



# The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXV, NO. 10

## HEAD TO THE HEART

### **Time for something new**

Solomon asked God for the gift of Wisdom, and it was given to him because God could see in Solomon's heart that he wanted to lead his people well. And so, if Solomon has wisdom directly from God, we would do well to listen to what he has to say. Solomon wrote, in Ecclesiastes 1:9, *"Whatever has been is what will be again, and whatever has already been done is what will be done again. There is nothing new under the sun."*

According to Solomon, although the circumstances might be different – humankind will never encounter something that has not already been experienced by another. There is no great triumph or tragedy that has not already taken place. This is also the power of studying history. We look back to see what others did when a similar event took place. What did they get right – and what did they get wrong? Of course, this doesn't only apply to countries and governments but even a family has a history and lessons that can be learned from the past. A congregation, like ours, is the same. You can look at the display case in the narthex, and see some of the important moments in Holy Cross' history. It's a reminder of some of the great things that have happened over the years, but it's also a reminder that some things are no more.

Solomon also wrote these famous words *"For everything, there is an appointed time. There is an appropriate time for every activity under heaven."* Here are a few of those times; a time to give birth and a time to die, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to keep and a time to throw away." What time are we in as a congregation?

A little over a year ago, you called me to be your pastor. Many of you expressed that it was time for something new. This doesn't mean that the things of the past are worthless. No, at the right time, they were effective to do what they were intended to do. But we are at a different time. And sometimes, to do something new means we let go of what was. This isn't always easy. It might mean that in order to build we have to tear down. It might mean, that for new things to emerge, some will have to go away.

You've heard about some of the important things and decisions we will have to make about our current facility. There are some hard choices to make, which might lead to hurt feelings. And there will be challenges to face, which might lead to frustration. But what will help us do this together is to focus on our mission, to proclaim God's love and wisdom to a world that needs to hear it. This is the exciting part! Praying continually, thinking creatively, and working collaboratively, all while keeping these other words from Solomon in mind: *"I know that everything God does will last forever. Nothing can be added to it or taken away from it. God makes whatever has already passed come again."*

*Pastor Nathan Erb*

Pastor Nathan Erb



**FOR EVERYTHING THERE  
IS A SEASON, A TIME  
FOR EVERY ACTIVITY  
UNDER HEAVEN.**

ECCLESIASTES 3:1, NLT



*Sunday morning Bible Class continues at 9:00*

**Thursday, September 1**

First day of Preschool

**Monday, September 5** – Labor Day

*Church Office and Preschool are closed*

**Thursday, September 8**

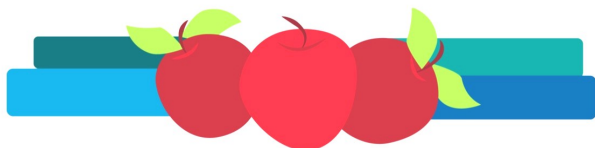
7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors' meeting

**Saturday, October 1**

12:30 p.m. – Annual Golf Outing at Tashua Knolls in Trumbull.  
*Four groups of four each to have afternoon tee times*

**Sunday, October 2**

Annual Church Picnic and New Member Reception,  
immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service



**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS**

**Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.**

***Adult Bible Class precedes Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m.***

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Christian Preschool: 203-268-6471 e-mail: [preschool@holycrosstrumbull.com](mailto: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).



**Like Holy Cross  
on Facebook!**

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



**NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN**

**By B.B. King, American  
singer-songwriter**

"The beautiful thing about learning is  
nobody can take it away from you."

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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

Thursday,  
September 15.

Please plan  
ahead to

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



[office@holycrosstrumbull.com](mailto:office@holycrosstrumbull.com)

## HOLY CROSS STAFF NEWS

### **Welcome, Elisabeth!**

With great joy, we announce that Elisabeth Erb has accepted the position of Holy Cross Music Director. For the past several months, Elisabeth has added to our worship services as guest organist, along with Mary Ann Schiller and Elijah Morris. We have been truly blessed by the quality of music these three individuals have brought to our worship, and we look forward to the growth of our program under Elisabeth's leadership. We encourage you to begin thinking about how you might support Elisabeth, and our music ministry, by offering your musical abilities to enhance our worship through singing or playing an instrument. What exciting things God has in store for us to do together!

