

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Family Handbook 2017-18



REFORMATION
2017 It's *Still* All About
Jesus

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and
today and forever."
Hebrews 13:8



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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8945 Veteran's Memorial Parkway

O'Fallon, Missouri 63366-3084

636-272-4505

www.hcross.com

.....
Andrew Gimbel, Pastor

agimbel@hcross.com

Keith Wachter, Pastor

kwachter@hcross.com

Michelle Sliger

Director of Music

msliger@hcross.com

Darlene Birk

Preschool Director

preschool@hcross.com

Sunday Services

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Saturday Service

5:00 PM

Sunday School and Bible Classes

9:15-10:15 AM

Midweek/Confirmation Classes

6:45-8:00 PM, Wednesdays

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Christian Education

Parents are the most powerful influence in faith development for their children. At Holy Cross, it is our goal to provide support for families in teaching faith to their children.

At Holy Cross, educational programs for youth and children exist to:

- Connect students with other young believers
- Challenge and grow faith
- Equip youth to honor God in all things
- Provide support for parents in teaching the faith

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Sunday School

See page 8 for important dates!

Sunday School takes place in the lower level of Holy Cross each week from 9:15 -10:15 AM. There are classes for every age from birth to adult!

Little Lambs Birth-Age 3 Room 12 & 13

Parents are invited to attend this class with their child each week. God's smallest lambs and their parents/grandparents will hear a Bible lesson, sing songs, play together, and share tips for Christian parenting.

Preschool Preschool 3s and 4s Room 7

This class uses Concordia's Growing in Christ Curriculum. This group meets for opening time in the choir room. During each class the preschool students will hear a Bible story, make a craft, sing songs, and play together.

Elementary Kindergarten-5th Grade Choir Room

The elementary students use Concordia's Cross Explorations Curriculum. This group meets for opening time in the choir room. Each week these students will learn a Bible story and participate in different activities that reinforce the Bible point for the day.

Middle School 6th-8th Grades Room 6

Our middle school class uses Concordia's Growing In Christ Middle School Curriculum. This group spends time studying God's Word each week, while discussing how the words of the Bible apply to us today.

High School 9th-12th Grades Room 11

The high school youth group meets for Bible study each week. The topic for this Bible study varies greatly, depending on the group's upcoming events and current interests.

Adult Bible Study Gym

The topics for this Bible study can be found in the weekly announcements or by calling the church office.

The Sunday School Office is located on the lower level across from the gym. Our Sunday School Secretary is happy to assist families with questions or concerns.

Midweek

**Classes are offered for 3rd-12th grade on
Wednesday evenings from 6:45-8:00 PM**

3rd-5th Grade

This class serves as an introduction to Confirmation classes. Each lesson is highly interactive and includes a Bible lesson with lots of activities to enforce the day's Bible point.

Confirmation (typically 6th-8th grades)

Confirmation is a time of instruction for young people to learn the fundamental teachings of Christianity. This is a three year class that is usually (but not always) taken during a youth's 6th-8th grade years. Holy Cross Lutheran Church holds Confirmation instruction as a high priority and a great asset. It is a crucial time during the lives of our young people, and so we look forward to the opportunity to support parents in their children's spiritual growth. These classes prepare youth for the Rite of Confirmation and First Communion through study of Luther's Small Catechism and the Bible.

LYF (High School Youth)

LYF, or Lutheran Youth Fellowship, is the midweek Bible study offered for all high school students. Each week youth spend time in fellowship and Bible study. This interactive class uses the Bible as a guide through discussions on current events and personal experiences.

The midweek office is located on the lower level across from the double doors of the gym entrance. Our midweek coordinator can assist families with questions and concerns.

Midweek Guidelines

1. Class Expectations

Midweek classes take place Wednesday evenings from 6:45-8:00 PM. Every student is expected to be punctual, prepared, and ready for class at 6:45. All students will need a copy of the Bible (preferably English Standard Version) and a writing utensil. Confirmation students will need a copy of *Luther's Small Catechism*.

