

Dear Holy Cross Lutheran in Salem Oregon

The Lord be with you....

We started a new journey in August when Pastor Patricia retired. This started the process to take us to the next stage of life for Holy Cross Lutheran Church on the corner of Lansing and Sunnyview. We are at a major crossroad in the life and role of Holy Cross in a neighborhood that most of us do not live now.

The transition team of Karen Halvorson, Margo Jensen, Loran Sell, Lorraine Odell, Gary Strand and Gae Nichols was appointed at the annual meeting February 27, and we have met 3 times as the team. I have met with Council in March. This past Sunday we led the congregation through identifying Holy Cross Characteristics using the message time at worship on March 20. We are pressing on as quickly as we can, but we must ALL (not just the team) take the time to express, hear and reflect. Because of this the process may seem long and cumbersome at times. What this means is that there will be lots of meetings, lots of conversations and probably lots of emotions. The team will continue to meet and bring forward times scheduled for focused engagement. There is an article in the **Living Lutheran Magazine** entitled – ***“They May Not Come Back”***. The team handed it out at the service on March 20 for all to read and keep the contents in your hearts and minds as we move forward with next steps.

The change from having Pastor Patricia faithfully ministering to and being with us to where we are now, has caused each of us to feel grief. Grief is a part of every change. It may be less impactful at times, but it is still a grief, and we need to allow ourselves to recognize it and be able to express it. Some days I grieve that I can't walk as far or fast as I used to, my outward response is usually to laugh and make some comment about getting old. The other side of that feeling is realizing that I may need to make plans about how and where I live in the future. I might even plan now to downsize in the future. That may mean moving on to let someone else buy my house. I would rather make those plans for myself rather than having someone else make them for me.

Yours in Christ Karen Halvorson, Chair of HC Transition Team 2022

Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church
March 27, 2022 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

INVOCATION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

we confess that we have wandered far from you:

we have not trusted your promises,

we have ignored your prophets in our own day,

we have squandered our inheritance of grace,

we have failed to recognize you in our midst.

Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you.

Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved.

In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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

Joshua 5:9-12 - *Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land*

Psalms 32 - *Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)*

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 - *The mystery and ministry of reconciliation*

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 - *The parable of the prodigal father and son*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

I will arise and go to my father and say, I have sinned against heaven and before you. (*Luke 15:18*)

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 606 “Our Father, We Have Wandered”

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

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict, *especially Ukraine and Russia*. Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation the Jason Lee Food Bank. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Extravagant God,

you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.

Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. **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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need. **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

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God,
motherly, majestic, and mighty, † bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God.