

Holy Cross Crossroads

Monthly Newsletter of :



Holy Cross
Lutheran Church

| July 2017

Pastor's Corner

Holy Cross Paraments



This month is the third of three monthly newsletter columns to focus on physical things which enhance our worship at Holy Cross. In May the "Crosses of Holy Cross" were featured (most especially the sanctuary cross by artist Ernst Schwidder) and in June I highlighted the stained glass in the sanctuary and the worship book stand Wib Namestka made for the altar/Communion table. This month I will describe the paraments or cloths for the altar/Communion table and pulpit. Parament or Paraments come from the Latin word paramentum, adornment, which in turn is derived from parare, to prepare or equip). The terms refer to the liturgical hangings on and around the altar/Communion table and pulpit and lectern. The terms vestments refers to liturgical clothing worn by clergy and other leaders. A pastor or other leader may, for instance, wear a stole, a symbol of one's ordination, which corresponds to the colors in the paraments.

You likely have noticed that the paraments change to reflect the liturgical season or season of the church year. The liturgical calendar begins with the season of Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas and progress through the year remembering events in the life of Jesus and other holy days and seasons.

Mark Your Calendar

7.10 (Mon)

Council Meeting @ 5:00 pm

7.6, 7.20 (Thurs)

Quilting @ 9:30 am & 4:00 pm

7.18 (Tues)

Hooks & Needles @ 9:00 am

7.5, 7.12, 7.19, 7.26 (Wed)

Bible Study @ 1:30 pm

7.16 (Sunday)

Special Congregation Meeting
Following services

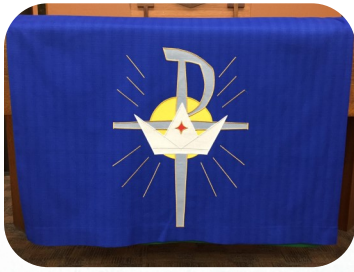
7.19 (Wed)

Women's Book Club @ 3:00 pm

Pastor's Corner (cont'd)

The colors used for paraments have symbolic meaning and the cloths may be adorned with particular symbols as well. Most of the paraments of Holy Cross have been created by fabric artists and purchased through religious supply companies, while the paraments for the Lenten season have been hand-crafted by Holy Cross members.

A unified system of colors in the Christian tradition developed only gradually and haphazardly until and through the Middle Ages. Today, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) provides a system of colors for use by its congregations, which is, for the most part, also used by other Christian churches in the United States and by many churches around the world. Other cultures may attribute different symbolic meaning to colors, however.



Advent: Blue is associated with Advent, suggesting hope. Some congregations use purple or violet in Advent, a color associated with royalty as the church awaits the newborn king. (The

purple of Advent has a different symbolic meaning than when it is used in Lent; see below). The Holy Cross Advent cloth features a crown in accordance with this image for Jesus as king. The cross is formed by the Greek letters tau (T) and rho (P) which together is also called a stauogram, an abbreviation for stauros, the Greek word for cross.



Christmas: White, calling to mind the purity of the newborn Christ, and to our light and joy in him. Gold is another primary color during Christmas. The letters in gold above the

brown cross on the Holy Cross parament are the Greek letters chi (X) and rho (P), the first two letters of Greek Khristos, Christ. The letters alpha (A) and omega (Ω), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, recall the phrase "I am the alpha and omega" and signal that God or Jesus is the beginning and the end or present at creation and throughout time. White is used for Christmas Eve and Day and the Christmas season, the Transfiguration of Jesus, Easter and the Easter Season, Trinity Sunday, All Saints Day, and Christ the King Sunday.



Day of Pentecost: Red as the color of fire is used on this day when we remember the tongues of fire descended on the crowd in Jerusalem. In contrast to the color of scarlet, Pentecost's red is a

bright color.



Ash Wednesday: Purple is the preferred color as this is the first day of Lent. Purple is typically associated with Lent, suggesting repentance and solemnity. Historically, black has also been

used on this day, since it is the color of the ashes to which we will all return. For Ash Wednesday 2017 at Holy Cross the table was bare, which is in keeping with the simplicity of the season.



