

The Mustard Seed.

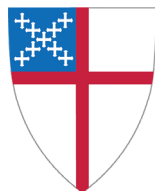
A newsletter from Holy Faith Church

Spring 2019



"Sanctuary Refresh Project - Narthex"

Holy Faith Church
Episcopal and ELCA Lutheran
6299 Ann Arbor-Saline Road
Saline, MI 48176
(734) 429-2991
www.holy-faith-church.org



Pastor:	The Rev. Andrea Martin
Deacon:	The Rev. Don Dersnah
Musician:	Jesse Morgan
Choir Director:	Rikki Morrow-Spitzer
Office Manager:	Laurie Tikkanen

Holy Faith Church - Spring 2019

Dear friends,

The focus of our spring newsletter is parish finances, including some updates since our January 27th annual meeting. We can do holy things with money: things like sending kids to college, supporting the symphony, or stocking the local food pantry. Holy Faith is able to do holy things thanks to the generosity of its members. The Parish Leadership Team and I - as stewards of your gifts - hope this edition of the newsletter will help everyone be on the same page and well-informed regarding the financial state of our parish.

Yours in Christ,

Andrea+

Frequently Asked Questions about Parish Finances

How did the fall stewardship campaign go?

56 households made pledges for 2019 (compared to 55 for 2018), for a total of \$149,080. Holy Faith members are generous, and this represented our highest commitment amount to date.

Still, the 2019 budget approved at our annual meeting shows a potential deficit of about \$9,500. (This figure takes into account additional pledges received after the annual report was printed.) The projected deficit includes anticipated building maintenance which in past years has increased (you'll remember our collapsed concrete steps last winter). The Finance Committee prepared the budget in faith that we will do better than planned, and also, the Parish Leadership Team is developing a solid intention toward growth.



New concrete steps



Heifer International

In addition to the operating budget, I've heard about other funds. What is the Pastor's Discretionary Fund?

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is funded by occasional contributions from members as well as non-members (made at any time, and often in thanksgiving for baptisms, marriages, and burials). The current balance as of this writing is \$517.

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is restricted to addressing needs among the congregation and community, and may not be used for operating expenses.

In 2018-2019, funds drawn from the Pastor's Discretionary account have gone to the following:

- The Episcopal Church's Annual Appeal
- Rental assistance for a community member

- The SEMI-Synod Rise-Up campaign, supporting congregational ministry initiatives.
- The Bishop’s Fund (discretionary fund of the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan)
- Episcopal Relief & Development
- Heifer International
- U of M’s Lutheran Campus Ministry
- A memorial fund at St. Andrew’s Church, Saline, in honor of their late Rector, Fr. Francis Mossholder
- Christmas gift assistance for a community member
- Purchasing supplies for first aid kits for Saline Area Social Service

What are the Memorial Funds?

Memorial Funds are gifts received in memory of people who have died. The current balance as of this writing is \$10,358. Use of memorial funds requires approval of the Parish Leadership Team, and expenditures are used to enrich the worship and the community life of Holy Faith. Your PLT voted to fund our new, exterior doors from the memorial funds.



New doors purchased with Memorial Funds

What are the Special Gifts mentioned every month?

Special Gifts was begun when Faith Lutheran and Holy Cross were missions, respectively, of the synod and the diocese (that is, not self-supporting). The parishes did not contribute financially to outreach funded by either the synod and the diocese.



Hope Clinic, Ypsilanti - Special Gifts recipient offering free healthcare to community members in need

Instead, Special Gifts encouraged individuals to support outreach. One organization was spotlighted each month. Gifts received from parishioners are collected and then consolidated into one check which is sent to that month’s organization. The funds are called “dedicated” or “pass-thru,” because they are outside Holy Faith’s operating budget.

On behalf of the PLT, PLT member Gail Graham has volunteered to review our current designees and propose a calendar of worthy recipients for future months. During Lent, and through the end of April, Lutheran World Relief and Episcopal Relief & Development will receive Holy Faith’s Special Gifts.

