

Holy Cross Crossroad



Holy Cross
Lutheran Church

Monthly Newsletter : February 2017



Mark Your Calendar

2.13 (Mon)
Council Meeting @ 6:00 pm

2.7, 2.21 (Wed)
Hooks & Needles @ 9:00 am

2.15 (Wed)
Senior Lunch Pot Luck @ Noon

2.22 (Wed)
Women's Bible/Book Study @ 3:00 pm

2.1, 2.8, 2.15, 2.22 (Wed)
Bible Study@ 1:30 pm

2.2, 2.16 (Thurs)
Quilting @ 9:30 & 4:00

2.23 (Thurs)
Men's/Women Breakfast @7:30 am

Pastor's Corner



"On a Journey" was the name of the sermon I preached the last Sunday in January. The scripture text from Genesis 15:1-6 told a portion of the story of Abraham and Sarah. Abraham, then known as Abram, was told, "Do not be afraid, Abram. . ." which was

a very likely response for him as the promises that God had made to Abraham and his wife Sarah seemed very far from being realized. During the sermon we explored our own responses of anxiety and fear that can occur when we experience change and how we can continue to take steps forward in spite of that fear.

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Pastor's Corner Continued ...

As a congregation, we're in a period of change and uncertainty as we have said "Goodbye" to Pastor Jon and his family as Jon accepted a new call to serve Trinity Lutheran Church in North Branch, Minnesota at the end of May, 2016. We're in a time of self-reflection as we consider who we are as a congregation, what God is calling us to do and be within our surrounding community, and what kind of leader our next long-term pastor shall be.

It may be helpful to think of ourselves on a journey in this "in-between" time. The journey to calling a new long-term pastor can be a long one with a number of steps. To help visualize these steps and the progress we're making, we'll be displaying a timeline on the wall of the narthex, the welcome space in the church outside the sanctuary or worship space. Here are some steps we've already taken:

- Navigated without a pastor through visiting supply pastors like Pr. Carl Wilfrid
- Worked with the Synod office of the Bishop to identify Interim Pastor candidates
- Secured an Interim Pastor (That's me!)
- Elected a pastoral Call Committee (Pending as I write this, but to be determined at the Congregational Meeting on January 29)

Keep an eye on the On a Journey display on the wall in the narthex for updates about our pastoral call process and keep the members of our Call Committee and the call process in your prayers.

Pastor Scott's office hours and Contact Info

Pastor Scott Trevithick began January 1 as Holy Cross' Interim Pastor. You may reach him by phone in the church office at (775) 827-4822. His email (until a church email is finalized) is rstrevithick@gmail.com. He is in the office Monday – Thursday. Since he's also visiting members and friends of the church, meeting other pastors or community members, and keeping other appointments, you may wish to call or send an email to set an appointment if something is urgent. Regular church office hours are Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., though Scott is also in the office most afternoons as described above.

Let's Keep in Touch: Help Update our Church Directory

You may have a recent church directory and noticed you couldn't find a friend's name or maybe called a number that was no longer in service. Help us update our church directory by filling out the information form we've created. It asks for names, birth dates, and contact information of all the members of your household as well as an emergency contact person. You may select which items you wish not to have included in the printed directory. So that we can complete the update, look for the form on one of the tables in the narthex (the welcome space at the church) and return it by February 12.



Pastor's Corner (cont'd)

Did You Know?

Did you know that pastors serving Lutheran churches in our region (called the "conference") and retired Lutheran clergy get together for lunch on a monthly basis? Holy Cross will host this month on Thursday, February 16. Pastors offer encouragement and support to one another, are informed about happenings within the larger Sierra Pacific Synod, and have opportunity to share ideas and make plans. One topic we'll explore this month is brainstorming joint ways to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation when German monk Martin Luther circulated his "95 Theses" which represented his concerns about the church of his day. At Holy Cross, we plan to mark this occasion with events throughout the year, some of which we hope to develop in partnership with other churches who share our heritage.

Like Us on Facebook!

"Like us on Facebook?" What does that mean? Facebook is a social media communication tool that individuals, groups, churches, causes, and businesses use to keep in touch with each other, share information, ask for input, and display pictures. It's great for reuniting with old friends, showing support for things you care about, and sharing pictures with viewers you select. Facebook users from Holy Cross may have noticed Pastor Scott has been posting previews of upcoming sermons and worship services and other news about the church.

how to "Like" us at Holy Cross.

