



Holy Cross
Lutheran Church

Holy Cross **Crossroads**

Monthly Newsletter | *May 2020*

Mark Your Calendar

The church is currently closed and our regular activities are suspended at this time.

Please visit our website; holycrossreno.org and Face Book page for all the fun virtual activities we are currently doing as we are adjusting to our new “normal”.

We will weather this “storm” together and celebrate together when we are able.

Stay safe & healthy!

Pastor's Corner



Dear Friends,

I was hoping that when it came time to write my newsletter article, I'd have some really great news about when we will be able to resume gathering for worship services again. Unfortunately,

while I know there are many conversations about when to open things back up, and many of us waiting anxiously for the all clear from our elected officials, we just don't know when it will be. Patience has never been my strength, yet, I know in so many I need to practice it during this time.

I do want you to know that just as we formed a plan for closure of the church, we are currently forming some plans for when it's time to open it back up. Just as our community will likely open up in phases, our plan is for the church to do so as well. Once we receive the news that we are in Phase One, we will start a thorough cleaning of the church, and it is possible that some small groups may gather.

Pastor's Corner (Cont'd)

However, we will be continuing to follow guidelines recommended to us and so we may need to continue with virtual worship and meetings until we get to Phase Two, and when we do return, it is possible that worship may look or feel different than the last time we gathered. We will need to maintain social distance boundaries, so seating and fellowship time may be arranged differently. We may not do the passing of the peace, we will have to think carefully about communion and coffee hour, and well, my list of things to think about is quite extensive these days as there are many factors that come into play as we continue to work to keep one another as safe as possible.

I say this not to upset anyone, but rather to help us prepare for when we are together again. I want you to know that with so many in our community who would be considered high risk, I have no plans to rush into anything without some confidence that we are ready. Believe me, I miss everyone just as you do, and I am anxious to get us open and going again, but it is important to do it in ways that make sense for us. I know that even when we do open up again, some very well may stay home to stay safe, and that will be okay. It will all be part of what we plan for.

Until then, I invite you all to practice patience along with me. It's one of those fruits of the spirit that will help us bear the fruit of the Spirit as we will talk about in the coming weeks during worship.

I also encourage you to reach out to your friends and stay in touch with one another. As this gets longer, it does also get harder.

We will keep you posted as things begin to come together, but until then, I invite you and welcome you to be part of our online community. Worship, fellowship, Bible studies are all happening online and everyone is invited to participate with us in them!

All are welcome!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Kathy Morris



On Thursday mornings at 10:30 we all have the opportunity to join in our "Coffee with Pastor" Zoom chats.

We have been having a great time chatting, seeing and/or hearing what people are doing during our time away from each other.

Everyone is welcome to grab a cup of coffee or tea and join Pastor for a little chat and catch up using the Zoom, a virtual meeting place. Dawn sends out a reminder with the Zoom link for you to participate. If you are having trouble or feeling a little intimidated by the Zoom feature, please reach out to Pastor or Dawn and they will help you.

There is a little article in the newsletter addressing ways for you to participate using Zoom even if you don't have a camera, computer or speakers. It may help some that are having trouble.

Below is the link for the Zoom Coffee Chat with Pastor Kathy. You can use the same link each week.

Topic: Coffee Chat with Pastor Kathy

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/516035871?pwd=VCttTHhkQm1KVUIFaG1RcNhOV3NSQT09>

Meeting ID: 516 035 871

Password: 066069

We look forward to see you there.

Council News.....

The Council has held two special meetings and our regular April meeting this past month, using Zoom virtual technology.

Our first special meeting convened March 26 to evaluate where Holy Cross was with the Covid-19 National Health Crisis – and the implementation of the March 12, 2020 Holy Cross Pandemic Response plan. This plan was developed following input from ELCA and national and state guidelines. As the Washoe County school district has closed all school buildings, this puts Holy Cross into Level 4, which closes the church building with no in person worship, access to building restricted and staff working from home. Worship conducted online through Facebook, YouTube and available on the Website. We made the difficult decision not to hold in person Easter Services— Pastor developed and implemented a robust Holy Week and Easter Sunday virtual Worship opportunities—Seder, Good Friday, Special Prayer gatherings, and Sunrise and Easter Worship services.

