



# The **HOLY CROSS WORD**

*Words of news, information, humor and inspiration from Holy Cross*

**MAY 2015**

**"Share the Hope"**

**VOL. LVIII, NO. 9**

## PASTOR WISMAR'S LETTER OF GREETING

### **Dear Members and Friends of Holy Cross Lutheran Church,**

It is with humility and great joy that I take this opportunity to introduce myself and my family to you as we look forward to being with you in the month ahead. I am excited that the Holy Spirit has led me to accept the call you extended to me to become your pastor and to join together with you in ministry in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. First I'll introduce myself, my lovely wife, Miharu, and then each of our four children in succession: Jorge, Kai, Luke and Mia.

Though I grew up in various places throughout New England, and have lived around the world, I was born at Danbury Hospital – so it seems as though I've never left! My father, the Reverend Dr. Gregory J. Wismar (whom many of you already know), was on his vicarage at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Danbury and he and my mother, Priscilla, had me on August 6, 1970. My first years were very mobile. My mother and father moved back to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, to complete my father's studies. My father then graduated in the spring of 1971 and was ordained and installed later that year back at Immanuel in Danbury. After that he served various congregations throughout our New England District: St. Paul's in Naugatuck, Connecticut; Redeemer in Cape Elizabeth (now Gorham), Maine; Messiah in Lynnfield, Massachusetts, and then Christ the King in Newtown, Connecticut.

My father took the call to Newtown in the spring of 1987, which happened to be just before my junior year of high school – the current school year of my oldest son Jorge. (So, in a way, it's history repeating itself!) I had a great experience at Newtown High School and upon graduation I decided to attend our local Concordia College in Bronxville, New York. While there I was a member of the tour choir, the soccer team, the tennis team and various musical plays and productions. While studying at Concordia College, my major was elementary education and upon graduation I was called to teach at Immanuel Lutheran School in Danbury, Connecticut, where I taught sixth, seventh and eighth grade. I taught at Immanuel for three years and then in 1997 I decided to take a teaching position with a company called Nova Group, an English conversation school in Japan. I worked in Tokyo, Japan, for three years as a teacher and administrator and it was there that I met my wife, Miharu. While still living in Japan, my wife and I were blessed with our first son, Jorge, and the three of us together moved to Concordia Seminary in the year 2000. Our years at Concordia Seminary were wonderful years as was my vicarage year that we spent in Cabot, Pennsylvania (former NED president Pastor Jim Kerulainen's younger brother, Barry, was my vicarage supervisor).



***The Wismar Family— Miharu and Eric  
with their children (from left to right),  
Jorge, Kai, Luke and Mia***

Upon graduation in the spring of 2004 I was then installed as pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in New Fairfield, Connecticut, where I have remained ever since. My ministry at Good Shepherd over these many years has been a great blessing, as has my ministry to the the Armed Forces. I should also mention that during my seminary years, I decided to become a chaplain candidate in the United States Air Force. After my installation as pastor of Good Shepherd, I officially became a chaplain in the Air Force and was serving as a Reservist at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, Massachusetts. In 2008, I switched

***"Introducing the Wismar Family," continues on Page 3***

**Saturday, May 2**

5:00 p.m. – Mexican Fiesta Family Fun Night

**Sunday, May 3**

1:30 p.m. – Greater Bridgeport CROP Walk

**Tuesday, May 5**

5:00 p.m. – Holy Cross serves Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport

**Sunday, May 10** – Mother's Day**Thursday, May 14**

7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors' meeting

**Friday, May 15** – The Ascension of Our Lord**Sunday, May 17**4:00 p.m. – **Worship Service: Rite of Installation for Rev. Eric A. Wismar, as Pastor at Holy Cross****Sunday, May 24** – The Day of Pentecost (wear red!)*Pastor Wismar's first service at Holy Cross*

9:00 a.m. – One-service worship schedule begins for the summer

**Monday, May 25** – Memorial Day*(NO WORSHIP SERVICE; OFFICE CLOSED; NO PRESCHOOL)***Friday, May 29**

9:15 a.m. – Preschool Graduation Ceremony and Program

**Sunday, May 31** – Holy Trinity Sunday**Monday-Friday, August 10-14**

9:00 a.m. – Vacation Bible School

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## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Office Phone: 203-268-4555; Pastor's Study Phone: 203-268-7555

Church Office E-mail: [holycrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holycrss@mindspring.com) FAX: 203-268-5499Website: [www.holycrosstrumbull.org](http://www.holycrosstrumbull.org)Christian Preschool Phone: 203-268-6471 E-mail: [mglennonhccp@mindspring.com](mailto:mglennonhccp@mindspring.com)

Worship Services – Sunday: 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.; Monday, May 4: 7:00 p.m.

