



# Holy Cross

## *Crossroads*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2020

## From Pastor Kathy:

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, each year in September, we participate in the ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. It's an opportunity to reach out into our community with the same kind of love for our neighbors that Jesus has, and it's a time for us to be reminded that the good we do in the world is in God's name, on God's behalf.

Things being what they are in this season of Pandemic, we are not going to do anything formally as a group from the church like we have done in year's past. Instead, we want to challenge you during the month of August to take part in doing Random Acts of Kindness for your families, friends, neighbors, pets, and maybe even strangers.

My hope is that we can get some of you to share (via video) what you did and how much fun you had doing it, so that we can add it to our service for September 13, which is God's Work, Our Hands Sunday.

I know it's a little bit different this year, as everything has been, but in the midst of all the turmoil, it's nice that there is still kindness to be practiced in the world. So have fun with it! We can't wait to hear about it! Send me your videos whenever you complete your Act of Kindness, or better yet, send me your videos of you doing a random act of kindness!

If you need ideas, I have made a list, and I think for the most part, people of all ages can take part in them, but if you would like more ideas, please feel free to explore the internet and share some that you especially enjoyed!

May you have fun and be blessed as you bless others with kindness!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Kathy

# Random Acts of Kindness Ideas

Create a feel-good sign for the window of your house

Make a mask for yourself and for someone else

Make a donation to a place that feeds the hungry

Give blood

Write a note or a card to someone

Share a positive news story on social media

Arrange an online coffee or tea time with a friend

Gift or share a good book

Buy someone's fast food or coffee in the drive-thru line in back of you

Prepare a meal or dessert for a neighbor

Shop and delivery groceries for a neighbor

Bring a neighbor flowers on their doorstep

Roll out or in your neighbor's trash cans

Help a family member with a household task

Tell someone a joke

Donate items to an animal shelter

Hang up a bird feeder

Make extra time to play with a pet

Pay forward a vending machine snack

Give a gift for no reason

Compliment a public service employee, or a store clerk

Take snacks to your neighbors

Put inspiring notes in public places

Make someone around you smile

Reconnect with an old friend

Leave a note for your partner to find

Welcome a new neighbor

Call a family member just to say hi

Befriend someone struggling

Help collect trash at the park

Appreciate a teacher

Plant a tree where it will thrive

Gift a plant or seeds

Turn off unused lights

Reuse one sided paper

Remove debris from a road or a path

Collect canned food items to be donated

Donate items for Shared Harvest

Donate underwear, socks and deodorant for men, women and children

Send someone a gift card "just because"

No act of kindness,  
no matter how small,  
is ever wasted.  
- Aesop



# Upcoming Events

## Special Congregational Meeting—August 2nd

Diane Torry will host an informal information session in the Memorial Garden on Sunday Aug. 2, following the 9 a.m. Communion in the Garden Service. This meeting will briefly review our financial progress and provide time for any questions or concerns that the congregation may have.

## Blessing of the Backpacks—August 16th

For all of our teachers and students who are heading back to school this month, please join us for a special Blessing of the Backpacks during our Communion in the Garden Service on August 16 at 9am. We will offer special prayers and blessings for all our teachers, faculty and students as they begin a new year (and very strange) year of school.

## Confirmation Classes—starting August 16th

This fall we are starting Confirmation Classes for those in middle and high school, who have not yet been confirmed. If you are interested in having your child or grandchild participate, please join us for an Organization Meeting on Sunday, August 16 at 9:45 at the church. (Please plan to wear face masks.) Classes will be held two Sundays a month and are part of a two year program. If you have any questions or would like a registration form, please talk with or email Pastor Kathy. If you are unable to attend on the 16th, please let Pastor Kathy know of your interest.

## Altar Guild Assignments— THANK YOU!

Sandi Christman  
Veralyn Combs

## Communion in the Garden

Join us on  
Sundays at 8am or  
9am for a short  
(not longer than 20  
minutes) service.

Feel free to bring a  
chair to sit if  
needed.

## To Our Members:

**We ask,** if you are able, (being very aware that these uncertain times cause financial issues that may challenge the ability to give) to continue with your weekly, monthly giving. If you could consider “paying in advance” that will help Holy Cross move through the coming months. See the weekly bulletin for ways to give.

