AUGUST 2026

CROSSROADS

Official Newsletter of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

Thank you to everyone who so wonderfully helped keep things going in the weeks that I was away on vacation. It was fun to put together some unique worship experiences for you all and I appreciate all those who helped to lead them.

While I was sad to miss our Artown Concert and Quilt Show, I heard it went well and I am so glad! I knew it would, because I know how hard everyone works to make that event so special for our community.

As I mentioned in worship last week, we had a really nice vacation on the East Coast and as hot as it here in Reno right now, be glad it's a dry heat. The humidity on the East Coast was no joke! Neither were a couple of rainstorms we found ourselves in!

I think the highlight of our trip was all the hugs we received from so many family members, friends, and former church members from the congregation I served when we lived there. It was fun to go back and see how everyone was doing in person.

It's a little bit crazy to be back for a few weeks only to leave again on another vacation. This one will take me to the opposite end of the country – Hawaii, and this time, I'll be leaving Jeff and the kids home (yes, they are not real happy with me) and I'll be traveling with my mom and my brother and most of his family. I'm excited to have this time with them, especially with my mom!

While I'm gone, we'll be welcoming Pastor Paul Larson to preach and lead worship on Sunday, August 23. Pastor Larson serves St. Paul's Lutheran Family in Carson City, and he also work with LEAN – Lutheran Engagement and Advocacy in Nevada.

From the Pastor's Pen continued from page 1...

LEAN is a ministry of the Grand Canyon and Sierra Pacific Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Their mission statement is: Rooted in our Lutheran faith and guided by our call to love our neighbor, we are committed to advancing peace, justice, dignity, reconciliation, and empowerment for all people. Pastor Larson is looking forward to sharing more about his work with LEAN on August 23. I hope you will all be able to join him for worship!

In between my trips, the kids will be heading back to school, so be sure to join us for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 9 as we invite our kids, youth and educators to bring their backpacks and/or work bags to church for a special blessing!

May God keep you refreshed as the summer winds down!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Kathy

Youth News

by Pastor Kathy Morris

Thursday, Aug 6 we are heading to Wild Island to enjoy the waterpark. We'll meet at the entrance at 11 and enjoy the day in the water. If there are younger children who want to join us, they can come, but a parent or guardian needs to be with them. Please bring money for lunch and snacks.

Please let me know if you are able to come! Also, if you need a ride, please let Pastor Kathy know as soon as possible.

We will also be having a Back-to-School Crazy Game Night on Thursday, August 13 at 6:00. We'll have pizza and games and check in about how the start of school is looking.

And don't forget - Blessing of the Backpacks is August 9 at our 9:30 service.

Save the Date for Sunday, August 30 as we will be having a Youth Parent Meeting following the service. This is for parents and youth in 6^{th}-12^{th} grades. My hope is to do some planning for the year and talk about a summer trip in 2027.

Senior Socialization and Games

by Lanai Strawn

This ministry provides an opportunity to connect with friends, enjoy games, share laughter, and build relationships within our church family. Whether you enjoy card games, board games, or simply spending time with others, everyone is welcome.

Attendance has been low recently, and we would love to see this ministry grow. We encourage each member to invite a friend, neighbor, or fellow church member to attend. A personal invitation can make all the difference and help someone discover a welcoming place for fellowship and friendship.

Please join us on July 7th and help us strengthen this important ministry of connection and community.

Bible and Current Events Discussion

by Pastor Kathy Morris

We will meet on Sunday, August 2 following worship and Pastor Kathy and Becky Bradley will be talking about Making Peace with Old Testament Violence and why that's relevant to today's world. All are welcome to come!

Zoom Bible Study

by Pastor Kathy Morris

Resumes on Monday, August 3 at 4pm. Join us as we examine the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. Hear a little more of the background and meaning of the passages to augment your understanding on Sunday mornings. Please contact Pastor or Becky if you need the Zoom link.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85131805610?pwd=i0m8UFDU0HCyhDIGHvHBRhW0rKBT2a.1

Wednesday Night Worship

by Pastor Kathy Morris

We will meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to join us for this time of Scripture and Communion.

Mid-Year Congregational Meeting

by Pastor Kathy Morris

We'll be having a mid-year congregational meeting on Sunday, August 16. This is informational only as we will be reviewing our finances, talking about upcoming events in the fall, Live Nativity and more. Please plan to come and join us!

Bible Study News

by Becky Bradley

Wednesday Bible Study is back in the swing of things and studying I Kings. Solomon has taken over the reign, he has asked God for wisdom, and he is starting to build the Temple now that the country is at peace. Oh, wait--this is the Bible with all its twists and turns...

