



# Holy Cross *Crossroads*

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

## From Pastor Kathy:

Dear Friends,

In recent weeks, there has been much conversation about the recent council decision to explore how to be a more inclusive church. We have chosen a resource through an ELCA partner called Reconciling Works which we believe will guide us through an exploration process, which many hope will lead us to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. I want to share with you some frequently asked questions that I have been hearing in regards to the council's desire to build a more inclusive church, and I hope that this will help offer some clarification.

### **What did Church Council really decide?**

In late February, after multiple conversations among the church council and the recognition that a variety of people were feeling unwelcome at Holy Cross, the church council decided to begin the exploration of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. The **only thing decided** at this point is that we are going to take time to intentionally explore what this means and what this would look like for our church.

### **What is a Reconciling in Christ congregation?**

A Reconciling in Christ congregation is one that will ensure *“welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions and work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work”* (Reconciling Works Website). Reconciling Works is the overall ministry that hosts the Reconciling in Christ program. Knowing we have additional concerns about welcome, we will likely expand the conversations to include discussion about increasing our hospitality and welcome over all.

## Church Events

- **May 8th—Community Garden Planting Day @ 9am**
- **May 16th—Live-streaming of services begins**
- **May 23rd—Pentecost, Blessing of the Garden, & Hot Dog Picnic!**
- **May 30th—Move to 9am service only**
- **June 1st—Deadline to submit recipes for cookbook**
- **June 5th—Memorial Service for Pastor Roland Grumm**
- **June 14th-18th—Vacation Bible School**



# “From Pastor Kathy” (cont.)

## **We are already a welcoming church, why do we need to be specific in our “welcome all” statement?**

Unfortunately, things have happened within our congregation and the church council has noticed there are some patterns where people have not felt welcome among us. We believe that the resources available to us through Reconciling Works will be helpful for us as we work to build a congregation more inclusive of the world around us. There are times when it is important to specific people or communities that it is clear that they are invited to be part of our community and that we are a “safe place” for them to be.

## **Who will be in charge of the exploration process?**

We are currently putting together a team of people (3-8) who will serve as our Core Leadership Team and they will guide us in the exploration. They will provide updates and information to the church council and to the congregation as well as plan specific opportunities for conversations and learning for the congregation. I will also be serving on that team and offering spiritual guidance for us all through the process.

## **What will the exploration look like?**

There will be a variety of opportunities which may include: workshops, Bible studies, small group discussions, one-on-one conversations, opportunities for sharing, perhaps some guest speakers, prayer groups, etc. We hope these conversations will help us to grow beyond our assumptions and deepen our understanding of what it means to be Christ’s disciples in the world.

## **Do I have to participate in the conversations?**

No, but it is always helpful to hear everyone’s point of view. If many or most are participating, then hopefully, we grow together as a congregation. If people are not participating, then it may lead us to assume we know what people think, which is not helpful to the process or to the church. It is absolutely necessary and important to hear from all voices.

## **How long will the exploration take?**

We aren’t sure. Much of it will depend on the participation of the congregation and the feeling that everyone is being heard and understood. Many congregations have done this in one to two years.

## **Will we get to vote to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation?**

Yes. At the end of the exploration, the core leadership team will work with the church council and draft a new statement of welcome, which will specifically mention our commitment to being truly welcoming and affirming to all people, especially those of the LGBTQIA+ community and our commitment to racial equality (we also may decide to add other language, depending on feedback we receive during our exploration process). We would then as a congregation vote to approve a new statement. That vote would either show our commitment to be an Reconciling in Christ congregation or not.

## **I am really unsure about all of this. What do I do now?**

If you have questions, concerns, or thoughts to share, please talk with me directly. By entering into a process to be more welcoming and more inclusive, I know it feels like we aren’t being welcoming to those who are struggling with this exploration. Taking the time to work through these issues of welcome is important, especially for the future of our church. I encourage us all to join in the conversations as I think they will be important for each of us in a very personal way as we grow in faith.

