



SECOND 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



Second Sunday in Advent

News & Notes for December 7-8, 2024

WELCOME TO EVERYONE joining us for worship today.

WE PRAY for our members: 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; **Terry** McCann; **Shirley** Niewald; **Donna** Nordmeyer; **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)
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)
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)
Arden Jepsen (Jayne Jepsen)
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 Sehaffer (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)

We pray for Sara McKisson and her daughters, Laila and Cameron. Sara's husband and the girls' father died unexpectedly in his sleep on Dec. 1. Sara is Carla Wiese's childhood best friend.

Holy Cross Weekly Calendar

Saturday, December 7, 2024

1:30PM Family Christmas
 3PM Family Christmas Service (sanctuary)
 Followed by meal and service project (gym)

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Second Sunday in Advent

8AM Holy Communion
 9:30AM Education Hour
 10:45AM Holy Communion
 3PM Preschool Christmas Service

Celebration of Lights Walk-Through (Sun—Tues)

6-8:30PM: Cookies, hot drinks; Music: Jazz Band
 Sanctuary open during Walk-Through (Elders)

Monday, December 9, 2024

OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON, 1PM TO 3:30PM

9:30AM TOPS
 11AM Line Dancing
 5:30PM Handbells

6PM Executive Committee (off-site)

Celebration of Lights Walk-Through (Sun—Tues)

6-8:30PM: Cookies, hot drinks; Music: Handbells
 Sanctuary open during Walk-Through (Elders)

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON, 1:30-3PM

9AM Preschool Chapel
 10AM Women's Bible Study
 12:30PM Staff Meeting

Celebration of Lights Walk-Through (Sun—Tues)

6-8:30PM: Cookies, hot drinks; Music: Brass
 Sanctuary open during Walk-Through (Elders)

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON, 1 TO 3:30PM

9AM Preschool Chapel
 9:30AM Adult Bible Class
 11AM Midweek Advent 2 Service
 1PM Preschool Chapel
 5:30PM to 6:45PM; Advent Meal
 6:15PM LYF, Confirmation, Midweek
 7PM Midweek Advent 2 Service
 8PM Choir

Thursday, December 12, 2024

OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON, 1 TO 3:30PM

8AM News& Notes Deadline
 Circuit Meetings (Called Staff)
 10:30AM Ladies Guild Setup
 6:30PM 20s&30s Bible Study

Friday, November 13, 2024

JANUARY 2025 KOINONIA DEADLINE

OFFICE HOURS: CLOSED

10AM Ladies Guild

Saturday, December 14, 2024

9:30AM TEC MEETING
 10AM Quilting Fellowship
 3PM Holy Communion

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Third Sunday in Advent

8AM Holy Communion
 9:30AM Adult Bible Class
 9:30AM Birthday Party for Jesus (Sunday School)
 10:45AM Holy Communion
 4PM Gateway Handbell Ringers

Church Attendance for Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2024

Service	Attendance	Communion
SAT., 3PM	27	22
SUN., 8AM	80	58
SUN., 10:45AM	77	69
TOTAL	184	149
ADVENT 1 MIDWEEK WORSHIP, DEC. 4: 43 (11AM) + 93 (7PM) = 136		

**Bible Class Attendance
 Week of Dec. 1, 2024**

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

Little Lambs, Sunday	3
Sunday School: PreK to Gr 5	6
Sunday School: Gr. 6-12	8
Sunday Adult Bible Class	48
TLC/BASICS	NA
Tuesday Women's 10AM	13
Tuesday Evening, 6:30PM	NA
Men's Breakfast & Bible	NA
Wednesday AM	34
Wednesday Nights	40
20s&30s Thursday	9

**Weekly Offerings:
 Nov. 18-24, 2024**

General Fund	\$	11,198.19
Endowment	\$	0.00
Building Fund	\$	0.00
Missions Weekly	\$	570.00
Missions Total Sept-Dec	\$	7,751.80

Year to Date as of 10/31/2024

Income	\$	622,597.99
Expenses	\$	603,495.29
Surplus	\$	19,102.70

H.O.P.E. FOOD MINISTRIES

Weekly Totals: Dec. 4, 2024
 Families: 75
 Individuals: 264

Prayer List for Active Military:

Dominic Bisesi, Andrew Chema; Timothy Daniels, Nathaniel Einfeldt, 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 December: Corn meal mix, syrup, Tuna Helper, Spaghetti Noodles, Jelly. 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 new 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 office by Wednesday.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are in the Welcome Center on the table by the whiteboard.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES: For 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 whomever they appeared to! 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! Services are Dec. 4, Dec. 11, and Dec. 18.

ADVENT MEALS: Three groups will sponsor Advent meals in December: Missions & Stewardship Boards host on Dec. 11: Mystery Meal; and Board of Elders host on Dec. 18: Hamburgers & Hot dogs. **Dinner is served from 5:30PM to 6:45PM** on those Wednesdays in the gym.

