

July 2014 / Monthly Newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church

# The Disciple

## Mark Your Calendar

**7.4**  
Independence Day

**7.6**  
Food Pantry Sunday

**7.8**  
Community Meal

**7.9**  
Food Pantry

**7.12**  
VBS Decorating & Makeup

**7.13**  
VBS Staff Installation

**7.13—7.17**  
Vacation Bible School

**7.18**  
VBS Picnic

**7.19**  
VBS Wrapup

**7.27**  
Baptism of Glen Love

## Why We Should Care

Dear friends of Holy Cross, you are receiving this newsletter in the month of July- the month where we nationally celebrate our nation's independence and freedom. This month's lead article is on freedom - freedom of religion. It was originally published in the March 2014 *Lutheran Witness*. It was written by our Synodical president, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison. His article reprinted here is entitled: "Why Tomorrow's Supreme Court Hearing Matters." He makes a strong argument as to why we Christians need to actively defend our religious freedoms in the United States. I pray you will carefully consider what he writes.

"You're tired of hearing about Hobby Lobby and the Supreme Court, tired of all the talk of fines and health-care plans and reproductive rights, tired of being bombarded with words spoken in anger from both sides of the aisle. You want to put your fingers in your ears, switch the channel, and wait for the ruling and the rest of it to just go away.

But even though you are tired, even though you've grown weary of having the same

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## Why We Should Care Continued ...

discussions about the same points, Hobby Lobby and fines and health-care plans still matter. They matter because your country – the United States of America – was founded on the principle that you were born with certain rights: the rights to seek and follow truth, to live according to your beliefs, to worship freely.

And no one, not even the government, gets to tell you how to do that.

Today, our federal government threatens that right, consistently refusing to protect religious liberty as our Constitution and the laws of nature demand. In the dozens of cases against the Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate, the government has started dictating the boundaries of religious beliefs, and to pick and choose which beliefs – and which individuals – deserve religious liberty protection.

The contraceptive mandate, part of the Affordable Care Act, requires employers to provide a full range of 20 FDA-approved contraceptive devices, drugs and services in their health-care plans. These include “emergency contraceptives” with the ability to prevent implantation of an embryo – in other words, the ability to end a human life. Catholics, Lutherans, and many other Americans find these drugs morally reprehensible. Yet, though objections to

**Welcome baby  
Glen Joseph  
May 30**

**Congratulations  
Bill and Jennifer**

the mandate are strong and numerous – with over 90 lawsuits filed so far – the government has simply swept them aside.

The mandate’s provisions allow for very narrow exemptions for houses of worship. Exemptions do not extend even to affiliates of those houses of worship; for example, a Catholic order of nuns, operating homes for the elderly poor, is not exempt. Nor are Christian colleges, nor are thousands of other religious non-profit organizations, which serve the public good.

In the case of the non-profits, the government has come up with an empty “accommodation” that would force organizations to sign HHS forms directing third-party administrators to provide the drugs that the organizations cannot. As one plaintiff, the Little Sisters of the Poor, explained, these forms are nothing more than permission slips. The Little Sisters cannot direct someone else to act immorally, just as they cannot

## How You Can Get Involved

We are looking for volunteers for our "Free Community Meal" we are hosting on July 8, 5 p.m.. We need people to cook a portion:( 6-10 people) of the meal to be served. (Portion would be cooked at home and brought to kitchen either hot or we can reheat.) Meal will be served buffet style. We will need 2 people to help serve and 2 people to help in the kitchen. A new sign up sheet with the next meal menu will be in the narthex every month.

If you are interested in helping or just want more information, feel free to call Joan Opyd at (708) 597-9477. Thank you



## Vacation Bible School

It's COMING !! Weird Animals 2014 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Sunday, July 13th through Thursday, July 17th. Here at Holy Cross Lutheran Church 5:45 - 8:30 pm. We will have stories, videos, games snacks. Singing and learning how "God loves us even if we are different"

PLEASE join us, if you would like to help talk to Julie Wedster. If you are curious about what it is all about, join us !

Hope to see you there/here for our Vacation Bible school.

Register your children online at [www.hc-lc.org](http://www.hc-lc.org) or use the registration sheet included with this newsletter.



### Why We Should Care Continued ...

act immorally themselves. The government has branded this particular belief meaningless.

Neither the exemption nor the false "accommodation" extends to individuals who run their own businesses, like David and Barbara Green, owners of Hobby Lobby. The Greens morally oppose providing drugs that can prevent implantation and have filed suit against HHS, represented by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. In the Greens' case, the government claims that moral convictions must be abandoned at the door of the workplace. The Greens may not run their own companies according to their consciences. Or, in return for staying true to their convictions, they will be forced to pay crushing fines.

