

# Holy Cross

## *Crossroads*

NOVEMBER 2020



## From Pastor Kathy:

Dear Friends,

Many years ago now, I was scrolling through Facebook and I was noticing how negative things were feeling. Many of my friends were posting about struggles and complaints and the very real stuff that can easily get us down. (Perhaps not much has changed, right?) Anyway, I decided that I wanted to put some positivity back into the Facebook world, so I started a November campaign of having an “Attitude of Gratitude”. Every day between November 1 and Thanksgiving I posted something I was grateful for. I will likely do it again this year, and I invite those of you who are interested to do the same and see what happens. If writing isn’t your thing, then you could share a picture of something you are thankful for.

As we move into our stewardship focus this month, we also want to be intentional about remembering what we are grateful for in the life of the church. This year, we have missed a lot of what we traditionally do, and we’ve missed one another, but I have found that there are still many reasons to give thanks for what we do have and for the saints that God has gathered together as the Holy Cross Family. I would love to have you all help us to remember some of those things and people who have blessed us richly. (continued on pg. 2)

## Church Events

(see rest of newsletter for details)

- 11/1—All Saints Day and Daylight Saving Time ends
- 11/8 —Begin “Thankful Hearts” sermon series
- 11/15—Turn in Advent blessing/s
- 11/16—Turn in food for Silver Sage Thanksgiving meal drive
- 11/21—Silver Sage Thanksgiving delivery day (volunteers needed starting at 10am)
- 11/22—Turn in Estimate of Giving card & Shared Harvest items due
- 11/23—Church decorating! Join us at 9am!
- 11/25—Online Thanksgiving Service
- 11/29—Begin “The Gospel According to Christmas Movies” sermon series
- 12/1—Advent Food Calendar begins & Christmas Poinsettia sign-ups
- 12/6—Advent Program (online)



## “From Pastor Kathy”

(continued)

So if you would please, write a short prayer of thankfulness for a ministry of the church that has been especially important to you and send it to Alese as soon as possible. Then each day between November 1 and Thanksgiving Day we will share our Thanksgiving Prayers through email and on our Facebook page. Not only do we hope that it will help us in our personal “Attitudes of Gratitude”, but it will also help us all to remember the blessing that Holy Cross has been, and will continue to be a reminder for all of us as we think and plan for what we will offer to God for Holy Cross in the new year.

As we begin this journey of gratitude, I want you all to know how grateful I am for all of you and the love you have for one another and for the community. I very much appreciate the thoughtful cards and notes that I received for Pastor Appreciation Week, and I hope you all know just how much I have appreciated sharing this journey of ministry with you!

*As Paul writes, “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...” – Philippians 1:3-5*

May God bless you with an abundance of gratitude!

In Christ’s Love,

*Pastor Kathy Morris*

## Proverbs Bible Study

Becky leads a study on the book of Proverbs, ending by 2:40pm after prayer. We studied The Righteous Way and The Sensible Way in October. In November we'll be tackling The Honorable Way and The Disciplined Way. 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. There will be NO session on 11/25, the day before Thanksgiving.

<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)

## Halloween Treat Bags



Thank you to all who helped us put together 660 Halloween Goody bags for Smithridge Elementary School. Since we weren’t able to do Trunk or Treat this year, we were so happy to be able to give the kids in our neighborhood a little treat, knowing the kids have been through so much this year. We appreciate the gift of the Warner Trust Grant from the Synod earlier this year as well as money from Thrivent for an Action Team which funded this opportunity for outreach and evangelism.



# All Saints Day

As many of you know, we will be celebrating All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 1st (which is also when we Daylight Saving time ends!).

Traditionally, this has been a day when we remember those who have died within the last year as well as those who have joined our Christian family through baptism.

This year, our All Saints' Services will begin outside in the Memorial Garden as we bless the addition of new memorial pavers to the garden. So if you are able to join us, please gather outside for a brief service of remembrance and dedication. We will then come inside to the Fellowship Hall for worship.

Later in the service, during our time of prayers, we will name and remember those whom we have lost this year as well as those who have been baptized in our congregation this year.

If you are participating in our online worship, we hope to record the outside remembrance and dedication service so that all can participate, and we will be sure to include the names of our loved ones in the prayers during the online service as well.

A special thank you to our Memorial Garden Committee for their oversight in getting the new pavers placed in the garden.

Hebrews 12:1  
*Great Cloud of Witnesses*

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us...”

