



The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

OCTOBER 2020

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXIII, NO. 11

FROM OUR VACANCY PASTOR

In a life of service and ministry, one constant: Change leads to learning

It has been just a few weeks that I have been with you since the retirement of Pastor Flammann. Having been away from regular parish ministry for almost 20 years, I feel a bit rusty, and it may take a little while to resume the rhythm of congregation life once again. Fortunately, I have gratefully experienced strong assistance from Mary Schrock, Sherry Duff, Kerry Geffert, Sally Finck, Gary Messerschmitt, Greg Dowling, and Mary Ann Schiller to name just a few.

I thought I'd use this opportunity to provide you with a bit of background about myself. I graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1963. My first assignment was to initiate a ministry within the African-American community in Columbia, S.C. An experienced pastor told me at the time, "You gained head knowledge at the Seminary; now the real ministry begins." How right he was! During my years in South Carolina, my wife Marie, a Valpo Deaconess, and I started a family – four children – three daughters and a son.

In 1970 I accepted a Call to Emanuel Lutheran Church in Patchogue, N.Y. – a growing congregation on eastern Long Island with a Christian Day School. I knew nothing about parochial education or how to manage a staff and so the learning curve was steep. In 1981, I accepted a Call to the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Garden City, N.Y. This congregation was largely made up of businesspersons who worked in New York City. Once again, this was a new world of experience for me. After 39 wonderful years, I retired in 2002 and we moved to Bethel, Conn.

I then served several years at Concordia College in Bronxville, N.Y., as the Director of Church Relations, a post that enabled me to communicate with pastors and congregations all along the East Coast. With the daily commute becoming tiresome, I retired (again) only to respond to New England District President Keurulainen's request to assist him in leading the District's Transforming Churches Network. Following his death, I served in a similar capacity under President Yeadon for several more years. When I realized that newly-graduated pastors were younger than my oldest grandson, I knew it was time for me to retire (once again). By God's grace and your invitation, I am now serving at Holy Cross, Trumbull!



As I look back over these years, I thank God for opening doors that I would never have chosen for myself – and then gently nudging me to walk through them into a new challenge. In each of my previous experiences, I am deeply indebted to the members of the congregations in which I served. They taught me far more than I ever taught them. In my first parish, I learned how to practice justice, forgiveness and patience. In the second, how critically important Christian education and Bible study is at every age level. And in the third, how to better utilize God's spiritual and material gifts for the benefit and expansion of His Kingdom.

And now, I look to learn from you! Whenever you have opinions, ideas or suggestions, please convey them to me. I'll try my best to listen – and to learn!

Blessings!

---BILL MEYER
Vacancy Pastor



Thursday, October 8

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

Monday, October 12 – Columbus Day (CHURCH OFFICE/PRESCHOOL CLOSED)

Saturday, October 24

8:00 a.m. – Holy Cross hosts American Red Cross Blood Drive (until 1 p.m.)



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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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.



A SEASON OF GLORY

"Now has come the glory season. Glory in the bountiful fruits of God's earth. Glory in the breathtaking multi-colored leaves of the trees. Glory in the invigorating smells of Fall. Even glory in the sparkling frost-blanket covering the grass and putting it to sleep for the winter. Glory, glory everywhere we look."

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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 Thursday, 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.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Give the gift of blood to help those in dire need...and to save lives

Do you want to make a difference in someone's life? Be a blood donor! Holy Cross will host an American Red Cross blood drive in the Fellowship Hall from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturday, October 24. Appointments are required, so please visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter HCLC as our code. Then you'll click on our church's name/event, and will follow simple instructions to make your own appointment. You could end up saving someone's life, so please consider donating – and spread the word to your friends and family.



Blood Drive

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Held in the Hall
5995 Main Street
Trumbull, CT 06611

**Saturday, October 24, 2020
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**



Unable to donate blood? We will also need a few volunteers during the blood drive to help keep things running smoothly. Tasks may include checking in donors at the registration table, or restocking the food/drinks at the "canteen" table. If you're interested in being a volunteer, please contact Stephanie Helming or Kendra Norman at:

socialministry@holycrosstrumbull.com.

---STEPHANIE HELMINGER and KENDRA NORMAN

CROP WALK

There's a new date and format but the goal remains: Donate to help fight hunger

The annual CROP Walk has been rescheduled for October 18 – but it will be a VIRTUAL walk. This annual community event had been postponed in May due to the COVID pandemic. For this month's virtual event, there will NOT be a gathering of people at Seaside Park. We will be collecting donations either online or by check at church. Details will follow.



I also want to share that this year Holy Cross was recognized for our OUTSTANDING SUPPORT and participation over the years. Thanks to all who have participated in the CROP Walk, either by walking and/or making a donation.

