficient bookkeeping and greater confidence in meeting its financial commitments.



The BACKYARD MISSIONARY

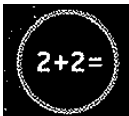


Palm Sunday weekend was the official launch of *The Backyard Missionary*! Our TBM team, which includes: Randy and Christine Renken; Tom and Cinda Gerbers; Kenny, Jeannette, and Alex Klaehn; Linda Merino; Jake Sauer; Heather Irwin; and Sandy Shavlik, signed up over 50 people to attend our Equipping Workshop on Saturday, May 7th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or 2 consecutive nights, Tuesday, May 10th and Wednesday, May 11th, 6 to 9 pm.

We train, organize, connect and coordinate Holy Cross Partners with the mission field in our own backyard. *The Backyard Missionary* needs you if you can:



Do yard maintenance and minor home repairs.



Tutor young children and adults.



Offer the gift of friendship to those who need it



Pray for God's blessing on our Backyard Missionary efforts.



Bring a new idea for serving on the Backyard Mission Field.

Please contact me to get involved in this wonderful opportunity to reach people from many nations with the Gospel, right in our own backyard.

Remember: *You don't have to travel far to make a Christ-like difference.*

You are in my prayers,
Dr. Larry Merino

TheBackyardMissionary.com
Hello@TheBackyardMissionary.com
Facebook.com/TheBackyardMissionary
Twitter.com/missionbackyard



The Lutheran Schools Partnership – your area’s Lutheran preschools, elementary schools, and Concordia Lutheran High School
 The following information is from The Lutheran Schools Partnership April newsletter and the Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce “...Daily Dose”, July 2010.

Communication News

Efforts continue to make sure the Lutheran schools are in the public’s eye and mind, for present enrollment considerations and for the future. Enewsletters continue to go out on a regular basis. Television and radio commercials will continue to air and Facebook will continue to be used.

Speaking of Facebook, the utilization of The Lutheran Schools Partnership Facebook page and The Lutheran Schools Facebook page continues to grow in use.

On the Web site you can find news, contact information, help finding a school, social media connections, and of course a breakdown of the most important aspects of the organization: the value they offer, academics, the students, and a map to find the school location you are looking for. This new site is very user-friendly (great pictures and graphics, simple layout, good information!).



DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR

August 6 – Lutheran Night at the Tin Caps. Let’s fill Parkview Field with anyone connected with our Lutheran community. The night will be capped off with fireworks. This is going to be a “can’t miss” event! Proceeds from the evening will help support The Lutheran Schools Partnership Tuition Assistance Program.

In Prayer -

Keep the schools of The Lutheran Schools Partnership in your prayers. We thank God for the enrollment opportunities that have been presented and look forward to the ministry opportunities that are being seen through growing enrollment for many of our schools.

We pray that the Lord of the Church provides the necessary leadership for our schools.



Enrollment is now open to students in Grades K-8, who are not currently attending Holy Cross Lutheran School and would like to attend.
Please contact Ms. Churchill at 483-3173 ext. 353 for further information.

- May 1Confirmation is at the 10:15 AM service.**
- May 174th Grade Indiana History Night .**
- May 22Staff recognition is at the 10:15 AM service.**
- May 24Band and String Concert is at 7:30 in the gym.**
- May 30There is **no school** in observance of Memorial Day.**
- June 11.8th Grade Graduation is at 5:00 PM.**
- June 14.Last day of school.**
- June 14.Closing Chapel and Awards Ceremony is at 1:00.**

CONGRATULATIONS BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

The Holy Cross Lutheran School Boys Varsity basketball Team recently competed in the National Lutheran Basketball Tournament in Valparaiso, Indiana. The tournament began with the opening ceremonies on March 24th. Games began on March 25th and the Championship was played on March 27th. The boys finished seventh out of 32 teams from around the United States.

The team qualified for nationals by competing in the local LSAA Tournament and finishing Second. They then had to compete in the Indiana State Tournament in Indianapolis the last weekend of February, where they finished as the runner-up. An application had to be



submitted to the national committee of LBAA. Holy Cross and St. Paul from Fort Wayne were accepted to participate out of around 70 applicants.

Team members include: Rylen Asher, Jordan Barrette, Nolan Chandler, James Dixie, Adam Gilbert, Jet Gore, Jordan Kindig, C.J. Morris, Peter Morrison, John Pynchon, and Cory Staley. The team was coached by Bruce Kilpatrick, Randy Kindig, Adam Merino and Tim Poore. The team had a great experience in Valpo and hopes to get back to the National Tournament again next year.

