



The **HOLY CROSS WORD**

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

NOVEMBER 2020

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXIII, NO. 12

FROM OUR VACANCY PASTOR

November begins with All Saints' Day, a reminder of our relationship with God and each other

October 31 is Halloween. November 1 is All Saints' Day. Is there a relationship between the two?

According to Wikipedia, All Saints' Day was formally introduced into the Church Year by Pope Gregory III in 731 AD when he dedicated a chapel at St. Peter's in Rome. The intent then was to honor specific Christians who were well-known for their lives of witness or martyrdom.

All Hallows Eve is thought to have originated in Ireland some 2000 years ago as a pagan festival during which souls of the dead would appear on this date and walk among the living. As years passed and people became Christian, the evening before All Saints' Day was called Hallowed Eve. Down through the years, the two evening traditions morphed into what we now know as Halloween – a secular celebration that's fun for the entire family. (If you have better information about these histories, please correct me).

Halloween is big business today – just behind Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is estimated that more than 9 billion dollars will be spent this year on costumes, decorations, candy and cards. I can't wait to see what outfits my young granddaughters will wear this year.

All Saints' Day is a religious event when we ponder the word "saints."

There are the saints from Biblical times. They are the authors of the Bible and countless men and women from the Biblical period and the years that followed. Then there are the men and women who "died in the Lord." These could be your parents or mine. They could be other deceased members of your family or relationships, or members of this congregation. We sometimes honor these persons at graveside. My parents are buried with my grandparents in Flushing, N.Y., and Marie's parents are buried in Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla, N.Y., and we visit whenever we can.

Saints are also fellow living, beathing Christians. They are your fellow members here at Holy Cross as well as family members who live elsewhere. A saint is any person who confesses Jesus Christ as Lord. We celebrate these people every time we confess the Creed and say "I believe in the communion of saints." Read: "community of saints" – the blessed fellowship of God's people wherever they may live.

Finally, **you** are a "saint." Not because you have lived a perfect life and have become the moral standard for others to follow. But rather, as Luther reminds us, an individual that is both "saint and sinner" at the same time. A "sinner" because of our own failings and a "saint" because we live under God's grace and the forgiveness we receive through Jesus Christ.

So, the next time you look into a mirror, recognize yourself as a "saint" – and thank God!

Blessings!

---BILL MEYER
Vacancy Pastor



Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, November 1 – Daylight Saving Time Ends (2 a.m.)

Tuesday, November 3 – Election Day

Thursday, November 19

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

Wednesday, November 25

7:30 p.m. – Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist

Thursday, November 26 – Thanksgiving Day

(Office closed and no preschool both on this day and Friday, Nov. 27)

Sunday, November 29 – The Season of Advent begins

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16

7:30 p.m. – Advent Midweek Worship with the theme
"Testimonies to the Coming King"

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

7:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

Friday, December 25 – The Nativity of Our Lord

10:00 a.m. – Christmas Day Worship Service with Holy Communion



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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MUSIC DIRECTOR: Sally Finck

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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

**Like Holy Cross
on Facebook!**



After you "Like" us, you'll
see postings of upcoming
events, pictures from
events and other notices.



WORDS FROM EPICURUS

**This thought from the ancient
Greek philosopher can speak
to your heart today**

"Do not spoil what you have by
desiring what you have not;
remember that what you now have
was once among the things you
only hoped for."

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross
Word is the December edition. The
deadline for articles is Thursday,
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.

ANOTHER ROUND OF HOLY CROSS LINKS LORE

You can't keep golfers off the course even when a pandemic is going on...there is golf to be played!

The annual church golf outing is usually one of the quieter events on Holy Cross' social calendar. That's not only because the game is played in relative silence when someone swings the club, but organizers often don't know when to schedule the event and it sneaks up on them to put on the calendar. Adding to this year's quiet factor was, of course, the global pandemic that has forced everyone into social distancing and mask shopping. But with golf being an outdoor sport, the players could eschew the masks and enjoy fresh air while hitting as many fizzlers and flop shots as their game produced.

