



The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

OCTOBER 2019

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXII, NO. 11

FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

Greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ!

It has been a delight to be in your midst and to serve with and among you in this season of life that some call "retirement." Thank you for the warm and hospitable welcome given to my wife, Christine, and me. When we moved into our home in Sandy Hook on Friday, June 7, and worshiped with you for the first time on Sunday, June 9, neither you nor I could have imagined that I'd be serving as your interim pastor just three months later. God has his own way of doing things and a sense of timing that is beyond us. May God bless our ministry partnership at Holy Cross in the while that we are together!

What the wider culture marks as Halloween, we who are heirs of the Reformation mark as "Reformation Day." It is a particular time to give thanks to God for the forgiveness, freedom, and life that God grants us by his *grace alone*, received by *faith alone*, and known through the message of *scripture alone*. To go all Latin on you, we speak of *sola gratia*, *sola fide*, and *sola scriptura*. It is not that these three "*solas*" make merely for a rallying cry, nor should they be regarded as overly complicated. Rather they serve to point out the main thing about our holy faith, and that is that we are called to center the whole of faith and life in CHRIST ALONE!

I regard it as good and appropriate that, on an annual basis, we should deck out the altar and chancel (and maybe even our attire) in red, the color of the church as we celebrate the Spirit's fire on Pentecost and the same Spirit's continued activity on certain church festivals. It's good to recall history (and I readily admit to holding blessed Martin Luther as a personal hero, though we must never be accused of being Luther worshipers), but what's essential is that the Reformation's insights propel us forward as we claim anew the church's mission. To throw just a little more Latin at you, one who was far wiser than I, the Reformed theologian Karl Barth, famously said *Ecclesia semper reformanda* ("The church must always be reformed").

If we're to be always reformed, let it not be according to human whim or fancy, but rather because we seek to be faithful and gospel-centered in our efforts to make Christ known. When it comes to evaluating our shared ministry and our life together as a congregation, a good question to ask when faced with decisions and choices is, "Is this in keeping with God's Word and the mission of Christ?" Does it serve people? Is it about earthly institutional "success" or does it advance the cause of Jesus?

So, Happy Reformation! Be sure to be with us as we celebrate on Sunday, October 27. Pray that God's Holy Spirit will continually re-form us to be as effective as we can be in lifting up Christ Alone!

Serving with you,

Pastor William H. Flammann

Sola Gratia
Grace Alone

Sola Fide
Faith Alone

Sola Scriptura
Scripture Alone



Thursday, October 10

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

Sunday, October 13

Receiving New Members during 9 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. – New Member Reception during Coffee Fellowship

Monday, October 14 – Columbus Day (Church Office and Preschool Closed)

Saturday, October 19

12:30 p.m. – Golf Outing at Tashua Knolls
6:00 p.m. – Potluck Dinner

Sunday, October 27

3:00 p.m. – Piano Recital
Featuring our Music Director Sally Finck and violinist Jennifer Brown

Saturday, November 2

9:30 p.m. – Breakfast & Artists



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

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

INTERIM PASTOR: Rev. Dr. William H. Flammann

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Sally Finck

NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR: Cliff Schrock

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION: Mary Schrock

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.



WHEN YOU FEEL LOST C.S. Lewis' words on the day's first task

"The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists of shoving it all back, in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in."

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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 Tuesday, October 15. Please take note of this deadline and plan ahead to publicize events or



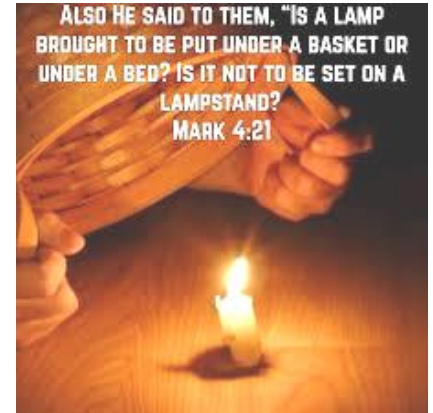
share news with your fellow Holy Cross members. You can submit articles to the newsletter mailbox, located outside the church office, or send them via e-mail to:

office@holycrosstrumbull.com.

