



The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

FEBRUARY 2016

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LIX, NO. 6

WISMAR'S WISDOM

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

As our journey together through God's Master Plan and our salvation story continues, we finally arrive at the New Testament, which, of course, begins with the **four Gospels** – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. For readers today, these four Gospels may seem much like biographies. However, it is important for us to know that a Gospel is more than an account of a person's life and achievements. With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the evangelists wrote the Gospels to persuade the reader that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, who came to save sinners. They prepared their accounts with this goal in mind. Although they focused on what happened, they wanted to illustrate why Jesus was born, lived, died and rose again, even while they told the story. The evangelists commonly cited passages from the Old Testament to demonstrate how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies about the coming Messiah.

Differences in the order and style of the Gospels came about because the evangelists were writing to speak to different audiences. For this reason, each Gospel has a different perspective and emphasis that should be respected for its own unique, faith-filled testimony. I would like to share with you just briefly some of the emphases you will find in each of the four Gospels and some of the blessings that await you as you read through them:

In **Matthew's Gospel** (*symbolized by the wing man*) Jesus is seen as the long-awaited Messiah, who:

- Fulfills God's promises to His Old Testament people;
- Teaches about God's Kingdom and His will for those who follow Him;
- Dies for our sins and, after He has risen again, sends out His followers to tell the Good News to all people.

As you read though the Gospel according to Matthew, rejoice especially in the very full accounting he gives of Jesus' teachings. His five discourses record more of Jesus' parables and sayings than are recorded by Mark and Luke. Also take special note of the promise that Christ is coming again to reign eternally. As you face struggles, dwell on this sure and certain hope in your Savior.

In **Mark's Gospel** (*symbolized by the winged lion*) Jesus is the strong deliverer sent by God, who:

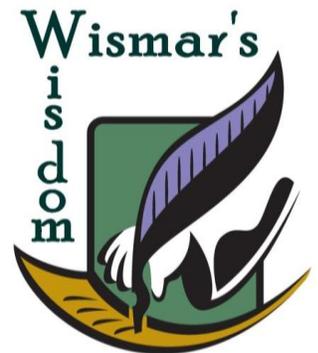
- Has power and authority over sickness, nature, demons and death;
- Dies to set us free from sin, and conquers death by rising triumphantly on the third day.

As you read Mark's account of Jesus' ministry and passion, take special note of the emphasis on discipleship and faith. Jesus tells His followers that He will suffer and will ransom them. They, too, will face suffering on account of Him and the Gospel. Yet, through repentance and faith, they will inherit eternal life. When you face difficulty, cry out, "*I believe; help my unbelief!*" (9:24). The Son of God, who ransomed you from the bondage of sin and death, will hear you in compassion and have mercy.

In **Luke's Gospel** (*symbolized by the winged ox*) Jesus is portrayed as the living Savior of all, who:

- Reaches out to help the troubled and outcast;
- Teaches about His Father's love and forgiveness;
- Lays down His life for sinners, and rises again to show that He has won the victory.

As you read Luke's carefully researched account of Jesus' life, consider yourself on a journey with Luke to learn more about Jesus of Nazareth, whose body, crucified for the forgiveness of our sins, becomes the temple of the living God.





Tuesday, February 2

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

Wednesday, February 10 – Ash Wednesday

7:30 p.m. – Worship Service with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion

Thursday, February 11

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

Sunday, February 14 – Valentine's Day

Monday, February 15 – President's Day

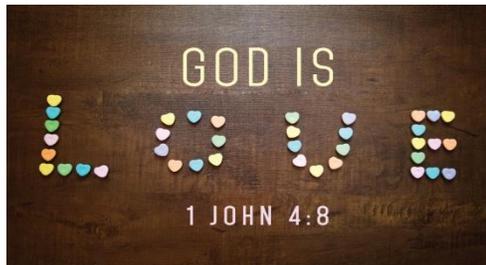
Wednesdays, February 17, 24 and March 2, 9, 16

6:15 p.m. – Lenten Soup Suppers

7:30 p.m. – Lenten Midweek Service with the theme, "Living Lent—As People of the Resurrection"

Saturday, February 20

5:30 p.m. – Chili Cook-Off



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Pastor's Study Phone: 203-268-7555; **Pastor's E-mail:** pastor@holycrosstrumbull.com

Office Phone: 203-268-4555; **Church Office E-mail:** office@holycrosstrumbull.com

Website: www.holycrosstrumbull.org

Christian Preschool Phone: 203-268-6471 **E-mail:** preschool@holycrosstrumbull.com

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

PASTOR: Eric A. Wismar

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).