Your Servant in Christ,

*Pastor Kathy Morris*



# Summer Services Update

## Live-streaming Services

After a year or so of pre-recorded worship services, starting on May 16, we are moving to a new model. We are going to be live-streaming the 10:30 worship service **(the 8am service will also still be held until May 30th)**.

What that means is that if you are tuning in from home, you will be seeing the worship service as it happens, so if Pastor Kathy makes a joke in her sermon, you may hear the laughter from those who are here worshipping with us and you will be enjoying the music right along with the rest of us. We think this will be much easier on our staff, and we hope it will foster a sense of connection to the community for those watching at home. The service will also be recorded and available to watch later in the day, if needed.

For those who are watching from home, you may notice some slight changes to the service as the in-person services have been slightly shortened to reduce the risk for Covid-19 exposure. As restrictions are lifted for our county and state, we expect to make changes in the worship service as well.

If anyone is interested in helping us with our live-streaming process, Michael Tegio will be happy to teach you how it works. (It's not as hard as it sounds... we hope!)

## Pentecost—May 23rd

The celebration of Pentecost will bring the color red to the altar to mark the work of the Holy Spirit in the world. We invite everyone to join in the celebration by wearing red on May 23!

## Summer Worship Schedule

It has been our tradition to have one service at 9am in the summer season. Knowing how excited people are to be gathered back together, we are happy to announce that we will be moving to our summer schedule on May 30, Memorial Day Weekend. As restrictions are lifting, we will be adjusting our seating arrangement and feel comfortable that we will be able to accommodate everyone. Also, if needed, we may have overflow into the fellowship hall.



## Save the Date:

We will be hosting a Memorial Service for Pastor Roland Grumm on Saturday, June 5. The time will be announced soon. Many of you know Pastor Grumm passed away in November, and we look forward to remembering him and celebrating the resurrection he has experienced through Jesus Christ. The service will be live-streamed as well. We hope everyone will join us.







## Masks and singing, Coffee Hour, and visits...

We are all anxious to begin worshipping without masks and we are eager to sing together again, but we continue to move slowly and keep alert to guidelines from the CDC and from the local government. When we feel comfortable to lift restrictions, we will.

In the meantime, we are hoping to host coffee hour outside as we move into our summer schedule, and will test the waters with our hot dog picnic on May 23. The way we understand current guidelines is that when gathering outside, you only need masks if you aren't fully vaccinated. We highly suggest that everyone of the appropriate age get vaccinated, but we understand not everyone can do so. We leave your participation in gatherings and outdoor masks to your discretion, asking that when making those choices, err on the side of caution.

In addition, Pastor Kathy got her 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of vaccine on April 30, so she is excited to begin to return to visiting in homes with others who are vaccinated and/or feel comfortable with her coming by in the middle of May. If you would like to schedule a visit, please feel free to contact her or the church office.

We continue to ask you all to continue with our indoor protocols... masks, hand-washing, appropriate distance, and attending only if you feel well and feel comfortable for the time-being. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to talk with Pastor Kathy. Thank you!

## Service & Fellowship Committee

**THANK YOU** all for your support of our two community schools. The school counselors were so happy to receive these much needed "pantry" items.

Just a reminder that during the months of June, July, and August we will be collecting toiletry items, diapers, underwear, and socks for the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra and Volunteers of America.

In addition, there continues to be a real need to feed our community. Service committee, with approval of church council, has asked the Northern Nevada Food Bank to drop off a food barrel for our use. This is not to overshadow our own Shared Harvest. We appreciate all donations to both of these nonprofit organizations. Please make sure items are nonperishable. No glass or expired items as they must be thrown away.

**FOOD  
DRIVE**

# Cooking Up Love

## Let's Make a Cookbook!

Dear HCLC Family,

So hard to believe we are in May already! Even though your council member hasn't been able to be back with you to in-person worship, I'm still here. The cookbook situation is still on the top of my priority list. It has not been forgotten. The council and I have decided now that the annual meeting is over, we want to make it a priority to finish it over the summer and have it ready for fall.

