

Holy Cross **Crossroads**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ~ DECEMBER 2017

Mark your Calendar

12.18 (Mon)

Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm

12.13 (Wed)

**Senior Lunch Pot Luck
@ 11:30 am**

12.7 (Thurs)

Quilting @ 9:30 & 4:00

12.15, 12.16 (Fri, Sat)

Live Nativity 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

12.24 (Sun)

**Christmas Eve Services
One service @ 10:30 am
5:00 pm & 7:30 pm**

12.31 (Sun)

One Service @ 10:30 am



Pastor's Corner

Reflecting the Hospitality of God

The church season of Advent begins Sunday, December 3 and extends for four Sundays.

As we begin worship over these Sundays and then continue on Christmas Eve and the first Sunday of Christmas on December 31st, we will light the Advent and Christ candles and sing either "He Came Down" or "Love Has Come." These songs proclaim the central affirmation of Christmas, that God made known God's love for the world in Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us. As the Gospel writer John says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

Pastor's Corner (cont'd)

As followers of Jesus, we demonstrate this love of God for the world when we likewise extend hospitality to welcome others as we ourselves know God's love for us. A tangible way we at Holy Cross can extend this hospitality during this season is to invite others to join us for worship and special events and to actively welcome others when they come. We will have a basket of invitations on the ushers' table in the narthex/welcome space for you to give or mail to a friend or neighbor. Events include the following:

Sunday Mornings in the Advent Season
December 3, 10, and 17 at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. December 24 at 10:30 only. Join us for worship with Advent candle wreath lighting and Communion.

Live Nativity Friday and Saturday December 15 & 16.
Drop in from 6-8 p.m. A tradition of over 35 years! Help us tell the story of our Savior's birth with scripture, costumes, and live barnyard animals. Warm up with chili, apple cider, and hot chocolate afterwards.

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24
5 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols with candle lighting, children's message, small orchestra, and chorus. You may wish to attend this service if you particularly appreciate the presence of children and young families and the orchestra.

7:30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols with candle lighting, Communion, and special musicians. You may wish to attend this service if you'd like to receive Communion.

New Year's Eve—
Sunday morning, December 31, one service only at 10:30 a.m. with Communion. Music led by Joey Ginetti.

★
glory
to IN
God THE
highest
AND
ON EARTH
peace
&
good will
TO ALL
LUKE 2:14



For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Council News

"Blessed Season" of the Year

As the "blessed season" comes upon us, I would like to share with you one of Luther's thought provoking writings containing references to Christmas. The following "excerpt" comes from a sermon on the Nativity that he preached in 1530:

"If Christ had arrived with trumpets and lain in a cradle of gold, his birth would have been a splendid affair. But it would not be a comfort to me. He was rather to lie in the lap of a poor maiden and be thought of little significance in the eyes of the world. Now I can come to him. Now he reveals himself to the miserable in order not to give any impression that he arrives with great power, splendor, wisdom, and aristocratic manners. But upon his return on that Day, when he will oppose the high and the mighty, it will be different. Now he comes to the poor, who need a Savior, but then he will come as a judge against those who are persecuting him now."

On a lighter note, the following (which I shared with you a few years ago) discusses Martin Luther and The Christmas Tree:

Did you know that Dr. Martin Luther was one of the first to use the Christmas tree as a home decoration? One Christmas Eve he noticed an evergreen tree shinning in the moonlight. He couldn't forget this beautiful picture and returned home with an evergreen tree and decorated it with candles. He told his children "that the tree should remind them of the brightness of Christmas and its message of the Savior's birth." By the beginning of the 19th century, Germany adopted the use of the green "Christmas" tree. "They added stars, sweetmeats, tiny toys, and glided nuts together with candles on the trees. The custom spread to England during the reign of Queen Victoria, who was married to the German Prince Albert. He wanted to have his children enjoy one of his childhood memories...The custom of a Christmas tree soon spread throughout Europe and then to the United States. Dr. Henry Schwan introduced the custom of a lighted Christmas tree in church, in Zion Lutheran Church in Cleveland, Ohio."

