
❖ Holy Cross School News ❖

“He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.” Daniel 2:21

January, 2012

Important Dates

- Jan. 3: First Day Back
 - Jan. 17: MOPS 6:30-8:30 PM
 - Jan. 13: End of Kdg. second nine-week period
 - Jan. 13: Open: Make-up day for fall teacher’s conference.
 - Jan. 16: ML King Day—Activities for Child Care children only
 - Jan. 26 Optional Evening Kdg. Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - Jan. 26 & 27: Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences
No Preschool Classes ***Kindergarten is in session**
 - January 30: Registration for 2011-2012 school year begins.
 - February 13: Registration opens to the general public
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Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences and Child Evaluations

Preschool evaluations will be coming home the end of January. Be looking for them.

As indicated at the left, Parent/Teacher conferences for preschool children will be January 26 & 27. There will be no preschool classes those days as the teachers will be busy talking to you. The teacher’s-aides will be here to provide childcare as usual for working parents. There will be conference sign-up sheets on the bulletin boards outside the classrooms the third week of January. Please sign up. Daytime and evening conferences will be available.

Babysitting will **not** be provided. Please do not bring your child/children to the conference. They will **not** be permitted to sit in on the conference either so please get a babysitter. These conferences are for the preschool only. **Kindergarten children will have school as usual on January 26 & 27.**

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Kindergarten Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences

Optional Kindergarten Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on the evening of January 26. There will be a sheet to sign up if you need a conference with Mrs. Wright as we get closer to the date.

Preschool and Kindergarten Registrations for 2012-2013

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will begin on January 30. Registration packets will be available at parent/teacher conferences on the 26th & 27th but no registration papers will be accepted before January 30th. Current and former families will be permitted to register first. Open enrollment for new families will begin on February 13. It is very important that you get your registration forms in before open enrollment begins. Our program is much in demand. We fill up fast.

If you know families who are interested in enrolling at Holy Cross, please have them call and make an appointment to observe in January or early February. I can give them registration packets at that time that can be brought in on Feb. 13th.

Parents of three-year-old children, please be considering afternoon preschool for next year. There is not room in the 4-yr-old morning class for all of the children currently enrolled in the 3-yr-old class because parents usually increase the number of days their children attend each week. The afternoon class is the same quality program and is taught by the same teacher. It meets from 12:30-3:00 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Weather Related Closings

Please remember that whenever Plain Local Schools **close** for bad weather, we will not have



preschool. Our **Kindergarten** will meet from 12:00-3:00 unless the weather is so bad the roads will still be unsafe at that time.

If Plain Local schools are **operating on a delay** due to the weather, we will have school at the regularly scheduled times.

We **are** open for child care on those days, realizing that parents still have to go to work. The only time we would close is if the roads are so bad the staff cannot get here. If that happens and no one is here when you arrive, we apologize in advance. Please bookmark our website: holycrossnorthcanton.com and read the banner headlines. Our plan for the day will be posted as early as we figure out what is going on. Bad weather is so unpredictable!

Christmas Program

The Christmas program this year was a huge success. We were so pleased to see so many people there. Our Grandparent's Performance was well attended as was the Sunday evening program. The children did a wonderful job with their music and songs.



Thank you for allowing your children to come. Thank you also for all the delicious cookies you provided. The school staff prays that your Christmas will be special. We hope that Christ was glorified through our celebration and will be further glorified through yours.

Holy Cross is Growing



God has blessed Holy Cross Lutheran church with a wonderful congregation who care deeply for the people of this community. Their prayer and dream is that all may come to know Jesus as their lord and Savior and experience a personal relationship with Him. Now it is our turn to be a blessing. We apologize for any inconvenience that may have been caused while our utilities were being hooked up.

Prayer Corner

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Jesus is for all times, all people, and all places. He was born for you as much as he was for the people of Israel 2000 years ago. He desires a personal relationship with you. Jesus was born so that you could have life, now and forever. Come worship at his manger.

God tells us to pray. It is not an option. He wants to hear from us. He wants to be the most important part of your life. Only when you let Him in can His incredible, unimaginable power work in your life. Prayer is absolutely indispensable. Let us lift up our families, our leaders, and our nation in prayer.