At our April 8 meeting we discussed and approved, with the recommendation of the Finance committee, proceeding with applying for the Federal PPP loan/grant program to keep employees on the payroll, that is available to small businesses and houses of worship. The council and finance committee emphasize that the best outcome would be no need for the loan/grant- with prayerful hope that our giving would continue at budget levels, but fully recognizing that the future is uncertain in this extraordinary time. Expenses continue to be tightly controlled, and all possible cost cutting measures are being taken. As of this writing we have not been successful in submitting an application as the

We continue to work with our bank, Umpqua, to submit an application in the second round of funding. Our State issued stricter guidelines on April 8, and we further restricted access to the building post Easter Sunday April 12. Staff has building access for occasional, critical needs. Pastor or Dawn approve all building access. The Executive Committee will begin working on a Plan to reopen the Holy Cross building following Federal, State and Local guidelines

At our April 20 meeting, Fran Moses led us in devotion Psalm 46, 1—"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble, therefore we will not fear."

We received the "clean" Audit Report from the Audit committee. The Audit committee: Joe Krehlik, Russell Tegio, Sharon Voss was thanked for their work. Pastor reported virtual Bible study groups will begin on Tuesday evening and Wed, Thursday "Coffee" is virtually on line every Thursday. Diane reported Warren and she are implementing a Building/Grounds Maintenance Committee. We discussed how the council and members are reaching out to members and friends, via telephone, text, e-mail, Facebook, and snail-mail. We encouraged ourselves and all to keep this communication going as we go through the coming difficult days and weeks.

Holy Cross 40th year anniversary plans are continuing; Richard reports more recipes are coming in for the Cook Book and encourages more submissions. It is possible the dates of our September 40th Anniversary celebration may have to change due to the postponed Synod Assembly (date TBD).

We adjourned with prayer, praying for all as we continue in this challenging Covid-19 crisis, then praying together The Lord's Prayer.

Council President, Diane Torry



We are studying the book of Philippians, a wonderful book, full of JOY! Join us on Zoom Tuesday nights at 6:30 or Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 as we work our way through the book!

If you want to read ahead, we hope to cover one chapter each week, with our last week being a week to catch up. (Of course, it may take us longer than we expect because we find so much to talk about, so we'll see how far we get each week!). But all are welcome, if you've read the chapter or if you haven't had a chance, come and join us anyway!

Even if you missed the first session where we talked about the founding of the Philippian church as described in Acts 16, please join us whenever you can.

April 28/29 - Philippians 1

May 5/6 - Philippians 2

May 12/13 - Philippians 3

May 19/20 - Philippians 4

May 26/27 - Philippians Catch-Up

Tuesday Bible Study Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83778498476?pwd=cTJzd3JBRXpwWjV5amdXYlowb1hTUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 7849 8476

Password: 278499

Wednesday Bible Study Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUExQRVY5elBXbHJ4dz09>

Meeting ID: 896 3300 9098

Password: 050344



We are constantly tweaking our online worship services in order to ensure we are bringing you our very best. In recent weeks, we have both pre-recorded our worship services and offered them live through live-streaming on Facebook.

We have found pros and cons to both styles. While the pre-recorded worship services allowed us to incorporate more participation and music to be included in the worship service, some expressed sadness that people weren't watching it all together. People have expressed a real sense of community as we gather at 10:30 Sunday mornings to watch live.

We think we have come up with a solution to both issues. Starting this Sunday, we are going to offer a pre-recorded worship service on Facebook, our website and YouTube, but we are also going to host a "Watch Party" on Facebook so we can watch it together at 10:30am. People can check in and make comments and hopefully, feel part of our community.

