

CROSSROADS



February 2007
Volume 15, Issue 1



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Lutheran Outreach Volunteers: **LOV's**

Lutheran Outreach Volunteers
proclaim the Gospel with deeds of love!



Lutheran Outreach Volunteers turned the sanctuary at Holy Cross into a food bank so that they could prepare Christmas hampers for our neighbours in need. Twenty-eight families benefited from the generosity of Holy Cross' members. Hampers included fixings for a holiday meal together with greeting cards created by members of the Sunday School and grocery vouchers provided by the Newmarket Food Pantry.

LOVs maintain a supply of emergency food boxes that are delivered to neighbours in need of a helping hand. Each week we receive calls from individuals requesting help. LOVs are trained and equipped to assist the pastor in responding to calls. Calls continue to come in throughout the year, but the cold winter months require folks to spend precious dollars keeping warm. Sadly some of our neighbours must make difficult choices when it comes to budgeting. Calls from our neighbours in need generally request help with: food to tide people over until they can get help from other sources, vouchers to purchase pharmaceuticals (cold and flu remedies not generally covered by social services), bus tokens, advice or advocacy. This winter, requests for help with diapers and formula have increased.

Your continued support ensures that we will be able to respond graciously to each and every call for help. To make a donation to LOV's ministry simply indicate on your offering envelope the amount of your offering that you wish to designate to LOVs. To become a Lutheran Outreach Volunteer, attend a Global Justice Committee meeting (February 6th at 7:30 pm). Plans are underway to expand this vital ministry.

They will know we are Christians by our love!

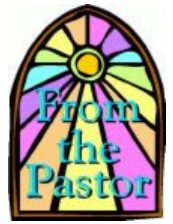


Crossroads takes on a new look! After a long hiatus Crossroads is back with a new look! This first new-look issue has been printed for your convenience and everyone will receive a copy in their church mailbox. But future issues will be emailed to your home computer's mailbox. This will ensure speedy delivery and cut our printing and mailing costs. Not to mention saving a few trees! In addition to printing copies for the few of us who do not enjoy the luxury of email, we will continue to print a limited number of copies for distribution to our visitors and friends. So please make sure that the church office has your correct emailing addresses. Feel free to give the office the email addresses of folks that you think might enjoy a copy of Crossroads! Next month we hope to have our WEB page updated so that Crossroads will also be available on the NET!

Welcome to the 21st century Holy Cross!



“Follow me! I will make you fishers...” Matt.4:19



Evangelism is not a dirty word!

TV Evangelists have left a bad taste in most Lutherans’ mouths when it comes to evangelism. Very few of us would like to be known as an evangelist. And yet the official name of the denomination to which we belong is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Each and every one of us is called to be an evangelist. But for many of us evangelism is a bit like fishing.

Most of us view fishing as a leisure pursuit for those in need of a little relaxation. So, unless you’ve been out at sea for a few days without catching anything, or faced a storm, or hauled up nets so full, that the effort of getting them aboard and safely into the hold leaves you so weak and exhausted that you don’t much care if you fall over-board, it’s difficult to understand the plight of those called to be fishers.

The Biblical imagery of Jesus calling folks to be fishers is difficult to identify with if you are accustomed to getting your fish from the grocery store or even if you’re in the habit of nibbling on sushi in trendy restaurants. When we hear the story of Jesus calling his disciples to follow him, most of us have no problem getting into a boat with Jesus and listening intently to his wonderful teachings. But when it comes to dropping the nets to fish, we often shake our heads. Getting into the boat is all well and good—after all—water is calming and therapeutic, good for the blood pressure.

Christianity is all well and good. But for most of us the real goal of our Christianity, or our faith is a bit like pleasure fishing. We are spiritual fishers, our goal is not really to catch anything, we’ve got professionals to do that for us. Most of us aren’t concerned with actually catching fish; we’re more interested in the experience of fishing. We want to get in touch with ourselves; to refresh ourselves; to reflect on the beauty of creation or to contemplate the vastness of the Creator. When we come to church we want to feel loved and nourished; to get something out of it for ourselves. We’re spiritual fishers. The boats are nice, the water is therapeutic, God is great, and creation is immense.

The only problem is, that if Jesus is to be believed, God wants us to actually go fishing, not just as a spiritual exercise but to actually catch some fish! Follow Jesus and you will be fishers of people. Jesus wants us to be evangelists. So before you let yourselves off the hook, by pointing at me and saying, “But that’s what we pay pastors for!” Let me remind you that Jesus didn’t just call clergy to follow him. Each of you have been called by Christ into the priesthood of all believers. Each of you are called to be fishers of people, and not just for the fun of it, you’re expected to land a few.

But how many of us actually think of ourselves as evangelists. Evangelists aren’t the most popular people in our society. TV evangelists screaming bad news through our

sets have gone a long way to turning us off any notions of evangelism. Is it any wonder that so many people think of “evangelism” as a dirty word?

