

The background of the newsletter header features a photograph of a church interior. On the left and right sides, there are tall, narrow stained glass windows with blue and white designs. In the center, a wooden altar is visible, covered with a white cloth and a green runner. A small yellow cup and a lit candle are on the altar. The text is overlaid on a green rectangular background.

Official Newsletter of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church

## **CROSSROADS**

**December 2023**

### **From the Pastor's Desk**

Dear Friends,

It's the 1<sup>st</sup> of December and I'm already behind. I have been down most of the week with a bad cold and sore throat, body and headaches and weariness. At the doctor today, I got tested for a whole bunch of stuff and I don't have any of it. I think I'm finally on the mend, but all of the things I was going to do this week, sadly haven't gotten done. How are you doing?

It's that time of year, where many of us have our inner clocks ticking down the days to Christmas. Children are looking forward to the fun and gifts, while parents and grandparents are thinking about how many days are left to get everything accomplished, and it can be a lot. Even the church calendar is very full this month. There are a lot of things that we've planned to share the good news of Jesus' birth to one another and to our neighbors and friends. We would love to have you come to any or all of the special events to join in the friendships that we share with each other.

However, I also want to encourage you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings as we explore the role that angels have throughout the Bible as we look at some very special Scripture passages and hear about how angels ministered to people in the Bible, how they minister to us, and how we can act as they angels do by bringing hope, peace, joy and love to our world. We invite you to hear the stories of the angels at worship on Sunday mornings at 9am and 10:30 on Sunday mornings. (However, on New Year's Eve, we'll have one service at 9am). We hope your time of worship will be a moment of celebration, joy, and peace in an otherwise busy schedule. So, come and gather with us!

I pray you all have a very blessed Advent and Christmas Season!

Love in Christ, Pastor Kathy Morris

**Crossroads December 2023**



YOU ARE INVITED TO  
OUR

# ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER

SUNDAY

17

AT 10:30 AM



All Children Welcome!

Everyone has a part.

Rehearsal Saturday, December 16

10am-12pm

Parent's are encouraged to stay.



**Come & celebrate with us!**



Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
4895 S. McCarran Blvd.

Reno, NV 89502

775-827-4822/holycrossreno.org





## Wednesday Bible Study

By Becky Bradley

Wednesday Bible Study is on holiday break, resuming December 27. We're on the final discussion about Leviticus. In January, we'll be moving into Numbers as the Israelites leave Mt. Sinai and wander through the desert for the additional 39 years. Lots of good stories coming up as we continue our Survey of the Bible. When we meet, it's Wednesday afternoon from 1:30pm-2:40pm in a "hybrid" class: we meet in person in the Fellowship Hall, but you can also join in by Zoom.

Contact Becky at 775-360-0553 or [beckyb485@gmail.com](mailto: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=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09>

Meeting ID: 896 3300 9098

Passcode: 050344



## SHARED HARVEST

This month we are collecting the following:

**(6) Cans of Chili**

**(30) Crackers**

**(26) Tuna**

**(8) Macaroni & Cheese**

**Thank you for your continued support of Shared Harvest.**

## Music News

By Becky Bradley

Get set – the Extravaganza is back! Our HCLC choir has been working hard to prepare special music for our Christmas Eve service at 4pm on Sunday 12/24. This year we will be joined by singers and instrumentalists from UNR, back to our pre-covid levels! Come join us for a special celebration of Christ's birth in Lessons and Carols, ending with our favorite "Silent Night" and candlelight.





