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 February 2025 Volume 59 Number 1

Contact church office at secretary@hcross.com 636.272.4505 www.hcross.com

# The Goodness of Gathering

never went to the Youth Gathering until I was too old to go as a youth. My first opportunity came when my vicarage congregation invited me to go with their youth group, and they asked only three days after I arrived in town! How could I have possibly said no? So before I knew it, I hopped onto a bus with a ton of excited youth (and possibly excited chaperones), and we drove from Bismarck to Houston together. The trip plenty itself. while long, had highlights...but once we got there?

Man, was I missing out as a youth.

The sheer number of Lutherans in one place staggered me. I had known for a while that the church is far bigger than what I can see, but for over 20,000 people to rent out a baseball stadium so they can worship and sing to Jesus together? The fact that something like that can be achieved before Christ's return is wondrous. In my mind, that alone is almost entirely enough reason for any Lutheran church to send its youth to this gathering.

But there's more! Along with a unique theme for each gathering (this year's is "Endure" from Hebrews 12:1-3), all youth also have opportunities to attend sectionals that further unpack the theme while drawina from Scripture to address contemporary questions or issues they are confronted with daily. At the previous Youth Gathering, I saw sectionals offered about social media, dating and relationships, sexuality, the Means of Grace, race relations in the church, anxiety, Ioneliness. abortion, vocations, apologetics, and much more. I believe it is critically important for the church to speak to our young people about what's going on in the world and in their own lives—we can't shelter them forever, after all—and I was impressed at the environment that the Youth Gathering cultivated to do exactly this. Furthermore, it's not just the present that is spoken



to, but the future as well. There hundreds of booths in set qu the conference hall advertising everything the LCMS is up to mean (and everything) that our youth may one day want to take part of themselves. Want to talk to someone

who's been overseas and can tell stories about planting a church outside of America? No problem. Feel like petting a comfort dog? Knock yourself out. Interested in attending a Lutheran that offers dailv chapel Concordia Chicago has got you covered. Ok, the rest of the Concordia University system is there too, and they're all excellent. My point is, the Youth Gathering is also a fantastic place for our youth to consider their futures, the vocations that God may have planned for them. Perhaps there's some branch of ministry that will captivate them, some seed that'll be planted in their heart that will bear beautiful fruit someday. Who knows?

I am personally ecstatic that several of our youth from Holy Cross will be attending this year's Youth Gathering. I hope you are too! During this month, they are hosting two fundraisers for their trip: a bake sale, and the spaghetti dinner. I strongly encourage you all to show your support for our young people through these things—you'll also get some great food out of it. Please also join me in praying for our youth, that they will be kept safe in their travels when the time comes, and that Jesus, "the founder and perfecter of our faith," will work mighty things for them through the 2025 Youth Gathering.

~Pastor Jason



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



MORGAN CALCATERRA

mcalcaterra@hcross.com

(636) 272-4505 Ext. 106 Preschool Office Ext. 109 Extended Education

preschool.hcross.com

8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway

Preschool is having so much fun this month.

After a very extended winter break due to the snow, we were eager to be back together! Our friends have been reconnecting, having fun playing, and learning new skills!

Mrs. Richardson's three's class has been learning their letters, working on identifying numbers, and doing so many exciting projects. Miss Morgan's class has been working on making new friends, letter sounds, and counting all the way to 20! We are painting, coloring, and doing exciting projects too. We love to sing with Mr. Gilson, and we are learning about the fruits of the spirit with our Pastors and DCE!

Second semester is always bittersweet because we see our sweet students growing up so much right before our eyes. We can't wait to watch them continues to learn!

Enrollment is OPEN for 2025-2026 for ages 3 and 4! We will be having tours, open houses, and we would love to show you our school. If you are interested in enrollment, please email Morgan at preschool@hcross.com to schedule a tour! Brochures with more information on our program are in the Welcome Center.



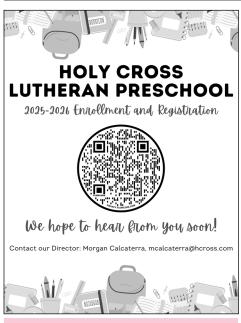
Friends working on tracing letters.



Working together to build a fun tower!



We sorted our veggie straw snack by color!



PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Sunday, February 23, 2025 Noon to 2PM

Visit classrooms, meet the staff

## **Monthly Music Minute for February 2025**

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

e're in the season of Epiphany, and throughout this season many of our readings tell stories about the early days of Jesus' ministry. One such story is the Gospel reading for February 8-9, where we hear the story of Jesus calling Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be fishers of men in Luke chapter 5.

