

The *Weary* World **REJOICES**

People frequently begin conversations by asking each other how they're doing. You may not be aware of this, but whenever you're asked this question, you have a list of preset responses that you cycle between without even thinking about it. Such presets include, but are not limited to:

- "Good."
- "I'm well."
- "Not bad." (or "Not too bad.")
- "I'm fine."
- "Okay."
- "Great!"
- "I'm here."

I'm the kind of person who is painfully conscious and self-conscious of small talk. I try to think of unique yet truthful ways to respond to others who ask me how I'm doing, since people can have that exact conversation a dozen times a day, and I don't want to "go through the motions" with others. But I do still have my defaults, my automatic one or two-word summaries of how I'm doing at any given moment that I have to actively resist saying. Do you know what my default has been lately, the response that instantly comes to mind that I keep stopping myself from blurting out?

"Tired."

I'm tired. I'm tired of all the deaths Holy Cross has suffered since I've gotten here. I'm tired of the nights in which I have trouble sleeping. I'm tired of a world that seems largely intent on tearing itself apart. I'm tired of the sickness, and the pain, and the worry, and the fear, and the brokenness. "How are you, Pastor Jason?"

"I'm tired. I'm tired of the darkness."

The Scriptures introduce us to all sorts of people who were tired of the darkness. Women like



Sarah and Hannah were tired of their barren wombs, their inability to have a child. You can't get through 10 chapters of the Psalms without bumping into someone who brought their tiredness before the Lord. Moses got so fed up with Israel that he once asked God to kill him so he wouldn't

have to deal with them anymore. (Numbers 11:10-15 if you don't believe me!) God dealt with them all in His own time, but the darkness of the world persisted, inflicting widespread weariness on everyone.

In the season of Advent, we celebrate the remarkable action God took for the sake of this weary world: He entered it. He became a part of it. A child from the Holy Spirit was promised to two tired parents who traveled more than 70 miles on foot just to be turned away from the only hotel. And once they found a manger, the closest object to a crib they could get...Jesus was born. Immanuel. God with us ... and here to stay.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
(John 1:14)

The darkness is still around us, and it will still wear us out. But Advent is not a season of despair or resignation—it's a season of hope, hope in all of God's promises finding their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. It's a season of light, light that no darkness, try as it might, can overcome. It's a season of joy, something deeper than happiness that wells up from God becoming man, so He could bear our sin and be our Savior.

The weary world rejoices ... because Jesus is here.

~~ Pastor Jason

Monthly Music Minute for December 2024

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

Imagine yourself just outside of Bethlehem, two thousand or so years ago. It is night; the sheep have mostly settled down. It's your turn to keep watch while the other shepherds catch some shut-eye. It's particularly late, and you can feel yourself nodding off just a little bit, hoping that someone else wakes up and relieves you soon.

Then, suddenly, a bright light flashes across the sky. This isn't just a shooting star, or comet, or even the light from a full moon, though; it's overwhelming, like nothing you've ever seen. The shimmer of light is so bright and so full in the sky, brighter than the sun, even. It is so blinding that you cannot even begin to comprehend what you're seeing. The other shepherds jolt awake in fear, wondering if the world is coming to its end, as this is like nothing any of you have ever seen or even dreamt of before.

All of a sudden, you hear a loud voice crying out. Your eyes adjust, and you see something like a man, but somehow grander, somehow more powerful, somehow more imposing. The voice that comes out is strong and bold, but not in an antagonistic way. He calls "Do not be afraid, for I bring you great news. A baby, a savior, the *Messiah*, the one you've waited for, is born. Go to Bethlehem and see him!"



Just as you begin to process what you've just heard, another man clothed in white appears. Then another. And another. Before you know it, that blinding sky is full from horizon to horizon of shimmering men, singing the most beautiful, awe-inspiring song you've ever heard. It is as if you have seen a glimpse into heaven itself. And, just as quickly as the sky filled with light, it goes dark. Other than hearing one of the sheep bleating, all is still. Stunned, you look to your fellow shepherds. After a moment of processing, you realize what just happened. Every promise you've heard and waited for since you were a child has been fulfilled. There's only one thing left to do — so you head to the manger.



