



The

HOLY CROSS WORD

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

JULY/AUGUST 2018

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXI, NO. 8/9

WISMAR'S WISDOM

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

When I first came here to Holy Cross to be your pastor, I emphasized the importance of **relationships** and that **nothing happens outside of relationships**. God's whole reason for sending His Son, Jesus Christ, was to make you His own...to make you a member of His family...to be reconciled to you – **to be in relationship with you!** I submit to you that this theme of **relationship** is the **paramount, underlying theme** of our church family here at Holy Cross. When you look at our **theme statement** "**RECEIVING GOD'S LOVE AND ACTIVELY RESPONDING**," it is all about relationship – our relationship with God "**RECEIVING GOD'S LOVE**" and our relationship with one another "**AND ACTIVELY RESPONDING**." This theme of relationship is also evident when you look at our **vision statement**: "**WE WILL LIVE TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST: A LOVING FAMILY ACTIVELY ENGAGED WITH ONE ANOTHER, OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD**." This statement is 100 percent about relationships.

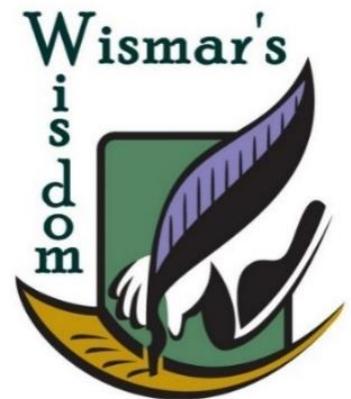
Nothing happens outside of relationships. In the first Pastor's Report that I made to this congregation, as a part of our 2015 Annual Report, I encouraged you all to think of what kinds of things we could do to develop relationships. What can we do to develop and strengthen one another in relationship 1) with our Lord; 2) with one another; and 3) with our community. I then asked a little more pointedly: "**What can YOU do to develop and strengthen YOUR relationship with your Lord, with your fellow members here at Holy Cross and your relationship with the community in which you live and in which your good Lord has placed you?**"

I would like to challenge you again with this same question as a sort of self-assessment. Since initially writing this question 2½ years ago, how have you/we been doing? Have you been growing in your relationship with your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Have you been growing in knowing and doing God's will? In understanding what the triune God does for you? In praying to your heavenly Father? In appreciating what God has done for you in baptism? In appreciating what the Lord's Supper means for you? In living in daily repentance? Have you grown as an individual and do you believe that we have grown together as a church family in worship, in fellowship, in learning, in serving, in giving, and in witnessing?

I would like you to prayerfully reflect on these important questions and I would like to challenge you to live out and up to the vision that we have created for ourselves here at Holy Cross, especially this part: "**A LOVING FAMILY ACTIVELY ENGAGED WITH ONE ANOTHER**." I am planning on spearheading (perhaps quite a few) initiatives that will help us grow in our relationship with our Lord and with one another. Please be on the lookout for them in the months ahead and, even more so, please look to plug-in and get involved, especially if you are called upon for a special role. Also, if you have any great ideas about how we can best work toward our vision of "**LIVING TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST**" here at Holy Cross, please let me know, as I would definitely be interested to hear what you have to say! God bless your summer!

See you in worship,

Pastor Wismar





Tuesday, July 3

5:00 p.m. – Holy Cross serves Community Supper at St. John's Epis.-Bridgeport

Wednesday, July 4 – Independence Day (CHURCH/PRESCHOOL CLOSED)

Sunday, July 8

5:00 p.m. – Alternate Worship Service with Holy Communion

Thursday, July 12

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

Saturday, July 28

6:00 p.m. – Family Movie Night – "Sing" & Ice Cream Social

Monday-Friday, August 6-10

9:00 a.m. – Vacation Bible School

Thursday, August 9

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

Saturday, August 18

6:00 p.m. – Game Night

Sunday, August 19

5:00 p.m. – Alternate Worship Service with Holy Communion

Monday, September 3 – Labor Day (CHURCH OFFICE/PRESCHOOL CLOSED)

Sunday, September 9

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. – Two-service Worship schedule resumes

Sunday, September 16

Noon – ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC, immediately following the late service



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

Worship Services – Sundays: 8 and 10:30 a.m.

