SEPTEMBER 2026

CROSSROADS

Official Newsletter of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this article as I sit looking out at surfers sliding across the waves with an elegance that I will never have. It's been an odd thing to be here, enjoying this little piece of paradise as we've been exploring God's creation in Maui while so many of you have been living in upheaval due to more alerts and evacuations due to another set of fires affecting the Reno community. My heart has been heavy as I've been watching the news and trying to keep up with those most impacted.

I think it was Fred Rogers who said that if you wanted to see where God was in the midst of tragedy that we should "look to the helpers," and there we will see Christ's hands and feet at work in the world. My heart is filled with gratitude to be able to hear stories of so many of you reaching out with prayers and support for those in our community and our church family who have been especially affected. Stories of how you've been providing for basic needs, how you are wondering how we can help, how you're sewing quilt tops to donate to a local quilt shop as part of a quilt drive, how you've opened your homes to friends and neighbors who had no place to go when evacuated.

None of you are doing these things for credit. You do this because the Holy Spirit has spurred you to action. I believe this is the brightest way that we shine the light of Christ when our world is dark, so I just want to encourage you to keep going! Keep doing it! In the coming weeks, we'll find more ways to help, so keep your eyes and ears open for announcements and notices. Until then, thank you for letting your lights shine. I give God thanks for you all!

Love in Christ, Pastor Kathy Morris

Zoom Bible Study

by Pastor Kathy Morris

Join us for Zoom Bible Study at 4:00 p.m. each Monday as we explore and discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday. Learn more about the background, history, and meaning of the passages to deepen your understanding and appreciation of the Scripture you will hear on Sunday mornings.

Please contact Pastor Kathy or Becky if you need the Zoom link or would like more information.

Please note: **There will be NO Bible Study on Monday, September 7**, due to the Labor Day holiday. We will resume the following Monday.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85131805610?pwd=i0m8UFDU0HCyhDIGHvHBRhW0rKBT2a.1

Wednesday Bible Study

by Becky Bradley

Wednesday Bible Study welcomes anyone to join at any time. We are working our way through the Old Testament (aka, Hebrew Scriptures) and are learning so much information about the culture and theology of the time. Even when we read passages from the New Testament, we now have another layer of understanding that brings the Living Word to even more life.

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. Join by Zoom: us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098 (Passcode embedded)
2. Join by Phone: Call 346-248-7799 or 669-444-9171, then enter 896 3300 9098# (press # to confirm).

Music News

by Becky Bradley

The choir, Brittney, and Becky have been appreciating the summer break, and we thank the congregation in their understanding since the regular year is full of activity and preparation and time commitments. Choir rehearsals begin again on 9/13 at 8am, the same day that we return to our regular schedule of two services. Please consider joining the choir if you have a love of singing - reading music is not a requirement. The Praise Team warms up at 10am if you have a flair for the contemporary genre, and Brittney would love your contribution of voice or instrument. The Music Program looks forward to serving the congregation this fall!

Bible and Current Events Discussion

by Pastor Kathy Morris

We will meet on Sunday, September 6th 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!

Quilt Group News

by Diane Torry

Quilts Blessed during Worship—September 20

At Sunday Worship on September 20 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 blessing 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, then sewing on the quilt labels before the quilt blessing at Worship on Sept. 20. Please join us!

Do you have slightly used or new sheets you no longer have a need for?

The quilt group uses slightly used or new sheets to back quilts—and our supply is running low.

We also use and need clean, well-worn sheets for "middles" or bats for quilts given to Lutheran World Relief. The sheet batting makes a more versatile quilt —in addition for warmth and protection in bedding or housing, these quilts are used as wraps for mothers to hold their babies.

We are grateful for all your donations and support of Holy Cross Quilters. Thank you

Shared Harvest

SEPTEMBER 27

We are looking to collect the following items:

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

A big thank you for everyone's continued support!

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Lani & Doug Moss	Lanai Strawn & Family	Nevaeh & Rosie Harkness
Linda Schlosser	Ryan Rock	Becky Ed's Daughter
Mark Jaillet & Three of his co-workers	Jeanette & Justin Jolene's sister & brother in law	Katie Torry
Liam Bonnet	Cheryl Eckert	Jacob Paula's friend/Dan's son
Becky Bradley & her husband	Michael Klepic Linn Bleggi's friend	Fran Moses
Luisa & Damian Paniagua Desmond's best friend	Fire Victims & Firefighters	

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

September

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Service & Fellowship News

by Linda SchlossLiner

Service

- Turkey Giving Tree Gift Cards: Collection runs October 15 - November 15 for SmithRidge and possibly Kate Smith Elementary Schools.
- Angel Tree: Collection runs November 22 - December 13 (delivery on Dec 14) for SmithRidge and Kate Smith Elementary Schools.
- Food Bank: Ongoing support needed.
- Hygiene & Cleaning Collection: Moved to February 2027 for Marel Way and neighbor schools.

