



The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

MAY 2022

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LXV, NO. 6

HEAD TO THE HEART

The Church: A sermon series to focus on your relationship with Christ's church

The Christian Church has a reputation. Depending on who you talk to, and what their experience is with the church, it's either negative or positive. If the church were a company, our goal would be to do whatever we can to change the negative reviews to positive and to keep the positivity ratings high. There is one quick way to ensure that you leave a good impression on everyone, and that is to give them what they want. In many ways that's what many different denominations that identify as Christian have done – they have compromised something in the process – the truth.

Consider these words of Jesus from Matthew 10:32-39—*"Everyone who confesses me before others, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I came to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man's enemies will be the members of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."*

There is a lot more at stake than being liked or disliked. The message of the church is a matter of life or death, and out of love for our brothers and sisters, our mothers and fathers, our friends and neighbors, the church is called to proclaim the truth. The truth is Jesus Christ – who He is; what He says; and what He has done to bring all people into the light of His Grace. Remember these additional words from Jesus in John 3:16-17—*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*

Christ has established the Church and sends us into the world so that all may know and believe the truth, and in so knowing – may believe and have life forever in His name.

Over the next several weeks, each sermon will focus on one aspect of Christ's church and what it means – not only for the whole church – but specifically for Holy Cross. To prepare for the sermon series (and to help discern what your role in the church might be) use the following sermon themes and scripture references for meditation and prayer.

1. SENT – John 20:21
2. FOLLOW – John 21:17-19
3. GIVE – Acts 20:35
4. DWELL – Revelation 21:3
5. PRAY – John 16:23-24
6. ONE – John 17:20-23a
7. WORD – John 14:23

Pastor Nathan Erb

Pastor Nathan Erb





Sunday, May 1 –

1:00 p.m. – Greater Bridgeport CROP Walk for World Hunger
Begins/ends at United Congregational Church-Bridgeport

Thursday, May 12

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

Monday, May 30 – Memorial Day

Church Office and Preschool are 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

Church Office: 203-268-4555; **Church Office e-mail:** office@holycrosstrumbull.com

Website: www.holycrosstrumbull.org

Christian Preschool: 203-268-6471 **e-mail:** preschool@holycrosstrumbull.com

PASTOR: Rev. Nathan Erb

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NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION: Mary Schrock

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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.



LAUGHTER IN SPRING

By Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The earth laughs in flowers."

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

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



EASTER MORNING AT HOLY CROSS

Prior to the 10 a.m. service, 56 people came together in the Holy Cross Easter Breakfast tradition! Enjoy this photo gallery of the special occasion and the recipe for Ricotta Cake that was a big hit



Ricotta Cake

This breakfast treat was made and brought to the breakfast by Cindy Ciccio. Cindy shares the recipe since so many people asked for it – a recipe she found in her old family recipes that was from her mother-in-law – Joe’s mom – Sally Ciccio. The adjacent picture shows this Ricotta Cake, cut into pieces, on the right, ready to serve.

Grease and lightly flour a 10” x 14” x 3” pan.
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Filling

Combine and beat until smooth:

- 3 lbs Ricotta
- 8 large eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tbs vanilla

Cake

Make according to directions:

- 1 Duncan Hines white cake mix

Nut Topping

Mix together:

- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tbs cinnamon

Mix cake mix and pour on bottom of pan. Pour cheese mixture on top and swirl into batter. Bake 10 min. Remove from oven and sprinkle nut mixture on top and gently swirl into top of batter.

Bake at least 50 minutes or until set.



PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

A team assembles each Sunday to enable your worship; how about joining them?

Have you ever thought about what it takes to “put on” a worship service? The question ran through my head while serving as an usher on Easter, in a sanctuary full of worshippers. Oh sure, there are the obvious roles we see listed in each bulletin – Pastor, the organist, acolyte, reader, deacon and ushers. But that’s just scratching the surface. Here are others:

- The Greeter who sets a tone for those entering the building.
- The Altar Guild, usually 2-3 persons, who ensure Pastor has what is needed for communion, the paraments are appropriate to the Sunday, the candles all filled with oil, and who cleans up after the service (among other duties).
- The person who creates the beautiful flower arrangements that grace the altar.
- The person who records the service so that others can view the service later.
- The two Counters who ensure the collected offering is counted and deposited with our bank.
- The custodian who ensures the sanctuary is clean for Sunday morning.
- The five persons who create the schedules for the acolytes, greeters, readers, deacons, ushers and counters.
- The Office Administrator who lays out, copies and assembles the bulletin.
- The Worship Director who works with Pastor to make arrangements for services.
- The Property Director who ensures that lighting and temperature are appropriate.
- The Treasurer who arranges for staff and guest organist payments.
- The Financial Secretary who records each offering so that members can receive their contribution statements each January.