SPECIAL WORSHIP NOTE:

Sundays, between May 27 and Labor Day weekend: 9:00 a.m.

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

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

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

Website: www.holycrosstrumbull.org

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

PASTOR: Eric A. Wismar

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Sally Finck

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PRESIDENT: Michele A. Vichiola-Van Wart

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' VICE-PRESIDENT: Valerie Huydic

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SECRETARY: Cliff Schrock

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' TREASURER: Greg Dowling

NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR: Cliff Schrock

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION: Mary Schrock



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Holy Cross congregation is to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord (Matthew 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.



A REFRESHING GIFT

**Words by American poet
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

"Oh, how beautiful is the summer
night, which is not night, but a
sunless, yet unclouded, day,
descending upon earth with dews
and shadows and refreshing
coolness!"

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

Because this is a combined summer
edition of The Holy Cross Word,
there is no July 15 deadline. The
regular monthly schedule will
resume with the September issue,
with the
deadline for
articles being
Wednesday,
August 15.



Please take note of this deadline
and plan ahead to publicize events
or 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.

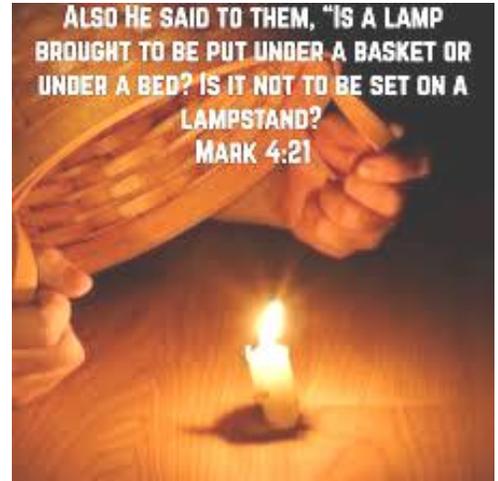
PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

The opportunities for fellowship are there; be a part of the life of your church

Rick and I attended the confirmands' dinner on June 6, and had the pleasure of talking with the confirmands and their families. It was wonderful to see young people engaged and involved with our church family and their faith. Thank you to Hugh Hughes, the Jacksons, Pat Deloge and Donna Senft for hosting and preparing the delicious food, and to Pastor whose guidance and discipline prepared Peter, Emma, Halle, Ethan and Andrew to confirm their faith on the 10th.

This gathering reminded me once again of the Christian fellowship we enjoy here at Holy Cross. It is a wonderful thing when I can attend a church event or volunteer for a mission. My challenge is making time for the many responsibilities I have, and pushing aside other things to make church events a priority. I know you have these challenges too. If you find your schedule constantly filled and you usually cannot find time, look to prioritize a church event at least once a month or once a quarter.

We welcomed new members to our church on May 20, celebrated Comfort Dog Sunday on June 3 and hosted a tea social on June 10. Our ongoing support is needed for St. John's Community Supper the first Tuesday of the month; can you give your time to shop, cook or serve? Covenant to Care will kick off its annual backpack project in July – can you believe it is that time already? The Discipleship Commission is planning a family movie night and ice cream social in July. Come on, folks: It's ice cream – need I say more?



There are opportunities for individuals and families to engage with and support our congregation in faithful service to God's family here at Holy Cross. Grow in your faith through fellowship – managing or attending an event – and may God bless you and your work. As always, I remain grateful for your fellowship and friendship.

