



# The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

JULY/AUGUST 2022

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXV, NO. 8/9

## HEAD TO THE HEART

### Summer Vacation with/from God

As a child, I always looked forward to summer. Ah, what a feeling the first day after the last day of school. I was never one to sleep in because there was so much to do – but not in a stressed or rushed kind of way. There were no deadlines to meet, or a tight schedule to follow. Each day was busy, but a “good” busy. There were forts to build, games to play, woods and trails to explore, friends to ride bikes with, camps to attend, and more! I actually think, as much as summer was a “break,” I was actually busier! From sunup to the street lights coming on, I was outside “doing stuff” – and it was glorious!

But one thing that never changed from our routine was attending church on Sunday morning. At the time, I’m sure there were times when I would have rather been out riding my bike, or exploring the creek (*although donuts after church was always a welcome incentive*), but we’d always go, and now I’m thankful that my parents made attending worship a priority. Even when we went on vacation, we would find a church to attend.

So why is showing up at church on Sunday morning so important? There are many reasons given for NOT attending (I’ve heard them all), but what are the reasons FOR attending – every week. Here’s one.

### God is there FOR YOU!

Imagine you call up a friend, and invite them over for coffee, or for dinner. You make plans, and get everything prepared for them to arrive. But then when the time comes they don’t show up – and they didn’t even let you know! Then, when you call them up to find out what’s going on, they say, “We had better things to do.”

Yes, it’s true, God is present everywhere; He’s with you wherever you go – but He also invites you to “His house” every week to give you His special gifts. Gifts of Absolution from the Pastor, Christ’s Body and Blood for your forgiveness and sanctification, and His Gospel proclaimed so that you might always know God’s love for you. These are gifts that lead to eternal life. Nothing else you do on a Sunday morning can offer such a gift, and there is no greater time spent than with your Father in Heaven, and your Savior Jesus Christ.

We all need a break. Even God took a day’s rest and gives you the Sabbath as a gift. But I urge you, not to take a vacation FROM the Lord’s Invitation each Sunday. Instead, take a vacation WITH Him – because He invites you to come and rest in His presence. To take comfort in the work of His hands. To receive nourishment for your souls, and let the glory of the Son shine on your face. God loves you! He wants to spend time with you! He has promised to be there for you – and He is – every time.



*Worshiping Together  
Receiving God’s Gifts*

Pastor Nathan Erb

Pastor Nathan Erb



Sunday morning Bible Class continues through the summer at 9:00

**Monday, July 4** – Independence Day  
Church Office and Preschool are closed  
Church Office closed July 4-18

**Thursday, July 14**  
7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors' meeting

**Thursday, August 11**  
7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors' meeting

**Thursday-Monday, August 11-15** – Church Office closed



## **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

Pastor's Study Phone: 203-268-7555; Pastor's e-mail: [pastor@holycrosstrumbull.com](mailto:pastor@holycrosstrumbull.com)

Church Office: 203-268-4555; Church Office e-mail: [office@holycrosstrumbull.com](mailto:office@holycrosstrumbull.com)

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

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

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**NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR:** Cliff Schrock  
**NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION:** Mary Schrock

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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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.**



**SHARE YOUR SMILE 😊!**

**By Joseph Addison, English  
essayist, poet and playwright**

"What sunshine is to flowers,  
smiles are to humanity."

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## **NEWSLETTER NOTES**

**Our next deadline is...**

Because this is a combined summer edition of The Holy Cross Word, there is no July 15 deadline. The regular monthly schedule will resume with the September issue, with the deadline for articles being Monday, August 15. 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 (outside the church office) or send them via e-mail to:



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

## PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

### **For this summer edition of our newsletter, here are some updates**

**New England District Convention** – Pastor and I attended the triennial convention in June. There's nothing like the sound of a sanctuary of pastors singing our liturgy and hymns! But there was also business to attend to. Rev. Robert Beinke of St. Peter-Norwalk was elected NED President; he had been Acting President following the passing of our beloved President Yeadon who was called home earlier this year. Rev. Robert Morris of Newtown was elected Circuit Visitor for our Circuit (a "local" group of congregations).

