



The HOLY CROSS WORD

*Words of news, information, humor
and inspiration from Holy Cross*

APRIL 2020

"Share the Hope"

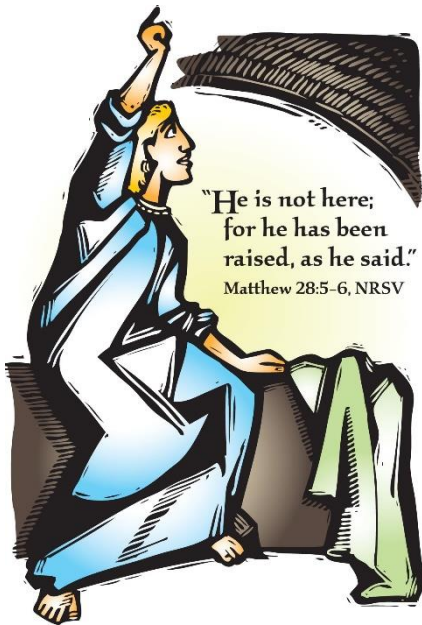
VOL. LXIII, NO. 5

FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Dear Members & Friends of Holy Cross,

Greetings in our Lord, Jesus Christ! I'm writing this letter on March 15, the first Sunday on which so many of us have ever been affected – apart from a snowstorm's aftermath – by the cancellation of a Lord's Day worship service. It was a new experience to spend Sunday morning alone with Christine reading online devotions and listening in to streaming worship services that aired without congregations being present. I know you join me in looking forward to the time when reasonable normalcy can be restored not only to our worship patterns, but also to our day-to-day lives.

Today my wife and I took a long walk together on the grounds of the now vacant Fairfield Hills Hospital complex in Newtown, mindful the whole time of the guidelines that have been promulgated by the Center for Disease Control. A lot of individuals and families were also out on this beautiful, crisp afternoon, many with strollers and some with four-legged family members. All the walkers, runners, and cyclists seemed to be aware of the "social distancing" requirements of the present moment, with many maintaining a wide berth motivated by either compliance or fear.



As this Lenten season draws to a close and Christians anticipate the observance of Holy Week and Easter, it is becoming clearer and clearer that things are going to be very different this year. In fact, I'm not sure that any of us can yet appreciate all the implications of our current challenge. What we do know is that certain things never change. Each of us needs to know that we matter to God and others, each of us needs to love and to be loved, and each of us absolutely needs the grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation that is ours through Jesus Christ.

The world stands in need of contagious Christianity even as it fears the contagion of viral threat. Some two thousand years ago, our Lord's first followers began to bear witness to the message first announced by an angelic messenger: "He is not here. He has risen." It began a movement that changed the world as the Holy Spirit gave life to their message and faith was multiplied among those who heard. That message is the one that still gives life. We who have been claimed by that faith are still called to be bearers of that message, giving positive contagion through acts of mercy, signs of love, words of encouragement, and peaceful presence.

Our social contacts are limited right now, but opportunities shall increase as we look for opportunities to witness to Jesus. Easter may be different this year, but we are Easter people who speak of life and hope in the midst of despair and change. External circumstances may be growing more challenging, but we have a Lord who has, through His resurrection, defeated death, sin, and evil. We are, as the apostle Paul wrote, "more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

Contagious Easter people – such is our call!

Serving with you,

William H. Flammann
Interim Pastor



PROVISIONAL, UPON OUR ABILITY TO GATHER.

Sunday, April 5 – Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 10 – Good Friday

Noon – Midday Service

7:30 p.m. – Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 12 – The Resurrection of Our Lord: EASTER

7:00 a.m. – Worship Service

8:30 a.m. – Easter Breakfast (*immediately following the early service*)

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

Thursday, April 16

7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors' meeting

Saturdays, April 18 and May 2, 16

5:00 p.m. – Vespers Worship service



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Pastor's Study Phone: 203-268-7555; Pastor's e-mail: pastor@holycrosstrumbull.com

Church Office: 203-268-4555; Church Office e-mail: office@holycrosstrumbull.com

Website: www.holycrosstrumbull.org

Christian Preschool: 203-268-6471 e-mail: preschool@holycrosstrumbull.com

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Holy Cross congregation is to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord (Matt. 28:18-20). We will share the love and forgiveness of Our Lord Jesus Christ with one another, our community and the whole world so that we can take part in the joyous privilege of "making disciples of all nations" through the power of the preaching and teaching the Word of God, administering His Sacraments, and joining together in service fellowship according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church (Article III).



