



The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

JUNE 2020

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXIII, NO. 7

FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Dear Members & Friends of Holy Cross,

With May 31 being the Festival of Pentecost, this June newsletter becomes an opportunity to wish you a much-blessed post-Pentecost season, the lengthy season in which we reflect on the Holy Spirit together with the Church and its mission. It's an opportunity for me to invite you to reflect personally on the Holy Spirit's movements in your own life. Were you baptized as a child? Raised in a Christian family? Regular in Sunday school and worship attendance? Has faith run both hot and cold at various times? How is it that you are a person of faith today? What were the major factors in your faith journey?

I've often said that a most critical factor for me was the life of my home congregation, Grace in Queens Village, New York. It was, during my childhood and youth, an extremely musical congregation with no fewer than seven choirs. Though I'm not a musician, I sang in the Junior Choir, the Children's Choir, and the Youth Choir. The music of the church, and in particular the hymns of the church, served to be both formative and nurturing for my faith. Even now, I find that when I'm facing a situation, it's not only the words of scripture that often come to mind, but also the lyrics of hymns.

My, have we ever been *facing a situation* in these days of quarantine, social distancing, and concern due to the worldwide pandemic! It is a time of change; pundits from many disciplines are telling us (correctly, I believe) that there will emerge a "new normal" with changing social patterns and means of interaction. Do you find the prospect of change to be energizing or enervating?

The fourth verse of the hymn, "Abide With Me, Fast Falls the Eventide" (Lutheran Service Book, # 878) includes the words:

*Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me*

I have wrestled with those words. I love the hope and promise of the very last line, for we know the unchanging Christ will abide with us through all things, through all time, and through all eternity. But that coupling of "change" and "decay" in the prior line leaves me vexed, for I neither believe nor wish to believe that change is always a sign of decay. No, change might be a sign of considerable hope, improvement, and growth.

Let's be confident that God the Holy Spirit will work even in these days to bring about something new, something for God's people to embrace, something that makes us kinder, gentler, better stewards of God's world, with new signs of God's kingdom breaking into this world. Let's trust that the change God has in mind will work to our good. A new day awaits us, and we shall:

"sing to the LORD a new song" (Psalm 96:1)

For all that we anticipate, thanks be to God.

Bill Flammann
Interim Pastor



Mark
Your
Calendar

Sunday, June 7 – Holy Trinity Sunday

Thursday, June 11

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

Sunday, June 14 – Flag Day

Sunday, June 21 – Father's Day



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

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Holy Cross congregation is to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord (Matt. 28:18-20). We will share the love and forgiveness of Our Lord Jesus Christ with one another, our community and the whole world so that we can take part in the joyous privilege of "making disciples of all nations" through the power of the preaching and teaching the Word of God, administering His Sacraments, and joining together in service fellowship according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church (Article III).



For Our Readers:
The Holy Cross Word
is best viewed in its
full-color format
on the church website,
holycrosstrumbull.org



Like Holy Cross on Facebook!

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



HEALTH OF THE SOUL

**Words written by
Samuel Ullman, 1840-1924,
American businessman, poet,
religious leader, humanitarian**

"Years may wrinkle the skin, but
to give up enthusiasm wrinkles
the soul."

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross
Word is a **combined** July/August
edition. The deadline for articles is
Monday, June 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

Where we stand: Gatherings for worship and preschool remain on hold

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this month's newsletter finds you all healthy and well. I know these times have proven challenging for all of us in many different ways, but I do pray too that you've each found blessings in spending more time with family, trying a new hobby or even tackling those chores that have lingered but now offer a welcome sense of accomplishment.

It's been a blessing to speak, e-mail and even text with many of you during this time of isolation. In connecting with you, one thing that's for sure is that *everyone* expresses profound appreciation and gratitude for Holy Cross's own "Fab Four!" That would be Pastor Flammann, Kerry Geffert, Sally Finck and Greg Dowling—for all they do to prepare for and present our online church services each week. I couldn't agree more—we are truly blessed! Thank you Pastor, Kerry, Sally and Greg!

Our online services provide much-needed spiritual nourishment through the Word, Pastor's insightful and engaging sermons, and our familiar Lutheran liturgy—including our beautiful hymns. Still, I (and I know many of you feel the same way) mightily miss the Sacrament of Holy Communion and fellowship with our church family.

Thank you to those of you who have reached out to check in and ask about plans to return to some sort of corporate worship. I appreciate and share your hope and positive forward thinking!

