



Holy Cross *Crossroads*

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Church Events

- Feb 3rd—Hot Topic Discussion
- Feb 14th—Confirmation Class
- Feb 17th—Ash Wednesday online service & drive-thru services
- Feb 24th—Lent service (in-person, signup required)
- Feb 28th—Confirmation Class
- March 3rd—Lent service (in-person, signup required)
- March 10th—Lent service (in-person, signup required)
- March 17th—Lent service (in-person, signup required)
- March 24th—Lent service (in-person, signup required)

From Pastor Kathy:

Dear Friends,

In just a couple of weeks we will begin the season of Lent. I find this notable because we were just a couple of weeks into Lent when the world changed so dramatically last year. At the time, we thought that Covid-19 would mean a few weeks of shut down, but here we are eleven months later, and still we wait to gather safely. Last year, I said it was “The longest Lent ever!” Little did I know just how long lasting this would be!

Traditionally, Lent is a time of preparation, often associated with solemn penitence and renewal of the spirit as we focus on the suffering and sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross leading up to the celebration of Easter. People may choose to take on a discipline to help align themselves more spiritually with the concept of sacrifice and some may “give up” something for Lent. Others I know simply add something for Lent – reading Scripture, a devotional, or some sort of uplifting book. Some add an extra prayer time or a prayer focus to their lives, some add acts of service, and some add worship and attend a mid-week worship service. (You can learn about our Lenten offerings later in the newsletter.)

“From Pastor Kathy” (cont.)

I know as most of us think over the last year, it's hard to wrap our heads around all that we've seen and experienced. Unfortunately, while things might be slowly improving as vaccines are given out and numbers of new cases are lowered in our county, we are still in a statewide “pause” and when that is lifted, we don't yet know what the numbers will look like. I hope that before Lent is over, we will be gathered back together on Sunday mornings for worship as we continue to offer an online option. I know, I know, the waiting is hard.

But in this very long season of preparation, as we are waiting, I know God is at work within us and at work within our church. I can't see the big picture yet of what God is exactly up to, but I know God is faithful and when the time is right for us to come out of this long Lent, we will be ready for whatever God has in store for us to do as we share Christ's love with the community through our words and our actions.

May you be filled with God's Holy Spirit this Lent as you continue to walk forward in faith!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Kathy Morris



A Thank You from Service/Fellowship

The Service Committee wants to thank everyone who participated in the extremely successful Advent Calendar Food Drive. We are so glad we tried this giving opportunity. We collected four barrels of food for the food bank. We are also very appreciative that they came and picked it up for us. Thanks again to all who donated and helped consolidate all the food.

The Service/Fellowship Committee will meet next month to begin planning 2021 with the hope that we will be able to “get back to normal” and see each other with fellowship and service activities and opportunities.

2020 Thrivent Action Team Grants

(from Thrivent Financial)

During 2020, Holy Cross received \$1,000 in four separate Action Team Grants:

1. Lent—hosting our Mardi Gras breakfast —thank you Pat and Linda Schlosser
2. Trunk or Treat—inviting our neighbors to join us for Halloween Fun in the parking lot and Fellowship Hall—thank you Laurel Lindstrom and Helen Thompson
3. Silver Sage Thanksgiving Brunch—we prepared and delivered Thanksgiving brunch meals including fresh produce to our neighbors at all four Silver Sage affordable Senior apartment complex's—thank you Natalie and Russell Tegio
4. Purchase of new Godly Play curriculum—we purchased the new Godly Play curriculum "Christians Who Inspire" with a Thrivent Financial Action Team grant—Thank you Sue and Corrie Volinkaty

These Thrivent Action Grants helped to provide the seed money to evangelize/market these events to our neighbors and friends and provided the needed supplies for the events. This is an additional source of funding for outreach and service and Christian education that is available to Holy Cross through our members who are clients of Thrivent Financial. The online application process is straightforward, with quick response for approval, followed by the receipt of the Action Team Award.

In addition to providing funds for new outreach and service projects, many of our existing outreach and service projects are potentially eligible for Action Team Grants—for example: the Live Nativity, The Spaghetti dinner, Quilting, Hooks and Needles.

