



Crossroads



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH | FEBRUARY 2023

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

It was only a couple of days after Christmas that I walked into a store and saw the display of chocolate and items for sale for Valentine's Day. I was not prepared for that. I remember my many years as a single person and really dreading all of the fuss and messaging that came around Valentine's Day. It was difficult and created a loneliness that I still remember.

When Jeff and I started celebrating Valentine's Day together, even then, it was never typical. It was always tax season, and for me, I was often either in the season of Lent, or I was getting ready for it. We usually celebrated Valentine's Day not on the actual day because of our schedules.

I guess what I'm trying to express is that while I appreciate the gift of Valentine's Day as a day to remember the love in our lives, it really is just a day. We really should be remembering and celebrating the love in our lives every day. I say that knowing that there are many among us, who grieve the loss of love or the loss of a loved one and struggle to remember that they are loved. I recognize that.

But I want to remind you all that no matter what your feelings might be, you are deeply loved by the God who has created you and called you a beloved child through the waters of your baptism. You are not alone. Christ is with you, and you are loved.

When I feel down about something or I'm feeling lonely, one of my favorite things to do is to reach out to someone else – to find a way to connect because then not only do I find that my spirits lift, but perhaps theirs might as well. I invite us all in this season of love and Valentine's Day to find ways to show love to the people in our lives, to the people who are in our church, to the people who live far away from us and even to strangers. Love is a beautiful gift and it is a gift meant to be shared.

I also want to let you know that we are starting a Grief Support Group for those who are experiencing the loss of a loved one. We will meet once a month and our time together will consist of a devotional reading but will also mostly be a time to talk and share about how we are doing. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, February 28 at 4:30pm. My hope is that those who are working may be able to join with those who may also be retired, but at our first gathering, we will also talk about the timing of our meetings. Everyone is welcome and if you have friends or loved ones who have experienced loss, I encourage you to invite them as well. Please let me know if you have any questions or thoughts.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Kathy

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Join us after church on Sunday, February 19 as we enjoy pancakes and a pancake topping bar for breakfast! It follows the tradition of Shrove Tuesday, where people would indulge before the season of Lent began and people would choose to fast as a Lenten discipline. If you would like to help with the breakfast, please talk with Pastor Kathy. All are welcome!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

We will hold two Ash Wednesday services on February 22. One will be at noon and the other at 6:30 pm in the evening. The services will give us time to ponder the weight of our sin and our mortality as we administer ashes on foreheads and will also include the gift of forgiveness we experience through Holy Communion.

SOUP SUPPERS & LENTEN MID-WEEK SERVICE

Simple Soup Suppers will begin on Wednesday nights at 5:45, starting March 1, and will be followed by worship at 6:30 pm. Our worship will include the Holden Evening Prayer as well as Scripture readings often found during an Easter Vigil. Our readings will be interactive and a fun way for families to worship together. Midweek services will also have communion.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Join our youth on Sunday, February 12 as they collect spare change and donations as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring. All donations will be given to the Northern Nevada Food Bank, so please clean out your loose change stashes and bring them with you to church for a special offering!

Confirmation Class on Sunday, February 12 will be service oriented as we count up the change donations, and on February 26, we will be talking about what makes up a worship service and then, we will start planning one to lead after Easter.

Join us for youth group after class on the 26th! More details will be coming soon but save the date!

SUNDAYS IN LENT

Our Gospel Lessons focus on interactions that different people have with Jesus mostly, in John's Gospel and so our sermons will be character portrayals. If you are interested in being one of the characters, please talk with Pastor Kathy as soon as possible she is working on the scripts for the characters.

MOVIE & DISCUSSION

As a special "treat" during Lent, join us Tuesday, March 7 at 11:30 am for a movie and discussion. We will watch the 2001 movie *Chocolat* – a story about a single mother and her daughter who open a chocolate shop – with Sunday hours- across the street from a local church. They are met with skepticism but soon make connections with the townspeople thanks to their delicious products. We'll start the movie at 11:30 and people are welcome to bring their own lunch to eat during the movie. If there are folks who are unable to come but are interested in discussing the movie's themes, please contact Pastor Kathy and we can set up an evening or weekend discussion group!



