



The **HOLY CROSS WORD**

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

SEPTEMBER 2021

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXIV, NO. 10

HEAD TO THE HEART

Singing the Song of our Savior

"Let's start at the very beginning; a very good place to start. When you read you begin with 'A,B,C.'" If you are a fan of *The Sound of Music* like I am, then perhaps you found yourself humming or singing the first two sentences of this article.

If you have no idea what I'm talking about... go here <https://youtu.be/drnBMAEA3AM> (you're welcome)!

That is precisely where I am in my ministry at Holy Cross – the very beginning. I'm learning my letters and numbers so that soon I can put together complete sentences, write paragraphs, and eventually contribute to the ongoing story that God started writing here more than 60 years ago. Praise God for his faithfulness in keeping the Gospel alive and well in Trumbull through you and the dedicated servants He has called here – pastors, teachers, leaders, and all who have used their gifts and talents to serve the Lord, and His people, in this place.

Let's switch from the story metaphor to a song. I love hearing the congregation sing, and I love to sing as well. One of the great experiences of my life was singing with the Kapelle choir at Concordia University in Chicago. The amazing thing about singing together, is that when everyone is on pitch, and in time with one another – all the different voices suddenly blend together to produce a new voice. And with all the different voices coming together as one, it seems effortless to sing and to listen to.

But in order for voices to come together, and for songs to be written and sung, we have to go back to the beginning. It's a very good place to start. If our Do-Re-Mi's aren't in good order, the rest of the song won't be either. And we want to sing good songs together. We want to sing the beautiful Gospel to those who haven't heard it, or need to hear it again. We want to sing and praise God together. So we are going to go back to the basics, as they say. You know your ABC's from the past, and I know my Do-Re-Mi's from where I've been, but we've only just begun to put them together in a new way. It will take some time to learn from each other, trust each other, fail together, succeed together – but through it all we will keep singing.

Jesus says, "I am the Beginning and the End." So let's go back to the beginning. Our focus, and our purpose, and our goal is always Christ. But I look forward to all the different, wonderful and unique voices that will contribute to the one song we sing together – the song of our Savior, Jesus.

Pastor Nathan Erb





Monday, September 6 – Labor Day (CHURCH OFFICE/PRESCHOOL CLOSED)

Thursday, September 9

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

Sunday, September 12

9:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion

Noon – Holy Cross Annual Picnic—Pizza Truck Style!



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 a.m.

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

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Church Office: 203-268-4555; **Church Office e-mail:** office@holycrosstrumbull.com

Website: www.holycrosstrumbull.org

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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).



Like Holy Cross on Facebook!

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



DIVINELY COMPOSED

J.S. Bach: God inspires me

"I play the notes as they are written, but it is God who makes the music."

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

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

PASTOR ERB'S INSTALLATION DAY

It was a day of praise and adoration when HCLC's fourth pastor was blessed to begin his ministry

It is believed that when a congregation goes through a vacancy that it is good for its soul to have to "suffer" through a lengthy period of fending for itself while the Call process is conducted. Suffering is good for the soul, as we all know. That being the case, the souls of Holy Cross members had sufficiently been through the suffering stage and were ready to celebrate when July 25 arrived for that was the day of Rev. Nathan D. Erb's Rite of Installation service at 4 p.m. at Holy Cross.

A robust assembly was on hand when Pastor Erb, with his immediate and extended families also present along with several invited friends, spoke his commitment to Holy Cross as well as affirm vows to the Lutheran teachings. On hand in support were several clergy members: speaker Rev. William Meyer, who had been Holy Cross' Vacancy Pastor (since September 13, 2020) and titled his sermon

"Installation," continues on page 4



***A picture is worth a thousand words!
Or pictures, in this case!***

***See the next two pages for more images from the installation service and reception. These photos are just a small assortment of a digital album that can be viewed by going to:
holycrosstrumbull.org/installation***