God's blessings and peace,

---MICHELE VAN WART, President
Board of Directors
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

COMMUNITY SUPPER

Hearty meal served to nearly 70 people at St. John's Episcopal; next meal we serve is on July 3

On June 4 we hosted the Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal Church in Bridgeport. Joe and Cindy Ciccio, along with Diane Hintz-Schyhol from Grace Lutheran-Stratford, arrived at 1 p.m. to cook the meal. Usually we have a few more helpers but on this day it was only the three of us. We all immediately started to work and provided a meal of chicken pot pie, noodles, broccoli and corn, bread and butter, fruit cocktail, bananas and cookies. Though no one had signed up to help we were blessed to have Sally Finck, Jim Leslie, Kai Wismar and Pastor arrive to serve. We were also blessed to have the following members arrive from Grace Lutheran-Stratford: Hank Sanders and Gus and Savi Semon. Diane stayed for both cooking and serving. We served 68 "first" meals and 12 seconds. We also provided clothing and shoes for those who needed them. Loafs of bread were wrapped to take home.

Our next day to serve is July 3.

---CINDY and JOE CICCIA



Our Sunday service is at 9 a.m.

Our one-service Sunday Worship schedule for the summer continues through September 2, the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.



Mark Your Calendar and Cool Off with Us at a



Family Movie Night

with an

Ice Cream Social

Set Aside the Evening of
Saturday, July 28, at 6 p.m.



We will show the movie "Sing"!

So that we have enough ice cream and toppings, if you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet on the narthex table.

Sponsored by the Discipleship Commission

FINANCIAL GIVING

Enjoy the convenience and regularity of giving electronically

If you think you may miss church services this summer due to travel or other commitments, consider using our electronic-giving option to set up a one-time or recurring giving schedule while you are away. Your consistent support is vital to our church, especially during summer months. To set up a contribution, visit our website at <http://holycrosstrumbull.org> and click on the electronic-giving link at the bottom of the home page. Feel free to contact the church office or myself (financialsecretary@holycrosstrumbull.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of our church and our mission!

---CHAD HELMINGER

Financial Secretary



COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Your generous response will be appreciated for back-to school project, ongoing now through August 5

With the long winter and many snow days that the children in our communities endured in the first quarter of 2018, the school year has finally come to a close. But I am already concentrating on the **new** school year that will be underway just two months from now. And the reason? The annual collection of backpacks and school supplies for Covenant to Care for



Children. The DCF social worker that Holy Cross supports, Mimose Ulysse-Laurenard, currently has 29 school-aged children in her caseload and we will provide each one with a backpack filled with enough school supplies to get them through the 2018-2019 school year.

Look in the narthex for the large display board with pockets filled with 3-by-5 "shopping cards" for all sorts of school supply items. Each card will list the specific item needed...backpacks, rulers and protractors, binders and tab dividers, pencils and pens, pocket folders and pencil pouches, and much more. The display board will remain in the narthex through the due date of all items – August 5. If you wish to make a donation of a backpack and/or school supplies, just take the appropriate "shopping cards" from the poster and return your donation(s) by August 5. If you are unable to shop but would like to make a monetary donation for this project, you may make a check out to Holy Cross Lutheran, and write "Cov to Care" in the memo section. Monetary donations may be put in the Covenant to Care mailbox (*bottom row, far right*).

Thank you in advance for your very loving response to help our church's adopted social worker as she works with children of all ages who are unfortunately removed from their home and placed into the DCF system.

Yours in Christ,

---MARY SCHROCK

Covenant to Care for Children Liaison

GRADUATION

Best wishes to our college and high school graduates!

Congratulations to our Holy Cross members who graduated from college and high school in May and June! Surely, these young adults look forward to the next phase of their lives with excitement and anticipation. Graduates, remember that you're at the starting gate and not the finish line—don't stop now because even greater adventures and challenges are in store for you!

Listed below are the graduates who filled out the "Graduate Information" form to let us know of their achievement. Cheers to both the college and high school classes of 2018!



**Congrats
to our
Graduates!**

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

Cole Dowling

Son of Greg and Laura Dowling, Cole graduated from Masuk High School in Monroe. The next step in Cole's educational career is to attend Northeastern University in Boston, where he plans to study bioengineering.

Sheryl John

Daughter of Buela John and John Anantharaj, Sheryl graduated from Trumbull High School. In the fall Sheryl will attend the University of Connecticut in Storrs. With her plans to become a doctor, Sheryl will study physiology and neurobiology.