**Thank you** for your continued generous life-giving gifts of your resources, time and talents.

**Peace and Blessings,**

Diane B. Torry, Church Council  
President

# Group Studies

Beginning the second week of August, Bible studies will be splitting into two separate tracks.

You are welcome to attend either or both.

## Church in Society Discussion Group

Beginning on August 11 on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm, Pastor will be leading a Church in Society Discussion Group, starting with the ELCA Social Statement "The Church in Society". This document was put together and adopted by the 1991 Churchwide Assembly and it is the first in a series of ELCA social statements on a variety of issues. You can find the document at <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Church-in-Society>. We will take our time as we read through and discover what the role of the church is when dealing with social issues. The study group may take from 2-5 weeks as we work through the document and its Scripture references and see if it's a helpful tool for us when looking at current issues of today. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Kathy and plan to at least read through the document before we start discussion on August 11.

**Join Tuesday evening "Church in Society Discussion Group" Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83447229235?pwd=Smp0QXR1aS9QYU8vTzZqbTRFZWp3UT09>

Meeting ID: 834 4722 9235

Passcode: 442215

## Wednesday Bible Study

Beginning on Wednesday, August 12 at 1:30pm, Becky's group will study the book of Proverbs. There is no handout or study book needed, but be sure to let Becky know if you are interested so that you can be put on the weekly email blast reminder which will often have notes or references regarding our upcoming discussion.

**Wednesday Bible Study – 1:30 pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5eIBXBHJ4dz09>

Meeting ID: 896 3300 9098

Password: 050344



# Service Committee Update

Once again, we want to say Thank You to everyone for helping with “Buy the Farm!” What a great way to begin the year! We received a nice thank you note from Lutheran World Relief.

Due to COVID-19, Service Committee was not able to begin work on new projects or continue with some ongoing projects such as dinners at the Ronald McDonald House.

With many of the usual donation centers closed, we decided that during the month of August Service Committee would start collecting, underwear and socks for men, women and children, as well as, deodorant. These items are always needed in our homeless shelters. We will place a plastic container in the Memorial Garden for outdoor services until we are able to move indoors.

We thank you for your continued support. Stay well.

## Other Donations

Due to Covid-19, many donation sites are at capacity. Please use the following if you are bringing donations to church:

Good Shepherd Clothes Closet - They are relocating from Record Street to Greenbrae. They are closed until January 1, 2021. Please keep these items at home until then.

Children's Cabinet - Please mark items for children and these donations can begin in September (2020).

Assistance League - These items, if marked, can be brought in beginning of September (2020).

Thank you for your generosity!





# Council News

The Council met via Zoom on July 13, and we welcomed Alese Linder, our new Administrative Assistant, and Laura Grady, our new Financial Secretary.

Sue Gonyou led us in our opening devotions, the first chapter of our study book—Power Surge, “six marks of discipleship for a changing church”, by Reverend Michael Foss. We will be studying this book through the year.

Highlights from Pastor’s report: Outdoor Communion in the Garden services are going well (about 30 in attendance) and Virtual Worship continues providing meaningful worship including member participation in music and reading the lessons. A Hot Topic on “racial issues and what a sermon is” will be held via Zoom July 30 at 6:30 p.m. Faith Formation classes for middle and high school youth will begin August 16<sup>th</sup> – see “Upcoming Events” for more details. Pastor attended, via Zoom, a 3-day session—Faithful Innovation Summit.

Finance Committee report was received—please see the Finance Committee report in the newsletter. The Council approved the Finance Committee’s recommendation that we pay our \$1,000 quarterly benevolence to Synod.

We reviewed progress on the Council 2020 action steps. Warren Kline reported on the Building and Grounds Committee, presenting the committee description. Pat Schlosser is the point person on building issues and Eric Weldon is the point person on grounds issues. The Personnel Committee: Jody Morrison (Chair), Laurel Lindstrom, Richard Eggers, Pastor Kathy, Steve Tate, and Diane Torry completed their interviewing and hiring of our Administrative Assistant and Financial Secretary. Sue Gonyou reported that Good Shepherd’s Clothes Closet is closed and will reopen in January in a new location. Sue Gonyou has asked us to keep those donations at home for now, and please see the “Service & Outreach” section for alternative donation options.