For Our Readers:
The Holy Cross Word is best viewed in its full-color format at the church website, holycrosstrumbull.org



Like Holy Cross on Facebook!

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



LOVE & CHOCOLATE Spoken by Peanuts creator, Charles M. Schulz

"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the March edition. The deadline for all articles is Monday, February 15. Please take note of this deadline and plan ahead to publicize any events and/or share news with your fellow Holy Cross members. You can submit articles to the newsletter mailbox, located outside the church office, or send them via e-mail to:



office@holycrosstrumbull.com.

“Wismar’s Wisdom,” continued from Page 1

In **John’s Gospel** (symbolized by the eagle) Jesus is the true Son of God, who:

- Became a man and lived among us as the Savior who reveals His Father’s love;
- Shows His glory by His works and through His suffering and dying for us;
- Conquers death so that all who believe in Him may be His friends forever.

John’s Gospel focuses beautifully on both the promise of everlasting life and the bodily resurrection of those who trust in Jesus. As you study the words of Jesus as recorded by John, take comfort in His many great and precious promises to you. His words are spirit, and they are life! Just as the disciples reflected for years on Jesus’ simple, yet profound words, commit His words to heart, consider them with hope, and grow by them. Even now, Jesus – the Word made flesh – is working for your blessing and preparing an eternal home for you.

Consider making February a special month to read through the Gospels. If you had to pick just one, St. Luke would be a great choice as this is “Year C” in the lectionary cycle – the year the church is more heavily focused on St. Luke’s Gospel.

I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Pastor Wismar

CHILI COOK-OFF

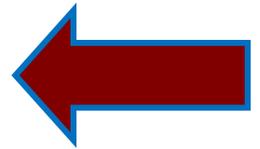
Plan to attend this fourth annual family fellowship event

Come one, come all to this year’s Chili Cook Off! Join your Holy Cross family and friends on Saturday, February 20, at 5:30 p.m. It’s an event for the entire family!



Will you be this year’s winner of the Grand Ladle? Or maybe a “taster” of the various yummy chilis? This is hands-down one of our favorite events at Holy Cross. Look for upcoming information on this special evening. If you have any questions, please see Lydia Struzik or Donna Bogen, your hostesses for this year!

---LYDIA STRUZIK and DONNA BOGEN



WE ARE FAMILY

This column is devoted to family news about Holy Cross members and friends. Please turn in items to the newsletter box.

God’s blessings to two Holy Cross families upon the Baptism of their babies on December 27. At the early service **Patrick** and **Amanda (Leslie) Fitzmorris** and big sister **Sydney** brought **Savannah Rose** to the waters of Holy Baptism. Savannah’s sponsors are her uncle, Duane Fitzmorris, and her aunt, Sarah Ely. At the late service **Kyle** and **Nicole (DeMedico) Hackney** brought their twins, **Jake Robert** and **Stella James** to the waters of Holy Baptism. Jake’s sponsors are his uncle, Matthew Hackney, and his aunt, Taylor Hackney. Stella’s sponsors are her uncle, Anthony DeMedico, and her aunt, Heather Fanning. We welcome these three infants – Savannah Rose, Jake Robert and Stella James – into the Family of God, through the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism, and look forward to the new relationship we will have with them.



THE WINTER SEASON IS HERE, AND WE REMIND YOU THAT OCCASIONALLY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE CANCELED DUE TO SNOWY AND/OR ICY CONDITIONS. WE INTEND TO ALWAYS HAVE A 10:30 a.m. SUNDAY SERVICE.

Before you venture out, look/listen for a possible cancellation via:

- If you signed up for the “e-mail blast” system, check your e-mail;
- If you are on Facebook, look for a posting;
- WICC radio (AM 600) or WEBE radio (FM108);
- www.wicc600.com or www.webe108.com (under “Churches”);
- WTNH-TV or WFSB-TV.

**Winter
Weather
Procedures**



Our Lenten theme is: “Living Lent – As People of the Resurrection”

Ash Wednesday is on February 10 – this service will include
imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Beginning with the February 17 service, our liturgy will be Holden Evening Prayer.

All Wednesday Evening Midweek Services are at 7:30 p.m.

