



The **HOLY CROSS WORD**

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

OCTOBER 2018

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXI, NO. 11

WISMAR'S WISDOM

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

When you think "**Lutheran**," do you think **joy**? When you tell your neighbors and friends that you are a Lutheran—first off, do they know what that means and, if so—do they have the impression that Lutherans are **joyful people**? When you go to worship on Sunday morning, do you go in **joy**, listen in **joy**, sing in **joy** and leave with **joy**?

"Rejoice always" (1 Thess. 5:16). That is the entire verse – easy to memorize. **Rejoice. Always.** Because God loves you. Because Jesus died and rose for you. Because the Spirit has called you by the Gospel into this saving faith. Because God is faithful to His promises, and He will surely do it (1 Thess. 5:24).

"JOY:FULLY LUTHERAN" is the theme for The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod through the 2019 Synodical Convention. **Joyfully Lutheran**, we live in response to God's love for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus. We live **joyfully**, because God's love is freely given to sinners through faith for Christ's sake. We live **joyfully**, because we do not work to earn God's love and forgiveness but receive it by faith alone in what Christ has done for us.

Joyfully, we receive God's Word and Sacraments as His means through which He gives to His children His love and mercy in Christ. We live **joyfully**, because though we cannot believe by our own reason or strength, the Holy Spirit has called us by the Gospel, enlightens us with His gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith in Christ Jesus. We live **joyfully**, because the Father invites us to pray to Him as children talk to their dear father. We live **joyfully**, because Jesus has done it all for us.

Our joy is not generic joy. We are not just happy people. **We are joyfully Lutheran.** We live our lives trusting in the mercy and love of God. Our Savior suffered for us, and we know that our lives also will be filled with trials and suffering, yet we live in **joy**.

Joy does not mean that we ignore the realities of our lives. Faith in Christ does not remove us from the trials and temptations that befall people in this life. Faith in Christ does not mean that we cannot suffer or sin. Faith in Christ points us to the hope we have in the midst of the difficulties of this life. **And Christ is our joy.**

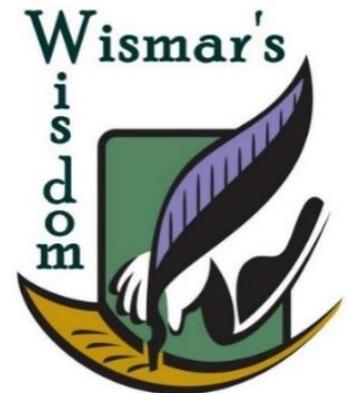
The cross is the most prominent symbol of Christianity. We proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. With our Lord, we know that suffering and pain are inherent in our lives as we dwell in this sinful world. With our Lord, we do not expect sinners to embrace the Kingdom, but trust that it is through suffering and death that the Kingdom comes among us. With the Lord, we bear our own crosses and **rejoice** in the will of the loving Father, even when it seems hidden from our view.

The Christ on the cross is the Christ who conquered death and the grave. **We rejoice**, because our sins have been removed from us. **We rejoice** that death no longer has the final word over our lives. **We rejoice** that our Savior is coming again. We rejoice in the promises of life with Him forever. **We rejoice** that He is with us in His Word, Sacraments and Church.

We, poor miserable sinners, are Joyfully Lutheran. Because of Jesus. **God's love in Christ is the reason for joy.** Grace, faith, forgiveness, suffering, learning, repenting, washing, eating, drinking, fellowship, mercy, life together — **all joys in Christ.**

JOY:FULLY LUTHERAN,

Pastor Wismar





Tuesday, October 2

5:00 p.m. – Holy Cross serves Community Supper at St. John's Epis.-Bridgeport

Saturday, October 6

7:00 a.m. – Men's Bible Study (*first of four Saturday-morning sessions*)

Monday, October 8 – Columbus Day (*PRESCHOOL CLOSED*)

Thursday, October 11

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

Sunday, October 14

9:30 a.m. – Town Hall Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Travel Meeting led by Rev. Greg Wismar

Wednesday, October 17

7:00 p.m. – Movie Night with Ice Cream Social

Title: "Living Waters: Intelligent Design in the Oceans of the Earth"

Saturday, October 20

12:30 p.m. (approx.) – Golf Outing at Tashua Knolls in Trumbull

Saturday, October 27

7:00 a.m. – Men's Bible Study (*second of four Saturday-morning sessions*)

9:30 a.m. – Flower-Arranging Session

Sunday, October 28

Noon – Pumpkin Decorating Activity

Saturday, November 10

5:00 p.m. – Cultural Potluck Dinner



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

Worship Services – Sundays: 8 and 10:30 a.m.