Pastor's Corner (cont'd)



Lent: This purple parament was hand-crafted by Holy Cross members. As told by Laurel Lindstrom, "The idea for making the Lenten paraments was mine because we

needed new ones and I had a pattern at home that I thought would work well for the design. Diane Torry came on board immediately when we discussed it. We picked much of the cloth from the donated quilt material, along with what others donated. Fat quarters of cloth were purchased from a fair trade organization which had been hand-dyed by women in Africa. Diane and I cut and sewed the paraments and Diane bound them. When the quilt group gathered in the sanctuary to view the cloth on the table, they "found" the crosses in the parament. Later, Diane outlined them in black cord to highlight them." (See if you can find one of the crosses in the picture.) There is a matching pastor's stole and pulpit cloth in the Lenten set of paraments.

Sunday of the Passion: Scarlet is the preferred color of this first day of Holy Week, as it suggests the deep color of blood. (Scarlet is to be distinguished from the brighter color of red, which is appointed for the Day of Pentecost and certain church celebrations like a pastor's ordination or installation). If a parish does not have scarlet (Holy Cross does not), purple may be used.

Holy Week: Scarlet or purple may be used for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week. Maundy Thursday: For this fourth day of Holy Week, celebrated as the institution of the Lord's Supper, scarlet or white is used. Good Friday: No vestments or paraments are used on this day, after the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday night.



Luther Rose Banner: This banner created by Nellie Namestka which depicts the Luther Rose is displayed on the niche wall at the front entrance to the fellowship hall.

The most enduring symbol of the Lutheran Reformation is the seal that Luther himself designed to represent his theology. By the early 1520s, this seal begins to appear on the title page of Luther's works.

Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning. (This description of the Luther Rose is from the website lutheranreformation.org): First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

(From: Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530; translated by P. T. McCain)



Council News

Away From The Office: After our July 16th congregational meeting, Pastor Scott leaves for a week of training for interim pastors. At the end of this training, he and his family will be on a two week vacation. As a result, Pastor Christy will lead us in services on July 23rd and July 30th. Pastor Carl will be our visiting pastor on August 6th.

Upcoming Congregational Meeting: By now all of you should have received a preliminary giving statements indicating your giving commitment along with your total giving (general/operational fund, building fund, etc.) as of May 31st.

With this in mind, I would like to share with you as of May 31st: 1) our operational budget requirements, 2) our operational commitments, and 3) total income (operational).

Approved Budget :	\$ 98,079
Projected Income:	\$ 91,770
Total Income:	\$ 86,126
Total Expenditures (Expense):	\$ 93,483
Deficit Approved Budget (\$98,079-\$86,126)	\$ 11,953
Deficit Project Income (\$91,770-\$86,126)	\$ 5,644
Expenditures-Income (\$93,483-\$86,126)	\$ 7,357

The above figures reflect 42% of the year, and each one of us must recognize we continue to have financial challenges facing us. In reviewing the above numbers, I highlighted in Red the expenditures minus income to illustrate that we are currently operating in the Red. Thus, we are required to use some of our savings to fund our expenses.

As I indicated in my April 25, 2017 letter to the congregation, we, your church leaders, are thankful for those members who made the concerted efforts of increasing/stretching your commitments to not only support the building project but also our operational requirements. But our challenge is how we, the congregation, continue to meet our commitments, but also pray how we can increase our giving to eliminate any deficit.



Again, I ask that all of you continue to pray and consider the following options

- Review the possibility of continuing supporting the Capital Campaign even though our campaign technically ended in June.
- If you have completed your Capital Campaign commitment, combine that commitment with your current operational commitment.
- Revisit both commitments to determine the feasibility of increasing them.
- For those new members, who haven't had the opportunity to contribute please consider making a pledge to the Capital Campaign now.

At the July 16th meeting, I will have financial information as of the end of June to share with you. Hopefully, the data will reflect we have narrowed our deficit.

