



Holy Cross *Crossroads*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER * HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH * DECEMBER 2021

From the Desk of Pastor Kathy: “Christmas Begins with Christ”

As you may have heard, we received a generous gift to do some intentional outreach and evangelism this Christmas season. We are working with a company who is supplying us with signs and about 12,000 mailings and some social media postings to share the Good News of Jesus that we will be celebrating this season in lots of ways, but especially through our worship, our “Live Nativity” and our “Christmas Eve” services. The tagline of our advertisement is that “Christmas Begins with Christ.”

I think most of us know this. We know that Jesus is the reason for the season. We know that we as Lutherans take our time to get to Christmas and we light a new candle on our Advent wreath each week and countdown the weeks and the days to Christmas. We participate in things that help us not to just get ready for Christmas Day, but that truly prepare our hearts for Jesus to come and dwell with us and fill us again with his hope, peace, joy and love.

At Holy Cross, there are lots of different offerings to help us prepare our hearts once more for Jesus. There are celebrations and opportunities to wonder about the joy of the season and also, there are opportunities to be still and quiet in the midst of what might be chaos in the world around us.

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Church Events

- Dec 5th, 2pm — Ladies Candlelight Service & Tea
- Dec 10th & 11th, 6pm-8pm – Live Nativity
- Dec 12th, 9am — Children’s Christmas Program
- Dec 12th, 10am — Youth Group Christmas Party
- Dec 21st Online Prayer Service
- Dec 24th, 3pm — Christmas Eve Choral Celebration & Online Service
- Dec 24th, 6pm — Christmas “Unplugged” with Communion

“From the Desk of Pastor Kathy” (cont. from Page 1)



You are invited to all of these things that may bless your soul and fill your empty cup. And along with an invitation to you, I encourage you to invite a friend or a family member to come

along, too, so that they can be filled with the love of God that comes to us through the tiny baby we celebrate this season.

Yes, Christmas definitely begins with Christ!

May you all have a Christ-filled season of joy and peace this year!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Kathy

Worship News

As we prepare for Christmas, join us on Sunday mornings at 9am in person and online as we “Wait with Hope and Live with Joy.” Each week we will light the Advent Wreath in preparation to greet the coming King.

Some of our Special Worship Services include:

Blue Christmas Service – for those struggling with the Christmas Season, we will have an online service of readings and prayer on December 21.

Christmas Eve Services – December 24

Christmas Choral & Candlelight Celebration at 3pm

Christmas “Unplugged” with Candlelight and Communion at 6pm

Both services will include a special children’s message and lots of music to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Women’s Candlelight Service

“Loves Pure Light”

December 5 at 2pm

Children’s Program

at worship on December 12 at 9am

Christmas Sweater/Christmas Jammies

Sunday – December 26

We are starting something new at Holy Cross this year! Join us at 9am the day after Christmas and wear either your prettiest or your ugliest Christmas Sweater, or if you want to be even more casual, your favorite pair of Christmas Jammies. We will do some singing along to our favorite Christmas classics and have some time to share with one another what Christmas means to us. It will be a very low-key kind of morning, but a worship service that you will likely not forget.



Youth Group News

Thank you to our youth who helped to serve at the Silver Sage Thanksgiving Dinner! We really appreciated your help!

Confirmation Classes will begin studying the Apostle’s Creed this month with classes on Wednesdays, December 1st and 15th. Classes are starting at 5:30pm.

Join us for a Youth Christmas Party – Sunday, December 12. We will meet right after church and work together on a special service project and then will have some celebrating Christmas with pizza and a Christmas party, which will include an Escape Room Adventure here at the church. Also, if the kids would like to participate in a gift exchange, they can bring a wrapped gift which does not exceed \$10. RSVP to Pastor Kathy if you can come!



News from the Holy Cross Quilters

On Sunday, December 5, a special blessing will be part of our Worship Services. Fifty small quilts and fifty crocheted octopus will be blessed and then given to the Renown Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit.

Several years ago, the Quilt group was asked by Renown NICU to make small Christmas quilts for the babies that will be in the NICU over the Christmas Season. The Renown NICU performs life giving work with preemie babies for several weeks following their birth. This is a very difficult time for the parents and family, as they see their little ones hooked to tubes and machines— life giving but scary and institutional, with no touch of home. The Christmas quilts keep the preemie babies warm, fitting over their tiny bodies in the isolates. The little quilts in a sterile, light-blinking, machine-whooshing world provide a sense of security and normalcy for the parents. The octopus are used to distract the babies from pulling on their multiple lifegiving tubes. The quilts and octopus go home with the babies when they are discharged.

