

**October 5, 2022**

**Weekly Email Blast from Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

Please join us this **Sunday, October 9th, 2022, at 10:00am for a service of the Word and Sacrament with Pastor Curtis Zieske.**

If you are unable to attend or miss a service, please visit our YouTube channel for recordings of prior services. Don't forget to subscribe to see the latest content on our YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHbmFBDWLG1W-jcI8jRhOQ>.

*Dates to Remember:*

Wednesday, October 5th—Vocal Choir rehearsal, 6:00pm; Bell Choir rehearsal, 7:00pm.

Thursday, October 6th—Bible Study, 12:00 noon: Luke 17:11-19.

Sunday, October 9th—Worship with Pastor Curtis Zieske, 10:00am.

Tuesday, October 11th—Tuesday Crew, 9:00am.; Property Committee meeting, 10:00am.

Wednesday, October 12th—Vocal Choir rehearsal, 6:00pm; Bell Choir rehearsal, 7:00pm.

Thursday, October 13th—Bible Study, 12:00 noon: Luke 18:1-8.

Friday, October 14th—Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 noon.

Sunday, October 16th—Worship service, 10:00am, with **Congregational meeting to follow.**

Tuesday, October 18th—Tuesday Crew, 9:00am; Church Council meeting, 6:00pm.

Wednesday, October 20th—Vocal Choir rehearsal, 6:00pm; Bell Choir rehearsal, 7:00pm.

Thursday, October 20th—Bible Study, 12:00 noon: Luke 18:9-14.

Sunday, October 23rd—Worship service, 10:00am.

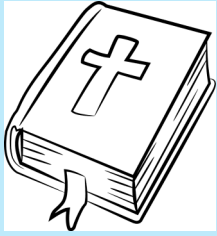
Tuesday, October 25th—Tuesday Crew, 9:00am.

Wednesday, October 26th—Vocal Choir rehearsal, 6:00pm; Bell Choir rehearsal, 7:00pm.

Thursday, October 27th—Bible Study, 12:00 noon: Luke 19:1-10.

Sunday, October 31st—**Reformation Sunday**; combined Salem ELCA churches at St. Mark.

**Please remember to update and turn in your  
Membership Contact Information form!**



Bible Study will take resume this Thursday,  
October 6th, at Noon in the library.  
We will be studying Luke 17:11-19.



Lorraine Odell created the Exploding Heart quilt expressing her feelings about the war against Ukraine. She was awarded first place in that division at the Oregon State Fair. The yellow and blue heart are the colors of Ukraine's flag, the grey depicts the grittiness and devastation of war, and the triangle colors are the people dispersing throughout the world.

October 5, 2022

To the faithful flock at Holy Cross,

First off, I want to thank all the people who attended our joint meeting with Christ The Good Shepherd last Sunday. I know that some of us talk better than we communicate, thus I apologize for the length of the meeting. The good news is that we have completed another step towards calling a pastor.

In his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Corinthians (4:1) Paul writes “Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.” When you look at where we have been over the past year (Choosing a Transition Team, the assignment of an interim pastor, preparing the Ministry Site Profile, cultivating our partnership with Christ The Good Shepherd, 4 joint meetings and defining a call for a discernment and transition pastor) the road ahead appears shorter than the road traveled.

So what is ahead? Your leadership team is preparing a joint worship-work meeting. This is a lay led service of just Holy Cross folks on Sunday October 16. First on the agenda is officially approving the document presented last Sunday so we can send it off to the Synod office for them to work their magic in preparing an actual call for a shared pastor.

A second item on the agenda is presentation of our past, present and future financial situation. Bryan Struve and Lorraine Odell will bring you up to speed on where we actually are financially.

Finally, Karen Halverson will lead us through a discussion of determining our individual and group expectations for the future of Holy Cross.

Yes, there will be food! Holy Cross will furnish the pizza and you can help by bringing finger food desserts.

I see this worship meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> as having reached the crest of the hill. Yes, there are still a lot of unanswered questions and other bumps in the road, but we can better navigate through them on the down-hill pull.

Thanks for your prayerful support,

Loran Sell, President.

## **Draft: Better Together Phase 2: Discernment & Transformation Process**

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Salem, and Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Salem, jointly call a shared full-time Transformation Discernment Pastor to a term call of 2 years or less with the possibility that this pastor could become the settled pastor at the end of the term, if mutually agreed upon with God's guidance through prayer and thoughtful discussion. The pastor's role in the discernment process is to shepherd these two congregations to discern God's calling and to begin to cultivate and embody a shared horizon of ministry together in the following ways:

- \*Deepen and ground spiritually and in faith, attending to how God is calling and accompanying us;
- \*Nurture a culture of connection, compassion, and courage among our two congregations and surrounding communities;
- \*Support both congregations to engage one another with our communities to unveil our histories, capacities (people/leadership, finances, and buildings), name our shared values and discern and cultivate our collective vocation (the ministries we feel called to together and with our neighbors);
- \*Explore, discern, and begin to develop possible models and configurations of organizational structures, shared leadership, and shared resources (finances, building, and leadership, etc.) toward a shared horizon of collaborative ministry;
- \*Accompany and shepherd both congregations to transform and embody these structures, practices, and ministries together;
- \*Attend to the worship, sacramental and spiritual/pastoral care needs of both congregations, directly and through equipping lay leaders.

### **Congregational commitments:**

- \*Split the cost of Transformational Discernment Pastor's salary/housing, benefits, etc.
- \*Split the cost of an additional Transformational Transition Consultant as needed to guide and support the transformation process (up to \$500/month per congregation)
- \*Faithfully hold regular inter-congregational community conversations and working groups to support the discernment process and cultivate shared ministry.
- \*Both Congregational Councils meet at the same time/in tandem, with time for working together and working separately as needed.
- \*Shared faith formation opportunities (Bible studies, education, retreats, spirituality circles, prayer chain, justice and service, etc.)
- \*Worship jointly at least once a month with fellowship.