



**October 2023**

## **CROSSROADS**

Official Newsletter of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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

Dear Friends,

I was reading through my Bible this morning and I came across a passage that hit home for me today, and I wanted to share it with you:

“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? ... Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” – Matthew 6:26-27; 34, NIV

I share this with you because I've been having conversations lately with people who are trying not to worry. Many of these have involved health concerns and the waiting that happens when people have tests done. Others are worrying about kids and grandkids. Others are worrying about the state of our nation and the conditions in our community. We worry about loved ones, about life changes, about the unknowns of the future. The reality is that there is plenty to worry about.

I have my moments when I find myself worrying, and as much as I try not to, it's a human condition that many of us have. I can't tell you not to worry, but I can encourage to take your worries and share them with God. Take your worries and turn them into prayers and lay them down in God's hands. Now, I know, there are times when we place them in God's hands and we snatch them back again, but God invites you to keep bringing them back. God loves you and God wants to carry the burden that you worry about. It one of the many ways that God walks with us through all of the joys, the sorrows and the worries of life!

May God's peace be with you!

Love in Christ, *Pastor Kathy*

## Confirmation News

By Pastor Kathy Morris

We continue to make our way through the Bible as we talk about the Israelites and their time in the Wilderness. This month our classes will meet on Wednesday, October 11 and 25 and we will be covering Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 in our Manna and Mercy Books.

## Upcoming Youth Events:

**For Middle School & High School Youth –  
Let's head to the Farm!**

By Pastor Kathy Morris

Join us as we head out to Andelin Family Farm on Friday, October 20. You can either meet us at the church at 4:30 or meet us at the Farm around 5:15. We'll explore the farm, have some fun the corn maze and maybe, even get a little spooked! Pastor Kathy wants to pre-purchase tickets, so let her know no later than Sunday, October 8 if you can go. If there are adults who would like to come along and chaperone, please talk with Pastor Kathy!

## Retreat For Middle School and Elementary School Youth (Grades 3-5)

By Pastor Kathy Morris

There is a retreat opportunity for kids and youth on November 10-12 at Mt. Cross in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We would join with other kids from Lutheran Churches in our Synod and have a great time exploring and growing in faith. There are separate tracks for middle school and for elementary kids. The cost is \$225 but there are scholarships available. Please talk with Pastor Kathy if you are interested in having your child or grandchild attend!

## Trunk or Treat

By Pastor Kathy Morris

Trunk or Treat is coming soon! Join us on Thursday, October 26 from 5:30-7 pm for a fun night of decorated trunks and lots of treats! We do need some help to make this a welcoming community event... We need people to decorate their trunks and pass out candy, we need help in the kitchen, and we would love to have donations of candy and non-edible treats to pass out to the kids. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, so please let us know how you'd like to help. If you are planning on donating candy or treats, please have them to the church by Wednesday, October 25. Also, if you need ideas for how to decorate your trunk, there are lots of ideas online, or talk with Pastor Kathy.

## Rummage Sale Thank You!

By Pastor Kathy Morris

A very big Thank You to everyone who came and helped with the Rummage Sale! We had a great time welcoming our community and selling your treasures, but we could not have done it without your help! Thank you for your donations, your time in setting up, your help at the sale, your help with cleaning up, your shopping skills and your help in spreading the word! We appreciate you all so very much!



## All Saints Sunday

By Pastor Kathy Morris

We will be remembering the saints who have died within the last year on All Saints Sunday, November 5. If you would like for Pastor Kathy to name a specific loved one that you have lost this year, please submit their name to the office by Thursday, November 2. In addition, there will be an opportunity to remember loved ones as we light candles in their memory.

Also, on All Saints Sunday, our worship services will begin outside in the Memorial Garden as we dedicate new paver stones. We invite you to join us on that Special day!

## Coming Up at Worship....

Reformation Sunday is October 29, please plan to wear red as we celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit reforming the church of the past as well as the church of the present!



## SHARED HARVEST

(42) Chili

(4) Peanut Butter

Thanks for your continued support. Please contact Veralyn Combs with questions

## Close Knit Friends

By Peggy Whitney

Happy Fall Y'all! Close Knit Friends is gathering on Monday, October 9 and Monday, October 23 at 1pm to work on hats, scarves, and blankets for our neighbors in need. Several local organizations need these items for their clients as colder weather starts moving in. Knit or crochet a hat or scarf or blankets for babies, children, and adults who face homelessness and other life challenges. We will also accept clean, gently used items from Thrift Stores or your home. Contact Peggy at 775-622-0128 for more information. We thank the quilters and Pastor Kathy for including our work at the Quilt Blessing in September.