Holy Faith Has A Dedicated Financial Team - Meet the Volunteers Who Keep our Financial Records



Andy Amstutz

Our Co-Treasurers, Andy and Wendy Amstutz

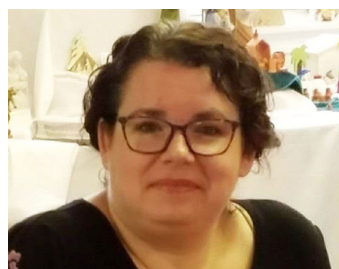
How long have you been serving as Holy Faith's Co-Treasurers?

We started serving as co-Treasurers in September 2015.

How did it happen that you stepped up to serve our congregation in this important way? What led you to say yes when asked?

(From Andy): Mary Barber, the previous treasurer announced in 2015 her plans to move and the need to transition out of the Treasurer role. We had been members of Holy Faith only about a year. We had previously served as treasurers in other non-profit organizations (Band Boosters, PTA, Church Bowling League). The congregation at the time seemed to have a great need with a sense of urgency to facilitate a transition from Mary. We all do our part for the congregational community we love. We serve humbly along with a great team of people who care for Holy Faith.

(From Wendy): Steve (Jolliffe, PLT President) called me first, and I immediately said no THREE times!!! Andy convinced me that we could do it as a team. Andy and I have done a good job of splitting up the responsibilities, I couldn't do the job without him.



Wendy Amstutz

Our Financial Secretary, Mike Centlivre

How long have you been serving as Holy Faith's Financial Secretary?

I've been the Financial Secretary since early 2000.

How did it happen that you stepped up to serve our congregation in this important way? What led you to say yes when asked?

I volunteered for the position since it was a 'behind the scenes' type job, and I enjoy working with numbers. However, I have definitely appreciated the introduction of the Shepherd's Staff [software] as I don't have to hand write the statement entries anymore!



Mike Centlivre

Our Internal Auditors Through 2018:

- Suzanne Buchalski
- Lisa Reifert

Our Finance Committee Who Help Draft the Budget:

- Andy Amstutz, Co-Treasurer
- Wendy Amstutz, Co-Treasurer
- Mike Centlivre, Financial Secretary
- Jane Darling
- The Rev. Don Dersnah
- Betsey Hubbard
- Lisa Reifert
- Norlaine Tinsey

Our Counters Who Count the Sunday Morning Collection and Make the Bank Deposit:

- Andy Amstutz
- James Hilton
- Steve Jolliffe
- Liesl Narbut
- Fritz Reifert
- Carolyn Schneider
- Harold Tinsey
- Mike Vaillancourt
- Rick Wales



We Celebrate the Completion of Our Sanctuary Refresh Project

PLT member James Hilton presents a summary of the renovations, decisions made, and monies spent.

In February 2018, the congregation embarked on a sanctuary refresh project to celebrate our community and the beginning of Andrea's ministry with us. Based on a survey of the congregation, the initial goal was to refresh the sanctuary with new carpet and paint, and refresh the narthex with new carpet, paint and doors with an anticipated fund of \$15,000. By summer, the congregation had generously pledged just over \$20,000 and we began scoping the project in earnest.

Almost immediately, it became clear that new doors are a significant undertaking in and of themselves. Depending on the doors picked, the hardware used, and the level of accessibility desired (e.g., with or without electric door openers), the doors alone could consume the entire budget. After careful consideration, the PLT decided that the doors should be considered a separate project, that they would be an appropriate use of memorial funds, and approved \$5,000 from memorial funds (Sept. 19th, 2018 minutes). Installed, the new doors with locks and hardware cost \$5,482.94 with PLT approving an additional \$500 expenditure from memorial funds. They still need to be painted and we continue to explore accessibility options.

New paint in the sanctuary and the narthex and opening the soft space for toddlers, done by a combination of professional painters and heroic volunteers was completed in the spring / early summer at a cost of \$3,101.48.

