



The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

JULY/AUGUST 2020

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXIII, NO. 8/9

FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Dear Members & Friends of Holy Cross,

Greetings in our Lord, Jesus Christ!

My reading over the last several weeks and months has included many articles, editorials, opinion pieces, and speculative musings regarding how our society and our cultural behavior will be different as we emerge – and after we emerge – from the threat of the COVID-19. Likewise, there has been a lot to read in dealing with similar questions as regards the church and religious communities. As best as I can tell, neither the culture nor the church fully knows or understands quite yet all that is in store for us. Much remains to be seen.

It's interesting to see the questions that have been emerging, with implied answers coming from not only the middle, but from the extremes. Among my friends and colleagues, there are, as you would imagine, differing opinions on how the churches have handled themselves and conducted their ministry during these challenging days. My own opinion is that it's probably wisest to follow the rule of love and place the best construction on what different congregations in even the same tradition chose to do or not do.

I have never "attended" as many churches each week as I have recently! Even a decade ago, who would have imagined that the technology in nearly every church and home would allow us to "attend" just about any congregation that might trigger our curiosity? Some folks have even expressed how nice it's been to worship in their 'jammies, and how they look forward to continuing to do so! Hmm.

Some of us, myself included, have never gone so long without receiving God's gifts and benefits in the sacrament of our Lord's body and blood. Some have responded by saying, "no problem ... I just prepare my saltines and cups of wine, and when the celebrant on the screen speaks 'the words,' I simply consume, and it's communion, right?" Umm, this writer would say no.

If there's a blessing to be known as a result of this pandemic, it is the opportunity to learn once again that our faith is *embodied* in its expression. The church is a community of people. It's the saint/sinners who come together to celebrate the presence of Jesus among us, and never just the subjective faith of our own selves. Jesus came among us *enfleshed* as he revealed divine presence in human form, and he is *really present* under the forms of bread and wine when the sacrament is celebrated communally. "Hollywood Squares" images on Zoom are a pale substitute for being together, and communion apart from the church is no communion at all.

All this is to say that perhaps we Christians will come out of this knowing, believing, and more profoundly experiencing that our corporate worship (that is, worship in the form of bodies together) is the highest form of being church, that our faith is no mere private thing, and that we are dependent upon one another as God's Spirit works among His people the church to, as Luther's catechism says, "call, gather, and enlighten" us all. It was love that led us to suspend our gatherings over these months. It is love that has made it so painful. What a celebration of love it is as we move once again into the regular gatherings, different and imperfect as they may be, because we are called to be with and for one another.

Serving with you,

Bill Flammann
Interim Pastor





Friday, July 3 – Church office closed (Independence Day, observed)

Saturday, July 4 – Independence Day

Thursday, July 9

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

Monday-Friday, July 20-24 – Church office closed

Thursday, August 13

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



STAY COOL
and enjoy your
SUMMER

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.



JUST A LITTLE PRAYER

Dear God, nurture my faith!

God, thank You that by Your power, small things like seeds — and faith — can grow big and strong. Nurture my growth in You always. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

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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 Saturday, 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.

GRADUATION

Congratulations and best wishes to our two graduates!

Holy Cross had two young women who graduated this spring, one from college and one from high school. Surely these two – and all those who graduated in 2020 – would have never imagined that their school year would have ended so abruptly. Between signs in front yards, online postings and videos, and even special television programs, the Class of 2020 was given special recognition. And now your Holy Cross family recognizes both Alexis Rodriguez and Emily Struzik. Remember to always be happy with and take pride in all you accomplish, and have faith and self-assurance in how far you will go!



Listed below are the graduates who filled out the “Graduate Information” form to let us know of their achievement. Cheers to the Class of 2020!

COLLEGE GRADUATE: Alexis Rodriguez

Daughter of Donna and Rafael Rodriguez, Alexis graduated from Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport, with a degree in Human Services and Social Science. Alexis’ plans are to further her education while pursuing potential job opportunities in the field.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE: Emily Struzik

Daughter of Lydia and Andrew Struzik, Emily graduated from Christian Heritage School in Trumbull. The next step in Emily’s education will be to attend SUNY Oneonta, majoring in dietetics.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Service recording techs needed

Do you have a recent model Apple iPhone? If so, great! We still need a few more volunteers to help us record our Sunday services as we return to corporate worship. If we get enough volunteers, we’ll rotate and share the work. Please step up and try something new...we need your help. Reach out to Sherry Duff (cell) 203-482-4525 or Greg Dowling (203-400-1671) if you’re willing to help. Thank you in advance.



