With the help of God, Holy Cross Lutheran Church grows disciples and transforms hearts for Christ. HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway, O'Fallon, MO 63366 October 2024 Volume 58 Number 10 Contact church office at secretary@hcross.com 636.272.4505 www.hcross.com

A Few Good Luther Quotes

S ince October ends by celebrating the anniversary of the Reformation, I thought writing something about Martin Luther for this month's Koinonia article would be fitting. I'm a big fan of memorable one-liners, and Luther delivers on this in spades. Please enjoy reading a handful of the many things Luther said and my own commentary to help answer that classic question, "What does this mean?"

"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Pretty much everyone is too busy. Too busy for this event, for that text message, for those friends or family members. There is genuinely so much for us to accomplish every week, every day, that it's easy to let certain things go. Even when we retire, we still somehow have so many things to do! Luther also felt this, yet he declared adamantly that prayer is not something to let go—in fact, he couldn't go to work without it! God invites us over and over in the Scriptures to daily pour out our hearts before Him, tell Him what we need, and trust that He will somehow provide. Don't let the stress of the day cause you to lose your grip on talking to God!

"We need to hear the Gospel every day because we forget it every day."

This is by far my favorite Luther quote. It's so true. The world, the devil, and even our sinful selves do everything they can to tear us away from God's promises. Furthermore, life itself gets challenging and frustrating, even hopeless. When your way gets dark, what you really need is light—Christ, the light of the world, who shines in the darkness that cannot overcome Him. We constantly need God's Word to remind us that Jesus has triumphed over all things, will return to make all things new, and, of course, that He loves you. Sometimes the simplest truths are the hardest to remember.

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."

The story goes that someone once asked Luther what he would do if he knew Jesus would return to earth the next day, to which Luther responded that he'd just plant a tree. Would this be your answer, your plan? His point was that he would continue to do the work that God had given him to do, and we should too. When the Last Day will take place and what exactly it'll look like will always be shrouded in mystery, but God's present vocations (callings) for you are crystal clear!

"We are beggars, this is true."

There's a good chance you've heard about this one-after Luther died, a piece of scrap paper was found in his pocket with the above quote scribbled on it. A person only truly becomes a beggar when they have absolutely nothing to offer others, when they can only ask and never give. Luther rightly understood that this is exactly how we stand before God. We have absolutely nothing to offer Him. He is the Creator of the universe, lacks nothing, needs nothing. But He wants you. He wants you to receive forgiveness, eternal life, and so much more that is ours through Jesus Christ. Yes, we have nothing to give Him...but He gives everything to us. We are simply beggars, pleading for the mercies of a radical God who promises to hear our poor cries and answer as our loving Father.

Soli Deo Gloria!

~Pastor Jason



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Holy Cross Lutheran Preschool Staff 2024–2025





We recently wrapped up our golf for schools event with Child of God Lutheran Church and school! It was wildly successful, and so much fun. We had 33 teams, many of which golfed for Holy Cross! We are grateful for the support across the board and are eager to do this event again.

The start of our school year has been nothing but fantastic! We are grateful to have kindhearted students, exceptional staff, and a loving God who provided us with them both. Our students are working on learning the beginning of the alphabet, their colors and shapes, and learning to play with one another in a kind way. We love having our three-year-olds return as four-year-olds, and seeing their growth!



Monthly Music Minute for October 2024

A series in which the music director shares some thoughts about the music coming up in church this month

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

I'm sure you're familiar with this verse from Hebrews 13. I've been thinking about this verse a lot lately in preparing services and events for

October, and how this verse applies to the church's song. Let's begin with the "yesterday."