Please join us either in Fellowship Hall or by Zoom, every Wednesday 1:30 pm-2:40 pm. Contact Becky at 775-360-0553 or beckyb485@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

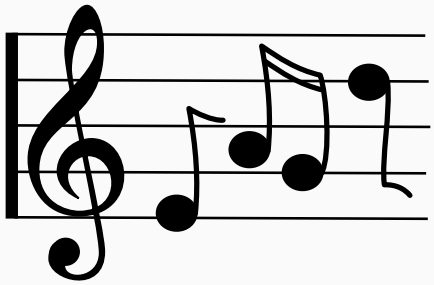
2. Or join us by a phone call to bypass needing the Zoom app:
Dial either number: 346 248 7799 or 669 444 9171
Enter the meeting ID: 896 3300 9098#
Then confirm the meeting ID # above.

Music News

by Becky Bradley

Our choir did a great job at Artown, and we even got a sigh of appreciation when we finished singing "Like a River in My Soul". Michael Tegio and the Something Else were a hard act to follow, but they gave an upbeat start to the concert, with other acts to follow. Thanks to the choir members who participated (small in number, but mighty in attitude and ability); to Laurel and Brittney for their advance planning; and to Lanai for her extra time in preparing flyers and handouts in preparation for our big Artown day.

If you have a talent that you would like to offer to the congregation, we always have room for you. You don't need to be a member of the choir to offer a special yourself - solo, small group, dramatic reading, liturgical dance - your talent is a gift from God and we welcome your contribution to our worship services. Contact Becky (775-360-0553, beckyb485@gmail.com) for scheduling.



Quilt Group News

by Diane Torry

Thank you to all the volunteers, attendees, and quilters who made the July Artown Quilt Show July 12 a great success. There were about 185 people who came to view the quilts and hear the music!

45 Quilts were registered for display, 22 from the community and 23 from members of the congregation. The quilts presented a wide range of quilt making---from 100-year-old antique quilts to today's beautiful contemporary quilts and lovely small quilts and wall hangings. The quilt group's "Community Outreach Quilts" given to 10 local agencies and Lutheran World Relief were on display—highlighting the quilt groups mission—making and donating quilts to people in need in our community and around the world.

The winners of Best in Show: General Quilts: First Place: Nature's Color Wash quilter, Kathy Berndt; Children's quilts: Addie Christman (with help from her grandmother, Sandi Christman); General Community Outreach Quilts: lovely flower-themed quilt.

Thank you to all who purchased a chance to win the opportunity quilt. The quilt top was made by Gertie Ritterby, quilt group members, then sandwiched and bound, and Margie Smith long-arm quilted the quilt. The winner will be announced at Sunday Worship, July 26.

Quilters are now "back at work" every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Come join us for creative work, fun, and fellowship.

Senior Socializing & Games

An Afternoon of Fun & Friendship!

Tuesday, August 4th · 1:30–2:30 PM
All seniors are welcome!
Come join us for laughter, conversation, and friendly games.

YOUTH BACK-TO-SCHOOL CRAZY GAME NIGHT!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13
AT 6:00 PM
PIZZA, GAMES & FUN!

THE GIVING TREE

MEN'S, WOMEN'S, AND CHILDREN'S SOCK UNDERWEAR DRIVE

Through August

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

Lisa Peggy Whitney's sister in law	Lanai Strawn & Family	Vicky Sue Gonyou's sister
Wanda Vogel, Wib & Nel Namestka	Bill Borton	Pastor Kathy Morris & Family
Paula Featherstone, Katie & Travis	Anonymous Job Hunting	Julie D
Cindy & Michael Prescott	Jeff Pat Clem's brother	Jackie Schomberg's Dad
Kayelee friend of Jody M's daughter Katie	Linda Schlosser	Ellis & Addy Christman Maryann, Justin, & Caleb Pace
Jan Schultz	John Paul Keri's friend	Connie Barnhart

"AND WHATEVER YOU ASK IN PRAYER, YOU WILL RECEIVE, IF YOU HAVE FAITH."
MATTHEW 21:22

Close Knit Friends News

by Peggy Whitney

Close Knit Friends have been busy all summer! We enjoyed the Quilt & Music Show, donated 106 purple baby caps to Renown's Maternity Ward, and at the writing of this newsletter, we are planning to donate a dozen or so shawls to the Women Veterans Program. Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels are welcome to join us on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month at 1pm. This month we will gather on Monday, August 10 & August 24! We will host a workshop on Monday, August 31 at 1pm to work on Octopus for Preemies for the local NICUs with Becky, purple baby caps for Shaken Baby Syndrome awareness, and shawls for the Women Veterans Program. We could use some extra hands that can knit and/or crochet! See Peggy Whitney or Becky Bradley for more information.

Our white DIY basket is back up in the Fellowship Hall by our display ladder with projects you can take home and work on. Join us in our holy partnership with Jesus!