- If you're on Facebook, you can "Like" us when you find the Holy Cross page at "Holy Cross Lutheran Reno."
- If you're not on Facebook or need a refresher, stay tuned for more information about how to get started. On an upcoming Sunday morning between services, we'll provide a hands-on tutorial showing you how to set up your own page, connect with others, post a picture, and discover how to "Like" us at Holy Cross.

"Hello, my name is. . ." Name tags at Holy Cross

Let's face it—many of us don't like to wear name tags. But helping ourselves and others connect name and faces is an essential part of welcoming folks to this Holy Cross community and giving a glimpse of the hospitality God offers us in Christ Jesus. Here's the system we've developed to make it easier:

- We've preprinted badge-style name tags with first names of regular worshippers
- Name tags are sorted alphabetically in small tubs which will be on a table in the church narthex
- Please find your name tag, put it on (it's a clip style), and return it to the correct tub after worship or other church event
- Use a marker on a sticky name tag if you don't have a pre-printed one
- Write your name on the pad if you'd like to request a printed badge-style tag.



New Member Orientation and Reception

We will host an orientation for those interested in formally joining Holy Cross as members in class sessions on Wednesday, February 15 and 22. Each evening will begin with a soup and bread supper at 6:00 p.m. conclude at 8 p.m. Childcare will be provided. Those who wish to join the church will be welcomed in worship on Sunday, February 26. A reception will follow the service.

Members are those who make a profession of their faith and who seek to worship regularly, live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran Church, and support the work of Holy Cross through being stewards of their time, abilities, and finances. An Associate Member is a special category of membership in which a person retains primary membership in his or her home church, while wanting to affiliate with Holy Cross. (These membership descriptions are adapted from the Holy Cross Constitution.)

Those who would like to consider becoming a Holy Cross member are encouraged to speak with Pastor Scott. We will also be sending invitations to prospective members via mail or email. If you'd like to join the church, but are not available during the Wednesday evenings in February, our next Membership Orientation is tentatively scheduled for Sundays June 4 and 11 from noon – 2 p.m. with welcome in worship on June 18.

Next Sunday's Scriptures: Pastor Scott would like to lead a weekly Bible study looking at the Lectionary readings designated for the following Sunday's worship service and on which the sermon will be based. He'd like feedback from interested participants about when would be a good time to offer such a study:

- Tuesday noon – 1 p.m. with bring your own lunch
- Tuesday or Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday between worship services from 9:15 – 10 a.m. or so.

Please offer your input to Pastor Scott at rstrevithick@gmail.com or speak with him at church.

Holy Cross Quilters

We are "back at work" making quilts the first and third Thursdays of each month. We will meet at regular times during February. February 2 and February 16 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. We have many quilt tops ready for tying, two tables are set up with quilts for tying. We always have room for everyone.

No experience needed--please join us.



Holy Cross will mark the beginning of the season of Lent with evening services on Ash Wednesday, March 1. We will have a soup supper in the fellowship hall at 6 p.m. with a service in the sanctuary at 6:30. The simple meal will include a variety of soups and bread; we'll ask people to sign up to bring something. The focal point of an Ash Wednesday service is when ashes are applied with the pastor's thumb in the form of a small cross on the forehead of each person with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Early Christians adopted the practice of using ashes as a sign of repentance. Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin.
- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. When we receive ashes in the form of the cross, we are reminded of when we are marked with that same symbol in our baptism.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life. During a graveside service, we hear "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."
- Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

We'll continue on Wednesday evenings during Lent with "Soup, Sacrament and Song" throughout the season and conclude on April 5th. The meal at 6 p.m. will be a simple soup and bread meal just as on Ash Wednesday with a more brief service to follow.

January Giving

Building fund Donations \$ 1,635

General Fund Donations \$ 16,434.00

Facility Usage Donations \$600.00

Sunday School Donations \$37.15

Poinsettia Donations \$50.00

Flower Donations \$340.00

Synod Donations \$100.00

Envelope Donations \$5.00

Voluntary Pension Fund Donations \$75.00

TOTAL \$ 19,276.15

Senior
Lunch

Senior Lunch on Wed. the 15th
at 12:00 Noon. Bring sack lunch.