Both of the above showed how Luther "the great reformer" was heartened by the great festivals of the church especially Christmas.

*Thank
you*



Thank you note from a Silver Sage Dinner Guest:

"I want to thank you and your congregation for the delicious dinner Saturday afternoon. Everything was done first class and the kindness and helpfulness of the staff contributed to a spirit-filled event. It is obvious Jesus was present as his gracious blessings were everywhere. I look forward to next year and in the meantime, may God's grace be with you and your wonderful congregation. Best wishes for a blessed and faith-filled Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday." —Judy

Council News (cont'd)

Upcoming Annual Meeting in January

As I shared with you in November's newsletter, our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 28 January 2018 at 10:30 AM. In addition to approving the 2018 budget, we will have the responsibility of ratifying the following amendments to our constitution:

- C11.03 No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. An elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.
- C12.02. 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.
- 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.

Moreover, we will be electing new members on the council. As of this writing, four members of the Congregation have been nominated to run for church council. Below is information on two of the candidates. In our January newsletter, I will share information on the other two candidates plus anyone else who is nominated.

John Farrell

John was born in Poughkeepsie NY and lived in the small town of Wappingers Falls, NY. Throughout his formative years, he moved around living in Florida, Georgia, Texas, Hawaii and back to Florida. He was baptized in a Presbyterian church in Wappingers Falls where he attended Sunday school until his family left New York. Later on while living in Florida, he was confirmed by the Rev. Arthur Libby Albers at the Garden of Peace Lutheran church in St. Petersburg who was the most influential religious figure in John's life.

After graduating from University of South Florida, John entered the United States Air Force where he had the privilege of flying a number of aircraft spending most of his career in the F-4s. While he flew all models of the F-4 and all of its many missions his proudest accomplishment was to fly the Wild Weasel (WW). During an assignment at Osan AFB, he met his wife, Phyllis who was a civil servant.

After retiring from the Air Force, he received a Masters in Accounting and Information Systems from Arizona State University. After 23 years in the Air Force and 23 years as a civilian working for a number of firms managing IT infrastructure and information, he and Phyllis retired in Reno in June 2016.

Fran Moses

Fran was born in Detroit Michigan. She was the second of eight children. While living in Harper Woods Michigan she was baptized and received her first communion at St. Jude Catholic Church. After her parent's divorce, she received her religious training by not only attending the Roman Catholic church but also her Grandfather's Lutheran church. She also indicated that this period of life, religion at times took a backseat.

In 1968, she met Richard at Christmas and after a "whirlwind courtship", they married in August 1969. They moved to California where they lived in Torrance, Escondido, and eventually San Jose. While living in San Jose, California, they were members of Holy Cross Missouri Synod in Los Gatos, California. Both of their children, Lee and Christy were baptized in the Lutheran Missouri Synod churches—Lee in Tolerance, CA and Christy at Richard's Mother's church in Michigan.

In 2000, the Moses were relocated to Reno, by Bed, Bath, and Beyond. On Christmas Eve, 2007, the family decided to attend the Christmas Eve service at Holy Cross. Due to the openness, and friendliness displayed by the Congregation, the Moses decided to start attending our church. Since joining the church, Fran has been active participant of the service committee. In addition, she represented HCLC at the 2017 Sierra Pacific assembly held in Fresno, Ca. Since she is now a "retiree", she feels she can devote more time to Holy Cross.

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 time for getting ready to enter the Mystery of Christmas is here, Advent. We have finished our time working with the prophets and now will be getting ready for the Mystery of Christmas. We will be making Advent logs after the 10:30 service on December 3rd. The children will be presenting a

Christmas Program on December 17th at the 10:30 service. We would love to have all children participate. There will be a "rehearsal" on Saturday December 16th at 10:00am to run through the program once or twice. We hope that you will be able to make it. Please feel free to contact Jolene (775-224-1683) directly if you have any questions about the Christmas program.

