



**Holy Cross**  
Lutheran Church

# *Holy Cross* **Crossroads**

Monthly Newsletter : *January 2020*

## **Mark Your Calendar**

**1.13 (Mon)**

**Council Meeting @ 5:00 pm**

**1.14, 14.28 (Tue)**

**Hooks & Needles @ 9:00 am**

**1.15 (Wed)**

**Senior Lunch @ 11:30 am**

**1. 8, 1.22 (Wed)**

**Women's Bible/Book Study  
@ 3:00 pm**

**1. 8, 1.15, 1.22, 1.29 (Wed)  
Bible Study@ 1:30 pm**

**1.2, 1.16 (Thurs)**

**Quilting @ 9:30 & 4:00**

**1.26 (Sun)**

**1 service & Annual Meeting  
Service @ 9:00 am  
Meeting at 10:15 am**

## **Pastor's Corner**



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and I pray that you all have a blessed New Year!

I want to thank you all for your gift I received for Christmas. It was so very kind of all of you and my family and I greatly appreciate your generosity. It is a blessing to us and we are grateful!

Yet, I find myself more grateful for each of you. As you know, it is almost a year since I began my ministry at Holy Cross, and I find that each day I am deeply moved for the gifts you all are to this church. I believe that each one of us has been given gifts by God that we are invited to use as we care for one another and the world that God has made.

*Continued on page 2*





## Pastor's Corner (cont'd)

Some of us may know what those gifts are and are already confident in how we share them, but others of us, may not realize the gifts that God has given to us and how best to share them for the ministry of the church.

This month, as we begin a new year, we will be taking some time to discover our Spiritual Gifts as well as ways that we can offer those gifts back to God in the work that we do here at Holy Cross.

How will we do that?

**1. WORSHIP** - Each week in worship in January, the sermon will focus on how God calls us to use our gifts and understanding what Spiritual Gifts are.

**2. LEARNING** – There will be two opportunities for more in-depth learning and exploration of our Spiritual Gifts. The first will be Becky's Wednesday Bible Study on January 8, 15, and 22 at 1:30pm, and the second, will be a two-week Spiritual Gifts Workshop on SUNDAYS, January 12 and 19 from 9:15-10am.

**3. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ASSESSMENT** – To help us understand our Spiritual Gifts, we want to give everyone an opportunity to fill out an assessment where you answer 60 questions and when entered into the computer, you can then receive back the results of your gifts. We will be using a tool provided by the ELCA, which does not require you to share any personal details other than answering the questions. It does not require you to even share your name. We will have paper copies available for you to fill out starting January 12 or you may choose to fill it out on line at: [https://www.elca.org/Our- Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Spiritual-Renewal/Assessment-Tools?](https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Spiritual-Renewal/Assessment-Tools?) If you do choose to fill out a paper copy, we will ask your name so that we can follow up with your results. We would love to have as many people as possible fill it out by January 19 as we will be asking for you to share with the church your Top 3 Spiritual Gifts.

**4. THE RESULTS** – What will we do with them? Quite honestly, the reason we are doing this is two-fold. One, we want you to be aware that God has uniquely gifted each one of us with gifts and talents that are to be used, no matter how old or young we might be. Two, is that we would like to see you use your gifts in ministry at Holy Cross. Once each of us knows our gifts, we hope it will help you fill out a Time and Talent Pledge of the gifts you will be offering to God this year.

**5. TIME AND TALENT PLEDGE** – As you may know, we did not include a time and Talent Form as part of our Stewardship Campaign this last fall. We have revamped the form a little bit and will have it available January 19 for you to take home and fill out. We will collect them in worship during the offering on January 26, the day of our Annual Meeting. We hope that by discovering our Spiritual Gifts that it will inspire us to try something new this year to help us continue to grow in faith. Most importantly, as we work to expand our ministry in the coming decade, we hope that it will help us identify which ministries people are passionate about, so when new ideas come up, we will have an idea where to start looking for help.

