



Holy Cross *Crossroads*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH | JANUARY 2025

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for the generous gifts you shared with me and my family for Christmas. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

This has been a very busy fall at Holy Cross. We have hosted some really special events for our congregation and our community that people have really enjoyed. Over the last few months, we've had a Rummage Sale, Trunk or Treat, a mini-craft fair and cookie exchange, the Silver Sage Thanksgiving Dinner, our Live Nativity, and Christmas Caroling, plus Oktoberfest, a spaghetti dinner, Advent Tea and plenty of time for fellowship, learning and service projects for the community. I appreciate all that you have done and all that you do to make this such a special place to grow in faith.

Realizing how much we've accomplished this fall, has been fun and rewarding, but it's also been a lot of work. So, I want to invite you all to take a "January Chill" which means, a sabbath. Take a rest in January. We'll have worship and Bible studies, quilting and knitting, Godly Play and youth group, though some things are starting a little later in the month, but we're not adding a whole bunch of new "things" to the calendar. We want you to rest and renew.

When God created the world, God knew the importance of resting. God knew it was so important to us that it became a commandment to honor the sabbath day and keep it holy. After the feeding of the 5000, Jesus withdrew to a quiet place to rest. When we are weary and heavy laden, Jesus says come to me, and I will give you rest. Taking a rest is Biblical. Please use January to "chill out" and rest.

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I will do some, too, but I also am looking forward to using the time to do some planning for the new year. There is a parent meeting scheduled for youth and parents on Sunday, January 12 after the 10:30 service. I would love to have everyone there to check-in and brainstorm for a new year.

Again, thank you for everything you do. Thank you for the ministry you offer and the gifts you share. You are a blessing to one another and to the larger community. May God give you rest and peace in the "January Chill."

Love,

Pastor Kathy

Youth Ministry

Confirmation Class will resume on Tuesday, January 21 at 4:30pm.

Youth and Parent Meeting will January 12 after the 10:30 service. We have a few things to talk about and some plans to make, so please come and join us to share your input and reflections.

The youth group is heading to Coconut Bowl on Sunday, January 26 after the 10:30 service. Sign up with Pastor Kathy or on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

If you have any questions about youth activities, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Kathy.

The Chosen Viewing & Discussion

The Chosen Viewing and Discussion will resume on Tuesday night, January 21 at 6:15pm. We will start watching Season 4 and have discussion after each episode. Come and join us!

Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study resuming January 8. After Abraham was supposed to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice (but God provided a lamb), Abraham came down from the mountain but Isaac didn't. Huh? What happened to Isaac? Come join us for a special 2-session look at this story - what happened before, during, and after this significant event? This is a self-contained unit within the regular Wednesday Bible Study, so feel free to join us for just this one topic if you'd like to give us a try. Then we proceed into the book of Joshua as part of our regular study as the Israelites are done with the desert, Moses has died, and Joshua leads them into the Promised Land. Contact Becky at 775-360-0553 or beckyb485@gmail.com for more details.

Zoom information to join remotely. [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09)
[pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89633009098?pwd=dUVaYVZaQ2hwUExQRVY5eIBXbHJ4dz09) Meeting ID: 896 3300 9098 - Passcode: 050344.

The Monday Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Kathy will resume on Monday, January 13 at 4pm. We'll be looking at the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. Follow the link to join us! [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85131805610?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85131805610?pwd=i0m8UFDU0HCyhDIGHvHBRhW0rKBT2a.1)
[pwd=i0m8UFDU0HCyhDIGHvHBRhW0rKBT2a.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85131805610?pwd=i0m8UFDU0HCyhDIGHvHBRhW0rKBT2a.1)

Meeting ID: 851 3180 5610

Passcode: 235170

A faith and life retreat on
**Believing the Bible:
Inhabiting Its Stories, Trusting God's Promises**

January 11th, 10am-3pm, \$25 suggested (lunch provided)
Faith Lutheran Church, Reno, NV with Dr. Fred Niedner