You may have noticed that, very often, our other lectionary readings are selected to support or match thematically with the Gospel reading. It makes sense, then, that the Old Testament reading for that weekend is from Isaiah chapter 6, where God calls another one of His servants, Isaiah the prophet.

As the scripture states, Isaiah finds himself with a vision: seeing angels, seraphim, flying around the throne of God, singing praises as the rafters shake, and smoke fills the room. And Isaiah, like many Old Testament figures, despairs to himself, knowing that he, a man of unclean lips, has seen God face to face.

Then, one of the seraphim flies down to Isaiah, takes a coal, and touches Isaiah's lips, telling him, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." And God asks Isaiah, "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah, now forgiven, exclaims with eagerness, "Here am I. Send me!"

Let's backtrack a little bit, though. Do you know what the seraphim were singing? It is the words of the *Sanctus*, something we sing every Sunday before the Lord's Supper: "Holy, holy, holy is theLord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His alory."

I think part of Isaiah's despair was thinking that if he joined in this song of praise, it would not be good because he is sinful. How could God find the praises of a sinner good? But this is where God takes action. My favorite part of the story here is that Isaiah does nothing he simply cries to God that he is sinful, and God does the rest. He sends the angel down and makes Isaiah's lips clean, so that he can join in proclaiming and sharing God's goodness in his calling as prophet.

You see, when God calls His people, He doesn't expect them to do everything on their own. He gives them tasks to do, words to say. He gave Moses confidence to speak. He gave Joseph knowledge to rule. He gave Solomon wisdom to discern. And He gave Isaiah the song to sing.

And God gives us the words to sing, too. Our liturgy is full of prayers, praises, and promises that God provides for us in His Word. In the *Gloria* we join with the words of the angels on Christmas night. In the *Agnus Dei* we confess what John the Baptist confessed: "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." In the *Nunc Dimittis* we join in contentment with Simeon, knowing that, in the Lord's Supper, we to have seen and witnessed Christ himself.

And that is why each week we sing the Sanctus. Like He did for Isaiah, God makes what comes out of our mouths good. He make us good, worthy to receive Him in the Sacrament. And so we sing boldly, with Isaiah, with the seraphim, with Peter and the other disciples called to be fishers of men, with angels and archangels, and with all who have sung the Sanctus throughout time, sitting in that great, smoke-filled throne room of heaven where seraphim sing, confessing that God is holy, and through His Son He makes us holy too. — David Gilson

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study Wednesday, February 12, 2025

> Sign up in the Welcome Center On February 8-9, 2025



# Tired of Winter? Start Planning Spring Gardens!



Holy Cross Ladies Guild is announcing its Annual Flower Sale in 2025! Dates of Sales: First three weekends in March with flower delivery the first weekend in May. Proceeds will be donated to the St. Louis Crisis Nursery which provides temporary shelter in the Wentzville and St. Charles County area. This outreach provides empowerment to families in crisis through developmental assessments, therapy, and follow-up services for parents for their children from birth to 12 years of age. So, sit back, relax and start planning your gardens. Spring is just around the corner!

# Candy & Nut Sales Proceeds Donated to Sparrow's Nest

Holy Cross Ladies Guild donated the proceeds of its fall candy and nut sale to the Sparrow's Nest.

Norma Helms, sales chair, presented a check for \$3,122.00 to Katie Lyczak of the Sparrow's Nest at the January meeting.

Guild members donated a variety of supplies requested by the Sparrow's Nest.

The Ladies Guild sincerely thanks everyone who supported the sale.





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:

Grace Evening Guild meets Tues., Feb. 11, 6PM. Holy Cross Ladies Guild meets Fri., Feb. 14, 10AM.

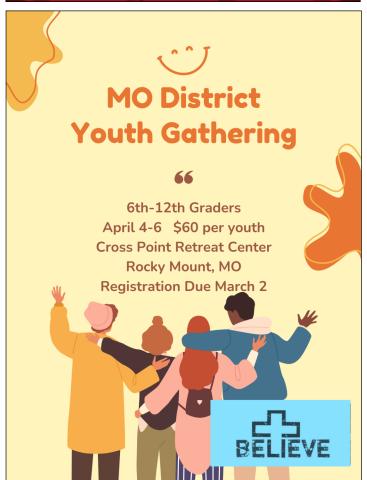


Grace Guild invites youth to bake cookies on Feb. 8. Brenda Fore has some interesting recipes to try! The youth and Grace Guild will then sell their wares at a bake sale following services the weekend of Feb. 8-9. Members of the Guild will add their specialties to the goodies baked in the Holy Cross kitchen. All proceeds will go towards the Youth as they fundraise for the National Youth Gathering this summer.















