



Holy Cross *Crossroads*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH | JANUARY 2023

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends,

Samuel was very clear with what he wanted for Christmas this year. He wanted a digital clock – not an analog clock, but a digital room so he would be able to tell the time in his room. That was at the top of his Christmas list – I'm not kidding. So of course, that was one of things that was under the Christmas tree for him. He also got a fancy kid's watch, and I also got a new watch which has all been making me think about the concept of time.

December seemed to fly by. There was so much going on in our church life, and I know there was a lot happening in our personal lives, too. And it seems, as the years go by, the time just seems to go faster. As we get older, we feel like we have less time to accomplish the things that we want to do and it can start to feel like life is passing us by.

Yet, in the middle of the time rushing by us, it is important to also take a Sabbath and a rest. When God created the world, the Bible tells us that on the seventh day, God rest and took in all that had been made. The concept of resting isn't a new one, but I think it's one that many of us aren't very good at. But not only does resting help us to renew and be refreshed, but resting also restores our souls and provides us a space to take in the things that are happening in our lives. Sometimes a rest gives us the opportunity to feel like time isn't just flying by. When we rest, we can stop and marvel and wonder at what God is doing in our lives.

I share this with you because I feel like Holy Cross has had a busy year, and as I look forward to a new year, I know there are lots of ideas and plans which will keep us just as busy. I also know that January is a time where we start putting those things together as we gather at this time of year for our Annual Meeting and start putting our calendars together. Yet, it's my hope that those of you who have had a busy season, might take some time in January to take a rest. To breathe deeply. To restore and renew, to lay low if you need to and take some time for healing if you've been one of the many with December colds and crud.

My family will be resting as we do an odd thing and take a vacation in the middle of January. (We will be away from January 14-21 and if you need pastoral care during that time, please contact Lanai in the office or Laurel Lindstrom and they will be in touch with a local pastor for support.) My hope is to spend much of the month of January getting organized and as ready as I can be for the wonderful things that God will be doing among us in the coming year. I encourage you all to find some time and space for your own rest and your own Sabbath.

May you all have a blessed and restful new year!

Love in Christ, Pastor Kathy Morris

Kids' Epiphany

Kids from Pre-School thru 5th grade are invited to join us for a special day of fun, discovery, games, crafts, learning and food on Friday, January 6 as we hear and celebrate the story of the Wise Men coming to visit Jesus. Please let Pastor Kathy know if your kids can come! Also, let her know if you are able to help with the day. We'll be starting at 9 and finished by 1pm. If there are any teens who want to help, please let Pastor Kathy know!

Confirmation Class

Youth and families involved in our confirmation classes, please be on the look out for a special assignment coming through your email. Kids will take some time to learn about some of the different world faiths and then present to our class on Sunday, January 29 after the 10:30 service. We will only have one class meeting in January, so kids can use the extra time to work on their projects.

Souper Bowl of Caring is Coming!

Youth and Families - please mark your calendars for February 12 as we will again be collecting spare change during our worship services to participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring program and collect money for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. We will need help counting change after the services!

Bible Study

Wednesday Bible study resumed on December 28 and is back to studying the Genesis stories. It's never too late to join. We meet every Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 pm-2:40 pm in a "hybrid" class: we meet in person in the Fellowship Hall, but you can also join in via Zoom. Contact Becky at 775-360-0553 or beckyb485@gmail.com for more information. Here is the Zoom information in case you need to join remotely:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUExQRVY5eIjBXbHJ4dz09>

Meeting ID: 896 3300 9098 Passcode: 050344

Pastor's Monday night Bible study resumes January 23, meeting Monday nights at 6:30pm in Zoom. We discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday and go into more depth and background than you'll get in the sermon.

Proverbs 22:17

"A merry heart does good like medicine"

Special Thank You

Jeff, Abigail, Samuel, and I want to thank you all for the kindness and the gifts given to us this Christmas. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and your generosity.

Love, Pastor Kathy

Vacation Bible School

If you would like to help be on the planning team for Vacation Bible School in June, please let Pastor Kathy know as she will be setting up a planning meeting for the end of January!