My friends, it's a new year, a new decade, and I for one am excited to see where God is leading us in the future. I hope you will help us to explore the gifts we each have been given!

In Christ's Love, Pastor Kathy Morris



# Council News

## BE WARM, BE KIND

The Council met on December 9th.

Laurel Lindstrom led us in opening devotions.

We received reports from Pastor Kathy, Finance Committee and the Stewardship Committee.

Our Congregational Annual Meeting will be held Sunday January 26. We will have one worship service at 9 a.m. with the meeting called to order immediately following service, and then a fellowship event.

This year Holy Cross will celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September. Plans are developing for a year of thanks and celebration. A Holy Cross Cookbook will be published---a basket for recipes from members and friends is available in the narthex, see Richard Eggers or Laurel Lindstrom for more information. Michael Tegio is in process of producing a documentary about Holy Cross—four decades of Ministry! The Bishop from the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod will be with us for the September Sunday of celebration. There is more in the “thought and development stage”.

During January we will focus on gifts of our individual Time and Talents. What is God calling each of us to give to further the mission of Holy Cross?

The Council Liaisons will be preparing an annual report on their area of responsibility:

Worship and Music: --Sharon Voss and Mark Calise

Education and Learning: Sue Volinkaty and Diane Torry

Service and Outreach; Sue Gonyou and Stephany Robison

Fellowship: Laurel Lindstrom and Richard Eggers

Administration: Warren Kline and Fran Moses

These reports will become part of the Annual Report of the Council to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Pastor led us in closing prayer.

Diane Torry, Council President





## ***Holy Cross Annual Congregational Meeting Set for January 26***

On Sunday, January 26, we will have only one worship service at 9:00 a.m. so that the Annual Congregational Meeting may follow at 10:15 a.m. All formal church members as well as interested regular worshipers are encouraged to attend to be well-informed and for members to participate in decision-making. As a congregation, Holy Cross is led by its Council, which is its governing board responsible for the general oversight of the life and activities of the church. Authority to make certain decisions, such as approving an annual budget or electing members of the council, is vested with the congregation itself and voting takes place at this meeting. A very special treat for all, as Randy & Shelley Rigler will be graciously providing brunch for our members after our meeting.

### ***Specific business Items to be addressed at the Congregational Meeting include:***

- Approval of past Congregational Meeting Minutes
- 2019 Review
- Election of Members to HCLC's Church Council
- Congregational Financial Information
- 2019 Financial Review
- 2020 Budget Review/Approval
- Election of Representatives to Synod Assembly, May 1- 3, 2020  
"We are Church Together: Called and Sent" in Fresno, CA,.
- Going Forward 2020
- Questions from congregation members
- Receipt of written Committee Reports





### Moving Forward.....Additional Landscape Committee News

The members of the committee, Steve Tate, Pat Schlosser, Pr. Kathy, Chris Martin, Paula Featherstone, Diane Torry, would like to share more information with you concerning our Memorial Garden project.

You will have an opportunity to hear a short Temple Talk at each Worship Service on Sunday Jan. 12, 2020. We will also provide packets of printed materials available for you to pick up and take with you after each worship service on Jan. 12th and 19th.

Members of the committee will be on hand to answer any questions, listen to your comments and encourage you to be present on Sunday, Jan. 26th at the Congregational Meeting where a discussion will commence prior to taking a vote to proceed with this project. A display with information including a plat map and pictures of the area where we intend to develop the Memorial and Scattering Garden can be viewed on Jan 12th & 19th.

Some have already asked where will we get the money for this project. We have been blessed by generous donations from members of the congregation. At this time we have all the funds needed to cover the costs of the development and implementation of this Memorial and Scatter Garden.

**Why a Memorial and Scattering Garden?** We would be providing a resting place for cremains of loved ones, while proclaiming God's gracious love in Christ Jesus for all people while creating a serene place of solace for those who grieve.

