



Monthly Newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church

October 2021

Crossroads

From the Desk of Pastor Kathy:

Dear Friends,

The air has a crispness to it. The leaves are changing colors. The pumpkins are ready and the Halloween Costumes are coming out. Pumpkin Spice is, well, EVERYWHERE. It must be fall.

I have always appreciated the fall season. I enjoy all of the fall fun of pumpkin picking and carving and decorating and the excitement of Halloween and Thanksgiving. And in all of that, there are also the busy activities of the church at this time of year.

This newsletter is filled with opportunities for fellowship, for growth, for fun and I hope that you will join us as much as you can and participate as you feel comfortable. I know that COVID-19 is still very present in our community, and we continue to use caution as we gather for our events, but I sense that many of us are settling into this “new normal” of life. For me, it comes with ups and downs. I’ve lost track of the number of times my kids have been to the doctor in recent months with a common cold, just so we can be sure it’s not something more. And with a cold, it means exclusions from school and distance learning. We are settling in to those new kinds of normals - sometimes, more gracefully than others.

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As a congregation, we are settling into some new normals as well. Many of you know that earlier this year, we lost some of our members because the church council wanted to explore what it would look like to become more welcoming to people who, in very general terms, hadn't been made to feel welcome in Christian churches, including sometimes, our own. Their departure has been painful for many of us, but in the end, we wish them well. We look forward to the future with hope, knowing that we are far from done with the mission that Christ has given us to "Go and make disciples" (Matthew 28:16) and share the love of God revealed to us through the death and resurrection of Christ.

However, we also know that we are in a place of some real challenges as we think about evangelism and stewardship. The church council is working on some intentional and planned efforts in both of these areas and will be consulting later this month with a colleague of mine who has some special expertise and wisdom to share with us. We look forward to that.

Our evangelism efforts have already started with increasing our social media presence and updating our website, and at the end of the month, we will kick off our annual stewardship program. Please be aware, that there may be some opportunity for you all to help us in some very easy ways, so we appreciate your assistance and your willingness to help.

With the fall season, there also seem to be an increased awareness of blessings and thankfulness, and I hope that you all know that I am increasingly thankful for the blessing that each of you bring to our church, but also to me personally.

May you all have wonderful fall season, full of love, life, and thankfulness!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Kathy

NEW MEMBER'S CLASS

If you are interested in joining Holy Cross as an "official member" we are hosting a new member class after church on Sunday, October 24 (likely around 10:20). This will be an opportunity to meet some of our Holy Cross key leaders as well as hear more details about some of the ministries of Holy Cross and how you might be able to become more involved in the life of the church.

If you are planning to come or would like more information about joining the church, please contact the church office or Pastor Kathy. We hope to welcome new members on Sunday, October 31.





WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON **BIBLE STUDY**

SENIOR LUNCH **TAKE 2!**

We're going to try it again.
Third Wednesday, October
20 at 12noon in the
Fellowship Hall.

We are still under COVID
concerns, but the Council has
agreed that we could start
meeting again. Eldora will
socially distance our chairs
around the table, and we'll
wear our masks per the
church policy unless you are
actively eating. At least we
will be together once again!

Bring your brown bag lunch,
and enjoy the fellowship and
Eldora's inspirational
readings and seasonal
decorations.



We're back at the church, same time at 1:30pm, every
week. We're having interesting discussions (as usual!)
about ministering in the spirit and strength of Jesus",
currently focusing on 2 Corinthians. We are constantly
ministering to each other in the body of Christ as well as
our non-church life. 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. You can join at any time. Contact
Becky at bekyb485@gmail.com if you have any
questions. Although we are meeting at church, I still log
into Zoom in case you need to join from home:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5elBXbHJ4dz09)
[pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5elBXbHJ4dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5elBXbHJ4dz09)
Meeting ID: 896 3300 9098

Service Projects

From October 24-November 14 the Turkey Tree will
be in the Narthex. The turkeys will have suggestions
for monetary donations to be given in order to
purchase GIFT CARDS for Pine and SmithRidge
schools. These gift cards help parents of students
purchase food and/or clothing items that the families
of these schools may need.

During November and December, the Angel Tree
will be in the Narthex. This year we will sponsor
families from our local community (Pine and
SmithRidge), as well as, stuff stockings for teens
and younger children at the Women and Children's
Center of the Sierra.

