

Dear Friends.

As I write this, the church is quiet after a very busy morning of the church filled with the sounds of kids, teens and adults who have come together for our fifth year of Vacation Bible School. This year we Blasted Off in Faith as we spent our mornings focused on discovering God's creation, following the stars that lead us to Jesus, seeing the ways Jesus cares for us, imagining what the possibilities for us are, and being brave to let our lights shine as we care for God's people and creation.

We sang a lot of songs, learned a lot of stories, painted everything from t-shirts to ping pong ball, to ourselves and we had an amazing week. We had **33 kids** come and join us, some from the community, some from the church, some from your families. It was our biggest year yet, and we celebrate that! However, the key to Vacation Bible School isn't always the kids. The key to Vacation Bible School are the helpers. This year, we had **13 pre-teens and teenagers** helping us. All of them were once campers. The kids that are just going into middle school next year are all chomping at the bit to help next year. In addition to our young people, we had another **16 adults** who were here to help at various times during the week. That's not including Jan Looney and Natalie Tegio, our amazing design team, the folks who came by from the church and from Silver Sage just to check out what we were doing and every who brought and donated items for us to use.

God showed up all week in the kids, in the teens, in the adults and I can't tell you just how much it means to me to be the pastor in a place where there are so many who are willing to come along in faith and make something amazing happen for children. I am so grateful to God for each of our leaders and our helpers, and for all of you.

Why are we doing this? To plant seeds. To make sure children know they are loved and cared about. To make sure they know there is a safe place for them to come when the world gets hard. As tired as we are as the week wraps up, we are already thinking about next year? Where will we go? We don't know yet, but we are ready to Blast Off in Faith.

Happy Summer!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Kathy

# **HCLC Anniversary**

by Pastor Kathy Morris

Did you know in September we will be celebrating our 45th Anniversary as a church? We are looking for some people who would be willing to help us plan a special celebration on September 14. We'll be worshipping together in one service and then we'll plan to gather with food and celebration. We would love to have your help! Please let Pastor Kathy know if you are interested in helping as soon as possible.

Also, if you have old pictures from events and moments of HCLC History, please share them with Pastor Kathy so we can include them in our "look back" remembrances.

#### **Music News**

by Becky Bradley

The Music Program continues to lead worship through our summer schedule of one service each Sunday. Please see Brittney or Becky if you would like to offer a special (music, dramatic reading, dance, whatever), even if you are not a regular participant through the rest of the year. Summer is the time to showcase your talents in service to God and our congregation.

The choir is excited about the upcoming Artown concert and quilt show being held at HCLC on Sunday afternoon, 7/20! The concert part is from 1-3pm, with quilts being on display 1230pm-4pm. Come join us and spread the word to your friends. This is one of the community outreach opportunities HCLC gives to the community. More info is included in this newsletter and on Lanai's creative promotional visuals you'll be seeing around church.

# **Connections Dinner**

by Pastor Kathy Morris

Would you like to learn more about Holy Cross and its history, ministries, education, fellowship, service and outreach opportunities?

Join us for a simple dinner and conversation on Wednesday July 16 at 6 pm. In the Fellowship Hall. We will start with food and fellowship and then share information about Holy Cross and get to know one another.

All are welcome. Let us know if you plan to attend so we can plan appropriately. Please join us.

Pastor Kathy
Diane Torry
Pat Schlosser
Paula Featherstone

# **Youth Group**

by Pastor Kathy Morris

For youth entering 6 th -12 th grades, join us after church on Sunday, July 13, for a Water Party... plan to get wet... very wet as we play in the water! RSVP to Pastor Kathy so she can make sure she has plenty of water balloons with your name on them!

Also, parents and youth be on the lookout in your emails for some upcoming dates. We want to plan a Lake Day and we need to find a day to return to Six Flags in the fall.

We will be having a planning and information meeting for youth and parents on Sunday, August 10 after church. We'll be talking about the upcoming year, confirmation and the potential for increasing our monthly youth activities. Please plan to join us.



# **Shared Harvest**





We are looking to collect the following items:



(28) Peanut Butter (42) Canned Fruit (42) Powdered Milk (42) Chicken Noodle Soup

**Disposible Razors** 



See Peggy Ince for more information.



# "The Chosen" Season 5



by Pastor Kathy Morris

The Chosen study is on break until the fall, but Season 5 is currently being released! More info on this as we draw closer to resuming.