MUSIC PROGRAM

The Music Program keeps rolling along. We just finished Christmas and are in our slight break in the church calendar before Lent begins. But that doesn't mean we're sitting idle! The choir will be singing at the 9am service on February 5 in our one-service prior to the congregational meeting. Then we start preparation for Lent – Ash Wednesday is February 22! We are particularly blessed to be joined by our newcomers Leslie Jaillet, Noelle Lentz, and Abigail Morris.

Would you like to participate? If you're thinking of joining the choir, you might consider joining for this special season as we prepare for singing at both services on Palm Sunday and Easter. We'll put your musical talents to work – singing, playing instruments, sound equipment, even filling music! See Brittney or Becky, and we'll find a place for you.

CLOSE KNIT FRIENDS

Close Knit Friends would like to thank the congregation and the Quilters for their help in donating hats, scarves, gloves, and blankets to *The Women and Children's Center of the Sierra* and *The Ronald McDonald House* last month. Along with our hand knitted and crochet donations a total of over **300** items of warm and comfort were collected and delivered to individuals and families in those organizations along with *Marvel Way Complex* and *The Women Veterans Program*. What a blessing to know in times of overwhelming needs, we can all reach out, ask for help, and work together for God's glory. Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 4:9: " *Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.*" Thank you all again! **Close Knit Friends** will gather on Monday, February 13 & Monday February 27 at 1pm at the church to continue knitting and crocheting hats, scarves, blankets, and shawls. We welcome all skill levels and donations of washable yarn. For more information, please pick up one of our flyers on the credenza under the bulletin board or see Peggy Whitney.

SUPPORTING AGING SENIORS: SENIOR TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

This three-week program is offered on February 4,11,25, Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall at Holy Cross.

Supporting Aging Seniors is designed for Seniors, their families, and support networks, to learn about and explore options for safe senior independent living and alternatives when living totally on their own is no longer safe or desirable for the senior.

It is human nature to put off or even ignore life's difficult decisions. The challenges of aging may intimidate us and conversations between parents and adult children or seniors and loved ones are avoided. In the worst-case scenario, no discussion has taken place and no plans are made until a crisis hits.

Program Overview

Session 1: Beginning the conversation: signs that you need help, changing relationship, values: what matters to you, critical conversations with loved ones.

Session 2: Living arrangements: Staying at Home, Safety, Care; Alternative Living Options/Senior Communities; Downsizing; Resources.

Session 3: Planning for the future: Financial Concerns & Planning; Legal issues related to aging: wills, trusts, power of attorney, medical directives and POLST.

Attend individually or with your adult children, or support network. Invite your friends to join us.

Brochures and fliers about the program are available in the Narthex, or by contacting the church office.

Register with Lanai, in the Church Office, holycrossreno@gmail.com, or Program Coordinator Diane Torry dbtorry@att.net

CHURCH COUNCIL

We opened our January meeting with a devotion about worry and how we are to “seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you”. We worried at the beginning of the year that we may not be able to financially make it. But we ended the year strong with a \$3000 loss, much less than the originally projected loss of \$29,975. This past year we planned many outreach events to engage with the community and share our love of Christ. We stepped forward in faith and we had a wonderful year. This reflects the strong giving of members and friends, and free-will giving from various outreach events we hosted. Thank you! We are planning to continue a number of these events in 2023. We still have our \$36,700 PPP money in savings, and we are also putting the 3-year blessing pledge money into our savings account. If you are giving money for the building of the reserve, please label it as such so we can set it aside.

The proposed spending plan was presented to the council, and we accepted the plan for presentation at the annual meeting on February 5th. Please plan on attending. We will have one worship service at 9 am and the meeting immediately after. We have a need for flower and coffee hour sign-ups. Council decided to raise the flower price to \$30 in order to help cover the cost. I presented the current plan for High Desert Harmony riser management. The chorus will take at least 2 risers off-site; the remaining 4 risers will remain in the back of the choir room; HDH will look at options to hide the risers, such as a room divider. The Pastor requested the HDH move the risers off-site for events that require the use of all the choir room space, e.g. vacation Bible School. HDH and HCLC strive for open communication to solve any issues that may come up with riser storage. If you have concerns about the risers, please let me know.

