



# News from the Pews

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## Pastor's Press

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them”*

- Matthew 18:20

This scripture line from one of the gospel readings this month is a perfect theme for this entire newsletter – Thank You Holy Spirit for that wonderful connective opportunity! We as a faith community – or should I say - combined faith community – will find the first cooler days of Fall full of exciting opportunities to engage, revive and celebrate things well done in the past and successful adventures yet to be had.

I would encourage you to be one of *the two or three gathered in His name* more often than not. This is the time and the work that many of you had been wishing arrived sooner. As a wise man wrote not too long ago to his congregation, the train is leaving the station, it is under positive energetic power, and you can hitch your car to it to join in the adventure we are off to or choose to sit on the siding.

The Transition CORE team is being formed, the Joint Council and the individual Councils are working to carry forward the business of their work in their churches AND in our mutual agreement to work together through this discernment period. The only sure thing is that we won't be in the same places we are now in the future!

*Where will we be? Who will we be? Who will be with us?*

You have the responsibility to be part of the answers to those questions and I have a feeling there are some adventures listed in this newsletter where you can start your journey. Remember, our individual journeys become our collective journey when we do in fact gather in His name and take His teachings to heart!

*Blessings, Pastor Sena.*

## Upcoming Events

### September

- **9/10** – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Service @ HC  
Safe Parking forum with representatives connected with Family Promise. Will be present to discuss the Safe Parking program and answer questions. Leadership is wanting to make an informed decision around the support and logistics of having Holly Cross be a host site for Safe Parking.
- **9/14** – Women's Social Group @ The Gathering Space, 1 – 3pm
- **9/16** – All day Altar Guild Training  
Begin at CGS 9:00am and end at HC by 4:30pm with box lunch provided.
- **9/17** – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Service @ CGS  
With Special Bio Video of Pr. Sena; Special Video from Connections 365
- **9/20** – Salem Pastoral Counseling Center Luncheon & Presentation on Suicide Prevention and Intervention 12-2pm  
[Click Here to Register Online!](#)
- **9/24** – Pastor Sena Ordination and Installation Service @ St. Mark Lutheran. 1pm. **NO SERVICE** at CGS or HC that Sunday.

### October

- **10/1** – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Service @ HC  
Blessing of the Animals / Feast for St Francis - Bring your portable and well-behaved pet including those who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge for a special blessing; Family Promise Education class, "Divine Compassion: The Bible and Homelessness" after service.
- **10/8** – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Service @ CGS  
Congregational Conversation after Worship: Transition Update and Faith and Civic Life Discussion #1
- **10/15** – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Service @ HC  
Fall Prevention Course taught by Salem Health after Service
- **10/22** – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost Service @ CGS  
Faith and Civic Life Discussion #2 after worship
- **10/29** – Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost Service  
REFORMATION SUNDAY - Worship service details TBA

## *Prayer Shawls Ministry Retired*

We say praise and thanksgiving for the many women over the years who met regularly to knit and crochet prayer shawls and caps and scarves for the friends and family at this church and for the community.

This ministry began at this church in the early 2000s based on a model that Marion Donheffner had seen in New York and enlisted the help of her friend Eleanore Norman to initiate this ministry at this church. Over the years a group of women met monthly to knit, crochet, have fellowship and pray together over these items. The experience level in this group varied from beginners to some who had over 60 years of experience. The group's leadership moved to Sandy Elias and finally to Inez Ambrosek. Each prayer shawl had a small tag attached with the following words: "This shawl is to let you know that your friends at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church are praying for you. Let this shawl around your shoulders remind you that you are always in the arms of God."

Within the last few years the group of women dwindled as did the distribution of the shawls while the inventory of shawls and yarn continued to increase. The women began to support distribution of caps and scarves for the church's winter collection of warm items for kids and added knitted animal figures for distribution by the Marion County Sheriff's dept for use in crisis situations with children. Although the group will no longer be meeting under this ministry; the existing prayer shawls inventory will continue to be available for distribution as needed. A new group is emerging for women from this original group which will focus on regular small group fellowship for women. Inez Ambrosek will coordinate this group.

Well done good and faithful servants; Matthew 25:23 - *Gwen Carr*

## *Women's Social Group*

We are starting a women's social group beginning the second Thursday in September (September 14, 2023) from 1pm to 3pm in the Gathering Room at Christ the Good Shepherd. This is a reoccurring event every second Thursday each month.

Join us for a relaxed and open event, bring a puzzle or game and connect with other women. Feel free to bring a drink, snack and/or a dessert to share, coffee will be provided.

If you can't be there right at 1pm, come whenever you can and stay as long as you'd like. We are looking forward to visiting with you and getting to know you at this gathering. Let me know if you have any questions or suggestions. We can always talk about ideas for future gatherings. - *Inez Ambrosek*

## Family Promise Classes

As a valued partner to Family Promise, I'd like to inform you about three educational classes we are offering to congregations. These classes are designed to deepen our understanding of homelessness and our faith's call to respond. They are structured to be flexible, allowing interested members to participate in one or all three sessions. Classes will be hosted at Holy Cross after Worship Service.

- ***Divine Compassion: The Bible and Homelessness:*** Explore what the Bible teaches about homelessness, illuminating the principles of compassion and social responsibility that guide our faith. Delve into key biblical passages and discuss how these teachings can inspire and shape our response to homelessness today – Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ***Faith in Action: Salem's Faith Community and Homelessness:*** Learn how Salem's faith community, especially Family Promise, is actively responding to homelessness. Survey the various initiatives being undertaken to help those in need, with the aim of inspiring and providing insights into ways we all can contribute to these efforts – Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- ***Who Are Our Neighbors? How Homelessness and the Salem Community Interact:*** Deepen your understanding of homelessness in the greater Salem area, its root causes, and how it impacts other community sectors such as healthcare, education, and criminal justice – Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

We believe these classes will provide an invaluable learning opportunity for your congregation, foster a deeper understanding of a pressing issue in our community, and spark meaningful conversations about how we, as people of faith, can respond.

## Suicide Prevention: Out of Darkness Walk

Join us for the annual “Out of Darkness” walk Saturday, October 14, 2023. CGS and HC both have a strong history of participation. Let's put together a team and if you are interested in joining, please talk to Gwen Carr.

## National Night Out

A huge thank you to everyone who made National Night Out a success! We appreciate all your hard work and are looking forward to next year's event.





## National Night Out Photos





## September Birthdays

Anniversaries	Birthdays
Tom & Sarah Emery - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lois Shafer - 10 <sup>th</sup>
Stephanie & Tyler Palmblad – 10 <sup>th</sup>	Samuel Sauer – 11 <sup>th</sup>
Jason & Corinne Elms – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Marie Sherman – 15 <sup>th</sup>
Paul & Ali Briskey – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Flo Phaswana – 24 <sup>th</sup>
Cindy & Bruce Spicer – 24 <sup>th</sup>	Ron Mohr – 25 <sup>th</sup>
	Colleen Aas – 25 <sup>th</sup>
	Kenny Shultz – 30 <sup>th</sup>



Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley

# Hope Builder Breakfast



**September 27th • 8 to 9 am**  
Salem Convention Center  
200 Commercial Street SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302

RSVP online at:  
[salemhabitat.org/hopebuilder](http://salemhabitat.org/hopebuilder)

*This event is free to attend thanks to our sponsors. All proceeds help build homes, communities and hope.*

## Synod News

### **CGS CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Sunday Worship: 10:00-11:30; view YouTube sermons live or past sermons