As you may recall, 2017 was the unofficial 500th anniversary of the Reformation — but it really only marked 500 years since Luther nailed his 95 these to the church door. This act may have sparked the movement, but the Reformation was a process took place that over several decades. For us, this means that we will have many 500th anniversaries o f Reformation events that happened in the years following the events of 1517. 2024 marks the 500th anniversary of one

significant milestone for Lutheran hymnody - the publication of the Achtliederbuch, which was the first ever Lutheran hymnal. The hymnal was little more than a pamphlet, only containing 8 hymns by Martin Luther and one of his contemporaries, Paul Speratus.

Our current hymnal, the LSB, contains three of these eight hymns: "Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice," "Salvation unto Us Has Come," and "From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee." To mark this 500th anniversary, on **Reformation weekend**, **Oct. 26-27**, we will sing these three hymns as part of the service. What a joy to be continue to sing the songs Lutherans have been singing for generations!

A couple of weeks before this, we'll be celebrating some of the hymns of "today." On

Sunday, October 13 at 3:00PM will be our third annual hymn festival. Entitled "Christ Be My Leader," the choir will lead the congregation in hymns written by modern hymn-writer Timothy Dudley-Smith. Some of the hymns we'll sing include "Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the

<text>

Lord," "Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels," "No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet," and the title hymn, "Christ Be My Leader." I hope you can join us for these two events!

One of the hymns we'll sing at the hymn festival really emphasizes the third part of the verse from Hebrews: "forever." The hymn, "Christ the Eternal Lord," begins with telling us about the unchanging nature of Christ, His work on earth, and His call for us to follow him. It is the last verse where get that glimpse into "forever," then:

Christ, the ascended King Exalted high above, Whose praise unending

ages sing,

Whom yet unseen we love; When mortal life is past Your voice from heaven's throne Shall call Your children home at last To know as we are known.

It is that third line that really sticks with me: "Whose praise unending ages sing." What does that mean for our church's song? In truth, it doesn't matter whether a hymn was written 500 years ago, or today, or anywhere in between. It makes no difference whether it was written yesterday, today, or whether it will be written in the future. The important thing is not the "when," but the "for whom" - for it is because of our unchanging Jesus that we sing. - David Gilson

Youth Neri Night Oct 18 6pm-9pm 6th grade and up

Bring your own elite* nerf gun, \$2 cash, eye protection is recommended, ammo is provided.

> Drop of/ pick up at Holy Cross' Gym 8945 Veterans Memorial Pkwy

> > limited registration

RSVP by Oct 11 with QR code or at hcross.com/youth

*nerf guns ne<mark>ed</mark> to shoot this ammo









FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 7, 2024 Service 3-4 PM Service Project & Dinner 4-6 PM

> RSVP to DCE Smith by Oct 31 with QR code or at hcross.com/youth





SUNDAY

SILENT



scan 2R code or visit hcross.com/youth



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

6РМ Beginning Bell Choir

6рм Children's Choir

6:30PM Confirmation

6:30PM High School

6:30Pм PreK to 5th Grade

- 6:45 PM Adult Choir
- 7:15PM Elementary (gym)
- 7:30рм Middle & HS (gym)



October is PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH,

The CWST invites you to drop a card, letter, or note into our MAILBOX to express your appreciation and thanks to our Pastors for the guidance, love, and WORD that they share with us throughout the year. The Mailbox will be in the Welcome Center starting Sat., Oct. 5.

Also, we invite you to join us for a "special" Bible Class on Sun., Oct. 20 in between the services. We will host **PASTRIES with the Pastors!** We are asking every family who attends to bring a pastry to share--donuts, Danish, muffins, or coffeecake. If gluten is not your thing, maybe a fruit plate to share with your gluten-free friends.

We are just hoping to enjoy "SWEETS" with the Pastors and our fellow church family members, as we let our clergy know just how much we appreciate them.

We hope to see you there! Dawn, Vickie, Darlene, Brian, Neal, and Sol





Come!

Join us for

HOPE Seeds

Thurs., **Oct. 3**, **Gym, 9AM-Noon** Seeds are packed for those in need.



Sponsored by Holy Cross Stewardship Board.





