

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

December 2023
Volume 57 Number 12
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SAINTS OF THE SEASON

Come and join us this season for our Advent series

Each of the three Wednesdays in Advent corresponds to three different commemorations of three different saints on the church's calendar.

December 6: St. Nicholas, Bishop

"Finally, duties of charity leading to the alleviation of poverty and affliction are owed to those among the hearers who are orphans, widows, poor, homeless, and ill."

Of the many saints commemorated by the Christian Church, Nicholas (d. A.D. 342) is one of the best known. Very little is known historically of him, although there was a church of Saint Nicholas in



Constantinople as early as the sixth century. Research has affirmed that there was a bishop by the name of Nicholas in the city of Myra in Lycia (part of Turkey today) in the fourth century. From that coastal location, legends about Nicholas have traveled throughout time and space. He

is associated with charitable giving in many countries around the world and is portrayed as the rescuer of sailors, the protector of children, and the friend of people in distress or need. In commemoration of "Sinte Klaas" (Dutch for Saint Nicholas, in English "Santa Claus"), December 6 is a day for giving and receiving gifts in many parts of Europe. The selected Scripture readings for this day are 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 and Luke 12:35-40.

December 13: St. Lucia, Martyr

"Behold Christ, thy Saviour; in the agony of His awful passion He lays His own will on the altar as a most pleasing sacrifice unto God; and so do thou offer up thine own will unto God, and thou shalt indeed accomplish that which Christ requires of thee as a disciple, the denial of thine own self."

One of the victims of the great persecution under the Roman emperor Diocletian, Lucia met her death at Syracuse on the island of Sicily in the year A.D. 304, because of her Christian faith. Known for her charity, "Santa Lucia" (as she is called in Italy) gave away her dowry and remained a virgin until her execution by the sword. The name Lucia means "light," and, because of that, festivals of light



commemorating her became popular throughout Europe, especially in the Scandinavian countries. There her feast day corresponds with the time of year when there is the least amount of daylight. In artistic expression she is often portrayed in a white baptismal gown, wearing a wreath of candles on her head. The Scripture readings for this day are Revelation 7:9-17 and Matthew 19:23-30.

December 20: Katharina von Bora Luther, Holy Woman

"In all things let thy greatest care be to manifest deep humility and glowing love."

Katharina von Bora (1499–1552) was placed in a convent when still a child and became a nun in 1515. In April 1523 she and eight other nuns were rescued from the convent and brought to Wittenberg. There Martin Luther helped return some to their former homes and placed the rest in good families. Katharina and Martin were married on June 13, 1525. Their marriage was a happy one and blessed with six children. Katharina skillfully managed the Luther household, which always seemed to grow because of his generous hospitality. After Luther's death in 1546, Katharina remained in Wittenberg but lived much of the time in poverty. She died in an accident while traveling with her children to Torgau in order to escape the plague. The readings for this day are Proverbs 31:10-31 and Titus 2:1-15.



Merry Christmas ~ Pastor Gimbel

Source: LCMS Commemoration Biographies, <https://www.lcms.org/worship/church-year/commemorations>

Morgan Calcaterra
Preschool Director

Dani Richardson
Acting Director
& Teacher




"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. —John 15:1-5

Preschool children have had a busy month: painting, picking corn kernels off the cob, counting, building with blocks and practicing scissors skills! Below are some of our pictures during chapel and music time!



Chapel Time with Pastor Gimbel

We learned about Joshua and the City of Jericho! Acting on instructions from the Lord, the Israelites march around Jericho for seven days and conquer the city when its walls miraculously fall down! Christian Education is an important part of our curriculum at Holy Cross. We provide an environment where young children can explore and learn about Jesus by going to chapel, singing with Mr. Gilson, and additional Bible stories and songs in our classroom.



Preschool Christmas Service
Sunday, Dec. 3, 3pm
Holy Cross Sanctuary

Light One Candle

Our Christmas Program "Light One Candle" will be on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 3PM! We look forward to seeing you there! The children have been practicing and are excited to perform for you! Please arrive at 2:45PM. Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Nutter, and Mrs. Neumann will be waiting for you in the Welcome Center. Please have a seat. Our program will start promptly at 3PM.



Music Time with Mr. Gilson

We are shaking our Sillies Out with Mr. Gilson! Children look forward to singing and playing instruments with him every week. We love to sing songs about Jesus! Participating in music boosts children's vocabulary and language skills!

Enrollment for 2024-25 begins in January for Holy Cross members and current students. Tuition figures will be ready then.