# **Monday Evening Zoom Bible Study**

Monday night Lectionary Study is on break until 7/14. When we resume, we meet @4pm by Zoom. Pastor leads us through the readings for the upcoming week so that we can discuss them in more depth. Zoom link <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84911569919?pwd=VUM1SUdoeWdnSnM1WUZva0dQdzBidz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84911569919?pwd=VUM1SUdoeWdnSnM1WUZva0dQdzBidz09</a> Meeting ID: 849 1156 9919, Passcode: 113211 One tap mobile: +16699006833,,84911569919#,,,,\*113211# US (San Jose)

# Wednesday Bible Study

By Becky Bradley

Wednesday Bible Study will be taking a special look at the book of Ruth during July. This study is based off a 4-week webinar by Ruby Namdar, an award winning author and college literature teacher who was born and raised in Jerusalem to a family of Iranian-Jewish heritage. He is an expert on Jewish and Middle Eastern literature, including the Biblical and Talmudic narrative. (The Talmud fills in the blanks with possibilities.) We'll get an even more in-depth look at this beautiful story of redemption, with additional insight into the culture and background info that we, as modern day readers, don't get just from reading the chapters in the Bible.

This special study should last 4 weeks (7/2, 7/9, 7/26, 7/23), possibly bleeding into 7/30, as our group goes the pace we need to go to get the most out of our study time together. Please feel free to join us for this special look and insight into the book of Ruth. Join us either in the Fellowship Hall or by Zoom, Wednesdays 1:30pm-240pm.

Contact Becky at 775-360-0553 or becky-b485@gmail.com for more information.

- 1. Here is the Zoom information in case you need to join remotely: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098? pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUExQRVY5elBXbHJ4dz09
- Or join us by a phone call to bypass needing the Zoom app:

Dial either number: 346 248 7799 or 669 444 9171

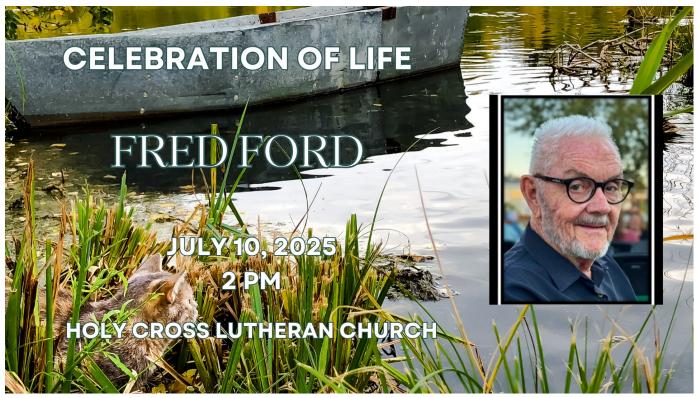
Enter the meeting ID: 896 3300 9098#

Then confirm the meeting ID: #









# Supporting Aging Seniors: A Senior Transitions Program Hospice Care and Memorial & Funeral Planning August 23, 10 am to 12 noon

By Diane Torry

This one-day program is offered Saturday August 23, 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 issues Seniors experience as we age.

During this session we will learn about the services provided by Hospice Care, as we move into the final time of our lives, and how to plan for Memorial or Funeral Services. We will have a speaker from a Hospice company and our own Pastor Kathy will discuss Memorial and Funeral Planning.

It is human nature to put off or even ignore life's difficult times and 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 hit. Our Senior Transition Programs provide a safe, comfortable place and time to learn about and discuss issues of aging.

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, <a href="https://holycrossreno@gmail.com">holycrossreno@gmail.com</a>, or Program Coordinator Diane Torry <a href="https://doi.org/dbtorry@att.net">dbtorry@att.net</a> Or sign up on the signup sheet in the Narthex.



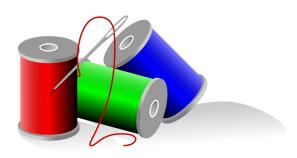
## **Close Knit Friends**

By Peggy Whitney

This month Close Knit Friends is busy with guest speakers and Artown. All are invited to these events! Our guest speaker series continues with Junella Zuniga, Executive Director the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra on Monday, July 14 at 1:30 pm AND Chelsea Benson, Women Veterans Program Manager at the VA Hospital on Monday, July 28 at 1:30pm . Both women will share updates on what is happening with these two groups that serve women and their families. As our communities grow, there is an increase in homelessness, poverty, domestic violence, exploitation, rehabilitation and more life crises. Close Knit Friends has been providing items of warmth and comfort to both groups for quite a while. Please see Peggy Whitney for more information on how you can help too.