Katie Torry and I have been meeting with small groups of the church to discuss a draft welcome statement for Holy Cross. We look forward to getting input, having discussions, and presenting a statement for the congregation to discuss and finalize soon. Please reach out to us if you have input or questions. The new council will be meeting a week early on February 7th due to Valentine’s Day. Again, I want to thank all the council members for their hard work and support over the past 2 years.

Laurel Lindstrom, Council President

QUILT GROUP

Holy Cross Quilters meet in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

The Saturday January 21 Quilt tying party was great fun and we completed tying 7 quilts! Wonderful to work with long time quilters and new quilters. Thank you to all who participated. We hope to have another Sat. Quilt tying Party during the year.

A few “fun quilt group facts”—Holy Cross Quilters began in 2007, and completed 10 quilts, given locally to the Children’s Cabinet. In 2022, completed 239 quilts given to ten communities, worldwide agencies, and members and friends of Holy Cross.

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

Come join us---everyone is welcome No experience required!

Celebrating
FEBRUARY
Birthdays

February 1—Madeline Murray
February 7—Lani Moss
February 8—Jouillette Marbina
February 11—Sharon Rovig
February 14—Shelley Rigler
February 16—Jan Mann
February 17—Jim Morrison
February 18—Paula Featherstone
February 18—Brita Gonyou
February 25—Corrie Volinkaty
February 26—Ethan Jaeck
February 26—Dalton Rains

SHARED HARVEST

17 cold cereal
12 crackers
lots of deodorant

Senior Lunch

Wednesday

February 15th at
Noon. Please join
us for some great
fellowship



PRAYER REQUESTS

Carrie Jo and family - Laurel's cousin
Ashleigh Faulstich and brother Samuel
Karen Ford
Larry and Carol Ritter
Dominique Dufur
Martin Theiss
Judy, Emily's Amaral's daughter
Terry - Laurel and Orlyn's brother
Julie - Marla's DIL's sister
Marla
Cathy Tirona
Angi - Jeff's mother
Angie Hart
Anna Sadurska



February

2023

Romans 15:13

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			¹ 1:30 pm Bible Study	² 9 am Quilting 1 pm Quilting	³ 7:30 pm Casa Del Alfarero	⁴ 10 am Supporting Seniors
⁵ 9 am Worship 10 am Annual Meeting	⁶ 6 pm HDH 6:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	⁷ 5:30 pm Council 7 pm Casa Del Alfarero	⁸ 1:30 pm Bible Study	⁹ 9 am Quilting 1 pm Quilting	¹⁰ 7:30 pm Casa Del Alfarero	¹¹ 10 am Supporting Seniors 3 pm Casa Del Alfarero
¹² 9 am Worship 10:30 am Worship/Godly Play 11:45 am Confirmation Class	¹³ 1 pm Close Knit Friends 6 pm HDH 6:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	¹⁴ 7 pm Casa Del Alfarero	¹⁵ 12 pm Senior Lunch 1:30 pm Bible Study	¹⁶ 9 am Quilting 1 pm Quilting	¹⁷ 7:30 pm Casa Del Alfarero	¹⁸ 11 am Casa Del Alfarero
¹⁹ 9 am Worship 10:30 am Worship/Godly Play 11:30 am Pancake Breakfast	²⁰ 6 pm HDH 6:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	²¹ NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!! 7 pm Casa Del Alfarero	²² Ash Wednesday Services 12 pm & 6:30 pm 1:30 pm Bible Study	²³ 9 am Quilting 1 pm Quilting	²⁴ 7:30 pm Casa Del Alfarero	²⁵ 10 am Supporting Seniors
²⁶ 9 am Worship 10:30 am Worship/Godly Play 11:45 am Confirmation Class	²⁷ 1 pm Close Knit Friends 6 pm HDH 6:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	²⁸ 7 pm Casa Del Alfarero				