

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2015

I am
the
vine;
you
are
the
branches.
John 15:5



Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church Canada

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“By God’s grace, the members of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church will be a caring, vibrant diverse community of blessed believers, lovingly reaching out with the message of Jesus Christ.” - *Vision Statement 2010*

Volume 68 No. 18

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8:30 & 11:00 am - Divine Services

9:30 am - Special Congregational Family Meeting

9:30 am - Sunday School

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Three (abbreviated), LSB page 184

Hymns: 478, 474, 595, 807

Readings: 1 John 4:1-11 (Pew Bible, Page 1185)
St. John 15:1-8 (Pew Bible, Page 1046)

Anthem: “My Tribute” by Andrae Crouch (Church Choir; Heather Schein – accompanist)

Sermon: St. John 15:1-8

“THAT YOU BEAR MUCH FRUIT”

Special Music: Jack Kahl (trumpet)

Serving in God’s House Today: Pastor Nolan Astley (Officiant), Jennifer Massicotte (Organist), Jacob Wolf (8:30 Acolyte), Gwyneth Sutherland (11:00 Acolyte), Jerry Golschesky (8:30 Sound Operator), Chris Bohl (11:00 Sound Operator).

Prayer Concerns: in our prayers today we remember **Verna Bowman & Merle Groff** who have been in hospital this past week; also those whose lives have been devastated by the **Nepal earthquake**. Closer to home, we ask God’s blessings upon our family meeting and discussions regarding the possible renovation of our church building and for His guidance upon the **East District of LC-C as it meets in Convention**.

Special Congregational Family Meeting is Today at 9:30 am! Our architect Glenn Reinders will be in attendance to present the proposed conceptual drawing for the possible renovation of our church building. This will not be a decision making meeting, but a chance for you to talk directly to the architect and ask your questions.

Due Today!! Application forms for the Summer Toronto Mission are due **Sunday, May 3**. If you are considering being a part of the team you can pick up an application package from the bulletin board outside the Pastor’s offices. Please continue to keep this mission opportunity in your prayers as we begin to plan for the summer.

Everyone is invited to the Opening service of the East District Convention to be held this evening **at Historic St. Paul’s at 7pm**. This will be a service of Holy Communion with President Bugbee preaching. Bob Schmitt will serve as our lay delegate. This year’s convention theme is based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 “God’s will for us: Rejoice Always, Pray without Ceasing, and Give Thanks in all Circumstances.”

Staff away.. Pastor Astley will be attending the East District Convention Monday - Wednesday. Pastor Roland continues on vacation and will return to the office on May 13; Beth Gibney will be away on vacation this week returning May 12.

Coming Events...

Spring Voters' Assembly meets this **Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m.** Dockets are available at the Welcome Centre in the parlour.

Last Small Group Bible Study meets this **Friday, May 8 at 7:00 pm** here at Holy Cross, to finish their study on the book of Mark.

Abuse Prevention Training sessions are coming up! If you are interested in volunteering with Holy Cross and have never done so before please plan to attend one of the four training sessions we're offering. The first two are **Sundays May 31 & June 13 at 12:30 pm.** Our training will last approximately one hour and its purpose is to educate and protect both our volunteers as well as our participants. Those who have taken the training from us previously should have received a "refresher course" notice in your pigeon hole. If you have any questions please contact Janet Cumby at 519-742-5812 or janet@holycrosskitchener.org.

Vacation Bible School is coming! Get ready for **SonSpark Labs** where **God's Plan 4U = Jesus!** Our program runs **Monday, July 6 to Friday, July 10 from 9 a.m. to noon**, for kids born in 2011 through to having completed grade 7. Registration opportunities beginning at month end.

Please Note...

Hold off on the stamps please: Many of you contribute your used stamps to our LINC program, where we trim them and prepare them to be sold to raise money for missions. **We have a huge stockpile at the moment**, so no more contributions until further notice. Thank you, thank you!

Nepal Earthquake Relief CLWR and LC-C are calling for financial donations to help earthquake survivors in Nepal. The donations will support the work of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), whose Kathmandu-based emergency team launched an immediate large-scale emergency response. LWF staff members distributed tarpaulins, hygiene kits and ready-made food to about 400 families in Kathmandu over the weekend of the earthquake. Along with assessing the situation in remote communities, LWF priorities are now to provide water, sanitation and hygiene materials, as well as emergency shelter to people who lost their homes or who are staying outside for fear of aftershocks. The Canadian government announced that for every dollar given to a registered charity for earthquake relief between April 25 and May 25, the government will put \$1 into their "Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund" which they will then use to fund relief work in Nepal. More: <http://www.canadianlutheran.ca/lcc-and-clwr-issue-appeal-for-nepal-relief>. Please hold the people of Nepal in prayer.

Today's Education Hour...

Sunday School Special beginning at 9:30 am in the basement: Nursery through Gr.6/7 students learn about **Lydia (Acts 16:11-15)** with a whole-group time that includes, games, music, drama and craft activities. We begin 15 minutes earlier than usual to line up with the Congregational Family meeting in the sanctuary.

Youth, YABS and Adult Bible classes are in recess today: Please join us in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** for our Congregational Family meeting.

Last Week at Holy Cross...

Sunday Attendance:	113 & 224	Total 337	('13 - 367)
Adult Bible Class:	Pupils: 60 Staff: 1	Total 61	('13 - 50)
Young Adult Bible Class:	Pupils: 4 Staff: 1	Total 5	('13 - n/a*)
Youth Bible Class:	Pupils: 5 Staff: 1	Total 6	('13 - n/a*)
Sunday School Attendance:	Pupils: 38 Staff: 16	Total 54	('13 - 57)

Weekly Calendar

Monday, May 4 to Sunday, May 10, 2015

Tuesday	ESL, <i>Historic St. Paul's</i>	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	LWMLC Quilts, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>	9:00 a.m.
	Voter's Assembly, <i>Basement</i>	7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Beginnings, <i>Downstairs</i>	9:30 a.m.
	Prayer Group, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i>	9:30 a.m.
	Church Choir Tour, <i>Winston Park</i>	7:00 p.m.
Friday	Small Group Bible Study, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i>	7:00 p.m.
Sunday	The Sixth Sunday of Easter	
	Holy Communion Service, Church	8:30 a.m.
	Sunday School, <i>Downstairs</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Adult Bible Class, <i>Church</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Young Adult Bible Class, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Youth Bible Class, <i>Youth Centre</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Holy Communion Service, Church	11:00 a.m.
	Slovak Congregation Service, Church	3:30 p.m.