

Holy Cross **Crossroads**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ~ DECEMBER 2018

Mark your Calendar

12.2 (Saturday)
Advent Tea @ 2:00 pm

12.10 (Mon)
Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm

12.4, 12.11, 12.18 (Tues)
Lectionary Bible Study @ 5:30 pm

12.5 (Wed)
Bible Study

12.12 (Wed)
**Senior Lunch Pot Luck
@ 11:30 am**

12.6 (Thurs)
Quilting @ 9:30 & 4:00

12.8 (Saturday)
Wine & Appetizers @ 4:00 pm

12.14, 12.15 (Fri, Sat)
Live Nativity 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

12.24 (Mon)
**Christmas Eve Services
5:00 pm & 7:30 pm**

Pastor's Corner



My final Sunday at HCLC Dec. 30

"Dissolution of the Interim Ministry Covenant" That term sounds so formal! What it means is that when we gather for worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 30, you and I as pastor and members of the congregation will be saying goodbye to one another. I'm so pleased about what we've done together as a congregation these last two years—creating or enhancing a welcoming atmosphere, reaching out to newcomers, strengthening relationships within the congregation and Holy Cross' ties to other Lutheran churches and to the broader community, drawing in over 40 new members, enjoying worship with engaging music and reflection on scripture, and offering compassionate pastoral care during challenging times.

Pastor's Corner (cont'd)

I think Holy Cross is in a great upward trajectory, ready to welcome the ministry of Pastor Kathy Morris, and looking forward to new opportunities and growth.

I thank you for being receptive to my pastoral leadership and to the kindness and respect you have offered me. As a Presbyterian who has also served Lutheran congregations and has enjoyed both long-term and interim ministry pastoral roles, I don't yet know what opportunities may open up for me. I hope and trust that God will provide a meaningful place to serve where my ministry gifts may be put to good use and where both and I and the church find that rewarding, just as I have experienced here at Holy Cross.

God be with you.

Christmas Eve, Monday, 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.



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



Reflecting the Hospitality of God...

The church season of Advent begins Sunday, December 2 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 30th, we will light the Advent and Christ candles and hear words of scripture reminding us of the longing of the people for a savior. We find this hope fulfilled in the coming of Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us. As the Gospel writer John says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

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 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Join us for worship with Advent candle wreath lighting and Communion. On the second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 9, we will bless handmade quilts for infants in Renown's Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit. On the third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 16, children from Godly Play and their leaders will help lead the service.

Live Nativity Friday and Saturday December 14 & 15. 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 maybe even some live barnyard animals. Warm up with chili, apple cider, and hot chocolate afterwards.

First Sunday of Christmas and Pastor Scott's final Sunday with HCLC: Sunday morning, December 30, one service only at 10:30 a.m. with Communion. Music led by Joey Ginetti.

Council News

At our November 13 meeting, Fran Moses led us in devotions, minutes of the Sept. meeting were approved as presented. We received reports from the Maintenance, Finance and Nominating committees.

Dawn reported that the pictorial membership directory is expected in December.

Pastor facilitated leadership education regarding Women in Ministry in the ELCA.

New Business, the Council approved:

- The Sexual Harassment Policy that was presented by Jody Morrison, representing the work team that developed the policy.
- The Cake Decorating Class conducted by Madeline Gaustad, with 4 Monday sessions before year end and 4 Monday sessions in early 2019.
- Deborah Goebel's resignation from the Church council was accepted.
- Pastor Morris's first Sunday will be January 20, 2019, arriving 'in the office' January 15 or 16.
- Pastor Scott's last Sunday will be December 30th—with a Thank you fellowship event following the single 10:30 service on the 30th.

We closed with prayer, next meeting December 10.

THANK
YOU!

We received a thank you note, now posted on the bulletin board in the narthex/welcome space, from residents from the Neil Road Silver Sage property, one of four Silver Sage facilities whose residents attended the Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by Holy Cross and coordinated by Chef Natalie Tegio and Chef Pat Clem.

"The residents of the Silver Sage Apartments at Neil Road wish to express our sincere thanks for your generosity and friendship in providing such an awesome Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 17th. It was a wonderful time for all of us, especially the food, singing, and wonderful friends who attended. It has become a great tradition--one we look forward to each year. Again, please offer our thanks to everyone who gave of their time to make it a success." Also an email note: "A big heart felt thank you to you, Pastor Scott, and your members for another fantastic Thanksgiving dinner. Today, many residents expressed their gratitude and said they had a wonderful evening! Thank you again for making a difference this Thanksgiving season. Much Appreciation, Stacey"

Council News (cont'd)

New Pastor Fund for moving expenses—Update

To date gifts totaling \$3600 have been given to the New Pastor Fund. Thank you! All interview expenses were paid from the 2018 call committee budget.

