

See pages 3-7 for coverage of  
Pastor Wismar's Installation



# The **HOLY CROSS WORD**

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

JUNE 2015

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LVIII, NO. 10

## WISMAR'S WISDOM

### Dear Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

In the Japanese language, there is a special phrase that is used when you greet someone for the first time. It is: "*Hajimemashite. Yoroshiku o-negai shimasu.*" It usually gets translated as: "*Nice to meet you. Pleased to make your acquaintance*" – which is simply our English equivalent when meeting someone for the first time. However, this isn't an exact translation. Whereas our greeting focuses on the fact that it is a "first meeting"...the Japanese focuses in on the fact that it is the start of a new relationship. "*Hajimemashite*" literally means "*It is a beginning*" – this point marks the beginning of our relationship together. The follow-up phrase is: "*Yoroshiku o-negai shimasu,*" which literally means "*I request/wish kindly of you.*" So, though this regular, first-time Japanese greeting is translated as, "*Nice to meet you. Pleased to make your acquaintance,*" more literally it can be understood as: "*It is our beginning. I wish kindly of you.*" I've always thought that that was a really nice way to start a new relationship: "*It is our beginning. I wish kindly of you.*"

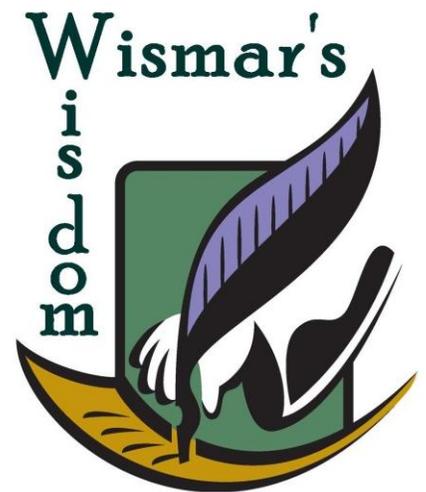
So now as I begin my time together with you as your called Pastor, I say to you: "*Hajimemashite. Yoroshiku o-negai shimasu*" as together we set forth in our new relationship to magnify the Lord, advance His Kingdom and proclaim the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "*Hajimemashō!*" = "Let's begin!" in the name of our living Lord..."***the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.***"

I look forward to the many first-time meetings, greetings and beginnings that we will share in the weeks ahead whether at worship, in passing, working together or through the home visitations that I am planning – more about these in the weeks ahead! Martin Luther once said, "*We are not the ones who can preserve the church, nor were our forefathers able to do so. Nor will our successors have this power. No, it was, is, and will be He who says, 'I am with you always to the close of the age.'*" As it says in Hebrews 13:8, '***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever,***' and in Revelation 1:8, '***He who is and who was and who is to come***.'" As God's people our beginnings are always blessed because, through the waters of Holy Baptism (our beginnings), we have been incorporated into He who is both the beginning and the end.

*"Hajimemashite. Yoroshiku o-negai shimasu!" "IT IS OUR BEGINNING. I WISH KINDLY OF YOU" AS WE SET FORTH IN OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER!*

In Christ,

Pastor Wismar





### Tuesday, June 2

5:00 p.m. – Holy Cross serves Community Supper  
at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport

### Wednesday, June 10

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

### Sunday, June 14 – Flag Day

### Sunday, June 21 – Father's Day

10:15 a.m. – Special Voters' Meeting  
(immediately following the 9 a.m. service)

### Monday-Friday, August 10-14

9:00 a.m. – Vacation Bible School



## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Office Phone: 203-268-4555; Pastor's Study Phone: 203-268-7555

Church Office E-mail: [holycrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holycrss@mindspring.com) FAX: 203-268-5499

Website: [www.holycrosstrumbull.org](http://www.holycrosstrumbull.org)

Christian Preschool Phone: 203-268-6471 E-mail: [mglennonhccp@mindspring.com](mailto:mglennonhccp@mindspring.com)

Worship Services – Sunday: 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. (beginning Sept. 13);  
First and Third Monday of the month: 7:00 p.m.

### SPECIAL WORSHIP NOTE FOR THE SUMMER:

Sundays, between May 24 and Labor Day weekend: 9:00 a.m.