So on Sunday, when you come to our Facebook page, be on the lookout for the watch party and then come and join with us in celebration of the wonderful love of our Lord!



Quilt Group News!

How I miss seeing everyone at Quilt Group! How we will joyfully greet one another when we return to “normal” ---I miss normal.

Let me share a fun quilt story. I am working through a quilt top/project that I had taken home from quilt group –some time ago (I am not sharing the exact date, and quilters will understand). The project is a half-finished Log Cabin top, with the blocks sewn directly on the quilt batting—a little different process than our “standard” Holy Cross quilts. But I know how to sew a Log Cabin pattern, and it looked doable to me. So far so good, but I am short two 15-inch squares of quilt batting to complete the top. Given current restrictions, I am not making a nonessential trip to the store or the church to get more batting—so what to do. Our friend EJ was making an essential trip to help with settling his Mother’s affairs after her passing, and I knew she was a quilter, so I asked EJ if he would check to see if there was a small piece of quilt batting that he might bring back. EJ was glad to help. However, when he asked his sister (also a quilter) if he could check the sewing room for the batting, she threw her arms across the door and barred him from entering—saying “the quilt stash was given to me”! I thanked EJ for his effort and told him: “far be it from me to stand between a Daughter and her Mother’s quilt stash. That is sacred space!” All quilters understand. (Sister graciously donated a good length of elastic for the masks I am sewing.)

Diane Torry



Kids of Godly Play,

I hope that this finds you safe and healthy. Wow! I know that I speak for all the Godly Play story tellers and door keepers when I say that “WE MISS YOU!” We miss seeing your bright smiling faces on Sunday mornings, hearing about your week, and sharing stories with you. I am looking forward to when we can all be together again.

It is spring time and that means it is time for our 3rd annual garden planting. We have same garden box to plant flowers in. These flowers bring such color and cheer to the garden space. I will be working on a date and schedule as to how we can keep our safe social distancing and still allow everyone to participate in planting our box.

Please know that you are loved. We will be together soon. Stay safe.

Jolene Jaillet



A wonderful reminder of what Shared Harvest is all about!

Every month Holy Cross joins other Lutheran Congregations and delivers food and basic supplies to 82 families in the Reno/Sparks Area

"God's work our hands"

Even during these unusual times we are continuing our mission of providing food to those in need in our community. ***During May we are gathering 27 cereals, 41 canned fruit, 15 soups and shampoo.*** Due to the restrictions of social distancing and protecting those working, all have been gathering at Good Shepherd (they have a little more room to social distance) to assemble and distribute 82 bags of food and supplies. A reminder—check food expiration dates—only food with current dates can be used. Thank you for bringing only the requested items. Dawn is in the office on Mondays from 9:30-1:30 if you would like to drop off food. If you live in the Sparks area, Contact Veralyn Combs, 775-354-1957 as she has offered to pick up items. Good Shepherd's office is also open Monday afternoons for drop offs as well. If in doubt, please contact Veralyn and she can direct you.

Holy Cross has participated in Shared Harvest since it began in 1998. Shared Harvest is a joint ministry of Lutheran Churches in Reno/Sparks including Good Shepherd, Faith, Holy Cross, St. Luke's, Lord of Mercy and Our Saviors. Food and hygiene products are distributed on the 4th Sunday of each month--at 5 locations –Easy Inn, Santa Fe, TJ's, El Tavern and Moran Seniors. In addition Good Shepherd Clothing Closet clothing vouchers are provided. Our mission is to serve families, seniors, disabled, veterans and singles. Those that receive Shared Harvest packages are so very thankful for the help. Our outreach has become a sustaining part of many lives.

