

Crossroads

Monthly Newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church

August 2021



From Pastor Kathy:

Dear Friends,

As many of us have learned in the last year and a half, just about the time, we get settled into new routines in our Covid-19 World, they change.

Over the summer, we have been making steady progress as we have been feeling things getting back to normal. We have been singing in church, enjoying coffee hour, passing the peace, passing the offering plates, not worrying as much about social distance, and just within the last couple of weeks, we have returned to a more personal way of sharing communion. And yes, we had lifted the need for those who are vaccinated to wear a mask. It has felt good.

And now, news has come that we need to return to wearing masks again when gathered indoors. I don't know about you, but hearing that we need to return to wearing masks again makes me groan and grumble. But as followers of Christ and citizens of our community, we love our neighbors and respect the law. So, starting Sunday, we are asking everyone to wear a mask when indoors at the church.

Mark Your Calendar

8/3 Tuesday Discussion Group

8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, 8/31

Quilt Group 9:30am & 1:00pm

8/4, 8/11, 8/18 Bible Study 1:30pm

8/7 Back to School Kairos Time 9-11am

8/8, 8/15, 8/22 Directory Photo Shoot

8/8 Service for Healing & Backpack

Blessing

8/10 Council Meeting 5pm

8/18 Senior Lunch 12 noon

8/23, 8/30 Diversity Bible Study

Continued on page 2...

"From Pastor Kathy" (continued)

We hope that will be the only thing that changes, but we may have to tweak things here and there as regulations and guidelines are specified. Council will be talking through those details at our upcoming meeting. We appreciate your flexibility and your helpfulness as we work through all of the next steps.

As I said, I have grumbled about this, and I understand the frustration and the feeling of a step backwards. I know many of you may be experiencing the same thoughts and feelings, and maybe even doubts about the effectiveness of the masks. As I've been working through this, I've found it helpful to remember the "why" of all of this. I've come to understand that at the heart of all of this is the very real desire to keep people safe, and so I hope as we wear our masks that we remember the intention behind it is really to show our neighbors love and care.

I will see you at church! (At least I will see your eyes and your foreheads, but the rest of your faces, I hope to see soon!) Take care and be safe!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Kathy



Worship Updates:

Throughout August, we will continue with our focus on Jesus' discussion of "The Bread of Life" from John 6 as we gather for worship on Sunday mornings at 9am. A few special things are coming to our worship services.

Blessing of the Backpacks

On August 8, during the children's sermon, we will have our annual blessing of the backpacks (children and youth are invited to join us on August 7 for a special Back to School Kairos event where they will make the tags that we will use for the blessing.) Students, teachers and educators are all invited to bring their backpacks, book bags, work bags, etc as we will bless them for a new year of learning. If you have kids, youth or educators in your life, please feel free to invite them.

Service of Healing

Also, on August 8, our lessons lend themselves to a focus on healing and forgiveness, so we will have an opportunity for those who would like a special prayer and anointment with healing oil to receive that blessing in worship.

Godly Play Sunday

As Pastor Kathy will be away on August 15, Natalie Tegio will be sharing the story of the feeding of the 5000 in the Godly Play style. Also, on that Sunday, there will be no communion.

Worship Updates continued...

New Bible Study Begins

As many of you know, we have been talking about starting a Bible study/discussion group centered around understanding and welcoming those with more diverse backgrounds than many of us have experienced.

After much prayer, thought and planning, that Bible Study called, "Created in God's Image: An Exploration of the Gift of Diversity in Scripture" will begin on Monday, August 23. Pastor Kathy will be leading and creating the Bible study using a wide variety of resources as background and teaching aids. We anticipate that the course of study will take us to the end of October and it will touch on important social concerns like race, immigration, sexuality, economics, and more.

Because of the importance of the subject, we will be having two meeting times. One will be at the church at 11am, and the other will be at 6:30 in the evening. For those who are interested in the evening session, please email Pastor Kathy and let her know if you would rather meet in person or on Zoom. She will let you know how we will meet for that session, the week before.

If there are some of you who would like to go deeper into learning some new perspectives on some of these social concerns, Pastor Kathy would like to put together book discussion group to start in September, so if you are interested in joining that, please contact her.



Service & Fellowship

It's August, your last opportunity to donate toiletry items, diapers, underwear, and socks for the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra and Volunteers of America.

Toiletry items needed are listed on the Giving Tree in the Nartex.

Also, The Northern Nevada Food Bank barrel is located in the entry way of the church. Please make sure all items are non-perishable. No glass or expired items as they must be thrown away. Again, this is not to overshadow our own Shared Harvest. All donations to both of these nonprofits are appreciated.

Watch the bulletin and newsletter for upcoming events.

Announcements

Shared Harvest News

This month we are collecting the following:

55 boxes of Mac and Cheese

Any Deodorant

Please bring your donations to the church.

Contact Veralyn with questions:
veralyncombs45@gmail.com.

Thank you all for being so supportive of Shared Harvest!

August Lectors—THANK YOU!