Thank you to our members for sponsoring these Thrivent Action Team grants, furthering the Mission and Ministry work of Holy Cross. If you are a Thrivent Member and would like to sponsor a Thrivent Action Team Grant or you have an outreach/service idea that could use a Thrivent Action Grant, talk with Pastor Kathy or Diane Torry.



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

Church News

Tuesday Night Discussion Group

All are invited to join us on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm for a Zoom discussion and study group as we work through the ELCA Social Statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture." It can be found online here: https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/RaceSS.pdf?_ga=2.8778549.1812878882.1610566393-1528964800.1610566393

We are planning for the discussion on this topic to take 5 or 6 weeks. We hope that it will be an opportunity to better understand and celebrate the diversities we find within the people in our world. We invite participants to read through the entire document, making notes or keeping a journal as you do so in order for our discussion time to be utilized.

Please let Pastor Kathy know if you have any questions.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85039899065?pwd=aUhzSDFoTFd5U2pWQzVVMnJIQmgyQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 3989 9065

Passcode: 118568

Wednesday Bible Study

We're still studying Proverbs, on our walk towards Wisdom and applying it to our daily lives. You can join the study at any time. There is no book required — just a willingness to use Zoom (which has much improved on their security issues, by the way). Also notice that you can call in by telephone.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09>

Meeting ID: 896 3300 9098 (If you are calling in on your phone to 669-900-6833)
Password: 050344 (if requested)

Hot Topic Discussion on Tolerance

At a recent council meeting, there was some conversation about the growing diversity we are seeing within our church family. We all have different perspectives and experiences with a variety of social concerns, causes, political leanings, and more. In order to truly be a sanctuary of welcome, we invite conversation as to how we can ensure that we are following the command of Jesus, "to love one another" as Jesus loves us. So on Wednesday, February 3, we invite everyone to join us for a Hot Topic Discussion on Tolerance at 6:30pm on Zoom. You will find the link below. All are welcome!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81488770436?pwd=ZGxzZ1VWcGxSK2NQbE1uU2M0TG9YZz09>

Meeting ID: 814 8877 0436

Passcode: 872336

Choir

Choir is back in the swing of preparing special music for our Sunday services, and Lent is just around the corner! If you would like to participate in this virtual choir experience, join us for rehearsals. We meet every Sunday 9:30am-10:15am. If you haven't been able to attend choir rehearsals in the past, this might be a fun, new experience for you to try now. If you would like more information, please contact Becky at beckyb485@gmail.com.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://unr.zoom.us/j/98517820902?pwd=enZtQXVJVdDdCOEQzTXdkUVMxVDhZz09>

Godly Play

I am happy to share that our virtual Godly Play lessons have been going well. We are still working out some of the technical challenges, but overall they have been great! We have had 6-8 kids each week! I want to thank Natalie, Katie, and Chris for stepping up and making this transition seamless. Below are the stories for February. Until we hear otherwise, we will continue to meet via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:30.

If you have any questions or have kiddos that would like to participate on the Zoom meeting, please feel free to contact me at 775-224-1683 or via email jolenejail-let@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you!

~Jolene & the Godly Play Teachers

February 7, 2021	Lesson 10: Parable of the Sower
February 14, 2021	Lesson 11: Parable of the Leaven
February 21, 2021	Lesson 12: Parable of the Mustard Seed
February 28, 2021	Enrichment Lesson: Parable of Parables



Lent at Holy Cross

Our Lenten Theme this year is “Holy Ground, Holy People: Made Whole by God’s Holy Love”:

This Lent, you are invited to come along and explore the places where God meets us and the people God creates us to be. To be holy is to be set apart and devoted entirely to the work of the Lord, which is much easier to say than to do! As we journey through Lent this year, we will discover that even the broken places of our lives can be made whole by God’s Holy Love. Come and join us!

Aside from our worship opportunities, we invite you to stay tuned to our Facebook page and your email box through the Lenten season for periodic activities, prayers and devotions to help enhance this holy season in your life!

