



The

HOLY CROSS WORD

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

JULY/AUGUST 2017

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LX, NO. 8/9

THOUGHTS FROM ONE OF OUR GUEST PASTORS

Singing of Summer...

Those of you good people of God at HCLC who have gotten to know me during my various times with you in recent years know that hymns and the hymnbook are some of my very favorite things. Summer is also one of my very favorite things. So when I was asked to write a summer topic column for the HCLC newsletter, I decided to find a way for those two likes of mine to intersect in a way that might be of devotional blessing for newsletter readers. It was a blessing for me...and may be for you as well.

The word "summer" is not frequently used in our *Lutheran Service Book* hymnal. It shows up only four times in the entire collection of 635 hymns in the hymnbook, which is more than the single mention of autumn but not as many as the five of spring/springtime references and considerably fewer than the 10 uses of winter/winters and wintry. Each of the four summer references gives us reason for praising God in these wonderfully warm weeks of the year. So we will take a look at each one.

The "oldest" of the hymnal references to summer is also the most recent. In 1995 Pastor Steve Starke, who served Grace Lutheran Church in Middletown, Conn., early in his ministry, wrote a paraphrase of what is called the *Song of the Three Young Men*, an addition to the canonical text of the Old Testament Book of Daniel that follows Chapter 3, Verse 23. It is a psalm of praise sung by the "three men in the fiery furnace" – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Considering how the weather can be in New England as summer weeks progress, it is an appropriate devotional choice. As all of the "works of the Lord" are invited to praise God, the hymnist writes: "Frost of winter with song so cold, Dews of summer, your song unfold; Light and darkness, you day and night, Clouds of thunder, you lightnings bright: Raise your voices high, praise and magnify, *All you works of God, bless the Lord!*" [LSB 930]. The days of summer invite us to see the wonder of creation – and to add our songs of praise to the natural ones around us.

Guest Message

from our



Pastoral Care Team

The second "summer" reference comes from the well-loved hymn "*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*" [LSB 809]. Author Thomas Chisholm, a Methodist minister who wrote more than 1,200 hymns, expresses the praise of God in stanza 2 in this way: "Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love." The classic refrain then concludes with the words: "Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!" The summer months invite us to discover the Lord's faithfulness unfolding in the change of the seasons and His grace to us in all of the seasons of our lives.

It is one of the seasons of life in the contemporary hymn "*O Blessed Spring, Where Word and Sign...*" [LSB 595] that is described as being summer-like. Text writer Susan Palo Cherwien begins stanza 2 this way: "Through summer heat of youthful years, Uncertain faith, rebellious tears, Sustained by Christ's infusing rain, The boughs will shout for joy again." In her poetic way author Cherwien is reminding us that at all ages of life we are to remain connected to Christ, the living Vine. All through the summer there are opportunities to stay linked to and nurtured by Christ through worship and activities at church. Plan on staying connected!

"Thoughts from Rev. Greg Wismar," continues on Page 3



Tuesday, July 4 – Independence Day (CHURCH/PRESCHOOL CLOSED)
Noon – Holy Cross serves Community Supper at St. John's Epis.-Bridgeport

Monday, July 10
7:00 p.m. – Worship Service

Thursday, July 13
7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors' meeting

Sunday, July 16
10:15 a.m. – Town Hall Meeting (*immediately follows the 9 a.m. service*)

Sunday, July 23
10:30 a.m. – Computer Class: *Google Email Basics*

Monday, July 24
7:00 p.m. – Worship Service

Saturday, July 29
6:00 p.m. – Family Movie Night & Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 30
10:30 a.m. – Computer Class: *Facebook Security and Privacy*

Sunday, August 6
10:30 a.m. – Computer Class: *Google Apps (Drive, Calendar, Docs, Sheets, Forms)*

Monday-Friday, August 7-11
9:00 a.m. – Vacation Bible School

Thursday, August 10
7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors' meeting

Sunday, August 13
10:30 a.m. – Computer Class: *Internet Searches, Building a Website and Extra Help*

Monday, August 14
7:00 p.m. – Worship Service

Saturday, August 26
6:00 p.m. – Game Night

Monday, August 28
7:00 p.m. – Worship Service

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

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

SPECIAL WORSHIP NOTES:

Sunday Worship Service—May 28 through September 3: 9:00 a.m.

Monday Worship Service during the summer months: 7:00 p.m., second and fourth Mondays only

PASTOR: Eric A. Wismar

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Sally Finck

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PRESIDENT: Kerry Geffert

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' VICE-PRESIDENT: Michele Van Wart

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.



AN EVER-OPEN DOOR **Words by Anthony Coniaris, Author and Priest Emeritus, of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**

"When all other doors in life are closed to us, Jesus will be for us the ever-open door. ... To call any situation hopeless is to shut the door on God."