Council News

2017 Annual Meeting

I thank all of you who were able to attend the meeting. For those of you who couldn't attend, here are some of the significant items that were discussed:

- 2017 Proposed Budget- Although there is \$23,280 shortfall, the Congregation approved the 2017 budget. Since there is a shortfall, the congregation agreed to take the following actions to reduce the gap between income and expenses. The first action is reduce the HCLC's commitment to the synod to \$100.00 per week. Secondly, there will be a special congregation meeting in July to review our income versus expenses and determine what other course of actions need to be taken to balance our budget.
- Election of Members to HCLC's Church Council—Christy Moses, Bobbie Heaps, Kathy Doyle and Ollie Baker were up for re election and were elected. In addition, we had a first for HCLC when we elected a youth, Katie Featherstone, to the Council. Those five will join Steve Tate, Ed Brown Sandi Christman, Corrie Volinkaty and Geordan Goebel on the 2017 council.
- Call Committee- Congregation elected Geordan Goebel, Tom Martin, Betty Tate, Linda Schlosser, Kim Lentz and a youth, Torry Tegio,
- Hot Water Heater UpGrade/Replacement — Recently, the ladies have experienced capacity issue problems with the current hot water heater; that is maintaining sufficient/adequate hot water to clean pots, pans, etc after using the dishwasher. Many believe this could be a health issue. This was discussed at the meeting but no action was taken due to the current budget shortfall. However, after the meeting, I have received calls from various members indicating their concerns and their desire to contribute to a fund for upgrading the hot water heater. As a result, we have decided to have a drive to raise \$4,500 to upgrade hot water heater from a 3500watt heater to a dual 5500 watt heater. The drive will cover the month of February. If you would like to donate, please annotate on your check 'hot water replacement.'



I loved you
at your
darkest *romans*
5:8

Council News (cont'd)

Our Youth—Growing Young

As I indicated in the annual report, 2017 will be a period of change, reflection, and most importantly, a period of transition. While the Call Committee will be focusing on hiring a new pastor, we, as a congregation, can't forget our core responsibilities: 1) expanding our community of faith, 2) continuing to serve the needs of our communities—local and global, and 3) fostering the spiritual growth of our members.

In line with growing spiritually, we can't forget the importance of connecting (or re-connecting) with the youth of our church. But how do we do that? We need to address how to re-energize our youth programs. Recently, Natalie Tegio and I discussed our youth and their involvement within the church. As a result of our discussion, she loaned me a book called "Growing Young". After reading about 100 pages, I was so impressed I bought my own copy. The authors researched over 250 congregations and based on their research developed six essential strategies a church can use to retain and involve the youth. Regardless of your age or whether or not you have children at HCLC, "Growing Young" is a resource we all can use to engage our youth.

At the upcoming church council, I will be discussing the importance of using this resource as an instrument for engagement with our youth. My suggestion will be to utilize course materials from the book and have either 8 week or 4 week program (depending on how you structure the course) on "Growing Young." After the council meeting, I will share with you how we want to proceed on using "Growing Young" as a mechanism to increase engagement with our youth.

Call Committee Update

On Monday, 30 January 2017, I advised the Synod of the election. Pastor Katy Grindberg responded to my e-mail and then communicated with Geordan that Pastor Tom Miller (Synod Minister) will be contacting him to set up a meeting with the Call Committee.

Looking forward to a prosperous 2017 as we provide and increase opportunities to enrich the spiritual growth of our members of all ages.

Steve Tate, Council President



LOVE

Birthdays:



2/1 Adeline Bergeson
2/1 Bill Kuehn
2/8 Joulette Marbina
2/11 Sharon Rovig
2/12 Alyssa Puckett
2/15 Dan Bouweraerts
2/17 Jim Morrison
2/18 Brita Gonyou
2/18 Paul Featherstone
2/20 Jean Pierre Raad
2/24 Janice Oakland
2/24 Nathan Candia
2/25 Corrie Volinkaty
2/26 Ethan Jaeck
2/28 Tara Martin

Anniversaries:



2/8 Tim & Peggy Rhyme
2/13 Robert & Trish Riley
2/14 John & Donna Sarazen
2/14 Steve & Betty Tate



BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Bible study group will be finishing up the study of Psalms in the near future, with another topic (yet to be determined) beginning some time in March. We meet each Wednesday at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in joining the group, the March transition would be a great time to enter with the new topic, although you are welcome to join at any time.

