

From your Council President – November 9, 2021

Happy November. We have made it past Halloween, Reformation, Election Day, and the end of Daylight Savings Time. This week we recognize Veterans Day and all those who have or are currently serving their country. Please pause for a moment on Thursday and thank a veteran for their service.

This past Sunday was All Saints Sunday, and we had a return visit from Pastor Joel Schmitz to Holy Cross to lead us in worship and marking the passing of eight individuals that have left us during the past year. The service was moving and touched many of the forty-four attendees as the names were read and a bell tolled for each. A recording of the service can be viewed on YouTube at; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHbmFBDWLG1W-jcI8jRhOQ>

On this coming **Sunday, November 14, 2021, at 10:00 AM**, we welcome guest Pastor Steve Carlson back to Holy Cross for a worship service of the Word and Sacrament. When he was here back in early October he wondered about the “net” framework high above the pews and this time he will get to see our great cloud of witnesses with all the names of those that have gone on to their reward shinning with glittering light in the Sanctuary. Please join us if you are able and feeling well. Remember, we continue to sit socially distant and wear masks while inside the building.

By the time you read this both the Property and Finance Committees will have met on Tuesday and begun work on the 2022 budget for Holy Cross. The work will continue to be reviewed and adjusted over the next two months before it is ratified by the council and presented at the annual congregational meeting for approval. If you have any thoughts or concerns about the financial condition of your church, please reach out to Steve Tweet, the Finance Committee or me.

Your church council will have its November monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 6:30 PM. Attending (via Zoom) the council meeting for the first time will be our **new Interim, Pastor Curtis Zieske**. He will make his first in person appearance leading us in worship on Christ the King Sunday, November 21, 2021, at 10 AM. We will have a short (due to Covid protocols) meet and greet with him following service. This will give him a chance to get to know the congregation and the various committee groups before beginning his interim work focused on the transition process, development of our Ministry Site Profile team and then the election of a Call Committee.

We are in exciting times for the future of your church and its ministry. Do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of your council members with questions or concerns as we begin this vital discernment process.

Your servant in Christ, Bryan Struve, Council President

Pastor Curtis Zieske: A Brief Personal History

I am a 1973 graduate of Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary (now part of Luther Seminary) in Saint Paul, Minnesota. I was born and raised in prairie country in central Minnesota, a graduate of Cambridge High School and did my undergraduate studies at Augsburg College (now University) in Minneapolis.

Sonya (also an Augsburg graduate) and I married in 1970. Sonya is an elementary school teacher (now retired) who has also written curriculum and has worked with talented and gifted students as well as special needs children. She is an accomplished musician (piano and organ). We have two grown children who now have their own families in Portland, Oregon.

My student internship year (1971-1972) was at Trinity Lutheran Church in Gresham, Oregon under the supervision of the Reverend Rudy Johnson. During my year in Gresham, we fell deeply in love with the Pacific Northwest and its stunning natural beauty. Since ordination in 1973 I have served congregations in:

- Spokane, Washington (1973-1975)
- McMinnville, Oregon (1975-1984)
- Everett, Washington (1984-1993)
- Security (Colorado Springs), Colorado (1993-2002)
- Albert Lea, Minnesota (2002-2015)

Since 2015 and my "failed retirement" (parish ministry is "in my blood" and cannot be ignored!) I have served pastoral interim assignments in:

- Gresham, Oregon (2015-2017)
- Seaside, Oregon (2017-2018)
- Prineville, Oregon (2018-2020)
- Salem, Christ the Good Shepherd (2020-2021)

We have made Oregon our permanent home both for our love of Oregon and to be closer to our children and grandchildren.

During my working lifetime I have focused my ministry on Parish Leadership Development, Church Membership Growth, Adult Bible Studies, Worship & Liturgy, Holy Land and Palestinian Studies (organizing and leading several pilgrimage groups); and most recently, Systems Theory & Adaptive Leadership; and gathering a large collection of cartoons, jokes and church humor.

I try to follow the advice of a wise and trusted mentor from many years ago who shared with me this insight: "Curtis, count it all joy!" And I do.

Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive

We're bringing back our Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive this year!

Washing Elementary School has given us the names of six (6) families that need our help to make a Thanksgiving dinner.

If you would like to donate towards the costs of the food, please do so by no later than Monday, November 15th. Please make your checks payable to either Suzanne Stephen or Gae Nichols.

Thank you!



**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church
November 14, 2021 – Twenty Fifth 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.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you
and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls instead of tables
and have turned away the stranger.**

**We have sought glory for ourselves
and have treasured that which does not satisfy.**

**Help us to love as you love,
to welcome those you send,
and to treasure mercy and justice.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways,
and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

God, who makes all things new,
forgives your sins for † Jesus' sake
and remembers them no more.

Lift up your heads and your hearts.
Yours is the kingdom of God. **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

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS AND PSALM

Daniel 12:1-3

The deliverance of God's people at the end

Psalm 16

My heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body shall rest in hope. (Ps. 16:9)

Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25

The way to God opened through Christ's death

Mark 13:1-8

The end and the coming of the Son

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to stand before the Son of Man. *Alleluia.* (Luke 23:36)

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 438 "My Lord, What a Morning"

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

Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our 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

Led on by the saints before us,
go in peace to serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, we give thanks for all missionaries who have brought your message of hope to new communities and wiped tears away (*especially John Christian Frederick Heyer, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, Ludwig Nommensen whom we commemorate today*). Continue to raise up courageous missionaries to share your gospel of hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, we praise you for abundant harvests and the goodness of creation. Create communities of care for your earth so that all land, water, and soil will be celebrated and cherished by future generations of saints. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, we give you thanks for nations of peace that serve as a refuge for all whose homelands are afflicted with violence. Strengthen those who continue to work for peace and support all veterans who carry the scars of war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, we give you thanks for health care workers who labor around the clock to answer cries for help. Bring wholeness to all who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, addiction, and all who long for healing in any way (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of justice, we praise you for the feeding ministries and for all meals that bring people together for nourishment and fellowship. Bless chefs, bakers, servers, dishwashers, communion assistants, and meal ministry coordinators. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of the ages, we give you thanks for the saints of this congregation who have inspired, challenged, loved, and taught us (*those who have died during the past year may be named*). Wipe away our tears and lead us by their example until we feast together on your holy mountain. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our protection and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.