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the September edition. The deadline for articles is Tuesday, 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.

Please note: *Because this is a combined summer edition, there is no July 15 deadline. The regular monthly schedule will resume with the September issue.*

“Thoughts from Rev. Greg Wismar,” continues from Page 1

The final reference to summer is in Johann Mentzer’s text of “*Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices*” [LSB 811], which was written more than three hundred years ago. He invites all of Creation to praise God with these words in the third stanza: “You forest leaves so green and tender That dance for joy in summer air, You meadow grasses, bright and slender, You flow’rs so fragrant and so fair, You live to show God’s praise alone. Join me to make His glory known.” As well-loved children of the heavenly Father, we have reason to give thanks and praise to God in all seasons and in all situations. May your summer be filled with praise as, with the leaves of the forest, you may even take time to “dance for joy in summer air.”

---REV. GREGORY J. WISMAR

Pastor Emeritus of Christ the King—Newtown, Connecticut

Editor’s Note: For those of you familiar with social-media outlets such as Facebook, you will be familiar with the terms “Throwback Thursday” or “Flashback Friday.” On Facebook, those are ways that users share a picture or an event from years ago. Since we are in the midst of Holy Cross’ 60th year, we thought it would be a nice treat to go back through newsletters from years ago and share fun and interesting articles. We’ll call this column “Retro Reading.” You may discover something you didn’t know about your church’s history, or that what was written about “back then” is still relevant today, or you may just enjoy being transported back to a simpler time and easier way of life. Articles will be reprinted the way they appeared, illustrating that typos and grammatical errors are timeless! Enjoy!

RETRO READING

**Reprinted from December 1959 and July 1960,
written by Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Ronald Froehlich**

**December 1959****CHURCH PROPERTY**

The architects report on the site across from St. Stephen’s Church on Main Street was not favorable. The congregation voted to drop further negotiations.

In the December Voters’ meeting, we voted to take action on the Walker property on the west side of Main Street about two blocks of the Trumbull Town Hall. At present certain necessary considerations are being made by the committee prior to actual negotiations.

July 1960**“OUR LAND”**

Yes, we can finally say “our land.” Wednesday, June 22nd, at 3:30 p.m. the Pastor met with Mr. Konther, Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Eielson in the office of Mr. Ehrsam. There the papers were signed which formally transferred the ownership of the property from Mr. Holmes and Mr. Walker to the Atlantic District.

“God willing on this site...” we shall erect, in what we hope will be the near future, a building to the glory of God and for the service of the members of Holy Cross and the people of the Trumbull area.

Such a task is a great one. It will require the interest and help of every member of Holy Cross both young and old. May God give all of us willing hearts and ready hands to accomplish what we all are praying for every day.

**Worship
Reminder**

Our Sunday service is at 9 a.m.

Our one-service Sunday Worship schedule continues through September 3, the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

Our Monday services are at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays—July 10, July 24, August 14 and August 28.

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

Summer as good a time as any to assess your time management to God and Holy Cross

I don't like starting out on a negative note, but this month I feel I must. I am deeply saddened that Holy Cross is terminating its active involvement in a community ministry after many years of service. For the past 10 years, our congregation has prepared and served monthly meals for those in need through St. John's Episcopal Church in Bridgeport. Anywhere from 80- to 100-plus meals were served each month – regardless of the weather – by volunteers ranging from their teens to their golden years. Those, who had the opportunity to help, know the joy as we came to know many familiar faces.

Our congregation's role in this valuable ministry opportunity is ending because no one has stepped forward to take over coordination from the Schillers who are retiring after a decade of dedicated service.

The resounding silence when asking for volunteers is nothing new. It is a common response received by your church leaders. When pressed, we often hear, "I just don't have the time" or "I'm too busy." Work, family, sports; we've heard them all, as if those are not issues for those who do volunteer their time.

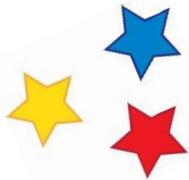
When I worked at a university, I taught a time-management seminar to first-year students. One of their first assignments was to keep a log of everything they did over a week's period – down to the minute. Eat, sleep, workouts, class, homework, video games, partying; record it all. They were then tasked with reviewing their log. Were they getting enough sleep? How did they spend their free time? They also were asked what their log said about their priorities. How they spent their time could be an indicator of values. How might they better organize their time? Are they really that "busy?"

I challenge you to do the same. Keep a log of how you spend your time for a week or more. What will your log say about your priorities? Where does worship and Christian service fall within those priorities? Just how are you "Receiving God's Love and Actively Responding"? Is this the log with which you want to approach the Pearly Gates? No better time to make changes than this summer!

