

## **Events and more at Holy Cross February 9, 2021**

*This week – Get READY! The FLY Youth Group is offering **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper kits! Pick them up Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** as you leave 9:30 worship. We will be in the parking lot with our kits available for pickup from 10:30 to 11! Call the office to let us know if you would like us to bring one or more to your home! Each kit is designed to feed 4 people!*

You are invited to contribute to the Fly Youth Group as a donation for your Pancake Kit! You make the pancakes, and then , if you choose, log on to the Zoom Virtual Pancake Supper to chat with our young people! **Topic: Virtual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper****Time: Feb 16, 2021 06:00 PM**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81914641535?pwd=VW1mMFpDZTBkFkFOclVhaKxjRjJmZz09> Meeting ID: 819 1464 1535 Passcode: 871442

**Wednesday, this week,** February 10 – Racial Justice group through our Better Together Churches. Topic: The Uncomfortable Truth Video  
**Time: Feb 10, 2021 06:00 PM Pacific Time** Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86532600817?pwd=VVkxY2VUaE9uYlZuQ3lZRm8vY0FQdz09> Meeting ID: 865 3260 0817 Passcode: 607605

**Thursday,** This week, **What is God Saying Today?** Will jump ahead in Mark to cover the Transfiguration! We will study Mark 9:2-9 Join us at noon in person (socially distanced, masks required) or at 5 pm on Zoom. Topic: What is God Saying today? **Time: Feb 11, 2021 05:00 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055018008?pwd=SlJHN0lkcWhlUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09> Meeting ID: 840 5501 8008 Passcode: 569519

**Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am** – Worship in the gym (socially distanced, wear masks, no corporate singing). Bring your Bread and wine or grape juice and worship in the Gym with your Holy Cross community. **RSVP IS REQUIRED** – 5033646041 PLEASE CALL.

**ASH Wednesday – February 17<sup>th</sup>. We will offer a “Come and Go Vigil” from 3 – 6 pm in the Sanctuary.** You are invited to receive your ashes and light a candle in prayer during this in person service at Holy Cross. (This event will require masks and distancing) We will also feature a recorded Worship on Youtube, our website and facebook to commemorate this important day in the life of the church!



# VIRTUAL SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

*Come Join Us to Eat Pancakes!!*

**FEBRUARY 16TH, 2021 @ 6:00 PM**

Join the Zoom Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81914641535?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81914641535?pwd=VWlmMFpDZTBFBkFOcVhaxjRjJmZz09)

[pwd=VWlmMFpDZTBFBkFOcVhaxjRjJmZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81914641535?pwd=VWlmMFpDZTBFBkFOcVhaxjRjJmZz09)

Meeting ID: 819 1464 1535

Passcode: 871442

**ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TOWARDS THE  
ELCA YOUTH GATHERING FLY YOUTH TRIP**

Make Checks Out to Holy Cross

Memo - Fly Youth

Thank You for Supporting Our Youth!

**IF YOU NEED A KIT DELIVERED CALL THE  
CHURCH OFFICE**

**Our Annual meeting, January 31<sup>st</sup>, helped us to frame the conversation for the future of Holy Cross – we begin a 5 week series of articles written by members of Holy Cross to help us focus our conversation – We begin with 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Loran Sell**

Let's take a look at Holy Cross past, present and future:

**Past:** As we look down on Holy Cross Lutheran Church we see a busy bustling place with 4 buildings full of day care children in the daytime and many adult meetings and activities in the evening. Sunday morning the pews are full and numerous Sunday school rooms hold children of all ages learning about Christ's gift of grace. During the weekdays children from the neighborhood and beyond get solid Christian learning. In the evenings there are basketball games in the gym and meetings of all sorts in various places throughout the church. Upstairs 2 youth rooms offer fellowship and activities for middle and high school youth. Programs such as Interfaith Hospitality, Foster Parent's Night Out and Meals on Wheels share our space as a part of our mission to serve our neighbors. This large active congregation is led by a full time pastor, multiple staff members and a host of congregational volunteers serving in groups from Bible studies to Tuesday Crew.

