

The background of the newsletter header features a photograph of a church interior. On the left and right sides, there are tall, narrow stained glass windows with abstract designs in shades of blue, white, and yellow. In the center, an altar is visible, covered with a white cloth and a green runner. On the altar, there is a small floral arrangement, a book, and two lit candles. The overall lighting is warm and inviting.

Official Newsletter of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church **CROSSROADS**

Dear Friends,

Happy Anniversary and Congratulations on 45 years of doing ministry here in Reno as Holy Cross Lutheran Church!

As many of you know, Holy Cross is celebrating its 45 th Anniversary on Holy Cross Sunday, which is September 14. It will be the last day of our summer worship schedule as we will have worship at 9:30 and then a potluck brunch following the service. We hope everyone can come and mark this special milestone with us.

Maybe I'm making too big of a deal of the anniversary, but five years ago when we talked about celebrating our 40 th anniversary everything got pushed aside because of that little thing called COVID. I've only been a part of Holy Cross for six and a half years, but I've seen and I've witnessed that God really does amazing things through the ministries that you all provide to each other and to the community. I've walked with you through several ups and downs in the last few years and you astound me with your hospitality, your care for others, your generosity and your willingness to try new things as we walk with Jesus together.

Starting on September 14, we're going to be spending six weeks focusing and celebrating "Walking with Jesus Together." We're going to highlight some of the ministries that have helped and continue to help us learn and grow in our faith as we both look back and remember where we've been but also take the time to look forward to what God is calling us to do in the next chapter of Holy Cross' ministry. Each week, we're going to explore a different answer to the question, "How is it that we walk with Jesus together?" as we think about what we can give to help one another in our walk with Jesus. This will culminate with Stewardship Sunday and our Oktoberfest celebration on Sunday, October 19.

I hope you will join us for the celebration and give thanks to God with us for the life God has given to each of us individually, and to us as a community and a family of faith. Some of you have been around since the beginning of Holy Cross and have laid a solid foundation that has sustained us for all these years, some of you have been around a few weeks or months. Some of you are here faithfully every week and some struggle to get to worship for various reasons. But the blessing of Holy Cross is that none of that matters, family is family and once you're here, you're part of ours. What an incredible gift that is to me, and to so many others who have experienced that welcome over the last 45 years.

Happy Anniversary and many, many more!

Love in Christ, Pastor Kathy

YOUTH NEWS

by Pastor Kathy Morris

Confirmation Classes begin again! This year we'll be meeting two Wednesday nights each month at 5:30 pm. Confirmation is designed to help youth in middle school learn some basics of our faith, but if there are some older youth who are interested in participating, they are welcome, too! Please talk with Pastor Kathy about enrolling your child! In September, our classes will be September 3rd and 17th!

If there are any youth available to help and needing service hours, we could use your help on Friday, September 19 from 3-6 as we set up for the Rummage Sale. Likewise, if there are youth who would like to help work at the Rummage Sale on September 20, please sign up to help! Let Pastor Kathy know if you can help on the 19th!

SIX FLAGS TRIP! – September 27

by Pastor Kathy Morris

6th-12th Graders - Join us as we take a trip to Six Flags Discovery in Vallejo, CA! We're going to meet at the church at 8 am and will return later that night! We are hoping for a group rate for the tickets, so please sign up by September 21 and let Pastor Kathy know if you can come. Young Adults are invited to tag along as well, but they may get roped in as chaperones depending on how many kids we have going! The cost depends on how many people can come. Parents are welcome to make a donation to the youth fund to offset the ticket cost. Kids will need their own spending money and they will need a permission slip. If you have any questions, ask Pastor Kathy.

TRUNK OR TREAT!

by Pastor Kathy Morris

Save the Date for Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 30! Keep an eye open for details and sign-up sheets!



MUSIC NEWS

By Becky Bradley

I cannot believe we are heading into the fall already! Busy lives make for the calendar to flip to the next month so much quicker.

The choir is preparing to resume rehearsals on 9/7 at 8am. Please join our dynamic and talented group as we add to our worship services. On 9/14, we'll be singing as part of HCLC's 45th anniversary celebration - we waste no time plunging right in!