Ash Wednesday - February 17:

Unfortunately, we will be doing our Ash Wednesday services differently this year. We will have a traditional Ash Wednesday service offered online, which will premiere on Facebook and YouTube at 6:30pm. The service will include communion and the imposition of ashes. If you want to participate in those aspects of the worship service, we will have ashes and communion to-go kits available for you to pick up from the church starting Monday, February 15. Please call the church to reserve your kit.

Drive-Thru Ash Wednesday Services:

If you would prefer to have ashes placed upon your forehead and to receive communion from Pastor Kathy, then we encourage you to join us on Ash Wednesday in the Parking Lot. Pastor Kathy (gloved and masked up) will be administering ashes and communion to you in your cars from 12-1pm and also from 5:15-6:15pm. All are invited to come by and receive these gifts of God’s grace.

Mid-Week Wednesday Services:

February 24, March 3, March 10th, March 17, and March 24 at 6:30pm we will be having mid-week Lenten services in the sanctuary. At this time, we are planning to have a maximum of 10 people in attendance at each service, and we will live stream the services on Facebook, so everyone can worship. If you would like to be one of the worship participants here in the building, we ask that you would sign up on the Sign Up Genius link below or call Alese in the church office. It will be first come, first serve. And all worshippers here at the church will need to be masked and maintain social distancing. The mid-week services will not include communion this year, but will offer prayers, Scripture and reflection.

Sign Up Genius Link for Mid-Week Services:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FADAC23A0F5CF8-midweek>

Sunday Services:

At this time, we continue to plan for these services to all be online; premiering Sunday mornings at 10:30 on Facebook and YouTube. If we are able to worship in person together safely, then we will make that announcement.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Year End 12/31/2020 Financial Report to the Council & Congregation

Date: December 30, 2020—Budget to Actual YTD

	Actual	Budget	Variance	Comment
Other Giving	\$ 450			
Rent	\$ 6,400	\$11,250	(\$4,850)	
Unrestricted General Fund	\$235,407	\$253,584	(\$18,178)	Member giving up \$11,632 over 2019, down in cash plate and new member giving
Misc Income	\$			
Total income	\$242,257	\$264,834	(\$22,577)	
Operating Expenses	\$215,828	\$234,245	\$19,268	Personnel expenses reduced, change in administrative staff and special musicians
Principal and interest payments	\$26,231	\$33,190	\$6,959	Interest only for 6 months. Total principal paid with additional gifts \$10,368*
Total expense	\$242,059	\$267,419	\$25,360	
Net Gain	\$ 202	(\$2,601)		

1 st mortgage balance	\$191,302	
2 nd mortgage balance	\$215,051	
Total Mortgage	\$406,353	
Cash	\$72,044	Includes \$36,700 PPP loan/grant
Special Funds	\$23,602	Excludes \$36,700 PPP loan/grant

YTD total income is under budget, primarily due to COVID-19 related decreases in rental income, cash plate and new givers. Expenses are tightly controlled. We received six months of no principal payments on our two mortgages at Thrivent. However, gifts of \$3,409 were made to the Mortgage Reduction Fund and applied to the principal balances, bringing our total principal reduction in 2020 to \$10,368 *, YTD gain of \$202, reflects tightly controlled expenses and strong member giving. PPP grant of \$36,700 safety net is untouched and loan was forgiven on Dec. 17, 2020.

Finance Committee: Pat Schlosser, Jody Morrison, Linda Puckett, Steve Tate, Joe Krehlik, Diane Torry

Serving Through Creativity

Quilt Group News



QUILTER'S BLESSING

May your Bobbins
be full and everflowing.
May your Stash be rich,
colorful, and abundant.
May your
Stitches-in-the-Ditch
be even and straight.
May you always
be comforted by the
warmth and joy
of a Handmade Quilt.
And may your heart
be joyfilled and
your life
SEW BLESSED.



Holy Cross Quilters “formally” meet in the Fellowship Hall the first and third Thursday of each month 9:30am and 1:00pm, February 4 and 18. 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 which were given locally to the Children’s Cabinet. In 2020, even with Pandemic interruptions, Holy Cross Quilters completed 160 quilts given to eight community and worldwide agencies as well as members and friends of Holy Cross. This year we were blessed to give quilts to victims of the fires in California and Oregon.

