



# The **HOLY CROSS WORD**

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

**APRIL 2021**

**"Share the Hope"**

**VOL. LXIV, NO. 5**

## FROM OUR VACANCY PASTOR

### **We miss what we once took for granted; pray for a full return to what we've been denied**

With the beginning of April, spring begins to get serious. The weather is warmer with more daylight each day, yards have undergone "spring cleaning," and gardeners (like Marie) chomp at the bit to develop new flower beds for the months to follow. Something to learn here.

But first, there are the observances of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter – three of the most sacred events of the entire Church Year. *On the night in which He was betrayed, Jesus...* instituted the Lord's Supper – a practice that has nourished the faith of millions down through the centuries. Then on Friday, we recall with both regret and gratitude that Jesus gave His life on the cross that we might receive forgiveness for our sins. Never has there been such love! Finally, on Easter Sunday, our spirits soar as we join the refrain, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" We are reminded of our Lord's words: *"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."* What a wonderful time of the year!

Now back to gardens. The little I've learned about gardening from Marie over the years has been how she has learned from past mistakes and then plans differently for the future. This illustration about gardening also applies (at least for me) to the general desire for "normalcy" that we all seek as the pandemic slowly recedes and comes under control.

Like many of you, I feel an urgency to "get back to normal." But do I want to return to everything that I was previously doing? Are there things that I now want to do differently, or even better?

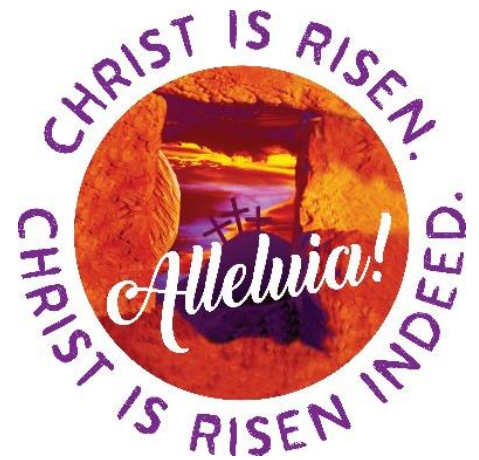
One of the things I deeply missed during these past months was seeing our children. In times past, we would meet casually and frequently, and in a way, our visits were taken for granted. All this was interrupted by the pandemic causing travel restrictions. And now that restrictions are easing, I will value the reunions we are planning more than ever before. Family gatherings are to be treasured, celebrated – and never taken for granted!

What I have written thus far about family gatherings might also be written about our church family here at Holy Cross. Whereas there have always been strong ties among members – demonstrated both during worship services and the fellowship hour that followed – these opportunities have been severely restricted during the pandemic.

Thanks to strong church leadership, there has been group worship under strict protocols plus taping of services for members at home. One day, prayerfully soon, we will once again be able to celebrate the fellowship we have missed and valued. Sometimes we don't always appreciate something unless it is denied.

I join you in the prayer that the Holy Cross family might soon return in full strength and vigor – eager and anxious once again to accomplish the Lord's work here in Trumbull – and beyond!

---BILL MEYER  
Vacancy Pastor





**Thursday, April 1** – Maundy Thursday

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

**Friday, April 2** – Good Friday

7:30 p.m. – Tenebrae Service

**Sunday, April 4** – The Resurrection of Our Lord: EASTER

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

**Mondays, April 5, 12, 19, 26**

7:00 p.m. – Call Committee meeting via MS Teams

**Thursday, April 8**

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

**Sunday, May 2**

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service, with Confirmation of our 8th-Grade youth



**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS**

**Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.**

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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).



**Like Holy Cross on Facebook!**



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



**A FITTING TRIBUTE**

**Words by Augustus Toplady, Anglican cleric and hymn writer; authored the text to the hymn "Rock of Ages"**

"When Christ entered into Jerusalem, the people spread garments in the way. When he enters into our hearts, we pull off our own righteousness, and not only lay it under Christ's feet but even trample upon it ourselves."

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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 Thursday, April 15.

Please plan ahead to publicize events or share news

with your fellow Holy Cross members. You can submit articles to the newsletter mailbox (outside the church office), or send them via e-mail to:

[office@holycrosstrumbull.com](mailto:office@holycrosstrumbull.com).



## LEARN OF & BE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

### **The Holy Cross Word monthly “Bible study on paper”: Acts, Chapter 1**



**Editor’s note:** *As the Holy Cross Word staff revives this feature that had been in hibernation, one logistical detail— the chapter being discussed will not be printed out as had been done when we studied 1 Thessalonians, 1 Peter and 1 Corinthians. To do this study, you will need to open your own Bible in front of you, of whatever version you prefer, or you can go to a website such as BibleGateway.com, and enter the Bible version you prefer and this Bible passage Acts 1 in the appropriate search fields. With that, open your Bible or web page to Acts, Chapter 1.*

**Acts, Chapter 1, 26 verses**—To review from last month, Acts provides a historical narrative to the early church’s development plus background detail to the New Testament letters that come later, which were written by a variety of people, including Paul and Peter. For those of you old enough to know who radio commentator Paul Harvey was, what Acts helps us understand following the Gospels is “the rest of the story” of what happened after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension as well as the early church growth.

