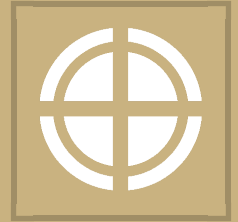


HOLY CROSS



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2017**



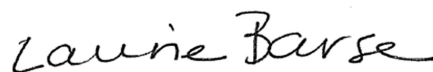
LEADERSHIP REPORT

Here at Holy Cross our mission is to be a community of faith committed to nurturing the faith of all generations of people so that they know the love of Christ in their lives. Individuals are encouraged to live out their baptism calling through a variety of ministries. Some dedicate time to the formation of our youth, while others organize community meals and work tirelessly to combat local homelessness. We are a welcoming community where peoples' diverse gifts come together to produce a vibrant congregation sharing God's love with one another and the world. Your active participation in our ministry makes all of this possible.

2017 presented many opportunities for our community. Your contributions of time, talent, and support made a significant impact on those in our local community and around the world. Your desire to teach others more about God's love positively influenced children and adults alike.

Financial gifts given to Holy Cross were up over \$100,000 from the previous year's giving levels. Combined with the commitment and creativity of our ministry leaders, we ended the fiscal year with a financial surplus; which allowed us to pay down some of our debt. This positive trend will allow us to continue to offer the important programs and ministry opportunities that you have come to expect from Holy Cross.

In the following pages, you'll read more about how your involvement has impacted our ministry. We look forward to your continued participation and support.



LAURIE BARSE

President, Church Council



NICK COLLINS

Lead Pastor

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2017 Income (Actual)

		<u>% of Budget</u>
Offering Income	\$705,559.03	89.47%
Other Income	<u>\$83,063.59</u>	124.29%
	\$788,662.62	
Budget Surplus	\$59,877.47	

2017 Expenses (Summary)

	Budget	Actual
Staffing Expenses	\$422,972.56	\$409,474.79
Ministry Expenses	\$90,131.04	\$111,991.35
Property Expenses	<u>\$271,457.00</u>	<u>\$221,685.72</u>
	\$784,560.60	\$743,151.86
Budget Surplus	\$41,408.74	
Actual Surplus	\$41,007.01	

2017 Year End Account Balances

<i>Mortgage</i>	\$2,584,131.94
<i>Line of Credit (Thrivent Financial)</i>	\$94,321.68
<i>General Dedicated Savings</i>	\$13,622.92
<i>General Checking</i>	\$35,207.61
<i>Youth Dedicated Savings</i>	\$10,694.43
<i>Endowment Fund</i>	\$43,989.66
<i>Line of Credit (First Premier)</i>	\$23,111.83



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Our children & family ministries are an example of the congregation partnering together to help lead children and students to Jesus. It's extremely simple to say but can be surprisingly challenging to create. The children & family ministry team worked hard in 2017 to bridge the partnership between the congregation and families as well as the church and preschool and extended-care programs. Here is a snapshot of the breadth and depth of vibrant learning and events that took place over the last year to strengthen these partnerships.

Experiencing Faith

- Sunday/Wednesday School - over 300 children participated (ages 3-4th grade) & over 75 volunteers blessed us with their time and talents
- VBS - over 250 children and over 75 volunteers took part this summer
- NeSoDak Day Camp - 30 children (ages kindergarte-6th grade) were engaged in Bible study, worship, music, service projects, and games

Milestone Ministry

- 2 Year Olds - My Church Milestone
- 3 Year Olds - Spark Story Bible Milestone
- 4 Year Olds - Lord's Prayer Milestone
- Kindergarten - Prayer Pillow Milestone
- 1st Grade - First Communion
- 2nd Grade - Books of the Bible Milestone
- 3rd Grade - CONNECT Bible Milestone
- 4th Grade - Bridge to Confirmation
- All Ages - Backpack Blessing

Building Relationships Through Fellowship:

Cold Days/Warm Hearts at Good Sam
Palm Sunday Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt
Outdoor Movie Night
Tea Pool Picnic
Fat Tuesday on Friday
Trunk or Treat
Advent Fair

Holy Cross at the Movies
Muffins with Mom
Donuts with Dad
Spark Bible Distribution
Outdoor Worship
Art Club
Children's Book Club



YOUTH MINISTRY

Young people are active members of our church community and develop a stronger faith by fully participating in the life of the church. We walk beside our youth in an authentic way that confronts the challenges they face on a daily basis. We seek to live, learn, and lead together as disciples in the real world.