Secondly, I would like to share with you additional information regarding the proposed changes to our constitution. I received some feedback on the elimination of term limits specifically; C11.03 which refers to the number of terms, and C12.02 which refers to the length of a term.

- The proposed change for C11.03 would state : "**An elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.**"
- The proposed change in C12.02 eliminates the following sentence: ~~Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively.~~ As a result, the following suggested change would state "**The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written ballot to serve for two years or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.**"

While my intent is not to discuss in length the pros and cons of term limits, there are some thoughts I would like to share with you. The subject of term limits has been on-going discussions whether it be in the federal, state, local governments, or within the church hierarchy. (As a side note only 15 state governments have term limits for their legislators.)

Council News (cont'd)

Within some church congregations, there has been discussions concerning term limits. Those in favor of term limits due to their concern that a particular faction within the congregation could have undue control over a congregation or council. In addition, new ideas might not be generated because of the lack of "new blood" on the council. On the opposing side, those who favor the elimination of term limits want to have the latitude to elect those talent/good members who have gained experience by serving on the council. Also, the elimination of term limits doesn't mean the congregation doesn't have the latitude of electing new members to the council at the annual meeting. In essence, the congregation still decides who should be on the council.

Lastly, the other two proposed changes are as follows:

- C4.05.A17: ***Holy Cross Lutheran Church shall review its mission statement every two years and update as necessary.*** This proposed change accomplishes two things: 1) it clarifies a point which the ELCA Model Constitution left purposefully vague, and 2) ensures your council is revisiting your mission statement on a periodic basis.
- C13.03: **An Audit Committee of three voting members shall be appointed by the Congregation Council. Audit Committee members shall include one member of the Congregation Council and two voting members not of the Congregation Council.** The proposed change eliminates the Financial Secretary as a member from the Audit Committee since we don't believe the Financial Secretary should be auditing himself/herself.



July Shared Harvest Shopping List due 7/23; bag assembly will be 7/23 at 1:00 pm, at Lord of Mercy. Items needed:

27 peanut butter, 55 mac & cheese
Disposable razors, 30 milk packets
10 cereal

Martin Luther-Did You Know ??

- Just before the beginning of the twenty-first century, the Arts & Entertainment Network (A&E) compiled a list of the 100 most influential people of the millennium. Number three on the list was Luther.
- Posters of Martin Luther were popular in Germany in 1520 and 1521 and often sold out. Luther lived near two famous German artists who painted the portraits used today in publications.
- In 1525, Luther married a former nun, Katharina (Katherine) von Bora, sixteen years younger than he. They had six children
- Luther loved to write. He translated the Greek New Testament into German. Eventually, he translated the Old Testament into German. In 1534, Luther published a complete translation of the bible into German, underlining his belief that people should be able to read it in their own language. The translation contributed significantly to the spread and development of the German language.

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

The joy of the
Lord is my strength.
Nehemiah 8:10

The Art of Transitional Ministry: Continuing Education for Pastor Scott

Leading a congregation through transition is both challenging and rewarding. Whether it is a change in leadership or a changing neighborhood, it takes knowledge, skill, resilience, and spiritual strength to navigate the waters of transition in a way that allows a congregation and its leaders to be open to possibilities, go deeper, and thrive.

Pastor Scott will be away the week of July 17 for continuing education at a conference entitled The Art of Transitional Ministry. Training for Interim Pastors, also called Transitional Pastors, is formalized into two segments. Scott has completed Week 1, which is a 30 hour intensive course providing basic understandings for leading congregations through changes in context, identity, and leadership. Scott will be participating in Week 2, which is advanced training for those pastors currently serving in congregations in transition. After a week at the conference, Scott will be on vacation with his family and will return to the Holy Cross office Monday, August 7. Guest Preachers during this time will be Pastor Christy Ramsey July 23 and 30 and Pastor Carl Wilfrid on August 6. Pr. Christy is a Presbyterian pastor who was a frequent preacher at Holy Cross in 2016. Pr. Carl served as pastor at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Reno until his retirement in 2014 and has been a guest preacher as well as a worshiper at Holy Cross. Most recently, he has served as temporary

Arrangements for Emergency Pastoral Care Needs during Scott's time away have been made. If you have particular need during this time, contact Holy Cross Administrative Assistant Dawn Braudo in the church office at 827-4822 or office@hclcreno.org or Council President Steve Tate at stevetate@aol.com, who will be able to assist you by making an appropriate referral.