COLLEGE GRADUATES:

Kristine Liptack

Daughter of Gary and Peggy Liptack, Kristine graduated from the University of New Haven with a degree in Biology & Forensic Science and PreMed. Kristine will continue her education with graduate studies at the University of New Haven for Forensic Technologies.

Ryan Van Wart

Son of Richard and Michele Van Wart, Ryan is a proud graduate of Central Connecticut University in New Britain. His degree is a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, with a math minor. Ryan's future plans include working, traveling and pursuing another degree.

IT'S A FAMILY GAME NIGHT!

B-I-N-G-O !!



You are invited to join us for a
friendly game of bingo on

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 6 P.M.

The prizes will be the "White Elephant"
item(s) that you will bring.



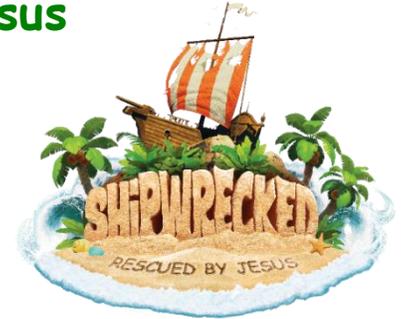
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT HOLY CROSS

Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus



Join us for a week of crafts, Bible adventures, stories, music and outdoor fun!

August 6-10 — 9 a.m. to Noon



Grades K-5 (grade entering in Sept. 2018)

Registration deadline is August 1. Forms are on the narthex table.

If you have questions, leave a message for Kimberly Atkinson at the church office, 203-268-7555.

THANKS A BUNCH!

This column recognizes the gifts of time and talent our church members provide to do God's work in our church and community. If you have an item to include in this monthly "thank you" column, please jot it down and put it in the "newsletter" mailbox. Notes submitted to the church office over the past few weeks are to thank:

The Holy Cross members who helped with either shopping, cooking or serving at the June 5 Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport: **Cindy and Joe Ciccia, Sally Finck, Jim Leslie, Kai Wismar and Pastor Wismar.**

Donna DiLalla and Lorraine Finch for serving as volunteers, helping with weekly tasks in the church office.

COMFORT DOG MINISTRY

A busy and fulfilling June began with Comfort Dog Sunday

Sunday, June 3, we welcomed Addie and Leah along with handlers and ministry partners from Holy Cross and Immanuel Lutheran for Comfort Dog Sunday. Our members were greeted by Addie and Leah as they arrived for worship. Leah's Bible verse is 2 Corinthians 4:7, which was one of our readings on that day. Addie and Leah joined the children during Pastor's message and a Ministry Moment was given by Cindy. Special thanks to our Music Director, Sally Finck, and a guest violinist, Jennifer Brown, who provided a beautiful piano-violin duet during the worship service. A meet-and-greet during Coffee Hour was hosted by the Comfort Dog Ministry. We would like to thank our congregation for their generosity by supporting the local Comfort Dog Ministry monetarily and through prayers.

Other assignments during the month were our Preschool reading program, the Preschool graduation (on June 13) and Middlebrook Farms Assisted Living. Over the past month, Cindy answered two requests. The first request was from the New Fairfield Emergency Shelter. The New Fairfield community was affected from the recent storm and many were without power and water and had damage to their homes. The Red Cross provided boxed meals and water. The cafeteria staff provided hot meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Showers and towels for those who needed them were available. Cindy and Leah arrived during breakfast and stayed till after lunch. We were there to help the children and adults during the aftermath of this storm for this community. The second request, in mid-June, was from a high school in Somers, N.Y.; the regional crisis team was activated after the death of a student.

A quick fact: During 2017 and the first quarter of 2018 our local Comfort Dog team donated 5,300 hours averaging 100 hours a week.

We wish you a great summer filled with God's love.

Walking Together, Serving As One,

---CINDY CICCIA, KATHRYN STRUZIK, LYDIA STRUZIK, JOSEPH CICCIA



WORDS FOR YOUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

What spills out of you when you falter?