Please Register: <https://faithlutheranreno.org/faith-life-retreat-2025/>

Some "Bible believers" insist that authentic biblical faith includes affirming that the universe is but 6,000 years old, that you could have recorded the serpent talking to Eve in the Garden of Eden had iPhones existed then, and that a guy named Jonah once survived a three-day sojourn (during which he wrote poetry) inside the belly of a great fish. Whether such things "really happened" matters little for how we live. What really matters is whether we recognize the times when we are living in those same stories and the serpent is tempting us, or we are wandering in the wilderness subsisting on manna, or we have landed in a graveyard where broken souls live in the tombs and howl at the moon, or we're hanging nailed between heaven and earth, only to turn and see *him*, "the King of the Jews," on the next cross over.

Session Outlines

10am Session 1 – Believing vs Trusting, Inhabiting, & Engaging

What does it mean to "believe the Bible?" Questions about the Bible's origins, authorship, reputed inerrancy, historicity, and textual integrity often dominate discussions about the church's and individuals' relationship to the Scriptures and their contents. Ultimately, it matters less what we claim about the Bible than what the Bible says about humankind as a whole and each of us in particular as it diagnoses our circumstances, behaviors, and assorted maladies and offers a promising prognosis regarding what could become of us.

11am Session 2– Accepting the Invitation to Inhabit the Scriptures

The Bible, beginning with the story of creation, offers readers/hearers a place and an identity in a universe of the biblical narrative's own construction where we can see, examine, revise, and exchange the stories we tell about ourselves and others. We shall listen in on (and see ourselves in) the couple in the garden, Cain and Abel, Jonah, and two lost sons of a waiting father.

Lunch 12-12:45pm, discussion, gathering of questions/responses

12:45pm Session 3 – Swapping Stories with Jesus

The New Testament gospels invite us to believe that Jesus' story is our story, and our story is Jesus' story. The passion narratives of Mark and Luke, for example, meaningfully script our lives no matter where or in what circumstances we find ourselves.

1:45pm Session 4 – Hearing, Trusting, Wrestling with God

Even when we believe in God and accept God's "word," we can find ourselves at odds with God. Then we must have it out with God. Several stories show us how: Genesis 18:22-32 (Abraham dickers with God); Genesis 32:22-32 (Jacob wrestles with the night stranger); Exodus 32 (Moses confronts God, God repents); Mark 7:24-30/Matthew 15:21-28 (Jesus gets nailed and hung up between God's law and a mother's tenacious love).

Fred Niedner is Senior Research Professor of Theology at Valparaiso University, where he taught biblical studies and Hebrew language from 1973 to 2014. While an active faculty member he also served in several administrative roles and preached regularly in Valpo's Chapel of the Resurrection. He has published many scholarly articles, mostly on biblical topics, and for 25 years he wrote a bi-weekly op-ed column for northwest Indiana editions of the *Chicago Tribune*. Fred currently teaches in a variety of ecclesial settings but does not give grades, and he writes frequently for publications that serve the ministry of preaching.



Council News

Dear Holy Cross Family,

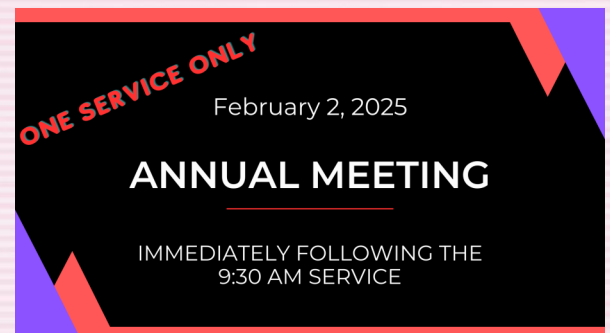
Happy New Year!! I am so thankful to be on this faith journey with my Holy Cross Family as we start 2025.