Making these quilts and octopus is a special time for Holy Cross Quilters and knitters. When we were first asked, we didn't know if we could complete the project but we agreed to try. Now each year we look forward to starting our "quilt year" by making these special gifts for babies and families in our community—as we design, cut, iron and sew and crochet we are blessed to be able to work together to bring comfort and joy to babies and families—a visible way of sharing Christ's love during the Christmas Season as we celebrate Christ's birth.



Welcome!

Close Knit Friends may not be familiar to you but this knitting group has been active in the Galena area since 2010. In November, we accepted the invitation to partner with Holy Cross Lutheran Church to continue in the mission work of providing warmth and comfort to our neighbors in need. Twice a month, starting in January, we will gather to knit, crochet, and/or use a circular loom to make hats, scarves, lap blankets, and more for veterans, victims of exploitation, homeless families, and moms and children struggling through poverty. We'd like to invite knitters and crocheters and anyone interested in learning these hand crafts to join us on Monday, January 10 & 24 at 1pm at Holy Cross. If you would like more information, please call Peggy at 775-622-0128. *"...be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love,..." Colossians 2:2*





**Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Finance Committee Monthly Report to the Congregation
October , 2021**

Date: September 30, 2021 ytd

	Actual	Budget	Variance	Comment
Other Giving	\$1,494			
Rent	\$3,550	\$5,250	\$1,700	
Unrestricted General Fund	\$191,397	\$189,483	\$1,914	1% above budget
Misc. Income	\$438			
PPP Grant	\$36,700			Unbudgeted
Total income	\$233,579	\$194,733	\$38,846	20% over budget with PPP 1% over budget without PPP
Total Expense	\$201,579	\$196,799	\$4,780	Includes \$11,00 for HVAC, unbudgeted and \$9,585 in principal payments, budgeted 2% over budget
Net gain	\$32,005			Net loss of \$4,695 without PPP Grant

1 st mortgage balance	\$179,981	
2 nd mortgage balance	\$210,297	
Total Mortgage	\$390,278	
Cash	\$68,443	Includes \$36,700 PPP grant
Special Funds	\$22,697	

September giving was \$12,316, (\$872 less than previous year) producing a Sept. net loss of \$6,609. This reflects slower giving in summer months, and member loss. Budget to Actual reports general fund giving slightly above budget, and expense to budget 2% over budget. PPP Grant has not been used to date.



A Message from our Church Council

October council meeting started with a devotion "Why be a Lutheran?". Because Lutherans are clear in their belief that God loves us as we are. We are saved by grace. God comes down to meet us in our broken world and broken state...thankfully, for none of us could do anything worthy enough to go up to God.

We are looking forward to a meeting with Pastor Marta Poling Schmidt to discuss evangelism strategies. A faith based knitting group called "Close Knit Friends" is coming to use our space in November. We are excited to have this ministry restarting at Holy Cross and if you love to knit - this is the group for you! They plan on meeting the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 1pm (except in December). Contact Peggy Whitney or the church office for more information.

The Stewardship team has met, look for video clips on Facebook/TikTok/Instagram. We will be sending out several letters and I encourage you to prayerfully consider how we can not only continue but further our reach into the community and the world. Our Stewardship campaign was a great success! If you haven't had a chance to provide us with your "estimate of giving card" and wish to do so you may turn it in to the church office. We would like to thank those of you who graciously pledged to help us continue our mission.

As I've mentioned before, we have an option to purchase 10% of silver sage, affordable senior housing, located here with us for \$1. We found out that we have until March of 2023 before we need to decide. A small team has been looking at the pros and cons of this offer. The team will make a recommendation to the council, council will make a recommendation, and then the congregation will vote on this option. The pros and cons will be presented for information and discussion at the January 2022 annual meeting.

I wish you a very Happy Holiday Season!

Laurel Lindstrom, Council President



News from the Music Program

The choir is busy preparing for Christmas Eve. They will sing at the 3pm service, along with guest singers and musicians, as we enjoy the Christmas story in Lessons and Carols with a focus on the children. The 6pm service will be a more laid back “unplugged” version that includes communion and special music.

There are other opportunities to participate in the Music Program in addition to the choir. See Brittney or Becky if you are interested in contributing your musical gifts. We'll find a place for you!

Enjoy Bing Crosby and David Bowie singing “Little Drummer Boy” and “Peace on Earth” as a touching duet. Merry Christmas!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9kfdEyV3RQ>



Silent Night

For to us
a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called



Wonderful Counselor,
MIGHTY GOD,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

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Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study

We are on our annual holiday break, but will resume our study on 12/29, ministering in the strength and spirit of Jesus. Have a beautiful holiday season.

