

# *Holy Cross* **Crossroads**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ~ DECEMBER 2019

## **Mark your Calendar**

**12.8 (Sunday)**

**Advent Tea @ 2:00 pm**

**12.9 (Mon)**

**Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm**

**12.18 (Wed)**

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

**12.5, 4.19 (Thurs)**

**Quilting @ 9:30 & 1:00**

**12.6 (Friday)**

**Holiday Open House @ 4:00 pm**

**12.13, 12.14 (Fri, Sat)**

**Live Nativity 6:00 pm—8:00 pm**

**12.21 (Saturday)**

**Blue Christmas @ 4:00 pm**

**12.24 (Tue)**

**Christmas Eve Services  
3:00 pm & 5:30 pm**

## **Pastor's Corner**



Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving with those you hold most dear!

As many of you know, on Sunday begins the season of Advent a season of waiting and anticipation that has our hearts longing for much more than what we find under the tree on Christmas morning. There are many beautiful traditions that we enjoy during the season as the days darken and the light of the candles seem brighter as we approach December 25. Although many of us focus on the coming of the Christ child at Christmas, Advent also serves a time to remember that we also anticipate the time when Christ will come again.



## Pastor's Corner (cont'd)

This year, I invite you to journey with us to a time when the angels served as heralds of God's news that something wonderful was coming. After a long period of time of what people deemed was God's silence, the angels appeared to ordinary people and announced that God was ready to do something new. An older couple and their young relative begin the story of God sending his Son to live among humanity in order to save it from the brokenness and pain that sin had brought about.

This Advent we, along with Zechariah and Elizabeth and Mary and Joseph, will be ***Entertaining Angels*** in a special sermon series based on the stories from the first chapters of Luke and Matthew. I hope it will offer an opportunity for reflection as we learn what happened when these Messenger Angels from God appeared with good news, news that the world still needs to hear.

I know it's a busy time of year, but there are numerous activities happening this month at Holy Cross, and I hope in all of the hustle and bustle of this season, they help you to re-discover hope, peace, joy and love!

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Kathy



*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

The Council held a special meeting on November 13.

The special agenda item was the proposal presentation by the Landscape Committee to create a Memorial Scatter and Remembrance Garden

Chris Martin led us in opening prayer.

The Landscape Committee Presentation: Chris Martin, Steve Tate, Paula Featherstone, Pat Schlosser and Diane Torry. The Memorial Garden of Holy Cross Lutheran Church will provide a resting place for cremains of loved ones, while proclaiming God's gracious love in Christ Jesus for all people and create a serene place of solace for those who grieve. The area will have a paver stone walkway, paver stone pad and a cross in the scattering place, benches and plantings. Memorial paver stones may be purchased by members and friends.

The committee received bids from three landscape companies, and selected DRC Landscaping for the project. Mark Bailey from DRC Landscape presented the plan with drawings. The total cost for the Memorial Scatter Garden is projected at \$24,740. A project line item budget was presented. Generous donations have been received over the past several years for the completion of the garden. The Memorial Garden requires the approval of the Congregation as it exceeds 5% of the annual budget. The committee also presented a Memorial Garden Policy, communication plan and paver stone purchase process. After a thorough discussion, the council unanimously recommended that the Memorial Scatter Garden be presented to the Congregation for approval at the January 26, 2020 annual meeting.

Pastor's report: The Trunk or Treat was a very successful outreach to youth and families—75 to 100 people attended. Christmas Eve Services will be held at 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The organ has been serviced and repaired. It took three times longer than anticipated. 30 years of dust was removed and needed repairs completed. In addition, the connections to the speakers were repaired. The cost came in significantly above the estimate of \$1,000 at \$2,950. The Organ Fund has collected \$1,530 to date. The Organ Fund will remain open, if members would like to donate, the remaining funds for the organ repair will come equally from the general fund and the memorial fund.

Dawn reported the new copier is projected to provide significant savings. There is no cost to upgrade the copier.

