



The **HOLY CROSS WORD**

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

MARCH 2022

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXV, NO. 4

HEAD TO THE HEART

Drawn to the Cross

A calendar is so much more than an organizational tool. I would propose that in addition to marking the passage of time, a calendar actually affects what you do in the present, which in turn shapes the future. Don't believe me? Check this out...

My youngest brother is getting married in May. I have marked this day on my calendar. It doesn't take place for a few months, and yet it has begun to affect me now. I've gone to get an initial fitting for my tuxedo, which in turn has alerted me to the fact that I've gained a few pounds, which in turn causes me to exercise, which in turn benefits my current health, which in turn might prolong my days in the future. If you take a look at any date you have on your calendar, and about all aspects of this one date, you could see how multiple branches stem from this solitary event.

It works in reverse as well. We are just beginning the Lenten Season in the church. A period of time we set aside, to focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus. Most scholars believe that Jesus died on the cross on April 3, AD33 at 3 p.m. This solitary event took place nearly 2,000 years ago and yet it has a real and profound impact on you today; on the way you think, believe, act, and interact with those around you.

In addition, this date on the calendar has an effect on how we orient our days. In fact, pretty much the entire world is affected by this date because Easter follows Good Friday. Whether one celebrates Easter as the resurrection of Christ or just a day to eat lots of candy, this date is not neutral. Stores will sell decorations, cards, and candy. Restaurants will offer special brunches and parties. Schools will take a break, and families will plan vacations all on account of this calendar date.

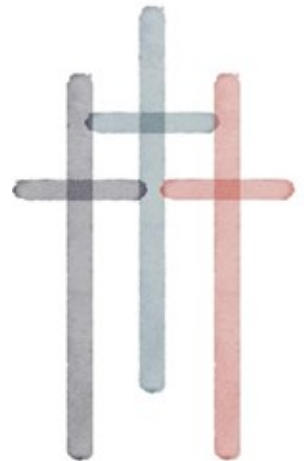
Now, I say all of that to say – How will you be formed by the cross this Lenten Season?

I encourage you to let the cross and the season of Lent form and shape your days. Taking time to think about the cross, and what it means for you, will have a tremendous impact – not only on your eternity but also on your day-to-day experiences. I encourage you to put Wednesdays in Lent on your calendar – and orient your week around them – so that you may come each week and be reminded of the Love Christ has for you, and be renewed in your relationship with God, and refreshed in your faith.

Throughout Lent we will be "Drawn to the Cross" where we find our Savior. The One who gave His life for us, and who in turn calls us to give our lives in service to others, in the hope that they, too, will find their salvation in Him.

Pastor Nathan Erb

Pastor Nathan Erb





Wednesday, March 2 – Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m. – Worship Service with imposition of ashes

Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6

6:00 p.m. – Soup Suppers

7:00 p.m. – Lenten Midweek Worship

Thursday, March 10

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

Sunday, March 13 – Daylight Saving Time Begins: "Spring Ahead"

Thursday, March 17 – St. Patrick's Day



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.



CHANGING YOUR WORLD

By Mother Teresa

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

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

Tuesday,

March 15.

Please plan

ahead to publicize events or

share news

with your fellow

Holy Cross members. You can submit

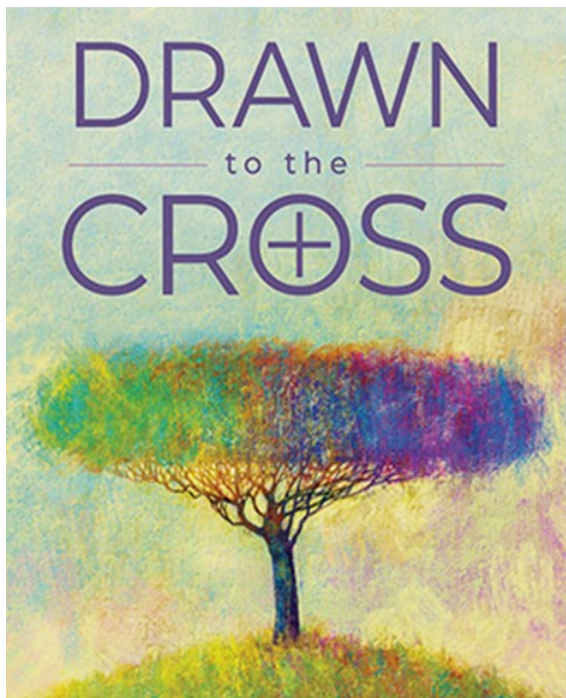
articles to the newsletter mailbox

(outside the church office) or send them

via e-mail to:

office@holycrosstrumbull.com.