GREETERS NEEDED

Help serve your church in this critical, expanded position

The Evangelism Commission is looking for new greeters. The greeter position has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the foreseeable future the greeters are responsible for taking temperatures of all people coming to church service before entering the building. Infrared digital thermometers will be provided. You will be instructed on use when you arrive. Gloves will be provided for you, though this is predominantly transmitted by respiratory droplets, thus face coverings must be worn at all times! Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the service starts. No hand-shaking or elbow/fist bumps – just a friendly verbal greeting. During the summer months we will have one 9 a.m. service as usual. The Sunday after Labor Day (September 13) will be our return to two services. If

you are interested, please advise which service you would prefer to be scheduled for. I would appreciate more greeters to spread the responsibility to more members. And this is also a good way to meet more members! Thank you in advance.

---DAVE BOGEN

Director of Evangelism.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Please take note of these hours for July and August

Since the “stay-at-home” mandate due to COVID-19 took effect in mid-March, our church office has remained “open” its usual hours 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., with our office administrator working from home. Now that the State of Connecticut has “opened” a bit with Phase 2, please take note that our “office admin” will work onsite on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from home on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Also take note that the office will be closed on Friday, July 3, due to the Independence Day observed holiday, and the week of July 20 (vacation).



COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

The back-to-school project this summer is a “GO”; donations due on August 16

I don't believe any of us would have ever imagined that the 2019-2020 school year would end the way it did with “distance learning” from mid-March until June. For our congregation's “adopted” social worker Mimose her only contact with the children in her caseload was through Zoom, FaceTime and phone calls. She was not allowed any in-person visits, and sadly was not even allowed to bring the Easter baskets to the children; this was not her decision, but a state mandate.

After a FaceTime discussion I had with Mimose, Holy Cross members who had put together an Easter basket were sent a detailed e-mail.



While that project had to be abandoned, I am happy to say that we WILL be able to proceed with the annual backpack and school supplies collection. Beginning July 12, look in the narthex for the large display board with pockets filled with 3-by-5 “shopping cards” for school supply items. Each card will list the specific item needed...backpacks, pencil boxes and pouches, binders, pens and pencils, pocket folders, markers, and so much more. The display board will remain in the narthex through the

due date – August 16 – so watch the sales throughout July into early August. 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) no later than August 16. Please know that this display was put together with much care...lots of hand-washing and wearing gloves...so it is safe to take the “shopping cards.” I love watching our members hover in a group around the poster every year to select the shopping cards, but this year, please remain physically distant, so that only one person is at the display board at a time.

I realize with the current COVID-19 health situation that some of you may not feel comfortable shopping. If you 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*) or mailed to the church office. Monetary donations must be received by August 2 so that I can take inventory of items still needed. I have a couple volunteers who are willing to do the shopping. ALSO! If you are not coming to Holy Cross' in-person worship services, but would like to shop for school supplies, contact me at my personal e-mail address (below with my signature) and I can tell you what items are needed.

As of late June, Connecticut is making plans for children to be at school in-person. But if that changes, the children will still need school supplies. Mimose has already come up with a plan to make sure the children get the backpacks/school supplies. She anticipates that even by late August that the social workers will probably not be able to go to the homes of the children in their caseloads to make deliveries. But she is thinking “outside the box” as she knows how important it is that these children receive the necessary school supplies. She will definitely get the backpacks and supplies to the kids. Thank you in advance for your generosity 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, schrocknroll@optonline.net
Covenant to Care for Children Liaison



Please check out this new mailbox complex that was installed on the north-side driveway at Holy Cross the week of June 1. These new mailboxes were much needed, and installed 3 to 4 feet into the ground, replacing the older, smaller boxes that had been “posted” into a large soil-filled container. And what makes these extra special? They were purchased with Memorial Funds given to Holy Cross in memory of Billie Skoog. Thank you to Billie's wife Edith for selecting the boxes and post, and to Richard Skoog and his son Jonathon for installing them. When you drive out the north-side exit, think about Billie as you see the new Billie Skoog Memorial Mailboxes!