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

Changes at Holy Cross challenge us to respond with understanding

There have been many changes in our church recently – some good, some difficult, some sad. Pastor Flammann serving as our interim pastor has been a blessing; that is a good thing. Does a blessing always feel like a good thing? We have moved to one service on Sunday morning for a limited (six-month) pilot after talking about it on and off for years; this is challenging. Is it a blessing? Many of us are being pushed out of our comfort zone. Can we rest with the discomfort? We said farewell to our beloved brother in Christ, Billie Skoog, in a beautiful service on Saturday, September 14. As we celebrate Billie's reunion with his Creator and find comfort in that certainty, we grieve his departure from our lives, from his wife Edith and from his family. His was a life well-lived and he will be greatly missed. As sad as this is, the remembrances spoken by Billie and Edith's grandson, granddaughter and Kerry Geffert brought us together with heartfelt memories, poetry and funny stories. The luncheon that followed allowed everyone in attendance to come together in fellowship and in support of Edith, the family and each other. This was beautiful. (Cliff Schrock has written a wonderful article about Billie Skoog; read it on the next page and smile.)



We have Board position terms ending in January, and have the following openings: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, Worship Director, Education Director, Discipleship Director and Shepherd. More changes bringing to us an opportunity to move past our comfort and routines. Is this a blessing? How are we each participating in the dynamic Word, and what is our response to eternal salvation and overwhelming love from God? I ask these questions of myself and of our congregation. I know we are being guided by the Holy Spirit; but it does not feel that way. I meditated on the following from Portals of Prayer, September 6, 2019: "God has an order for our lives too. Many of us don't understand why we can't just do things the way we each think best." I would abysmally fail if I relied on my own way. As you know, I am leaving the Board at the end of my term. After prayerful and thoughtful consideration as well as conversations with my family, my time is best spent in other service. Is now the time you will step forward? How is your light shining?

September and October have some of the most spectacular weather here in New England, enhanced by the changing leaves. Bright orange, deep red and vibrant yellow color our yards, parks and hiking trails. I hope you have quiet time to be still, embrace the change, and breathe. God is with us.

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

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Aw-fall! Share some laughs – or groans – with these autumn-themed jokes

- What did the tree say to autumn? "Leaf me alone!"
- What did one autumn leaf say to another? "I'm falling for you."
- How do you fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch.
- Why are trees very forgiving? Because in the fall they "let it go" and in the spring they "turn over a new leaf."
- How do leaves get from place to place? With autumn-mobiles.
- What's the ratio of a pumpkin's circumference to its diameter? Pumpkin pi.



SPECIAL EVENT PLANNING MEETING

Volunteers requested to assist with annual event

Please join us on Sunday, October 6, for a Breakfast & Artists planning meeting. This big event will take place on Saturday, November 2, and we will need lots of volunteers to make this year's event a success! Come hear how you can help maybe by setting up tables, helping publicize the event, or cleaning up afterward. We hope to see you after church on Sunday, October 6!

---STEPHANIE HELMINGER and KENDRA NORMAN
 Social Ministry Co-Directors

FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

A Christian life that gives us inspiring direction at an important time at Holy Cross

All of God's people deserve special tribute upon their passing and arrival before their Heavenly Father, so please don't take this extra attention on Holy Cross member Bill Skoog as unfair preferential treatment. Our dear Billie passed away on September 8, having lived for 92 years. Now he lives on in eternity, "more alive now than when he was with us," as our founding pastor Rev. Froehlich once said at a memorial service for another HC member.

Because of the wide-spread presence Bill had in our church, I would like to write about him in a manner that will make his way of living useful and have a lasting impact on those of us left behind at this moment in time, which will be one of Holy Cross' defining points in its history.

It is a bit of a shock to write that I only knew Bill for 35 of those 92 years. It felt like I knew him longer. It's also fascinating to realize that he was only three years younger than I am now when I met him! That will actually help me in my commentary this month.

I begin with the premise that we need an army of Billie Skoogs right now at Holy Cross. You can pick the number of soldiers, but no number could be too high and here's why.

Holy Cross celebrated its 62nd birthday this year, a year in which our third pastor in history, Rev. Eric Wismar, accepted a call to serve full time in military chaplaincy ministry. We now face what can be a daunting experience, known as the call process, but let's think of this more as an opportunity for Holy Cross.

