



Official Newsletter of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church

CROSSROADS

December 2024



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

We've been having a debate in my house, when can we start getting ready for Christmas? When can we decorate? When can we watch the Christmas movies? When can we listen to Christmas music? The standard answer is the day after Thanksgiving, but this year, Thanksgiving was so late, so it was causing some confusion, especially among the kids. If it was up to my daughter, we would have had the tree up the day after Halloween, but my son wants to make sure Thanksgiving gets its own recognition. (I can see both sides of the issue and didn't want to tell them that I'm already listening to Christmas music.)

I've always appreciated that the church has the season of Advent to help us get ready for Christmas. I find I can get wrapped up in all of the "Christmas Stuff" and even the "Church Christmas Stuff" so the reminder of Advent as a period of intentionally waiting for Jesus to come brings peace to my mind and my heart.

As a church, Advent is always a busy season as there are lots of things happening and offered through the church. We do a lot of giving as we share gifts with children in the community, baby quilts and octopuses with children and families in the NICU, and more. We do a lot of socializing (and eating) as we gather for fellowship events like the Advent Tea, senior lunch, a youth swim day, and Christmas parties. We do a lot of community outreach as we host the Live Nativity and go out to Christmas carol. This year, we're adding a new event on Wednesday nights, an intergenerational activity night, where we'll have dinner, a Christmas story and create some special projects to enhance our season. (You can read more about it later in the newsletter.)

While all of these events are fun and easy to invite people to, a highlight for me in Advent is always worship. This year I'm going to be preaching a sermon series called, "Love Comes" which emphasizes different ways the love of God comes to us. I'm hopeful it's going to be a pause and the reminder that we need as we wait and ready our hearts for the coming of Jesus.

From the Pastor's Desk Continued....

December 1: Love Comes Subtly

December 8: Love Comes Clearing a Way

December 15: Love Comes Calling for Action (9am) and our Children's Christmas Program (10:30am)

December 22: Love Comes Leaping with Joy (And Everyone Gets to Play)

December 24: Christmas Eve at 4pm and 6:30pm – Love Comes... To Us... For Us

And following Christmas, the celebration will continue...

December 29 – One service of lessons and carols at 9:30

January 5 – We'll celebrate Epiphany as we return to two services

I know, it's a lot going on, and maybe it's too much "stuff" going on, but these are all the ways that we shine the light of Christ to one another and to our community. So, come and join us, celebrate the season, prepare your hearts as Love Comes to us again.

And just so you know, council has already decided that January is going to be a "Chill Month." We aren't planning a lot of extra church events to give us all a chance to rest.

May you all have a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Love in Christ, Pastor Kathy

Youth News

Confirmation Classes are December 3 and December 17. Join us at 4:30 as we continue our discussion of the Apostle's Creed.

All Youth, Children and Families are invited to join us for a **winter swim day on Friday, December 27**. Sign up to let us know if you are coming and keep posted for the cost and the time. We'll meet at the new Moana Springs Pool. Parents are required to attend with elementary school and younger children.

Youth, be sure to have some fun with us on Wednesday nights, at Live Nativity, and Christmas caroling!

Youth and Parents, save the date of January 12 as we will have a Youth and Parent Meeting to make some plans for 2025!

Special Thank You:

Thank you to all who supported our Cookie Exchange and our Mini-Craft Fair – we are grateful for your support!

Thank you to all who participated in our annual Stewardship Sunday! Thank you for turning in your estimate of giving cards and time and Talent Forms for 2025. If you did not get a chance to return them, or still need one, they are still available at the church, and you can return them to the church office or to Laurel Lindstrom, our financial Secretary.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and effort to decorate the church for the Christmas season—your work truly brightens our celebrations!



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
OUR
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

DECEMBER

SUNDAY

15

AT 10:30 AM

All Children Welcome!

Everyone has a part.

Rehearsal Saturday, December 14

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



Joy to the World

Monday Bible Study

By Pastor Kathy Morris

Mondays, December 2, 9, and 16th, we will meet on Zoom at 4pm and discuss the upcoming Sunday's lessons. We will return on January 13. Use the following link to connect with us:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85131805610?pwd=i0m8UFDU0HCyhdIGHvHBRhW0rKBT2a.1>

Meeting ID: 851 3180 5610

Passcode: 235170



Wednesday Bible Study

By Becky Bradley

Wednesday Bible Study finished Deuteronomy, just in time for our holiday break. We will be resuming on January 8 so that you have the opportunity to participate in other celebrations and get-togethers during these upcoming weeks. Don't forget The Reason for the Season!

Music News

By Becky Bradley

First of all, thank you to the congregation for supporting the Cookie Exchange, with proceeds going to the music department. This allows us to purchase new music as well as hire additional musicians (singers and orchestra) to make our musical offerings even more special. Thanks to Lani for advocating for us on the Council and getting this opportunity in place.

The music program is moving at warp speed to prepare Christmas music and enhance our worship experience Christmas Eve. We will have our 4pm Gala of Lessons and Carols, with our HCLC choir augmented by additional singers and instrumentalists. The 630pm service will be more intimate and meditative, and includes communion. We look forward to seeing you at one - or both!