So, here is your last chance. Anyone (you know who you are) that would like to still contribute a family or favorite recipe, you can still submit them to me at [Renogemini@aol.com](mailto:Renogemini@aol.com) or send them to Alese in the office. Now that we have come a year and a half through Covid-19 we are thinking of adding a Covid-19 meal section or an event meal section that we have at HCLC. If you have already submitted recipes and would like to submit more, please do so. The NEW final deadline will be June 1, 2021. Thank you and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Richard Eggers - council member



## Sandwiches for the Homeless

Alese Linder has launched a homeless outreach ministry called The 4th Street Initiative. She and some volunteers are handing out 50 meal bags each month and also praying for individuals currently experiencing homelessness.

The pandemic has caused many people to fall on extremely hard times and it is changing the face of homelessness. No longer is it primarily drug-addicted and mentally ill individuals living in these conditions, but many high functioning individuals who simply cannot get ahead.

The 4th Street Initiative's ultimate goal is to network with local churches and government agencies to create solutions for those experiencing homelessness.

If you're interested in volunteering to make sandwiches or would like to go on an outreach, please email [T4SIReno@gmail.com](mailto:T4SIReno@gmail.com) or speak with Alese directly.





# Regular Meetings–Get Enriched!

## Tuesday Discussion Group

Our Tuesday Night Bible study will be back in full swing in May. We start at 6:30pm on Zoom! We will be studying the book of 1 John and exploring what it means to love one another as God loves us! All are invited to attend! Contact Pastor Kathy if you have any questions!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82008777307?pwd=SzdmUmxORFJRdzd0MWxVV2lqNGhsQT09>

Meeting ID: 820 0877 7307

Passcode: 517631

## Wednesday Bible Study

We are finishing up our study of Proverbs, and then will proceed on to a short study about Jewish Feasts and Festivals, especially appropriate here in the Passover and Pentecost seasons. Join us at 1:30pm on Wednesdays. Let Becky Bradley know if you are interested so she can send you the handout when we start that study: [beckyb485@gmail.com](mailto:beckyb485@gmail.com)

Join Zoom Meeting

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

MeetingID: 896 3300 9098 (IF you are calling in on your phone to 669-900-6833)

Password: 050344 (if requested)

## Confirmation Classes

Our final meeting dates for the season are May 9 and May 23. We are hoping to have some fun get-togethers through the summer and then we will resume classes in the fall.

## Choir

Choir is back to our Zoom rehearsals to finish up this choir season. Our group has been so faithful this year, and Brittney and Becky are so impressed with their willingness to learn new computer skills and practice via Zoom. They've also been flexible in their time as we've had to move rehearsal time around the recent congregational meeting and then another new time as we transition back to in-person worship. Our congregation has greatly benefited from their talent and time during this unprecedented year of worship experiences.

Check out this neat video of over 1700 Lutheran musicians for a moving rendition of "Jesus Christ is Risen Today". They've even provided the words so that you can sing along. I'll bet Michael is glad he didn't have to organize this Zoom presentation!

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



# Enjoying Our Building & Grounds

## Community Garden

It's Springtime in Nevada and our Community Garden is getting ready for planting!

The soil in the boxes has been tilled, water turned on, and planting day scheduled for May 8 at 9 a.m. Frost susceptible plants should be planted around June 1. Over the growing season, gardeners visit their boxes and help with the community boxes one to two times a week to weed, check plant progress, and then harvest "the fruits of your labor"! Squash seeds are not recommended as the "squash bugs have won"!

Put on your gardening duds and gloves, wear a hat, and come enjoy "digging in the dirt!"

On May 23, Pastor will lead a "Blessing of the Garden" following the 10:30 worship service and then will have a casual picnic of hot dogs, chips and a drink (individually served following covid-19 restrictions).

There are 24 boxes and a couple of boxes are still available for members of Holy Cross— contact Pat Schlosser or the church office to reserve a box. A small fee of \$25 is asked to help cover water expense. 11 boxes are planted with produce for our neighbor's at Silver Sage Senior apartments. The residents look forward to having fresh "home-grown" vegetables over the summer.

Our children in Godly Play plant a box of flowers that bloom over the summer — a delight to behold!