Now, imagine yourself in the realms of heaven. As a celestial being, you've also waited for this night for a long time. You can see beyond the curtain from heaven to the earthly realm. All is quiet down there. It's an ordinary night in the fields.



You see those shepherds who are dozing off, even the one who said he'd keep watch. You smirk, knowing what's coming next.

Gabriel calls you over, along with your fellow angels. "It's time," he says. You find yourself shaking, giddy with excitement. "I have just a few final instructions and things for you to remember before we go..."

"Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow; then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow. Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease: sing peace; sing gift of peace!"

Awake the sleeping world with song: this is the day the Lord has made. Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed. Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss: sing bliss; sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light, now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night. Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above: sing love; sing God is love!"

As Gabriel finishes his instructions, you find yourself struck by the gravity of the moment. The separation between God and His people, between heaven and earth is ending - and you get to be the one to share that news. You get to tell mankind that their fear, and

their death, and their sorrow are over. As an angel, you've always been in the full presence of God, of His incredible love, the very source of your joy and your light. Now it's time to give that dark, sinful, loveless world a chance to see the fullness of the love and light of your Creator, incarnate in the Son, Christ himself. And these sleepy, unsuspecting shepherds, in particular, are about to get a little taste of what that looks like.

"Everyone ready?" Gabriel asks. You smile.

"Then let's go."



The instructions from Gabriel that you have read above are taken from Jaroslav Vajda's incredible poem, "Before the Marvel of This Night," which will be sung as part of our Service of Lessons and Carols this year. The poem, beautifully set to music by Carl Schalk, imagines the final instructions to the angels before they sang that timeless hymn to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the Highest."

At Christmas, we often think about what the shepherds, or the wise men, or what Mary may have been thinking — but what might have the angels been thinking, giddy with anticipation? They knew the fullness of what was happening — that, through the birth of Jesus, heaven and earth could be reunited. What a marvel, that in the fields outside of Bethlehem the beings of heaven and beings of earth might meet in such a way, on the very night where God himself became flesh.

~~ David Gilson



"The Marvel of This Night"
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024
3PM (NEW TIME!!)
David Gilson, Music Director
Holy Cross Music Department
Orchestra, Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Handbells

SPECIAL MUSIC
During Advent and Christmas
at Holy Cross

~~~~~

**Saturday, 12/7, 3PM**  
*Family Christmas Service*  
with Beginning Bells and Children's Choir

~~~~~

Sunday, 12/8, 3PM
Preschool Christmas Service

~~~~~

**Sunday, 12/15, 4PM**  
*Gateway Ringers Christmas Concert*

~~~~~

Sunday, 12/22, 3PM
Service of Lessons and Carols
with Orchestra, Adult Choir, Children's Choir,
and Handbells
*One of our most popular services of the
year!
(Note the new time!)

~~~~~

**Tuesday, 12/24, 3, 5, 7, and 11PM**  
*Christmas Eve*  
*Divine Services with Holy Communion*  
Brass and Handbells at 5PM  
Brass and Choir at 7PM

~~~~~

More information: see pages 6 and 10.

Celebration of Lights 2024

Holy Cross participates in the Celebration of Lights (COL), sponsored by the City of O'Fallon, to spread the good news of the true meaning of Christmas.

The Board of Elders sets up a handcrafted nativity scene in the park and provides volunteers for three gate nights. Gate night duties include directing traffic at the front and rear gates and scanning entry tickets. Holy Cross' gate nights are **Dec. 9, Dec. 17, and Dec. 23 from 5:30 to 9PM.**

Some things to remember:

ALL tickets must be purchased before visiting the display at any time (including the Walk-Through)

2024 Admission Pricing:

Cars \$16 (for nights other than walk-through); Stroll ("Walk Through") \$8



Opens Nov. 29
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY
COL Closes Dec. 30, 2024
COL Website:
<https://www.ofallon.mo.us/celebration-of-lights>

Good Stewardship of Tax Dollars

Are you starting to think about taxes as we near the end of 2024? Below are two tips you might consider:

1) Through the Missouri District MOScholars program, you can direct up to one-half of your state taxes to support students in Lutheran schools. This will not save you tax money but will allow you to direct where it is spent. For details check out the "Support Our LCMS Schools" flyer on the middle table in the Welcome Center.