Quilt Group News

By Diane Torry

On Sunday, December 1 a special blessing will be part of our Worship Services. Fifty-six small quilts, fifty-six 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 Close Knit Friends. 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, 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

We're making a list and checking it twice! No, not THAT list...the Close Knit Friends list.! We want to make sure we thank everyone who donated blankets and jackets during November to distribute along with our hand knit/crochet hats, scarves, and blankets. The need was great but Pastor Kathy said you were a generous congregation. Thank You All! We will have a total count of the 2024 donations to the local organizations soon. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a joyous 2025. God Bless All! We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas Season!





Service Committee News

By Linda Schlosser

Thank you to the congregation for your generous donations for Pine Middle School and Smithridge Stem Academy. Together we collected \$335 to purchase WinCo gift cards. Both schools were very happy to receive these cards as it provides much needed help to their families.

Our Angel Tree is up now through December 15. We will be supporting families from Smithridge Stem Academy. You will see requests for toys, clothing, books and gift cards. Take a numbered angel off the tree, write your name next to that number that corresponds with the angel you chose on the sheet attached to the tree. Return the wrapped present with the angel gently attached to the gift Sunday, December 15 no later than the beginning of second service.

Thank you for your continued support of these projects.

Fellowship News

By Linda Schlosser

LADIES don't forget to sign up for the 2024 Advent Tea – December 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. This year's theme is Wrapped in God's Love. Please join us for an afternoon of music, fellowship, and, of course, tea and light refreshments. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex for table hostesses and attendees. Please see Linda Schlosser or Sandi Christman if you have any questions. The deadline to sign up is December 1.



Christmas Eve

SERVICES

December 24th @ 4 pm & 6:30pm



Shared Harvest

Thank you
for your
continued
support

22 DECEMBER

We are looking to collect the following items:

- (42) Cans of Chili
- (56) Canned Vegetables
- (42) Boxes of Crackers
- (43) Cans of Tuna

See Peggy Ince for more information.



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

18
DEC

AT 11:30AM

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!





Christmas Eve Services

By Pastor Kathy Morris

Join us for our Christmas Eve worship services on Tuesday, December 24!

4pm – Choral Candlelight Celebration — A worship service filled with music and lessons and a special message from the Pastor for kids and adults.

6:30pm – “Around the Manger” – A quieter, more contemplative service with the manger as our focal point. We will have candlelight, communion, lessons and a message from the Pastor.



Blue Christmas Service Monday, Dec. 9 at 5:30pm

*A Liturgy of
Endings and Beginnings*

Bring your grief. Bring your weariness.
Bring your anxiety & fear, and allow yourself a
quiet space to reflect and draw near to God.



Good Shepherd is located at 357 Clay St. in Reno near the corner of California and Arlington Avenues. Parking is available in the lot entered from California Avenue on the west side of the church or on nearby streets.

The service will be held in Shepherd Hall.

**Lutheran Church
of the Good Shepherd**



Cookie Exchange & Craft Fair Recap & Thank You!

By Lani Moss

Our 2nd annual Cookie Exchange was a hit again! The cookies that were provided were beautiful and yummy. Starting our holiday season netted about \$650.00 for the music program. Thank you to all who donated cookies and purchased cookies!



This was our first mini craft fair, and there were so many beautiful crafts: ornaments, rock painting, holiday headwear, stitched items, jewelry, and jams and relishes, and cards and booklets. Thank you to the crafters who purchased tables and to those who purchased items. We were able to raise more than \$300.00 towards the Helping Hands Fund. Please let us know if you think we should do the craft fair again next year!

Christmas Caroling!

By Lani Moss

Please join us for a fun afternoon of Christmas Caroling December 21st. Meet at the church at 3:30 pm. We will carol at Volante assisted care facility from 4-5 pm, return to church for a light dinner, and then carol at Silver Sage at 6 pm. Please sign up so we know how much food to have for dinner. It will probably be cool, so let's wear festive hats, scarves, and gloves!



Midweek Communion

1ST WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH



December 4
1:00 pm

It is a small intimate
gathering that lasts
about 10 minutes



The Angel Tree

December 1 - December 15

The Service Committee is
hosting a holiday gift drive!

Please stop by the angel
tree, select a tag, and
purchase the requested gifts
for a Smithridge Stem
Academy family in need.



"Remembering the
words of the Lord Jesus,
for he himself said, 'It is
more blessed to give
than to receive.'"

Acts 20:35



Advent Wednesdays

December 4, 11, & 18

5:30 - 6:00 pm
Dinner

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Devotions, Crafts, & Christmas Carols

Sign up Today!

Join us for our Intergenerational Advent Wednesdays on December 4th, 11th, and 18th! These special evenings will include devotions, craft time, and singing a Christmas carol, creating a meaningful way for all ages to come together and celebrate the season.

- **December 4th:** Pizza dinner
- **December 11th:** Bring your own meal
- **December 18th:** Potluck dinner

There are two signup sheets in the Narthex. For more details, feel free to contact Pastor Kathy or Connie Barnhart.