PASTOR: Eric A. Wismar

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Michael J. Gilbertson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PRESIDENT: Kerry Geffert

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' VICE-PRESIDENT: Michele Van Wart

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SECRETARY: Jeannie Mones

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' TREASURER: Greg Dowling

NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR: Cliff Schrock

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION: Mary Schrock



### MISSION STATEMENT

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



**For Our Readers:**  
The Holy Cross Word  
is best viewed in its  
full-color format  
at the church website,  
[holycrosstrumbull.org](http://holycrosstrumbull.org)

Like  
Holy Cross on  
Facebook!



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



**START NEW GROWTH**  
Words penned by author  
**Robert Louis Stevenson**

"Don't judge each day by the  
harvest you reap but by the  
seeds that you plant."

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### NEWSLETTER NOTES

**Our next deadline is...**

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

June 15.

Please turn

in your article(s)

to the newsletter

mailbox, located outside the church  
office, or send them via e-mail to:

[holycross@mindspring.com](mailto:holycrss@mindspring.com).



Unless you have a lengthy article,  
we encourage you to use the  
"Information Form," located in a  
box on the narthex table. You may  
use this form to submit details for  
upcoming events, the "We Are  
Family" and "Thank You" columns,  
and other short items. After filling  
it out (please sign your name), put  
it in the newsletter mailbox.

## RELEASED TO SERVE HOLY CROSS

### **Letter gives Rev. Wismar a “peaceful release” from New Fairfield so that he can begin his ministry in Trumbull**

May 12, 2015

Kerry Geffert, Parish President  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Trumbull, CT

Dear Mr. Geffert and People of  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

This past Sunday, May 10, 2015, Pastor Eric A. Wismar celebrated his last worship service with us as our pastor. During this service we shared together the Liturgy for Departure of a Pastor from a Congregation, officiated by our District President, Pastor Timothy Yeadon. As a result, we now grant Pastor Wismar a peaceful release effective May 17, 2015, the date of his installation at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Pastor Wismar has served our congregation well, and we shall miss him. We pray that with the help of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Wismar and the Holy Cross congregation will serve the Lord in unity of faith and purpose, and that all of your efforts will be blessed richly.

Receive the Wismar family warmly into the heart of your church family.

Grace and peace to you. Yours in Christ,  
Elizabeth S. Smith, President  
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd—New Fairfield



***Just as NED President Timothy Yeadon (left) and Pastor Eric Wismar participated in the departure liturgy May 10 at Good Shepherd, they were front and center for the Rite of Installation May 17 at Holy Cross.***

## INSTALLATION & CELEBRATION

### **May 17: A day to worship and rejoice; events in church and Fellowship Hall aided by many**

A joyful crowd numbering 180 gathered on Sunday afternoon, May 17, for the installation of Holy Cross Lutheran Church's Reverend Eric A. Wismar. The service was officiated by the Reverend Timothy Yeadon, and liturgy was delivered by Holy Cross' Vacancy Pastor, the Reverend Robert Beinke. The Reverend Dr. Gregory Wismar (Pastor Wismar's father) and the Reverend Dr. Adolph Wismar, Jr., (Pastor Wismar's uncle) served as reader and preacher, respectively. The installation song lyrics "To Preach the Word of God" were written by the Reverend Dr. Gregory Wismar, and the music was composed by Holy Cross' Music Director Michael Gilbertson.

We were fortunate and happy to have Addie and Maggie, the Comfort Dogs, and their handlers, as greeters. Emily Struzik served as crucifer, and Sheryl John was the acolyte. Ushers were John Anantharaj, Jon Halls, John Roman and Andrew Struzik. The Holy Cross Choir sang the anthem, "Lord, Send Us Out in Peace."

Toward the end of the service, gift bags provided by Lydia Struzik, Worship Commission Director, were presented to our guest pastors in appreciation for their service during our vacancy.