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Pastor's Study Phone: 203-268-7555; Pastor's E-mail: pastor@holycrosstrumbull.com

Office Phone: 203-268-4555; Church Office E-mail: office@holycrosstrumbull.com

Website: www.holycrosstrumbull.org

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NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR: Cliff Schrock

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION: Mary Schrock



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

Like Holy Cross on Facebook!



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



A WELL-SHAKEN TREE Words by Martin Luther

"For several years I have read the Bible through twice in 12 months. It is a great and powerful tree, each word of which is a mighty branch. Each of these branches have I well shaken, so desirous was I to know what each one bore and what it would give me. And the shaking of them has never disappointed me."

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the November edition. The deadline for articles is Monday, October 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.

COMMUNITY SUPPER

Can you spare some time on October 2 to help our neighbors in need of a hot meal?

A reminder that our next date to serve the Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal Church in Bridgeport will be Tuesday, October 2. We need cooks from 1 to 4 p.m., and servers from 4:45 to 6. High school students are welcome and if they need a letter of community service we will provide that. The sign-up sheet is on the narthex table.

---CINDY and JOE CICCIA



SPECIAL MOVIE NIGHT

All are invited to see a fascinating exploration of life in the liquid universe

At 7 p.m., on Wednesday, October 17, we will be showing "Living Waters: Intelligent Design in the Oceans of the Earth" <https://illustramedia.com/> in the Fellowship Hall.

There will be ice cream – we just ask to please bring your favorite topping to share! There is a sign-up on the Facebook page. If you are not on Facebook, there is a sign-up sheet on the narthex table.

---GARY MESSERSCHMITT and KATHY BOIVIE

FLOWER-ARRANGING SESSION

Join other creative minds and hands to put together a flower arrangement

With the holidays coming fast upon us I would like to offer another flower-arranging session at 9:30 a.m., on Saturday, October 27, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own containers (medium size and small), some flowers and some greens from your property if you have some. We can make vase arrangements, low table arrangements and/or some fun arrangements in a mug, teapot, etc. Sign-up will begin October 7. For further information, phone me at 203-268-2774.

---EDITH SKOOG



CHRISTIAN DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday morning discussion group resumes on October 3

Come out and join us at 10:15 a.m., on Wednesday, October 3, in the conference room. Future meeting dates are also scheduled on the following Wednesdays: October 10, 24 and 31 and November 7, 14 and 28. Hope to see you there!

--KATHY BOIVIE



YOU ARE INVITED
to our fun fall-season activity!

PUMPKIN DECORATING
Sunday, October 28, at Noon

\$5 per person covers
the pumpkins and the paint

Look in the narthex for a sign-up sheet

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

Leadership: First, you break from your comfort zone

This is the first of a three-part article series on leadership.

We are entering the time for consideration of new Board members for 2019, and Val Huydic as Vice President will head the Nominating Committee. Committee? We have not had more than one or two members serve in this capacity in my memory. Who is leading us and who will lead us in the wonderful and challenging work of our church and the Lord's as we move forward?

Listen: We need leaders for our church. "If My people would but listen to Me..."
 --Psalm 81:13 Who are we listening to? God? Our busy schedules? Our need for down time?

