

Holy Cross

Crossroads

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

From Pastor Kathy:

Dear Friends,

I'm not sure if I've shared with you my most memorable Easter...

It was nine years ago, and my daughter was born the Tuesday before Easter. My mother thought we were crazy to take a baby that tiny to church, but I knew I had to be there. Easter Sunday seemed the most perfect day to celebrate the new life that had blessed our family that week. There in church that Easter morning my heart was so full. Tears of joy spilled over as I stood in awe of how God had heard our many prayers. That Easter morning, I was able to hold our little girl knowing many years of struggle and sorrow had brought us to that very moment, with that precious child. We said the words "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!", and in addition to Christ being raised from the dead, I saw that Christ had raised me up from the depths of loss, too.

This Easter, I have a similar feeling. I am overwhelmed with joy that we will be able to worship together in person. It has been a long year, and there have been so many losses that we have experienced. We have lost loved ones, time with friends and family, jobs, financial security, school and education, milestone celebrations, health, some of our freedom, and perhaps even a bit of our sanity. And yet, I feel we are beginning to emerge from this long winter season of Covid-19. There are signs of life again, and while we are not fully there as we still must exercise caution, we are slowly getting there.

Church Events

- April 1—Maundy Thursday & Quilt Tying Party
- April 2—Good Friday
- April 4—Easter Sunday
- April 6—1:30pm Budget Workshop (in person)
- April 11—Confirmation class
- April 13—Hooks & Needles & 6pm Budget Workshop (via Zoom)
- April 15—Quilt Group
- April 18—Annual Meeting
- April 25—Confirmation class
- April 27—Hooks & Needles

“From Pastor Kathy”

Easter services may not be exactly what we want since we still need to keep distance, we still aren't singing, and we will still wear masks. Covid-19 is still very real, and as many of you know, we lost one of our church family to it just last weekend.

However, it is in the face of death and loss that it is most important to proclaim “He is Risen!” and “Alleluia” because in those words, there is hope, life, and promise that there is more to come for all of us.

So I invite you to join us on Easter Sunday morning. Come and worship with us! Be reminded that new life has come for all us through the resurrection of Jesus, our Lord. We will have our sunrise service at 6:30 over at Windy Hill. We will have three services – 8:00, 9:15 and 10:30 in the morning here at the church.

(cont.)

Hopefully with three services it won't feel overcrowded, but if it does, we ask for your flexibility and patience. We are limited to about 60 people in the worship space, and are planning to have some overflow if needed in the fellowship hall.

If you are not yet ready to be back with us in person, we will have the Easter service ready for you to watch at 10:30am on Facebook and YouTube. And yes, invite friends and neighbors and family members! Help them to remember the promise and hope that the season of spring and the resurrection of Jesus offers for us all!

May you all be blessed this Easter with hope, peace, love and life!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Kathy



Lenten Worship Display

As you may have noticed during Lent, there has been a collection of “stuff” on the shelf behind the altar that has grown as we have journeyed through the season of Lent. Each item symbolically represents the theme from our Wednesday night worship series.

The Bare Tree – From Ash Wednesday... Holy Ground is... The Place where God Breathes Life into Dust... We talked about Eve and Adam taking fruit from the one tree they were told not to eat from. Their actions brought sin to the world, and with sin, came the promise of death. On Ash Wednesday, we received our ashes, being reminded again that without Christ in our lives, we would be just like a barren tree and ready to return to dust at any moment. With Christ, we have the promise of forgiveness and life.