## Building and Grounds Committee Update

The Building and Grounds Committee has been busy over the past few months. In addition to “normal” maintenance, we have worked with RHP—our HVAC vendor—to improve our HVAC filter system to MERV 13, which adds some protection from the COVID-19 virus. Eric Weldon, Michael Tegio and Phillip Karam have installed audio and visual capability in the Fellowship Hall. This work makes indoor worship in the Fellowship Hall possible and expands the use of the Fellowship Hall for programs and classes.

Warren Kline, Pat Schlosser, Eric Weldon, Diane Torry

## Stewardship

This month we will be focusing on our Simply Stewardship Campaign! November 8 begins a new three-week sermon series called “Thankful Hearts”, and we will remember some of the ways that Jesus changed the lives of those he encountered and explore how they responded. We will also hear from a few of you in our Holy Cross Family who will share some of your reflections about the ways you’ve encountered Christ through the ministries at Holy Cross (see Pastor Kathy’s letter).

During the three weeks of our Simply Stewardship program, you will receive an Estimate of Giving card (at Sunday service or in the mail), which will be an opportunity for you to prayerfully consider what you may be able to give to God for the ministries of the church in the coming year. We would ask that you would fill out your card and 1) bring it with you on November 22, 2) mail it to the church, 3) drop it off at the church during office hours, or 4) scan it and email it to the church office. On November 22, we will offer all of our collected Estimate of Giving cards to the Lord in Thanksgiving for all the blessings we have received. As many of you know, the return of our Estimate of Giving cards will help us plan for our ministry needs in 2021.

If you have any questions about our stewardship program, please feel free to contact one of the members of the Stewardship Committee – Pat Clem, Jeff Morris, Pastor Kathy Morris, or Diane Torry.

# Thanksgiving Happenings

***A year has passed and a lot has changed, so we are changing up the way we celebrate Thanksgiving this year...***

This year we will be providing a to-go Breakfast-Brunch with fresh produce to deliver to each of the four Silver Sage properties on November 21st.

The menu includes a breakfast casserole (ham/potato/eggs/cheese/spices) and various fresh produce items.

We have also been blessed with a Thrivent grant that supports continuing our wonderful tradition of hospitality with our neighbors, and we will be buying bulk produce with these funds.

To support our Breakfast-Brunch bags for our neighbors, sign up online or on the sign up sheets at the church! Please have items to the church by November 16th.

Thank you for your commitment to this outreach.

Contact Pat Clem and Natalie Tegio (775-742-4662) with questions.



## Online Thanksgiving Service

This year, we will be offering an online Thanksgiving Service, which will premiere on Facebook and YouTube sometime on Wednesday, November 25. We hope that it will add to your Thanksgiving Celebration and give you a moment to truly give thanks to the Lord. Please keep an eye out for more details!

## How You Can Help:

### 1. Food (by 11/16)

- 12 lbs sharp cheddar cheese (blocks — feel free to donate a smaller portion than needed)
- 12 lbs mozzarella (blocks — feel free to donate a smaller portion than needed)
- 30 bags (2 lbs each) of frozen potato shreds (like Ore-Ida, but generic or store brand is perfect)
- 80 cans (12 oz each) unsweetened evaporated milk
- 20 lbs boneless holiday ham (not honey or spiral please!) Smithfields or similar, 3 to 4 lbs each

### 2. Assemblers (11/21 @ 10:00 am)

- need six people

### 3. Drivers/Deliverers (11/21)

- 2 for Silver Sage Lincoln Way (deliver around 1:00 pm)
- 2 for Silver Sage Neil Road (deliver about 1:30 pm)
- 2 for Silver Sage behind the church (deliver around 2:00 pm)
- 2 for Moran Street (deliver around 2:30 pm)



# Getting Ready for Advent & Christmas

As we prepare for Advent, which will begin November 29, we are doing our best to maintain many of the traditions that we have come to love, but also realize that this is a very different year. If you are wondering about some of our wonderful celebrations, this is what is currently in the works:

## *Decorating the Church*

Join us on Monday, November 23 as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. We will begin around 9am. If you have any questions, please talk with Linda or Sandi, or call the church office.

## *Christmas Poinsettias*

Beginning Dec 1, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to buy large Christmas poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help, please sign-up and in the remarks section indicate who they are in memory or honor of. Cost will be \$15.00 each.

## *Advent Food Calendar*

Starting December 1st, each day take an item from your pantry and put it into a box or heavy bag. See the Service Committee section of this newsletter for more info.