The Community Garden has been a blessing to our Holy Cross Ministry for over ten years. It provides an opportunity for members and friends to enjoy healthy, homegrown vegetables over the summer and fellowship with fellow gardeners, neighbors and members of Holy Cross.



## Building & Grounds

Building and Grounds, working the RHP, completed the installation of the sanctuary HVAC unit in late March. The process went smoothly and sooner than we had originally expected! Thank you Pat Schlosser for leading this job. The generosity of the congregation was wonderful, making this process even easier!

In addition we have conducted our annual bid process for the grounds. Thank you to Eric Weldon for leading that job!. Eric has also worked tirelessly to bring up the Audio Visual equipment in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Michael Tegio has been support in this area.

Warren has been busy with fixing doorbell problems and other building repairs. Our fire extinguishers and exit signs are now up to standard. Thank you.

“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](http://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!



## Godly Play

It is hard to believe that this our last month of Godly Play. We will be taking a break for the summer and starting back up in the fall. Our last class will be on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. On this day we will be cleaning the Godly Play classroom and planting our flower garden. We hope that all our children can join us on this day. We have such fun digging in the ground and bringing a pop of color to the gardens.

I want to say a special thank you to the parents, grandparents, and caregivers. Thank you for sharing your children with us. Thank you for letting us wonder with them and be a part of their faith formation. It is such a joy to have their smiling eyes join us every week. (I know that there are smiles under those masks, too!)

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](mailto:jolenejaillet@sbcglobal.net).

Thank you!

~Jolene & the Godly Play Teachers

May 2, 2021	Lesson 14: Paul's Discovery
May 9, 2021	Lesson 15: The Holy Trinity
May 16, 2021	Lesson 13: The Mystery of Pentecost
May 23, 2021	Work and Clean Day - Final Session – Plant Flowers





Holy Cross Lutheran Church invites kids pre-school through 5<sup>th</sup> grade to join us for a week of fun Adventures with Jesus as we discover more about his life and his love for all of us!

We will meet each morning at Holy Cross (4859 S. McCarran Blvd, Reno) June 14-18, 2021 starting at 9am and we will finish up around noon! The mornings will be filled with stories, crafts, science experiments, music, snacks, games, service projects and some fun surprises!

The cost is free, but we will be taking a free-will offering on Wednesday and we will be collecting cans of food to support Northern Nevada Food Bank throughout the week!

Please fill out a registration form to let us know if you are coming!

Face masks will be required for participants.

If you would like to help or want any further information, please contact Pastor Kathy Morris at [pastorhclcreno@gmail.com](mailto:pastorhclcreno@gmail.com).



# Serving Through Creativity

## Quilt Group News

The Quilt Group meets "formally" on the first and third Thursday of each month--May 6 and 20, 9:30am and 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. Though every Thursday you can find a few quilters at work in the Fellowship Hall.

We are grateful for the \$250 Thrivent action team grant we received (thank you Linda Schlosser). We purchased quilt batting that supported the special quilt tying days we held in April. We made progress in tying and completing more quilts to be given away. Thank you to all who came to help!

Everyone is welcome to join our 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 fabric, sewing quilt tops, pressing the material, coordinating tops and backs and tying the quilts--something for everyone!

Our Quilt Group makes and donates quilts to people in need 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 is made with love and faith.

Please join us for creative work, fun and fellowship.



## Hooks & Needles

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 May 11th and May 25th 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

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Council held our regular meeting via Zoom on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Pastor led us in opening devotions and prayer. The minutes of the March 8<sup>th</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup> council meetings were approved.

Pastor Kathy reported that Holy Week and Easter went well, we had over 94 people at the 4 in person services and 75 at the online services on Facebook and You Tube. Godly Play children created Easter kits for the congregation. Pastor and Godly Play are looking at having Vacation Bible School this summer.

We will begin to transition from our pre-recorded services to a live broadcast for online service in May. Equipment needs, such as cameras are being evaluated. Tuesday night Bible study with Pastor resumes on April 27.

Synod Assembly will be on line, May 6,7,8. Jeff Morris and Becky Bradley were affirmed as the voting members from Holy Cross. The Assembly will be online through YouTube, so all can log in and view the Assembly proceedings.

