

Holy Cross

Crossroads

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2020

From Pastor Kathy:

Dear Friends,

Last week there was a little drama in the Morris Family. We got word on Tuesday that Samuel's pre-school teacher tested positive for Covid-19. Our first concern was for her health, but then we quickly realized that we had all been exposed; Sam most directly, but all four of us had been to school and talked with the teacher while she had not been feeling well. We decided in an abundance of caution to put ourselves on a bit of a lock-down. Samuel's school was closed for two weeks, I worked from home, Abigail started distance learning, and we went and got our COVID-19 tests. We tested negative.

I was relieved to say the least, but my relief stems mostly from knowing that I had interacted with many of you over the previous weekend, and the worry that I had inadvertently passed something onto you all. I also wondered what would happen to our plans to come inside if I or one of my family members got sick. *(continued on pg. 2)*

Mark Your Calendar!

- ◇ Oct 11th—Confirmation class
- ◇ Oct 12th—Council Meeting
- ◇ Oct 21st—Hot Topics Discussion
- ◇ Oct 25th— Reformation Sunday & Confirmation class



“From Pastor Kathy” cont.

For me, this served as a reminder that as long as we are waiting for a vaccine, we must continue to exercise caution and a great deal of flexibility.

We are mostly ready for the long-awaited return to indoor worship, and we have every hope that it will go smoothly. We will continue to move forward, but we do so cautiously. We do so knowing that our church leadership has back-up plans for back-up plans. We do so knowing that lots of different things may come up, and if something does and we have to take a pause again, we will. And we will return to worship as quickly and as safely as possible.

I know I've said all of this already, but I believe it's worth repeating: if it is not safe for you to be in a crowd, if you are high at risk, if you don't feel well, or have a fever above 100.4, please don't come. Our service will continue to be available to view online on Sunday mornings on Facebook & Youtube.

I continue to pray for you and for our community and I hope to see you soon in worship!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Kathy



Everyone can be
great,
because everyone
can serve.

-Martin Luther King Jr.

Service/Fellowship Committee

A big thank you to all for your generous contribution of socks and underwear. We will be getting them distributed over the next few weeks.

Upcoming Events

Service

November - Turkey Tree - money contributed will be used to buy gift certificates from Winco to distribute to Pine Middle School and Smithridge STEM Academy (our neighborhood schools) to purchase perishable food items for Thanksgiving or for the school counselors to distribute to families as needed.

December - Angel Tree - Last year we adopted families from Pine Middle School, and seniors in our community. Watch for more information in next month's newsletter.