One of the other joys of the NED Convention is the marking of milestones of pastors and rostered workers. Holy Cross was well represented in this area. Rev. Ronald Froehlich and Rev. Steven Bartell (a "son" of Holy Cross) were recognized for 66 and 38 years of faithful ministry respectively. And both Rev. Bill (Ordained) and Christine (Commissioned) Flammann were recognized with Emeritus status.

Back at home we have had a few changes to our own **Board of Directors**. I am very happy to announce that Jon Halls has been appointed Financial Secretary. We thank him for stepping up to fill this important role. Meanwhile, Vice President Sherry Duff and Worship Commission Director Lydia Struzik have stepped down from their positions to focus on their job responsibilities. We thank them for their many years of leadership and service to Holy Cross, especially during our vacancy. Because we will be updating our Bylaws to be more reflective of today's volunteerism (subject to congregational approval), we will not be seeking immediate replacements.



Then there is **our facility**. Pastor Erb has been effective in helping us see our building with fresh eyes, like those of a first-time visitor. This is an important perspective if we want to be seen as a welcoming congregation. You may have noticed that the narthex seems less cluttered and more open, while the new TV allows for timely recognitions and announcements. In the sanctuary you may need shades because of the light streaming in through the new skylights (thanks, Dan!)

And there's more to come. Our restrooms need updating and our undercroft (lower level) is currently not being used because, quite frankly, it smells and looks terrible – except for the great murals. Updating will require going beyond cosmetic work and challenge us to deep clean/declutter and strategically plan while meeting both local and federal requirements, like ADA. How can you help? Be thinking about realistic use of our space – how would it look? How do we get there? If you are asked to help with a specific task, I hope you will agree. Finally, I hope that everyone will prayerfully consider how you can help financially support the work we have ahead of us.

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In our post-pandemic world we often speak of returning to normal. I respectfully disagree. It's time for us to envision a better normal, one in which Holy Cross is buzzing with activity and an active membership. We must trust in the Lord as we step into the future. I pray you will step with me!

---KERRY GEFFERT  
President, Board of Directors

## LUTHERAN WINNI WEEK

### **New Hampshire lake is site for August event**

For those who may be interested, grab your Bibles, pack your bags, and come have a week of fun and spiritual renewal at Lutheran Winni Week at beautiful Geneva Point Center on the shore of Lake Winnepesaukee – August 7-13 – Moultonboro, New Hampshire, "where Lutherans have gathered since 1931".

"Historic Geneva Point is a conference and summer camp center ..." Check out the on-line brochure at:



<https://www.lutheranwinniweek.org/about/2022-brochure>

There are additional photos at these links:  
<https://www.lutheranwinniweek.org> and  
<https://www.lutheranwinniweek.org/gallery>

The registrar for Lutheran Winni Week has requested that guests make their reservations as soon as possible. It's first come, first served. Registration will close on July 15. For additional information phone Kathy and Rick Boivie at 203-261-6695 and leave a message if we're not there. We'll get back to you.

---KATHY and RICK BOIVIE

## GRADUATION

### **Best wishes to our college and high school graduates!**

Congratulations to our Holy Cross members who graduated from high school, college and a master's program in 2022! Surely, these graduates look forward to the next phase of their lives with excitement and anticipation. Remember that leaving your current academic setting isn't just an end or a farewell...it's a beginning, an open door, a hello and an opportunity to mark a new adventure in life!



Listed below are the graduates who filled out the "Graduate Information" form to let us know of their achievement. Cheers to the Class of 2022!

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

#### **Peter Antoniou**

Son of Susan Antoniou, Peter graduated from Trumbull High School. Peter plans to study to be an auto-repair technician at Gateway Community College.

#### **Ethan Rentz**

Son of Matt and Jenn Rentz, Ethan graduated from Masuk High School in Monroe. Ethan will attend the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, and will be enrolled in the School of Engineering.

### **COLLEGE DEGREE**

#### **Sheryl John**

Daughter of John Anantharaj and Buela John, Sheryl graduated from the University of Connecticut in Storrs with a double major—Physiology & Neurobiology and Psychological Sciences (research track). She also minored in Neuroscience. Sheryl plans to go to medical school in 2023.