One moment, Pastor Jason is sitting on top of the world; the next he is plunged into the dunk tank. He was the first of the called workers and others to enjoy an afternoon dunk! PHOTOS BY DANI RICHARDSON







Christel Hundt and Barb Grosch make sure that the new pastor has a full plate.

photos on p. 6-7 by kathy weseman

Holden Gimbel, Pastor Gimbel, Ron Doerr, Pastor Wachter enjoy their talk under the big tent.



DCE Charity Smith and her daughter Magdalene fly a kite during the picnic.





Above, Isaac and Alyssa Conrad dig in to the sumptuous feast under the pavilion, while others compete in the cornhole tournament.



Music Director David **Gilson gives** a thumbs up for his food choices.

Relaxing in the shade: Jayne Jepsen, Joyce Niewald, Jenny Conrad.





"Hey, how do I get into this bounce house?"

The 64th Annual Holy Cross Picnic: A Day Full of Fun!

Graced with beautiful weather, a crowd of almost 200 people gathered on the church's back lawn for the Saturday afternoon of Sept. 7 for fellowship and food.

New this year, a giant party tent was erected on the parking lot so that people could eat and gather together. It provided great shelter for everyone, while the kids jumped in the bounce house, ran through the obstacle course, dunked volunteers in the dunk tank, and participated in a scavenger hunt to win prizes. Dorsett Street Jazz Band featured its music for the afternoon entertainment. Thank you so much for gracing us with your wonderful music!

After the meal, several teams tried their luck at the Cornhole Tournament, hoping to be crowned the victors. Winners were Solomon Conrad and Karl Schnoor who each received two bottles of homemade wine (donated by the Belters) and a gift certificate donated by Hwy P Market & Meats. Thank you for the donations!

The Picnic Committee owes much gratitude to the people who helped make this year successful. The Elders and other volunteers set up all of the tables and chairs outside this year (no small feat!). We are also thankful to church boards and the special group of kitchen helpers who worked hard to make the day fun and easy for our families. Thank you to those who provided a dish or two for our wonderful fellowship meal. We Lutherans love our potlucks!

We are grateful for the church workers and other volunteers who braved the dunk tank. Everyone loves to dunk people!

Lastly, a huge thank you to everyone, including our wonderful youth, who cleaned up and returned everything to its place after the event. We look forward to next year and seeing what exciting events will come. If you have ideas or would like to help plan next year's 65th Church Picnic, don't hesitate to contact Council Vice President Todd Rasche at vicepresident@hcross.com.

--The Picnic Committee: Ashleigh Lacey, Kari Spearman, Todd Rasche, Karen Belter, and Liz Belter

All women of Holy Cross are invited to attend meetings of either or both Guilds. Join us as we "serve the Lord with gladness" by raising funds for missions at home and around the world.

Holy Cross has two LWML groups: Grace Evening Guild meets Tues., Oct. 8, 6PM. Holy Cross Ladies Guild meets Fri., Oct. 13, 10AM.

Over 80 years of History!

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) was established in

1942 as the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

With the launch of our new logo in 2023, we are shifting away from the acronym **LWML** towards the descriptive phrase **Lutheran Women** *in Mission*. Past President Gloria Edwards championed the phrase during her term, and in 1998 it became the official doing-business-as (DBA) name for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. That's over 25 years ago!

Lutheran Women in Mission: As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. On Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday we remember our past and look to the future.

Mites & Missions: Based on the biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), **the Mite Box** is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond support given to congregations and the LCMS. The Mite Box is more than just a symbol of God's provision—it's a reminder



that offerings and prayers bring the love and hope of Jesus to those in need. You can also donate online at *lwml.org/donate-online* to make giving easy!

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we know it's an honor to serve God by serving others. We serve local organizations with Gifts from the Heart, Mission Service Activities, and Special Offerings. And through a careful selection process, we choose mission grant recipients from around the world each biennium. In 2023, a Mission Goal of \$2,350,000 was approved to fund 31 grants.

