

# Holy Cross

## *Crossroads*

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

### From Pastor Kathy:

Dear Friends,

In many ways it seems like Christmas flew right by this year. I know for me, I was so excited for it to come and I very much welcomed the distraction it brought to the end of such a hard year. But at the same time, there has still been the weight of loss throughout our community as Pastor Roland Grumm, Jan Moebus, and Ken Schultz have died so recently. I know even through the joy of Christmas, members of my extended family have been grappling with loss and health concerns. So while the distraction of Christmas celebration has been welcomed, we are back to reality.

I know the post-Christmas winter months can be hard on people and their emotional and mental states, and in this time of pandemic restrictions, it may seem even more difficult than usual. If you are feeling especially low, please make every effort to reach out, because I know there are many people who care deeply for you. You may even find someone willing to jump into your low spot with you.

I know there's that old story about the guy who fell into a pit, and when his friend came by, there was no way to get anything that would help the guy get out of the pit, so the friend jumped in. The guy said to his friend, "What'd you do that for now we're both stuck in the pit?" And the friend said, "Well, at least we're here together."

### Church Events

- 1/7—Quilt Group
- 1/10—Deadline to turn in Advent Food Calendar items, choir rehearsals resume, & Godly Play (via Zoom)
- 1/12—Hooks & Needles
- 1/17—Confirmation class & Godly Play (both via Zoom)
- 1/19—Pastor's discussion group resumes
- 1/21—Quilt Group
- 1/24—Godly Play (via Zoom)
- 1/26—Hooks & Needles
- 1/31—Confirmation class & Godly Play (both via Zoom)
- Postponed—Annual Congregation Meeting



## “From Pastor Kathy” (cont.)

It's encouraging that we worship the kind of God who would jump into the pit with us, and he also sends the Holy Spirit to prompt us with love and concern to jump in with our friends. So if you are feeling good, put on your jumping shoes and check on your friends.

And if you are feeling down, please don't despair. You are not alone. There are many who are here for you and we are ready to jump into the pit with you. We don't even mind how deep it might be because we know when we jump in that Jesus is already there.

If there is anything that you need, please don't hesitate to ask. Jumping into pits with people is what I am here for! May God bless you all!

P.S. Thank you all for my generous Christmas gift! It was such a blessing for me that you all thought to remember me and my family with such kindness. This has been such an odd year of ministry, and we greatly appreciate the affirmation, love and support!

We say a very special thank you to Brittney May, Becky Bradley, Michael Tegio and all of the musicians who provided us such a wonderful Christmas Celebration service for Christmas Eve. Thank you also to Alese Linder for all of her assistance in coordinating the bulletin!

*Love in Christ,*

*Pastor Kathy and the Morris Family*



2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR

## New Year's Resolutions

(from Sue Gonyou's sermon)

*January: Establish a daily Bible study*

*February: Set a daily prayer schedule*

*March: Share kindness with our neighbors*

*April: Kindness to the poor in our midst*

*May: Clean out and donate*

*June: Volunteer*

*July: Send notes or call those who are isolated*

*August: Adopt a veteran/a child/an elderly person*

*September: Adopt a school*

*October: Help those with immediate problems locally*

*November: Focus on education and healing for those in need*

*December: Focus on system changes that make fewer vulnerable to defeat*

## Choir

Thank you so much to the HCLC choir participants and the UNR guest musicians who made our Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service so beautiful! The choir spent many hours rehearsing in choir rehearsal as well as at home with rehearsal tapes before submitting their music files, and the results were phenomenal.

Of course, we couldn't do this without Michael's technology skills to weave it all together. Brittney's musical leadership for an overall meaningful experience was clearly evident. (And Becky appreciated having the first Christmas Eve off in over 40 years!)

Lent is just around the corner! If you would like to participate in this virtual choir experience, join us for rehearsals (resuming on Sunday January 10) by using the Zoom link below. 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](mailto:beckyb485@gmail.com).

<https://unr.zoom.us/j/98517820902?pwd=enZtQXVJVdDdCOEQzTXdkUVMxVDhzZz09>

## Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Classes will resume Sunday, January 17 and 31<sup>st</sup> via Zoom as we begin the journey to discover the importance of Jesus' ministry to us and for us.

## Holy Cross Bible Studies

### **Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study on Zoom:**

We continue our study of the book of Proverbs, resuming on January 6. This group grows no moss under our feet! We are studying how to apply Wisdom to all aspects of our life. It's been interesting – we keep coming across non-Proverbs in Proverbs. In other words, today's common saying like, "It's too good to be true," seems to be based on Proverbs 20:21. It's like a treasure hunt! 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), or notice that you can call in by telephone.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVVaYVZaQ2hwUExQRVY5elBXbHJ4dz09>

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:**

Tuesday Night Bible Study/Discussion Group will resume on Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30pm. Stay tuned for more details and our topic of study and discussion.