**Present:** One of the buildings has been sold, another rented out. The main building and Little House sit empty except for small modified church service every other Sunday. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  time pastor and  $\frac{1}{2}$  time office manager produce on-line materials for home services and open the office 3 days each week.

What happened you ask? Well, a big chunk of the blame goes to the pandemic, but many other factors contribute to the current situation. There still exists a smaller group of people strong in their faith and actively supporting and working to serve Christ from 1998 Lansing Avenue, but our age is increasing and our numbers decreasing. The needs are great and our numbers are small. Our spirit and willingness to serve is strong. We are working hard to meet the changing needs of the congregation and community. One of our greatest assets is our large multi-use building. That same facility is also one of our greatest liabilities. Perhaps we need to redirect our focus from the ministry of the past and look forward to the possibilities of the future.

**Isaiah 43: 19 “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”**

**Future:** I am reminded of a line from a country western song: “What use is this old guitar if it ain't got no strings?” What use are these buildings if we ain't got the manpower to use them for God's service? True, we do not have the staff or volunteers sufficient to run the programs of 20, 30 or 40 years ago, but

we do have a strong dedicated core of people who surely can put their heads together and figure out a way to put our facilities back into service for the good of our congregation and community. I know there are ways to link our assets with the needs of God's people but we may have to "think outside the box." I presented a couple examples in my annual report: Perhaps it's time to sell a piece of property to fund a different ministry in our neighborhood. Possibly there is a community group who would lease our gym and run programs to benefit the community. When the restrictions decrease we may want to increase our efforts to rent areas of our building to other organizations, maybe even hiring a property management company to take the load off our members. These are but a few ideas from one mind. I'm sure that you have ideas of your own, so think "outside the box" and bring your ideas and dreams to the property committee and/or the congregational meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Assistant Bishop Melissa Reed in her message on Jan. 24 explained how when we feel tension and put that together with love we can produce new growth. The tension is all around us; COVID- 19 and the restrictions, social unrest, decreasing membership, economic difficulties and more. At times they may seem overpowering, but we have a big advantage, LOVE. We share a loving and caring community of believers. We have the power and will to create change. We have a love for Christ and his people that is stronger than circumstances trying to pull us down. But most of all, we have the Christ's love to care for us and guide us through. Let's combine some of that tension with the love we share and to produce new growth.

Christ in our Home seems to be pointing the way. Jan. 19, Psalm 86: "Lean on God when we are weary. Trust in God when you cannot see the way forward". Jan. 21, Psalm 62: "God who promises to be our firm foundation is also the one to get us through when we encounter bedrock moments." Jan. 17, John 1: "You will see greater things than these." So, think outside the box. Combine the tension you feel with the power of love. But most of all, believe in Christ and each other to see us through. We have the love and the power to make great things happen. Put on your thinking cap to generate ideas and bring them to the March 14<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting so we can combine our ideas, our faith and our love to make great things happen at Holy Cross. Your thoughts are very important to us, so if you do not feel comfortable or are unable to attend, call a Council member, write your thoughts down and mail them in or send your ideas and desires with a friend.

None of us know what the future will bring for Holy Cross, but whatever it is, the love of Christ and Christ's love for us will be there.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Loran Sell

## Ash Wednesday Vigil at Holy Cross

The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, with Ash Wednesday. It is our tradition to gather for worship and imposition of Ashes in the shape of a cross on our foreheads as we begin this time of contemplation and reflection.

In order to accommodate Covid-19 protocols, we have made some adjustments to our Ash Wednesday event.

The Church Sanctuary at Holy Cross will be open from *3 pm to 6 pm* on Ash Wednesday. We will follow the basic protocol we developed for previous vigils for All Saints, and Christmas Eve – we will enter through the handicapped access facing the parking lot accessible from Lansing Ave. There, the ushers will allow one family unit at a time entrance to the sanctuary (if we have folks arriving in a bunch, the usher may ask you to wait in your car for a few minutes).