In fact, it would behoove us to think of what our congregation faces in the next several months as a positive challenge rather than lamenting our misfortune or all the elements of church life we feel have slipped. What our church has exhibited in days of old is a "can do" attitude, and we will need to revive and enhance that spirit as we look to our next shepherd.

It is no secret that congregations like ours face many challenges from the wider culture and changing practices around what has been sometimes called "organized religion," but what we need at this moment in time is what Bill represented in Christian living. Attitudes like his become both magnetic and positively contagious. Of all his great traits, the one I'd like to emphasize is that he unflinchingly thought of other people more than himself.

How else would you explain someone who did things for others without being asked, such as: stand in the narthex and greet people when there was no greeter; put the hymn numbers up on Saturdays, the same day he'd come to help with the altar flowers (and let's remember he did most of these selfless acts accompanied by Edith) and prepare the coffee for Sunday; do repair work around the church; haul kids around in a little trailer during the church picnic; create "Skoogies" of his own unique invention (I am so pleased to have some golf-themed ones); create wreaths from scratch and then put them on the outside of the church; do errands of any type; and show an interest in your life and ask about what's new with you. I wouldn't know what to guess on the number of golf articles he passed to me.



Paying more attention to others than he did to himself. That was like the prime objective in Billie Skoog's life.

Coincidentally, what does Holy Cross need now in this moment of its ministry? People who will give attention to the church in service where they see their talents fitting in the best, worship attendance, Bible class attendance, volunteering, leading, participating, financial giving, and offering encouragement where it is needed. Hence, this is why we need the Bill Skoog army.

Soon there will be opportunities for office positions and the call committee. If you've not done either one of those tasks, fear not. You will learn, you will find your niche, you will be of use. You will help Holy Cross move forward into the future, serving God in the Trumbull community.

You will be ensuring that the Bill Skoog way of life is not becoming passe and fading away. This sophisticated, high-speed world we live in is trying to push us the other way and make life all about ourselves. Don't let it. Be like Bill and be a servant for God and others.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

Holy Cross Word Managing Editor

You are cordially invited to join us for a very special event...

Breakfast and Artists

Saturday, November 2nd

9:30 a.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

* **EAT** ~ Enjoy a delicious, hot breakfast buffet

* **SHOP** ~ Browse and shop from a variety of local vendors & crafters

* **BE INSPIRED** ~ Hear Kellyann Day, the CEO of *New Reach* in New Haven, CT.



To make advance ticket reservations, please email slhelming@yahoo.com.

Suggested donation of \$10/person. Proceeds will be donated to New Reach.



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 **David** and **Michelle Anastasio Festi** upon the Baptism of their son, **Ethan David** on September 8. Ethan's sponsors are his uncle and aunt, Tom and Maria Anastasio. We welcome Ethan David into the Family of God, through the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism, and look forward to the new relationship we will have with him.

IN THE MAILBAG

From Edith Skoog and Family

To the Entire Holy Cross Family,
I am overwhelmed with all the sincere love and support I have received from you all during the past few months. You were instruments in sending the divine strength I truly needed. Words cannot express the appreciation I feel for all you have done for me and my family. Your attendance at the funeral service and the reception following was truly an expression of the love you all had for Billie and that was deeply moving for me and my family. I pray we all can continue his legacy of sharing God's love and peace with each other.

---EDITH SKOOG AND FAMILY



**Encourage one another
and
build up each other.**
—1 Thessalonians 5:11 NRŞV



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This four-ingredient recipe from the church picnic is simple to make, yummy to eat!

Attention cooks, bakers, and those who love to eat! It has been quite some time since this column has appeared – nearly four years ago! – but following the September 15 Annual Church Picnic Michele Van Wart was asked to share her recipe for “Chili Ranch Beans.” Thank you, Michele, for sharing this recipe with your church family.

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

Chili Ranch Beans

- 3 bottles of Heinz chili sauce
- 3 large cans of Bush's baked beans, original recipe
- 2 pounds 80/20 ground beef
- 1 large red onion

Thinly slice or dice onion - cook till softened in olive oil - salt and pepper

Salt and pepper beef – cook in large pan, being sure to break up chunks while cooking.

Meanwhile drain beans but do not rinse, discard bean liquid.

When beef is done, add onion and chili sauce.

Simmer for 30 minutes -- add beans, gently stir till well blended.