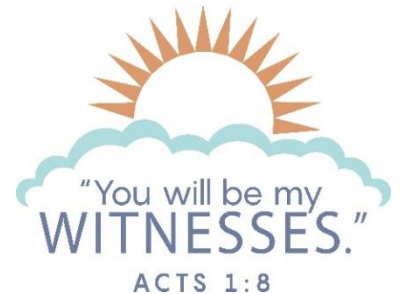
Luke is the author of Acts, and because it is thought he died after Paul’s execution, the book concludes with Paul’s Rome imprisonment. Acts is primarily limited to the ministries of Paul and Peter in Rome, Greece, Macedonia, Turkey/Asia Minor and Palestine. We learn how the early Christian church grew, and we can see that it did so through great suffering and persecution. Many of the key church-growth elements we appreciate now were evident then: witnessing, preaching and having a bold Christian attitude, which assist Christians to be the bearers of the Good News to everyone on earth.

So take a pause now and fully read Chapter 1.

**Chapter analysis**—If you read Acts 1:1 with Luke 1:1-4, you can see the reason Luke is credited as the author of both books. And you can also appreciate something that’s rare these days: personalized letters. Luke addresses both books to his friend, Theophilus, and in fact in Acts, refers back to the Gospel of Luke as “the first book,” in which he wrote of Jesus’ life and the fulfillment of a promise that the Holy Spirit would arrive. It’s the promise of a gift Jesus made in John 14:26.

The reference in Verse 3 to the 40 days Jesus “presented himself alive” was a way for Christ to affirm and verify his resurrection by His many appearances and to reinforce His instructions to the disciples.

Verses 6 to 11 review those instructions right up to His Ascension. In 6, the disciples are still keen to understand how Jesus will restore the kingdom of Israel, meaning the condition of the Jews under the reign of David and Solomon. But He chooses to discuss the arrival of the Holy Spirit as He urges the disciples to be His witnesses “to the ends of the earth.” That comment in Verse 8 is the fifth time what we refer to as the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) is spoken in Scripture, which shows the importance the church needs to place on that mission. If you study the geography of “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria,” it shows an expanding ministry that will go to the ends of the earth.



Verse 11 gives us the promise that Jesus will return and it will be in the same way as He was seen ascending to heaven. The meaning is that Jesus’ return will be visible and clear. There are several other descriptions in the Bible of how Jesus will return, among them “with all his saints,” “in his glory,” and “with the sound of God’s trumpet.”

Verses 12-14 describe how the disciples, given proper instructions from our Lord, returned to Jerusalem after Jesus’ ascension along with Jesus’ relatives to devote themselves to prayer.

And Verses 15-26 primarily tell us of how Jesus’ betrayer, Judas Iscariot, was replaced. But first, for those who love statistics, we get a useful one in Verse 15: the believers at that time totaled 120. In one of the church’s early sermons, Peter tells the group that Scripture has been fulfilled with Judas’ betrayal and downfall and death and that a replacement needed to be picked. Peter said the new man must be picked from the group that had been on the outside looking in, so to speak, accompanying Jesus and the disciples during Christ’s ministry. The two candidates were Joseph—aka Barsabbas, aka Justus—and Matthias. The 11 disciples then cast lots to pick a replacement and Matthias was chosen. The method of casting lots is a topic all itself, and you can find much online about how it was done. But like flipping a coin, the result wasn’t something you could question or dispute since it wasn’t determined by man’s thinking or manipulation but by chance, or in the case of Matthias’ selection, surely God’s guidance.

**Sources:** Harper Study Bible; The Everyday Bible: New Testament.

**Next month:** Acts, Chapter 2.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

## HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

### **“He is Risen!” is the joyful refrain to be shared with the children**

With great joy we celebrate Easter this month! We rejoice that Jesus overcame death and grants us the promise of new life through His death and resurrection! Our Bible stories this month will focus on Jesus’ appearance to the women at the tomb and to his disciples. We will learn how Jesus prepares them for a life of ministry and how we can share the Good News also!



In April we will also focus on the season of spring, insects and animals. The children will learn about farm animals, zoo animals and the animals of the rain forest, and we will compare the different habitats of each. We will plant bean and pumpkin seeds and watch them grow! The children will have fun predicting which seeds will sprout first. Finally, we will talk with the children about what a plant needs to grow.

