

### **From the Pastor's desk –**

Folks, I have made the decision to retire effective August 1, 2021. I know this is probably a surprise to some, and not so much to others. I remember so fondly when I was interviewing for the call to Holy Cross Lutheran that I was asked how long I might be willing to give Holy Cross as pastor. I said I would shoot for 5 years. Well, we passed 7 years last January 5<sup>th</sup>, and I will turn 65 years old this August. It is time for me to retire. Although I am glad to say that I'm a very healthy person, I'm just not as sharp as I'd like to be. The office of pastor is demanding in several ways, and of course the pandemic has pushed all of us to adapt and perform in new arenas. Though it has been wonderful serving you, I am going to end my career as your Pastor before my performance suffers too much.

The leadership of Holy Cross is a miraculous thing to me. I have served with Councils, and Council Officers that have surprised me with their dedication and caring again and again. I am pleased to say that the leadership of Holy Cross continues to put serving the cause of Christ and Christ's people at the forefront of their planning for the future.

What will that future look like at Holy Cross? Well, the Bishop is aware of my plan, and she and her staff will support the leadership with pastoral staffing to meet your needs. She, and the whole Synod staff will, however, take their cues from you, and your desire for ministry in this little corner of NE Salem. We (you, and I) have spent the last 7 ½ years talking about our ministry here. I am proud of your choices and commitments to mission. The pandemic has pushed us a lot this past 14 months, and, since many things had to happen, "on the fly" my pastoral role has changed. I have only been able to visit our most elderly folks when pandemic conditions have allowed that to happen. I will focus on that area of visitation in the next couple of months, as conditions allow.

The possibilities for Holy Cross' future include new avenues of investment in the community through Family Promise and their collaborative vision for the property we know as the Easter House. That's exciting. We have collaborated with Christ the Good Shepherd and St. Mark's in many ways over these years, and new possibilities may emerge there. We have collaborated with Manantial de Aguas Vivas to reach out to our Hispanic neighbors, and there are more opportunities there. We have connected with the 10 churches in our part of town (the Stronger Together churches) to create an advent worship event and to try to address the needs of our neighborhood from a shared viewpoint.

Holy Cross has, however, always been about the people, and their mission to show God's love to all. Whatever choices you make in the next phase of your life will certainly continue to honor that purpose. I will be praying for you all.

Pastor Joe (my husband) continues to serve Peace Lutheran Church, in West Salem, and we will continue to make our home at the little 'farmlet' we bought in Silverton about 18 months ago. We will continue to be your neighbors, though I will worship somewhere else (that's going to be a hard choice, of course). The leadership of the ELCA has always insisted that each pastor, as they leave a church they serve, must move their membership, and step back from participation there in order that incoming pastors are able to make a healthy connection with the congregation. It is important to me that you and your pastors-yet-to-come have the best possible opportunity to thrive together.

My last Sunday will be August 1, 2021, and it is my hope that you will pick up the phone, or write me a note or email between now and that time. Each of you matter to me, and I have been enriched by our collaboration together.

Go with God,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Patricia" followed by a small cross symbol.

Reverend Patricia Wolf Hughes, BCC  
April 30, 2021

**Events for the upcoming Week at Holy Cross – Mailing out on May 4th**

**This week** - *Our bible study, “What is God Saying Today” meets in person and on zoom on Thursday, May 6th (noon in person, and 5 pm on zoom) We will be studying the Gospel for May 9<sup>th</sup> – which is John 15:9-17*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055018008?pwd=SLJHN0lkcWhlUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09> Meeting ID: 840 5501 8008 Passcode: 569519

**Mother’s Day is May 9<sup>th</sup>** – and this is the week Holy Cross is offering ONLY virtual (recorded) worship opportunities. *We will have Drive up Communion Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon*, and in person worship **on May 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Sanctuary to commemorate Pentecost (WEAR RED!)**

**DATE CHANGE** – Racial Justice group (Christ the Good Shepherd, St. Mark and Holy Cross meet together to discuss how we can be the change in Racial Justice issues – **this week - Wednesday, May 5 at 6 pm!**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84676836079?pwd=Tk8wU1docFNpYUswNXJ3S243SlZwZz09>

Meeting ID: 846 7683 6079 Passcode: 403323

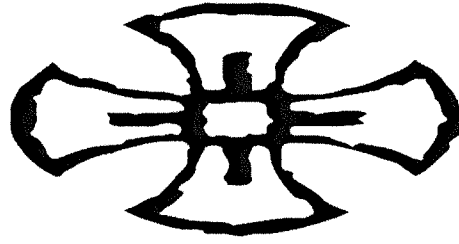
*Our next Racial Justice Gathering will focus on Anti Asian racism. Our guest will be Carrie Lee Brown, a retired school counselor.*

Also, this week, **Tuesday evening the Executive Team will meet at 6:30** (in person) for some clarity on coming events – this is for the Officers on the Holy Cross Council.