In His Service,
---KERRY GEFFERT
Holy Cross President



*And lo,
I am with you
ALWAYS...*
—Matthew 28:20



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT HOLY CROSS

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

August 7-11, from 9 a.m. to Noon

Grades K-5 (grade entering in Sept. 2017)

Registration is ongoing until filled.

(Forms are on the narthex table)

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





SAVE THE DATE!
OCTOBER 29
REFORMATION DAY
 FOR THE
CELEBRATION OF
HOLY CROSS'
60TH
ANNIVERSARY.
DETAILS FORTHCOMING

ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

CLOTHING DONATIONS

Be a "light!" Support the Light on the Hill Clothes Closet

It's easy! Just drop off your gently-used donations of summer clothing in the box in the narthex and we will deliver your clothing to the Summerfield United Methodist Clothes Closet in Bridgeport.

---SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMISSION



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. Remember that leaving high school and college isn't just an end or a farewell...it's a beginning, an open door, a hello and an opportunity to mark a new adventure in life! Make new memories! 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 2017!



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

Stephanie Liptack

Daughter of Gary and Peggy Liptack, Stephanie graduated from Trumbull High School. The next step in her educational career is to attend Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. As of this time Stephanie's major is undecided.

Jorge Wismar

Son of Pastor Eric and Miharu Wismar, Jorge graduated from Trumbull High School. Jorge will attend the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, where he plans to major in Operation Research and Computer Analysis (known as ORCA).

COLLEGE GRADUATES:

Julia Antoniou

Daughter of Susan Antoniou, Julia graduated from Northeastern University in Boston with both a Bachelor of Science and Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering. She will stay in the Boston area, working as an Applications Support Engineer for MathWorks.

Kaeleen Boivie

Daughter of Rick and Kathy Boivie, Kaeleen graduated from the University of Connecticut in Storrs with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Math Education. Kaeleen will continue her education at UConn to pursue a Master's Degree.

Christy Halls

Daughter of Jon and Jenzy Halls, Christy graduated from Clemson University in Clemson, S.C. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing, and has already secured a job, working for Meridian Technologies in Charlotte, N.C.

Caroline Hron Weigle

Daughter of Charlene Hron and William Weigle, Caroline graduated from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich. Caroline received degrees in Arabic, Comparative Cultures and Politics, Women's and Gender Studies.

Charles Hron Weigle

Son of Charlene Hron and William Weigle, Charlie graduated from University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pa., with a degree in Computer Science. He hopes to find employment as a programmer.

Marissa Rodriguez

Daughter of Rafael and Donna Rodriguez, Marissa graduated from St. Vincent's College in Bridgeport with an Associate Degree in Nursing. Marissa's next step is to get a job and continue schooling to receive a Bachelor's Degree.

EDUCATION COMMISSION

Graduations galore at our preschool; VBS enrollment continues; “crying room” ready for use

The Sunday School closing was held at the late service on May 21 and, as always, the children did a great job. I would like to thank Kim Atkinson, our Sunday School Director, for again giving so generously of her time and talent to the children of Holy Cross. I would also like to thank all the teachers, helpers and substitutes who also are so dedicated. You all are a blessing to our Sunday School!



Graduation at our Preschool took place on June 14. As a grandmother of a third and fourth grandchild graduating from Holy Cross Preschool, I can't say enough about the preparation Michele Glennon and her staff give to the children as they now enter the public school system.

So, many thanks to Michele and her entire teaching staff for dedication they give to the children entrusted to their care. The Preschool Summer Camp began on June 19 and will continue through the week of July 31. Enrollment is on a week-to-week basis. Enrollment also continues for the Preschool this fall.

On August 7-11, from 9 a.m. to noon (daily) Vacation Bible School will be taking place. The theme this year is “Hero Central - Discover Your Strength in God!” Please don't forget to sign up your children for this exciting week.

Classroom D in the Fellowship Hall has been cleaned out and can now be used by any parents needing to leave the church service with an “antsy” child. There is a speaker in the room that allows you to follow the service and there are toys for the children. Please feel free to utilize this room.

Respectfully submitted,

---PAT DELOGE

Education Director

DORCAS GUILD

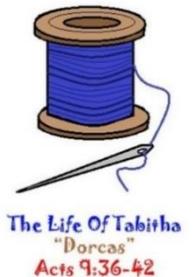
Our members recognized for skills; group resumes meeting schedule in September

“In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is, Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him ‘Please come at once!’ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas made while she was still with them.” —Acts 9:36–39

On June 7, the Holy Cross Dorcas Guild members were invited to St. Vincent's Hospital. They were recognized for their time and talents creating beautiful healing shawls and lap robes. During the special recognition, the items were blessed and the staff reflected on how the items touch so many lives.