February 10: “Ponder”

Luke 5:27-32 – *Lent is a time to ponder our relationship with God and with one another, to discover the love of God seen in the cross and empty tomb.*

February 17: “Purpose”

Luke 19:1-10 – *This season is a time to find God’s purpose for our lives, fulfilled in our redemption by Jesus, who seeks and saves the lost and gives us new life.*

February 24: “People”

John 10:14-18 – *We are called to be among people in this world. People matter to God; He sent Jesus to save them. People should matter to us; we are sent to love them.*

March 2: “Proclaim”

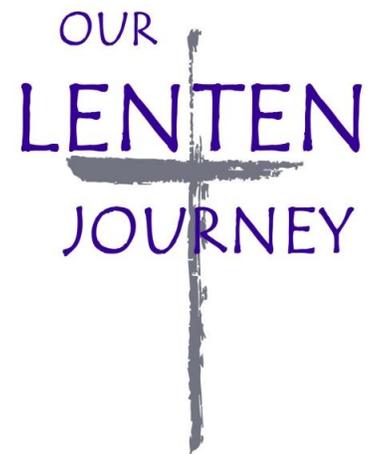
1 Peter 2:9-10 – *To proclaim the story of Christ is to paint a picture of the God who seeks and embraces us. Our proclamation of the Savior brings faith to life.*

March 9: “Praise”

Psalm 34:1-10 – *Even in the midst of sorrow, we are called to celebrate and praise the love of God and the joy that can be found only in Christ crucified, who reigns in glory now.*

March 16: “Pain”

Luke 15:11-32 and 23:26-49 – *The pain of rejection and the pain of a father when a son leaves are juxtaposed against the reckless love of God revealed in Jesus, who wipes every tear from our eyes.*



PRESCHOOL

2016-2017 school year registration ongoing until classes reach capacity

Preschool registration is ongoing for the 2016-2017 school year. Just as a reminder, our preschool offers programs for 3- to 5-year-old children, including a Pre-K class. We offer both part-day and full-day programs that run during the school year, as well as the summer. If you are interested in scheduling a visit and/or registering your child, phone or e-mail me at the contact information below. Likewise, if you have a family member or friend who is looking for a preschool program, please tell them about our preschool and share my contact information.

---MICHELE GLENNON

Preschool Director

203-268-6471; preschool@holycrossstrumbull.com



2016 ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

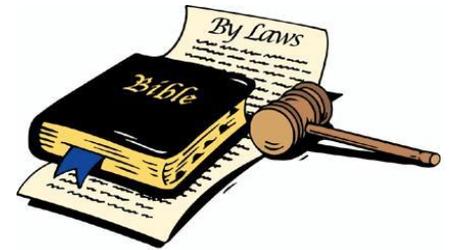
Members step up to fill vacant officer spots, budget approved with hope for funds to fill income gap

Of the nearly 60 annual meetings in Holy Cross' history, the one held on January 31, 2016, in the Froehlich Fellowship Hall had the usual assortment of recognizing great moments from the previous year while putting forth hopes and dreams and leaps of faith for the upcoming one. The meeting was the first annual gathering at Holy Cross for our new shepherd Pastor Wismar, and he was joined by 67 other attendees when the meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m.

In early agenda items, Pastor Wismar spoke a prayer and then the hymn, "Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings," was sung. John Rosen was introduced as parliamentarian by president Kerry Geffert, the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved with amendments, and Mr. Geffert read through a long list of commission highlights, all of which can be found in the soon-to-be-released Annual Report and won't be itemized in this review.

Pastor Wismar's comments were moved to the first third of the agenda, and he remarked on how blessed he feels to be with Holy Cross after his first half-year here, which has included his Journey through Scripture sermon and Bible study focus. Going forward his desire is to have everyone strengthen their relationships: with God, with each other and with the community. "I am grateful to having been called to be at Holy Cross," he said, while also echoing the same reassuring tone spoken by outgoing pastor Emil Witschy that "God keeps His promises, all will be well. To God be the glory, amen."

The election of officers was perhaps the meeting's crescendo. A slate of officers that was presented with three of seven positions vacant was soon filled up as fast as the Nos. 4 & 5 trains heading to downtown Manhattan during morning rush-hour. In quick order, Jim Atkinson (Discipleship), Hugh Hughes (Shepherd) and Pat Deloge (Education) were nominated for empty slots. Along with returning officers Geffert (President), Michele Vichiola Van Wart (Vice-President), Andrew Struzik (Financial Secretary) and Lydia Struzik (Worship), the group was unanimously elected by a show of hands. With Jon Halls having taken over as Evangelism Director in November, the lone Board position still open is Social Ministry, which will be part of the 2017 annual meeting elections. Outgoing Board members to be recognized include Donna Bogen (Discipleship), Tina Batoh (Education) and Gary Messerschmitt (Shepherd). John Anantharaj moves into the position as Head Shepherd for 2016.