We adjourned with prayer





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 1st during the 2nd service we will be making Advent Logs. The children will be presenting a Christmas Program on December 15th at the 10:30 service. We would love to have all children participate. We will be having a run through of the Christmas program following the 10:30 service on 12/8/19. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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

December 1, 2019	Advent Logs
December 8, 2019	Lesson 1: Advent I & II – Christmas Program Practice after 10:30 Service
December 15, 2019	Children's Christmas Program
December 22, 2019	Lesson 3: Advent III & IV
December 29, 2019	Lesson 5: Epiphany
January 5, 2020	Family Worship
January 12, 2020	Lesson 6: Holy Baptism
January 19, 2020	Enrichment Lesson: Parable of Parables
January 26, 2020	Enrichment Lesson: Parable of the Deep Well



As the holidays rapidly approach, we realize that it's really not the Most Wonderful Time of the Year for some. Many who have experienced loss, or who feel alone, or are dealing with illness, really struggle at this time of year.

If you are having a hard time, please know that Holy Cross is here for you. Pastor Kathy is available for conversation.

We are planning a Blue Christmas worship service on Saturday night, December 21st at 4pm. It will be a quiet service designed to help us find peace and comfort as we welcome the Christ Child into our midst.

Please let Pastor Kathy know if you have any questions or would like to help in any way.



# 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 13th and Saturday the 14th 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 13th & 14th  
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*



# Stewardship 2019

**First!** Thank you to the Stewardship committee for their great ministry work in leading our 2019 Stewardship Program---Fran Moses, Sheldon Flom, Jody Morrison, Veralyn Combs, Dawn Sawyer, Linda Puckett , Diane Torry, Pastor Kathy and Pastor Carl Wilfred.

**Second, the Results:** Consecration Sunday November 17, 2019, Statistical Results Report A total of 57 giving units (households) completed Estimate of Giving Cards this year. A total of 29 of these giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount A total of 57 giving units present to fill out Estimate of Giving Cards today committed a total of \$156,880. Based on last year's giving records, we can expect to receive \$80,352 during the coming year from people who have consistent giving patterns during the past twelve months but were not present on Sunday . Based on the average total of loose offerings during the past three years, we can expect to receive \$6,500 during the coming year from that source. Church income from non-donor sources, interest and rent \$11,250. This give us a grand total of \$254,982 anticipated income for the next twelve months. The total income for our general operating budget during the last twelve months was \$232,801. Next year we can expect our operating budget income to increase by \$22,181. This is a 10 percent increase in total giving above last year.

**Finally!** Thank you to our Holy Cross Family for your continued and growing giving commitment to our Holy Cross Ministry –sharing God's love. These gifts will enable all of us to continue our ministry work together.

**Living our Vision:** Believe in One, Affect Many, Welcome All

**And our Mission:** To Worship God and Follow Christ' call to Discipleship as we give of ourselves to the community and those in need worldwide.

Thank You



# Stewardship 2019





## 2019 Council Members Wanted

Holy Cross will have three Church Council members whose first two-year term will be over at the end of this year. According to the Constitution they have the option of serving a second two-year term if they so desire. Our policy is to advertise these openings to our congregation members in case anyone wishes to offer their candidacy for one of these positions. We will be voting on them in January at our annual meeting.

If you're interested in serving on the Council, please contact Kathy Doyle at 415- 823-1755 or via email at [kathydoyle@mac.com](mailto:kathydoyle@mac.com).

## Children's Program



There will be a special children's program taking place during 2nd service (10:30am) on December 15th.

*Children  
are a Gift  
from God*  
Eph 3:1

*Bible Study*  
everyone is welcome

Wednesday Bible study is taking a break for the holidays. We will resume on January 8 at 1:30pm in the Fellowship. After a mini-study on Spiritual Gifts, we will begin an in depth study on "Ministering in the Spirit and Strength of Jesus" (II Corinthians, I and II Timothy, Titus). Contact Becky at 775-360-0553 or [beckyb485@gmail.com](mailto:beckyb485@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



# Holy Cross Quilters



On Sunday December 8 a special quilt blessing will be part of both Worship Services. Fifty small quilts and fifty crocheted octopi will be blessed and then given to the Renown Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit.