## Holy Cross Lutheran Church

### Senior Transitions Program Hospice Care and Memorial and Funeral Planning

The Senior Transitions program is a small group ministry that provides a forum where seniors can explore options for life transitions in a supportive environment.



**Contact:**

**Holy Cross  
Lutheran Church**  
4895 S. McCarran  
Blvd. Reno, NV  
Name: Lanai Strawn  
Phone : 775-827-4822  
email: holycrossreno@gmail.com



Program Coordinator  
Diane Torrey  
Phone: 775 747-0976  
E-mail: dbtorrey@att.net

It's human nature to put off or even ignore life's difficult decisions. The challenges of aging may intimidate us.

This Senior Transitions one-day program offers a supportive environment where you can learn about the services provided by Hospice as we enter the final times and Memorial Service and Funeral Planning.

Having a choice has always been important in life, and it is especially important during this time. The one-day class includes speakers, discussions, and Q&A. These classes will assist you with identifying future needs and choices to meet your needs.

Everyone is welcome. If you are interested in participating, sign up at Holy Cross Lutheran Church or contact the program coordinator.

**Register Now:**

**Program date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023; 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Fellowship Hall**

LET'S CELEBRATE

# OKTOBER FEST

FESTIVAL

15 OCT | 11:30 AM

● Sign-up sheet in the narthex

**FREE**

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN

TRUNK OR TREAT  
OCTOBER 26  
5:30 PM - 7 PM

[www.holycrossreno.org](http://www.holycrossreno.org)

## Cooking with Gloria



## 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.

Contact your legal and financial advisors for advice.

## Quilt Group News



**By Diane Torry**

In September we “wrapped up our “Quilt Year”. On Sunday, September 24 we blessed our quilts, the Sanctuary was a rainbow of color, art, and caring. This year Holy Cross Quilters are giving away more than 225 quilts. Since the quilt group began seventeen years ago, we have given away 2000 quilts!!

The “fun begins when we distribute our quilts, locally to Veterans in Transition—for Veterans getting established in their own homes, Washoe County School District, Children in Transition—helping homeless students in our School District; Ronald McDonald House—supporting families of children who are hospitalized; Hosana Home -helping women regain their lives; and the Children’s Cabinet—helping children in our community, Women’s Children Center of the Sierra, helping women and children move from poverty to self-sufficiency, the Empowerment Center helping women recovery from addiction, Renown Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit and through Lutheran World Relief, we send our quilts to our brothers and sisters in need around the world. We also are blessed to provide a comforting quilt to congregation members, friends, and neighbors in need of support and comfort.

Thank you to everyone who participates and supports the Quilt Group’s outreach ministry of Holy Cross. A special thank you to Pastor Kathy for delivering our quilts to the LWR In Gathering in California

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, making each quilt we have created an expression of love.

During October and November, we will be working on 24-inch small quilts that we will give to the Renown Neo-Natal Intensive Care Units for babies who are in the NICU units over the Holiday season.

Thank you to everyone who participates and supports the Quilt Groups outreach ministry of Holy Cross.

**Come join us---all are welcome!!**



**Crossroads October 2023**

# Calling All Cookie Lovers

...and those getting ready for the upcoming holidays!

By Diane Torry

Holy Cross Lutheran Church will hold its first-ever **Cookie Exchange** on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. to noon, or just early on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>. 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. Please be on the lookout for the baker's sign-up sheet in the narthex.

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

## Fellowship & Service News

By Linda Schlosser

### Fellowship

- Making Cannoli with Gloria was so much fun, as well as, very yummy. We will be planning another class again soon!
- October 15 – Oktoberfest following second service. A sign-up for attendance and side dishes is located in the narthex.
- December 3, 2-4:00 pm – Ladies Advent Tea

### Service

- Coat Drive – In case you missed some coats in your closet for the rummage sale, the Service Committee will be collecting new and gently used clean coats from October 1 through October 15 to donate to the Women and Children of the Sierra
- October 15 - November 12 – Giving Tree for WinCo gift card donations for Smithridge Stem Academy and Pine students.
- November 12 – December 10 – Angel Tee – purchase gift cards for children and their families at Smithridge Stem Academy.



