

Official Newsletter of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church

CROSSROADS

March 2025



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the start of the season of Lent. Every year in the weeks leading up to Easter, we embark on a time of reflection and discipline to help us prepare for the joy that Easter brings. Often in Lent, people undertake a fasting (like giving something up) or an additional discipline, such as coming to mid-week services, or adding a devotional reading.

This year, I want our congregation to spend the season of Lent focusing on what I'm calling "A-Z through the Bible: People, Places and Themes" with each day emphasizing a different letter of the alphabet and a connection that letter has to a story in the Bible (Although, there are a couple of letters that will get squished together to make it all fit...I hope you don't mind.). I got the inspiration for this theme from a seminary professor in Georgia named Anna Carter Florence who wrote a book called A is Alabaster.

For your reference, the entire list is printed below, but each non-worship day during Lent, there will be a devotion emailed out to the congregation with Bible verses and reflections. In other words, since we worship during Lent on Wednesdays and Sundays, you won't get a devotion, because we hope to see you in worship with us! Although, upon request, I can email you my sermons.

I tried to mix things up, so some of the stories may be familiar to you and some might be brand new. They will be focused on the people, the places and, some of the themes or concepts the Bible teaches. The devotionals aren't too long and easy enough to share with children (hopefully) and if you are sharing with children in your lives, I would love for them to draw some pictures and bring them to me of how their imaginations see these stories.

We have enough days in Lent that we will make it through the alphabet twice – once based on Old Testament stories and once based on New Testament stories, and if you find yourself moved to write a devotion for later in the season, please let me know. I'd love to have your help.

Crossroads March 2025

A-Z in the Old Testament:

*Wednesday, March 5 – A is for Ash
Thursday, March 6 – B is for Balaam's Donkey
Friday, March 7 – C is for Covenant
Saturday, March 8 – D is for Deborah
*Sunday, March 9 – E is for Egypt
Monday, March 10 – F is for Faith
Tuesday, March 11 – G is for Gideon
*Wednesday, March 12 – H is for Hannah
Thursday, March 13 – I is for Israel
Friday, March 14 – J is for Job
Saturday, March 15 – K is for King
*Sunday, March 16 – L is for Lament
Monday, March 17 – M is for Mt. Nebo
Tuesday, March 18 – N is for Naomi
*Wednesday, March 19 – O is for Olive Oil
Thursday, March 20 – P is for Puah
Friday, March 21 – Q is for Quail
Saturday, March 22 – R is for Righteousness
*Sunday, March 23 – S is for Seeking
Monday, March 24 – T is for Temple
Tuesday, March 25 – U is for Uriah
*Wednesday, March 26 – V is for Vashti
Thursday, March 27 – W is for the Word of God
Friday, March 28 – X, Y, Z is for eXile

A-Z in the New Testament:

Saturday, March 29 – A is for Abide
*Sunday, March 30 – B is for Brothers
Monday, March 31 – C is for Capernaum
Tuesday, April 1 – D is for Disciples
*Wednesday, April 2 – E is for Eschatology
Thursday, April 3 – F is for Feet
Friday, April 4 – G is for Good Shepherd
Saturday, April 5 – H is for Holy Spirit
*Sunday, April 6 – I is for Incense (Perfume)
Monday, April 7 – J is for John (the disciple Jesus loved)
Tuesday, April 8 – K is for the Kingdom of Heaven
*Wednesday, April 9 – L is for Lazarus
Thursday, April 10 – M is for Mary & Martha
Friday, April 11 – N is for Nicodemus
Saturday, April 12 – O is for Olive Grove

A-Z in the New Testament:

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday – P is for Palms & Passion

Monday, April 14 – Q is for Questions

Tuesday, April 15 – R is for Remembrance

Wednesday, April 16 – S is for Stilling Storms

**Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday – T is for The Lord's Table*

**Friday, April 18 – Good Friday – U is for Unconditional Love*

Saturday, April 19 – V is for Victory over Death

**Sunday, April 20 – Easter Sunday*

- W is for Win
- X is for eXcitement
- Y is for You
- Z is for Zeal

I hope you enjoy exploring the stories of faith as we go A-Z through the Bible this Lent! *Designates days when devotions won't be sent out over email as they will be part of our worship services on those designated days.