Preschool will be closed for Thanksgiving starting on Wed., Nov. 22. Classes will resume Mon., Nov. 27.
Birthday Parties for Jesus will be held Dec. 18 & 19.
Christmas Break is Dec. 20, 2023, to Jan. 3, 2024.

Monthly Music Minute for December 2023

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

December, for almost everyone, means Christmas. Often, what follows from that, is an increased busy-ness. In addition to regular commitments, December brings office Christmas parties, children's programs and pageants, card-writing, gift-wrapping, and lots and lots cookies.

In the church, Advent and Christmas are no different — our schedule gets busier. Midweek services, extra services on Christmas Eve, concerts, and other events mean a busier schedule here, too.

It can be easy to lose yourself in the amount of activity that occurs this time of year. It can be easy to let the chaos and festivity distract us from what really matters this season - the promises we have through the birth of Jesus Christ. In a world that continually pushes back on what matters about this season, it is so important for us to be intentional and share this message with everyone. At Lessons and Carols this year, the final piece that the choir will sing lays out this duty well. Adapted from verses from Isaiah 40, the piece is entitled "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain" by Carolyn Jennings.

"Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
Joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
Lift up your voice, shout the good news:
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He who made the stars in the heaven,
He who fashioned the earth and the sea,
From time eternal he was God,

The Alpha and Omega, He.
Behold, your Lord!

He will come in power and glory,
He will rule with mercy and truth,
Hope of all the nations,
Light of all the world!

He will love the little children,
He will hold them in his arms.
Love him and trust him as a child,
Behold, your Lord comes to you."

What I love about this piece is that it is written for more than just a choir. It is written for numerous instruments, and there is a section designated for children's choir to sing, as well. The message that we are called to share is for everyone to share, from the smallest child to the eldest chorister. Jesus, Light of all the world, Alpha and Omega, comes to you.

So, this month we proclaim this message! And, we proclaim it again and again, through so many wonderful events and services. On page 5, you will find a calendar of services and events put on by many age groups and that will give you repeated opportunities to hear and share this beloved message for all. I encourage you to invite others to these events as well, as we climb to the top of the mountain and proclaim to the world that promise: Behold, your Lord comes to you!

Merry Christmas ~ David Gilson

Gateway Ringers Handbell Christmas Concert, Dec. 10

Join us at Holy Cross on December 10 at 4PM for a Christmas handbell concert performed by the Gateway Ringers!

The Gateway Ringers is an auditioned community choir, comprised of handbell ringers from the St. Louis area. Their mission is to inspire excellence in musicianship and heighten awareness of handbell music.

The group was formed in the fall of 1995.



The Gateway Ringers are members of the Handbell Musicians of America (formerly AGEHR) at the Area VIII and national levels. Gateway performs using five octaves of Malmark handbells & six octaves of Malmark Choirchimes®. The group is organized as a not-for-profit organization, and auditions are held every two years.

The time to celebrate the birth of our Savior is nearing. An important part of the celebration is bringing the good news of Our Savior's birth to our community.

Holy Cross is participating in the **Celebration of Lights** to spread the good news and the true meaning of Christmas. Participation includes setting up a nativity scene and providing six volunteers for each gate night. Gate night duties include directing traffic at the front gate and collecting entry fees at the halfway point.

Gate nights for Holy Cross are Dec. 4 and Dec. 14, from **5:30 to 8:30 PM**; six volunteers are needed each night. For Stroll Through the Park, two volunteers are needed Dec. 3, 4, and 5.

Sign up in the Welcome Center. Please contact Jerry Lancour or Paul Helvey for volunteer opportunities or further information.

On Gate Nights, Holy Cross will get a share of the entry fees, which the Elders use to update the display each year. So, if you're going to drive or walk-through the displays, choose a Holy Cross gate night!

Walk Through the Park:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS WALK- THROUGH NIGHTS

Holy Cross will open its doors to serve our community on the walk-through nights for the O'Fallon Celebration of Lights in Zumwalt Park, which have expanded to three nights this year – **Dec. 3, 4 and 5**. We will provide free parking in our lots, and hot drinks and cookies will be served in the gym following the walk-through.

We will need:

- ◆ People to help serve refreshments in the gym
- ◆ People to help park cars in our lots
- ◆ People to donate cookies

Signup sheets are on the center table in the Welcome Center. Sign up for one or more nights or simply put your name down to donate cookies. Thanks for sharing Holy Cross hospitality with people of our community!



Some things to remember:

Tickets must be purchased ahead of time before entry into the park. Follow the links found on this page (Website: <https://www.ofallon.mo.us> > celebration-of-lights) Or, visit the Renaud Center to buy drive-through or Old-Fashioned Holiday Stroll tickets in person. All tickets must be bought before visiting the display. In addition, specialty ride reservations must be made well in advance.