Live Nativity 2022

And it's a wrap! The Live Nativity was another success for the community. This first Live Nativity at Holy Cross was held in 1982 before the church building was built. 40 years later we are still providing The Live Nativity Christmas Gift to our community.

Over 160 people attended and participated in this year's Live Nativity. The Christmas Story was portrayed over ten times on Friday and Saturday evenings. The community gathered to watch at the fence or stopping in their cars. Inside the church, all enjoyed hot beverages, food, and Christmas delicacies. Christmas carols were sung with Joey leading the way. Eldora had the craft table up and running and was enjoyed by all. We even had a special performance by the "Little Drummer Boy". In addition, the winter scene photo booth provided a wonderful opportunity for many to take a family photo with their phone or camera.

Many members of the community have been coming to the Live Nativity for many years and return with their own children and grandchildren.

Thank you to everyone that provided food, music, and crafts, performed in the Nativity, directed the Nativity, and built the Live Nativity set.

--Katie Torry



Children's Christmas Program

Dear Holy Cross Family,

The children and leaders of Godly Play say thank you for supporting and attending this year's telling of the Christmas Story for 2022! Filled with story and song, our youth actors walked our church family all the way to Bethlehem to see and hear the mystery of Christmas and share in the wonder of the Christ child. Please enjoy pictures from practice and the Sunday of the pageant.

With Christ's love,

Jolene, Katie, Meghan, and Natalie

Music Program

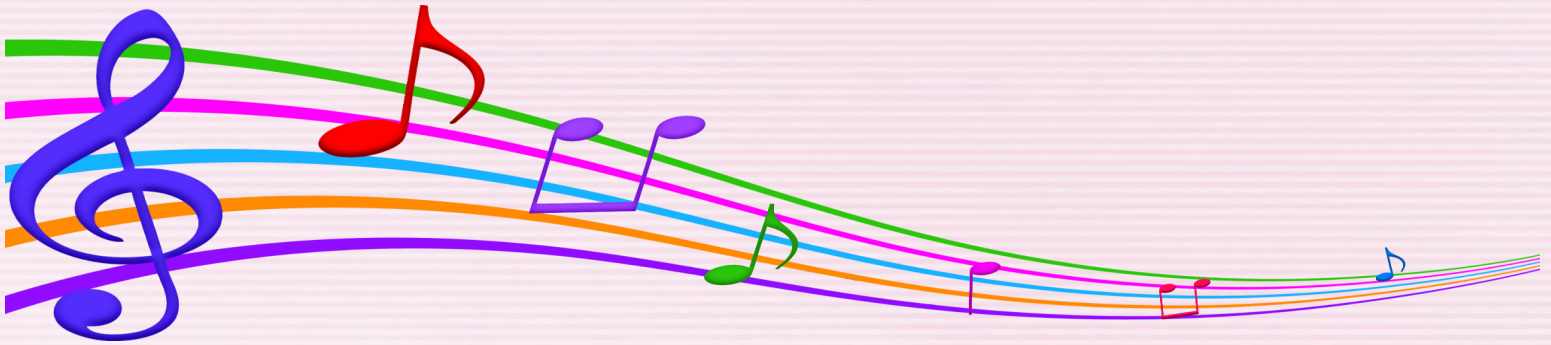
Wow! I hope you had the opportunity to attend one of our Christmas Eve services. Our Music Program is fabulous!

The 4 pm service was the musical extravaganza, with our faithful and talented choir members augmented by UNR singers and instrumentalists. This year was particularly awesome, with one parishioner even exclaiming, “spectacular!” when it was over. Thanks to all who participated to make this service so special.

The 6:30 pm service was “unplugged,” offering a quieter, more reflective view of the wondrous events of that night, including communion. Thanks to Michael and Noelle for adding their talents to this service. And thanks to the musical leadership of Brittney and Becky for both services.

We also want to thank all the “roadies” who helped change the sanctuary in between services, provided a much appreciated supper for all of us who were involved in both services, and helped pack up when the night was done. The members of this church are so willing to lend a hand in whatever needs to be done.”

Would you like to participate? Sometimes there is a lull in January after all our busy Christmas season activities. Want to fill the void? Come join us! We'll put your musical talents to work – singing, playing instruments, sound equipment, even filing music! See Brittney or Becky, and we'll find a place for you.



