

FOURTH SUNDAY IN *Advent*

Our Mission:
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
636.272.4505
secretary@hcross.com
www.hcross.com

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

Charity Smith
Director of Christian Education

David Gilson
Director of Music

Morgan Calcaterra
Preschool Director

Joyce Niewald
Church Secretary
secretary@hcross.com

Services held in Sanctuary:
Saturdays, 3PM,
Sundays, 8AM & 10:45AM
Live Stream on Sunday at 8AM
Education Hour at 9:30AM
Connect through
www.hcross.com or
YouTube channel at

Holy Cross Lutheran Church O'Fallon MO

If you want an audio recording (CD) of
the Sunday 8AM service, please notify
the office. We also send out bulletins,
weekly newsletters, and DVD recordings
(visual) to those who request them.

CHURCH OFFICE

CHECK WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR UPDATES
636.272.4505
secretary@hcross.com



Fourth Sunday in Advent News & Notes for December 21-22 2024

WELCOME TO EVERYONE joining us for worship today.

WE PRAY for our members: Karen Belter; Dennis Benassi; Barbara Benigno; Marie Benigno; Paul Bertram; Mary Kay Bethke; George Beyer; Kacey Booth; Nancy Caldwell; Teegan Cannon; Mike Dawdy; Shirley Day; Bob & Carolyn Delohi; Brenda Duncan; Renea Erickson; Rich Franzer; Janice Fred; Peggy Gallagher; Connie Gamache; Phyllis Gronewald; Marie & Vernon Herrington; Lizzie Johansmann; Ron Kettler; Deborah Kiely; Sandra Kohrs, Debra Korte; Jim Kramer; Bob Kunz; Joyce Lang; Betty Lee; Albert Marhanka; Ingrid Marhanka; Terry McCann; Shirley Niewald; Donna Nordmeyer; Don Otto; Debbie Parks; Dee Paoletti; Bill Price; Gloria Rariden; Zeita Reed; Darlene Rhodes; Ron Rutledge; Carol Santoyo; Vita Sayers; Winnie Thornton; Charles Wardenburg; Larry Williams, Ernestine Wilson.

WE PRAY for our family and friends:

Jim (John Bertram)
Darlene Barr-Walag (Peggy Kuerschner)
Joanne Bonney (Greg Bonney)
Rachel Butkovich (Tom & Sue Haywood)
Elizabeth Cash (Heather Koepke)
Norma Jean Cecil (Alice Buehne)
Mark Chiodini (Nicholas Chiodini)
Charles Claxton Jr. (Matthew Claxton)
Debbie Collier (Ron Rutledge)
Gorman Cooper (Tina Morrison)
Norma Cooper (Wendy Tentschert)
William Dafler (Wes Dafler)
John Darby (Rick Walkenhorst)
Teresa Doerr (frequent visitor)
Lowell Duncan (Don Duncan)
Wayne Edwards (Kari Spearman)
Sandra Fleak (Becky Edgar)
Jim Fowler (Lovisa Davison)
Patty Gunnufson (Chris Price)
Helen Ham (Verna Tucker)
Denise Heins (Becky Coomer)
Peter Hernon (Elaine Alton)
Sharon Hesse (Barb Krieger)
Jan Hilton (Zeita Reed)
Jeff Johns (Denice Johns)
Bill Knehans (Bob & Barb Knehans)
Keith Lindsay (Ralph & Renea Erickson)
Catherine Loney (Nicole Alton)
Sandy Longo (Randy Jones)
Denora Lum (Darlene Wischmeyer)
Lisa Markel (Grace Randazzo)
Elaina, Ian & Megan Martin (Helveys)
Malu Martin (Dawn Kahler)
Kenny & Lois Meyer
(Carla Cooper, Karen Copper)
Mike (Debbie Parks)
Shirley Moore (Judy Bonney)
Ginny Niewald (Niewalds)
Paul Palombi (Diane Palombi)
Virginia Pendley (Shawn Huber)
Vera Piazza (Robert & Sherry Piazza)
Cindy Preston (Maryanne McDaniel)