As much as I'd love to write to you today and tell you that we're done with this intrusive virus and can soon go back to church as we have always known it, I simply can't. As of this writing, the data in the tri-state area, and Connecticut in particular, indicates fewer new Coronavirus cases and fewer deaths than a month ago. This is encouraging and cause for hope. That said, these are still very early days. The State is carefully starting to take baby steps toward "reopening" and allowing people to engage (with social distancing guidelines in place.) This approach is data-based, thoughtful and measured. We still have a lot to learn. We need to see if, how and when new hotspots emerge—and then deal with them accordingly. The number one goal in taking this approach is protecting the health and safety of all.



At its May 14 meeting, the Board decided not to hold a summer program for our preschool. While disappointing, it was not a difficult decision. Our Board remains united in our commitment to the safety and well-being of all our church and preschool families. We're simply not ready to go back to school. And, when we do, the preschool will have new processes and procedures in place to keep all our students, teachers and families safe.

The same holds true for our church. We are, likewise, not ready to return to corporate worship. And, when we do, it will be a different experience than we once knew. This holds true both in terms of how we interact and operate within the church as well as *how* we worship. To be honest, it will take some time (months, I suspect) to return to corporate worship. For now though, please know that your Board continues to monitor federal, state and local guidelines and will provide regular updates as we all work through this crisis together. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call or e-mail me.

In the meantime, please join me in praying for Pastor Flammann, our Board, our entire church and preschool family, the ongoing Call process as we seek to identify a new full-time pastor for Holy Cross and all COVID-19 patients, healthcare workers, and other frontline personnel and volunteers working so very hard to treat the sick and keep the rest of us healthy and safe. And, we thank our Lord for all the many, many blessings He bestows upon us each day.

Blessings to each of you always.

In Christ,

---SHERRY DUFF

President, Board of Directors

CALL COMMITTEE

Process nears interview stage; list of candidates reduced from 11 to six

The Call Committee received 11 Pastor Information Forms from New England District President Timothy Yeadon approximately six weeks ago. All members of the Call Committee received these Pastor Information Forms that include demographic information and 37 questions that the Pastors answer relating to many areas of the ministry. This gives us an apples-to-apples comparison of each Pastor.

I would like to give an enormous thank you to Mary Schrock for copying and collating the Pastor Information Forms for each Call Committee member to have their own copy.

We met on Tuesday, May 12, via a Zoom meeting. Thanks to Andrew Struzik for setting us up with a longer Zoom meeting, rather than the “free” 40-minute meeting. The meeting was very productive. We were able to narrow the list to six candidates. Pastor Flammann graciously volunteered to phone these six Pastors on behalf of the Call Committee to inquire if they had any reasons why they would not consider a Call at this time. As of mid-May, we are awaiting a revised list of which Pastors would accept an interview. The Call Committee will meet to have an initial phone interview with the candidates hopefully within the next few weeks.



I am blessed to have a wonderful committee – Edith Skoog, Lydia Struzik, Tina Curto and Joe Ciccia – that works very well together to accomplish this vital task. We Will keep you apprised of the progress when more details come available.

In His Service,

---DAVE BOGEN

2020 Call Committee Chair

and Committee Members: Edith Skoog, Lydia Struzik, Tina Curto, Joe Ciccia

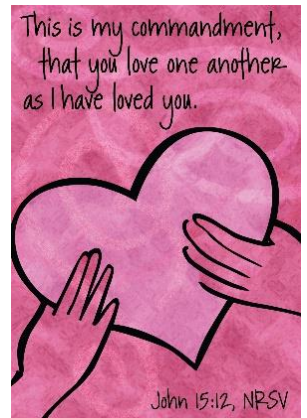
SOCIAL MINISTRY WITHIN OUR CHURCH

An anonymous offer of assistance being made within our Holy Cross family

COVID-19 has impacted families in many different ways. One of our member families sent me a lovely note in early May with a very kind-hearted and generous offer to help another family/individual at Holy Cross who may be experiencing financial distress. I've enclosed an excerpt of the e-mail below.

“...we would feel privileged to ‘anonymously’ provide some monetary assistance to a HC family/individual who may be experiencing a financial set-back as a result of this pandemic. We would also ask that any potential recipient’s name(s) remain ‘anonymous’ to us as well. While we realize people are often reluctant to share such personal information, we hope that someone will come forward.”

If any of our members has need for assistance, please phone or e-mail me and I'll help to facilitate: 203-482-4525; president@holycrosstrumbull.com



This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. – John 15:12

Blessings,

---SHERRY DUFF

President, Board of Directors

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’ve been asked to give the following special recognition to:



Pat Deloge and **Edith Skoog**. Thank you to **Pat** for doing the grocery shopping for a couple of Holy Cross’ senior citizens. And special thanks to **Edith** for bringing some baked goods to these seniors. The time and effort that Pat and Edith are sharing is very much appreciated and so very kind.

HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Graduation celebration will be a drive-by parade; all classes for 2020-2021 have openings

***“We’ll be friends forever, Jesus and you and me.
He ties our hearts together, and friends we’ll always be.”***

These are the words of the chorus of the last song the children usually sing at graduation. It is hard to believe we will not have our traditional graduation program this year. We are heartbroken for the children and for the teachers. Like everything else in the past few months, we have had to change our thinking and forge ahead with a new plan. We are planning a socially-distant, drive-by parade for the end-of-year and graduation celebration. We will be able to say good-bye “in person” and see the children one more time. We are thankful for the time we spent with them this year and feel blessed to have been able to share the love of Jesus with the children and their families. It is our prayer that they will continue to grow in the love and knowledge of their Savior, Jesus.



For the safety of all, we will not have our summer program this year. We are planning on beginning the new school year on Wednesday, September 2. There are currently spots available in all classes. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool, I can be reached at preschool@holycrossrumbull.com or 203-268-6471.

The teachers and I would like to thank the Board of Directors for all its support this year, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. We would also like to thank the Board for the decision to continue paying our staff salaries during this time. We are humbled and greatly appreciative.

We pray that everyone has a healthy and safe summer and we look forward to serving our Lord Jesus in the new school year.

In His Name,
---MICHELE GLENNON
Preschool Director

FACIAL PROTECTION

Crafters/seamstresses are making masks – do you need one?

State guidelines require use of masks when shopping and will likely continue to be required or strongly encouraged as the state begins to reopen. If any member/family doesn't have access to masks (fabric, non-medical), please let us know. We have members, families and friends that are sewing masks and offering to help. Phone Sherry Duff at 203-482-4525 if you need a mask(s) for yourself or a family member.



LUTHERAN WINNI WEEK

Due to COVID-19, this year's spiritual retreat at Lake Winnepesaukee is postponed

After prayerful and thoughtful consideration over many weeks, it was unanimously decided by the LWW Board that Lutheran Winni Week 2020 be postponed until July 2021 (dates yet to be confirmed, but likely July 11-17, 2021).

---KATHY BOIVIE

KEEP THE FAITH

2020 SOCIETY OF CREATION CONFERENCE

June event to be done online; pre-register to view for free

On June 5-6, Concordia University Wisconsin and the Society of Creation will host its eighth annual creation conference on the theme "In the Beginning—The Origin of the Universe." The presenters will show that both God's Word (Scripture) and God's World (Science) affirm creation and reject evolution.

The Society of Creation is a creationist organization that was founded "by full-time faculty...at most of the 10 institutions of the [LCMS's] Concordia University System" "in support of the historic position of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod on creation, encouragement, and education." (<http://www.societyofcreation.org/>)



Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this conference will now be conducted online in its entirety at no charge, but you must register in order to view the streaming content. For online registration and information about the conference, visit the Society of Creation's website at <http://www.societyofcreation.org/conferences.php>. Simply enter zero for the amount you are paying. The conference organizers ask that you please consider a \$10.00 donation and enter it where you would otherwise enter a conference fee. They will have some costs, but much less than a face-to-face conference. There is no pressure to contribute.

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

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

Details about your graduation and future plans needed by June 12

Graduation 2020 looks to be different this year, due to the COVID-19 health crisis and social distancing. But we know all our graduates will celebrate in their own unique way. We want to share your good news, so if you are graduating from high school, college or a Master's program this spring, we encourage you to share the details about this exciting milestone with your church family. We plan to recognize all of our graduates in the July/August newsletter. Graduate Information forms can be obtained either in paper or electronic form by contacting Mary in the church office: office@holycrosstrumbull.com. We ask that all information is given to the church office by Friday, June 12. Please let us know who you are – you are important to us!



CELEBRATING JUNE BIRTHDAYS



June 1: Erica Carola
Ethan Rentz

June 5: James Atkinson

June 6: Virginia Gaffney

June 10: Monika Seyal

June 12: Mary Schrock

June 14: John Buck

June 15: Carl Carlson

June 16: Amanda Fitzmorris

June 17: Savannah Fitzmorris

June 18: Amy (Geffert) Cardone

June 20: Jena Conte

June 24: Tim Senft

June 25: Barbara Marinaro

Paul Schipul

June 26: Marissa Rodriguez

June 29: Pat Deloge

Kathryn Struzik