**Wednesday evening at 6:30**, interested folks are meeting in person with Manantial de Aguas Vivas to talk about getting them back in the building to worship again. This pandemic has hit them hard. Please pray for our friends in the neighborhood.

Every week, you can find our recorded worship elements on our website – [www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org](http://www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org) or on Facebook. Bless you all in your Easter journey! Please pray for our leadership here at Holy Cross! **Pastor Patricia+**

**A Ball Of Yarn** - A few years ago, at a Fly meeting – that’s faithful Lutheran youth – Sarah Schultz, she was Tolleson then, brought a skein of yarn, and she held the end and tossed it to one of the young people. Say your name, she said, and one food you refuse to eat, then toss it to the next person. Well, that young person did as he was asked, and tossed it away, holding on to the piece of yarn, as he went on to the next person. Well, you guessed it, at the end of that game, we had to go backwards, repeating people’s names as we unraveled the spiders web of yarn we had just made. But of course, there were more games with the yarn, and people’s names and learning things about them, until we were a huge tangle of yarn. We played that game right here, in the Holy Cross gym, and many other games. From her experiences as a camp counselor, and in other venues in her life, Sarah had a million games designed to learn more about each other, and to have fun all the time. We played a lot of games right here. The kids learned more about each other, they began to forget that some kids came from St. Marks and some from Christ the Good shepherd and some from Holy Cross. They just hung out together and sometimes we did things that helped other people, too. I’ve read the Gospel for today, from John 15, over and over this week, in the two bible studies we have, and on my own. I am the vine, you are the branches, Jesus says. It’s an intimate moment in the gospel, just Jesus and his disciples. He’s preparing them to do ministry without him. Because he knows that is coming. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Jesus is creating the church as he speaks with the disciples. That makes me smile. Because I love the church, despite all of our flaws, and foibles. The church Jesus is creating is alive, because of their connection to Jesus, and to God the father. However, Jesus is doing more than getting to know you games with the disciples, and with us. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned I’ve thought a lot this week about what this means. When we become disconnected from God’s love and power, that’s a choice, and, according to this passage, that will lead to our branches withering, and dropping off. Ultimately, those dead branches make their way to the fire. But what does being disconnected from God’s love look like? For the church? For you and me? Well, disconnected – that’s something I’ve experienced more this past year than ever before. How about you? And as much as I enjoy time alone, this year has taught me a lot – I don’t like being disconnected – I miss before church banter in the narthex, I miss visiting our elders who live in residential care. And I’ve discovered I really miss the small connections with the ministries and activities who all use Holy Cross buildings. I miss waving at the AA group every Thursday evening when I was here. I miss hearing the music of Manantial de Aguas Vivas when they hold worship in the sanctuary. I even miss the Zumba music as the group exercises in our gym. Small things, I suppose, but the community here at Sunnyview and Lansing are part of us. And we are part of them. I miss handing out coats at the coat drive in the fall. I don’t think its an exaggeration when I say that these covid times have left me and also Holy Cross feeling withered at times. The love and care of Christ that we preach and study together has not had much of an outlet lately. The withering is real. But I cannot lay this withering entirely at the feet of a pandemic. We, here at Holy Cross, and, surely in other churches, have felt our connection to those in need to droop a bit. Our familiar patterns of school supplies, coat drives, even thanksgiving eve dinners has been unavailable to us. But the need continues. All you have to do is look in our parking lot to see how much need is out there. We have two families, who lost so much in the labor day fires, who continue to live in our parking lot, as they attempt to make new connections, and new possibilities happen. So, what’s your point, Pastor P? That sadness you and I feel, the disconnection from pandemic necessity? Well, it is possible that’s the future. For the church. For Holy Cross. Unless we make new connections of caring. The need is there – and the yarn has been tossed to us. It’s our job to keep it going. How will God use us in the future? The answer is within you. We must be connectors of grace and care to those in need. Now, not after the pandemic. And your participation is the key. Jesus says, <sup>8</sup>“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.” – Pastor Patricia Hughes



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## Hope for a New Day

Sunday, May 9, 2021

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,  
for these waters where you make us new,  
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.  
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us  
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,  
like rains to our thirsting earth,  
like streams that revive our souls,  
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.  
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.  
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.  
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.  
Make us one, risen Christ.  
Cleanse our hearts.  
Shower us with life.  
To you be given all praise,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 631 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” v. 1 & 3**

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver  
Let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **READINGS AND PSALM**

First reading: Acts 10:44-48

Psalm: Psalm 98

Second reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 15:9-17

### **NICENE CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of love,  
You call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.  
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.  
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;  
For the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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**

Let us pray.

Wellspring of joy,  
Through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.  
Satisfy the hunger still around us,  
And send us as joyful witnesses,  
That your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

### **BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom  
To know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.  
The God of life,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**



**Praying together at Holy Cross – May 9, 2021 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and call us to join with them in praise.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives (*especially*). Keep us united with them in your lasting love.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hope  
for a  
New  
Day**

soaring, may

I LOVE  
YOU MOM