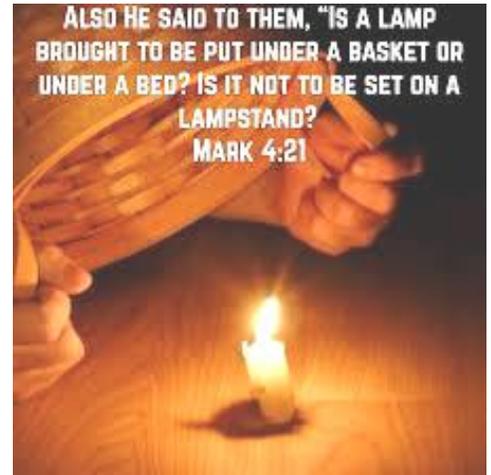
Consider the patterns of preparation for leaders: (1) Breaking from your comfort zone. God is dynamic; you cannot remain in your comfort zone and go with God. (2) Embracing times of solitude. Go to a space without distractions to hear in faith and conversation with God. You may be surprised that the loudest noise is the chatter of your mind (3) Stepping towards discomfort. Growth requires change. Take courage in the truth that God is always with you and will never leave you, especially during difficult and disruptive times. *

Now consider your reactions: Do you push away, not feeling the need of any of this? Are you too busy? Are you tired of all of it? Finally, consider the response God is looking for: Acceptance with joy as a mature Christian.

I remain grateful for the leadership and inspiration of those who have gone before me. I am comforted and supported by all of you, my fellow Christians and members of this lovely church family. I encourage you to break and trust in God.

* R. Wampler, *Christian ERG*, 9/10/18.

God's blessings and peace,
 ---MICHELE VAN WART, President
 Board of Directors



LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Sterling House in Stratford will now be the recipient of our food donations

Until further notice, Social Ministry will now be delivering our food donations to Sterling House in Stratford. Non-expired canned goods, pastas, cereals, personal-hygiene items and non-perishables are needed.



Gently-used clothing will continue to be donated to Summerfield, "Light on the Hill," in Bridgeport. Coats, boots and warm clothing are especially needed now, as the cold weather approaches.

Both donation boxes are located in the narthex. Your generosity in thinking of, and donating to, those less fortunate is sincerely appreciated.

---LORRAINE FINCH for the
 SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMISSION

WE ARE FAMILY

This column is devoted to family news about Holy Cross members and friends. Please turn in items to the newsletter box.

God's blessings to **Robert and Rebecca (Senft) Veteri** upon the Baptism of their daughter **Sadie Mae** at the late service on September 16. Sadie's sponsors are her uncle, Timothy Senft, and a family friend, Marissa Figerle. We welcome Sadie Mae into the Family of God, through the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism, and look forward to the new relationship we will have with her.



Fatherhood

with Joel Biermann

Fatherhood is more than providing half the genetic material at conception; it's being there for the long haul. In *Fatherhood with Joel Biermann* the Concordia Seminary professor and dad relates how being a father is a demanding pursuit with a heavenly goal—raising kids who know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Four-part Saturday morning class to begin on Oct. 6 and continue on Oct. 27, Nov. 17 and Dec. 8

Fatherhood is more than providing half the genetic material at conception; it's being there for the long haul. In *Fatherhood with Joel Biermann* the Concordia Seminary professor and dad relates how being a father is a demanding pursuit with a heavenly goal – raising kids who know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Few things in life can be more intimidating than taking on the role of fatherhood. Whether it's a planned event or one of life's little *surprises* it demands our full attention and a commitment to put our all into it. This Men's NetWork Bible study addresses the challenges in being loving and Christ-like fathers to our families, especially in a society that frequently portrays dads as buffoons and ill-equipped to care for themselves, much less their kids.

Full of Scriptural insights and personal observations won from his own role as father and husband, Biermann offers help to would-be-, step-, divorced, single or widowed dads, who want to make the most of their lives with their families. To make a big point, Biermann goes back to the little Greek word *telos*, meaning "goal," "purpose" or "objective." Even as Christ's focus or goal was to accomplish His Father's mission on earth for our salvation, so should our objective be to become Christ-like dads for the raising and well-being of our families.

Being a good father isn't an impossible dream, but it does take staying the course, especially in a world where sacrifice and upright character are often not highly valued. Difficult as the task may be, there is always hope. With God at the helm, all fathers, whether rookies or veterans, can know the adventure of fatherhood as one that is full of promise and possibility for them and their families.