**SPECIAL WORSHIP NOTE:***Sundays, between May 24 and Labor Day weekend: 9:00 a.m.*VACANCY PASTOR (through May 17): Rev. Robert Beinke (from St. Peter Lutheran-Norwalk)  
203-847-1252, [stpeterlcpastor@yahoo.com](mailto:stpeterlcpastor@yahoo.com)

PASTOR: Eric A. Wismar (will be installed on May 17)

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Michael J. Gilbertson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PRESIDENT: Kerry Geffert

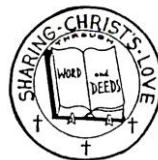
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' VICE-PRESIDENT: Michele Van Wart

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SECRETARY: Jeannie Mones

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' TREASURER: Greg Dowling

NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR: Cliff Schrock

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION: Mary Schrock

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Holy Cross congregation is to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord (Matthew 28:18-20). We will share the love and forgiveness of Our Lord Jesus Christ with one another, our community and the whole world so that we can take part in the joyous privilege of "making disciples of all nations" through the power of the preaching and teaching the Word of God, administering His Sacraments, and joining together in service fellowship according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church (Article III).



## Like Holy Cross on Facebook!

*After you "Like" us, you'll see postings of upcoming events, pictures from events and other notices.*

**MOTHER KNOWS BEST**

**Humorous words, by "author unknown," for Mother's Day**

"If at first you don't succeed, do it like your mother told you."

*---Reprinted with permission from  
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**NEWSLETTER NOTES****Our next deadline is...**

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the June edition. The deadline for all articles is Friday, May 15.

Please turn

in your article(s)

to the newsletter mailbox, located outside the church office, or send them via e-mail to:

[holycrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holycrss@mindspring.com).



Unless you have a lengthy article, we encourage you to use the "Information Form," located in a box on the narthex table. You may use this form to submit details for upcoming events, the "We Are Family" and "Thank You" columns, and other short items. After filling it out (please sign your name), put it in the newsletter mailbox.

***“Introducing the Wismar Family,” continues from Page 1***

from the Reserves to the Connecticut Air National Guard. Since that time I have been a member of the 103rd Airlift Wing in East Granby, Connecticut, which shares a runway with Bradley International Airport.

In terms of personal interests, I enjoy all types of physical fitness, especially judo, tennis, running, squash, swimming and all sorts of plyometric and resistance training. I also enjoy studying a wide range of subjects and always have a stack of about 20 books next to my bed at any one time. Another activity I have greatly enjoyed of late is being the commander of the 801st Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron, located in New Fairfield, Connecticut. Civil Air Patrol is an outstanding organization, and I will miss being the squadron commander. But I will look to plug into a squadron down near Trumbull, as will my boys, who are also involved.

My wife, Miharu, is a lovely and loving wife and mother. She is a registered nurse by profession and was working in the surgical theater when I met her. However, we have been blessed to have the ability for her to stay home and raise our kids over the past decade. She is a great cook, and a very thoughtful, creative, and crafty person – which I mean in the sewing-machine-and-projects kind of way. She also enjoys working out and is always very active.

Our oldest son’s name is Jorge (16). Right now he is a sophomore at New Fairfield High School. He is involved in Boy Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, various school clubs and is a member of the cross country, wrestling and tennis teams. He was recently awarded a flight scholarship and in the fall will be training toward his pilot’s license. He hopes to be able to attend one of our service academies upon graduation (and at this point he is leaning toward the Air Force Academy).

Our second son’s name is Kai (13). Kai is also involved in Boy Scouts and Civil Air Patrol. He also enjoys running, tennis and wrestling. He is quite a good musician and enjoys playing piano, clarinet and some violin. He also loves chess and the Japanese version of chess called Shogi.