Every day in our Preschool, students worship and praise our God through prayer, praise songs, and hearing God's Word in our daily Bible stories. We teach Christian truths and celebrate God's great gift of love in Jesus our Savior. Our children also participate in a weekly children's chapel time in church. They learn Bible verses to put God's Word into their hearts and minds. We love to sing our praises to Jesus. Young children need to know their Savior.



Recently we asked some of our four year olds to tell us something they know about Jesus. The answers were simple, true and just beautiful . . .

"He was a baby", "He does miracles", "He loves us", "He heals us and stuff", "He takes care of us no matter what", "He listens to us pray", "He always bees nice to us", "He is real", "Jesus loves us", "He loves people", "He protects all of us – kids and moms and dads", "We trust Him", "He really loves me", "We can always pray to Him no matter when it is" and "He died on the cross to take away our sins – we all have sins".

What a wonderful year we have had learning about our loving Savior!

Shelly Ladwig
Lead Preschool Teacher

Better Moms Make A Better World

MOPS
Mothers of Preschoolers

REMINDER

MOPS last meeting before our summer break is May 20th.
We will resume meeting in September.



WORKING HANDS MINISTRY is a new in-reach ministry here at Holy Cross. There are a number of times where we have partners (members) who are unable to do home repairs and improvements because of financial or physical limitations. An example would be a widow who needs assistance in minor repair work to replace a sink or repair a garage door.

In this **Working Hands Ministry** we are seeking partners, both men and women, who have a desire to help others in need. All levels of experience are welcomed and needed. If you are a construction worker, skilled tradesperson, handyman, painter, or someone who just has a desire to help, you will be welcomed and needed!

Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this new **Working Hands Ministry**. If you need more information please contact me at 483-3173 ext. 307 or the coordinator for the ministry, Dan Keller, at 602-5082. We will be talking more about this in the coming months.

We are in service together,

Pastor Mark Neubacher

Lutheran Life Villages' 20th annual
“Bargain Bonanza Extravaganza”
(the granddaddy of garage sales)

May 5-7

at International Park
2701 South Coliseum Boulevard
(Use the park entrance across
from Navistar at 2911 Meyer Road.)

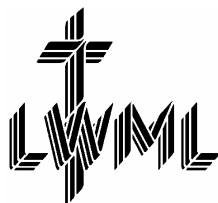
May 5: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
May 6: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
May 7: 8 a.m. – noon

Proceeds from this year's sale will benefit a new capital improvement project.

For more information on the BBE, donating, or volunteering, contact Jan Shupert-Arick, director of volunteers, at 447-1591, ext. 2116.

LWML Plays in Peoria

Time is running out to register for the 34th Biennial LWML Convention in Peoria, Illinois, to be held on June 23-26, 2011. The deadline to register without a late fee is May 20. Register today so that you will not miss all the activities that will take place under the theme, “Being with Jesus – Living on the Edge.” Click “conventions” at www.lwml.org for all the latest information and for that last minute convention registration on line.



Your Health – April 2011

Reported by Sue Seiman, Parish Nurse

ARE YOU PREPARED IF DISASTER STRIKES?

1. Create a disaster plan: Discuss the need to prepare with your family. Explain to children the danger of fire, severe weather and earthquakes.
2. Pick places to meet: Pick 2 places outside your home in case of fire and plan to meet in basement or bathroom in case of severe weather.
3. Prepare an emergency box with the following items:
Water - two gallons per person per day.
Food - Non-perishable and enough for 3 days per person.
One extra set of clothes per person.
Portable radio with extra batteries
Flashlight
Matches and Candles
First Aid Kit
4. Post emergency phone numbers: Place numbers near a telephone or have them programmed in cell phones.
5. Install smoke detectors: There should be at least one on each level of your home, especially bedrooms.
6. Teach each family member how to use fire extinguisher: (ABC) type.
7. Enroll your family in a First Aid/ CPR class.
8. Remind your family to listen to the radio for instructions.
9. Conduct a hunt for hazards in your home. During a disaster, ordinary objects in your home can cause injury or damage. Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire is a home hazard.

When your family is safe and accounted for, check in with your neighbors.

REMEMBER: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.” Ps 46:1 - 3

A New DVD Ministry of Lutheran Ministries Media

Our church has members who would love to worship each week with us but are unable to leave their home. We can visit these shut-ins about once a month, but how do we reach them weekly with the Gospel of Jesus Christ? These are concerns of not only pastors but church members and families who have someone that is homebound or unchurched.