## *Communion Elements*

We know this is a difficult time for many, and taking Holy Communion can be a source of comfort and peace. Feel free to let us know if you'd like to come by the church to pick up wafers and/or wine or grape juice.

## Annual Congregation Meeting Update:

The Council is developing plans to hold the Annual Congregation Meeting. Typically, we hold this meeting on the last Sunday of January. The national COVID-19 health crisis situation creates challenges to holding this meeting safely. We will not hold the Annual Meeting in January. As soon as the council has finalized the plan to safely and effectively hold our Annual Meeting, everyone will be notified.

The Annual Report will be completed during January, and we ask all committees and teams to promptly respond to Alese's request for committee and team reports.

If you have questions, please contact me or any member of the Council.

*Diane Torrey, Council President and Church Council*



# Alter/Service/Fellowship Committees

We would like to thank everyone who ordered poinsettias this year. They certainly made the church look beautiful - even if we could only see them virtually! If anyone wants to have a poinsettia, they will be in the fellowship hall the week of 1/4/21.

Many thanks for supporting our Angel Tree again this year. We helped to make it a happier Christmas for five families in our local community.

We hope that the ladies in our congregation enjoyed the prayers for Advent that the Advent Tea Committee put together. Hopefully, 2021 will allow us to hold our annual Advent Tea once again in person.

Just a reminder that Jan 10 is the last day we will be collecting for the Advent Food Calendar. This is a simple way to help those in our community.

Most importantly, we would like to thank you for your generosity and support in 2020. It was a challenging year, but we were still able to reach out to those in our community and abroad through the ELCA.



## Church News (continued)



**better together**

## Godly Play

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a blessed, safe Christmas. With the new year we are going to try something different for Godly Play while the church is closed for in person worship. We will be meeting on Sundays via Zoom. Please look for the Zoom meeting information to come out with the weekly bulletin. Thank you for your commitment to Godly Play.

*~Jolene & the Godly Play Teachers*

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|------------------|---|
| January 3, 2021  | No Godly Play                           |
| January 10, 2021 | Lesson 6: Holy Baptism                  |
| January 17, 2021 | Lesson 7: Parable of the Good Shepherd  |
| January 24, 2021 | Lesson 8: Parable of the Good Samaritan |
| January 31, 2021 | Lesson 9: Parable of the Great Pearl    |



# Ways to Give in 2021

1. If you ever shop on-line, IGive is a great way to help Holy Cross. Go to [IGive.com](http://IGive.com) and enroll. Choose Holy Cross Lutheran Church Reno as your charity. Then whenever you shop on-line, companies that participate in IGive program will donate to Holy Cross. You will see the IGive icon, and you just have to click on it.



2. There is still time to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars from 2020 to Holy Cross. This has to be done every year. (see info below)

3. If you want to give a monetary donation or set up recurring donations to Holy Cross...you can do that yourself by going to our website and click on the "Give" tab. Or you can contact me for a form to set up recurring giving.

Please contact me if you have any questions!

*Laurel Lindstrom, Financial Secretary*  
[hclcrenofinance@gmail.com](mailto:hclcrenofinance@gmail.com)



## Thrivent Choice Dollars

Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2021, to direct any remaining 2020 Choice Dollars. Help support Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.



# A Message From Our Church Council

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Your Council met on December 14 via Zoom. Sue Gonyou led us in our devotions in Power Surge, Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church—we discussed our Mission and Vision Statements.

We received reports:

From Pastor—Advent and Christmas Worship—including the online Live Nativity, Longest Night Service (Dec. 21), and Christmas Eve (in-person Christmas Eve outside in the Memorial Garden as well as virtual service with incredible music). Godly Play will resume online in January, as will Confirmation, Tuesday night discussion group, and ongoing Bible Study of Proverbs. Life continues, with a baptism and a wedding during December. We mourn the passing of Pastor Grumm, Jan Moebus, Jack Ericson, and Ken Schultz.

The Finance Committee: November giving was significantly more than previous months, resulting in a gain of \$4,142 YTD at November 30. Expenses remain tightly controlled. On December 16, our PPP loan/ grant received approval from Umpqua Bank and the SBA to convert the loan to grant status.

The nominating committee is in process, and we received the final report from the Stewardship Committee.

Building and Grounds committee reported that the 1986 HVAC system on the east side of the Sanctuary has failed, and they are in the process of receiving bids for replacement.

The Annual Congregation Meeting was thoroughly discussed in light of the current COVID-19 Health Crisis. Two options (both constitutionally possible) were presented: 1. postponing the meeting until we are able to meet in person in a larger group and 2. holding the meeting online via Zoom. We will continue to closely monitor the COVID -19 health crisis situation and develop and implement plans to hold the annual congregation meeting.

We adjourned with Pastor leading us in prayer, and wishing all a Merry Christmas.

