



The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

SEPTEMBER 2020

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXIII, NO. 10

FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Dear Members & Friends of Holy Cross,

It's been my privilege to serve with and among you for what will amount to one full year when my time of service ends on Labor Day weekend, Sunday, September 6th. I'm quite certain that no one among us could ever have imagined that the final six months of this period would have been as unusual as they've proven to be, all due to the threat of COVID, a threat which still exists, albeit apparently less threatening in our state than it was in the early months. May it continue to diminish! We have learned to adapt through use of certain technologies, through options provided by the internet, and through so-called social distancing (I prefer "physical distancing," for we're still in touch) when finally – within limits – we could gather again in Lord's Day worship. I stand amazed and impressed by how willing and how compliant our worshipers have been during these turbulent times.

This, however, is not natural!

No, we are created to be social creatures, easily reaching out with words spoken without encumbrance of masks and barriers, free to embrace both physically and emotionally, free to approach both friends and strangers with words of welcome and words of hope, and free to read the non-verbal signals of full facial expression. I can't tell you how odd it has been for me, as a pastor among God's people, not to shake hands, not to offer appropriately gentle hugs, and not to place our hands together in prayer as we intercede for one another, for the church, and for the world.

Normalcy shall return one day, however, and we pray that that day shall be soon.

It's important that we learn to take the long view. My late mother often used the phrase, "this, too, shall pass," when she faced challenging times, and we know that it's true about the 2020 pandemic. Holy Cross congregation will be here and engaged in ministry when the threat lifts, just as it has been for all these years.

And now there is a more immediate concern, for the congregation continues to face a gap in the pastoral office, and we look toward the day when a new pastor is called and placed in full-time service with and among God's people here. What we anticipate, of course, is not just a new person, but a new partnership. It shall be a partnership of pastor and people with eyes fixed not just upon the congregation presently gathered, but also upon those in our community who have no congregation to call their own, including some who have no knowledge and no faith relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ. Together, pastor and people shall discover ways to make connections and build relationships within the Trumbull community and beyond, and people shall learn afresh of God's grace in Jesus Christ, with God using the pastor/congregation partnership as His means to touch those who have not yet been reached. Pray for that day and for that reality!



Holy Cross has been for me one of the congregations always upon my heart ever since I served as seminarian fieldworker way back in 1978-1980. It has been a joy to be here again. What Christine and I are going to do in the short while ahead is something we have never done before. We are going to visit widely – especially when the pandemic lightens – many Christian congregations of Lutheran and other Christian faith traditions, not because we are looking for something new, but because it's something we have never had the opportunity to experience through our careers as full-time church workers. You'll see us from time to time, but not always. We will rejoice from a distance as you forge new relationships with the pastors who serve you and, ultimately, with your new regularly called pastor.

We thank you for your kindness so generously expressed, and assure you of our abiding love.

William H. Flammann
Interim/Transitional Pastor



Monday, September 7 – Labor Day (CHURCH OFFICE/PRESCHOOL CLOSED)

Thursday, September 10

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

Sunday, September 13 – **NOTE WORSHIP SERVICE TIME CHANGE!**

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion

11:30 a.m. – Holy Cross Annual Picnic—Pizza Truck Style!

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:

9:00 a.m. on September 6

Note New Time: 10:00 a.m. beginning September 13

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 (through September 6)

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Sally Finck

NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR: Cliff Schrock

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION: Mary Schrock

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TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION DIRECTOR: Gary Messerschmitt

WORSHIP COMMISSION DIRECTOR: Sally Finck



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.



