

The background of the top section features a photograph of a church interior. On the left and right are tall, narrow stained glass windows with abstract blue and white designs. In the center, a wooden altar is visible, covered with a white cloth and a green stole. A book and a candle are on the altar. The text is overlaid on a green rectangular background.

Official Newsletter of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church

CROSSROADS

November 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

I have been stuck. I have been really stuck as I've been thinking about our annual Stewardship Campaign this year. I've been thinking about ways to inspire you when it comes to your giving, but the truth is you all inspire me. I am constantly humbled by how much you all give to support the mission and the ministry of Holy Cross.

Your financial support for the church is such a tremendous gift as you not only give so generously, but so happily. You understand that your gifts enable us to do the ministry that God calls us to for one another and for the community around us. It is through your gifts that the basic needs of the church and our staff are met, but it is also through your gifts that we are able to lend a helping hand to our community and our neighbors.

Whenever there is a need, whether its for gift cards for families at Thanksgiving, Christmas gifts for families, food for the food bank and Shared Harvest, underwear, socks, coats, blankets, quilts, scarves, hats, school supplies, Halloween candy, Easter Eggs, you all provide, and not just a little here and there. You provide abundantly. It makes me so very proud to serve as your pastor, knowing that this is who you are and who you have been long before I got here.

You also give so generously of your time. I know it often seems like maybe there are a few people who are doing the bulk of the work, and there are times when that is true. But I really love seeing how you all make room for "newer" people to the church to use their gifts and share their ideas. I love how quickly you welcome them to whatever ministry team we've got going. I love how you appreciate the gifts that each other brings.

Continued on Page #2....

From the Pastor's Desk continued...

I also am so grateful to be in a church that shares a generosity of support for me, your pastor. I can't tell you how much I appreciate it when I have a crazy idea... like Trunk or Treat, or a Quilt Show, or Vacation Bible School and you jump up and figure out how to make it happen. And you blow me away with how you make it come together.

I am just so grateful for every one of you. For those who are here every week, for those who have moved away and still keep up with us, for those who have been connected to us in the past and hope to be again... someday, for those who keep up with us online, for those who visit us from time to time, for our community partners and friends. I give thanks because you are all part of this very wonderful Holy Cross Family.

As we move into our stewardship emphasis this fall, you'll hear some about the needs we have to support the mission of the church, and you'll be reminded of the desire we shared last year to build up the church reserves over the next few years. At worship on Sunday, November 19, you'll have the opportunity to make an offering of what you plan to give in 2024, with your pledge cards and updated time and talent forms.

Following each of our worship services, we'll be having brunch for everyone to enjoy fellowship together. We hope you will be able to join us!

I invite you to join us as we worship together in November with a special focus on "Praising God with Thankful Hearts!"

Love in Christ,
Pastor Kathy

Special Event to Help us Get Ready for the Christmas Season:

Book Discussion! *The Christmas Spirit*
by Debbie Macomber

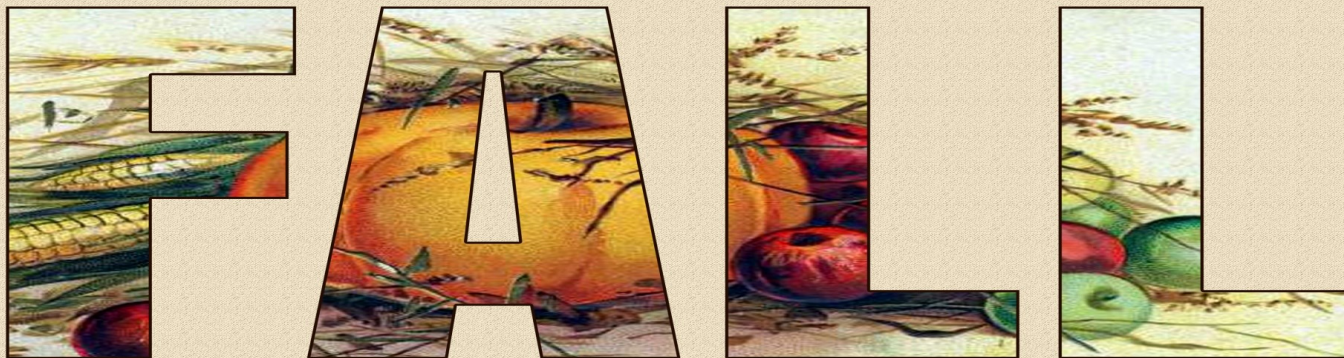
Tuesday, evening, November 28, Pastor Kathy will be hosting a discussion of bestselling author Debbie Macomber's The Christmas Spirit. It is a light-hearted story with a profound meaning that may help us remember what the Christmas season is all about! We'll meet at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall.