---PASTOR WISMAR

**Please join us here at Holy Cross at 7:00 a.m., on these four Saturdays:
October 6, October 27, November 17 and December 8.**

A PRAYER FOR THIS FALL DAY

*Dear God: Please wrap me in Your love,
like a cozy sweater hugs me on a cool fall day.
Thank you for being my warmth and protection.*



THANKS A BUNCH!

This column recognizes the gifts of time and talent our church members provide to do God's work in our church and community. If you have an item to include in this "thank you" column, please put it in the "newsletter" mailbox. This month we thank:

Our first thank you comes from our Preschool director, Michele Glennon:

The preschool would like to thank **Danny Nyitrai and his family** for all their hard work on our playground. For his Eagle Scout Project, Danny secured funds for new wood chips and a bench for our playground. Besides evenly spreading the wood chips, he also stained the railroad ties around the play area. We are so very appreciative!

Lorraine and Jim Finch for offering beautiful flowers from their garden for the altar-flower arrangements each week during the summer.

Diane Dietman for sharing her awesome garden vegetables for us less fortunate "master gardeners" who bombed out this season.

Donna DiLalla and Lorraine Finch for their dedication to help with tasks in the church office on a weekly basis.



Julianne Nyitrai and the **Discipleship Commission** for coordinating the annual church picnic on September 16. Julianne had a lot of help – special thanks to **John Anantharaj, Jim and Kim Atkinson, Donna Bogen, Greg Dowling, Jim Finch, Kerry Geffert, Jon Halls, Gary and Kristen Messerschmitt, Danny and Jessica Nyitrai, David and Mary Ann Schiller, Laurie Vaitkus, Rick and Michele Van Wart, and Pastor and Miharu Wismar**. Whether you helped with set-up or clean-up, manned the grill or did food shopping, your help was key for helping to make the picnic event a success. If we missed listing your name, please know that your help was sincerely appreciated. Thanks also to **everyone who brought a dish to share**. The food, fellowship and weather were fabulous!

IN THE MAILBAG

From Amy Witschy

Dear Members of Holy Cross,

A warm and heartfelt thank you to so many of you who sent cards and notes of remembrance on Dad's passing. Your words of encouragement and support mean so much!

In Christ,

---AMY WITSCHY



PROJECT TO HELP OTHERS

Please consider donating to Eagle Scout Project to aid small, disabled children

My name is Joey Vaitkus. I am a Boy Scout in Troop 68 in Trumbull. For my Eagle Scout Project I will be constructing wheelchairs for small children with disabilities. The chairs (see pictures for the example) are made from a Bumbo Floor Seat, which is a supportive chair for small children to sit in, caster wheels and 12-inch bicycle tires. I will be making six chairs and will be giving them to Rehabilitation Associates in Fairfield. If you are able, I will be collecting donations in the upcoming weeks. Any amount that you would be willing to give would be greatly appreciated. Checks can be made out to Joseph Vaitkus. Thank you so much for your support.

---JOEY VAITKUS



OUR FLOCK

Christian caring and praying at Holy Cross

This is the Shepherds' Commission's "FYI" column letting our members know for whom we have prayed during our recent worship services. Please continue to remember these people in your prayers.

We remember our members:

Myrtle Anderson, recovering from a fall; **Sabine Bonnar**, recuperating from injuries sustained in a car accident, **Roberta Crocker**, recovering from surgery at Lord Chamberlain after a broken hip from a fall; **Ron Dietman**; **Gary Jackson**; **JoAnne Meyer**; **Barbara Schneider**; **Anita Schoch**, recovering from hip-replacement surgery; **Monika Seyal**; and the homebound – **Bernice Erickson** and **Edna Karacsony** and **Robert Killian**.