Our third son, Luke (10), is a lot of fun. He enjoys sitting on the couch under a blanket reading his books, playing video games, playing computer games, eating candy and chewing gum. Without a little nudge, I think that’s all that Luke would do! Thankfully, with some coaxing, he also participates in running, playing violin, swimming and judo. He is also very good at math and enjoys computer programming and coding.

Mia (6) is our fourth. She helps to keep the house running smoothly. She knows where everything is, what everything does and is everyone’s second mother. Truly she is ahead of her time. She has a knack for knowing exactly what you need before you even ask for it and she is always very helpful. She especially enjoys writing and illustrating stories and working on a myriad of creative projects – just like her mother...usually right next to her mother.

Thank you for your time and attention – and for the kindness of the Holy Cross welcome already received. I am happy to introduce myself and my family and we are planning on getting to know each and all of you personally. It is my hope that I will see you on May 17 – and am looking forward to it!

In Christ,

Pastor Wismar

### **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

#### **Can you help? Our Sunday morning get-together time needs you to help make it happen**

There is a new Fellowship Host sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex for Sundays, May 3 through August 2. Check your schedule and decide when you can commit to hosting during the next few months.

As we look to begin our 9 a.m. single Sunday Service on May 24, we will be welcoming our new spiritual leader, the Rev. Eric Wismar and his family. Let’s consider our fellowship time after service as a great, relaxed opportunity to greet Pastor and his family along with just reconnecting with our fellow members after a very long winter!



We do need volunteers to prepare the coffee, bring some goodies and clean up. If you have never hosted before, there is a sheet available (right under the sign-up sheet) with some simple instructions and suggestions. You might even consider asking another family or couple to help co-host.



## THOUGHTS FROM OUR VACANCY PASTOR

### As my vacancy role ends, I urge you to hear the voice of God and rejoice in it

Once a month I visit three men who are incarcerated in three different Connecticut state prisons. During one of my visits one time one of the guys made an interesting comment. I mentioned how God had turned his incarceration into a blessing because it was there in prison where God was finally able to reach him and change him, and he responded, "Oh, it's not like I didn't believe in God before. It's just that finally, in prison, all the other voices and noise that so filled my life were removed, and I was able to listen to His voice. I got a Bible from another guy and started reading and listening to what God said." And, with nothing else to occupy and distract him, listen he did! He is now blessed with a much fuller and clearer understanding of who God is, all He has done for him in Christ, and what God expects of him, and his faith in God has grown greatly.

His words gave me an insight into the importance and opportunity and blessing of gathering in God's house each week in worship. Every week we are given an opportunity to get away from the noise and voices and distractions of the world, which in our day are nearly inescapable, to listen to the quiet and comforting voice of our Savior. His voice is the one most often heard in the Divine Service, for He speaks to us in the Scripture readings and sermon; in the words of the liturgy, both spoken and sung; and even in many of the hymns we sing. What a blessing to be able to have some quiet time with our God and be comforted by His voice!



If you keep this in your heart and mind, two things will happen. First, you will more gladly and eagerly come to be with your Lord and hear Him. Going to church will not be something you have to do but want to do. Your coming will then be truly pleasing to both you and your Lord. Second, and just as important, you will also more and more have your fellow worshipers in mind; specifically, their opportunity to hear their Savior. Church is a place where we get to regularly see good friends, and that is certainly a good thing. Talking with one another and sharing your blessings and concerns is important. But, we must also be careful that our sharing does not make it difficult for God's voice to be heard and contemplated. Be sure to allow several minutes of quiet time before the Worship Service so that everyone can pray and prepare themselves in heart and mind to listen to God. During the Service, let your voice ring out with the singing of the liturgy and hymns! But then, be silent, and do not keep God's voice from being heard. Then, assured of God's love and forgiveness in Christ and His going forth with us, we will all be able to speak encouraging words with one another as we go back into our noisy world with all of its interruptions and distractions.

I hope that you do not view going to church as like going to prison! It is quite the opposite; it is being set free in Christ to love God and others. Let your new Pastor see this attitude in you, and He will rejoice to serve you in Christ's name!

*Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple... You who still the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the peoples... You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water."*  
(Psalm 65:4, 7, 9)

In Christ, our risen Lord,

---PASTOR ROBERT BEINKE

St. Peter Lutheran-Norwalk and Vacancy Pastor-Holy Cross

P.S. It has been a pleasure serving as your Vacancy Pastor since last summer. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you. You will be in my prayers, and my congregation's prayers, as you go forward with your new Pastor. God be with you and bless you richly in Christ!



### FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

#### **Join us on May 2, for a Mexican Fiesta and some family fun!**

Hola, nos gustaría invitarle a un poco de diversión, juegos y buena comida. Give up? Translation: Hello we would like to invite you to some fun, games and good food. When and where? Saturday, May 2, at 5 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall.

If you have not yet signed up, it's certainly not too late to plan on attending. Please let me know that you are coming, and bring your own Mexican potluck dish to share.

Bring a friend or two and let's have some...Mexican fun!

---LYDIA STRUZIK

203-268-0201

lstruzik@gmail.com

## WORSHIP REMINDERS

Sunday, May 17: Services at both 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

*New England District President, Rev. Timothy Yeadon, will be our guest pastor.*

The Sunday School students will participate in the 10:30 service, sharing what they have learned throughout the year with the theme, "The Bible Is the Key."

Sunday, May 17, 4 p.m.

Installation Service for Rev. Eric A. Wismar

Sunday, May 24-The Day of Pentecost: 9 a.m. (Wear Red!)

*Pastor Wismar leads his first service at Holy Cross.*

Our 9 a.m. one-service Sunday Worship schedule begins, continuing through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

### PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

#### **Parsonage upgrades require a Capital Campaign that calls for all of us to participate**

Holy Cross families recently received a letter from the Board of Directors announcing a Capital Campaign to fund our parsonage renovations. I don't mind telling you that the Board spent considerable time in serious discussion leading up to our decision to go forward with the campaign. We must take out a loan to achieve the parsonage improvements since we do not have sufficient liquid assets to meet the expected costs. However, our hope with this campaign is to reduce the loan amount and/or meet the repayment schedule.

Your Board realizes the financial obligation being taken on by our congregation to achieve a parsonage of which we can be proud and to which we will be honored to welcome a new pastor and his family as occupants. We are sensitive to the financial situations that our congregational families may be encountering. But we also know that Holy Cross families rise to the occasion when a special need arises.

To be sure, the suggested family commitment is not "chump change." For many of us, the amount requires sacrifice. We may need to make a commitment over a period of time rather than a one-time contribution. We may need to make a lesser commitment, or we may feel able to make a greater commitment. Regardless, the importance of special financial commitments by our congregational families is critical to our future.



*And lo,  
I am with you  
ALWAYS...*  
—Matthew 28:20

Our congregation is at the threshold of a new, deciding chapter of Holy Cross' future. As we emerge from our year-long vacancy and welcome a new shepherd, the potential for Holy Cross is bound only by our own attitudes and our participation. Our future is dependent on our faith, our commitment and the responsibility each of us takes for Holy Cross' future. But all of our members need to hear this message. Please help me convey this sentiment to those members who don't read the newsletter.

In His Service,  
---KERRY GEFFERT  
Holy Cross President

**Take Note**

#### **DURING OUR PASTORAL VACANCY** (through May 17)

anyone in need of spiritual care may contact Rev. Robert Beinke, our Vacancy Pastor, at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Norwalk, 203-847-1252, [stpeterlcpastor@yahoo.com](mailto:stpeterlcpastor@yahoo.com). You may also phone Kerry Geffert, Board President, 203-925-8341; Gary Messerschmitt, Head Shepherd, 203-220-8580; or the Church Office, 203-268-7555 (office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.).



*Family Fellowship Blooms*

## DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION

### **Mexican Fiesta Family Night is next event to attend**

Well, spring is here! And what a way to begin with our annual Easter breakfast celebration, which was “eggstra” special with the attendance of New England District President Timothy Yeadon. The egg casseroles, homemade breads and sweet treats added to our celebration. I extend a BIG thank you to Lorraine and Jim Finch for coordinating this annual breakfast. Thank you also to Cliff and Mary Schrock, Mary Ann and Dave Schiller, Kerry Geffert and Michele Van Wart for helping set up the Fellowship Hall.

Hopefully you have reserved May 2 for our Mexican Fiesta Family Night. If you didn't sign up and you and your family want to attend, this event begins at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a Mexican dish to share! We're looking forward to a fun evening!