Most Lutheran’s try to distance themselves from evangelists. We tend to point to other denominations and say, “not us, we’re not like those guys over there.” Our idea of evangelism is putting up a sign that says, “Everyone Welcome.” We’re the shy evangelists in the family of God. We’d never dream of going fishing for people, out there in the big bad world. Religion is a private matter. We don’t talk about it in mixed company. Besides Evangelical Lutheran Church is so cumbersome to say, so let’s just call ourselves the ELCIC and with a bit of luck people will forget that we are evangelical!

“Follow me! I will make you fishers of human beings!” Each of us is called by Christ to be fishers of people. Christianity is not a spectator sport. There are no armchair faithful. Everyone is expected to be out on the water, all hands on deck, everyone is expected to help cast those nets, and everyone needs to help haul them in. The trouble is most of us are still at the stage where we can do little more than practice casting. We’re stuck in our own back yard, with that little rubber weight on the end of our line, playing at being fishers. And we’re going to stay there until we’re sure we’ve got it right.

But evangelism isn’t nearly as frightening as it sounds. The word evangelist comes from the same root as the word angel. Angel simply means messenger. An evangelist is a messenger of the gospel and gospel simply means good news. An evangelist is somebody who delivers the good news.

Who’s afraid of delivering good news? After all messengers only run into trouble when the news is bad. How hard can it be to deliver good news? The good news of God’s love and grace as it has been revealed to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. To be an evangelist is to proclaim the gospel. The trouble is, when put that way, most people get nervous. We have been conditioned by our culture not to talk about our religion.

Many of us are uncomfortable talking about the gospel of Jesus Christ with people we know, let alone to strangers. Proclaiming the gospel is a daunting task. So, let me give those of you who don’t like talking about your religion to strangers, some really good news! There’s more than one way to proclaim the gospel. In fact, centuries ago, St. Francis offered, prospective evangelists this advice: “Proclaim the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words.”

***Proclaim the Gospel at all times!
If necessary use words!***

To be a fisher, a catcher of people, means proclaiming the Gospel. Telling it simply. It means telling it the way it was with Jesus, using words, if necessary, but not necessarily. God loves us and God wants us to share that love with one another. Jesus made fishers out of Peter, James, and John not with propositions, but through personal example; not by using promotional material or fancy words, but by who Jesus was. When Jesus caught people, he didn't do so by throwing out a net to corral, control, or manipulate them. People were caught by the way Jesus lived in the Spirit of God, in the Spirit of the original creation. By the way Jesus walked, the way of the cross, when he could have taken another way. People were caught by the way Jesus brought health to those who were sick, hope to those in despair, fellowship and love to those who had been fed the bad news that they did not matter. Jesus made disciples by the way he lived, by the way he died, and by the way Christ rose from the dead. Jesus calls us to fish in just the same way. By being caught ourselves in the creative Spirit of God in which Jesus lived. By seeking to live, as Jesus did, lives of reconciliation and peace that attract others to that Spirit.

Jesus calls us to fish by being creators of good news, not just talkers about it. So, I am delighted that we here at Holy Cross are providing so many opportunities for the followers of Jesus here in this congregation to be more than spectators.

Our Mission Statement is written with words and by the grace of God, we at Holy Cross have been called to live out those words as *"We gather as an open community of Christians, responding to God's call. ...We gather to support and nourish one another in the faith, equipping people to live the Gospel in the world."*

Our **SUNDAY SCHOOL** for all ages—adults and children—is training evangelists. So come and participate. Our **OUTREACH MINISTRY PLAN** outlines several opportunities for each and every member to become involved as evangelists in our community. So, pick up a copy and prayerfully consider what you can add to the plan. Our **LOV MINISTRY** is being good news to our neighbours in need. So, make a donation, or sign up as a volunteer. Our **GLOBAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE** is unveiling two proposals in this newsletter. So, read carefully and let committee members know what you think of their initiatives. Our **WORSHIP COMMITTEE** continues its work *"to provide worship that is diverse, flexible, thought provoking and relevant to our challenging times.* Our congregation strives *"to be a voice for compassion and we actively seek justice and peace in the world."* Being a member of Holy Cross is not a spectator sport. We are called to be fishers by seeking to live, as Jesus did, living lives of reconciliation and peace that attract others to the Spirit of God. Jesus calls us to fish by being creators of good news. Proclaim the Gospel at all times. If necessary use words. This may mean trying new things; things we have never tried before. Peter after all

knew how to fish, he was a commercial fisher. Soon, however Peter was off healing people, teaching people, catching people for Jesus and even writing scripture.

Like Peter, we may not think of ourselves as evangelists, and certainly not writers of scripture. But one day, a letter you write to someone might bring that someone closer to God. What's that if its not scripture?

One day, you will extend your hand to someone and they will be guided by your wisdom. What's that if its not restoring sight to the blind?

One day, you will help someone crawl out of a hole they have dug for themselves. What's that if its not releasing the captives?