During the past month, we also prayed for:

Joe Aniballi, friend of the Dietmans and Thompsons, diagnosed with multiple myeloma and undergoing oral chemotherapy; **Twila Bailey**, Lisa Bailey's mother-in-law, for strength and healing following two falls; **Lorie Boveraux**, family friend of the Messerschmitts, with Stage 4 cancer; **Carole Daly**, niece of Mary Atkinson, going through tests for leukemia; **Danny Doherty**, brother of Maura Senft, recovering from quadruple-bypass surgery; **Marti Fischer**, cousin of Carol Burns, who is blind and paralyzed; **Nancy Galasso**, friend of the Van Wart family, who is battling Stage-4 cancer and currently receiving radiation treatments; **Kathy Gardner**, Jim Leslie's sister, recovering from cancer surgery; **Walter Geffert**, brother of Nancy Sabol, recovering from colon cancer surgery; **Colin Hoben**, 12-year-old friend of the Nyitrai family, undergoing a stem-cell transplant for a recurrence of lymphoma; **Caroline Khlar**, wife of a friend of Otto and Mary Atkinson, who is going through her third bout with cancer, with prayers for healing strength and comfort for her and her family; **Ramona Kondracki**, wife of a co-worker of Jim Leslie, who has begun chemotherapy for cancer in her sinus cavity; **Kristen Kravecs**, Bobby's wife, recovery from surgery; **Rob Lindley**, a friend of Paul Hagberg, suffering from advanced lung cancer; **Joan Meyer**, friend of the Dietmans, dealing with memory issues; **Joseph Parker**, Julianne Nyitrai's father, who underwent triple-bypass surgery; **Luis Rivera**, friend of Doris Bernt, who had a lung transplant; **Lee Rossel**, a friend of Paul Hagberg, going through cancer treatment; **Joey Senft**, cousin of the Senft family, with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease); **Karim Seyal**, Monika's husband, prayers for healing following eye surgery; **David Sochacki**, friend of Nancy and Jerry Sabol, following brain surgery; **Lorraine Tamas**, neighbor of the Leslies, who suffered a stroke; **Mike Tavares**, friend of John and Pat Deloge, who is battling Valley Fever and recovering from surgery to place a shunt in his head; **Dylan Vitucci**, 8-year-old former Holy Cross Preschool student, who has completed treatments for osteosarcoma and is undergoing physical therapy for her arm and body; **Donna Williams**, Lisa Bailey's sister-in-law, for a healthy recovery following an automobile accident; and **Craig Wilson**, son of a friend of John and Pat Deloge, recovering from tongue-cancer surgery.

Other prayer petitions were for:

Prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of two boys to our church family – **Jace Daniel Broadbin** to Brendan and DJ (Senft) Broadbin, and **Luke Hunter Schipul** to Daniel and Alexandra Schipul; prayers of comfort for **Pastor** and **Amy Witschy** and Amy's family upon the death of her father, John Beveridge. We continue to pray for protection for those serving in the military, including **Timothy Benson Jr.**, **Michael Collins**, **Joao Paulo Silva Gomes**, **Ben Milositz**, **Jake Novak**, **Steve Novak**, **Ryan Rubega**, **Shane Skoog**, **Taylor Turner** and **Daniel Struzik**.

If your friend or family member is on this list, keep us updated on his or her progress. When you have requests for prayers to be included in our worship services, you can e-mail the church office at office@holycrosstrumbull.com or phone 203-268-4555 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays. The Shepherds' Commission will also include the prayer requests in this monthly report. If you would like to be included in our e-mail Prayer Circle, please provide your name and e-mail address to the church office.

---HUGH HUGHES
Shepherd's Commission



TOWN HALL MEETING

Informative and informal: Hear your officers speak of their plans

Plan to stop in for fellowship, a bite to eat and dialogue on what's going on. Our second Town Hall meeting of the year will take place at 9:30 a.m., on Sunday, October 14. Our guest speaker will be Brenda Bacon, from our district office, speaking about financial services available through LCEF. The Board will run through updates and highlights of progress on our Vision 2020 goals, and Pastor will update us with what's on his plate. This is an interactive meeting and we encourage your participation.