Council News

Happy January! Due to scheduling conflicts, the council did not meet in December. We are preparing for the annual meeting coming up now in January. I will have completed my term with the council and will be stepping down as President. I want to thank the council members for all their hard work and commitment to Holy Cross. It has been an honor and joy to serve you and Holy Cross during the past 2 years. I am looking forward to working on a welcome statement for Holy Cross with Katie Torry. We would welcome help from you if you have an interest, let Katie or I know. When I look back on 2022, I remember so many wonderful outreach events and the strengthening of our community. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support of our mission here at Holy Cross.

Laurel Lindstrom, Council President

Close Knit Friends

January article from Close Knit Friends: Many of us enjoy the winter wonderland of snow and cold weather with activities like skiing, sledding, building snowmen, and such, while others prefer the indoor activities of sitting under a cozy blanket, sipping hot chocolate, and more. Within our community, there are individuals and families struggling with the challenges of homelessness, poverty, addiction, hospitalization, domestic violence, and rehabilitation. *Close Knit Friends* would like to invite you to help us provide some warmth and comfort for our neighbors in need with your time, talents, support, and prayers. We create hats, scarves, blankets, baby items (hats, booties, sweaters, blankets), Octopus for Preemies, and shawls for Women Veterans and donate them to several local organizations throughout the year. If you can knit or crochet or would like to learn, we would love to have you join us. If you prefer to work on a project at home, we have yarn and patterns available. If you love to shop, we can use washable acrylic yarn, cotton yarn, or a blend of the two. Or shop at a local thrift store for gently used (and please wash) blankets, hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves. We do appreciate prayer for God's help to meet the requests from local organizations! Pick up one of our brochures for a list! We will start 2023 on Monday, January 2, and January 23 at 1 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church to knit and crochet items of warmth and comfort. Stop by to learn a new craft or try a new project, drop off a donation, or come and meet us. For more information contact Peggy at 775-622-0128.

Quilt Group

The Quilt Group completed and gave away 239 Quilts during the 2022 Quilt Year! We are a busy, fun, productive group—Working Together in God's Vineyard.

We deliver quilts to Lutheran World Relief, to our brothers and sisters in need around the world; 8 local social service agencies: Children's Cabinet, Veterans in Transition, Children in Transition (WCSD); Hosanna Home, Ronald McDonald House, Women and Children's Center of the Sierra, Empowerment Center, Summit Estates, Renown, Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit and members and friends of Holy Cross ; delivering Christ's love to our friends and neighbors struggling with homelessness, health issues, addiction, family separation, poverty, natural disasters. Each quilt is made with love and faith and brings hope and emotional warmth to those that receive them—furthering the Mission of Holy Cross—to Worship God and be Christ's disciples in our community and world.

The Quilt Group meets every Thursday 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is welcome to join the quilt group. No quilting or sewing experience is required. Although experienced quilters and seamstresses are also treasured. During our quilt meetings we do a variety of things, cutting fabrics, designing quilt tops, sewing quilt tops, pressing the material, coordinating tops and backs and tying the quilts—something for everyone!

Please come join us for creative work, fun and fellowship!



Supporting Aging Seniors: Senior Transitions Program

This three-week program is offered on February 4,11,18, 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 relationships, 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

Service and Fellowship

As we close out December, we reflect on the incredible opportunities we had to serve our community and fill our souls through our annual Angel Tree and Advent Tea.

To begin, we want to give a big thank you to all of those who participated in the Angel Tree. This year we partnered with Home Instead - Senior Santa program and Smithridge Elementary School. With your generosity, we were able to make Christmas a bit brighter for 15 seniors and four families in our community. We are so excited about the response and willingness to get involved in our community, and we extend heartfelt thanks for making this program a fantastic success.

On Sunday, December 4, we held our 8th Advent Tea in person after a two-year hiatus. It was so wonderful to have the opportunity to come together for Christmas and carols. A big thank you to the musicians, hostesses, service committee, and participants for making this year's event a success. This event wouldn't have been possible without the generous donations of time and talent.