---DONNA BOGEN  
Discipleship Director

## CALLING ALL GRADUATES Information from graduates due June 14 in church office

If you are graduating from high school or college this spring, we encourage you to share the details about this exciting milestone with your church family. We plan to recognize all of our graduates in the July/August newsletter. Please take a yellow “Graduate Information” form, found on the narthex table, fill it out, and return it to the Church Office mailbox by Sunday, June 14. Please let us know who you are – you are important to us!

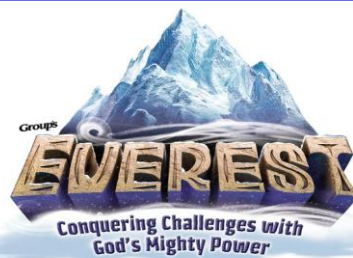


## SPOTLIGHT ON THE DORCAS GUILD

### **Holy Cross group uses Thrivent seed money to make shawls and blankets for St. Vincent's Hospital**

The ladies of Dorcas Guild recently put together a Thrivent Action Team through a program that is offered to Thrivent Financial members. Thrivent sent this group “Live Generously” T-shirts and a \$250 Visa gift card, which was used as “seed money”

to purchase yarn for making healing shawls and lap blankets. These shawls and blankets are given to patients at St. Vincent's Hospital. Pictured at left with a large assortment of shawls and blankets are, from left to right, Edna Karacsony, Annelore Pstrag, Anita Schoch, Myrtle Anderson and Ingrid Leibold.



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** **AT HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN**

**Join us for a week of crafts, Bible adventures, stories, music and outdoor fun!**

**August 10-14, from 9 a.m. to Noon**

**Grades K-5 (grade entering in Sept. 2015)**

**Registration is ongoing until filled.**

*(forms are on the narthex table)*

**Any questions, please leave a message for Kimberly Atkinson at the church office, 203-268-7555.**



## THE WRITER WITHIN

### **Recognizing our new pastor's pace and tempo will help us fall into place with him for a smooth transition**

The long wait is nearly over. The process is close to completion. God's will has been sought, prayed for and discerned.

Of course, I'm referring to our wait for a new shepherd at Holy Cross. We have been without one since the end of June 2014, but this newsletter takes us into the month when Pastor Eric Wismar and his family become part of the Holy Cross family. The month of May has been sung about in song, but for what the month brings us in the person of our new pastor, perhaps we should just voice the name of the month in a prayer. A prayer of thanksgiving that in May we can again feel complete and whole as a church and congregation. Hopes and dreams for what we will do in the years ahead can be hoped and dreamed for once more.

That's not to put the entire load of a church's livelihood on the shoulders of a pastor, but there can be no denying that having Pastor Wismar here will be a huge lift for all of us in spirit and mood. And there is no question that we can work with our new leader in the direction he wants to go as well as the way our leaders want to go, moving forward in tandem to achieve great things for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Make no mistake, we are at the start of Pastor Wismar's time, just as pastors Froehlich and Witschy had their respective times. And in thinking about time, I'm reminded of the huge emphasis placed on tempo, time and pace in the many youtube videos I've watched lately as I learn the violin and see how accomplished violinists perform. Seeing a conductor lead the orchestra is similar to the situation we have with Pastor Wismar arriving. In a way he is our conductor, coming with a tempo and pace he has used in his ministry. It is so important for us to be on the same tempo and time with him, whether it's to make beautiful music or plan a service or put a Bible lesson plan together or make plans for the Easter breakfast.

The speed at which Pastor Wismar leads us will undoubtedly be a different pace than his predecessors, and we must recognize that pace and fall in sync with him if we are to succeed in spreading the Gospel among our own members and the Trumbull community.

If we drag or go too quickly (the latter would be a "good" problem), it will take time to recognize that and adjust so we can all go at the same speed. Part of that is being aware that Pastor Wismar will do things differently from his predecessors and there is nothing wrong with that. It would be unusual to have someone who does things exactly the same as the person before him. Letting Pastor Wismar operate in a way he sees best and that allows him to be the most efficient, even if it is different from what we're used to, is healthy and good and part of what happens when a new leader is put in place.

Time and tempo: They will be some of the elements we notice the most with our new pastor as he settles into his position. Let's all strive to be up to tempo and on the right speed, whatever that might be.

