



We Have Been Through This Before

(The following information is from an article in *The Lutheran Witness*, June/July 2020. You may access the full article at the following link: <https://blogs.lcms.org/2020/another-scourge/>)

“The production of natural resources is crippled...Business is suffering; places of amusement, schools, even the churches are closed in many and large sections, and the fear of death is tormenting many.” These words may sound like they were spoken recently by someone in our community, but they actually appeared in *The Lutheran Witness* of **October 29, 1918**, from an article titled, “The Epidemic,” by Pastor Richard Jesse

Devastating diseases have been a part of our world since the fall of human beings into sin. The current COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our lives and thrown our ordinary routines into complete chaos. So how has the church reacted in the past, and how should we react today?

If we go back to 1793, history shows that there was an epidemic of yellow fever that broke out in Philadelphia. People struggled to figure out the best ways to protect themselves. Pastor J.H.C. Helmuth continued to hold worship services during the outbreak, which may have increased the death toll among his congregation as 641 people from his Lutheran church died.

In 1918, when the Spanish flu hit the United States, one of the hardest hit cities was Philadelphia, which did little to stop the impact of the flu. Other cities did address the problem, including cancelling public worship services – known as “Churchless Sundays.” During this time it was customary among Lutherans to have family worship at home as parents read the Scripture readings for the day.

In the midst of the pandemic, there was a lot of uncertainty and fear as Pastor Helmuth wrote in his journal: “The sickness and death are all around us. Lord Jesus, help us. Do not leave us alone.” Jesus did not abandon His people then and He will never abandon us today.



While cancelling public worship services was very difficult for me to do back in March, obviously it had been done in the past during a pandemic. While I certainly thought things would be better by now, I know God is still with us and He will never leave us. In fact, this virus did not surprise God. He knew it was coming and fortunately, He allowed it to come when we had the technology to record and stream our worship services so families could see them and worship together at home.

We are doing everything we can to open our facility to public worship once again. Ideally we would like to have public worship services again on the first weekend of August, but we will let you know when we have set a definite date. In the meantime, I invite you to continue to worship with us on Facebook and YouTube and to consider ways you can show others the love of God during these challenging days.

In God's Service,


Pastor Bill Beyer



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Lutheran Women in Mission

Greetings Sisters in Christ!

After several months of canceled and/or postponed LWML activities due to COVID-19, the Board met on May 31 (while social distancing) to talk about upcoming events. We are cautiously optimistic about the following events. However, we will send notification of any changes that may arise due to continued social distancing requirements. So, make note of the following on your calendars!

- **General Meeting – August 23, 2020, 12:30pm** in the open common area of the new building. Lunch will be provided by the LWML Board members. Guest Speaker: Sarah Martin from House of Hope
- **Fall Retreat - October 24, 2020, 8:30am – 6:30pm** in the open common area of the new building (additional details will be made available in the coming months)
- **Christmas Craft Fair and Cookie Walk – December 5, 2020, 9:00am – 3:00pm** in the open common area of the new building.
- **LWML Board Elections – October 11, 2020** (additional details will be made available in the coming months)
- **2021 Spring Retreat!! - May 14, 2021 – May 16, 2021**, Fort Caswell Retreat Center, Oak Island, NC

If you find that you have some extra time these days, we welcome anyone who may be interested in helping with one (or all) of the above events. Many hands make for light work!

Congratulations to our 24 High School and College graduates! Unfortunately, we were not able to recognize the graduates at our yearly reception, but we did send cards to each and wish them much success in the future endeavors.

Is your Mite Box getting a little full?? Feel free to drop it off at the church during business hours. You can either ring the bell outside the church or call the church after you arrive, and someone will come out and collect your box. Your Mite Box donations help to fund many Mission Grants such as, Water and the Word for Rural Schools in Kenya, and Restoring Hope for Detroit Children and Families, Camp Restore in Detroit.



Did you know that Holy Cross LWML is on Facebook? You can request to join LWML Facebook at: www.holyrossclayton.com/lwml. We will use Facebook as one of our sources to provide information on upcoming events.