---CAROL BURNS

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Notice for our readers and deacons; urgently in need of a commitment reply

Thank you to everyone who serves in the capacity of a reader or deacon in service to our church and Lord. Since the decision to continue with a one-service schedule at 10 a.m., and in order to complete the duties of scheduling, please update me by November 1 as to your commitment status for serving as a reader and/or deacon going forward to 2021. The 4th quarter schedule has been issued and it won't be too long before the 1st quarter schedule will have to be completed. Also, if anyone would like to be added to the rotation of readers, please contact me by November 1. I can be reached at home – 203-498-8141 or via the church office e-mail: office@holycrosstrumbull.com.

---DIANE DIETMAN



MAY GRACE AND PEACE
BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE.

2 PETER 1:2, NRSV



General Memorial Fund

In memory of Billie Skoog

The Bogen Family

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC — PIZZA TRUCK STYLE!

Yes, we made the best of a global pandemic to hold a fun outdoor event with a tasty alternative

We had a beautiful day for the picnic — not too hot, not too cold, it was just right! New Haven Pizza Truck arrived at 10:30 a.m. and started setting up and getting ready to feed 65 hungry picnic attendees at 11:30 a.m. And they were ready and waiting for us. Attendees brought their own chairs, a small table if they wanted to, and a beverage of their choosing and sat under the trees near the parsonage. There were two tables set up and upon one of them were six

beautiful gift baskets. On the other table were paddle balls, puzzle cubes, yo-yos, coloring books and crayons, etc., for our teens and younger ones to take and keep.

John Buck provided his audio system with complimentary music and graciously emceed our event. Church President Sherry Duff-Schiavone was invited up to the mic to say a prayer before we ate and provided some social-distancing guidelines for the duration of the picnic. A little later, Sherry took the mic again to thank Pastor Flammann for his one-

year interim service and presented him a “thank you” gift basket from Holy Cross.



Picnic attendees feasted on a tasty salad along with a variety of pizzas starting out with traditional pizzas and then moving on to some of their specialty pizzas such as: Mashed Potato and Bacon Pie (yum!), Margarita with fresh Basil, etc. If you would like to see their menu, go to <http://www.newhavenpizzatruck.com/menu/>. Gluten-free pizzas were available for those that requested them ahead of time. There were also dairy-free pizzas to accommodate attendees that need to avoid cheese and dairy. At the end of the picnic leftover pizzas were boxed and put aside by the pizza food truck staff for anyone to take home. They all went! — not one box of pizza was left behind!

And then we had the Hat Contest! See the accompanying photos of both the children’s and women’s categories. In the Children’s category we had two contestants. The 1st Place winner was Riley Riccio with her straw hat (with real sipping straws attached) and the 2nd Place winner was her brother, Luke, with his snack hat (with individual snack bags attached). In the Women’s category there were three contestants. The 1st Place Winner was Donna Bogen with her Turkey hat. Tied for 2nd Place were Edith Skoog (UCONN theme hat) and Andrea Meyer (floral theme hat). And in the Men’s category there was only one contestant — Pastor Flammann. He took 1st Place, deservedly so, for his Hasidic Rabbi hat.

“Pizza picnic,” continues on Page 5



We welcomed New Haven Pizza Truck to our 2020 Annual Church Picnic! At left, Dieter and Ingrid Leibold have to make a tough decision as to what type of pizza they will eat.



HATS OFF TO THESE WINNERS!

“Pizza Picnic,” continues from Page 4

All were invited to play the Egg on a Spoon Game. To win you needed to be the first of six people in your group to carry a wooden egg on a wooden spoon across the finish line. If the egg fell off the spoon, the player needed to return to START or return to the LEGO BLOCKS and begin again. The start of each game began with the count of 1, 2, and the blast of an air horn. The air horn was also blasted when a winner crossed the finish line. The winners of the six races were: Donna Bogen, Sherry Duff-Schaivone, Kyle Helminger, Dan Nyitrai, Jacob Nyitrai and Julianne Nyitrai.



Above: Coordination, speed and balance were the keys to the “Egg on a Spoon” game. At right, that’s Pastor Flammann receiving an award from Adela Buck (with emcee John Buck in the background) for cleverly donning his Hasidic Rabbi hat. In the three photos below are a few happy picnic guests – and, yes, they were all smiling behind their masks!

After the games, New Haven Pizza Truck provided an assortment of gelato and freshly-brewed Italian coffee (Cappuccino and Espresso). It all was delicious! During dessert



the door prizes were awarded, which were six beautiful gift baskets, all with a different theme: “Wine and Chocolate,” “Beauty,” “Back-to-School,” “Toy,” “Coffee and Donuts” and “Harvest.” Names of the winners were picked out of a bag and announced by Riley Riccio, who assisted the Emcee, John Buck. The winners picked the gift basket of their choosing when their names were called. The door prizes were awarded to: Sherry Duff-Schiavone and family,



Laurie Vaitkus and family, Dee Brueggemann, Ingrid and Dieter Leibold, Stephanie Helminger and family, and Nancy Dolan. (Note from Kathy: All these beautiful gift baskets were made and donated by Adela Buck. Thank you Adela!)