Love in Christ, Pastor Kathy

Worship Opportunities During Lent

By Pastor Kathy Morris

Join us for special worship opportunities in Lent:

Ash Wednesday – March 5 at noon and 6:30

Mid-Week Lenten Soup Supper Wednesdays – March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9

Soup Suppers* begin at 5:30

Worship with Holden Evening Prayer and communion begin at 6:30

*If you would like to sign up to bring part of our soup suppers or help, please sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

Plan ahead for:

Maundy Thursday worship service on April 17 at 6:30pm

Good Friday services on April 18 at noon and 6:30pm

Youth News

By Pastor Kathy Morris

Confirmation will meet on Tuesday, March 4 and then not again until April 1.

Save the Date for an Escape Room Adventure on Sunday, April 6! Sign up and let Pastor Kathy know if you are able to go! We will see if we can solve the puzzles and escape!

Don't forget to join us for our Pancake Breakfast after the services on March 2!



Youth Activities





Join Us For An INTERGENERATIONAL GAME NIGHT

Free for everyone! Join us for
a fun game night with family,
friends, and neighbors.

Activities Include:

VARIOUS GAMES
& FREE PIZZA

MARCH 15, 2025

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
4895 S McCarran Blvd, Reno, NV 89502

775-827-4822

www.holycrossreno.org

holycrossreno@gmail.com

March Birthdays

03/12 Frank Schenk
03/18 Peggy Whitney
03/19 Trent Schenk
03/19 Leslie Jaillet
03/21 Cary Lindstrom
03/24 Dakota Carper
03/26 Suzanne McDonald
03/28 Linn Bleggi



PRAYER REQUESTS

Bonnie Olson's family and friends
Madeline Murray
Meghan Bonnet's mother-in-law
Angela and Mikey (Katie T's friends)
Linda (Sue Gonyou's friend)
Bob Mooney
Betty Johnson
Liam Zimmerman
Riley's Family
Luke (Barb Kramer's nephew)
Rebecca's family and friends (Pastor's friend)
Larry (a potential recurrence of cancer that we thought had been defeated already) Carol Ritter

Service Committee News

By Linda Schlosser

Beginning March 2 through April 6, the Giving Tree will be in the Narthex supporting the ELCA Gold's Global Barnyard or as we call it – Buy a Chick. What happens when you buy a chick??

- Help a family spread their wings. When chicks grow up to become chickens, their eggs not only provide an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals, but they can also help start a small business and generate a steady source of income.
- Your gifts support the ministries of the ELCA in nearly 80 countries around the world.
- Place your check or money donation in the envelope attached to the tree.

During the Spring (date TBD) we will also be collecting household items for the Marvel Way Complex (located directly across the street from the church). Marvel Way works in conjunction with the Empowerment Center to provide an affordable, sober living apartment complex for individuals and families, supporting homeless or financially changed individuals in recovery. More information will be provided soon.

Fellowship

By Linda Schlosser

Mark your calendars!

June 1 – Annual Church Picnic

October 19 - Oktoberfest



PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

April 13, 2025
9:00 am & 10:30 am

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
4895 S. McCarran Blvd., Reno, NV 89502
775-827-4822 www.holycrossreno.org
holycrossreno@gmail.com

Quilt Group News

By Diane Torry

The quilters are busy at work in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. We have quilt tops to tie, tops to cut, design and sew, material to press, and wonderful conversation around the quilt table. Something for everyone. Come join us!

The “Blue Basket” is back and available in the Fellowship Hall for anyone to pick up a quilt top kit!