December was a very busy month! We had our annual Live Nativity that touches so many neighbors. There is one story that I would like to share from that special weekend. A family came in early from the performance on Saturday night because it was so cold. The little one, just 3 years old, looked sad. This one appeared to want to dress up and be outside. As they came in, I asked the family if they wanted their child to dress as a character. This was met with delight. I asked, "Do you want to be an angel, a shepherd or a king?" After discussion, a shepherd it was. I was able to dress this little one up in our smallest shepherd costume, complete with the perfect sized staff. Pictures were taken of the smiling, little shepherd in front of the snow scene, then the shepherd was off to complete a craft at Eldora's table. The shepherd chose a wooden snowflake with two big stickers on it. One of course had to be Santa. During this time, Dad stopped me in the hallway and asked if he could tell me something. You see this family lost a baby this year. Their little one had been very sad. Dad told me that this was the happiest their child had been in a long time. Dad wanted to say thank you!! I just about lost it and had to smile through some tears. We at Holy Cross helped this tiniest shepherd and family find their Christmas Joy! Thank you to all the people who worked at this event, brought in crafts, or food. Your work means a lot to our neighbors.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Katie Torry

Council President



Annual Congregational Meeting

Please mark your calendars for February 2, immediately following the 9:30 am service. It's important to note that there will be only one service on this date. To ensure a smooth and well-prepared gathering, we kindly request all committee and group leaders to submit their annual reports by January 22nd. Your timely contributions will play a crucial role in facilitating the preparation of the comprehensive annual report, reflecting the accomplishments and milestones of the past year. We look forward to your active participation in this important congregation-wide event.



~2025~

SHARED HARVEST

ASSEMBLY DATES & LOCATIONS

1 pm

January 26 St. Luke's—Reno

February 23 St. Luke's—Reno

March 23 Good Shepherd—Reno

April 17 Good Shepherd—Reno

May 18 (3rd Sunday) Lord of Mercy—Sparks

June 22 Lord of Mercy—Sparks

July 27 Holy Cross—Reno

August 24 Holy Cross—Reno

September 28 Our Savior—Sparks

October 26 Our Savior—Sparks

November 23 Faith—Reno

December 21 (3rd Sunday) Faith—Reno

Senior Lunch Potluck



Advent Tea 2024

Midweek Communion

1ST WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH



January 8, 2025
1:00 pm

It is a small intimate
gathering that lasts
about 10 minutes



Music Program

Wow! The Christmas Eve gala at 4pm was spectacular! Our choir outdid themselves, and we were joined by singers and instrumentalists from UNR. If you were there in person, you were surrounded by the music and emotion of the service.

So many people to thank:

Thanks to our choir for all their hard work in preparation for this special event.

Thanks to the kids who jingled their bells with enthusiasm during the final "Joy to the World" and added their joy.

Thanks to Brittney and Becky for organizing and leading us in song.

Thanks to Natalie for providing the wonderful feast for our musicians as well as provide outreach to our visiting musicians who filled up their to-go boxes and moved on to other gigs that evening.

Thanks to Michael and Brittney for the beautiful service of reflection and communion at 630pm.

Thanks to the congregation for your super support of our music program.

And thanks to Pastor Kathy who gives us inspiration to us all through her dedication and service to our congregation, with so many creative ideas to inspire us in our worship.

If you were not able to join us in person, the 4pm service is uploaded to our youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JwMOurBfb4>

Advent Wednesdays Craft Time



Close Knit Friends

Our sincere appreciation for the congregations' support to Close Knit Friends' blanket and jacket collection in December. Twenty jackets and forty-eight blankets (hand knitted/crochet, gently used or new) were delivered to the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra before Thanksgiving. The 2024 Year End summary is posted in the Fellowship Hall. We were able to deliver close to 1500 items to several local organizations helping individuals and families in need. Close Knit Friends will begin gathering at the church on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month starting Monday, January 13 at 1pm. Knitters and crocheters of any skill level are welcome to attend. We make hats, scarves, blankets, and shawls for AWAKEN, Marvel Way Complex and the Empowerment Center, Women Veterans Program at the VA, Ronald McDonald House, Women and Children's Center of the Sierra, Renown Hospital NeoNatal Unit (Octopus for Premies), and Domestic Violence Resource Center. For more information contact Peggy Whitney at 775-622-0128. Donations of washable yarn and funds are welcome.