"For we are co-workers in God's service;
you are God's field, God's building."
1 Corinthians 3:9

Close Knit Friends at Artown

Rummage Sale

by Diane Torry

Our Annual Rummage Sale will be held Saturday, September 26, 8 am to 2 pm. Now is the time to start “clearing out and putting aside” those gently unused, unwanted, unneeded items. Please begin collecting your items for donation to the Holy Cross Rummage sale. However, (due to our limited storage space) we will not be accepting items at the Church until closer to the Rummage Sale. Please wait to bring your items to Church until we let you know when we will be accepting items for the Rummage Sale.

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. We will hold an organizational meeting following Sunday Service before the event; stay tuned for exact date.

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

Connections Lunch

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 lunch and conversation on Sunday, September 13, at 11:45 am. 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.

Shared Harvest

by Lanai Strawn

If you are interested in volunteering for this important ministry, we would love to hear from you. We are currently seeking someone to assist Peggy with this project. Your willingness to serve would be greatly appreciated and would make a meaningful difference.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Peggy Ince.

Council News

by Eric Gieseke

Hello Holy Cross Family!

August is here! Enjoy the warmth while we still got it! Not too much to report from the council as we took a break for the month of July and Pastor even got to get out of town for a bit. However that didn't stop our usual Sunday services or even other amazing events like the annual Artown Music and Quilt show! Thank you so much to Cheryl and Annie for hosting the services while Pastor was away and thank you to everyone who showed up and supported our Artown event this year!

A couple things to keep in mind for August. First off, our mid-year congregation meeting will be on August 16th following the 9:30 am service. Please attend to get to know what is happening in the church and make sure your voice is heard! Second, summer (break) is coming to an end so we will be having blessing of the backpacks coming up on August 9th. Bring your backpacks to be blessed for the school year to come!

Do you know who the council representative is for your committee? If not please reach out to me or any other member of the council to find out. As a church council we want to be sure that we are supporting all church systems, all church members, and our community at large. Please let your representative know if you need extra financial or person-power assistance, so that we can continue to be Christ's hands and feet in our community. Not on a committee? Talk to me or any council member if you want to help out with a committee or even start your own. Whether you have five minutes or five hours to give, we heavily value your time and contributions!

As a council we are still working towards connecting the congregation. Please let us know if you want to know more about opportunities for fellowship or if you have your own small group or event ideas.

Thank you all for being such an amazing loving congregation! We wouldn't be the same without YOUR presence and smiles!

With God's warmth and love,
Eric "Goose" Gieseke

Don't Let the Heat Keep You from Saving a Life – Give Blood in August.

Give blood Aug. 1-31 to help patients this summer — and we'll thank you with a $15 Rewards gift card.* Must use code AUGUST15-2026-V when scheduling your appointment. Schedule your appointment today! *Donor Rewards program opt-in required for gift card.*

Make an appointment at vitalant.org or call 877-25-VITAL

Use blood drive code: 100564912

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

Location: 4895 S. McCarran Blvd Reno, NV 89502
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2026
Time: 11:00AM - 2:30PM

To schedule a donation time, please scan the QR Code

*Terms and condition apply; see vitalant.org/AugDonorGift.

877-25-VITAL | vitalant.org
Because of you, life doesn't stop

vitalant

What's Happening in August

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST

- **August 2** - Bible & Current Events Discussion (10:30 am)
- **August 4** - Senior Socializing & Games (1:30 pm)
- **August 5** - Mid-week Communion (1:00 pm)
- **August 6** - Wild Island Waterpark Outing (11 am meet at the park gate)
- **August 9** - Blessing of the Backpacks (9:30 am)
- **August 10** - Close Knit Friends (1:00 pm)
- **August 11** - Church Council Meeting (5:30 pm)
- **August 13** - Youth Back to School Crazy Game Night (6:00 pm)
- **August 16** - Mid-year Congregational Meeting (10:30 am)
- **August 24** - Close Knit Friends (1:00 pm)
- **August 30** - Youth Parent Meeting (10:45 am)
- **August 30** - Blood Drive at Holy Cross Lutheran Church (11:00 am)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday	Zoom Bible Study (4:00 pm)
Tuesday	Casa del Alfarero (7:00 pm)
Wednesday	Bible Study (1:30 pm) Mid-week Worship (6:30 pm)
Thursday	Quilting (9:00 am & 1:00 pm)
Friday	Casa del Alfarero (7:30 pm)
Saturday	Living Church of God (12:00 pm - 4:00 pm)
Sunday	Family Worship (9:30 am) Fellowship (10:30 am) Tongan Church (1:00 pm) Casa del Alfarero (5:30 pm)

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathered in Faith • Growing in Love • Sent to Serve