By far, the most challenging part of the project involved decisions around the carpet. With just under \$17,000 left in the original budget of \$20,000, the PLT looked at several options.

- Stay within the original budget by confining the carpet refresh to the sanctuary and narthex and plan on replacing the rest of the carpet at a later date, perhaps with a separate appeal.

- Stay within the original budget by choosing a lower quality carpet that would likely have a shorter lifespan and replace the carpet in the sanctuary, narthex, social hall and offices.
- Increase the budget and use higher quality carpet that allows for modular replacement when areas get worn throughout the building.

Again after fairly extensive discussion of the pros and cons of each option, the PLT opted for a more comprehensive carpet refresh and to do so with high quality / durable carpet. In August, PLT approved a carpeting budget, based on the installers estimate, of \$20,000 and decided to charge the painting costs against our savings balance. As it turned out, the installers estimate was off by about 10%. The total cost for the new carpet and installation was \$21,807.89 (\$15,027.79 for materials and \$6,780.10 for installation [billed but not yet paid]).

New carpet in the social hall gave us the opportunity to remove the raised area at the back of the room. In removing the raised area, we discovered that we needed to install subflooring and, in doing that work, a decision was made on the fly to also put in a wall to create storage space and allow us to remove the temporary dividers. The cost for the subflooring and wall, including voluntary and professional labor was \$1,615.47.

Taken together, the total project cost, excluding the doors, was \$26,524.84. Funds raised to date for the project total \$20,538.57. This project would have cost thousands of dollars more if not for the time, materials and labor generously donated by our many volunteers. The PLT again thanks all who helped with this project in the past year.

Gratitudes

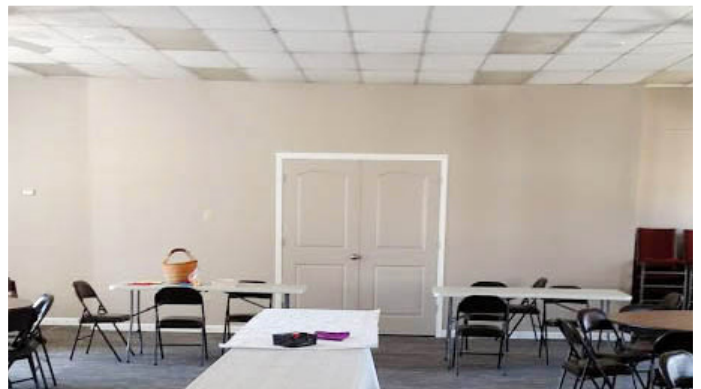
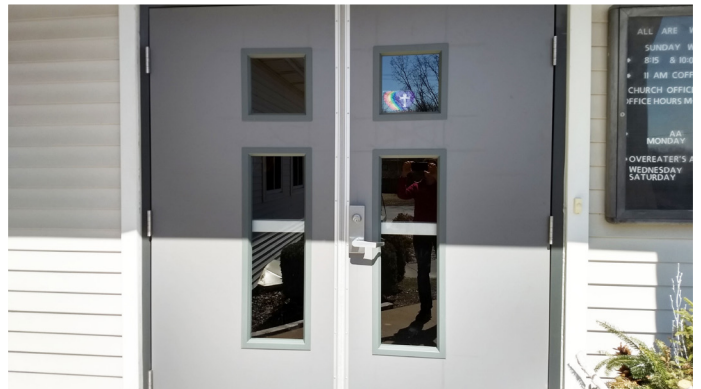
As James mentions on the previous page, Holy Faith members gave heroically of their time, talent, and treasure, ensuring completion of our renovations. The result is a total transformation of our space.