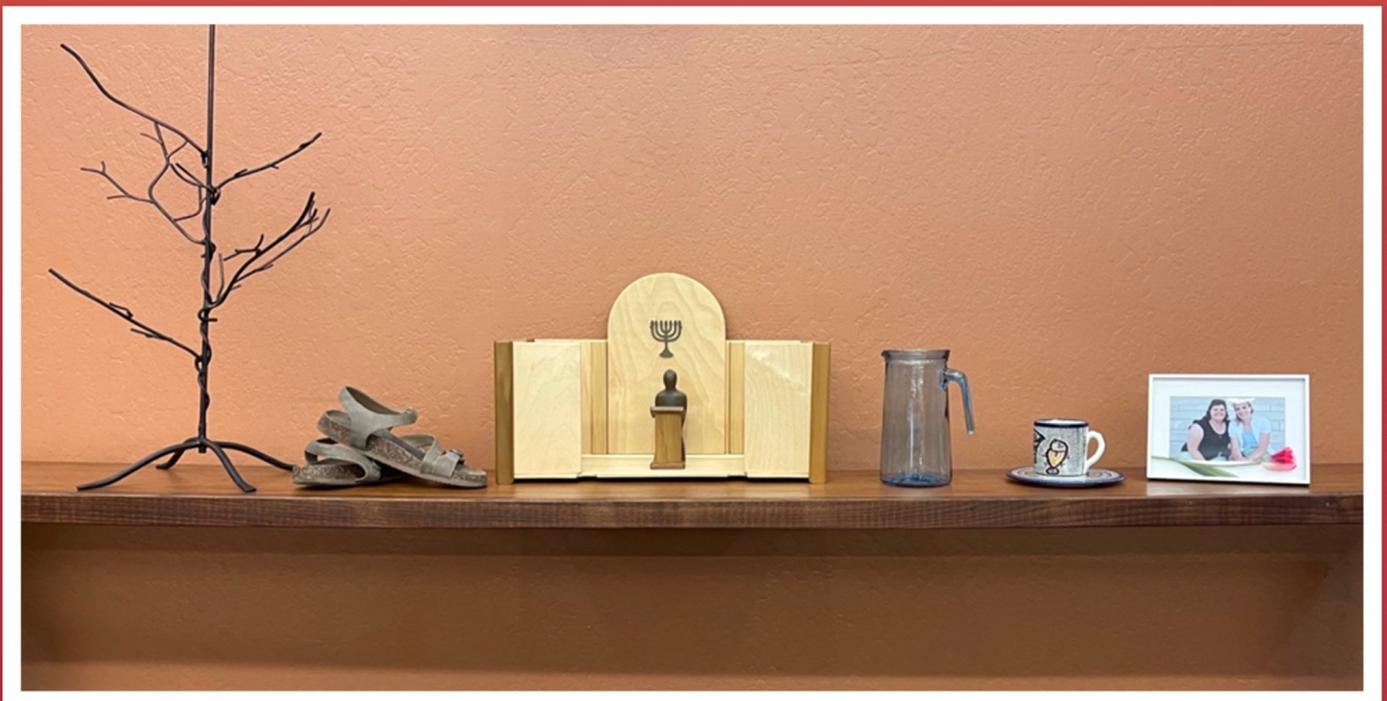
The Sandals – Holy Ground is... the Place where God Comes to Us... We heard the story of Moses needing to take off his sandals when God came to him at the Burning Bush, for he was standing on Holy Ground. Each Wednesday as we came to worship, we also took off our shoes, as we, too were on Holy Ground in the presence of God.

The Church/Synagogue – Holy Ground is... The Place where we Come to Worship God... As a child, Jesus got separated from his parents and they later found him in the temple where he was “in his Father’s house” teaching with authority. Our place of worship is Holy Ground.

The Water Pitcher – Holy Ground is... The Place where we are Known... One of the most powerful encounters that Jesus had was his interaction with the woman at the well in Samaria. While many overlooked her, Jesus knew all about her and found her valuable and worthy. He changed her life, and her testimony led many people to believe in Jesus.

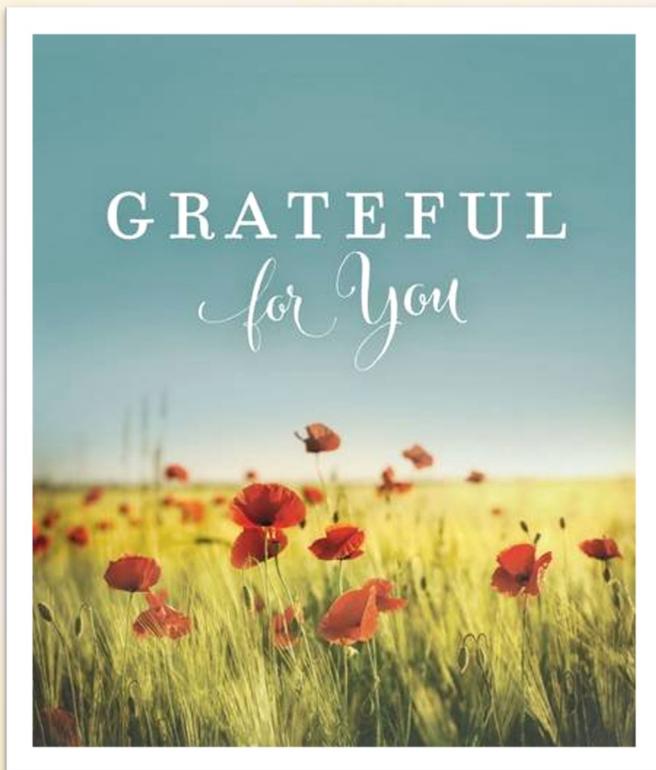
The Cup and Plate – Holy Ground is... The Place where All are Fed... Jesus continued to care for those that others didn’t as he ate with tax collectors and sinners. He fed them not only with food, but also with his love as he laid down his life for his many friends.

