



The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

APRIL 2022

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXV, NO. 5

HEAD TO THE HEART

Life from Death

Signs of spring are popping up all around us. Outside my window I can see daffodils sprouting, and all around Trumbull these little blue flowers pepper people's yards. The deer, of course, have eaten our tulips already (lesson learned) and a little family of geese seem to have made our front yard their home!

You may start to see some flowers emerge around the Holy Cross sign on Main Street, and in front of the building. In the late fall, Elisabeth and I planted dozens of bulbs in those areas to bring in some colorful flowers to our landscape. Now that we're beginning to see the "fruit" of our labor – and because we are fast approaching Easter – the following scripture passage came to mind.

Jesus answered them, "The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it continues to be one kernel. But if it dies, it produces much grain." – John 12:23-24

All those bulbs we planted were essentially dead. Had they remained in their packaging, they would have remained that way forever. Never to flower. Never to be seen again. But because they had been buried in the ground, and the warmth and moisture of the soil have surrounded them – they have sprung back to life.

Jesus uses this beautiful image, not to give a biology lesson, but to help us understand that His death is necessary for life to blossom and flourish. Jesus paints a picture of Easter, in which the Son of Man is glorified in both His death AND His resurrection. It is on the cross, where He died, that He paid the price for the sins of the world. From there He was buried in a tomb to rest until the proper time. On Easter, He rises from the grave and makes certain that life after death is possible for all humanity.

I'm looking forward to celebrating my first Easter at Holy Cross this year. I'm looking forward to how God is going to bring new life into our congregation in this new year. Most of all I'm looking forward to rejoicing with you in the promise that Christ makes, and makes good on, to all of us: That even though we one day will die, in Christ we are made alive and will flower and bloom forever in the gardens of heaven.



Pastor Nathan Erb

Pastor Nathan Erb



Wednesday, April 6

6:00 p.m. – Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. – Lenten Midweek Worship

Monday, April 11

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

Thursday, April 14 – Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 15 – Good Friday

Office and Preschool are Closed
7:00 p.m. – Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 17 – Easter Sunday—The Resurrection of Our Lord

8:00 a.m. – Easter Breakfast
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion

Week of April 18-22 – Preschool Closed for April Vacation



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

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

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

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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.



CLING TO CHRIST!

By Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Christ did not come into the world that we might understand him, but that we might cling to him, that we might simply let ourselves be swept away by him into the immense event of the resurrection."

—Reprinted with permission from *The Newsletter Newsletter*,

NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the May edition. The deadline for articles is Friday, April 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.



WE ARE FAMILY

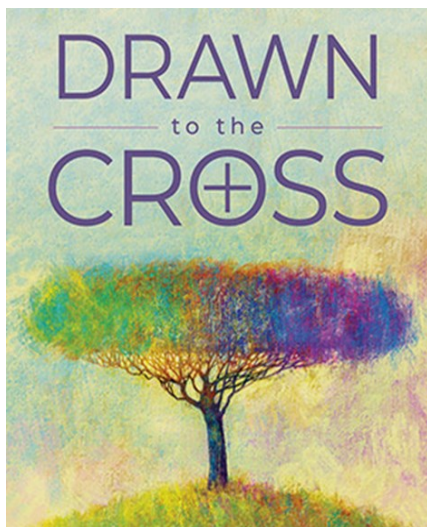
This is the spot to share family news with your church family. If you have something to share, please e-mail it to the church office at office@holycrosstrumbull.com.

We were blessed to celebrate a Baptism during the worship service on Sunday, March 6! God's blessings to the **Broadbin Family** – **Brendan** and **Dani** and older son **Jace** – upon the Baptism of their infant son and brother, **Gio Domenic Broadbin**. Gio's sponsors are his uncle, Ryan Jennings, and his aunt, Jillian Broadbin. We welcome **Gio Domenic** into the Family of God, through the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism, and look forward to the new relationship we will have with him.



The city of West Haven, Department of Education/PTA Council, holds an annual Founder's Day award celebration honoring an "Unsung Hero." This award is given to any city resident or employee who exhibits leadership abilities, shows kindness to the community, especially to the youth. **Diane Dietman** will receive this award at a formal ceremony on April 5. Diane formerly had been a Parks and Recreation Department program coordinator and recently became the Director of Family and Youth Services for the city. Congratulations, Diane!

