



Holy Cross *Crossroads*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JULY 2020

From Pastor Kathy:

*"I lift my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber."*

Psalm 121:1-3

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all doing well and continuing to manage through these difficult times. I had such high hopes that we would be inside and worshipping together by now, and when I realized that wasn't a good idea just yet, my heart just ached and I was in a funk for days. I really miss seeing you all on a regular basis.

I am thankful that we have started our Communion in the Garden services and it does my heart good to be able to connect face to face (or mask to mask is more like it). It feels good to be together to pray and to share the Lord's Supper.

I know there are some who are not able to come and be with us, and I hope you know that you are missed. **I am currently working on plans to bring communion kits to you so that you may partake in a regular home communion service, so if that is something that you would like, please be sure to let me know, and I will be bring them to you starting next week.**

Church Council will be discussing when to begin having worship services inside at our next meeting, and when we have news to share, we will be happy to do so. Until then, I pray that you are safe and well, and know that God is with you and that God is our greatest source of help and strength. If you need anything, please call!

In Christ's Love, Pastor Kathy Morris

Communion in the Garden Services:

**Join us on Sundays
at 8am, 8:30am or
9am.**

**Services are short,
(not longer than 20
minutes) but if you
need to bring a chair
to sit, you may.**

Please note:

**There will be NO
COMMUNION ON
JULY 28 as Pastor
Kathy will be on
vacation.**

Special Congregational Meeting

At our January 2020 Annual Meeting we decided to have a special congregational meeting during July to review our financial condition. Given the COVID 19 National Health Crisis, and the current Washoe County Phase 2 restrictions of 50 people 6 ft. apart at an indoor gathering, this special meeting will be conducted in a different format. Following the July Finance and Council Meetings where the year to date financial performance compared to our budget is reviewed and analyzed, I will send the congregation a letter detailing the financial condition of Holy Cross, and on Sunday, August 2, at 9:30 a.m. I will be available following the 9 a.m. Communion Service in the Memorial Garden to respond to questions, thoughts and concerns. I look forward to meeting with all. Please contact me directly with any questions.

Peace and Blessings,

Diane B. Torry

Happy 4th of July!



Church Office Hours:
Starting Monday, July 6,
our regular church office
hours will be Mondays-
Thursdays from 10am –
3pm.

The office will be closed
on Fridays.

If you need anything
outside of those hours,
please call Pastor Kathy
at 702-423-0382.

Bible Studies

Thank you to all our participants in our Zoom Bible Studies on Tuesday nights at 6:30 and Wednesdays at 1:30pm. We have spent June being uplifted and encouraged by the Psalms and as we head into July, we will continue with that theme. July 1 we will be looking at Psalm 91 and July 8, we will explore Psalm 23. Then, we will shift gears for a couple of weeks and Becky will lead us on an exploration the imagery of the Shepherd throughout the Bible. By the end of July, the Wednesday afternoon group will begin a study on the Proverbs, while the Tuesday night group will begin a study of the ELCA Social Statement Church in Society.

Tuesday Night Bible Study, 6:30 pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83778498476?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83778498476?pwd=cTJzd3JBdXpwWjV5amdXYlowb1hTUT09)

[pwd=cTJzd3JBdXpwWjV5amdXYlowb1hTUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83778498476?pwd=cTJzd3JBdXpwWjV5amdXYlowb1hTUT09)

Meeting ID: 837 7849 8476

Password: 278499 (if requested)

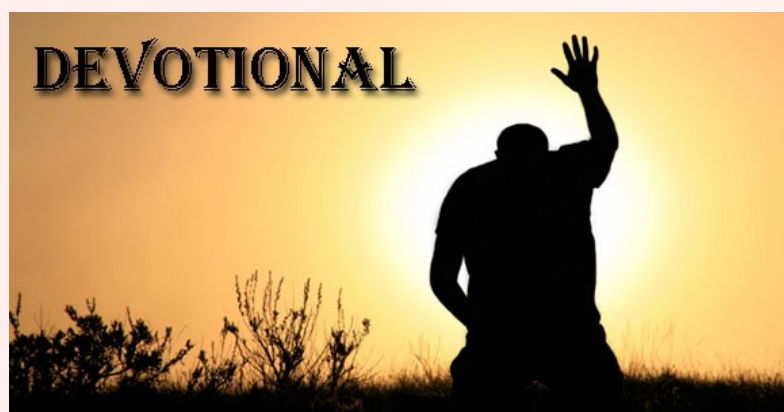
Wednesday afternoon Bible Study, 1:30 pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5eIBXhHj4dz09)

[pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5eIBXhHj4dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5eIBXhHj4dz09)

Meeting ID: 896 3300 9098

Password: 050344 (if requested)



Christ in Our Home

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.

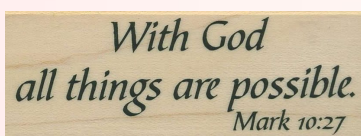
July 1, 2020

Holy Cross Members and Friends,

Together we are living through an extraordinary time. In March the Easter season was in full swing, plans to involve all in visioning the future of Holy Cross were underway, worship and small group participation were increasing, youth group, confirmation class, first communion class had started. Then the national health crisis COVID -19 arrived and we learned life was going to be very different.

Pastor, the Council and other teams; worship, technology, finance, spring cleaning, service and fellowship, building reopening, developed Virtual and Outdoor Worship, Zoom meetings, plans for building shut down, for financial disruption, building reopening, and continued outreach ministry. Local, state, national leaders, Synod and ELCA provide guidance. Holy Cross never closed and Holy Cross continues to be Church Together. God is with us; we are not alone.