Fellowship

- Oktoberfest: October 18, 2026, following the second service.

Senior Games & Socialization

by Linda Schlossher

Looking for a fun way to connect, play games, and share laughter with your church family? Whether you love cards, board games, or simply great conversation, everyone is welcome!

Attendance has been low recently, and we need your help to grow this ministry. Bring a friend, neighbor, or fellow member—a personal invitation makes all the difference in welcoming someone into our community.

Join us on September 1st and help strengthen our fellowship!

Church Directory Photos: We're Updating Our Directory!

Photo sessions on **September 20, October 18, and October 25**

5-minute time slots for individuals and families

More dates to come

Sign up online: **https://tinyurl.com/hclcdir26**
or use signup sheets in the narthex

Online gallery shared afterward
with optional photo ordering

Questions? Contact Ron Duque
701-650-0601 or ron@dukephotos

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- **SEPTEMBER 2** Russel Tegio
- **SEPTEMBER 5** Laine Christman
- **SEPTEMBER 7** Susan Bjorn
- **SEPTEMBER 12** Mark Jaillet
- **SEPTEMBER 15** Jody Morrison
- **SEPTEMBER 20** Deseree Carper
- **SEPTEMBER 23** Travis Mills

PRIDE Festival

SEPTEMBER 12TH

We'll be participating in the Pride Festival alongside other ELCA Lutheran Congregations.

Our booth will offer fun handouts, face painting, and information about our community.

A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex.

Sr. Lunch Resumes!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

POT LUCK
STARTING AT 11:30 AM

PLEASE RSVP TO ELDORA SO SHE KNOWS HOW MANY TO SET UP FOR.

HOPING TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Rummage Sale

by Katie Torry

Donations may be dropped off beginning Sunday, September 20, before and after church.

Clothing should be stored in the Gathering Room. All other merchandise should be stored in the Choir Room.

We cannot accept TVs, large exercise equipment, mattresses, or car seats, cribs, as donations.

Items may also be dropped off Monday through Thursday of that week between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., and on Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Please bring large/heavy items on Saturday morning, September 26, prior to 8:00 a.m.

Questions? Contact Katie Torry at 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.

Pride Parade & Festival

by Eric Gieseke

Please join for the Northern Nevada Pride festival on September 12th to show that you want all people to feel like they can express themselves and enjoy lifelong relationships with whoever they truly love

Often LGBTQ+ folks have felt the need to hide who they are or who they love, which is why pride events like this exist! Heterosexual (or straight) folks are very encouraged to join in the pride with heterosexual and cisgender pride flags. Pride is not about one person or group being more visible but rather about every person joining together and being seen and accepted as who they are without fear or judgement.

Our ELCA booth is in a shady spot right by the river so you can enjoy the festival and show your support in comfort! Please sign up for a shift at our booth on the new sheet in the Narthex.

With God's Warmth and Love,
Eric "Goose" Gieseke (They/them)

Close Knit Friends

by Peggy Whiney

Close Knit Friends are more than knitters and crocheters. We are also Prayer Warriors! At each of our gatherings we share prayer requests of concern and joy for family, friends, our community and beyond. Lately, our community has been engulfed in flames. In those times of helplessness, chaos, fear, and more we must remember "...God can accomplish what we could never do. Prayer emphasizes God's ability to make things happen." (Pray First: The Power of Prayer in Sharing the Gospel by James Banks). As we stitch, we pray for the recipients of our projects. Individuals and families struggling with homelessness, poverty, addiction, hospitalization, exploitation, and our veterans. We also pray for our partnership with Holy Cross Lutheran Church and other members in the community. Together as we join in prayer, we open the opportunity for God to work in and through us! Join us on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 1 pm as we create items of warmth and comfort for our neighbors in need. This month we will gather on September 14 & 28. All skills are welcome! Please see Peggy Whitney, Cheryl Eckert, Cleve Bjur, and Becky Bradley for more information or pick up one of our flyers on the credenza under the large bulletin board.