2) If you are over 70 and must take an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from your investments, consider donating it to charities so that it does not count as income on which you will be taxed.

If you have additional questions, feel free to talk with David Schlesselman about either or both programs.

Sharing the Light of Christmas with Friends

During the Walk-Through Nights of O'Fallon's Celebration of Lights (Dec. 8-10), Holy Cross will park cars for free in our lots, open our sanctuary, and serve hot drinks and cookies in the gym. This presents some great opportunities to share Jesus with people who only know Him from afar.

- ◆ Invite someone to walk through with you and share our Nativity scene with them
 - ◆ Donate cookies to welcome our guests
 - ◆ Share our beautiful sanctuary with them (elders will have it open for viewing, meditation, and prayer)
 - ◆ Sign up to serve cookies or park cars one evening
 - ◆ Encourage families to use the free photo booth in the gym
- Postcards are available on the table in the Welcome Center. Share one with a friend or family as you invite them to make Jesus the center of their Christmas.

HCLC Gate Nights: Dec. 9, Dec. 17, and Dec. 23

Volunteers needed! See signups in the Welcome Center.

By manning the gates, Holy Cross receives a portion of the contributions. So, if you're planning to go, go on a Holy Cross Gate Night and help support the Board of Elders who work on this project almost year-round!

For More Information about volunteer opportunities for Celebration of Lights: Contact Don Wischmeyer, Joe Snyder, Ed Belter, and Chris Price.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS

The last day to submit contributions for Holy Cross for the 2024 calendar year is Tues., Dec. 31, 2024. All contributions received by end of business on that date (noon) will be included on the 2024 contribution statement. Donations hand delivered to the church by Tues., Dec. 31, or received via USPS with a postmark of 12/31/24 or before, will also be included on the 2024 contribution statement. Any contributions received on or after Wed., Jan. 1, 2025, will be on the 2025 contribution statement.

Come!

Join us for

**HOPE
Seeds**



Thurs., Dec. 5
Gym, 9AM-Noon

Seeds packed for missions.

*Sponsored by Holy Cross
Stewardship Board.*

QUILTING FELLOWSHIP

Sat., Dec. 14
from 10AM to 2PM
in the gym.





We are delighted to invite you to

CHRISTMAS CAROL TO SHUT-INS

December 23

Arrive in the church parking by 5:45 pm for a 6:00 pm departure.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
8945 VETERANS MEMORIAL PKWY



DOOR PRIZES

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
HARVESTER

\$10 PER YOUTH

LATE NIGHT

Middle School
JANUARY 3
7-11PM

BRING FOOD DONATIONS FOR ST. TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

PIZZA

RSVP DUE DEC 29



The Longest Night of the Year

The Christmas season can be a dark and lonely time for some. Here are 3 ways to spend time with the Light of the World.

Sit by your lit Christmas tree in the dark and repeat Psalm 139: 12

Take a walk outside and create a breath prayer. A breath prayer is a short, two-part prayer. One is a name for God; the second is a petition or request. Here are some examples: "Loving Jesus, come quickly." "God of light, take away my fear." "Holy One, shine in my heart." Repeat the prayer throughout the walk.

Sit in the darkness inside your home. Light the four candles on the Advent wreath and be completely silent for at least 1 minute. After the silence, have hot chocolate, sing a carol, or read Luke 1: 5 - 2:21.

Devotions for home

For unto us a child is born!

Happy Birthday Jesus!

December 15, 2023
9:30-10:30 AM

Please join us for a party for Jesus!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Special Advent & Christmas Services and Events

Wed, Dec. 4, 11, & 18, 11AM & 7PM

Advent Midweek services: *Angels of the Season*
Midweek Dinners served 5:30 to 6:45PM

Sat, Dec. 7, 3PM

Family Christmas Service

with Children's Choir and Beginning Handbells
4PM—Service Project, Dinner, Family Photos

Sun, Dec. 8, 3PM

Preschool Christmas Service

"'Twas the Night Before Jesus"

Sun., Dec. 9, Mon., Dec. 10, Tues., Dec. 11
6 to 8:30PM

Celebration of Lights Walk-Throughs

Holy Cross hosts its parking lot for walkers, its Sanctuary for prayers, and its gym for warmth, cookies, and musical interludes!

