

## **From your Council President – June 8, 2021**

I hope you all had wonderful Memorial Day weekend and are enjoying the much-needed rain after a very dry April & May. I know our yard sure could use the water!

Weather permitting, we will be holding our first outdoor service this Sunday, **June 13 at 10:00 AM** in the Courtyard. Volunteers for many of the tasks are still needed along with **RSVPs** if you are planning on attending. Please call Janet in the church office (503) 364-6041.

We will continue to sit in our “pods” social distanced (6 feet) from each other, but for the first time since Covid-19 began we will NOT be requiring the use of masks, following the new Oregon Health Authority (OHA) guidelines for outdoor gatherings. Please note that the OHA still urges unvaccinated people to continue to wear masks for their own protection. Also note that if it rains, we will move indoors which will require the wearing of your masks.

Following the service, we will hold a Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote on two separate issues. One is the Family Promise proposal to purchase the Easter House and vacant lot. The second is to review and vote on the adoption of the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Welcoming Statement.

Please contact me directly prior to Sunday if you will not be attending the outdoor service/meeting and have any questions or concerns about our new mask policy or the two votes we will be conducting.

Sunday is just the beginning of a busy and eventful summer. As you know our beloved *Pastor is retiring on August 1<sup>st</sup>* and we are beginning the transition period. Transitions are a part of life, filled with both challenges and opportunities. For Holy Cross, this comes at a time where we need to reconnect with the world we live in, reflect on where we have been, assess our congregational vitality and sustainability and determine what path we wish to tread in the future.

There are three major phases during this journey with some twenty-seven steps sprinkled among them. We have just begun Phase I (Our minister is leaving. What do we do?). We will be in this phase the rest of summer before commencing Phase II (Intentional Interim and Self-Study) in the Fall.

In Phase II a Transition Team will be formed to ask questions of the congregation. This Team will be responsible for research, analysis, documentation, and study. It will develop the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. To successfully navigate the transition period, the congregation should pay close attention to these Five Focus Points: Heritage, Leadership, Connections, Mission, and Future.

The time spent in Phase II will give us answers to three important questions; Who are we? (identity), Who are our neighbors? (context), and What is God calling us to do? (purpose) which will successfully move us into Phase III (The Call Process).

Phase III is where a Call Committee is formed, tasked with the role of identifying the candidate who is best suited to accompany the congregation into God's future. The Call Committee builds on the work of the Transition Team and the Ministry Site Profile. They will meet to establish community, discuss the process, familiarize themselves with careful reading of Rostered Minister Profiles, and refine interviewing styles and strategies. Eventually one candidate will be submitted to the Council and then to the congregation for a formal vote.

The process we are embarking on is complex, but we are not the first, nor the last congregation to undertake this journey. Indeed, we have been here before and many of you have served on the groups needed during the transition. We may be a bit older, and time and events may have changed the outlook of what our future looks like after nearly a decade, but I am positive that if we prayerfully listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us, we will be a stronger congregation when we complete our transition.

As always, your thoughts are always welcome. Please call or email me directly with any questions or concerns you may have.

Blessing to you, your servant in Christ, Bryan Struve Council President



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**"Basically, we're looking for an innovative pastor with a fresh vision who will inspire our church to remain exactly the same."**

## Events for the upcoming Week at Holy Cross – Mailing out on June 8th

Our Theme for this season after Pentecost is “Hope is our Mission” Can you imagine how Hope can be Your Mission this week?

*Our bible study, “What is God Saying Today” is on vacation this week – Pastor is off until June 12<sup>th</sup> with family in town.*

**Worship on June 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am will be in the Garden!** It will be lovely to be together, in this safer place. The Oregon Health Authority wants us to know that if we are outside, we are not required to be masked, however unvaccinated people are still urged to wear theirs. This will be so great to see people’s faces!! Stay after worship for a brief meeting to vote on two things – our Reconciling in Christ Status and an offer to sell the Easter House and vacant lot to Family Promise to continue their mission of caring for those dealing with houselessness. (there is a rumor we may even have coffee afterward and could chat with our neighbors!!)

Coming up – Can you help? We have 4 garden worships planned this summer (**ALL SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10 AM!**). Here’s the list – Call Janet in the office to volunteer for tasks that still need volunteers!