Please contact Becky Bradley at beckyb485@gmail.com or 775-360-0553 if you would like more information. We want to be sure you have a chance to order our study book in time for the first week of the new topic.

*Let all that you do
be done in Love*

1 Corinthians 16:14



3 Bible Stories to Teach Your Kids about Love

1. Jesus loves us, and that helps us love others. The Vine and the Branches (John 15:9-15) Through Jesus' illustration of the grapevine, we see our relationship with him as life-giving, nourishing and as imperative as the connection between the vine and branch. This simple, yet powerful picture is one your children can understand. Verse 9 encourages us to remain in his love. Love comes from a heart that is connected to Jesus. When we truly know him and understand his heart for us and for others, we will love well.

Related verse: We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

2. Love the unlovable.

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) Even though he was known as a sinful, tax collector, Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus the day he came to town.

Use this story to help your child understand that unkind, unpleasant, unlovable people still want to be known and loved even though they don't act like it. Jesus gives a wonderful example in this story of reaching out to someone who is unloved by many. He goes out of his way to reach out and Zacchaeus' heart is changed by his love.

Related verse: Love others as I have loved you. (John 15:12)

3. Love those in need.

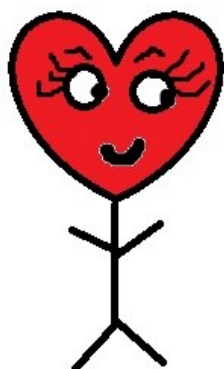
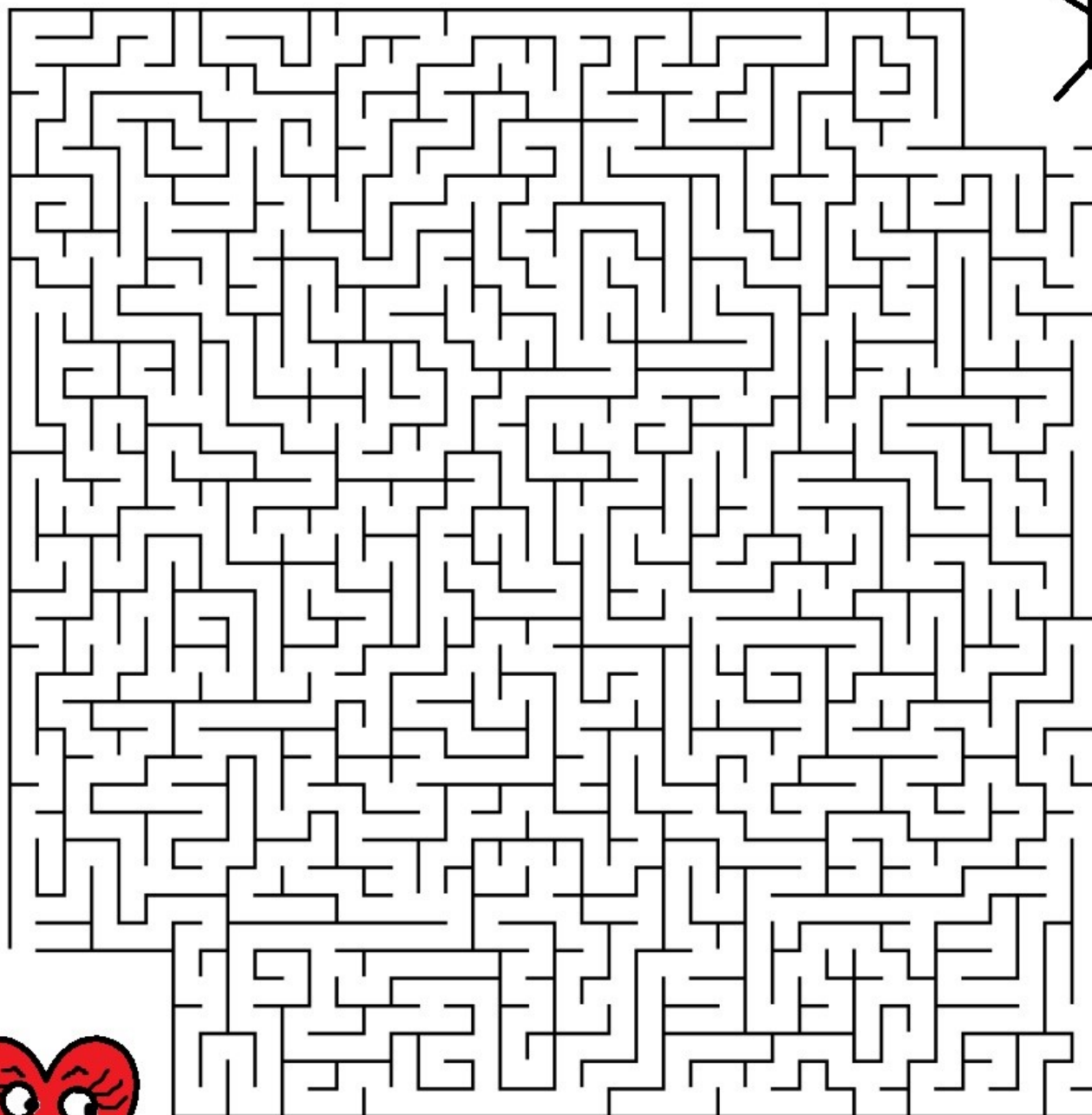
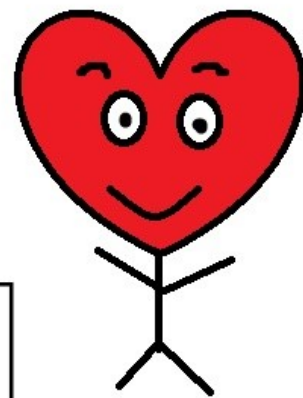
The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:26-37) Jesus instructs us to "love our neighbor as ourselves." When asked "Who is our neighbor?" he responds with this story we've all heard a thousand times in so many ways. The Good Samaritan is a foundational example of what it means to be a Christian. Our children need to be encouraged to notice those in need around them. Through this teaching, we can help foster a heart of compassion in our kids. We can teach them to see and then act when others are in need. In doing so, we are encouraging a love that puts others first.