Our Midweek Lent Focus is “Drawn to the Cross”

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00, beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 2, and continuing for the next five Wednesdays, through April 6

Our Lenten soup suppers are returning, and begin on Wednesday, March 9, at 6:00! See details in the article below.

MIDWEEK LENTEN FELLOWSHIP

Soup Suppers are back! Come for the physical nourishment followed by spiritual

A well-loved tradition at Holy Cross has been the weekly Soup Suppers before worshipping together at the midweek Lenten services. Many have commented on how much they have been missed during the pandemic. So....as we gradually and carefully transition from pandemic to endemic living, we are bringing back the Lenten Soup Suppers beginning Wednesday, March 9. We realize that not everyone yet feels comfortable with this type of gathering so please use your own judgment as to whether or not you attend.

Please note that the Soup Suppers will begin at 6:00 p.m. in order to finish/clean-up prior to the 7:00 p.m. service. (We're cutting 15 minutes off our past suppers so no lollygagging! ☺) A sign-up sheet for each Wednesday evening will be available on the narthex table. PLEASE let us know if you intend to come so we can plan accordingly.

If you plan on attending, we ask that you continue to observe “standard” precautions: masks are highly recommended when not eating, please do not attend if you are feeling feverish or sick. We will continue to use disposable bowls and table utensils. If you bring a dessert, something that is individually packaged or accessible with tongs is preferred.

---KERRY GEFFERT



FREE ONLINE CHRISTIAN MOVIE

Registration allows you to watch the first weekend of March

Sabina, Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years is the story of how God's love transformed an atheist into one of the great Christian women of the 20th Century. Sabina Wurmbrand was also the wife of Richard Wurmbrand, a Lutheran Pastor and author of “Tortured for Christ.” You can register now at SabinaMovie.com to watch the movie for free between March 4-6. The movie is rated PG-13 and the run-time is 1 hour, 55 minutes.

---RICK AND KATHY BOIVIE

DINNERS-TO-GO

Call for volunteers to prepare and deliver a meal when a need arises in our Holy Cross family

The Shepherds' Commission will be resurrecting a "Dinners-To-Go" mission, which has been done in our congregation in the past. There are "times of need" when a prepared meal would be such a blessing for a member who has had surgery, had a baby, suffering from an illness, caring for a loved one or any other time and type of need. I will be seeking volunteers to join me, when the need arises, to prepare and deliver a meal to the person/family in need. With many volunteers this would be possibly several months in between your service being needed.

Please contact me at 203-767-9304, or email me at pattid06468@aol.com if you would like to be on the list of volunteers.

Also, I ask that if anyone is in need, or knows of the need of another member, to please either contact Pastor Erb or myself.

In Christ's service,
---PAT DELOGE
Shepherds' Commission



Can You Step In?

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



A PRAYER FOR LENT

How amazing, Jesus, that you faced temptation just as I do every day. Remind me to draw on Scripture to confront it, but most of all to rely on you for strength to resist and forgiveness when I fail. In Your Name. Amen.

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PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

Here we go again...

I was raised in a family where the church was an important aspect of our activities. Having ministers in the family, no doubt, played a role. This doesn't make me better or worse than someone else. It's just that this is the life I've known.

The opportunity to serve Holy Cross again as Board President, however, was not in my plans, but in the absence of another volunteer, I felt called to serve again. I'm doing this for one reason: Holy Cross has been blessed with a new



pastor, a pastor with the ideas, dedication and energy that will further Holy Cross' vision. It's my goal to support him in his endeavors over the next two years. At that point, it will be up to someone else to lead the Board. The time has come for more, newer leaders to step forward and take on positions of responsibility. Our congregation will not be well-served by recycling Board members, terrific though they may be. So it's time to start asking yourself, "Is it I, Lord?"

Looking to the future requires a structure that meets current and future realities. To this end, one of the first activities I plan to spearhead is a modernization of our governance structure. This will likely entail major changes to our Bylaws

and tweaking of our Constitution, but be assured, there will be opportunities for input prior to changes going to a mandatory vote of the congregation. Stay tuned for more information in the months to come.

In the meantime, we will continue to take measured steps toward our pre-pandemic practices, while introducing some new ones. This is an exciting time for Holy Cross. I pray you will share in the excitement and be considering the active role you will play!

---KERRY GEFFERT
President, Board of Directors

EVANGELISM AND YOU

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

Having made the suggestion in the February newsletter to feel a sense of urgency to meet **a goal of being involved in one extra thing this year for your church that you haven't done before**, this month I want to explore with you the skills we Christians need to be evangelists. After all, Jesus instructed us to evangelize and tell "everyone what He has done." But many of us are shy when it comes to speaking of our Christianity, myself included, and we often need encouragement to get words out. So for that reason I like what the verse says in the hymn, "Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying," that "If you cannot preach like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus; you can say He died for all. If you cannot rouse the wicked with the Judgment's dread alarms, you can lead the little children to the Savior's waiting arms."

So that's the encouragement for this month. I firmly believe that in those moments when we have opportunity to give witness to being a Christian that the Holy Spirit helps us know what to say. I am an awful off-the-cuff speaker who has always been shy in public but when called upon I feel I get by in witnessing to Christ. Most of us are not called into ministry or to be teachers of the Word, but we are part of the priesthood of believers and that alone is good enough to be an evangelist because the Holy Spirit is with us. Evangelists are also faithful: in devotion to God and to their fellow man as they seek to convince non-Christians to follow God and current believers to nourish and grow their faith. And both objectives can be achieved through the courage of letting the Spirit move you to know what to say and speak it. (See the review of Acts, Chapter 11, on page 7, to see further evidence from the early Christian church on how "ordinary" men can be evangelistic types.)



As for the commission's key tasks, they are all in motion. Elisabeth Erb has now done a third display case theme, the most recent a love theme for February. She intends to follow that with a Lenten one in March. My thanks to her and the other commission members Doris Bernt, DJ Broadbin, and Tina Curto. We're also presently working with Pastor Erb on updating the Holy Cross info card and shaping a letter to new homeowners in the area.

Lastly, this **month's featured tracts** in the narthex are: Look for tracts that help you understand the married life and how to make it work.

---CLIFF SCHROCK
Director of Evangelism

COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Easter Basket project to begin March 13 with baskets due on April 3

Even before Valentine's Day there was Easter candy on display in some grocery stores! And at that time I began to think it would soon be time to present the Covenant to Care for Children Easter Basket project to the congregation. And that time is quickly approaching. On Sunday, March 13, please look for the large basket poster that will be on display in the narthex. It will be filled with bunny, chick and butterfly tags, each listing a child's first name, gender and age. These tags represent the children in the caseload of our "adopted" DCF social worker, Mimose Laurenard. If you wish to participate, select a tag from the poster and put together a basket.



What should the basket contain and how much should you spend? Please stick to a price limit of about \$30. You may certainly include some Easter candy, but please, not too much. Small age-appropriate toys and personal items are ideal, as are crayons, markers, journals, small stuffed animals, and bath and body products. All baskets must be covered with a cellophane wrap and are due no later than Sunday, April 3. That will give Mimose a couple weeks to deliver the baskets prior to Easter.

If you are reading this article and know you will not be at worship on March 13 and would like to participate by putting together a basket, please contact me via my personal e-mail address (schrocknroll@optonline.net) and I can match you with a child.

I also wanted to share with you that Mimose has had a stressful past month. On top of having a heavy workload with an above normal caseload size of 29 children, she is dealing with two "terminate parental rights" cases that take so much of her time away from working with the other children. Also, in late January, Mimose's father was suddenly called home to the Lord after a brief illness. Please keep Mimose in your prayers.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to help young people in our community who are in crisis and need. I look forward to leading this project that will bring children God's love through something as simple as an Easter basket.

Yours in Christ,

---MARY SCHROCK

Covenant to Care for Children Liaison

HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

So much to do and learn this month... and the children will make rainbows in a jar!

The month of March will begin with the children exploring different math concepts through some favorite books. Then we will continue the month with an exploration of clouds, rain, rainbows, wind and shadows. We will then learn all about the many wonderful birds that God created. At the end of the month, we will be eagerly waiting for Spring!



Ash Wednesday is March 2 and the beginning of Lent. All the children will be given Lenten calendars and devotion booklets for use at home with their families. Our Bible stories for the month of March are: The Ten Lepers, Jesus Calms a Storm, and Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem.

Science activities will include many experiments involving rainbows! The children will make rainbows in a jar, finding out what happens when you add together food coloring, milk and oil, and make a rainbow with melted jellybeans!

In Jesus' Name,

---MICHELE GLENNON

Preschool Director

MEMORIAL GIFTS



Share the Hope Fund

*In memory of Anantharaj John,
John Anantharaj's father*

David and Donna Bogen
John and Pat Deloge
Gary and Donna DiLalla
Dan and Donna Senft

In memory of Lisa Bailey

David and Donna Bogen
Rick and Michele Van Wart

*In memory of Florinda Riccio,
Vinny Riccio's grandmother*

John and Pat Deloge

In memory of Rev. Timothy Yeadon

David and Donna Bogen
John and Pat Deloge

LEARN FROM & BE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

The Holy Cross Word monthly “Bible study on paper”: Acts, Chapter 11

Acts, Chapter 11, 30 verses—This chapter continues to look at how persecution of the church caused it to scatter and spread. Chapters 9 to 12 focus on how the church now includes Gentiles. Please pause now to read the full Chapter 11 of Acts (use an aid such as BibleGateway.com if needed).

Chapter 11 analysis—

Chapter 10 had focused on Peter’s ministry, including the conversion of Cornelius, Peter’s vision, and his visit to Cornelius’ home. Chapter 11 opens with the apostles and believers learning that Gentiles were also accepting the word of God, believing in Jesus and being baptized. In Jerusalem, Peter was being criticized about this by the circumcised leaders about the uncircumcised becoming believers. That issue had not yet been discussed through an ecumenical council. The early church was being hampered by excessive adherence to law or formula.

But Peter defended how Gentiles were being evangelized to and primarily did so by explaining recent events, including the conversion of Cornelius. He maintained that the way the Holy Spirit had come upon Cornelius’ household confirmed in his mind that the Gospel was for both Jew and Gentile, the circumcised and uncircumcised. Peter uses Jesus’ own words during his defense, which he must have done well because in the end his detractors were quieted. They praised God and said, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”



The rest of 11 returns to explain about the persecuted who were scattered after the stoning of Stephen. Many believers had fled to other cities and countries when Jerusalem became too dangerous. They had gone to Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch and had spoken only to Jews. These deliverers of the good news were just “ordinary” believers, not ministerial types. Believers today can take heart that the spreading of God’s salvation plan for mankind can be done by any status of Christian, not just ordained ministers.

The Jerusalem church sent Barnabas to Syria to look into the Antioch situation, sort of a check and balance situation to get a first-hand look at what had been reported. When he saw the grace of God in full vigor, Barnabas was quite pleased and rejoiced and he himself urged those in Antioch to remain faithful.

Barnabas thought it well to travel to Tarsus and bring Saul back to Antioch, and for a year the two ministered to great crowds there, and we are told that is where believers were first called Christians. The Antioch townsfolk observed that the believers behaved differently than nonbelievers. It is the first reference in the New Testament (NT) to Christians, although in the Harper’s Study Bible is says in Antioch it may have been used as a slur.

In verse 27 we get the first NT reference to Christian prophets, although, of course, John the Baptist and Jesus were prophets. Agabus travels from Jerusalem to Antioch and delivers the troubling prophesy that there will be a famine all over the world, which there was during the time of Claudius’ reign. (We will hear more from Agabus in chapter 21.) Relief to Judea did come but it was limited to the Christian community.

In Chapter 12, Herod’s persecution of the church will be analyzed.

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 12.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

CELEBRATING MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 2: Valerie Huydic

March 3: Caitlyn Dale

Loralai Dale

Karl Dale

Mia McDonald

March 4: Don Meyer

March 7: Julie Sjoblom

March 9: Nicole Benson-Ayisi

March 10: Anna Mae Berger

Laura Dowling

Donna Rodriguez

March 12: Taylor Van Wart-Szinavel



March 13: Christopher Danne

Gabriella Ely

James Ely

March 15: Gary Jackson

Ryan Van Wart

March 16: DJ Broadbin

March 17: Gary Messerschmitt

March 23: Ron Dietman

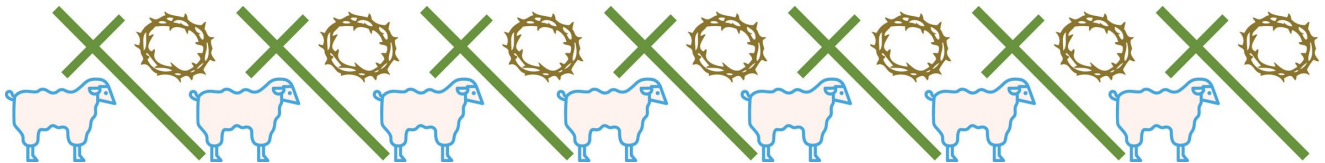
Andrea Meyer

March 24: Danny Nyitrai

March 25: Parker Deloge

March 26: Nicole Ramirez

March 28: Andrew Struzik



THE PERFECT STAIN REMOVER

**For a stain cleaner that saves,
Jesus is the whitening agent**

From sanitizers and soaps to solutions and sprays, many products promise to eliminate germs and grime. Unfortunately, they often fall short. Just think how many items in your closet or kitchen have been ruined by stubborn stains.



What if we were that concerned about ridding our lives and hearts of sin? What if we spent as much time confessing and repenting as scrubbing and laundering?

The good news is that with one "application" (the cross), Jesus makes us "whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). Praise be to our unblemished Lamb, the perfect stain remover!

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CHURCH CHUCKLES