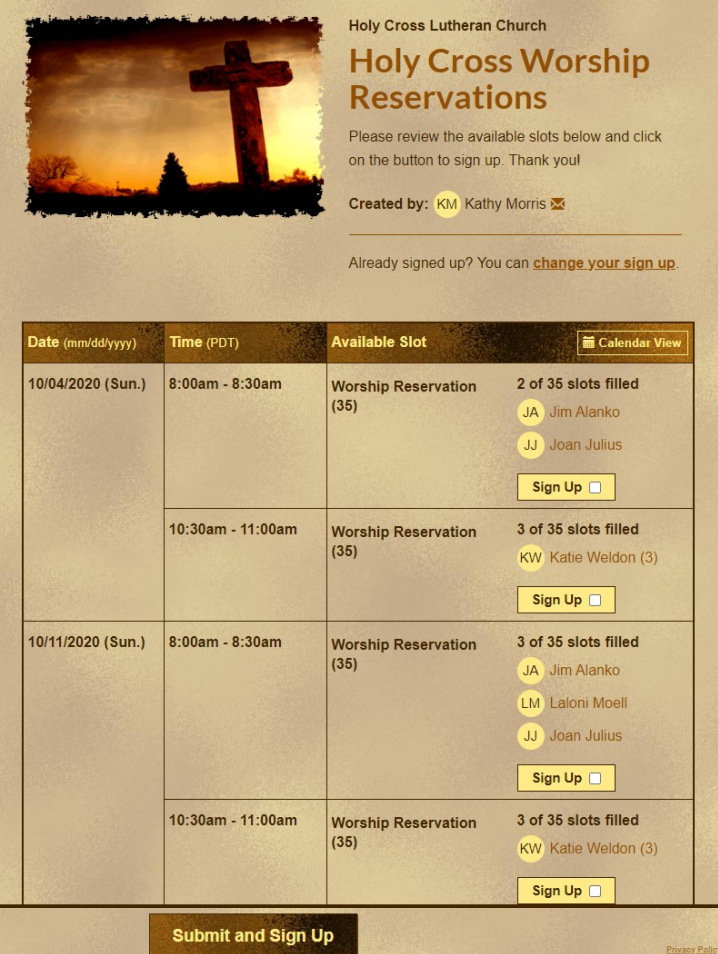
Fellowship

December - Advent Tea - Planning is in progress for the *possibility* of a scaled down Advent Tea.

Making Reservations for Indoor Worship

As we resume worship starting Sunday, October 4 at 8am and 10:30am, we are asking everyone to make a reservation to help us limit the amount of people in the worship space at one time. We have 35 spots available for each service. There are several ways that you can make reservations:

- You may call, stop by or email Alese in the church office Monday-Thursday.
 - You may use the following link and sign up online through Sign Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FADAC23A0F5CF8-holy>
 - You may make a standing reservation through the church office so that you will be signed up to attend worship each week through the end of the year. If you are unable to attend one week, please let us know, so we can free your spot for someone else.
- * Please Note: If you sign up for Sunday worship after 3pm on Thursdays, you **MUST** contact Pastor Kathy via email, text or phone (702-423-0382), or use Sign Up Genius. The church office is officially closed on Fridays and Saturdays so if you leave a message, it may not be picked up.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Holy Cross Worship Reservations

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

Created by: KM Kathy Morris

Already signed up? You can [change your sign up](#).

| Date (mm/dd/yyyy) | Time (PDT) | Available Slot | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 10/04/2020 (Sun.) | 8:00am - 8:30am | Worship Reservation (35) | 2 of 35 slots filled JA Jim Alanko JJ Joan Julius Sign Up |
| | 10:30am - 11:00am | Worship Reservation (35) | 3 of 35 slots filled KW Katie Weldon (3) Sign Up |
| 10/11/2020 (Sun.) | 8:00am - 8:30am | Worship Reservation (35) | 3 of 35 slots filled JA Jim Alanko LM Laloni Moell JJ Joan Julius Sign Up |
| | 10:30am - 11:00am | Worship Reservation (35) | 3 of 35 slots filled KW Katie Weldon (3) Sign Up |

[Submit and Sign Up](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

Please remember that this is a learning process and we welcome your feedback. We hope to make this as easy as possible.

If we notice that one service is becoming “too full” we may ask people to change which service they want to attend. And if we notice that both services are becoming “too full” we very well may add a third service.

You will note that right now our reservations take us through December. We will see as we get closer to that time if we need to continue the reservation system, at which time we will add more dates.

Ten Things to Know About Returning to Worship

1. Worship is at 8am and 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Godly Play for kids will be available during the 10:30 service. “Live Worship” will likely be shorter than what you are used to, and we are asking everyone to make a reservation to attend.
2. Singing and speaking in unison (all together) are considered super-spreaders of the virus, so we will not be singing, and will be limiting things we say in unison.
3. You will be asked to pick up your communion elements as you come into the worship space. Please hold onto them throughout worship.
4. Everyone **MUST** wear a mask, and Pastor Kathy will likely be wearing a face shield while leading worship.
5. The offering plate will be on a table as you walk in, or on the altar as you leave worship. We will not be passing the plate.
6. In order to maintain the quality of our online worship service, we will continue to pre-record that service and have it available for viewing on Sunday mornings (this is different than what you may have heard). We may from time to time record special events happening at our “live” service, and will post them online later in the week.
7. Bulletins will get emailed out on Thursdays, and there will be two bulletins contained in the email. One will be for the online service and the other will be for the “live” service. They will be different. At our “live” Sunday morning service, we are going to try to worship without a bulletin. We will be using a screen, but if you want to follow along with the service, you can download it on a phone or a tablet, or you can print it at home and bring it with you.
8. When we have live instrumental music, our musicians may choose to stay in their own music “bubble” as they work to stay healthy.
9. We are asking everyone to maintain 6 feet of distance between those outside of their own household, or those in their “bubble” and others, and chairs will be set up to reflect that.
10. Please stay home if you don’t feel well, are at high-risk, have a temperature above 100.4, or have tested positive for Covid-19. (If you do test positive and have been in the building, please let us know as soon as possible. We will welcome you back when you test negative again.)