A Description of The Christmas Spirit

Peter Armstrong and Hank Colfax are best friends, but their lives couldn't be more different. Peter, the local pastor who is dedicated to his community, spending time visiting the flock, attending meetings, and, with the holiday season approaching, preparing for the Christmas service and live nativity. As a bartender, Hank serves a much different customer base at his family-owned tavern, including a handful of lonely regulars and the local biker gang.

When Peter scoffs that Hank has it easy compared to him, the two decide to switch jobs until Christmas Eve. To their surprise, the responsibilities of a bartender and a pastor are similar, but taking on the other's work is more difficult than either Peter or Hank expected. As the two begin to see each other in a new light—and each discovers a new love to cherish—their lives are forever changed.

In The Christmas Spirit, Debbie Macomber celebrates the true meaning of the holidays and the inclusive community spirit that binds us all.



Wednesday Bible Study

By Becky Bradley

Wednesday Bible Study is heading down the home stretch in our study of Leviticus – only 5 chapters to go! We will meet on November 1, 8, and 15 this month before taking our seasonal break, resuming December 27. When we meet, it's 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 by 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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09)
[pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09)
Meeting ID: 896 3300 9098
Passcode: 050344

SHARED HARVEST

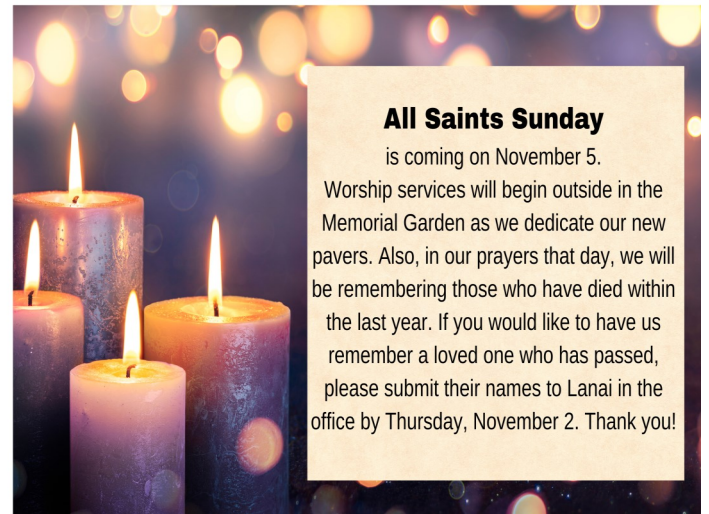
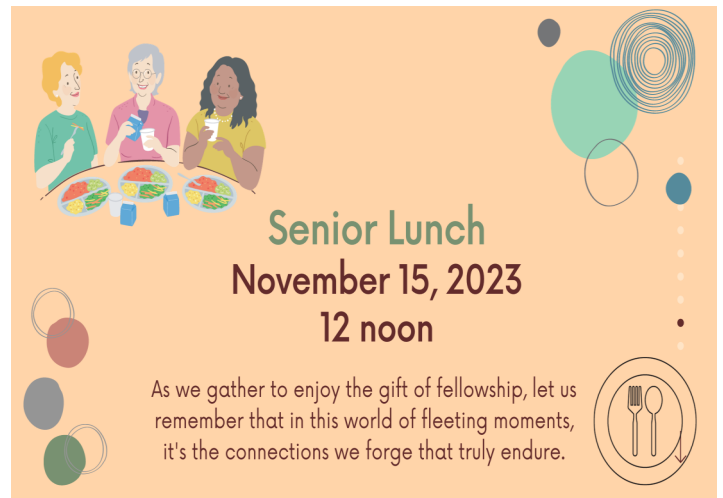
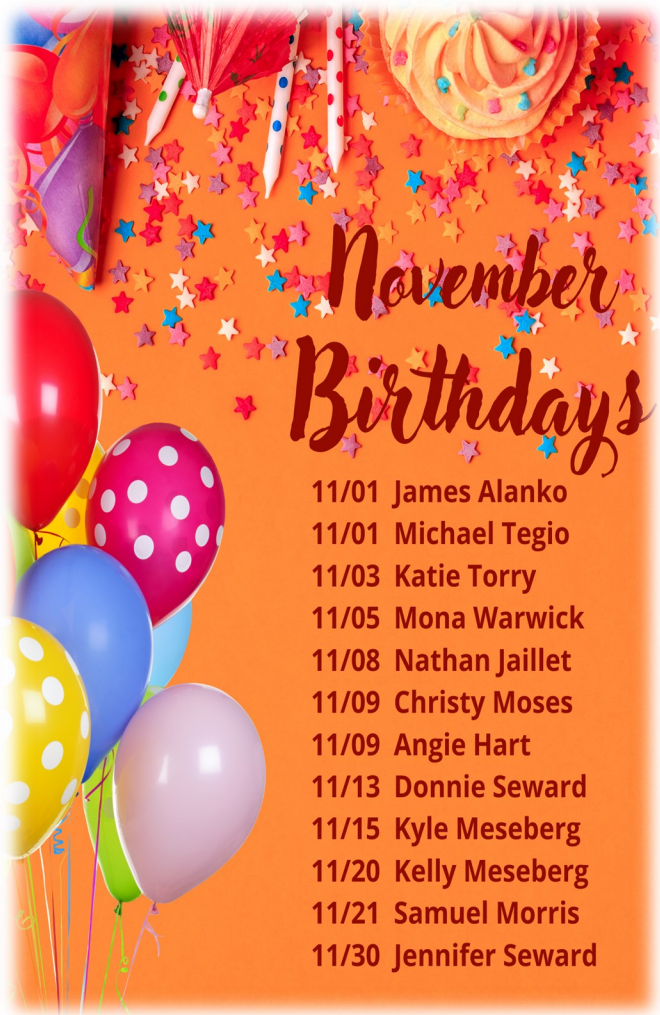
This month we are collecting
the following:

(25) Cereal

Thank you all for being so supportive
of Shared Harvest.



Our youth spent an evening enjoying Andelin Family Farm... zip Line, gaga ball hay ride, visiting with the animals and a trek through the corn maze in the dark! Lucky us...we all made it out!



Celebrate the holiday season with High Desert Harmony! HDH is a nonprofit, volunteer-run, community chorus that welcomes individuals of all ages who identify as female non-binary, or gender-fluid, regardless of musical training or experience. Come learn three songs and sing on the HDH Holiday Show on December 16th.

Email: HDHreno@gmail.com or visit www.HighDesertHarmony.net for more information and to RSVP.

Quilt Group News

By Diane Torry

The Quilt group completed our quilt year in October by distributing quilts locally to Women's and Children's Center of the Sierra, Veterans in Transitions, The Empowerment Center, Ronald McDonald House, Children's Cabinet, Washoe County School District Children in Transition, Renown Neo Natal Unit, Hosana Home, and internationally to Lutheran World Relief. Over 210 Quilts were given away to people in need in our community, around the world and members and friends of Holy Cross. Since the Quilt Group began in 2007 we have given away 2,000 quilts.

Our Quilts bring hope and emotional warmth to those that receive them. Each quilt is made with love and faith—We dedicate the quilts to God's service, trusting that God's love goes wherever each quilt is sent.

Some of the thank you notes we have received this year:

"We cannot thank you enough for your beautiful hand-made quilts. We understand that each quilt takes skill, time, and energy to create. Please know that your creations are bringing smiles and warmth to the families we serve. With care and appreciation." — Ronald McDonald House

"I wanted to reach out and thank you for the beautiful quilts for our CIT families. These quilts bring a sense of comfort in a troubling time in our students lives. Please know that we very much appreciate the Holy Cross contribution to our program." — Washoe County School District, Children in Transition

Come join us —The quilt Group meets every Thursday in The Fellowship Hall—9:30 to noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m. All are welcome, no quilting or sewing experience needed—there is something for everyone!