The Blue Basket expands our quilt ministry work by providing quilt top kits to anyone who would like to complete a quilt top at home, on their own schedule. Each quilt kit comes with instructions—with the additional caveat that for the majority of the charitable organizations we give to, ask that we do not include any religious symbols –as our quilts are given to all based on need regardless of religious creed. Religious references may be misinterpreted jeopardizing the delivery to the people who need the quilts most.

Council Retreat 2025



Carol Ritter, Kayla Kunze, Eric Gieseke, Katie Torry, Cheryl Eckert, Lani Moss, Jan Looney

Close Knit Friends News

By Peggy Whitney

This month **Close Knit Friends** is offering 2 opportunities to encourage you to create items of warmth and comfort for our neighbors in need. The first opportunity is a take-it-home "*DIY & Donate*" project. Find the white basket next to the **Close Knit Friends'** display ladder in the Fellowship Hall. Inside the Ziploc bags is yarn to crochet or knit a hat, or a scarf, or a *Warm Up America* block. Use your own pattern or one online, complete the project, then return it to the basket for **Close Knit Friends**. We will add your project to our finished projects for donation. The 2nd opportunity is an *Octopus for Preemies* workshop on Monday, March 31 at 1pm at the church. The octopus are crochet using 100% cotton and given to the *Holy Cross Quilters* to go with their baby quilts in December for Renown's NICU. Anyone who has basic crochet skills will be encouraged by Becky to create these colorful creatures. **Close Knit Friends** will provide the yarn and a pattern (or check the website OctopusforPreemies.org). Please bring a size G hook. Also available will be a project for crocheters and knitters to work on *Warm Up America* blocks (7x9") to be assembled into blankets at a later date. Acrylic yarn and directions will be available. Please bring your own crochet hook or knitting needles. One of the *Warm Up America* blankets is currently displayed in the Fellowship Hall.

We look forward to having you join us in person or participate in the take-it-home project. Brochures about our mission work are available on the credenza under the large information board or in the Fellowship Hall. Please see Peggy Whitney for more information.



IT'S **CHICK** TIME

Please place a check or cash
in the envelope at the top of the tree.

Help a family spread their wings.
When chicks grow up to become chickens,
their eggs not only provide an ongoing supply
of protein-rich meals, they can also help start
a small business and generate
a steady source of income.

Thank you for your continued support!



Youth Pancake Breakfast

March 2, 2025



**The youth are hosting a pancake breakfast.
No cost, but we will be collecting donations
to support our youth ministry.**

All are welcome!



Monday Evening Zoom Bible Study

by Pastor Kathy Morris

We will meet at 4pm on Mondays, March 3, 10 and 17 and then we will be on a break until April 7. Follow the link and join us as we look at the upcoming lessons for Sundays. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84155940851?pwd=yQxEad7aBhx9zldoiGHYtd9r4qlkP3.1>

Meeting ID: 841 5594 0851

Passcode: 225990

Wednesday Bible Study

By Becky Bradley

We did it - we entered the Promised Land!!! But Joshua and the Israelites have their work cut out for them as they conquer the Canaanites who are already living there, acting as God's hand of judgment towards people who did not follow Yahweh. We're studying the book of Joshua, a hard book in the Hebrew Scriptures due to all this bloodshed, to see what wisdom we can learn to apply to our lives today.

We meet on each Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 pm - 2:40 pm in a "hybrid" format: 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.