LIVING AND LEARNING

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

Words by Mahatma Gandhi

NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

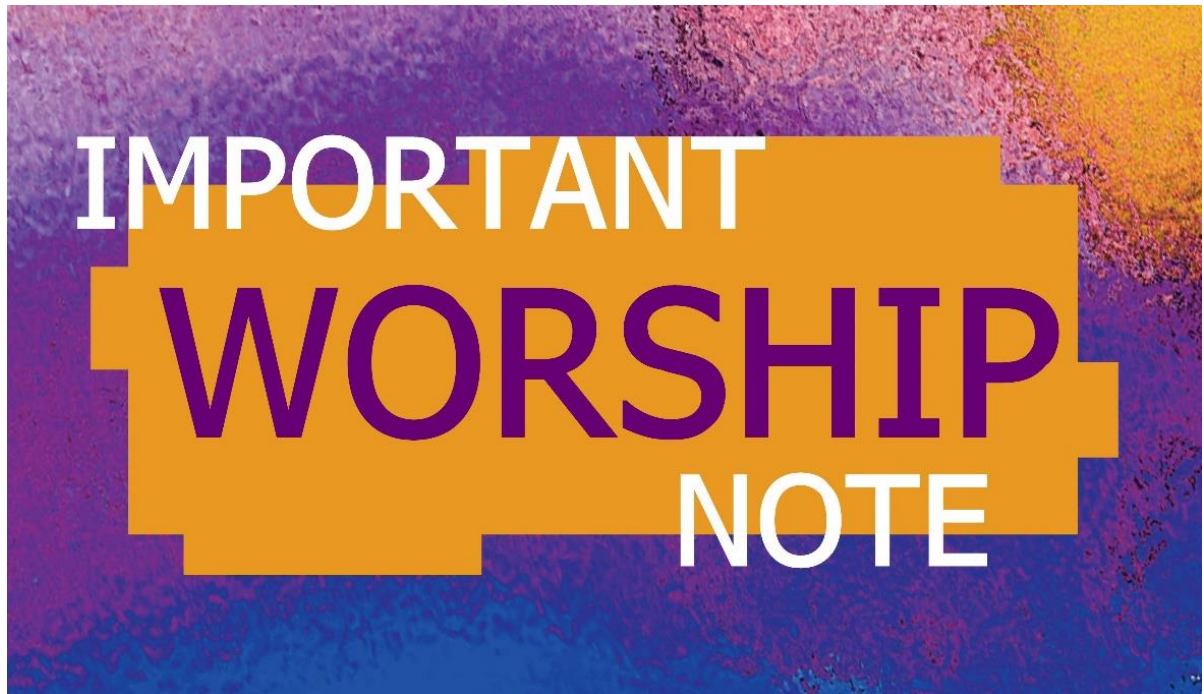
The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the October edition. The deadline for articles is Tuesday, September 15.

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.





**Beginning September 13,
our Sunday Worship Service time
will move to 10:00 a.m.**

The Board of Directors made the decision to continue with one Sunday service due to both the COVID-19 Worship-gathering restrictions and our current pastoral vacancy.

Each week that you plan to attend Worship, you must sign up via the "Welcome" page of the Holy Cross website—holycrosstrumbull.org. A link will take you to the weekly sign-up. This link is typically available on Wednesday preceding the Sunday service. Signing up in advance keeps Holy Cross compliant with the current State of Connecticut guidelines for public gatherings.

A GENTLE REMINDER WHEN ATTENDING WORSHIP

As you enter the sanctuary look for the pews with white stickers that correspond with your family size

As noted in the announcement on the previous page, each week that you plan to attend Worship, you must sign up via the "Welcome" page of the Holy Cross website: holycrosstrumbull.org. A link will take you to the weekly sign-up. This link is typically available on Wednesday preceding the Sunday service. Signing up in advance keeps Holy Cross compliant with the current State of Connecticut guidelines for public gatherings.



After you have signed up and come to church for Worship, please be courteous to your fellow congregants and sit only in the seats marked as "open/available" denoted by a white sticker.

Additionally, if you are a family of two, please only sit in section with two white dots (not a triple as this is a seating that has been designated for a group of three.) Same applies for singles and others.

FYI...every Saturday night, we develop the seating plan based on the weekly sign-up. We ensure there are the correct number of single, double, triple, etc.. seating areas to accommodate the families that have signed up. This is all for our collective good health and safety. Finally, even if you think you're safe sitting alongside a friend, when others see you not adhering to our guidelines, it causes discomfort among our church family. We want everyone to feel welcome and safe among us.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask our ushers as they are always willing to help.

Thank you, stay healthy, and God bless!

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC—PIZZA TRUCK STYLE!

Any way you slice it, Holy Cross needs a fun get-together

Come out and join us at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 13, for the HCLC Annual Picnic. All you need to bring is yourself, a lawn chair and if you like, perhaps a small table, and a beverage of your choosing...and don't forget you will need to be wearing your mask at all times, except while eating, so that everyone at our socially-distanced gathering will feel comfortable during COVID-19. Due to State of Connecticut guidelines, this event will be limited to 100 people. **The deadline for signing up is Sunday, September 6.** Be sure to sign up online at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a45adaf23abf85-hclc3>.

If you don't have online access, call Adela at 203-218-9314 or Kathy at 203-305-0750 to make your reservation.