Rev. Henry Wingblade, president of Bethel College and Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., from 1941 to 1954, once compared the Christian personality to the unseen soup in a bowl carried high over a waiter's head. "No one knows what's inside – unless the waiter is bumped or trips. If Jesus is truly living inside us," Wingblade said, "what spills out should be the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. When you falter, what do people see?"



How can your "spillage" better reflect the Holy Spirit, who lives in you?

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OUR FLOCK

Christian caring and praying at Holy Cross

This is the Shepherds' Commission's "FYI" column letting our members know for whom we have prayed during our recent worship services. Please continue to remember these people in your prayers.

We remember our members:

Myrtle Anderson; **Sabine Bonnar**, recuperating from injuries sustained in a car accident; **Bob Burns**, diagnosed with rapidly progressive metastatic thyroid cancer; **Ron Dietman**; **Cole Dowling**; **Gary Jackson**; **Jesse Kravecs**, recovering from knee-replacement surgery; **JoAnne Meyer**; **Barbara Schneider**; **Anita Schoch**; **Monika Seyal**; and the homebound – **Bernice Erickson**, **Edna Karacsony** and **Robert Killian**; thanksgiving for the marriage of **Kaeleen Boivie**, daughter of **Rick** and **Kathleen Boivie**, to Tanner Brooks.

During the past month, we also prayed for:

Clifford Bunting, cousin of Audrey Paray, for therapy for blood clots in his legs; **Carole Daly**, niece of Mary Atkinson, going through tests for leukemia; **Danny Doherty**, brother of Maura Senft, recovering from quadruple-bypass surgery; **Marti Fischer**, cousin of Carol Burns, who is blind and paralyzed; **Nancy Galasso**, friend of the Van Wart family, who is battling stage-4 cancer and currently receiving radiation treatments; **Kathy Gardner**, Jim Leslie's sister, recovering from cancer surgery; **Walter Geffert**, brother of Nancy Sabol, recovering from colon cancer surgery; 8-year-old **Caroline Herrington**, undergoing aggressive chemotherapy for kidney cancer; **Colin Hoben**, 12-year-old friend of the Nyitrai family, undergoing a stem-cell transplant for a recurrence of lymphoma; **Caroline Khlar**, wife of a friend of Otto and Mary Atkinson, who is going through her third bout with cancer, with prayers for healing; **Lucille Kochersberger**, Donna Jackson's mother, for healing as she recovers from hip surgery; **Ramona Kondracki**, wife of a co-worker of Jim Leslie, who has begun chemotherapy for cancer in her sinus cavity; **Bob Lee**, uncle of Greg Dowling, diagnosed with laryngeal cancer and will be undergoing a seven-week course of chemo and radiation, prayers for effective treatment as God's

will is done; **Rob Lindley**, a friend of Paul Hagberg, suffering from advanced lung cancer; **Joan Meyer**, friend of the Dietmans, dealing with memory issues; **Joseph Parker**, Julianne Nyitrai's father, who underwent triple-bypass surgery; **Luis Rivera**, friend of Doris Bernt, who had a lung transplant; **Lee Rossel**, a friend of Paul Hagberg, going through cancer treatment; **Joey Senft**, cousin of the Senft family, with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease); **Karim Seyal**, Monika's husband, prayers for healing following eye surgery; **David Sochacki**, friend of Nancy and Jerry Sabol, following brain surgery; **Lorraine Tamas**, neighbor of the Leslies, who suffered a stroke; **Mike Tavares**, friend of John and Pat Deloge, who is battling Valley Fever and recovering from surgery to place a shunt in his head; **Dylan Vitucci**, 8-year-old former Holy Cross Preschool student, who has completed treatments for osteosarcoma and is undergoing physical therapy for her arm and body; and **Craig Wilson**, son of a friend of John and Pat Deloge, recovering from tongue-cancer surgery.