Finance committee reported, that until the congregation approves a 2021 budget, we are functioning under the 2020 budget. First quarter 2021 reports a gain of \$45,267, which includes \$47,000 in annual gifts. The PPP Grant remains untouched, set aside as an emergency fund in a separate account.

We received reports from Education & Learning, Outreach & Service; Fellowship, Administration and Support.

We reviewed current COVID -19 numbers and restrictions. We continue our cautious process of reopening the church building, being mindful of the current Washoe County restrictions. We expect new guidelines by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussions are ongoing in teams including Worship and Fellowship on how to continue to reopen the building and activities following expected new guidelines.

High Desert Harmony has asked to possibly use the building for rehearsals. As this is a small group (8-20), that wears singer's masks, maintains social distance, and bring a separate HIPA filter machine, council approved the use of the space.

The Audit Committee: Russell Tegio, Sharon Voss, Joe Krehlik were appointed.

The Council was recognized for their outstanding service to Holy Cross over the past year—and a special thankyou to those Council Members who have completed their term: Sue Volinkaty, Sharon Voss, Stephanie Robison, Sue Gonyou, Mark Calise.

I have been privileged and honored to serve as President of the Council for the past two plus years. My term will end following the annual meeting scheduled for April 18, and a new President will be elected at the May Council Meeting. During these past two years, I have been so grateful for the caring kindness and support of Holy Cross members and friends, Thank you. I look forward to serving my final council year as an active council member.

Diane Torry, President, Church Council



## Holy Cross Lutheran Church

### Finance Committee Quarterly Report to the Congregation May 1, 2021

**Date: March 31, 2021 ytd**

	Actual	Budget	Variance	Comment
Other Giving	\$90			2021 budget not approved until April 18, 2021
Rent	\$ 1,000			
Unrestricted General Fund	\$85,479			Includes \$47,000 in annual gifts
Misc. Income	\$749			
Transitory	\$19,317			HVAC fund
Total income	\$106,635			
Total Expense	\$61,368			
Net gain	\$45,267 *			*Not adjusted for principal payments

1 <sup>st</sup> mortgage balance	\$185,149	
2 <sup>nd</sup> mortgage balance	\$212,484	
Total Mortgage	\$397,635	
Cash	\$116,539	Includes \$36,700 PPP grant
Special Funds	\$23,748	

Revenue includes annual gifts of \$47,000. Annualizing the annual gifts—assuming the annual gifts were given on a monthly basis--would produce a net loss of \$1,188 at ytd 3/31//2021. Total expenses at 3/31 are \$836 above expenses in the same period in 2020, primarily a result of church maintenance expense, and paying all interest from general fund compared to balance sheet building fund in 2020. The HVAC unit has been replaced for \$11,205. The bill was paid in early April, and not reflected in the March financial statement. The PPP Grant of \$36,700 will be converted to an asset from a liability in April. A budget to actual for the first quarter was not conducted, as the 2021 budget was not approved until the Annual Meeting held on April 18.

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



# Announcements

## Shared Harvest News

This month we are collecting the following:

11 canned fruit

20 soup

Deodorant

Razors

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!

## Christ in Our Home Devotional

The April/May/June devotional is available in the narthex.

## May Lectors—THANK YOU!

5/2— Online: Laurel Lindstrom

5/9— Online: Kayla Kunze

5/16—8: Ray Streit, 10:30: Linda Puckett

5/23—8: Chris Martin, 10:30: Richard Eggers

5/30—9: Jody Morrison

## Office Hours

Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 to 4:00 and Thursday from 2:30 to 4:30.

## Altar Guild Assignments—THANK YOU!

Linda Schlosser

Veralyn Combs

# Happy Birthday!

Kloe Sorge—May 1

Wib Namestka—May 2

Lynn Jaeck—May 3

Carole Evert—May 9

Michael Ross—May 15

Riley Sorge—May 18

Bruno Peri—May 19

Robin Peri—May 20

Jeffrey Morris—May 29

Marla Hoole-Vinopal—May 30