A bountiful reception in Froehlich Fellowship Hall followed the service, and was enjoyed by all in attendance. It provided a wonderful introduction for our new Pastor and his family. The reception would not have been possible without the support of Brad Batoh, Donna Bogen, Pat Deloge, Diane Dietman, Donna DiLalla, Amy and Kerry Geffert, George Hermes, Jeannie Mones, Gail Rice, Dave and Mary Ann Schiller, Donna Senft, Rick Van Wart, and the Board of Directors. A special thanks to John Anantharaj for dutifully photographing the event.

It was truly a blessed and beautiful day. Our heart-felt appreciation to everyone.

In Christ,  
---TINA BATOH and MICHELE VAN WART

## INSTALLATION DAY MOMENTS – FOR THE RECORD

### **Our pastor's first prayer; the Pastor Emeritus sends encouraging words**

The Holy Cross Word is always striving to keep the history and heritage of your church front and center. So, for the record, we have printed the first prayer Pastor Wismar spoke at the Installation Day service on May 17. That is followed by a message Pastor Emeritus Ronald Froehlich sent to the church:



#### **Pastor Eric Wismar's Prayer of the Church:**

O God, our Refuge and Fortress, who in Christ has brought us into Your household, the Church, and made us fellow citizens with the saints, fill us with loving gratitude and praise for every grace and gift You have bestowed upon us and upon all Your people from generation to generation.

For the courage of the prophets we thank You. Give us in Your Church in this day a similar spirit of loyalty and heroic zeal. For the testimony of the apostles we give You glory. Help us to continue steadfast in their doctrine and example.



By the working of the Holy Spirit, enable the Church today to hold aloft the light of life, so that all people may come to know Your love in Jesus Christ.

We give You praise, O Father, for the faith and testimony of those who have been part of the past history of this congregation. We bless You for the goodly heritage of faith which they have entrusted to us. May we be kept in the unity of the Spirit and the bonds of peace as we continue the dedicated work begun here in Your name. Build us together into a holy temple for a habitation of the Spirit. Help us by word and deed, by true faith, living hope and loving service to show forth Your glory and praise and to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ.

May Your blessing rest upon all those in the wider Church with whom we are linked in faith and action. Especially we pray for our New England District, the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, our sisters and brothers in the worldwide Lutheran Church and all those who confess Jesus as Lord. By Your mercy be with us all, renew our faith, inspire in us obedience, forgive our sins, and hear our prayers. This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our one Lord, through Whom we are bound into one body, with one faith and possessing one sure and certain hope of eternal life in the fullness of God's glorious Kingdom. Amen.

#### **Greetings from Pastor Emeritus**

*THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE; LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!*

May 16, 2015

Pastor Eric Wismar & the Holy Cross Members,

Thank you for the invitation to rejoice with you on this festive day. How I wish that I could be with you. However, that is not possible. I recall the first hymn that was sung as this new cell in the body of Christ gathered for worship for the first time on Sunday, February 3, 1957, was "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!" We sing His praise again today with the installation of Pastor Eric.

May our loving, risen, and ascended Savior continue to pour out His blessings upon Pastor and people at Holy Cross and in the greater Trumbull community from this time on and forever more. If I were there to speak a word of Scripture upon Pastor Eric I would choose, "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might," Ephesians 6:10. Walk with the Good Shepherd and lead His sheep to the green pastures and still waters of His Word and Sacraments. People of Holy Cross, pray for and work with your new pastor, support him and his family.

May the Lord bless you all and make you a blessing to many. In the name of our good and gracious God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!!!

---Ronald Froehlich, Pastor Emeritus

## SELECTIONS FROM THE INSTALLATION DAY PHOTO ALBUM

*Rev. Wismar's  
Installation*




*We had unique greeters for this special occasion—the Comfort Dogs from Lutheran Church Charities. From left are Comfort Dog Maggie and her handler Lori Flandreau, and Debbie Hollrah and Jen Marr with Comfort Dog Addie.*

*Below, the processional begins, with Emily Struzik serving as the crucifer and Sheryl John as the acolyte, followed by the Holy Cross Choir and the pastors.*



*The processional hymn, “Thy Strong Word” comes to a close: Behind Rev. Wismar are NED President Timothy Yeadon (left) and Rev. Robert Beinke, who had served as Holy Cross’ vacancy pastor.*