Several years ago, the Quilt group was asked by Renown NICU to make little Christmas quilts for the babies that will be in the NICU over the Christmas Season. The Renown NICU performs life giving work with preemie babies for several weeks following their birth. 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 touch of home. The Christmas quilts keep the preemie babies warm, fitting over their tiny bodies in the isolates. The little quilts in a sterile, light-blinking, machine-whooshing world provide a sense of security and normalcy for the parents. The octopus are used to distract the babies from pulling on their multiple lifegiving tubes. The quilts and octopi go home with the babies when they are discharged.

Making these quilts and octopi is a special time for Holy Cross Quilters. When we were first asked, we didn't know if we could complete the project –but we agreed to try. Now each year we look forward to starting our “quilt year” by making these special gifts for babies and families in our community—as we design, cut, iron and sew we are blessed to be able to work together to bring comfort and joy to babies

and families –a visible way of sharing Christ's love during the Christmas Season as we celebrate Christ's birth.



## SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON

**Sr. Lunch will meet Wed. the 18th at 11:30 a.m. It will be a Pot Luck and our Christmas Party with singing and a White Elephant exchange. So start collecting items you no longer wish to keep. No gag gifts, please.**

**Questions? Contact Eldora Johnson**



# Organ Repair

After sixteen hours of labor by Tom Nonneman, Rodgers Organ repair specialist, the organ sounds great! We started out with four things on the list, but it turned out to be more of a major project than expected once he started getting into it. I described it as a frog in water and you turn up the temperature: little things going wrong and you don't even realize it.

He replaced all the light bulbs on the music holder, found some loose fuses inside, checked all the voltage wherever that could be checked, and gave it a good vacuuming inside. (He even found a golf ball!) He checked all the keys on the three hand keyboards and foot pedals and fixed the ones which weren't working or weren't working properly, cleaning off the contacts on each and every key. The two motors in the overhead speaker seriously needed oil and were hitting each other at a weird angle, so hopefully a good oiling and adjustment even fixed the cricket sound we would occasionally hear, thus saving an additional service call from someone else. And then once all of this was done, he gave it a good tuning, again checking each and every key, contact, and voicing.

The organ never sounded so good! And this servicing was greatly needed as apparently the organ had not been serviced in the thirty-five years we have had it, to anyone's recollection. Thank you to all the people who contributed to the special organ fund to make this happen and to help enhance the worship experience.





## Organ Servicing/Repair and Fund Update

Our organ has been serviced and repaired! Thanks to Tom Nonneman from Paradise, California. It took two days to remove over 20+ years of dust, debris and a golf ball (can you believe it? There must be a good story) from the organ. Repairs were completed, and Tom also repaired the connections to our sanctuary speakers. Thank you to Becky for coordinating and being available for two days to assist Tom. The total cost of \$2,950 was above the original \$1,000 estimate.

Thank you to our generous members and friends, \$ 1,530 has been given to the Organ Repair Fund to date. The Church Council approved keeping the Organ Fund open if members and friends would like to make a contribution. The remaining organ repair balance will be paid equally from the general fund and the memorial fund. All donations for the organ repair are deeply appreciated.

Church Council

---



Hooks and Needles will only meet the 2nd Tuesday in December, on the 10th from 9 till 11+.

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.



## Exciting News from the Landscape Committee:

The Landscape Committee has continued meeting since the completion of our "Beautification" project in May 2018. Born from that very successful project came questions and ideas about possibly setting aside a designated memorial garden and adding a scattering area for cremains along with the expansion of our outdoor seating area under the trees. These ideas have offered us the opportunity to explore how we utilize our property and how we might move forward with another ministry.

**Why:** The Memorial Garden Policy of Holy Cross Lutheran Church would provide a resting place for the cremains of loved ones, while proclaiming God's gracious love in Christ Jesus for all people and creating a serene place of solace for those who grieve.