Christmas Quilting Potluck

We are planning to have our annual Christmas Quilting Potluck lunch on December 9th. We will work for awhile in the morning and then enjoy all the great food everyone has brought to share. It will be a true potluck so bring whatever you'd like. You might also bring a drink if you want something other than water.

POINSETTIAS: Again, this year, we are asking the congregation to donate money towards purchasing poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas. Instead of buying individual plants, we are going to purchase some larger poinsettias, as well as smaller ones. You may still donate in honor or memory of. After Christmas, plants will be available to those who may want to take them home. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who would like to make a donation. If you



The Angel Tree is up in the narthex. On one side of the tree, you will find angels and on the other side you will find stockings. Please select an angel and/or stocking from the tree. The ANGELS are for children that attend Smithridge Stem Academy (our neighborhood elementary school). Take an angel or stocking and sign your name next to the number you take on the list attached to the tree. Please purchase at least two articles of clothing. If you chose an angel with a toy, please also include a book. Return wrapped gift(s) with the angel to church no later than **end of service on December 12**. Clothing items should include a gift receipt. The STOCKINGS are for the children from the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra. Suggestions are on the stocking. Please buy enough items to fill the stocking (see stocking on the tree.) We will add fillers such as candy, gum, etc. Place your items in a "closed" bag or container with the stocking attached. Items for stockings need to be returned to church by **close of service on December 12**. Thank you for your support helping children and families in our community.



Children's Program

Join us for Worship
Sunday, December 12th at 9am

The children of our congregation will be sharing their illustrations and telling their version of the story of the Nativity!



December Lectors Thank You!!

- 12/05 — Diane Torry (In Person)
12/12 — Lani Moss (In Person)
12/19 — Logan Kunze (In Person)
12/24 — To be announced (In Person)
12/26 — Sandi Christmas (In Person)

If you plan to be here on December 24th for the Christmas eve services. We need Lectors for that date. Please contact Lanai in the church office if your willing to volunteer. You can call 827-4822 or email holycrossreno@gmail.com Thanks!!

SHARED HARVEST

This month we are collecting the following:

30 Chili & Powdered Laundry Soap
Please bring your donations to the church by December 20th.



Office Hours

Our office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 3pm. Please feel free to email me at anytime and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

holycrossreno@gmail.com

775-827-4822



Happy Birthday

Ashton Meseberg — Dec 2

Noelle Lentz — Dec 2

Linda Puckett — Dec 9

Heather Drew — Dec 9

Helen Thompson — Dec 9

Eldora Johnson — Dec 13

Natalie Tegio — Dec 15

Laurel Lindstrom — Dec 15

Reana Ferencik — Dec 17

Veralyn Combs — Dec 19

Becky Bradley — Dec 22

Lanai Strawn — Dec 22

Kathy Mills — Dec 25

Michele Sorge — Dec 30

December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6pm Confirmation Class	2 9:30am Quilting 1pm Quilting 3pm Finance Committee 6pm Girl Scouts	3	4
5 9am Worship/Godly Play 2pm Ladies Candlelight Service & Tea	6 Church Office Closed 6pm High Desert Harmony	7 5:30pm Council Meeting	8	9 9:30am Quilting 1pm Quilting "Christmas Quilting Potluck"	10 6-8pm Live Nativity	11 6-8pm Live Nativity
12 9am Children's Christmas Program 10am Youth Christmas Party	13 Church Office Closed 6pm High Desert Harmony	14 1pm Service Committee	15 6pm Confirmation Class	16 9:30am Quilting 1pm Quilting 6pm Girl Scouts	17	18
19 9am Worship/Godly Play	20 Church Office Closed 6pm High Desert Harmony	21 5:30pm Online Prayer Service for those struggling with the Holiday Season	22	23 9:30am Quilting 1pm Quilting	24 3pm Christmas Choral Celebration 6pm Christmas "Unplugged" w/Communion	25 Merry Christmas!!
26 9am Worship/Godly Play (Christmas Sweater/Jammies)	27 Church Office Closed 6pm High Desert Harmony	28	29 1:30pm Bible Study	30 9:30am Quilting 1pm Quilting	31	

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10am-3pm	Casa Del Alfarero meets every Sunday at 5:30pm Tuesday at 7pm	Community Fellowship meets Wednesdays 2:30pm	Note: Council meets early this month December 7 th 5:30pm	Casa Del Alfarero meets every Friday at 7:30pm	Every Sunday we enjoy Fellowship 10am
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