We were able to schedule the usual course, Tashua Knolls, in the usual month of October, but we kept the outing to nine holes rather than 18 and didn't have a formal grillroom gathering afterward to tell wild tales of our round. We organized four foursomes to play nine holes on October 10, with tee times from 2:30 to 3 p.m.

Our groups included:

Three Guys and a Lady: Dave Bogen, Andrew Struzik, Mike Bonnar and Sally Finck.

Jimmy, Jim, Jim and Patrick: Jim Finch and Jim Atkinson joined Jim Leslie and his son-in-law Patrick Fitzmorris.

The Non-Family Feud: Four members of the Rentz clan grouped up, Matt and son Ethan, with Matt's dad Dave and brother Eric.

Go Pack Go: Green Bay Packer fans Chad Helming, Pastor Beinke, and Mary and Cliff Schrock (FYI, a fifth Packer fan on-hand was Jim Leslie, far out-numbering the one Bear fan in the outing).

As noted, because we couldn't safely have an "after glow" in the clubhouse, nothing formal was held after the groups completed play. So wild tales of birdies and pars did not make the rounds, but it can be said Pastor Beinke scored well with three pars and a 44, Mary Schrock hit her tee shot onto the fairway her last four driver shots, and the Rentz' had bragging rights established with patriarch Dave beating Matt, who beat son, Ethan, but tied brother Eric. Power to the old guys! Way to go, Dave.

Each player received a sleeve of golf balls and could grab a golf media item of a book or DVD on the way out for home.
---CLIFF SCHROCK



Neither rain, sleet, snow nor a global pandemic can keep our Holy Cross golfers off the course. Looking like a modern day Magnificent Seven, here are a lucky seven of our 16 players demonstrating how we were compliant with social distancing and masks at Tashua Knolls on October 10. Having finished and about to head home were, from left, Matt Rentz, Mary Schrock, Ethan Rentz, Pastor Beinke, Sally Finck, Chad Helming and Jim Atkinson.

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS ABUNDANT GOODNESS!



**Join your Holy Cross family and friends at the annual
THANKSGIVING EVE EUCHARIST
Wednesday, Nov. 25 - 7:30 p.m.**

If you plan to attend this service, be sure to go to the Holy Cross website—holycrosstrumbull.org—to sign-up. The sign-up will be available at the beginning of the week of Nov. 23. We do plan to have a video recording of this service available by Thanksgiving morning.

FINANCIAL NOTES

Offering update provided for the first nine months of 2020

As part of our ongoing communication efforts, we are pleased to provide you with this quarterly financial update through September.



The weekly envelope giving has totaled \$181,318 through the end of September. This is less than the budget amount of \$191,000. As we make the journey back to in-person services, your ongoing support has been greatly appreciated. Despite the ongoing challenges, we have much to be thankful for and your support of the church has been steadfast. Thank you for your generosity!

A few other items to highlight:

- We have a net surplus through September of \$388.
 - Our income is less than budget primarily due to the reduction of in-person services.
 - The Board and our staff continue to be diligent in managing expenses wherever possible given our reduced income. Expenses have been lower than budget due to lower personnel costs, utilities, and worship supplies.
 - With that said, we do anticipate future costs for maintenance projects and tree removal over the next few months to maintain our church and property.
- Vanco e-giving continues to be a very convenient (and touchless!) option utilized by many of our members...almost 2/3rds of our giving. There are two ways to give electronically: via the website or via the "Give Plus" 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 2020

| Month | Offering Actual | Offering Budget |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| January | \$21,346 | \$21,000 |
| February | 19,261 | 21,000 |
| March | 19,244 | 25,000 |
| April | 22,119 | 21,000 |
| May | 19,777 | 21,000 |
| June | 19,298 | 24,000 |
| July | 18,367 | 19,000 |
| August | 25,654 | 19,000 |
| September | 16,252 | 20,000 |
| Total | \$181,318 | \$191,000 |

Income Statement – January to September 2020

| | Actual | Budget |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Income* | \$193,880 | \$208,800 |
| Total Expenses | (193,492) | (208,393) |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | \$388 | \$407 |

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

--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

HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

November will be a month to give emphasis to the many blessings God gives us daily

During the month of November, we will focus on giving thanks to God for all His blessings. We are thankful for the beauty of autumn, our homes and families, food and most of all God's gift of our Savior Jesus! We will also learn about the first Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for both here at school and in our homes. We are so disappointed that we will not be able to have our annual Thanksgiving "Sharing Party" with all the children and their families due to Covid – but we are blessed that our school is open and everyone here is healthy and safe.