Join us for the next chapter of the journey! Membership is available to any woman who is a communicant member of a congregation in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Check out the Holy Cross Ladies Guild (President Sandy Dietz) and Grace Evening Guild (Karen Copper).

CRAFT EXPO NOVEMBER 2, 2024 9AM to 3PM

A great way to start on that Christmas gift list!

Featuring Custom Artwork, Woodwork, Christmas Items, Jewelry ... and more!

SPONSORED BY GRACE EVENING GUILD HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH Proceeds to LWML Mites



The Ladies Guild Candy and Nut Sale continues in the Welcome Center through October 20 Don't miss your chance to choose from many varieties of delicious candies and nuts. Delivery will be in time for holiday celebrations and gift -giving!

Rummage Sale Provides Funds for Advocacy Agency

At the September Ladies Guild meeting, two guest speakers from Turning Point Advocacy Services accepted donations and gave information about their organization.

Turning Point was the recipient of the \$3,000 in proceeds from the Ladies Guild Rummage Sale in August.

Guild members also brought donations of items needed at the center.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Rummage Sale.



Shown in the photo are the two guests, Lauren and Wendy, and Barb Grosch *(left)*, chairperson of the Rummage Sale.

QUILTING FELLOWSHIP



Quilting Fellowship Sat., Oct. 12, from 10AM to 2PM in the gym.

Fellowship Quilting meets monthly on the second Saturday from 10AM-2PM.

This group is an informal, unstructured, relaxed, comeas-it-works-for-you fellowship while completing projects you bring from home (not necessarily quilting). It's great for teaching, sharing, learning, networking, getting acquainted, and making new friends.

Attendees come as schedules allow. This organization does not require membership, monthly attendance, or staying the full 4 hours scheduled. You're welcome to check this out, see if it's helpful to you, and return as often as you please.

We break at noon for a BYO (Bring Your Own) Lunch. For questions, call Cynthia Menscher (636) 639-5188

ALTAR GUILD WELCOMES anyone

interested, including the newly confirmed class, to join us as we "serve the Lord with gladness" by preparing each service for communion. For information, please call or text Jan Flentke at 636-248-2892.

Prayer Balances Life

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven ... " (ESV, Eccl. 3:1). I love the words the Holy Spirit inspired through Solomon for our nurturing. "I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That every man may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil - this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it, so men will revere Him." (NIV, Eccl. 3:12-14.)

This summer my life got out of balance (red flag)! By mid-summer, I was dreading activities I usually enjoy. I asked Pastor Gimbel to pray for me after explaining I'd joined various church groups to become acquainted with our church family. By July 12, extra tasks, activities, and life events had accumulated, adding new tasks on top of previous commitments, causing a drain of my energy, joy, and peace. I was thinking of diminishing some of my involvement but not sure where to start.

Through Paul, the Holy Spirit tells us "pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (ESV, I Thess. 5:17-18) Giving thanks keeps us positive. It also builds a foundation of hope given to us in the waters of Holy Baptism. If you frequently drive I-70 in St. Charles County, you also may have endless prayers of thanksgiving! Truly, I do have many prayers of thanksgiving throughout my day along with prayers for others who are sick, suffering loss, or having other needs. Blessings are abundant that cause work to flow, and when work doesn't go smoothly, God programmed me to love learning. Unfortunately, I often run out of my house with my "to-do" list but forget to pray for God's direction to order my day (self-reliance can be a problem).

