JUNE 2026

CROSSROADS

Official Newsletter of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

I am coming off a little bit of a high as we celebrated Pentecost Sunday together with the celebration of confirmation for two of our young people, one of who is my daughter. It was a very special and memorable worship service for me and for my family and I am so grateful for the love you all shared with us not just that Sunday, but each Sunday and actually each day as we journey through ministry together. I know from other “pastor moms” that there can be struggles between the church and the pastor’s family, and I am so grateful you all understand my calling to both roles and offer me some flexibility when it comes to family life.

Sunday’s service and celebration of the Holy Spirit’s arrival in Acts 2 often serves as a reminder to me that just as the Holy Spirit came upon the early followers of Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes upon us, too. It’s often my prayer that the Holy Spirit be stirred up in our church and works to lead us to the places and in the ministries where God needs us to go and share the good news of God’s love as we love and serve our neighbors. While I know at times, we might seem like we’re just a busy church, I encourage us all not to lose sight of why we are busy. We are doing the Lord’s work at this time and place in the world.

As summer approaches, we have quite a few things planned. Vacation Bible School is at the end of June, and Faith Night at the Aces and the Artown Concert and Quilt Show are coming quick in July. We will also be having regular youth nights on Thursdays throughout the summer.

But in the midst of the busy, I want to offer us an opportunity to take a moment and breathe deep with a mid-week worship service on Wednesday nights. We’ll be meeting at 6:30pm for worship and communion starting on Wednesday, June 10. My hope is that this might be helpful for those who work on Sundays, or those who don’t like getting up early on when we have our one service at 9:30am, or for those who might just prefer something a little quieter or smaller.

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I would love to have your help with the service, and perhaps even have some of you share about a favorite verse, or about a person who influenced your faith, or about a moment when you experienced God working in your life. If you'd like to do that, please let me know. Some weeks, we'll have music videos to sing along to, some weeks, we may have spoken liturgy, some weeks we may have live music, but each Wednesday will be special, and we invite you to join us, and even to bring a friend.

I look forward to experiencing the Holy Spirit working among us this summer. I pray that it will be a season of growth for each of us!

Love in Christ, Pastor Kathy

Youth News

by Pastor Kathy Morris

Congratulations to our graduates! If you would like to celebrate a graduate, please submit their name and photo to Lanai by Wednesday, June 3 as we will be praying for them in worship on Sunday, June 7.

Thursday, June 11 – we are heading to the beach! Meet at the church at 2pm for an afternoon at the lake. We will be back by 9. Please bring a sack dinner and snacks to share. (If the weather is bad at the lake, we will plan to do something different here in town that day and we'll hold, Thursday, August 6 as a back-up date, so keep an eye out for more information.) Youth, please sign up if you are planning to come.

Thursday, June 18 at 6pm or Sunday, June 21 after church – Youth need to attend at least one of the meetings if they are planning to help with VBS.

Learning Opportunities

by Pastor Kathy Morris

Monday's Zoom Bible Study will meet Mondays at 4pm June 1, 8 and 15. Then we will be taking a break through the summer.

Sunday, June 7, after church, join us for another discussion about the Bible and Current Events. If you have anything in particular you want to talk about, please let Pastor Kathy know by Wednesday, June 3.

Vacation Bible School News

by Pastor Kathy Morris

We are getting ready for VBS! We'll be welcoming children from our church and our community June 22-26 from 9am to noon. We still have space available, so we encourage you to sign up your children and grandchildren soon!

This year we'll be finding our strength in God as we enjoy our theme of Snowball Mountain Challenge! If you would like to donate items that we need for the week, please see the Giving Tree in the narthex and sign up for what you can bring in for us. If you sign up for perishable food or fruit, please do not bring it until Sunday, June 21.

We do have a couple of important dates to keep in mind:

Tuesday, June 2 is our final planning meeting for all of our rotation leaders. We'll meet at 5:30 to go over last-minute plans.

Thursday, June 18 at 6pm or Sunday, June 21 after church, we will have a training meeting for all volunteers at 6pm. Volunteers, both youth and adults need to attend at least one of these meetings.

