



CROSSROADS

An occasional newsletter publication

September/ October 2017

Volume 1, Issue 1

O Lord, open my heart and mind and
let Christ guide my journey of faith.

Inside this issue

Pastor's Corner	2
President's Note	3
Council Info	3
Note from Sister Carol	4
What's Happening?	5
About our church logo	7
Announcements	8
Scholarship	10
Calendar	11



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
1555 Hamilton Ave., Waterbury, CT 06706
(203) 753-0223 / (203) 754-5469



**Our interim pastor, the Reverend Linda J. Kraft,
shares this information with us.**

A California native, I lived in the Los Angeles area until high school when my family moved us to “safe” Nebraska. We’d been living less than a mile from the Watts Riots of August 1965 and my Midwest-born parents wanted to make sure my younger siblings and I were out of harm’s way. Following high school graduation I attended Concordia Teachers College (now Concordia University) in Seward, Nebraska. This Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod secondary school provided a strong Bible base for classes and relationships to bloom. I married my college sweetheart, Karl Kraft, July 31, 1971, between my junior and senior years and we recently celebrated 46 years of marriage.

Following college graduation we moved to Karl’s hometown in Delano, California, to begin our family. We celebrated births of three children who are now grown and living in CT or MA. After teaching for 15 years I entered Wartburg Theological Seminary (ELCA) in Dubuque, Iowa, graduating and being certified for ordination in 1993. I served as an un-ordained interim associate pastor at Hope Lutheran Church in Fresno, CA, 1994-1995. I was ordained there on January 14, 1996 and installed as solo pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Stafford Springs, CT, on February 11, 1996. I served with the people there until called to be the pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Trumbull, CT, where I served for 13 years before retirement.

Since “retirement,” I have been supply preaching or serving as transition pastor at Grace in Naugatuck and Immanuel at Oxford.

I am an avid reader, especially enjoying a good mystery; I enjoy sewing clothes for our grandchildren and making quilts. I have two shaggy little dogs and two cats. Karl, Office Administrator at Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, and I live in Beacon Falls. Our son (PR and advertising) and wife (hedge fund analyst) are parents of our wonderful 19-month old granddaughter Alexandra and are expecting our next grandchild in November. They live in Norwalk, CT. Our middle daughter lives in Beacon Falls and works as a nuclear technician in Sharon and Milford. Our youngest daughter, a doctor of psychology, and her wife (professional nanny) live in Needham, MA, just outside of Boston with our precious grandchildren, 7-year old Esther and her younger brothers Charlie (18 months) and Harmon (6 months).

God is good. Life is good. And I’m excited to begin our journey together at Cross of Christ. Thank you for offering me this opportunity to minister with you.

Pastor Kraft's Contact Information

Pastor Kraft's church office hours are (in addition to Sunday mornings):

Tuesday: noon to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pastor Kraft's phone number: 203-560-1260 or either church office: 203-754-5469 or 203-753-0223

Pastor Kraft's email address is: kraftylynx@gmail.com

A Message from Sue Piel, Church Council President

Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise from the end of the earth! *Isaiah 42:1*

We are indeed singing a new song with this next chapter in our congregational life. We have survived the dating stage of our 2 churches and joined to become ONE!

As a new church we have many details to work out and we are slowly but surely completing all the legal steps. I am excited to announce we have put together a ministry site profile that will be sent to synod for us to begin the call process for a new full-time Pastor. In the meantime, we are so delighted to have Rev. Linda Kraft with us, serving as our Interim Pastor.

Please take the time to read our new newsletter carefully to see all the good works we have in the process, and join in where you're able!

May God bless Cross of Christ Lutheran Church and enable us to provide meaningful worship and ministry opportunities.



Church council meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Hjelm Room at 6:30 p.m.

Our New Cross of Christ Church Council

Sue PielPresident
Rick Bunde.....Vice-President
Sharon Samoska Secretary
Cindy Bunde..... Treasurer
Linda Nido Financial Secretary

Randy Bock.....Member at Large
Carl Edquist.....Member at Large
Blanche Feero.....Member at Large
Pat Huesch.....Member at Large
Tish Hunter.....Member at Large
Judy JuraschkaMember at Large
Jeff OuelletteMember at Large

We Are the Church!

Can you believe it? In the span of only 4 months, we have a new name, a beautiful logo, an elected council going forward into an uncertain, but hopeful, future with the boldness of Peter, the faith of Paul, and the witness of Mary Magdalene (“I have seen the Lord!”). And all this on the eve of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation!