Bible Study

Holy Cross Bible Study group (1:30pm every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall) is exploring how angels are depicted in the Bible. Please contact Becky Bradley at beckyb485@gmail.com or 775-360-0553 for more information. You are welcome to join the group at any time.

NOTE: We will NOT be meeting during the month of August.



Landscape Beautification Project

Updating the Front Gardens of Holy Cross Lutheran Church

It has been over 15 years since we updated the front landscape. Trees and shrubs have died and overgrown their placement and need to be replaced, the ground cover has worn thin, the edging is in need of repair and fences need replacement. Several memorial trees have been given and need to be placed. The addition of our new sign clarified that our McCarran street frontage is a key element in our outreach to the community. Refreshing the landscape will increase the visible presence of Holy Cross, enhance our neighborhood and strengthen our ability to reach the community, engage visitors and gather new members and friends. The Landscape Committee has been working over the past several weeks to develop the landscape plan that will repair and update the irrigation system, replace dead and overgrown trees and shrubs, worn fencing, refresh ground cover, add additional landscaping with memorial trees, shrubs and perennial plantings. The committee developed the plan with input from a professional Arborist/ Horticulturist.

The Guiding Principles of the plan:

- Continue the current landscape design
- All landscape will be low maintenance, using the existing xeriscape approach
- Preserve the irrigation system, updating and maintaining as needed
- Preserve Memorial areas and the Live Nativity area
- The Landscape Committee reports to the Church Council

The project will begin this summer, removing dead and dying shrubs and fence replacement. Planting is anticipated to begin in early fall (a more favorable planting season.) With final completion no later than spring 2018. The total cost is projected at \$16,000 based on specific cost estimates.

You can be involved in this exciting project in a number of ways:

- Serving on a team to design the two perennial flowering areas
- Providing gifts in honor or memory of someone to support the project
- Donating to the overall Landscape Beautification Fund.
- Keeping all in prayer as we work to complete this project.
- Volunteer labor in clean-up and planting (We will announce work days.)

Several generous donations have already been received for this project and your generous donations to the over all project or specific memorials will enable Holy Cross to enhance the beauty of our front gardens.

Plans will be available for your review, input and questions after Worship Services on June 25 , July 2 and 9. The Landscape Beautification Committee members will be available to respond to questions and gather input.

Landscape Beautification Committee: Pat Schlosser, Chris Martin, Geordan Goebel, Paula Featherstone, Diane Torry, Steve Tate

Our Vision—Believe in One, Affect Many, Welcome All



End of Life...

It's Everyone's Business
Start the conversation

Planning for the End of Life Reminder

Pastor Scott and attorney Barbara Gruenewald led a workshop in May on various aspects of considering end-of-life decisions. Among the

topics discussed in the class were planning a memorial service through selecting favorite hymns and scripture verses and recording pertinent information on a memorial planning guide. Those who attended the class or anyone else who is interested in making such plans are encouraged to contact Pastor Scott at the church office at 827-4822 or email at rstrevithick@gmail.com. Those who have filled out a memorial service planning form may wish to email Dawn Braudo, Holy Cross' Administrative Assistant, with your completed form which she can file for you for future reference. Her email is office@hclcreno.org



Service & Fellowship

During the summer months (June/July/August) we will be collecting new underwear and socks for men, women and children. This project is in conjunction with area Lutheran Churches as part of Reformation 500.

The collected socks and underwear will be given to Good Shepherd Clothes Closet. All sizes are needed. Please place your donation in the red basket located by the Giving Tree in the narthex.

Our next Service committee meeting will be Tuesday, August 1st @ 1:00 pm We are looking for new members to help with new ideas to support our community. Please feel free to join us!!