## December Birthdays

12/02 ASHTON MESEBERG  
12/02 NOELLE LENTZ  
12/09 LINDA PUCKETT  
12/09 HEATHER DREW  
12/09 HELEN THOMPSON  
12/13 ELDORA JOHNSON  
12/15 NATALIE TEGIO  
12/15 LAUREL LINDSTROM  
12/17 REANA FERENCIK  
12/19 VERALYN COMBS  
12/22 BECKY BRADLY  
12/22 LANAI STRAWN  
12/25 KATHY MILLS  
12/30 MICHELE SORGE

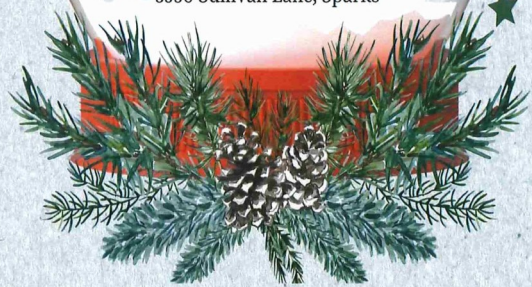


Presents

## High Desert Holidays

Saturday, Dec 16, 2023 | 3:00 pm

Hug High School Theater  
3530 Sullivan Lane, Sparks



\$15 - General Admission  
\$10 - Seniors, Students, Veterans  
Kids 10 and under - Free

[www.highdesertharmony.net](http://www.highdesertharmony.net)



## Quilt Group News

By Diane Torry

On Sunday December 3 a special blessing will be part of our Worship Services. Fifty small quilts, fifty crocheted octopi 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. Close Knit Friends crocheted the octopus and our children and quilters “stuffed” the octopi and sewed them together and made octopi “faces”. The octopi are used to distract the babies from pulling on their multiple lifegiving tubes. The little quilts and octopi, in a sterile, light-blinking, machine-whooshing world, provide a sense of security and normalcy for the parents. The quilts and octopi go home with the babies when they are discharged.

Making these quilts and octopi 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, crochet, and “stuff” 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.

## Close Knit Friends

By Peggy Whitney

Close Knit Friends has finished 2023 with gratitude, thanksgiving, and celebration. Another year was spent knitting and crocheting hats, scarves, blankets, shawls, and many other things for adults and children being helped through local charities and organizations. The group delivered over 1600 items to the Women Veterans Program, Women and Childrens Center of the Sierra, Domestic Violence Resource Center, AWAKEN, Reno's Ronald McDonald House, Renown Hospital's Neonatal Unit, and the Marvel Way Complex. A complete list of our donations are posted in the Fellowship Hall. We thank *Holy Cross Lutheran Church* for their partnership with us and are encouraged to start 2024 after our December break.

We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas Season!

# Welcome New Members

Connie Barnhart  
Fred Barnhart  
Cheryl Eckert  
Art Eggers  
Eric Gieseke  
Jaydin Koch

2023



## Christmas Eve SERVICE

December 24th -- 4pm  
Candlelight Service & Choral Celebration



## Senior Lunch POTLUCK

Join us for a joyous gathering as we embrace the holiday spirit at the Senior Lunch Christmas Party. We'll be hosting a White Elephant Gift Exchange. If you'd like to participate, bring a wrapped gift to join in the merriment.

WEDNESDAY

13  
DEC

AT 11:30AM

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!