---MICHELE VAN WART, President
Board of Directors



HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Our new year is underway and this month the children will focus on the glorious season of fall

A new school year has begun! We have been busy getting to know all the children and their families. The children are enthusiastic and ready to learn and grow. To date we have nine children in the three-year-old class, 22 in the four-year-old class and eight children in the Pre-K class. During the month of September, we learned what it means to be a good friend and how God made each of us so very special. One of our favorite themes is our study of apples. Apples provide many opportunities for incorporating important math and science concepts such as sorting, comparing, cooking and learning about life cycles.



October will find us exploring the fall season. We will have our second Comfort Dog visit, as well as a visit from The Long Hill Fire Department. The whole school will have a field trip to Benedicts on October 24. We will visit the animals, take a hay ride, play on the hay and in the corn mazes and, finally, pick our own pumpkins!

We still have a few spots available in our program so please pass the word along!

In Jesus' Name,
---MICHELE GLENNON

Mark Your Calendar!



Share your Family Heritage at our **CULTURAL POTLUCK DINNER**



Saturday, November 10, at 5 p.m.

Bring a food item to share that is a cultural favorite of your ancestors. Following the dinner, we hope to have some entertainment. If you have a song, dance or anything related to your heritage that you would like to share at this event, please contact Julianne Nyitrai: djnyitrai@aol.com / 203- 445-7856.

There is no cost to this event, but we will need an accurate count of people who plan to attend, as well as knowing the food you plan to bring.
Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex later this month.

COMFORT DOG MINISTRY

Ministry keeps a busy schedule with the goal of bringing comfort and God's love to people of all ages

Save the date! Join the Addie and Leah Team for the Vicki Soto 5K on Saturday, November 3. We have runners and walkers participating. Also, there is a Kids Fun Run. Registration is now open. To register, go to: http://www.lightboxreg.com/vicki-soto-5k_2018. There will be a drop-down line to join our team. All are welcome, and please stop by our information booth the day of the event!

During the month of September, the Holy Cross team has been busy. Kathryn and Lydia traveled to Rochester with Leah to visit with Hope Lutheran Church and to participate in local activities. Kathryn also began her training at Danbury Hospital to begin handling there. The Holy Cross Christian Preschool reading program kicked off for the school year on September 10 and our theme was shapes. Cindy read several books and then the preschoolers and teachers met with Leah. We then had a "shapes" craft project. Joe has joined Cindy as her Ministry Partner at Middlebrook Farms Assisted Living in Trumbull. Having Joe join the monthly visits has been a welcome addition.



Walking Together, SERVING AS ONE,

---CINDY CICCIA, KATHRYN STRUZIK, LYDIA STRUZIK, JOE CICCIA

TRAVEL MEETING

International Trips: Pastor's Pilgrims and more part of October 14 gathering

A travel information meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., on Sunday, October 14, at Holy Cross. Ben Cross from GLOBUS travel and I will be sharing information on the next trips that I will be hosting: Israel in March 2019; Germany and the Oberammergau Passion Play in 2020; and Scotland and the Royal Edinburgh Highland Tattoo in 2021. Everyone is invited to attend this "dessert pot luck" event, especially Holy Cross members who were part of the recent Pastors Pilgrims trip to Scandinavia.

---REV. GREG WISMAR



CELEBRATING OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



OCT. 1: JENNIFER VAN WART
OCT. 2: LINDA TOROK
OCT. 3: KRISTEN MESSERSCHMITT
OCT. 4: DORIS DIETMAN
 JULIE ERNST
 JODI GENTRY
OCT. 5: DEB LESLIE
 JAMES TURNBULL
OCT. 7: DAVE BOGEN
 MIHARU WISMAR
OCT. 8: CHRIS DELOGE
OCT. 9: LORI THOMPSON
OCT. 10: SOPHIA POLLEX
OCT. 11: GREG DOWLING
OCT. 15: PAM SIMMONS
OCT. 16: BRODY TURNBULL
OCT. 18: SARAH (SELK) TROTTA