Loyce Sagez (Randy & Denise Sagez)
Sherrill Schlimpert (Loretta Ezell)
Blake Schmalzer (Rebecca Schmalzer)
Ray Schmidt (Ron Doerr)
Rosemary Schreiber (Peggy Gallagher)
Bonnie Schaffer (David Weseman)
Sara Shroth (choir accompanist)
Jim Smith (Jesse Smith)
Stanika Todorova (Paul & Juliana Frerichs)
Frank Wachter (Elaine Howard)
Colleen West (Bob & Sue Williams)
Sandy Wischmeyer (Marilyn Mana)
John Allquist III, Duane Stuewe (Janet Allquist)
Carson Aston, Chlaara Aston,
Sharon Staten (Lisa Aston)
Bruce Brown, Eddie Collier (Denise Collier)
Maureen King, Ryan Wells (Kathleen Day)
Lois Jobe, Ron Kasten (Jan Flentke)
Laura & Mark Gilson (David Gilson)
Tim Deppe, Rich Waiwood
~ (Kent & Janine Haffer)
Linda Elrod, Alicia Kleb, Jeanette
Kruse, Jane Redhage, Marian
Schwentker, Andy & Alicia Kincaid;
Cindy Kincaid (Michelle Kincaid)
George & Sandra Roberts (Elma Jane
Kramer)
Doris Lackey, Matt Lackey
(Denise & Steve Lackey)
John Bach, Rachel Long (Betty Lee)
Pat McCarty, Serena Whiteside
~ (Orion Melton)
Tim Colvert; Michelle Showe
~ (Neil & Cynthia Menscher)
David Oshia, Brian Rubar, Chase
Russell,
Carol Sills (Barb Parson)
Pat Gunn, Susan Risinger
~ (Gloria Rariden)
Amy Mueller, Larry Schenk (Carol Santoyo)
Charlotte Gaines, Nisseem, Daniel,
Dr. Eric Semler (Sandra Semler)
Sara, Laila, and Cameron McKisson
(Carla Wiese)

WE PRAY for those who mourn: for the family of Edwin M. Fattmann Sr., who entered the Church Triumphant on Sun., Dec. 15, and was given Christian burial Sat., Dec. 21.

Holy Cross Weekly Calendar

Saturday, December 21, 2024

3PM Holy Communion

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Advent

8AM Holy Communion

9:30AM Adult Bible Class

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45AM Holy Communion

3PM Lessons & Carols

Monday, December 23, 2024

OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON

JANUARY KOINONIA MAILING

PRESCHOOL CLOSED UNTIL JAN. 6

9:30AM TOPS

11AM Line Dancing

Celebration of Lights: HOLY CROSS GATE NIGHT

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

Communion Services at:

3PM, 5PM, 7PM, 11PM

Candlelight Service at:

5PM, 7PM, 11PM

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30AM Holy Communion

Thursday, December 26, 2024

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

8AM News & Notes Deadline

Friday, December 27, 2024

OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON

9AM to NOON: Treasurer's Meeting

Saturday, December 28, 2024

3PM Holy Communion

Sunday, December 29, 2024

First Sunday after Christmas

8AM Worship Service — No Communion

9:30AM Adult Bible Class

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45AM Worship Service — No Communion

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.