**Dates June 13, June 27, July 11 and July 25<sup>th</sup>**

<b><u>Tasks</u></b>
<b>Altar care set up</b>
<b>Usher helper</b>
<b>Setup of chairs</b>
<b>Set up of speakers</b>
<b>Set up of recording</b>
<b>Take down of chairs</b>
<b>Take down of speakers/equipment</b>
<b>Clean up of Altar</b>

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 these fabulous Oregon Days! Please pray for our leadership here at Holy Cross!  
**Pastor Patricia+**

**Love and Courage.** A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus says this in today's Gospel from Mark 3, but, maybe you are like me in that this phrase rings in my memories in a speech given by Abraham Lincoln, in 1858, long before he was ever elected president. He was in a race for an Illinois Seat in the senate. A political battle between himself and Stephen Douglas, a very prominent politician, who had much more experience. The times were contentious. Anti Slavery and pro appeasement parties were the order of the day. Can't we all just get along? Was the undercurrent in most conversations. Conflict is messy. It sets neighbors against neighbors and family against family. Can we do all that we can, please, to just keep the peace? I can imagine you and I today and most people throughout history preferring that choice, the choice of compromise and middle ground. But Lincoln did not choose that. He spoke "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other." I admit I'm a little surprised that talk like that established who he was, and what he stood for. He lost that election, you know, and yet, these statements resulted in making him, and his position known nationwide, resulting in his election to president of the united states two years later. I suppose a case could be made that Lincolns perspective is one reason we had a civil war, and thousands died. But I also suppose we could make the case that Lincoln's willingness to speak truth to power changed us as a people, and set us on the path to fight the racism and inequality that he saw, that still exists today.

But Lincoln is quoting Jesus. This gospel passage is from Mark, and is very early in the gospel account, he's just started gathering disciples, and doing a little healing, and casting out of spirits, and wham, he's confronted by a mob who think Jesus himself must be of the devil, if he's being this disruptor in the community. It's an unsettling text. And, the gospel reading is usually an opportunity to touch the gospel – the good news of God's saving love, in and through the person of his son Jesus. But there is good news here. The good news, I believe, is that Jesus is willing to get in the middle of arguments, of struggles, of the messiness of life. He doesn't make nice with his family here, and he doesn't respect the local authorities. Both of those are things that are often good things – we've even taught them in Sunday school. But It is good news because Jesus is showing us how to navigate confusing hard times. Get in the game. Be part of the conversation. Be willing to stand up for what you believe is right, even when pressure is applied to you to just get along. I think it's important, too that this gospel is paired with the Genesis reading where Adam and Eve screw up big time – unwilling to take responsibility for their own actions, they blame and point fingers instead of standing with integrity.

What do you suppose we are called to learn from these readings today, with a country that is polarized into political camps? In a world where poor countries still do not have access to the Covid 19 vaccine and people are perishing? In a society where the systemic racism of hundreds of years is being confronted? The Lutheran church observes a church year in which, following the festival days of Christmas and easter, we come to Pentecost, the birth of the church – the holy spirit filling the hearts of the faithful and sending them out to be the church today and always. We are calling this season at Holy Cross, "Hope is our Mission". How can we, as people of God in this place and time, offer Hope as we move forward in mission? The world is hurting right now my friends. The global pandemic has jolted us awake, while decimating families. The houseless population in the Salem area is growing, and in need. What will we do for them? What will we say about these issues in our neighborhoods, and in our society? How are we called to act as Christ acts in today's gospel? Perhaps the time is past when we just try to get along. Perhaps the time is here where we plant our flag, and state our claim to be inheritors of God's kingdom. I ask you, friends and family of Holy Cross – pray without ceasing that God will show you how to be God's emissaries in our community in the days ahead. To Show Love, and Courage. Amen. -Pastor Patricia+

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
**June 13, 2021 – Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**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.**

**KYRIE**

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;  
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;  
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;

for life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord  
**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;  
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord  
**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.  
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.  
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.  
Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.  
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself  
and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **READINGS AND PSALM**

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 635 "We Walk By Faith"**

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight;  
with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:  
"My peace be with you here."
  
- 3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
and may our faith abound  
to call on you when you are near  
and seek where you are found:
  
- 4 For you, O resurrected Lord,  
are found in means divine:  
beneath the water and the word,  
beneath the bread and wine.

## **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 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **MEAL**

### **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,

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

#### **LAMB OF GOD**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

#### **BLESSING - HENRI FREDERIC AMIEL**

Life is short

and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us.

So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind.

And Go in Peace to love and serve The Lord.

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## Praying together at Holy Cross – The Third Sunday after Pentecost June 13, 2021

Let us come before the triune God in prayer..

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you. We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**



Hope is  
our  
Mission