The Praise and Worship Team always welcomes new members. Come sing those favorite praise songs along with Brittney and Michael. Maybe augment the sound with some basic percussion instruments - we have a whole box full to choose from. Warm-ups are 10am for the 1030am service (when we resume our regular schedule on 9/21).



SHRED EVENTS

by Becky Bradley

AARP Shred Fest

Up to 3 boxes of unwanted documents for free!

- September 6, 9 am – 12 pm, Reno Battleborn Bunker, 255 VFW Historic Lane (behind the Reno Outback)

Reno Seniors EngAGED, City of Reno

Shred up to 5 boxes for free!

- September 18, 11 am – 1 pm, Neil Road Recreation Center, 3925 Neil Road (between Moana and S McCarran)

Reno Ace's



Faith Night

CLOSE KNIT FRIENDS

By Peggy Whitney

With our Summer Guest Speaker Series over **Close Knit Friends** has a better idea of what our neighbors need who are facing life's challenges. There have been many changes in staff and facilities, and an increase in the homeless population, families struggling through poverty, individuals dealing with addiction, exploitation, domestic violence, and hospitalization. "It takes a village..." becomes quite clear when we see community organizations, volunteers, and communities working together to help individuals of all ages and families of all kinds to feel safe, loved, and encouraged.

In September, **Close Knit Friends** will meet on Monday, September 8, 22, AND 29 at 1 pm. Join us as we knit or crochet hats, scarves, and blankets to give to our neighbors in need. All skill levels are welcome. On Monday, September 29, at 1 pm, we will host a workshop to put finishing touches on *Octopus for Preemies* (stuffed octopus) for the *Sierra Medical Center NICU* and to begin our purple hats for babies in local hospitals. This project is known as *Click for Babies* and brings awareness to *Shaken Baby Syndrome*. Knit or crochet a baby hat (size preemie to newborn) in shades of purple that will remind parents and caregivers to NOT shake a baby. More information can be found on dontshake.org.

Our white basket by our display ladder in the Fellowship Hall has information on local organizations and ideas on their needs and opportunities to volunteer. **Close Knit Friends** accepts donations of washable acrylic and/or 100% cotton yarn for projects. No wool or novelty yarns please! For more information, see Peggy Whitney.

Mission Moment: Who is My Neighbor? Across S. McCarran Blvd to our south is *Marvel Way Complex*, an affordable sober living complex for individuals and their families. MMC offers support for residents in their transition from an inpatient treatment, a detox facility or incarceration. In November 2022, *Marvel Way Complex* opened its doors as the first-of-its-kind in Nevada, offering forty-two affordable living apartments. In May of 2025, Phase II, all forty-six solar power units opened and a two-acre site was broken across Marvel Way to add an eighty-bed treatment facility and the administrative offices of *The Empowerment Center*. The complex provides all utilities, on-site support services, twelve-step meetings and has a long-term housing option. Family unification is increasing. There is a children's playground, food pantry, household items pantry, community gardens, and other communal areas. Staff includes a housing director, a director of community development, a Social Work intern, and support comes from community partners and other funding. *The Empowerment Center* is a 501(c)3 not for profit charitable organization serving Northern Nevada since 2005. It prepares its residents for success by providing residentially run, self-supporting housing. There is a property manager who lives onsite. Residents interact with others to maintain the facility, follow guidelines, and obtain gainful employment. Recently, an additional one acre has been purchased on Marvel Way for future use.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church has provided welcome laundry baskets filled with detergent and cleaning supplies for new residents. Current needs include toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning wipes, and hygiene items. Many residents arrive with very little and you can call or check online for a wish list at empowermentcenternv.org or call 775-853-5441. Tours of the complex have been available to small groups such as Close Knit Friends, the Service Committee, and the Holy Cross Quilters. Future collections will be posted in the newsletter or at The Giving Tree. For more information about *The Empowerment Center* or *Marvel Way Complex* please take a look at their website.



"It was quite a feat to get the ball in this hole, but our golfers persevered! Good job! "



PRIDE PARADE

by Diane Torry

September 6: set up at 8 a.m. Booth staffed 10 to 3 pm. Tear down at 3 p.m.

We will be participating with other ELCA Lutheran Congregations at the Pride Parade on September 6 in Midtown. Our booth provides fun handouts, face painting, and information about our Congregations.

Please sign up to help or come by to visit us at the booth. Invite family and friends to stop by.