We really appreciate everyone’s flexibility and patience as we transition back inside! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Kathy.

Memorial Garden Dedication 9/20/20



Blessing of the Animals 9/27/20



Thank you to our quilters for making a special stole for Pastor Kathy to wear at the Blessing of the Animals service.



Serving Through Creativity

Quilt Group News



Our quilt year concludes in early October—We blessed over 105 quilts and afghans at our September 13th worship service, as part of God's Work, Our Hands Day! The quilts and afghans will be given away to our brothers and sisters in need in our community and around the world! What a joy it is to give.

We have been honored to partner with Hosanna Home and Leah's House, The Children's Cabinet, Washoe County school district's program "Children in Transition", Ronald McDonald House, Veterans in Transition, and Lutheran World Relief. We also are blessed to provide a comforting quilt to congregation members and neighbors in need of support and comfort.

So, what's next? We now begin to work on small Christmas quilts to give to the Renown Hospital Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit for the preemie babies in the NICU unit over the Christmas season. These quilts wrap the babies in the NICU unit and then each preemie baby in the unit is given a quilt when they go home. We will bless these quilts the first Sunday in December.

Come join us! Our regular meeting times are the first and third Thursday of each month 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.—though most Thursdays you can find a few quilters working in the Fellowship Hall.

Please join us, all are welcome—no quilting experienced required, though experienced sewers are also treasured!

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 along with for our family and friends.

We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. October 13th and 27th at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

We are gladly accepting donations of yarn for our projects, thank you.



A Message From Our Church Council

The Council met via Zoom on September 14th. Sue Gonyou led us in our devotional study of Power Surge—Chapter 3 “the Marks of Discipleship”—we discussed how Holy Cross might change if we all respond as Christ’s Disciples, and how visitors to Holy Cross would view us differently if we moved to a discipleship model.

Pastor presented the plan for resuming indoor worship, following the COVID-19 pandemic requirements. Following a thorough discussion of the issues and opportunities surrounding resuming indoor worship, the plan was approved. Our target date for resuming indoor Worship is October 4th. We will resume worship in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Hall is a larger space than the Sanctuary, and with the movable wall open, it has better air circulation with windows and doors, the chairs are easier to clean, and more people can attend a worship service with the pandemic restrictions.

To accommodate Worship Services in the Fellowship Hall, the Council approved the recommendation from the Building and Grounds Committee that we enhance the audio-visual capability in the Fellowship Hall. This is also an investment in future Holy Cross ministry, making the Fellowship Hall better equipped for events such as Seder, Advent Tea, and other gatherings. The cost is \$5,000 and the funds are available outside of the general operating fund in the Building and Grounds Fund and the Memorial Fund. If members and friends wish to contribute to this building enhancement, those gifts would be welcome. The Building and Grounds Team is leading the installation of the enhanced audio visual in the Fellowship Hall.

Godly Play Sunday School will resume in the Sanctuary. The Godly Play classroom is not large enough to safely accommodate the children with the required pandemic restrictions. The Sanctuary will safely accommodate the children and teachers. In this way, we keep our children safe and put our children first.

Pastor will send a letter to the congregation with the plans and target dates. The Council will monthly continue to closely monitor our community pandemic situation and trends to determine when we can safely resume worship in the Sanctuary and Godly Play in their usually designated space.

We celebrated Holy Cross’s 40th Birthday on September 20 in our Garden Worship with the dedication of the Memorial Garden, and in Virtual worship, including a special greeting from Synod Bishop Mark Homelrud. The additional celebratory plans—concert, reception, cookbook, documentary have been postponed to “post-pandemic time” in 2021.

We received additional reports from Pastor—Confirmation class continues, and plans are developing for the coming months, including Halloween, Silver Sage to-go Thanksgiving dinner, Advent Tea, Live Nativity in different format, Christmas Services, etc.

Sue Gonyou reported on the plans from Service and Fellowship, Warren Kline reported on Building and Grounds, and we received a report from the Finance Committee.