Pastor Morris has received an estimate of \$7,000 from a moving company to move her and her family household goods to Reno from Henderson. She and her family hope to move in early January. Please consider a gift to the New Pastor Fund to pay for these expenses. Thank You!

When will Pastor Morris arrive at Holy Cross?

We expect Pastor Morris to begin as Pastor at Holy Cross by mid January. Sunday January 20 will be her first day to lead Worship. She expects to be “in the office” January 15 or 16. Her formal Installation Service will be held Sunday February 24th at an afternoon service followed by a reception. This makes it possible for other clergy in our community to attend the installation.

Thank you Fellowship Event for Pastor Scott

Sunday December 30th will be Pastor Scott’s final Sunday with us at Holy Cross. There will be one service at 10:30 am, followed by a Fellowship event.

The Worship Service will include a formal blessing of his Pastoral leadership at Holy Cross over these past two years. The Fellowship event will include a meal (please sign up for the planned potluck) and time for sharing.

Fun Facts



- 1. What is the Mission Statement of Holy Cross?**
- 2. The original building roof was replaced in?**
- 3. How can I learn more about the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod?**
- 4. When are our Council Members Elected?**



It’s time to add some additional beauty to our Sanctuary by adding Christmas Flowers. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. We need to place the order by the 8th, so please sign-up on the 2nd or send an email to Dawn at holycrossreno@gmail.com and let her know you would like to order some.



The children have been moving our calendar every week getting closer and closer to Advent. It is time to get ready to enter the Mystery of Christmas. An exciting time as we get ready for the birth of our Lord Jesus.

On December 2nd during the 2nd service we will be making Advent Logs. The children will be presenting a Christmas

Program on December 16th at the 10:30 service. We would love to have all children participate.

December 2, 2018	Advent Logs
December 9, 2018	Lesson 1: Advent I & II
December 16, 2018	Children's Christmas Program
December 23, 2018	Lesson 3: Advent III & IV
December 30, 2018	Family Worship
January 6, 2019	Lesson 5: Epiphany
January 13, 2019	Lesson 6: Holy Baptism
January 20, 2019	Lesson 7: Parable of the Good Shepherd
January 27, 2019	Lesson 8: Parable of the Good Samaritan

Please notice that Family Worship Day is on December 30th. There will be a regular Godly Play story on January 6, 2019. We encourage all children in the congregation ages 3-12 to join us. We begin the Godly Play session at 10:15. Thank you ~Jolene Jaillet



Joey Ginnetti's son was promoted in October from Captain to Major. Christian is in the National Guard and stationed in Washington D.C. He has been in the National Guard for 19 years since he was 17 years of age.

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 14th and Saturday the 15th 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 to complete manger set up on Saturday, the 30th 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 14th & 15th
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



Lutheran Engagement and Advocacy in Nevada (LEAN), which advocates with the Nevada State Legislature according to ELCA social policy statements, is hosting a Legislative Forum and lunch on Thursday, February 7, 2019, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Legislature building in Carson City. The forum will include a discussion of the issues to be addressed in upcoming legislation. The featured speaker will be the Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer, Bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod, which includes Las Vegas. A luncheon will be served at no charge in connection with the event. There will also be opportunities to meet with Legislators. To RSVP, please send an email to LEAN Director Bill Ledford at william@leanforjustice.org.



Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer

Children's Program



There will be a special children's program taking place during 2nd service (10:30am) on December 16th.

*Children
are a Gift
from God*
Psalm 138

Bible Study
everyone is welcome

Wednesday Bible study meets one more time on 12/5, then we take our holiday break. We resume January 2 at our usual Wednesdays

at 1:30pm time slot in the Fellowship Hall. We are beginning a study of the Lord's Prayer and study guides will be \$5. This is a good time to join the class if you are interested.

Contact Becky at 775-360-0553 or beckyb485@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Silver Sage Thanksgiving 2018

Dear Holy Cross Family,

What an amazing experience filled with hospitality and fellowship! On Saturday, November 17th, 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!