December 3, 2017 ~ Family Worship Day

December 10, 2017 ~ Lesson 1: Advent I - IV

December 17, 2017 ~ Children's Christmas Program

December 24, 2017 ~ Christmas Eve Worship - No Godly Play

December 31, 2017 ~ Family Worship



The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents,
but in *His* 
presence

Live Nativity

Holy Cross has hosted a Live Nativity scene on the property at 4895 South McCarran even before the church building was built. It's been a tradition that members and visitors alike look forward to and one by which many in the broader Reno-Sparks community identify Holy Cross. It's happening this year Friday December 15 and Saturday the 16th from 6 – 8 p.m. both evenings. The highlight is people dressing in costume to tell the story of Jesus' birth alongside real barnyard animals. Festivities also include crafts for kids, Christmas sing-along, and warming up with chili, coffee, apple cider, and hot chocolate. There is no cost to take part and no reservations are required. People drop in between 6 and 8 p.m. and stay as long as they wish. You can help by inviting friends or neighbors and signing up to bring chili, crackers, cheese, cookies, or cider or by helping with a particular task like hosting in the kitchen, the craft table, or costume area on the days of the event. Others will be needed for manger set up on Saturday, December 2 at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Paula Featherstone at (775) 815-7761 or look for the signup sheets in the church narthex/welcome area.

*Live Nativity
Celebration*

*December 15th & 16th
6:00pm - 8:00pm*

*Two nights of
Crafts, Food & Music*

*Spread the word
Fun for ALL ages*

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Holy Cross Quilters

We have been busy busy busy making small Christmas quilts for the Neo Natal Unit at Renown Hospital. This is a "repeat engagement" for the quilt group--we provided Christmas quilts last year--and Renown asked to do the same this year! While all of our quilting "projects" are fun and special--the Neo Natal small Christmas quilts have a unique place in our hearts--sharing Christ's love during Christmas. During the Holiday Season each baby that spends time in the Neo Natal unit at Renown is given a Christmas/Holiday small quilt--they are wrapped in the quilts in the incubators. Then the babies take the quilts home with them at discharge. The quilt meetings in October and November have been devoted to completing these special small quilts- some members have made them at home and our quilting friends from the Children's Cabinet Quilt Group donated Christmas Fabric and have contributed several completed small Christmas quilts.

The Christmas Neo Natal Quilts will be blessed at both worship services on December 10--all the completed Neo natal Quilts will be displayed for the Blessing--please join us for this special blessing. We thank all for contributing their time talents, fabric, batting, and prayers.--Gods Work our Hands.

Thursday, December 7th will be our final Quilt Meeting this year.--we will meet for the morning session at 9:30 a.m. (we have quilts to tie!) and then have a Christmas Pot Luck Party at noon. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Merry Christmas

Children's Program



There will be a special children's program taking place during 2nd service (10:30am) on December 17th.

Advent Tea

Thank you to all who participated. It was another successful tea. Looking forward to next year's.



Bible Study
everyone is welcome

The Wednesday Bible study is on holiday break until January 3. At that time, we begin a new study on the minor prophets. If you would like to join for that study, please contact Becky Bradley at beckyb485@gmail.com or 775-360-0553 so that we can be sure to have a study guide for you.

Thank you to Veterans



During worship on Sunday, November 12 we asked veterans to stand and identify their branch of military service. We prayed in gratitude for those who have served in the military, for their families, and for those working for peace and seeking justice. We lamented violence and loss of life that come in war. Holy Cross has a great number of veterans:

Air Force

John Farrell
Cathy Kline
Warren Kline
Kim Lintz
Christy Moses
Richard Moses
Wib Namestka
John Sarazen
Ken Schultz
Steve Tate

Army

Angelo Bibbo
Paula Featherstone
Geordan Goebel
Joe Krehlik
Tom Martin
Laloni Moell
Bruno Peri
Robin Peri
Ray Streit
Charlie Vinopal

Navy

Richard Wampole
Art Eggers, Richard
Eggers father
"Coach" Pulley

We have two folks connected to Holy Cross in active military service:

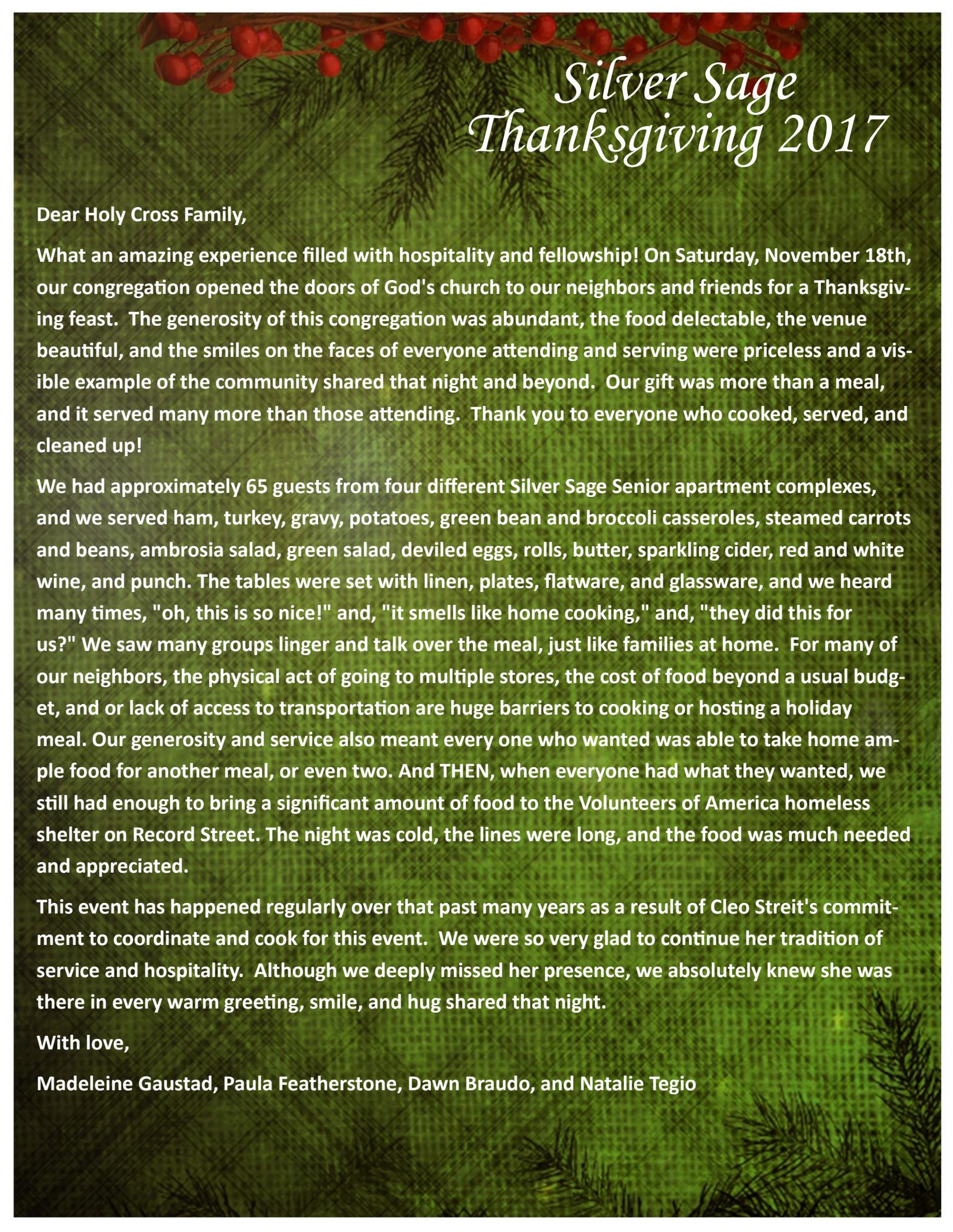
Brandi Streit, Ray and Cleo's granddaughter, in the Army and Christian Ginnetti, Joey's son, in the Air Force.