The Photograph – Holy Ground is... The Place where God Brings People Together... The story of Ruth and Naomi is a wonderful story of friendship and loyalty through the worst of storms. For many of us, we have been blessed with people that God has put in our lives to see us through the very worst of storms. For me, one of those people has been my best friend, Carla; therefore, I used a photo of us together.



Service & Fellowship

*"³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."
Philippians 1:3-6*



We know we've said this over and over again but, we cannot do service projects without you – our HCLC congregation is simply amazing!

Blanket Drive

First of all, a huge thank you to the congregation for all the blankets, afghans, quilts, and hats that were donated to The Women and Children's Center of the Sierra. They were so happy and so very appreciative. Close to one hundred plus "blankets" were delivered, and the Center said over half were given out by the next day. Once again, THANK YOU!

Clean-up Week

A thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy and helped with the Spring Clean-up of the church. It's so nice to have everything clean and ready for Easter. Your efforts are very much appreciated.



Altar Committee

A big thank you to those of you that purchased flowers to help beautify the church for Easter Sunday.

Pantry Items for Smithridge

We also want to thank the congregation for the "pantry" items everyone is bringing in for Pine and Smithridge STEM academy. Easter Sunday will be the last day for collection. We plan to deliver "pantry" items to the school sometime that week. The cereal will be donated to Shared Harvest.

Church News

Seder Meal

Dear Family of Holy Cross....

Although this year's Holy Week Maundy Thursday Seder meal was again not able to happen in person, we were able to enhance the virtual service created for Seder 2020 with to-go kits including the elements of the ceremonial meal for Seder 2021! Each kit included the traditional Shabbos candle, lamb bone, kosher salt, charoset, parsley, horseradish, egg, and matzah to be used along with this year's recorded service that will go to Facebook and YouTube. Thank you to Pastor Kathy, Jeff, and Abigail for leading the worship service! Also thank you to Joan Julius and Pat Clem for chopping, slicing, dicing, scooping and assembling the to go kits, and to our friend Marla Hoole-Vinopal who was a surprise dishwasher and much appreciated! And thank you to all who received a kit, we sincerely hope it enhanced your Holy Week!

Peace,

Natalie Tegio

Tuesday Night Discussion Group

Keep your eye out for information regarding the new topic for Tuesday night Bible study!

Wednesday Bible Study

We are in our final two chapters of Proverbs, and should be finishing up by the end of the month. You can join the study at any time. There is no book required, just use Zoom or dial in as a phone call. In our next study, still by Zoom, we will look at the Jewish feasts and festivals, here in the Passover and Pentecost seasons. This includes a handout which Becky will send to you, so be sure to contact her if you are interested in this Feast and Festivals study: becky-b485@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)

Choir

Brittney and Becky would like to thank all the choir members who have been so faithful in providing music during our Lenten and Easter season, and all during this virtual choir experience. What a blessing our choir is to our congregation to enhance worship. We were blessed to be joined by our guest UNR performers to make Easter a special celebration. And of course, we couldn't do this at all without Michael's expertise in putting all our files together to make us look and sound really good!