Registration for our Summer Camp is underway. Our theme this summer is “Transportation, What A Fascination,” and we are already half filled! Camp is open to children ages 3 to 5 and will run from June 14 through August 6.

In Jesus’ Name,  
---MICHELE GLENNON  
Preschool Director

## COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

### **The Easter Basket project was a beautiful success**

It has been such fun for me to see the creativity, care and love that many of our members shared through the Easter basket(s) they put together. On March 25, nearly 30 baskets were delivered to our DCF social worker, Mimose Laurenard, and she had made a plan to do a drive-by delivery to all the parents and/or guardians of the children in her caseload on March 30 – just in time for Easter.



Thank you so much to the following families/individuals who took a bunny or egg tag, agreeing to put together a basket:

Doris Bernt and her friend Gail Rivera, the Bogen family, Sabine and Mike Bonnar, Adele and John Buck, Joe and Cindy Ciccica, Pat and John Deloge, Diane Dietman, Sherry Duff, Karen and Kerry Geffert, Paul Hagberg, the Helminger family, Ingrid and Dieter Leibold, the Messerschmitt family, Kendra Norman, the Rentz Family, Alexis Rodriguez, Donna Rodriguez, Marissa Rodriguez, and Mary and Cliff Schrock.

Yours in Christ,  
---MARY SCHROCK  
Covenant to Care for Children Liaison

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTIVATING KINDNESS

### **Verses by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

Kind hearts are the gardens.  
Kind thoughts are the roots.  
Kind words are the flowers.  
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden.  
and keep out the weeds.  
Fill it with sunshine,  
kind words and kind deeds.



### **General Memorial Fund**

*In honor of*

*Joe Ciccica’s Birthday*

Robert and Deborah Grosso

*In memory of Robert Hanson,  
Audrey Paray’s brother*

Joe and Cindy Ciccica

*In memory of William Pekrul*

Jean Pieper

### **Share the Hope Fund**

*In memory of Robert Hanson,  
Audrey Paray’s brother*

Gary and Donna DiLalla

*In memory of William Hynd,  
Mary Schrock’s father*

Gary and Donna DiLalla

*In memory of Matilda Jacobs*

Gary and Donna DiLalla

*In memory of William Pekrul*

Rick and Michele Van Wart

*In memory of*

*Ananda Sellavaran,*

*Buela John’s father*

Gary and Donna DiLalla

*In memory of George Stromp*

David and Donna Bogen

Sherry Duff

Audrey Paray

The Rodriguez Family

## 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 – to recognize the gifts of time and talent that someone provided to do God’s work in our church and community – please e-mail it to the church office or jot it down and put it in the “newsletter” mailbox.

Thank you to the leaders of our ZOOM online Bible Study/Devotion hour on the five Wednesday evenings during Lent: **Kerry and Karen Geffert, Diane Dietman, Sherry Duff, Cliff and Mary Schrock, Gary and Donna Jackson, and Michele and Rick Van Wart.** The studies were preceded by an online soup supper get-together, and, due to COVID restrictions, took the place of our in-person midweek Lenten soup supper and worship service. Our theme was “Places of the Passion” and those who participated took walks in Jesus’ footsteps in Jerusalem, Bethany and the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the High Priest’s Courtyard and Golgotha. We had a good turnout each week, numbering anywhere from 22 to 32 participants.

Thanks to **Carol Burns** who coordinated the special Easter flower orders for Holy Cross.

We continue to give thanks to **Kerry Geffert, Greg Dowling and Gary Messerschmitt.** This volunteer trio is instrumental with Holy Cross’ worship experience: **Kerry** serves as the hymn leader at our services; **Greg** records our Sunday and special services and uploads the recordings to our YouTube channel; and **Gary** prepares the website for the uploads and makes the service links “live.” Every week! These volunteer efforts do not go unnoticed and are appreciated, especially by the Holy Cross members and friends who continue to worship “online” during this COVID pandemic!



## 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 Kravacs	April 24: Sheryl John
April 9: Donna Bogen	April 25: Jenzy Halls
April 10: Donald Erickson	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



## CELEBRATING EASTER

### **But there’s more!**

On the first Easter morning, three women found an empty tomb. The discovery left them trembling and afraid. They didn’t know there was more — a resurrected Lord.

Later that day, the risen Jesus appeared. As happy as the disciples were about this miracle, they didn’t yet know there was more — a gift of the Holy Spirit that would make their joy complete.

Early Christians in Corinth were so delighted by the gift of baptism that they could scarcely imagine there was more — the resurrection of the body to eternal life.

As great as Easter is, it’s only the “first fruits” of what lies ahead. Celebrate the fact that Christ is risen, but remember that the best is yet to come!

## CHURCH CHUCKLES



“This year I’m using my egg-hunting app.”