



The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

JUNE 2022

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXV, NO. 7

HEAD TO THE HEART

Our Hope is in the Lord

As I sit to write this article, it has been only two days after the tragedy in Uvalde, Texas, about two weeks after a similarly devastating mass shooting in Buffalo, New York, and we remain in the midst of an ongoing conflict overseas that continues to leave behind a wake of devastation and loss of life. Covid is still a thing. There is a baby formula shortage. People are concerned about the border. All of this is in a sea of political turmoil that seems to be dividing our country more and more each day. To live in a world with so many advancements, I can't help but feel as if we've fallen dramatically behind in the areas that actually matter.

These are the big matters that receive global attention, but each and every day I hear from people who are being affected in much more personal ways. A wife is trying to navigate her husband's declining health, not sure what the right thing is to do or how to feel about it. A friend's child whose seizures suddenly returned. A mother's deep concern about her daughter's heart surgery. A father whose wife passed away and will be raising their young children on his own.



The list could go on – and it will.

How do we – as people of faith – think about such things? What do we do when every day we hear, or experience, yet another terrible event? How do we pray about such things, when we've *been* praying and things seem to get worse? What do we say to those who are suffering, when words seem inadequate? Why is all this happening, and when will it end?

Our hope is in the Lord. This is not a wishful thinking version of hope. It is a solid trust that Christ will do what He says He will do for us. That what He has already done for us is really real. This world is a mess – this is not news. But Christ entered the mess (which our sin caused and continues to create) to first succumb to the consequence of sin, which is

death, but then to overcome it by rising from the dead. Christ is our hope because God also makes a promise that those who believe that Christ did this for them, and are baptized – united to Christ's death and resurrection – will be with Christ now and always.

Here is a portion of what Jesus prayed, the night before He was crucified: "Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. **I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.**"

As sin and its tragic events continue to confuse, frustrate, and anger us, we trust in the One who died to forgive sin, and who rose to assure us that life in this world, even death in this world, is not the end of the story. We live in Christ who lives – now and forever. This is the hope we can offer those who need it. Not empty promises, or wishful thinking – but a concrete assurance of God's everlasting love.

Pastor Nathan Erb

Pastor Nathan Erb



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

Sunday, June 5 – The Day of Pentecost

Thursday-Saturday, June 9-11

New England District 2022 Convention in Springfield, Mass.

Sunday, June 12 – Holy Trinity Sunday

Tuesday, June 14 – Flag Day

Thursday, June 16

9:15 a.m. – Preschool Graduation



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

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

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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.



PLANTING AND SHARING

By Leo Buscaglia, American author, motivational speaker

"The fact that I can plant a seed and it becomes a flower, share a bit of knowledge and it becomes another's, smile at someone and receive a smile in return, are to me continual spiritual exercises."

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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 Wednesday, June 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.



EVANGELISM AND YOU

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

It is difficult for evangelists—which is what you are!—being good and effective evangelists when you don't have the proper stimulation, encouragement, and spirituality to speak to those who need to hear the good news and be inspired to become a Christian.

That's where attending church services and being in Adult Bible class become important allies to finding out our potential in sharing our faith. If you have been complacent or uninvolved in attending worship, get yourself focused on coming regularly at 10. An hour of Christian fellowship is a great way to be energized and prepared for the upcoming week ahead. And if you have been attending church, take the big leap – or perhaps it might feel like a plunge – to attending Sunday Bible class at 9. Yes, if you can add 1 plus 1, that would be two hours at church on Sunday morning. Being at church an extra hour might feel like an impossibility, but like anything you don't feel you have the capability of doing, you have it within yourself to devote the time to God and show how important He is in your life.

To editorialize a little, Holy Cross has drifted from its years of offering two or three adult Bible classes at a time to one currently, so we've gotten a little complacent in our study of Scripture. Let's reverse that trend and be stimulated by hearing the readings for Sunday analyzed more thoroughly in a cozy setting with your fellow church members, led by Pastor Erb. Right now the Bible class meets in the Froehlich Fellowship Hall but wouldn't it be special to have so many people come that we have to meet in church?!



