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

# Koinonia

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

## People of the Passion

e invite you to join us for our Lenten midweek services beginning with Ash Wednesday services on March 5, with the final Wednesday service on April 9. These Wednesday services will be held at 11AM and 7PM.

This year's theme People of the Passion will focus on a different person or group of people as drawn from the passion reading from Luke's account in chapter 23.

Here are more details as to which people we will be looking at each week:

#### Week One: Wednesday, March 12 Herod (Luke 23:6-16)

One of the scenes of the Passion that is unique to Luke's Gospel is when Jesus goes on trial before Herod, who is referred to as the king at this time. The Biblical text notes that Herod had really longed to see Jesus because he wanted to see Jesus do some sort of miraculous sign. This text will challenge us to see if we too are longing for Jesus to be in our life simply for the enjoyment of Him working a sign or miracle.

#### Week Two: Wednesday, March 19 Barabbas (Luke 23:18-25)

Not much is known about Barabbas outside of this short brief passage, but what we do know is that it is not good. He is a man known for insurrection and murder -- a criminal awaiting a death sentence. And yet, when this reading is finished, he walks away a free man because Jesus has officially been condemned to death in his place.

Week Three: Wednesday, March 26
The Daughters of Jerusalem (Luke 23:26-31)
Here is another section of the passion story that is

unique to Luke's gospel and isn't spoken of in any of the other three Gospel accounts. In a day and age when the gift of children is something that is longed for and welcomed, Jesus now shares the opposite sentiment with these women, sharing that it would have been better to not have had children due to the evils in the world. These sentiments are still reflected in our society today with the ongoing challenge of raising faithful children in a world that sometimes seems so faithless.

#### Week Four: Wednesday, April 2 The Soldiers (Luke 23:32-38)

These soldiers had the opportunity to see the Lord Jesus Christ up close! Throughout Christ's ministry on earth, crowds were gathering, pushing, and shoving to see Jesus and get as close as they possibly could. In this scene, the soldiers are now the ones with the front row seats! And yet, even though they were physically close to Jesus, their hearts were still far from Him.

#### Week Five: Wednesday, April 9 The Centurion (Luke 23:44-49)

He had not heard much of Jesus' teachings, if he heard any at all. He had not had anyone try to evangelize to him to tell him about the Good News of Jesus. Yet, even in spite of those things, God still worked to bring him to a faith-filled conviction: that Jesus was innocent. This declaration is short and punchy, but it is not short on meaning and significance.

Again, we hope that you take the opportunity to come and learn and grow in God's Word with us this Lenten season as we dive more closely in our look at the People of the Passion!

~~ Pastor Gimbel



Morgan Calcaterra Preschool Director &4s Teacher

Dani Richardson 3s Teacher



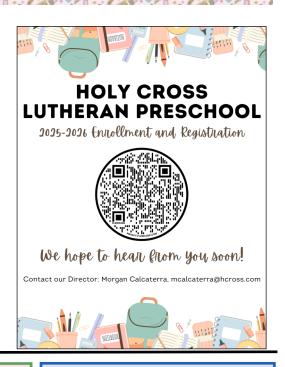
We have been busy learning here in Preschool!

We had our Mom's Day parties, Valentine's Day get together, and celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week.

We are so thankful to have received the donations that we did for our teachers and students from places in our community! The students are learning things like sorting by color and shape, working on writing their last names, and continuing practicing the letters of the alphabet.

Enrollment for 2025-26 is open!

Please email mcalcaterra@hcross.com to express interest, and come in for a tour!



#### **BAPTISM**

Holy Cross will celebrate a special baptism for Hannah Cotner on Sat., March 8. I met Hannah and her husband Alex through a phone call that Alex gave the church office asking us to baptize their children, Teegan (6) and Mickey (4). Several months ago, Teegan was diagnosed with a tumor on her brain stem and given six months to live-but we reioice that she is currently doina far better than her doctors predicted! As I got to know this family, I learned that Hannah hasn't been baptized yet, and I praise God that she desires to be baptized too. The whole congregation is invited to attend the 3PM service on the 8th, as well as a cake and punch reception following the service to rejoice with this family that Jesus has claimed as His own!