---CLIFF SCHROCK  
Holy Cross Word Staff

## COMMUNITY SUPPER

### **Serve the Lord by serving the needy a welcome meal; next opportunity is May 5**

Ninety-five meals were served at St. John's Community Supper on the first Tuesday in April.

Intentionally reaching out to meet the needs of others filled the throne room of God with a fragrance that brought pleasure to Him (see Philippians 4:18). It was accomplished by only a dozen volunteers: Anna Mae Berger, Helen Harper, George Hermes, Jim Leslie, Maria Nocerino, Gail Rice, Mary Schrock, Diane Hintz Schyhol, and Joey and Laurie Vaitkus. This generous act of love met the needs of some hungry folks. Those folks were profuse in their "Thank you!" and "God Bless!" expressions of gratitude.



As you know, Holy Cross is responsible for buying the food, preparing and serving the meal on the first Tuesday of the month at St. John's Episcopal. The next community supper for which Holy Cross is responsible for cooking and serving is on Tuesday, May 5. If you can volunteer your time, please put your name on the sheet found on the narthex table.

---DAVID and MARY ANN SCHILLER

 **THE DAY OF PENTECOST IS SUNDAY, MAY 24...WEAR RED!** 



### **General Memorial Fund**

*In memory of George Morris*

Armand and Blanche Cantafio  
Michael and Sheila Domingos  
Wendy Dulin  
Clinton and Patricia Peterson  
Grace Rowett

*In memory of David Van Wart*

Ronald Froehlich  
Clinton and Patricia Peterson

### **Parsonage Renovation Fund**

*In memory of John Beveridge,  
Amy Witschy's brother*

Dan and Donna Senft

### **Share the Hope Fund**

*In memory of George Morris*

Ron and Doris Dietman

*In memory of David Van Wart*

Lee and Regina Steeneck

### **THANKS A BUNCH!**

This column recognizes the gifts of time and talent our church members provide to do God's work in our church and community. If you have an item to include in this monthly "thank you" column, please jot it down and put it in the "newsletter" mailbox.

To **Mary Ann Schiller** for all her help with the narthex display case during Lent. Weekly changes were made to coincide with the mid-week service themes.

To **Carol Burns** for coordinating the order of special Easter flowers.

To **Donna DiLalla** for keeping our narthex display case updated during Holy Week and for Easter.



To **Jim and Lorraine Finch** for coordinating the Annual Easter Breakfast. Thanks also **to all those who helped** with set up on Saturday morning and serving food on Easter morning. And we can't forget to **thank all those who brought food to share...**egg casseroles, muffins, pastries, fruit. We had such a delicious breakfast spread!

To **Linda Suhr** for the volunteer work she does in the church office, with special thanks for her extra help during Holy Week.

To the Holy Cross members who helped with either shopping, cooking or serving at the April 7 Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport: **Anna Mae Berger, George Hermes, Jim Leslie, Gail Rice, Mary Schrock, David and Mary Ann Schiller,** and **Laurie and Joey Vaitkus.**

### **SHARING A SOUP RECIPE**

**"Faux Lobster Bisque" served at our final Lenten Soup Supper was a big hit; here's how to make it**

This month Kendra Norman has submitted her recipe for "Faux Lobster Bisque," due to requests she received to share it with our newsletter audience. Thank you, Kendra, for sharing this recipe with your church family.

For a large pot of soup:

- Sauté at least a cup of chopped onions and at least a cup of chopped celery in some butter. You could use more onion and celery. Cook until partially softened, but not browned, stirring frequently. Keep temperature on medium or less throughout this process.
- Next, add 9 tablespoons of Wondra flour. (Using this type of flour greatly reduces lumps forming in gravies and sauces—I highly recommend it!) Use a whisk to stir it in.
- Add 3 cups each of water and white wine (I used chardonnay). Use a whisk to blend well after each addition.
- Now add 3 tablespoons of "BETTER THAN BOULLION, LOBSTER BASE" (available at Shop Rite, but not Stop & Shop) and 6 tablespoons tomato paste and 3/4 teaspoon of paprika. Keep whisking.
- Open 2 or more packs of LOUIS KEMP LOBSTER DELIGHTS imitation lobster meat. Cut into smaller pieces. Add to the pot. Stir.
- Last, add 6 cups of half and half. Whisk.
- Heat through, being careful not to let the mixture scorch.
- Enjoy!