One day, you will sit at the bed-side of a friend, and they will breath their last breath. What's that if its not comforting the dying?

One day, you will walk alongside a stranger and help them to find their way.

One day you will reach out to care for someone and they will be healed.

One day you will reach out and hold someone and they will know that they are not alone.

One day, you will stand up for someone who is too weak to stand. What's that if its not seeking justice?

One day, you will say something that will cause someone else to say, "you know, I never thought of things that way before." And you will have become a teacher.

Proclaim the Gospel always. If necessary use words. Christ does not call us because we are worthy or because we are qualified for the jobs Christ calls us to do. We are worthy and can do everything Christ did and more because Christ calls us. Do not be afraid, from now on you will be catching people. What's that if its not good news.

What are you if you are not Christ's messengers? Called and ordained to the priesthood of all believers. It's time to cast our nets, you fishers; you evangelists!

Shalom,
Pastor Dawn





Sunday School for All Ages
@ 9:30am on Sunday Mornings

The first term of our Sunday School experiment has been an overwhelming success. Thanks to the dedicated work of our Sunday School teachers, our children are thriving as they enjoy the full hour before worship.

And the children shall lead them!



After proclaiming the Good News of Christ's birth, the Sunday School took a break. But they are back in full swing at 9:30 on Sunday mornings!



Calandra Dermott shows the adults how it's done! Proclaiming the Good News from Holy Cross' pulpit!



The Stories of Genesis



Is there a God? Who is God?
How did the world begin?
Why is that in the Bible?
Creation? In whose image?
Evolution? The fall? Paradise lost? Who wrote this stuff?
What does this mean for us?
What's a cubit?

Beginning:

Sunday February 4th at 9:30am
Adult Sunday School will study
the Book of Genesis

Beginning with:



**"Adam and Eve:
What a pear?"**



Saturday February 17th
@ 8:30 am
The best breakfast in town!



In preparation for our Annual Meeting Church Council is working to fine tune our **Outreach Ministry Plan** and needs your wisdom. If you haven't already picked up a copy, you can pick up a copy from the church office and soon it will be posted on our soon to be updated website. Please prayerfully consider this plan and let us know how you think it can be improved. **New Council Members:** we are calling you to prayerfully consider serving a term on Church council! **Our next council meeting will be held on Monday February 5th at the Meyers.** **Annual Reports:** will be ready February 11th so that you are well informed to meet the challenges of our **Annual Meeting Sunday February 18th.**



Global Justice Committee

In addition to our LOV Ministry, the Global Justice Committee has developed two proposals for outreach to our neighbours in need. Details of these proposals are included on pages to, and we encourage everyone to read and carefully consider ways that you might want to participate in proclaiming the Gospel with deeds. **Our next meeting will be held Tuesday February 6th at 7:30 pm** and we invite you to join us as we seek ways to usher in the Reign of God here in this place and time. **Members of the Global Justice Committee will proclaim the Good News when they preach the sermon on Sunday February 11th.**

Each Sunday, dedicated volunteers ensure that our Nursery is staffed so that our children can safely play while we worship. If you would like to offer your services to this important ministry please speak to Rose Orfanakos or to Pastor Dawn.



Worship Committee

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 13th at 7:30 pm
We always welcome New Members to attend our meetings. It's a great way to learn more about worship! **Members of the Global Justice Committee will proclaim the Good News when they preach the sermon on Sunday February 11th.** Plans are underway for **Lenten Evening Worship** on Wednesdays beginning with our **Ash Wednesday service on February 21st at 7:30.** The **Guitar Group** is preparing to lead our **Earth Day Worship on Sunday March 18th.**

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday FEBRUARY 18TH



After our Worship a light lunch will be served and then we will begin our meeting. As always: it is vital that members plan to attend this important decision making meeting of our congregation!

Shrove Tuesday

Carnival, which comes from a Latin phrase meaning "removal of meat," is the three day period preceding the beginning of Lent, the Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday immediately before Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of the Lenten Season

Tuesday February 8th, **Shrove Tuesday**, is named for the "shriving" or confessing that was traditional on this day before beginning Lent. This day is also known as Mardi Gras, or "Fat Tuesday," because it was a time for eating the things from which one would abstain during Lent. Pancake suppers are traditional, as they are a way of using up some of the ingredients not needed during Lent.



**Tuesday February 20th
at 6:30 pm**

Come along and enjoy some great fellowship, terrific pancakes, and outlandish Mardi Gras antics, all in a spirit of fun.

We'll also use this opportunity to raise the cash to buy some equipment for our teaching ministry.

Our FaithLife Financial Chapter has graciously offered to sponsor the fun! So, bring your cheque-book and we'll raise some money!