-Pastor Jason





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

Seeds packed for missions.

Easy task. Great Fellowship. World Impact.

Sponsored by Holy Cross Stewardship Bóard.

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

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

## **Monthly Music Minute for March 2025**

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

ou may recall that our Sunday scripture readings are determined by the Three-Year Lectionary, a standard set of readings many churches and denominations use. The pattern is that, in the first year of the lectionary, the Gospel reading is usually something from Matthew, in the second year from Mark, and in the third year from Luke. Occasional texts from John are scattered throughout. This way, the bulk of all four Gospels are read over the three years.

We break the pattern a little bit when we get to the season of Lent. Rather than strictly following the pattern of one Gospel a year, the stories selected for the 40 days in Lent come from all four Gospels. They are chosen since they are significant stories in Jesus' ministry and are often stories in which we can see ourselves reflected. They are stories about Jesus' humanity and His great love for us, preparing our hearts for the drama of Holy Week. Over three years, we get stories like Jesus' temptation, the blind man being healed, the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus sharing the good news to Nicodemus, and Lazarus being raised from the dead.

On March 29-30, the fourth Sunday in Lent, we hear Jesus tell us the familiar story of the Prodigal Son. You are familiar enough with the story: A man has two sons. One son decides to disown his father, asks for his inheritance, squanders it, and comes home ashamed of his actions. His father welcomes him with open arms, forgives him unconditionally, and celebrates his return. The other son, who had remained faithful, becomes upset about how unfair this is. The father then reasons with him, saying they should rejoice that the first son came home because he was lost but is now found.

Now, depending on where we are in our lives, we may see ourselves as either one or the other of the two sons. As sinners desperately needing forgiveness, seeing ourselves as the first son is incredibly comforting. As people who may have been faithful for a long time, sometimes seeing new people coming to faith can make us cynical, mirroring the attitude of the second son.

But we're missing a character here. To me, the story isn't really about the sons. It's about the father. What if the story went that the first son returned, and the father said, "Too bad, so sad"? What if he got angry with the second son and snapped back at him rather than speaking lovingly and graciously?

The father doesn't, though. He forgives. He shows patience. He shows kindness. He shows love.



Our story isn't really about us. It's about our Father, who sent His son Jesus into the world to suffer, to die, to rise again so that we might one day be with Him. As Paul writes in Titus chapter 3: "When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:4-7)

On March 30, the assigned hymn of the day is LSB 571, "God Loved the World, So That He Gave." The first two verses read like this:

"God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save, That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death; All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone."

For all the reflection and meditation that fills this season, Lent isn't really about us. It is about Jesus and the work He did on the cross: suffering, dying, and rising again. It is about Him loving us, saving us, and forgiving us. And through His work, we--His cynical, lost children--are found.

- David Gilson







Members of Holy Cross Ladies Guild enjoyed a Valentine's Day lunch at Old Hickory Golf Club. All women of Holy Cross are invited to visit a Ladies Guild meeting on the second Friday of the month at 10AM in the Holy Cross gym. We are a dedicated group of Christian women who serve God and others and enjoy food and fellowship. Contact Sandy Dietz at 314.570.4961 for information.



# Tired of Winter? Start Planning Spring Gardens!

Check out the Ladies
Guild Flower Sale

Holy Cross Ladies Guild announces its Annual Flower Sale! Sales will happen the 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 families in empowerment to 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!

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., March 11, 6PM. Holy Cross Ladies Guild meets Fri., March 14, 10AM.