God's word is uplifting and directs us. We can trust it. "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." (ESV, Prov. 16:9) "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." (NIV, Prov. 3:5-6)

There are many ways to converse

with God (prayer): whether less structured, throughout the day, unceasingly, or using a more formal approach involving the acronyms A.C.T.S. (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving & Supplication/what we request) or P.R.A.Y. (Praise, Repent, Ask & Yield). These formal types are good for me as the structured practice helps me

to slow down before I fly out of the house with my "to-do" list. At any rate, prayer is always "in season", and God loves when we seek His presence. God always hears us. How and when He answers is in His perfect timing

I was surprised when I arrived home on July 12 that God was already answering my prayer request of Pastor Gimbel. Neal greeted me with news of a phone call he'd received that put into motion the fulfillment of a project we'd worked on for 21 years. The next morning, all the people I needed to connect with to hash out questions to complete other tasks showed up at Fellowship Quilting. One person thought she couldn't come and arrived later for a short time. We were all blessed by her visit. God's timing was revealed.

As July 13 closed, I knew to stay put and wait for God's direction. "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" (ESV, Ps. 46:10) It then occurred to me that I could have Neal cover babysitting our 18month granddaughter, so I could again add to my schedule attending Tuesday's 10AM Women's Bible Study. Bible study keeps me grounded in Jesus.

Holy Cross' Bible Studies in addition to attending church worship are wonderful sources of spiritual nutrition to prepare us for discipleship. "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."

--Cynthia Menscher

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GRACE GUILD CRAFT EXPO 9AM to 3PM 3PM Holy Communion	2	3PM Holy Communion 5 to 7PM: Trunk or Treat	26	3рм Н	19	10AM 3PM H + Prt	12	3рм F + LV	5		4
				3PM Holy Communion		10AM Quilting Fellowship 3PM Holy Communion + Preschool Sings		3PM Holy Communion + LWML Weekend	<u>New</u> service time!	Saturday	

October 2024 Celebrations

The LORD will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Happy Birthday!

- 1: Jim Bastian, George Beyer, Dale Kling, Angie Maue, Justin Smith, Karen Steinbruegge
- 2: Carla Cooper, Oria Ray, Maxine Salarano, David Schlesselman, Wanda Woodhouse
- 3: Cindy Aubertin, Paul Bertram, Elma Jane Kramer, Tracy Porter
- 4: Mark Eaton, Joan Humphries, Justin Saale
- 5: Justin Cross, Clint Morrison
- 6: Dean Gooding
- 7: Craig Miget, Drew Miget, Carol Santoyo
- 9: Dianne Anderson, Kevin Rheinecker
- 10: Clayton Jones, Joshua Strubelt
- 11: Sandy Dietz, Holden Gimbel, Don Nordmeyer, Judith Peer
- 12: Linda Ledford
- 13: Spencer Dafler, Alli Smith, Linda Ziolko
- 14: Betty Lee (90), Emmett Zimmerman
- 15: Aleeah Ray, DJ Spearman

Happy Baptism Anniversary!

- 1: David Kunzweiler, Curt Paulson, Ray Schroeder
- 2: Melinda Meyers
- 3: Jenna Palmisano
- 4: Brett Albano
- 6: Jeff Schwentker
- 7: Austin Shouse
- 8: Kennedy Bartlett, Garrett Piazza
- 10: Jesse Smith
- 11: Mary Bollinger, Ian Claxton, Edna Deubel
- 12: Donald Duncan
- 13: Angela Maue, Christopher Polashek, Kiersten Tichenor
- 15: Beth Wuertz
- 16: Tina Hevey, Ian Laufer
- 17: Stanley Ziolko

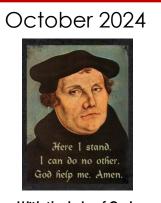
Blessed Wedding Anniversary!

