

December 1, 2020 – updates and coming soon!

We are intentional people of God who seek to be used by God for God's purposes – to build up individuals, and communities, to praise God together, to foster goodwill and care for those who may be in need or want at this time. To be God's disciples – following Christ's example. Bless you – Pastor P+

News from our larger Holy Cross family – Our friend, **Don Dalziel** died on Sunday, November 29th, and went to join his beloved wife in heaven. Don had lived in Washington ½ a block from his daughter Susan since Lois' death. Don contracted Covid-19 as part of another health issue, and his daughters tell us that Covid moved swiftly with symptoms that took his life. Both daughters were able to gown up and say goodbye. Family is planning a service at Holy Cross when the pandemic allows such things to go forward. Rest well, Don, you will be missed.

SPONSORING A CHILD! As we have for many years, we have children from Washington School on our Christmas List – please see the list which is in this mailout, and pick someone and something – CALL JANET first to make sure someone else hasn't snapped it up! Bless you!

We are Canceling In Person Worship on Dec 6th at 9:30am out of an abundance of Caution! Your team will meet and record this worship on Saturday the 5th and you can enjoy it on YouTube, Facebook or www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org

Did you watch the video from the Stronger Together churches? I am excited for these 4 videos we are crafting for the 10 churches for the 4 weeks of Advent. You can find them on our YouTube channel – Pastor Patricia Hughes, or Facebook – Holy Cross Lutheran –Salem or our website www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org

The Worship Arts team has created a beautiful space in the sanctuary for Advent, which we will use in videos when we can. If you are at the church, be sure to see it.

Advent theme is “Waiting Here For You”.

December Gathering of the Oregon Synod Disaster Preparedness & Response Congregational Network (attached flyer) Register!

(https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJlvdeiupzgpHtKx4kbWqL1kjsGs_11jhZU0)

Questions? Please contact Jan Wierima at beprepared@oregonsynod.org

This is so exciting - Karen Halvorson is already working on this for Holy Cross – you ought to be part of it!

Our Oregon Synod is doing a lot this year to support our leadership. Here is a list of the upcoming events for Presidents, Treasurers, Admin, etc.

Quarterly Synod Meetings

use the links below to register.

December 3rd, 5pm - Synod Musicians Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvdeGhpzIrGdbnIoO_ihUJMDrrSEEMJtuD

December 5th, 10am - Synod Presidents and Vice Presidents Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqf-6gpjwoHtUSGZTIVzx8YURFNgW9sQcj>

December 10th, 10am - Synod Admins Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdeGvqD8uH9T50OyHfJiqf27bm4q9FEU1>

December 12th, 11am - Synod Treasurers Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scOutpj0oHNCzHFBFtho0n6aQ01Ob_y4_w

Did you Know? Our friends at **Enchanted Forest** are working hard to keep their business afloat in these times of pandemic and shut down. The Tofte family have been associated with Holy Cross (and before that Grace Lutheran) for more years than I can count. Their support of your church has never wavered. You can help them, now, when they need it – check out their Go Fund Me and see if you can help. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/enchanted-forest-family-owned-theme-park-survival>

The Week ahead at Holy Cross - We're mailing out on Tuesday this week – Janet has suffered a broken arm so she will not be in this week at Holy Cross. (While the Governor has asked non essential workers to stay home as much as possible, several people may be handling the phones remotely but your calls and emails are important to us. We'll contact you, as soon as we can.)

Thursday – December 3 on Zoom at 5 pm. **We have canceled Dec 3 in person “What is God Saying Today“ out of an abundance of caution.** We'll review this soon. We'll cover these bible passages (Sorry, folks I had this wrong during our bible study) Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8 Here's the link for zoom Bible Study <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78252959541?pwd=NVps>

Thursday, Dec 3 at 6:30 on zoom – Disaster Preparedness – see the insert!

Sunday, December 6th – Second Sunday in Advent! We will FILM THIS SERVICE and make it available to you in the usual way – but we are **CANCELING IN PERSON WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 6TH out of an abundance of Caution.** Be Safe.

Coming up – Finance on Tuesday Dec 8, Better together Racial justice on Wednesday Dec 9, Council on Tues Dec 15.

You are a blessing to me, and I am thankful for you. God bless you all

Reverend Patricia Hughes+, Pastor

2020 Holiday Gift Assistance

Family #1:

Belkin, 15 y/o female

Needs: Jeans, size 0

Shirts XS size

Brianna, 9 y/o female

Needs: Jeans, size 10

Sweatshirt/shirt, size 10-12

Family #2:

Lorena, 9 y/o female

Needs: Shoes, size 4-1/2

Clothes, size 10-12

Wants: Toys

Family #3:

McKayla, 8 y/o female

Needs: Warm clothes, size 8

Wants: Board games

Family #4:

Jared, 10 y/o male

Needs: Jeans, size 16 husky

Sweatshirt, size 16

Wants: Legos set

Please call Suzanne at 503/585-5094 to let her know who and what you'll be donating. Choose from this list.

Please coordinate with Suzanne to bring your gifts to the church. Please do not wrap the gifts!

You will have until 12/16 to bring you donated item to the church.

OR – Monetary donations for food will be gladly accepted! Please make sure to note that your donation is for "Christmas".



Oregon Synod
Disaster Preparedness and Response
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

PLEASE JOIN US!

For the December Gathering of the
Oregon Synod Disaster Preparedness & Response
Congregational Network

Thursday, December 3rd, 2020

6:30 to 8:00 p.m. with Extended Q & A 'til 8:30 p.m.

*WHEN WILL HELP COME AND WHAT IS OUR ROLE IN THE MEANTIME?
A CONVERSATION WITH GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY DISASTER RESPONSE PARTNERS*

*PLUS: Making an inventory of your home &
Building your GO BAG—items to get, give, and use NOW*

BRING YOURSELF, BRING A FRIEND, BRING A TEAM!

Click [HERE](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvdeiupzgpHtKx4kbWqL1kjsGs_l1jhZU0) to Register! (https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvdeiupzgpHtKx4kbWqL1kjsGs_l1jhZU0)

After you register you will receive a confirmation and ZOOM info. via email.

Questions? Please contact Jan Wierima at beprepared@oregonsynod.org



*The Ancient Legend of the Whale
and the Thunderbird ~
~ origin story of earthquakes
and tsunamis.*

*Together we will learn, share ideas, make plans, and practice so that our families, neighbors,
and congregations can better survive and respond in times of disaster.*

WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS
“Waiting Here For You” – an Advent Setting
December 6, 2020

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever. Amen.
Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Loving and forgiving God, **we confess that we are held captive by sin.**
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Remind us that you are Waiting for each of us,
To renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God’s endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live ever in the presence of God’s love
through times of waiting, and times of fear.
May you be strengthened in God’s love,
† comforted by Christ’s peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn – ELW 254 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Prayer of the Day: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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

- **Isaiah 40:1-11**

Good news of God's coming to a people in exile

- **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)

- **2 Peter 3:8-15a**

Waiting for and hastening the day of God

- **Mark 1:1-8**

John appears from the wilderness

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

Generous God,
you have created all that is,
and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer,
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. 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**

Communion Blessing

Gracious and abundant God,
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us
and open our hearts to the world's needs,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✠ now and forever.



Praying together at Holy Cross – December 6, 2020

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Give your mercy to our world as we seek to contain the contagion of Covid-19.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. Make their generous lives an example for all.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