I’m sure I’ve missed someone (for which I apologize), but if my counting skills still work, we’re up to 25 persons who play some role in each Sunday’s worship service. Twenty-five persons, of whom only four are paid staff members. That’s 20-plus members necessary to make *each* Sunday’s worship service happen.

Add to those roles the opportunities within congregational and community outreach as well as future education needs and general congregational administration. Overall there are upwards of 100 individual opportunities for Holy Cross to operate monthly!

Why go through this exercise in mathematics? It is important for you to know that it takes more than a core group of volunteers for Holy Cross to go about its mission. We need *all* members to step up and take active roles.

So, what will be *your* role and how soon can you start?

---KERRY GEFFERT
President, Board of Directors

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

All sorts of goodies and notes sent to our college students in advance of final projects and exams

Care packages were sent to eight of our young adults who are attending college. Included in the packages were journals, stress balls, ChapStick, faith bracelets, Easter candy, snacks, Bible verses for college students and notes from our congregation. The feedback has been positive and what seems to be the most popular item were the notes, and of course, the snacks! Thank you to those that took the time to write a short note letting our college kids know we are thinking of them. Our next care packages will be sent in the fall.

We received verbal thank-yous from the young adults, as well as an emailed thank-you note from Cole Dowling, who said, “Thank you so much for the care package! It is definitely much needed and appreciated as I finish up the semester.” Cole’s words certainly sum up how all our college youth must have felt upon receiving the package.

---CINDY CICCIA
Shepherds’ Commission



GOOD-BYE TO THE MEYER FAMILY

Long-time Holy Cross family given special sendoff prior to moving to Texas

What does it mean to be a member of a group or a club? Most people will join a group to engage with other people who have the same interests or hobbies, or to help out with the goal of a particular organization. For example, you are a member of a family, identify with a certain ethnic culture, or perhaps participate in a book club, knitting group or sport's team. Being a member of a group gives you a sense of belonging.

So what does it mean to be a member of a church? Some people say the definition of a church is a building, a House of Worship, and they would be right; if you Google the definition of the word "church" the first answer you get is, "a building used for public Christian worship." A more active meaning, however, is that being a member of a church is to join with others who are all a part of the family of God, joining together for worship, to engage in service to others, and participate in activities and fun. Sound familiar? The "vision" statement that Holy Cross adopted a number of years ago is printed within our weekly service folder and states: "We will live together as the body of Christ, as loving family actively engaged with one another, our community and the world."



So this is a long preface into an article focusing on long-time Holy Cross members Don and JoAnne Meyer and their daughter Andrea. At the conclusion of the 10 a.m. Worship service on Sunday, March 13, the Meyers were asked to come forward to be recognized during a Rite of Farewell and Godspeed for Members. After living in Trumbull and worshipping at Holy Cross for more than 43 years, the Meyers bid farewell to their church family to begin a new chapter in Texas. In the adjacent photo Don and JoAnne stand between their daughters Christina (left) and Pamela (right) who joined their parents at their final service together at Holy Cross. Both JoAnne and Don spoke to the congregation, sharing heartfelt words of what it meant to be a Holy Cross member and be a part of a wonderful church home for so many years. They also exhorted Holy Cross members to continue to show God's love to each other and the community. Following the service there was a special coffee fellowship in their honor at which Holy Cross members and friends expressed their good-byes and best wishes.

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Holy Cross church membership meant a lot to Don and JoAnne and Andrea during their years at Holy Cross. They officially became members on Mother's Day 1978 and from that point became involved on various commissions and groups. All three sang in the Adult Choir for many years, and both Don and Andrea were regular readers at the Worship services. Don served as both Discipleship and Education Commission Director and JoAnne served as the Children's Choir director, a Sunday School teacher and was involved with VBS for many years. JoAnne was even a member of both the church and preschool staffs, as the organist and choir director for more than 10 years, and as a preschool teacher for six years. The Meyers were wonderful examples of living their Christian faith by being active participants in the Body of Christ, not being complacent and letting others do the heavy lifting. For that example we thank them and pray God's blessings in their new location in Texas.