Crossroads October 2023







## Music Program News

By Katie Torry

We're back in the swing of our regular schedule. The 9 am service is traditional with hymns, liturgy, and choir; the 1030 am service is praise format with praise songs and praise team. The choir will be singing at the 9 am service on 10/1 and 10/29, and also at the 1030 am service on 10/15. We are always looking for new people to participate in – choir, praise team, and specials. We have a place for you to share your talents!

## Bible Study News

By Becky Bradley

Pastor's Monday night Bible study has resumed, although there is no class on Monday, October 2. We meet on Monday nights at 6:30 pm on Zoom. We discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday and go into more depth and background than you'll get in the sermon.

Wednesday Bible Study is studying Leviticus, moving through the Holiness Code and festivals. You can join the class at any time, no matter what book we're currently studying.

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 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=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUEExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09>

Meeting ID: 896 3300 9098

Passcode: 050344

## Welcome Center News

By Diane Torry

The Welcome Center and Holy Cross members have been busy extending Christ's Welcome to visitors. The Welcome Center has information about Holy Cross in a Welcome packet, brochures about Holy Cross, prayer requests and visitor information cards. All of this information is available for all of us to use to welcome a visitor or friend—helping all to ensure everyone is greeted, welcomed and provided information about all the "Good News" at Holy Cross. Take a packet or information and share with a family member, friend or neighbor!

This year, we have welcomed an average of 5 visitors a Sunday. Many have been invited by a member or friend---we are making progress on our goal of becoming a more inviting congregation! Repeat visitors, feel welcomed, and come back to worship with us in our community of faith.

Visitors also find out about us, through our location, Website, Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, and the ELCA website.

Opportunities to Help!

1. We need additional volunteers to "staff" the Welcome Center each Sunday
2. Make the ribbon crosses included in the Welcome Packet

Talk with Peggy Whitney or Diane Torry if you can help with welcoming our visitors.





## Council News

By Katie Torry

Hello Holy Cross Family,

We continue to have a fabulous outreach this season!

Our rummage sale was a huge success and helped many people in our community and beyond. I believe that one of our shoppers came all the way from Roseville, CA. We had many repeat customers and many customers mentioned coming back again next year. Well done, Holy Cross!

During this meeting, we read through the Audit Report prepared by Jody Morrison and Robin Peri. The report was discussed by the council. We look forward to implementing the suggestions.

Our roof is on the schedule to be repaired by D&D roofing. We have two leaks. One in the fellowship hall and one down the hall by the Godly Playroom.

In other news, it was mentioned that we could use more people in our Choir. Please reach out to Brittney May or Lani Moss for more information.

Our next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Peace and Blessings,

Katie Torry

Council President



# Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly

September 15, 16, and 17

By Katie Torry

Katie Torry and Sandi Christman, (voting members) Peggy Ince, and Diane Torry (volunteers) attended the Synod Assembly in Burlingame CA Sept. 15,16,17.

The primary work of the Assembly was electing a new Bishop. Reverend Jeff Johnson was elected Bishop for a six-year term. There were 31 candidates who were nominated on the first ballot, and following discernment, and hearing from the candidates, and several ballots, Johnson was elected on the fifth ballot, with 226 votes to 168 votes for the Rev. John Kuehne, pastor of Unity Lutheran Church in South San Francisco and bridge pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in San Mateo, Calif. Johnson is the first openly gay man to be elected bishop in the synod.

The bishop-elect has served as pastor of the University Lutheran Chapel of Berkeley and as a member of the Spiritual Care Team at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, since 2013. Previously he served as pastor of First United Lutheran Church in San Francisco (1990-1999), as a mission developer for Lutheran Lesbian and Gay Ministries in San Francisco (1990-1995), as HIV education director for Lutheran Social Services of Northern California (1988-1989), as assistant night minister for San Francisco Night Ministry (1987-1988), and was an intern at the Lutheran Office of Public Policy and at First English Lutheran Church in Sacramento (1986-1987).

Johnson received his Bachelor of Arts in history and Bachelor of Arts in German from California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, in 1984, and his Master of Divinity from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1988. Johnson was ordained in 1990. Pacific is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

Other activities of the Assembly included electing Synod council members, passing the annual budget, welcoming La Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria Peregrina Congregation into the Synod, beautiful music, Worship, workshops, and a banquet with a Jazz band and dancing!

We enjoyed being part of conducting Synod business, meeting others from across the Synod and helping make this year's Assembly successful and joyful.

Fun Facts: University Lutheran offers Godly Play as their Sunday School program, Peggy Ince escorted Rev. Johnson to the breakout sessions during the balloting process, and Diane Torry served on the Bishop's Election Committee.





