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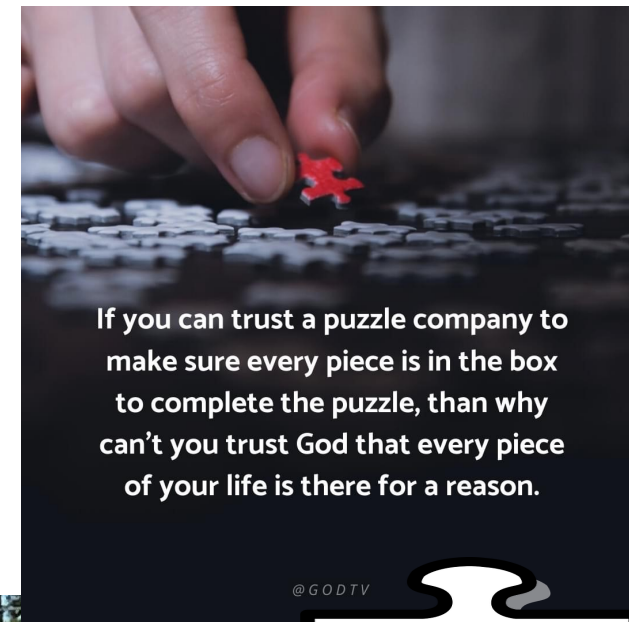
For pastoral emergencies or for home or hospital visits, please contact Pastor Jay at 377-5357.



Winter 2022 Newsletter

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If you can trust a puzzle company to
make sure every piece is in the box
to complete the puzzle, than why
can't you trust God that every piece
of your life is there for a reason.

@GODTV



Thanks Samantha
& Izzy for putting
the final pieces of
the last puzzle
together!

**Congrats to Snow Prince
Chuck in Gypsy Day Parade!**

From the Council Prez- Charlie

Dear Holy Cross Lutheran Church members & friends,



As I look back over the 2021 calendar year, there have been two issues that have added to the normal mission of HCLC. The Covid-19 Virus has been with us for nearly 24 months and by the grace of God, it has had manageable effect on our congregation and church operations. It does appear that the worst of the virus could now be behind us and a return to total normalcy may be in sight.

The second issue, that was not totally unexpected, dealt with deferred maintenance of the church roof and the heating & cooling systems which are now over thirty years old. The shingles had to be replaced on the entire roof along with some fascia and soffit replacement. The skylight leaks were repaired and stains repainted. The total cost was \$57,378.56. We had a designated building & improvement fund of about \$8,800 to start with and had a balance of about \$6,800 left in that fund after the roof was finished. Gifts from every member of the congregation brought in about \$55,000 for this project. We are so grateful to all of you for your responses.

Just like Covid, the deferred maintenance issue arose again this fall when two of the furnaces had to be replaced. The total cost of the furnaces, which have been installed, was \$14,325 of which the \$6,800 balance in the designated building fund was used along with about \$7,400 from the general fund.

Please keep in mind that we still have three thirty year old furnaces along with windows that are in need of replacement along with some outside updates. Consider any additional gifts that you are able to provide for the designated building and improvement fund as the balance is now at zero. Also, do not decrease your general fund giving in order to give to the building and improvement fund as these should be in addition to your general giving. Our general fund has been maintaining a reasonable balance which allows us take care of our obligations in a timely manner.

Looking back over the past year, I think we have a great deal to be thankful for in that we have weathered Covid pretty well along with being able to handle maintenance and equipment replacement needs that amounted to more than our annual budget, without having to borrow any funds!! We have added to our ministry outreach program by adding a chaplain and maintained our core inhouse mission.

Looking forward, we still need to concentrate on increasing our membership and attendance and will try to be more proactive in those efforts as Covid winds down this year. Please invite your friends and family members to join us, especially those that are unchurched. We will also try to be more active and inviting through social media as this seems to resonate with younger families.

Your comments, questions, concerns and participation are encouraged and welcome. Please feel free to talk to Pastor Jay or a council member at any time.

Thankful for God's many blessings,
Charlie Jakober-HCLC Council President

HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE by Ron DeMarco *edited for space

I was walking down life's highway
a long, long time ago.
One day I saw a sign that read,
"HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE."

I saw a host of ANGELS.
They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said,
"My Child, shop with care."

First, I got some PATIENCE.
LOVE was in the same row.
Further down was UNDERSTANDING,
you need that everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of WISDOM,
a bag or two of FAITH.
I just couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST,
for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE
TO HELP ME RUN THIS RACE.
By then my basket was getting full,
but I remembered I needed some GRACE.

I didn't forget SALVATION,
for SALVATION was free.
So I tried to get enough of that
to save both you and me.

PEACE and JOY were plentiful;
they were last on the shelf.
SONG and PRAISE were hanging near,
so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel,
"Now, how much do I owe?"
He smiled again and said, "MY CHILD,
JESUS PAID YOUR BILL
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO."

Poem submitted by Shirley Heis



Congrats to Izzy, Emily & Addy for their perfect attendance in Wed. school awards!