**What does it look like?** The designated area will have a paver stone walkway leading the way into the garden and an additional paver stone area in the shape of a cross within the scattering garden.

The Memorial Garden is a visible sign that Holy Cross cares for its members from birth and baptism through death and eternal life. Our living community surrounds the garden. We continue to worship and work, gather and play through the daily life of the church. The garden provides a safe and comfortable place for family and friends to pray and honor the dead. A Memorial Garden provides a theologically correct, ecologically sound and economical way to honor the deceased.

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## ***Landscaping News (cont'd)***

**Who will do the work?** We approached three different companies to hear our ideas and put forth their plans with a budget. We have settled on DRC Landscaping, LLC to contract with us. Once the plan is approved by the congregation, we will formalize the contract with them. The total cost of the project comes in at \$24,891.00 of which \$21,441.00 is payable to DRC Landscaping, LLC. Please note that we have the necessary funds to pay for this project. The difference of \$3,450.00 is being paid to other vendors for material and labor not covered under the formal bid from DRC.

The project, if approved, will start as soon as we can get on the schedule and is dependent on favorable weather conditions. Completion of the project may take 3-4 weeks (perhaps sooner if the weather accommodates). Once the project is finished we will plan for a dedication and blessing of the Memorial Gardens.

Additionally you will have an opportunity to purchase Memorial Pavers for loved ones who have passed and are interred elsewhere. For those loved ones who are to be cremated and have their ashes scattered, paver stones can also be purchased to memorialize them in the Scattering Garden. We will be taking orders for Memorial Pavers so they will be available for inclusion in the paver walkway at the time of construction. Thereafter, purchase of pavers after the completion of the walkway and cross can be ordered and will be placed on a yearly basis.

Yours in Christ,

Chris Martin on behalf of the Landscape Committee



### ***Alright all you HCLC Betty Crockers.... here's the scoop.***

The 40th Birthday cookbook is a go. Here is some starter information for you. The cookbook will have a theme of *"Honoring Our Past, While Embracing Our Future"* - (keeping the old recipes of members past, and adding new recipes for our current members).

It is time to be sending in those treasured and most delicious recipes. There will be a box/basket on the back table in the Narthex. You can just drop them off in there. You may also email them to Richard Eggers at [Renogemini@aol.com](mailto:Renogemini@aol.com). Please make sure you only submit up to 3 recipes. That they are legible to read and your name or the name of who the recipe is from is on it. We are looking for a variety of entries - things like appetizers, soups, salads, stews, main dishes, side dishes, beverages, desserts, cakes, cookies, breads, holiday dishes, candy, etc.







## ***Women's Book & Bible Study***

After a two-month break we are happy to report that the Women's Book & Bible Study group will resume its bi-monthly meetings beginning on Wednesday, January 8. We will continue to meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 3pm in Fellowship Hall following Becky's 1:30 Bible Study. The group will continue with "Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life – Seven Gateways to Spiritual Growth." As usual, I email everyone on the list ahead of time with the pages to be discussed at each meeting. We always choose books with "standalone" chapters that don't have to be read consecutively in case people have to miss some sessions.

We have a fun and lively group and our discussions have been enriching and informative. If you're interested in joining the group, please contact me, Kathy Doyle, in person or at [kathydoyle@mac.com](mailto:kathydoyle@mac.com)



### **BIBLE STUDY**



Wednesday Bible study resumes on January 8 at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor will be talking about some spiritual gifts in her sermons in January, and we'll cover some others. After this mini-study, 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.



**Sr. Lunch group will  
be held  
on Wednesday, Jan.  
15th at 12:00 pm.  
*Bring sack lunch.***

**I would also like to add:  
Thanks to all of you who  
joined us for our Sr. Lunch  
Christmas Party and Pot  
Luck. We had a large  
response and a great time  
with the Elephant exchange  
and singing along with Joey  
and his accordion.**

**Thanks, Eldora**





## ***Holy Cross Quilters... What We Do!***

Holy Cross Quilters resume their regular schedule in January—we “formally” meet in the Fellowship Hall the first and third Thursday of each month 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. –January 2 and 16, 2020.