Wednesday February 21st following the feasting of Shrove Tuesday Christians gather on Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of Lent's baptismal preparation for Easter. In a culture where "image is everything," we deliberately and ritually disfigure ourselves, bearing on our foreheads the sign of the cross smudged in the dark grit of ashes. On this day, the people of God receive an ashen cross on the forehead (a gesture rooted in baptism), hear the solemn proclamation to keep a fast in preparation for Easter's feast, and contemplate anew the ongoing meaning of baptismal initiation into Christ's death and resurrection. As ashes are marked on our foreheads, we confront the ash of our existence: those moments, circumstances, and relationships in which we truly remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. The cross marked on our foreheads in baptism, and again on this

day in ash – provides a most powerful prayer. This prayer is always available to us so that, when we are too afraid, ashamed, or angry to turn to God, when we cannot put our thoughts together, let alone find the words, we can make the sign of Christ's cross and remember who we are: children of God and inheritors of eternal life. We remember how very much God loves us and that on Christ's cross, the ashes of our existence become invitations to new life.



Ash Wednesday, February 21st marks the beginning of Lent's 40 days. Lent is the season of preparation leading up to Easter, the most sacred feast of the Christian year. For centuries, Lent has been observed as a special time of self-examination. Lent is a time for concentration on fundamental values and

priorities. The custom is to mark the season of Lent by giving up some things and taking on others. Both can serve to mark the season as a holy time of preparation.

The season of Lent is forty days plus the six Sundays. This is because Sundays are celebrations of Jesus' resurrection and are always looked on as mini easter celebrations.

The disciplines of Lent are the tools for transformation. Each is an indispensable part of a spiritual ecology. We are called to **the Lenten fast**. Fasting is an ecological concern, a matter of keeping life in balance. Over-consumption is as bad for the soul as it is for the waistline. Lent is the season for spring training of the soul. We need to name the toxins that are poisoning us. We need to determine what is essential, let go of the extra baggage, and focus on the one or two chief tasks that deserve our greatest effort – here, now.

We are also called to **a life of prayer**. A genuine spiritual ecology does not happen in isolation; ecological balance is always holistic, and that means we must be in communication with others. A world cut off from God can never hope to be a place of life. Lent is the time for us to have a deep heart-to-heart with the creator who made us, the redeemer who claims us, the sanctifier who brings us to renewal. Lent is a time for listening and speaking, for entering the cycle of communication that will lead to life.

We are also called to **acts of kindness** toward others. The ecological dialogue into which we enter with God naturally leads to our deep connection with those around us. Although Lent invites a deeper inward discipline, it also moves us beyond ourselves and toward others. Following the lead of Jesus, we are to be for others in a way that is transforming not only for us, but for those about whom we are concerned.

Over all this Lenten activity hovers the Greek word of the season: **metanoia**, the "new mind" that is the fruit of the Spirit, the turn-around repentance that brings our old life to an end and prepares us for the new life that comes from Christ's open tomb.

Above all Lent is a time to come to life!

LENTEN WORSHIP
WEDNESDAYS IN LENT
AT 7:30 PM
HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER:
SUNG VESPERS SERVICE
KEEP A HOLY LENT

Sundays in Lent

Throughout Lent, the worship services of the church take on a simpler tone, appropriate to this season. Flowers are absent from the sanctuary. The cross is veiled. The word "Alleluia" is not used in the words of the liturgy or hymns. Confession is a means by which we mark our efforts to repent and are reconciled to God by God's grace and mercy.



Do you enjoy gathering over a cup of coffee after worship to chat with friends or to refresh yourself before heading home? Have you considered becoming a coffee time host? Currently we have several families who provide for our post worship gatherings and we would love to have a few additional families or friends who will help out. It is not a difficult task—only requires about 15 minutes before and staying a bit after the service to clean up. Many hands do lighten the work. Perhaps two individuals would like to host together.

Please consider adding your name to the list.
Speak to any coffee host or Sylvia (905-895-0875)
and we will provide you with the necessary details.
Baking is not required!



Martin Luther,
Renewer of the Church 1546
Commemoration Day –
February 18th

For those in the habit of remembering the work of Martin Luther on Reformation Day, this commemoration may seem out of place. But it is customary to remember saints on the day of their death, their "heavenly birthday." On this day Luther died at the age of 62. For a time, he was an Augustinian monk, but it is his work as a biblical scholar, translator of the Bible, reformer of the liturgy, theologian, educator, and father of modern German, which holds him in our remembrance. In Luther's own judgement, the greatest of all of his works was his catechism written to instruct people in the basics of faith. And it was his baptism that sustained him in his trials as a reformer.

Happy
St. Valentine's Day



Every February we celebrate Valentines Day by giving flowers, candy and cards to those we love. We do this in honor of Saint Valentine. You may be wondering, "Who is St. Valentine"?

Legend has it that Valentine was a priest who served during third century Rome. There was an Emperor at that time by the name of Claudius II. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those that were married. With this thought in mind he outlawed marriage for young men in hopes of building a stronger military base. Supposedly, Valentine, decided this decree just wasn't fair and chose to marry young couples secretly. When Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions he had him put to death.