“Installation,” continues from page 3

“Together;” officiant Rev. Robert Beinke of St. Peter-Norwalk; liturgist Rev. Robert Morris of Christ the King-Newtown; providing greetings and blessings were Rev. Travis Yee of Trinity Lutheran-Glen Cove, Long Island; Rev. James Dorner of Albany Lutheran Ministry; Rev. Evan Scamman from First Lutheran-Greenwich, and Rev. Gem Gabriel from Our Redeemer Lutheran-New London. Messages from Rev. Dr. William Flammann, who had been HC’s Interim Pastor (September 2019-September 6, 2020), and NED President Rev. Timothy Yeadon were read. A shepherd’s crook was gifted to Rev. Erb, and a tasty cookie treat collection from a St. Peter’s baker was gifted to his family.

Following the service, an installation reception for Pastor Erb was held in the Froehlich Fellowship Hall; co-organizer Pat Deloge reported 145 attended. An excellent catered meal was served, and during a brief program, HC President Sherry Duff and Riley Riccio presented Rev. Erb with a personalized commemorative gift on behalf of the Board and Call Committee. Afterward, he addressed the attendees.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

Holy Cross Word Managing Editor





It's tradition at Installation services that fellow pastors attend and give their blessings to the new pastor. Pastor Erb's installation was no exception. Back row, left to right are Rev. Travis Yee, Trinity Lutheran-Glen Cove, Long Island; Rev. Gem Gabriel, Our Redeemer-New London; Rev. William Meyer, retired, served as Holy Cross' vacancy pastor for nearly one year; and Rev. James Dorner, Albany Lutheran Ministry. Front row, left to right are Rev. Robert Beinke, St. Peter-Norwalk, and serving as acting NED President; Pastor Erb, Rev. Robert Morris, Christ the King-Newtown; and Rev. Evan Scamman, First Lutheran-Greenwich.



With the Installation Service complete, it was time for this Erb Family photo: Pastor and Elisabeth with their daughters Audrey, Charlotte and Abigail.

HOLY CROSS ANNUAL PICNIC

It's time for a "pizza truck" picnic at noon on Sunday, September 12!

If you were at last year's picnic, you know what a wonderful time was had by all! Here it is a year later and time for a repeat performance. We learned that we can bring our Holy Cross church family together in a safe and socially-distanced setting to reconnect and enjoy fellowship and some delicious pizza and yummy desserts!

New Haven Pizza Truck will be providing the food again this year. The menu will include pizzas (with a variety of toppings) and salad along with six flavors of gelato, and espresso and cappuccino. Certain dietary restrictions will be accommodated with individual personal pizzas (advance notice required).

For everyone's safety this event will be BYO – Bring Your Own – drinks, table and lawn chairs or picnic blanket. We'll have plenty of helpers to help carry and set up chairs, etc. In addition to good food there will be music, door prizes and a kids table for toys/activities and outdoor games.

Advance ticket purchase is necessary. The cost for attendees is as follows:

- Adults (ages 18+) - \$15 per person
- Teens (ages 13-17) - \$8 per person
- Children (ages 7-12) - \$5 per person
- Young Children (ages 6 and under) – FREE



Please use this [link](#) to sign up and let us know that you will be attending and which ticket(s) you require. **The deadline to sign up is Sunday, September 5.**

Payment for tickets can be made in one of two ways:

1. Pay online using this [link](#). Use the "Special Events - Church Picnic" box.
2. By check, payable to Holy Cross Lutheran Church with Picnic on the memo line. Checks can be mailed or delivered to the Holy Cross office.

To make your reservation by phone or if you have any questions about the event, contact Adele ([203-218-9314](tel:203-218-9314)) or Kathy ([203-305-0750](tel:203-305-0750)).

We look forward to seeing you all at noon on Sunday, September 12. In the event of rain, the current plan is to move the picnic indoors and we'll operate according to CDC guidelines.

Thank you all and we look forward to catching up with you at the picnic!