---KERRY GEFFERT

President, Board of Directors

*Editor's note: We will expand on Elisabeth's hiring in the next HC Word edition.*



### RECREATIONAL EVENT

#### **Golf outing is scheduled for October 1, Tashua Knolls**

Four tee times around the 12:30 time have been reserved for Holy Cross to once again have its golfing members flail away at a small golf ball at Tashua Knolls. Spots for 16 players will be filled on a first-in basis. Please contact Dave Bogen or Cliff Schrock if interested.

---DAVE BOGEN, [dbbcc04@gmail.com](mailto:dbbcc04@gmail.com)

---CLIFF SCHROCK, [clschrock2002@gmail.com](mailto:clschrock2002@gmail.com)

## CARE AND COMPASSION

### **Your Shepherds are here for you and your friends**

#### *Who are your Shepherds?*

Cindy Ciccia – Lead Shepherd

Pat Deloge – 2nd Shepherd

Karen Geffert – 3rd Shepherd

#### *Request a visit, phone call or dinner-to-go*

Would you like a visit? We can sit and talk, go for a walk, have a cup of coffee or a cold drink.

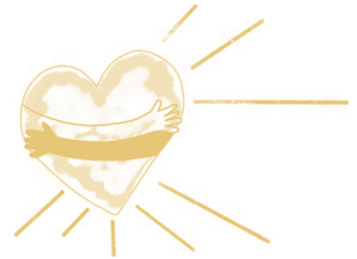
Would you like a phone call? Your Shepherds love to talk, really, about anything you may want.

Would you like a dinner-to-go? Let us handle your dinner for a night or two if you need or want a break from cooking.

We will be reaching out to you, but in the meantime to schedule a visit, to just talk or a dinner-to-go please contact Lead Shepherd Cindy Ciccia [CLC717@gmail.com](mailto:CLC717@gmail.com) or 203-395-3404 and we will be there for you.

Your Shepherds,

CINDY, PAT & KAREN



## TECHNOLOGY

### **Volunteers needed to record our Sunday worship services**

Do you have a modern smartphone? If yes, we could use your help in recording our worship service and posting it to our YouTube channel. (Super easy once you know the steps!)



Our recorded services have become an important outreach with anywhere from 25-30 or more views each week. It's particularly important for our shut-ins and several of our elderly members.

We need additional volunteers so that we can offer as many services online as possible. Thank you in advance for considering to volunteer for this important ministry. If interested, please contact me.

---SHERRY DUFF



**Fun!  
Food!  
Fellowship!**

**ANNUAL HOLY CROSS CHURCH PICNIC**  
*and*  
**NEW MEMBER RECEPTION**

**Sunday, October 2, immediately after the Worship Service**

**Rain or Shine**

**\$5.00 per person; children 5 and under are free**

**Our menu is a BBQ of Burgers & Dogs**

**Please bring a side salad, fruit or dessert to share**

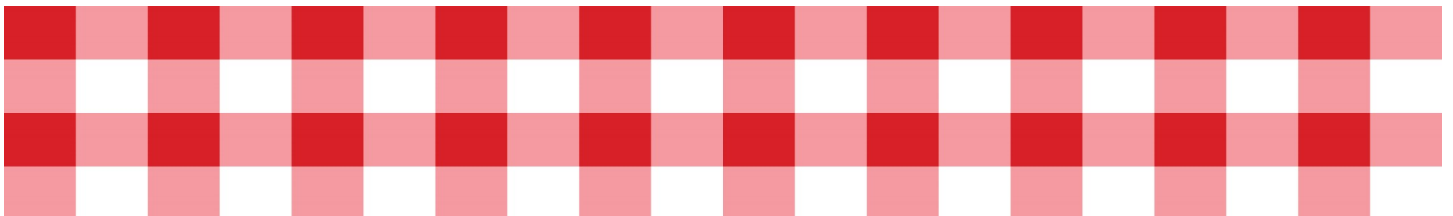
**BYOB – Water will be provided**

**Bring a chair, table or blanket – whatever you choose**

**Please bring a non-perishable food item (no glass) for our Trumbull Food Pantry**

**Come and introduce yourself to our new members**

**Sign up in the narthex after worship beginning September 4**



## PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

### **Yet another challenge faces us in the undercroft; your response is critical**

I write this on the evening that we filled a second dumpster with items from our building's undercroft (aka lower level). If you are not familiar with what has been transpiring, here is a short recap: We have known for many years that we had a moisture "situation" in the undercroft. Recent professional testing confirmed that our situation has become more of a problem, to the extent that use of the space, particularly by our children and Sunday School teachers, is no longer viable without remediation. And if we are honest with ourselves, the furnishings no longer contributed to a positive, healthy learning environment. So things had to go – two very tightly packed dumpsters worth.