Children's Christmas Program 2024



Christmas Caroling

Thank you to all who joined us for caroling this year! It was a smaller, but mighty group. We sang for two different areas at Volante Assisted Senior Living and at Silver Sage Senior Living. Many people sang along and we even had one resident from Silver Sage join our caroling group. We enjoyed a pizza dinner between the two venues and ended the evening with yummy cookies at Silver Sage. Please join us next year for caroling fun! A special thank you to Eric Gieseke who accompanied us on guitar.

Quilt Group—2024 Quilt Results!

The Quilt Group completed and gave away 300 Quilts during the 2024 Quilt Year! We are a busy, fun, productive group—Working Together in God's Vineyard. Since our beginning in 2007 we have given away over 2,000 quilts.

We deliver quilts to Lutheran World Relief, to our brothers and sisters in need around the world; local social service agencies: Children's Cabinet, Veterans in Transition, Women's and Children's Center of the Sierra, Children in Transition (WCSD); Hosanna Home, Ronald McDonald House, Women and Children's Center of the Sierra, Empowerment Center, Summit Estates, Renown, Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit, delivering Christ's love to our friends and neighbors struggling with homelessness, health issues, addiction, family separation, poverty, natural disasters and members and friends of Holy Cross celebrating baptism, graduation or those in need of a warm quilt, Each quilt is made with love and faith and brings hope and emotional warmth to those that receive them--furthering the Mission of Holy Cross—to Worship God and be Christ's disciples in our community and world. This year we broadened our giving locally to include Circle of Life Hospice and we supported the Natchez Elementary schools' project sewing ribbon skirts for their students. Our work was enhanced by the group led by Mary Edmonds of "blanket makers" the Fleur Di Leis community.

We were blessed with the work and gifts of our members, longstanding and several new members this year. We received donations of beautiful fabric from members and neighbors in our community.

The Quilt Group meets every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is welcome to join the quilt group. No quilting or sewing experience is required. Although experienced quilters and seamstresses are also treasured. During our quilt meetings we do a variety of things, cutting fabrics, designing quilt tops, sewing quilt tops, pressing the material, coordinating tops and backs and tying the quilts, or take a Quilt Top Kit from the Blue Basket and complete on your schedule—something for everyone!

Please come join us for creative work, fun and fellowship!

Quilt Tying Party! Saturday, February 8, 9 am—noon

You've always wanted to learn to quilt—or see what quilting is all about—here is a great opportunity to check out quilting.

In addition to our regularly scheduled Thursday quilt days we are having a Special Quilt Tying "Party" on Saturday February 8 —9 am to 12 noon. We have close to 15 quilt tops to tie! --the Thursday quilt days and Blue Basket quilters have been "very productive" in completing creative, beautiful and useful tops. Please come help—no experience required—quilters will be there to teach all how to "sandwich" and "tie" quilts—we look forward to another fun, creative and productive day—working together to make quilts for people in need in our community and around the world. The coffee pot will be on—so just come by to participate, to see what we are doing —and visit with us!



Live Nativity

2024



Supporting Aging Seniors: Senior Transitions Program

This three week program will be offered February 15, 22, and March 1; Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall at Holy Cross.

Supporting Aging Seniors is designed for Seniors, their families and support networks, to learn about and explore options for safe senior independent living and alternatives when living totally on their own is no longer safe or desirable for the senior. This is an opportunity to be with others who are thinking about or working through the issues and opportunities that present themselves as we age. This program is helpful for those who are just beginning to think and plan about Senior Transitions, and those who have participated in previous programs, but want to update their plans or refresh their information on options.

It is human nature to put off or even ignore life's difficult decisions. The challenges of aging may intimidate us and conversations between parents and adult children or seniors and loved ones are avoided. In the worst case scenario, no discussion has taken place and no plans are made until a crisis hits.