## Christmas Caroling!

By Lani Moss

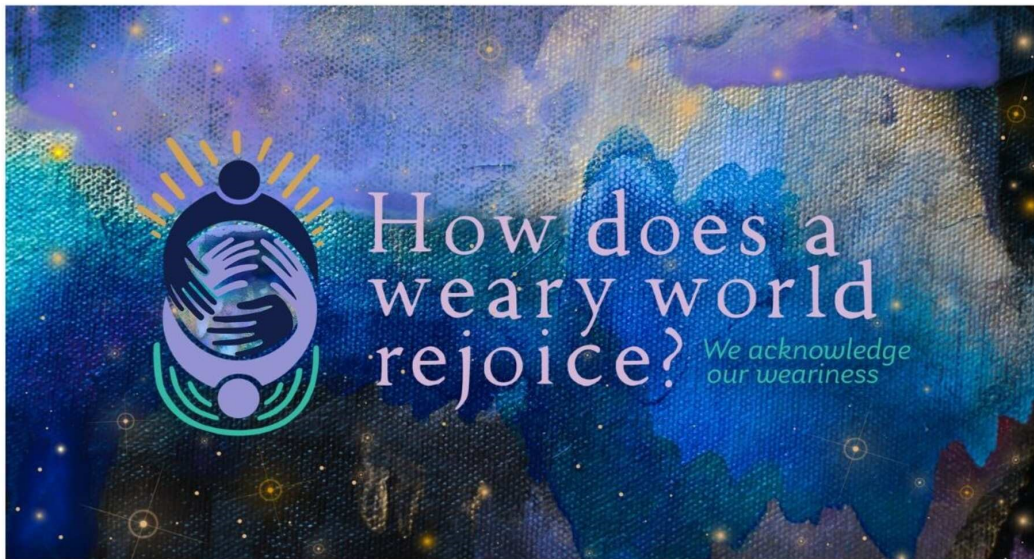
Please join us for a fun evening of Christmas Caroling to our neighbors at Marvel Way, Silver Sage, and Summit Estates Assisted Living Facility on Saturday, December 9th. Meet at the church between 5:30-5:45 and then we will carpool to Summit Estates. After that, we will return to church walk to Marvel Way, and end at Silver Sage. After caroling, we will have a hot chocolate and a goodies party there at Silver Sage. It will probably be cool, so let's all wear festive hats, scarves, and gloves! Please sign up and also let us know if you are willing to drive to carpool to Summit Estates on Patriot Drive.



## Cookie Exchange Thank You

By Lani Moss and Joan Julius

The music program would like to thank everyone who generously donated cookies to the cookie exchange. It was a fantastic success and I think the consensus was to repeat it again next year. With everyone's generosity, we raised \$615.00 in cookie sales. We also received an anonymous donation of \$1,200.00, so the total raised was \$1815.00. Again, thank you to everyone involved. You will be hearing beautiful Christmas music this year and more to come in the new year.



For those who have experienced loss, the joy of the holiday season can often feel elusive and out of reach.

If you are feeling “weary,” this service is for you.

Bring your grief.

Bring your weariness.

Bring your fatigue,

and allow yourself a quiet space to reflect and draw near to God.

We hope this service will provide some peace in your journey.

We will have a trained pet therapy dog with handler  
available for comfort.

## worship for the weary

**Monday, December 4 at 5:30pm**

**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**

Located at 357 Clay St. near Brewer's Cabinet at the  
corner of California Ave. and Arlington Ave.

In the stained glass beauty of Shepherd Hall's Chapel

***All are welcome to join us!***

[goodshepherdreno.org](http://goodshepherdreno.org)

775-329-0696





## Other Ways to Give to Holy Cross

By Diane Torry

Did you know?

1. Holy Cross can accept gifts of stock! We accept stock through our account with Thrivent Financial. Our policy is to convert the stock to cash upon receipt of the stock and use it as the donor directs, following our Acceptance of Gifts policy—general fund, mortgage reduction, memorial funds, and other funds are available to receive gifts. If you have stock that you would like to gift Holy Cross contact, Diane Torry or Laurel Lindstrom. Contact your legal and financial advisors for advice.
2. You can provide a legacy gift to Holy Cross in your Estate Plan: Through your will or trust you can name Holy Cross as a beneficiary of your estate. These gifts can provide a way to help ensure that Holy Cross Ministry will continue beyond your passing—helping to ensure God’s gift of grace, mercy and love continue to be spread through the work of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. When you include Holy Cross Lutheran in your estate plan you strengthen Holy Cross for the next generation. Your generosity transforms lives and builds a stronger community by helping Holy Cross to continue spreading God’s Love. We receive legacy gifts following our Acceptance of Gifts Policy. Your life is a light in this world. With a planned gift your light will continue to shine for years to come. We hope to have a class on planned giving in the coming year. Contact Pastor Kathy or Laurel Lindstrom for further information.