Blessings,

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

P.S. [Link](#) to sign up and [Link](#) to pay for ticket(s)

CROP WALK

The 2021 annual walk for world hunger will be an in-person event

Save the date! The annual CROP Hunger Walk is on Sunday, October 17. It will be an in-person walk this year, beginning at the United Congregational Church in Bridgeport, 2200 North Avenue, Bridgeport. Watch and listen for more details later this month and into early October.

---CAROL BURNS



Share the Hope Fund

In celebration of Edith Skoog's 90th birthday

Dan and Donna Senft

GETTING TO KNOW THE ERBS, PART 2

In which we continue with more “insight” into the new Holy Cross pastor and his family

Not too far into his position as Holy Cross pastor, Rev. Nathan Erb has already shown us he has a self-deprecating sense of humor. He said he was tone deaf in evaluating his singing ability, but we’ve seen, or heard, actually, that he’s not so bad. Oh, let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord, right!?

So what else can we add to what was said about the Erb family in the previous Holy Cross Word? Well, how about some basics, pulled from the narthex display case presentation on the family (make sure to take the time to read it). Our pastor was born in Alton in the southern area of the great state of Illinois, the “Land of Lincoln.” His birthday is July 26. His favorites are: animal—lion; candy—chocolate-covered almonds; color—orange; food—bacon; movie— “Gladiator;” music group—NeedtoBreathe; sport—Spartan races; and vacation—Anna Maria Island, Florida.

His favorite Bible story is that of Jairus’ daughter, but he responded in an email to me that, “A verse that always resonates with me, and was used at my ordination, is John 3:30, ‘He must increase, but I must decrease.’ John the Baptist understood he had a role to play in pointing others to Christ. If others were looking to John for answers, he wasn’t doing it right.” He also has a tie for favorite hymn: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” and “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God.” As for classical music composers, Pastor Erb feels there are great ones in every era and currently has two co-favorites with John Williams and Hans Zimmer.

Like most of us, Pastor Erb has someone influential to him in his spiritual education and he cites his pastor growing up, Pastor Groth, explaining, “He used creativity and humor in his sermons, which kept my attention, but outside the pulpit he was also very approachable and easy to talk to. I remember realizing one day, that ‘he’s just a normal guy, who happens to be a pastor!’ ”

Relatedly, a favorite memory of his from childhood helped shape his future in the ministry. He wrote, “My parents were counselors at a Lutheran Summer Camp that was sponsored and hosted by several local churches. Every summer, for two weeks, we’d go up to Camp Piasa in Grafton, Illinois, where 5th-8th graders would attend. Before I was old enough to be a camper, we were lovingly called ‘camp-brats.’ Then I attended as a camper for the four years I was eligible, and after that, as a high school student, I volunteered as a junior counselor! It was one summer during camp that an adult counselor mentioned to me that he saw unique gifts in me to connect with kids, and share my faith in a natural way. I think that conversation was a pivotal moment for me, as God led me into full-time ministry.”

On a few lighthearted topics, Pastor Erb commented on baseball, commute time and TV shows. His birthplace of Alton was just north of St. Louis, but he shows stronger tendencies as a Mets fan than Cardinals, noting, “I was born a Cardinal fan, and could still be considered one. I adopted the Mets during my 16 years on Long Island. I’d like to believe there is room in my heart for both.” And he was asked to note how much better his commute to work changed here at Holy Cross. “The journey from the parsonage to the doors of Holy Cross is the second-shortest in my career history. In my first call as a DCE on Long Island, I lived a block away, then during an interim/intern year I lived only about 100 feet from the church I was serving. After that it was about a two-minute commute from an apartment in Garden City, then about a six-minute commute, and in Illinois it was 20 minutes on a good day...not as easy to run home quick if I forgot something! Regardless of the time it takes currently, we are grateful for the house Holy Cross provides. Lots of great experiences yet to come!”