2023 Admission Pricing:

- Cars \$14
- Stroll ("Walk Through") \$5

COL Opens Nov. 24, 2023

COL Closes Dec. 30, 2023

COL Website:

<https://www.ofallon.mo.us> > celebration-of-lights

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 January 2024 issue is Dec 8, 2023—earlier than usual due to holiday schedules.** Email submissions **prior** to deadline at secretary@hcross.com.

ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS



The Altar Guild will offer poinsettias to decorate the altar for Christmas. Cost is \$11.

Sign up in the Flower Book in the Welcome Center. Pay to *Holy Cross Flower Fund* using the designated blue envelopes. Flowers can be picked up after the Christmas Day service.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS

The last day to submit contributions for Holy Cross for the 2023 calendar year is Sun., Dec. 31, 2023, at the 10:45AM service. All contributions received by that time will be included on the 2023 contribution statement. Donations hand delivered to the church by Sun., Dec. 31, or received via USPS with a postmark of 12/31/23 or before, will also be included on the 2023 contribution statement. Any contributions received on or after Mon., Jan. 1, 2024, will be on the 2024 contribution statement.

Calling an Associate Pastor

A call committee has been formed per our bylaws to lead us in the calling of an associate pastor. The call committee consists of Joe Snyder, chairman; Paul Helvey; and Liz Belter. Additional advisory members are Pastor Gimbel, Ralph Erickson, Vickie Glasstetter, Eric Lacey, Sherry Piazza, David Schlesselman, and Chris Storm.

A congregational survey was conducted in the last two weeks of October with leadership from the Missouri District. The survey results were tabulated and presented to the Call Committee by the Missouri District representative. These results in turn were presented to the congregation during the last two weeks of November.

Thank you to all of you who kept the call process in your prayers and took the time to participate in the survey. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will work through our process to lead us to the man God has already selected for us.



Plan to share fellowship and food with Holy Cross members at the dinner table as three of our organizations do all the cooking and cleanup!

Dinner is at **5:30PM to 6:45PM** each Wednesday in Advent.
Advent Service starts at **7PM**.

Midweek Advent 1: Dec. 6, 2023

Sponsored by Grace Guild
Menu: Baked Pasta, Bread Sticks, Desserts

Midweek Advent 2: Dec. 13, 2023

Sponsored by Wednesday Morning Bible Class
Menu: Chicken & More

Midweek Advent 3: Dec. 20, 2023

Sponsored by Holy Cross Board of Elders
Menu: Hamburgers & Hot Dogs & More

Free will offerings will be collected.

Special Advent & Christmas Services and Events

Sat, Dec. 2, 3PM

Family Christmas Service

"The Songs of Christmas"

with Children's Choir and Beginning Handbells
4PM—Service Project, Dinner, Family Photos

Sun, Dec. 3, 3PM

Preschool Christmas Service

"Light One Candle"

Sun., Dec. 3, 6 to 8:30PM

Celebration of Lights Walk-Throughs

Parking cars, serving cookies in gym

Wed, Dec. 6, 13, & 20, 11AM & 7PM

Advent Midweek services: *Saints of the Season*

Midweek Dinners ~ see left for menus, times

Sun, Dec. 10, 4PM

Gateway Ringers Handbell Christmas Concert

Sun, Dec. 17, 8 & 10:45AM

Services of Lessons & Carols

"Behold, Your Lord Comes to You"

Adult Choir, Children's Choir, and orchestra

Sat, Dec. 23: NO Service

Sun, Dec. 24: *Advent IV*, 9:30AM

One morning service celebrates the Last Sunday in Advent with Holy Communion

Sun., Dec. 24, *Christmas Eve*, 3PM, 5PM, 7PM

Candlelight Services without Communion

Sun., Dec. 24, *Christmas Eve*, 11PM

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

Candlelight Service with Communion

Mon, Dec. 25, *Christmas Day*, 9:30AM

Holy Communion

Sun., Dec. 31, *New Year's Weekend*

All services will be Matins.

3PM Saturday

8 & 10:45AM Sunday

Sunday School at 9:30AM; No Adult Bible Class

Mon., Jan. 1, 2024, *New Year's Day*

No Service — Church Office is Closed

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Dinner 5:30-6:45 pm

Children's Choir* 6-6:15pm

Midweek 6:15-7 pm

Confirmation/LYF 6-7 pm

Service 7-8 pm

DECEMBER 6, 13 & 20

No Practice Dec 20

PreK - 5th Grade
Party in classrooms

6th - 12th Grade
Escape room 11



For unto us
a child is born!