A signup sheet is available in the narthex.

Eric Gieseke, Co-Chair

Katie Torry (775-276-9720), Co-Chair



SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP NEWS

by Linda Schlosser

Service

The underwear collected for men, women, and children was delivered to Good Shepherd Clothes Closet. They were so pleased to receive these much-needed items. Thank you all for your continued generosity.

Fellowship

- ◆ October 19—Oktoberfest—sign up sheet in the narthex.
- ◆ November—Giving Tree for Thanksgiving
- ◆ December—"Angel Tree" for Christmas

Watch for more information on the above service projects.

Service Committee meets September 9 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend.



THE CHOSEN SERIES HAS RESUMED!

by Pastor Kathy Morris

We are currently watching episodes from Season 5 on Tuesday nights at 6pm. Come and join us for the viewing and the stay for the discussion afterward. **We will be meeting on Sept. 2, 16, 23, and 30.**

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

By Pastor Kathy Morris

Zoom Bible Study meets on September 15, 22, and 29th. Join us on Zoom as we look forward to the Scripture lessons for the following Sunday! We meet Mondays at 4pm! Our link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85131805610?pwd=i0m8UFDU0HCyhDIGHvHBRhW0rKBT2a.1> OR Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833US (San Jose).

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

By Becky Bradley

Wednesday Bible Study is currently studying I Samuel. The Israelites have plunged so low into lawlessness and immorality that they are looking to the prophet/judge Samuel to find them a king who will solve all their problems. Maybe returning to God as the focus would be a better answer, but we'll see what Saul has in mind. Join us either in the Fellowship Hall or by Zoom, every Wednesday 1:30 pm-240 pm. Contact Becky at 775-360-0553 or becky485@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=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09>

2) 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 # above.

MUSIC NEWS

By Becky Bradley

I cannot believe we are heading into the fall already! Busy lives make for the calendar to flip to the next month so much quicker. The choir is preparing to resume rehearsals on 9/7 at 8am. Please join our dynamic and talented group as we add to our worship services. On 9/14, we'll be singing as part of HCLC's 45th anniversary celebration - we waste no time plunging right in! The Praise and Worship Team always welcomes new members. Come sing those favorite praise songs along with Brittney and Michael. Maybe augment the sound with some basic percussion instruments - we have a whole box full to choose from. Warm-ups are 10am for the 1030am service (when we resume our regular schedule on 9/21). music is not a requirement. Brittney and Becky are excited about continuing HCLC's music program as we begin our 10th year of working together as your Music Director and Musician. Come join in on the fun!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/02 Russel Tegio
9/05 Laine Christman
9/07 Susan Bjorn
9/12 Mark Jaillet
9/15 Jody Morrison
9/20 Deseree Carper
9/23 Travis Mills



Shared Harvest SEPTEMBER 28



We are looking to collect the following items:

- (28) Cold Cereal
- (28) Peanut Butter (16 oz)
- (56) Canned Vegetables
- (42) Powdered Milk
- Bar Soap



A big thank you for everyone's continued support.

CROSSROADS SEPTEMBER 2025

HOLY CROSS RUMMAGE SALE—SEPTEMBER 20

By Katie Torry

Our Annual Rummage Sale will be held Saturday, September 20, 8 am to 2 pm—with set up on Friday, September 19, starting at 8 am, afternoon set up session starts at 3 p.m.

This is a much-anticipated community event—for those who donate gently used items from their closets and corners, items they no longer need and their “treasures” are purchased by our neighbors and friends, providing needed items and clothing. Of course, all of us find a few “treasures” we didn’t even know we needed!

We will begin to accept gently used donations on Wednesday, September 10, from 10 am to 2 pm. The week of September 15, donations can be dropped off on Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm. Large furniture items will be accepted on Friday, September 19. Clothing will be stored in the Gathering Room, and all other small items in the west end of the Fellowship Hall. We do not accept large appliances, exercise equipment, baby car seats, box springs, mattresses, or old model TVs.

Volunteers are needed to staff the event: A volunteer signup sheet is in the narthex—sign up to work at this fun event.