Special Events Coming Soon

Orientation to Hospice Care: Presentation with Chaplain and Pastor Ruth Hanusa. Hosted by Pastor Scott Trevithick and Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Sunday, January 21 at 4 p.m. with Potluck Soup and Bread Supper to follow

New Member Orientation Classes: Wednesday evenings January 31 and February 7 in the fellowship hall from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. starting with a soup supper. New members will be welcomed in worship Sunday, February 11 following the class completion. Child care will be arranged as requested. For more info, please speak with member Diane Torry or Pastor Scott or email him at pastor@hclcreno.org



Silver Sage Thanksgiving 2017

Dear Holy Cross Family,

What an amazing experience filled with hospitality and fellowship! On Saturday, November 18th, our congregation opened the doors of God's church to our neighbors and friends for a Thanksgiving feast. The generosity of this congregation was abundant, the food delectable, the venue beautiful, and the smiles on the faces of everyone attending and serving were priceless and a visible example of the community shared that night and beyond. Our gift was more than a meal, and it served many more than those attending. Thank you to everyone who cooked, served, and cleaned up!

We had approximately 65 guests from four different Silver Sage Senior apartment complexes, and we served ham, turkey, gravy, potatoes, green bean and broccoli casseroles, steamed carrots and beans, ambrosia salad, green salad, deviled eggs, rolls, butter, sparkling cider, red and white wine, and punch. The tables were set with linen, plates, flatware, and glassware, and we heard many times, "oh, this is so nice!" and, "it smells like home cooking," and, "they did this for us?" We saw many groups linger and talk over the meal, just like families at home. For many of our neighbors, the physical act of going to multiple stores, the cost of food beyond a usual budget, and or lack of access to transportation are huge barriers to cooking or hosting a holiday meal. Our generosity and service also meant every one who wanted was able to take home ample food for another meal, or even two. And THEN, when everyone had what they wanted, we still had enough to bring a significant amount of food to the Volunteers of America homeless shelter on Record Street. The night was cold, the lines were long, and the food was much needed and appreciated.

This event has happened regularly over that past many years as a result of Cleo Streit's commitment to coordinate and cook for this event. We were so very glad to continue her tradition of service and hospitality. Although we deeply missed her presence, we absolutely knew she was there in every warm greeting, smile, and hug shared that night.

With love,

Madeleine Gaustad, Paula Featherstone, Dawn Braudo, and Natalie Tegio

Silver Sage Thanksgiving 2017



Silver Sage Thanksgiving 2017



Time & Talent Sheet

It's that time of year when we ask our members what they are interested in here at Holy Cross. Here is copy of our Time and Talent sheet you can print out or you can pick up a copy at the church to fill out and return. Thank you for your time devoted to Holy Cross. It is our members that make this a special place to worship.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____

Birthday: _____ Anniversary: _____

May we publish your birthday/anniversary in the newsletter (month and day only) ___yes ___no

WORSHIP

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ Be an usher & greeter | _____ Provide special music |
| _____ Help serve Communion | _____ Play instrument _____ |
| _____ Be a lector (scripture reader) | _____ Serve on worship committee |
| _____ Be on the Altar Guild | _____ Provide coffee hour goodies |
| _____ Sing in the Choir | _____ Be an Acolyte (light candels) |

Preferred service for worship helper: ___ 8 am ___ 10:30 am

MAINTENANCE

- _____ Help with the church maintenance _____ Help with church clean-up day

FINANCE

- _____ Serve on the finance committee _____ Be an offering counter

CLERICAL

- _____ Fill in for church secretary _____ Take digital photos of church activities/events

LEADERSHIP

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ Be a council member | _____ Lead bible study |
| _____ Teach or assist with Godly Play | _____ Volunteer with youth activities |
| _____ Serve on a Committee | |

EVANGELISM

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ Drive members to church functions | _____ Invite friends to Godly Play |
| _____ Join the Prayer Partners | _____ Help with New Member Orientation |

SERVICE / FELLOWSHIP

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ Join a social group | _____ Help with Oktoberfest |
| _____ Host a gathering | _____ Provide food for Memorial Services |
| _____ Serve on Service Committee | _____ Help/Participate with Live Nativity |
| _____ Help/Participate with Seder Dinner | _____ Help/Participate with Advent Tea |

SERVICE / OUTREACH- Please check this line _____ if you are interested in helping with additional outreach projects throughout the year in addition to these listed below.

