



Holy Cross

Crossroads

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER | 2020

From Pastor Kathy:

Whenever I think of the season of Advent, I think of it as the season of waiting. Now I know that throughout the year many of us find ourselves in seasons of waiting. We wait to hear news, we wait for test results, we wait for a new job, we wait for clarity, we wait for new releases of movies and television shows, we wait in lines, we wait for things to change.

This year, it seems like all we've done is wait. While many of us have experienced seasons of waiting, I don't think any of us have experienced it quite like this. You don't need me to remind you of how difficult these months have been for everyone.

And in this time of waiting, I find myself thinking about the wonderful Advent hymn, *"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus."*

*"Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou
art, dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart."* -

ELW #254

Church Events

(see rest of newsletter for details)

- 12/1—Advent Food Calendar begins
- 12/3—Quilted baby items for Renown are due
- 12/6—*Miracle on 34th St* message, Confirmation Class, Angel Tree gifts due, & final day to purchase a poinsettia
- 12/13—*It's a Wonderful Life* message
- 12/20—*The Nativity* message
- 12/24—*Charlie Brown Christmas* message
- 12/25—Christmas Day
- 12/27—*Elf* message

“From Pastor Kathy” (continued)

The longing in the hymn particularly reminds me of the longing that many of us are feeling in our hearts right now, and perhaps the prayers that we are saying as we wait with faith for the suffering of the world to end. Come Jesus, Come. Come and set us free from our fears. Come and set us free from our doubts and our sins. Come and let us find rest in you. Come and be our hope. Come and be the desire of hearts. Come and be the joy in our hearts. Come, thou long expected Jesus.

The nice thing about Advent is that we know what we are waiting for, and we know when it will come. We know that right now we are waiting for Christmas to come. For the kids, it is the countdown to Jesus’ birthday and a fun Christmas morning after an incredibly confusing year. For us adults, we celebrate as well, knowing that the Christ-Child who was born on that long ago Christmas night, comes to us again and again, year after year, shining a bright light of hope for all those who feel the weight of darkness. We know Christmas is coming, and knowing that helps us to wait for the time when he will come again in glory and bring us to him.

In the meantime, as we wait, there is much to do to prepare. My daughter has a lengthy list of things that we need to do as we get ready for Christmas. But perhaps more important than making a gingerbread house or baking twenty kinds of cookies is taking time for prayer and care as we prepare our hearts for the coming Christ. We take time to pray for one another, for our community, our world, our loved ones and yes, even ourselves. And we take the time to care... again for one another, our community, our world, our loved ones, and yes, even ourselves. We worship, we serve, we give, we learn, we love, and as best we can, we stay home and stay safe during this scary time.

I know the waiting is hard, but the most important gift of Christmas is that Christ come to be with us and we are never alone. May you all have a blessed Advent Season and a very Merry Christmas!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Kathy



Angel Tree

Thanks to you, all of our angels have been selected! If you have not brought your gifts by yet, please do so by December 6th.

Help Holy Cross with iGive!

If you are doing more and more shopping online....this message is for you!! You can help Holy Cross financially, and it's easy!!! Create an account at igive.com. Choose Holy Cross Lutheran Church Reno NV as your cause. Every time you shop online at a store that participates in iGive, an iGive icon will pop up. You click on it and that's it!! Thanks for helping Holy Cross! - Laurel Lindstrom



Prayer Chain

To submit a prayer request to our prayer chain, please contact Chris Martin, Sandi Christman, or Pastor Kathy Morris.

Holy Cross Bible Studies

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study on Zoom:

We will NOT be meeting 12/23, but otherwise we are meeting each Wednesday in December. Join us at 1:30pm for a Bible study on the book of Proverbs. There is no handout or study book needed, but be sure to let Becky Bradley (beckyb485@gmail.com) 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. You can join at any time, even mid-stream. We just want you a part of the discussion!

Wednesday afternoon Bible Study, 1:30pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09)
[pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09)

Meeting ID: 896 3300 9098

(If you are calling in on your phone to 669-900-6833)

Password: 050344 (if requested)

Church in Society Discussion Group:

We are taking a break for the holidays, and will resume with a new topic in January. Thank you to all those who have participated in this group.