We pray that you stay healthy, safe and remain in His loving Care. We look forward to the day when we can all be together again.

Sheila Hirt, Communications Chair

You Can Stop Public Worship, But You Can't Stop The Church

One of the things that I have always enjoyed about our church facility is that it is a place that is used seven days a week. While this pandemic has prevented us from using the facility for all of our different ministries, it hasn't stopped our ministries. In fact, while we are going through an incredible challenge right now, I believe God doesn't want us to just get through this crisis. I believe He wants us to thrive, maybe even start new ministries during these challenging days.

In order for our ministries to continue and even thrive, I wanted to make you aware that several of our expenses have increased dramatically. Such as:



1) **Soap, Paper Towels, Mops, & Bleach.** While we have fewer children at our child development center this year as compared to last year, we are using more cleaning supplies every day. Plus, we have to purchase more expensive cleaning supplies that are designed to protect against the coronavirus.



2) **Hand Sanitizer and Thermometers.** These items are needed whenever a person enters the building. They will also be used when we open again for public worship services.

3) **Zoom Subscription.** In order to teach our students and have meetings with our church leaders, "Zoom" has become a necessary tool in our ministries.

4) **Live Streaming Equipment.** A camera was installed in the sanctuary and additional equipment was necessary to record and stream our worship services.



Many of you have been very generous with your financial support during this pandemic. As our expenses increase, I would like to encourage everyone to remember the church with your tithes and offerings as we seek to honor God with everything we do. There are three ways you can continue to support our ministries through your offerings:

- 1) **You can mail your offerings to the church** (2920 NC Hwy 42 West, Clayton, NC 27520).
- 2) **You can bring your offerings to the church.**
- 3) **You may give your offerings electronically.** To give online with your credit card, please go to the following link: <https://www.holycrossclayton.com/sharefaithgiving/>

God's Blessings,

Pastor Bill

Building To Serve



*To prepare God's people for works
of service, so that the body of Christ
may be built up.*

—Ephesians 4:12

We are thankful to God for his many blessings. After many months (actually years) of work and countless delays we are finally receiving our CO (Certificate of Occupancy) for our new Education Building. We can now occupy it and use it. There is still some clean-up to be finished, but that should be done in the next week or so. The retention pond is undergoing a few updates to satisfy all of the codes and inspections. We have a small amount of mulch to finish, but these are all small touch-up items. Kitchen appliances are installed and ready for use. Additional tables and chairs for our Fellowship Hall will now be ordered.

The big question is: How and when can we use our new facilities because of the restrictions placed on us as a result of the COVID-19 virus. The Youth will be able to occupy their new space immediately. The CDC will also be able to move from their temporary overflow space in the Narthex, Library etc. to the Education Building. The Finance team can move into their new office and vacate their previous space in the Library. These are some of the immediate uses, but the timing of most of the future use that involves larger groups of people will be determined by the COVID-19 restrictions.

This will likely be the last report from the Building Committee since that phase of our expansion is complete.

Thank you for your patience,
Dennis Reese

tithes AND OFFERINGS

I hope everyone is doing well during this stressful time. I would like to say I am so thankful to everyone who is sending in or dropping off their offerings. Please know, I only need one envelope per fund. During this pandemic, offerings are recorded only in the week we receive them. It would also help me if you could write a separate check for each fund that you are donating to with your offerings. If this is not possible, please mark it on the envelope and on the check that the offering is for more than one fund. I really hope to see everyone back in church as soon as restrictions are lifted.

God's peace be with you all,
BJ Johns, Financial Secretary

*Thank
YOU*

Thank you to everyone who reached out to me over the passing of my son. I am very thankful for the love, prayers, and support I felt while going through this time.

Caroline Schust

Holy Cross Youth



CONFIRMATION MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

- ◆ Due to the restrictions put out by the Governor there will not be a LOCK-IN this month.
- ◆ **S'more at the Church** Thursday, July 9th from 5:30-6:30PM.
- ◆ **ZOOM Devotion:** Wednesday, July 15th from 10am – 11am. We will talk about “Joy”. How are we living a joyful life this summer, when everything is closed. We'll take a look at some Bible passages to help us see there is joy all around us, which God has provided! Check your email and the remind app for the link.