## *Online Live Nativity*

Michael Tegio has collected photographs from many of you taken from the last 40 or so years of Live Nativities. Instead of hosting the Live Nativity this year, we will be telling the story of the Nativity online with the same familiar music and voices, and those wonderful old pictures. It will be ready to view online in mid-December. We will also be putting up some of the painted cut-outs outside and if you want to come and see them and take some time for personal reflection and prayer, you are welcome at any time.

## *Advent Program*

We will be doing something a little different this year on December 6th. Please see the Fellowship Committee section of this newsletter.



## *Christmas Eve*

We are planning a wonderful service of Lessons and Carols, filled with the joyful music we love and it will be available online. We are also planning several quiet services of candlelight and communion throughout the evening. More information and sign-ups will be coming in December.

## *Children's Christmas Program*

We are hoping to incorporate the children telling the Nativity story in some fashion for all to enjoy, so stay tuned!



November 29  
**White Christmas**  
*"Letting Go of Expectations"*

December 6  
**It's a Wonderful Life**  
*"Making a Difference"*

December 13  
**Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street**  
(Either Version)  
*"Finding Faith"*

December 20  
**The Nativity Story**  
*"Witnessing the Miracle"*

December 24  
**Charlie Brown Christmas**  
*"Discovering the Simple Things"*

December 27  
**Elf**  
*"Spreading Cheer Throughout the Year"*

# Christmas Sermon Series



Pastor Kathy is planning a thoughtful and hopefully fun sermon series for Advent called, "The Gospel According to Christmas Movies". Starting November 29th, we will discover some special messages in some of our favorite Christmas movies that may remind us of what is most important during the holiday season. We encourage you to watch the movies in preparation for the Sunday services (most are aired during the holidays on TV, so keep an eye out... they can also be rented on Amazon Prime Video for \$4 or under, and will likely be released soon for the holidays on Netflix).





# Service Committee

## November

The Turkey Giving Tree will be up from October 25 to November 8. As in the past, money collected will be used to purchase gift cards from WinCo to be given to Pine Middle School and Smithridge STEM Academy (our neighborhood schools). These cards are used to purchase perishable food items for Thanksgiving or for the school counselors to distribute to families as needed.

## December

The Angel Tree will be up from November 25 to December 13. This year, we will be receiving names of families from Smithridge STEM Academy.

## Advent Calendar

The Advent Food Calendar idea was shared with the committee and we thought it would be a great way to share the spirit of Advent by giving to the community. Here's how it works: Each day take an item from your pantry and put it into a box or heavy bag. Bring it to church on Christmas Eve (earlier in the month or no later than 1/10/21 also works). This is an easy and amazing way to not only bless those in need in our community, but keeps our families focused on the meaning of the season. Service committee will deliver food items to our local shelters

### ADVENT FOOD CALENDAR EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX RETURN TO CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS EVE (EARLIER OR LATER)

December 1 – box of cereal	December 13 – canned beans
December 2 – peanut butter	December 14 – box of crackers
December 3 – stuffing mix	December 15 – package of rice
December 4 – boxed potatoes	December 16 – package of oatmeal
December 5 – macaroni and cheese	December 17 – package pasta
December 6 – canned peaches	December 18 – spaghetti sauce
December 7 – canned tomatoes	December 19 – canned chicken noodle soup
December 8 – canned tuna	December 20 – canned tomato soup
December 9 – dessert mix (brownies/cookies)	December 21 – canned corn
December 10 – jar of applesauce	December 22 – canned mixed vegetables
December 11 – canned sweet potatoes	December 23 – canned pears
December 12 – cranberry sauce	December 24 – canned green beans



# Fellowship Committee

The year 2020 has been a difficult year. For the past six years we have held a ladies' Advent Tea, but this year since we are not able to have a tea, we plan to stream an Advent Program on December 6th.

Our idea is to make a devotional booklet that will include twenty-four Advent Prayers that the Advent Tea Committee has selected.

We are asking the congregation for help. We encourage you to select one or two of the blessings to the right and write no more than one paragraph (or ½ page of 8x10 sheet of paper) and send it to:

ziggytwo1@sbcglobal.net (Linda) and  
sj\_christman@yahoo.com (Sandi).

In addition to the prayer, feel free to include a personal experience that illustrates why this blessing is important to you. Your addition to the Advent booklet should be returned via email no later than November 15.