Building and Grounds

"Point person" to
contact:

Pat Schlosser
(building)

Pat.schlosser@yahoo.com

Eric Weldon
(grounds)

ericjweldon@yahoo.com

Thrivent Choice Dollars:

This program gives eligible members an opportunity to recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds each year. Eligible members can help Holy Cross in our goals for Growing into Change by directing Choice Dollars to Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

If you have Choice Dollars, mark your calendar as a reminder to designate them every year before March 31st. Thrivent Choice can have a tremendous impact on Holy Cross.

Silver Sage Thanksgiving



Dear Holy Cross Family,

Thank you to all who donated, cooked, assembled, and delivered for our neighbors at Silver Sage properties. From shopping to final delivery and all the steps in between, we had nearly 50 church members and friends contribute time, talent, food, and funds! The support, creativity, and generosity of the congregation provided 87 seniors with a Thanksgiving Breakfast bag including a hand-made breakfast casserole and fresh produce. While we missed our traditional meal and its fellowship (who doesn't love a church filled with the aroma of roasted turkey and all the fixings with the sounds of happy people enjoying the meal?), it is inspiring to see that our sincere desire to be people of service (and the Holy Spirit!) led us to think creatively and explore new ways to do traditional things in challenging times. Please enjoy the pictures, and thank you again to all!

---Natalie Tegio, Pat Clem, Joan Julius



Advent & Christmas Happenings

Godly Play

We were working on some stories about different Prophets when the difficult decision to cancel in person worship was made. These stories got the children thinking and wondering about what a prophet is. It also made them think if they were a prophet or if they knew anyone who was a prophet.

This week we begin to get ready for the Mystery of Christmas. The season of Advent, the time that we remember, the prophets, the holy family, the shepherds, and the wiseman. We remember as we get ready for the Mystery of Christmas, the Holy Child, Christ our King.

We are working on a little something that we can do in lieu of our annual Children's Christmas program. We will be contacting our families with details.

We look forward to when we can be together again. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy.

~Jolene Jaillet

Godly Play Administrator

Advent Food Calendar

Starting December 1st, each day take an item from your pantry and put it into a box or heavy bag. Bring it to church on Christmas Eve (or earlier in the month or no later than 1/10/21 also works). This is an easy and amazing way to not only bless those in need in our community, but keeps our families focused on the meaning of the season. Service committee will deliver food items to our local shelters and/or Shared Harvest.

December 1 – box of cereal

December 2 – peanut butter

December 3 – stuffing mix

December 4 – boxed potatoes

December 5 – macaroni and cheese

December 6 – canned peaches

December 7 – canned tomatoes

December 8 – canned tuna

December 9 – dessert mix (brownies/cookies)

December 10 – jar of applesauce

December 11 – canned sweet potatoes

December 12 – cranberry sauce

December 13 – canned beans

December 14 – box of crackers

December 15 – package of rice

Christmas Poinsettias

Please contact the church office if you would like to donate a large Christmas poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. If you're dedicating them to the memory of someone, please include a note of who they are in memory or honor of. Cost will be \$10.00 each. Last day to sign up is December 6th!

Online Live Nativity

Michael Tegio has collected photographs from many of you taken from the last 40 or so years of Live Nativities. Instead of hosting the Live Nativity this year, we will be telling the story of the Nativity online with the same familiar music and voices, and those wonderful old pictures. It will be ready to premiere online in mid-December. We will also be putting up some of the painted cut-outs outside and if you want to come and see them and take some time for personal reflection and prayer, you are welcome at

Christmas Eve

We are planning a wonderful service of Lessons and Carols, filled with the joyful music we love and it will be available online. We are uncertain as to what we will be able to offer for an in-person worship experience at this time, but we will share those plans as we get closer to Christmas Eve.

Choir

The HCLC choir and UNR musicians will be providing music for our Christmas Eve online service. Seven carols, three anthems, and two specials will enhance hearing the beloved Christmas story as told in the Lessons and Carols format. Get your candles ready and join us for a special night celebrating our Savior's birth.

December 16 – package of oatmeal

December 17 – package pasta

December 18 – spaghetti sauce

December 19 – canned chicken noodle soup

December 20 – canned tomato soup

December 21 – canned corn

December 22 – canned mixed vegetables

December 23 – canned pears

December 24 – canned green beans

Christmas Sermon Series



Through December we will be continuing this fun sermon series, and we encourage you to watch the movies in preparation (most are aired during the holidays on TV, so keep an eye out... they can also be rented on Amazon Prime Video for \$4 or under, and will likely be released soon for the holidays on Netflix).