However, most Thursdays you will find a few quilters in the Fellowship Hall having “all kinds of fun”.

A few “fun quilt group facts”—Holy Cross Quilters began in 2007, and completed 10 quilts, given locally to the Children’s Cabinet. In 2019 Holy Cross Quilters completed 162 quilts given to eight community and world wide agencies . The quilt group has completed and given away 1705 quilts over the past 13 years.

We dedicate our quilts to Christ’s service, trusting that Christ’s love will go wherever each quilt is sent, making it more than just a piece of material or a collection of items—making each quilt we have created an expression of love.

Come join us ~ all are welcome!

**Please join us for creative work, fun and fellowship.**

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## **Happy Work Anniversary to ME!**

I began working here at Holy Cross way back on January 6, 2015! It’s hard to believe I am starting my 6th year as your administrative Assistant/Financial Secretary. I am so very grateful and blessed to be part of the Holy Cross Family. I truly consider you all extended family. Thank you for accepting me, your continued support and I look forward to a wonderful 2020 with everyone!  
Thank you ~ Dawn Sawyer



# January Scripture Readings

## January 5th

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

## January 12th

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

## January 19th

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

## January 26th

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23



For surely I know the plans I have for you,  
says the Lord, plans for your welfare  
and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

JEREMIAH 29:11



## Service/Fellowship Committee

# Thank You



The Service /Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone for their support this past year. December was an especially busy month beginning with the Advent Tea. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with good food, beautiful music, and fellowship. A big thank you to all who made this such a wonderful event and to all those who attended.

THANK YOU to the congregation for making Christmas special for seniors and families in our community. The staff for Be A Santa program for Home Instead were so appreciative of the gifts that were provided for seniors in our community. The counselors at Pine Middle School were also very appreciative of the gifts that we provided for five families in our community.

Thank you again to HCLC congregation. You are amazing!!





## ***New Membership Orientation Class: Thinking about joining Holy Cross Church?***

Anyone may be active at Holy Cross without formally joining the church. We invite people to consider membership as a means of expressing their faith and their intent to join with us in worshiping regularly, seeking to live a Christian life, and being stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us. We offer an orientation which includes opportunity to get to know others; learn about Lutheran values, beliefs, and history; and learn about ways to be involved and grow in faith at Holy Cross. Participants may attend the classes without initially deciding if they'd like to join. Attending the orientation should provide helpful information whatever one decides.

- Class session & brunch will be on February 9th following the 10:30 worship service in Fellowship Hall from approximately 11:30—1:30.

To express interest or for more information, speak with Pastor Kathy or email her at [pastorhclcreno@gmail.com](mailto:pastorhclcreno@gmail.com).

## **HELPING THE HOMELESS & GIVING HOPE**



At a recent Hot Topics meeting, it was clear that there are some people who want to increase our ministry with the local homeless population.

We don't know what that might look like, but if you are interested in helping us do that, we invite you to join us on Monday,

January 13 at 11am to start conversation about how we might be able to do more to help our neighbors.

If you are interested in helping, but that time doesn't work for you, please talk with or email Pastor Kathy.