The financial focus was next up, and Mr. Struzik lauded members for reversing a poor first half of 2015 with a strong second half, saying it was "a good year overall," resulting in a surplus of \$8,607.36 of income over expenses. A huge factor for the surplus was income of \$148,754 from a major maintenance loan for the parsonage renovation and \$86,054.04 in Share the Hope offerings intended to pay down the loan. But Mr. Struzik noted that regular weekly offerings were below budget, and just 34 percent of member families contributed to the Parsonage Renovation Campaign. He urged that we "must maintain momentum into 2016 as we enter in a positive position, with much improvement completed over the past year....Everyone must commit to looking within their own situation, and decide what is the most a family can do." Treasurer Greg Dowling, who had said in his report that the church had "managed expenses well" in 2015, presented a church budget with proposed income and expense amounts of \$317,835.29. The income amount included what he described as a "plug number" of \$30,485.29 in a budget-deficit reduction line item, which turned what was a shortfall to meet budget into a break-even budget. If anything, the budget-leveling device is a prayer to God that He will provide the income Holy Cross needs to avoid a financial shortage, and it's a challenge to members who don't give or hardly support the church through their financial blessings to give back to God for all that He has done for them. Both the church and preschool budgets (proposed income of \$203,512 versus expenses of \$203,550.55) were passed by a show of hands.

The next agenda item was a set of amendments to the church bylaws, which as explained would allow for the use of electronic communication to notify members of meetings and to conduct Board business. The amendments passed. That was followed by the nomination of present synod president Matthew Harrison to that same position at the synod convention later this year in July at Milwaukee.

In a session open for congregational comments, Mary Schrock thanked Donna DiLalla and Sherry Duff-Schiavone for their work on the church pictorial directory; Kim Atkinson thanked the youth group for its babysitting services during the meeting; Diane Dietman recognized Mary Schrock for her work on worship schedules; Dan Senft recognized charter member Bob Killian for his attendance in worship and annual meetings; and Ms. Duff-Schiavone said a thank you to the anonymous members who helped front the parsonage renovation money until the loan money came through. After the singing of the doxology, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

---CLIFF SCHROCK

Holy Cross Word Staff Writer

COVENANT TO CARE CORNER

Easter Basket Project kicks off and covenant renewal to take place Feb. 21

Please join me at the Sunday morning coffee fellowship at 9:15 on February 21, as we welcome both Mimose Ulysses-Laurenard, Holy Cross' "adopted" DCF social worker, and Selina Daniels, Regional Coordinator-Adopt A Social Worker Program, with the Covenant to Care for Children organization. Mimose and Selina will be with us during our fellowship



time as the three of us will officially sign the two-year Adopt A Social Worker Covenant. Please stay after the early service or come early if you are a late-service worshiper...you will have the opportunity to meet and talk with Mimose and Selina and have some breakfast goodies!

Also on the 21st, I will have the Easter Basket poster filled with egg and bunny tags in the Fellowship Hall. Each tag will have the name, age and gender of a child in Mimose's caseload. As of January 15, Mimose has 20 children in her caseload. Take a tag and agree to put together an Easter basket for that child. Be creative...fill the basket with a toy, stuffed animal, coloring items, candy, and personal-care products. All baskets must be covered with a clear, cellophane bag and are due no later than March 13. That gives Mimose two weeks prior to Easter to personally deliver the baskets to the children.

Thank you in advance for your support of this ministry to support children in crisis and in need. I hope to see you all at coffee fellowship on February 21.

Yours in Christ,

---MARY SCHROCK
Covenant-to-Care Liaison

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

Annual meeting creates major implications for future growth and development

As Annual Voters' Meetings go, it certainly wasn't our most dramatic. But don't be fooled; the outcomes signal a move into a new era at Holy Cross. A revitalization has begun; a revitalization with new opportunities and to be honest, old challenges. A revitalization that involves you.