Richard Eggers led us in closing prayer at 7:30.

Diane Torry, Council President

Stewardship News

Our annual stewardship campaign will begin in November! Be on the lookout for more information coming to you toward the end of October and one very specific way that *you* can help!

Our campaign this year is centered on simplicity and gratitude, and we look forward to sharing more with you soon!

If you have any questions or if you want to help, please talk with one of the members of this year's stewardship committee – Pastor Kathy, Pat Clem, Jeff Morris, Fran Moses or Diane Torry.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®

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

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

Ways to Give:



If you feel led to give to the ministry of Holy Cross, there are four ways to do so.

- 1) You can easily give online through our website at holycrossreno.org, then click the Give tab and fill out the short form with your information. If you'd like to make a recurring payment, you'll need to create an account.
- 2) On this same page there are instructions to download the convenient Give Plus Mobile App, which allows you to pay via your phone.
- 3) We also have a program called Simply Giving that allows you to make recurring, automatic gifts through your bank. You can call or email us for an authorization form to set you up on this program.
- 4) You can also always give via mail or in-person at our services. Please let us know if you'd like to be assigned a set of giving envelopes for the year.

Our mailing address is: 4895 S. McCarran Blvd, Reno, NV 89502. If you have any questions regarding any of these giving options, please email us at holycrossreno@gmail.com and we are happy to help!

Bible Study

Wednesday afternoons at 1:30pm

We continue our study on the book of Proverbs, ending by 2:40pm after prayer. We're seeing many examples of how the unwise, or "simple", follow down the wrong path. It's very refreshing when we come to a spot that shows the rewards of choosing wisdom over folly. Wisdom personified even sets a table and invites everyone in to her banquet to give everyone a chance. Come join the banquet!
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUExQRVY5elBXbHJ4dz09>
Meeting ID: 896 3300 9098 (IF you are calling in on your phone to 669-900-6833)
Password: 050344 (if requested)

Church in Society Discussion Group

Resuming 10/13!

Cookbook

Dear HCLC family,

The 40th Anniversary Cookbook Committee has decided to postpone the sale and presales of the cookbook until the Spring of 2021. Since we aren't in person (and when we can will be limited), and are not able to do the potluck tasting event, were all factors in our decision. All recipes have been received and are ready to go. Please don't fret, the cookbook will be done, (it is basically ready to go to print) and we will celebrate the cookbook in 2021. Thank you for everyone who contributed a recipe. Hint, hint, if you'd still like to turn one in you can still email it to me at Renogemini@aol.com and I'll add it in. Stay safe & Healthy. In Christ's Love.

Sincerely,
Richard Eggers - Council Member

Choir

The HCLC choir will be providing occasional music during the 10:30am worship movie. Rehearsals are at 9:30am-10:15am every Sunday via Zoom. If you would like to participate in this virtual choir experience, join us on Sunday by using the Zoom link below. If you haven't been able to attend choir rehearsals in the past, this might be a fun, new experience for you to try now. If you would like more information, please contact Becky at beckyb485@gmail.com.
<https://unr.zoom.us/j/98517820902?pwd=enZtQXVjVDdCOEQzTXdkUVMxVDhzZz09>



Hot Topics Discussion —October 21st

Pastor will be hosting another Hot Topics meeting called "Politics in America" from 6:30 to 7:30 on Wednesday, October 21st.

More details to come.



Announcements



Shared Harvest News:

This month we are collecting the following items:

40 Chili

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

Please bring your donations to the church by the 25th, and let Veralyn know what you're donating: veralyncombs45@gmail.com.

October Lectors—THANK YOU!

October 11th—Ray Streit

October 18th—Robert Kunze

October 25th—Susan McMurray

November 1st—Becky Bradley

Altar Guild Assignments for October—

THANK YOU!

Nellie Namestka

Jody Morrison

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



Diane Ludlow

October 6th

Joan Julius

October 11th

Susan McMurray

October 20th

Jaxon Meseberg

October 23rd

William Hudak

October 6th

Nina Cross

October 13th

Madeline Gaustad

October 21st

Susan Borton

October 28th

Kallie Grady

October 7th

Ray Streit

October 13th

Albert Fisher

October 23rd

Linda Schlosser

October 30th