# HOOKS & NEEDLES

***Hooks and Needles will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in January at 9:00, the 14th and 28th.***

***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. We are now making Octopi for the Renown Neo Natal unit, we will teach you how, they are so cute. Come join us to make a difference for our local people and for a fun time.***



1/4 Lance Combs  
1/6 Odell Guss  
1/7 Owen Schenk  
1/10 Charlie Gevert  
1/11 Karleigh Ellison  
1/11 Jayne Ellison  
1/12 Nellie Namestka  
1/13 David Anderson  
1/14 Martin Theiss  
1/16 Maryann Christman  
1/18 Trish Riley  
1/19 Orlyn Schenk

1/22 Laura Grady  
1/23 Jolene Jaillet  
1/24 Katie Sawyer  
1/25 Kaylee Caldwell  
1/29 J.L. Christman  
1/30 Cathy Kline



1/3 Michael & Sandi Ross

**~ NOTE ~  
We will have  
only one  
service on  
January 26th at  
9:00 am with  
the Annual  
Meeting  
following  
services.**



Direct your  
**Thrivent Choice  
Dollars**  
Today!



Guess What!! If you are a Thrivent member with "Thrivent Choice Dollars" please consider designating your dollars to Holy Cross Lutheran Church Reno.

You have to designate your choice dollars every year and now is a good time to do that!! If you do not designate them by March 31, 2020, Thrivent will use them in other ways. So help the organizations you care about, strengthen communities and change lives by directing available Choice Dollars. Just follow one of these easy steps:

- Go online at [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).
- Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.
- To search for participating organizations or recommend one to be added to the list of eligible recipients, visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

## ***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).





# Shared Harvest

FOODBANK

January Shared Harvest is due January 26th. Bag assembly will be at 1:00 p.m. at St Luke's on January 26th. Items needed: 9 powdered milk packets, 39 soup and disposable razors



FINANCIAL NEWS

Dawn will be finishing up year end giving statements which will be available in the

Narthex by the Annual Meeting. She will also include a year end giving summary in February's newsletter. Thank you all for helping Holy Cross continue sharing God's word with family and friends. This is all possible due to your continued support and generosity over the years.





# *Live Nativity*

The live Nativity was a wonderful success, as usual. Everyone involved and those who participated had a joyous time sharing the story of Jesus' birth. It was fun seeing little ones getting dressed up enjoying the interactive role-playing. Thank you to Paula Featherstone for heading the evening along with all her Elves who helped. We truly have the BEST congregational family here at Holy Cross spreading God's word for all to hear!





# January Worship Helpers

## Coffee Hour

**1/5:** Susan McMurray (1st) & Suzanne McDonald (2nd)  
**1/12:** Betty Tate (1st) & Grant Gallagher (2nd)  
**1/19:** Sue Volinkaty (1st) & Jim Thompson (2nd)  
**1/26:** One Service—Paul Featherstone

## Lectors

**1/5:** Wib Namestka (1st) & Torry Tegio (2nd)  
**1/12:** Sue Gonyou (1st) & Logan Kunze (2nd)  
**1/19:** Susan McMurray (1st) & Sheldon Flom (2nd)  
**1/26:** Cathy Kline (1st) & Kayla Kunze (2nd) Grumm

## Communion Helpers

**1/5:** Martins (1st), Sandi Christman & Jody Morrison (2nd)  
**1/12:** Sue Volinkaty & Paula Featherstone (1st), Katie Weldon & Karen Ford (2nd)  
**1/19:** Tates (1st), Cindy Thompson & Natalie Tegio (2nd)  
**1/26:** One service ~ Sandi Christman & Carol Ritter

## Flowers

Veralyn Combs  
TBD  
TBD  
TBD

## Altar Guild

Karen Ford & Linda Puckett

## Offering Counter

Diane Torry

## Usher Helpers

**1/5:** Kienes (1st), Shirley Fletcher & Stephany Robison (2nd)  
**1/12:** Namestkas (1st), Sandi Christman & Sue McDonald  
**1/19:** Paula Featherstone & James Alanko (1st), Fords (2nd)  
**1/26:** Tates (1st), Jody Morrison & Logan Kunze (2nd)



***HOT TOPIC NIGHT*** will be on Tuesday, January 21 at 6pm. Come and join us as we explore our relationship with the Sierra Pacific Synod and the ELCA and how it is that ***“We are Church Together”***.