Close Knit Friends

By Peggy Whitney

This month is known for themes of bountiful harvests and abundant blessings. Close Knit Friends are busy with both. On Monday, November 13 at 1pm, the group will prepare all their finished projects for delivery to local organizations helping our neighbors in need. Our hand knitted and crochet hats, scarves, blankets, shawls, and baby items will be sorted, counted, and packed for the Women Veterans Program, Ronald McDonald House, AWAKEN, Women and Children's Center of the Sierra, Marvel Way Complex, and the Domestic Violence Resource Center. We will also accept gently used and cleaned items that will bring warmth and comfort to individuals and families. Another opportunity is to donate clean acrylic and/or cotton yarn for our future ministry needs.

Our year end *Christmas Tea* will be held on Monday, November 27 from 12:30 - 2:30 pm as we celebrate the goodness and faithfulness of God's hand on the mission and ministry of Close Knit Friends. We will not meet again until January 2024. We are thankful for the partnership with Holy Cross Lutheran Church and look forward to God's blessings in the new year. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season!

If you are interested in participating in our mission work in 2024, please see Peggy Whitney or contact the church office.

Journey to Bethlehem

The Movie Musical

By Pastor Kathy Morris

A new Christmas movie opens in theaters on November 10 called Journey to Bethlehem. If you are interested in going to see it with church friends, please sign up with your email on the sheet in the Narthex and indicate your availability. We will try to find a time that works for as many people as possible. If you are unable to sign up in person, please email Pastor Kathy or Katie Torry your interest.



NEW MEMBER CLASS

Sunday, November 12th

11:45 am

Help Wanted:

By Peggy Ince

Join Our Grounds and Maintenance Committee:

Are you passionate about maintaining and improving the facilities that make our community thrive? Do you have a background in construction or a keen interest in building maintenance? If so, we have an exciting opportunity for you!

Currently, our Grounds and Maintenance Committee consists of only two dedicated members, and we believe it's time to expand our team. The committee is responsible for overseeing and managing the contracts and needs related to our building and grounds, ensuring that our community remains safe, beautiful, and functional. If interested please see Peggy Ince.

Join the Silver Sage Thanksgiving Team

Are you ready to embrace the spirit of gratitude, community, and togetherness? Do you want to ensure that the beloved tradition of Silver Sage Thanksgiving continues to thrive and grow in the years to come? If so, we invite you to become a part of a dedicated team that will carry on this important ministry starting in 2024. We are hoping to put together a 3-5 person team to share in the responsibilities for Silver Sage Thanksgiving. To express your interest, please contact Peggy Ince psince75@gmail.com.



Delivering Quilts



Music Program News

We're already preparing for Christmas! We are looking for singers who would like to join the choir for this special season, culminating in using our gifts to make the Christmas Eve service special for our congregation. We rehearse each Sunday at 8-8:45 am and would love to have you join us!



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! We will be accompanied by Michael Tegio on guitar, so everyone is welcome to sing their hearts out and bring Christmas cheer to our neighbors. Please sign up and also let us know if you are willing to drive to carpool to Summit Estates on Patriot Drive.



Calling All Cookie Lovers

By Diane Torry

Holy Cross Lutheran Church will hold its first-ever **Cookie Exchange** on Sunday, November 12th after both services. This is a fundraiser for the Music Program at HCLC. For this to be a success, we will need generous HCLC members to bake up to 3 dozen cookies and bring them to church either on Saturday, November 11th, 10 a.m. to noon, or just early on Sunday the 12th. For \$20.00, you get to take home a dozen assorted cookies that you get to choose. If you can't use that many cookies, how about 6 cookies for 10.00?

This should be a fun and festive event and part of your holiday baking will already be finished. Cookies always freeze well. We will have boxes for you to take home your scrumptious goodies. The music program at HCLC thanks you ahead of time for your generosity. Baker's sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Any questions, please feel free to contact Joan Julius or Lani Moss.



Holy Cross Outreach

Providing Food for the Hungry in our community!

**Every month Holy Cross joins other Lutheran Congregations
and delivers food and basic supplies to 82 families in the Reno/Sparks Area**
“God’s Work Our Hands”

During November we are gathering 20 cold cereals and shampoo for the monthly Shared Harvest distribution. Thank you for bringing only the requested items.