We will share in a new experience of sampling New Haven Pizza Truck's variety of pizzas along with a traditional green salad with their house-made balsamic vinaigrette on the side. Dessert is also included: an assortment of gourmet gelato and freshly-brewed cappuccino and espresso. Sounds delicious!



New Haven Pizza Truck is COVID compliant and their food providers will be wearing gloves and masks as well. If you haven't already paid, the cost is \$10 per person or \$25 per family. Payment can be made online at our Holy Cross website <http://holycrosstrumbull.org> by clicking on the green "donate" button on the bottom of the page which will direct you to our online donation site. Or you can pay by check made out to "Holy Cross Lutheran Church" and please write in the memo section of the check "church picnic" — and mail it to Holy Cross Lutheran Church with "church picnic" written on the bottom left corner of the envelope.

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

TEENAGERS' ASSISTANCE NEEDED AT ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Youth asked to volunteer to help the elderly get settled for eating

Teenagers will be needed at the church picnic to assist seniors by setting up their chairs and small tables and then taking the seniors' chairs and tables back to their cars after the picnic. There may be some other odd jobs too. This will be a great opportunity for earning "Community Service Hours." To sign up, please call Mrs. Boivie at 203-305-0750 or Mrs. Buck at 203-218-9314.

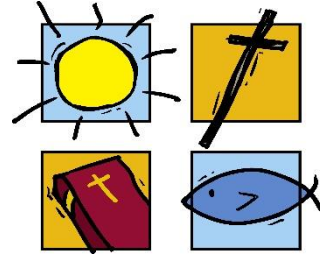
---KATHY BOIVIE and ADELA BUCK
Discipleship Commission Co-Directors

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teachers needed for upcoming school year, yet to determine format

As we head back to school in September, we're also planning to head back to Sunday School. Thanks be to God! As of mid-August, the format is to be determined—in person or virtual—so stay tuned. In the meantime, we need a few volunteers to teach Sunday School. No training needed, just a love of Jesus and a willing heart! Please phone or e-mail me if you're able to give a little time each week.

Thank you in advance. Blessings,
---KRISTEN MESSERSCHMITT
Education Commission Director



*Confirmed
in Christ*

WE ARE FAMILY

Four of our young people take part in the Rite of Confirmation

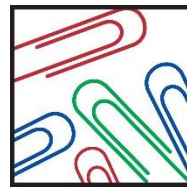
Congratulations to **Sarah Bogen, Kyle Helminger, Jack Messerschmitt** and **Jacob Nyitrai**, who successfully completed two years of Confirmation instruction and took part in the Rite of Confirmation at a special Worship service at 10 a.m. on August 23. While it was regrettable that these four young members were confirmed apart from the entire gathered congregation, it was important that they publicly confess their Baptismal faith and promise to live as faithful Christians, a significant step in life-long growth. As Christians we are continually growing in Christ, always claiming our identity as God's child. Confirmation is a part of the church's ministry of education and faith formation. Confirmation means two important things. First, it means being strengthened (confirmed) in faith and life as one of God's people through the Word of God and the Sacraments. Second, it is a moment in which the confirmands publicly confess faith in the Triune God, promise to follow Jesus as Lord, and receive God's blessing and the people's prayers. Confirmation points us to our Baptism and allows us to affirm the faith into which we were baptized.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Please take note of these hours for the fall

Since the "stay-at-home" mandate due to COVID-19 took effect in mid-March, our church office has remained "open" its usual hours 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., while I worked from home. Now that the State of Connecticut has "opened" a bit with Phase 2, please take note that I will work onsite on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from home on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If the onsite workload dictates, I will add a day to working at the church office.

---MARY SCHROCK



Office Hours



General Memorial Fund

In memory of Gordon Johnson

John and Lynne DeBarbieri
Vincent DeBarbieri
John and Pat Deloge
Collins Family / Agrippino and Bonnie Lodevole
Patricia Palumbo
Audrey Paray
Jim Slavin

In memory of Karim Seyal

Dieter and Ingrid Leibold
Audrey Paray
Jerry and Nancy Sabol
Anita Schlaich-Schoch

FINANCIAL NOTES

Offering update provided for the first half of 2020; member giving in tough times appreciated

As part of our ongoing communication efforts, we are pleased to provide you with this quarterly financial update for January through June.

The weekly envelope giving has totaled \$121,045 through the end of June. This is less than the budget amount of \$133,000. Even though we continue to have limitations on our ability to all worship together, your ongoing support via mailed offerings and/or online giving has been greatly appreciated. Even in these difficult times, we have much to be thankful for and the church continues to do God's work. Thank you for your generosity!

