



The **HOLY CROSS WORD**

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

JUNE 2021

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXIV, NO. 7

FROM OUR VACANCY PASTOR

Then and now: How the learning process worked for me at Holy Cross

When I wrote my first article in October for THCW, I shared a bit about myself and added that I had learned a great deal from each of my parish experiences. I wondered out loud what I might learn working as a Vacancy Pastor at Holy Cross. Here is what I wrote back then and what I've learned since.

As I look back over these years, I thank God for opening doors that I would never have chosen for myself – and then gently nudging me to walk through them into a new challenge. In each of my previous experiences, I am deeply indebted to the members of the congregations in which I served. They taught me far more than I ever taught them. In my first parish, I learned how to practice justice, forgiveness, and patience. In the second, how critically important Christian education and Bible study is at every age level. And in the third, how to better utilize God's spiritual and material gifts for the benefit and expansion of His Kingdom.

And now, I look to learn from you!

Here are some of my reflections after nine months of service:

- I learned that Holy Cross has a strong sense of "family." Members actually care for one another and demonstrate their feelings in many ways.
- I learned that worshipers possess a high energy level during worship, especially while singing hymns. I am grateful for all those persons who work so hard to make each service meaningful and memorable.
- I learned from a leadership team that works – and works well together.
- I learned that there is a sincere desire to explore new and better ways of doing ministry – eager for the leadership of a new pastor.
- I learned that a Preschool can be a well-organized and appealing outreach ministry.



*Our Church
is a close
and loving
FAMILY!*

I guess I could go on. As I mentioned to Sherry, I have appreciated the opportunity to be involved with a congregation that is composed of such dedicated and energetic members. Although I never got the chance to get to know most of you due to Covid restrictions, I feel there has been a "connection" that I will always value. I also feel confident that you will equally embrace your new pastor and his family when they arrive.

If your new pastor enjoys his experience with you as much as I, he will be twice blessed! And Kingdom work will commence in earnest!

---BILL MEYER
Vacancy Pastor



Sunday, June 6 – Worship Service Time Changes to 9 a.m.
(through Sunday, September 5, Labor Day weekend)

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

Monday, June 14 – Flag Day

Sunday, June 20 – Father's Day



Happy Summer!

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

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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.



CELEBRATING DADS

Words by Pam Brown, Australian Poet

"Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, storytellers and singers of song."

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is a **combined** July/August edition. The deadline for articles is Tuesday, June 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.



THANKS A BUNCH!

Do you know of someone who did something special as a volunteer here at Holy Cross? This column is the spot to identify him or her! If you have an item to include in this monthly "thank you" column – to recognize the gifts of time and talent that someone provided to do God's work in our church and community – please e-mail it to the church office or jot it down and put it in the "newsletter" mailbox. This month we recognize:

We have thanked them often during this Covid-19 pandemic period, but a few members have mentioned again how grateful they are for this trio who have given of their time week after week to bring the Worship service online: **Kerry Geffert**, who continues to serve as the hymn leader at our services; **Greg Dowling**, who continues to record our weekly service and upload the recording to our youtube channel, and **Gary Messerschmitt**, for preparing the website for the uploads and making the service links "live." As one person expressed, "What these three have been doing is so much appreciated!"

Adele Buck and **Kathy Boivie**, for giving of their time to present all Moms with a Tea Cup Bird Feeder on Mother's Day and the Sunday following. Adele had made the bird feeders, and even filled up little mesh bags with bird seed. And both Adele and Kathy set up the display and made sure that all Moms had a special gift on May 9 and/or May 16. They even provided sturdy boxes for transporting the tea cups! Thank you to our Discipleship Co-Chairs for doing this special project!



Beginning June 6, and continuing through September 5 (Labor Day weekend) our Sunday Worship Service time will be 9:00 a.m.

UPDATED SERVICE GUIDELINES (Went into effect on Sunday, May 23)

In consideration of new CDC recommendations, as well as both State and Federal guidance, the following changes have been made to our weekly Sunday services:

- Sign-ups are no longer required.
- Masks are still required--*no exceptions*--until further notice.
We will continue to monitor State and Federal guidance.
- We will discontinue checking temperatures upon entry into church.
Please self-monitor and do not attend church if you're not feeling well.
- Use of hand sanitizer is strongly encouraged and will continue to be made available.
- The sanctuary will be divided into two sections:
Pews 1 to 8: No social distancing
Pews 9 to 15: Social distancing required
- Seating is "open" based on the above guidelines. If you choose to sit in pews 9 to 15, please social distance.
- Holy Communion will continue to be distributed in the manner it is now – no changes until further notice.

The Board of Directors will continue to monitor available guidance while being mindful of potential member concerns. Procedures and policies will be updated accordingly. Thank you for your support as we enter this new phase of our congregation's life.

WE ARE FAMILY

Congratulations to **Gavin Dowling**, **Nathan Helminger**, and **Shane John**, who successfully completed two years of Confirmation instruction and took part in the Rite of Confirmation at the May 2 Worship service. These young men publicly confessed their Baptismal faith and promised to live as faithful Christians, a significant step in life-long growth. As Christians we are continually growing in Christ, always claiming our identity as God's child. Confirmation is a part of the church's ministry of education and faith formation. Confirmation means two important things. First, it means being strengthened (confirmed) in faith and life as one of God's people through the Word of God and the Sacraments. Second, it is a moment in which the confirmands publicly confess faith in the Triune God, promise to follow Jesus as Lord, and receive God's blessing and the people's prayers. Confirmation points us to our Baptism and allows us to affirm the faith into which we were baptized.



On May 16, following the 10 a.m. Worship service, we welcomed into the Family of God, through the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism, **Mia Alexandra McDonald**, infant daughter of Michael McDonald and Michelle Menera-Chin. By the power of God's Word Mia is born again, of water and the Spirit, to life as a child of God. We give thanks to God for His gifts of faith and life, and we look forward to the new relationship we will have with Mia. Mia's sponsors are her uncle, Joey McDonald, and her cousin Nicole Phelan.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

Details about your graduation and future plans needed by June 11

Hopefully Graduation 2021 will be a bit more "back-to-normal" for our youth. Even so, this year college visits and job searches have been both in-person and online, and graduation ceremonies will have mask-wearing and physical distancing rules in place. But we know our graduates and their families will make the best of the current situation!



Share Your
Exciting News!

To go along with that, we want to share your good news, so if you are graduating from high school, college or a Master's program this spring, we encourage you to share the details about this exciting milestone with your church family. We plan to recognize all of our graduates in the July/August newsletter. Graduate Information forms are on the narthex table, or can be obtained either in paper or electronic form by contacting Mary in the church office: office@holycrossstrumbull.com. We ask that all information is given to the church office by Friday, June 11. Please let us know who you are – you are important to us!

HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Pizza and popsicle party, graduation and summer camp fill this month's calendar of activities

It is hard to believe that our school year is almost over! We will be saying goodbye to many special friends, but we know that we are always connected through the love of Jesus. We have a special song that we sing at graduation that expresses this perfectly:

*We'll be friends forever, Jesus and you and me.
He ties our hearts together and friends we'll always be.*

Our graduations will be on Friday, June 11, at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Through music and poems, the children will display all they have learned during the year. The graduates will all be presented with Bibles. It is our prayer that the seeds of faith that have been planted here at preschool will grow and blossom throughout their lives.

Although we cannot have a graduation party as we usually do, we will have a school-wide pizza and popsicle party on June 10!

Our summer camp is completely full...Praise God! We have a record number of children this year and even have a waiting list! We are also still accepting registration for the 2021-2022 school year.

Have a safe and blessed summer!

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



IN THE MAILBAG**From Lisa Bailey**

To My Holy Cross Friends:

As someone who is currently only able to make it to doctor appointments, missing being in services at least sometimes has really gotten to be difficult. Despite my current health situation, through prayers from my church family and others, God has blessed me in many ways. I have many thanks that I want to send to my church family. First to those who sent cards of encouragement when my cancer returned, I thank you. Something like that can really touch someone when they can't really see anyone! I also want to send my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helps to record and post the services so I can feel at least a part of it when I can watch. It means a lot to me.

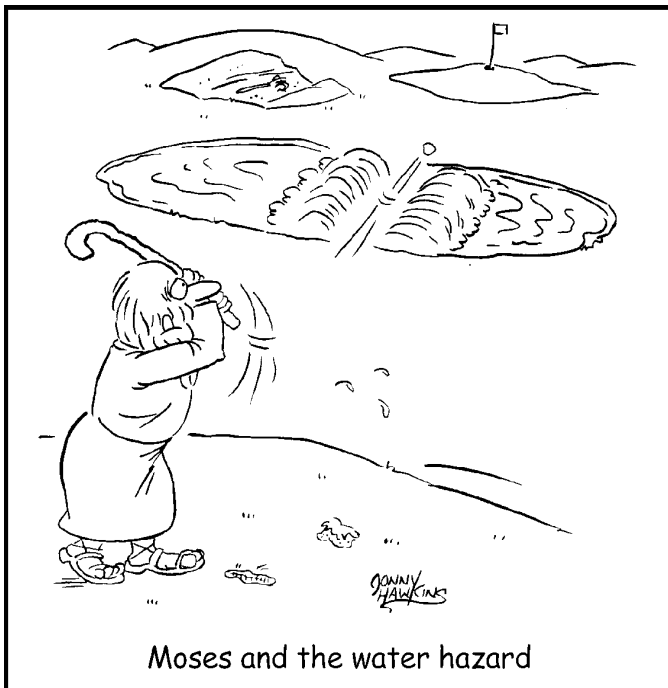
Thank you so very much,
---LISA BAILEY

**From Cindy Ciccia**

To My Church Family,

Thank you for all the prayers and cards during this difficult time. I am so glad you are all part of my life. My brother Walt was my best friend and I miss him – mostly our daily multiple calls with each other and his laugh. My grief is great but my faith is greater and I know he is at peace with our Lord and that brings me comfort. I am sure our parents were waiting for him and they are now together.

Peace and Love,
---Cindy

CHURCH CHUCKLES

SOCIETY OF CREATION CONFERENCE
Yearly event, themed “The Origin of Life,”
is free and available to see online

The Society of Creation will hold its 2021 conference online on June 5.

The Society of Creation (<http://www.societyofcreation.org/>) is an organization founded by faculty from the universities in the Concordia University system that shows how Scripture and Science confirm the LCMS position on the inerrancy and authority of the Bible.



This year's conference will be online and registration is free. The theme is “The Origin of Life.”

The speakers include Dr. Kevin Anderson of the Creation Research Society, Dr. Gary Locklair of Concordia University Wisconsin, and Dr. Joel Heck of Concordia University Texas.

You can register at:

<http://www.societyofcreation.org/conferences.php>

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



LEARN FROM & BE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

The Holy Cross Word monthly “Bible study on paper”: Acts, Chapter 3

Editor’s note: *To do this study, you will need to open your own Bible in front of you, of whatever version you prefer, or you can go to a website such as BibleGateway.com, and enter the Bible version you prefer and this Bible passage – Acts 3 – in the appropriate search fields.*



Acts, Chapter 3, 26 verses—We have read about some major events in Acts and we’re only just two chapters in: the Ascension of Christ, the choosing of a new apostle to replace Judas, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and Peter’s astounding “sermon” to “the crowd.” We are being treated to an exciting account of the church’s early growth. That is wonderful timing as Holy Cross hopes to be blessed soon with a new pastor who will certainly want to ignite a fire akin to what the early Christians experienced.





Before we proceed, open your Bible of whatever translation you prefer or a web page such as BibleGateway.com to Acts, Chapter 3 and read the full chapter.

Chapter analysis—

Okay, welcome back. We know that Acts shows us how Christ started the church and how its early growth occurred. Chapter 2 ended with a very contented report of church growth and with new believers confessing Jesus as Lord. Chapters 3 to 8 are going to speak to church growth through being tested by circumstances.

The location continues to be Jerusalem. The chapter tells us Peter and John have gone to the temple in mid-afternoon for the hour of prayer time. As had been a daily routine, people had brought a man lame since his birth to the temple entrance called the Beautiful Gate, which is where he would ask for donations of money or food from the people going to the temple. Little did he know that he was about to get a whole lot more.

When the lame man saw Peter and John he saw two more prospects for his request. When the disciples saw him, however, they saw someone they could utilize as a witness to Christ. They first studied him intently, perhaps trying to discern his heart and assess his condition, and said to him something along the lines of “Look at us, who do you think we are? We don’t have anything of value to hand you.” The lame man was still not getting it and expected they would give him something, but then Peter spelled it out. There isn’t anything precious to give him physically; they do have something of value and that is the power of Christ to heal. Jesus had given the disciples this authority and it was in Jesus’ name that Peter took the man by the right hand and helped him stand and walk. Legs that had never had the strength and coordination to move and walk now functioned and then some. Luke writes that the man practically jumped up and then he entered the temple with Peter and John, moving around and jumping with the coordination of a gymnast. All the while, he was praising God and giving thanks, and in so doing he drew attention to the fact that he was the lame man from Beautiful Gate who now had a new condition and it was the result of God’s healing.

 **Silver or gold**
I do not have,
but what I have 
I give you. In the name 
of Jesus Christ of 
Nazareth, **WALK.**

Acts 3:6

The man was so elated that he hung onto and clung to the two disciples, who had moved to a special area of the temple called Solomon’s Portico. The man’s theatrics had caused a stir in the public and many were astonished and had come running to observe. This was another opportunity for Peter to witness and he did not waste it. He told the “Israelites” their wonder at what happened as if the disciples were responsible was misguided. The miracle was due to “the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Peter again related how Jesus was God’s son, and on earth had been rejected by the Jews and killed, but had risen from the grave. Peter and John were witnesses, and their faith allowed them to use the power of Jesus’ name to heal the lame man. It was faith in and the power of Jesus that had given the man perfect health.

After the stern rebuke of the Israelites for killing Jesus, in verses 17 to 26 Peter “cuts them some slack.” He says both the Jewish leaders and people were both ignorant of their actions. They didn’t know any better and were part of God’s fulfillment of what had been said through the prophets, that the Messiah would die. It is time for them to repent, be forgiven with a “free pardon,” devote themselves to God and by doing so “refresh” themselves. In reviewing what Moses, Abraham and all the prophets had said, Peter notes the crowd’s ignorance but is also reminding them of God’s plan not only of what Jesus has already done but that He is now in heaven and will come again.

These sermons that Peter spoke had given Christians their first example of how the church would continually reach out to attract new members by preaching what God’s plan was and is, how it has been fulfilled and how we are to have hope for the future. This is the joyful message we Christians continue to believe in today. Next month in Chapter 4 we will hear how Peter’s preaching resulted in some good and bad news.

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

Next month: Acts, Chapter 4.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

CELEBRATING JUNE BIRTHDAYS

HERE'S
THE
SCOOP!

Take Note
of our
June
Birthdays!



June 1:	Erica Carola	June 18:	Amy Cardone
	Ethan Rentz	June 20:	Jena Conte
June 6:	Virginia Gaffney	June 24:	Tim Senft
June 10:	Monika Seyal	June 25:	Barbara Marinaro
June 12:	Mary Schrock		Paul Schipul
June 14:	John Buck	June 26:	Marissa Rodriguez
June 15:	Carl Carlson	June 29:	Pat Deloge
June 16:	Amanda Fitzmorris		Kathryn Struzik
June 17:	Savannah Fitzmorris		



General Memorial Fund

In memory of Robert Hanson, Audrey Paray's brother

Mary Atkinson

In memory of William Hynd, Mary Schrock's father

Mary Atkinson

In memory of William Pekrul

The Connic Family—
John and Cheryl, Jennifer and Jessica

Kimberly Knapp

General Operating Fund

*In memory of Barbara Golub,
cousin of Lorraine Finch*

Jim and Lorraine Finch

Share the Hope Fund

*In memory of Walter Nelson, Jr.,
Cindy Ciccia's brother*

The Bogen Family
John and Pat Deloge
Gary and Donna DiLalla
Audrey Paray
Dan and Donna Senft

In memory of George Stromp

Robert Levine

LUTHERAN WINNI WEEK

New Hampshire lake site for August event

For those interested, grab your Bibles, pack your bags, and come have a week of fun and spiritual renewal at Lutheran Winni Week at beautiful Geneva Point Center on the shore of Lake Winnepesaukee – August 8 to 14 – Moultonboro, New Hampshire, “where Lutherans have gathered since 1931.”



“Historic Geneva Point is a conference and summer camp center...” Check out the online brochure at:

<https://www.lutheranwinniweek.org/about/2021-brochure>

Here are some additional photos:

<https://www.lutheranwinniweek.org> and
<https://www.lutheranwinniweek.org/gallery>

The registrar for Lutheran Winni Week has requested that guests make their reservations as soon as possible. It's first come, first served. Registration will close on July 15. For additional information phone Kathy and Rick Boivie at 203-261-6695 and leave a message if we're not there. We'll get back to you.

---KATHY and RICK BOIVIE

A DAILY PRAYER

Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that You are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see Your comforting light. If we're in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge Your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of Your nearness. Amen.

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