Financial Stuff-Sue

2021 FOURTH QUARTER BUDGET REPORT		
2021 BUDGET	\$	95,265.00 (not actual)
WEEKLY	\$	1,832.00
MONTHLY	\$	7,940.00
QUARTERLY	\$	23,816.25
QUARTERLY RECEIVED TO DATE		
October	\$	9,137.53
November	\$	7,254.15
December	\$	12,550.16
TOTAL	\$	28,941.84
4th QUARTER BUDGET SHORTAGE	\$	0
RECEIVED YEAR TO DATE TOTAL	\$	149,638.68

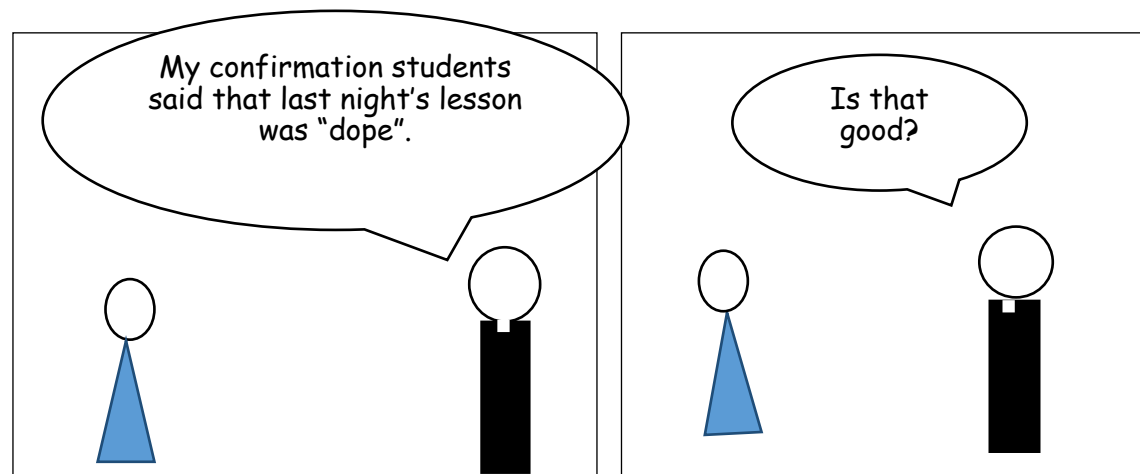


HELP WANTED:

Keyboard player. See Shawnee for details.

Soundboard Operator.

The Pompous Pastor



Ministry Calendar

- Annual Meeting February 20th
- Transfiguration Sunday February 27th—**bring your kids and we will hide the 'Alleluia's'!**
- Ash Wednesday March 2nd, 6:15 pm
- Wednesday Lenten Services Mar 9th-Apr 6th:
Soup suppers at 5:15 pm; Worship at 6:15 pm



Thoughts and Prayers



Thank you Lord for our church members who have made it through COVID and all the prayers of our church family to support them! We also pray for the hearts of those who have lost loved ones this past year.



Thank You's to..... Briana A. for teaching the Youth class!

Sophie, Sue & all those who helped with the building fund project!

Dale for all his work on the building maintenance projects!

Kendall & Bonnie & all who helped so we could send shoeboxes out for

Operation Christmas Child!

Harley, Jamison & Kendall for preaching during advent!

Jillian, Jen E., Katie, & Jessi S. for providing wonderful Special Music for the Candlelight Service & to Shawnee for putting it all together!

All those who contributed to "Souper" Bowl Sunday—it was a lot of fun!

Pastor's Piece

Political Arguments Important...Not Ultimate

Most pundits would say that our country has never been more divided on cultural, political, even religious (all humans by nature are religious) grounds. While this may or may not be accurate, it is a reality for many of us. As a Christian, one might ask, how vigorously, passionately, even forcefully should we enter into conflict with those with whom we disagree?

We know our God loves all people equally. Our God also judges each of us to be sinners worthy of death. As much as we like to believe it, God generally does not take sides. This is not to say some positions are more Biblically righteous than others, but sinners cannot take on a cause and be righteous in their pursuit. An old English proverb claims that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. I would add the road to hell is crowded with those who believe their *acts* are righteous as well.

So, do we engage, withdraw, separate, or deny? Different personalities will prefer different responses to our nation's travails, but even not to decide is a decision. Those of us who choose to commit ourselves to these struggles should feel free to do so with passion and convictions. However, we must always remember as sinners (always sinners) we stand under God's judgment. No matter how well our intentions and actions, no human endeavor will please God or remain safe from Satan's reach.

The same is true of our opponents. Equally true is God's love for them, God's dying so that they might be saved, and that faith in Jesus is the only thing that ultimately matters. This is hard to keep in mind when we believe our country-our world-is crumbling around us. We remind ourselves that we are not in control-thankfully. All things are in God's hands and ultimately in his control. We know how, ultimately, the story ends. God wins. Not us...not them...but God. Thank you, Lord. Amen.



**Congratulations 2021 Confirmands!
Katelynn Altmaier & Madelyn Aman**



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Papa George's Macaroni Soup submitted by Teresa Schott

6 qts boiling water
3 large onions - diced
4 lbs of meat diced to 1/2 inch squares (round steak preferred)
4 Tbsp beef bouillon
4 tsp Allspice (ground or whole)

Boil above ingredients for 4-5 hrs.

After boiling add macaroni (about 3/4 of a 1 lb. box of Creamette brand).

Stir until macaroni is fully cooked then add 3 cans of tomato soup. Boil 'til complete.
Taste for flavor, if missing add a little more beef bouillon.

Love papa George. Hope you feel better Kat.