8/01—9:00am (in-person): Diane Torry

8/08—9:00am (in-person): Lani Moss

8/15—9:00am (in-person): Logan Kunze

8/22—9:00am (in-person): Sandi Christman

8/29—9:00am (in-person): Jody Morrison

Christ in Our Home Devotional

The July/August/September devotional is available in the narthex.



Regular Meetings—Get Enriched!

Tuesday Discussion Group

We finish up 1 John on August 3. After that date, stay tuned for further announcements about other study opportunities that will be available as we continue our mission to Welcome All in our congregation.

Join Zoom Meeting August 3:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82008777307?pwd=SzdmUmxORFJRdzdOMWxVV2lqNGhsQT09>

Meeting ID: 820 0877 7307

Passcode: 517631

Music Program

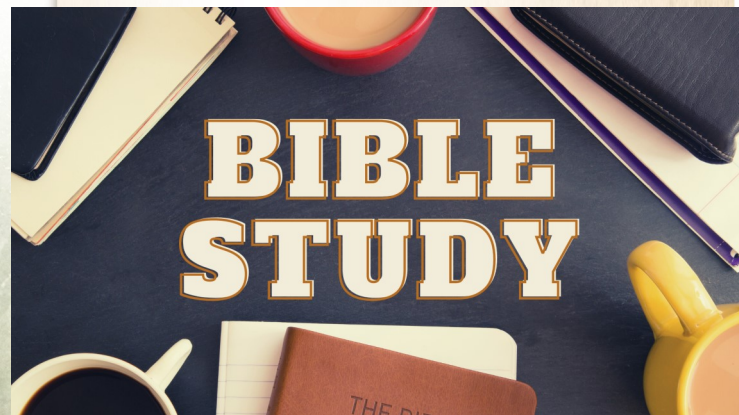
Stay cool, everyone! And keep staying safe - even if you are vaccinated, take precautions if you are around people with unknown vaccination status. We want everyone back in services AND SINGING! Isn't it great to be singing in church again? And going forward for communion? And starting up our Offertories! We're getting back to normal!

And speaking of cool, here's a cool acapella rendition of 76 Trombones by the Ambassadors of Harmony. Probably one of the most exciting interpretations I've seen! Keep watching to the end.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLPP3XmYxXg&list=RDCSODPhE-Ong&index=5>

Wednesday afternoon Bible Study IS BACK AT THE CHURCH!

Same time at 1:30pm, every week. We will be looking at 2 Corinthians, 1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus in a study about "Ministering in the Spirit and Strength of Jesus". Even if you are not an official leader of the church, we are all ministers to each other as members of the body of Christ. Come and learn how the Spirit works to lead us in our call to holy living and service. Bring your books and Bibles, and get ready for our usual lively and insightful discussions. Contact Becky at bekyb485@gmail.com if you have any questions. (Note, there will not be any Bible study on August 25 as Becky returns to New York for her mother's memorial service.)



A Message From Our Church Council

Our July meeting opened with a devotional story illustrating how our perceptions can be clouded and can contribute to judging others, rather than looking at ourselves. If we look for good, we are more likely to find good. We then appointed Sandi Christman to council. Chris Martin and Fran Moses have resigned from council. Your council representatives are: Pastor Kathy, Veralyn Combs (VP), Warren Kline (Secretary), Laura Grady, Sandi Christman, Diane Torry, and myself (Pres.) If you are interested in serving on council, please let Pastor or myself know. We also voted to change council meeting night to the 2nd Tuesday starting at 5:15 pm.

If you are interested in helping to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our congregation and visitors on Sunday morning, call the office and sign up for: lector, usher, communion assistant, acolyte, and/or choir/special music. There is also an opportunity to restart the Book Club. What a great way to discuss our faith and beliefs using the reading and discussion of a good, "chewy" book. If that sounds like fun - give me a call!

The Information Security Policy was approved. We are able to use a credit/debit card device to take payments for things like Seder dinner or raffle tickets if that is easier for you. We also approved a Photo and Video disclaimer policy. This policy outlines how Holy Cross uses photos/videos on our website, social media, pamphlets etc. to tell our story, provide visitors information and an idea of what to expect when they attend our worship services and events, highlight the work of those who serve, and allow us to communicate our mission as a church for people who don't go to church via our website and other digital and print media. If you see a photo on a Holy Cross's website or social media page that includes you or your child and would prefer it be removed, please contact the church office. These policies are available in the Policy Manual in the church office or they can be emailed to you.

Council is talking about a way to provide a family bathroom. It would be ideal to add another bathroom, but that is not feasible at this time. Having the ability to lock the bathrooms would be more friendly for families, handicapped who may require a caregiver to help, and/or others that need more privacy. I also have noticed that some of our members struggle to get in and out of the car as the handicapped parking spaces are a bit narrow. We would like to create van accessible spot(s) and add additional designated handicap spots. If you have any ideas or concerns, let a council member know.

Disbursement of the budgeted quarterly Synod Benevolence was approved. The meeting ended with prayer.

I am reminded of the many things to be grateful and thankful for - God's peace to you.