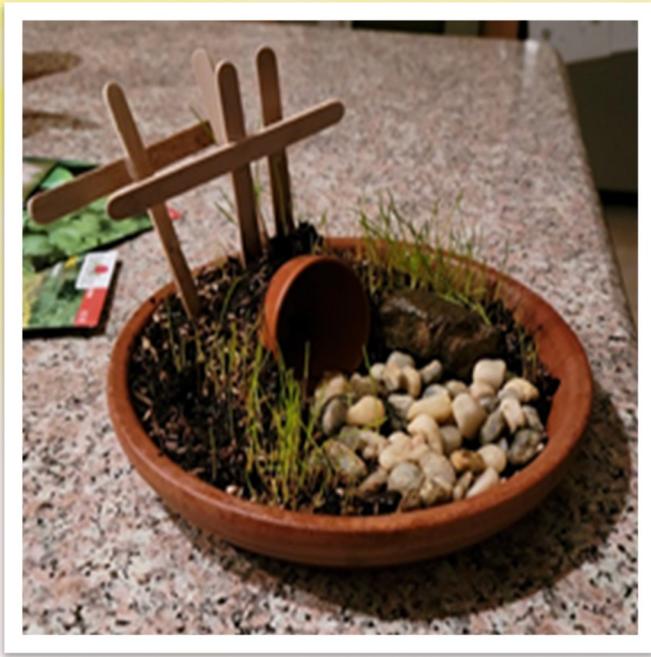
Be sure to thank a choir member for their hard work in enhancing our worship experience – Lani Moss, Gladys Krehlik, Laloni Moell, Susan McMurray, Laurel Lindstrom, Joe Krehlik. We are also blessed by additional musicians who provided special music during this Lenten season – Rachel Thoroughman, Suzanna Chimenti, Tom Martin, Paul Freeman, Sue Volinkaty.

Check out this special rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus" as part of your musical Easter celebration, more than 350 voices united virtually inside a basilica in Barcelona, Spain. "Even the rocks will cry out," says Jesus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jynUQjIXxM>

“Let the little children come to Me...”

Resurrection Gardens!



We recently got some money from Thrivent to support getting some new educational materials for the kids of Holy Cross. We had a little bit leftover, so we made up kits for families and our confirmation kids to plant Resurrection Gardens. They created a garden with a tomb and planted grass seed early in Lent and now, as Easter arrives, new life has come as the grass grows! Thank you to all who participated!



Godly Play

Wow! The Mystery of Easter is here. In the Faces of Easter stories, we learn the life of Jesus. We see the beginning, the middle, and the end. The wonderful Mystery of Easter is that at the end is the beginning again. The story goes on forever. Jesus's love is never ending. Wow!

Below is our story schedule for April. We will be worshipping with our families on Easter Sunday and then we jump into some great spring stories.

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



April 4, 2021	Family Worship Day - Easter Sunday
April 11, 2021	Enrichment Lesson: Easter Eggs
April 18, 2021	Lesson 9: Jesus and the Twelve
April 25, 2021	Lesson 10: The Good Shepherd and World Communion

“Let the little children come to Me...”

All Family Camp, All The Time Summer 2021 at Mt. Cross

Mt. Cross is excited to offer Family Camp from June 14-July 23 this year! Families can pick their dates, length of stay, housing, and how structured (or not) they want their time at camp to be. It promises to be a unique, faithful, and fun summer, and we can't wait for you to experience it! Visit www.mtcross.org/summercamp for all the information, including how to register, costs, and how we plan to keep everyone safe. Get your registration in soon, as space is sure to go quickly!



Mt. Cross is Hiring Camp Counselors for Summer 2021!

Do you know someone who loves camp? Will they be at least 18 years old by June 1? If you answered “yes”, we would love for them to apply to be on the Summer 2021 Ministry Team at Mt. Cross this summer! Pay starts at \$315/week, plus housing and meals; employment dates are June 1-July 24. Check out www.mtcross.org/employment for all the details, and to apply. We especially encourage current high school seniors to apply for this unique summer of ministry at Mt. Cross. Contact [Adam Erickson](mailto:Adam.Erickson@mtcross.org) with questions.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Holy Cross will be participating in the “Pinwheels for Prevention” national campaign by placing pinwheels around our property.

The main focus of the campaign is to spread awareness throughout the community, helping to ensure each child can live out a safe, stable, and nurturing childhood by putting prevention first.

April 2nd is “Go Blue Day”, and we invite you to wear blue in honor of this important cause.