As a follow-up to last newsletter’s remark about how the TV show “M*A*S*H” was the favorite show of founding pastor Rev. Ronald Froehlich and our second pastor Rev. Emil Witschy, Pastor Erb gives the nod to the great PBS series “Downton Abbey,” but he indicated that he hasn’t “missed a season of ‘Survivor,’ which is returning this fall! After that, there are plenty of classics, ‘Seinfeld,’ ‘The Office,’ oh, and I’m also enjoying ‘Cobra Kai!’ ”

And before we go, let’s not forget the Erb ladies. Elisabeth’s favorite Bible story is Jesus’ birth; color—lavender or light aqua blue, and sport—baseball. As for the girls, Abigail’s favorite Bible story is Esther; color—teal/turquoise; Audrey’s fave Bible story is also Esther; color—pink; Charlotte’s favorite Bible story is Easter; color—purple. And the favorite sport for all three girls is swimming. There is much more to learn about these four by studying the narthex display case presentation on the family.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

Holy Cross Word Managing Editor

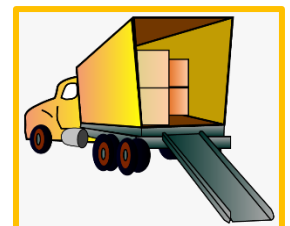
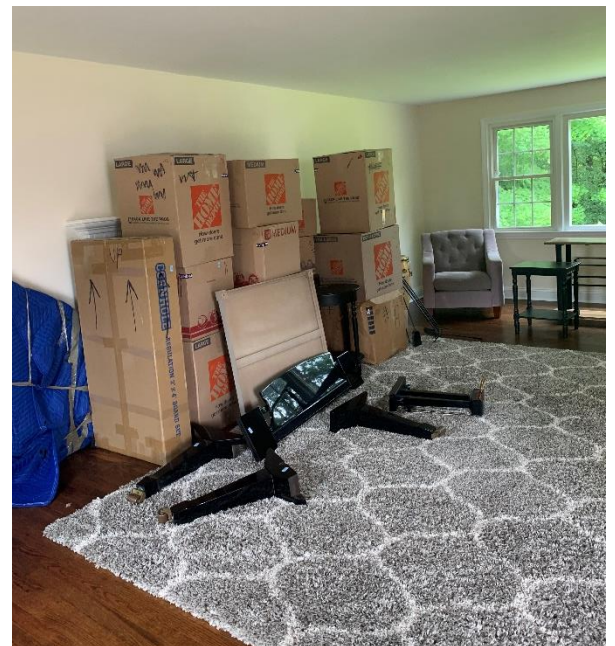


THE ERBS' WEATHER-CHALLENGED MOVE-IN DAY

Not even a tropical storm could prevent the Erbs from getting their belongings into the parsonage

It wasn't a day worthy of living on in infamy, but July 8, 2021, will long be remembered in Trumbull, Connecticut, as the day tropical storm Elsa timed its visit to our area at roughly the same time the Erb family and their belongings arrived from Illinois at the HC parsonage in a moving van.

While the moving truck staff did its thing to bring items into the Erbs' new home, the welcome committee's efforts were also in action. Headed by Cindy and Joe Ciccio, this committee and the loving donations by Holy Cross members had done a marvelous job of making the Erbs feel welcome after their 1,000-mile journey: numerous gift baskets and cards, a full fridge, welcome signs, flowers, and special gifts for the three Erb children were present when they arrived, as seen in this selection of photos. By the end of the day, our parsonage, which had been vacant for a couple years, was occupied once more with occupants full of vim and vigor.



COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

26 children in need within the greater-Trumbull community receive backpacks and school supplies

Most families take for granted that they will send their children to school with a backpack and school supplies. For children that are in the caseload of Holy Cross "adopted" DCF social worker, they don't have the means or the parental support to go back-to-school shopping at Wal-Mart, Staples or Target. That's where YOU, as members and friends of Holy Cross stepped in! Collectively, we provided the social worker we support – Mimose Ulysse-Laurenard – with 26 new backpacks completely filled with more than 20 different school supply items. The disadvantaged children receiving these filled backpacks not only come from Bridgeport, but Trumbull, Fairfield, Wilton and Stratford.