The government's distinctions under the mandate don't make sense. The government does not get to reduce God and the way in which He works down to what happens only in church or worship. By its definition, religious liberty stipulates that a church – not the government – must be permitted to



Holy Cross is continuing to plan its 75th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, November 9. In preparation for this special event, there are a number of expenses that will be occurring before the actual date. In addition to these celebration expenses, the gift of new carpeting will be installed in the church, Narthex and entryway to beautify God's house. The cost of the carpeting is approximately \$25 per square yard. If you would like to donate to help fund the cost of the carpeting or toward some of the additional anniversary celebration expenses, in addition to your current church donations, please do so by marking "75th Anniversary/Carpeting" on the "other" line on your envelope. Thank you for your donations and please plan to join us as together we thank and praise God for all the blessings He has given to our church these past 75 years.



We welcomed into God's Family through Holy Baptism —  
Christopher Michael Caban  
June 22, 2014

### Why We Should Care Continued ...

form its own definition and its own boundaries.

Moreover, God uses each of us in our vocations to serve those around us. This call to serve others and live according to our beliefs extends beyond our houses of worship, into our homes, our communities, and our work. To prevent individuals from following the dictates of their consciences is an abuse of power and a gross infringement on human dignity.

As the leader of a Christian church body, I strongly object to the government's approach of picking and choosing whose beliefs merit consideration. Now, according to the government, Catholic nuns must authorize others to give out free contraceptives, and evangelical Christians must abandon their most deeply held convictions in the operations of their own businesses. What group, and what belief, will next be under attack?

Friends, we may be weary. We may be tired. But we must stand together to protect our God-given right to religious liberty. This mandate threatens not only those whose religions specifically compel them to oppose it, but all Americans. We cannot allow our government to define the content of our beliefs or the degree of their significance."

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is the current and 13th president of The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod.



## Stewardship Prayer – By Patricia Minet

Almighty God, we thank you for all the gifts You have given us: our lives, our loved ones, all that we have and all that we are. Most of all, we thank You for Jesus, your Son and our Redeemer, who came among us to show us the way to eternal life. Jesus was the perfect steward of your gifts, showing that complete trust in You is necessary, and that giving of self is a most important part of following Him. May the offerings of our time, our talents, and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and death for us. Amen.

## The Empty Chairs – By Billie Salzman

Psalm 95: 6 and 7

“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.”

What a blessing to gather in Holy Cross Lutheran Church to worship the Lord! We are privileged to be able to worship every Sunday, the earlier or later service, or both, as we choose, and other special services throughout the year. However, we are aware that we have some absent members. When we see someone missing in our fellowship this may be for a variety of reasons.

1. Have they moved out of the area?
2. Is their work schedule interfering?
3. Do they have a special need that we may address?
4. Are we maintaining a nurturing environment for them?

Every member should be able to experience an atmosphere to grow spiritually and to have a sense of belonging and identity. Creating such an environment needs a loving atmosphere, with each member taking a personal interest in others.

What is the best way to begin connecting with our absent friends? Let's not just depend on the Pastor, the Elders, or a church board alone to make this connection. Let us all pray for them, and in love, reach out to reclaim our absent friends.

1 Thessalonians 4:9 and 10b NIV

“Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. Yet we urge you brothers to do so more and more.”

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone for helping to make a very successful Yard Sale happen. Thank you for your donations, time and your generous support of the event. It is because of the generous donations of time, talent and treasures that the sale was a success. Many people dedicated so much to this sale. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

# APRIL 2014 CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

A motion was made and approved to accept the March church council minutes with a minor correction.

**Pastor's Report**—Midweek Lenten worship services were well attended this year. So far this year three weddings have been scheduled and pre-marital counseling sessions will soon begin. There are some members volunteering with office duties. Joan Opyd and Natalie Cameron were publically brought into membership at Holy Cross at the 10:30 a.m. service.

**Treasurer's Report**—General Fund is in better shape but the Trustee Repair Fund is quite low due to the cost of snow removal and furnace repair.. There is \$170 in the 75th Anniversary Fund.. Motion made and approved to accept the Treasurer's report.

**Elders**—There are three new elders. Members will be allocated to the Elders so a new church directory will be done.

**Evangelism**— The "Cross in My Pocket" ministry will be resumed. Evangelism committee will help with the Community Meal.

**Education**—The Sunday morning Bible Class will continue during the Summer. The Easter Egg Hunt was well attended with 56 children and 50 adults. The spaghetti dinner VBS fund raiser was cancelled.

**Trustees**—Terry Vrshek and his son washed and waxed the Fellowship Hall floor. They also painted the wall behind the altar.

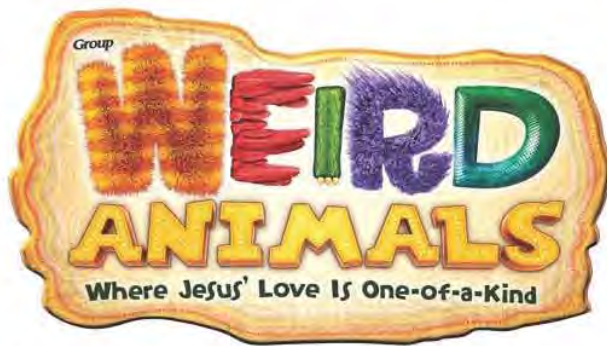
**Social Ministry**— a large donation was received from First Lutheran Church, Blue Island.