Friday, June 19 and probably Saturday, June 20, we will be decorating the church, so if you'd like to help, please feel free to join us!

Shared Harvest

JUNE 28

We are looking to collect the following items:

(42) Chili Beans
(56) Canned Vegetables
(42) Crackers
(42) Tuna
Powdered Laundry Detergent

A big thank you for everyone's continued support!

Quilt Group News

by Diane Torry

The Artown Quilt and Music show will be held Sunday July 12 12:30 to 4 p.m. If you would like to enter a quilt in the Artown Quilt show or have a friend who would like to show their quilts, let us know—entry forms for the July 12 th show are now available from any quilter or in the Church office.

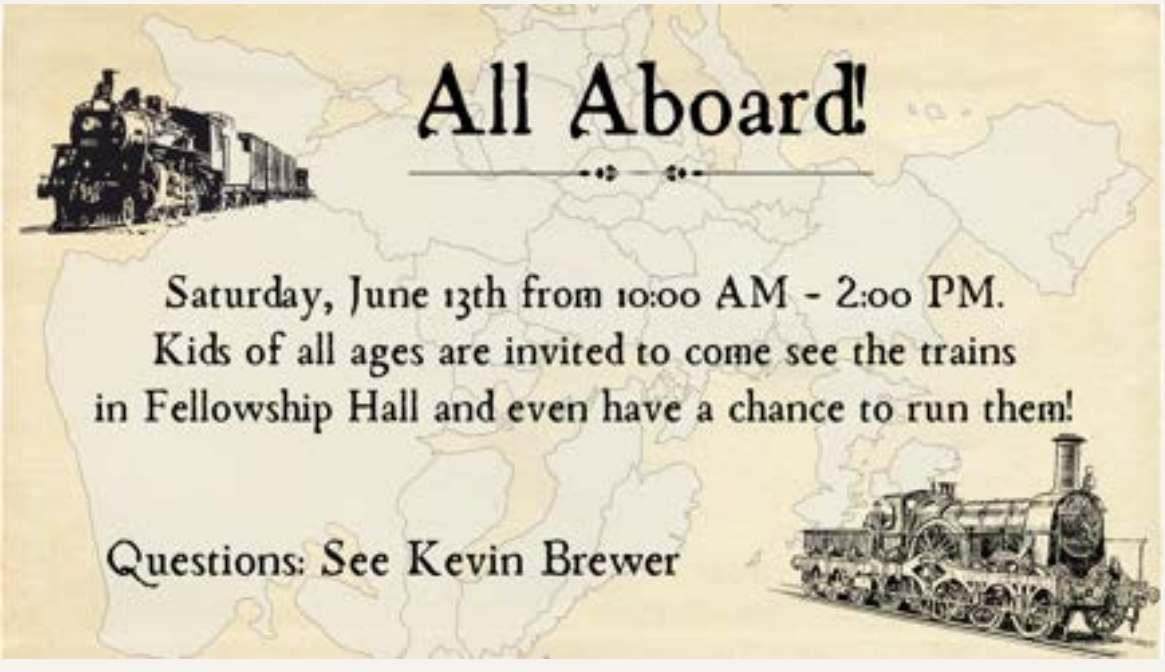
Mark your calendar for this wonderful event—quilts and music. Raffle tickets on a beautiful quilt will be available during the event. The proceeds support our Quilt work at Holy Cross. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

We are "hard at work' (sometimes with coffee and donuts) every Thursday, making quilts to give to our neighbors in need in our local community and around the world. We would love to have you join us.

SIGN UP TODAY TO HOST!

DINNER FOR 8

Dinners may be hosted at your home or at church. Meals can be homemade or potluck-style. Make it fun with a theme — mystery dinner, games, karaoke, BBQ, breakfast for dinner, and more!



Bible Study News

by Becky Bradley

Wednesday Bible Study is nearing the end of our study of 2 Samuel, which also means nearing the end of King David's life in our study of the Bible. God has used this sinner to become one of the greats of our faith, because He can see into the heart of a person.

Note that the class on 6/24 will be by Zoom only during VBS week. Otherwise, join us either in the Fellowship Hall or by Zoom, every Wednesday 1:30pm-2:40pm.