YOUTH MINISTRY

- ◆ **ZOOM Bible Study:** Thursday's from 10:00 am – 11:00 am. We'll meet on July 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th. We will look at a study called “Different” by Jonathan Evans. Jonathan was an NFL player and now is the Chaplain for the Cowboys. He will walk us through how we are supposed to have different Foundations, Identity, Heart, and Lifestyle's as Christians. Check your email and the remind app for the link.
- ◆ **S'more at the Church** Thursday, July 23rd from 5:30-6:30PM.
- ◆ Due to the restrictions put out by the Governor there will not be a LOCK-IN this month.

YOUTH MINISTRY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SIGN-UPS

- ◆ **S'more Conversation:** Please join me for s'more's and discussion by the campfire at Holy Cross. You must meet me at the fire pit behind the playground and new building. We will dive into God's Word and play some games. S'mores will be provided. Please make sure to bring your water bottle, or a beverage with you as it is hot. You must sign up and bring a mask with you. We will follow social distancing guidelines and recommendations from the CDC. If you have any questions, please let me know. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0548ADA82DA6F85-smore1>



STEPHEN MINISTRIES

Here at Holy Cross we have 14 Stephen Ministers who are here to care for people going through life struggles. If you are going through a struggle and would like someone to walk with you on this journey please contact Rebekah.Bajwa@holycrossclayton.com or Susan Creech at smcreech@gmail.com. We are happy to connect you with one of our Stephen Ministers.

What is a Stephen Minister? A Stephen Minister is a person who offers one-to-one lay caring where they listen to their care receiver. Each Stephen Minister can have one care receiver at a time. Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

HOLY CROSS PRAYER MINISTRY

“YEAR of PRAYER 2020”



**Together as a “Church Family” we are making 2020 a
“YEAR of PRAYER”**

**In July we at Holy Cross are offering up PRAYERS for
“government officials”**

**In this stressful time of division, turmoil and great uncertainty PRAYER
is as important than ever AND is one thing we all can and should do.**

Everyone is invited to join in. It is really simple!!

**You can PRAY from home, work, in the car, anywhere and
anytime the Holy Spirit leads you to PRAY**

**Your PRAYERS can be formal or even better just have a conversation
with GOD, after all HE is your Heavenly FATHER and BEST FRIEND.**

PRIORITIZE - Set a time to do this EVERY DAY, with your whole family.

Here is an idea of what you can PRAY this Month.

DEAR Heavenly Father, You have given us a great country, founded on principles and truths from Your Word.

We PRAY for leaders, men and women who will honor You, trust You, and lead us back to You. We PRAY for servant leaders to love the things You love and who care more about others than themselves.

We pray, in the Name of the Lord Jesus, for our president, the vice president, all the Cabinet and the chief justice and associate justices of the Supreme Court to seek and receive the wisdom of God, to act in obedience to that wisdom and for the power of God to flow in their lives. We pray for the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives and for our Governor as well as all our State and local **Government officials** to find Your peace and direction, and for these men and women to act and lead according to Your Word.

We Pray further for UNITY of all Your Children in this time of turmoil and change.

We pray these things in the name of JESUS. AMEN.

We are becoming a “PRAYER SATURATED CHURCH”.

the.prayer wall

B E C A U S E P R A Y E R M A T T E R S

We are praying for—Those receiving cancer care:

- ♥ David Coleman, brother of Paul Coleman
- ♥ James Atkins
- ♥ Deshawna Zazueta, friend of Dale & Ashley Cranford
- ♥ Roger Hamann, friend of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Judy Tenenbaum, friend of George & Donna Rossetti
- ♥ Dave Zimmerman, cousin of Lizy Coleman
- ♥ Paul, brother of Chris Urban
- ♥ “Sonny” Edward C. Leigh, Sr., father of Ed Leigh
- ♥ Lois DiFruscio, friend of the Janowski Family
- ♥ Joanne Morse, friend of Ellie Shep
- ♥ Pam Denning, friend of Candice Patterson
- ♥ Tim Ziezula, relative of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Mark, brother of Todd Samsa
- ♥ Bettina, daughter of Christa Schroeder
- ♥ Bill Berry, friend of Doug Aitken