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ Shared Harvest- bring/Distribute food | _____ Help with Ronald McDonald house or other service opportunities. |
| _____ Help with periodic meals at Silver Sage | |

SPECIAL INTERESTS & EVENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ Participate in quilting | _____ Attend Bible study |
| _____ Participate in journaling class | _____ Participate in hooks and needle group |
| _____ Plant a box in the garden | |
| _____ Care for those who are dealing with illness | _____ meals _____ home or hospital visitation) |

Suggestions and or other interests you would like to see at Holy Cross:

December Worship Helpers



Ushers

- 12/3:** Ray & Nina Cross
Torry Tegio
12/10: Michael Ross
Fred Ford
12/17: Kathy Doyle & Charles Kiene
Charlie & Marla Vinopal
12/24: Gladys & Joe Krehlik
12/31: Ed & Cheryl Brown

Communion Helpers

- 12/3:** Linda Schlosser, Sue Volinkaty
Sandi Christman, Katie Featherstone
12/10: Charles Kiene & Kathy Doyle
Jody Morrison, Kim Lintz
12/17: Cheryl Brown & Chris Martin
Katie Featherstone & Torry Tegio
12/24: Sandi Christman, Jody Morrison
7:30 pm—Kathy Doyle & Charles Kiene
12/31: Sue Volinkaty & Veralyn Combs

Coffee Hour

- 12/3:** Nina Cross & Thompsons
12/10: Paula Featherstone & Kim Lintz
12/17: Sue Volinkaty & Sandi Christman
12/24: TBD
12/31: Service Committee

Lectors

- 12/3:** Laurel Lindstrom & Natalie Tegio
12/10: Laloni & Mona Warwick
12/17: Cathy Kline & Roland Grumm
12/24: Christy Moses
12/31: Chris Martin

Altar Guild

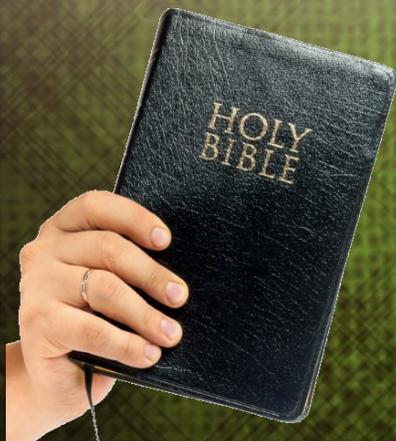
- Veralyn Combs & Christy Moses

Offering Counter

- Randy Rigler

***NOTE: We will have only 1 service on
December 24th & 31st @ 10:30 am***

December Scripture Readings



December 10th

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 17th

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24th

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 31st

Isaiah 61:10--62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40



12/1 Richard Wampole	12/17 Reana Bye
12/2 Ashton Meseberg	12/19 Veralyn Combs
12/5 Ed Brown	12/22 Becky Bradley
12/8 Mike Lintz	12/22 John Hopkins
12/9 Heather Drew	12/23 Frances Moses
12/9 Linda Puckett	12/25 Kathleen Mills
12/13 Eldora Johnson	12/28 Audrie Goebel
12/14 Jan Moebus	12/28 Peggy Rhyme
12/15 Laurel Lindstrom	12/29 Abigail English
12/15 Mary Walsch	12/29 Philip Nguyen
12/15 Natalie Tegio	12/30 Michele Sorge
12/16 Orion Hopkins	



12/12 Charles & Kathy Kiene
12/14 Bill & Sharon Voss
12/18 Warren & Cathy Kline
12/22 Michael & Kimberly Lintz
12/27 Gary & Sharon Rovig
12/27 Ray & Cleo Streit

Christmas Eve Services

Services will be at 5:00 and 7:30 pm. Please join us for a very special worship service.

Hooks & Needles

Hooks and Needles will be meeting the 1st Tuesday only in December at 9:00. Please join us if you want to learn to knit or crochet or if you have a skill you would like to share with us. We knit/crochet for family, friends and for charities.



Senior Lunch

Our Senior Lunch Group will be having our Christmas Party the 2nd Wed. the 13th with a white elephant exchange. It will be a Pot Luck and will start at 11:30 am.