Katie Torry, Chair nvgeokat2006@yahoo.com 775-276-9720

QUILT GROUP NEWS

By Diane Torry

Quilts Blessed during Worship—September 28

At Sunday Worship on September 28, the quilts will be blessed—The Fall Quilt Blessing! The quilts will be displayed on the “pews” in the Sanctuary so all can see the work completed by the quilt group over the past year—a “rainbow of color and creativity”. The quilt group is strengthened by the congregation’s appreciation of our work, and together we bless our work and the quilts that are sent to God’s people in our community and around the world.

We will be working to complete all the quilts during our September Thursday quilting days, finishing up a few tops, tying the quilts, and then sewing on the quilt labels before the quilt blessing at Worship on September 28. Please join us!

The “Blue Basket” is back and available in the Narthex for anyone to pick up a quilt top kit! Check with Sandi, Paula, Diane or any quilter for more information about the Blue Basket.

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 regardless of religious creed. Religious references may be misinterpreted, jeopardizing the delivery to the people who need the quilts most.

HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE NEWS

by Cleve Bjur

Hydration: It's all about drinking enough water!

Even though the temperatures might begin to cool off a bit during the month of September, we still need to pay attention to keeping well hydrated to keep our bodies and our minds functioning at their best.



Water is critical to our health because it regulates our body temperature, flushes waste from our bodies, promotes healthy digestion, and cushions our joints. When we don't drink enough water and certain other fluids, we can become dehydrated and our bodies do not function as well.

How much fluid is recommended daily? Although our needs can vary based on our activity levels, the amount we sweat, and our health status, men should aim for ~100 ounces of total beverages, including water, and women should aim for ~74 ounces of total beverages, including water.

What counts as fluid? Water is best, but tea, milk, coffee, sparkling water, and low-sugar fruit juices can contribute to this recommendation. Limit high-sugar beverages. Get into the habit of drinking eight ounces of water upon waking, before bedtime, and eight ounces with your meals. Alcohol doesn't count, as it acts as a diuretic and can contribute to dehydration.

Keep in mind that about 20% of our fluid intake comes from food, so including fruit and vegetables with our meals adds not only variety and valuable nutrients, but they help us keep hydrated.

What are the signs of dehydration? Symptoms can include, but are not limited to, thirst, constipation, headache, nausea, fatigue, and darker urine. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms and think it might be related to dehydration, grab a glass of water first. As a precaution, try to make sure your urine is light in color.

Enjoy the rest of the summer with a focus on staying hydrated!

Respectively submitted,
Health & Wellness Committee

Reference:
Mayo Clinic Health System

A graphic for Memorial Garden Pavers. It features a photograph of three engraved pavers at the top. Below the photo is a decorative border with blue and orange flowers. The text 'Memorial Garden Pavers' is written in a blue serif font. To the right of the border, a paragraph of text provides information about the memorial pavers.

Memorial Garden
Pavers

Forms for memorial bricks must be completed and submitted by September 28 to ensure engraving and placement before All Saints Sunday. For questions or to pick up a form, please see Paula Featherstone or Lanai in the church office.

COUNCIL REPORT

Hello Holy Cross Family,

School is starting and summer is winding down. We are getting ready to transition back to two services but that will only be after we all celebrate Holy Cross' 45th birthday!

August was mostly reserved for enjoying the last bit of summer and getting ready for the start of the school year. We had youth outings, senior games, blessing of backpacks, and more.

As a Council, we enjoyed a retreat reserved just for fun! We headed up to Donner together to enjoy each other's company, play some games, and even go boating on the lake! This helped spark some conversation at our council meeting about what we can do as Christians to support the communities outside of our congregation a bit more. We are committed to supporting all people in need and are always open to ideas from the congregation about how we can better support the people and communities who need Christ's love the most.

In September, Holy Cross is officially turning 45! We will be having a 45th anniversary celebration right after the service on Sunday, September 14th. The following week, September 21st, we will return to having two services with traditional service at 9 am and contemporary service at 10:30 am. Choir and Godly Play will restart that week as well with choir rehearsal at 8 am and Godly Play for children during the 10:30 am service.

Coming up very soon, Holy Cross will be joining other ELCA churches at the Reno Pride festival on September 6th. Come show your support for the LGBTQ+ community and spread Christ's love to all!

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 any time!

Thank you all for supporting the amazing work we do together!

With God's warmth and love,

Eric G.



Thank you to Diane Torry and all of the participants of our most recent senior transitions workshop! It's important to be able to have the hard conversations.