God’s Work, Our Hands Day is September 13, and we will have a “Random Acts of Kindness” drive, asking members and friends to reach out to neighbors with a simple act of kindness, and send us a brief video summary so we can “share the good news” – see pastor’s letter on the first page of this newsletter for more details.

Laurel Lindstrom presented the updated and slightly revised policies on Child Protection, Sexual Misconduct, Emergency Operations Plan, Sabbatical. All were approved.

The council discussed when to resume Worship in the Sanctuary. We continue to be in Phase 2 of reopening. Following deliberation, we decided to continue Communion Worship in the Garden, Virtual Worship, and small group meeting in the church building. We will deliberate and discuss again at the August 10 Council Meeting.

Plans for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration have been scaled back, with the Anniversary celebrated September 20 at our Worship Service. This will include a dedication of the Memorial Garden, a virtual message of congratulations from Bishop Mark, and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook ready for orders.

Pastor led us in closing prayer, Thanks be to God.

# Finance Committee Quarterly Report

## Holy Cross Lutheran Church

**Date: June 30, 2020—Actual YTD**

	Actual	Budget	Variance	Comment
Rent	\$ 3,900	\$5,625	(\$1,725)	-30%
Total income	\$136,859	\$132,417	+\$4,442	+3.5%
Total Expense	\$128,749	133,709	(\$4,960)	-3.7%
Net Gain	\$ 8,810	(\$1,293)	+\$9,404	Including principal payments of \$7,524

1 <sup>st</sup> mortgage balance	\$191,308	
2 <sup>nd</sup> mortgage balance	\$217,569	
Total Mortgage	\$408,877	
Cash	\$91,028	Includes \$36,700 PPP loan
Special Funds	\$36,677	Includes Building Fund, Building Reserve Fund, Community Garden, CM Fund, Godly Play, Helping Hands, Memorial Fund, Pastors Discretionary, Quilting, Shared Harvest, Youth

Through June 30 total giving is above budget and expenses below budget levels. Extraordinary irrigation system repair expense of \$2,390 was charged to the Building Reserve Fund established at the January 2020 annual meeting.

June income was \$12,151, and significantly below budget levels of \$22,069, resulting in a monthly loss of \$10,801 and reducing the quarterly net gain and cash balances.

Holy Cross received \$36,700 in PPP loan/grant funds, May 6, a safety net for operations. However, the direction of finance and council is that if the funds are not needed, we will repay the loan/grant. We will apply for loan forgiveness as soon as the process becomes available.

Year to date we are holding our own financially, however, the June significant reduction in giving indicates that the COVID-19 health crisis and the “summer slump” in giving is having a significant negative impact on our financial position.

By mid August we plan to have giving statements through June 30 available. We are working through transitions in the Financial Secretary work, thank you for your patience.

# Building and Grounds Committee

A Building and Grounds Committee has been formed and has been working over the past months. The purpose of the Building and Grounds Committee is to provide for the proper maintenance of all church property and grounds with the intent to provide a clean and safe environment for the conduct of worship, learning and other activities while protecting the very considerable investment these properties represent.

The goals are: 1) a minimum of unexpected repairs for buildings, grounds and equipment, 2) to be aware and informed about possible future needs (upkeep and improvements) and 3) to inform the Congregation Council of those needs regularly and as far in advance as possible. A committee description was written and approved by the Church Council.

Some key accomplishments:

The committee established a process to review the building and grounds on a quarterly basis to identify any needed repairs or improvements to the property.

On Monday of the church “clean week”—a scissor lift was rented, and the tops of all of the lights and projectors were cleaned, the sanctuary cross was cleaned and oiled, and lightbulbs replaced at the front of the sanctuary; the irrigation system was repaired and is now working well; roof inspection conducted and minor repairs are being scheduled, servicing of our heating and air conditioning systems completed or scheduled.

## Get Involved!

Pat Schlosser is the point person for building issues and Eric Weldon is the point person for grounds issues.

All those who are interested in serving on this committee, please contact any committee member:

Warren Kline, Pat Schlosser, Eric Weldon, Diane Torry





# Quilt Group News

Quilter's are busy at work in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Thursday of each month! Come join us (please wear your masks, we also stay 6 ft. apart)! We have quilt tops to tie, tops to design and sew, and wonderful conversation around the quilt table.