*At right, Pastor Wismar’s father, Rev. Dr. Gregory Wismar, serves as the lector. The readings for this special service were Isaiah 52:7-10, Ephesians 2:4-10, and Matthew 9:35-38.*

SELECTIONS FROM THE INSTALLATION DAY PHOTO ALBUM



*Rev. Wismar's  
Installation*



*Pastor Wismar's uncle and godfather, Rev. Dr. Adolph Wismar, delivered the sermon, titled "Good Shepherd; Good Sheep" based on Matthew 9:36 and 10:6-7.*



**Rev. Eric Wismar, Holy Cross' New Pastor, Surrounded by His Fellow Pastors and Air Force Comrades**

*Front row, left to right: TSgt. Jessica Rawlinitis, Pastor Wismar, Ch. David Larsen and MSgt. Angel Huertas. Middle row, left to right: Rev. Charles Gustafson (Cheshire Lutheran), Rev. Dr. James Zwernemann (retired HCLC guest pastor), Rev. Dr. Gregory Wismar (retired HCLC guest pastor), Rev. Dr. Adolph Wismar, Jr. (Wollaston-Quincy, Mass.), NED President Timothy Yeadon, and Rev. Robert Beinke (St. Peter-Norwalk and HCLC vacancy pastor). Back row, left to right: Rev. William Meyer (HCLC guest pastor), Rev. Joel Cundiff (Immanuel-Danbury), Rev. Rob Morris (Christ the King-Newtown), Rev. Randall Pekari (Our Savior-South Windsor), Rev. Ronald Erbe (retired HCLC guest pastor), Rev. Benjamin Loos (First Lutheran-Greenwich), Rev. Walter Harper (Immanuel-Danbury), Rev. Kevin Mongeau (St. Paul's-New Hartford, "Hands of Grace" ministry), and Rev. Mark Valigorsky (St. Matthew-New Britain).*

## SELECTIONS FROM THE INSTALLATION DAY PHOTO ALBUM



***A New England District Tradition!  
After the Rite of Installation,  
President Yeadon presented  
Pastor Wismar with a  
shepherd's staff, a symbol of  
his new role as undershepherd  
to his new flock – the people  
of Holy Cross in Trumbull.***



***The reception following the Installation Service featured fabulous food and fellowship. At left are four of the volunteers who helped coordinate the set-up and food preparation. From left to right are Michele Van Wart, Tina Batoh, Donna DiLalla and Donna Bogen. And to the left of Michele you get just a glimpse of the beautiful table décor that was set up in the Froehlich Fellowship Hall.***



***What a wonderful occasion to greet our new pastor and his family and to catch up with Holy Cross family and friends. At right, Jesse Kravecs and Billie Skoog seem to be enjoying their conversation.***



## THANKS A BUNCH!

This column recognizes the gifts of time and talent our church members provide to do God's work in our church and community. If you have an item to include in this monthly "thank you" column, please jot it down and put it in the "newsletter" mailbox.

To the Holy Cross members who helped with either shopping, cooking or serving at the May 5 Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport: **Jim Leslie, Nancy Sabol, Mary Schrock, David and Mary Ann Schiller, and Laurie and Joey Vaitkus.**

To **Gary DiLalla** and **Dan Senft** for cleaning and painting the Pastor's office.

To **Linda Suhr** for her faithful commitment to serve as the church-office volunteer, helping out one morning a week.

To **Kristen Messerschmitt** for changing the outdoor front-yard sign to be a greeting of welcome to the Wismar family.

To **Donna** and **Gary DiLalla** and **Mary Ann Schiller** for putting together the "Welcome" display in the narthex with photos of our new Pastor and his family. In addition, we give a big thank you to Pastor Wismar's parents, **Pastor Greg** and **Priscilla Wismar**, for their help in providing a file of photos for use in the display, as well as hymns and Bible verses that are special to our new Pastor.

To **John Anantharaj** for serving as the official photographer at the Installation Service and reception. John is to be credited for all the photos that you see on pages 3 through 7 of this newsletter.

To **Lydia Struzik** for organizing and putting together gift bags that were presented to the guest pastors who led our Worship Services during our nearly 11-month vacancy.