Prayer List

Nellie Namestka

Ann M, Shelly H, Bonnie O

(all friends of Sandi Christman)

Bill P (friend of Peggy Whitney)

Meredith Frazier

Mirka and Mira Slovak

Maria Rosol

Heidi Disbro (Pastor Kathy's Niece)

LIVE NATIVITY

DECEMBER 13 & 14

6 pm - 8 pm

Warm up inside,
where you can enjoy
complimentary food,
drinks, and fellowship.

Invite a friend and join us!



*Christ
Our
Savior is Born*



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

Mini Quilt Show 2024



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the Blanket & Coat Drive for the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra. Your generous donations of blankets and coats will go a long way in providing warmth and comfort to families in need this winter.

Thank you for your continued support and for making a difference in our community. Your kindness and generosity are truly appreciated!

Council News

By Katie Torry

Happy Holidays Holy Cross Family,

It is hard to believe that the Christmas season is upon us, but here it is! Hold on to your hats, we are in for a busy, busy Christmas season!

As we enter this holiday season, I want to thank you for being a part of the family of faith and listening to our shared stories of faith. Your support of this faith family is truly inspiring to so many. I look forward to working and learning with all of you in the upcoming year.

I want to thank Peggy Ince, Connie Barnhart, and Jan Looney for organizing our spaghetti and craft night! The meal was great, and the craft was perfect. I am looking forward to the finished project.

Our cookie exchange and mini craft faire was another great success for November. This was our second year doing a craft faire and our first time hosting a mini craft fair. Both events were well attended. I want to thank all the cookie bakers and the crafters for sharing their talents. The money raised will be used for our music program and the Helping Hands Fund.

Our final event in November was our Silver Sage Dinner on Saturday, November 30 th . We served dinner from 2-4 pm. I want to thank our head chefs Natalie Tegio and Peggy Ince. I also want to thank all of the people that donated time and food to make this event happen.

And that was just the end of November, and now let's look at the upcoming events for December.

To start, we have our neonatal quilts and octopi to be blessed on December 1. Then we move right into our first Wednesday Advent Night on December 4 from 5:30-8 pm. Please sign up in the Narthex this coming Sunday, December 1. We will be doing Wednesday Advent Night on December 11 and 18.

Don't forget our Live Nativity happens on December 13 and 14. We are looking for a lot of helpers for this community event.

Our children's program will be Sunday, December 15 at the 10:30 Service. Play practice is Saturday, December 13 from 10-12.

Finally, we have Christmas Caroling on Saturday, December 21. Details to follow.

And so that is the end of the year! I look forward to serving and working with you during this wonderful time of year.

Peace and Blessings,

Katie Torry
Council President



WOULD YOU SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL?

New members of our Church Council will be elected at the Annual Meeting in late January. Our Church Council consists of not more than ten members of the congregation and the Pastor. Council members are elected for a two-year term, and may serve two terms. The Council meets once a month.

The council has general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation, engages in planning, setting goals and priorities, evaluates our activities in light of our mission and goals and seeks to involve all in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.

If you are interested in serving on the Council, and standing for election at the Annual Congregation Meeting, contact Katie Torry.

*Thank you for considering this opportunity for service
at Holy Cross.*

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1
8 am Choir Rehearsal
9 am Worship
1030 am Worship

2
4 pm Zoom Study
6 pm High Desert Harmony

3
430 pm Confirmation Class
615 pm Chosen Study
6 pm Casa Del Alfarero

4
1 pm Communion
230 pm Community Fellowship
530 pm Advent Wednesday

5
9 am Quilting

6
730 pm Casa Del Alfarero

7

8
8 am Choir Rehearsal
9 am Worship
1030 am Worship/Godly Play
2-4 pm Advent Tea

9
1230 pm Close Knit Friends
4 pm Zoom Study
6 pm High Desert Harmony

10
530 pm Council
6 pm Casa Del Alfarero

11
5:30 pm Advent Wednesday

12
9 am Quilting

13
6 pm - 8 pm Live Nativity
730 pm Casa Del Alfarero

14
10-12 Children's Program Practice
6 pm - 8 pm Live Nativity

15
8 am Choir Rehearsal
9 am Worship
1030 am Children's Program

16
4 pm Zoom Study
6 pm High Desert Harmony

17
430 pm Confirmation Class
6 pm Casa Del Alfarero

18
1130 pm Senior Lunch
Potluck (White Elephant)
530 pm Advent Wednesday

19
9 am Quilting
5 pm Community Fellowship
Potluck

20
730 pm Casa Del Alfarero

21
930 am Choir Rehearsal
330 pm Christmas Caroling

22
8 am Choir Rehearsal
9 am Worship
1030 am Worship/Godly Play

23
6 pm HCLC Choir Practice
630 pm Community Fellowship

24
4 pm Christmas Eve Service
630 pm Christmas Eve Service
6 pm Casa Del Alfarero

25
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

26
9 am Quilting

27
Outing to new Reno Pool
730 pm Casa Del Alfarero

28

29
9 am Worship

30
6 pm High Desert Harmony

31
6 pm Casa Del Alfarero