Our November Bible stories are focused on Moses: the crossing of the Red Sea, the Israelites in the desert, the 10 Commandments and the bronze snake.

We currently have 29 children in our school with a few more who will be signing up in January. Please let your family and friends know that we still have openings.

All of us at the preschool would like to wish you and your family a very blessed Thanksgiving.

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

COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Annual "Giving Tree" will be presented by mid-November

As I write this article in mid-October, Halloween decorations adorn lawns and an abundance of candy is on store shelves. But I have also seen Christmas decorations and cards already in stock in a couple grocery stores! And that ties into the fact that I'm already preparing for the annual Covenant to Care for Children "Giving Tree." I have been in close contact with Mimose Laurenard, our "adopted" DCF social worker, and despite the physical distancing of COVID, she will be able to deliver Christmas gifts to the children in her caseload. Mimose will be doing her best to get me an updated caseload list with gift suggestions for the children by mid-November, so it will be my goal to have the "Giving Tree" poster in the narthex by Sunday, November 15 (November 22 at the latest). For many of the children, this will be the only Christmas gift he or she will receive.



For the past three years we have also given each child a hat & mitten/glove set, which was a very "warm" and welcoming addition to the Christmas gift, and I will hope to do that again this year. 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 red "snowflake" collection box in the narthex. (Please, no "hand-me-down" sets; due to COVID these items must be brand new.) 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.

I realize that not all Holy Cross members are comfortable attending Worship in-person and may not have the opportunity to be at the church when this "Giving Tree" poster is presented. **Please—if you would like to participate by having a child's name and gift suggestion, contact me via my personal email address: schrocknroll@optonline.net. I will match up a child to you and send you the information needed for you to purchase the gift.**

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 need to be turned in, *unwrapped*, and are due no later than Wednesday, December 9; this early due date gives me time to get the gifts wrapped and into Mimose's hands for delivery the week of December 14. And if you would like to provide a gift bag and tissue paper for the gift you are giving, I will certainly accept and appreciate that!! Thank you in advance for your support of this ministry to benefit children in crisis and in need.

Yours in Christ,

---MARY SCHROCK
Covenant to Care for Children Liaison

CELEBRATING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



| | | | |
|---------|------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Nov. 1: | Kyle Helminger | Nov. 11 | Bob Burns |
| Nov. 2: | Gavin Dowling | | Dylan Chirgwin |
| Nov. 3 | Kristen Cerone | Nov. 12: | Ingrid Cerone |
| | Peggy Liptack | Nov. 14: | Jon Halls |
| | Alex Riccio | Nov. 15: | Ryan Matthews |
| | Alexis Rodriguez | Nov. 16: | Joey Vaitkus |
| Nov. 5: | Lydia Struzik | Nov. 18: | Christine Matthews |
| Nov. 6: | Sherry Duff | Nov. 22: | Stephen Sederquest |
| Nov. 7: | Michael Antoniou | Nov. 24 | Harald Dale |
| | Kevin Conte | Nov. 25: | Keith Chirgwin |
| Nov. 9: | Sigourney Norman | Nov. 29: | Samantha Sylling |

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:

Lorraine and Jim Finch for the fantastic flowers they supplied all summer for our beautiful altar arrangements. Thank you also to the people who took these flower arrangements home each week to give them a new home.



Carol Burns for coordinating the CROP Walk for World Hunger, a virtual event that took place on Sunday, October 18.

CHURCH CHUCKLES