We are called to serve and love each other and those who are the most vulnerable among us here and those outside the walls and boundaries of our congregation. The cross we carry is lighter when we help each other and follow our Savior, Jesus Christ, the greatest servant of all! I don’t know about you, but I feel spiritual energy in the air and a new excitement surrounding us all as we worship, learn, serve, and proclaim the good news of the Gospel of Jesus. Trusting in God to show us the way, we pray for strength, courage and boldness in the days and weeks ahead.

Eucharistic Ministry is about to be launched with the commitment of six people in our congregation to bring the gifts of the church to our homebound folks and also those who cannot get to church due to temporary health or other reasons. We offer the “real presence” of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion, and engage in genuine pastoral care as we undertake this ministry. You will hear more and be introduced to these ministers in the days ahead. Keep them in your daily prayers.



So—expect the unexpected as we follow Christ with trust, confidence and faith. Our goings and our comings are always laced with some pain or fear and perhaps sadness but also with joy, hope and expectation. Our work is simply to say “yes” and then to say yes again...expectant and vigilant for the advent of what is even now being prepared. May our hearts be opened to following and to bring others along with us.

Let me share my closing words and prayer from Sunday, August 27th. It speaks to my heart and I hope to yours as well:

“Friends and neighbors, when we let the cross of Christ guide our journey of faith—together in community with repentance, love and respect for each other—we become the church which Christ has created us to be—built on a rock—stronger than the power of evil—more enduring than the power of death—holding in our hands the keys of the kingdom. Let us pray: O God our Rock, as the world shakes our souls, keep us confident in your grace, bold in our proclamation of your Word, and visible in sacred works of mercy and love wherever your holy church takes us. Amen.

ONWARD—LET GRACE HAPPEN!

Sister Carol Weaver and Gracie



Here's What's Happening!

From Blanche Feero

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has been doing wonderful work for our parishioners, their families, friends, and the community, since November of 2012. The members of our group knit or crochet prayer or pocket prayer shawls to give to people who are going through a difficult time. Each shawl has a prayer to God requesting his help as well as a cross. The six members started out meeting at church on Monday nights, but after a year had passed we decided to make the prayer shawls at home and bring them to church when they were finished. We have our pastor bless them before we give them to those who need them among our church members, VITAS, and the Harold Leever Cancer Center. Many people have received them through the years. We hope as we continue that the prayer shawls we make will help people to feel the warmth of God wrapped around them and bring them peace. If you would like to join our group, please see Blanche Feero or Carolyn Edquist for further information.

CONFERENCE SERIES We started a new Outreach Ministry in February 2017 called the Conference Series. Every month or two, all are welcome to join us in the Hjelm Room from 6:30-8:30 p.m. when we invite a speaker to talk about their particular area of expertise. In February, Aida Mansoor gave an interesting speech about the Muslim Faith and Culture; in March, Jeffrey Fletcher brought his vast collection of slavery-era artifacts; in April, Chris Chourney from DAWGS and his dog Ellie spoke about their work with the

Connecticut-based search and rescue operation; and in June we had Paul Colburn from DEEP speak to us about black bears in Connecticut. In the fall, we will have Sandra Micalizzi from St. Mary's Hospital talk to us about Heart Health on October 23, and then on November 2 we will hear from Safe Haven of Waterbury's director Lee Schlesinger along with two women who will explain what Safe Haven has done to help them leave destructive relationships. In 2018 we will continue various programs of interest to the community. If you have an idea of someone you would like to hear, please contact Blanche Feero.

APHASIA SUPPORT GROUP In March of 2014, we began an Aphasia Support Group at our church. Over 3 years later, we are still going strong. Aphasia is a common side effect from strokes, ruptured brain aneurysms, traumatic brain injuries, or brain tumors, and impairs a person's ability to process spoken and/or written language. It does not affect intelligence however. Although we have had speakers and films, usually we spend our time talking with each other in a very relaxed type of meeting. We give people as much time as they need to get their point across, and the members of our group have made wonderful progress. If you know someone with aphasia who would like to attend our meetings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. the first Monday of each month, please contact Blanche Feero.



(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

From Nadia Marcella

NEW BEGINNINGS This year our goal was to help ten children with outfits and school supplies and we helped 11, to be exact, in a partnership with Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury, an agency that provides shelter and services to abused women and their families. The students were so excited and it was just like Christmas. We provided shirts, pants, a jacket, underwear, socks, school supplies, and a \$25 gift certificate for shoes. Lee Schlesinger, Executive Director of Safe Haven, sent us a note saying, "Your generosity was greatly appreciated by our clients and us here at Safe Haven. We would not be able to do the work we do without the support of people like you." Thanks to all who helped with this project!