Happy Birthday Jesus!

December 17, 2023
9:30-10:30 AM

Please join
us for a
party for
Jesus!

December 6

Before service,
leave your shoes
in the welcome
center, and after
service, see what
treats await.



Having fun with Saint Nicolas



PreK - 5th Grade
Party in classrooms

6th - 12th Grade
Escape room 11



For unto us
a child is born!



Happy Birthday Jesus!

December 17, 2023
9:30-10:30 AM

Please join
us for a
party for
Jesus!

Family Christmas Service Information

Practice Schedule

Nov 19 9:30-10:30am

Nov 29 5:30-6:30pm

Dec 2 1:30-2:30pm

Costume Fitting

Nov 19 10:30-12:00pm

Nov 29 5:30-6:45pm



Family Christmas Service

December 2, 2023

Service 3:00-4:00 PM

4:00-6:00 PM

Family Photos

Service Project: Packing care packages for the seminary

Dinner

Lessons & Carols

Holy Cross Choir & Orchestra

“Behold, your Lord Comes to You”

December 17, 2023

8AM & 10:45AM

TREAT BAGS FOR SEMINARY STUDENTS

The Mission and Stewardship Boards are teaming up for an end-of-semester Treat Bag Donation Drive for first-year Seminary students. Help us fill Treat Bags by donating **pre-packaged and snack/travel sizes** of the following items:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Candy | Chips |
| Fruit | Pretzels |
| Toiletries | Peanuts |
| Caffeine drinks | Cookies |
| Granola bars | Donuts |
| Crackers | |

The Treat Bag Donation drive will run from Oct. 28 to Nov. 26. A box to collect donated items will be in the Welcome Center under the Mission Board table.

On Dec. 2 after the Saturday Family Christmas service, all families participating in the Christmas program as well as anyone else in the congregation are invited to help fill the Treat Bags and write letters and cards to the first-year Seminary students. Dinner will be served. Family pictures will be taken. See the poster below. For more information about the Family Christmas service, contact DCE Charity Smith at csmith@hcross.com



Decorating for Christmas



Help us decorate the church for Christmas

Dec 2

9AM

Bring the family!



Zone Retreat features Quilt Theme

“God’s Quilt of Comfort – Wrapping Up in the Psalms” was the theme for the LWML MO District St. Charles Zone Retreat on Nov. 11, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles, MO.

Participants enjoyed a breakfast before music and Bible Study. A delicious lunch was served later.

Ann Hazelwood, quilt expert and author, spoke about her experiences as a writer and former shop owner of “Patches,” a quilt shop on St. Charles Main Street (no longer open).



Author Ann Hazelwood

Activities included Bible study and faith journaling. Women created quilt blocks based on a Bible passage. Some were collected to poster boards to create a larger “quilt” which was displayed in the closing. Projects included quilt crafts, quilt-tying, and marking Bibles for Lutherans for Life.

Fifteen Holy Cross LWML members attended, including LWML Missouri District President Marian Hoehner (member of Ladies Guild); Karen Copper, President of Grace Guild and retreat committee member; and Young Women’s Representative (YWR) Shana Elick (member of Grace Guild) who co-chaired the event with Gail Hahn of Immanuel. Shana’s two daughters greeted people, helped out during activities, and performed in the closing skit.

Meeting the LWML Missouri District Goal of \$355,000

What? = \$150,000 is the GOAL! \$150,000 is all that is needed to surpass our 2022-2024 Mission Goal of \$355,000.

When? = April 15, 2024, is the end of our biennium. So, \$150,000 by April 15, 2024.

How? = MITES! \$50 per member in Mites between Nov.1, 2023, and April 15, 2024, and we will meet our Mission Goal of \$355,000.

Why? = MANY REASONS... First, so that we can meet our Mission Goal for the first time this century. Second, so that we can have a little fun with an East vs. West competition. **Third, and most importantly, so that we can impact lives by supporting the mission organizations and the church worker students who are and will be sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!**

The Details

The Impact! First, 14 mission organizations and 26 church worker students we are supporting. Each mission organization is dedicated to sharing the Love of God in Christ Jesus to change lives. Each church worker student will eventually go out into a congregation or school in order to show that same Love of God in Christ Jesus. Your Mites are going to make this happen!