Holy Cross Quilters



We have been working "harder than Santa's Elves" completing forty little 24 inch square baby Christmas Quilts for the Renown NICU! The joy of this work is priceless! We have oohed and aahed over the beautiful donated Christmas fabric, we have been thrilled at the designs we have created for the quilt tops, fussed over finding just the right back to coordinate with the tops, sewed all together -- what beautiful things we create working together!

These small Baby Quilts will be blessed at Worship Services on December 9th and then delivered to Renown NICU for the Holiday Season. The NICU unit performs life giving work with preemie babies. However, this is a very difficult time for the parents and family, as they see their little ones hooked to tubes and machines. Life giving but scary and institutional with no touches of home. The Quilts are used in the isolettes keeping the babies snug and warm, providing a sense of security and normalcy for the parents in the sterile, light-blinking, machine whooshing NICU and then the little quilts go home with the babies. These quilts bring a sense of love and caring for the babies and their parents as they go through challenging times. God's Work Our Hands.

This month, we will meet only on Thursday December 6th following our quilting work, we will have our annual Christmas Pot Luck. **Merry Christmas!**



**SENIOR ADULT
LUNCHEON**

**Our Sr. Lunch/Christmas
Party/Pot Luck will be Wed.
the 12th at 11:30 am. Joey
will assist us with our sing-a-**

**long and we will also have our white elephant
exchange. Questions? Contact Eldora Johnson**

Report from the Finance Committee.....

Financial performance and Budget information – YTD- September 30, 2018

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$150,060	\$183,494	-(\$33,434)
General Fund	\$140,924	\$175,731	-(\$34,807)
Rent	\$7,330	\$7,763	-(\$433)
Misc income	\$2,807		
Total Expense	\$174,370	\$178,689	\$4,319
Net income	-(\$22,754)	\$4,805	-(\$27, 558)

We are below budgeted levels in the General Fund income and Total income. However, we are under budget in expenses. This results in a loss at the end of the third quarter. We experienced slower revenue during the summer months. The revenue trend rebounds in the fall, and we have seen increased giving in October. However, we have not met our projected revenue levels as we enter the Christmas Season.

Please prayerfully review your individual giving to Holy Cross as we approach the end of 2018. Should you need a record of your giving this year, Dawn in the office can provide that information.

Thanks to everyone for you continuing support on our joint Holy Cross Ministry.

Finance Committee—Diane Torry, Linda Puckett, Steve Tate, Pat Schlosser, Jody Morrison



Double your gift to Fire Disaster Relief:

Thrivent Financial, a membership organization which provides financial services to Lutherans, other Christians, and individuals (Holy Cross members among them), has made a pledge to match fire disaster relief gifts, up to a total of \$250,000. To make a gift, you may either write

a check to Holy Cross with "Fire Relief" on the memo line (Holy Cross would then forward one check after tallying gifts) or visit the Thrivent website at thrivent.com/disasterresponse and scroll to "California Wildfires." Then choose "Lutheran Disaster Response" as the participating partner organization and make your gift. Thrivent will pay the processing fee to ensure 100% of your donation goes directly to help those in need. This matching opportunity will run until the match is met or Jan. 31, 2019, whichever comes first.

Looking for Volunteer Opportunities in the New Year?



Here are some ideas . . .

In November, a number of folks from Holy Cross went to tour the facilities in Reno on Record Street and learn about the programs of Volunteers of America for those who are working poor, homeless, and otherwise in need. VOA operates a Men's shelter, Women's Shelter, Family Shelter, an off-site overflow shelter, and a general Resource Center. The mission of VOA is "To change individual lives, instill hope, increase self-worth and facilitate independence, through quality housing, employment, and related supportive services." We met with Linda Grace, Regional Development Officer for VOA. (Email: Lgrace@VOA-ncnn.org and phone (775) 322-7143) and others on the staff, some of whom are graduates of their "Reno Works" program, a focused, 8-week program to establish independence. We also met some of the "Outreach" guys, who provide 24 hour assistance and constantly walk around the facility.

Here are some involvement or volunteer opportunities, which could appeal to an individual, or could be organized as a Holy Cross group project:

- Volunteer at their Resource Center (Receive orientation from Kim, Linda's assistant. This would be more of an ongoing role.)
- Organize a sock, personal hygiene item, towel, bed sheet or other drive.
- Family Shelter: HCLC could host a birthday party for kids, an event the VOA coordinates every month. A group would plan games, play with kids, and serve snacks.
- Baby Shower: VOA coordinates this about 1 time per quarter for moms & babies.
- Move-Out Support: Program participants who are moving out into independent housing are typically provided with some household essentials. Linda told us about one donor/volunteer providing crock pots and recipes for clients.