ANNUAL MEETING



2021 Budget Workshops:
Tuesday, April 6, 1:30pm in person in the Fellowship Hall,
Tuesday, April 13, 6pm via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84891474089?](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84891474089?pwd=S1FBYU1tb1ZaeUVzWS9LN1hXclpVUT09)

[pwd=S1FBYU1tb1ZaeUVzWS9LN1hXclpVUT09](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84891474089?pwd=S1FBYU1tb1ZaeUVzWS9LN1hXclpVUT09)

Meeting ID: 848 9147 4089

Passcode: C38KvU

We will hold two 2021 budget/spending plan workshops. The 2021 budget/spending plan will be distributed Monday, April 5. The budget/spending workshops will give all an opportunity to ask questions about the 2021 budget/spending plan prior to the annual meeting on the 18th. We expect that this process will help us manage the length of the annual meeting, reducing the amount of time a larger group is gathered.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday April 18th, 10:00am in Fellowship Hall immediately following the 9am worship service (there will be only one service).

The Annual Report of Ministries was distributed by email in early February, and copies are available in the Narthex, or ask Alese to send you a copy by email.

We will follow our COVID 19 guidelines, wear masks, use hand sanitizer and keep physical distance, and increase air circulation in the building.

This has been a challenging year, we are weathering the National Health Crisis storm, learning to do things differently, expanding outreach and growing in faith, and looking forward to returning to a “new normal” as we are hopeful that the end of the National Health Crisis is in sight. Thank you to our Holy Cross Family for your faithful commitment to our Mission, Vision and Ministry.

Diane Torry, Council President

Serving Through Creativity

Quilt Group News



QUILTER'S BLESSING

May your Bobbins
be full and overflowing.
★ 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.



April 1st is a special Quilt Tying Party, and we invite everyone to join! We will wear masks and have the quilt tables spaced 6 ft. apart. We have so many quilt tops ready to be tied—We Need Help!

If you can please join us or come any quilt group meeting day! Quilters are busy at work in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Thursday of each month. Come join us! 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Recently, Linda Schlosser enabled the quilt group to receive a Thrivent Action Grant of \$250 to purchase the quilt batting. (Thank you, Linda!) Batting (the center of the quilt) is the only purchase the quilt group makes. All the beautiful fabric used to make the quilts is donated by our generous members and friends—we are so grateful.

The “Blue Basket” is back and available in the Narthex for anyone to pick up a quilt top kit! The Blue Basket expands our quilt ministry work by providing quilt top kits to anyone who would like to complete a quilt top at home, on their own schedule.

Each quilt kit comes with instructions, with the additional caveat that the majority of the charitable organizations we give to ask that we do not include any religious symbols. Our quilts are given to all based on need regardless of religious creed. Religious references may be misinterpreted, jeopardizing the delivery to the people who need the quilts most.

Hooks & Needles

Hooks and Needles are back "at it". We are safe distancing and are wearing our masks. We welcome all knitters and crocheters and/or those who want to learn how to knit or crochet. We meet the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Tuesday of April on the 13th and 27th.

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 are gladly accepting donations of yarn for our projects.

Thank you!



A Message From Our Church Council

Your council met at our regular meeting March 8, and held a special meeting March 16.

March 8: Pastor Kathy led us in our final devotional study of Power Surge. We reviewed what we have learned and “take-aways” that may be useful at Holy Cross.

We approved minutes of the Feb. 11 and Feb 25 meeting, and we received report from the Finance team, Worship and Music, Education and Learning, Outreach and Service and Administration/Support and Nominating teams. Service and Outreach is discussing an additional Food Bank Drive and exploring the “Karma Box” food distribution option.

Pastor reported that Godly Play and Confirmation Class are now meeting in person. Work continues to develop our core team as we look to become a more inclusive church. There have been significant technical issues with the Sanctuary audio-visual equipment in the first weeks of worship in the Sanctuary. Upon Pastor’s recommendation, the council approved the purchase of a new laptop. AV will be up and running on Sunday.

Giving to the Sanctuary HVAC fund has been very generous, with more than the bid amount received to date. The Council approved closing the fund at the end of March. The HVAC unit was installed on Friday, March 5.