From The Education Committee

REFORMATION 500 BOOK SALE Through Augsburg Publisher October 15, 21, 22; one evening to be announced.

OCTOBER 29, REFORMATION SUNDAY Notice to all God's Children: Martin Luther is coming to visit and share a story!

NOVEMBER FAMILY BOOK SALE is in the planning with discounts and free shipping. A list

of books which can be ordered for the first book fair will be posted in the Hjelm Room. Parents: we value your insight and input for the focus—the Christmas box, or shall we create our own book sale program? Please contact Sharon Samoska with your suggestions by early October.

SEASONAL MAILINGS Themed mailings for upcoming holidays for preschool children and primary age children are under review. The Frolic program for infants and toddlers is under review. Parents and children—we value your comments to enable us to find the best outreach programs.

ADULT EDUCATION Stay tuned for information in the near future.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES Are scheduled to begin September 24.

SMILES A special thank you to Pastor Kraft for her Children's Sermon in August—our little ones inspired us all.

The Education Committee is honored to work with our church family to provide educational support for members. Congratulations to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church for this first newsletter!

Submitted by Sharon S., Linda L., Sister Carol, Nadia M. Sue P.

Delegates to Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministry (GWIM) - Sharon Samoska, Seita Glasgow

GWIM'S MISSION is to feed the hungry in a respectful and dignified manner; to empower the homeless and underprivileged to become self-sufficient; to provide hope and opportunity to those in need. Thanks to CCLCW for being a part of this caring organization and truly making a difference.

Delegates met in July. The next meeting is September 26, 6:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, Waterbury. All are welcome to join us.

ECUMENICAL CHOIR REHEARSAL September 24 for the October 15 Festival (see next item) will be held at First Congregational Church at 1:00 p.m. preceded by a light lunch at 12:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 15 FESTIVAL CONCERT AND CHILDREN'S ART GALLERY at First Congregational Church on the green: The concert begins at 4:00 p.m. The Children's Art Gallery is open at 3:00 p.m. Performers include: Stewart Crouse, Ray Lamitola, Joe Masulli, BRAVO, Westover Gospel Choir, and an Ecumenical Choir.

Please visit the GWIM websites: <http://www.gwimfaithbase.org> or <http://www.gwimwaterbury.org>. Posted on the latter is a video of the children's art work for the Children's Art Gallery of 2016.

Our Church Logo



The Cross of Christ Logo is a combination of a stylized cross emblem, our church name, and the tagline, “Guiding our journey of faith.”

The cross represents Jesus’ victory over sin and death, and is our reminder of God’s love. In baptism, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the Cross of Christ forever.

The cross structure is suggestive of intersecting roadways. The vertical beam or stipe suggests a path toward heaven. The stipe intentionally narrows towards the “heaven end” to remind us that our faith journey may take us on difficult, narrowing roads.

The horizontal crossbar or partibulum tapers to suggest a distant destination, but on a clearly mapped pathway. The crossbar arc directs our eye toward our identity as a Lutheran church.

The stipe and crossbar are inter-woven as are our own diverse paths. The Cross of Christ should always be our guide as we encounter a variety of people and situations in our lives.

The colors chosen for our logo are identical to the colors of the ELCA emblem. The red, yellow, purple, and green (when printed in color), unite us with the ELCA, and as in the ELCA emblem, reflect the seasons of the church.

The tagline pays homage to the runner-up from our church naming competition, “Journey of Faith Lutheran Church.” While the ELCA tagline “God’s work. Our hands.” opens the door to conversation about our life of faith, “Guiding our journey of faith.” reminds us all, as Christians, that the Cross of Christ points our way.

*For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.
Matthew 25:35*



Rest in Peace

We pray for the recently deceased. May they rest in peace.

Joyce Blinstrubas, July 27, 2017

James Crafa, Aug. 1, 2017

Electronics Technician 3rd Class Dustin Louis Doyon, a sailor on the USS John McCain, who lost his life during a collision at sea. Dustin was a resident of Suffield, CT.



Weddings and Baptisms

Megan Doyle & Matt Bjorkman were married at Cross of Christ on Saturday June 10, 2017.

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Three babies were recently baptized at Cross of Christ

Julia Rose Torres, baptized in May

Mia Gianna Trentacosta, baptized in June

Cameron John Beaton, baptized in June.

We welcome them into our Christian community



Welcome Karl Wence

We welcome our new sexton, Karl Wence. Karl was the operations manager of the Waterbury mall for many years. He has asked that if anyone has suggestions for work that needs to be done, please contact Joan or Lainey in the office.