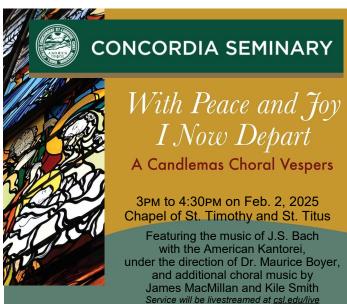
Come & Join us! Thurs., FEBRUARY 6, 2025 Gym, 9AM-Noon

Seeds packed for missions.

Easy task. Great Fellowship. World Impact.
Sponsored by Holy Cross Stewardship Board.

Immanuel Lutheran Annual Sausage Dinner
Sunday, February 2, 2025
10:30AM- 5:00PM
Adults \$15; Children 4 yrs-10 yrs old \$7
Children 3 yrs old and under FREE
Sausage, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Sauerkraut,
Green Beans, Applesauce, Bread and Desserts
Cash, Check or Credit Card
Dine-in or Carry-out orders taken
Immanuel Lutheran Church
115 S. 6th Street, St. Charles, MO





## **LCMSFoundation**

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Considering distributions from your estate that will directly support ministries of the Church may present competing priorities existing throughout your life.

Greg and Deb sat down after Christmas to have a serious conversation about future goals for the distributions of their estate, especially those that will go to ministry. For the past 20 years, Deb wanted to support a children's ministry that provided tutoring and sharing of Jesus. Greg, a trustee at their congregation, is known as the guy who fixes everything. Greg wanted to make a gift to the congregation's endowment fund for long-term care of the building. At first, they were arguing, as both were passionate about their feelings. Finally, Deb said, "We need to ask someone to help us work through this. Maybe it doesn't need to be an either-or proposition."

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can be the one to talk and pray with you as you discern God's will. Contact Teresa Nelson at (319)351-6529 or Teresa.Nelson@lfnd.org.

# EVANGELISM

# A BIG THANK YOU



Our hosting the community on the walk-through nights for Celebration of Lights was a huge success this year. It would not be possible without your helping hands! During the three nights, we parked more than 600 cars in our lots, served hot drinks and cookies to more than 700 people, and handed out hundreds of books about Jesus to children and their families. Most of these people were not members of Holy Cross but they now know where there is a friendly church that shares Jesus when they feel the need. We sowed a lot of seeds and began to build relationships. THANKS for being a part of the sowing team.

We had 13 different people who helped park cars, 15 different people who helped with serving refreshments, numerous musicians who provided entertainment all three nights, and more than 40 people who provided cookies. Many helping hands make it all possible. Thanks to

each of you for whatever parts you played to help share Jesus, the real Light of Christmas with the people of our community.

#### Singers Share Christmas Carols with Shut-ins

On December 23, 55 people took a portion of their evening to share Christmas carols with some of our shut-in members. By splitting into four groups, we were able to carol to 27 people and brighten their Christmas. Thanks to all the individuals and families who participated. We left fresh fruit with each individual and gave them a Chrismon which was created by our members at the family Christmas service. Both the carolers and the recipients were blessed through the experience.



#### Check Out the Tract Rack in the Welcome Center



Find a topic of interest to you or that you can share with a friend or neighbor to strengthen them. This is a wonderful way to share your faith. Below are three of the 24 different tracts available on the rack.

**Comebacks** is a pamphlet that gives guidance on how to get back up after life knocks you down. Natural disasters, human crazies, financial perils, messed-up childhoods: any of these can put us down and keep us there, if we let them. There's good news though. Getting knocked down is not getting knocked out. Learn how to make a personal comeback with Jesus.

The **Strength and Honor** tract can help someone fight the spiritual warfare against pornography. In this booklet the reader will find insights and hope for dealing with the problems brought on by pornography. The words are Christ-centered, to the point, and deliver a Christian approach to battling this vice. Its overriding aim is to help individuals defeat pornographic addiction. With the power of God's grace it can be done.