Sun, Dec. 15, 4PM

Gateway Ringers Handbell Christmas Concert

Holy Cross Sanctuary

Sun, Dec. 22, 3PM

"The Marvel of This Night"

Service of Lessons & Carols
Adult Choir, Children's Choir, and orchestra
New Time!

Tuesday, Dec. 24: *Christmas Eve*

Holy Communion in ALL services:

3PM, 5PM, 7PM, 11PM

Special Music at 5PM and 7PM

Candlelight at 5PM, 7PM, 11PM

Wed., Dec. 25, *Christmas Day*, 9:30AM

Holy Communion

Weekend Services: Dec. 28-29

Regular Time Schedule

No Communion (5th Sunday)

No Service on New Year's Eve



"'Twas the Night Before Jesus"

Preschool Christmas Service

Sunday, Dec. 8

3PM

HOLY CROSS SANCTUARY



GATEWAY RINGERS
HANDBELL
CONCERT

AT HOLY CROSS,
Dec. 15, at 4PM

ADVENT SERVICES & MEALS

Wed, Dec. 4, 11, & 18, 11AM & 7PM

Advent Midweek services: *Angels of the Season*

For our Midweek Advent services this year, we will turn to the three angel visitations recorded in the Gospel of Luke. Whenever angels showed up in the Old Testament, they almost always terrified those to whom they appeared! But while the angels encountered in Luke are no more cute and cuddly than before, they all bear wonderful news and point to the birth of the Christ child. Join us as we reflect on their messages together!

Plan to share fellowship and food with Holy Cross members at the dinner table as three of our organizations do all the cooking and cleanup!

Dinner is at **5:30PM to 6:45PM** each Wednesday in Advent.

Midweek Advent 1: Dec. 4, 2024

Sponsored by Grace Guild

Menu: Baked Pasta, Bread Sticks, Desserts

Midweek Advent 2: Dec. 11, 2024

Sponsored by Missions & Stewardship Boards

Menu: To Be Decided

Midweek Advent 3: Dec. 18, 2024

Sponsored by Holy Cross Board of Elders

Menu: Hamburgers & Hot Dogs & More

Free will offerings will be collected.

TREAT BAGS FOR SEMINARY STUDENTS

The Mission and Stewardship Boards are teaming up for an end-of-semester Treat Bag Donation Drive for first-year Seminary students. Help us fill Treat Bags by donating **pre-packaged and snack/travel sizes** of the following items:

Candy	Chips
Fruit Snacks	Pretzels
Dried fruit	Peanuts
Caffeine drinks	Cookies
Granola bars	Hot Cocoa Mix
Sandwich Crackers	Etc.



The Treat Bag Donation drive runs until Nov. 24. A box to collect donated items will be in the Welcome Center under the Mission Board table. The box is labeled *Seminary Treat Bags*.

Bags will be assembled the weekend of Sat., Nov. 30, at 10:30AM in the gym. If you wish to help fill the 60 treat bags, please talk to Liz Belter. Also, our hope is to write encouraging letters to the students and include them in the treat bags. So, your help is needed!

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Dinner 5:30-6:45 pm

Midweek,

Confirmation* and

LYF 6:15-7 pm

Service 7-8 pm

DECEMBER 4, 11 & 18

No Level 200 Class

VBS 2025 IS COMING!

PLEASE SAVE THE FOLLOWING AT YOUR HOMES TO BE TURNED IN WHEN WE GET CLOSER TO VBS.

- OLD ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES (LIGHTS NOT NECESSARY)
- LARGE GIFT WRAP TUBES

**VBS
JUNE 16-20**



FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 7, 2024

Service 3-4 PM

Family pictures immediately following service.

Service Project & Dinner 4-6 PM

We will be making chrismsons to give away.

Family Christmas Service Practice Schedule

November 24, 9:30-10:30AM

December 4, 5:30-6:30PM

December 7, 1:30-2:30PM

Participants in the service should have RSVP'd to DCE Smith by Oct. 31.