As for the commission's key tasks, the five commission members had a meeting on May 10. Some of the key duties of the commission are doing well: display case (Elisabeth Erb's efforts from Advent to Easter, a new theme will come after Easter season), greeters (remember, please see me if you would like to be on this team), and tract ministry (the featured tract this month is under Commitment). Two projects that involve updating text and execution of the Holy Cross info card and a letter to new homeowners in the area remain on hold.

Two main topics discussed by the commission, which consists of Doris Bernt, DJ Broadbin, Tina Curto, and Elisabeth, were the original outdoor brick sign and social media. Regarding the former, the commission expects to "beautify" as best it can the condition of the sign and get into a regular pattern of putting messages on the board. Yes, that sounds pretty basic, but that procedure had been dormant and the commission wants to utilize the sign better as a supplement to the wooden sign closer to the road that lists our worship schedule.

As for social media, both Elisabeth and DJ have agreed to be more active from the commission in working with others to coordinate the messages and content being delivered on our social media platforms. Many details have yet to be formulated, but because the commission is charged with helping publicize the church, this will be a way for it to get onboard with the new way of getting the word out about Holy Cross. The old model of print ads and/or newspaper coverage does not work anymore.

---CLIFF SCHROCK
Director of Evangelism

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

HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

It will be a busy month of June with an end-of-school party, graduation and the onset of summer camp

It is hard to believe that our school year is almost over! We will be saying goodbye to many special friends, but we know that we are always connected through the love of Jesus. We have a special song that we sing at graduation that expresses this perfectly:

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

Our graduation will be on Thursday, June 16, at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. Through music and poems, the children will display all they have learned during the year. The graduates will all be presented with Bibles. It is our prayer that the seeds of faith that have been planted here at preschool will grow and blossom throughout their lives.

To celebrate the end of the school year, we will have a school-wide pizza and popsicle party on June 15!



Our summer camp has a few spots available. If you know of anyone who is interested, please have them contact me.

We are also still accepting registration for both the Pre-K and 3-year-old classes for the 2022-2023 school year.

Have a safe and blessed summer!

In His Name,
---MICHELE GLENNON
Preschool Director
preschool@holycrosstrumbull.com



CALLING ALL GRADUATES

Complete an information form and return to church office by June 5

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. Please take a "Graduate Information" form (blue half-sheet), found on the narthex table, fill it out, and return it to the Church Office mailbox by Sunday, June 5. Please let us know who you are – you are important to us!

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.**

If you recall reading in our April edition, the "family news" column included a write-up of the Masuk High Robotics Program of which high school senior **Ethan Rentz** is a member. This team of four, pictured at right with Ethan at far left and their Robot D.E.N.N.I.S in the center, traveled to Dallas, Tex., in early May to compete at the VEX Robotics World Championship. This competition included 820 high-ranking high school teams from around the world. D.E.N.N.I.S and these four young men had a successful weekend of competition, bringing a 10-0 record to the semifinals in the Math Division before losing to one of the finalists. Despite the loss, these young men, their parents, coaches and school were certainly proud of the team being ranked second in its division and improving its world ranking from 12th to 9th. Ethan and his teammates were presented with the Inspire Award, which they are holding in this photo. Congrats to Ethan and his teammates for a job well done!



LEARN FROM & BE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

The Holy Cross Word monthly “Bible study on paper”: Acts, Chapter 14

Acts, Chapter 14, 28 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 14 illustrates a similar scenario to the events of Chapter 13.



Please pause now to read the full Chapter 14 of Acts (use a home Bible or an aid such as BibleGateway.com if needed).

Chapter 14 analysis—

Now in Iconium, Paul and Barnabas enter the synagogue and once again witness so well that many, of both the Jews and Greeks, become believers. But once again, the unbelieving Jews cause a ruckus and focus on the Gentiles to confuse their minds about the Good News. That just causes Peter and Barnabas to be all the more determined to speak the Truth while also testifying through “signs and wonders.”

With such divided messages being forcefully delivered, there was great division in the city. Evil desires eventually surfaced that there were plans to harm and even kill the two missionaries. And the normal pattern concluded with Paul and Barnabas leaving the city and fleeing to Lystra and Derbe in the surrounding country, where they continued to preach.