Another legend has it that Valentine was an imprisoned man who fell in love with his jailor's daughter. Before he was put to death he sent the first 'valentine' himself when he wrote her a letter and signed it 'Your Valentine', words still used on cards today.

Perhaps we'll never know the true identity and story behind the man named St. Valentine, but this much is for sure...February has been the month to celebrate love for a long time, dating clear back to the Middle Ages. In fact, Valentines' Day ranks second only to Christmas in number of greeting cards sent.

Another valentine gentleman you may be wondering about is Cupid (Latin cupido, "desire"). In Roman mythology Cupid is the son of Venus, goddess of love. His counterpart in Greek mythology is Eros, god of love. Cupid is often said to be a mischievous boy who goes around wounding both gods and humans with his arrows, causing them to fall in love.

Lent

Lent is a time to take the time
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events
get up and walk around in us,
a time to intensify
a time to hover over
the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem
or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder a time to wonder....

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

*by Anne Weems, Kneeling in Jerusalem,
(Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992)*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF DECEMBER 31ST 2006

REVENUE

Gifts	\$ 1,000.00	From outside donors
Challenge Fund	999.76	
Fund Raising	8,324.05	Fund raising events
Sunday School and Youth Offerings	47.39	Support by Sunday School/Youth
Rental income	76,076.60	Regular support for the General
Rental income – Armitage Daycare	25.00	Income from outside source
Offerings – budgeted expenses	12,900.00	Income from Day Care
Offerings – non-budgeted expenses	126.00	Designated offerings
Interest income	715.80	Non-budgeted offerings
Designated Offering Targets	959.47	Income from Bank Account
Gain on sale of Parsonage	3,361.00	Designated offerings
	233,900.33	
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 338,435.40</u>	

EXPENSES

Administration	\$ 4,661.54	Office supplies, postage, etc.
Benevolence	2,500.00	Offering to Eastern Synod
Book Allowance	822.52	For Pastor
Conferences and Workshops	1,350.00	Pastor and Laity
Continuing Education	280.00	
CPP and EI expense	2,590.39	Pastor's employee benefits
Education - Sunday School	1,068.17	S.S. Curriculum & Supplies
- Nursery	-	Supplies, etc. for Nursery
- Confirmation	342.41	Supplies, etc. for Confirmation
- Baptism	104.70	Pamphlets
- Adult Education	86.85	Supplies for Adult Ed.
Equipment Purchases	-	
Health and Dental	1,254.00	Pastor's employee benefits
Hospitality	480.07	Coffee, etc.
Housing Equity/Allowance	7,837.44	For Pastor
Insurance-Parsonage	791.21	
Insurance-Wayne Drive	1,846.15	
Maintenance - Parsonage	528.19	
Maintenance – Wayne Drive	1,420.30	
Mileage	4,813.16	Mileage for Pastor/Supply
Mortgage - Parsonage	8,750.00	
Mortgage - Wayne Drive	13,500.00	
Musicians	4,985.00	
Non Budgeted Expenses	2,580.41	Furnace for Parsonage
Pastors Discretionary Fund	247.26	To assist those in need.
Pension	3,516.12	Pastor's employee benefits
Retired Pastors Pension Fund	2,637.00	
Salary	31,000.08	For Pastor
Snow Plowing	2,018.74	
Supply Pastors	150.00	
Telephone and Fax	2,019.17	
Utilities - Parsonage	3,426.86	
Utilities - Wayne Drive	5,224.21	
Witness	55.21	
Worship	1,613.33	Bulletins, candles, supplies etc.
	114,500.49	
-Designated offerings payments	3,361.00	
Total Expenses	<u>\$117,861.49</u>	

Financial Situation:

December 31, 2006

December 31, 2005

Accounts Distribution:

Building Fund	\$ 8,118.16	\$ 7,627.48
Memorial Fund	2,401.58	2,362.60
Continuing Education Fund	627.97	1,266.39
General Fund	218,794.97	(1,778.94)
New Neighbour Program Fund	-	1,429.65
L.O.V. Fund	690.65	202.18
Internship Fund	8,002.26	-
Last month on deposit	-	-
Pension/Taxes Payable	-	742.08
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 238,635.59	\$ 11,851.44

Distributed as:

Current Account Bank	(4,358.04)	\$ 174.88
Designated Funds G.I.C.'s	10,519.74	13,544.33
Parsonage Sale G.I.C.	233,900.33	-
G.S.T. receivable	1,130.44	859.11
Accounts receivable	-	-
Fixed asset/mortgage payable	(2,556.88)	(2,726.88)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 238,635.59	\$ 11,851.44

A detailed financial report will be made available in the 2006 Annual Report



Members of Holy Cross gathered to worship with our Bishop, the Reverend Michael Pryse. During the worship the Chair of Church Council presented a cheque for \$27,000.00 – our congregation’s tithe offering representing 10% of the net proceeds of the sale of the parsonage.

