



The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

JANUARY 2021

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXIV, NO. 2

FROM OUR VACANCY PASTOR

New Year's Wish List

As I write my monthly article, the New Year is far off. But as I wonder what 2021 might be like for Marie and me, I wonder what 2021 might be like for the members of Holy Cross. So, I asked the members of Holy Cross' Board of Directors what they might wish or pray for during the coming year. And here are some of their replies:

I pray Holy Cross will be blessed with a full-time shepherd who will inspire and engage every one of us to identify new and creative ways to revitalize and grow our church family. I also pray for renewed health in our community and the world—both in our bodies (COVID) and in our hearts and minds—and in so doing that we become a kinder, gentler, more tolerant world—more like Jesus. "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, pray constantly." (Romans 12:12) – Sherry Duff, President

*...that congregants continue their generous support of the social ministry projects, and to prayerfully consider sharing their **time** as well. – Kendra Norman, Social Ministry Commission*

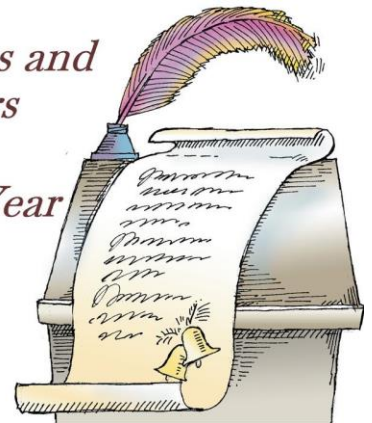
My wish or dream for Holy Cross is to get back to the basics of emphasizing worship attendance, having adult classes on books of the Bible, and stewardship. And, as a challenge, let's ask every Holy Cross member to do at least one thing for the church. – Cliff Schrock, Recording Secretary

My wish for Holy Cross is to find a way to bring all the young families of our congregation back to regular worship. My second wish is that we continue to be an outreach to the community and to grow our Preschool, which is a great outreach program. – Pat Deloge, Lead Shepherd

My prayer for HCLC is to cling to Christ, and still grow in God's Word, especially during this challenging time – Sally Finck, Worship Commission

Our church could grow in its mission of fulfilling the Great Commission in our community and beyond... (and)... As the world takes a long pause from our hectic and boisterous lives let us find blessings in the unexpected, appreciation for the steadfast, patience in our understanding, and trust in God's plan for us. – Adela Buck and Kathy Boivie, Discipleship Commission

*Wishes and
Prayers
for the
New Year*



I'm so glad I asked because these are wonderful wishes. Each one is worth pondering. Each one is worth implementing.

And now I turn to the membership – to you – and ask: What is your wish, your prayer, for Holy Cross this coming year? Take a moment to reflect, and even pray about this.

And then, what are you personally willing to do in order to accomplish this wish? I believe that God has blessed Holy Cross with an abundance of skilled and gifted members (young and old) who are ready and willing to be unleashed by God to accomplish "good works" during 2021 for the sake of Christ's Kingdom in Trumbull and beyond.

By God's grace, these "wishes" can become realities.

---BILL MEYER
Vacancy Pastor



Friday, January 1 – New Year's Day...Happy New Year!

Wednesday, January 6 – The Epiphany of Our Lord

Thursday, January 14

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

Saturday, January 23

10:00 a.m. – Holy Cross Lutheran Annual Voters' Meeting

This will be a "virtual" meeting via ZOOM. An e-mail with a link will be sent to Holy Cross members early January.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 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

VACANCY PASTOR: Rev. William Meyer

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Sally Finck

NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR: Cliff Schrock

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION: Mary Schrock

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WORSHIP COMMISSION DIRECTOR: Sally Finck



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.



WORDS FOR A NEW YEAR

Written by T.S. Eliot, American-English poet, editor, playwright and literary critic

"For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice."

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the February edition. The deadline for articles is Friday, January 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.



Mark your calendar and plan to join us online...

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING



**Saturday, January 23, at 10:00 a.m.,
online, via the "virtual" format ZOOM.**

*An e-mail with a link will be sent to all
Holy Cross members in early January.*

COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Thank you to all those who donated Christmas gifts to our social worker's "caseload children"

Extra joy and love for Christmas. Surely that is what the 30 children who fall under the watchful care of DCF must have felt due to the special gifts they were given from members and friends at Holy Cross. Each child not only received a special gift – something that they particularly wished for – but also got a gift bag with a winter hat and mittens/gloves. On December 15 our social worker Mimose Laurenard arrived at Holy Cross to load up her van with the gifts, with plans to begin delivery that afternoon prior to our area's first big snowfall. I relate these two things with you: First, that Mimose was so emotional and nearly speechless seeing all the gifts, and second, that I feel terrible for not taking a picture of all the gifts lined up against the north-side door prior to loading them into Mimose's van.

I also share with you that the reception our Holy Cross family gave to the annual "Giving Tree" project during this year of uncertainty, brought on by COVID, was in one word: **OVERWHELMING!** Many members contacted me ahead of the November 15 "unveiling" of the "Giving Tree" to ask to be matched up to a child. By November 22, all 60 ornament tags had been taken and by December 9 all 60 gifts had arrived and were ready to be wrapped. I thank the following people who participated in our Christmas "Giving Tree" project by taking such great care and love to



shop for and donate a gift: John Anantharaj and Buella John, Donna and Dave Bogen, DJ and Brendan Broadbin, Adela and John Buck, Cindy and Joe Ciccio, Joelle and Josh Cyr, Jen and Chris Deloge, John and Pat Deloge, Diane Dietman, Donna and Gary DiLalla, Sherry Duff and Marty Schaivone, Jim and Lorraine Finch, Karen and Kerry Geffert, Paul Hagberg, Ingrid and Dieter Leibold, Bill Magyar, Cheryl Mayeran, Kristen and Gary Messerschmitt, Andrea Meyer, Kendra Norman, the Rentz Family, Debbie and Vinny Riccio, Alexis Rodriguez, Donna Rodriguez, Marissa Rodriguez, Nancy and Gerald Sabol, Mary and Cliff Schrock, Donna and Dan Senft, and

Michele and Rick Van Wart. Thank you also to all those "anonymous people" who donated winter hat and mitten/glove sets in the weeks leading up to mid-November. And I also want to give a shout out to so many folks who provided gift bags and tissue paper. Due to COVID, it was required that only one person handle the wrapping of all the gifts, and that was yours truly.