We are praying for—Those with health issues:

- ♥ Jacob Boyd
- ♥ Luke Boyd
- ♥ Mary Jane Heisey
- ♥ Elisabeth Junker
- ♥ Nancy Studley
- ♥ Kathy Savoy
- ♥ Lanny Scroggs
- ♥ Maureen McElwain
- ♥ Shirley Van Gilder
- ♥ Rebecca Lavery
- ♥ Tom Hansen
- ♥ Connie Beal
- ♥ Kathy Savoy
- ♥ Barbara Denning
- ♥ Crystanna Mosley
- ♥ Werner & Ursula Fick
- ♥ Arlene Behr
- ♥ Jo Abma
- ♥ Lucille Nicklow
- ♥ Judy Fowler
- ♥ Peggy Lorton
- ♥ Betty Jo Pitcher
- ♥ Mark Wilson
- ♥ Connie Reid
- ♥ Lillian Lundoy
- ♥ Margaret Lee
- ♥ Richard Lavery
- ♥ Betty Winkle
- ♥ Amanda Kearney, friend of Tara Webb
- ♥ Sue, grandmother of Brian Lawrence
- ♥ Lois Lintner, mother of Madonna Bennett
- ♥ Lee Hartman, Open Arms parent
- ♥ Pierce Rickman, boyfriend of Sarah Beyer
- ♥ Sherry Whalen, friend of Judy Fowler
- ♥ Little Ester, needing heart surgery
- ♥ Josiah Miller, Open Arms parent
- ♥ Spenser Goldman, grandson of Penny Schneider
- ♥ Sandy & Bill, friends of Edie Voorhees
- ♥ Payton Hudson, friend of Sarah Beyer
- ♥ Donnie Whitman, brother-in-law of Robert Bennett
- ♥ Wayne Ausley, step-father of Brandy Bjorklund
- ♥ Allan Williams, coworker of Dawn Hansen
- ♥ Joseph & Mary Littleton
- ♥ Elihu Biggers, father of Shaunna Voorhees
- ♥ Charlotte Bucklen & Steven Kelley, friends of the Coleman Family
- ♥ Craig Drenkow and Family, friends of Rebekah Bajwa
- ♥ Brian Blatchley, brother-in-law of Bill McElwain
- ♥ Steve Estes, husband of Gail Estes
- ♥ Donna, daughter of Caroline Schust
- ♥ Patty, daughter of Gayle Keen, friend of Ellie Shep
- ♥ Barbara Ekerdt Creecy, niece of Herman & Donna Steele
- ♥ Thomas Craig, brother of Caroline Schust
- ♥ Martha Gale, mother of Jamie Brannon
- ♥ James Norris, father of Meredith Marsh
- ♥ Danny McCarthy, friend of Michele Capozzi
- ♥ Stevie Tibbett, friend of Eunice Burch
- ♥ Bertha Crabtree, mother of Nancy Burgart
- ♥ James Fowler & Ryan Hudson, friends of Robin Oelrich
- ♥ Monica Clonts, sister of Blake Ball
- ♥ Faith Hicks & her daughter Grace, goddaughter of the Colemans
- ♥ Charlie & Joyce Pike, friend of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Janie Bruton, friend of Bob Lotter
- ♥ Tom & Sue Rabon, mom & stepfather of Beth Miller
- ♥ Tod & Karen, parents of Sean Pritchard
- ♥ Natalie, niece of Jerry & Karen Benditz
- ♥ Joyce Moore
- ♥ Seraphina, friend of the Pritchard family
- ♥ Gretchen Sneider & Heidi Goldman, daughters of Penny Schneider
- ♥ Evelyn Goldapple, mother of Jennifer McNally
- ♥ Matthew Marek, cousin of Robert McNally
- ♥ Amy, step-mother of Marvin Fordham
- ♥ Rosie Villamil & Mahtob Mahmoody, friends of Elisabeth Junker
- ♥ Patricia, mother of Kurt Miller