*Diane Torry*

*President, Church Council*

# Serving Through Creativity

## Quilt Group News

The Quilt Group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month –on January 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. (although you can find a few quilters every Thursday working in the Fellowship Hall)

Everyone is welcome to join the quilt group. No quilting or sewing experience is required. Although experienced quilters and seamstresses are also treasured. During our quilt meetings we do a variety of things, cutting fabrics, designing quilt tops, sewing quilt tops, pressing the material, coordinating tops and backs, and tying the quilts—something for everyone!

The Quilt Group makes and donates quilts to people in need and in our community, around the world, and to members and friends of Holy Cross. If you know of a congregation member or friend that is in need of the hope and emotional warmth a quilt brings, speak with Pastor.

During the year we display our completed quilts in the fellowship hall, in the fall all the quilts we have completed during the year are blessed during a worship service and then given away to those in need. Quilts bring hope and emotional warmth to those that receive them. Each quilt given away is made with love and faith—furthering the Mission of Holy Cross—to Worship God and be Christ's disciples in our community and world.

Please come join us for creative work, fun and fellowship!



## 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 be meeting January 12th and 26th at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall, **and we are gladly accepting donations of yarn for our projects.**  
**Thank you!**



# In Memoriam: The Rev. Roland E. "Roly" Grumm

*November 24, 1930 – November 29, 2020*

Roland Grumm was born on November 24, 1930, in Fargo, North Dakota, to Reverend Arnold and Esther Grumm, the youngest of four children. His brothers Walter and Lory became pastors and his sister Verla married one.

He graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis where he earned a Master of Divinity and a Sacred Theology Master Degree. He was ordained into the Lutheran Ministry at Evansville, Indiana on August 12, 1956. Pastor Roland served at Trinity Lutheran Church, Evansville, as assistant pastor from 1956 - 1960. There he met and married Carolyn Reasor in 1957. Their two daughters, Laura and Nancy, were born and baptized in Evansville.

From 1960 to 1967 Pastor Roland served at Grace Lutheran Church in Santa Maria, California, where he dedicated a new church building and began a preschool. He also served as president of the local clergy group and led the Middle League Baseball program.

For the next 19 years Roland was pastor of St. Paulus Lutheran Church in San Francisco. The church school was opened to the community children from different ethnic backgrounds and enrollment grew to over 200. During this time Pastor Roland became President of the San Francisco Council of Churches where he headed a committee to bring back the bodies of members from Peoples Temple who were lured to commit suicide by Jim Jones in Guyana. He was also president of San Francisco Goodwill and served as chaplain of the San Francisco Fire Department.

Pastor Roland served as pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran in Reno from 1986 - 1996, a relatively new church. They were proud of their ministry through their community work like their Outdoor Live Nativity Scene, providing food for those in need, and putting together quilts for local and international communities. Pastor Roland was an officer of LAMN and RAIN, both advocacy ministries in the Nevada legislature.

Roland and his wife Carolyn retired in 1996 to their vacation home in Quincy, California, where they enjoyed visits from their four granddaughters. Ten years later they moved in with their daughter Nancy and her husband and kids in Reno and returned to Holy Cross as members.

In 2018 he moved into an assisted living facility in Reno not far from his daughter. During that time, he continued to attend Holy Cross and provide ministry to residents, including occasional services.



**Condolences may  
be sent to:**

Nancy and Brian Crosby  
365 Pesaro Way  
Reno, NV 89521





# Announcements

## Office Hours

The office is open from 10AM to 3PM Monday through Thursday. Let us know if you're coming by so we can be sure we aren't out grabbing lunch or running an errand! Please call Pastor Kathy at 702-423-0382 or email [holycrossreno@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossreno@gmail.com) if you need anything outside of normal office hours.

## Altar Guild Assignments for January — THANK YOU!

Karen Ford

Linda Puckett

## Christ in Our Home Devotional

The Jan/Feb/March devotional will be delayed another two to three weeks, but there's a way to sign up to receive the devotions via email! Follow this link: <https://go.augsburgfortress.org/temporary-christ-in-our-home-email>.

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

## Shared Harvest News

This month we are collecting the following:

20—Mac and Cheese

26—Powdered milk

20—Soup

Tooth brushes

Tooth paste

Bar soap

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

Thank you all for being so supportive of Shared Harvest!

## January Lectors—THANK YOU!

1/3—Joe McElhinney

1/10—Sandi Christman

1/17—Lani Moss

1/24—Katie Torry

# Happy Birthday!

Deborah Goebel—Jan 4

David Anderson—Jan 13

Laura Grady—Jan 22

Odell Guss—Jan 6

Martin Theiss—Jan 14

Jolene Jaillet—Jan 23

Owen Schenk—Jan 7

Maryann Christman—Jan 16

Cathy Kline—Jan 30

Charlie Gevert—Jan 10

Trish Riley—Jan 18

Nellie Namestka—Jan 12

Orlyn Schenk—Jan 19