So now what? That's the proverbial \$64,000 question. Purchasing new furnishings without addressing the central issue – excessive moisture – sets us up for a repeat in the future. Plus, we have other issues that require attention, such as upgraded restrooms on both floors. And then there are the wish list items, including a more modern, welcoming narthex; a new sound and recording system; and an updated kitchen. But I digress; back to the undercroft. How do we want to use this space over the next five years, or 25 years? How will this impact the rest of our facility?

Obviously we have big decisions to make. We know that we need to enlist the aid of professionals who can help us understand what remediation must occur, as well as those who can help us think creatively about the use of our facility. This will take time, and of course, funding.

What does this mean for you? I ask for your patience as we move forward; this will not be a quick fix. And when the opportunities occur (and they will!), I hope you will share your ideas, your active participation, and your support – both emotional and financial. May we all remember that we are doing this not just to enhance our own worship experiences, but also to provide an environment where others will feel welcomed and feel that here they have a church home.

---KERRY GEFFERT  
President, Board of Directors

## WE ARE FAMILY

Do you have family news to share with your church family? If so, e-mail it to the church office at [office@holycrosstrumbull.com](mailto:office@holycrosstrumbull.com).

**Myrtle Anderson** shared great family news that she has two new great-grandchildren. Congratulations to her grandson, Andrew Plude and his wife Jordan who are the parents of twins, born on July 1: Evynn Camille and Emersyn Grace. Both baby girls are doing fine. They have a big brother, Easton.



We were blessed to celebrate two Baptisms during worship services this summer. On July 3 we rejoiced in the Baptism of **Rosemary Adwoa Adomako-Ayisi**, infant daughter of Kofi Adomako-Ayisi and Nicole Benson-Ayisi. Rosemary's sponsors are her Uncle and Aunt, Jon and Nana'Yaa Cenat, and a family friend Brittani Pickett. On August 28 we received by Holy Baptism **Ryan Nickels Blanchard**, son of Nick and Allison Blanchard. Ryan's sponsors are his Uncle, Joseph Milone, and his Aunt, Melissa Segaloff. By the power of God's Word Rosemary and Ryan are born again, of Water and the Spirit, to life as a child of God. God's blessings to both of these families.

## LEARN FROM & BE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

### **The Holy Cross Word monthly "Bible study on paper": Acts, Chapter 16**

**Acts, Chapter 16, 40 verses**—In this section of Acts in which the spread of the Christian church is shown expanding overseas and to "the ends of the earth," Chapter 16 focuses on the disciple Timothy.



Please pause now to read the full Chapter 16 of Acts (use a home Bible or an aid such as [BibleGateway.com](http://BibleGateway.com) if needed).

#### **Chapter 16 analysis—**

More than halfway through Acts, we have seen leaders of the early church remain vigilant, bold and focused through a series of challenges to their message of Christ the Savior. Through it all the church continued to grow and expand, in both numbers and geographically.

*"Acts Study," continues on page 6*

*“Acts Study,” continues from page 5*

After Chapter 15 ends with Paul selecting Silas to go with him on his second missionary journey through Syria and Cilicia (Asia Minor) to uphold the churches there, Chapter 16 describes Paul going to Derbe, Lystra and Iconium, where Timothy lived; he was a disciple and son of a Jewish mother and believer and had a Greek father. Timothy was held in high regard and Paul eagerly had him join him on the missionary trail. In Verse 5 they are recognized for their success: “So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily.”

**“What  
must  
I do to be  
saved?”**

Acts 16:30



They went through the regions of Phrygia, Galatia—were prevented from going into Asia—continued to Troas, and by a vision were sent to Macedonia. That experience begins with Verse 11, but in Verse 10 the narrative includes the word “we”, indicating Luke is part of the journey. The Macedonian ministry is described in vignettes, with one horrific event followed by a miraculous one:

In Philippi, where they encountered Lydia, a God worshipper and fabric dealer. Her household was baptized and she hosted the missionaries in her house.