UPDATE for Walk-Through

Volunteers: A BIG THANK YOU to all!

- * If you donated cookies, please drop them off in the kitchen this weekend or during business hours on Monday or Tuesday.
- * If you are helping park cars, please arrive by 5:15PM, if possible.
- * Kitchen helpers, please carpool if possible, and arrive by 6PM.

SHARE JESUS AND HOLY CROSS with Friends: The Walk-Through Nights provide an excellent opportunity to share with a friend, neighbor, or co-worker. Our sanctuary will be open for meditation and prayer all three nights. Use it for personal prayer or offer to pray **with** a friend going through trials. Pick up a blue card from the table in the Welcome Center and use it to invite a friend to experience the real Light of Christmas, Jesus, that you have at Holy Cross.

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.



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 christmas to give away.



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


Lessons & Carols:

“The Marvel of This Night”

SUNDAY, DEC. 22, 2024
3PM (NEW TIME!!)

David Gilson, Music Director
Holy Cross Music Department
Orchestra, Adult Choir,
Children’s Choir, Handbells

MISSIONS BOARD will collect donations for The Lutheran Home in Wisconsin until the end of the year. The widows who reside at the home depend on their many services. Many are on Title 19 assistance and some have no family support. Donations will support The Angel Fund, which provides for hair and beauty appointments and other outside excursions that are an additional cost to their regular care. 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. 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.



“Twas the Night Before Jesus”
Preschool
Christmas Service
Sunday, Dec. 8
3PM
HOLY CROSS SANCTUARY



HANDBELL CONCERT
AT HOLY CROSS
Dec. 15, at 4PM

MISSIONS BOARD: Donations for The Lutheran Home in Wisconsin until the end of this year will support 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. 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 their social security and other pensions and need help with the Medicare reimbursement gap. We ask you to please pray for these widows. Consider donating to this MOTQ so these women can be blessed as they navigate this new and possibly difficult season in their lives.

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
6045 VETERANS MEMORIAL PKWY.

LUTHERAN HIGH NEWS:

LHS engineering classes designed and manufactured 2024 LHS Christmas Ornaments! These laser-engraved ornaments would make great Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers! Each ornament design can be ordered in wood or acrylic. All proceeds will be donated to charity. All ornaments are \$5 with new colors this year! Choose from wooden or acrylic. Pick up at LHS by Wed., Dec. 18. Order at: <https://form.jotform.com/243264303676053>.

Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is open! Lutheran High is launching an improved enrollment procedure through FACTS! Visit our website: <https://lutheranhighstcharles.com/> and click "Enroll Here" to start your enrollment process!



Thank you!

FOR YOUR HELP WITH THE FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE.

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS: Holy Cross will participate in the Celebration of Lights (COL), sponsored by the City of O'Fallon, to spread the good news of the true meaning of Christmas.

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.**

For More Information Contact Don Wischmeyer, Joe Snyder, Ed Belter, and Chris Price

TICKETS for the Walk-Through Nights or any other Celebration of Lights nights must be purchased online: ofallon.mo.us/celebration-of-lights



HOLY CROSS' OPEN HOUSE FOR CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS: WALK THROUGH THE PARK: The City of O'Fallon will host 3 nights for people to walk through Zumwalt Park and

view the Christmas lights and displays. They expect 5,000 people each evening. Holy Cross will offer free parking, hot drinks, cookies, and Christmas music in our gym. This is a great opportunity for us to share Jesus and Holy Cross with people from our community. If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, check out the sign-up sheets on the Welcome Center table. You can:

- *Help park cars in our lots one or more nights
- *Donate several dozen cookies
- *Serve refreshments in the gym

Walk-through nights are: Sun., Dec. 8; Mon., Dec. 9; and Tues., Dec. 10.

Cookies can be dropped off in the kitchen downstairs the weekend of Dec. 7-8. PLEASE **label** your cookie contribution for Celebration of Lights since Family Christmas is Dec. 7 and Preschool Christmas service is Dec. 8 at 3PM.

Cookies can also be dropped off in the kitchen during business hours on Dec. 9-10.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS ALTAR

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 to enjoy at home!



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



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

If you are unable to get to church and would like a copy, call or email the church office, and one will be mailed to you.

PEW PENCIL PLACEMENT: Put pew pencils in the correct slots (not where prayer cards and extra envelopes are kept.) Envelope slots are getting jammed with pencils—and it is time-consuming to retrieve them and blocks refilling with prayer cards and extra envelopes.

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS: We are having company this week at all levels of our building! Please keep our building tidy!

- ◆ Take personal cups and other dishes home
- ◆ Put used bulletins in the ushers' basket or take them home
- ◆ Pick up jackets, coats, umbrellas, etc., from coat racks