WML Grace Evening Guild sponsored a Bake Sale to Loraise funds for our Holy Cross LYF students attending the 2025 National Youth Gathering. LYF members, Oria, Audrey, Ben and Jacob were available to join the ladies in creating beautiful tasty treats for the sale. Brenda Fore led the team providing instruction and guidance in the making of cookie dough, frosting, decorating and packaging. The youth engaged and worked joyfully, purposefully and productively. We all had fun working together! God blessed our gathering together. Thank you to Grace Guild members: Dianne Anderson, Sue Bastian, Carol Crafton, Darlene Drilling, Brenda Fore, Jayne Jepsen, Linda Ledford, Cynthia Menscher, Joyce Niewald, Jan Paulson, Sherry Piazza, Sharon Wachter and Kathy Weseman for baking additional items for the sale and those who supported the bake day activities on Saturday prior to the sale.

Thank you to the congregation of Holy Cross for your generous donation of \$1024 to support our youth in attending the National Youth Gathering 2025. This year the NYG theme is "Endure". The LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

~ Karen Copper, President, Grace Guild

baking treats for the bake sale.









Grace Guild members Dianne Anderson, Kathy Weseman, Linda Ledford, Karen Copper, Brenda Fore led youth in















AMERICAN RED CROSS

Blood Drive

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Gym

8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway O Fallon, MO 63366

Thursday, MARCH 13, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBloood.org and enter: HolyCrossLC to schedule an appointment.

Give in March for a \$10 Gift Card by email, & successful donations get A1C testing. rcblood.org/March

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



#### **LENTEN MEALS**

Our tradition of dinners before the 7PM service starts on March 5.

Dinner served from 5:30 to 6:45PM in the gym

#### Ash Wednesday —March 5, 2025

Host: Holy Cross Ladies Guild Menu: Chili Dogs, Relish Trays, Homemade Desserts

#### Lent 2-March 12, 2025

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

#### Lent 3-March 19, 2025

Dinner Host: Mission/Stewardship Boards

Menu: Sloppy Joes

Contact the church office if your organization would like to serve at one of the 3 remaining dates.

## **Lutheran Education Tuition Assistance**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church supports families who desire a Lutheran Education. Students who, along with parent(s) or legal guardian(s), are members of Holy Cross are eligible for Tuition assistance. Students must be enrolled in grades K-12 at an LCMS Lutheran school in St. Charles County or in a Concordia University System (LCMS) higher education institution.



Applications are in the Welcome Center and must be turned in by March 31.