Congratulations and continued best wishes high school senior **Ethan Rentz**. Ethan is part of the Robotics Program at Masuk High School in Monroe, specifically on the award-winning team "4478D" along with three other Masuk students. This team's robot is named D.E.N.N.I.S., and Ethan is head builder and driver. He works with the three other teammates who all have different roles including programmer and scout, and they all work on the engineering notebook. Ethan is also on the leadership council that mentors the other teams in the Masuk Robotics Program. Team 4478D recently won the Southern New England Championship and attended several Signature Events in California and Massachusetts in addition to its regular season schedule. Prior to the world shutting down from Covid, Ethan's team also won the Signature Event Night at the Museum at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. Currently this team and Robot D.E.N.N.I.S. is ranked 12th in the world and will compete at the VEX Robotics World Championship in early May in Dallas, Tex. As stated on the VEX website, robotics teams from around the world will come together to "celebrate STEM excellence (*science, technology, engineering, and mathematics*) and compete in heart-pounding competition matches." Best of luck to Ethan and his teammates as they bring D.E.N.N.I.S. to Dallas!



Join us at our
Midweek Lenten Service
Wednesday, April 6, at 7:00

The theme is "Drawn to the Cross"

The final soup supper for the Lenten season is prior to the service at 6:00 (April 6).

If you plan to attend, there is a sign-up sheet on the narthex table.

See the soup supper article on page 4

MIDWEEK LENTEN FELLOWSHIP

Let them eat soup!

Spring is here and we are seeing the blooming of flowers. We are also seeing the rebirth of our soup suppers! We kicked off our soup-supper season on March 9 with nearly 25 attendees and eight soups, and on March 16 we had nine soups. We are so happy to have a little more "normal" brought back.



Thank you to George Hermes and Edith Skoog for the delicious homemade Sourdough and Irish Soda breads. Thanks to our custodian Roger for always setting up the extra tables, and thank you to all for attending and helping clean up since we are on a tighter schedule this year.

We can't wait to see what soups will arrive at our final Lenten soup supper on April 6. Soup's on at 6 p.m.!

Your Soup Supper gals,

---DONNA BOGEN and LAURIE VAITKUS

WHAT MAUNDY THURSDAY CAN MEAN FOR YOU

The day before Good Friday is called Maundy Thursday. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means "commandment." In the gospel of John, Jesus makes this statement during the Last Supper: "I am with you only a little longer...I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:33-35, NRSV). Maundy Thursday should always be a time of sharing with others, showing loving concern for one another, and partaking of Holy Communion. That is what the Lord asked of his disciples and asks of us.

---Reprinted with permission from *The Newsletter Newsletter*, © 2017

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Notes and drawings spell out L-O-V-E to our college students

I read an article recently about ways in which a congregation can put together care packages for young adults who have gone off to higher education. In addition to some healthy snacks, a devotional, and a small gift (Chapstick®, lotion, stress ball, etc.), the packages could include a few handwritten notes from adult congregation members and some cards from the children. What a wonderful way for a congregation to tell its young adults: "We love you. We miss you. We are praying for you." There will be a box on the narthex table for notes from adults and children's messages.



As we have done in the past, we will again be sending out care packages to our college students. Most semesters end at the beginning of May so we will try to get these out the second week of April.

We currently have seven college kids in our congregation. It is our hope to have a team help the Shepherds' Commission put together care packages twice a year to remind our college students how much their congregation is thinking of them.

Please contact me if you would like to help in this act of kindness.

---CINDY CICCIA
Shepherds' Commission



Join us at the
**E A S T E R
B R E A K F A S T**

Sunday, April 17
at 8:00 a.m.
in the
Froehlich
Fellowship Hall

Please join your Holy Cross family and friends for this fellowship tradition.

If you plan to attend,
the sign-up sheet
is on the narthex table.

Breakfast casseroles, bagels, pastries/baked goods and fruit salad are needed.

If you can provide any of these items, please indicate this on the sign-up sheet.

Our Easter
worship service
begins at 10 a.m.

EVANGELISM AND YOU

Monthly director's report on things to know and even things to do

In trying to keep the topic of evangelism skills front and center in my monthly reports, I thought it would be fun to analyze the skills of John the Baptist at telling the good news even though we are not in the season of him heralding Jesus' birth.

If you need to read an example of his M.O., going to Matthew 3:1-12 is a good place. Some of the key traits of his approach are worth noting and adopting when we, too, find ourselves in the position of speaking to others about our faith or about our church home. They include being direct, succinct, even blunt when necessary. He was certainly fearless and not afraid to speak from his heart, knowing he would be given the right words to say. He also didn't feel limited in the locations from which to deliver his message, ranging from the Jordan River to the wilderness to being in a prison. Any place was a good place to deliver his message. He didn't feel he had to be in a holy area to speak his message.