All women of Holy Cross are invited to attend the 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:

Holy Cross Ladies Guild meets **Fri., Dec. 13, 10AM.**
Grace Evening Guild will not meet in December.



The Holy Cross Quilters recently donated 26 handmade quilts and 21 handmade lap robes to Solace Hospice Care. Sharon Christopher from Solace spoke at the November Ladies Guild meeting about their mission and accepted the donation. Shown in the photo are Norma Helms, Loretta Ezell, Cynthia Menscher, Debi Korte, Jeanette Stewart, Mary Sampl, Judy Kirby, and Sharon Christopher.

MISSIONS BOARD is collecting donations for The Lutheran Home in Wisconsin until the end of this year. The goal is to support the widows who reside at the home and depend on its many services. Many of the widows are on Title 19 assistance and some have no family support. Your generous donations will go to support The Angel Fund, which helps provide for hair and beauty appointments and other outside excursions that are an additional cost to their regular care. For these women, being able to leave the home and spend time in fellowship with others means the world, as they would normally not be able to do so. Many of the women have lost access to social security and other pensions and need help covering the Medicare reimbursement gap. We ask you to please pray for these widows and consider donating to this MOTQ so we can bless these women as they navigate this new and possibly difficult season in their lives.



Grace Guild Activities

Grace Evening Guild President Karen Copper decorated her car for **Trunk or Treat**. The purple shower curtain was labeled “Showered in Grace” and Karen dressed the part, too! She gave away 100 bags of candy corn put together by Grace Guild in its October meeting. Attached to each bag was an explanation of how the candy corn colors symbolized the Trinity. Pencils, pens, and erasers were also given out. Most trunks were out of treats early.

In November, Grace Guild members filled **gift bags and signed cards** for the congregation’s Shut-ins. Each Grace Guild member was asked to take one or more bags to deliver and visit with shut-in members before Thanksgiving.

The Craft Expo brought in \$1,954.10 from booth sales, proceeds, and donations which will be sent to LWML Missouri Mites. Next year’s Craft Expo is scheduled for Sat., Nov. 1, 2025.

ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS



The Altar Guild offers poinsettias which will decorate the altar for Christmas. Cost is \$11.

Sign up in the Flower Book in the Welcome Center. Write checks to “Holy Cross Lutheran Church” and put “Altar Flowers” on the memo line. Put checks in the blue envelopes and in the wooden box on the Flower Book table between the restrooms. Flowers can also be paid for using the online giving site. Flowers can be picked up after Christmas services and enjoyed at home!



Morgan Calcaterra
Preschool Director
&4s Teacher
Dani Richardson
3s Teacher



(636) 272-4505
Ext. 106 Preschool Office
Ext. 109 Extended Education
✉ mcalcaterra@hcross.com
🌐 preschool.hcross.com
📍 8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway
O'Fallon, MO 63366

MORGAN CALCATERRA
Preschool Director + 4s Teacher

Preschool is preparing for Thanksgiving, our Chick-Fil-A share night on Tues., Dec. 3, in Wentzville, and our Christmas service on Sun., Dec. 8, at 3PM! We have been having so much fun!

The Christmas Service is "The Night Before Jesus", and the kids have been working very hard to learn their songs. We have recently learned the letter H and created houses, we had a special Bounce House Day, and we have been working on playing together. The 3s class has mastered the Bible verse of Psalms 136:3, and enjoyed having a music parade. We have also recently made turkey feathers, talked about what we are thankful for, and decorated a turkey on our door!

We are still enrolling for 2024-2025 as needed, and 2025-2026 registration opens very soon! Please reach out to mcalcaterra@hcross.com if you or someone you know who has preschool interest!



Holy Cross Lutheran Preschool Dine to Donate Spirit Night

December 3rd, 2024 - 4pm to 8pm
1918 Wentzville Pkwy, Wentzville, MO 63385

Dine in AND Drive Through!
Just Mention "Preschool Spirit Night"



Above: Preschool friends build together.