Holy Cross has participated in Shared Harvest since it began in 1998. Shared Harvest is a joint ministry of Lutheran Churches in Reno/Sparks including Good Shepherd, Faith, Holy Cross, St. Luke's, and Our Saviors. Food and hygiene products are distributed on the 4th Sunday of each month. -- at Easy Inn, Santa Fe, TJ's, El Tavern, and Moran Seniors. In addition, Good Shepherd Clothes Closet clothing vouchers are provided. Shared Harvest's mission is to serve families, seniors, the disabled, veterans, and singles. Those who receive Shared Harvest packages are so very thankful for the help – this ministry outreach sustains life for many.

On the 4th Sunday of each month at 1 p.m., we meet at a church to assemble the food bags. Each church hosts two to three times a year on a rotating schedule. Grocery lists are rotated -- each church brings five different items every month. Each bag contains peanut butter, tuna, chicken noodle soup, chili, cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit, powdered milk, crackers, and mac-n cheese. 82 bags are assembled every month. Hygiene products available are toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, bar soap, laundry soap, and razors. Hygiene kits are provided at some locations, made with hotel soaps and shampoos. We are asked to save these when we travel.

At 2 p.m., following the bag assembly, the volunteers split up and deliver the bags to the locations in Reno and Sparks.

How Can You Support the Shared Harvest Ministry?

Contribute the requested items each month (leave in the Fellowship Hall)

Make a monetary contribution – funds are used to purchase the requested items

Participate in the monthly bag assembly

Participate in the monthly distribution to local sites

Serve on the Shared Harvest Committee

Contact Veralyn Combs 775-354-1957 with any questions or to volunteer

Keep those who serve and those being served in your prayers

**Living our mission to worship God and follow Christ's call to discipleship as we give of
ourselves to the community and those in need worldwide**

Believe in one, Affect Many, Welcome All



Needed: Advent Tea Hostesses

WHEN: December 3, 2:00-4:00 pm

EACH HOSTESS WILL NEED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Holiday-themed table decorations with tablecloth & cloth napkins (or we have paper napkins for you to use)
- 3 dozen cookies or holiday breads – for use on the serving table
- Teapot, creamer, and sugar bowl
- Cups and saucers for 6

Sign-up sheet in the narthex, please contact Linda Schlosser or Sandi Christman if you have any

Service & Fellowship News

By Linda Schlosser

SERVICE

- ♦ October 15- November 12 – Giving Tree for WinCO gift card donations for Smithridge and Pine students. Cards delivered the week of November 13
- ♦ November 12-December 10 – Angel Tree – purchase gifts for children at Smithridge Stem Academy. Requesting 5 families. Home Instead is not able to do an angel tree for seniors this year due to a staffing shortage
- ♦ Eddy House – Peggy Whitney reported on the needs of the Eddy House – Committee decided to do hygiene kits, and a socks and underwear drive from January 21 – February 18. Confirmation class and the youth group will help to assemble and also possibly provide a meal (date and time to be determined - possible Thrivent Card)
- ♦ ELCA Good Gifts Chicks – March through April collect donations to purchase chicks/animals

FELLOWSHIP

- ♦ Monday, November 27 at 8:30 am decorate the church for Christmas
- ♦ Advent Tea – December 3, 2-4:00 pm “Five Senses of Christmas “

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.

SCAN ME



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



Andelin



Farms 2023



Council News

By Katie Torry

Greetings Holy Cross Family!

Are you ready for the upcoming seasons? We had a bumper crop of trunk or treaters on Thursday, October 26 to start off our very busy holiday season. Everyone had an excellent time. Hotdogs were popular as well as face painting. Thank you to the kitchen crew, Mary, John, Beau, Lani, and Juliette, for keeping the food going. Thank you to Natalie for face painting dozens of faces.

Now on to council news. During our meeting we talked about the Silver Sage Thanksgiving Dinner. This dinner will be on Saturday, November 25th. This event has a lot of volunteer opportunities. Peggy Ince and Natalie Tegio are spear heading this event. Please see them for more information.