Currently the Dorcas Guild has five members: Myrtle Anderson, Anita Schoch, Ingrid Leibold, Annelore Pstrag and Thomasina Petrahai.

Quick Fact: As of this date, 56 lap robes and prayer shawls have been donated by the Dorcas Guild. Please see the “Mailbag” article on Page 11 for a glimpse of the thank you notes and letters.



Beginning in September the Dorcas Guild will resume its twice-monthly gatherings, on the second and fourth Thursday of every month, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Conference Room here at Holy Cross. If you are interested in joining, learning a new talent or just to say hello please join them!

---SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMISSION



CROP WALK

Small band of walkers generates donations through sponsorships

It was a cold day in May on Sunday the 7th when the CROP Walk took place at Seaside Park in Bridgeport. We want to thank those who walked: Donna, Marissa and Alexis Rodriguez and friends who joined them. Bob and Carol Burns delivered food items purchased with Thrivent funds, and took a short walk. We were able to donate \$685 to world and local hunger, and \$250 in food to local food pantries. Hoping for more walkers next year.

---CAROL BURNS

COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Your generous response will be appreciated for back-to-school project, kicking off in mid-July

School just got over for our youth, but a new school year will be underway two months from now, and that means it will be time for 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 28 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 2017-2018 school year.



By mid-July look in the narthex for the display board with pockets filled with 3-by-5 "shopping cards" for school supply items. Each card will list the specific item needed...items ranging from backpacks, rulers, binders, pencils, pocket folders, tissue packets, markers, pencil pouches, and much more. The display board will remain in the narthex through August 13. 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 by August 13. 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

COMFORT DOG MINISTRY

Special June 4 focus at Holy Cross preps team for national conference

We welcomed Addie and Leah for Comfort Dog Sunday on June 4 along with handlers and ministry partners from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Danbury. The Holy Cross team hosted the coffee hour along with an information table. A special collection was held to help with the travel expenses for the Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) National Conference in Northbrook, Ill., July 26-29. We would like to thank everyone for their donations, support and prayers. Addie and Leah will accompany us along with Comfort Dogs, handlers and ministry partners across the United States. To quote Tim Hetzner, President of LCC, "WOW what a year! I say that every year and always think, what new doors will God open this coming year? God never lets us down; there are always new doors that He opens for us to touch lives with His Mercy and Compassion."



The Immanuel/Holy Cross Comfort Dog team averages 92 volunteer hours per week. Together we travel to nursing homes, schools, community events, crisis response, shut-ins, veteran visits, hospice, and mental health and substance abuse centers. We also continue to focus on training and development. An immediate need is for a ministry partner for our assignment at New Prospects in Bridgeport, which we visit on Monday. Please speak to Cindy if you are interested in volunteering.

If you would like to learn more about the Comfort Dog ministry, visit our website: www.gotcomfort.org.

Walking Together, SERVING AS ONE,
 --- CINDY CICCIA, KATHRYN STRUZIK, LYDIA STRUZIK

RECYCLING STEWARDS

Holy Cross actively participates in making sure resources are properly utilized

Let it not be said that Holy Cross does not practice good stewardship within our midst.

One of our altar cloths has been in use for many years and is showing signs of wear. However, there are some sections of it where the linen shows little or no wear. Those sections are cut out, hemmed, embroidered with a cross and put to use again as purificators for the communion chalice or Baptismal napkins. Did you know that?



Ever wonder what happens to the leftover worship service bulletins? Those and other paper items are put into blue-colored recycle bins in the office and, when full, one of our members takes the bins to the Stratford recycle center.

Recycling is alive and well at Holy Cross. "Waste not want not," they say.
 ---EDITH SKOOG

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:

Ron Dietman; Donna DiLalla, recovering from a gastrointestinal issue; **Cole Dowling; Valerie Huydic**, recovering from hip-replacement surgery; **Gary Jackson; Edna Karacsony**, suffering with dementia; **Jesse Kravecs**, as she recuperates from knee-replacement surgery; **JoAnne Meyer; David Schiller**, recovering from triple-bypass surgery; **Mary Ann Schiller** as she recovers from hand surgery following an auto accident; **Barbara Schneider; Monika Seyal; Bill and Edith Skoog**, for comfort and healing following an auto accident in which Bill broke three ribs and Edith was badly bruised; **Michael Weldon**, suffering with lower back pain; **Barbara White**, dealing with health issues; the homebound – **Bernice Erickson**.