The months have been difficult, the work challenging and the future uncertain. Your financial gifts are generous. Thank you! However, we are beginning to see reduced giving as the COVID -19 Pandemic wears on, and the future remains uncertain. Your generosity and giving to Holy Cross funds our operating budget, paying for salaries, mortgage, maintaining the building and grounds, those line items that enable us to be Christ's disciples in our community.



I 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, or sign up for Simply Giving—either through the church office or on the Holy Cross website www.holycrossreno.org using the giving tab, or send your gifts through snail mail or use the giving button on the website. Your continued financial support enables Holy Cross to live our Vision:

Believe in One,

Affect Many,

Welcome All

and our Mission:

To Worship God and

follow Christ's call to discipleship.

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

Peace and Blessings,

Diane B. Torrey, Church Council President

New Study and Discussion Groups starting in August

Church and Politics:

As the debates in our country heat up over a wide variety of issues and as the elections get closer, there are many who are wondering, "What is the role of the church in times such as these?" And, "How does our faith impact the way we look at the world and the concerns of its people?" There are some who believe politics doesn't belong in the church, and there are others who are weary of the church being silent or quiet when the world is screaming.

In order to help us think through these kinds of issues, I am inviting you all to participate in a unique study and discussion group. Starting on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm in August, mostly likely on Zoom, we will be reading and discussing the ELCA's 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 it 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 in society. This is not designed for debates on specific social issues. Instead it is a time to work through the document and its Scripture references and discover if it is helpful for us when we look at what is happening in the world. This study group may take from 2-5 weeks as we work through it deliberately and carefully.

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 4th.

Faith Formation for Middle and High School Youth:

Last spring, we began discussions with families about developing an education program for our young people. We had actually made plans to start and then when everything happened, the plans got put on hold. However, it's time to pull them out and get ready because starting in August, we will be doing faith formation classes with anyone who is interested and in the middle school or high school age range. Some of us may remember confirmation classes, and while there will definitely be similarities to a traditional confirmation program, there will also be some additional pieces to equip our young people to grow as disciples of Jesus. We plan to meet two Sundays a month, timing to be determined, but likely early afternoon and our first meeting will be on Sunday, August 16, and it will be for both parents and youth.

I am putting together a registration form now, which should be available in the next week or so and emailed out to families with kids in this age-range. For those who complete the two year course, they will be invited to participate in the Affirmation of Baptism service (also known as Confirmation). If you have questions or would like to help lead or teach, please let me know! ~ Pastor Kathy

Precious Moments



June 28th was a day of celebration for the Schlosser family! Tyler Alex Wilson (son of Keri and Kevin) was baptized in a private family service and Ashton Meseberg (son of Kelly and Kyle) received his first communion in the garden. We celebrate these wonderful milestones with these young cousins and their families. (And we even let them take their masks off for one family picture!!) May God continue to bless and keep them in faith!



Hi everyone!

I was born in California, but spent the bulk of my life in upstate South Carolina. My parents were always involved in church, and I gave my life to Jesus at the age of 6. I was homeschooled until high school and then graduated from Winthrop University in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in Technical Writing. My work history in offices began in college, and I found that I have a God-given gift for administration and organization.

I moved to Mazatlán, Mexico right after college and did a 4-month discipleship training school that was run by a couple from Crowley Lake, CA. During my time there I found out about a 9-month ministry school in Mammoth Lakes and decided to move to California to attend the school in August of 2011.

Around 2012 I was mentored by a worship leader in the area who taught me how to lead musicians as well as how to lead a congregation in worshipping God. After I graduated from the ministry school, she brought me on as an intern to help her start a worship school called Greenhouse Transformation Center, which we ran successfully for 3 years. At that time, I also worked for her husband as the Office Manager of his plumbing company in Mammoth Lakes, and helped him develop his office systems from the ground up over the course of 3 and a half years, which was an incredible experience for me and greatly honed my skills in administration.

My most recent experience was working for a year and a half at a church in Crowley Lake called Church on the Mountain as their Assistant Administrator. My responsibilities included managing the office affairs and event planning

Meet our new staff!

We welcome Alese Linder as our new Administrative Assistant! She will begin working on Monday, July 6 and will be working Mondays-Thursdays from 10-3.



of the church at large, overseeing and managing a private Christian school with 36 students, and running a mountain retreat center called Father's Heart Lodge. I truly loved helping the church and school thrive, and that position showed me that I have a passion to help the Body of Christ grow in excellence and unity so we can more easily spread the love of God and the message of Jesus to the world!

Announcements:

Shared Harvest News:

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

- 20 mac and cheese
- 41 milk packets
- 36 soup
- disposable razors

We will be putting the bags together here at Holy Cross on July 26 at 1pm.

Please contact Veralyn with any questions.

Hooks and Needles:

Wearing masks and keeping socially distanced, we are meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 9am, so we will see you on July 14 and 28th!

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



Quilters:

The Quilters are back at work, and there is lots to do, so all are welcome to come and join them in their work. They have set the tables apart and they are wearing their masks and keeping things wiped down and as healthy as possible.

They are meeting on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, so they will be meeting on July 2 and July 16 at 9:30am. (Though, some are often at the church every Thursday!)

They continue to press forward with their goal of making as many quilts as possible so they can be donated to charities near and far. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Torry.

July Birthday Blessings To:

Gail Nemy	July 1	Adaline Christman	July 22
Pastor Kathy	July 7	Ellis Christman	July 22
Janet Schultz	July 9	Logan Kunze	July 24
Fred Ford	July 10	Bruce Bye	July 26
Grant Gallagher	July 11	Betty Tate	July 30
Mark Calise	July 15		
Tom Martin	July 15		
Sue Gonyou	July 16		
Carol Ritter	July 16		

**Happy Anniversary to those who got married in July. We had trouble accessing that list! Thank you for understanding!*