Plans for the April 18, 10 a.m. Annual Meeting, in person, are developing. We will have one service at 9 am on the 18th. We will require masks and 6ft. distancing at the annual meeting, increase air flow, and hold the meeting in an expeditious manner to keep the time a larger group is together to a minimum. Two 2021 budget workshops April 6, 1:30 in person and April 13, 6 pm via Zoom are scheduled.

We adjourned with prayer.

March 16: the Council held a special meeting to review the proposed 2021 budget. The Easter Season and Pastor’s vacation required that we make final budget recommendations before the April Council meeting.

The 2021 budget proposed by the Finance team, with the Council approval of increase in benevolence and the receipt of increased pledges, results in a projected loss for 2021. This 2021 budget with a cover letter signed by the Finance Team and the Council will be available to the congregation prior to the April 18 Annual meeting and 2021 budget workshops that are scheduled for April 6 and 13.

As we have exceeded our Sanctuary HVAC goal, Pastor will announce on Sunday, March 21 that we have exceeded the goal. The HVAC unit is installed. The Council expressed our deep gratitude for the generous giving of the Holy Cross family.

We adjourned with prayer.

Diane Torry
Council President

The ELCA & The Sierra Pacific Synod

How does our being part of The ELCA www.elca.org and The Sierra Pacific Synod www.spelca.org support Holy Cross? This is a question that comes up from time to time in conversations with members and friends.



Sierra Pacific Synod

committed to being re-formed

www.spelca.org

First, Holy Cross Lutheran Church is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, 9,000 congregations across the U.S. The ELCA is divided into 65 Synods. Holy Cross is part of the Sierra Pacific Synod of 200 congregations which stretches from San Francisco CA to Elko NV, and Fresno CA to Redding CA. We are Church Together—bound together with our brothers and sisters to Worship God and be Christ’s Disciples in our communities. “We are part of Christ’s Church, where people of faith celebrate, learn and connect with one another and others around the world through weekly worship and service. We share a living, daring confidence in God’s grace through the good news of Jesus Christ!”

In addition, there are specific benefits that come with being part of the larger church through the Synod.

Of course, we were a mission church in 1980—founded by the larger church, with their resources and financial support providing the foundation of who we are today. The support has continued over the years, with basic structural support, through Portico, providing the benefits package for our Pastors, our building mortgages through Thrivent Bank, online giving through Vanco, building insurance through Church Mutual, support and information for our weekly Worship Services, Mt. Cross Bible Camp for our youth, Lutheran World Relief (giving us the opportunity to support those in need around the world), and professional Pastor groups which our Pastor’s have participated in through the years. This details only a few of the basic supports from the ELCA and the Sierra Pacific Synod that help Holy Cross operate and flourish.

This past year in addition to the foregoing benefits we received: a \$1,000 Warner grant from the Synod to support our youth and outreach (used for “Trunk or Treat” at Smithridge Elementary and our confirmation program) and The Northern Nevada Food Bank received \$5,000 from our Synod to provide food for those in need in our community. The Synod provides information and guidance on COVID-19 Health Crisis issues, and we consulted with the Synod treasurer (a Pastor and CPA) and Synod Secretary on several financial and constitutional issues during the pandemic.

In 2020, The Synod began quarterly Zoom meetings for all officers of church councils in the Synod to share information, ideas, and build relationships throughout the Synod. My participation in those meetings provides contacts and ministry ideas for Holy Cross. In 2020/2021 I am serving on the Synod Core Team that is developing the Synod Ministry Site Profile for electing the new Synod Bishop, and will also be used in the Synod’s strategic planning.

We are Church Together, doing God’s Work with our Hands.

Diane Torry

President, Church council

Announcements

Shared Harvest News

This month we are collecting the following:

- Shampoo

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!

April Lectors—THANK YOU!

4/4—Jeff Morris

4/11—Abigail Morris

4/18—Alex Coleman

4/25—Noelle Lentz

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!

Emma Lintz

April 2

Abigail Morris

April 3

Birdie Vario

April 3

Charles Kiene

April 5

Susan Volinkaty

April 8

Laloni Moell

April 9

Richard Moses

April 12

Wilma Hooker

April 23

Joey Ginnetti

April 26

Torry Tegio

April 26

Karen Ford

April 27

Zack Weldon

April 27

Eric Weldon

April 29