



Holy Cross *Crossroads*

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

From Pastor Kathy:

Dear Friends,

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." – Jesus, John 13:34-35

At a council meeting early in the year, some issues of welcome and tolerance were brought up as concerns. Apparently, over the last couple of years, here at our church and in church sponsored meetings, people have heard several disparaging comments made in regards to the LGBTQIA+ community. As you might imagine, this has been very hurtful for the members of our community of faith who feel a close connection to that community and some have wondered if they really belong in this community of faith.

Council has done some soul searching. Aside from conversations in our regular meetings, we've had two special council meetings to discuss these issues as well as some other concerns that have been raised in regards to general hospitality with people of different backgrounds and with younger people.

Before I share what specifically church council is looking at, I want to be clear that Holy Cross is Christ's church. We are the stewards of it, and while we are all very human, there is no place in Christ's church to disparage anyone, for any reason. We are all valuable and precious to God. As beloved children of God, we are all part of God's family.

My hope is that Holy Cross would be a safe place to worship and grow in our faith, and that we would do that surrounded and nurtured with support and love. In order to be that safe place, we can't have people making comments that are hurtful or disrespectful to anyone. That's not who we are or who we are striving to be as God's Holy People.

Church Events

- **March 3rd—Lent service (in-person, signup required)**
- **March 7th—Deadline to notify Pastor if you want to attend Synod Assembly (via Zoom)**
- **March 10th—Lent service (in-person, signup required)**
- **March 14th—Confirmation Class**
- **March 17th—Lent service (in-person, signup required)**
- **March 20th—Last day to sign up for Easter flowers**
- **March 24th—Lent service (in-person, signup required)**
- **March 28th—Palm Sunday and Confirmation Class**
- **April 1—Maundy Thursday**
- **April 2—Good Friday**
- **April 4—Easter Sunday**

“From Pastor Kathy” (cont.)

To be honest, I have no idea who said what, and I don't know that I need or want to know. I know that the comments that were said were hurtful. I would encourage us, during this Lenten season, to spend some time in reflection and ask the Holy Spirit to show us how we can do better. And if we realize that our words or actions have hurt someone, then I encourage us to work together to apologize and begin again. We are a congregation that values forgiveness and grace.

Moving forward, the Church Council is committed to helping Holy Cross live out our mission to “Welcome All.” We are currently putting together a Core Team of 6-10 people to lead us into and through the process to officially become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Congregation. What that means for us is that we would not only welcome everyone, but we would also value and affirm people as God's beloved children. And yes, becoming an RIC Church, specifically speaks to the LGBTQIA+ community as well as diverse races and lets them know that we are a safe place for them and their families to nurture their relationship with Christ our Lord.

I know that may seem like a big step for some of us. I understand that. Becoming an RIC Church isn't something that happens overnight. We will enter into a process. There will be listening sessions, Bible studies, one-on-one meetings, training sessions and more. This will take time. For right now, we are looking for some folks to join the CORE Team who have passionate hearts and would be willing to help lead us through this process, and we are happy to hear from folks as to what you think. My office door is always open, and I would love to talk with anyone who has any questions or concerns.

I would ask that if you are unsure about all of this, to be open as we begin the process. Join us in the journey as we are all led to places that will deepen the love that we already have for one another.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Kathy



Annual Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly— Virtual

Our annual Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly will be May 6-8 on Zoom this year. Holy Cross is able to have two people attend as voting members along with Pastor Kathy. High on the list of matters to discuss and decide this year will be the election of a new Bishop.

If you are interested in attending, or have any questions, please talk with Diane Torry or Pastor Kathy by March 7. It will require you to be comfortable with Zoom technology and for you to be able to participate on a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday time-frame.

Continuing Lent at Holy Cross

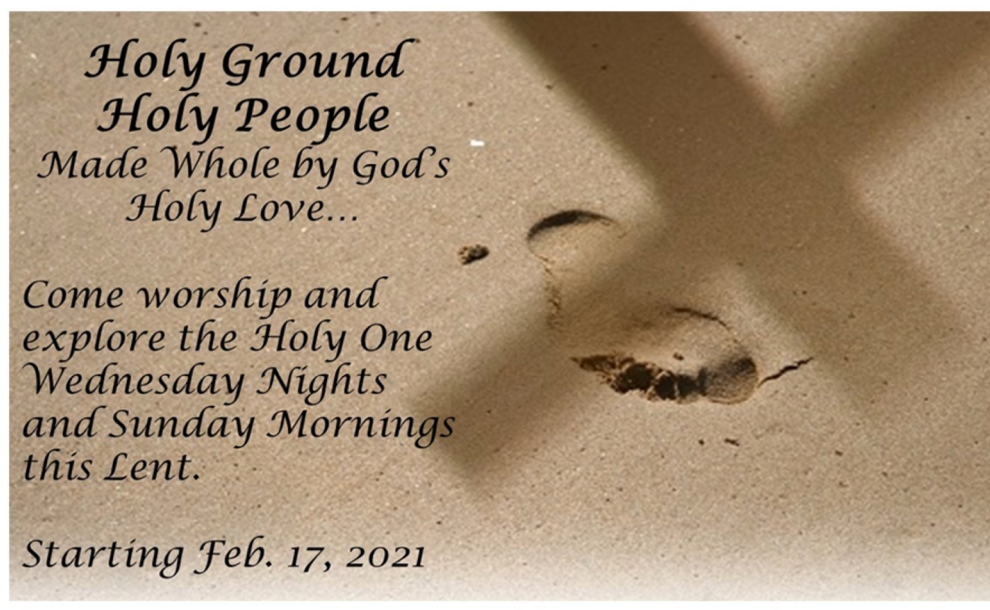
Our Lenten Theme this year is “Holy Ground, Holy People: Made Whole by God’s Holy Love”:

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!

Mid-Week Wednesday Services:

March 3, March 10, March 17, and March 24 at 6:30pm we will be having mid-week Lenten services in the sanctuary. You no longer need to sign up to be able to attend! 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.



Church News

Documentary on Reno Philharmonic

There's a documentary on the Reno Phil on PBS if you're interested: [PBS documentary link](#). PBS Reno's latest documentary, **The Work of Art: Reno Phil**, has been picked up for national distribution by American Public Television. The Work of Art: Reno Phil is an in-depth documentary exploring the 50th anniversary of the Reno Philharmonic, the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, and the subsequent creation of a special piece of music by an up-and-coming composer.

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:

["Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture" link](#)

[Join Zoom Meeting link](#)

Meeting ID: 850 3989 9065

Passcode: 118568

The final meeting will be March 9th.

Wednesday Bible Study

We are meeting each Wednesday in March, even during Holy Week. Join us at 1:30pm for a Bible study on the book of Proverbs. Let Becky Bradley 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: beckyb485@gmail.com.

[Join Zoom Meeting link](#)

MeetingID: 896 3300 9098

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

Password: 050344 (if requested)

Words to Live By:

"Show me your ways, Lord. Teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."
- Psalm 25:4-5

Choir

Choir members are busy preparing special music for the five Sundays in Lent, leading up to special presentations by the whole group on Palm Sunday and Easter. It certainly is a different technique doing virtual services, and the choir has worked hard perfecting their technique in downloading and uploading files so that Michael can expertly blend everything together. Be sure to thank them for their hard work in enhancing our worship experience.

Church News (cont.)

HVAC Special Fund

Dear Holy Cross Family,

In my Feb. 22nd letter (sent via email, titled "A Special Request"), I shared with you that the heating and air conditioning unit (HVAC unit) which heats and cools the east side of the Sanctuary has failed and needs to be replaced. The cost will be \$9,987. This is an unbudgeted, unexpected expense for the church.

The Church Council, with the recommendation of the Building and Grounds and Finance Teams, has approved opening a special fund to pay for the purchase and installation of a new sanctuary HVAC unit.

If you are able to help with this unexpected expense, it would be greatly appreciated. The Sanctuary HVAC Fund is now available for contributions from our church members and friends.

Thank you for your continued support of the Mission and Ministry of Holy Cross.

Peace and Blessings,
Diane Torrey, Council President



Godly Play

We are so excited to be back in the Godly Play room. The kids have been so happy to meet in-person again! We are back to meeting at 10:30 in person.

We are beginning our Lenten Journey in March, the time to get ready for the Mystery of Easter. We will not be hosting our egg hunt this year in order to continue to follow COVID safety rules. However, as a thank you for the many years of congregational support for our egg hunt, the Godly Play children will be working on a service project on Palm Sunday. It will be a little special something for all congregants on Easter Sunday.

If you have any questions or have kiddos that would like to join us for Godly Play, please feel free to contact me at 775-224-1683 or via email jolenejaillet@sbcglobal.net.

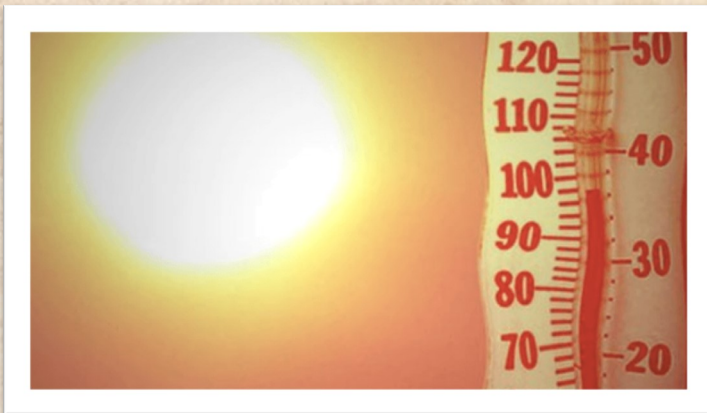
Thank you!

~Jolene & the Godly Play Teachers

March 7, 2021	Lesson 2: The Faces of Easter I - III
March 14, 2021	Lesson 2: The Faces of Easter IV - VII
March 21, 2021	Enrichment Lesson: The Crosses
March 28, 2021	Palm Sunday – Easter Service Project

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Classes are focused on the life and teachings of Jesus this spring. We will meet on Sundays, March 14, March 28, April 11 and April 25 at the church at 9:30am. Please contact Pastor Kathy for more info, including the Zoom links.