A few days after March 13, we received the following note from the Meyers:

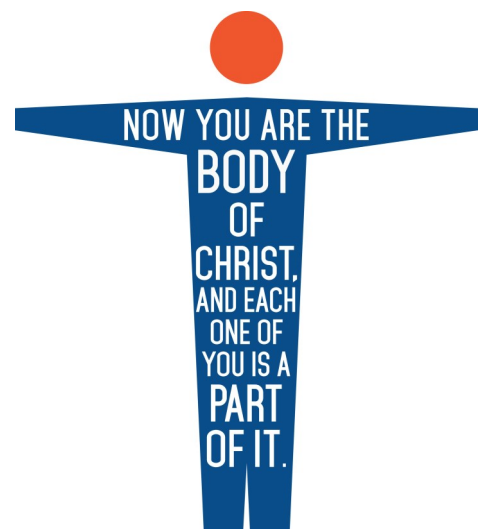
Dear Holy Cross Family,

[We] want to thank the congregation for all the love they showed us all 43 years we were here. We felt very loved, especially on Sunday too!

Holy Cross always has been our church home for more than 43 years. Our children all grew up here. They were all confirmed here. We will always remember you and be thankful to you.

May God be with you,

*Love,
Don, JoAnne and Andrea*



1 CORINTHIANS 12:27. NIV

HOLY CROSS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Focus this month will be on animals and watching caterpillars become butterflies

The children have been busy learning about the many different animals that God has created. This month we will be exploring farm, zoo, pond and ocean animals. We will learn about their habitats, life cycles and what they need to survive. Every day we watch the growth of the seeds we planted. Our bean plants are getting so tall! Once again this year, we will get a special delivery of caterpillars. We eagerly await their arrival and are excited to observe and document the changes these caterpillars will make as they become butterflies. We can't wait until they emerge as beautiful butterflies!

Our Bible stories will focus on the work of sharing the love of Jesus. We will learn about Phillip and the Ethiopian, Paul, Tabitha and Lydia, and Timothy. Our favorite day of the week is Thursday when we get the chance to have Chapel Time with Pastor Erb! He presents the Bible stories to the children in fun and creative ways!



Our summer camp sessions are close to being filled! Praise God! Don't forget to check out our school's Facebook page @Holy Cross Preschool Trumbull to see pictures of all our exciting activities!

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



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>

Here are some additional photos:
<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



MEMORIAL GIFTS



Share the Hope Fund

*In memory of Anantharaj John,
John Anantharaj's father
Jim and Lorraine Finch*

LEARN FROM & BE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

The Holy Cross Word monthly “Bible study on paper”: Acts, Chapter 13

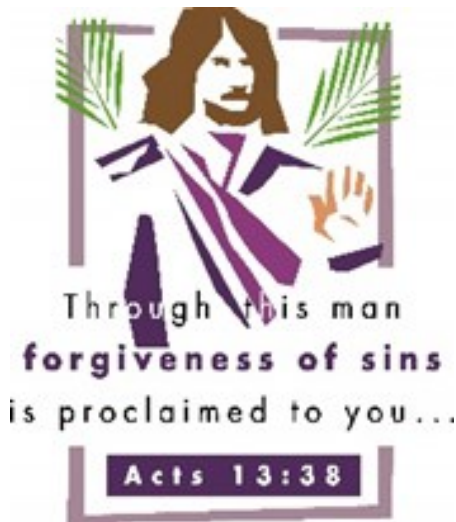


Acts, Chapter 13, 52 verses—This chapter begins a third section in Acts in describing the spread of the Christian church. Section 1 was focused on Jerusalem, Section 2 was the spread of the church to Judea and Samaria. Now Section 3 is expansion overseas and to “the ends of the earth,” the familiar phrase we associate with Jesus’ evangelical instructions. If I were writing this in outline form, this is the part that would have a “Christ to every part of the world” theme or “Throughout the Roman Empire with Paul” description. The church’s message is forever to be “universal gospel for everyone.” We also begin to see the life of “Paul the Missionary” chronicled, with Paul’s first missionary journey.

Please pause now to read the full Chapter 13 of Acts (use an aid such as BibleGateway.com if needed).

Chapter 13 analysis—

Chapter 12 had included continuation of Christian persecution, but ended with the writer, Luke, bringing us an update on Saul and Barnabas and he discloses that God’s Word was continuing to be preached and advanced, converting new Believers. Then Barnabas and Saul return to Jerusalem and bring John with them.