To all those who were instrumental in coordinating – *and helpful in any way* – the wonderful reception that followed the special Service of Installation for Pastor Wismar on May 17: **Tina and Brad Batoh, Donna Bogen, Pat Deloge, Diane Dietman, Donna DiLalla, Amy Geffert, Kerry Geffert, George Hermes, Jeannie Mones, Gail Rice, David and Mary Ann Schiller, Donna Senft, and Michele and Rick Van Wart.** Last but certainly not least, **thanks to any others who helped** with the clean-up and setting up of the preschool area.



### IN THE MAILBAG

**From Bob and Carol Burns**

Dear Friends at Holy Cross,

It was such a nice surprise when Pastor Wismar stopped by to visit and also gave Bob and I the check. We are so appreciative of your kindness and generosity. We thank God for all of you. We feel so loved by our church family. We look forward to seeing you in worship soon.

In Christ's love,

---CAROL and BOB



### CALLING ALL GRADUATES

**Information from graduates due June 14 in church office**

If you are graduating from high school or college 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. Please take a yellow "Graduate Information" form, found on the narthex table, fill it out, and return it to the Church Office mailbox by Sunday, June 14. Please let us know who you are – you are important to us!



## WORSHIP REMINDERS

Our 9 a.m. one-service Sunday Worship continues through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend (Sept. 6).

Monday Evening Worship (7 p.m.) in June: June 1 and June 15  
At the June 15 service we will celebrate Holy Communion

## PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

### **The Shepherd of Holy Cross is with us, support for him is a key role**

What an inspirational day Installation Day was! First we were honored to share the Word and Sacrament with President Yeadon of the New England District during the Sunday morning services. Then in the afternoon many of us came together for the moving installation of Pastor Wismar.

As I reflected on the full day I was struck by a message of support. The support that comes from worshiping together regularly. How important it is for the older to imprint this on the younger; to set a tone for future generations.

I was also struck by the powerful message of support seeing the gathered clergy imparting their blessings on Pastor Wismar at his installation. We tend to focus on our own pastor, missing the powerful strength gained through these men as a group. It is then that we observe the importance and depth of their calling. We are indeed fortunate to have them as our shepherds.

The strength of the pastoral calling also became clearer when I heard the various admonishments Pastor Wismar received during the Rite of Installation. Such high standards! And that's when I realized that I had become focused on what a new pastor would do for Holy Cross. What about what Holy Cross will do for our new pastor?

Yes, Pastor Wismar is with us as our shepherd, but as his flock we must also watch out for our shepherd. One of OUR roles is to support him. Now if you have read this far, you probably already know and understand this role. But what of those members who don't read the newsletter or attend worship regularly (such an important show of support for our shepherd)? Are these members your friends? Your family members? You? What are you going to do about it? Really, what are YOU going to do about it?

In His Service,  
 ---KERRY GEFFERT  
 Holy Cross President



*And lo,  
 I am with you  
 ALWAYS...*  
 --Matthew 28:20

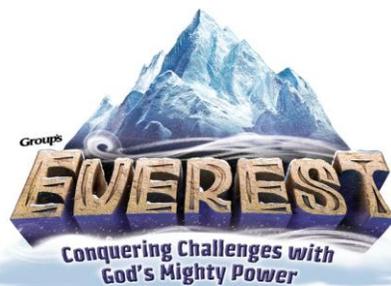
## PRAYER CIRCLE

### **In need of prayer? Make one of the following contacts to begin the e-mail prayer circle**

Our Prayer Circle offers an opportunity to unite in prayer with our Holy Cross family beyond our regular worship services. To request a prayer you may make one of the following contacts:

- Between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays, e-mail or phone the church office: [holycrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holycrss@mindspring.com) or 203-268-4555. Requests received after 2 p.m. (Monday-Friday) will be circulated on the next business day.
- When the office is closed, contact Don Meyer by phone at 203-268-2080 or via e-mail to [delsmeyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:delsmeyer@sbcglobal.net).