OCT. 20: KELLY STREICH
 SCOTT TURNBULL
 JOEL WILSON
OCT. 22: SALLY FINCK
OCT. 25: BARBARA SCHNEIDER
OCT. 26: HEATHER FANNING
 KENDRA NORMAN
 JOHN SHERWONIT
OCT. 27: MAXWELL CAROLA
OCT. 28: MATHEW BENSON
 RICK BOIVIE
 JOHN DELOGE
 INGRID LEIBOLD
OCT. 29: ROBERT STREICH
 BARBARA WHITE
OCT. 30: MICHAEL WELDON
OCT. 31: MARTHA SCHIPUL
 MARCIA WILSON

LOOKING DEEPER INTO THE BIBLE

Lesson 21: Understanding 1st Corinthians, Chapter 12

A monthly Bible study involving Scripture reading and explanation, verse by verse

We begin with The Reading: 1st Corinthians, Chapter 12 (RSV)



Public Worship—The Use of Spiritual Gifts

1, The gifts of the Spirit; a, The source of spiritual gifts

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were heathen, you were led astray to dumb idols, however you may have been moved. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

b, Varieties of gifts

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

c, Unity in diversity

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

¹⁹If all were a single organ, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those parts of the body which we think less honorable we invest with the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior part, ²⁵that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

d, Specific gifts

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

We move into The Study: A reminder that Corinth was the business center of Greece, and Paul had visited and preached to the people there during his second missionary journey. His first letter to the Corinthians addresses the problems of Christians in a local church, primarily their relationships with one another.

Chapter 11 began a section on Public Worship, or some might refer to them as Public Worship Problems, which will end with Chapter 14. Chapter 11 touched upon “the veiling of women” and “the Lord’s Supper.” Chapter 12 is fully about “the use of spiritual gifts” and has many verses we have learned to love over the years for their insight. Paul fervently says he doesn’t want the Corinthians to be uninformed



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1 Corinthians 12:27, NRSV

“Looking into the Bible,” continues on Page 11

“Looking into the Bible,” continues from Page 10

and makes it clear it is the Spirit who helps us recognize the status of Jesus as well as prevents us from cursing Jesus. The Corinthians overflowed with spiritual gifts but they were immature in their faith, so Paul needed to instruct them.

With that established, starting in Verse 4, Paul expands to describe how there is one Spirit but varieties of gifts, of working and of service. But there is the same Lord inspiring them all in every one. Everyone works for the common good, but starting in Verse 8 we learn the method for each varies: through wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, and prophecy, among the main avenues described through Verse 11. Everyone feels inspiration from the same Spirit but no one has all of these attributes.

In a message we need to remind ourselves of these days for its importance, Paul begins in Verse 12 to dialogue about how, though we be diverse, we are all members of the one body. He famously uses the analogy of our human body, that even though the body has many parts it is still one body. So it is with Christ, he says, with Jews, Greeks, slaves, free, all baptized into one body. He expands to say, what would happen if the individual parts of the body rejected each other and said they had no need for each other? Or if parts of the body felt they were of greater importance and other parts were inferior, how could that keep the body unified. In Verse 24 Paul writes that God composed the body so that the greater honor was given to the inferior part. The goal is that the parts of the body would have the same care for one another. Likewise, our diversity as a people should not ruin our unity in the body of Christ. This entire section, actually, doesn't require much interpretation because it is so beautifully written, culminating with Verse 26, “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

In closing, Verses 27-31 describe how the functions of God's gifts vary but together they allow the church to operate effectively.

Next month: 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13

---CLIFF SCHROCK

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Four tee times reserved for the church's golfers at Tashua Knolls

If it's the fall time it's time for the church's annual golf outing. It will once again be held at Tashua Knolls Golf Course, on Saturday, October 20, and it is anticipated that we will have a field of 16 players.

In working with the course's staff, Dave Bogen has arranged to have four tee times set aside for our outing. This has been our usual amount of players since the event was revived several years ago, and it has worked well. The course sets aside two times off the front nine and two off the back, at the same time, around 12:30, so that our groups can finish at about the same time. We then adjourn to the clubhouse and enjoy some appetizers as we hash out the day's great shots and not-so-great moments. As of final newsletter preparation, the four groups were nearly filled. If interested in playing, please speak with Dave or myself to find out if space is still available.



---CLIFF SCHROCK