- 1: Harold & Sandra Kohrs (64) Nick & Rachel Sampl (8)
- 2: Jim & Carol Boyd (4)
- 3: Mark & Jennifer Crider (26)
- 6: Bob & Robin Cross (40) Mark & Joan Humphries (34)
- 9: Craig & Carolyn DeMent (31)
 - Ryan & Natalie Van Wave (20)

- 16: Elaine Alton, Jennifer Dillender
- 17: Terry Amos, Ed Fattmann, Jessica Mincher, Jan Ogar, Rob Williams
- 18: Janet Allquist, Liz Belter, Ella Emerick, Loren Herr, David Ulrich, Katherine Wiese, Cherie Zimmermann
- 19: Anna DeMent, Rich Franzer, Miriam Gimbel
- 20: Glenda Kramer, Robert Reidel
- 21: Elsie Claxton, Sherian Duello, Kenny Sayers, Jeanette Stewart, Sharon Wachter
- 22: Peggy Goodman, Deborah Hegykozi, Ren Koepke. Lydia Legoute
- 24: Mark Hoemann, Mary Sawall, Betty Shaw, Valentina Smith
- 25: Nancy Brazee
- 26: Liam Conroy IV, Mark Unger
- 27: Kacey Booth, Bennett Dafler
- 28: Michelle Bettdur, Natalie Elick
- 29: Ingrid Marhanka, Matthew Maue
- 30: David Sampl, Jeff Schwentker
- 31: Homer Langley, Brian Storm, Darlene Wischmeyer
- 19: Karen Copper
- 21: Jonathan Frasch
- 22: Mariah LaBeau
- 23: Beckett Einsporn, Addisyn Freand
- 24: Holden Gimbel, David Schlesselman, Justin Shouse
- 25: Bailey Hunter
- 26: Vernon Herrington
- 27: Gordon Robinson, Megan Walkenhorst, Judie Woelfer
- 29: Elsie Claxton, Harper McCulloch, Maggie McCulloch, Kelly Schlereth
- 30: Jameson Alton, Jill Danchus, Elma Jane Kramer, Miriam Gimbel
 - 12: Michael & Lauren Claxton (11)
 - Steve & Denise Lackey (40) 13: David & Mary Sampl (45)
 - 14: Bob & Karon Steinbrugger (2)
 - 16: Bob & Karen Steinbruegge (25)
 - 20: Drew & Sarah Linn (12) Susan & Douglas Mays (40)
 - 23: David & Lauren Kunzweiler (4)
 - 24: Frank & Deborah Heavkozi (50)
 - 27: Barb & Charles Smock (58)

Koinonia-Fellowship Newsletter, a publication of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway, O'Fallon, MO 63366, is published monthly with information for its members. <u>Deadline for the November 2024 issue is</u> <u>Octoer 18, 2024.</u> Email submissions to secretary@hcross.com **prior** to the deadline.





With the help of God, Holy Cross Lutheran Church grows disciples and transforms hearts for Christ. Put Address Label Here

Holy Cross Lutheran Church: 1960 ~ 2024

Holy Cross

Lutheran Church

& Preschool

8945 Veterans Memorial Pkwy

O'Fallon, MO 63366 (636) 272-4505 www.hcross.com secretary@hcross.com

Rev. Andrew J. Gimbel Rev. Jason P. Kohm Pastoral Team

Charity Smith Director Christian Education

> David Gilson Director of Music

Morgan Calcaterra Preschool Director

> Joyce Niewald Church Secretary

GROW YOUR FAITH THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Preschool for 3s & 4s. Extended Care available.

Sunday School for ages 3 through High School —Sundays, 9:30AM and **Little Lambs** (under 3s with a parent)

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class: 9:30AM in the GYM

BASICS: For those who want to join the Lutheran Church **TLC (Transfer for Lutherans Class** *Call the office for next dates.*

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10AM, RMS 1&2

Adult Bible Class: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 6:30PM, RMS 1&2

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study: October 9, 6:30AM

Adult Bible Class: Wednesdays at 9:30 AM, GYM

Confirmation (grades 6-8); MidWeek Classes (grades PreK-5) — Classes start 6PM—see Wednesday night schedule, p. 5

High School Wednesdays, 6:30PM; see calendar

20s & 30s Bible Study: Thursdays, 6:30PM, Rm 1&2