



FIRST SUNDAY OF *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



First Sunday in Advent

News & Notes for November 30-December 1, 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; 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)
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)

We pray for the family of **Don Nordmeyer**, who entered the Church Triumphant on Sun., Nov. 24. Funeral arrangements are private. We also pray for the family of **Penelope Karrenbrock**, friend of Amanda Alton, who died Nov. 26.

We also pray in thanksgiving for the early birth of **Elaina Martin**, great-granddaughter of Paul and Dianne Helvey; Elaina is in the NICU, and for her mother **Megan** as she recovers from the birth.

Holy Cross Weekly Calendar

Saturday, November 30, 2024

9AM Church Decorating for Christmas
 10:30AM Missions: Bagging Treats for Seminary
 3PM Holy Communion

Sunday, December 1, 2024

First Sunday in Advent

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 (offsite)

Monday, December 2, 2024

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

9:30AM TOPS
 11AM Line Dancing
 6:30PM Handbells

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON

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

Preschool Fundraiser at Chick-Fil-A

Dine to Donate Spirit Night, **4 to 8PM**
 1918 Wentzville Pkwy, Wentzville, MO
Dine in or Drive-Through!

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

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

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

Thursday, December 5, 2024

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

8AM News & Notes Deadline

9AM HOPE Seeds
 6:30PM 20s&30s Bible Study

Friday, November 29, 2024

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

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

Church Attendance for November 23-24, 2024

Service	Attendance	Communion
SAT., 3PM	53	50
SUN., 8AM	90	72
SUN., 10:45AM	116	109
TOTAL	259	231

**Bible Class Attendance
 Week of Nov. 24, 2024**

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

Little Lambs, Sunday	2
Sunday School: PreK to Gr 5	3
Sunday School: Gr. 6-12	1
Sunday Adult Bible Class	43
TLC/BASICS	NA
Tuesday Women's 10AM	C
Tuesday Evening, 6:30PM	NA
Men's Breakfast & Bible	NA
Wednesday AM	C
Wednesday Nights	C
20s&30s Thursday	C

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

General Fund	\$	10,829.70
Endowment	\$	0.00
Building Fund	\$	120.00
Missions Weekly	\$	365.00
Missions Total Sept-Dec	\$	7,081.80

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: Nov. 26, 2024
 Families: 72
 Individuals: 264

Prayer List for Active Military:

Dominic Bisesi, Andrew Chema; Timothy Daniels, Nathaniel Einfeldt, Isabella Huber, Zackary Huber, Cody Kieffer, 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 October-December & *The Lutheran Witness* (October edition) 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.


ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Dave & Deborah Heim for their 8th wedding anniversary on Nov. 28.

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

ADVENT MEALS: Three groups will sponsor Advent meals in December: Grace Guild host on Dec. 4: Baked pasta, salad, dessert; 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.




HOPE Seeds
Thurs., Dec. 5
Gym, 9AM-Noon
Seeds packed for missions.



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

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



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL
2024-2025 Enrollment and Registration




2024-2025 TUITION STRUCTURE



ABOUT OUR PROGRAM



2024-2025 ENROLLMENT FORM



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.

Check the December Koinonia for a full listing of special services in December
Ushers are needed for extra services in December. **Please** signup in the Welcome Center or online.
Contact Elder Ralph Erickson.



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"



Thank You Notes

During this time of Thanksgiving, I would like to express my thanks to my entire Holy Cross family for all their prayers and support during my bypass heart surgery and recovery these last 5 months. I am so thankful for each one of you!
~ Mike Vesper

Brothers & Sisters in Christ: Thank you for your cards, love, and compassion when my brother, Paul Rau, died and for your continued support.
~ Elma Jane Kramer

Doris Coots thanks the Holy Cross congregation for their prayers during the illness of her husband Jim and for their support at the time of his recent passing.

The Holy Cross Ladies Guild recently completed our annual candy and nut sale. A total of \$2690.76 was earned and will be presented to a representative from Sparrow's Nest at the January Ladies Guild meeting. Our sincere thanks to congregation members and friends who bought candy and nuts. We appreciate your support. Our sale would not have been a success without you!

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS



Children and Youth are invited to serve as ushers and greeters for the Family Christmas Service (12/7). **This is a first come, first serve for any age.**



RSVP
Usher - Ralph Erickson
(314) 249-7136

Greeter - David Schlesselman
(636) 578-1766

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.

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



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.

BE A YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER!

Apply now to serve with hundreds of LCMS Young Adults in Orange Nation at the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA, July 19-23, 2025. Volunteers aged 19-25 at the time of the Gathering will serve at Bible Study, Sessions, Interactive Center, Servant Events, Stadium Events. Applications to serve as a YAV close Dec. 31, 2024 at www.lcmsgathering.com/volunteer



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

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

ORDER 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 and enjoyed at home!