



The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

MARCH 2020

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXIII, NO. 4

FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Dear Members & Friends of Holy Cross,

Greetings in our Lord, Jesus Christ! With the preparation of this newsletter, we are (you'll forgive me) getting ready to **MARCH** into the season of Lent. "March" may well be the wrong verb to use for this holy and penitential season. Perhaps it's more of a deliberate stroll with eyes fixed on the gracious gift that comes at Lent's end: our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. May your Lenten observance draw you still closer to the cross.

Here at Holy Cross, I look forward to facilitating eight Sunday morning class sessions given over to a review of The Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther. The Catechism is simply a summary of the teachings of the Christian faith, written in the form of questions and answers, that provides basic or ongoing instruction for believers. As such, it is not the sort of thing we ever outgrow.

It's interesting to recall that when Luther authored the Small Catechism, among his primary audience were members of the clergy who had never been adequately formed in the Christian faith. They had their positions largely as a result of political patronage and were ill equipped to teach the people. The Catechism served to instruct them, even as it helped "heads of household" to instruct the children and all who resided therein.

For worshipers who were reared in another Christian tradition or no tradition at all, the teachings of the Catechism serve to provide orientation to a distinctively Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith. For me, personally, the essential question I ask when preachers preach, when theologians do theology, or when teachers teach, is "Does it point to Christ Jesus as savior of the world?" I'm confident that our romp through the Catechism will help you to ask that question, too.



The monologist and humorist, Garrison Keillor, once said in a wry fashion, "For the Lutherans, it was always Lent." He was caricaturing us as usually joyless, serious, dour and pained. There's no need to be defensive. Lent is core to the person and work of Jesus as we recall all that He has done and continues to do for us. But just as preaching, theologizing and teaching – when done right – will point us to Jesus, so will Lent point us toward Easter. Looking at the whole of the experience, Garrison Keillor might better say, "For the Lutherans, it was always about the resurrection." Yes, it's about life. It's about the forgiveness of sins. It's about life lived in service to God, not because we're looking to win or earn anything, but because we recognize that we've been given all things by our gracious God.

A blessed Lenten season be yours! See you in class!

Serving with you,

Pastor William H. Flammann
Interim/Transitional Pastor



Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1

- 6:15 p.m. – Lenten Soup Suppers
7:30 p.m. – Lenten Midweek Service with the theme,
“By His Wounds We Are Healed”

Saturday, March 14

- 1:00 p.m. – Board/Commission church priority-setting meeting

Saturdays, March 14 and 28

- 5:00 p.m. – Vespers Worship service

Tuesday, March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

Thursday, March 19

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

Sunday, April 5 – Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday

- 7:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 10 – Good Friday

- Noon – Midday Service
7:30 p.m. – Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 12 – The Resurrection of Our Lord: EASTER

- 7:00 a.m. – Worship Service
8:30 a.m. – Easter Breakfast (*immediately following the early service*)
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

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Church Office: 203-268-4555; **Church Office e-mail:** office@holycrosstrumbull.com

Website: www.holycrosstrumbull.org

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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.***



IRISH WORDS OF WISDOM **Enjoy this Irish blessing – one of many**

“May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and the road downhill all the way to your door.”

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the April edition. The deadline for articles is Sunday, March 15.

Please take note of this

deadline, and plan ahead to publicize any events and 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.





**In addition to our 9 a.m. Sunday Worship schedule,
please take note of the following:**

Upcoming Vespers Services

Saturdays at 5 p.m. in March: March 14 and March 28

Saturday, April 18 – 5 p.m.

Saturdays at 5 p.m. in May: May 2 and May 16

Saturdays at 5 p.m. in June: June 13 and June 27

Midweek Lent Worship

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1

*Our theme this year is “By His Wounds We Are Healed”
and we will use the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy.*

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday – April 5 at 9 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – April 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday – April 10 at Noon and 7:30 p.m. (*Office of Tenebrae*)

Easter Sunday – April 12

We will offer TWO Worship services, at 7 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Take note that this is our “usual” Easter Sunday schedule.

*The annual Easter Breakfast will take place
between the services at approximately 8:30 a.m.*



**Learn
&
Grow**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Class on Luther's Small Catechism begins on March 1

(These sessions will serve also as a New Adult Member Class)

Beginning on Sunday, March 1, please join us beginning at 10:15 a.m. for a class that will focus on the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther's **Small Catechism**. This little booklet has been at the core of instruction for Christians in the Reformation tradition ever since the sixteenth century. It's not just for junior confirmation classes!

Come to learn or review, and see how this little classic still informs faith as the simple brilliance of Luther's insights are shared among us.

Sessions will be held:

- ♦ March 1, 15, 22 and 29
- ♦ April 5
- ♦ May 3, 10 and 17

Pastor Flammann will be the facilitator and instructor.

COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Easter Baskets due – covered in a cellophane bag – by March 25

We've had a pretty mild winter, haven't we?! And with that said, I hope I have not "jinxed" the fact that the calendar says spring won't be too far away. And with spring right around the corner, that means it is time to coordinate the Easter Basket Project for Covenant to Care for Children. Look for the basket poster in the narthex beginning on Sunday, March 1, and simply pick out a bunny, chick or butterfly tag that will list a child's first name, gender and age and agree to put together an Easter basket for that child. Mimose Ulysses-Laurenard continues to be Holy Cross' "adopted" DCF social worker and she has explained to me that her caseload, and the caseloads of her co-workers, are going through re-organization for the next few weeks. What this means is that as of Feb. 18 Mimose has 14 children in her caseload, but by early-to-mid March her caseload could possibly double. So be on the lookout and listen for announcements as I may be adding more colorful tags to the poster.



If you put together an Easter basket, what should it contain? Of course some candy is good, but small age-appropriate toys and personal items are ideal...crayons, markers, journals, small toys or games, bath and body items and/or small stuffed animals. Baskets must be covered with cellophane and are due by March 25. That gives our social worker two weeks prior to Easter to personally deliver the baskets to the children.

If you are unable to shop, but would like to make a donation, you can help fund this gift-giving project by making out a check to Holy Cross and designate "CTC Fund" in the memo line. You can personally hand your check to me or place it in the Covenant to Care mailbox outside the church office. Your gift will then be used to either put together a basket for or to purchase small toys/goodies to supplement the donated baskets.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to help young people in our community who are in crisis and need and, more importantly, taking the opportunity to share God's love with these children through something as simple as an Easter basket. If you have any questions, please speak with me.

Yours in Christ,

--MARY SCHROCK

Covenant to Care for Children Liaison



SPRING FORWARD—Remember!
Daylight Saving Time Begins on March 8.
Turn your clock FORWARD one hour before
going to sleep on Saturday, March 7.



**Join us at the
E A S T E R
BREAKFAST**

**Sunday, April 12
at 8:30 a.m.
in the
Froehlich
Fellowship Hall**

Please join your Holy Cross family and friends for this annual fellowship tradition.

Worship with us at the 7:00 service and stay for breakfast

or

Come for breakfast at 8:30 and worship with us at the 10:30 service

If you plan to attend, the sign-up sheet will be in the narthex later this month.

Breakfast casseroles, muffins, bagels, baked goods and fruit salad are needed. If you can provide any of these items, please indicate this on the sign-up sheet.

IN THE MAILBAG

From Lisa Bailey

To my Holy Cross family,

I have had so much going on in my life between my cancer and my brother having a stroke last month that I have not had a chance to properly thank our congregation for all the prayers and well wishes we have received, especially the last year through my cancer treatment and surgery last year. I am recovering well from my Whipple procedure to remove the cancer in my pancreas, and I know the Credit and praise for my amazing recovery time belongs to God. I know prayer works! I am currently cancer free and will go for my follow-up scan and check-up schedule with my doctor in February. The prayers of the church mean so much to me and I thank you for them. My brother is recovering well from his stroke and staying with my family until he can recover enough to return to Indiana and his work at Amazon. Please continue to pray for my sister-in-law, Donna Williams, who is still fighting brain cancer. My sincerest thanks to you all.

Hugs and Blessings!

---LISA L. BAILEY



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, please jot it down and put it in the "newsletter" mailbox. This month we say "thank you" to:

Donna DiLalla and **Lorraine Finch** for volunteering to assist with tasks in the church office one morning a week. Their reliability is such a big help!

To **Cliff Schrock** and **Jon Halls** for serving as the lay leaders of our Saturday 5 p.m. Vespers service on February 8 and February 22, respectively.



HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Dr. Seuss and word families, insects, clouds and rainbows – there is so much to experience in March!

February 26 begins the season of Lent. We will travel through our Lenten journey with special devotional booklets and stickers that follow Jesus' ministry all the way to the cross. Each child received the booklet and stickers for their use at home with their family.

This month we will celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss! We will explore word families and rhymes as well as make some crazy hats! We will also vote on our favorite Dr. Seuss book and graph our results.



During the remainder of March we will focus on birds, insects and the wonderful season of spring! Our science activities will center on wind, clouds, rainbows and shadows. We will learn about the different types of clouds, how rainbows are made and we will measure our shadows at different times of the day.

Our registration for next year is ongoing. Please tell your friends and family about our preschool!

In Jesus' Name,
---MICHELE GLENNON

FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

Now is as good a time as any to recall and emulate the perseverance and patience of Bible characters

Dear Reader, please don't take the opening train of thought of this month's commentary as anything close to a "things were better back then" declaration that can often be issued by someone who has been around. I don't qualify to speak from that position since, for one thing, I've been a Holy Cross member since 1984, which is far short of several other members. So they could very well one-up me by saying my recall of the good old days doesn't match up to their memories of the even better old days.

But I would like to emphasize as a preface to my main point that it is important to remember during this time of pastoral vacancy and schedule changes for worship and Sunday School that compared to the present, in its history Holy Cross has indeed enjoyed more robust numbers in worship attendance, education enrollment, commission support members—just about any key statistic you'd want to pick.

However, I believe God always has the best interests of His people in mind and I believe if we recall the examples set by characters in the Bible that our faith in what promises Holy Cross has in store for us around the corner as well as far into the future is as vital as ever.

I was moved to write down some thoughts as your Holy Cross Word M.E. after January's annual voters' meeting, which your faithful scribe wrote about in last month's newsletter. The meeting was ordinary in most respects, but when the attendees needed to solve the disappointment that was being felt over the six-month trial schedule of one Sunday service and a disruption in the normal Sunday School start time, there was a palpable frustration over how to accomplish this. Sadly, the art of the compromise, the "give and take," has basically vanished from society, most acutely with elected politicians in our government.

It's a hard and fast rule that no solution ever makes everyone happy. How can it? We are a diverse people with different opinions and solution methodologies. Most everyone I know would like their way of solving a dilemma be the universally accepted answer. But this cannot be and all of us probably feel we lose "battles" more often than we win them.

There was a vote taken at the meeting to continue the 9 a.m. Sunday service for the spring, have it as our normal summer time, and then go back to two services on the first Sunday after Labor Day. The thinking, as it was articulated, was that the schedule change has been mainly thought of as a mistake. Let's not compound the problem by flipping back to two services only to go to one service for the summer and then back to two in September. Let's bite the bullet, lick our wounds and, most important, *let's stay the course*.

There, that's the message. The decision to keep the trial schedule going wasn't ideal. It wasn't perfect. Even the majority of people who voted for it didn't likely go away ecstatic and euphoric. No one kept a tally of winners and losers.

But we can go forward, cautiously, optimistically, and with the realization that God is in charge. The Bible, God's Word, gives us the confidence to know that we must stay the course. Think of the main common denominators the people of God have in the Bible. Along with faith there is perseverance and patience and the ability to stay the course. Even when the odds were incredibly bad for success, God's people had faith that by keeping their eyes on the finish line, as Paul spoke about, they would see their faith rewarded.

The message for Holy Cross is the same. Our church was built by a founding pastor who was faithful in thinking that this mission church would work, and with the backing and same zeal of its members for 63 years, it has.

God has already picked a pastor to be the fourth in Holy Cross' history. When that person comes, he will have stayed the course and persevered in his training and schooling and faith in God to lead him. Let's pray to God that he will find a membership at Holy Cross that's stayed the course, remained faithful and is gung-ho for God to make a run at improving on the good old days.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

Holy Cross Word Managing Editor



KEEP THE FAITH

GOD'S HANDS

Our life is like the dial of a clock. The hands are God's hands, passing over and over again — the short hand of discipline and the long hand of mercy. Slowly and surely, the hand of discipline must pass, and God speaks at each strike. But over and over passes the hand of mercy, showering down sixty-fold of blessing for each stroke of discipline or trial. And both hands are fastened to one secure point: the great, unchanging heart of a God of love.



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CHURCH CHUCKLES



WORDS TO REMEMBER FROM MORNING TO NIGHT

During your day-to day activities, count your blessings

Numbered lists grab our attention. In the checkout aisle or on the internet, we gravitate toward headings such as “10 ways to lose weight by summer!” or “3 simple steps to acing that test!” Ancient Jewish sages urged people to count out and speak at least 100 blessings, or statements of gratitude, each day. What would happen if we intentionally listed 100 blessings daily? Can you imagine?! What if the first blessing we counted was simply the day itself? “Thank you, God, for this brand new day that I might glorify you.” Scripture encourages such awareness and promises an additional blessing in return: “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12, NIV)



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CELEBRATING MARCH BIRTHDAYS



MARCH 2: VALERIE HUYDIC

MARCH 3: CAITLYN DALE

LORALAI DALE

KARL DALE

MARCH 4: DON MEYER

MARCH 7: JULIE SJOBLOM

MARCH 9: NICOLE BENSON

MARCH 10: ANNA MAE BERGER

Laura Dowling

DONNA RODRIGUEZ

MARCH 12: TAYLOR VAN WART

MARCH 13: CHRISTOPHER DANNE

GABRIELLA ELY

JAMES ELY

MARCH 15: GARY JACKSON

RYAN VAN WART

MARCH 16: D.J. BROADBIN

MARCH 17: GARY MESSERSCHMITT

MARCH 23: RON DIETMAN

ANDREA MEYER

MARCH 24: DANNY NYITRAI

MARCH 25: PARKER DELOGE

MARCH 26: NICOLE RAMIREZ

MARCH 28: ANDREW STRUZIK