### **ADVANCED DEGREE**

#### **Tina Curto**

Tina is nearly finished with completing all necessary coursework to receive a Master of Music Education at the University of Hartford. She will finish her coursework this summer, and officially graduate in December 2022. Tina will continue to teach music in Bridgeport.

## COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

### **The back-to-school project kicks off early this summer with donations due on August 7**

Summer break from school only began a couple weeks ago, but we already need to focus on the new backpacks and school supplies children will need for the 2022-23 school year. Through our covenant with the State of Connecticut's Covenant to Care for Children program and Holy Cross' "adopted" DCF social worker, Mimose Ulysses-Laurenard, we have a promise to fulfill: Providing the 31 school-aged children in Mimose's caseload with a new backpack filled with necessary and fun school supplies. Mimose has had an exceptionally-challenging late spring with so many new children assigned to her caseload; typically we provide 24-26 filled backpacks, but this year Holy Cross members and friends will be challenged to provide 31.



Beginning July 3, look in the narthex for the large display board with pockets filled with 3"-by-5" "shopping cards" for school supply items. Each card lists the specific item needed...backpacks, pens, colored pencils, pencil pouches, binders, pencils, pocket folders, markers, and so much more. The display board will remain in the narthex through the due date – August 7 – so watch for store sales throughout July. If you wish to make a donation of a backpack and/or school supplies, just take the appropriate "shopping cards" from the poster and return your donation(s) no later than August 7.

If you are not able to shop, monetary donations for this project are welcomed. You may make a check out to Holy Cross Lutheran, and write "Cov to Care" in the memo section. Monetary donations may be put in the Covenant to Care mailbox (*bottom row, far right*) or mailed to the church office, and must be received by July 24 so that I can take inventory of items still needed.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to help our church's adopted social worker as she works with children of all ages who are unfortunately removed from their home and placed into the DCF system.

Yours in Christ,

---MARY SCHROCK, schrocknroll@optonline.net

Covenant to Care for Children Liaison



## IN THE MAILBAG

### **From the Dietman Family**

To our Holy Cross Family:

Please know that your many phone/in-person visits, e-mails, cards, encouraging words and many prayers have greatly helped to brighten the days for all of us. How blessed are we to be a part of this caring congregation! May God continue to bless all of you and HCLC-Trumbull.

---THE DIETMAN FAMILY



### **From Cindy Ciccia and Family**

To our Holy Cross Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes for my daughter Ashley. Also, thanks to Pat Deloge for arranging a Dinner-To-Go for Ashley and her family, that was made by Donna Senft and delivered by DJ Broadbin. It was a huge hit, and as you can see by the accompanying picture, their kids (Audrey and Kaiden showing "thumb's up") loved it. A million thank yous to everyone – and for the power of prayer.

Peace and Love,  
---CINCY CICCIA

### **From Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf**

Thank you so much for your donation memorial of \$350.00 to the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf. This donation in memory of Rev. Timothy Yeadon will be used to help better the lives of our students. A notification has also been sent to the family of Rev. Timothy Yeadon. We feel very blessed to have your continued faith in our work. Because of your support, we can continue our commitment to serving people of all ages who are deaf and/or have other special needs. A large portion of our funding comes from gifts from kind-hearted people like you, and without your generosity, we simply could not provide vital educational, vocational and spiritual programs that deaf people need to achieve success and independence. Thank you for continuing to be a part of our mission. We take great comfort knowing that there are people like you who truly care and join in making the world a better place.

Sincerely,

---ASIAH MASON, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

### THE POWER OF KINDNESS

#### **Words by Amelia Earhart**

No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves.

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## EVANGELISM AND YOU

### **Monthly director's report: This year Holy Cross turned 65; our display case tells the story**

The 65th anniversary of Holy Cross' first service was actually in February, but who doesn't like a party that goes on for several months?

The Evangelism Commission is in charge of the narthex display case and following Easter it was turned over to a display on our 65 years. If you haven't already taken a gander at it, please do so when you're at church again.

Try to spot some present members or tie-ins to members in the photography: Edith Skoog directing the choir in which Audrey Paray was singing; the photo of George Stromp is Donna DiLalla's father; you'll see Billie Skoog famously giving kids a wagon ride; also look for Pat Deloge, Myrtle Anderson, John Rosen, Dan Senft, Gary Jackson, and see if you can spot who is in two photos! As a hint, he was one of our vacancy pastors recently.