2020 SOCIETY OF CREATION CONFERENCE

Featured speakers aimed to show the Bible and science affirm creation

The 2020 Society of Creation Conference was held on June 5-6. (It was held online this year due to the coronavirus pandemic). For those that may not be familiar with this, the Society of Creation was founded by faculty from most of the universities in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Concordia University System (CUS): <http://www.societyofcreation.org/>. Recognizing that many today seem to think that "science" has disproved the Bible, this year's conference featured talks by distinguished scientists and CUS faculty members that show that both God's Word (the Bible) and God's World (Science) affirm creation and reject evolution. Soli Deo Gloria! (Glory to God Alone!) The Society of Creation seems to be making progress in reaching people. The largest number of registrants in previous conferences was 159. But in this year's conference there were 418 registrants from 15 countries as well as 36 states within the United States. Several of us from Holy Cross attended as well.



On a related note, in his June 7 sermon, Pastor Flammann cited an article in the "Economist" that predicted one out of three mainline churches in the USA would be gone in the next five years. We have also seen studies that indicate that two-thirds of children raised in Christian homes will walk away from the Church by the time they finish college. This may also be because many of today's youth believe that "science" has disproved the Bible.

"O Timothy, keep that which is committed to Thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called." — 1 Timothy 6:20 (KJV)

---KATHY BOIVIE and ADELA BUCK
Discipleship Commission Co-Directors

IN THE MAILBAG

From Holy Cross' custodian, Roger Burke

Editor's note: Roger sent a card to Holy Cross, to show his thankfulness and appreciation to all those who sent him get-well wishes following his accident and subsequent surgery in May. The card is posted on the hallway bulletin board, and is reprinted below for those who are not able to be at the church to see the card.

To Holy Cross Lutheran Church Members,
People like you add little touches of color and warmth to life. Just thinking about your kindness brings a smile. Thank you so much.

---ROGER BURKE



From the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Dear Holy Cross Dorcas Guild,

On behalf of the West Haven–Connecticut HCS patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of 18 shawls and nine blankets. It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide our deserving veterans. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

---ALFRED A. MONTOYA, JR.
Chief Executive Officer/Medical Center Director

E-MAIL AND TEXT SCAMS

Please be aware of scams and requests for help received via e-mail and text

While this has been in the mainstream news, we wanted to make sure we pointed out to our members and friends to always be careful about opening up and responding to an e-mail that may look like it came from someone you know that asks for a favor or requests help. There will always be a few things "off" about that e-mail, whether it be a few misspelled words or an incorrect area code associated with a phone number. Since the COVID-19 outbreak fraudulent e-mails and texts requesting your personal information have also been going out. If in doubt, delete the e-mail or text and call the person from which it came to alert them. It's very possible that the person may have had their e-mail address or cell phone number hacked. The best rule of thumb: DELETE FIRST and ask questions later. If the e-mail or text was legitimate, it can be resent. The malicious actions a fraudulent message can cause would be much more difficult to reverse.

CELEBRATING JULY BIRTHDAYS



July 1: Karli Chirgwin	July 18: Grace Ely
July 6: Robert Kravecs, Jr.	Stephanie Liptack
July 7: Owen Martineli	Amanda Sjoblom
Edith Skoog	July 20: Charlene Hron Weigle
July 8: Justin Fanning	Jon Testani
July 9: Logan Deloge	July 22: Karl Schipul
July 10: Karl Dale	July 23: Joelle (Schrock) Cyr
July 13: Jacob Nyitrai	July 27: Lorraine Finch
July 15: David Festi	Keith Janssen
July 16: Marie Morris	Michele Van Wart
July 17: Cindy Ciccia	July 31: Tillie Jacobs
Christine Flammann	John Roman
Gunther Naumann	

CELEBRATING AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 2: Nate Helminger	August 18: Donna DiLalla
August 4: Cristina Curto	Jake Hackney
Ulrich Danne	Stella Hackney
August 5: Ashley Testani	August 19: Tim Morris
August 11: Julia Antoniou	August 20: Norah Kravecs
Daisy Benson	August 21: Tim Benson, Jr.
Jackie Dale	David Schiller
August 12: Kristine Liptack	August 24: Natalie Benson
August 14: Charlotte Fanning	August 25: Paul Vaitkus
August 15: Judith Chirgwin	August 27: Sami Sederquest
August 17: Jace Broadbin	August 28: Ashley Gomes
	August 31: Debbie Riccio
	Andrew Sylling



Birthday Blessings