All donations, no matter how big or small, combined for many, many blessings for these 26 children. Without sharing names, I give a big thank you to two families who donated nearly half of the needed backpacks. An estimate of the in-total donation of all backpacks and school supplies is more than \$2,000! You helped to give all the backpack recipients a good start to the 2021-22 school year, along with a bit of extra love and self-confidence. Starting the school year can be overwhelming to children, especially as the COVID-19 health situation continues. With new teachers, new friends and for some children a new school, the added stress of remaining healthy can cause a bit more anxiety. For kids that are in the DCF system, wondering where they will get a backpack and the required school supplies can also be added stress. Thank you to everyone for supporting this important social ministry project.

To assist with this annual project, I applied for and was approved for a Thrivent Financial Action Team. After filling out a simple online application describing this community-outreach project, the project was approved and Thrivent provided me with dark grey "Live Generously" T-shirts and a \$250 Visa gift card which was used to purchase the supplies needed to set up the project and supplement the purchasing of a few other needed supplies. Special thanks to Donna and Sarah Bogen, Elisabeth and Abigail Erb, and Rebecca and Lia Veteri for taking time out of their morning on August 7 to serve as our Thrivent Action Team of volunteers. They all had fun filling the backpacks and tagging each one with the child's name. The backpacks were delivered to Mimose on August 11, and she was planning to begin delivering them that next day.

One final note: While we have all the needed backpacks for this year's project, if you feel so moved to purchase a backpack(s) that you may see on sale between now and early winter, you may certainly donate it to Holy Cross for the July 2022 collection.

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



Packing up school supplies with love! With love you all donated backpacks and school supplies. With love the backpacks were filled by Sarah Bogen, Donna Bogen, Lia Veteri, Rebecca Veteri, Elisabeth Erb, Abigail Erb and Mary Schrock (both masked and quickly unmasked!). With love the children receiving these backpacks were included in prayer.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Editor's Note: In case you missed this from the July 30 e-mail blast, here is the thank you note sent to Holy Cross members from Pastor Erb and his family.

THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

Hello Holy Cross! The Erb Family is settling in and we are excited to begin a new chapter in our lives with you!

If you've ever moved to a new city before, or into a new house, or started a new job, or joined a new church, or enrolled in a new school, or had any kind of new beginning...then you know that a lot of change (*especially all at once*) can be difficult. What makes it easier is having people to help you. It's having friends to welcome you! It's having a church community open their arms and make you feel at home. That's exactly what you've done for my family – you have cared for us. Thank you!

We thank you for a beautiful house to move right in to; for a fridge stocked with food; for beautifully arranged flowers (*one for each of our girls!*); for gift baskets filled with sweet treats and gift cards to your favorite places; for the prayer shawls in our favorite colors; for pizza on the night we arrived (*much later than we had planned 😊*); for the smiles and the hugs and fist bumps; for the attention to detail regarding the Installation service and the amazing reception this past weekend (*and the special kids menu – my girls loved it!*), and the countless other things you have already done or said to welcome us. We feel it. We are blessed. Praise the Lord!

We look forward to what God has in store for Holy Cross and ask His blessing as we begin our ministry together.

“Lord, we are grateful for all you provide. As we now begin a new chapter in the story you have been writing for Holy Cross, guide us by your Holy Spirit. We seek your wisdom as we think about how to best love and serve our neighbors together. Fill our hearts with the hope and joy of Jesus – as we live in Faith. Grant that we might grow to be an ever brighter light in Trumbull, shining the good news of life and salvation in Jesus' name. Amen.