Chapter 13 begins in Antioch. The church there had a good problem: so many members that many teachers were involved. Barnabas and Saul would meet the teachers to pray and make plans. These meetings were the genesis for faraway preaching because during one session the teachers felt compelled by the Holy Spirit that it was time to let Barnabas and Saul travel to distant places with the Good News. The Antioch church must have been sad to see the two leave, but it would have known the two were blessed to do God’s work. After one final prayer time, the two were sent off along with John Mark, Barnabas’ nephew.

The first missionary stop was Cyprus, where in the city of Paphos the Roman proconsul there had great interest in seeing the preachers. That made a local Jewish magician, Bar-Jesus (Elymas), upset because he didn’t want the official to convert. Saul, now christened Paul, chastised the magician and said his evil intent was going to be punished, and with that the magician was blinded. Such power of the Holy Spirit impressed the proconsul and he immediately believed in God’s Son.

After Cyprus, John Mark left for Jerusalem while Paul and Barnabas went to Perga in Asia Minor and then to Antioch. We are told while the two were in Antioch, on the Sabbath at the synagogue, the Jewish rulers there actually asked the pair to give their people a message of encouragement. Paul addressed the people with the Good News of Jesus Christ, basically a start-to-finish primer on God’s plan and how everything played out as it was designed. There was a good response to Paul’s speaking, and after the homily, the townspeople asked to have the same sermon of hope spoken to them the next Sabbath.

But the stirring message had riled up the envy and jealousy in the Jewish leaders. When Paul spoke again, in front of nearly the entire city, the popularity shown him caused the Jews to express their jealousy by spreading lies, insults, and false stories and accusations. Paul and Barnabas were aware of their tactics, however, and were emboldened to tell the grumblers that they had spoken to the Jewish people first by design, but now that they had rejected the message and, in fact, tried to confuse what was preached, they felt their message needed to be taken to the Gentiles. Also, more than ever they felt strengthened to take the message of salvation on a global scale.

The Jewish leaders were still rankled about the Christian missionaries and continued their mistreatment of them, demanding they leave, which they did, to the city of Iconium. The ill treatment did not ruin Paul and Barnabas’ enthusiasm, however, and they felt filled with the Holy Spirit and had great joy about what they were doing.

Chapter 14 will continue with Paul’s missionary trip to Iconium and Lykstra.

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 14.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

THANKS A BUNCH!

Do you know of someone who did something special as a volunteer here at Holy Cross? This column is the spot to identify him or her! If you have an item to include in this monthly “thank you” column – to recognize the gifts of time and talent that someone provided to do God’s work in our church and community – please e-mail it to the church office or jot it down and put it in the “newsletter” mailbox. This month we recognize:

Carol Burns, for coordinating the orders for special flowers for Easter.

The Shepherds’ Commission would like to thank the following members who assisted with the move of Don and JoAnne Meyer: **Cindy and Joe Ciccía, Pat and John Deloge, Sherry Duff, Pastor Erb, Stephanie, Chad, Kyle and Nate Helminger, and Danny and Donna Senft.**



Elisabeth Erb for the beautiful work she did to create three different display case themes – Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Sherry Duff and Gary Messerschmitt and Jim Finch, for recording the Sunday and Holy Week Worship services and uploading the recording to our youtube channel. Thanks also to **Gary** for preparing the Holy Cross website for the uploads and making the service links “live.” We typically get 25-30 views of the service videos, so having our services recorded is a great asset.

Cindy Ciccía and Lorraine Finch for co-chairing the Easter Breakfast. Cindy and Lorraine had help from many others who assisted with set-up, serving and clean-up. Thanks go to: **Annette Bailey, Donna, Dave and Sarah Bogen, Joe Ciccía, Pastor Erb, Jim Finch, Kerry and Karen Geffert, George Hermes, Charlene Hron, Donna, Marissa and Alexis Rodriguez, John Roman, Mary Ann and Dave Schiller, Edith Skoog, and Rick and Michele Van Wart.**

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!



CELEBRATING MAY BIRTHDAYS



- May 1: Daniel Schipul
- May 4: Charlotte Erb
- May 5: Mary Atkinson, Nancy Dolan
- May 6: Carol Burns
- May 9: Jim Leslie, Ursula Naumann
- May 10: Donna Jackson, Lia Veteri
- May 13: Nicole Ciccía
- May 20: Diane Dietman, Josh Wilson
- May 23: Dieter Leibold
- May 24: Cliff Schrock
- May 26: Kerry Geffert
- May 28: Buela John
- May 29: Maura Senft
- May 31: Blake Deloge



*Remember
and Honor*

CHURCH CHUCKLES