TO JOIN REMOTELY:

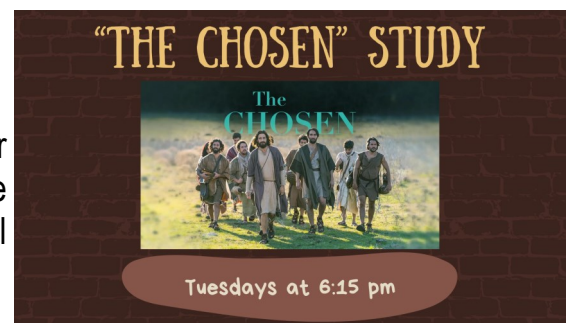
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09>

Meeting ID: 896 3300 9098 Passcode: 050344

"THE CHOSEN" Discussion Group

by Pastor Kathy Morris

We will meet to finish the final two episodes of season four on Tuesday, March 4 and March 18. Join us at 6:15. Once we're done with the season, we will be caught up and we will await to regroup for season five (probably next fall).



Music Program News

By Becky Bradley

What an exciting day on Sunday when we had so many choir members that we had to split into two rows! This is so exciting for our choir to have a larger group singing together and really adds a spark to choir rehearsals. Praise God for this God-kiss to His Holy Cross church.

The choir is looking forward to leading worship during Lent. Can you believe Ash Wednesday is on March 5? We look forward to a choir anthem and specials during Lent, culminating in our Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter Sunday, where the choir sings at both services. Be sure to check out the rest of the newsletter for the special additional services during Lent and Holy Week to help us all in our endeavors to "return to the Lord our God".

We also want to say congratulations to Abigail, who made All State Honor Choir, and will be in Las Vegas (along with Pastor Kathy) for this event right after Easter!



**HELP US CHANGE
THE GAME AND
TACKLE HUNGER!**

THANK YOU

We raised \$442.55 to donate to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, which is almost \$100 more than we raised last year. This will provide over 1300 meals for our community. Thank you for your generosity



**SPRING
Forward**

**SUNDAY,
MARCH 9TH
@
2AM**



Senior Lunch

MARCH 19TH @ 12 NOON

BRING A SACK LUNCH



Close Knit Friends

1 pm

**March 10, 2025
March 24, 2025**

Invite a friend and join us!
No experience necessary.

Council News

By Eric Gieseke

Hello Holy Cross Family,

It feels to me like 2025 just started but the Lenten season is already upon us! Get ready for Ash Wednesday coming up on March 5th and please sign-up for soup supper and Lenten service every Wednesday until Easter.

We had a busy business-filled month of February with a council retreat and an annual meeting. In our annual meeting, we learned a bit more about how we are getting new security features for our church over the next year and approved our 2025 budget. Thank you to Laurel Lindstrom, Diane Torry, and all of our financial team for your amazing work!

At our Council retreat we welcomed Cheryl Eckert and Kayla Kunze as our newest council members and elected our new officials with Cheryl Eckert (jumping in right away) as secretary, Lani Moss as Vice President, and me, Eric Gieseke as our newest council president. We also solidified plans for 2025, re-organized council liaisons for committees, and shared our hopes and dreams for the congregation in the upcoming year.

We of course kept February full of extra events for fellowship, including a youth sleepover at the church and sledding trip, the souper bowl of caring, a quilt tying party, and a new monthly potluck and education event called Full Bellies, Full Minds. I wanted to give a special shout out and thank you to Dianne Torry for helping get our senior transitions program running again after taking a few years break! Thank you so much to all the adults and youth who have made any of these events possible. These are a great way to encourage further connection and love within our community!

If you would like to be more involved with events or organize any of your own, please reach out to me or any of our council members at any time!

Take a deep breath as we get ready for March with Wednesday Lenten services, a youth pancake fundraiser, a dinner and game night, and more!

Thank you all for being such a loving congregation and allowing me to serve as council president.

With God's warmth and love,

Eric G.





Shared Harvest



Thank you
for your
continued
support

MARCH
23

We are looking to collect the following items:

- (28) Peanut Butter
- (56) Canned Vegetables
- (42) Powdered Milk
- (28) Cereal
- Bar Soap



See Peggy Ince for more information.



Join us for a Soup Supper & Lenten Service
Every Wednesday
March 12 - April 9
Meal 5:30 pm - Worship 6:30 pm
Sign-up Sheet in the Narthex