As the CCC church liaison, I am so grateful for your donations, as approximately \$1,800 worth of "gifts" were donated by our church family for this Christmas project to children being serviced by this outreach ministry. You are a blessing to these children who have unstable homes and are in crisis and need.

Yours in Christ,

---MARY SCHROCK

Covenant to Care for Children Liaison

HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

We'll be inside staying warm as we focus on winter and the cold weather survival of animals

Happy New Year! After more than a week off for the Christmas and New Year's holidays, we are getting back into the school routine. In January we will be exploring the season of winter. We will have an in-depth study of animals in the winter and how they survive. We will learn which ones migrate, hibernate or if they stay around as usual. The children will learn what makes snow, as well as the process of freezing and melting. We are also teaching the children the correct way of writing all the letters of the alphabet. We use the "Fundation" writing program that makes it fun and simple.



As of this writing, we currently have 34 children enrolled with two new children to begin on January 4. Praise God!

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year will begin on January 19. Please recommend us to your family and friends! To schedule a visit or find out more information about our school, please contact me at 203-268-6471 or preschool@holycrossrumbull.com.

In Jesus' Name,
---MICHELE GLENNON

LIVE IN THE LIGHT

Words by Henri Nouwen, from his book, *Bread for the Journey*

Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, "How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or 10 years from now?" There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step — what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day.




The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go.

Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all our shadows away.

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KEEP SEEKING HIM



General Memorial Fund
In memory of Matilda Jacobs

Jackie Polchies
Nancy and Gerald Sabol
Cliff and Mary Schrock
Dan and Donna Senft

Share the Hope Fund
In memory of Matilda Jacobs

Dave and Donna Bogen
The Rock of Agers group

THE WINTER SEASON IS HERE, AND WE REMIND YOU THAT OCCASIONALLY WORSHIP SERVICE OR ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED DUE TO SNOWY AND/OR ICY CONDITIONS.

Before you venture out, look/listen for a possible cancellation via:

- If you signed up for the "e-mail blast" system, check your e-mail;
- If you are on Facebook, look for a posting;
- WICC radio (AM 600);
- www.wicc600.com (under "Public Organizations"); or
- WTNH-TV or WSFB-TV.



THANKS A BUNCH!

Do you know of someone who did something special as a volunteer here at Holy Cross? If so, please identify him or her! If you have an item to include in the “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. This month we say “thank you” to:

Carol Burns who coordinated the poinsettia flower orders for Holy Cross.

Our custodian, **Roger Burke**. Keeping our church clean is his job, but especially during this COVID pandemic, Roger has gone above and beyond to make sure our sanctuary, hallways and bathrooms are extra clean. If you are at the church while Roger is working, be sure to give him an extra thank you.

This group of Holy Cross members who stayed after the service on December 13 to decorate the sanctuary and narthex, putting up the Christmas tree, and hanging the wreaths and setting up the nativity sets: **Sally Finck, Kerry Geffert, Kevin Halls, Donna, Marissa and Alexis Rodriguez, Karl Schipul, Donna Senft and Laurie Vaitkus.**



This trio— **Kerry Geffert, Greg Dowling and Gary Messerschmitt**. Kerry continues to serve as the hymn leader at our services; **Greg** continues to record our weekly service and uploads the recording to our youtube channel, and **Gary** prepares the website for the uploads and makes the service links “live.” These volunteer efforts are very much appreciated, especially by the Holy Cross members and friends who continue to worship “online” during this COVID pandemic!

CELEBRATING JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Jan. 2:	Lucy Kravecs	Jan. 17:	Emily Struzik
Jan. 6:	Cheryl Conte	Jan. 18:	Kathy Boivie
	JoAnne Meyer	Jan. 23:	Sydney Fitzmorris
Jan. 12:	Caroline Hron Weigle		John Rosen
	Charlie Hron Weigle	Jan. 25:	Brandon Matthews
	William Malmstedt	Jan. 27:	Ron Sjoblom
Jan. 16	Susan Antoniou	Jan. 29:	Emily Hron Weigle
	Lauren Gagliardi	Jan. 30:	Karen Geffert

WORDS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Bible verses to help you move forward to 2021

Hold fast to your faith (*Hebrews 4:14*)

Assemble with the saints (*Hebrews 10:25*)

Pray earnestly every day (*1 Thessalonians 5:17-18*)

Pray for great blessings (*Malachi 3:10*)

Yield not to temptation (*1 Thessalonians 5:22*)

Neglect not your talents, opportunities (*Gal. 6:10*)

Examine yourself daily (*2 Corinthians 13:5*)

Work diligently for the Lord (*1 Corinthians 15:58*)

Yield your members to righteousness (*Romans 6:11, 16*)

Exercise yourself in godliness (*1 Timothy 4:7*)

Aim for a perfect, mature faith (*Hebrews 6:1*)

Redeem the time (*Ephesians 5:15-16*)

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CHURCH CHUCKLES