We dedicate our quilts to Christ’s service, trusting that his love will go wherever each quilt is sent and 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!

Hooks & Needles

The water break has been corrected and Hooks and Needles is back "at it". We are safe distancing and are wearing our masks .

We welcome all knitters and crocheter’s 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 meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month — February 9th and 23rd at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

We are gladly accepting donations of yarn for our projects.
Thank you!



A Message From Our Church Council

Your Council met via Zoom on January 11. Sue Gonyou continued our Council Study of Power Surge with discussion of the Committees compared to Ministry Teams: "if a ministry is worth doing, chances are that it will be best accomplished by teaming." "All Team meetings must begin with scripture and prayer, and an opportunity to check in with one another, a team culture is also a learning organization." The council study of Power Surge is deepening and challenging our individual and collective understanding of the move from the membership model to a discipleship model of being a growing church together.

We received reports:

From Pastor, thank you to everyone who made our Christmas celebration so wonderful! Lent and Easter plans are being developed, Godly Play is meeting by Zoom and Confirmation meets twice a month. The Tuesday night discussion group resumes on Jan 19, studying the ELCA statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture. We mourn the passing of Ken Schultz.

Finance Committee reported year end financial results with a gain of \$202 reflecting tightly controlled expenses and strong member giving and commitment to the Mission and Ministry of Holy Cross. (See the Finance Committee report for more details)

Liaison Reports: Education and Learning: Sue Volinkaty reports that Godly Play has purchased with a Thrivent Action grant , new Godly Play curriculum: Christians who inspire, The story of Martin Luther King Jr. and Bishop Barbara Harris, Administration: Building and Grounds reported the progress on repairing the water main break and the HVAC unit in the sanctuary. Laurel Lindstrom reported that the Admin Team is continuing to work on the documentation of administrative procedures and processes at Holy Cross, a Policy and Procedure Manual has been developed, includes policies, committee descriptions, procedure documents.

We reviewed the COVID -19 numbers and decided to make no changes in our current building restrictions, with hope that we will be together in person soon.

After a thorough discussion, the council decided to post pone the Annual Congregation meeting until we can be together in the building or outside. The current council agreed to extend their terms until the annual meeting, and affirmed that we will operate under the 2020 budget until a new budget is approved by the congregation at the annual meeting.

We regretfully accepted the resignation of Mark Calise from the Council and thanked him for his service on the Holy Cross Council.

The Council will hold a special meeting on January 21 to: 1. evaluate the Council 2020 goals: what has been achieved, what needs more work, what have we left undone 2. Discuss intolerance and our vision Welcome All at Holy Cross.

We adjourned with Pastor leading us in prayer.

Diane B. Torry

Announcements

Office Hours

Our office hours are changing a bit, and will now be open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:30 to 5:30 and Thursday from 2:30 to 5:30. Let us know if you're coming by so we can be sure we aren't out grabbing lunch or running an errand when you arrive. Please call Pastor Kathy at 702-423-0382 or email holycrossreno@gmail.com if you need anything outside of normal office hours.

Shared Harvest News

This month we are collecting the following:
20—Cereal

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!

February Lectors—THANK YOU!

2/7—Jody Morrison

2/14—Linda Puckett

2/21—Diane Torry

2/28—Kathy Doyle

Altar Guild Assignments for February — THANK YOU!

Linda Schlosser

Jody Morrison

Christ in Our Home Devotional

The Jan/Feb/March devotional has arrived!

If you'd like us to send you a copy once we receive them, please contact us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Madeline Murray—Feb 1

Shelley Rigler—Feb 14

Corrie Volinkaty—Feb 25

Brian Rees—Feb 2

Jan Mann—Feb 16

Ethan Jaeck—Feb 26

Lani Moss—Feb 7

Jim Morrison—Feb 17

Steve Tate—Feb 29

Joulette Marbina—Feb 8

Paula Featherstone—Feb 18

Sharon Rovig—Feb 11

Brita Gonyou—Feb 18