Mrs. Hankins's Class:

Mrs. Hankins traveling to Australia to see her family over Christmas Break.

Mrs. Swinehart for permanent employment for her son.

Mrs. Hankins's son James as he returns to college after break.

Safe Holiday travel for all.

Mrs. Ludwig's Class:

Maddison W's dad deployed with the Army.

Mrs. Wallace experiencing knee pain.

Mrs. Hockman's Class:

Hailey H. with a new baby brother.

Mrs. Hockman's daughter away at college.

Mrs. Jacobsen's Class:

Mrs. Wright's Class:

For Kate's Mom as she continues to recover from surgery

For all families traveling over the holidays.

For Others:

For people in need of employment.

For children and parents during cold and flu season.

For parents as they deal with their sometimes difficult children.

For all families, especially marriages, suffering with conflict or separation.

For children caught in the middle between parents. Pray for God's intervention.

In our School:

Pray for Holy Cross Preschool, Kindergarten and Child Care. Pray that this will be a place where your children will feel loved and secure as they grow in God's love. Pray for our staff, specifically for your child's teacher and teacher's-aide. We rely not on our own strength, but on God's to do this important work.

For Our Nation:

Protection for our citizens from terrorism.

Protection for our troops wherever they may be stationed.

For our president and legislature that they may make God pleasing decisions in light of the current world problems.

God is all powerful. He has been with us all along and will be forever.

Our World Vision Sponsored Children, Pan Pan Yang from the Peoples Republic of China and Seringe Mbacke Diouf from Senegal.

Please remember to bring in Box Tops for Education and Acme Cash Register Receipts.



MOPS

Join us for our first MOPS meeting of 2012! It will be on Tuesday, January 17th at 6:30. We'll be talking about healthy choices and healthy lifestyles. If you haven't tried out a MOPS meeting yet, this would be a great one to try! Come and see what MOPS is all about!!!

What's Happening in Our Classrooms?

The two-year-old class has spent the month of December learning about the reason for the season: Jesus! They spent each week this month learning about a different aspect of the nativity. They learned about the stable and the animals that were present at Jesus' birth. They made mangers and decided that they would not want to sleep in a bed of hay! Then they learned about Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. The children know that Jesus was a baby who needed his mother's care. They made their own baby Jesus doll to care for to remind them of God's love. They learned that people came to see Jesus and bring Him gifts because He was sent by God. "Today . . . a Savior has been born." Luke 2:11. They finished the month with a birthday party for Jesus. It has been a real blessing for the staff to hear the children's little voices singing of Jesus' birth and retelling the Christmas story as they played this month. There is no doubt that each child knows whose birthday is celebrated at Christmas. Join with your child singing, "Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday, dear Jesus. Happy Birthday to you!" (Mrs. Anne Hankins & Mrs. Debbie Swinehart—or is that Sweetheart as one of the children calls her?)

The three-year-old children enjoyed the scents and sounds of this Christmas season. They played with gingerbread play dough, sang many Christmas songs and made decorations for their homes. They learned that if it wasn't for Jesus' birthday, there would be no presents to open. The children have been challenged to get up on Christmas morning and shout "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" before opening any Christmas gifts. They talked about God's messengers, the angels, what a stable is and who lives in one, and what a shepherd does. In Bible time the children loved using what we had in the room for dramatic play to act out the CHRISTmas story! They learned that sharing the Christmas story with others can be the most special gift of all! (Mrs. Christi Ludwig & Mrs. Patty Wallace)



There are many ways to explore the wonderful story of the birth of Jesus. Through songs, finger-plays, books, and puzzles the four-year-old children learned well the lesson of the greatest gift of Christmas, Jesus. The children really enjoyed performing their Christmas songs for their families as they also learned about how the angels shared to good news with the shepherds. We pray that like the shepherds, the children will meet Jesus and know that He is God. The four-year-olds kept up with their alphabet themes. They learned about the letter I by making, and Insect, an Iguana and an Igloo. They also learned the number 5. (Mrs. Teri Hockman, Mrs. Tiffany Clay, & Mrs. Leslie Martin)