## Fall Cleaning Days

October 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>

The church will be open at 9 am.

Signup sheet coming soon.

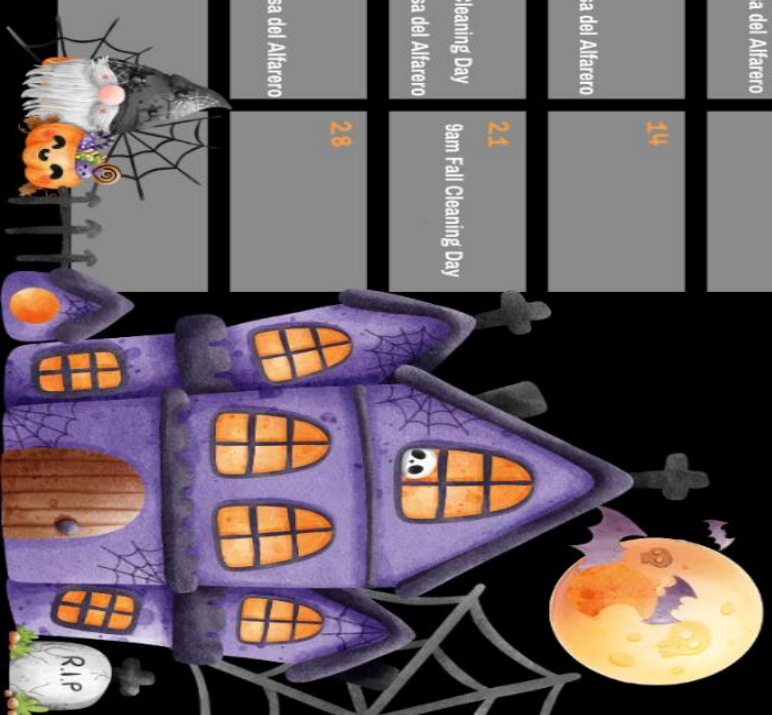




# OCTOBER 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9am Worship 10:30am Worship/Godly Play 1pm Tongan Church 5:30pm Casa del Alifareo	<b>2</b> 6pm High Desert Harmony 6:30pm Zoom Study	<b>3</b> 7pm Casa del Alifareo	<b>4</b> 1:30pm Bible Study 2:30pm Community Fellowship	<b>5</b> 9:30am Quilting 1pm Quilting	<b>6</b> 7:30pm Casa del Alifareo	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9am Worship 10:30am Worship/Godly Play 1pm Tongan Church 5:30pm Casa del Alifareo	<b>9</b> 1pm Close Knit Friends 6pm High Desert Harmony 6:30pm Zoom Study	<b>10</b> 1pm Service Committee 5:45pm Council 7pm Casa del Alifareo	<b>11</b> 1:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation Class	<b>12</b> 9:30am Quilting 1pm Quilting 6pm Girl Scouts	<b>13</b> 7:30pm Casa del Alifareo	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9am Worship 10:30am Worship/Godly Play 1pm Tongan Church 5:30pm Casa del Alifareo	<b>16</b> 6pm High Desert Harmony 6:30pm Zoom Study	<b>17</b> 10am Senior Transitions 7pm Casa del Alifareo	<b>18</b> 12pm Senior Lunch 1:30pm Bible Study	<b>19</b> 9am Fall Cleaning Day 9:30am Quilting 1pm Quilting	<b>20</b> 9am Fall Cleaning Day 7:30pm Casa del Alifareo	<b>21</b> 9am Fall Cleaning Day
<b>22</b> 9am Worship 10:30am Worship/Godly Play 1pm Tongan Church 5:30pm Casa del Alifareo	<b>23</b> 1pm Close Knit Friends 6pm High Desert Harmony 6:30pm Zoom Study	<b>24</b> 7pm Casa del Alifareo	<b>25</b> 1:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation Class	<b>26</b> 9:30am Quilting 1pm Quilting 5:30pm Trunk or Treat	<b>27</b> 7:30pm Casa del Alifareo	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9am Worship 10:30am Worship/Godly Play 1pm Tongan Church 5:30pm Casa del Alifareo	<b>30</b> Newsletter Deadline 6pm High Desert Harmony 6:30pm Zoom Study	<b>31</b> 7pm Casa del Alifareo				



Octoberfest 10/15 11:30am  
 Fall Cleaning Days 10/19, 10/20, 10/21  
 Youth Group 10/20  
 Trunk or Treat 10/26 5:30pm  
 Newsletter Deadline 10/30