Someone who was a major historical figure for the church, Robert Killian, is in the photo of people standing in front of our future site; sadly, we lost Mr. Killian in mid-June at the age of 104, surely our longest living member and one of our last links to the creation of Holy Cross.

---CLIFF SCHROCK  
Director of Evangelism



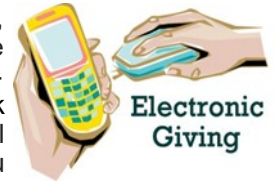
## FINANCIAL GIVING

### **Enjoy the convenience and regularity of giving electronically**

If you think you may miss church services this summer due to travel or other commitments, consider using our electronic-giving option to set up a one-time or recurring giving schedule while you are away. Your consistent support is vital to our church, especially during summer months. To set up a contribution, visit our website—[holycrosstrumbull.org](http://holycrosstrumbull.org)—and click on the “Give An Offering” link at the bottom of the home page and follow the prompts. Feel free to contact the church office or myself ([financialsecretary@holycrosstrumbull.com](mailto:financialsecretary@holycrosstrumbull.com)) if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of our church and our mission!

---JON HALLS

Financial Secretary



### **Share the Hope Fund**

*In memory of Linda Kochersberger,  
Donna Jackson's sister*

Dave and Donna Bogen  
Gary and Donna DiLalla

*In memory of Mary Ellen Hynd,  
Mary Schrock's mother*

John and Pat Deloge  
Jim and Lorraine Finch  
The Rodriguez Family

## 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](mailto:office@holycrosstrumbull.com).**

We were blessed to celebrate a Baptism during the worship service on Sunday, June 5! God's blessings to **Patrick Feeney and Janine Herr** upon the Baptism of their daughter, **Madison Raine Herr-Feeney**.



Madison's sponsors are her grandfather, James Herr, and her aunt, Patty Brown.

We welcome **Madison Raine** into the Family of God, through the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism, and look forward to the new relationship we will have with her.

## LEARN FROM & BE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

### **The Holy Cross Word monthly “Bible study on paper”: Acts, Chapter 15**

**Acts, Chapter 15, 41 verses**—In this section of Acts in which the spread of the Christian church is shown expanding overseas and to “the ends of the earth,” Chapter 15 focuses on a meeting at Jerusalem.



Please pause now to read the full Chapter 15 of Acts (use a home Bible or an aid such as BibleGateway.com if needed).

### **Chapter 15 analysis—**

Chapters 13 and 14 had described a few examples of the typical circumstances surrounding Paul and Barnabas' missionary journeys. A “usual” pattern was arriving and being well received at first following their Good News messages about Jesus and their desire to share what His earthly ministry fulfilled. Both Jews and Gentiles were becoming believers. But then the Jews who were angered by what the missionaries preached caused disturbances and riled up those who would do harm to the two, whereupon they would leave for another city.

The missionary journey in Chapter 14 carried on through Pisidia, Pamphylia, Perga, Attalia, Antioch, back where they had started and where the missionaries were commended for their work; they stayed in Antioch “for some time.”

Chapter 15 begins with a description of a conference in Jerusalem or “The Council at Jerusalem.” “Certain individuals” from Jerusalem came to Antioch and warned the Christians that they had to obey every law and custom from Moses or they could not be saved. This, of course, was quite disturbing to hear, particularly to the Gentile Christians, and after Paul and Barnabas had involved themselves in debate about this they led a group to Jerusalem to have a meeting with the apostles and elders. Paul and Barnabas told the men from Jerusalem they were wrong. Gentiles are saved without keeping Moses' law. But the two were worried this new edict would turn the Gentiles

*“Acts Study,” continues on page 7*

**“Acts Study,” continues from page 6**

away from their message. Because God had given certain rules to Moses for the Jews/Israelites, the Gentiles had never had to abide by them and didn't even know the teachings.

On the way to Jerusalem, the group delivered their message of hope successfully in Phoenicia and Samaria. There was great rejoicing at those stops. After their initial arrival in Jerusalem, the group gave a report on all they had been doing, but a certain sect of Pharisees still firmly believed the law of Moses had to be strictly obeyed to the final letter. Their thinking lacked the understanding that Jesus had taught believers to live holy lives and that they could do so even though they didn't know anything about the law of Moses.