Right: Preschool Bounce House Day in Holy Cross gym.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Calendar of Events – December 2024

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
1	First Sunday in Advent	2		3		4	Midweek Advent I	5		6		7	
8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion 12:30PM Missions & Stewardship Boards 1:30PM Board of Elders 2PM Altar Guild Christmas Party (Off-site)		9:30 AM TOPS 11:30AM Line Dancing 6:30PM Handbells		9AM Preschool Chapel 10AM Women's Bible Study Noon Staff Meeting 4 to 9pm Preschool Fund-raiser at Chick-Fil-A in Wentzville 6pm Boards Youth, Ed		9AM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM Advent Service 1PM Preschool Chapel 5:30PM FarnService practice 5:45PM Advent Meal 6:15PM LYF, Confirmation, Midweek 7pm Advent Service 8pm Adult Choir		8AM News & Notes Deadline 9AM HOPE Seeds 6:30pm 20s&30s Bible Study				1:30pm Family/Christmas Service Practice 3pm Family Christmas Service 4pm Service Project and meal	
8	Second Sunday in Advent	9		10		11	Midweek Advent II	12		13		14	
8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion 3pm Preschool Christmas Service		Holy Cross Celebration of Lights Gate Night 9:30 AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing 5:30pm Handbells 5:30pm Preschool Open House in Rm 1-2		9AM Preschool Chapel 10am Women's Bible Study 12:30pm Staff Meeting		9AM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM Advent Service 1PM Preschool Chapel 5:45pm Advent Meal 6:15pm LYF, Confirmation, Midweek 7pm Advent Service 8pm Adult Choir		8AM News & Notes Deadline 10:30AM Ladies Guild Setup 6:30pm 20s&30s Bible Study		Church Office Closed 10:30AM Ladies Guild 10AM Ladies Guild		10AM Quilting Fellowship 10AM TEC 3PM Holy Communion	
CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS WALK THROUGH 6-8:30PM Sanctuary Open; Cookies in Gym; Music: Sun, Jazz Band; Mon, Handbells; Tues, Brass													
15	Third Sunday in Advent	16		17		18	Midweek Advent III	19		20		21	
8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 9:30AM Birthday Party for Jesus (Sunday School) 10:45AM Holy Communion 4PM Gateway Ringers		9:30 AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing 6:30PM Handbells		Holy Cross Celebration of Lights Gate Night 9AM Preschool Chapel 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting 6:30pm Adult Bible Class		9AM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM Advent Service 5:45PM Advent Meal 6:15PM LYF, Confirmation, Midweek 7pm Advent Service 8pm Adult Choir		8AM News & Notes Deadline 10:30AM Preschool Christmas Party (gym) 6:30pm 20s&30s Bible Study		Koinonia Production 10:30AM & 2:30pm Preschool Christmas Parties (gym)		3PM Holy Communion	
22	Fourth Sunday in Advent	23		24	Christmas Eve	25	Christmas Day	26		27		28	
No Sunday School 8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 9:30AM Midweek Teacher Training (Sanctuary) 10:45AM Holy Communion 3pm Lessons & Carols		Holy Cross Celebration of Lights Gate Night PRESCHOOL CLOSED Koinonia Mailing 9:30 AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing 5:45pm Christmas Caroling		PRESCHOOL CLOSED Christmas Services At 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 11pm — All Communion Services Candlelight at 5, 7, 11pm		PRESCHOOL CLOSED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:30AM Holy Communion		PRESCHOOL CLOSED 8AM News & Notes Deadline		PRESCHOOL CLOSED		3pm Worship Service —No Communion	
29		30		31		1	JANUARY	2		3		4	
No Sunday School 8AM Worship Service —No Communion 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 10:45AM Worship Service — No Communion		PRESCHOOL CLOSED 9:30 AM TOPS 11:30AM Line Dancing		PRESCHOOL CLOSED Church Office Closes at Noon		PRESCHOOL CLOSED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED		PRESCHOOL CLOSED 8AM News & Notes Deadline 9AM HOPE Seeds 6:30pm 20s&30s Bible Study		PRESCHOOL CLOSED Saturday Event Setup (TBD)		9AM Undecorating the Church from Christmas Noon: Private Event (gym) 3PM Holy Communion	

December Celebrations 2024

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

Happy Birthday!