The "Blue Basket" is back —and available in the Narthex for anyone to pick up a quilt top kit!

The Blue Basket expands our quilt ministry work by providing quilt top kits to anyone who would like to complete a quilt top at home, on their own schedule. Each quilt kit comes with instructions—with the additional caveat that for the majority of the charitable organizations we give to, we do not include any religious symbols—as our quilts are given to all based on need regardless of religious creed. Religious references may be misinterpreted jeopardizing the delivery to the people who need the quilts most.

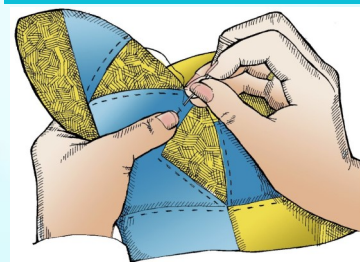
Holy Cross Quilters donate quilts to Lutheran World Relief every year. We work together with thousands of Lutheran Congregation Quilt Groups across the country, donating nearly 500,00 quilts each year. These quilts are given to our brothers and sisters in need around the world. A report from Lutheran World Relief provides moving information about the "good work" of this Lutheran Church worldwide ministry.

"Today and every day, Lutheran World Relief Quilts give families around the world some of life's essentials, as well as a reminder that they are not alone". "First and foremost, recipients use their LWR Quilt to shield against the cold and rain, and for warm bedding. But their versatility also makes quilts useful as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother's back."

From Niger— "The quilts provide comfort, particularly to women, while restoring the respect and dignity of the most vulnerable people in the world. Quilts are a welcomed comfort, as most could only afford to eat one meal a day. For many, the quilts serve as their bedding. Those who cannot afford to eat enough cannot afford to buy blankets. They gave us blankets to keep us warm when it is cold. Truly this is a blessing, for this year we will not be cold."

Lutheran World relief has been in the "quilt business" since the 1945 —when Lutheran World Relief responded to the needs of families in post-World War II Europe. Holy Cross Quilters have been making and giving quilts to people in need around the world and in our community for over ten years. Please join us for creative work, fun and fellowship— "Gods Work our Hands".

**All are  
welcome to  
join!**



**QUILTING GROUP**

**1st and 3rd  
Thursdays of  
the month at  
9:30am:**

**August 6th**

**August 20th**

**(Though, some  
of us are often  
at the church  
every Thurs-  
day!)**



# Holy Cross Garden

The gardens are all so full and lush now and some gardeners have already enjoyed green beans and broccoli!



The flower box was planted by some of the children of Holy Cross this spring. These pictures don't show how pretty they are!



# Announcements

## **Shared Harvest News:**

This month we are collecting the following items for Shared Harvest:

- 40 canned veggies
- 50 mac and cheese
- 40 crackers
- 25 cereal
- Deodorant

Please bring your donations to the church by the 23rd and let Veralyn know what you're donating.

## **Christ in Our Home Devotional:**

The July,/August/September devotional is available at the Garden Communion Services or at the church for pickup. If you are unable to pick one up, let the office know and we will get on to you.

## **Office Hours:**

The office will be open Mondays-Thursdays from 10am –3pm and will be closed on Fridays. If you need anything outside of those hours, please call Pastor Kathy at 702-423-0382.

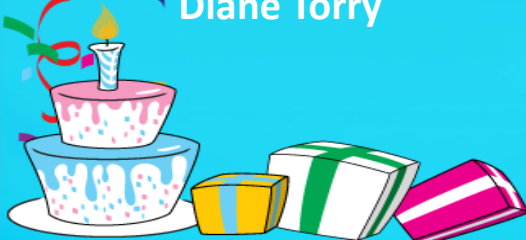
## **Hooks and Needles:**

Wearing masks and keeping socially distanced, we are meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 9am in the Fellowship Hall, so we will see you on August 11th and 25th!

All knitters and crocheters, and those who want to learn how to knit or crochet are welcome to come!

## **August Birthday Blessings to:**

Pat Schlosser	August 6	Patrick Clem	August 21
Stephany Robison	August 7	Ed Gonyou	August 25
Jean Bye	August 11	Kathy Doyle	August 26
Roxanne Anderson	August 14	Rebecca Coleman	August 28
Diane Torry	August 14		



*Happy Birthday!*

