



# The **HOLY CROSS WORD**

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

**MARCH 2021**

**"Share the Hope"**

**VOL. LXIV, NO. 4**

## FROM OUR VACANCY PASTOR

### **We must prioritize Christ and our faith in a world that plays them down**

The month of March is most intriguing.

By this time, most of us are weary of winter weather and yearn for the mild breezes of the spring. Marie is already flirting with new ideas for her gardens. More importantly, more and more of us have received the vaccine causing our hopes for the return of "normalcy" to increase. Imagine! – a worship service with every pew filled with members singing their hearts out in praise to God.

This is also the month of March Madness – the intercollegiate basketball event of the year. Although I don't follow basketball during the season, Marie and I usually tune in and watch several games. There are the basketball powerhouses, of course, but also some Cinderella teams. Back in 1998 Valparaiso University stunned the basketball world by making it to the Sweet Sixteen – quite an accomplishment for a small university. So, you never know.

But the reason I bring up basketball in a church periodical is that March Madness concludes its season this year with semi-finals on April 3 and the championship on April 5. This scheduling troubles me because April 1 is Maundy Thursday, April 2 is Good Friday and April 4 is Easter. To me, this is one of the holiest weekends of the year as we remember our Lord's passion and death, and celebrate His resurrection. Somehow, I believe this time of religious observance for millions of Christians should have been respected. The concluding games could have easily been scheduled for the prior weekend or the one that followed.

Times have changed. Society is more secular. The religious community no longer has the influence it once did some decades ago. So, what should this mean to you and me?

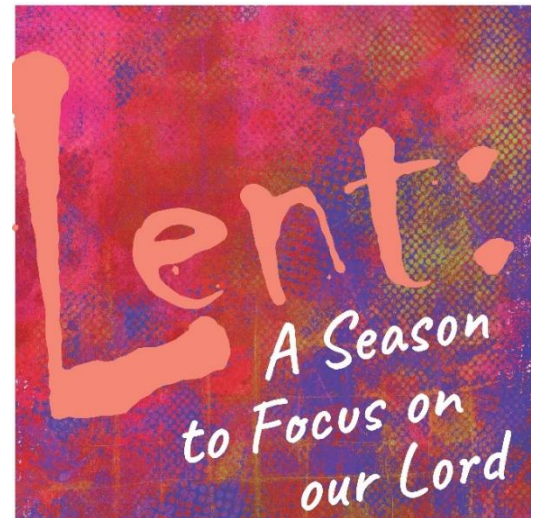
I'm not suggesting we throw up our hands and cry "all is lost!". Far from it! We may not have any control over secular institutions, but we do have significant influence on how we and our families choose to deal with the centrality of our Christian faith.

We are currently in the Season of Lent – a six-week period during which we reflect on themes such as repentance, reform and renewal. We meditate on our Lord's mission – to save us from our sinful condition – requiring His death on the cross. And then together with fellow-Christians throughout the world, we celebrate His resurrection – the ultimate victory!

Holy Cross will have traditional services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday as usual. Hopefully, you can attend or at least plan to watch from home.

But in the meantime, I appeal to you to make this sacred time of the year a priority in your life and that of your family. Distractions – like basketball – will always be present. But so also will be your determination and mine to keep Jesus Christ front and central in our everyday activities. I must especially work at focusing on my Lord this season – and I know you will too! Join me!

---BILL MEYER  
Vacancy Pastor



# Mark Your Calendar

## Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17 and 24

6:30 p.m. – Weekly Midweek Lent “Virtual” Get-together:  
Soup Supper and Lenten Bible Study/Devotion

## Thursday, March 11

7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors’ meeting (online)

## Sunday, March 14 – Daylight Saving Time Begins: “Spring Ahead”

## Wednesday, March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day

## Sunday, March 28 – Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

## Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion  
First Communion for our 8th-Grade Confirmation Class students

## Friday, April 2 – Good Friday

7:30 p.m. – Tenebrae Service

## Sunday, April 4 – The Resurrection of Our Lord: EASTER

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service



## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

**Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.**

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

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**Website:** [www.holycrosstrumbull.org](http://www.holycrosstrumbull.org)

**Christian Preschool:** 203-268-6471 **e-mail:** [preschool@holycrosstrumbull.com](mailto:preschool@holycrosstrumbull.com)

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**NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION:** Mary Schrock

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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](http://holycrosstrumbull.org)***



## **Like Holy Cross on Facebook!**

***After you “Like” us, you’ll  
see postings of upcoming  
events, pictures from  
events and other notices.***



## WORDS BY WILLIAM PENN

**Writer, early member of the  
Religious Society of Friends,  
and founder of the English  
North American colony the  
Province of Pennsylvania**

**“No pain, no palm; no thorns, no  
throne; no gall, no glory; no  
cross, no crown.”**

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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 Monday, March 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](mailto:office@holycrosstrumbull.com).



## MIDWEEK LENT GET-TOGETHERS...ONLINE!

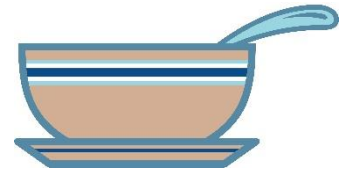
Please join your Holy Cross family for “virtual” soup suppers and a devotion/study on Wednesday evenings in Lent.

*Join us from the comfort and safety of your kitchen table, dining-room table or couch!*

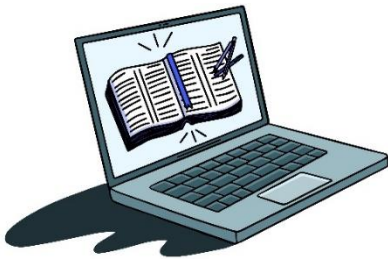
Dates: *March 3, 10, 17 and 24*

Time: *Dinner Fellowship at 6:30 p.m.;*

*Devotion/Study to begin at 7:00 p.m.*



Our devotional study will focus on a series entitled,  
**“Places of the Passion.”**



*We will learn about Bethany/Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, High Priest’s Courtyard and Golgotha. (Jerusalem was the focus on February 24.) The weekly study will remind us that Jesus walked this earth...and His footsteps were no sightseeing trip! There was a very important reason that Jesus came to be at particular places at specific times to suffer and die and rise again. Jesus was fulfilling his Father’s will. His desire is that we receive forgiveness from our sins and be given a place in heaven with Him forever.*

Please set aside these Wednesday evenings to meet online with your Holy Cross family. No masks required!!

The virtual format is ZOOM with this log-in link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86993489232>

(the password - passion).

If you do not have internet access, the dial-in details are:

1 (301) 715-8592; Meeting ID: 869 9348 9232; Passcode: passion.

A membership e-mail blast with these log-in details and an attachment with the weekly study guide will go out on Monday mornings.

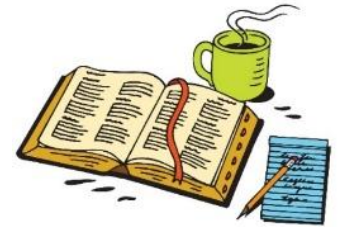
## LEARN OF & BE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

### **The Holy Cross Word brings back its monthly “Bible study on paper”**

**Editor’s note:** *The Holy Cross Word staff is pleased to announce the restart of our previous regular feature of a Bible study done chapter by chapter on paper, which had been put in limbo for several months. Who would have thought such a backward way of doing a Bible class 21 years into the 21st century would sound so ingenious? Well, who would have thought a worldwide pandemic would have made social gathering verboten? So we are excited to once again offer this “Bible study on paper” for your reading pleasure as a way to assist in Holy Cross’ spiritual nurturing. Please note that if you are looking for in-depth theology, you would be best to visit a seminary. What we hope to do here is provide basic understanding of Scripture a little below the surface. We hope you enjoy it.*

In the previous installment of this feature, we had covered the New Testament books of 1 Thessalonians, 1 Peter and 1 Corinthians. In this renewal the decision was made to start with the end of the Gospels and see how far we can go. So that means we will begin with Acts.

The Gospels had established Christ as the Head of the church. The background on Acts—or Acts of the Apostles as it is also called—is it provides a historical narrative to the early church’s development plus detail to the New Testament letters that follow it, written by an assortment of people, including Paul and Peter. Luke is often thought to be the author of Acts, written around 61 A.D, although some sources say between 64 and 72 A.D. Because it is thought Luke died after Paul’s execution, Acts concludes with Paul’s Rome imprisonment. Luke would have seen how Christianity was being preached in the Roman Empire, but during his time the Good News may have been spread to north Africa, India and even China. But Luke’s writing is primarily limited to the ministries of Paul and Peter in Rome, Greece, Macedonia, Turkey/Asia Minor and Palestine.



Besides wanting to show how the early Christian church grew, Luke wants to make sure it’s understood that the church did so through great suffering and persecution. By doing so, the author makes key points of witnessing, preaching and having a bold Christian attitude, which support Christians being the bearers of the Good News to everyone on earth.

The arrival and work of the Holy Spirit is a major part in the book as we see the fulfillment of the helper Christ said would come to the disciples. The birthday of the church, Pentecost, is thus established with the Holy Spirit’s arrival.

Finally, the Harper Study Bible says this about the importance of Acts: “Luke provides the link [that] connects the four Gospels with all of the other apostolic writings found in the New Testament. This book is really the bridge, the absence of which would leave us immeasurably poorer and in the dark about the earliest days of the church. Luke commences with the ascension, recording another statement of Jesus’ command to take the good news to the ends of the earth.”

**Next month:** Acts, Chapter 1.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

### **General Memorial Fund**

*In memory of Robert Hanson,  
Audrey Paray’s brother  
John and Pat Deloge  
Bob and Janet Enko*

*In memory of William Hynd,  
Mary Schrock’s father  
Dan and Donna Senft*

*In memory of Matilda Jacobs  
Anita Beer*

*In memory of Ananda Sellavaran,  
Buella John’s father  
Dan and Donna Senft*



### **Share the Hope Fund**

*In memory of William Hynd,  
Mary Schrock’s father  
Rick and Michele Van Wart*

*In memory of Ananda Sellavaran,  
Buella John’s father  
Jim and Lorraine Finch*

*In memory of George Stromp  
Joe and Cindy Ciccia  
John and Pat Deloge  
Jim and Lorraine Finch  
Cliff and Mary Schrock  
Dan and Donna Senft  
Rick and Michele Van Wart*

## HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

### **So much for the children to explore, from Jesus' last week and rhymes, to birds, insects and rainbows**

Our preschool is currently completely full! Praise God for this wonderful blessing! We are currently accepting registration for the 2021-2022 school year and for this year's summer camp. Please tell your family and friends!

February 17 was Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The children were all given Lenten calendars and devotion booklets for use at home with their families. Our Bible stories for the month of March are: Jesus Rides into Jerusalem, The Last Supper, Jesus Suffers and Dies and Jesus Rises and Gives us New Life. The children will learn of the great love that Jesus has for them...a love so great that He gave His life on the cross for our redemption and that we are His unconditionally-loved children!



During the month of March, we will be eagerly awaiting the Spring season! The month will begin with a study of Dr. Seuss books and rhyming words. We will then learn all about the many wonderful birds that God created, followed by exploring the wonderful world of insects!

Science activities will include many experiments involving rainbows! The children will make rainbows in a jar, find out what happens when you put together food coloring, milk and oil, and make a rainbow with melted jelly beans!

The Easter theme also gives us lots of opportunities to use plastic eggs in creative ways. The children will paint with plastic egg halves, build towers with them, match upper- and lower-case letters and make their own set of resurrection eggs.

May you have a blessed and joyous Easter!

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

## COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

### **Easter Baskets due – covered in a cellophane bag – by March 21 to help children in crisis**

As we turn the calendar to March, we see that the season of Spring will start soon...and that means it is time for the Easter Basket Project for Covenant to Care for Children. Holy Cross' "adopted" DCF social worker, Mimose Ulysses-Laurenard, has nearly 30 children in her current caseload. The Easter Basket poster, filled with bunny and egg tags, was put in the narthex on February 28 and hopefully by the time you are reading this article all the tags will have been signed out! Each tag lists the name, age and gender of each child.



Mimose shared with me that in mid-February she had to remove children in two separate families from their homes due to mistreatment; this could range from drug use by the guardian or a guardian/parent who proves him/herself to be neglectful.

I realize that not all Holy Cross members are comfortable attending Worship in-person and may not have had the opportunity to be at the church when this "Easter Basket" poster was presented.

***Please—if you would like to participate by having a child's name, contact me via my personal e-mail address: [schrocknroll@optonline.net](mailto:schrocknroll@optonline.net). If there are tags remaining on the poster after Feb. 28, I can match you with a child.***

If you put together an Easter basket, what should it contain and how much should you spend? Please stick to a price range of \$25-\$30. Please include some Easter-themed candy, but not too much. 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 21. That gives our social worker just about two weeks prior to Easter to have a "drive-by, socially distanced" basket pick-up.

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

## 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.

It’s a rarity to include pictures in our thank you column, but this month we include the pictures of the wedding photo tables that were set up and decorated by our Discipleship Co-Chairs, Adela Buck and Kathy Boivie. Pastor Meyer had a wonderful idea for Valentine’s Day to include a Reaffirmation of Marriage Vows in the Sunday service on February 14.



And to go along with that he requested that members bring their wedding photos to the church to have them displayed in the narthex. Adela and Kathy graciously took ownership of this idea and put together a wonderful display of the photos, including a name tag in front of each photo and decorations on the tables. They even included a basket of Valentine candy! Thank you also to the members who shared their wedding photo. We had 27 photos on display! So we say thank you to **Pastor Meyer** for his idea, to **Adela Buck** and **Kathy Boivie** for setting up a very lovely display, and to **all those who shared their wedding photos**. This display was in the narthex for the month of February.



## WORDS FOR DAILY LIVING

### **This is a breath of fresh prayer**

Norwegian theologian Ole Hallesby described prayer as simply letting God into our lives. God “knocks,” he said, “not only in the solemn hours of secret prayer” but “in the midst of your daily work, your daily struggles, your daily grind...when you need him most.” Prayer, added Hallesby, is as essential to life as air. “As impossible as it is for us to take a breath in the morning large enough to last us until noon, so impossible is it to pray in the morning in such a way as to last us until noon,” he said. “Let your prayers ascend to [God] constantly, audibly or silently, as circumstances throughout the day permit.”

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**IN THE MAILBAG****From the Family of Bob Hanson**

To Holy Cross Friends:

Our family would like to thank you for your sympathy cards, calls, love and memorial gifts given on the sudden death of my dear brother Bob Hanson. He was a fine Christian family man and we will miss him very much. We had many good times with him, especially on vacations and holidays.

In Christian love,

---AUDREY PARAY and VICKI HANSON

**From the Family of George Stromp**

To our Holy Cross Family,

My brother, George Stromp, passed peacefully, into the arms of the Lord, on Monday, February 8. He spent his final eight weeks in the ICU struggling to recover from an adverse reaction to a medical procedure compounded by additional health issues.

As our parents were charter members of Holy Cross, George was a lifelong member very active in his youth. Although George did not attend Sunday worship in his later years, he loved the Lord and Holy Cross. He had a larger-than-life personality and was a wise and generous brother, stepdad, grandfather and friend.

Our heartfelt thanks to our church family for your many prayers, texts, notes, phone calls, love and support on behalf of George and our family throughout this journey. We are especially grateful to Pastor Meyer. Pastor offered his wisdom and support to me and also was available to pray with us on speaker phone the few times we were able to visit with George giving us a sense of comfort and peace.

In Christian faith and love,

---DONNA and GARY DILALLA

## 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

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Enjoy making this soup and solve a mystery at the same time

Attention cooks, bakers, and those who love to eat! It has been about 18 months since this column appeared in our monthly newsletter. The sweet dreams and memories of our Lenten Soup Suppers gave Cindy Ciccio the idea to share her recipe for "Mom's Lentil Soup." But Cindy explains that she cannot take credit for the recipe. She has submitted it as a family favorite, and knowingly said she got the recipe from a Holy Cross member following a Lenten Soup Supper about 10 years ago...but can't recall who shared it with her. So now we ask, will this "mystery soup recipe owner" please come forward! Thank you, Cindy, for sharing this recipe with the Holy Cross family.

Calling all cooks and bakers! If you have a favorite recipe or one that your friends and family frequently ask you to share, please submit it to our "Recipe" column by putting it in the "newsletter" mailbox or e-mailing it to [office@holycrosstrumbull.com](mailto:office@holycrosstrumbull.com).



### Mom's Lentil Soup

**Preparation Time:** 4 hours ♦ **Serves:** 6-8

- 1-pound bag of lentils
- 2 cups diced (small) celery
- 2 cups diced (small) carrots
- 2 cups diced (small) potatoes
- 46-ounces of chicken broth
- Herbs/spices to taste (*start with ¼ tsp, adding up to ½ tsp*): marjoram, thyme, savory, garlic powder, salt & pepper
- 2 links of smoked sausage, diced small
- 2 medium onions, diced

Rinse and sort the lentils and cook in 1 quart plus 2 cups of water for one hour.

Meanwhile, dice small the celery, carrots and potatoes (2 cups each).

Add these vegetables plus the chicken broth to the lentils. Bring to a boil and simmer over a very low heat for three hours, stirring occasionally. Season with the herbs/spices.

While the soup is simmering, dice the smoked sausage and onions. Simmer the sausage in 2 tablespoons of water. When liquid has cooked down, add the onions and stir until glazed. Add the sausage and onions to the soup. Serve.

Soup will thicken if refrigerated or frozen and reheated.

## LEARNING FROM GOD'S CREATURES

### A faith lesson from feline friends?

I am the epitome of a "cat lady": Each of my felines has taught me a bit about faith. As I settle into bed, Piccolo presses his body tightly against mine. As I type, Tina sits on my lap, often reaching to rest a paw on my hand (the one on the mouse, of course!). Pumpkin cries persistently, even raising his front legs like toddler arms when he wants to be picked up. Yet, as any cat lover knows, these animals can be stubbornly aloof – at least until mealtime. My cats' actions make me think about how intentional daily Bible reading is like pressing myself against God. When I see God's presence in nature or someone's kindness, pausing to give thanks is like reaching out to touch God's hand. When I feel needy, I can stretch my spirit toward God's embrace with an honest prayer. And when I make myself aloof – as, alas, I sometimes do – I can rejoice that God's love always calls me back, to nourish me again.



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## CHURCH CHUCKLES