Contact Becky at 775-360-0553 or beckyb485@gmail.com for more information.

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 # above.
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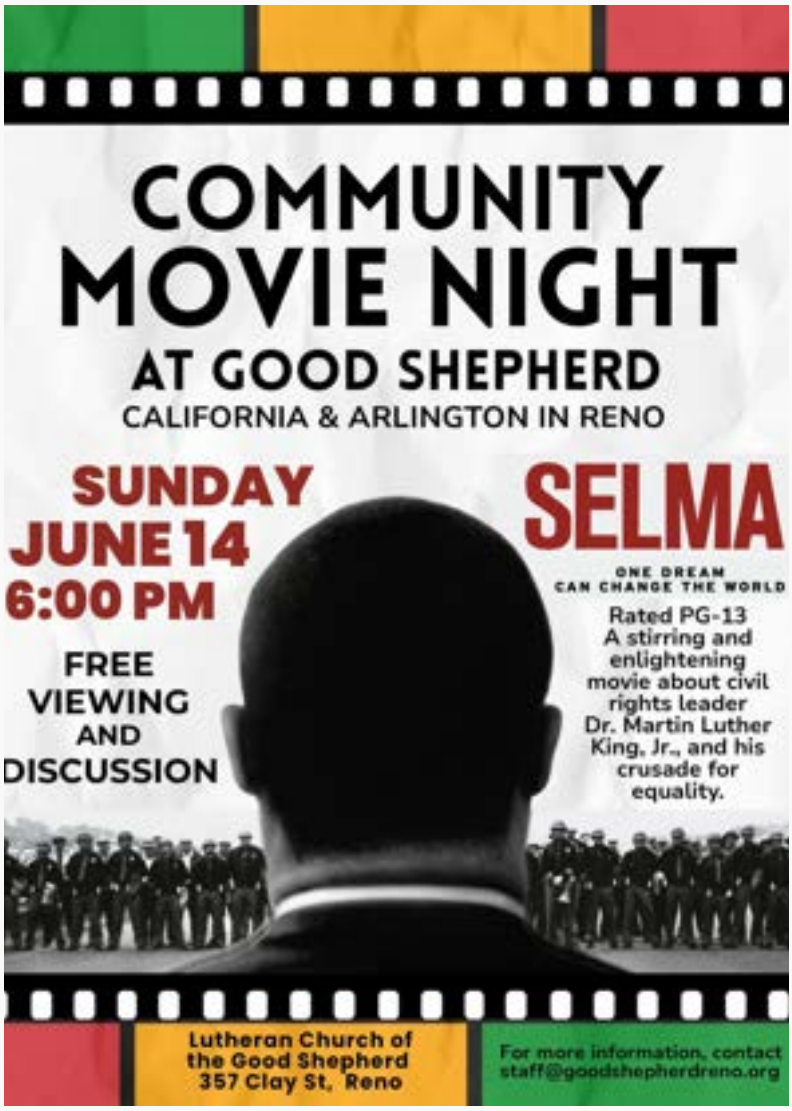
Health & Wellness Committee News

by Lani Moss

Walking for Life

As the weather is warming up, now is the time to get out and walk! Harvard Health Publishing (2023) lists 5 benefits of walking that may surprise you.

- Harvard researchers looked at 32 obesity-promoting genes in over 12,000 people. For those who walked briskly for an hour a day, the effects of these genes were cut in half.
- A 15- minute walk can curb cravings for chocolate and other sweet snacks.
- The American Cancer Society found that women who walked seven or more hours a week had a 14% less risk of breast cancer compared to those who walked 3 hours a week or less.
- Walking eases joint pain, including arthritis related pain, and can even prevent arthritis from forming at all.
- Walking can help protect you during the flu and cold season. Those walking at least 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week, had 43% fewer sick days than those who exercised once a week or less.



GOOD SHEPHERD INVITES YOUR CONGREGATION TO A COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT FEATURING "SELMA" ON SUNDAY, JUNE 14, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY. THE MOVIE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION.