Share
the
GOOD NEWS

A point about “the escape” model that the missionaries seem to follow wherever they go when danger is revealed. A note from “Harper’s” on this point reads: “When Paul and Barnabas learned that the enemies of the gospel intended to do them bodily harm, they fled from Iconium to Lystra and Derbe. Instead of seeking martyrdom by remaining in Iconium, they prudently left the city. God did not intend for his people to seek martyrdom, though they were to welcome it and submit to it when there was nothing they could do about it. In the will of God we are to preserve our lives as long as we can.”

Next, starting with verse 8, the story is told how a disabled man from birth was among the listeners in Lystra. Paul discerned the man’s faith and said to him to stand up and walk, which he did.

That miracle resulted in confused thinking by the witnesses to the event, who perceived Paul and Barnabas to be gods of their Greek faith come to earth in human form with Paul being Hermes and Barnabas as Zeus. This misguided perception was countered by Paul and Barnabas, who tore their clothes to show they were upset at such an insult to God to think they were gods, and they insisted they were mortal men, nothing more, nothing special, their purpose being to preach the Good News. They insisted the people turn away from “worthless things” such as these gods of man. Instead it’s the Living God who created all things and the earth that deserves their praise. God provides the rains for the earth and food for living. But even with this exhortation to see them as mortals, the locals continued to offer sacrifices to them.

This was followed by something we see happen in today’s volatile times when a highly visible racial situation causes people from other parts of the country to come and and cause mayhem. Jews from Antioch and Iconium came to Lystra and convinced the crowds to turn against Paul and Barnabas. They stone Paul and take him outside of Lystra, believing he was dead. But Paul was aided, however, by “disciples” and the next day he went to Derbe with Barnabas. Their time in Derbe was much calmer from what we know. They preached and converted many people and reversed their travels through Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the faithful at every stop, encouraging a sustaining fight and reminding them that it is through enduring many persecutions that believers enter the Kingdom of God. At each locale, they also appointed elders to be leaders of the faithful; they confirmed these elders with acts of prayer and fasting. The elders were entrusted to keep the people faithful to the Lord, using their own faith as inspiration to be leaders and encouragers.

The missionary journey carried on through Pisidia, Pamphylia, Perga, Attalia, Antioch, back where they had started and where the missionaries were commended for their work; they reported all their work and said God had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. They stayed in Antioch “for some time.”

Chapter 15 will continue with “the Jerusalem conference.”

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 15.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

IN THE MAILBAG

From Myrtle Anderson

To My Holy Cross Family:

Thank you to all my church friends for all the cards, prayers and visits. I welcome you all to continue praying for me as I still have physical limitations. I do enjoy the visits of my church family and they always put a smile on my face.

In God's love,
---MYRTLE ANDERSON



From St. Paul's Lutheran-New Hartford

To our Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

Your generous gift in memory of Rev. Dr. Timothy Yeadon in the amount of \$325 is gratefully acknowledged by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of New Hartford. Pastor Yeadon was a cherished member of St. Paul's and a friend to all. He will be missed.

Blessings,
---ST. PAUL'S

THE CHURCH HIVE

Believe and behave like the unified bees do

Bees live in a cooperative way described as "eusociality," or good relations. Each bee contributes a specific skill to the colony, synchronizing its efforts for the benefit of all. Likewise, a church's health depends on all members fulfilling their responsibility to the organism as a whole. According to R.S. Beal Jr., who was both a pastor and a zoology professor, a beehive is the perfect "living illustration of how to walk in unity." He wrote, "Those of us who have believed in Jesus belong to one another just as much as we belong to Christ. We cannot live independently of one another anymore than we can live independently of Christ. Like the bees, we must learn to practice the sacrifice, labor, sharing, and submission of love that together we 'may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ'" (Eph. 4:15, KJV). How are you using your own spiritual gifts to build up your church "hive"?



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CHURCH CHUCKLES



CELEBRATING JUNE BIRTHDAYS



June 1: Erica Carola
Ethan Rentz

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 Cardone

June 20: Jena Conte

June 24: Tim Senft

June 25: Audrey Erb

Barbara Marinaro

Paul Schipul

June 26: Marissa Rodriguez

June 29: Pat Deloge

Kathryn Struzik