Paul had exorcised a demon out of a slave girl who had been telling fortunes but who had been hounding the missionaries. The girl’s owners were angered to have their income silenced and they led a strong response to have Paul and Silas beaten, jailed and put in stocks. But one day around midnight, when the two were in prayer and singing, a severe earthquake struck, breaking the jail foundation and opening the cell doors. But the prisoners remained, and Paul told the jailer not to hurt himself for he feared he’d be in trouble for letting prisoners escape. The moment overwhelmed the jailer, who asked Paul and Silas how he could be saved. They spoke

the saving truth to him and he and his family were baptized. They brought the two into their house, bandaged their wounds and fed them.

In the morning the local magistrates told the jailer to set the two free, but Paul boldly pointed out that their release needed to be done properly. They had been beaten in public, he wanted them to be released in public, not on the sly. The message for us today is that Christians should not pass on using their rights to protect their own person. Concluding the chapter, when the magistrates learned that the two were Roman citizens it frightened them and they came and apologized for their treatment of the missionaries, who left the prison for Lydia’s home, and after encouraging the people there, they left the city.

**Next issue:** Acts, Chapter 17, which includes the journey to Greece.

**Sources:** Harper Study Bible; The Everyday Bible: New Testament; Egermeier’s Bible Story Book; The Acts of the Apostles, Neal M. Flanagan.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

## CELEBRATING SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



**BIRTHDAYS**  
THIS MONTH

Sept. 1:	Luke Şchipul	Sept. 22:	Peter Messerschmitt
Sept. 4:	Michael Bonnar		Charles Şenft
	Michelle Anastasio Festi	Sept. 23:	Michael Halls
Sept. 9:	Diane Şederquest		Rebecca Veteri
Sept. 13:	Şabine Bonnar	Sept. 24:	Bret Helminger
	Cole Veteri		Matt Rentz
Sept. 14:	Myrtle Anderson	Sept. 25:	Tim Benson, Şr.
	Doris Bernt		Dan Nyitrai
Sept. 17:	Şarah Ely		Jessica Nyitrai
Sept. 18:	Christopher Carola	Sept. 26:	Adela Buck
Sept. 19:	Laurie Vaitkus	Sept. 27:	Rosemary Adomako-Ayisi
Sept. 20:	Nancy Şabol	Sept. 30:	Andrew Şjoblom
	Jared Ely		

# MEMORIAL GIFTS

## Share the Hope Fund

*In memory of Ronald Dietman*

Doris Bernt

Dave and Donna Bogen

Rick and Kathy Boivie

Roland and Kathleen Boucher

Brian and Lois Breton

Dee Brueggemann

Bob and Carol Burns

John and Katherine Candito

Joe and Cindy Ciccia

Jim Connor

John and Pat Deloge

Gary and Donna DiLalla

Jim and Lorraine Finch

Paul Hagberg

Joel and Paula Ingebritson

Jim and Debbie Leslie

Dieter and Ingrid Leibold

Mead & Haffner Families: Tom and Helen, Russell, Timothy

Maureen O'Shea

Audrey Paray

Clinton and Patty Peterson

Jennifer Polino

Bruce and Janice Rockel

The Rodriguez Family

Nancy Sabol

Anita Schlaich-Schoch

Cliff and Mary Schrock

Dan and Donna Senft

Edith Skoog

Richard and Michele Van Wart

Ken and Susan Waller

## Share the Hope Fund

*In memory of Mary Ellen Hynd,*

*Mary Schrock's mother*

Mary Atkinson

Doris Bernt

Rick and Kathy Boivie

Gary and Donna DiLalla

Dan and Donna Senft

*In memory of Robert C. Killian*

Dave and Donna Bogen

Gary and Donna DiLalla

*In memory of Linda Kochersberger,*

*Donna Jackson's sister*

Rick and Kathy Boivie

Dan and Donna Senft

*In memory of Walter Nelson,*

*Cindy Ciccia's brother*

Joe and Cindy Ciccia

*In memory of Josephine Weigle,*

*Bill Weigle's mother*

Dave and Donna Bogen

Rick and Kathy Boivie

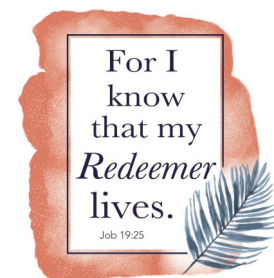
## **I Know That My Redeemer Lives**

*LSB, Hymn 461, verses 1, 8*

I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living head.