---SHEPHERDS' COMMISSION



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** **AT HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN**

**Join us for a week of crafts, Bible adventures, stories, music and outdoor fun!**

**August 10-14, from 9 a.m. to Noon**

**Grades K-5 (grade entering in Sept. 2015)**

**Registration is ongoing until filled.**

*(forms are on the narthex table)*

## COMMUNITY SUPPER

### **Serve the Lord by serving the needy a welcome meal; strong volunteer support needed**

Two toddlers and a half dozen teens comprised the 88 hungry patrons of the May 5 Community Supper. Earlier that day five people, mostly from Grace Lutheran-Stratford, put the meal together and into the ovens, swiftly and efficiently. Special thanks to Nancy Sabol and Grace members Jon and Helen Harper, Anna Schaaf and Diane Hintz Schyhol.



Grace has provided the majority of the cooks for a year now, and we extend a special thanks to these dedicated folks. Mary Schrock arrived just before 4:30 to help carve the hams. There was a paucity of servers that joined her: Jim Leslie and Joey and Laurie Vaitkus. Fortunately, St. John's members were ready and available to jump in and assist.

Holy Cross is responsible for buying the food, preparing and serving the meal on the first Tuesday of the month at St. John's Episcopal. The next two suppers for which Holy Cross is responsible for cooking and serving are on Tuesdays, July 7 and August 4. Sign-up sheets will be on the narthex table for each month, a few weeks prior to the cooking/serving date. If you can volunteer your time, please put your name on the sheet(s).

---DAVID and MARY ANN SCHILLER

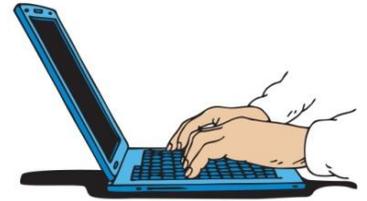
## THE WRITER WITHIN

### **Nearly a year later, things are back to "normal," but is normal where we want to be as a church?**

From the moment our new pastor, Eric Wismar, accepted the call to come to Holy Cross, the tone at church began a slow build-up. Like an orchestra's gradual increase in sound, the anticipation was on a slow rise to Pastor Wismar's installation day, May 17. There certainly was plenty of sound that afternoon, with a full sanctuary and the assembled singing praises to God for the continuation of His church in Trumbull with a new shepherd.

Now the question becomes: Is that all we've got? Was the 17th our ultimate zenith, the grand crescendo? Let's hope not. For just as an orchestra can build up to big moments, it knows how to pace itself for many more intense moments to come as well as staying alert for the quiet, low periods.

Collectively, Holy Cross members will undoubtedly feel prepared and energized with a pastor back at the helm. The health signs surrounding the Christian faith can be disturbing, from stories about thousands of churches in Europe being vacated and used for other purposes to Christians in the Middle East facing new threats of persecution to the just-released poll finding that 71 percent of Americans believe they are Christian, down from 78 percent in recent years. Our own attendance and stewardship figures have been far more discouraging than uplifting. Since last June we've been parentless, and have survived without a regular routine. We've seen how a church without a leader can be chaotic at times and without the order we prefer. Things can feel sloppy. To have continued to go forward into that uncertain environment would have been quite scary, but we can now move forward armed with a new pastor and, as always, with the blessings of God.



I certainly felt a range of emotions on installation day, from the drive to church that took Mary and I past the site of Holy Cross' first church location on White Plains Road, to the full church, to the 15 clergy who came to support Pastor Wismar and give their blessing, to seeing charter member Robert Killian celebrating another big day at Holy Cross, and the support Holy Cross received from many nonmembers, including staff from Pastor Wismar's military chaplaincy group. There were so many opportunities to reflect on days of old and those yet to come.

Old Man Potter from "It's a Wonderful Life" would say it's all sentimental hogwash, but there is no denying there was an energy that day, which returns me to my initial question. Will May 17 be the culmination of what we've got to give, or just the start? I'm an optimist, and based on Holy Cross' history, I think we're ready to take the next step forward. When you get a chance to engage Pastor Wismar in conversation, you won't help but notice that it is exactly that: He engages you in conversation and has a directness in speaking with you that locks you in. I have a sense that we will feel the need to be challenged to match that alertness and energy, meaning we may have things back to normal, but that's not where we ultimately want to be. We want to exceed normal and get to feeling exceptional.