In God's Grace,
Pastor Nathan Erb

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:

To **Cindy and Joe Ciccia** for heading the Welcome Committee that coordinated the details for the arrival of the Erb Family. Thank you also to all those who served on this committee, with each person taking on a “welcome” task: **Sabine Bonnar, Pat Deloge, Sherry Duff, Lorraine Finch, Karen and Kerry Geffert, Michele Glennon** and the **summer camp preschool children, Stephanie Helminger, Ingrid Leibold** and the **Dorcas Guild, Kristen Messerschmitt, Kendra Norman, Mary Schrock, Donna Senft** and **Edith Skoog**.

To **Pat Deloge** and **Donna Senft** for heading the committee that coordinated the July 25 Installation Reception. Thank you also to all those who helped Pat and Donna: **Dj Broadbin; Cindy and Joe Ciccia; Diane Dietman** and **Bill Nishti; Donna and Gary DiLalla; Our President, Sherry Duff** and her husband **Marty Schaivone; Lorraine and Jim Finch; Karen and Kerry Geffert; Michele Glennon** and the **Preschool camp teachers; John Deloge; Andrea Meyer; Kendra Norman; the Riccio Family, Deb and Vinny, Alex, Riley and Luke; David and Mary Ann Schiller; Dan Senft; Maura and Charlie Senft; Edith Skoog; Michele and Rick Van Wart; Rebecca and Lia Veteri;** and to **Lydia Struzik**, for sending out evites and invitations.

WE ARE
grateful
FOR YOU!

Cliff Schrock for repairing and reattaching the Holy Cross road sign to the post along White Plains Road.

To **John Anantharaj** and **Cindy Ciccia** for providing the pictures of Pastor Erb's installation day and the Erb Family move-in day, respectively.

To **Donna** and **Sarah Bogen, Elisabeth** and **Abigail Erb, Mary Schrock** and **Rebecca** and **Lia Veteri**, for giving of their time on the morning of Saturday, August 7, to fill the backpacks with school supplies for the Covenant to Care ministry.

Jim and **Lorraine Finch** for supplying their garden flowers for the altar arrangements during the summer growing season.

LEARN OF & BE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

The Holy Cross Word monthly “Bible study on paper”: Acts, Chapter 5

Editor’s note: *To do this study, you will need to open your own Bible in front of you, of whatever version you prefer, or you can go to a website such as BibleGateway.com, and enter the Bible version you prefer and this Bible chapter, Acts 5, in the appropriate search fields.*



Acts, Chapter 5, 42 verses—This chapter continues to show the excitement of the church’s early growth, but with the element of how that growth is achieved through the Christian leaders and followers being tested, sometimes in a starkly challenging way. Please pause now to read the full Chapter 5 of Acts (using an aid such as BibleGateway.com if needed).

Chapter analysis—

Taking a closer look at Chapter 5, Chapter 4 had ended with an interesting anecdote about how the believers had shown unity in not having one individual with greater possessions than anyone else, which was an illustration of the free-will offering concept. (Chapter 4 showed as well that the religious leaders who opposed the new believers were ready to attack than just be lectured to.)

In shades of Adam and Eve’s repartee when tempted, Chapter 5 starts with showing how temptation can reveal man’s weaknesses. Like Barnabas, Ananias sold a piece of property but unlike Barnabas, Ananias kept some of the money back from the common good, with his wife, Sapphira’s, knowledge. Peter chastises Ananias for the deceit and says to him that the lie was to God not to Peter and his fellow believers. Such a stern pronouncement, after a severe reprimand, caused Ananias to collapse and die on the spot. On the face of it, we could feel his death was from the shock of being chastised. But sin is serious and Ananias’ death showed God’s judgment. His death is unnerving and unsettling to read about, but the punctuation mark comes three hours later. Sapphira, unaware of her husband’s instant death, comes to Peter, who through his questioning discovers she was in on the ploy and Peter predicts that she, too, will suffer the consequences of the deception and be buried next to her husband by the burial staff returning from their task. She also drops dead, the twin passings sending the church into shock and “great fear.”