Godly Play News

by Katie Torry

Welcome Back to Godly Play!
We are delighted to welcome children and families back for another season of Godly Play—a time to wonder, learn, create, and grow together in faith.

Join Us This Fall
Our Sunday school program, Godly Play, begins Sunday, September 26, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. All children from age 3 through fifth grade are warmly invited to participate.

What to Expect
This season, Godly Play will follow a new structure designed to connect children's worship, learning, creativity, and fellowship.

1. **Gather in the sanctuary**: Children will begin worship with their families and hear a children's sermon from Pastor Kathy.
2. **Move to the Godly Play room**: After the children's sermon, children will gather for discussion, art, and fellowship.
3. **Return for Communion**: Children will return to the sanctuary to receive Communion with their families.

We look forward to beginning this new season together and welcoming every child into the stories, wonder, and community of Godly Play. We hope your family will join us!

Questions? Please contact Katie Torry at 775-276-9720. We would be happy to help and look forward to welcoming your family to Godly Play!

Volunteer Opportunity!

Interested in working with the youth of Holy Cross Lutheran Church?

We are looking for adults and confirmed teenagers to support our children during Godly Play sessions.

Volunteers will help children explore art, God's creation, and God's love in a welcoming space with other children. Activities may be as simple as preparing supplies for exploration or sharing an open-ended art technique that allows every child to create something unique.

We hope to have two adults in the room for each session:

Art helper:
Prepares materials and guides children as they explore art.

Doorkeeper:
Welcomes children and helps *maintain a safe, supportive environment.*

Interested in volunteering?
Please contact Katie Torry at 775-276-9720.

Church Directory Update

by Ron Duque

We're updating our church directory! Photo sessions will be available on September 20, October 18, and October 25, with 5-minute time slots for individuals and families. More dates will be announced later.

Sign up online at https://tinyurl.com/hclcdir26, scan the QR code below, or use the signup sheets available at church. An online gallery will be shared afterward, with optional photo ordering available for those who are interested.

Questions? Contact Ron Duque at 701-650-0601 or ron@duke.photos.

Health and Wellness Committee

by Lani Moss

Recovering from Wildfires

We are keeping everyone affected by the recent wildfires in our thoughts and prayers, as well as tangibly helping those who need help. I came across an incredibly great article about "What to Expect in the Wake of Wildfires." You will find it at ptsd.va.gov, under the disaster events subcategory. You probably don't think about PTSD in the context of wildfires, but it is a real thing. Even after almost 2 years from the Davis Fire, my heart still races when I hear a helicopter flying over my house, or the alarm on the WatchDuty app goes off. This article mentions several important principles to remember:

1. There's no "right way" to deal with these kind of events.
2. Talk when you need to, listen when you can.
3. You don't have to talk when you don't feel like it.
4. Resilience often means rolling with the punches.
5. Social support is key-Holy Cross is here for you as well as others!
6. Give it time! You will bounce back in time, but it doesn't mean that you never feel the impact of traumatic events.

Submitted in Christ's Love,
Health and Wellness Committee

PHOTO PROVIDED BY BECKY BRADLEY

What's Happening in September

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- **September 1** – Senior Socializing & Games (1:30 pm)
- **September 2** – Mid-week Communion (1:00 pm)
- **September 6** – Bible & Current Events Discussion (10:45 am)
- **September 8** – Church Council Meeting (5:30 pm)
- **September 12** – Pride Festival
- **September 13** – Choir Rehearsal Begins (8:00 am)
  Two Services Resume (9:00 am & 10:30 am)
  Godly Play Sunday School Begins (10:30 am)
  Connections Lunch (11:45 am)
- **September 14** – Close Knit Friends (1:00 pm)
- **September 16** – Senior Lunch Potluck (11:30 am)
- **September 28** – Close Knit Friends (1:00 pm)
- **September 26** – Rummage Sale (8:00 am)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday	Zoom Bible Study (4:00 pm)
Tuesday	Casa del Alfarero (7:00 pm)
Wednesday	Bible Study (1:30 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 (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday	Choir Rehearsal (8:00 am) Worship (9:00 am) Fellowship (10:00 am) Godly Play Sunday School (10:30 am) Worship (10:30 am) Fellowship (11:30 am) Tongan Church (1:00 pm) Casa del Alfarero (5:30 pm)

HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Believe in One • Affect Many • Welcome All

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