2. Pick Up/Drop Off Procedures

With so many cars using the church parking lot, please help us keep our students safe by following these procedures for pick up and drop off. Students can be dropped off at the gym entrance beginning at 6:30 PM (doors will not be open/unlocked prior to this time). After closing each week, students will be in the narthex/Welcome Center area. They will remain there until parents arrive to pick them up from the upper lot. Unless special permission is granted, students may not return to the lower level. Parents are asked to come inside for pick up. For the sake of our teachers who donate their time, please be punctual. Students may not reenter the building once they leave.

3. Advent/Lent

During Advent and Lent, students and their families are asked to attend dinner and fellowship from 5:45 to 6:45 PM and the 7:00 PM worship service. There will also be Confirmation classes during Lent from 6:15-7:00 PM. We believe that worship is an important part of faith development for our youth and encourage families to participate together.

4. Attendance

Attendance is essential for the learning process and the continuity of the classes. It is expected that students will attend each class session. If your child is unable to attend a class for any reason, contact one of our pastors in the church office before 6:00 PM. They will then contact the teacher concerning absences.

Worship and Sunday School attendance is essential to the spiritual life of every Christian. Therefore we expect both youth and parents to take advantage of weekly worship and Bible study for the strengthening of faith.

Midweek Guidelines

5. Midweek Closing

Each week, students will end their class at 7:45 and join all other classes and their parents in the sanctuary for closing time. At closing, students will sing, pray, and hear the announcements for the week.

6. Assignments & Memory Work

Each class is different, therefore assignments will vary by class, but parental involvement will be encouraged by all. Please assist your child with memory work and reading assignments to ensure they are completed.

7. Discipline

Our students are expected to respect each other and their surroundings. Each teacher has a different way of handling disciplinary issues in his/her classroom. If a teacher feels it is necessary for further disciplinary action, the Board of Education has issued the following guidelines:

The first time a student is sent to the office, he/she will complete a memory work assignment. This will need to be signed by a parent before the child returns the following week.

The second time a student is sent to the office, step one will be repeated with the addition of a phone call home.

If a student is sent to the office for a third time, the student will only be allowed back into class with a parent accompanying him/her.

8. Weather Cancellations

For midweek and Confirmation classes, we follow the Fort Zumwalt School District. If the school district closes, we will not have classes. If a storm begins later in the afternoon, parents should watch for an email update concerning classes. As always, please use your best judgement concerning travel safety.

9. Parent Participation

As parents, please fervently pray for your child, the youth of our church, the pastors, teachers, and our church. Please ask your child about what he/she is learning in class and share your thoughts with them.

Parents may be asked to assist teachers in class sessions with activities, group projects, and special assignments.

Midweek Schedule

August 23	Confirmation Intro (meeting for students and parents)
August 30	
September 6	Old Testament, Ten Commandments, Creeds
September 13	
September 20	
September 27	
October 4	Old Testament, Reformation, Prayer
October 11	
October 18	
October 25	Old Testament, Christians in the World, Teens Talk to Teens
November 1	
November 8	Old Testament, Media, World Religions
November 15	
November 22	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Intro to Advent- meet in sanctuary
November 29	
December 6	NO CLASS - Christmas Service Rehearsal
December 13	
December 20	
December 27	NO CLASS - Christmas Break
January 3	
January 10	
January 17	
January 24	New Testament, Christian Life, Sacraments
January 31	
February 7	
February 14	NO CLASS - Ash Wednesday
February 21	
February 28	New Testament, Worship & Christian Arts (6:15-7 PM)
March 7	
March 14	NO CLASS - Spring Break
March 21	New Testament, Worship & Christian Arts (6:15-7 PM)
March 28	NO CLASS - Holy Week
April 4	
April 11	New Testament, Confirmation Prep, Church History
April 18	
April 25	
7 May 2	NO CLASS - Confirmation Reception (8th Grade)

KIDS IN CHRIST

Kids in Christ (the KIC Group) is for the Preschool through 5th Grade children of our congregation. Many of the KIC events are also Sunday School events. Watch the Koinonia for more information on upcoming events.