On the 4th Sunday of each month at 1 p.m., we meet at one of the churches to assemble the food bags. Each church hosts two to three times a year on a rotating schedule. Grocery lists are rotated and each church brings five different items every month. Each bag contains peanut butter, tuna, chicken noodle soup, chili, cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit, powdered milk, crackers and macaroni and cheese. 82 bags are assembled every month. Hygiene products available are toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, bar soap, laundry soap and razors. Hygiene kits are provided at some locations, made with hotel soaps and shampoos. Church members are asked to save these when they travel.

At 2 p.m., following the bag assembly, the volunteers split up and deliver the bags to the locations in Reno and Sparks.

Ways to Support Shared Harvest:

- Contribute the requested items each month (leave in the Fellowship Hall)
- Make a monetary contribution –funds are used to purchase the requested items
- Participate in the monthly bag assembly
- Participate in the monthly distribution to local sites
- Serve on the Shared Harvest Committee
- Keep those that serve and those being served in your prayers.

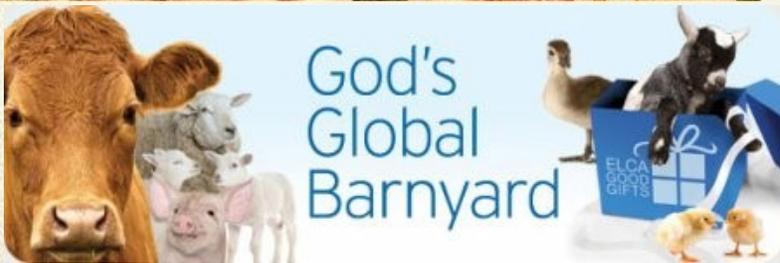
***Contact Veralyn Combs 775-354-1957 with any questions.
Keep those that serve and those being served in your prayers.***



Sadly, we are living in a time when we should be wearing masks when we go out in public to protect ourselves and others around us. Let's be honest, there are a lot of us who are at a higher risk and we want to make sure we keep each other healthy.

That being said, Sandi Christman has graciously offered to make a mask for anyone who needs one and doesn't have access to get one. You can contact Dawn at the church or Sandi directly.

Thank you Sandi for such a wonderful gift to those in need.



Let's Buy the Farm.

WOW!! Between checks being mailed in and online give specific for "Buy a Farm we are almost to our goal of \$715!!!

Please consider helping us buy a farm through ELCA. Your gifts to God's Global Barnyard support the sustainable development ministries of ELCA World Hunger, which include training, education, resources (and more) to help the community care for animals and create new market opportunities like starting a small business selling eggs, meat or dairy products. With eggs, milk and meat to eat and sell, and tools and training to increase the harvest, this gift can create a world of opportunity for a family living in poverty.

You can still donate to this cause by mailing in a check to the church or you can make a one time donation directly to "buy a farm" using the drop down menu from the Give Page on our website at holycrossreno.org. If you have problems, get in touch with Dawn and she can walk you through it.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Finance Committee Quarterly Report to the Congregation
Date: March 31, 2020—Actual YTD compared to budget.

	Actual	Budget	Variance	Comment
Other Giving	\$ 374			
Rent	\$ 2,900	\$ 2,813	\$87	3% above
Unrestricted	\$66,375	\$63,396	\$2,979	5% above
Misc. Income	\$ 996			
Total income	\$70,645	\$66,209	\$4,437	7% above
Total Expense	\$ 63,973	\$66,857	\$2,881	4% under, includes
Net Gain	\$ 6,672	(\$649)	\$7,321	

1 st mortgage balance	\$194,031	
2 nd mortgage balance	\$217,569	
Total Mortgage	\$411,601	
Cash	\$59,748	
Special Funds	\$40,359	

1st quarter total revenue is 7% above budgeted levels, with unrestricted general fund 5% above budget. Total expenses are under budget levels. Resulting in net gain above budget. Members and friends continue to give with generous hearts to provide the funds to continue and further the Mission and Ministry of Holy Cross. ***Thank you!***