### Instructions for Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App in 4 easy steps

- 1) Download on the App Store (available for apple and Android)
- 2) Enter Holy Cross Lutheran Church or Reno and select Holy Cross Lutheran Church at 4895 S McCarran Blvd, Reno, NV
- 3) Create an account or Log in to your account
- 4) Tap “Give” and enter the information



# PRAYER CHAIN

*Shelby*

*Gail Nemy*

*Justin Hail*

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church Family*

*Connie Patterson - Pastor Patterson's Wife*

*Sharon - Becky's Friend*

*Liz Lepe - Kelly Meseberg's Friend*

*Benjamin - 3-month-old Baby*

*Bonnie - Jody's Sister*

*Jody & Jim Morrison*

*James*

*Kyle, Kelly, & Peggy Meseberg*

*The Meseberg Family*

*The Schlosser Family*

*Cora - Addy & Ellis's Cousin*

*Alisha & Laine - Ryan Bonnet's Sister & Niece*

*Connor's Teacher*

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

*Live Nativity*

Friday & Saturday

December 15 & 16

6pm - 8pm



775-827-4822

Come inside and enjoy free  
food, fellowship, and a festive  
photo opportunity!

4895 S. McCarran Blvd  
holycrossreno@gmail.com  
www.holycrossreno.org



# Council News

By Katie Torry

## Merry Christmas!

November ended with a bang! Our annual Silver Sage Thanksgiving Dinner was very well received. Lots of picture taking, laughter and excellent food. Participants, both from Silver Sage and Holy Cross, shared the afternoon. I would like to thank all the people who made this happen. Natalie Tegio and Peggy Ince worked very hard to make this happen! I also want to thank our youth that took drink orders, served food and bussed tables. The guests loved the extra attention.

I want to thank all members of Holy Cross by engaging in our Stewardship Campaign. We will be reaching out to members about their Time and Talents sheets that were turned in. Members of the different committees should be reaching out in December.

Service committee has a beautiful advent tea planned for Sunday, December 3 at 2 pm.

Thank you to Lani Moss for organizing Christmas Caroling around our neighborhood. If interested please join us on Saturday, December 9 at the church at 5:45 pm.

We are all looking forward to Live Nativity (with an Alpaca!), children's Christmas program, and special Christmas Eve worship services.

As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, please take time to be with family and friends.

Blessings,

Katie Torry  
Council President



# DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



**3**  
9am Worship  
10:30am Worship/Godly Play  
2pm-4pm Advent Tea  
5:30 pm Casa Del Altareo

**4**

**5**  
8am Life Line Screenings  
7pm Casa Del Altareo

**6**

2:30pm Community Fellowship

**7**

9am Quilting  
12pm Quilters Potluck  
1pm Quilting  
3pm Finance Committee

**8**

7:30pm Casa Del Altareo

**9**  
5:45pm Christmas  
Caroling

**10**

9am Worship  
10:30am Worship/Godly Play  
Youth Group  
1pm Tongan Church  
5:30 pm Casa Del Altareo

**11**

**12**

5:45pm Council Meeting  
7pm Casa Del Altareo

**13**

11:30am Senior Lunch Potluck  
5:30pm Confirmation Class

**14**

9am Quilting  
1pm Quilting

**15**

6pm-8pm Live Nativity  
7:30pm Casa Del Altareo

**16**

10am-12 pm Children's Xmas  
Program Rehearsal  
6pm-8pm Live Nativity

**17**

9am Worship  
10:30am Children's Xmas Program  
11:45AM Youth XMAS Party  
1pm Tongan Church  
5:30 pm Casa Del Altareo

**18**

**19**

7pm Casa Del Altareo

**20**

1:30pm Bible Study  
5:30pm Longest Night Service

**21**

9am Quilting  
1pm Quilting

**22**

7:30pm Casa Del Altareo

**23**

6:30pm-8:30 pm  
Community Fellowship

**24**

9am Worship  
10:30am Worship/Godly Play  
1pm Tongan Church  
4pm Candlelight Service  
5:30pm Casa Del Altareo

**25**



**26**

Newsletter Deadline!!  
8AM  
7pm Casa Del Altareo

**27**

1:30pm Bible Study

**28**

9am Quilting  
1pm Quilting

**29**

7:30pm Casa Del Altareo

**30**



**31**

ONE SERVICE TIME TO BE  
DETERMINED  
1pm Tongan Church  
5:30 pm Casa Del Altareo