For Our Readers:
The Holy Cross Word
is best viewed in its
full-color format
on the church website,
holycrosstrumbull.org



**Like Holy Cross
on Facebook!**

After you "Like" us,
you'll see postings
of upcoming events, pictures
from events and other notices.



WORDS OF HOPE

Join in this refrain:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The risen Christ appears among us – despite our locked hearts, our fears, our attempts to hide – and says, "Peace." Join together in saying, "Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!"

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the May edition. The deadline for

articles is

Wednesday,

April 15.

Please take

note of this deadline, and plan ahead to publicize any events and share news with your fellow Holy Cross members. You can submit articles to the newsletter mailbox, located outside the church office, or send them via e-mail to:

office@holycrosstrumbull.com.



PROVISIONAL, UPON OUR ABILITY TO GATHER.



In addition to our 9 a.m. Sunday Worship schedule, please take note of the following:

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday – April 5 at 9 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – April 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday – April 10 at Noon and 7:30 p.m. (*Office of Tenebrae*)

Easter Sunday – April 12

We will offer TWO Worship services, at 7 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Take note that this is our “usual” Easter Sunday schedule.

The annual Easter Breakfast will take place between the services at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Upcoming Vespers Services

Saturday, April 18 – 5 p.m.

Saturdays at 5 p.m. in May: May 2 and May 16

Saturdays at 5 p.m. in June: June 13 and June 27

WORDS FROM MARTIN LUTHER

Despite not being able to meet for the Lord’s Supper these past few weeks, we have all things in common

“Just as the bread is made out of many grains ground and mixed together, and out of the bodies of many grains there comes the body of one bread, in which each grain loses its form and body and takes upon itself the common body of the bread; and just as the drops of wine, in losing their own form, become the body of one common wine and drink — so it is and should be with us. ...

“Through the interchange of [Christ’s] blessings and our misfortunes, we become one loaf, one bread, one body, one drink, and have all things in common.”

—Martin Luther, *Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament*

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EDITH SKOOG'S PANCAKE DAY!

Breakfast food we love served as a sendoff into the Lenten season

In our approach to the Lenten season, we came together on February 23 to indulge in the rich foods we will avoid during this time. Ninety-two attendees of all ages filled our Fellowship Hall, which began with a prayer said by Pastor Flammann. The kitchen was a busy hive of volunteers as they prepared for our feast of delicious breakfast items. Edith Skoog and Lorraine Finch used traditional cast-iron molds to make the Swedish and Aebleskiver pancakes, which were made using



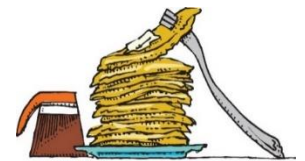
Edith's traditional recipe, and offered with homemade applesauce. Gary Messerschmitt, our very own pancake flipper, was assisted by Joe Ciccia as they made countless King Arthur pancakes for us to enjoy. Karen Geffert made, flipped, and served gluten and dairy-free pancakes. Jim Finch cooked the sausage links to perfection.

The pancakes were, of course, offered with melted butter and syrup, but the indulging didn't end there; platters of member-donated doughnuts and Danish filled the tables alongside bowls of fruit salads. Our Fellowship Hall was filled with smiles, laughter and full bellies!



A generous free-will offering covered all expenses for this wonderful gathering of Holy Cross members and their friends and families.

---EDITH SKOOG,
LORRAINE FINCH,
CINDY CICCIA



Holy Cross members and friends indulge in fun and delicious food at our Annual Pancake Day! The top picture shows a crowded Fellowship Hall and a line of people anxiously awaiting their turn to fill their plates with pancakes and the fixings. Above are three people from the cooking crew: Gary Messerschmitt (left) and Joe Ciccia (right), with Edith Skoog in the foreground. In the adjacent photo, a smiling Dieter Leibold wonders which Danish or doughnut he should add to his plate.

A Bit of Shrovetide Trivia: These traditions began in the Middle Ages (10th-11th Ages) as religious requirement. The word Shrove means absolution or forgiveness. Fasting was required during Lent, and eggs, milk, fat, cream and sugar were the items forbidden during this 40-day period. During SHROVETIDE the people tried ways to use up these rich food ingredients used in their homes. As Edith Skoog wrote, "As you enter the Lenten season, though it is a solemn time of repentance, you can rejoice in the fact that you are "SHRIVEN."