During the past month, we also prayed for:

Robert Butler, Laura Dowling's father, recovering from the insertion of a pacemaker; **Maryellen Dankulich**, Jennifer Rentz's step-mother, battling cancer and undergoing chemo; **Christina Dean**, a relative of Paul Hagberg, suffering from lymphoma; **Linda Desabella**, friend of Patty Peterson, battling cancer; **Danny Doherty**, brother of Maura Senft, recovering from quintuple-bypass surgery; **Marti Fischer**, cousin of Carol Burns, who is blind and paralyzed; **Kathy Gardner**, Jim Leslie's sister, recovering from cancer surgery; **Walter Geffert**, brother of Nancy Sabol, recovering from colon cancer surgery; eight-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; **Ramona Kondracki**, wife of a co-worker of Jim Leslie, who has begun chemotherapy for cancer in her sinus cavity; **Joan Meyer**, friend of the Dietmans, dealing with memory issues; **Gertrude Moran**, friend of Anita Schoch, going through treatments for lymphoma; **Patrick Murphy**, Pat Peterson's brother, diagnosed with liver cancer and recovering from surgery; **Chris O'Brien**, friend of Mary and Otto Atkinson, paralyzed as a result of an accident; **Joseph Parker**, Julianne Nyitrai's father, who underwent triple-bypass surgery; **Melissa Prater**, Lisa Bailey's daughter, undergoing medical testing; **Dolores Reisman**, Barbara White's sister-in-law, undergoing aggressive chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer; **Luis Rivera**, friend of Doris Bernt, who had a lung transplant; **Sharon Robinson**, daughter of Anita Beer, recovering from surgery; **Rev. Richard Schuller**, a missionary pastor in Puerto Rico, healing from injuries he sustained when hit by a car; **Joey Senft**, cousin of the Senft family, with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease); **David Sochacki**, friend of Nancy and Jerry Sabol, following brain surgery; **Mike Stachura**, friend of the Schrocks, with a relapse of kidney cancer, for effective radiation treatment to eliminate tumors and cancer cells; **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; **Craig Wilson**, son of a friend of John and Pat Deloge, recovering from tongue-cancer surgery; **Jim Wixson**, diagnosed with bladder cancer and undergoing chemotherapy.

Other prayer petitions were for:

Sally Finck and her family upon the sudden passing of Sally's father, Richard Finck. We continue to pray for protection for all those serving in the military, including **Timothy Benson Jr., Michael Collins, Joao Paulo Silva Gomes, Ben Milositz, Jake Novak, Steve Novak, Ryan Rubega, Michael Schweitzer** and **Daniel Struzik** and our pastor, **Rev. Eric Wismar**.

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.

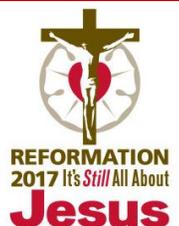
---DONNA SENFT

Shepherd's Commission



REFORMATION 2017

The Reformation was not about anything new, but about returning to the unchanged and unchanging truth. So it still is today. The celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is not a time for novelty. It is time to return. Return to the truth. Return to the basics. Return to the foundation.



COMMUNITY SUPPER

Serve the Lord by serving the needy a welcome meal – note special cooking/serving times for July 4

Our servers heard an extraordinary amount of “please” and “thank you” comments from those that came to eat at the June 6 Community Supper. Some of these kind expressions of gratitude came from two families of four, each with two young children. And as the serving hour waned, the usual joke-telling supper client came to eat and amused the servers by asking, “Why could Noah only go fishing twice?”

These tidbits give you just a glimpse of the heart-warming feeling our volunteers have as they cook and/or serve. There were plenty of cooks on this first Tuesday of June: Cindy Ciccia, Lorraine Finch, Nancy Sabol, St. John’s member Lydia Masala, and Grace Lutheran-Stratford members Helen Harper, Jon Harper, Diane Hintz Shyhol and Hank Saunders. Three of these cooks – Cindy, Lorraine and Lydia – also stayed to do the final food preparations and serve, and were joined by Jim Finch, Jim Leslie, Alexis Rodriguez, Donna Rodriguez, Marissa Rodriguez, Mary Schrock and Grace-Stratford member Saviden Semon. Our servers stayed extremely busy right up until 6 p.m., as we served 89 people, with 30 coming back for “seconds”...a total of 119 meals served. While there was a bit of broccoli/corn and fresh fruit remaining at the end of the serving hour, we did run out of ham and macaroni & cheese.



The next community supper for which Holy Cross is responsible for cooking and serving is on Tuesday, July 4— Independence Day. **Please take note of the following:** The cooking and serving times are earlier in the day due to the national holiday; cooking will start at 9 a.m. and the food will be served at noon. Volunteers planning to serve should arrive at St. John’s by 11:30/11:45. If you are able to take time out of your July 4th celebration to cook and serve please sign up on the sheet on the narthex table.

As no one has come forward to coordinate, lead and shop for the monthly Community Supper, Holy Cross will no longer cook and serve on the first Tuesdays of the month, beginning with August 2017. St John’s has been informed to find another congregation to provide food, workers and a coordinator on the first Tuesdays.