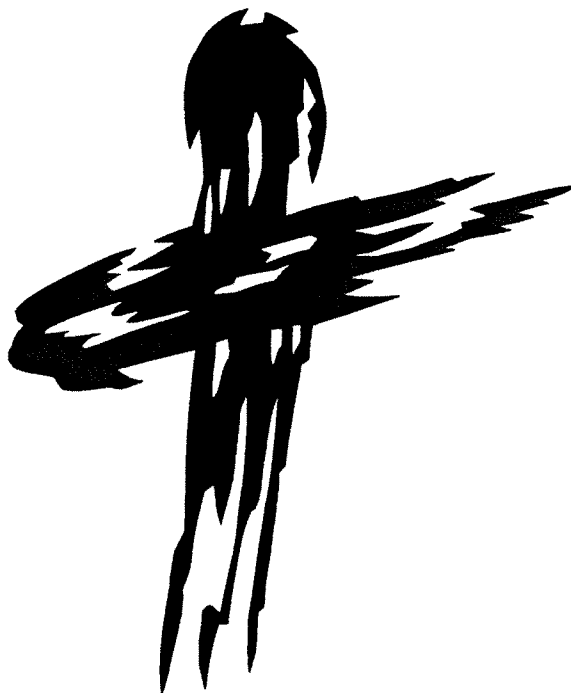
All individuals will be masked, and each family group will maintain social distancing from others at all times. If a family or individual prefers to receive their ashes in the car, the pastor will bring ashes to them there.

Once in the sanctuary, you will receive a devotional folder, including the history and purpose of Ash Wednesday, and prayers for you read as part of your personal devotion. Our pianist, Sheila Clausen, will fill our space with music appropriate for the day. As each person/family enters the sanctuary, they will come forward to the chancel for Pastor Patricia to place ashes on each person's forehead, using gloves. If you prefer, we will offer you the opportunity to place your own ashes.

After receiving your ashes, you are invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one, or to commemorate the many losses of our times.

Then you will be invited to leave the sanctuary by the side door, and return to the narthex, exiting by the doors off of the Entryway. This year we are pleased to welcome friends from Salem First Free Methodist Church to receive their ashes at Holy Cross Lutheran. We are Stronger Together.

May God bless you as you seek a Holy Lent. – Pastor Patricia Hughes+



**Wednesday, Feb 17, 3 – 6 pm**, Holy Cross Sanctuary, 1998 Lansing Ave NE, Salem, OR 97301 (you may receive your ashes in your car upon request)



**Sermon for 2/7/2021 He came and took her by the hand** and lifted her up. This is Mark 1:31. This January and February we are focusing on the gospel readings from Mark's Gospel. Mark is quick, not too wordy and has an obvious purpose for us in writing his account of Jesus' ministry. He wants us to know that Jesus is the Son of God, really, and that we need to be ready- to change the world. And so this small account (I hope you listened to the recording Jeff and I made) these 11 verses, take us into the heart of Jesus' ministry. He had just preached at the synagogue, so its Saturday morning, still the Sabbath day, and cast out unclean spirits from a man there, who challenged him. He goes immediately to the home of Andrew and Simon, where Simon's mother in law is laid aside from the family, obviously quite ill with a fever. When Jesus hears about this he goes immediately to her side. He takes her by the hand and lifts her up. And this is where I slow the action down. Visiting the sick, or the dying, is important for the church to do, and to be blunt, for the pastor to do. Caring for the members of the body of Christ is a direct response to God's love of us, don't you think? It's important to me, I know many of you know. If you're not caring for the least of these in your church family, you're not much of a church. But what does that mean to care for the least of these in the middle of a pandemic. There are folks at the church I haven't seen in a year, who I used to visit every other month. It is more important to keep them safe, than to continue that practice, I am very sure. But, its hard. It's not that I'm not busy, as your pastor, I really am – the recordings we are making for you and the mailouts we prepare take a lot of time. There are folks doing calling and emailing to check on each other, and I try to check on them. But my bucket is empty a lot of time, because I am unable to journey to the sick, and take them by the hand, like Jesus does in this passage. I know, Jesus is the son of God, and he heals, and so his visits are much different than mine, but there's a bit of correlation for me too. Extending the hand of care to those who need it, is what God has called me to do, and may I just say, its what God called you to do too, the whole of God's church, and Holy Cross Lutheran specifically.