As Christians, we know that our sins have to be dealt with and reconciled with God through repentance. Did Peter overstep his earthly authority and was he complicit in the deaths of the couple? Did they die from shock? Perhaps Peter was just anticipating God’s action. Certainly, the sudden deaths show how God is gracious. If we were all subjected to such sudden judgment, life would be tragic, for sure, but God defers judgment and our imperfectness is forgiven.

Following the traumatic account, the seriousness of lie and the value of truth were emphasized and the apostles continued to bring more believers, both men and women, into the brotherhood. As Jesus had instructed and given them the power to do, the apostles were curing the sick. A contrast with today is then all of the sick were cured; not all who need healing are cured today.

Perhaps because of the disciples’ success, the high priest showed his jealousy and had them arrested and put in prison. But God sent an angel to release them from jail and they were instructed to go to the temple early in the morning and continue their teaching.

The high priest and his council thought to make a big show and bring the disciples before them but were told the apostles were gone, prison locked, and guards in place and they were, in fact, teaching in the temple. The disciples were peacefully brought before them and once again told to stop preaching in Jesus’ name; they were tired of hearing how Christ’s blood had been on them. But as he had done many times, Peter responded that the disciples obeyed God, not man, and they were God’s witnesses to Christ’s life.

Of course, that didn’t do anything to appease the Jewish leaders and they wanted to kill the disciples. But a calm, wise Pharisee was in the council named Gamaliel; he was described as a rabbi who belonged to the liberal group of Jewish teachers who followed the interpretations of Hillel, a deeply respected rabbi who died shortly before the time of Jesus. Gamaliel was also who Saul of Tarsus (Paul) studied under. His counsel included reviewing the examples of Theudas and Judas the Galilean; the former had led a revolt against the Romans, the latter was an outlaw during King Herod’s time. Each had followers, but Gamaliel pointed out they each were killed. His point was that the council should leave Christ’s disciples alone and if their plan was of God the council would be fighting against God to harm them. If their plan is of man’s doing, they will fail.

GOD *exalted*
HIM *at HIS*
right hand as
Leader and
SAVIOR.
 Acts 5:31, NRSV

“Newsletter Bible Study,” continues from page 11

The council cooled off on its plan to kill the apostles, but not enough to save them from being flogged. They sent them off again with orders to not speak about Jesus anymore. But, of course, the disciples took their punishment as a badge of honor that they were worthy to suffer for Christ and they continued to be in the temple teaching about Jesus as the Messiah, a true witness of their faith.

Sources: Harper Study Bible; The Everyday Bible: New Testament; Egermeier’s Bible Story Book.

Next month: Acts, Chapter 6.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

THE CHRISTIAN CHILD

Pastor Erb on some life lessons he feels are important for our children

During the Call process following Pastor Wismar’s departure, a constant theme in what Holy Cross members thought was important in a new shepherd was someone who could put a focus on our youth and help invigorate our Christian education program. Pastor Erb, with a young family and a DCE background, is uniquely qualified to help do just that.

As an accompaniment to the two-part series on getting to know the Erb family, he was asked what are some top life lessons you feel should be taught to children? Knowing that he will speak about our children on many more occasions to come, here was his written reply to that question.

Point 1: Go to Church. More importantly, remember that you ARE the church. When I was younger I learned a little song, “The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is a people. I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we are the church together!” I certainly went through a phase where I complained about going to church, and getting up early, and it’s so boring, but...my parents didn’t make it an option not to go. But it was there that God was working on my heart, bringing me good friends, and providing a place for me to use the gifts God has given me. It is here that I’m reminded that God’s love for me is unconditional, seen clearly through Jesus Christ.

Point 2: Listen to Your Parents. I remember when my parents dropped me off at college for the first time, and then drove away—I had this sudden feeling come over me. I had been a jerk to my parents the past several years. And in the same moment I was grateful for everything they had done for me and taught me. The Fourth Commandment, “Honor your Father and Mother,” comes with a promise “that it will go well with you on the earth!” Looking back, most of the disagreements I had with my parents were over ridiculous things. Had I simply listened to them, did what they asked when they asked (even if I didn’t want to), things would have gone a lot smoother.