We owe deep thanks to:

- Each and every person who made a financial gift to the Sanctuary Refresh project, and to the whole congregation without whose prayerful support and enthusiasm, the project could not have been accomplished.
- The Holy Faith Parish Leadership Team who recommended the project to the parish in January 2018 and who made financial and tactical decisions along the way: Steve Jolliffe, Ann Mayers, Mary Fatchett, Susan Cummings, Noelle Milkey, James Hilton, and Clarke Flewelling '19, and Vicki English '19
- Jane Darling and Noelle Milkey who selected a paint palette and carpeting.
- Those who painted the Narthex and Entryway: Talle Jolliffe, Steve Jolliffe, Susan Cummings, and Jeff Cummings.
- Noelle Milkey who served as project manager for the carpet purchase and installation.
- Susan Cummings who researched and selected front doors and who has served as project manager of the door installation.
- Those whose professional expertise and skilled labor made possible the parish hall renovations: particularly Larry Darling, Brian Milkey, Harold Tinsey, and Mike Vaillancourt.
- The larger volunteer crew who lent their time and sweat equity in renovating the parish hall: Andy Amstutz, Mike Centlivre, Jeff Cummings, Timm Custer, Steve Jolliffe, and Jim Mangi.
- The many people who, when the carpet installers called at an hour's notice, arrived at church ready to move furniture and who then helped put the church back together afterwards:

- Barbara Arnold
- Andy Amstutz
- Mike Centlivre
- Jeff Cummings
- Susan Cummings
- Timm Custer
- Larry Darling
- Steve Jolliffe
- Jim Mangi
- Chris Martin
- Brian Milkey
- Liesl Narbut
- Steve Narbut
- Carolyn Schneider
- Mike Vaillancourt

Look what we did together! Thank you, one and all.





Holy Faith Receives Grant from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

PLT president Steve Jolliffe gives us an overview of this grant and what it means to Holy Faith.

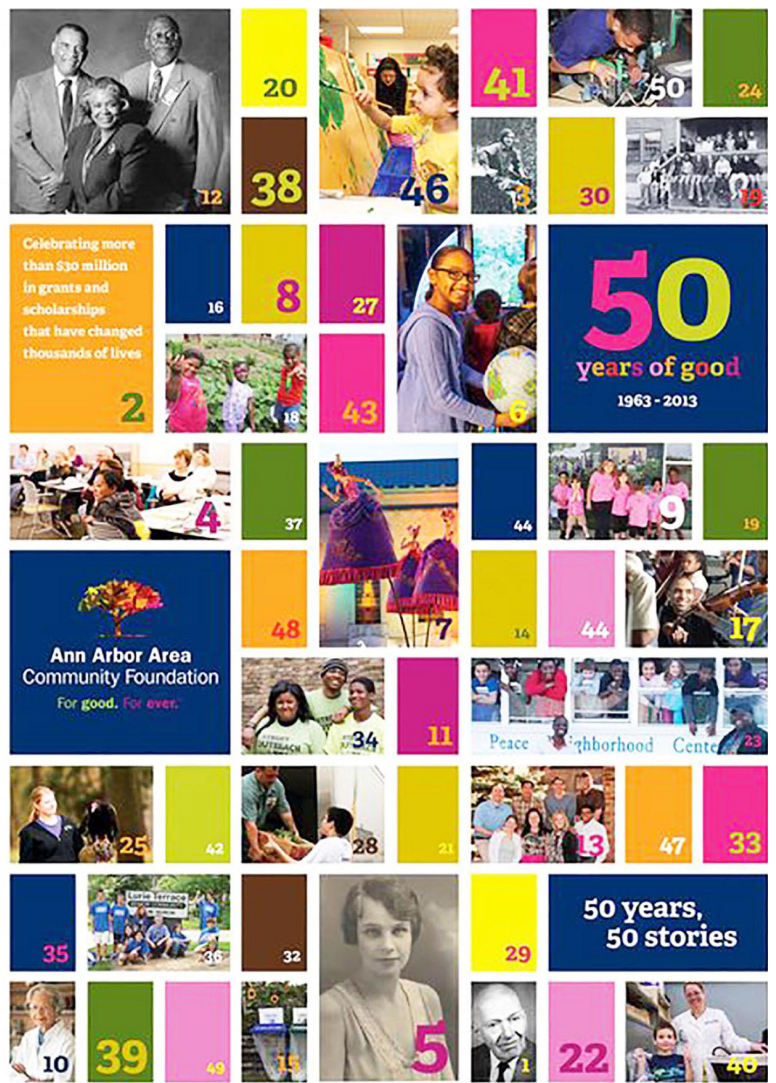
Many of you have already heard the good news, but just in case you haven't - in February, Holy Faith received an unsolicited \$25,000 grant from the Susquehanna Fund of the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. We were told that grants from this fund are made annually to deserving organizations.