Notes from Kendra—"This recipe is an amalgamation of the recipe on the outside of the lobster base jar and lobster bisque recipes in *Joy of Cooking* and *Fannie Farmer* cookbooks. Since it is a soup, you may certainly vary the amounts per your own taste. I noticed that Fannie Farmer adds carrots, for instance. I didn't use much in the way of spices in this recipe because the lobster base is already spiced."



## OUR FLOCK

### **Christian caring and praying at Holy Cross**

This is the Shepherds' Commission's "FYI" column letting our members know for whom we have prayed during our recent worship services. Please continue to remember these people in your prayers.

We remember our members: **Anita Beer**, who broke her hip and is recovering from surgery—prayers for a healthy recovery; **Ron Dietman**, recovering at home from quadruple-bypass surgery, with prayers for a healthy recovery; **JoAnne Meyer**; **Tim Morris**, for continued healing as he recovers from sinus surgery; **Audrey Paray**, prayers for continued healing; **Barbara Schneider**, for a complete recovery from her recent surgery; **Anita Schoch**, recovering from heart-valve replacement surgery; **Bob Solaz**; the homebound – **Kay Dubin**, in rehab following a fall; **Emma Fengler**; and **Harvey Pomerenk**.

We prayed for our family and friends: **Amy Alfano**, daughter of a friend of Audrey Paray, who has stage 3 ovarian cancer; **Robert Butler**, Laura Dowling's father, hospitalized and going through tests after experiencing two seizures; **Linda Desabella**, friend of Patty Peterson, battling cancer; **Dorothy DeVed**, former Holy Cross member, for healing following a fall in which she injured her knee; **Rev. Ingo Dutzmann and his family** who lost their home and all belongings in an explosion/fire on March 11; **Marti Fischer**, cousin of Carol Burns, who is blind and paralyzed; **Kathy Gardner**, Jim Leslie's sister, recovering from cancer surgery; **Kay Geffert**, Kerry's mother, suffering from essential tremors; **Walter Geffert**, brother of Nancy Sabol, recovering from colon surgery; **Abby Haggerty**, 9-year-old student at Christian Heritage School, recovering from successful brain surgery; **Luke Haggerty**, Abby's brother and a classmate of Emily Struzik, recovering from brain surgery to remove a tumor—prayers for a quick recovery and prayers of thanksgiving that this tumor was found to be benign; **Cindy Keegan**, a teacher at Christian Heritage School, going through chemo to treat pancreatic cancer, prayers of thanksgiving that tests have shown that the chemo is working to shrink the tumors; **Mary Koch**, niece of Ron Froehlich, who has finished her chemo treatments; **Ramona Kondracki**, wife of a co-worker of Jim Leslie, who has begun chemotherapy for cancer in her sinus cavity; **Ed Lavin**, friend and neighbor of the Van Wart and Jim Atkinson families, for speedy healing and good health; **Eleanor Lynn**, friend of Effie Solaz, experiencing paralysis following a stroke; **Jean Matthews**, Chris Matthews' mother-in-law, following open heart surgery.



During the past month, we also prayed for these family members and friends: **Edgar Meyer**, Don's brother, who has pancreatic cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy; **Joan Meyer**, friend of the Dietmans, in rehab following knee-replacement surgery; **Kylie Middlemass**, Anita Beer's granddaughter, responding well to various therapies as she works through the difficulties of autism; **Gertrude Moran**, friend of Anita Schoch, going through treatments for lymphoma; **Patrick Murphy**, Pat Peterson's brother, diagnosed with liver cancer and recovering from surgery; **Chris O'Brien**, friend of Mary and Otto Atkinson, paralyzed as a result of an accident; **Joseph Parker**, Julianne Nyitrai's father, who underwent triple-bypass surgery; **Max Pizzolato**, for healing; **Luis Rivera**, friend of Doris Bernt, who had a lung transplant; **Dagmar Rosenberg**, Ingrid Leibold's sister, who has had a relapse of pancreatic cancer and is undergoing more chemotherapy; **Lois Sanders**, daughter of Ron Froehlich, who had breast cancer surgery and has completed chemo treatments; **Charlotte Schlegel**, best friend of Valerie Huydic, for healing from a staff infection; **Joey Senft**, cousin of the Senft family, with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease); **David Sochacki**, friend of Nancy and Jerry Sabol, following brain surgery; **Mike Stachura**, friend of the Schrocks, with a relapse of kidney cancer, for effective radiation treatment that began in mid-April, to eliminate tumors and cancer cells; **Lorraine Tamas**, neighbor of the Leslies, who suffered a stroke; **Andy Turnbull**, Scott's brother, in remission from leukemia; **Craig Wilson**, son of a friend of John and Pat Deloge, recovering from tongue cancer surgery.