Point 3: Be Weird. God has made each person unique, and that is a beautiful thing. Yesterday, my youngest said, “Dad! You’ve got to try this...cheese and peanut butter taste really good together!” I thought that was weird, but decided to give it a try and you know what!? Still weird, but not terrible. There really is no such thing as “normal” and we’d be better off as people if we realized we’re all a bit weird. And that’s okay! However, this doesn’t mean “act however you want to.” Our identity is rooted in God and His design for His creation. God has established what is right and wrong. But, we also know from Adam and Eve, that humans messed that up. Sin is now a powerful force that causes us to question and rebel against God. So, now, our identity is also rooted in Christ through Baptism. We are forgiven and redeemed, and the Holy Spirit is in the continuous act of molding us and conforming us to be more like Christ. Trust in God’s Word to be true, find your identity in Him, and love who God made you to be.



CHURCH CHUCKLES



EVANGELISM PROCEEDINGS

Monthly report on things to know

I am reporting this month that I have been appointed by the Holy Cross President and approved by the Board of Directors to be Evangelism Director, making me like the proverbial bad penny, showing up again to return to the Board after having left it in January after four years as Recording Secretary. This is also a return to the Evangelism Director position for me, which I held roughly five or so years ago. This appointment is to fill the present term, which was up for election this past January and will expire in January 2023.

I need to acclimate myself to the position once more and hope to do so as soon as I can. Part of that will be seeing what commission responsibilities need tweaking as well as conferring with our new Pastor Erb about the commission. I would appreciate being kept in your prayers, and, in fact, I'm sure all of the Board would be pleased to have our members pray for our work in making decisions about Holy Cross' future with our new pastor.

In the early going, I can report on a couple things.

First, the **Holy Cross road sign** (we have three total) on White Plains Road near Christian Heritage School has been put back in place. It had been off its pole for three years or so, having succumbed to the damage caused by snow-plow trucks slamming snow and ice against it. It's still in decent shape for such treatment, but will likely need looking after following more snow-plowing damage.

Second, we know it to be a truism that the **written word can inspire and educate on spiritual and life issues**. But having written that, if you always thought lingering by information racks and studying pamphlets and such was for geeks, perhaps even an old-fashioned way to get advice, you've been mistaken. It's actually an easy way to retrieve information you can use. But most importantly, you have missed out on valuable chances to educate yourself in all aspects of the Christian life. Holy Cross members and visitors have had those chances every time they enter the church narthex. The tract rack on the wall next to the undercroft stairwell has been a dependable oasis of information for several years and is worth a stop and peek and study. In particular, let me suggest this month's featured tract(s): On the bottom row of the rack is a series of pamphlets about the Lutheran church. It is a series on Lutheran beliefs that came out several years ago but is still worth your consideration.

---CLIFF SCHROCK
Director of Evangelism



CELEBRATING SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Sept. 1:	Luke Schipul	Sept. 22:	Peter Messerschmitt
Sept. 4:	Michael Bonnar		Charles Senft
	Michelle Anastasio Festi	Sept. 23:	Michael Halls
Sept. 9	Diane Sederquest		Rebecca Veteri
Sept. 13:	Sabine Bonnar	Sept. 24	Bret Helminger
	Cole Veteri		Matt Rentz
Sept. 14:	Myrtle Anderson	Sept. 25:	Tim Benson, Sr.
	Doris Bernt		Dan Nyitrai
Sept. 17:	Sarah Ely		Jessica Nyitrai
Sept. 18:	Christopher Carola	Sept. 26:	Adela Buck
Sept. 19:	Laurie Vaitkus	Sept. 30:	Andrew Sjoblom
Sept. 20	Nancy Sabol		
	Jared Ely		