---LORRAINE FINCH and MARY SCHROCK

P.S.: In case you haven’t figured out the answer to the joke “Why could Noah only go fishing twice?” the answer is, “He only had two worms!”

A WORD ORIGIN

The wooden shoe of worry: Don’t let it be a hindrance to serving God

The word *sabotage* has a fascinating history. *Sabot* is the French word for a wooden shoe. Sabotage was the act of throwing a shoe into machinery to stop work. Now it means any attempt to hinder production or spoil a product. Satan tries to cast a wooden shoe into our souls to prevent us from accomplishing God’s plan. That shoe is worry, which can crush the spirit, sour our disposition and interfere with Christian service. That’s why Jesus instructs: “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself” (Matthew 6:34, NIV). Jesus isn’t promoting laziness or indifference; instead, he encourages us to trust our Father, who provides for all our needs. Be on guard, and don’t let worry sabotage your faith.



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LUTHERAN WOMEN’S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML)

The story of the Widow’s Mite inspires us to do the same with our giving

“Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, ‘I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on.’”—Mark 12:41-43

Are you aware of the importance of the LWML Mite Boxes? A major emphasis is the support of mission and ministry throughout the world by means of Mite Box offerings. These Mite Box offerings have funded tens of millions of dollars in mission grants since the organization’s inception in 1942.



Recently Holy Cross donated \$100 in Mites to LWML. Take a Mite Box from the narthex table and put it on your kitchen counter – when you come home each day put your loose change in the Mite Box! Return your filled Mite Box to the collection box on the narthex table.

---SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMISSION

TECH TALK

Multifaceted and free help will be offered at four computer classes

With the many questions I have been receiving over the last few months I have decided that I would put together some basic computer classes for the congregation. Depending on how well they go I may have more in the future. There are a few topics that I am going to start with since the church's staff and the Board of Directors use the software. The classes will start at 10:30 after the 9 a.m. worship service and run for a maximum of 90 minutes. No sign up is necessary. You can bring your laptop to follow along or to ask questions if we have time during the latter part of the class. The dates and topics are:



- July 23 – Google Email Basics
- July 30 – Facebook Security and Privacy
- August 6 – Google Apps (Drive, Calendar, Docs, Sheets, Forms)
- August 13 – Internet Searches, Building a Website, and Extra Help

Let me mention details about each class. Google Gmail is a great product that I believe everyone should use. It is free and comes with a host of options that you can use and makes an excellent replacement or even a companion to Microsoft Outlook. It has many features that allow you to customize how you view your mail and automatic sorting options. It also integrates with a decent calendar application that will save you scheduling headaches. I will go over these in my first class.

In a previous article, I talked about Facebook and the privacy settings. I received some questions about this so I thought my second class would be to show people what I was talking about. If you use Facebook and do not know who can see your posts and pictures, this is the class for you.

The Google Apps class will go over a small portion of the free applications that are available. Most people do not know these applications exist and are a great alternative to the Microsoft Office suite. The best part will be when I go over the free cloud storage that Google provides that can be accessed anywhere using your browser and smartphone. You can setup a folder on your PC that will automatically sync the files to the cloud as a backup. There is also unlimited backup of your photos to the cloud that will help preserve your memories. The internet is getting bigger all the time and finding what you are looking for is becoming more and more complicated. This last class will empower you to make better searches and find the information that you want more quickly. I will also go over several different free services that you can create your own websites if anyone attending is interested.

For my final class I will also be helping people with any questions or problems they have from the previous classes. I hope to see you there!

If you found this interesting or have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me anytime at TechnologyDirector@holycrosstrumbull.com. Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/hclchurch/>

Tech Tip for the Month: Google has several applications that you can use for free including document storage, a word processor (Google Docs) and spreadsheet application (Google Sheets). They also offer free web hosting with every email account. Go to www.google.com or attend my class on August 6 to find out more.

---GARY MESSERSCHMITT

LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Donations for the Trumbull Food Pantry may be left in the collection box in the narthex

The Trumbull Food Pantry is able to exist almost solely through donations from individuals and groups in our community. We thank you for the recent donations that have been left in the collection box in the narthex and thank you in advance for any non-perishable items, but especially the following that are most needed:

- ✓ Deodorant (male or female)
- ✓ Toothpaste
- ✓ Toilet paper
- ✓ Paper towels
- ✓ Laundry soap
- ✓ Juice boxes
- ✓ Feminine hygiene products



---SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMISSION

IN THE MAILBAG**We share with you five letters/notes received over the past month****From Bill and Edith Skoog**

To our Holy Cross Family,

THANK YOU! Words cannot fully express how much all of your prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and assistance are appreciated in concern for us after our auto accident. We have been truly blessed and feel honored to be a part of the Holy Cross family. Your acts of kindness will be remembered and cherished in our hearts. Thank you so much.