November starts our Stewardship Campaign. Please see Pastor's article in the Crossroads for more details. I am excited to see the gifts that our congregation shares with each other during this time.

Our next council meeting is set for November 14th at 5:45.

Blessings,

Katie Torry
Council President

Prayer List

RYAN BONNET
DESMOND DOUGAN - LANAI'S GRANDSON
HOSANA HOME AND CRES
JODY MORRISON & FAMILY
NELLIS NAMESTKA
GAIL NEMY & TOM
BEVERLY OLSON
RIMPLE
MARK ROSOL
THE BARBEE FAMILY
THE PERRY FAMILY
DIANE TORRY
LINDA SCHLOSSER
JUSTIN HALL

Youth News

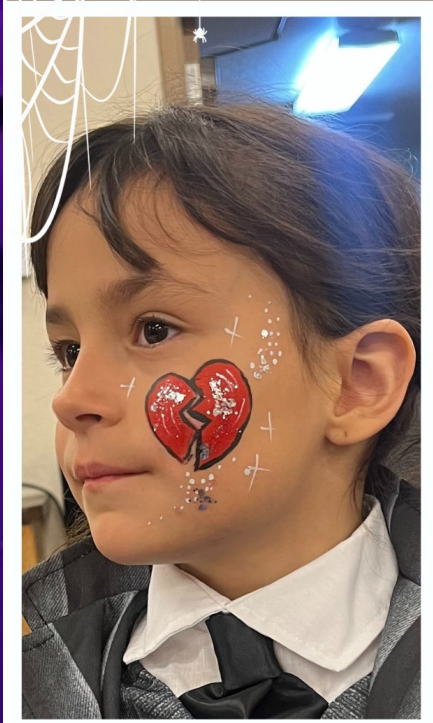
By Pastor Kathy Morris

Confirmation Classes are Wednesdays, November 8 and 29 at 5:30pm.

For our monthly Youth Group Event, we are going to be helping to serve at the Silver Sage Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 25. Please be sure to sign up to help on the sign up sheets in the Narthex.

Youth be sure to "Save the Date", for Sunday, December 10 when we will have a Youth Group Christmas party at the church! We'll have lunch and treats following the second church service, so we'll start around 11:45am!

Trunk or Treat 2023




"Special thanks to Natalie Tegio for her incredible face-painting skills!
You truly transformed our event with your artistic talents,
and the smiles you brought to everyone's faces were priceless."





November 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:30pm Bible Study 2:30pm Community Fellowship	2 9:30am Quilting 1pm Quilting 3pm Finance Committee	5 7:30pm Casa del Alfarero	4 Live Nativity Set Up
5 All Saints Sunday 9am Worship 10:30am Worship/Godly Play	6 6pm High Desert Harmony 6:30pm Zoom Study	7 7pm Casa del Alfarero	8 1:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation Class	9 9:30am Quilting 1pm Quilting 6pm Girl Scouts	10 7:30pm Casa del Alfarero	11
12 Cookie Exchange 9am Worship 10:30am Worship/Godly Play 11:45am New Member Class	15 1pm Close Knit Friends 6pm High Desert Harmony 6:30pm Zoom Study	14 1pm Service Committee 5:45pm Council 7pm Casa del Alfarero	15 12pm Senior Lunch 1:30pm Bible Study	16 9:30am Quilting 1pm Quilting	17 7:30pm Casa del Alfarero	18
19 9am Worship 10:30am Worship/Godly Play	20 12pm Advent Tea Mtg. 1pm Service Committee Mtg. 6pm High Desert Harmony 6:30pm Zoom Study	21 7pm Casa del Alfarero	22	25 Happy Thanksgiving 	24 7:30pm Casa del Alfarero	25 2pm Silver Sage Thanksgiving Dinner
26 9am Worship 10:30am Worship/Godly Play	27 Newsletter Deadline 12pm Close Knit Friends 6pm High Desert Harmony 6:30pm Zoom Study	28 6:30pm "The Christmas Spirit" Book Discussion 7pm Casa del Alfarero	29 5:30pm Confirmation Class	50 9:30am Quilting 1pm Quilting 6pm Girl Scouts		

Every Sunday: 1pm Tongan Church & 5:30pm Casa Del Alfarero