Shared Harvest

(10) Peanut Butter
(40) Mac and Cheese
(40) Powdered Milk
(30) Soup
Disposable Razors

Thank you for being so generous.
Veralyn



Madeline - Peggy Whitney's sister-in-law
Bob - Sue Gonyou's neighbor
Layton and wife Nancy - Sue's neighbor also
Emily Amaral's family & friends after her passing
Jaime - Sue Gonyou's friend
Fano family - Keri Schlosser Wilson's friends
Bethany, Terry, & baby Amelia - Sue Borton's family
Carol Ritter and her granddaughter
Helen Thompson - Laurel and Orlyn's mom
Terry - Laurel and Orlyn's brother
Linda Schlosser, Ashton Meseberg
Ellis and Addy Christman



January 7—Owen Schenk

January 9—Peggy Ince

January 10—Charlie Gevert

January 12—Nellie Namestka

January 14—Martin Theiss

January 18—Trish Riley

January 19—Orlyn Schenk

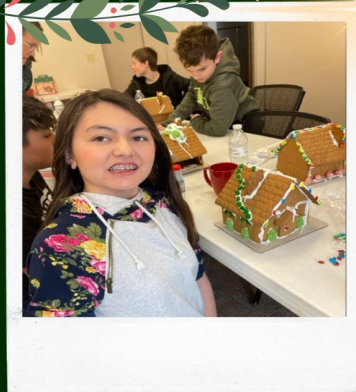
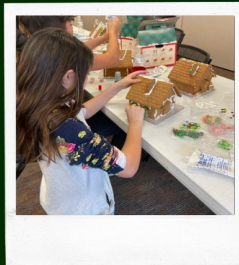
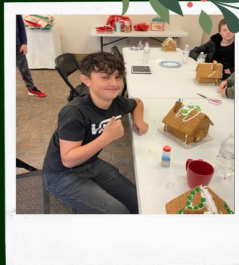
January 22—Laura Grady

January 23—Jolene Jaillet



Live
Nativity



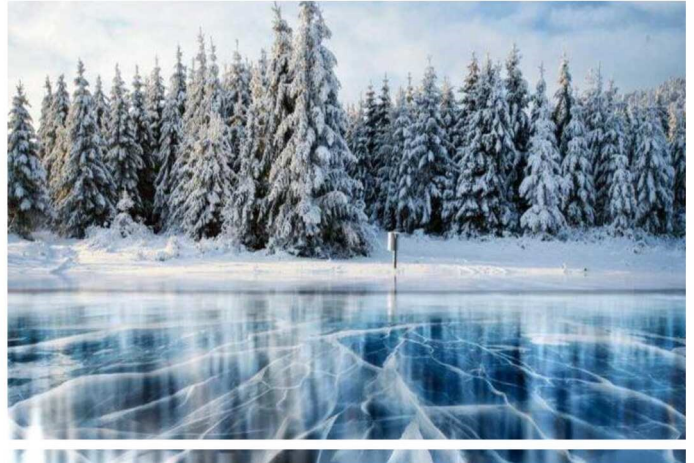


Making *Gingerbread Houses*

Advent Tea



January 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 am Family Worship	2 1 pm Close Knit Friends	3	4 1:30 pm Bible Study 2:30 pm Community Fellowship	5 9:30 am Quilting 1 pm Quilting 3 pm Finance Committee	6 9 am Kids' Epiphany Day	7
8 8 am Choir 9 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	9	10 1 pm Service Committee 5:30 pm Council	11 1:30 pm Bible Study	12 9:30 am Quilting 1 pm Quilting	13	14
15 8am Choir 9am Worship 10:30am Worship	16	17	18 12 noon Senior Lunch 1:30 pm Bible Study	19 9:30 am Quilting 1 pm Quilting	20	21 9 am Quilt Tying Party
22 8 am Choir 9 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	23 1 pm Close Knit Friends 6:30 pm Bible/Book Study	24	25 1:30 pm Bible Study	26 9:30 am Quilting 1 pm Quilting	27	28 1 pm Baby Shower in Fellowship Hall
29 8am Choir 9am Worship 10:30am Worship 11:30 am Confirmation	30 6:30 pm Bible/Book Study	31				

Office Hours:
 Tuesday – Friday
 10 am – 3 pm

Casa Del Alfarero
 Sundays 5:30 pm
 Tuesdays 7 pm

High Desert
 Harmony
 Mondays 6 pm