The small children's booklet **Let's Be Disciples** uses simple rhymes to tell children about the love of Jesus for them. God loves them dearly and wants them to be a disciple of Jesus. He also wants them to share that love with others and invite them to be a disciple as well.

# MISSIONS

s we begin a new year at Holy Cross, the Missions and Stewardship Boards looking at how we can work together as an entire church body to engage in service projects, fellowship events, and mission support. Missions & Stewardship will be working together as 'one board' with common goals and objectives pointed towards the theme of Endure. This theme aligns with the Youth and Education Boards; it is also the theme for the National Youth Gathering in July. We will focus on two sub-themes: Enduring Together and Enduring Emotionally. Each sub-theme includes a service project, a fellowship event, a mission project, as well as monetary donations (the usual MOTQ collection).

# Enduring Together: Strengthening Community and Connections

The Enduring Together sub-theme will focus on bringing the community together through acts of service, fellowship, and shared experiences. Our hope is that these events will promote unity, physical well-being, and a sense of collective purpose. Some ideas include a community 5k with donation drive, the annual Outback Camping event, and prayer cards and monetary support to those affected by the wildfires in California.

# Enduring Emotionally: Promoting Mental Health and Emotional Resilience

The Enduring Emotionally sub-theme will aim to address mental health and emotional support to highlight the importance of building awareness and providing resources to those in need.

Several ideas include Mental Health First Aid training, the annual SHINE event, a mission project, and monetary collection benefiting a crisis center.

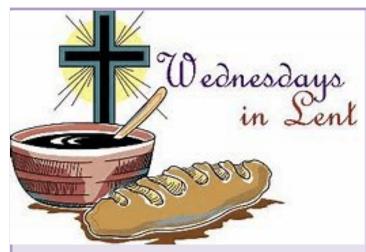
#### What can you do right now?

For the usual monetary collections for MOTQ, we are directing donations to the Pacific Southwest District to support wildfire relief efforts as we Endure Together. Donations will be collected from January 1 to April 28, 2025, and dispersed as needed. You can donate to MOTQ by using the yellow envelopes found in the pews, with the special Mission envelopes that are mailed with your offering envelopes, or online using the Simply Giving site.

With the monetary donations for wildfire relief, we want to send prayer cards to show our love and support. Blank cards can be found on the Missions table in the Welcome Center. Write your message on the card, place it in the wooden box on the table, and we will mail them out.

#### **Looking Forward**

This year presents many exciting opportunities to serve, connect, and grow together. Whether through supporting those in crisis, helping families in need, or offering resources to promote mental health, the Endure theme will empower us to rise to the challenges we face emotionally and physically. We invite you to join us in these meaningful endeavors as we work together to make a difference in the lives of others through the love of Jesus. If you have questions, contact Liz Belter at <a href="missions@hcross.com">missions@hcross.com</a> or Ashleigh Lacey at <a href="missions@hcross.com">stewardship@hcross.com</a>.



Next month we begin the Lenten season and our tradition of dinners before the 7PM service. Please contact the church office if your organization would like to serve at one of the remaining dates.

Wednesday Lenten Services at 11AM & 7PM Dinner served from 5:30 to 6:45PM in the gym

#### Ash Wednesday —March 5, 2025

Host: Holy Cross Ladies Guild Menu: To Be Decided

#### Lent 2-March 12, 2025

Dinner Host: Grace Evening Guild Menu: Casseroles, Bread sticks, Salads, Desserts

Lent 3-March 19, 2025

Dinner Host: Open

Lent 4—March 26, 2025

Dinner Host: Open

Lent 5-April 2, 2025

Dinner Host: Open

Lent 6—April 9, 2025

Dinner Host: Open

#### **HOPE Ministries** 2024 Year End Pantry Numbers Individuals 12,891 Families: 3,998

**HOPE Ministries** requests these items: 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. Expired goods cannot be accepted.

Also, Mission Board provides fresh vegetables and fruits to the Seminary. Write your check to Holy Cross with a memo line for Mission Board Fresh Foods to the Seminary.