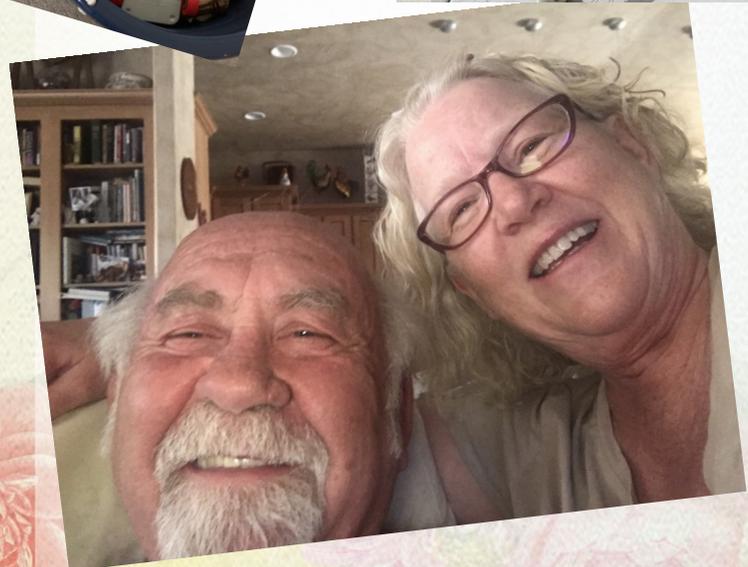
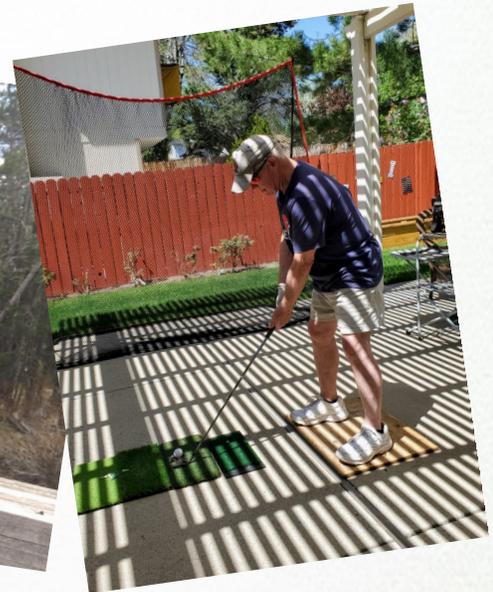
As we move through these extraordinary times of the Covid 19-worldwide health crisis, we are grateful for the continued generous giving of members and friends. Expenses continue to be monitored and closely and controlled. We enter the coming weeks and months with a gain, and that will help support our Mission and Ministry, but as we all know the immediate future is uncertain, and when we will be back to “normal” is not known. Your gifts can be made through “snail -mail” to the church office, or through our Website (www.holycrossreno.org) using the on-line giving platform.

How are we keeping busy during these time?

Below are a few examples of how some of us are doing that.

Please send me your photo to add to the collection. You can email them to me at holycrossreno@gmail.com or text them to me at 714-470-9559.

We want to see those familiar faces!!!



Hooks & Needles

Hooks and Needles ladies are keeping busy at home knitting and crocheting mini Prayer Shawls for the Sierra Pacific Synod. They are requesting 600. If you are interested in knitting/crocheting some mini Prayer Shawls you can contact me, Kathy Barcaskey, at kmbareno@msn.com.



What's Cooking?

Ok – You all are really stepping up your recipe giving! I guess we all have extra time on our hands to go through and find those special recipes. Thank you for sending them in. The Cook Book team has been working on compiling recipes and is requesting some more of the following: Crock-Pot/ Casserole Dishes, Pastas, Beverages, Appetizers and Desserts. Note: If you have sent in 3 already, we are extending that, so please send them in. You can send them to Richard at renogemini@aol.com.

Thank you all for your help.