**What:** The designated area will have a paver stone walkway leading the way into the garden and an additional paver stone in the shape of a cross within the scattering garden. Cremains of loved ones can be identified by having a paver stone engraved with the person's name, birthdate and date of death and placed in the cross. It is not required to purchase an engraved paver to have remains scattered in the garden. To honor/remember loved ones interred elsewhere, engraved pavers can be purchased and will become a part of the walkway. There will be a fee for the engraving of the paver stone.

This committee met with our church council on Nov.13th, 2019 and presented to them our plans. They all were very excited about our recommendations and after a lengthy discussion voted unanimously in favor of bringing this concept forward to the membership. Your January 2020 newsletter will contain more information and then on Jan. 12th and 19th we will have packets ready for you to pick up. At that time you will also be able to see a picture of the area in question along with pertinent information about the project. The Landscape members will also be available after each service on those dates to answer questions. At our Congregational Meeting on Jan. 26, 2020 you will have the opportunity to make comments, ask further questions and then vote on whether or not to approve moving forward. One note of interest is that this project has already been funded through generous donations.

Your Landscape Committee members are: Chris Martin, Paula Featherstone, Steve Tate, Pat Schlosser, Diane Torry and Pastor Kathy. Yours in Christ ~ Chris Martin



# Service & Fellowship

***A big thank you to all for supporting our Annual Turkey Tree -***  
WINCO gift certificates were purchased for children/families at Pine Middle School and SmithRidge Stem Elementary School. Those gift cards are very much appreciated!!

There are still a few Angels left on the Giving Tree ready for taking. THANK YOU to all who are helping make the holidays a little brighter for seniors and children. Please return your WRAPPED gifts with angel or bulb attached: SENIORS - 12/1 - CHILDREN - 12/165

Advent Tea - Sunday, December 8, 2:00-4:00 pm

Holiday Open House - Friday, December 6th - 4:00 PM

Hosted by Pastor Kathy & Jeff Morris

Please bring a hearty appetizer or dessert to share

BYOB - Wine/Beer/Drink

The beauty of  
*Christmas*  
is not in the  
presents but in  
*His presence.*  
Matthew 1:23



## Shared Harvest

FOODBANK

December Shared Harvest is due December 22nd (third Sunday). Bag assembly will be at 1:00 p.m. at Faith on 12/22.

Items needed: 40 chili,  
40 mac n cheese,  
41 crackers and 35 tuna.





*It wouldn't be Christmas  
without friends in our home!*

*Please join us for our*

## *Holiday Open House*

*Friday, December 6th ~ 4-7pm  
1917 Wind Walker Dr*

*The Morris Family*

*Pastor Kathy, Jeff,  
Abigail and Samuel*

*Please sign up to bring some  
appetizers and wine*

## **December Scripture Readings**

### **December 1st**

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:36-44

### **December 8th**

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

### **December 15th**

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146:5-10  
James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

### **December 22nd**

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

### **December 29th**

Isaiah 63:7-9  
Psalm 148  
The splendor of the Lord is  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23





12/1 Sharon Voss  
12/2 Ashton Meseberg  
12/8 Mike Lintz  
12/9 Heather Drew  
12/9 Linda Puckett  
12/13 Eldora Johnson  
12/14 Jan Moebus  
12/15 Laurel Lindstrom  
12/15 Natalie Tegio  
12/16 Orion Hopkins  
12/17 Reana Bye  
12/19 Veralyn Combs



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



## ***Christmas Flowers***

We will be doing flowers a little bit different this year. We will still have a list of remembrance but we will be doing larger poinsettias to fill the sanctuary. If you would like to contribute to the Christmas Flower Fund, you may do so with a recommended donation of \$10.00 indicating Christmas Flowers on your donation. Please see Linda Schlosser if you have any questions.



The blessings of peace,  
the beauty of hope,  
the spirit of love,  
the comfort of faith  
*May this be your gifts  
this Christmas season.*