We want to acknowledge and say thank you for the beautiful floral bouquets presented to us by Edith Skoog. The mix of roses, gladiolas, and sunflowers were stunning! Thank you!

Left to right, above, are Dee Brueggemann, Nancy Dolan and Audrey Paray. At right are Michele and Rick Van Wart. And below are Lorraine and Jim Finch.



Lastly and with great appreciation, we want to say thank you to Sherry Duff-Schaivone who came up with the idea of a food truck event for the church picnic and to the people who made anonymous monetary donations and free-will offerings. We also give a big thank you to everyone that helped us set up before the picnic and/or helped us



clean up and put things away after the picnic: Rick Boivie, John Buck, Kerry Geffert, Chad Helminger, Kyle Helminger, Kristin Messerschmitt, Jacob Nyitrai, Julianne Nyitrai, and Danny Senft. And thanks so much to New Haven Pizza Truck — <http://www.newhavenpizzatruck.com> — the food and service were excellent!!!

---KATHY BOIVIE and ADELA BUCK
Discipleship Commission Co-Directors

HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

It's far from normal, but the excitement of school time is back for children and staff

A new school year has begun! We are so excited to be back in the classroom! In some aspects it is a lot different than past years. We are keeping children in their own groups, wearing masks, restricting families and visitors and doing lots of extra cleaning! But at the very heart of everything the children are still children...curious, engaged, energetic and ready to experience all our school has to offer! Our enrollment is growing so we praise God for that!

We have been busy getting to know all the children and their families. During the month of September, the children learned what it means to be a good friend and how God made each of us so very special. One of our favorite themes to start out the school year was 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 season of fall and pumpkins. We will measure pumpkins, weigh them and cut them open to see what is inside.

One of the things that makes our school unique is the Christian component. The children love our Bible story times together and are learning of God's great love for them. In September the children learned how God made this beautiful world. They learned about the first sin and how God took care of sin by providing us a Savior...Jesus! October's Bible stories will find us exploring the Old Testament to see how God blesses families as shown in the stories of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph and Moses.

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

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



CELEBRATING OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Oct. 1: Jennifer Van Wart
Oct. 2: Linda Torok
Oct. 3: Kristen Messerschmitt
Oct. 4: Doris Dietman
Oct. 5: Bill Flammann
Deb Leslie
Oct. 7: Dave Bogen
Oct. 8: Chris Deloge
Oct. 9: Lori Thompson
Oct. 11: Greg Dowling

Oct. 12: Sophie Martineli
Oct. 16: Audrey Gomes
Kaiden Gomes
Oct. 20: Joel Wilson
Oct. 22: Sally Finck
Oct. 25: Barbara Schneider
Oct. 26: Heather Fanning
Kendra Norman
Oct. 27: Maxwell Carola
Ethan Festi
Oct. 28: Mathew Benson
Rick Boivie
John Deloge
Ingrid Leibold
Oct. 29: Barbara White
Oct. 30: Michael Weldon
Oct. 31: Martha Schipul
Marcia Wilson

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:

The following individuals who helped post yard signs to help promote our Christian preschool program: **Sabine and Mike Bonnar, Don Meyer, Pat and John Deloge, Dave Bogen, Ingrid and Dieter Leibold, Marty Schaivone** (Sherry’s husband) and **Michele Glennon**. In case any names were missed, we apologize and give you a “thank you.”

Adela Buck and Kathy Boivie for organizing our Annual Holy Cross Church Picnic this year. It was a wonderful event and a good time was had by all. From sorting all the details with the pizza truck company, to organizing the games and preparing beautiful gift baskets, to even recruiting **John Buck**, Adela’s husband, who did an amazing job as our emcee and DJ! Due to the uncertainty of COVID, Kathy and Adela pulled this amazing event together in a matter of weeks (not months!). It was nice to see so many of our church family members socializing safely outdoors on a beautiful late summer afternoon! And in case you missed it, the conclusion of the “picnic recap” article on page 5 includes a list of those who helped Kathy and Adela with various aspects of this event.



This trio— **Kerry Geffert**, who continues to serve as the hymn leader at our services; **Greg Dowling**, who continues to record our weekly service and upload the recording to our youtube channel, and **Gary Messerschmitt**, for preparing the website for the uploads and making the service links “live.” These volunteer efforts are very much appreciated!

Donna DiLalla who stopped into the church office on September 10 to take care of replenishing the gluten-free wafers and helped out Mary with folding and collating the Sunday bulletins.



CHURCH CHUCKLES



A FIXER-UPPER

Words by C.S. Lewis, from *Mere Christianity*

Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what he is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently he starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is he up to?



The explanation is that he is building quite a different house from the one you thought of – throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but he is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it himself.

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