Other prayer petitions were for:

The family of **Rev. Richard Benken**, who was called home to the Lord in May. We continue to pray for protection for those serving in the military, including **Timothy Benson Jr.**, **Michael Collins**, **Joao Paulo Silva Gomes**, **Ben Milositz**, **Jake Novak**, **Steve Novak**, **Ryan Rubega**, **Shane Skoog** and **Daniel Struzik**.

If your friend or family member is on this list, keep us updated on his or her progress. When you have requests for prayers to be included in our worship services, you can e-mail the church office at office@holycrosstrumbull.com or call 203-268-4555 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays. The Shepherds' Commission will also include the prayer requests in this monthly report. If you would like to be included in our e-mail Prayer Circle, please provide your name and e-mail address to the church office.

---HUGH HUGHES
Shepherd's Commission



LOOKING DEEPER INTO THE BIBLE

Lesson 19: Understanding 1st Corinthians, Chapter 10

A monthly Bible study involving Scripture reading and explanation, verse by verse

We begin with The Reading: 1st Corinthians, Chapter 10 (RSV)



Christian Liberty—The Law of Expediency: The evil of self-indulgence illustrated

¹I want you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same supernatural food ⁴and all drank the same supernatural drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless with most of them God was not pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things are warnings for us, not to desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to dance." ⁸We must not indulge in immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents; ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. ¹⁴Therefore, my beloved, shun the worship of idols.

Christian Liberty—The Law of Expediency: Participation in idol festivals prohibited

¹⁵I speak as to sensible men; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. ¹⁸Consider the people of Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices partners in the altar? ¹⁹What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons. ²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²²Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

Christian Liberty—The Law of Expediency: The basic principles summed up

²³"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. ²⁴Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. ²⁵Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁶For "the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." ²⁷If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁸(But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then out of consideration for the man who informed you, and for conscience' sake—²⁹I mean his conscience, not yours—do not eat it.) For why should my liberty be determined by another man's scruples? ³⁰If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? ³¹So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³²Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, ³³just as I try to please all men in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

God is
Faithful,
he will not let
you be
tempted
beyond what
you can
bear.
1 Corinthians 10:13

We move into The Study: A reminder that Corinth was the business center of Greece, and Paul had visited and preached to the people there during his second missionary journey. His first letter to the Corinthians addresses the problems of Christians in a local church, primarily their relationships with one another.

Chapter 8 started a section on Christian liberty/freedom, in which we learned how to apply Christian principles to questionable practices today. At the start of Chapter 10, Paul uses Israel's history to remind the Corinthians of an important lesson, making note of how all the Israelites were led by the pillar of cloud and saved crossing the sea. He, in essence, is saying, as the Harper's Study Bible notes, "that God's covenant of grace, freely offered to all, does not mean that all will inherit the covenant promises. He argues that all God's benefits bestowed on Israel came from Christ whether they were aware of it or not. These benefits were granted to everyone, good and bad alike." Starting with Verse 5, Paul writes that God was not pleased with all the Israelites. Probably the majority of the adults died in the wilderness and didn't reach the Promised Land. They had sinned with

idolatry, complaining, idleness, sexual immorality, and in one instance 23,000 died in one day. Do likewise and sin freely against God, Paul writes, and you will not be heaven-bound. Do not be overly confident or you will fail; also, don't complain in tough times or that will provoke God. And if you are being tested, God will provide a way out so that you can endure the test. You will not be tested beyond your strength.

Looking Deeper Bible Study, continues on Page 9

Looking Deeper Bible Study, continued from Page 8

Starting in Verse 14, the commentary is strictly about idolatry and its dangers. "Shun" and flee from idols he urges. The cup and the bread are the blood and body of Christ; that is a truism, while sacrifices to pagans is a sacrifice to demons, so do not worship demons but God. You cannot partake in both the cup of the Lord and cup of pagans/demons.

Starting in Verse 23, the goal in summarizing his basic principles is simple: "Do all to the glory of God." Don't seek to build yourself up and have the advantage but do so for your neighbor. The law of love is basic and true...love God and love others. In the presence of an unbeliever at his house to dine, do not protest through your conscience. Give no offense to those who are not like you. Try to please all men in everything you do.