Other prayers were for: The family of Holy Cross member **George Morris**, who was called home to the Lord at the end of March; we also offered prayers for the family of **Gail Agria**, who passed away on April 10 following a long battle with cancer; protection for all those serving in the military, including **Michael Collins**; **Pastor Eric Wismar** and **Good Shepherd-New Fairfield** during this time of transition.

If your friend or family member is on this list, be sure to keep us updated on his or her progress. When you have prayer requests, you can phone the church office at 203-268-4555 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays or e-mail [holycross@mindspring.com](mailto:holycross@mindspring.com) anytime for prayers to be included in our worship services, and the Shepherds' Commission will include the requests in this monthly report. If you would like to be included in our e-mail Prayer Circle, please provide your name and e-mail address to the church office.

---GARY MESSERSCHMITT  
Shepherds' Commission

**IN THE MAILBAG**  
**From Ron Dietman and Family**



To my Holy Cross Family,

My family and I have been overwhelmed by your care and concern during my recent surgery, hospital stay and now my home recuperation. Your "many" cards, phone calls, visits, food, gifts and especially all the prayers offered, greatly lifted our spirits in our time of need. We especially are thankful for Pastors Boerger (Zion-Orange) and Beinke for their visits. God IS good! With sincere gratitude and Christian love,

---RON DIETMAN AND FAMILY



**From Emil and Amy Witschy**

Dear Friends at Holy Cross,

We received many thoughtful notes and kind words from so many people upon the death of my [Amy's] brother. Thank you, each, for reaching out. Your expressions of care are so appreciated!

In Christian love,

---PASTOR AND AMY WITSCHY

**PRAYER CIRCLE**

**In need of prayer? Make one of the following contacts to begin the e-mail prayer circle**

Our Prayer Circle offers an opportunity to unite in prayer with our Holy Cross family beyond our regular worship services. To request a prayer you may make one of the following contacts:

- Between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays, e-mail or phone the church office: [holycrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holycrss@mindspring.com) or 203-268-4555. Requests received after 2 p.m. (Monday-Friday) will be circulated on the next business day.
- When the office is closed, contact Don Meyer by phone at 203-268-2080 or send him an e-mail to [delsmeyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:delsmeyer@sbcglobal.net).

---SHEPHERDS' COMMISSION

**A CHRISTIAN SYMBOL**

**Three Interwoven Circles**

Each circle in this symbol represents one of the Persons of the Holy Trinity — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The circles, having no beginning and no end, signify the Trinity's eternal nature. The circles' interlacing symbolizes unity. In the center is a triangle, an ancient symbol of the Trinity.



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**CELEBRATING MAY BIRTHDAYS**



- MAY 1:** JEAN CAMINITI
- MAY 5:** MARY ATKINSON  
NANCY DOLAN
- MAY 6:** CAROL BURNS  
MAGGIE DIXON
- MAY 7:** TARA MLADSI
- MAY 9:** JIM LESLIE  
URSULA NAUMANN
- MAY 10:** GEORGE HERMES  
DONNA JACKSON  
LIA VETERI
- MAY 11:** CLINTON PETERSON
- MAY 12:** EDNA KARACSONY
- MAY 13:** NICOLE CICCIA
- MAY 14:** SOPHIA BOGLE  
MIA WISMAR
- MAY 16:** CHERYL CAMINITI
- MAY 20:** DIANE DIETMAN  
JOSH WILSON
- MAY 23:** DIETER LEIBOLD
- MAY 24:** GEORGE MLADSI  
CLIFF SCHROCK
- MAY 26:** KERRY GEFFERT
- MAY 28:** BUELA JOHN
- MAY 29:** MAURA SENFT
- MAY 30:** JESSE ROHLER II
- MAY 31:** BLAKE DELOGE



**CHURCH CHUCKLES**