Fellowship

Mark your calendar, this year's Advent Tea is
scheduled for December 5th. Due to Covid, we will
be doing a Women's candlelight service in the early
afternoon. This year's event will be led by Pastor
Kathy and will include music and light refreshments.
Watch for more information.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR KATHY

Created in God's Image Bible Study will be on a break on Monday, October 4, but will resume on October 11, 18 and 25. These final sessions of this series will explore and help us understand some of the more difficult passages of Scripture that influence how we understand human sexuality. If you have not participated in the study group, but have interest in this topic, please feel free to join us. We have two sessions, one that meets in person on Mondays at 11am at the church, and the other which meets on Zoom on Mondays at 6:30pm.

Topic: Created in God's Image Bible Study
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84911569919?pwd=VUM1SUdoeWdnSnM1WUZva0dQdzBldz09>

Meeting ID: 849 1156 9919
Passcode: 113211

Please contact Pastor Kathy if you have any questions.

CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

As our Confirmation students will spend a couple of weeks talking about the gift of Holy Communion, we invite younger kids who have not yet started to receive communion or who would like to have a refresher course to come and join us on Wednesdays October 20 and November 3 at 6pm for a two-session workshop. We will celebrate 1st Communion with our young people on Sunday, November 7.

If you are planning for your child(ren) (or grandchild) to participate, please let Pastor Kathy know. There is no age requirement for 1st Communion. It is left for families to decide if their child is ready.

If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Kathy.



Fall Cleaning Day!!

**Mark your
calendars now!**

Fall Clean Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 6. Both the building and outside grounds need attention. Look for more information and sign-up opportunities in the next few weeks.

Some tasks can be completed during the week before the 6th.

Save the date! and join the fun of maintaining the building and grounds of Holy Cross--supporting Holy Cross as an inviting, welcoming and affirming place for all.

Building and Grounds Team— Diane

Youth Group
(For youth 5th-12th grade)
Join us
Sunday, October 17th
for the
Great Pumpkin
Carving Contest!

We will meet at 3:30 at the church and try out our pumpkin carving skills. Youth are welcome to bring their own carving supplies, or use ones that the church will provide. We do need the youth to sign up if they will be there, so we can be sure we have enough pumpkins.

Parents, we will need some extra help with this event, so if you are able to come and help, please let Pastor Kathy know by October 15.

Also, for members of the congregation, we need a few judges to determine just who will win the Great Pumpkin Carving Contest, so if you would be interested in being a judge, please let Pastor Kathy know!



October 28th 5:30-7:30pm

We are so excited to host such a fun event for the kids in our families as well as the kids in our neighborhood, but we need your help!

There are FOUR key ways you can help:

- 1) We need people who would be willing to decorate the trunks of their cars and pass out candy to the kids! You can decorate however you would like (as long as it's family friendly!). You can be as elaborate as you would like, but there will be an opportunity to vote on the favorite trunk, and there will be a winner and a prize. Some have even set up a game for the kids to play. If you need ideas, talk with Pastor Kathy or simply Google: Trunk or Treat.
- 2) If you would like to donate candy or prizes to be passed out to the kids, we would welcome the contributions, please have them to the church by October 24.
- 3) If you would like to help in the kitchen as we offer pizza for dinner, that would also be helpful.
- 4) And maybe most importantly: **SPREAD THE WORD!!** Invite friends, family, neighbors! The more the merrier!

There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex starting on Sunday, October 3, so please sign up and get ready for a fun night! If you have further questions, please talk with Pastor Kathy.

QUILTER'S GROUP

In September we “wrapped up our “Quilt Year”. On God’s Work our Hands Sunday, September 12 we blessed our quilts, afghans, hats, and scarves – the Sanctuary was a rainbow of color and art.

We distributed our quilts, crocheted and knitted items, locally to Veterans in Transition--for Veterans getting established in their own homes, Washoe County School District, Children in Transition—helping homeless students in our School District; Ronald McDonald House—supporting families of children who are hospitalized; Hosana Home -helping women regain their lives; and the Children’s Cabinet—helping children in our community, victims of the Dixie Fire, Bear Hugs, who support victims of wild fires, floods and hurricanes throughout the country, Women’s Children Center of the Sierra, helping women and children move from poverty to self-sufficiency and through Lutheran World Relief, we send our quilts to our brothers and sisters in need around the world. We also are blessed to provide a comforting quilt to congregation members, friends and neighbors in need of support and comfort.

Thank you to everyone who participates and supports the Quilt Group’s outreach ministry of Holy Cross.

We dedicate our quilts and knitted and crocheted items to Christ’s service, trusting that Christ’s love will go wherever each item is sent, making it more than just a piece of material, yarn or a collection of items—making each quilt and afghan we have created an expression of love.