Looking Ahead



Holy Week Worship:

Stay tuned for updates regarding Holy Week Worship! We are currently working on plans for meaningful worship services both in person and online, so save the dates!

Palm Sunday – March 28

Maundy Thursday – April 1

Good Friday – April 2

Easter Sunday – April 4

Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee is looking for people who would like to serve on church council for a two-year term.

If you are interested, contact:

Sue Volinkaty

(volinkaty@hotmail.com)

Veralyn Combs

(veralyncombs45@gmail.com).

Elections for church council will occur during our annual meeting.



ANNUAL MEETING



Annual Congregational Meeting

Annual Reports were emailed out on Feb. 16th. If you didn't receive it, let us know.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will tentatively be in-person on April 18th (more details to come). As the meeting approaches, budget proposals will be available.

Service & Fellowship Committees



Service

We have been busy getting ready for our 2021 outreach community projects. Listed below are projects that Service Committee is planning for the first part of this year. If you have any ideas or projects that you would like us to pursue, let us know.

February 21 – April 4: We will be having a combined donation drive for Pine and SmithRidge schools as well as Shared Harvest. Items needed: Cereal (for Shared Harvest), deodorant, laundry detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, feminine hygiene products, or cash donations (committee will purchase remaining needed items).

June-August: Collecting toiletry items for Volunteers of America (VOA): diapers, underwear, and socks

We will be contacting Ronald McDonald House to see if COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted so we can begin taking dinners to them. Before COVID we were delivering dinners quarterly.

Fellowship

Fellowship Committee is discussing a Get-Back-Together event, but sharing food is still a bit up in the air. What will it be? Picnic/Anniversary Dinner/Oktoberfest? Hopefully we can also host Advent Tea – possible date 12/5.



Easter Flowers!

If you wish to purchase Easter flowers (to be placed in the sanctuary) in honor or memory of loved ones, the following choices are available to you: Tulips, Daffodils or Mums - \$11.00 each. They are six-inch potted plants. The last day to sign up is Sunday, March 20th. Make checks payable to Holy Cross Lutheran Church, ***and be sure to indicate Easter Flowers on the check.***

A Message From Our Church Council

Your Council met via Zoom on February 8.

Sue Gonyou led us in our devotion and study of Power Surge, Chapter 8—we focused on leadership development, a core component being first to embrace discipleship, practicing the marks of discipleship: daily prayer, weekly worship, holy reading, spiritual relationships/friendship and giving freely of time and talents.

We received reports from Pastor, Finance, Education and Learning, and Administration and Support.

After thorough discussion of Covid-19 numbers in our community, we approved a plan to begin worship in the Memorial Garden, open the sanctuary for 10 participants for Wed. Lent services, Godly Play meeting in the building, and targeting mid-April for the annual meeting—a gradual approach to opening up.

Later in the week, our governor relaxed the Covid -19 restrictions to 35-50% capacity for houses of worship. The council met via e-mail, and changed the plan to worship in the sanctuary—at allowed capacity, masks required and 6 ft. social distance. Pastor communicated these changes to the congregation by e-mail letter. Flexibility and the ability to “pivot” quickly is a skill we have all acquired during this National Health Crisis.

The Council approved opening a special fund for gifts to replace the failed HVAC unit on the east side of the sanctuary. This unit was placed in service in 1985. The Building & Grounds Team received 4 bids and recommended the lowest bid of \$9,987, from a well-respected local contractor. The Special Fund will be communicated to the congregation.

The Council approved a request for increase in salary and hours for our Administrative Assistant, Alese.

Council will meet in a special meeting Feb. 25 to continue our discussion of tolerance, including the question: How welcoming are we at Holy Cross?

We adjourned with Prayer at 7 pm.

Diane Torry, Council President

Announcements

Shared Harvest News

This month we are collecting the following:

- 26 canned fruit
- 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!

Christ in Our Home Devotional

We have received the April/May/June devotional if you'd like to go ahead and pick one up!

March Lectors—THANK YOU!

3/7—Chris Martin

3/14—Ray Streit

3/21—Logan Kunze

3/28—Marian Bond

Altar Guild Assignments—THANK YOU!

Sandi Christman

Office Hours

Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 to 5:00 and Thursday from 2:30 to 5:30. Please call Pastor Kathy at 775-443-6583 or email us if you need anything outside of normal office hours.

Happy Birthday!

Carol Gevert—3/1

Peggy Whitney—3/18

Cary Lindstrom—3/21

Holly Flom—3/1

Leslie Jaillet—3/19

Dakota Carper—3/24

Alexander Ross—3/9

Bill Voss—3/19

Tanner Gonyou—3/25

Frank Schenk—3/12

Trent Schenk—3/19

Suzanne McDonald—3/26

Dexter Drew—3/17

Carol Hudak—3/20

Gary Rovig—3/27