Transfer to baking dish, cover with tinfoil. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes

A note from Michele: “Try variations and make this your own. I would add cayenne pepper, red chili flakes for a spicy hot dish. Also try topping with shredded cheese. Yum!”



HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

The new year has begun and so has all the learning and exploring about “all things 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 11 three-year-olds, 10 Pre-K children and 22 four-year-olds.



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 beautiful season of Fall. We will have our first Comfort Dog visit as well as our annual visit from the Long Hill Fire Department. The entire school will go on a field trip to Benedicts in Monroe on October 16. We look forward to visiting the animals, taking a hay ride, playing on the hay and corn mazes and, finally, picking our own pumpkin!

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

In Jesus' Name,
---MICHELE GLENNON



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 – please jot it down and put it in the “newsletter” mailbox. This month we say “thank you” to:

Diane Dietman for sharing her awesome garden vegetables – especially the delicious tomatoes – again this year. For those of us who don’t have a garden, having the home-grown vegetables was a treat.

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

Cindy Ciccica for giving of her time for a couple hours to help in the church office on September 12.

All those who assisted with planning and helping with the Annual Church Picnic on September 15. From those who bought supplies and grilled, to those who brought food to share, to those who did the set-up and clean-up – we give you all a great big thank you!



General Memorial Fund

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

Joe and Cindy Ciccica
John and Pat Deloge

General Memorial Fund

In memory of Billie Skoog

Otto and Mary Atkinson
Joe and Cindy Ciccica
John and Pat Deloge
Robert and Janet Enko
Rev. Ronald Froehlich
Robert and Susan Kiley
George Lindeberg
Frank and Julie Nyitrai
The Matthew Rentz Family
Marty and Sherry Duff Schaivone
Cliff and Mary Schrock
Joelle Schrock & Joshua Cyr
Rodney and Linda Seaman
Karel and Maureen Sheveland
Andrew and Lydia Struzik
Thomas and Ellen Therriault
Derek Villani
Lorraine Williams

Share the Hope Fund

In memory of Billie Skoog
The Bogen Family

CELEBRATING OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



OCT. 1: JENNIFER VAN WART	OCT. 9: LORI THOMPSON	OCT. 27 MAXWELL CAROLA
OCT. 2: LINDA TOROK	OCT. 11: GREG DOWLING	ETHAN FESTI
OCT. 3: KRISTEN MESSERSCHMITT	OCT. 15: PAM SIMMONS	OCT. 28: MATHEW BENSON
OCT. 4 DORIS DIETMAN	OCT. 16: AUDREY GOMES	RICK BOIVIE
JODI GENTRY	KAIDEN GOMES	JOHN DELOGE
OCT. 5 PASTOR FLAMMANN	OCT. 20: JOEL WILSON	INGRID LEIBOLD
DEB LESLIE	OCT. 22: SALLY FINCK	OCT. 29: BARBARA WHITE
OCT. 7 DAVE BOGEN	OCT. 25: BARBARA SCHNEIDER	OCT. 30: MICHAEL WELDON
MIHARU WISMAR	OCT. 26: HEATHER FANNING	OCT. 31: MARTHA SCHIPUL
OCT. 8: CHRIS DELOGE	KENDRA NORMAN	MARCIA WILSON

A LOOK AT BEAUTY

God's light connects our sinfulness into the beauty of His love

Remember kaleidoscopes – those tubes you hold up to your eye and point toward the light to see colorful shapes? When the far end of the optical instrument is turned, fragments of material inside an “object cell” shift and mirrors set at angles reflect light through the pieces, forming ever-changing patterns. A multi-hued flower might become sunlight through a round stained-glass window or fireworks on a clear night. Various materials can be placed in the cell – tiny figures, twisted bits of metal, lace, viscous liquid – but often broken bits of glass are used, to beautiful effect! In fact, David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope in 1817, named it after the Greek word *kalos*, for “beauty.”



Everyone feels broken, twisted or shattered at times. But when God's perfect light shines in and through us, reflecting among the fragments of our imperfect lives, we, too, become beautiful. Out of our sinfulness and brokenness shines the beauty of compassion, kindness, perseverance, hope, love – delightful patterns to brighten this hurting world.

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*“I have held many things in my hands,
and I have lost them all;
but whatever I have placed
in God's hands, that I still possess.”*

—*Martin Luther*

CHURCH CHUCKLES