During October and November, we will be working on 24-inch small quilts that we will give to the Renown Neo Natal Intensive Care Units for babies who are in the NICU units over the Holiday season.

Come join us---all are welcome!

Coming Up

In Worship:

We worship each Sunday at 9am and our service is live-streamed for those who join us from afar!

We have a few special Sundays coming up:

October 3 : World Communion Sunday

October 10: We welcome guest worship leader and preacher Bill Ledford, who works with LEAN (Lutheran Engagement and Advocacy in Nevada) as Pastor Kathy is away.

October 31: Reformation Sunday - Wear Red and celebrate God’s reforming Spirit working among us!

November 6: All Saint’s Sunday - We begin worship in the Memorial Garden as we remember the Saints who have gone before us in faith.

COUNCIL NEWS

Happy Fall - I am enjoying the cooler weather and thankfully the fires are coming under control. I forgot to mention last month that we welcomed Pat Clem onto the Church Council. I am thankful for all the members of council that give of their time and talents to help move our church forward! Godly Play and Choir have resumed. Service committee is busy planning fall activities and service projects. Pastor is providing excellent Bible study and book study and starting confirmation classes. Check out pastor on Tiktok as our evangelism/media team works towards expanding HCLC's media presence and reach. Updated bulletin boards in the narthex and fellowship hall are a great communication tool for us and for our visitors and community guests that use our facility. There are visitors packs available on the table in the Narthex to share with visitors and we also have magnets remembering our reformation available - please take one for your fridge. A new congregation is starting worship services on the first Wednesday of the month in October. The calendar of events is available on our website, go to website and click on the calendar tab <https://www.holycrossreno.org/>. Lots of exciting things are happening! We are planning our stewardship drive so look for more information in the coming weeks.

Regarding bringing homemade goodies in for coffee hour - we have decided to wait a while longer on that due to Covid and continue with the packaged items for coffee hour. Your support for coffee hour is appreciated. Remember to complete a time and talent sheet and turn in to the office. You are needed to help with worship and the mission of Holy Cross. Lastly we have the option to purchase 10% of Silver Sage Senior Residence for \$1. A decision must be made before January 1 regarding this option. We are considering the pros and cons of this transaction and will have a presentation ready for council and then for the congregation to vote on this option. If you have thoughts or questions about this option please let me know.

Peace - Laurel Lindstrom, Council President

Book Study

Transforming— The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians by Austen Hartke is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19th at 6:00pm here at the church.





CHOIR



The choir has returned! They sang their first anthem on Sept 19, the day we celebrated the 41st anniversary of our church. They will provide choir anthems and special music periodically in our services. We also welcome back Laloni, who moved out of the area for a while but is now back in Reno. She still joined us as part of the virtual choir we had this past year, so it feels like she never left.

Anyone is welcome to join any part of the Music Program. No matter what your skill level is in music, there is a place for you. There is no requirement to read music, just a willingness to serve God with your gift. We'll find a place for you!

Autumn is upon us, and here is a special rendition of Roger Williams playing his version of "Autumn Leaves" on the Lawrence Welk Show. It was rare that a special guest appeared on the show, so this was a prestigious invitation. The song was one of the best selling piano solos of all time. Enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/CosUDp6YAgg>

Shared Harvest

SHARED HARVEST is a joint ministry of six Lutheran churches in Reno and Sparks.

Because our Savior commanded us to care for others, we are reaching out to the community with food, love, and concern.

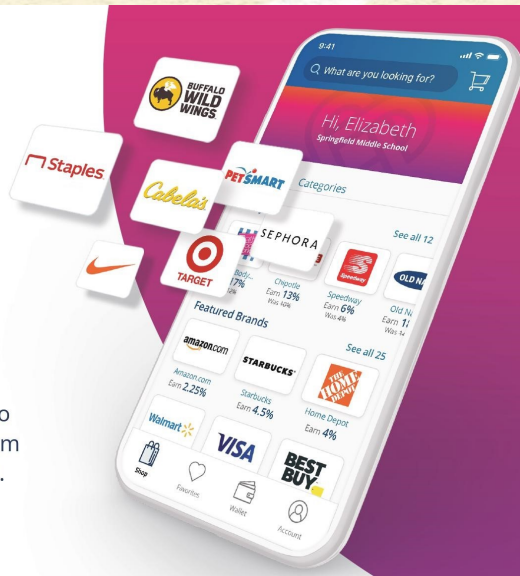
We will be assembling our bags on October 24th!

We are in need of: Toothpaste and Toothbrushes for this months give away.

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