November 29

White Christmas

"Letting Go of Expectations"

December 6

Miracle on 34th Street

(Either Version)

"Finding Faith"

December 13

It's a Wonderful Life

"Making a Difference"

December 20

The Nativity Story

"Witnessing the Miracle"

December 24

Charlie Brown Christmas

"Discovering the Simple Things"

December 27

Elf

"Spreading Cheer Throughout the Year"



Serving Through Creativity

Quilt Group News

On Sunday December 6 a special blessing will be part of our Worship Services. Fifty two small quilts, forty crocheted octopi and small hats 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 small 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 and hats 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, octopi and hats go home with the babies when they are discharged.

Making these quilts, octopi and hats is a special time for Holy Cross Quilters and knitters. 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 and crochet 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.

Hooks & Needles

We are back "at it" — safe distancing and wearing our masks. 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 as well as for our family and friends.

We will only be meeting the second Tuesday of December on the 8th at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall, **and we are gladly accepting donations of yarn for our projects. Thank you!**



A Message From Our Church Council

Your Council met on November 9—in person and via Zoom. Sue Gonyou led us in our opening devotions/study of Power Surge, our discussion revolved around the Marks of Discipleship: Daily Prayer, Weekly Worship, Bible Reading, Service, Spiritual Friendships, Giving.

We received reports:

From Pastor---updates on Stewardship, Thanksgiving, Christmas worship and activities and outreach—church together continues in new and different ways! Thanks be to God!

From the Finance Committee---While October giving was improved over September, expenses exceed revenue resulting in a loss of \$6,942, bringing the YTD loss to \$3,531. The finance committee has projected a loss of \$10,000 at year end. Revenue losses are primarily a result of reduced rent, cash plate and new member giving. Expenses remain well controlled. We have not used our PPP loan/grant, but will use to cover operating shortfalls as necessary. On November 13, we applied for loan/grant forgiveness of the PPP loan from Umpqua Bank/SBA.

Laurel presented and council approved the Leave Policy. The nominating committee is being formed to identify candidates to fill the open positions on the Church Council, to be presented at the January annual meeting.

We reviewed our Pandemic response plan and discussed the increasing COVID-19 cases in Washoe County, deciding to continue to closely monitor for changes and possible impact on Holy Cross.

On November 12 the Council met via Zoom to discuss the worsening of the COVID-19 pandemic health crisis and the Governor's request that citizens over the coming two weeks stay at home as much as possible to "flatten the curve." Churches were not asked to close in person worship. However, the Council decided that continuing virtual Worship and closing in person Worship beginning Sunday November 22 was the best decision and in keeping with our desire to work together to keep our congregation, staff and our community safe. We will continue to monitor the pandemic health crisis closely.

Diane Torry, Council President

Announcements

Shared Harvest News

This month we are collecting the following:

30 chili

30 crackers

50 mac and cheese

Please bring your donations to the church by the 20th, and let Veralyn know what you're donating: veralyncombs45@gmail.com.

Thank you all for being so supportive of Shared Harvest!

December Lectors—THANK YOU!

December 6th—Wib Namestka

December 13th—Noelle Lentz

December 20th—Kayla & Logan Kunze

December 27th—Abigail Morris

Altar Guild Assignments for December — THANK YOU!

Sandi Christman

Sharon Voss

Office Hours

The office is open Monday through Thursday from 10am–3pm, and will be closed on Fridays. If you need anything outside of those hours, please email holycrossreno@gmail.com or call Pastor Kathy at 702-423-0382

Christ in Our Home Devotional

The Oct/Nov/Dec devotional is available at the church for pickup.

Happy Birthday

Sharon Voss—Dec 1

Helen Thompson—Dec 9

Veralyn Combs—Dec 19

Ashton Meseberg—Dec 2

Eldora Johnson—Dec 13

Becky Bradley—Dec 22

Cheryl Brown—Dec 5

Jan Moebus—Dec 14

Fran Moses—Dec 23

Jacqueline White—Dec 7

Laurel Lindstrom—Dec 15

Kathy Mills—Dec 25

Heather Drew—Dec 9

Natalie Tegio—Dec 15

Audrie Goebel—Dec 28

Linda Puckett—Dec 9

Reana Ferencik—Dec 17

Michele Sorge—Dec 30