\*Please note, the committee may edit for clarity.



## Advent Blessings

Blessing of Wonder – Children

Blessing of Courage – Fire-Police-First Responders

Blessing of Wisdom – Scientists

Blessing of Fortitude – Those that have had to rebuild

Blessing of Compassion – Those that have lost loved ones

Blessing of Sacrifice – Health Professionals

Blessing of Caring – Critical workers (clerks, truck drives, warehouse workers, delivery personnel)

Blessing of Strength – Teachers

Blessing of Trust – Pastors and Staff

Blessing of Understanding- Respect for others opinions/cultures

Blessing of Hope – Peace on earth

Blessing of Peace – For families, relationships, and personal peace

Blessing of Love – Friends, neighbors, strangers

Blessing of Equality – For all people

Blessing of Patience – Parents

Blessing of Guidance – World leaders

Blessing of Unity – Our Nation's Leaders

Blessing of Safety – Victims of Violence

Blessing of Protection – Military

Blessing of Warmth – Homeless

Blessing of Abundance – Farmers

Blessing of Clarity and Comfort – People dealing with mental illness and isolation

Blessing of Joy – Birth of Christ

Blessing of the Lord – Who makes all things possible and has a plan for all of us



# Serving Through Creativity

## Quilt Group News

Over 135 quilts, afghans, and scarves have been delivered! Things were different this year — Pastor Kathy delivered the Lutheran World Relief quilts to Bethel Lutheran in Cupertino while she was on vacation. Thank you! Other local charities picked up the quilts and afghans as they were restricting who comes to their facility—namely, Children’s Cabinet, Washoe County School District Children in Transition, and Bear Hugs for victims of the west coast fires. We delivered locally to Hosanna Home and Veterans in Transition. Ronald McDonald is not open due to pandemic restrictions, and we are holding those quilts until their facility is open again.

Sue and Ed Gonyou delivered quilts and afghans for fire victims in Oregon. Thank you! We received a thank you note from the Oregon fire victims: “Thank you seems inadequate to say for the lovely quilts and afghans that you so selflessly made and gave to our folks who have lost everything. They are so beautiful and lovely—works of love. We were able to personally see the joys and tears of several of the recipients. Blessings to you all.”

When we delivered our quilts to Hosanna Home, a resident told us that when she saw the quilts on their beds, she knew Hosanna Home was the right place for her. The Hosanna Home residents keep their quilt when they have completed the program and move forward in their lives.

Quilts and afghans bring hope and emotional warmth to those that receive them. Each quilt and afghan is made with love and faith, blessed by the Holy Cross family, and then sent out as Christ's love to the world.

Now we are working on the 24-inch baby quilts for the Neo Natal Unit at Renown.

Come join us for creative work, fun and fellowship! All are welcome.

## 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 are meeting the 2nd Tuesday of November on the 10th this month, and will be taking a short break over Thanksgiving and then returning early December.

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





# A Message From Our Church Council

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We met in a blended meeting, Zoom and in person. On November 9 we plan to have a primarily in-person meeting.

Sue Gonyou led us in our Devotional Study. We are on chapter 4 of Power Surge—"The release of the Spirit of Jesus Christ." This can bring about change and challenge. We are called to be Christ's disciples, which means to "Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children and live in love, as Christ loved us" Ephesians 4:32-5:1.

We received reports from Pastor—resuming Worship in the Fellowship Hall has gone smoothly, plans for a changed Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas are underway, Finance Committee, (see the finance committee report in this newsletter), and then had verbal reports from the Council Liaisons: reporting on all the wonderful, continuing Holy Cross ministries. A few highlights: Worship and Music, Sharon Voss, Mark Calise—we are holding Worship in the Fellowship Hall and following our health and safety guidelines, and it is going well; Education and Learning: Sue Volinkaty and Fran Moses, Godly Play has returned and meeting in the Sanctuary, a larger space and safe for our children; Bible Study and study sessions continue via Zoom, New member class may have some participants early in 2021.

Fall Stewardship—Simply Stewardship is the theme, will be held in November. Outreach/service and Fellowship—Sue Gonyou, Richard Eggers, Laurel Lindstrom—Quilts and Afghans have been delivered, plans are underway for gifts to over 600 hundred students at Smithridge Elementary for Halloween, Service and Fellowship has Angel Tree Plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and Silver Sage Thanksgiving dinner is being developed in a "take-out" manner. Administration and Support—Warren Kline and Diane Torry-Building and Grounds Committee is wiring the Fellowship Hall for Audio and Sound, Policies and Procedure Manual is being developed, the Krehlik's washed all of the building's windows! Things are different, but Holy Cross remains a committed, dynamic "church together"!