Pastor Andrea made several attempts to determine how we came to be nominated, but was told that our benefactor wished to remain anonymous. We sent a thank you note to the Foundation and asked that it be shared with the individual(s) responsible, thanking them for this generous gift.

The grant is unrestricted and the funds may be used for any purpose we wish. The PLT has had several discussions about how these funds can be best utilized, but at this time, no decision has been reached.

We might use some of the funds for outreach missions or we might use a portion of it to replace another one of our 30-year-old furnaces. If anyone from the congregation has suggestions on how this gift should be used, please let us know.

Until a final decision is made, the funds will be kept in a separate dedicated account under the Memorial Funds section of our financial records.



A Conversation with Branden Amstutz

Pastor Andrea recently sat down with HFC teen Branden Amstutz to talk about his participation in the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, held this past summer in Houston, Texas, as well as the role of faith in his daily life.

So I've heard 30,000 high schoolers were in Houston for the 2018 Youth Gathering, and you were one of them. Can you paint the scene for the rest of us?

It was very big, big enough that we broke the Metro system there. We had bigger numbers than Houston had for the Super Bowl. All the churches involved rented downtown hotel rooms, and we took over the football stadium for a week. That's where all the worship services and all the main events were held. "A Good, Old-Fashioned Christian Rave" was the title for the worship services. It became a meme for the week.

Had you been to a Youth Gathering before?

This was my first youth gathering ... they happen every three years, so I was not old enough to go when the last one was held in Detroit. I was there [in Houston] with my old youth group leader, JT. JT had been the youth group leader at the Houston church my family attended when we lived in Houston. We lived in Houston for about eight years. We moved there originally when I was four. We moved back to Michigan when I was about twelve.

The website for the 2018 Youth Gathering said that participants would be "challenged to live their faith in their daily lives." Having returned from Houston, what does that look like to you?

For me, living faith in daily life means that I need to be more open to helping people and to think more often about how I can make people's lives better.

Know someone at Holy Faith whose story should be told? Someone whose ministry in the outside world deserves to be celebrated? Is there someone you wish to interview? If so, submit the transcript of your interview (with the person's permission) to Office Manager Laurie Tikkanen for inclusion in a future newsletter: office@holy-faith-church.org



Branden Amstutz



Is there a particular way that you've been able to help people?

It's not that we have to do big things. We can do small things, like giving Blaise a high-five. Also, if there's a kid struggling with math I've learned that math is one of things I'm good at. If there's a kid struggling with math, I'll try to help him.

What was the most memorable or meaningful part of the week in Houston?

Wednesday was my service day. What we did was go into a disadvantaged neighborhood and hand out books to children there. My group met some siblings: a fourteen-year old, a ten-year old, a five-year old, a two-year old, and a newborn. The fourteen-year old had been left in charge of the younger ones because the parents had to work. They were all outside playing. We got to play with them and give them the books. It was nice to be able to give them something they could be happy about, at least for that day.

The theme of the gathering was God's Grace. Looking back on my own high school days, it wasn't a time that felt particularly filled with grace. It felt a great deal about proving oneself. Where do you find grace in Saline, or in high school?