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1: Bill Holt, Donna Johnson, Julie Northrup | Lily Witte | Kemper, Diana Snyder |
| 2: Betty Kling, Andi Stover | 12: Rachel Bauer, Jenna Rincand, Keson Grissom, Susan Haywood, Jaxson Showen | 23: Shawn Huber, Thiago Rincand |
| 3: David Weseman | 13: Christel Hundt, Nolan Jones | 24: Ed Belter, Carleen Hardy, George Kirby, Chris Marhanka, Natalie Van Wave |
| 4: Tracey McKinney | 14: Rick Wiese III | 26: Connie Ryan, Paul Woelfer |
| 5: Lucas Buehne, Pat Koepp, Dee Paoletti | 16: Kayleigh Brown, Sherry Piazza | 27: Delores Daly, Eric Polashek |
| 6: Alison Blundell | 17: Warner Macke, Audrey Stover | 28: Ronald Kettler, Sarah Schnoor |
| 7: Rory Fink, Joyce McEntire | 18: Kelli Bullington, Wayne Fore | 29: Brad Leapley, Grace McKinney, Vita Sayers, Lydia Sumski |
| 8: Brenda Fore, Lila Gimbel, Marek Linn | 19: Booker Henningfeld, Katie Ziolko | 30: Mia Frerichs, Lauren Kunzweiler |
| 9: Maddie Dawdy, Rick Johns | 20: Mike Dawdy, Samantha Kessels, Harper Prose, Mick Thoene | 31: Amelia Hunter, Bryce Hunter, Steven Liescheidt, Nancy Scaglione (90) |
| 10: Jonathan Davison, Wyatt Dunajcik | 21: Jacob Drilling, Bob Kaltmayer Jr., Anne Ziegemeier | |
| 11: Faith Blackwell, Kristine Morgan, Larry Schilling, Christine Storm, Nancy Thoene, | 22: Cooper Freand, Brandon | |

Baptism Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1: Matthew Claxton, Marilyn Otto, Bernice Sutliff | 11: Judith Bonney, Marek Linn | 26: Theodore Langley |
| 2: Connie Gamache, Peggy Kuerschner | 12: Oria Ray | 27: McKenzie Kiely, Peggy Linn |
| 3: Greyson Linn | 13: Ian Curtis, Bob Knehans, Anya Ziolko | 28: Payton Frederking, Mike Kahler, John Schneider IV, Taylor Schneider |
| 5: Brian Belter, Melanie Dafler | 14: Emily Kahler | 29: Emmett Zimmerman |
| 6: Kaitlyn Cunningham, Jocelyn Elick, Natalie Elick, Shana Elick, Darlene Wischmeyer | 15: Drew Linn | 30: Bill Beck, Lauren Bowers, Levi Bowers, Ryleigh Bowers, Carla Cooper, Sherry Piazza, Abigail Schlereth, Logan Schulte |
| 7: Doris Hewkin, Linda Ziolko | 16: Nimve Smith | |
| 8: Steven Estes | 17: Craig DeMent, Leonidas Franklin | |
| 9: Greg Bonney, Wanda Woodhouse | 18: Lila Gimbel, Patty Ulrich | |
| | 20: Lisa Aston, Michelle Kincaid | |
| | 24: Robert Blundell | |
| | 25: Gary Schuler | |

Wedding Anniversaries

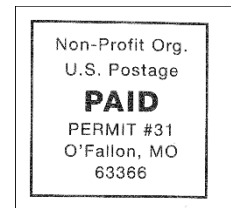
- Dec. 11** Roger & Joyce Trost (70)
Dec. 16: Brad & Darlyne Leapley (18)
Dec. 28: Tracy & Floyd Porter (42)
Dec. 30: Brian & Trudy Belter (1)

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. Deadline for the January 2025 issue is December 13, 2024. Email submissions to secretary@hcross.com **prior** to the deadline.



Help us
UNDECORATE
the church
January 4, 2025
9AM
Bring the family!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway
O'Fallon, MO 63366
Address Service Requested



December 2024



Merry Christmas

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: Wed., Jan 8, 6:30AM

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

Confirmation (grades 6-8); MidWeek Classes (grades PreK-5)
— see Wednesday night schedule, p. 7, 10

High School Wednesdays, see calendar

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