**God has blessed us
to be a blessing to others!**

Stewardship

The first question to ask is not “What do I need to give?”
but;
“How can my giving reflect something of God’s love for me?”

Give to God what is right not what is left.

Giving Guidelines:

Joyfully	2 Cor. 9:7
Regularly	1 Cor. 16:2
Proportionally	1 Cor. 16:2
Responsibly	1 Cor. 16:3



Global Justice Committee NEW OUTREACH MINISTRY PROPOSALS

Holy Cross's Global Justice committee is excited to propose two new outreach ministry opportunities to our congregation! Since the spring of 2006 Vicar Lionel has been leading the Global Justice Committee in a decision making process to help the committee determine some new directions for its outreach efforts. What follows below are the results of the committee's decision.

TWO NEW DIRECTIONS

The Global Justice Committee is seeking to enter into two new partnership ministries, with two programs of Crosslinks Housing and Support Services. The Global Justice Committee is seeking to initiate:

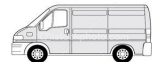
- **A meal drop in ministry:** at Crosslink's Leslie Street Housing Project
- **An advocacy ministry:** to help the Crosslink's Street Outreach Van obtain donated items (clothing, runners, food) from a variety of businesses

WHAT IS CROSSLINKS?

Crosslinks is a non profit organization serving York Region. It offers housing, community support and a street outreach van serving homeless adults and also adults who are living with mental health concerns. Crosslinks is a York Region based program of a larger organization called: LOFT (Leap of Faith Together) COMMUNITY SERVICES. LOFT is formerly known as Anglican Houses. LOFT offers supportive housing, outreach and community support services to homeless people with mental health, addiction and physical health challenges at over 60 sites throughout the GTA and York Region.

WHAT WILL THESE TWO MINISTRIES INVOLVE? What follows is a description of each ministry. Each of these two new directions will involve different people with different gifts and interests.

Partnership Ministry With the Crosslinks -- STREET OUTREACH VAN



Crosslinks operates a street outreach van which offers support to homeless and street involved adults. This is a partnership program between Crosslinks and York Region Health Services. The van is equipped with food, clothing, and health information including harm reduction practices - needle exchange and contraceptives. The van is staffed by one mental health worker and one registered nurse and it operates throughout York Region supporting homeless adults.

Our Partnership Ministry with the Street Outreach Van will involve gathering a team of Holy Cross members whose role would be to **advocate** with businesses for vital supplies for the van (clothing, shoes, food, sleeping bags, etc). Management staff for the Crosslinks Street Outreach Van program would furnish a list of items which are regularly needed by van staff. The Holy Cross Van Advocacy Team would work to develop 'partnerships' with corporations who would agree to assist the outreach van by providing the ongoing donation of necessary items.

HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED?

An Advocacy Team of 3 – 4 volunteers would be needed, one of whom would serve as a coordinator to facilitate the effort and to maintain regular communication with Crosslinks. Once the team has established relationships with specific businesses, the work would then focus mainly on obtaining donations as needed/available.

WHO WOULD TRAIN THE ADVOCACY TEAM?

Crosslinks will train volunteers interested in the Van Advocacy Team.

FUNDING

No funds are needed for this ministry. The main resource needed is the time, talent and people-power of a group of enthusiastic 'askers' and 'advocates' who will "ask and seek and knock" on corporate doors on behalf of an important street outreach van program.

RATIONALE FOR THIS MINISTRY

The Manager of the Outreach Van program indicated that this would be an extremely helpful ministry for Holy Cross to offer. Currently it is the van staff themselves who have to spend precious time seeking the donation of supplies for the street outreach van. A Holy Cross Van Advocacy Team would free up the van staff to be on the road as much as possible.

WHAT ABOUT OUR EXISTING LOV MINISTRY?

These two new ministries will complement our Lutheran Outreach Volunteers (LOV) Food Box ministry. For instance, through our advocacy ministry on behalf of the street van we will learn a lot about resources for low income people through our interaction with van staff, which will benefit our ministry with LOV clients. And as we establish partnerships with businesses who are willing to donate items to the street van, these business relationships will also assist our LOV food box ministry since these businesses may also agree to donate items to our LOV food box ministry.

Similarly, our drop in meal ministry at the Leslie Street residence (below) will exist as an extension of our LOV food ministry, with the added component of a ministry of presence through which we will prepare and share a meal together. And what we learn from our ministry of presence at the Leslie Street residence will enhance our existing LOV ministry.

DROP-IN MEAL MINISTRY: With the Leslie Street Housing Program Of Crosslinks.



The Global Justice committee has consulted with the staff of the Leslie Street Housing program. What we learned is that residents could greatly benefit from a regular meal drop in program in their residence.

What is the Leslie Street Housing Program?