The Pre-Kindergarten class coordinated a study of the five senses with their Christmas celebration. The sights, sounds, smells, tastes and textures of Christmas are such rich sensual experiences that Jesus' birthday became even more wondrous to them. They played fun games to emphasize sight, used a sensory box to guess what objects were included for the sense of touch, smelled scented markers with their eyes closed for smell, learned sign language for hearing, and tasted juice while blind-folded for taste. The songs they sang at the Christmas program have become very special to them and they continue to enjoy singing them each day during their daily Bible Time. The emphasis has been that God gave us the best present of all when He gave us Jesus. The class nativity sets are available each day for the children to move the figures and tell the story of Jesus birth to each other. Each month the children learn a different snack-time prayer. By the end of the school year each child should know several different mealtime prayers. (Mrs. Christina



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Jacobsen & Mrs. Leslie Martin)

The Kindergartens spent December off in space! They learned about the solar system, different planets, the moon and stars as they used their imaginations to blast off into space each day. They continued their reading and phonics with letters R, K, and B. Their Wally Word chart is completely full and they are becoming more confident readers with each passing day! They are so excited about all of the new books they are reading. The Kindergarteners are also working on writing good sentences and are using their best spelling, while also remembering to use capital letters and punctuation. The children focused on Jesus being born and worshiping the newborn King. God is a great big God, but he still has time for each and every one of us! We are thankful that God sent us the greatest gift of all – JESUS! (Mrs. Heather Wright)



Holy Cross Worship Schedule

We would be delighted if you could join us on Sunday mornings for worship and Sunday School.

See the December newsletter of a complete schedule of our Christmas & New Year's Praise Celebrations.

7:30 Liturgy of Praise Worship Service

8:45 Majestic Praise Worship Service

10:00 Sunday School for all ages

Holiday Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:

5:30 PM: Contemporary Service

7:00 PM: Songs of Christmas followed by

7:30 PM: Blended Worship

11:00 PM: Traditional Worship
with Communion

Christmas Day:

10:00 AM: Blended Worship with
Communion

New Years Eve Evening:

7:00 PM Service of Praise and Thanksgiving



Dress Your Children for the Weather

We like to take children outside to play if it is not too cold. Do you remember how much fun it was to play outside with your friends in the snow when you were their age? Children have not changed. However, if even one child shows up without hat or gloves, the whole class stays in. Please make sure your children are prepared for the conditions outside.



"Like Father, Like Son"

December 20, 2007

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

A few years ago our son had a blessed vicarage in Clio, Michigan. Because I have such fond remembrances of that church and the pastor with whom he worked, I simply had to read last week's Associated Press article which was sourced out of Clio.



The story began with police checking on a truck that had become stuck in mud at a city park. In the passenger's seat was a man surrounded by beer cans and open liquor bottles. The man explained he had asked his son to "drive them home because he was too drunk to get behind the wheel." Not great example, but at least dad didn't drink and drive.

My sterling opinion of the father tarnished a bit when I read the son, who was driving, was 13. To his credit, the boy told the police he didn't think he should be driving; to his shame, the boy didn't want to drive because he, too, was drunk.

My first reaction to that story was to remember the words of Proverbs, which are the text for today's devotion: "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." If those words are true, and Scripture says they are, that boy is going to have a lot of serious unlearning to do. By God's grace, that, too, will happen.

My second reaction was to give thanks for the many children out there who are blessed to have Christian parents and teachers, people who are doing all they can to make sure the little ones entrusted to them get started out walking on the right path -God's path.

Indeed, with children's Christmas services being conducted all over the country, this devotion is a "thank you" to the many adults who sacrifice to make sure the Savior and not Satan is the greatest influence in their children's lives, that the Holy Spirit and not the spirits contained in a bottle of booze remain the motivator as these children grow.

I rejoice that you have joined your voices with those of the Christmas angels letting young souls know they have good news of great joy in the Savior who has been born for them.

THE PRAYER: Dear heavenly Father, send the Holy Spirit upon those families where Jesus is unknown and unwanted. Grant them the gift of faith so they may see the Savior's sacrifice. In those homes where Jesus' story of salvation is good news of great joy, let the children give thanks for those who have done all they can to set their feet on the path of eternal life. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



Christmas Cards

We do a variety of projects and have many uses for old Christmas cards. If your usual practice is to just throw them away, please give them to us instead.