There are surely different perspectives on the meeting and different ways to slice-and-dice the outcomes; however, I would like to draw your attention to three themes:

1. Financial – let's get the challenge out of the way first. Budget challenges are nothing new to many congregations so Holy Cross is not alone. We have faced challenges before and survived. But the question remains - for how long? Holy Cross has significant fixed costs. As our Financial Secretary put it, "everyone must commit to looking within their own situation, and decide what is the most a family can do."
2. Communication – Holy Cross is moving more strongly into the 21st century when it comes to communicating with its members. Print mail, email, our website, Facebook and other means will allow us to reach you in the ways that work best for you without leaving anyone behind.
3. Relationships – in sum, it is about relationships. Your relationship with God, your relationship with Holy Cross, Holy Cross' relationship with you, our relationships with one another. All of these relationships are important and require our constant attention. New (and old) ways of communicating will help enable us to develop these relationships. Stronger relationships will have positive impacts on Holy Cross – better attendance, more activities, better participation and, of course, a stronger financial footing. And most importantly, a stronger relationship with God.



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

So, in 2016, expect some changes at your Holy Cross. Your Board of Directors will be taking a more strategic approach to our future. In the coming months you will hear about goals, short-term and long-term. These goals will involve you – both in their development and their execution. It's a new, exciting era.

In His Service,

---KERRY GEFFERT
Holy Cross President

COMMUNITY SUPPER

Serve the Lord by serving the needy a welcome meal

Holy Cross member Don Meyer obtained a Thrivent Choice credit card to finance the first Tuesday Community Supper of 2016. Normally, groceries are bought at Costco. However, Costco won't accept the card, so Don met us at BJ's to do the shopping. As we arrived at St. John's on the afternoon of January 5, all the cooking volunteers were there to help unload the vehicle. Lorraine Finch, Helen and Jon Harper (Grace-Stratford), Diane Hintz Schyhol (Grace-Stratford), Nancy Sabol and Miharu Wismar made short work of those tasks. Later a perfect amount of servers arrived: Anna Mae Berger, Kerry Geffert, Jim Leslie, Sherry Duff-Schiavone, Mary Schrock and Pastor Eric Wismar. It had been cold all day and a lot of people arrived. We served a total of 130 meals. Some "rich" poignant comments (in italics) were heard by our servers:

- *"I'm happy to be in here where it's warm."* (Did you work outside today?) *"No I didn't work, I sleep outside."*
- *"I hope there's seconds. I'm sooooo hungry."*
- (From a small boy about 6 years old): *"OOOOOO! I love ham!"*
- *One man asked for a list of places where he could sleep.* In response, the director of St. John's Community Suppers found some telephone numbers for him.



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, February 2. A sign-up sheet is on the narthex table for volunteers to indicate if they will prepare/cook or serve.
---DAVID and MARY ANN SCHILLER



Share the Hope Fund

*In memory of George Jacobs
Matilda Jacobs*

*In memory of Dagmar Rosenberg,
Ingrid Leibold's sister
The Bogen Family*

THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL

On Valentine's Day, we remember that God is the source of all love in the world. His perfect love for us has made all human love possible.

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For God so loVed the world
thAt He gave His
onLy
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
believes
iN Him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.
(John 3:16, NKJV)



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our members contribute to local collection of shoeboxes

Once again Holy Cross was able to participate in the wonderful, annual event of collecting filled shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse project, Operation Christmas Child. With love and joy we contributed 37 boxes to the grand total of 8,319 that were collected by the Connecticut Southwest Area Team. Great job!!

---SUSAN ANTONIOU

Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child

OUR FLOCK

Christian caring and praying at Holy Cross reflected in our consistent petitions

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: **Carlos Calvao**, recovering from surgery; **Joe Ciccio**, recovering from quadruple-bypass surgery; **Ron Dietman**, recovering from a minor surgical procedure; **Cole Dowling**; **Edna Karacsony**, recovering from hip surgery; **JoAnne Meyer**; **Barbara Schneider**, for a complete recovery from her recent surgery; **Anita Schoch**, recovering from heart-valve replacement surgery; **Monika Seyal**; **Bob Solaz**; the homebound—**Emma Fengler** and **Kay Dubin**.