Program Overview

Session 1: Beginning the conversation: signs that you need help, changing relationship, values: what matters to you, critical conversations with loved ones.

Session 2: Living arrangements: Staying at Home, Safety, Care; Alternative Living Options/Senior Communities; Downsizing; Resources.

Session 3: Planning for the future: Financial Concerns & Planning; Legal issues related to aging: wills, trusts, power of attorney, medical directives and POLST.

Attend individually or with your adult children, or support network. Invite your friends to join us.

Brochures and fliers about the program are available in the Narthex, or by contacting the church office.

Register with Lanai, in the Church Office, holycrossreno@gmail.com, or Program Coordinator Diane Torry dbtorry@att.net

Service and Fellowship

This year's Advent Tea was another wonderful afternoon of music, fellowship and fun. Thank you to all who gave of their time and talents to make this such a successful event.

A big thank you to everyone for supporting this year's angel tree. We were able to help six families have a Merrier Christmas this year. The counselor at Smith Ridge Stem Academy so appreciates our congregation's support, as well, as the families.

We would like to thank everyone once again for supporting the Service Committee projects over the year. We could not do all that we do without your help.

Please watch the newsletter and Sunday's slide show for upcoming service projects. Happy New Year to all and remember if you would like to be a part of Service Committee, please contact Linda Schlosser or Sandi Christman.

Shared Harvest

(28) Peanut Butter
(42) Canned Fruit
(42) Powdered Milk
(42) Chicken Noodle Soup
Disposable Razors

Thank you for your continued support.
Peggy Ince



PRAYER REQUESTS

Gene - brother of Katie's friend Karen
Sue Thomas - Close Knit Friend's member
Christina - Meredith's friend
Heidi - Pastor's sister-in-law
Jim- Sue Borton's brother
Jody's Daughter
Pat Schlosser
Mary Murray - Suzette Gardner's Mom
Sheri H - Friend of Sandi Christman
Henry, Mattie, & Nick - Carol Ritter's Family
Wib & Nellie
Keri, Kevin, and Tyler Wilson
Bonnie - Friend of JL Christman
The Schomberg Family
Connie Barnhardt
Mackenzie - Friend of Meghan Bonnet
Sean Eggers - Son of Art Eggers
Sandi Christman



Birthdays

January 4—Lance Combs

January 7—Owen Schenk

January 9—Peggy Ince

January 12—Nellie Namestka

January 14—Martin Theiss

January 19—Orlyn Schenk

January 22—Laura Grady

January 23—Jolene Jaillet

January 23—Anthony Sottolano

January 29—JL Christman

January 29—Cheryl Eckert

NICU



Quilt Blessing

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 930am Worship	6 6pm High Desert Harmony	7 7pm Casa Del Alfarero	8 1pm Midweek Communion 130pm Bible Study 230pm Community Fellowship	9 9am Quilting	10 7pm Casa Del Alfarero	11 11am Birdie Vario Memorial Service
12 9am Worship 1030am Worship Godly Play	13 1pm Close Knit 4pm Zoom Study 6pm High Desert Harmony	14 545 Council 7pm Casa Del Alfarero	15 12pm Senior Lunch 130pm Bible Study	16 9am Quilting	17 7pm Casa Del Alfarero	18
19 9am Worship 1030am Worship Godly Play	20 4pm Zoom Study 6pm High Desert Harmony	21 430pm Confirmation Class 615pm Chosen Study 7pm Casa Del Alfarero	22 Annual Reports Deadline 130pm Bible Study	23 9am Quilting	24 7pm Casa Del Alfarero	25 Newsletter Deadline
26 9am Worship 1030am Worship Godly Play 1130am Youth Outing	27 1pm Close Knit 4pm Zoom Study 6pm High Desert Harmony	28 615pm Chosen Study 7pm Casa Del Alfarero	29 130pm Bible Study	30 9am Quilting	31 7pm Casa Del Alfarero	

Every Sunday: 130 pm Tongan Church & 530 pm Casa Del Alfarero