**Christian Organizations**—Wednesday evening Lenten refreshments went well.

**Community Meals** will be held on the second Tuesday of every month at 5-6:30 p.m.

**DON'T  
BELIEVE  
IN LUCK  
BELIEVE +  
IN  
JESUS**





# 2014 Vacation Bible School Registration Form

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
 (708) 597-5209  
 4041 W. 120th St.  
 Alsip, IL 60803  
 July 13-18, 2014  
 5:30 - 8:30 PM  
 "Weird Animals"

## Parents' Information

Parents Name:			
Address (Street):			
Address (City, State, Zip):			
Home Phone:		Cell Phone:	
Email:		Family Church:	

## Childrens' Information

Child 1 Name:		Birthdate:		Grade in Fall:	
Child 2 Name:		Birthdate:		Grade in Fall:	
Child 3 Name:		Birthdate:		Grade in Fall:	

Special Needs (Allergies of all kinds):

**AUTHORIZED ADULTS** to pick up your child(ren) from VBS.

**WHEN PICKING UP CHILD(REN) PLEASE BE PREPARED to show identification.**

Name:		Phone:	
Name2:		Phone2:	
Name3:		Phone3:	

## EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name:		Relationship:		Phone:	
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How did you find out about our VBS?

## Photography Waiver

I give permission for my children to be photographed by a staff member of Holy Cross and the pictures may be used for church and VBS publicity and may be posted on the church website. Childrens' names won't be used.

### NOTE:

**A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST BE PRESENT TO SIGN THIS PRE-REGISTRATION FORM ON THE FIRST DAY OF VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.**

Date

Signature

## SERVANTS IN WORSHIP - JULY, 2014

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
06	8:00 am	Martha Stevens		Donna Judd	Geno Caban	Martha Stevens	Faith Schulz Donna Meilahn	Barbara Piekosz	Scott Vrshek
	10:30 am	Tom Griffin		Donna Meilahn	Kaitlyn Shelton	Carole Vrshek		Jeanne Simovic	Theresa Boltz
13	8:00 am	Martha Stevens			Onon Simonson	Martha Stevens	Dorothy Lux Doris Kracht	Barbara Piekosz	Scott Vrshek
	10:30 am	Tom Griffin		Faith Schulz	Carly Potts	Carole Vrshek		Jeanne Simovic	Theresa Boltz
20	8:00 am	Martha Stevens		Joy Maddox	Chris Caban	Martha Stevens	Carole Vrshek Terry Vrshek	Barbara Piekosz	Scott Vrshek
	10:30 am	Tom Griffin		Sue Wilczynski	Kaitlyn Shelton	Carole Vrshek		Jeanne Simovic	Theresa Boltz
27	8:00 am	Martha Stevens			Geno Caban	Martha Stevens	Pauline Griffin Nancy Fehser	Barbara Piekosz	Scott Vrshek
	10:30 am	Tom Griffin		Aimee Wilczynski	Carly Potts	Carole Vrshek		Jeanne Simovic	Theresa Boltz

**“Serve the Lord  
with gladness”**

— Psalms 100:2



## JULY 2014

**Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
**708.597.5209 [hclc@hc-lc.org](mailto:hclc@hc-lc.org)**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> Ashley Bahr (b)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00am Srs. Group	<b>4</b> <b>Independence Day</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>5</b> 10:00am Musicians
<b>6 Food Pantry Sunday</b> 8:00am Worship (C) (Traditional) 9:15am Bible Class 10:30am Worship (Contemporary)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5:00 pm Community Meal 7:00 pm Confirmation	<b>9</b> 4:30 pm Food Pantry	<b>10</b> 10:00am Srs. Group	<b>11</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>12</b> 9:00 am VBS Decorating 10:00am Musicians 1:00 pm VBS Makeup Rita Joyce (b) Adeline Vrshek (b)
<b>13 VBS Staff Installation</b> 8:00am Worship (Traditional) 9:15am Bible Class 10:30am Worship (C)(Contemporary)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Natalie Cameron (b)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00am Srs. Group	<b>18</b> 5:45 pm VBS Picnic	<b>19</b> 10:00am Musicians 4 pm VBS Wrapup
<b>Vacation Bible School 5:45 - 8:30 pm</b>						
<b>20</b> <b>Disciple Items Due</b> 8:00am Worship (C)(Traditional) 9:15am Bible Class 10:30am Worship (Contemporary)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Noah Beukema (b)	<b>23</b> John Knoska (b)	<b>24</b> 10:00am Srs. Group	<b>25</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>26</b> 9:30am Bd. Of Education 10:00am Musicians Thomas Griffin (b)
<b>27</b> 8:00am Worship (Traditional) 9:15am Bible Class 10:30am Worship (C) (Contemporary) 10:30am Baptism of Glen Love	<b>28</b> Hunter Damm (b)	<b>29</b> Jason Wedster (b)	<b>30</b> 9:30 am Stewardship	<b>31</b> 10:00am Srs. Group		

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - June 13-18, 5:45-8:30 pm**