Holy Cross Quilters

We continue to meet over the summer on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. We know that the summer is filled with vacations, family visits, and just "Kicking back"---but if you can find the time--come join the Holy Cross Quilters for fun, fellowship and creative work. The deal always is "come when you can".

Thanks for our member Gail Nemy for her contributions to the quilt group. Gail brings us the ends of warm and natural batting that are pieced into 25 inch square bats for the small quilts we make for the preemie babies in the NICU unit at Renown Hospital. In addition Gail has connected us with a group that uses all (and we mean ALL) of our fabric scraps to make bedding for dogs at the Humane Society--we now have the "infamous" "to the dogs" bag. Thank you Gail for your support of the ministry of Holy Cross quilters.

Happy Summer---"Come When You Can!"

Women's Book & Bible Study

Due to travel schedules the Women's Book and Bible Group will meet only once in July, on Wednesday July 19th. We will resume our usual schedule of meeting every second and fourth Wednesday of the month in August. An email will be sent out as a reminder. Thanks, Kathy Doyle



Weekly Scripture

July 9th

Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16th

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23rd

Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30th

1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Helping Worship Happen



Coffee Hour

7/9: Paula Featherstone
7/16: Cleo Streit
7/23: Deborah Goebel
7/30: Charles Vinopal

Flowers

Veralyn Combs
Tom & Chris Martin
Bobbie Heaps
Steve & Betty Tate

Communion Helpers

Cheryl & Ed Brown
Katie Weldon & Sandi Christman
Ray & Nina Cross
Karen Ford & Veralyn Combs

Lectors

7/9: Laurel Lindstrom
7/16: Mark Calise
7/23: Marla Hoole
7/30: Mona Warwick

Ushers

Charlie & Marla Vinopal
Randy & Shelly Rigler
Michael Ross
Steve & Betty Tate

Altar Guild

July~ Jody Morrison & Sandi Christman

Offering Counter

July ~ Paula Featherstone



Join us Friday, August 18th for Reno Aces Faith Night. Concert and testimonials start at 4:30 pm. Plus everyone who purchases a ticket will receive a free Reno Aces Hat. Game time is 7:05 p.m. Reno Aces vs. Sacramento River Cats

**TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT
\$16/EACH in Infield Reserved**

Sign up sheet will be in the Narthex.



Names in the Bible Word Scramble



1. iashia _____
2. jsdua _____
3. nawder _____
4. bamraha _____
5. raachzaih _____
6. cjbao _____
7. imcah _____
8. entpesh _____
9. udsedath _____
10. usjes _____
11. isttu _____
12. eossm _____
13. agrha _____
14. lbaoromehwt _____
15. jeliah _____
16. ikeelze _____
17. einald _____
18. eihnaehm _____
19. htmaetw _____
20. rtpee _____

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Birthdays:



- 7/1 Cleo Streit
- 7/1 Gail Nemy
- 7/7 Ciarra Loli
- 7/8 Debi Davis
- 7/9 Janet Schultz
- 7/9 Joel Vodilla
- 7/10 Fred Ford
- 7/14 Michael Torry
- 7/15 Ethan Ioli
- 7/15 Laila Dietz
- 7/15 Mark Calise
- 7/15 Tom Martin
- 7/16 Sue Gonyou
- 7/21 Bill Souza
- 7/25 Raylyn Crawford

Anniversaries:



- 7/4 Lance & Veralyn Combs
- 7/19 Matthew & Sarah Karam

May Giving

- Building fund Donations \$ 1,437.00
- General Fund \$13,094.00
- Camp \$600.00
- CM Fund \$20,000.00
- Coffee \$12.32
- Flowers \$60.00
- Garden \$60.00
- In Kind \$794.00
- Memorial \$5,000.00
- Nsf \$12.00
- Picnic \$163.00
- Facility Usage \$1,100.00
- Service Committee \$15.00
- Sunday School \$12.00
- Synod \$100.00
- Voluntary Pension Fund \$75.00
- TOTAL \$ 42,534.32**