Please Consider a Donation to the Victims of Hurricanes

PUT YOUR PRAYERS INTO "ACTION MODE" FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS!

When you donate to "Lutheran Disaster Response," **100%** of your donation goes toward helping victims! Donate online at disaster@elca.org. You may also ask Pastor for a donation envelope or place your donation into the collection plate clearly identified "For Lutheran Disaster Response." The church will forward all donations on your behalf. Thank you!

CHOIR has started again!



Do you like to sing? Do you have a good voice? This is your opportunity to join the choir and raise your voice in praise and thanksgiving. Don't believe you're blessed with a good voice? Then join the choir and raise your voice to "get even."

Come join us at 8:45 a.m. in the Hjelm Room for rehearsal! All are welcome.

Remembering the Homebound

The Eucharistic Ministry Team is updating its homebound list. If you know someone in our congregation who may like a visit from one of our team members in the future, please contact: Sister Carol Weaver, at carolmweaver@juno.com or call: 203.232.2679. Thank you for your assistance!



Thanks to all who participated in Clean Up Day!

*Thank
you*

Thanks to all who helped clean both the inside and outside of our church building on September 9th. We appreciate your efforts!!

The Grahn Scholarship Fund

This year's scholarship recipients are Nick Rapisarda who is attending Central CT State University, Mike Rapisarda who is also attending Central CT State University, and Josh Rapisarda who is attending Naugatuck Valley Community College.

The scholarship fund was established in 1991 by longtime Zion member, Edith Grahn, with monies from her deceased brother, Everett Grahn. Edith was very involved at Zion and was both happy and proud each year the scholarships were awarded.

As of 6/30/17, the remaining funds are \$16,000.00, but from her inheritance at her passing, the church council voted to use \$30,000.00 from the fund which remains in the Merrill Lynch investment account. To date, we have provided \$60,700 in aid to 23 of our church families. Two of our recipients have gone on to further preach the name of our Lord. They are, Deaconess Carol Weaver and Pastor Benjamin Krey.

Scholarships are awarded to applicants on the basis of Scholarship, Activity within the church, Promise, and Financial need. Preference is given to applicants planning careers in service to the Church. However, scholarships may be awarded in any field of study in college, university, or technical school. Priority is given to undergraduate and seminary students. Graduate students and older adults will also be considered.

We look forward to continue helping our new family, Cross of Christ



Don Anderson (right) presented Mike Rapisarda with a Grahn Scholarship.



AN OPEN INVITATION! Come and Celebrate Waterbury's Newest Church

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

Join us for Dinner, Music, and Fellowship.

5:00 p.m. Saturday, October 28th

Roast beef, chicken, pasta, potatoes, salad, vegetable,
beverage, and dessert.

\$10.00 Adults / Children under 12 free.

Call the church office before October 22nd for reservations.

(203) 753-0223 or (203) 754-5469



Fellowship Meal

Calendar Dates to Remember

24-Sep	Installation of Eucharistic Ministers at 9:30 a.m. service. 12:30 p.m. Ecumenical Choir rehearsal for GWIM Festival at First Congregational Church
1-Oct	Blessing of the Animals 9:30 a.m. - Hjelm room; Hospitality 10:30 a.m.
8-Oct	18th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m.; Hospitality 10:30 a.m.
10-Oct	Church Council; Hjelm Room; 6:30 p.m.
15-Oct	19th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m.; Hospitality 10:30 a.m.; Worship Committee 10:45 a.m. GWIM Festival Concert and Children's Art Gallery, First Congregational Church, 222 West Main St., Waterbury, 4 p.m. Reformation Book Sale; Hjelm Room; before and after worship.
21-Oct	Reformation Book Sale from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Hjelm room. Contact Sharon Samoska, (203) 597-8073, for more information.
22-Oct	20th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m.; Hospitality 10:30 a.m. Reformation Book Sale; Hjelm Room; before and after worship
23-Oct	Conference Series: Heart Health; Hjelm Room; 6:30 p.m.
28-Oct	Celebration Dinner; 5:00 p.m. (<i>see details on page 10</i>)
29-Oct	Reformation Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship and a special children's message from Martin Luther!
2-Nov	Safe Haven; Hjelm Room; 6:30 p.m.
3-Dec	First Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m.
17-Dec	Blue Christmas; Sanctuary; 4:00 p.m.

Let's work together to make **CROSSROADS**
YOUR newsletter.

REMEMBER to submit your news stories,
calendar items, or pictures for the next edition
of **CROSSROADS** to the office before the end
of October .



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Waterbury, CT 06706-2401

Freed
& RENEWED
in Christ
500 YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION