



# The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

**NOVEMBER 2019**

**"Share the Hope"**

**VOL. LXII, NO. 12**

## FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

**Dear Members and Friends of Holy Cross,**

Greetings in our Lord, Jesus Christ!

It was a bit like "old home week" for Christine and me when, on an August Sunday, we came to worship at Holy Cross when the guest pastor was the Rev. Dr. James Zwernemann, now retired in East Haddam. Pastor Zwernemann had been for many years the parish pastor at the Village Lutheran Church in Bronxville, New York, right across the street from Concordia College back when we were undergraduates there. One of the things we remember about "Pastor Z" was that, more often than not, he used various props in his preaching and teaching. On that Sunday here in August, it was no different.

If you were there that morning, you may recall that Pastor Zwernemann brought to the pulpit several bags full of small "gratitude journals" that he'd kept over many years. He'd found it to be a good and helpful discipline to begin or end the day by writing down things for which he was grateful to God. It might have been things that we regard as large or small – large things like recovering from illness or small things like finding an elusive parking space at just the right time. He spoke of being in many ways drawn closer to the Lord when he expressed praise and thanksgiving for the things that came his way through God's provision.

On that Sunday in August, he challenged us to begin keeping such lists and journals, especially if we hadn't done so before. While I keep a personal journal, I've never maintained daily entries. In fact, there have been times where weeks or even months have gone by. To review what I have written, though, is to see that I have often mentioned persons, things, experiences, and moments for which I'm grateful.

So, together with Pastor Z, I would encourage you occasionally to make a written list of things for which you are thankful to God. Once you start writing, I'll predict that more and more items come to mind and, in reviewing such lists, you'll begin more and more to discern the goodness and generosity of God, and it will breed still more gratitude.

There's plenty of negativity in the world; it does us well to counter the negativity in our own lives by living in a state of joyful gratitude. Perhaps your list will become a gift to a friend or family member as you share certain items with them.

Speaking of gratitude and thanksgiving, do plan to gather with your Christian sisters and brothers on Thanksgiving Eve (Wednesday, November 27) at 7:30 p.m., for a service of Holy Communion ("eucharist" means "thanksgiving") on the eve of the national holiday. It will launch you into the holiday observance with the proper frame of mind, and will be another reminder of how good our God is.

In gratitude with and for you,

Pastor William H. Flammann  
Interim Pastor





### Saturday, November 2

9:30 p.m. – Breakfast & Artists

### Sunday, November 3 – Daylight Saving Time Ends (2 a.m.)

### Tuesday, November 5 – Election Day

### Sunday, November 10

10:15 p.m. – Town Hall Meeting

### Thursday, November 14

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

### Sunday, November 17

*Bring a Friend to Church Sunday*  
Noon – Pies, Dessert & Coffee



November 2019

### Wednesday, November 27

7:30 p.m. – Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist  
*During the service there will be a special food collection to benefit the Trumbull Food Pantry*

### Thursday, November 28 – Thanksgiving Day

*(Office closed and no preschool both on this day and Friday, Nov. 29)*

### Sunday, December 1 – The Season of Advent begins

### Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18

6:15 p.m. – Advent Soup Suppers  
7:30 p.m. – Advent Midweek Worship with the theme “Arise and Shine”

## **HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS**

**Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.**

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

**Pastor's Study Phone:** 203-268-7555; **Pastor's e-mail:** [pastor@holycrosstrumbull.com](mailto:pastor@holycrosstrumbull.com)

**Church Office:** 203-268-4555; **Church Office e-mail:** [office@holycrosstrumbull.com](mailto:office@holycrosstrumbull.com)

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

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

**INTERIM PASTOR:** Rev. Dr. William H. Flammann

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Sally Finck

**NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR:** Cliff Schrock

**NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION:** Mary Schrock

#### **2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT:** Michele A. Vichiola-Van Wart

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Vacant

**SECRETARY:** Cliff Schrock

**TREASURER:** Greg Dowling

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** Chad Helmingier

**DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION DIRECTOR:** Julianne Nyitrai

**EDUCATION COMMISSION DIRECTOR:** Kristen Messerschmitt

**EVANGELISM COMMISSION DIRECTOR:** Dave Bogen

**PROPERTY COMMISSION DIRECTOR:** Dan Senft

**SHEPHERDS' COMMISSION DIRECTOR:** Gary Jackson

**SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMISSION CO-DIRECTORS:** Stephanie Helmingier and Kendra Norman

**TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION DIRECTOR:** Gary Messerschmitt

**WORSHIP COMMISSION DIRECTOR:** Sally Finck



#### **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](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.*



### **A LITTLE BIT OF GOOD** **Meaningful words from Bishop Desmond Tutu**

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it is those little bits of good put all together that overwhelm the world.”

*Reprinted with permission from The Newsletter Newsletter © 2019*

## **NEWSLETTER NOTES**

### **Our next deadline is...**

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the December edition. The deadline for articles is Tuesday November 12.

Please take note of this

**earlier**

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](mailto:office@holycrosstrumbull.com).



## PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

### **Stillness**

The holiday season is upon us as we move into November and along with the joy and anticipation is the sometimes overwhelming stress and busyness of the season. I am challenging myself and you to find stillness amidst whatever is going on in our lives. It is in stillness that we can listen for God's voice and sense God's presence.

I have been praying and meditating on these verses: "The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." (Exodus 14:14); "Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side." (LSB 752:1); and "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10).<sup>1</sup> God has us in the palm of His hands. I have the most difficult time remembering this and being still; there is so much to do! The grip that chronic impetus for action has on me is overwhelming at times and I wonder if I can keep up with all of it. It is during these times that I most need stillness and to be aware of God's presence in my life. I cannot discern the Holy Spirit's guidance when my mind is running at 100 miles an hour and my pace exceeds my focus. I can only hope to connect with people when I am present and engaged, listening and watching, acknowledging and letting go of the mental tugs and thoughts passing through my mind. I am making stillness part of my daily practice and prayer.

After speaking with a number of dedicated and thoughtful leaders here at Holy Cross, I am pleased to report that David Bogen will be chairing our Call Committee. Dave has initiated outreach to committee members and is working with Pastor Morris and President Yeadon, with Pastor Flammann as our interim pastor and consultant for our pastoral vacancy. Please pray for Dave and the committee, and for the important work that is being undertaken. We had a prayer vigil following the service on Sunday, September 29, for the work of the Call Committee. Cliff Schrock and I read the petitions<sup>2</sup> and the congregation responded with "Lord hear our prayer," followed by a moment of silence. Please find stillness and reflect on the petitions as shared:



1. For Spiritual Nourishment: Lord of all, grant that in this time of vacancy we would continue to be fed by Your Word which is able to sustain us into salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER.
2. For Discernment: Holy Spirit, grant discernment to the Call Committee and all members of Holy Cross as they seek the next pastor to feed us with the Word and Sacrament, through Jesus Christ our Lord. LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER.
3. For Protection Against Spiritual Attack: O God, guard the Call Committee and all members of Holy Cross from assaults of the devil, assuring them of their identity in Jesus Christ our Lord. LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER.
4. For Families: Heavenly Father, You have established the family for Your glory and the furthering of Your kingdom. Grant strong faith to the families of Holy Cross that they would hold fast to Your promises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER.
5. For the Next Pastor: Good Shepherd, You have called pastors to shepherd Your people, guiding them to You and feeding them with Your Word. Be with our next pastor, guide him, and prepare him for his service at Holy Cross, in Jesus name. LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER.
6. For the Members of Holy Cross: Gracious Lord, look with favor upon the people of Holy Cross. Grant us patience, zeal, and strong faith in You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER.
7. For Wisdom: Jesus Christ, You are the Wisdom sent from God. Grant to all of us godly wisdom that we would look to You as an example and avoid pride, arrogance, and impatience. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER.

I end this month's article in a moment of silence following "Lord hear our prayer."

In Christ's service,  
 ---MICHELE VAN WART, President  
 Board of Directors  
 Holy Cross Lutheran Church

1. [Portals of Prayers](#), CPH, 2019

2. [zlc.org](http://zlc.org)



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### **Seven adults received into membership on October 13**

Holy Cross officially welcomed seven new adults into membership on Sunday, October 13. We are happy to welcome John and Adela Buck, Cely Dutra Eler, David and Michelle Anastasio Festi (and their son Ethan, who was baptized at Holy Cross on September 8), and Rev. William and Christine Flammann.

After the service on that day, the Shepherds' Commission hosted a new-member fellowship; each new member was introduced and given a small gift bag. All those in attendance enjoyed breakfast pastries, coffee and fellowship. Please continue to welcome these new members into our Holy Cross family!

---THE SHEPHERDS'  
COMMISSION



Welcome  
Our New  
Members

*From left to right are Adela and John Buck, Christine and Pastor Flammann and David Festi with son Ethan. Unable to be in the picture were Cely Dutra Eler and Michelle Anastasio Festi.*



## SPECIAL THANKSGIVING EVE FOOD COLLECTION

### **Give of your bounty to help those less fortunate**

*"Whoever has a bountiful harvest shall be blessed, for he shares his bread with the needy."*

– Proverbs 22:9

We continue our Holy Cross tradition of bringing non-perishable food donations to our Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27. Your donations are to be brought forward during the opening hymn of the service. All food items will be donated to the local Trumbull Food Pantry. Thank you.

---DORIS DIETMAN  
for the Worship Commission



## SPECIAL NOTICE

### **From your Board of Directors**

Come to the TOWN HALL MEETING on Sunday, November 10, at 10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Learn about and discuss what's going on in *YOUR* church. This is an interactive meeting and your participation is encouraged.



## PRAISE GOD FOR HIS ABUNDANT GOODNESS!

Join your Holy Cross family and friends at the annual  
**THANKSGIVING EVE EUCHARIST**

**Wednesday, Nov. 27 - 7:30 p.m.**

**During the service there will be a collection of non-perishable  
food items to be donated to the Trumbull Food Pantry.**



### GIVING THANKS

#### **Be thankful for the not-so-obvious things too**

After "turkey day" came and went last year, a pastor challenged church members to ask one another not "How was your Thanksgiving?" but "How is your Thanksgiving?" After all, giving thanks should be an ongoing act.

That doesn't always need to be profoundly deep, either. A.J. Jacobs, author of *Thanks a Thousand*, once asked a philosophy-professor friend what he was grateful for. The shockingly simple reply? "Sometimes I'm just grateful I have arms." That odd but spot-on answer shows the importance, Jacobs says, of being "thankful for things so omnipresent that they can escape our notice."

So...how IS your Thanksgiving?

---Reprinted with permission from  
*The Newsletter Newsletter*, © 2019



#### **General Memorial Fund**

*In memory of Joy Storer-Deloge, sister-in-law of John and Pat Deloge*

Kerry and Karen Geffert

#### **General Memorial Fund**

*In memory of Sandra Duff, Sherry Duff Schaivone's mother*

Kerry and Karen Geffert

Angelina Schaivone

#### **General Memorial Fund**

*In memory of Billie Skoog*

Myrtle Anderson

Ron and Doris Dietman

Gary and Donna DiLalla

Jim and Lorraine Finch

Kerry and Karen Geffert

Joseph and Stephanie Hasler

Matilda Jacobs

The Rodriguez Family

Nancy Sabol

Anita Schlaich Schoch

Lee and Regina Steeneck

Richard and Michele Van Wart

#### **Share the Hope Fund**

*In memory of Sandra Duff, Sherry Duff Schaivone's mother*

Ron and Doris Dietman

Dan and Donna Senft

#### **Share the Hope Fund**

*In memory of Billie Skoog*

The Paray Family

Dan and Donna Senft

Barbara White

## FINANCIAL NOTES

### Offering update provided for the first nine months of 2019

As part of our ongoing communication efforts, we are pleased to provide you with this quarterly financial update for the third quarter (through September 2019).



The weekly envelope giving has totaled \$192,306 through the end of the third quarter. This is slightly more than the prior year but less than the budget amount of \$200,000. After a slow start to the year (primarily attributed to poor weather), the trend has been favorable. Thank you for your generosity!

A few other items to highlight:

- Additional Share the Hope offerings of \$13,117 were received this year that have been used for the new doors and other facility improvements that help keep our church wonderful (and safe!).
- We have a net deficit through the third quarter of the year of \$(9,747).
  - Investment income has been higher than estimated and partially offset the shortfall of envelope giving.
  - Seasonal costs (such as snow removal) and property/maintenance costs were higher than anticipated. The increases were partially offset by lower professional staff/salary costs. The Board and our staff continue to be diligent in managing expenses wherever possible.
- Remember that Vanco e-giving can be a very convenient option online or via the app.

The Board hopes you find this update valuable, and we thank you for your continued support. Please let us know if you have any questions.

### Monthly Giving – January to September 2019

Month	Offering Actual	Offering Budget
January	\$19,504	\$23,000
February	20,355	21,500
March	28,407	25,000
April	18,451	21,500
May	20,990	21,000
June	23,771	25,000
July	18,425	19,000
August	19,446	19,000
September	22,957	25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$192,306</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

### Income Statement – January to September 2019

	Actual	Budget
Total Income*	\$217,050	\$219,589
Total Expenses	(226,797)	(235,349)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(9,747)	\$(15,760)

\* Total income includes weekly giving/offering, plate, building use, special services and investment income

---CHAD HELMINGER  
Financial Secretary



“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

–2 Corinthians 9:8



## ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

### Holy Cross linksters enjoy fall golf at its finest

Any golfer who has had a taste of playing in the fall knows that it's the best time of year to get on the course. No heat, clear air, fall colors; the only downfall is greens that seem faster than normal and leaves that seem to hide any ball that goes off the fairway, even sometimes for balls on the fairway!



The eight-person contingent from Holy Cross that played the annual church outing on October 19 at Tashua Knolls Golf Course got to experience the fall golf scenario in all its glory. This year's event was a more modest affair than in the past. A normal outing includes up to 16 players taking their swings on Tashua's 18-hole regulation course followed by 19th-hole food and repartee in the grillroom. This year's event was similar but for logistical reasons was downsized to the facility's nine-hole, executive-style course called Tashua Glen, with just eight players. But the camaraderie and fun on the ol' golf course was just as strong and everyone came away with a tale or two to tell.

The group included Dave Bogen, Jim Finch, Sally Finck, Chad and Kyle Helminger, Jim Leslie, Cliff Schrock and Andrew Sylling. (This being the fall and also football season, let the record show that the leading NFL team of the eight players was the Packers with four fans.)

In a game where par is a golfer's best friend, each person's highlights included: three pars for Dave, two for Jimmy F, pars for Nos. 7 and 8 for Jimmy L, a birdie on No. 5 and several pars for Cliff, and four pars and a 42 for Andrew. Sally said she scored in the 50s, and the Helmingers were excited to simply be on the course together. And that, after all, is what the game is all about, fun with family and friends in the greatest game of all.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

*As is the case with many golf outings, a favorite hole on the course is the 19th hole! Enjoying food and beverages and rehashing tales from their outing are, from left, going clockwise, Jim Finch, Sally Finck, Andrew Sylling, Kyle Helminger, Chad Helminger, Jim Leslie and Dave Bogen. The 8th golfer, Cliff Schrock was taking this photo.*



## FALL BACK—Remember!

**Daylight Saving Time Ends on November 3.**

**Turn your clock BACK one hour before going to sleep on Saturday, November 2.**

***Enjoy the extra hour of sleep!***

## HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

### **Children to go on annual field trip to New Pond Farm; will also prepare a Thanksgiving Feast**

“O Give Thanks to the Lord for He is Good”! As we head into November, we will be discussing all the wonderful gifts that God has given us. The children are learning about being thankful and sharing what we have with others. As part of our Thanksgiving curriculum we will visit New Pond Farm for a unit on Native Americans. We will learn how they lived and get to experience a real wigwam! We will have a Thanksgiving Feast at school with all the classes together. Each class will make something to share for the feast. We will be busy preparing for this event by creating placemats, centerpieces and hats. The parents are invited to attend and the children will treat them to a concert of Thanksgiving songs!



Our science activity for this month will focus on watching our pumpkins decay and return to the earth. When pumpkins decay they become homes to many creatures, insects and molds. We will read a book called “Rotten Pumpkin” which has many great photographs of this process!

All of us here at the preschool wish you and your families a very blessed Thanksgiving!

In Jesus' Name,  
---MICHELE GLENNON

## IN THE MAILBAG

### **From Sterling House Community Center**

Dear Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

A heartfelt thank you for the generous donation to the Sterling House Community Center Food Pantry. This act of kindness will enable us to provide assistance to many families and individuals. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness. Your support will enable Sterling House to nurture the body, mind and spirit of youth and adults in the heart of Stratford. Again, thank you so much,

Sincerely,  
---AMANDA MEESON  
Executive Director – Sterling House Community Center



## COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

### **Annual “Giving Tree” will be presented by end of November**

When you are out and about in stores, the Halloween decorations and candy have been replaced with Christmas items. And soon preparations for the Advent season and Christmas will be seen right here at Holy Cross, including the presentation of the annual Covenant to Care for Children “Giving Tree” poster. At the end of November look in the narthex for this “tree” poster filled with ornament tags. Later this month Mimose will have provided me with an updated list of children under her care, including a gift suggestion. For many of the children, this will be the only Christmas gift he or she will receive. Despite Mimose being out of the office on maternity leave, she will be working with me to make sure the Christmas wishes for the children in her caseload are fulfilled. For those who may not know or realize this, the work Mimose does under the Covenant to Care Adopt-A-Social Worker agreement is done in her free time.



For the past two years we have also given each child a hat & mitten/glove set which was a very “warm” and welcoming addition to the Christmas gift, so we will be doing that again this year. At any time this month prior to seeing the “Giving Tree” poster, if you feel so moved to purchase a winter hat & mitten/glove set, you may leave it in the collection box in the narthex. If more hats and mittens are needed by the time the “Giving Tree” is presented, ornament tags for these will be included on the poster.

As you are making preparations for the upcoming Christmas season, I hope you will include in your gift-giving list a Christmas gift and/or hat & mitten/glove set for one of the children that is under the care of DCF through the Covenant to Care. The gifts will need to be turned in, *unwrapped*, and will be due no later than Sunday, December 8; this early due date gives me time to get the gifts wrapped and into Mimose’s hands for delivery the week of December 16. Thank you in advance for your support of this ministry to support children in crisis and in need.

Yours in Christ,  
---MARY SCHROCK  
Covenant to Care for Children Liaison



## CELEBRATING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- |                |                         |                 |                           |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Nov. 1:</b> | <b>KYLE HELMINGER</b>   | <b>Nov. 11:</b> | <b>BOB BURNS</b>          |
| <b>Nov. 2:</b> | <b>GAVIN DOWLING</b>    |                 | <b>DYLAN CHIRGWIN</b>     |
| <b>Nov. 3:</b> | <b>KRISTEN CERONE</b>   | <b>Nov. 12:</b> | <b>INGRID CERONE</b>      |
|                | <b>PEGGY LIPTACK</b>    | <b>Nov. 14:</b> | <b>JON HALLS</b>          |
|                | <b>ALEX RICCIO</b>      | <b>Nov. 15:</b> | <b>RYAN MATTHEWS</b>      |
|                | <b>ALEXIS RODRIGUEZ</b> | <b>Nov. 16:</b> | <b>JOEY VAITKUS</b>       |
| <b>Nov. 5:</b> | <b>LYDIA STRUZIK</b>    | <b>Nov. 18:</b> | <b>CHRISTINE MATTHEWS</b> |
| <b>Nov. 6:</b> | <b>OTTO ATKINSON</b>    | <b>Nov. 22:</b> | <b>STEPHEN SEDERQUEST</b> |
|                | <b>SHERRY DUFF</b>      | <b>Nov. 24:</b> | <b>HARALD DALE</b>        |
| <b>Nov. 7:</b> | <b>MICHAEL ANTONIOU</b> |                 | <b>EMMA GENTRY</b>        |
|                | <b>KEVIN CONTE</b>      | <b>Nov. 25:</b> | <b>KEITH CHIRGWIN</b>     |
| <b>Nov. 9:</b> | <b>SIGOURNEY NORMAN</b> | <b>Nov. 29:</b> | <b>SAMANTHA SYLLING</b>   |



### TRAVEL MEETING

#### **International Trips: Pastor's Pilgrims**

There will be a travel meeting of Pastor's Pilgrims at Cheshire Lutheran Church, 660 W. Main Street in Cheshire on Sunday, Nov. 3, at 3 p.m. Pastor Greg Wismar will present details about future upcoming trips abroad that are currently being planned.



---REV. GREG WISMAR

### A SIMPLE PRAYER

#### **A great way to start your day**

Generous God,  
You have blessed me with Your loving presence in all life's ups and downs. What can I say but "thank you." Amen.



### CHURCH CHUCKLES