Next month: 1 Corinthians, Chapter 11

---CLIFF SCHROCK

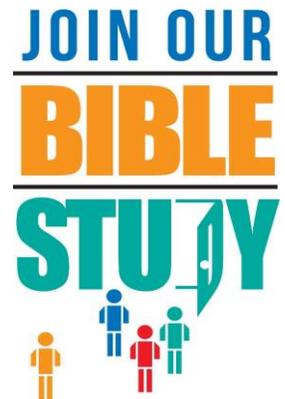
BIBLE STUDY: FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION**Class with Luther Seminary prof begins in September**

For the past year, I have been studying the Bible using a Great Courses lecture series via a disc on my TV. The prolific writer, speaker, professor and scholar Professor Craig R. Koester of the Luther Seminary received his Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary. He has an engaging style of presentation and was never boring. Each lecture is 30 minutes. Because I loved this learning experience so much, I would like to offer it to you. Pastor Wismar will be there to assist us if needed. We hope you can join us.

The goal is to share the insights of a Lutheran scholar from Genesis to Revelation with others in a collegial, informal, relaxing setting at 10:30 a.m. on Fridays, beginning September 21. Please mark your calendar and plan to come.

Yours in Christ,

---VALERIE HUYDIC

**CHURCH CHUCKLES**

CELEBRATING JULY BIRTHDAYS



JULY 1:	KARLI CHIRGWIN	JULY 18:	GRACE ELY
JULY 2:	COLIN BURKE		STEPHANIE LIPTACK
JULY 5:	ALLISON MAZABRAS		AMANDA SJOBLUM
	JUDITH WEBSTER	JULY 20:	LAUREN WALKER
JULY 6:	PENELOPE FERNOUS		CHARLENE HRON WEIGLE
	ROBERT KRAVECS, JR.		JON TESTANI
JULY 7:	OWEN MARTINELI	JULY 21:	WILLIAM BECKER
	EDITH SKOOG	JULY 22:	KARL SCHIPUL
JULY 8:	JUSTIN FANNING	JULY 23:	JOELLE SCHROCK
JULY 9:	LOGAN DELOGE		BILL SKOOG
JULY 10:	KARL DALE	JULY 27:	LORRAINE FINCH
JULY 13:	JACOB NYITRAI		KEITH JANSSEN
JULY 16:	MARIE MORRIS		MICHELE VAN WART
JULY 17:	CINDY CICCIA	JULY 31:	TILLIE JACOBS
	GUNTHER NAUMANN		JOHN ROMAN

CELEBRATING AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 2:	NATE HELMINGER	AUGUST 19:	TIM MORRIS
AUGUST 4:	CRISTINA CURTO	AUGUST 20:	NORAH KRAVECS
	ULRICH DANNE	AUGUST 21:	TIM BENSON, JR.
	SPENCER HODGES		KIMBERLEY FERRO
AUGUST 5:	ASHLEY TESTANI		DAVID SCHILLER
AUGUST 6:	ADELAIDE FERNOUS	AUGUST 23:	KAREN ROHLER
	PASTOR WISMAR	AUGUST 24:	NATALIE BENSON
AUGUST 8:	RACHEL DENNERLEIN	AUGUST 25:	PAUL VAITKUS
AUGUST 11:	JULIA ANTONIOU	AUGUST 27:	SAMI SEDERQUEST
	DAISY BENSON	AUGUST 28:	ASHLEY GOMES
	JACKIE DALE		ERIC BOIVIE
AUGUST 12:	WENDY BOGLE	AUGUST 30:	LIZ ALESEVICH
	KRISTINE LIPTACK		CARL MAZABRAS
AUGUST 13:	PETER HARRIS		GRETCHEN SATHER
AUGUST 15:	JUDITH CHIRGWIN	AUGUST 31:	BOBBY HUGHES
AUGUST 18:	DONNA DiLALLA		KERRY HUGHES
	JAKE HACKNEY		DEBBIE RICCIO
	STELLA HACKNEY		ANDREW SYLLING
	WILLIAM SIMMONS		