It's really everybody out for themselves in high school. Everybody is doing things for themselves, getting the best grades for themselves. But at the gathering, it was a real message of hope, because the focus was not on you as an individual but on the group. It wasn't, "What are you going to do to help others?" It was instead, "What are we going to do to help others?" Instead of it being all up to you, it was about us. And that's a message of hope [of how things could be].

A Sunday morning at Holy Faith seems very different from a week at the ELCA Youth Gathering. What has Holy Faith meant to you since in the four years that you've been here?

I think it's a nice, little community. There aren't many places now where you can go and know most people by name. Even in my high school, I can go and see a new face every day. This church does a good job of being a close-knit family.

Thanks, Branden!





Are You a Thrivent Member?

If so, you may be able to help Holy Faith meet a need in our community

Did you know that Benefit Members may receive up to two, \$250 gift cards each year to be used for projects in their communities or in their congregations that “bring people together to live generously”?

Associate Members may receive a single \$250 gift card each year.

Through her Thrivent Membership, Mary Fatchett has received \$250 gift cards in order to purchase seed and equipment for Holy Faith’s community garden (which then donates fresh produce to the SASS food pantry).

Thrivent cards have also helped fund the Soft Plastic Recycling initiative sponsored by the eight ELCA congregations in Washtenaw County.

Another project undertaken by American Lutheran Church in Clinton Township (and which they funded with a Thrivent gift card) included buying material to make dresses which parishioners made and then sent to girls in Guatemala.

Often, a sum as small as \$250-\$500 can make a big impact. If you are a Thrivent member, do not let your benefit go unused.

Please contact Pastor Andrea (andrea@holy-faith-church.org) if you are a Thrivent Member and if we could call you when Holy Faith has something going on for which we could use a Thrivent gift card. We will help you fill out the 1-page application. Thanks!



Upcoming Events this Spring

COME AND SEE. That's what Jesus always said to people who asked what he and his message were all about. There is no better time than right now to **invite a friend or neighbor** to come and see Holy Faith Church.



**Sunday
June 9, 2019
(Feast of Pentecost)
Coffee Hour
11:00 am**

**Celebrate Our
Completed
Sanctuary Refresh
Renovations
and What We
Accomplished
Together**



Date	Service
Palm Sunday April 14, 2019	Palm Sunday Service with Liturgy of the Palms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:15 am with musical prelude, postlude, and soprano solo • 10:00 am with choir
<p>The Easter Triduum (Maundy Thursday through Easter Sunday) <i>These three days draw us deeply into the mystery of our salvation. We gather as a community of faith to contemplate the journey of Jesus from the upper room, to Calvary, and to the empty tomb. It is one act of worship that begins on Maundy Thursday and ends with the final blessing at Easter. The liturgy for these three days is rich, powerful, and transformational. Be a part of something truly special.</i></p>	
Maundy Thursday April 18, 2019	Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00 pm with choir
Good Friday April 19, 2019	Stations of the Cross <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00 pm with soprano solo
Easter Sunday April 21, 2019	Festival Holy Eucharist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:15 am with musical prelude, postlude, and soprano solo • 10:00 am with choir

The background of the page is a photograph of two hands raised in prayer, palms facing up, against a bright, hazy sunset sky. The hands are silhouetted against the warm, golden light of the sun, which is positioned behind them, creating a strong backlight effect. The overall mood is one of hope and devotion.

A Prayer for The Right Use of Resources

Giver of every good and perfect gift,

We the people who consume more than we need and who own more than we can use, ask for your help in discovering that our deepest need is not met by possessing something, but by being part of something.

Something bigger than ourselves, something beyond the borders of our world, and beyond the reach of our control.

Take the gifts from our hands and do with them what we cannot do alone.

Elevate our material offerings to the realm of spiritual things, from unworthiness to worthiness.

Allow us to be part of making
the crooked straight
the blind to see
the lost found again
the dead alive again. Amen.

- A prayer by Kyle Matthews
The Ministry of Money
Germantown, Maryland