Since 1965, in selected television markets, "Worship for Shut-Ins" has been viewed by Christians on TV and now on the internet. From 1965 through 1979, Rev. Oswald Bertram presented "Worship for Shut-Ins" out of Toledo, Ohio. When he died in 1979, members of Holy Cross challenged itself and the staff to produce the program locally. On October 5, 1980, the first program from the Luepke Chapel was broadcast on WPTA-TV.

Thirty years later this television ministry remains vitally important. Emphasizing this are letters from relatives and viewers. "My mother ... really appreciated the ability to worship from home. She had been very ill for a long time and these services gave her comfort." (from Hemlock, Michigan)

And from Grand Haven, Michigan, a viewer writes, "I love your ministry. I love the music and messages."

Moving to the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, each program continues to serve as a comforting reassurance of God's love and concern for all His children, especially those unable to leave their homes to attend worship at their local congregation.

Besides being a television ministry, Lutheran Ministries Media, the producers of "Worship for Shut-Ins", wants you to know about their relatively new DVD ministry called "**Reaching & Preaching**".

By enrolling in this program, a congregation, church group (i.e.-LWML), or other ministry can purchase the next 52 original programs in DVD form for use as they design. Using each program allows them to bring the Word of God to needy members and non-members, many of whom are senior citizens and the charter or key members of your church in its early years.

The "Reaching and Preaching" contract authorizes a church to make five copies of each program for only \$25 per week. Perhaps a church's senior's group, elders, or deacons could begin a plan to visit shut-ins to deliver a copy of the current week's program. Or perhaps the congregation can offer the program as a gift to each homebound member as a "thank you" for their faithful membership and service to their church and Lord over the years.

Another use of this new initiative is to provide a neighboring extended care center with these weekly DVD programs. Even though "Worship for Shut-Ins" is shown in the Fort Wayne area, times may not be convenient for viewing. By contacting the administrator or activities director, this could be a way to reach out to those who don't have a church home or are unchurched, by seeing that the program could be played on Sundays and even repeated during the week in their rooms or in a commons area on a large screen TV. Several area care facilities are now doing this every week—most notably Lutheran Life Villages in Fort Wayne and Kendallville. Two members of Holy Cross are delivering DVDs currently. LMM thanks Paul Stein and Bill Berning, Sr. for being couriers for this unique ministry.

For additional details, contact Lutheran Ministries Media at 5 Martin Luther Drive; Fort Wayne, IN 46825 or call 471-5683 and ask for Ken Schilf. LMM's website of www.worshipforshutins.org lists all the local channels and times throughout the United States. Besides the more than 40 local channels, the program is seen around the world on DIRECTV Channel 377 at 11:30 a.m. Eastern time on the Total Christian Television (TCT) network. Additionally on the website, recent programs can be seen by clicking "Online Worship".



Worship for Shut-Ins

Website:
worshipforshutins.org
Phone: 471-LOVE

Viewing times for the Fort Wayne Area:

Sundays:

6:30 a.m. WPTA-TV-21

8:00 a.m. FiOS Ch. 9 & Digital 33.2 & Sat. 252

11:30 a.m. DIRECTV 377; DISH 63 & WINM 12/38

4:00 p.m. Comcast Ch. 55 & FiOS Ch. 25

Mondays:

4:00 p.m. Comcast Ch. 55 & FiOS Ch. 25

MAY VIEWING SCHEDULE

May 1, 2011 - 1 Peter:3-9

"A Living Hope"

by Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker

The resurrection of Jesus proclaims His victory and the victory He won for us. Trials in life help us to focus on that which is truly important, "The salvation of (our) souls" (v.9).

May 8, 2011 - 1 Peter 1:22-25

"Hold Fast to the Word"

by Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier

- I. Through the Word we have spiritual life.
- II. Through the Word we have strength for godly living.
- III. Through the Word we have comfort and guidance, and everlasting life.

May 15, 2011 - Psalm 23

"I Shall Not Want"

by Rev. Daniel J. Bregue

Trusting in his Good Shepherd, the Psalmist begins by confessing, "I shall not want." The remainder of Psalm 23 explains how our Good Shepherd provides for our needs and wants. He ultimately provides the eternal mansion in which we will dwell forever.

May 22, 2011 - John 14:1-3

"Don't Let Your Hearts be Troubled"

by Rev. Karl Frincke

While there may be many things that trouble us, including dying and death, we need not be troubled over them. Jesus meets us in trouble with His presence now and forever.

May 29, 2011 - John 14:1-3

"Christ in You"

by Rev. James L. Elsner

Our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus, reassures us of the close intimate relationship He has with every believer.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Remember
those
who served**



"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4