



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

1998 Lansing Ave. NE

Salem, OR 97301-8736

(503)364-6041

www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org

Pastor: Reverend Curtis Zieske

August 10, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

We have survived the pandemic! We are again worshiping together every Sunday at 10 AM in our sanctuary. If you have not been able to attend, we miss you and hope that you have been able to stay in tune with all that is happening at Holy Cross by reading the weekly email Blast and/or viewing our worship services on our web site, holycrosslutheran-salem.org. All are welcome and everyone is invited to worship with us on Sunday mornings.

The Holy Cross that you may have grown up with and love must make some major changes to survive in this post-pandemic world. We can choose to ignore our situation and the way the world around us is changing and eventually face Holy Closure, or we can choose to embrace what Christ has taught us, to work together with clear eyed risky optimism to face new ways to spread the love of Christ to each other and beyond. Your leadership has chosen the latter, but the future of Holy Cross is in your hands. We are asking you to support us by staying informed and taking an active part in the ongoing discussions that are determining the future of our church. Here are a few things to share with you.

A. Your transition team developed three statements of agreement that will help define how we look at our future church. They were approved by the congregation on July 10th.

1. Our congregation is changing.
2. We own a beautiful but aging building that is costly to operate and maintain.
3. While we are currently solvent, we do not have the financial resources to hire a full-time pastor long term.

B. We are excited to look forward in finding a new ½ time pastor. The synod requires us to prepare a Ministry Site Profile that they can use to advertise the pastoral opening to new candidates. We have completed this process under the transition team leadership of Karen Halverson. The congregation adopted the document on July 10 and Bryan Struve, Interim Coordinator, has submitted the document to the synod. Hurray!!! Synod will soon post our call, however, chances of a pastor wanting to consider a ½ time call are slim.

C. We are using our "Better Together" connections with Christ the Good Shepherd, who are in similar position, hoping to be able to make two half time calls into a full time calling. The Synod has provided a guideline for Holy Cross and Christ the Good Shepherd to work together. The first step is to get to know each other better. On July 31 we worshiped together at Christ the Good Shepherd and met after the service to talk with our neighbors

in faith. On **August 21** we will worship and meet again, this time **at Holy Cross**, and a third time on **September 11** at Christ the Good Shepherd. We strongly encourage you to take part in these opportunities to help us get to know our Lutheran neighbors and define the direction and future of both of our churches.

D. We are starting to explore new ways to use our building as an income source.

Holy Cross is changing. We can choose to direct that change or just let it change without our input. We may be fewer in number, but we are strong in spirit and believe that there are great opportunities to continue sharing Christ's love together. We encourage you to take an active role in determining our future by;

- ...attending and participating in the meetings listed above and those in the future.
- ...staying informed: reading the email blast, follow on the Web site.
- ...asking questions about and discussing the events with your leaders and others.
- ...completing and returning the included member contact info update to Holy Cross;
- in person to the church office;
- by phone at 503-364-6041;
- by email to staff@holycrosslutheran-salem.org;
- or snail mail to 1998 Lansing Ave, Salem, OR 97301.

If you stop receiving the blast because you did not reply, you may restart at any time by calling the church office at 503-364-6041.

Continuing to welcome you to worship and fellowship with the Holy Cross family.

“May God bless you real good.”

Your Holy Cross Church Leadership Team

Loran Sell, President, 503-508-0587, lp Sell2@gmail.com

Bryan Struve, Interim Coordinator, 541-971-0035, bgstruve@gmail.com

Karen Halvorson, Transition Team Leader, 503-428-4651, khalvorsonholycross@gmail.com

**Worship at Home - Holy Cross Lutheran Church
August 21, 2022 – Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

**Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures
surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give
us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of
human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS AND PSALM *God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.*

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Do not trample the sabbath, but feed the hungry

Psalms 103:1-8

The LORD crowns you with mercy and steadfast love. (Ps. 103:4)

Hebrews 12:18-29

You have come to the city of the living God and to Jesus

Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a crippled woman on the sabbath and is condemned

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 526 “God Is Here”

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

Trusting in God’s extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

You crown your church with steadfast love and mercy. Guide us continually in our baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Use our diverse gifts in service to the whole people of God.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You satisfy the needs of all creatures. Protect the habitats of fish and birds (*local bodies of water or wildlife refuges may be named*). Repair ecosystems damaged by misuse, neglect, or natural disaster, that all creation may thrive. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You make your ways known to all people. Inspire the rulers and leaders of nations with your compassion and mercy. Raise up activists and community organizers to restore places affected by violence, poverty, and inequality. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You provide justice for all who are oppressed and relief to all who are afflicted. Heal those who are bent over by addiction, depression, and anxiety. Set free all who cry out under the weight of mental, emotional, or physical distress (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You call us to delight in the sabbath. Renew our bodies, minds, and spirits in this worshiping assembly. Give rest to all who lead our congregation in worship, study, and service (*congregational leaders may be named*).

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Generations bless your holy name. We give you thanks for the communion of saints who have gathered in prayer and praise in this place. Support us in your love until we rest forever in you. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

As we feast on your goodness,

strengthen us to labor in your field,

and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,

in the name of Jesus. **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.**

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may
come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life
this day and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.