The Leslie Street House is one of several residential programs of Crosslinks. The Leslie Street housing program offers independent living with staff support for up to 17 individuals who are living with chronic mental health concerns and who were formerly homeless or at risk of homelessness. Residents get their own room with a private washroom and small kitchen and fridge. Residents also share common spaces such as a larger main kitchen and a recreation room with a TV/VCR and games. Staffing is available 16 hours per day at this location which is considered a “high support” house. Two staff assist residents with meals, medications, problem solving, and other activities of daily living as required. A van is available to help residents with shopping trips and getting to appointments. Residents are welcome to live at the Leslie Street House as briefly or as long as they require. While the supports provided are geared toward increasing each resident’s independence and ability to live in the community, not all residents are able to move out into the community and so the program’s support model is flexible and recognizes the uniqueness of each situation.

RATIONALE FOR THIS MINISTRY

The meal program would offer residents of the Leslie Street Housing Program an opportunity to share a free meal in a congregate dining setting within their home. Residents of the Leslie Street Housing program live on fixed incomes and welcome the practical support of a free meal and also the emotional support of a drop in program offering friendship, support and hospitality.

Holy Cross volunteers would share with residents as much as possible in the preparation and the sharing of the meal itself. Staff would also be available to offer any needed support during the drop in meal. This ‘working with’ model creates opportunities for learning new life skills within the safety of a shared meal in a supportive setting.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AND FREQUENCY OF MEAL DROP IN

This proposal is based on offering one meal per month. The frequency of future drop in meals depends on how many volunteer teams we can build. Each team would consist of four people. We would also need a few “relief” volunteers to help out if needed. To create consistency and build community, the team would be responsible for coordinating one regular meal per month. As interest grows in future years we could create additional teams and apply for more funds to increase the number of monthly meals. Times and days for the meals would be based on the wishes of the members of the residence. At an upcoming house meeting residents are being asked for their feedback regarding our proposal. Holy Cross volunteers would focus as much as possible on a ‘working with’ model to empower and encourage resident participants in sharing meal preparation and clean up. Finally, The Drop in Meal Ministry at the Leslie Street House would require one overall coordinator to facilitate the entire effort. This person would maintain communication between volunteers, the Leslie House program, and Holy Cross’s Global Justice Committee.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Crosslinks would offer orientation and training for all Global Justice Committee members involved in the Leslie Street House meal drop in ministry. During any given drop in meal, two staff would also be present and available at the Leslie Street house to support members and volunteers involved in any way necessary.

BUDGET

Number of meals:	14 meals (2 monthly)	
Number of people per meal:	17 residents + 2 staff + 3 volunteers = 22	
Cost per meal:	\$7.00 per person	
Cost:	14 X 22 X 7 = 3,168	
14 meals for one year		2,156.00
<u>Cooking supplies and common food supplies for the residence</u>	<u>500.00</u>	
Total		2,656.00

BUDGET LINE FOR KITCHEN SUPPLY/COMMON KITCHEN FOODS

These funds would be used to buy common kitchen utensils and foods for the common kitchen in the residence. For example, pots, pans, fresh fruit or other seasonal foods to be kept in the common kitchen for all residents. Holy Cross volunteers would seek the direction/advice of Leslie Street House’s staff in determining what foods/kitchen items may be helpful from time to time.

FUNDING

The Global Hunger and Development Appeal (GHDA) of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is a national ELCIC program addressing the global realities of poverty and hunger. GHDA offers funds on a synod level (through our Eastern Synod office) to local programs addressing the realities of hunger and poverty. We are eligible to apply for these funds.

IMPLEMENTATION UPON FUNDING

Once funds have been released we would be in the position to draw up a formal partnership agreement with the Leslie Street Housing Program of Crosslinks outlining the details of our ministry. Crosslinks will proceed with training Holy Cross volunteers and the drop in meal ministry would commence.

EVALUATION AND RE-APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

Implementation of the program would include evaluation and reporting as required to GHDA including re-application for funds for the following year.

A story about Bert from Crosslinks

(From www.crosslinks.org)

Bert (not his real name) came to the attention of the Street Outreach Van Project from its' earliest days - approximately two years ago. He is an older gentleman, attired in layers of clothing, with poor hygiene and grooming reflective of "life on the street." He had no permanent home, no identification, and no personal belongings. Both his pride and his suspicious nature interfered with his ability to trust or accept what we could offer. Through perseverance and consistent caring messages from Crosslinks outreach staff, he started to share his world.

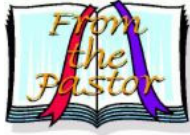
He was known in the Richmond Hill area, and for years he had roamed from verandah to verandah of abandoned homes. His serious mental illness interfered in his ability to communicate and to settle in one spot. He'd become well known at two landmarks - a McDonald's and a local Coffeetime donut shop which became message centres for us and the sites of meetings with Bert. Gradually he began to accept some clothing and then some food from the van, finally allowing the van staff to assist him to move into a boarding home.

This arrangement didn't last long because Bert found it too expensive, so he rented a verandah from an unscrupulous landlord. It was not heated, and was furnished with just a cot- he considered this too expensive as well. During this time the van staff gained the knowledge that Bert was not receiving all of his entitlement. He begrudgingly agreed to let them help him get I.D. and complete the paperwork for him to access full benefits.