---EDITH AND BILL SKOOG

**From Mary Ann Schiller**

Dear Holy Cross Family,

God is Gracious! I am grateful for the concern, communications and prayers for my well-being. I am especially grateful for all those who pitched in to do my volunteer commitments. I praise the Lord for all the loving, caring Holy Cross friends.

---MARY ANN SCHILLER

**From Griffin Hospital***(a thank you note to the Dorcas Guild ladies)*

Hello All,

As this beautiful season unfolds its glory, we reflect on what we are thankful for – and one of those blessings is you. Thank you for using your time and talent to help those you may never meet. Your prayer shawls are beautiful and surely a reflection of the light within.

God Bless—Thank you!!

---JANICE LAUTIER

(Griffin Hospital)

**From Smilow Cancer Center-Trumbull**

Yale New Haven Smilow Cancer Center Hospital of Trumbull would like to thank Holy Cross Lutheran Church Dorcas Guild for the many prayer shawls that were donated to our care center. Our patients GREATLY appreciate your gifts. Thank you!

Sincerely,

---SMILOW CANCER CARE CENTER OF TRUMBULL

**From St. Vincent's Medical Center**

Dearest Dorcas Guild Knitters,

The cancer center at St. Vincent's Medical Center would like to thank you for the donation of 15 knitted prayer shawls. The prayer shawls bring warmth and comfort to our patients who are dealing with cancer. The love and care you put into the shawls envelopes these patients. Your beautiful shawls bring patients peace and tranquility during times of uncertainty. We thank you for your faithful contributions to our center. Your kindness and concern for our patients is much appreciated.

---VICKIE OGDEN, LMSW

SWIM Resource Navigator

St. Vincent's Medical Center—Elizabeth Pfriem SWIM Center for Cancer Care

LOOKING DEEPER INTO THE BIBLE

Lesson 8: Understanding 1st Peter, Chapter 4

A monthly Bible study involving Scripture reading and explanation



We begin with The Reading: 1st Peter, Chapter 4 (RSV)

Exhortation to duty

¹Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same thought, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer by human passions but by the will of God. ³Let the time that is past suffice for doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. ⁴They are surprised that you do not now join them in the same wild profligacy, and they abuse you; ⁵but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is why the gospel was preached even to the dead, that though judged in the flesh like men, they might live in the spirit like God. ⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore keep sane and sober for your prayers. ⁸Above all hold unflinching your love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who utters oracles of God; whoever renders service, as one who renders it by the strength which God supplies; in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Constancy in trial: Exhortation to steadfastness

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which comes upon you to prove you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or a wrongdoer, or a mischief-maker; ¹⁶yet if one suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but under that name let him glorify God. ¹⁷For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And "if the righteous man is scarcely saved, where will the impious and sinner appear?" ¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will do right and entrust their souls to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

We move into The Study: A reminder that the Apostle Peter's first letter is directed toward suffering Christians, many from Jerusalem who were living in northern Asia Minor (mainly present-day Turkey). They were fearful of persecution and death but Peter said to have hope in the middle of anguish and turmoil. Chapter 3 was a dialogue on the Christian and persecution. Chapter 4 starts off with a switch to Peter's urgent pleas for Christians to do their duty. This is the part of his letter in which he discusses hard times and the glory that follows after perseverance. If we can get past the hardship, Peter says, God's peace awaits us.

In verses 1-3, Peter explains that just as Christ died to save us, "in the flesh," so we must think likeminded and die to sin ourselves. We must conform to God's will, and in that way we will be living in the flesh but no longer by our human desires but by God's. Thus all the fleshly desires will no longer have a hold on us, such as the evil traits of who live in "licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry."

**...SERVE ONE
ANOTHER
WITH
WHATEVER
GIFT EACH OF
YOU HAS
RECEIVED.**



1 PETER 4:10

Referring to peer pressure Christians face, Peter says starting in Verse 4 that wicked friends of those who have converted from old habits of sin to good cannot understand such behavior. They think of Christian life as tedious and boring, and choose to ridicule such proper behavior. But Peter warns they will be given their due on judgment day, and the real purpose for God's people is to live in His spirit. In that spiritual state, Christians are to remain "sane and sober" and be unflinching in their love for each other. Love will overcome a "multitude of sins." Civil behavior toward each other is emphasized beginning with Verse 9, with no jealousy shown. And then starting with Verse 10, we learn of the special advice about how each of us has a unique gift, which is to be utilized for the common good, whether that be as someone who speaks well, or someone who serves, all done with the strength provided by God. In this way, God "may be glorified through Christ." And Peter closes that exhortation in Verse 11 with a prayer-like statement: "To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Having urged the Christians to do their duty, Peter in Verses 12-19 stresses how they must be constant and steadfast in their lives. This is necessary because of the "fiery ordeal" they will face; although it's not explained what that ordeal is, the general statement refers to the tests of faith sure to come our way. Believers should not be surprised about these tests when they come. Indeed, we should rejoice when the tests come so we may share in Christ's sufferings.

"Looking Deeper," continues on Page 13

“Looking Deeper,” continued from Page 12

In Verse 14, which happens to be my confirmation verse, we read how it’s actually a blessing to be ridiculed as a Christian because it shows that the spirit of God, and glory, is deep within the Christian.

Peter refers in Verse 15 and beyond to a special kind of suffering that comes to the sinful and those with shortcomings, but the Christian who suffers for their belief should not feel shamed but rather feel he is glorifying God, for judgment begins with the members of Christ’s body. One commentary explained Verses 17-19 this way: “But God also allows believers to suffer as part of His will for them. They are to be more concerned for their souls than for their bodies. Therefore they must entrust their souls to God and engage in the kind of life that is designed to glorify him.”

Next month: 1 Peter, Chapter 5

---CLIFF SCHROCK

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.

To **Jim Finch, Chad Helminger** and **John Rosen** for completing a thorough three-year financial review of Holy Cross’ financial records.

To **Carol Burns** for coordinating the Holy Cross efforts at the Annual Crop Walk.

To the Holy Cross members who helped with either shopping, cooking or serving at the June 6 Community Supper at St. John’s Episcopal-Bridgeport: **Cindy Ciccia, Lorraine** and **Jim Finch, Jim Leslie, Alexis Rodriguez, Donna Rodriguez, Marissa Rodriguez, Nancy Sabol** and **Mary Schrock**.

To **Jim Atkinson** and **Kerry Geffert** for serving as the lay leaders of our Monday Evening Worship service on June 12 and June 26, respectively.

**CHRISTIAN MINISTRY****When New Yorkers need spiritual advice, the “pastor is in”**

Every Tuesday morning on New York City’s Upper East Side, Rev. Gregory Fryer, from Immanuel Lutheran-Manhattan, sits in a *Peanuts*-style booth offering prayer and a listening ear to passersby. Initially the pastor wanted to draw attention to his church, but instead he ended up noticing all the “hungry hearts” in the neighborhood. Fryer has been pleasantly surprised by all the people who open up to him. “I think they like the idea of a pastor being on the sidewalk,” he says.

Although a sign on the booth reads “Spiritual advice 5¢,” the pastor keeps a plate of nickels handy if people want to put one in his jar. Some people donate much more — and some even pray for Fryer.

The pastor says he was inspired by *Peanuts* character Lucy van Pelt, who has the “audacity, the courage to brazenly sit there out in public and offer to deal with important matters.”

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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: CHARLENE HRON WEIGLE |
| JULY 6: PENELOPE FERNOUS | LAUREN WALKER |
| ROBERT KRAVECS, JR. | JON TESTANI |
| JULY 7: EDITH SKOOG | JULY 21: WILLIAM BECKER |
| 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: JAMES BELASCO | AUGUST 19: TIM MORRIS |
| NATE HELMINGER | AUGUST 20: NORAH KRAVECS |
| AUGUST 4: CRISTINA CURTO | AUGUST 21: TIM BENSON, JR. |
| ULRICH DANNE | KIMBERLEY FERRO |
| SPENCER HODGES | DAVID SCHILLER |
| AUGUST 5: ASHLEY TESTANI | AUGUST 23: KAREN ROHLER |
| AUGUST 6: ADELAIDE FERNOUS | AUGUST 24: NATALIE BENSON |
| PASTOR WISMAR | AUGUST 25: PAUL VAITKUS |
| AUGUST 8: RACHEL DENNERLEIN | AUGUST 27: SAMI SEDERQUEST |
| AUGUST 11: JULIA ANTONIOU | AUGUST 28: ASHLEY GOMES |
| DAISY BENSON | ERIC BOIVIE |
| JACKIE DALE | AUGUST 30: LIZ ALESEVICH |
| AUGUST 12: WENDY BOGLE | CARL MAZABRAS |
| KRISTINE LIPTACK | GRETCHEN SATHER |
| AUGUST 13: PETER HARRIS | AUGUST 31: BOBBY HUGHES |
| AUGUST 15: JUDITH CHIRGWIN | KERRY HUGHES |
| AUGUST 18: DONNA DiLALLA | DEBBIE RICCIO |
| JAKE HACKNEY | ANDREW SYLLING |
| STELLA HACKNEY | |