For more information, visit their website at <https://www.voa-ncnn.org/northern-nevada>, contact Linda, or ask one of the Holy Cross folks who visited: Diane Torry, Bill Hudak, Sue Gonyou, or Jackie White.



Compassion Community Clinic

Compassion Community Clinic is a faith-based nonprofit offering free dental care in the Reno-Sparks area since 2013. Dr. Paul Brosy, who has operated his own dental practice and is a member of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, is their Dental Director. Kathy Secrist is their Executive Director. It is estimated that as many as 40,000 adults in greater Washoe County do not receive dental care because they lack dental insurance and cannot afford to pay out of pocket. CC Clinic is the only ongoing free dental clinic in Northern Nevada and is located in Sparks.

Clinic Operations: CC Clinic is currently open one Friday and two Saturdays each month when its unpaid staff provides basic and necessary dental care, including exams with x-rays, cleanings, fillings, extractions, and oral health education. Those with additional needs are referred to appropriate organizations within the community or to dental specialists who've agreed to provide pro bono care for some of CC Clinic's patients. Patients and their families are also offered compassion and hope in Jesus Christ through prayer and information.

Support: CC Clinic is governed by a Board of Directors. CC Clinic services are financed through donations from individuals, churches, and businesses; grants; and other sources that align with the organization's mission. Volunteer opportunities: CC Clinic is looking for people who love to pray with and for others. Prayer Partners also help patients fill out paperwork and sometimes just lend a listening ear. The clinic offers a short training class and asks that a Prayer Partner commit to 4-5 hours every 3 months. They'd also appreciate referrals to dental professionals who might be curious about the CC Clinic. For more information, visit their website at www.nvccclinic.org or contact Director Kathy Secrist at (775) 358-8913.

Service & Fellowship

A big thank you to all for supporting our Annual Turkey Tree - \$540 was donated to buy 27 WINCO gift certificates for children at Pine Middle School and SmithRidge Stem Elementary School. Those gift cards are very much appreciated!!

We had a surplus of hygiene kits and donated them along with canned goods and clothing to victims of the Camp Fire.

All the Angels were taken from the Giving Tree. THANK YOU. Please return your WRAPPED gifts with angel or bulb attached: SENIORS - 12/2
- CHILDREN - 12/16

Advent Tea - Sunday, December 2, 2:00-4:00 pm

Appetizers - Desserts- Wine - Saturday, December 8 - 4:00 PM

Hosted by Wib and Nellie Namestka

Please bring a hearty appetizer or dessert to share

BYOB - Wine/Beer/Drink

The ladies had a GREAT time learning cake decorating techniques from Madeline Gaustad at their 1st class. They have 7 more classes to go. Look for new sign-ups in 2019 to join in on the fun.




Shared Harvest

FOODBANK

December Shared Harvest is due December 16th (third Sunday). Bag assembly will be at 1:00 p.m. at Faith on 12/16. Items needed: 17 chili, 8 mac n cheese, 32 crackers, Laundry detergent and 1 gallon zip lock bags.



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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 12/1 Richard Wampole | 12/17 Reana Bye |
| 12/1 Sharon Voss | 12/19 Veralyn Combs |
| 12/2 Ashton Meseberg | 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 | |

Fun Facts



1. What is the Mission Statement of Holy Cross? ***To Worship God and follow Christ's call to discipleship as we give of ourselves to the community and those in need worldwide***
2. The original building roof was replaced in? **2005**
3. How can I learn more about the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod? ***Check out their website at spselca.org and subscribe to the on-line Sierra Pacific Synod newsletter***
4. When are our Council Members Elected? ***Council Members are elected at our annual congregation meeting held in January of each year.***



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|--------------------------------|
| 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 |



Hooks & Needles

Hooks and Needles will meet the 1st Tuesday in December, the 4th at 9 a.m. We welcome all knitters and crocheters and/or those who want to learn how to knit or crochet. We are a small group and make afghans/lap robes, scarves, hats and shawls for local causes here in the Reno/Sparks area along with for our family and friends.

Come join us to make a difference for our local people and for a fun time.