With the opening of our newest home on Leslie Street in Newmarket, the van staff convinced Bert to "just take a look" at the place. He refused to go there on his own and would only go with the van staff. The Coordinator of the Homeless Initiatives program came to meet Bert. "I don't think I'll like her " Bert remarked, but after much persuasion from the van staff, he agreed to meet her and within minutes they were chatting and sharing muffins! Bert told her that our home was more than he could hope for, but it was a BIG decision... He agreed to "think about it."

Several days later, when he next saw the van staff, Bert proudly announced that he would move in! We welcome Bert's arrival in our new program - the place he can call home for the first time in many, many years.

You Asked the Pastor



“Why is God doing this to me?”

Often, when people find themselves in the midst of difficult times, they cry out in frustration. One of the questions that I am often asked is “Why would a good and gracious God send me such misery?” Why is God doing this to me? It is a question that people have been asking from the beginning of time. I do not have an answer? But our faith does offer us a way of exploring such questions.

When we cannot understand the whys and wherefores of the misfortunes that befall us, we tend to point an accusing finger at God and demand to know why God who is supposed to be good would send such trouble our way. In an effort to understand our misfortunes, we tend to paint God as some sort of cosmic puppeteer who callously pulls strings in an effort to control the ways of the world. But our God created us in God’s image and each of us comes complete with God’s gift of freedom. Often our use or abuse of that freedom, together with the use and abuse others make of God’s gift of freedom, brings heartache. Because God loves us, God desires only what is good for us. The choices we make coupled with the choices others make often get in the way of what God desires for us. As Christians we know this predicament as our “bondage to sin”. In the midst of our broken lives God works to restore goodness.

But our images of God often block our understanding of God’s role in our lives. We carve out images of an all-powerful, controlling, vengeful, judging, punishing and distant God and pray that we can find enough favour with this idol to get on with our lives. We fear that God isn’t really loving or can’t be bothered with “the likes of me.” Such sick or misguided images of God trouble many. These images typically lodge themselves in our souls when we were too young to recognize or evaluate them. But once there, they organize thought and feeling by shaping how we see.

Which of these false images of God has shaped your vision?

God, the police officer (or school principal), who punishes me if I break the rules.

God, the divine bookkeeper, like Santa keeping track of who’s naughty and nice.

God, the stern judge, who protects the innocent and punishes the guilty. People often ask, ‘why bad things happen to good people?’ because on some usually unconscious level they believe this idea.

God, the video game player, who pushes all the right buttons but is far removed from the playing field.

God, the eternally placid, the unmoved mover, who floats far above the arena of human sin and sadness, struggle, destruction and death.

God, the thief, who “takes” the ones I love.

God, the master of disaster, who orchestrates our accidents and other “acts of God.”

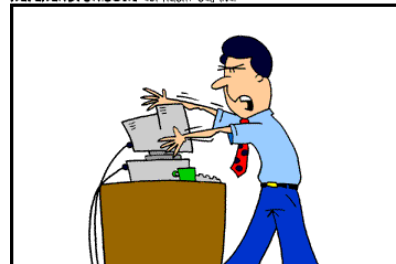
God the capitalist, who helps those who help themselves.

God in my pocket, who is with me because I succeeded, escaped disaster or won the game.

God, the goad, who will answer my prayer and bless me if I pray hard enough.

These images are far from the God of Scriptures, whose Spirit labours constantly amid human confusion and dissolution to give us life. I do not believe, nor do the wealth of images about God in Scripture teach us, that God sends bad things our way. God’s desires what is good and just and when bad things do come our way as a result of the choices we or others make, God is with us! It’s time to put away our false images for who can worship the idol god we have created. Remember that our God is a righteous God, whose love for us ensures that in all things God works for good. God is with us! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

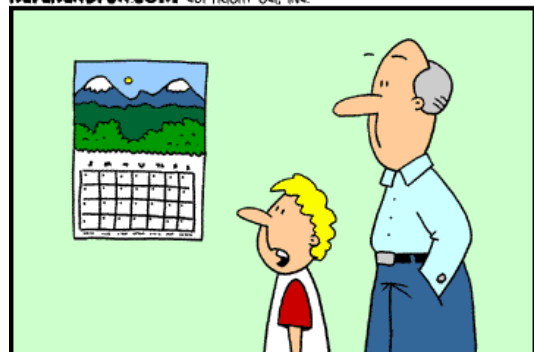
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IN THE NAME OF JESUS ... COME OUT!!!

Before we go on the WEB we’re updating our computer. So, **please ensure that we have your correct email address.** That way we can be sure to reach you with all the latest news from Holy Cross!

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(See Exodus 20:8)

01-18-1999

I WAS HOPING TO KEEP THE SABBATH DAY HOLY, BUT I CAN'T EVEN FIND IT ON THE CALENDAR