COPING CALENDAR: KEEP CALM. STAY WISE. BE KIND



30 actions to look after ourselves and each other as we face this global crisis together. Please use & share 

1 Make a plan to help you keep calm and stay in contact

8 Take five minutes to sit still and breathe. Repeat regularly

15 Make some progress on a project that really matters to you

22 Find positive stories in the news and share these with others

29 Connect with nature. Breathe and notice life continuing

2 Enjoy washing your hands. Remember all they do for you!

9 Call a loved one to catch up and really listen to them

16 Rediscover your favourite music that really lifts your spirits

23 Have a tech-free day. Stop scrolling and turn off the news

30 Remember that all feelings and situations pass in time

3 Write down ten things you feel grateful for in life and why

10 Get good sleep. No screens before bed or when waking up

17 Learn something new or do something creative

24 Put your worries into perspective and try to let them go

4 Stay hydrated, eat healthy food and boost your immune system

11 Notice five things that are beautiful in the world around you

18 Find a fun way to do an extra 15 minutes of physical activity

25 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths

5 Get active. Even if you're stuck indoors, move & stretch

12 Immerse yourself in a new book, TV show or podcast

19 Do three acts of kindness to help others, however small

26 Take a small step towards an important goal

6 Contact a neighbour or friend and offer to help them

13 Respond positively to everyone you interact with

20 Make time for self-care. Do something kind for yourself

27 Thank three people you're grateful to and tell them why

7 Share what you are feeling and be willing to ask for help

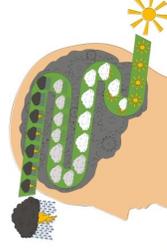
14 Play a game that you enjoyed when you were younger

21 Send a letter or message to someone you can't be with

28 Make a plan to meet up with others again later in the year



“Everything can be taken from us but one thing: the freedom to choose our attitude in any given set of circumstances” ~ Viktor Frankl



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

www.actionforhappiness.org

Find out more about the Ten Keys to Happier Living, including books, guides, posters and more here: www.actionforhappiness.org/10-keys



It is finished!

After Jesus received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And so the redemption of sinners has been completed. Thanks be to God!

Our news of "*it is finished*" is related to our accomplishment in the completion of the Memorial/Scatter Garden on the grounds of Holy Cross Lutheran Church property.

Many of you have seen pictures posted on the churches Facebook page and perhaps some of you have driven by the church property to have a look for yourself. We hope the vision we created for you has been met as you gaze upon the paver walkway which leads to the cross and scatter garden.

This was a long well thought out plan for Holy Cross which came to life with the support of the congregation. As the Pastor mentioned in her sermon Sunday Apr. 26th, a resident of the Senior Housing unit utilizes the area for quiet meditation and prayer each day. Thanks be to God.

My thanks to all who participated in the planning and execution of this wonderful garden. My heart is full of gratitude for the generous monetary donations that allowed this project to be completed; for the landscape company under contract with their eye for detail and their skill in executing our vision. Additional thanks to our committee members for their time over the last two years defining the meaning and use for this ministry.

We will continue to take orders for memorial pavers throughout this year, with a deadline of Sept. 27, 2020. The placing of these additional pavers for inclusion into the memorial pathway will happen in October prior to All Saints Sunday, the first Sunday in November, and then annually thereafter. A date for the dedication of our Memorial/Scatter Garden will be announced when there is more certainty once these restrictions have been lifted and we can again gather in worship.

In His Service,

Chris Martin on behalf of the Landscape Committee:

Paula Featherstone, Pat Schlosser, Steve Tate, Pastor Kathy, Diane Torry

zoom

Joining a Meeting

You are all rock stars! I have to say I am impressed with our congregation. Everyone has really tried to embrace our new “normal” the best way they can. It has not been an easy transition for any of us, but we, collectively, are making it work.

We are getting more and more members participating in our Zoom meetings, whether it be bible study, Coffee with Pastor, finance meetings or even council meetings. Sometimes technology can be a scary thing if we aren't used to it.

I thought it would be a good idea to try and “walk” you through the different ways you can join a meeting, so you can join in the fun.