REGARDING OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

Some thoughts from our Interim Pastor

I believe the tithes, offerings, and gifts of God's people in worship to be the moment of blessed convergence of our need to give and the church's need to be supported in its mission to a world in need. It is a profound act of worship when we Christians give in a manner that is generously proportionate to God's gifts in our lives. The scriptures teach that *God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7)*. Then, as members of the body of Christ localized in a particular congregation, our gifts propel mission and ministry in and from that place.

On behalf of all here and beyond who benefit from the ministry and outreach of Holy Cross, thank you to all who are continuing to show thanks to God through their timely offerings despite the fact that we are in a season of necessary distance.

The world is a changing place! Not too many years ago, I was not in favor of automated giving. For me, writing the weekly check to be placed physically in the offering became a moment to reflect regularly on God's blessings and to set life's priorities in a God-pleasing way. I will likely continue doing that. I have come to see, however, that a growing number of people (particularly those far younger than I) hardly ever write checks, pay their bills online, make bank transfers without going to the bank, and so on. Certainly God is just as pleased with offerings electronically transferred as with paper checks. In fact, electronic transfer may make more sense in this time of "social distancing."



Our Financial Secretary, Chad Helminger, has prepared step-by-step instructions for online giving that leads you to the place on the Holy Cross webpage where you can arrange for immediate and ongoing offerings to support the work we share in this congregation. These instructions have been sent out via recent e-mail blasts, or you may contact the church office and the pdf of these instructions will be emailed to you. For those well-versed on technology you may not need the instructions; simply go to our website – holycrosstrumbull.org – and scroll to the bottom of the "welcome" page, click on the green oval "To Donate click here" and follow the prompts. Thank you for considering this opportunity, for maintaining or increasing your thank offerings, and for the part you play in our life together at Holy Cross.

---BILL FLAMMANN

Interim Pastor

COVENANT TO CARE CORNER

Thanks to all those who are supporting the Easter Basket project

When this newsletter was in its final stages, the deadline for the Easter Baskets was extended due to the current coronavirus crisis. I have been in touch with our DCF social worker, Mimose Laurenard, and until this societal health crisis is over, she may only have limited emergency contact with the children in her caseload. Any baskets that are brought to the church – or have already been delivered to the church – will be held until that time when it is safe for Mimose to hand-deliver them. I have been in touch with all those who took a bunny, chick or butterfly tag from the Easter Basket poster and I thank you for putting health safety first, not only with your shopping for the basket goodies, but in bringing them to the church. The children will most likely not receive the baskets by Easter, but they will get them sometime this spring!



Thank you so much to the following families/individuals who took a tag, agreeing to put together a basket: Daisy Benson, Nicole Benson, the Bogen family, Joe and Cindy Ciccio, Diane Dietman, Sherry Duff, the Festi family, Pastor and Chris Flammann, the Helminger family, Donna and Gary Jackson, Ingrid and Dieter Leibold, Deb and Jim Leslie, Chris Matthews, the Messerschmitt family, Kendra Norman, Alexis Rodriguez, Donna Rodriguez, Marissa Rodriguez, Nancy Sabol, Mary and Cliff Schrock, Donna and Dan Senft, and Michele and Rick Van Wart.

Yours in Christ,

---MARY SCHROCK

Covenant to Care for Children Liaison

KEEP THE FAITH

**PROVISIONAL,
UPON OUR
ABILITY TO
GATHER.**



**Join us at the
E A S T E R
B R E A K F A S T**

**Sunday, April 12
at 8:30 a.m.
in the
Froehlich
Fellowship Hall**

Please join your Holy Cross family and friends for this annual fellowship tradition.

Worship with us at the 7:00 service and stay for breakfast
or

Come for breakfast at 8:30 and worship with us at the 10:30 service

**If you plan to attend,
the sign-up sheet
is on the narthex table.**

Breakfast casseroles, muffins, bagels, baked goods and fruit salad are needed. If you can provide any of these items, please indicate this on the sign-up sheet.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE NOTICE

It's back! Sunday two-service schedule returns in fall

As follow-up to our discussion at January's Annual Voters Meeting regarding church service times and Sunday School, I'm writing to advise that the Board voted last month [February] to return to our two-service schedule: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School to immediately follow the first service at 9:15 a.m. **We will return to this schedule on the first Sunday following Labor Day, which is September 13, 2020.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Sally Finck (Worship Director), Kristen Messerschmitt (Education Director) or me.