I personally have always felt John had an edgy danger way about him, not in the sense of doing violence, but as a zealot, unpredictable, and someone who was strong behind his convictions, which were to preach repentance, be baptized, and to serve the Messiah, the One who is coming. Oh, and eating all those locusts didn't seem like someone who was sane, either! But doing so was his persona and something that fit a person whose home was the outdoors. In a way, John's mannerisms combine to give his listeners great encouragement because he is so fervent with no doubts about what he's preaching.

John also can be compared to a prophet, who is committed to speaking the truth, drawing a hard line, and vigorously proclaiming his news.

We seek to be evangelists ourselves because we, as Christians, aren't just satisfied to have the truth of God's love kept to ourselves but feel strongly it must be shared. That's why at Holy Cross we are such good givers for Covenant to Care or food drives and clothing drives. Our attitudes and actions suggest people who know the power of God's love and want to share it. By doing so, we can always hope that we can help convert someone to God.

So see, so many of us are showing evangelism skills quite well!

As for the commission's key tasks, they continue to be fulfilled. Elisabeth Erb has now done a fourth display case theme, the most recent a Lenten theme for March. My thanks to her and the other commission members Doris Bernt, DJ Broadbin, and Tina Curto. There's also an ongoing effort to work with Pastor Erb on updating the Holy Cross info card and shaping a letter to new homeowners in the area. And the commission will have a second meeting in the near future.

Lastly, this **month's featured tracts** in the narthex are: Look for tracts that help you understand more about health subjects such as breast cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

---CLIFF SCHROCK



Position Available: Financial Secretary

Holy Cross has an immediate need for a member to step forward to serve as our Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary is responsible for recording income and providing a monthly income report for the Board of Directors. Other responsibilities include coordinating the weekly counters, coordinating the distribution of each year's offering envelopes and providing periodic reports to the congregation as well as annual giving statements. Holy Cross has engaged a new software package to help streamline data entry and reporting. The Financial Secretary is the primary contact with our electronic giving service.

Training and support are available! This is a low-stress position, but it is crucial to the operation of Holy Cross. If you are available to serve, or know someone who needs a bit of nudging, please contact me at president@holycrosstrumbull.com or 203-925-8341.

Thank you!

---KERRY GEFFERT

HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

The children will learn this joyful refrain: He Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

With great joy we celebrate Easter this month! We rejoice that Jesus overcame death and grants us the promise of new life through His death and resurrection! Our Bible stories this month will focus on Jesus' appearance to the women at the tomb and to His disciples. We will learn how Jesus prepares them for a life of ministry and how we can also share the Good News!

In April we will focus on Easter, spring and insects. The Easter theme also gives us lots of opportunities to use plastic eggs in creative ways. The children will paint with plastic egg halves, build towers with them, match upper and lower case letters and make their own resurrection garden! We will plant bean and pumpkin seeds and watch them grow. The children will predict which will sprout first. We will learn what a plant needs to grow. We will explore the many insects that God created and what makes an insect an insect. The children will get to see the metamorphosis of a caterpillar to butterfly with live caterpillars!



Registration for our Summer Camp is underway. Camp is open to children ages 3 to 5 and will run from June 20 through August 5.

Registration for the 2022-2023 year is going great! We are almost full in all classes!

May you have a blessed and joyous Easter!

In Jesus' Name,
---MICHELE GLENNON
Preschool Director

COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Easter Basket project is showing our members' loving creativity

As of the third week of March, all the tags had been taken off the Easter basket poster and the completed baskets were being returned. It's always so fun to see the creativity, care and love that many of our members share through the Easter basket(s) they put together. By April 3, Holy Cross will have nearly 30 baskets to be delivered to our DCF social worker, Mimose Laurenard and, in turn, she will personally bring them to the children in her caseload.



Thank you so much to the following families/individuals who took a bunny, chick or butterfly tag, agreeing to put together a basket for a child in Mimose's caseload: the Anantharaj family, Sue Antoniou, the Bogen family, Kathy and Rick Boivie, Adele and John Buck, Cindy and Joe Ciccia, Pat and John Deloge, Diane Dietman, Donna and Gary DiLalla, Sherry Duff, Lorraine and Jim

Finch, Paul Hagberg, the Helminger family, Ingrid and Dieter Leibold, the Messerschmitt family, Kendra Norman, the Nyitrai family, the Rentz Family, Alexis Rodriguez, Donna Rodriguez, Marissa Rodriguez, the Romano family, Nancy and Jerry Sabol, Mary and Cliff Schrock, Donna and Dan Senft, and Michele and Rick Van Wart.