*Editor's note: With our new pastor now on-board, this month's column concludes "The Writer Within" series, which was begun to help fill the void of a "voice" in the newsletter along with the president's.*

---CLIFF SCHROCK

Holy Cross Word Staff

## OUR FLOCK

### **Christian caring and praying at Holy Cross**

This is the Shepherds' Commission's "FYI" column letting our members know for whom we have prayed during our recent worship services. Please continue to remember these people in your prayers.

We remember our members: **Anita Beer**, who broke her hip and is recovering from surgery—prayers for a healthy recovery; **Carol Burns**, going through physical therapy following hip-replacement surgery; **Ron Dietman**, recovering at home from quadruple-bypass surgery, with prayers for a healthy recovery; **JoAnne Meyer**; **Tim Morris**, for continued healing as he recovers from sinus surgery; **Audrey Paray**, prayers for continued healing; **Barbara Schneider**, for a complete recovery from her recent surgery; **Anita Schoch**, recovering from heart-valve replacement surgery; **Bob Solaz**; the homebound: **Kay Dubin**, **Emma Fengler**, and **Harvey Pomerenk**.

We prayed for our family and friends: **Amy Alfano**, daughter of a friend of Audrey Paray, who has stage 3 ovarian cancer; **Robert Butler**, Laura Dowling's father, hospitalized and going through tests after experiencing two seizures; **Linda Desabella**, friend of Patty Peterson, battling cancer; **Dorothy DeVed**, former Holy Cross member, for healing following a fall in which she injured her knee; **Rev. Ingo Dutzmann** and his family who lost their home and all belongings in an explosion/fire on March 11; **Marti Fischer**, cousin of Carol Burns, who is blind and paralyzed; **Kathy Gardner**, Jim Leslie's sister, recovering from cancer surgery; **Kay Geffert**, Kerry's mother, who fell and broke her hip and is recovering from surgery; **Walter Geffert**, brother of Nancy Sabol, recovering from colon surgery; **Abby Haggerty**, 9-year-old student at Christian Heritage School, recovering from successful brain surgery; **Luke Haggerty**, classmate of Emily Struzik, recovering from brain surgery to remove a tumor; prayers for a quick recovery and prayers of thanksgiving that this tumor was found to be benign; **Cindy Keegan**, a teacher at Christian Heritage School, going through chemo to treat pancreatic cancer, prayers of thanksgiving that tests have shown that the chemo is working to shrink the tumors; **Mary Koch**, niece of Ron Froehlich, who has finished her chemo treatments; **Ramona Kondracki**, wife of a co-worker of Jim Leslie, who has begun chemotherapy for cancer in her sinus cavity; **Eleanor Lynn**, friend of Effie Solaz, experiencing paralysis following a stroke; **Jean Matthews**, Chris Matthews' mother-in-law, following open-heart surgery; and **Joan Meyer**, friend of the Dietmans, in rehab following knee-replacement surgery.



During the past month, we also prayed for these family members and friends: **Kylie Middlemass**, Anita Beer's granddaughter, responding well to various therapies as she works through the difficulties of autism; **Gertrude Moran**, friend of Anita Schoch, going through treatments for lymphoma; **Patrick Murphy**, Pat Peterson's brother, diagnosed with liver cancer and recovering from surgery; **Chris O'Brien**, friend of Mary and Otto Atkinson, paralyzed as a result of an accident; **Joseph Parker**, Julianne Nyitrai's father, who underwent triple-bypass surgery; **Max Pizzolato**, for healing; **Luis Rivera**, friend of Doris Bernt, who had a lung transplant; **Dagmar Rosenberg**, Ingrid Leibold's sister, who has had a relapse of pancreatic cancer and is undergoing more chemotherapy; **Lois Sanders**, daughter of Ron Froehlich, who had breast cancer surgery and has completed chemo treatments; **Joey Senft**, cousin of the Senft family, with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease); **David Sochacki**, friend of Nancy and Jerry Sabol, following brain surgery; **Mike Stachura**, friend of the Schrocks, with a relapse of kidney cancer, for effective radiation treatment to eliminate tumors and cancer cells; **Lorraine Tamas**, neighbor of the Leslies, who suffered a stroke; **Andy Turnbull**, Scott's brother, in remission from leukemia; and **Craig Wilson**, son of a friend of John and Pat Deloge, recovering from tongue cancer surgery.