LOCATION & PARKING: FOR EASIEST ACCESS, USE 501 CALIFORNIA AVENUE, RENO, NV FOR GPS DIRECTIONS TO THE CHURCH PARKING LOT ENTRANCE ON CALIFORNIA AVENUE. USING THE CHURCH OFFICE ADDRESS (357 CLAY ST.) WILL DIRECT YOU TO STREET PARKING. FROM EITHER LOCATION, ENTER THE SANCTUARY BUILDING ON THE CLAY STREET SIDE OF CAMPUS USING THE RAMP OR STAIRS.

Council News

by Eric Gieseke

Hello Holy Cross Family,

Get ready for June with many events and opportunities for fellowship and connection. Keep in mind that we will only be having one service on Sundays at 9:30 with mid-week services starting on Wednesday June 10th. If you haven't already please sign up now and tell all your friends and family about our snowball mountain themed vacation bible school happening from June 22rd-26th. Thank you so much to everyone helping plan and make VBS a success! Reach out to me or any council member if you have questions or want to help with any upcoming events!

As a council we have been working a lot to get some small group started to help people connect with each other in a more meaningful way rather than a quick "hi" and "bye" at Sunday services. This is off to a great start with new groups already started like "the bible and current events" and a walking group. Keep an eye out for more opportunities coming up in June like a mystery dinner and dinners for eight. Please attend any of these events to get to know the church better and let a council member know if you wanted to start your own event or group! If you are unsure of who our current council members are you can always look at the board on the wall across from the office door. Talk to any of us, any time!

Thank you to everyone! Yes, everyone! Whether you fix things and keep the building standing, share you ideas and talents, organize and plan events, or even just attend Sunday service. This church would not exist without every one of us. So thank you!

With God's warmth and love,
Eric G.

Music News

by Becky Bradley

The choir is taking a summer break but stay tuned for specials throughout the summer from our members. AND 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.

Also, the choir will be performing at our Artown concert and quilt show on July 12 (rehearsal on Saturday morning, July 11). If you'd like to have the choir experience for this special occasion, we'd love to have you sing with us! Contact Brittney or Becky for more information.

Close Knit Friends News

by Peggy Whitney

During the month of May, Close Knit Friends donated over 70 hats, scarves, hot pads, and mostly blankets to The Women and Children's Center of the Sierra on Neil Rd. The center helps women and their children by giving them a hand up out of poverty. Offering a diaper bank, food closet, clothes closet, English as a Second Language class, parenting classes, computer classes and more. Holy Cross Lutheran Church has also sponsored drives for school supplies, coats, blankets and other necessities too.

Also in May, Close Knit Friends and their guests attended the annual Nevada Interfaith Association Prayer Breakfast where 300 faith leaders, non-profit leaders, political leaders, and community leaders come together for breakfast, worship, songs, prayers, Keynote Address and Expressions of Faith. Peggy Whitney and Cheryl Eckert were joined by Pastor Kathy, Alex the Chaplain of the Women Veterans Program, and HCLC members Diane Torry, Heather, and Michael Prescott.

This month Close Knit Friends will gather on Monday, June 8 at 1pm and collect shawls for the Women Veterans Program. On Monday, June 22 at 1pm, preemie sets (hats, blankets, booties) with an Octopus will be collected for both the Sierra Medical Center NICU & Renown Regional Medical Center NICU. The maternity wards will receive donations of purple baby hats to bring awareness to Shaken Baby Syndrome. Finally, on Monday, June 29 from 1-2:30pm will be our 5th Monday workshop to knit or crochet shawls for the Women Veterans Program, Octopus for Preemies, and purple baby hats for Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness. Our workshops are for knitters and crocheters who can read patterns and have the necessary skills for the projects.

We welcome knitters and crocheters of all skill levels to our 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month from 1-2:30pm. Middle school and/or high school students must have parental permission to attend. We offer DIY projects for those who prefer to work on their own and can return the finished project. Donations of acrylic or 100% cotton yarn are appreciated. NO WOOL please. Please see Peggy Whitney, Cheryl Eckert, Cleve Bjur, or Becky Bradley for more information.