Laurel Lindstrom, Council President

Kairos Time

We had a wonderful morning in the park with our kids and families. We started the day attempting to "go bigger" in our diet coke and mentos experiments from VBS, and while we had some fun explosions, we had even more fun with water games and water balloons and perhaps even an all out water fight as Pastor Kathy got soaked! (Imagine that!) Thanks to all who came and we look forward to our next Kairos Time event!



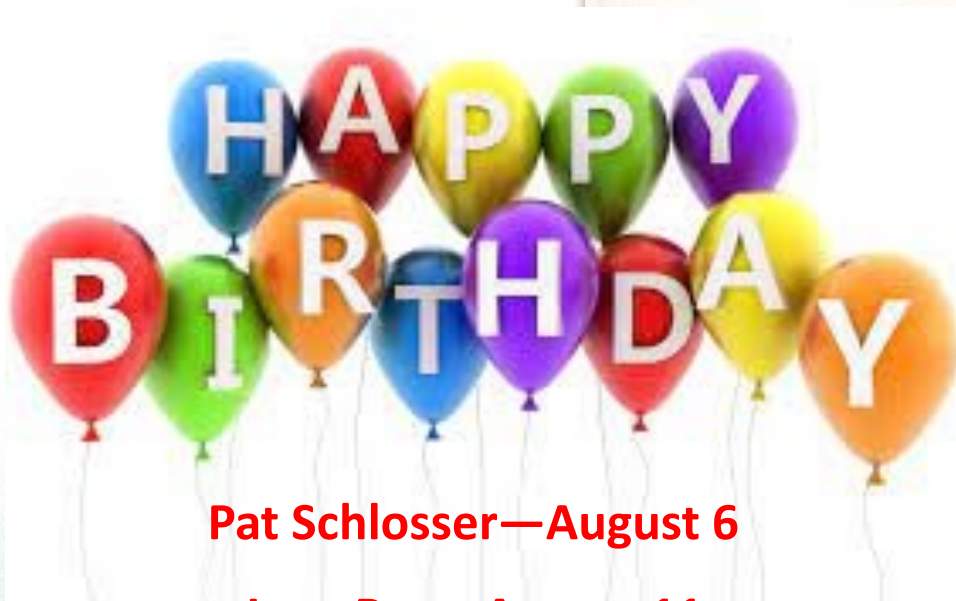


Saturday, August 7 from 9-11am

Get ready for a New School Year with special activities, games and more for kids! We will be making our own backpack blessing tags for the new school year.

Please RSVP to Pastor Kathy (Pastorhclcreno@gmail.com) if you can come (that way, we will have enough materials for everyone!)

If you are able, bring some extra school supplies, we can share them with our local schools!



Pat Schlosser—August 6

Jean Bye—August 11

Roxanne Anderson—August 14

Patrick Clem—August 21

Rebecca Coleman—August 28



Senior Lunch is Back!!!

And you are invited.....

Wednesday August 18 at 12 noon is our Grand Return to a time of casual fellowship, visiting, and inspirational readings. Hot August Nights and Summer are the themes of the decorations, lovingly provided by Eldora.

We don't usually meet in August, but it's been so long since we've been together that we couldn't wait until September.

However, due to health concerns at the moment, we will be having a sack lunch rather than a potluck. Just getting together again is the priority.

See you August 18, and then third Wednesdays at noon after that! (And shhh, even if you're not a Senior, you are most welcome to join us!)

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

– Romans 8:30

Church Directory

Dear Holy Cross Community,

It's time to refresh! It's been a little over two years since we last created our church directory with pictures, and we are updating our directory over several Sundays in August and September this year. Each "photo shoot" generally takes less than 10 minutes, and you are welcome to take any images you like for personal use as well (greeting cards anyone?)! A few things to know and do, also known as FAQs:

What are the dates for directory pictures? August 8, 15, & 22 and September 12, 19, & 26.

Is there a cost associated with pictures? Nope. None. Not a bit. ZERO! This is our own homegrown event and there will be no upselling pressure, we promise! It also means that you have a full money-back guarantee (get it? Ha!)

How do I get a spot for a photograph? In order to be as flexible as possible, we are doing this first come, first served while we are at one worship service. The sessions will be available for about an hour or so after worship. If ya feel you're lookin' alright for a photo, be brave and jump in line!

What if I need a particular date for myself/my group? Reservations are not required, BUT if you know you can get everyone together on a particular Sunday for your photo, please email Natalie Tegio (nmtegio@charter.net) and you will have a reserved spot at the front of the line on that date. Alternatively, you can sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Is there paperwork, will I have to fill something out? Well, real events have paperwork, right? We are also using this as an opportunity to update names, addresses, electronic communications, phone numbers, etc., so we can keep the church files in tip top shape! This means get ready for a (little) paperwork.....

Oh No! What if I can't make any of the scheduled dates? - We will have a few TBD make up sessions in October, details to follow....

Can I get an extra picture/pose for a specific reason that has nothing to do with the directory? - Of course! We will try our best to accommodate, but please email Natalie Tegio with special requests (nmtegio@charter.net). Ahhhh, we did photograph a few royal portraits in 2019, just sayin'!

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

— Romans 8:30