The rules and requirements of a pandemic have evolved this past year, but, though I have not been allowed to visit hospitals or care facilities there is a loophole for someone who is dying, or on hospice. And so, this week, I visited in person with a member of our church community who is a hospice patient now. I saw her two weeks ago, too. It's Millie. And she visibly lost some ground between those two visits. She only woke briefly while I was there last time, and I prayed the Lord's prayer with her. This time she didn't repeat any of the words with me, though last time she was able to do so. I made eye contact, and sang her a hymn, and then she was back to sleep. So, my visit with Millie was less about her this week, and more about me. As I sat with her, I prayed, and gradually, I remembered all those visits I have made with her over the years, bringing communion to her home, and then to her facility. She loved me bringing her communion. One time, I even took one of the Confirmation kids with me to offer her communion. I'll never forget that. A gesture of connection, a bringing of God's love directly to someone is an experience that imprints you. It certainly imprinted me. I am so sad to be unable to bring that ministry of visiting to folks right now. And I am so glad I have the memories. But, what about you? What about the church? What about Holy Cross? If the pandemic and the gospel passage have done one thing for us, I hope that thing is to awaken the yearning within us all to be community, to do God's work, tangibly, to those around us. There is need, my friends. The neighborhood we live in has a lot of people just barely making it economically, relationally. We are called to be that bridge, to offer God's love to folks in need – tangibly. With food, with coats, with our time, with our presence. That's what Jesus does here in Mark 1. His visit to Capernaum will always be known as the one where he ministers to people – the man with the unclean spirit, the woman laid aside with fever. And he lifts them up. The word for that is the same one you already know – Resurrection. The Church is called to resurrection work – offering Care to our community. We need to be about that work, or it's going to be hard to recognize that we are the church. Where is God calling you to reach out today? Even in Covid times. Reach out, safely, my friends. It's the only thing that's important in our days. Amen.

Pastor Patricia Hughes

**WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS**  
**Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday**  
**February 14, 2021**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,  
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Holy God,

**you search us and know us.**

**You are acquainted with all our ways.**

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—  
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow  
your outward way of love.**

**We distrust those who are not like us.**

**We exploit the earth and its resources  
and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,**

**for all we have done and left undone.**

**Even before the words are on our tongues,  
you know them;**

**receive them in your divine mercy.**

**Amen.**

How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,  
our sins are washed away  
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,  
we are called to be the beloved community  
living out Christ's justice  
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN – ELW 671 “Shine, Jesus, Shine”**

Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me

*(Refrain)* Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me

*(Refrain)*

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **READINGS AND PSALM**

#### **2 Kings 2:1-12**

*Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha*

#### **Psalm 50:1-6**

Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. *(Ps. 50:2)*

#### **2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

*God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ*

#### **Mark 9:2-9**

*Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son*

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,



creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. **Amen**

**THE PRAYERS** of Intercession (see attached prayers)

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us:  
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.  
Nourish us anew in your tender care,  
and empower us in faithful service  
to tend to others with this same love,  
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The people of our congregation were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your

participation in the body of Christ. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall never hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

***At this time, you may remember the gift of holy communion with your own bread and cup.***

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Christ Jesus,  
at this table we have feasted on your very life  
and are strengthened for our journey.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
nourished in body and in spirit  
to proclaim your good news  
and serve others in your name.

**Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

*Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

God the creator strengthen you;

Jesus the beloved fill you;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**