A few other items to highlight;

- We have a net deficit through June of \$(2,861).
 - Our income is less than budget primarily due to the lack of in-person services.
 - The Board and our staff continue to be diligent in managing expenses wherever possible given the current situation. Expenses have been lower than budget due to lower personnel costs, utilities, and worship supplies.
 - In May, we received loan proceeds of ~\$60,000 from the Paycheck Protection Program that are intended to cover payroll costs of our preschool teachers. This loan is forgivable as long as we meet certain criteria. *Note that the loan proceeds and related preschool support are excluded from the income statement below.*
- Vanco e-giving continues to be a very convenient option utilized by many of our members. There are two ways to give: via the website or via the "Give Plus" app.

The Board hopes you find this update valuable, and we thank you for your continued support. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Monthly Giving – January to June 2020

Month	Offering Actual	Offering Budget
January	\$21,346	\$21,000
February	19,261	21,000
March	19,244	25,000
April	22,119	21,000
May	19,777	21,000
June	19,298	24,000
Total	\$121,045	\$133,000

Income Statement – January to June 2020

	Actual	Budget
Total Income*	\$128,216	\$147,845
Total Expenses	<u>(131,077)</u>	<u>(139,881)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(2,861)	\$7,964

* Total income includes weekly giving/offering, plate, building use, special services and investment income/losses

---CHAD HELMINGER
Financial Secretary



“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

IN THE MAILBAG

From Tina (Batoh) Jennings

Editor's note: This thank you note was received via e-mail in the church office in early August after the Jennings family received a digital baby congratulations card signed by many members of the congregation.



To Holy Cross Lutheran Church Members,

I just received the e-greeting from Holy Cross with congratulations for Ryan, Clara and me on the birth of Reese! Could you please thank the congregation for us? It was so incredibly sweet and just made our day!

Hope everyone is well at Holy Cross. We love and miss our dear friends and family and can't wait to be able to visit [Holy Cross] with Reese.

God Bless,

---TINA JENNINGS

COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Holy Cross members and friends "live generously" with their school supply donations

Coordinating the essential back-to-school project for Covenant to Care for Children is always fantastic fun and allows me to share some great news: 21 disadvantaged children in the greater Bridgeport community will have a brand new backpack full of 22 different school supply items. Whether the children will go to school in-person two days a week, five days a week, or be completely "distance learning" they will all need the school supplies and will treasure having a new backpack to keep it all organized.



No matter what item or how many of that item you donated, it all added up to blessings upon blessings for these 21 children. Without sharing names, I must give a big thank you to the three families who donated just over half of the needed backpacks. In this unprecedented time of wondering whether or not this project would be a success, our Holy Cross members and friends certainly came through! An estimate of the in-total donation of all backpacks and school supplies is approximately \$2,400. See what I mean about great news! Thank you to everyone for supporting the children in the caseload of our "adopted" DCF social worker, Mimose Ulysses-Laurenard. You are helping to give these children a good start to the 2020-21 school year, with a bit of extra love and self-confidence. Starting the school year can be overwhelming to children – and especially this year with the COVID-19 health situation looming over them. 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, binder, paper, pens, glue sticks, pocket folders, and composition notebooks can also be added stress.



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 red "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 backpacks and a few other needed supplies. Due to our current need to remain physically distant, I had only three volunteers to help with assembling the school supplies into the backpacks. Special thanks to Donna DiLalla, Kristen Messerschmitt and Michele Van Wart for taking time out of their afternoon on August 20 to serve with me as our Thrivent Action Team of volunteers. And an extra shout-out to Kristen for making 21 face masks, one mask for each child. She geared the fabric color/design to each child's age and gender.

Two additional notes:

- 1) The social workers are still not able to go into the homes of the children in their caseloads to make deliveries. But Mimose thought "outside the box" and made a plan to ensure the children get the backpacks/school supplies before the first day of school. As a matter of fact, these 21 children received their backpacks August 26-27.
- 2) While we have all the needed backpacks for this year's project, if you feel so moved to purchase a backpack(s) that you see on sale between now and mid-fall, you may certainly donate it to Holy Cross for the July/August 2021 collection.

Yours in Christ,

---MARY SCHROCK

Covenant to Care for Children Liaison

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		

CHURCH CHUCKLES

GIVE BLOOD

You can make a difference.



**American
Red Cross**

SAVE THE DATE!

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. Keep an eye out for an e-mail with information on how to make an appointment online for donating blood. And please spread the word!



"Their first argument — over whose parents they'll move in with."