We will have a display table of our projects at the annual HCLC Artown Quilt and Music Show on Sunday, July, 20. Stop by and see samples of hand knitted and crochet hats, scarves, shawls, baby items, Octopus for Preemies, and Warm Up America blankets. Every item is made from yarn donated to the group and delivered to local organizations and agencies who help our neighbors in need struggling with life challenges. Meet a few of our talented participants and learn more about what we do in our partnership with Holy Cross! We accept washable 100% cotton yarn and also acrylic yarn. NO WOOL please! Funding to purchase yarn is also welcome. We accept clean gently used hand knitted/crochet items for men, women and children. If you would like to work on a project at home, we have patterns available. Summer is a great time to work on smaller projects such as hats, & scarves, baby blankets/ hats, Octopus for Preemies, and Warm Up America blocks. Cold weather will return and requests for these items will start rolling in.

All skill levels are welcome! Close Knit Friends meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month from 1-2:30 pm.



# **Quilt Group News**

By Diane Torry

The fourth Annual Artown Quilt and Music Show is Sunday July 20! 12:30-4 pm. Beautiful Quilts will be on display—modern, classic, antique—and the quilts we make and give to people in our community and around the world! There will be an "opportunity quilt" for raffle, designed and completed by Holy Cross quilters—and a "treasurer's table" with fun and useful items for sale. Of course—don't miss taking advantage of the beautiful music being offered by groups and individuals during the Music Show! Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us on this special afternoon at Holy Cross—reaching out into our community—sharing Christ's love.



#### **Health and Wellness Committee**

By Lani Moss

We are excited to announce a new Health and Wellness Committee here at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. The plan is to start somewhat limited and then expand as the need grows. Our first offering will be a monthly blood pressure and pulse oximetry screening after each church service beginning July 6th and then taking place the first Sunday of each Month. Various health care professionals, current or retired, will be doing the screenings. These screenings, however, do not take the place of your ongoing professional healthcare. Any abnormal findings require you to follow up with your appropriate physician. After the summer break, we will also offer the screening with the Monthly Senior lunches. Short newsletter articles about health/ nutrition topics written by a healthcare professional here from HCLC will be popping up as well. If there is any interest in speakers coming in to do talks on healthcare topics, please let us know and on what topics. Taking care of our bodies in order to do God's work is always a blessing. If you would like to assist with this committee, please let us know.

In health and love,

Lani Moss, Noelle Lentz, Cheryl Eckert, Eric Gieseke



# Close Knit Friends Mission Moment:

By Peggy Whitney

Project 150 Reno is a local 501(c)(3) non profit staffed by volunteers who help over 3,500 plus students who are homeless, displaced, and disadvantaged in the 30 High Schools in Northern Nevada Region. Project 150 Reno is open year round and is located on Foster Drive behind The Bridge Church. It was created in 2014 to provide clothing, food, hygiene products, and school supplies to high school students struggling through school and their everyday lives. Students are encouraged to remain in school through graduation and work toward building a successful future. Sixty percent of the students are male. There is a need for NEW and like new teenage-appropriate clothing in all sizes, seasons and styles. All students come every six months to pick up/shop for new undergarments, socks, shoes, jackets, and other donated clothing. Students can also receive a food bag with easy to prepare meals and snacks whenever necessary. Also available are kits of full-sized hygiene essentials . Project 150 Reno keeps an inventory of school supplies and educational resources on hand too. "High School is tough enough" and Project 150 Reno is a safe space for students to advocate for their needs.

Individuals, local groups and organizations are encouraged to host a "collection drive", visit their Amazon wishlist, make monetary donations to fill in the gaps and volunteer their time and talents. Flyers with more information about Project 150 Reno are available in the white basket at the Close Knit Friends display ladder in Fellowship Hall. The Service Committee has been invited to schedule a tour of Project 150 Reno Boutique and is making plans to have a "Mini Collection Drive" this summer. Look for more information on those opportunities in the future.

## **Service Committee News**

By Linda Schlosser

During the summer months (June 29- August 3) we will be collecting men's underwear and socks, as well as, school supplies for Project 150 and the Women's and Children's Center of the Sierra. Please check the Giving Tree for requested supplies and/or Amazon Wish List.