The easiest way, of course, is using your computer, tablet or smart phone. If you have one those the aforementioned items, you can just click on the link and follow the prompts along the way. Make sure you click ok for audio and “start video” so everyone can see you. That will only work if you have a camera. If you don't have a camera, but have speakers, you can do the same process except the “start video portion and you will be able to hear. If you don't have a microphone, you won't be able to participate verbally, but you can hear & learn.

Good news is for those who just can't do the computer, tablet or smart phone option, you can still participate with a regular phone!! Yes, you can still participate by dialing in and joining the meeting just like a regular phone call. You can just dial **1-669-900-6833** and follow the prompts to connect yourself to the meeting you would like to join. You will need the meeting ID and password for desired meeting and please remember the ID's and passwords are different for each Zoom meeting. Of course you can't see everyone, but you can hear and speak with them instead. It's another option and works well.

I am here for you! If you are feeling a little intimidated but want to try, please reach out to me or Pastor and we will do a test with you and walk you through it. We want everyone to participate if they can. Let's stay connected my friends!!

Dawn Sawyer, Administrative Assistant



Bible Pathway Adventures

BIBLE QUIZ

MOTHERS IN THE BIBLE

Match the question with the
answer on the right.

QUESTIONS

- ___ Who was Jacob's mother?
- ___ Who was the mother of Isaac?
- ___ Who was the mother of Joseph and Benjamin?
- ___ Which mother in the Bible had a set of twins?
- ___ Who was John the Baptist's mother?
- ___ Who was the first mother mentioned in the Bible?
- ___ What was the name of Yeshua's mother?
- ___ Which female judge said she was "a mother in Israel"?
- ___ Who was the mother of King Solomon?
- ___ Whose mother placed him in a basket made from bulrushes?
- ___ What relationship was Naomi to Ruth?

ANSWERS

1. Sarai (Sarah)
2. Mary
3. Elizabeth
4. Deborah (Judges 5:7)
5. Eve
6. Rebekah
7. Rebekah
8. Moses
9. Rachel
10. Bathsheba
11. Mother-in-law

Mother's
DAY





Birthdays:

- 5/1 Kloe Sorge
- 5/2 Wib Namestka
- 5/3 Lynn Jaeck
- 5/6 Cody Lindstrom
- 5/7 Kayla Marton
- 5/8 Michael Marton
- 5/10 Katie Featherstone
- 5/10 Jim Thompson
- 5/14 Melody Mericle
- 5/15 Michael Ross
- 5/18 Riley Sorge
- 5/19 Bruno Peri
- 5/20 Robin Peri
- 5/29 Jeff Morris
- 5/30 Marla Hoole-Vinopal
- 5/30 Kailey Kincaid



Anniversaries:

- 5/9 Al & Maggie Fisher
- 5/24 Tom & Chris Martin
- 5/28 Mark & Jolene Jaillet
- 5/28 Larry & Carol Ritter
- 5/29 Richard & Mona Warwick



Here is a fun story from Peggy Whitney. It's one of the fun ways she and her family are coping with isolation from each other.

Since the self-isolation began I wanted to keep in touch with my youngest family members along with their parents.

On Tuesdays, I call my young grand nieces (ages 1-8) in Chicago. We call it "TA-DA Tuesday!" Everyone shares something they have seen, heard, or done that makes the others want to say "TA-DA!"

For example, one Tuesday, we shared what was growing in our yards. I had daffodils - "TA-DA!" They had snow - "TA-DA!" That got us talking about the weather and what flowers need to grow (water, sun, dirt).

Another Tuesday, the little ones shared they had seen a video from their local rec center about mixing colors to make new colors - "TA-DA!" We all got to share what are our favorite colors - "TA-DA!"

We all look forward to "TA-DA Tuesdays". Peggy

What a fun and interactive way to keep in contact as well as engage the little ones minds. Well Done Peggy and I hope you enjoy more TA-DA Tuesdays even after this situation passes.