In verse 7 we read that a great amount of debate took place, after which Peter spoke forcefully, feeling he had been appointed by God to be a leader. He reviewed his previous speeches that focused on how the Gentiles were not any different in God's eyes than the Jews and there was no need to put divisions between them. One of his main points was that God gave the Holy Spirit to Jew and Gentile, and he pointed out “we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.” This seemed to silence the assembly, and Barnabas and Paul took that chance to restate all the “signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles.”

When they had finished, James, who had been the church leader in Jerusalem, supported his brothers and contributed to the argument to be more understanding by basically telling those assembled, “We should not trouble the Gentile believers to do things the same way we do them. Instead, we should warn them to keep away from idols and sin.” He quoted from Amos: “After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—even all the gentiles over whom my name has been called. Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago.” His final point, in verses 19 and 20, was that instead of limiting and causing doubt among the Gentiles, they should be building them up and encouraging them to live sinless lives “to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from sexual immorality and from whatever has been strangled and from blood.”

The joint arguments ending with James bound everyone together in agreement. The church in Jerusalem wrote a letter to the church in Antioch (and Syria and Cilicia, too), which Paul and Barnabas delivered, in the company of two other preachers who the church chose: Judas called Barsabbas and Silas, two leading men in the community. (With the writing of the letter, the first ecumenical church council ever held ended.) The contents of the letter is contained in verses 23-29. The letter was well received in Antioch and there was rejoicing that the Gentiles would not have to live like the Jews to please God. The Antioch believers remained strong in their worship of God. Judas and Silas were of great help in encouraging the believers. Judas would return to Jerusalem after many days but there is evidence that Silas stayed in Antioch.

Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, continuing to teach and proclaim about Jesus. But the two would have a disagreement. Paul wanted to retrace their previous steps to see how the believers they had left behind were doing. That was fine with Barnabas but he wanted to take his nephew John Mark; but because the nephew had not been on all of these stops, Paul preferred to not have him along. With this clear disagreement, Barnabas left for Cyprus with John Mark. It was a peaceful resolution and a great example of solving issues calmly and with purpose because later Paul and John Mark would work together again. Paul selected Silas to go with him on his second missionary journey through Syria and Cilicia (Asia Minor).

**Next issue:** Acts, Chapter 16.

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

---CLIFF SCHROCK

**CHURCH CHUCKLES**



“Actually, sir, the rules *were* chiseled in stone.”

## CELEBRATING JULY BIRTHDAYS

Look Whooo's  
Having a Birthday!



July 1:	Karli Chirgwin	July 18:	Grace Ely
July 6:	Robert Kravecs, Jr.		Stephanie Liptack
July 7:	Owen Martineli		Amanda Sjoblom
	Edith Skoog	July 20:	Charlene Hron Weigle
July 8:	Justin Fanning		Jon Testani
July 9:	Logan Deloge	July 22:	Karl Schipul
July 10:	Karl Dale	July 23:	Joelle Cyr
July 13:	Jacob Nyitrai	July 26:	Pastor Erb
July 15:	David Festi	July 27:	Lorraine Finch
July 16:	Marie Morris		Keith Janssen
July 17:	Cindy Ciccia		Michele Van Wart
	Christine Flammann	July 31:	John Roman
	Gunther Naumann		

## CELEBRATING AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 2:	Nate Helminger	August 18:	Donna DiLalla
August 4:	Cristina Curto		Jake Hackney
	Ulrich Danne		Stella Hackney
August 5:	Ashley Testani	August 19:	Tim Morris
August 11:	Julia Antoniou	August 20:	Gio Broadbin
	Daisy Benson		Norah Kravecs
	Jackie Dale	August 21:	Tim Benson, Jr.
August 12:	Kristine Liptack		David Schiller
August 13:	Ace Hackney	August 24:	Natalie Benson
August 14:	Charlotte Fanning	August 25:	Paul Vaitkus
August 15:	Judith Chirgwin	August 28:	Ashley Gomes
August 17:	Jace Broadbin	August 31:	Debbie Riccio
			Andrew Sylling



May Sunshine  
Brighten Your Day!