FYI...the 9:15 a.m. start time for Sunday School corresponds perfectly with the start time for Pastor's Adult Bible study—I invite you all to grab a coffee (or beverage of your choice) and come join us!

In service to Him with you,

---SHERRY DUFF

President, HCLC Board of Directors

LUTHERAN WINNI WEEK

Annual gathering to be held in early July

For those interested, grab your Bibles, pack your bags, and come have a week of fun and spiritual renewal at Lutheran Winni Week ("Where Lutherans Have Gathered since 1931") at beautiful Geneva Point Center on the shore of Lake Winnepesaukee, July 5-11, Moultonboro, NH. Contact Kathy or Rick Boivie for details at 203-261-6695 and leave a message if we're not there.



<https://www.lutheranwinniweek.org>

<https://www.lutheranwinniweek.org/about/2020-brochure>

---KATHY BOIVIE

THANKS A BUNCH!

Do you know of someone who did something special as a volunteer here at Holy Cross? This column is the spot to identify him or her! If you have an item to include in this monthly "thank you" column, please jot it down and put it in the "newsletter" mailbox. This month we say "thank you" to:



Edith Skoog who, for many years, has picked up and arranged beautiful flowers for our altar each Sunday. They look so beautiful each week!

Donna DiLalla and **Lorraine Finch** for their dependable help with tasks in the church office one morning a week.

Mary Ann and **David Schiller** for supplying us with beautiful white tablecloths for our fellowship events. In addition, they wash and iron those 15 or so tablecloths after the event – a very big job!

Jim Atkinson who kindly brought up to the sanctuary (from the basement) the large standing cross for the Lenten season.

All those who helped with the Pancake Day event on Sunday, February 23: **Joe** and **Cindy Ciccia**, **Lorraine** and **Jim Finch**, **Sally Finck**, **Kerry** and **Karen Geffert**, **Stephanie Helminger** and sons **Kyle** and **Nate**, **Buela John**, **Cheryl Mayeran**, **Gary** and **Kristen Messerschmitt**, **Julianne Nyitrai** and sons **Danny** and **Jacob**, **Mary Ann** and **David Schiller**, **Donna** and **Danny Senft**, **Edith Skoog**, **Laurie Vaitkus**, and **Michele** and **Rick Van Wart** and their granddaughter **Bella**.

BUILDING OUR CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITY DURING SOCIAL DISTANCING

Consider this proposal for how you can enhance our Christian ties

It can be challenging to retain our equilibrium, even our spiritual equilibrium, when so much of what makes us a Christian community has been rendered impossible for a season. We are accustomed to gathering for prayer and worship, but now we need to do these things in a different way.

Here's a proposal and suggestion. Please prayerfully consider doing this, and as you're led to do so, do it! Together let's make the most of our current challenge and build up our congregational community through prayer and love.

1. Identify three Holy Cross individuals or households, at least one of which you may not know very well, and begin to pray for them intentionally and daily.
 - a. Pray for their wellness: physical, spiritual, emotional, and relational.
 - b. Pray that they not lose heart during the Covid-19 challenge.
 - c. Pray for those who love them, that each may know the support of others.
 - d. Pray that, over time, you come to know them or to know them better.
2. After a few days, contact them by telephone or email to let them know you are praying for them. Ask whether there is anything in particular for which you might offer prayer.
3. After a week or two, send them a card or note of encouragement.
4. See if you can commit to having a visit together – coffee or something else – once the crisis is behind us.
5. Continue, over time, to be connected in some way. And continue to pray for the life of our entire congregation!

---BILL FLAMMANN
Interim Pastor

CELEBRATING APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1:	Nicole Hackney	April 14:	Marion Dale
April 3:	Robert Killian	April 23:	Anita Schoch
April 7:	John Anantharaj		Richard Van Wart
	Paul Hagberg		Sadie Veteri
April 8:	Bobby Kravecs	April 24:	Sheryl John
April 9:	Donna Bogen	April 25:	Jenzy Halls
April 10:	Donald Erickson		George Stromp
	Gordon Johnson	April 28:	Lillian Gagliardi
April 11:	Kelley Geffert		Jennifer Rentz
April 12:	Stephanie Helminger	April 29:	Dan Senft
April 13:	Gary DiLalla	April 30:	Amanda Weldon



*“Be still, and know
that I am God!”*

I AM EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS,
I AM EXALTED IN THE EARTH.”

PSALM 46:10, NRSV

CHURCH CHUCKLES