PRE GYN	8 AM 9:30,	30	9:30 10:4	23	<b>Ladi</b> 8 AM 9:30 + 10:4	16	<b>Lad</b> i 8 AM 9:30 10:4	9	<b>Ladi</b> 8AM 9:30, 10:4: 1:30	7	Luth 8 AM 9:30,4 10:45 Noon	23		
PRESCHOOL GYM TIMES	8 AM Worship Service 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Worship Service		8 am Holy Communion 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Holy Communion		Ladies Guild Flower Sale 8 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour + Midweek Teacher Training 10:45AM Holy Communion		Ladies Guild Flower Sale 8 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion		Ladies Guild Flower Sale 8am Holy Communion 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Holy Communion 1:30pm Board of Elders		Lutheran High Day 8 am Holy Communion 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Holy Communion Noon Preschool Open House		SUNDAY	
9:30am—9:50am 1:30pm—1:50pm	9:30AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing 6:30PM Handbells	31	PRESCHOOL SPRING BREAK KOINONIA MAILING 9:30AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing 6:30PM Handbells	24	Preschool Closed 9:30 AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing	17	9:30 AM TOPS (Rm1-2) 10:30AM & 2:30PM GYM—Preschool Grandparents Day 6PM Church Boards 6:30PM Handbells 7:30PM Church Council	10	9:30 AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing 6:30PM Handbells	3	KOINONIA MAILING 9:30AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing 6:30PM Handbells	24	MONDAY	Hc
9:10-9:30am			PRESCHOOL SPRING BREAK 9AM Quilting 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Adult Bible Class	25	9AM Preschool Chapel 9AM Quilting 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Bds of Ed & Youth	18	9AM Preschool Chapel 10AM Women's Bible Study 10:30AM & 2:30PM GYM—Preschool Grandparents Day 12:30PM Staff Meetings 6:00PM Grace Guild 6:30PM Adult Bible Class	11	9AM Preschool Chapel 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meetings 1:30Pm Evangelism Board 6PM Missions, Stewardship	4	9AM Quilting 9AM Preschool Chapel 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Adult Bible Class	25	TUESDAY	March 2025 Holy Cross Lutheran Church Calend
11-11:20am 1:30-1:50pm			PRESCHOOL SPRING BREAK 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM Lenten Service 5:30PM Lenten Dinner 6:15PM Beginner Bell Choir 6:15PM Children's Choir	26	9AM/1PM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM Lenten Service 5:30PM Lenten Dinner 6:15PM Beginner Bell Choir 6:15PM Children's Choir 6:15PM Confirmation, LYF 7:00PM Lenten Service	19	6:30am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9Am/Tem Preschool Chapel 9:30am Adult Bible Class 11am Lenten Service 5:30pm Lenten Dinner 6:15pm Beginner Bell Choir 6:15pm Children's Choir 6:15pm Confirmation, LYF 7:00pm Lenten Service 8pm Adult Choir	12	9AM/1PM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM HOLY COMMUNION 5:30PM Lenten Dinner 5:30-7PM Lenten Devotional Night — Church wide 7PM HOLY COMMUNION	5 ASH WEDNESDAY	9AM/1PM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 6PM Beginner Bell Choir 6PM Children's Choir 6:30PM Midweek (gr. 2-5) 6:30PM Confirmation, LYF 6:45PM Adult Choir	26	WEDNESDAY	March 2025 ran Church Cal
9:10-9:30AM			PRESCHOOL SPRING BREAK  8am News & Notes Deadline 6:30PM 20s&30s Bible Class	27	8am News & Notes <u>Deadline</u> 6:30pm 20s&30s Bible Class	20	CIRCUIT MEETINGS  8am News & Notes Deadline  9am—3pm American Red Cross Blood Drive  6:30pm 20s&30s Bible Class	13	8an News & Notes Deadline 9am HOPE Seeds 2PM Preschool Board 6:30PM 20s&30s Bible Class	6	8am News & Notes <u>Deadline</u> 6:30pm 20s&30s Bible Class	27	THURSDAY	endar of Events
9:30AM—9:50AM 1:30PM—1:50PM			PRESCHOOL SPRING BREAK		KOINONIA PRODUCTION	21	KOINONIA DEADLINE 10am Ladies Guild	14		7	7рм LHS Trivia Night (Doors open 6рм)	28	FRIDAY	S
			3рм Worship Service	29	8AM TO 2PM: CWST Workshop (GYM) 3PM Holy Communion	22	3PM Holy Communion + Ladies Guild Flower Sale 4:15-6:45PM Movie Night (2nd—5th Grade) 4:30-6:30PM Skate Night (6th—12th grade)	15	10AM TO 2PM: Quilting Fellowship 3PM Holy Communion + Ladies Guild Flower Sale + Baptism & Reception: Hannah Cotner	8	3PM Holy Communion + Ladies Guild Flower Sale	1 MARCH	SATURDAY	

## March Celebrations 2025

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

## Happy Birthday! God's Blessings in Your New Year!

- 1: Dina Polashek
- 2: Gerri Beckmann, Denice Johns
- 3: Harold Kohrs, Peggy Linn
- 4: Margie Biegener, Bob Cross, Shirley Mercurio, Lucas White
- 5: Bailey Schoenike
- 6: Brayden Einsporn, John Schneider 17: Frank Hegykozi, Diane Jones,
- 7: Hugh Heckman, Eileen Reichert
- 9: Isaac Conrad
- 10: Keith Wachter
- 11: Michael Cammann, Judith Koprowski, Sarah Langley, Lily Schoenike, Sandra Vickers