As a result of these relationships, we are able to witness firsthand the love of God touching the lives of our middle and high school brothers and sisters. In October we celebrated with 28 young men and women as they affirmed their baptisms; choosing to become confirmed members of the church.

Our youth program underwent some significant changes over the past year that bring service and outreach to the forefront of the faith formation of our students. Youth in grade 5 (Ignite) now participate in weekly "pre-confirmation" classes and a monthly youth group activity; youth in grades 6-8 (Forge) now participate in a weekly youth group activity as well as five "Catechism" retreats scheduled throughout the year. These changes allow us to better meet the different needs of our students.

Unfortunately, we have seen a declining trend in the participation of students in our high school ministry (Fusion), but the plans we are making for 2018 are sure to grow this ministry area as well.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Holy Cross has a strong history of music ministry excellence. Our musicians enthusiastically share their gifts each week for God's glory! This past year we had: 29 musicians and singers share their talents with the Praise Band; 18 adults sing in choir; 13 people play hand bells; and 32 children make a joyful noise with the kid's JAM (Jesus and Me) choir.



OUTREACH & MISSION MINISTRIES

In 2017 we committed 3% of our offerings to the mission & outreach efforts of our congregation; a 300% increase over previous years.

Outreach and mission ministry programs are a way for Holy Cross to reach out into the community and meet people with the love of God. As Christians we work in God's name to serve the needs of others. In 2017, you helped impact the lives of thousands of people in Sioux Falls and around the world.

Here are some of the things we have been able to accomplish through your gifts of time, talent, and financial resources:

- *Purse Project* - 178 purses filled & distributed to Bright Start, Lutheran Social Services, St. Francis House, and Children's Inn
- *Operation Christmas Child* - 122 shoe boxes & \$236 donated
- *Giving Tree* - 59 gifts distributed to Lutheran Social Services, Department of Social Services, and Memorial Middle School
- *ELCA Good Gifts* - \$1,250 given in gifts (41 tree ornaments)
- *Kids Against Hunger* - 6,480 meals packed, \$1,030 donated
- *Banquet & Banquet West* - served meals to Sioux Falls neighbors & donated \$800
- *Blood Drive* - 25 donations to help 75 patients
- *School Supply Drive* - 5 boxes of school supplies donated to Hayward Elementary & McGovern Middle School
- *Helping Hands for Haiti* - hand towels & \$600 donated
- *Souper Bowl of Caring* - 272 pounds of soup donated to Feeding South Dakota
- *Food to You* - 585 cans of soup & \$200 donated
- *Necessities for Neighbors* - 1,300 rolls of toilet paper & \$200 donated



PRESCHOOL & EXTENDED-CARE

Holy Cross Preschool has developed a program that stands out and is recognized in the Sioux Falls community as one of excellence. We continue to offer a one-of-a-kind preschool, extended-care, and school age program for children ages 6 weeks through 3rd grade. Teachers strive daily to prepare students for kindergarten and their next steps in life. The teaching staff consists of 25 teachers that are dedicated to the students and families of Holy Cross Preschool.

In 2017 our ministry was blessed to have 113 children enrolled in 1 of 7 classes offered for children 2-5 years of age. 49 of those children were enrolled in extended-care. 30 additional infants and toddlers (ages 6 weeks to 3 years of age) were also enrolled in the extended-care program. Children thrived learning in a caring environment while enjoying chapel, music, art, science, and gym time.

The extended-care program expanded to include school-age children in kindergarten-3rd grade for after school and summer care. 30 students enjoyed field trips, special guests, and many fun activities together.

Coming to Holy Cross each day is an adventure as the children make discoveries, use their imaginations, and explore the environment and world around them. Since the start of the program in 2004, the preschool's mission remains the same: "to provide the children of Holy Cross and the community with an educational, Christian-based preschool, extended-care, and school-age program."





Holy Cross

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