2017-2018 Schedule

September 17 - Holy Cross Sunday-students will participate in processional at beginning of 10:30 service

October 22 - Fall Festival, 6-8 PM

December 16 - Christmas Worship led by the children and youth, 5 PM

December 17 - Birthday Party for Jesus, 9:15-10:15 AM

December 31 - Sunday School in a Bag; there will be no classes

March 25 - Easter Egg Hunt

June 11-15 - Vacation Bible School

"You are the Light of
the World."

Matthew 5:14



LORD EXPLORERS

Built LORD Tough

The Lord Explorers are "Built Lord Tough" and provide fellowship and faith development for youth in grades 6-8. This group has occasional meetings and activities, along with a Wednesday evening Confirmation/Midweek program.

2017-2018 Schedule

August 13 - Youthpalooza! 5:30-7:30 PM

September 29-October 1 - Confirmation Retreat at Camp Wartburg

October 22 - Fall Festival, 6-8 PM

December 16 - Christmas Worship with the Sunday School and Youth

April 6-8 - Jr. High Retreat at Camp Windermere

June 11-15 - Vacation Bible School (youth will volunteer)

Watch the Koinonia for more!

"The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation. He is my
God, and I will praise him, my father's
God, and I will exalt him."

Exodus 15:2

LUTHERAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

LYF is our high school youth group. They participate in social, spiritual, and service activities.

**Bible Study
Sunday Mornings 9:15-10:15 AM**

**Youth Group
Wenesdays 6:45-8:00 PM**

2017-2018 Schedule

August 13 - Youthapalooza! 5:30-7:30 PM

October 22 - Fall Festival 6-8 PM

November 17-19 - Missouri District Retreat at Cross Pointe

December 9 - Christmas Movie Marathon

December 16 - Christmas Worship with the Sunday School and Youth

January 13-15 - Teens Encounter Christ (select students)

February 4 - Super Bowl Party

February 16-18 - Peer Ministry Training (select students)

March 3 - Spaghetti Dinner

April 1 - Easter Breakfast

June 11-15 - Vacation Bible School (youth will volunteer)

Retreat Packing List

Please bring only one bag per person plus your bedding. Keep in mind that we do not have a lot of extra space, so please pack lightly.

- Bible
- Catechism
- Pen/Pencil
- Sleeping Bag or Blanket/Sheet
- Pillow
- Towels & Washcloth
- Comfortable clothes for Saturday and Sunday
- An extra set of clothes
- Underwear, socks, etc.
- Sweater, Jacket, or Sweatshirt (it may be cool in the mornings)
- 2 pairs of sturdy shoes (Please no flip flops or sandals)
- Rain coat or umbrella
- Bag for dirty clothes
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Shampoo and Soap
- Other Toiletries
- Flashlight



Do Not Bring:

- Cell Phone
- Electronics
- Blow Dryers/Straighteners/Curling Irons
- Matches/Lighters/Fireworks
- Knives/Weapons
- Money
- Snacks (unless you plan to share with everyone)



Memory Verses

This year, the Memory Verse Challenge will be for students of all ages (Sunday School and Midweek), as well as parents and congregation members! Everyone who memorizes all 10 verses may participate in an ice cream party at the end of the year!

Theme Verses

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Romans 1:17 - For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)

2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Sola Fide (Faith Alone)

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Romans 3:28 - For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Solus Christus (by Christ Alone)

John 20:31 - But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

1 Corinthians 15:16-17 - For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

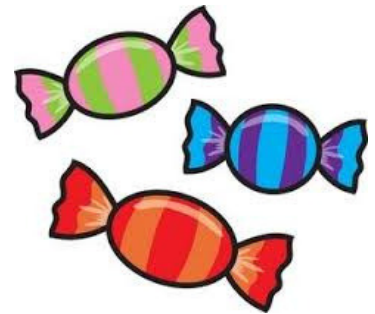
FALL FESTIVAL

October 22, 2017
6-8 PM



Dress Up

Collect Candy



Play Games

Win Prizes



Join us for

Christmas Worship

led by the children and youth of Holy Cross

December 16



5:00 PM

You don't want to miss the annual LYF



Spaghetti Dinner



March 3, 2018

Freewill offerings and proceeds from the silent auction go towards the 2019 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota

FOOD - ENTERTAINMENT - FUN