- 12: ,Tim Laufer, Zeita Reed, Nimve Smith
- 13: Rick Grayson, Janine Martens, John Temple, Lilly Temple
- 15: Marilyn Otto
- 16: Bill Day, Jennifer Goris
- Chase Markham
- 18: Jeff Coomer, Ernest Foster, Jacob Hardebeck, Ashlyn White
- 19: Peggy Lancour
- 20: Charlie Feller, Todd Rasche
- 21: Spencer Dunajcik, Donna Reany, Mark Schnefke

- 22: Sharon Falter, Elise Martens, Stevie Schuler
- 23: Hunter Cross, Larry Williams
- 24: Emma Davison
- 25: Pat Hanna
- 26: Kathy Hunter, Barb Knehans, Alaina Martens, Baylor O'Brien
- 27: Sarah Miget
- 28: Bethany Claxton
- 29: Margie Green
- 31: Caden Martens

## Baptism Anniversaries: May God Continue to Bless You!

- 1: Carla Addison, Lisa Byers, Debra Korte
- 6: Denton & Debbie Raymond
- 7: Isabel Cross
- 8: Christian Eaton
- 9: Esther Legoute, Lydia Legoute
- 10: Mildred Stevens
- 12: Cooper Dunajcik
- 13: Bentley McNiff
- 16: Anna Schnoor

- 17: Cory Cross, Erika Cross, Justin Cross, Nolan Jones, Dawn Kahler
- 18: Justin Haffer, Mollie Linn
- 20: Aubrey Rheinecker
- 21: Jonathan Davison, Neal Menscher, Dale Witte
- 23: Jack Estill, Andrew Gaglio, Judith Koprowski
- 24: Mark Drilling
- 25: Anthony Losch

- 26: Harold Kohrs, Sandra Kohrs
- 27: Shelby Morgan
- 28: Dylan Crider, Brayden Einsporn, **Brody Einsporn**
- 29: Kevin Munoz
- 30: Chloe Benigno, Dennis Gamache, Bryan Meyer
- 31: Alexa Berjer, Ellie Berjer, Owen Berjer, Evelyn Estes

## Wedding Anniversaries: God Bless Your Marriage!

- **3:** Christine & Charles Mueller (41)
- 4: Todd & Elizabeth Rasche (36)
- **6:** Don & Darlene Wischmeyer (32)
- 7: Jim & Michelle Dunajcik (27)
- **9:** Matt & Marie Benigno (13)
- 11: Clay & Autumn Jones (8)
- 10: Jacob & Rachel Estes (13)
- Dale & Betty Kling (34) Charles & Brenda
- Wardenburg (58)
- 14: Marc & Jessica Maull (16)
- **15:** Cassa & Jonathan Henderson (1) Dan & Kari Spearman (28)
- 16: Ashley & Steven Cameron (7)

- 17: Kenny & Vita Sayers (28)
- 19: Kelli & Deron Bullington (9)
- 25: Ken & Sandie Fussner (58)
- 26: Jim & Nancy Redfield (3)

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 April 2024 issue is March 15, 2024. Email submissions to secretary@hcross.com prior to the deadline.

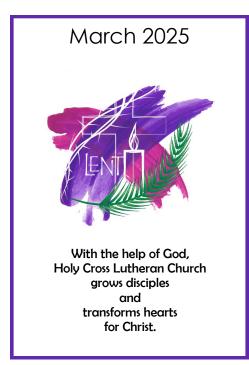
#### **ELDERS AND CONGREGANT COMMUNICATION**

One of the Elders' responsibilities is to address any questions or concerns from the congregants of Holy Cross. Please feel free to contact any Elder displayed in the Welcome Center if you have questions or concerns regarding services, polícies, procedures, personal issues, or other issues. You may also contact either Pastor if you don't feel comfortable discussing something with an Elder. The Elders will keep personal issues confidential unless you state otherwise.

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

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### 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, 6:30pm, RMS 1&2

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study: Wed., March. 12, 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