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

LEARN FROM & BE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

The Holy Cross Word monthly "Bible study on paper": Acts, Chapter 12

Acts, Chapter 12, 25 verses—This chapter continues to look at how persecution of the church caused it to scatter and spread and Chapter 12 concludes the section on how the church is accepting of Gentiles. Please pause now to read the full Chapter 12 of Acts (use an aid such as BibleGateway.com if needed).



Chapter 12 analysis—

Chapter 11 explained how the persecuted were scattered after the stoning of Stephen. Many believers had fled to other cities and countries when Jerusalem became too dangerous. The chapter ended with reference to the first NT Christian prophets. In Chapter 12, Herod's persecution of the church is the main subject.

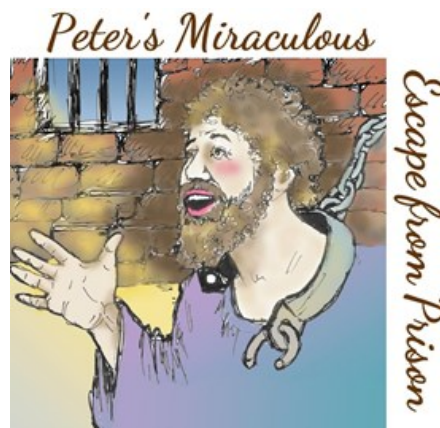
As Chapter 12 begins, Agrippa I, from the line of Herod the Great, is being violent with the Believers. James, the brother of John, is killed by the sword, the first apostle to be martyred. Having seen the pleasure that caused the Jews, Herod had Peter arrested and put in prison under heavy guard and chained. The plan was to bring him out after Passover. The Believers prayed intensely for Peter while he was in prison.

"Scripture Study," continues on page 7

“Scripture Study,” continues from page 6

On the eve of being brought out by Herod, an angel appeared to Peter, waking him and urging him to get up quickly. Peter got prepared to leave but was having a hard time not thinking he was in a dream. The chains fell away from Peter. He and the angel passed the first set of guards, then the second guard set. They reached the iron gate that led into the city and here the proof of a miracle is that the gate opened without human hands. Once on the outside of the city on a road, the angel departed. The realization of what happened then hit Peter hard and he understood the angel had saved him from Herod and the Jews who wanted to harm him.

Peter's first move was to go to the house of Mary, mother of John (also known as Mark), a place where many of those who had been praying for Peter had gathered. The maid, Rhoda, comically left Peter standing at the house gate when he knocked so she could run and tell those inside she'd heard Peter's voice. They highly doubted her, but she insisted and they instead said it must have been Peter's angel. Peter, meanwhile, was persistently knocking, and this time a group went to see and they saw that it was, indeed, Peter. He quieted them and explained what happened. He instructed them to tell James and then went to another location.



As morning arrived, there was obvious chaos with the guards trying to figure out what happened, knowing they were doomed for what occurred. Sure enough, when Herod's search for Peter came up empty, he ordered that the guards be executed. He then left for Caesarea. In verses 20 to 23, the death of Herod is revealed. We learn that Herod was upset with the residents of Tyre and Sidon. A delegation from there came to see Herod, and on the day of their arrival, he put on his finest robes and prepared to speak to them. Facing a crowd that acclaimed him as a god, he was struck down dead, having refused to give glory to God.

In the chapter's final verses, the writer, Luke, brings us back to update on Saul and Barnabas and discloses that God's Word was continuing to be preached and advanced, converting new Believers. Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem, bringing John with them.

Chapter 13 will continue with Paul's first missionary journey.

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

Next month: Acts, Chapter 13.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

CELEBRATING APRIL BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| April 1: Nicole Hackney | April 14: Marion Dale |
| April 3: Robert Killian | April 23: Anita Schoch |
| April 7: John Anantharaj | Richard Van Wart |
| Paul Hagberg | Sadie Veteri |
| April 8: Bobby Kravecs | April 24: Sheryl John |
| April 9: Donna Bogen | April 25: Jenzy Halls |
| April 10: Donald Erickson | April 28: Lillian Gagliardi |
| April 11: Kelley Geffert | Jennifer Rentz |
| April 12: Stephanie Helminger | April 29: Dan Senft |
| April 13: Gary DiLalla | April 30: Amanda Weldon |



Birthday Blessings