Church Attendance for Dec. 14-15, 2024

Service	Attendance	Communion
SAT., 3PM	49	43
SUN., 8AM	114	97
SUN., 10:45AM	95	84
TOTAL	258	224

ADVENT 3 MIDWEEK WORSHIP, DEC. 18: 47 (11AM) + 79 (7PM) = 126

**Bible Class Attendance
Week of Dec. 15, 2024**

NA=not applicable; NR=not reported; C= cancelled

Little Lambs, Sunday	2
Sunday School: PreK to Gr 5	17
Sunday School: Gr. 6-12	8
Sunday Adult Bible Class	48
TLC/BASICS	NA
Tuesday Women's 10AM	NR
Tuesday Evening, 6:30PM	4
Men's Breakfast & Bible	NA
Wednesday AM	34
Wednesday Nights	43
20s&30s Thursday	10

**Weekly Offerings:
Dec. 9-15, 2024**

General Fund	\$	15,490.61
Endowment	\$	0.00
Building Fund	\$	125.00
Missions Weekly	\$	350.00
Missions Total Sept-Dec	\$	11,454.05

Year to Date as of 11/30/2024

Income	\$	679,220.38
Expenses	\$	669,277.13
Surplus	\$	9,943.25

H.O.P.E. FOOD MINISTRIES

Weekly Totals: Dec. 18, 2024

Families: 78

Individuals: 263

Prayer List for Active Military:

Dominic Bisesi, Andrew Chema; Timothy Daniels, Isabella Huber, Zackary Huber, Josh Linn, Justin Quinn, Joshua Rainwater, Jackson Redfield, Jesse Smith, and Matthew Thornton.

HOPE Ministries requests these items from Holy Cross for January: canned beef stew, canned chili, sloppy joe sauce, ramen noodles, gravy. Place items in the box under the Mission Board display in the Welcome Center. No expired goods can be accepted.

MISSION BOARD brings **fresh fruits and vegetables** to the Seminary. Write your check to Holy Cross with a memo line for *Mission Board Fresh Foods to the Seminary*. **HOPE Ministries food bank donations** are accepted in the bin beneath the Mission Board bulletin board.

HOLY CROSS LADIES GUILD collects packaged and canned **food** and all types of **soap** for the Concordia Seminary Food Bank.

MITES: Pick up a Mite box from the LWML table to collect change for LWML grants to missions around the world.

STAMP COLLECTION: Ladies Guild collects canceled postage stamps to raise money for missions. Cut stamps from envelopes with about half an inch of paper left all around. Collection baskets are on the Welcome Center bookshelf and on the shelf above the coatrack by the downstairs kitchen.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for January-March 2025 & *The Lutheran Witness* are available on the Welcome Center table.

Holy Cross Buy/Sell Facebook Group Now Available

A Facebook group for Holy Cross members allows member-to-member selling of large goods (not household rummage sale items) as a Stewardship Board fundraiser to support Holy Cross ministries. Selling members are urged to donate a minimum of 10% of the sell price to Holy Cross Stewardship Board: stewardship@hcross.com

UPDATES NEEDED: Please take time today to review the prayer lists. Keep our lists updated! Let us know if prayers have been answered. Some family and friends have been on the list for several years, and we do not know their current status. Use a prayer card, or call or email the church.



Service of Lessons & Carols:
 The Marvel of This Night
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
December 22, 2024: 3PM

PORTALS OF PRAYER for January—March 2025 are also available on the centered table.

PILL BOTTLE COLLECTION: The response has been GREAT! However, we will put a pause on collecting these items until some time in the new year. Keep cleaning and delabeling bottles! Thanks for recycling!

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE at Holy Cross will be Thurs., Jan. 16, from 10AM to 3PM. More information to come.

JANUARY KOINONIA will be published next week. Enjoy reading articles, getting the calendar and anniversary dates. Also, a special section with thank you notes from Concordia Seminary students for their goodie bags that so many of you donated to and helped put together.

MISSIONS BOARD: Donations for The Lutheran Home in Wisconsin until the end of this year will support the widows who reside at the home and depend on their many services. Your generous donations will 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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING to Shut-in Members:



On Monday evening, Dec. 23, Holy Cross members will be Christmas Caroling to some of our shut-in members. We will meet in the parking lot at 6PM and carpool in groups. We have extra drivers if you are concerned about driving. Words to Christmas carols will be provided. No musical talent is required: just a joy to share Jesus. The

elderly really enjoy young children. Sign up on the Welcome Center sheet so we can plan groups.

DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE?

If you would like to attend any of the four Christmas Eve services and have no transportation or would prefer not to drive, please give me a call. I would be happy to provide that ride to church for you so that you can enjoy Christmas with your Holy Cross family. Just call David Schlesselman at 636-578-1766.



THANKS - THANKS - THANKS

Our service to people from our community for the Walk-Through nights would not be possible without the help of so many wonderful volunteers here at Holy Cross. A huge appreciation of gratitude to all the ladies who served the receptions in the gym, the many members who donated cookies, the men who helped to park the cars, and the musicians who provided Christmas music for listening. In the three nights together, we parked over 600 cars, provided refreshments for over 700 people, and handed out hundreds of books about Jesus. None of this is possible without help from all of you. May God bless the seeds we sowed.

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



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VBS
JUNE 16-20



NYG 2025 Meeting!

January 12
Noon in the gym
Pizza Lunch

Topics of the meeting

- Fundraising
- Transportation
- Timeline
- \$150 Due Jan 31
- Expectations

Current 8th - 12th Graders



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

2024-2025 Enrollment and Registration

2024-2025
TUITION
STRUCTURE

ABOUT
OUR
PROGRAM

2024-2025
ENROLLMENT
FORM

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

LATE NIGHT Middle School: Jan. 3, 7-11PM, at Zion Lutheran Church in Harvester. Door Prizes. Pizza. Bring food donations for St. Trinity Lutheran Church. \$10 per youth. RSVP Due Dec. 29.



LOCK-IN for 6th—12th Grade: Jan. 17-18, 9PM to 9AM. Bring \$5 and a friend. Girls bring drinks; boys bring snacks. RSVP by Jan. 8 with QR Code or at hcros.com/youth.



HOLY CROSS GAME DAY: Jan. 18, 2025, in the gym. Bring games. Bring food. Have fun. Doors Open from 9AM-2PM.

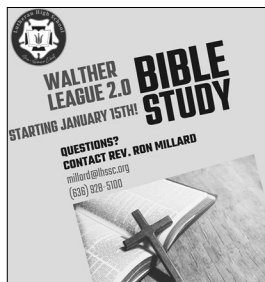
Portals of Prayer (January—March 2025) and The Lutheran Witness (December 2024) are available on the Welcome Center table.

LUTHERAN HIGH NEWS:

The December Cougar Connection is here, packed with updates, celebrations, and exciting plans for the future of Lutheran High School! Check it out on our website: <https://lutheranhighstcharles.com/2024/12/12/check-out-the-latest-edition-of-the-cougar-connection/>

It's an exciting time at Lutheran High as **applications** are now being accepted for new students to join Cougar Nation! Re-enrollment information for our current students for the **2025-2026 school year** will be sent out in February. Please keep an eye on your email for details about the process, important dates, and any updates for the new school year.

Lutheran High School is excited to announce the launch of **Walther League 2.0**, an intergenerational Bible Study that will take place every 3rd Wednesday of the month, beginning Jan. 15. Held in the LHS Library, this unique gathering offers a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, spiritual growth, and connection across generations as we explore the Book of Revelation together. The morning will



begin with fellowship from 8:00-8:30 AM (coffee and snacks provided by LCEF), followed by Bible Study from 8:30-9:15 AM. From 9:15-9:30 AM, there will be a time for interaction with LHS students, and the morning will conclude with Chapel at 9:45 AM. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors, and join us in growing together in faith and community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

LHS Cookbook! Over 65 delicious recipes submitted by the community! Perfect as a Christmas gift or a valuable addition to your recipe collection. Pricing: Printable PDF: \$10. Printed Recipe Book: \$15. All proceeds support LHS Prom! You can get your copy soon while supporting a great cause! Order here: <https://form.jotform.com/243234143735048>