

From your Interim Coordinator – July 12, 2022

Last Sunday we held a Service of the Word and Sacrament in the fellowship hall/gym, presided over by our Interim Pastor, Curtis Zieske. After worship we convened a congregational meeting attended by thirty-four voting members. The primary purpose of the meeting was to present, review and ratify the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) that your Transition Team has been working on since February. I am pleased to announce that the MSP was adopted by a unanimous vote of all members present. The short summary follows.

Holy Cross is looking for a solo Pastor in a part time position to lead this service-oriented church located in Salem, Oregon's capital. We are a Lutheran congregation with a passion for service, dedicated to our calling to be witnesses of Christ's love through word and action in our diverse neighborhood. While our congregation is older and relatively small, we continue to be active in worship and community service. Our facility is large and debt free and is used by several organizations for their activities and community events. We continue to look for additional ways to make positive impacts and connections to our neighborhood. We seek to renew and strengthen the collaborations and partnerships with other congregations and nonprofits.

After approving the MSP, discussion moved to the conversations we have been having with Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (CGSLC). We had started our "Better Together" relationship with both Christ and St. Mark in the years before the pandemic, paused as society shut down, and have resumed scheduling conversations and joint activities as our community reopens. We invited Vicar Sena Norton, the current Intern at Christ, to preside over our service on Sunday, July 3rd, and plan to hold a joint service at CGSLC on the last Sunday of this month, July 31st.

The Oregon Synod is assisting this effort in what they term a "Friendship Process", and both Salem churches are bringing them (Synod) up to speed regarding the existing relationships and a brief history of things we have collaborated on in the past. Your leadership asked for affirmation from the Congregation to continue this dialogue, as we explore the possibilities of a multi-point parish with one full time pastor serving two congregations.

If you missed attending worship and the congregational meeting, you may watch a recording of these events on the Holy Cross YouTube channel at; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHbmFBDWLG1W-jcI8jRhOQ>

This coming **Sunday, July 17, 2022, at 10:00 AM**, Interim Pastor Curtis Zieske will preside over a Service of the Word and Sacrament. All are welcome!

If you have any questions about the transition and events at our church, do not hesitate to contact Loran or I via email or phone.

Together with you in Christ, Bryan Struve, Interim Coordinator

**Worship at Home - Holy Cross Lutheran Church
July 17, 2022 – Sixth Sunday of Pentecost**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

**Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS AND PSALM *God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.*

Genesis 18:1-10a

The hospitality of Abraham and Sarah to three visitors of the LORD

Psalms 15

LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

Colossians 1:15-28

Hymn to Christ, the firstborn of all creation

Luke 10:38-42

Jesus says: Martha, your sister Mary has chosen the better part

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 519 “Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”

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

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Ever-present God, in Christ you fill all things. As your church gathers to hear your word, share your meal, and receive your blessing, teach us to welcome strangers as we have been welcomed by you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ you created all things, visible and invisible. Teach humankind to honor and protect all creation, including living things that remain hidden from our eyes such as air, atmosphere, molecules, and microscopic creatures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you reconcile all things. Motivate those in power to end enslavement, dehumanization, or brutality of any kind (*in the spirit of Bartolomé de Las Casas, whom we commemorate today*) and to protect and improve the lives of Indigenous peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you bring peace. Assure all who are worried and distracted by many things of your constant presence. Soothe those suffering in mind, body, or spirit. Sustain all who are afflicted and those who serve as caregivers (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In Christ you make your word fully known. Inspire this worshiping community (*congregation may be named*) to abide fully in your word as we sit at the feet of Jesus. Bless the ministry of teachers and Bible study leaders. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In Christ you brought forth the firstborn from the dead. We give thanks for the saints you have gathered at your table. Gather us with them in your eternal glory. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance:
you have set before us a plentiful harvest.
As we feast on your goodness,
strengthen us to labor in your field,
and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,
in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

✠ 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

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.**

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life
this day and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
Thanks be to God.