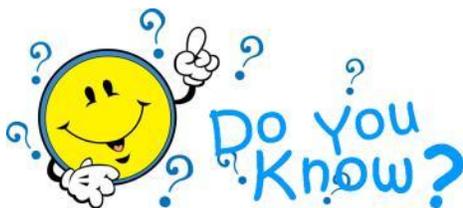
We prayed for our family and friends: **Ruby Beer**, Anita Beer's sister-in-law, diagnosed with stomach cancer and recovering from surgery; **Robert Butler**, Laura Dowling's father, recovering from a procedure to insert a pacemaker; **Rhonda Deloge**, Tom's wife, recovering from neck surgery; **Linda Desabella**, friend of Patty Peterson, battling cancer; **Dorothy DeVed**, former Holy Cross member, for healing following a fall in which she injured her knee; **Marti Fischer**, cousin of Carol Burns, who is blind and paralyzed; **Dan Fitzgerald**, Mary Schrock's brother-in-law, recovering from surgery for prostate cancer; **Kathy Gardner**, Jim Leslie's sister, recovering from cancer surgery; **Kay Geffert**, Kerry's mother, who is being monitored for breast cancer; **Walter Geffert**, brother of Nancy Sabol, recovering from colon surgery; **Abby Haggerty**, student at Christian Heritage school, for healing from another brain bleed; 6-year-old **Caroline Herrington**, having digestive issues as she recovers from kidney cancer surgery and readies for treatment; **Colin Hoben**, 12-year-old friend of the Nyitrai family, undergoing a stem-cell transplant for a reoccurrence of lymphoma; **Ramona Kondracki**, wife of a co-worker of Jim Leslie, who has begun chemotherapy for cancer in her sinus cavity; **Ellen Magnotta**, friend of Otto and Mary Atkinson; **Joan Meyer**, friend of the Dietmans, hospitalized following a fall in which she fractured ribs and her neck; **Gertrude Moran**, friend of Anita Schoch, going through treatments for lymphoma.

During the past month, we also prayed for: **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; **Sharon Robinson**, daughter of Anita Beer, recovering from surgery and will continue treatment for breast cancer; **Rev. Richard Schuller**, a missionary pastor in Puerto Rico, for healing from injuries he sustained when hit by a car; **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 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 for the last month were for: Protection for all those serving in the military, including **Timothy Benson Jr.**, **Michael Collins**, **Ben Milositz**, **Ryan Rubega**, **Daniel Struzik** and **Eugene Struzik**.

If your friend or family member is on this list, keep us updated on his or her progress. When you have requests for prayers to be included in our worship services, you can e-mail the church office at office@holycrosstrumbull.com or call 203-268-4555 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays. The Shepherds' Commission will also include the prayer 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
Shepherd's Commission



Do you know that in 2015, volunteers joyfully worked a total of 422 hours to prepare for and serve the Tuesday Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal in Bridgeport? And that those volunteers served a total of 897 meals on Tuesdays during 2015?
---Simple facts from our Social Ministry Commission

CELEBRATING FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



FEB. 1:	KATE GENTRY PATRICIA PETERSON	FEB. 16:	RICK BRENNA JANE FERRO
FEB. 2:	JOE CICCIA	FEB. 17:	CHRISTY LASALLE
FEB. 3:	EDWARD BIKE DAVID SKOOG	FEB. 18:	MERCEDES CROCKER
FEB. 5:	JENNIFER DELOGE	FEB. 22:	ANN BRUEGGEMANN CALLI SEDERQUEST CASEY SEDERQUEST
FEB. 6:	ANNIE HUGHES	FEB. 24:	SUE SELK
FEB. 8:	ERIC RUTTER	FEB. 25:	DUSTIN MONES
FEB. 9:	ALEXANDER CAROLA	FEB. 26:	KAY DUBIN
FEB. 11:	PETER ANTONIOU KEVIN HALLS	FEB. 27:	JACK MESSERSCHMITT
FEB. 13:	ALYSSA CERONE MARY ANN SCHILLER	FEB. 28:	JOSEPH BAILLIE ELLEN DENNERLEIN CHAD HELMINGER EMILY RENTZ
FEB. 14:	JULIANNE NYITRAI	FEB. 29:	JESSE KRAVECS MOLLY MAZABRAS
FEB. 15:	THOMAS FERIK		

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 **Kaeleen Boivie**, for accompanying the Holy Cross Choir on flute at the Christmas Eve Candlelight service.



To the Holy Cross members who helped with either shopping, cooking or serving at the January 5 Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport: **Anna Mae Berger, Sherry Duff-Schaivone, Lorraine Finch, Kerry Geffert, Jim Leslie, Nancy Sabol, David and Mary Ann Schiller, Mary Schrock, and Pastor and Miharu Wismar.**

To **Linda Suhr**, for her weekly commitment to serve as the volunteer in the church office.

CHURCH CHUCKLES