We are praying for—Those with other prayer needs:

- ♥ Lexi, friend of Olivia Bishop
- ♥ Ryan Underwood, nephew of Beth Otto

We are praying for—Those in mourning:

- ♥ Caroline Schust, mourning the death of her son, Warren
- ♥ Mary Olsen-Sinz, mourning the death of Corky Bellah

Vital Stats

Date	Online Attendance	Offerings
5/3	506 views	\$ 9,575
5/10	624 views	\$ 8,545
5/17	592 views	\$ 6,470
5/24	474 views	\$ 5,950
5/31	476 views	\$ 5,275
Direct Deposit Offering (May):		<u>\$ 13,685</u>
Total Envelope/Plate Giving:		\$ 49,500
Total offerings received thru 5/31/20:		\$231,187
Total projected offerings thru 5/31/20:		\$248,732
Avg. weekly offerings 22 weeks 2019:		\$ 12,005
Avg. weekly offerings 22 weeks 2020:		\$ 10,508
Special Gifts (to Holy Cross):		
Building Fund		\$ 8,746
MATTHEW Ministry		\$ 355
Backpack Buddies		\$ 20
2020 Mission Offerings (from Holy Cross):		
iChoose Pregnancy Support Services:		\$ 1,250
Southeastern District—LCMS		\$ 12,552

Your Ministry Team

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Bill Beyer	william.beyer@holycrossclayton.com
Dir. of Family Ministry:	Rebekah Bajwa	rebekah.bajwa@holycrossclayton.com
Admin. Assistant:	Cassy Welch	cassy.welch@holycrossclayton.com
Open Arms Director:	Cindy Elliott	openarms@holycrossclayton.com
Music Directors:	Melissa Sultan	mgsultan96@gmail.com
President:	Donna Harlow	harlow5@mac.com
Vice President:	Travis Bjorklund	bork@zombiehive.com
Board of Elders:	Ron Harrison	rshnc@nc.rr.com
	Chuck Fox	cfox13@nc.rr.com
	Tony Swann	rtraviator@nc.rr.com
	Robert Bennett	rbennett6@nc.rr.com
	Brad deCathelineau	braddecath1@gmail.com
Open Arms Board:	Jody Burgart	jodyburgart@gmail.com
Social Ministries:	Teresa Bauer	ptbauer514@aol.com
Board of Education:	Beth Otto	bethotto73@gmail.com
Board of Properties:	John Neuner	jkneuner@gmail.com
Financial Secretary:	BJ Johns	bjkjohns@gmail.com
Asst. Fin. Secretary:	Karen Hatcher	khatcher275@gmail.com
	Todd Hinton	toddhinton60@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Wilson Feick	wfeick@embarqmail.com

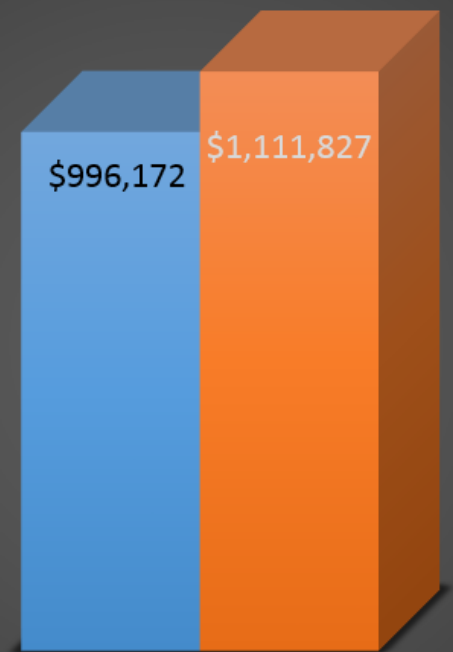


Building To Serve UPDATE

as of May 31st

To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

—Ephesians 4:12



■ Amount Received
■ 3 Year Total Pledge