He lives, all glory to His name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!

*Public domain*



## IN THE MAILBAG

### **From the Dietman Family**

To our Holy Cross Family:

We have been overwhelmed by all your generous donations, uplifting cards, phone calls and visits over these past few months. Also, so many of you being part of Ron's "Celebration of Life & Faith" service was especially touching and comforting for our family.

A special thank you to Paul Hagberg (reader), Kerry Geffert (soloist), William Valenti (trumpet player) and Elisabeth Erb (organist) for helping to make the service so meaningful. We are so grateful to you, Pastor Nathan, for your many faithful visits and guidance in planning the service and "behind-the-scenes" extra help. How blessed are we, Holy Cross members!

In Christian Love,

---THE DIETMAN FAMILY



### **From Mary Schrock and Family**

To our Holy Cross Family,

Special thanks to you for the love, comfort and prayers upon the death of my beloved Mom, Mary Ellen Hynd. My Mom frequently told me that she did not want a long and painful death, and while we cannot choose the way in which we die, God heard her words. When I found out she had died in her sleep, the suddenness made me very sad, but I also rejoiced with the knowledge she was with her Lord and reunited with my dear Dad. Your cards, e-mails and phone calls sure meant a lot to me and my family.

With much gratitude,

---MARY and CLIFF SCHROCK and Family

### **From Ruth Yeadon**

Dear People of Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your kind donation to both St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Mill Neck Manor Lutheran School for the Deaf, both ministries so dear to Tim's heart – the church he served for 28 years and the school he and his family served as well. We are amazed at the love and support we've received, and pray that the Lord blesses you all and your ministry in Trumbull.

Sincerely,

---RUTH YEADON

## COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

### **31 children in need within the greater-Trumbull community receive backpacks and school supplies**

Again this year Holy Cross members and friends provided more than \$2,000 worth of backpacks and school supplies to the children that are in the caseload of Holy Cross "adopted" DCF social worker, Mimose Ulysse-Laurenard. It's been nearly 25 years that Holy Cross has taken part in the Covenant to Care for Children ministry, and it's really hard to decide which of our three projects is more fun for everyone, but I give the edge to the back-to-school project. We received two extra backpacks, "just in case your social worker needs more," and the final tally of all school supplies indicated we received more than we asked for. What a blessing! Thank you to everyone for supporting this important social ministry project.



Many families take for granted that they will send their children to school with a backpack and school supplies. For children in the caseload of our DCF social worker, they don't have the means or the parental support to go back-to-school shopping. Whether you donated 4 boxes of crayons, or 10 backpacks, or a box of a dozen binders, or two packages of glue sticks, collectively you all stepped in to provide 31 backpacks completely filled with more than 20 different school supply items. And Mimose also received three extra bags of various school supply items. The disadvantaged children receiving these filled backpacks not only come from Bridgeport, but Stratford, Fairfield, Easton, Trumbull and Wilton.

Again this year, 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 "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 Karen and Kerry Geffert, Stephanie Helminger, and Alexis and Donna Rodriguez for spending time on the early evening on August 17 to serve as our Thrivent Action Team of

*"Covenant to Care," continues on page 9*



**“Covenant to Care,” continues from page 8**

volunteers. They all had fun filling the backpacks and tagging each one with the child’s name. Extra thanks to Stephanie for sorting the supplies as they were received on Sunday mornings in July. Mimose picked up the backpacks on August 23, and she was planning to begin delivering them right away.

Please know that you helped to give all the backpack recipients a good start to the 2022-23 school year, along with a bit of extra love and self-confidence. Starting the school year can be overwhelming to children especially with a new school, new teachers, new friends and issues with their at-home lives that can give them anxiety. Now they have less stress about how they can afford a new backpack and school supplies.

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 2023 collection.

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



**Backpacks...filled with school supplies and love!  
 This group of six spent time on August 17 filling 31 backpacks with about 20 different items set up in assembly-line style. Thanks to (back row) Kerry Geffert, Stephanie Helming, Donna Rodriguez, Alexis Rodriguez, and (front row) Mary Schrock and Karen Geffert.**



**CHURCH CHUCKLES**



**“So, who did you learn about in Sunday School today?”**