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7рм LHS Trivia Night (Doors open 6рм)		KOINONIA PRODUCTION  10AM LWML St Charles Zone Board Youth Presents Prep Time to be decided		KOINONIA DEADLINE 10AM Ladies Guild (gym) 2:30PM GYM Preschool: Valentine Celebration		6:30pm: Holy Cross Church Movie Night RSVP Due Feb.2.				FRIDAY	
3PM	_		22		15	9am Day \ —Kit 10av Quil	8	3PM 6-8PI Danc	1		
3PM Holy Communion	MARCH	3рм Holy Communion 6рм LYF: Traditional Spaghetti Dinner		11ам то 2Рм: Private Birthday Party 3Рм Holy Communion		9am Grace Guild Bake Day w/confirmands —Kitchen + gym 10am To 2PM: Quilting Fellowship 3Pm Holy Communion		3рм Holy Communion 6-8рм Father-Daughter Dance at LHS	FEBRUARY	SATURDAY	

# February Celebrations 2025

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

## Happy Birthday! ... and Many More!

- **1:** Steven Cooper, Vickie Glasstetter
- **2:** Paul Kirby, Cassie Stover, Kyle Walkenhorst
- 4: Kathy Weseman, Dale Witte
- 5: David Gilson, Kay Hardman
- 6: Richard Green, John Bewig III
- 7: Ashton Estill, Ken Fussner, Andrew Gaglio
- 8: Jacob Davison, Shirley Day, Brenda Duncan, Veigh Hogan, Nancy Redfield, Anna Schnoor
- 9: Melissa Kreyling
- **12:** Bob Grayson, Michael Halm, Gus Waltersdorf

- **13:** Darlene Drilling, Karen Dusheke, Evelyn Estes, Wendy Tentschert, Carolyn Tichenor, Julia Tichenor
- **14:** Matthew Alton, Barb Smock
- **15:** Dennis Gamache, Mollie Linn, Dani Richardson
- **16:** Darlene Bradley, Michelle Freand, Megan Goodman
- 17: Susan Halm
- 19: Andrew Darst
- **20:** Scott Bollinger, Vince Ogar
- **21:** Roy Bumstead, Megan Gaglio, Carter Price
- 22: Lainey Alton, Carolyn DeMent
- 23: Becky Coomer, Mark Drilling,

- Loretta Ezell, Alan Kirk
- **24:** Courtney Buehne, Jayne Jepsen, Rich Schindler
- 25: Diane Pierce
- **26:** Joan Darling, Ron Dawson, Janet Kuesel, Idel McCullough, Neal Menscher
- 27: Frieda Karl
- **28:** Bryan Meyer, Sara Thoene Everett Nielsen

## Baptism Anniversaries: God's Blessings to You!

- **1:** Jim Boyd, Lovisa Davison, Sandra Semler
- 2: Kyle Walkenhorst, Carla Wiese
- 3. Valentina Smith
- 4: Zeke Emerick
- 5: Renea Erickson, Diane Gade
- 6: Lucas Buehne, Richard Green
- 7: Maddie Dawdy, Rob Dawdy Jr., Madeline Maull
- **9:** Lincoln Chinnici, Elise Martens, Janine Martens, Payton May
- **12:** Dorothy Morrison

- **13:** Jessica Mincher
- 14: Karen Gaglio, Lily Witte
- **15:** Faith Blackwell, Alison Blundell, Dani Richardson, Wayne Wiese
- 16: Ella Emerick, Jenna Rincand
- 17: Maverick Bartlett, Chris Mizel
- **18:** Spencer Dafler, Joshua Strubelt
- 19: Rory Fink
- **20:** Chris Gaglio
- 21: Madalyn Bartlett, Logan Brown, Camden Kreyling
- 22: Lydia Sumski

- 24: Anna Koepke
- **25:** Madelyn Jennings, Samantha Kessels, Kaitlyn Markham
- **26:** Karen Dusheke, Hailey Fink, Peggy Gallagher, Lacey Sumski, Sara Thoene
- **28:** Darlene Drilling, Gary Hardebeck

## Wedding Anniversaries!

- 1: Bill & Shirley Day (56)
- 7: Mike & Pat Hanna (21)
- 9: Rick & Carolyn Grayson (26)
- 11: Doug & Heather Koepke 30
- 16: Loren & Debra Herr (51)
- 22: Harry & Carolyn Gasaway (61)
- 25: Ray & Betty Schroeder (64)
- 27: Barb & Roger Grosch (40)
- 27: George & Judith Kirby (65)



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 March2025 issue is Feb. 14, 2025.</u>

Email submissions to secretary@hcross.com **prior** to the deadline.

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

Address Service Requested

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### February 2025



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

## Holy Cross Luthgran Church: 1960 ~ 2025

## 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, 6:30рм, кмs 1&2

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study: Wed., Feb. 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, 6:30рм, Rm 1&2