# **Fellowship Committee News**

By Linda Schlosser

Friday, August 15 – Reno Aces Faith Night – ACES VS. EL PASO CHIHUAHUAS - COST \$24.00 PER PERSON – Cost includes an Aces hat, a pre-game concert and post-game fireworks. Commitment and payment is due 3 weeks prior to game (July 27.) Questions, please talk to Linda or Pat Schlosser.

Next Service Committee Meeting will be 8/12/25 at 10 am.

### **Health & Wellness Committee**

By Cheryl Eckert

Ultraviolet light is invisible to humans, because it has shorter wavelengths than the light we can see. Within the UV spectrum, there are two types of rays that can damage the DNA in your skin cells and lead to skin cancer. It's important to protect your skin from both types:

The Skin Cancer Foundation recommends a water-resistant, broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 50 or higher for any extended outdoor activity. Regardless of the SPF, though, it's important to apply one ounce (two tablespoons) 30 minutes before going outside and reapply it every two hours or immediately after swimming or sweating.

# **COUNCIL REPORT**

Hello Holy Cross Family,

Happy July! With everyone on vacation we have fewer events planned than in past months so please plan time with your friends and family.

This month we will be having an ice cream and games night, a connection dinner for new potential members and even a quilt and music showcase for Artown! And please still join us for one service every Sunday at 9:30am with opportunities for fellowship after service.

We started the summer off right in June with extra events for fellowship, including our church picnic, spring cleaning, an LGBTQ+ support group, and of course Vacation Bible School! Thank you so much to all of our congregation members who have made all of this possible! And a huge THANK YOU to everyone who made our Vacation Bible School the hit that it was. Whether you donated supplies, your time, or just helped spread the word, it is YOU that made this camp possible and a soaring success!

July is Artown in Reno, so please go and support local artists at all the local galleries, shows, and exhibits throughout this month! Hopefully you can at least make it to Holy Cross' Artown event with a quilt and music show coming up on July 20th from 1-3pm (mark your calendars now!)

Reach out to any council member if you have questions or want to help with any upcoming events!

Special thank you to everyone involved with the grant for updating our church's security. Despite all the governmental changes and some uncertainty, our wonderful team has secured official approval for reimbursement of funds and gotten started with the project! One portion of the project is already complete with shatter resistant film now covering our windows and our outdoor lighting is scheduled to be updated soon. Thank you, thank you, thank you team!!

Stay cool, enjoy time with loved ones, and carry the peace of Christ everywhere you go!

With God's warmth and love,

Eric G.





# VBS 2025











# 

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1(30 pm Senior Social & Games 7 pm Casa Del Alfarero	2 1:30 pm Bible Study	3 9 am Quilting	4 Church Office Closed 7:30 pm Casa Del Alfarero	10	6 9:30 am Family Worship 1 pm Siasi Tonga Houeiki 5:30 pm Casa Del Alfarero
6 pm High Desert Harmony	5:30 pm Council Meeting 7 pm Casa Del Alfarero	9 1 pm Mid-week Communion 1:30 pm Bible Study	10 9 am Quilting 2 pm Fred Ford Memorial	11 7:30 pm Casa Del Alfarero	12 3 pm Ice Cream Social & Games	9:30 am Family Worship 1 pm Siasi Tonga Houeiki 5:30 pm Casa Del Alfarero
14 1 pm Close Knit Friends 4 pm Zoom Study 6 pm High Desert Harmony	15 6:30 pm LGBTQ+ Support Group 7 pm Casa Del Alfarero	1:30 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Connections Dinner	77 9 am Quilting	<b>18</b> 7:30 pm Casa Del Alfarero	19 9:30 am Artown Music Rehearsal	9:30 am Family Worship 12:30 pm Artown Quilt Show & Live Music
21 4 pm Zoom Study 6 pm High Desert Harmony	22 7 pm Casa Del Alfarero	23 1:30 pm Bible Study	24 9 am Quilting	25 7:30 pm Casa Del Alfarero	26	9:30 am Family Worship 1 pm Siasi Tonga Houeiki 5:30 pm Casa Del Alfarero
1 pm Close Knit Friends 4 pm Zoom Study 6 pm High Desert Harmony	29 -7 pm Casa Del Alfarero	30 1:30 pm Bible Study	31 9 am Quilting			