Other prayers were for: Protection for all those serving in the military, including **Michael Collins**; **Rev. Eric Wismar** and **Good Shepherd-New Fairfield**; the family of Edgar Meyer, Don's brother, who was called home to the Lord following his battle with pancreatic cancer; and **Richard** and **Valerie Huydic**, for safe and healthy travel in Africa.

If your friend or family member is on this list, be sure to keep us updated on his or her progress. When you have prayer requests, you can phone the church office at 203-268-4555 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays or e-mail [holycrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holycrss@mindspring.com) anytime for prayers to be included in our worship services, and the Shepherds' Commission will include the requests in this monthly report. If you would like to be included in our e-mail Prayer Circle, please provide your name and e-mail address to the church office.

---GARY MESSERSCHMITT  
Shepherd's Commission

## WORDS FOR FATHER'S DAY

### **Major League Baseball player Harmon Killebrew (1936-2011) tells how his father set his priorities**

"My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, 'You're tearing up the grass.'

'We're not raising grass,' Dad would reply. 'We're raising boys.'"

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**CHRISTIAN LIVING**  
**Concerning trees...and us!**

Have deep roots...  
 Branch out and be flexible...  
 Keep growing on the inside...  
 Bloom often and show your colors...  
 Raise your limbs to heaven...  
 Bring forth good fruit, as long as you live.

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**CELEBRATING**  
**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**



- JUNE 1:** ERICA CAROLA
- JUNE 2:** GAGE LASALLE
- JUNE 3:** WAYNE LASALLE  
MIA MLADSI
- JUNE 5:** JAMES ATKINSON
- JUNE 6:** VIRGINIA GAFFNEY
- JUNE 8:** CHRISTIAN WITSCHY
- JUNE 10:** MONIKA SEYAL
- JUNE 11:** COLBY LASALLE
- JUNE 12:** MARY SCHROCK
- JUNE 13:** SARAH LEMAY
- JUNE 15:** CARL CARLSON
- JUNE 16:** AMANDA FITZMORRIS  
JORDAN MONES
- JUNE 18:** KALEIGH CALVAO  
AMY GEFFERT
- JUNE 20:** DOUG BOGLE  
JENA CONTE  
JEANNIE MONES
- JUNE 21:** BONNIE HODGES
- JUNE 23:** GAVIN BRENNAN
- JUNE 24:** TIM SENFT
- JUNE 25:** BARBARA LADD
- JUNE 26:** MARISSA RODRIGUEZ
- JUNE 29:** PAT DELOGE  
KATHRYN STRUZIK



**General Memorial Fund**

*In memory of George Morris*

Lynda Hampson  
 Florence Fiehler

*In memory of Helen Kostenko*

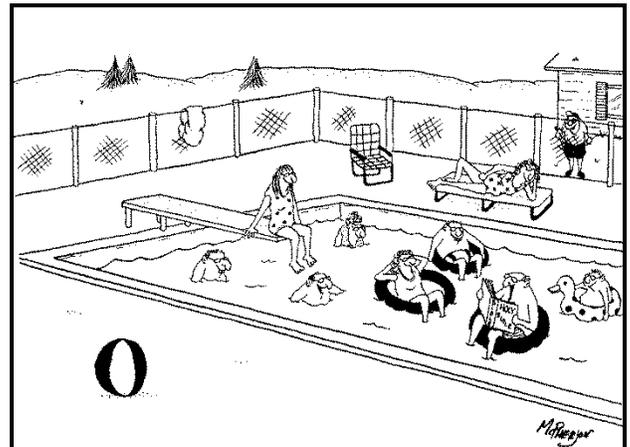
Clinton and Patricia Peterson

**Share the Hope Fund**

*In memory of George Morris*

Jim and Lorraine Finch

**CHURCH CHUCKLES**



The Wagners struck upon a sure-fire way to get the neighbors together for an hour of Bible study.