

The Lighted Cross

Dear Members of Holy Cross,

Sherri, the boys, and I wish you a Spirit-filled Christmas as you celebrate our Savior's birth!

The other day we were sitting at home talking about "planning the most direct route, figuring out wind-direction, air speed, visual check points, timing checks, equipment checks" – which may sound like Sherri getting ready to go shopping on Black Friday – actually, it was our oldest son, Matt, home from Minnesota State in Mankato, explaining what he does when he plans an airplane flight. He's currently working on becoming a pilot and greatly enjoying himself. **I know I'll never be able to do what he does!**

Later we were talking about "how many tracks there are to a piece of music, how the timing blend needs to be just right, how all the musical instruments fit together" – which may sound like Sherri was discussing her old Abba 8-tracks – actually, it was our middle son, Jonathan, who now, besides playing guitar, is teaching himself how to produce his own music, to which he is passionately dedicated. **I know I'll never be able to do what he does!**

Still later I was on the internet researching things like "controlling the center, the importance of the queen, open games, and closed games," - which may sound like I was looking for marriage advice – actually I was researching chess strategy in the hopes of somehow figuring out how to beat our youngest son, Nathan at a game of chess. I don't know what's happened, but Ol' Dad can't seem to keep up with Nate's chess or ping pong skills. **I'm worried I'll never be able to do what he does!**

And Sherri – well, she does lots of things that I'll never be able to do... most importantly, create a loving mother's touch in our home... for which I am most grateful!

I'm thankful to Pastor Tweit, Mr. Schubkegel and the teachers and staff at Holy Cross who all do things that I can't do – everything from administrating a school to coaching basketball to teaching music!

But most importantly, God did what none of us are able to do. He became one of us, became a humble infant, humbly died on the cross, and rescued us from our most

dreaded enemies – sin, death and hell! By faith, His victory is ours! Let's rejoice at His birth!

Merry Christmas from the Tweit's!

This was a year of firsts in the Tweit household...

Kira, now 8, loves 3rd Grade with Mrs. Clevin in the morning and Mrs. Ibeling in the afternoon. She got earrings in June, learned how to water ski in August and got glasses in December. Kira loves doing art projects and crafts and usually can be found with a craft book in hand planning her next project.

Benjamin now is 10 and loves 5th grade with Miss Krause. He also learned how to water ski in August and was soon found skiing with 4 others at the same time! We encouraged Benjamin to try everything once he got in 5th grade. So far he has experienced: Cross Country, Hand bells, Chess Club, Choir, Basketball and trumpet.

Katie was asked if she would be willing to increase her hours at the Wisconsin Lutheran Chapel on the UW Campus. A majority of her time is spent maintaining their database and keeping it as up to date as possible. She also continues to stay busy as editor of the Crusader Times (the school newspaper), Naomi Circle, PTO, Prayer Chain, Choir and keeping track of the calendar at home. ☺

As for me, I am on the Synod Youth Board and helped to plan the LYA Convention to Seattle, WA this past summer. My first time in the state of Washington! 24 youth from Holy Cross went.

It was so wonderful to hear the Sunday School youth confess their faith this last Sunday. They led us through the prophecies of Jesus coming, His coming in the flesh as a baby and His coming into our hearts by faith. We now look forward to the day when He will come again to bring us to heaven.

I am so glad when Christmas comes,
The night of Jesus' birth,
When Bethl'em's star shone as the sun,
And angels sang on earth.

Mid-December, 2009

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And so I love each Christmas Eve,
And I love Jesus too;
And that he loves me ev'ry day
I know so well is true.

Worship Service Times

Holy Cross Lutheran School Christmas Concert and Holy Cross Lutheran School Christmas Service

Thursday, December 17th at 6:30pm

Note: The concert was cancelled because of the snowstorm last week and part of it is being combined with the School's Christmas Service.

Please take note of the listed timeline below.

6:00 p.m. - Band students arrive

6:15 p.m. - Band pre-service music in church balcony

6:15 p.m. - Other students (non-pre-service) meet in classrooms

6:25 p.m. - Students line up for service

6:30 p.m. - Students enter church to the opening song

The hand bells will also play during the offering.

Sunday Morning December 20th

8:15am – Normal Service with the Lord's Supper

There is no Sunday School in between Services, but there will be a combined youth and adult spiritual growth in the gym. Pastor Bartels and Pastor Tweit are putting together some Bible Trivia Questions.

10:30am – Normal Service with the Lord's Supper

6:30pm – Monday, Evening December 21st

Normal Service with the Lord's Supper

Christmas Eve Family Service

Thursday, December 24th at 5:00pm

Christmas Eve with Senior Choir

Thursday, December 24th at 10:00pm

Christmas Day with Hand Bells

Friday, December 25th at 10:00am

Sunday Morning December 27th

Normal Worship Services at 8:15am and 10:30am

No Sunday School or Bible Study

There will not be a service on Monday evening December 28th. Please come on Thursday Evening, December 31st that week.

New Years Eve Service

Thursday, December 31st at 6:30pm

Note: This service will include individual confession and absolution and the Lord's Supper.

Upcoming Events

Cascade Mountain Tube Outing

Sunday, January 24th 2:00pm – 4:00pm

No experience is needed, just hop in your tube and enjoy the ride. Anyone who is able to ride the lift and the tube by themselves can go. You may ask, 'How do I get back up the hill?' You can effortlessly ride back up the hill on a new moving sidewalk called the 'Magic Carpet'.

Dress accordingly for the weather as if you were going sledding or doing any type of outdoor winter activity. It is suggested to dress in layers and waterproof clothing is recommended.

Cost is \$15 or \$10 for those under 6 years old.

Kalahari Water Park

A Sunday in February from noon-9pm.

A great deal for the youth and families of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School. Normal price is \$40.00, but we are getting the unbelievably low group rate of \$20.00 and the Youth and Education Committee is reducing the cost to **\$18.00** for members of Holy Cross Church and School. Look for more information! Pizza and Pop included...

Looking ahead at Summer Activities...

Camp Indianhead

- Sunday, July 11th – Friday, July 16th

Lutheran Youth Association Convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia

- Wednesday, July 28th – Monday, August 2nd

Thank you Sunday School Teachers

Thank you to our Sunday School Teachers for teaching our children the Word of God. Also thank you for helping them learn their recitations and songs for the Sunday School Christmas Service.

Mid-December, 2009

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Pastor Tweit

Thank You from Ann Cooper

My heartfelt thanks to all of you who called, visited, sent cards, expressed words of encouragement, or offered prayers on my behalf both before and after my recent back surgery. What a blessing it is to George and I to be part of the Christian fellowship in the gospel at Holy Cross. God bless each of you.

Ann Cooper