Related verse: Love your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27)



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Happy Valentine's Day



**Help Mr. Heart get
to his sweetheart.**

Next 8 of the 95 Theses

57. The true treasures of the church, out of which the pope distributes indulgences, are not sufficiently discussed or known among the people of Christ.
58. That indulgences are not temporal treasures is certainly clear, for many indulgence sellers do not distribute them freely but only gather them.
59. Nor are they the merits of Christ and the saints, for, even without the pope, the latter always work grace for the inner man, and the cross, death, and hell for the outer man.
60. St. Lawrence said that the poor of the church were the treasures of the church, but he spoke according to the usage of the word in his own time.
61. Without want of consideration we say that the keys of the church, given by the merits of Christ, are that treasure.
62. For it is clear that the pope's power is of itself sufficient for the remission of penalties and cases reserved by himself.
63. The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God.
64. But this treasure is naturally most odious, for it makes the first to be last (Mt. 20:16).
65. On the other hand, the treasure of indulgences is naturally most acceptable, for it makes the last to be first.

True Love

For God so lo **V**ed the world,
That He g **A**ve
his on **L**y
Begott **E**n
So **N**
That whosoever
Believeth **I**n Him
Should **N**ot perish,
But have **E**verlasting life."
John 3:16

Giving Statements

Giving Statements are done and will be available at the church for pick up for the next two weeks. If they have not been picked up then they will be mailed out. If you have any questions or concerns, please give Dawn a call (775-827-4822) or email her at office@hclcreno.org.

L O V E



February 5th

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

February 19th

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

February 12th

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

February 26th

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9



February Shared Harvest Shopping List ~ due 2/26; bag assembly 2/28 at 1:00 pm, at St. Luke's, Reno. Items needed are Chili, Mac & Cheese, Crackers (saltine packets), Tuna, Laundry Detergent (powdered), Zip Lock Bags (quart size)



Service Committee

They will be meeting on Tuesday the 7th at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come and see what plans are for helping others this coming year.