

From your Council President – August 31, 2021

Last Sunday over 30 people were in attendance in our Sanctuary as Reverend Tom Hiller lead us in a Service of the Word and Sacrament. Music was heard, with Sheila Clausen on the piano, along with four Choir members singing the liturgy. The congregation continues to follow our safety protocols by sitting in family groups, socially distant from one another and remaining masked and not singing during service.

We will **NOT** be holding service this Sunday (9/5) during Labor Day weekend, but will return the following Sunday, September 12 to celebrate God's Work, Our Hands Sunday with special music and a message by guest T.J. Putman of Family Promise/IHN, followed by a walk over to the Easter House for a prayerful blessing as it transitions to a new chapter in its life.

Please observe Labor Day safely and honor all those who work. Not only those in our community but also at home and your church. Perhaps God is calling you to assist those that volunteer doing the required tasks at church. Many people are needed to prepare the Holy Cross for service, both inside and out. Consider joining us on Tuesday mornings in the office or around the building and grounds. If musically inclined, the Voice and Bell Choirs are starting rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. Maybe your talents lean towards A/V equipment, computers, or social media, then the Tech Team could use you! Opportunities await, just call the church office for details.

Pastor Charles Mantey at St. Mark's Lutheran Church continues to provide pastoral care for our members during this time of transition. Please route all communication through Janet or me so we can keep track of what is going on with our church family.

Another reminder that our rotation for Interfaith Hospitality begins on September 26th, and we are looking for volunteers to prepare meals to take over to Madison House for the families that are in the program. Please contact Doug Odell (503/856-5151) for more specific information.

The Property Committee is reviewing the proposal from Mano a Mano to lease space for a parenting childhood development program that they have received a grant for. This requires devoting more space than they are currently using and may impact other programs and groups we host at our church. Contact Janet or me with any questions or concerns you have about expanding the space we are leasing in the building.

Calling all Youth. If you are or know of someone in middle or high school your church wants you! We are again partnering with St. Mark's and Christ the Good Shepherd for youth activities. Please give your contact information to the church office so we can coordinate planning.

Also, if you are aware of someone needing to go through confirmation (typically grades 6-8th), please let the office know. Pastor Charles has graciously offered to assist the other two churches as they both are going through transition.

Your church council continues to work with the Bishop's Associate for Inter-cultural and Inter-religious Mission, Juan Carlos La Puente Tapia on our possible Interim Pastor. All parties agree that she could be a good fit for us, and we are working to define the flexibility she would require in her schedule to lessen the administrative burden to allow for time for the discernment process to discover where the Holy Spirit is leading us both now and in the future.

The Synod would like us to form a cohort to work with the Interim and the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon on the initiative of "Reckoning with Racism". This program has "accompanied various faith communities around the state as they grapple with Oregon's legacy of racism in a process of learning, listening, and engaging. In addition to learning from a broader range of community partners about their unique experience of life here in Oregon, we will deepen our understanding of the complex and intersectional truths they unveil and accompany faith communities as they discern what repair and reconciliation looks like in their local context."

Is this something that you could support and be involved in? How do you think it affects Holy Cross and the possible benefits that could be gained during this time of discernment and transition? Your thoughts are appreciated as the council ponders accepting this initiative as part of the transition journey.

Continue to pray for healing during the pandemic. Continue to reach out and help those that are in need, both physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Please pray for your leadership as they make decisions concerning the short- and long-term future of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Do not hesitate to reach out via email or phone with your questions or concerns.

Your Servant in Christ, Bryan Struve, Council President

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church
September 5, 2021 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God.

Listen when we call out to you for help.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

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

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health
and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us
a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through
Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS AND PSALM

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Like streams in the desert, God comes with healing

Psalm 146

I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)

James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faith without works is dead

Mark 7:24-37

Christ healing a little girl and a deaf man

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

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

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through 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**

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

Lord of life,
in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in 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. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Prayers of Intercession

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. (*Especially as we celebrate Labor/Labour Day,*) unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.