We approved the updated Special Funds and Helping Hands Policy, discussed the January Annual meeting options, acknowledged the creation of the Memorial Gifts committee and the Memorial Garden Committee, approved compensation for Video Production Manager Michael Tegio, and approved our quarterly Benevolence to Synod.

We adjourned with prayer at 7 p.m.

**Diane Torry, Council President**



## Holy Cross Lutheran Church Quarterly Financial Report to the Congregation

**Date: September 30, 2020—Budget to Actual YTD**

	Actual	Budget	Variance	Comment
Other Giving	\$ 374			
Rent	\$ 4,900	\$8,438	(\$3,537)	
Unrestricted General Fund	\$180,366	\$190,188	(\$9,823)	Member giving up \$3,754 over same period in 2019, down in cash plate and new member giving
Misc Income	\$-136			
Total income	\$185,504	\$198,625	(\$13,522)	
Operating Expense	\$162,830	\$175,683	\$12,853	Personnel expenses reduced, change in administrative staff and special musicians
Principal and interest payments	\$17,253	\$24,893		Interest only for 6 months.
Total expense	\$180,083	\$200,576	\$20,493	
Net Gain	\$ 5,421	(\$1,950)		Includes principal payments of \$4,988

1 <sup>st</sup> mortgage balance	\$191,302	
2 <sup>nd</sup> mortgage balance	\$215,051	
Total Mortgage	\$406,353	
Cash	\$80,217	Includes \$36,700 PPP loan/grant
Special Funds	\$28,429	Excludes \$36,700 PPP loan/grant

YTD total income is under budget, primarily due to decrease in rental income, cash plate and new givers. Expenses are tightly controlled. YTD gain of \$5,421, reflects annual gifts received early in the year. Sept. saw a net loss of \$4,989, The third quarter, the lowest giving quarter, reported a loss of \$9,899, at 9/30. PPP loan/grant of \$36,700 safety net is untouched. The last quarter is typically our largest income quarter. Year end results will depend upon generous gifts received and continued control of expenses. We will apply for loan forgiveness for the PPP loan/grant when Umpqua opens forgiveness application. An additional \$3,000 in mortgage reduction was made from the Mortgage Reduction Fund.

Finance Committee; Pat Schlosser, Jody Morrison, Linda Puckett, Steve Tate, Joe Krehlik, Diane Torrey



# Announcements



## Shared Harvest News

This month we are collecting the following items:

20 cereal  
41 fruit  
Shampoo

Please bring your donations to the church by the 22nd, and let Veralyn know what you're donating: veralyncombs45@gmail.com.

## November Lectors—THANK YOU!

November 1st—Becky Bradley

November 8th—Diane Torry

November 15th—Laurel Lindstrom

November 22nd—Sue Gonyou

November 29th—Mark Calise

## Altar Guild Assignments for November — THANK YOU!

Veralyn Combs

Linda Schlosser

## Office Hours

The office is open Monday through Thursday from 10am –3pm, and will be closed on Fridays. If you need anything outside of those hours, please email

holycrossreno@gmail.com or call Pastor Kathy at 702-423-0382.

## Christ in Our Home Devotional

The Oct/Nov/Dec devotional is available at the church for pickup. If you are unable to pick one up, let the office know and we will get one to you.

# *Happy Birthday*

James Alanko—Nov. 1st

Maggie Fisher—Nov. 10th

Kelly Meseberg—Nov. 20th

Michael Tegio—Nov. 1st

Karl Goebel—Nov. 10th

Samuel Morris—Nov. 21st

Katie Torry—Nov. 3rd

Richard Wampole—Nov. 11th

Roland Grumm—Nov. 24th

Mona Warwick—Nov. 5th

Dottie Hynes—Nov. 11th

Geordan Goebel—Nov. 25th

Nathan Jaillet—Nov. 8th

Chris Martin—Nov. 12th

Jennifer Seward—Nov. 30th

Lisa Caldwell—Nov. 9th

Donnie Seward—Nov. 13th

Colin Caldwell—Nov. 30th

Angie Hart—Nov. 9th

Kyle Meseberg—Nov. 15th

Christy Moses—Nov. 9th

Sheldon Flom—Nov. 19th