The Challenge! Second, and not even as close to as important as The Impact (but hopefully fun!), is the East vs. West Challenge. We have split the district zones into East and West. Each month, the collection of Mites will be tallied and made known via Facebook. The Challenge ends on April 15, 2024, with the “winner” being the area with the highest per member giving. What’s at stake? Bragging rights, of course. But, also, since we have a pastoral counselor on each side, the “losing side” pastoral counselor will serve as a gopher/servant to the “winning side” pastoral counselor on the Saturday of our District Convention (June 7-9, 2024).

You can make a difference!

Together we can meet our Mission Goal!

Most importantly, each and every one of us can make an impact to the Glory of God and the Furthering of His Kingdom!

All Holy Cross members are encouraged to pick up a Mite box in the Welcome Center. Pick up a Mite calendar on the same table and let it guide you in your December Mite contributions!



Top: Retreat chairs Gail Hahn and Shana Elick welcome women to the retreat held in the Immanuel Fellowship Hall. Right, Ruth Wiley of Immanuel shows the quilt block she made in crafts. Jocelyn Elickis behind her. Below, some of the women Holy Cross who attended the retreat: Shirley Niewald, Joyce Niewald, Jayne Jepsen, Christel Hundt Adrienne Brewster, Elma Jane Kramer, and Sherry Piazza.

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS



Children and Youth are invited to serve as ushers and greeters for the Family Christmas Service (12/2).

This is a first come, first serve for any age.



RSVP

Usher - Ralph Erickson

(314) 249-7136

Greeter - David Schlesselman

(636) 578-1766

Ushers Needed



Contact:

Elder Ralph Erickson

Enrollment
Opens
Nov. 27

Lutheran High St. Charles



Apply Online!

www.lutheranhighstcharles.com



HOPE Seeds Dec. 7, 2023

9AM to noon

Holy Cross gym

Pack seeds
for missions.

Retirement Recognition

January 13 & 14

Writes ups and pictures must be turned in by
January 5th to Joyce at secretary@hcross.com



RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

As part of Milestone Ministries, the Boards of Youth and Education will recognize those who have retired in 2022 & 2023 on the weekend of Jan. 13&14, 2024.

Much like the graduation recognition held in June, individuals are encouraged to send in a brief bio and a picture to the church office by Jan. 5. These will be printed in the service bulletin. During the service, individuals will be asked to come forward for recognition and prayer.

Don't be shy! If you retired in 2023, let us know so that your church family can share with you this milestone in your life.

The Longest Night of the Year

The Christmas season can be a dark and lonely time for some. Here are 3 ways to spend time with the Light of the World.

Sit by your lit Christmas tree in the dark and repeat
Psalm 139: 12

Take a walk outside and create a breath prayer. A breath prayer is a short, two-part prayer. One is a name for God; the second is a petition or request. Here are some examples: "Loving Jesus, come quickly." "God of light, take away my fear." "Holy One, shine in my heart." Repeat the prayer throughout the walk.

Sit in the darkness inside your home. Light the four candles on the Advent wreath and be completely silent for at least 1 minute. After the silence, have hot chocolate, sing a carol, or read Luke 1: 5 - 2:21.

Devotions for home

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Calendar of Events — December 2023

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
26	Last Sunday of the Church Year 8 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion Noon: Call Committee Presentation	27	9:30AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancers 6:30PM Handbells	28	9AM Preschool Chapel 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meetings 6:30PM Adult Bible Class	29	9AM/1PM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 5:30PM Open Gym/Dinner* 6PM Beginner Bell Choir 6PM Children's Choir 6:15PM Midweek (gr. 2-5) 6:30PM Confirmation 6:30PM High School 6:45PM Adult Choir 7PM Gym	30	<u>8AM News & Notes</u> <u>Deadline</u> 10AM—3PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30PM 20s&30s	1	DECEMBER	2	9AM Decorate Church 1:30PM Practice for Family Christmas 3PM Family Christmas Worship Service 4PM Service Project/ Dinner/Family Photos
3	ADVENT I 8 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion 1:30PM Board of Elders 3PM Preschool Christmas Service	4	HCLC Gate Night 9:30AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancers 1:15PM Quilt Setup 6:30PM Handbell Choir	5	9AM Preschool Chapel 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meetings 5:30PM Boards of Youth & Education (off-site)	6	MIDWEEK ADVENT I 9AM/1PM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM Midweek Advent Service 5:30PM Advent Dinner: GG 6PM Confirmation, High School 6PM Children's Choir 6:15PM Midweek (gr. 2-5) 7PM Midweek Advent Service 8PM Adult Choir	7	<u>8AM News & Notes</u> <u>Deadline</u> 9AM HOPE Seeds (gym) 1PM Ladies Guild Setup 6:30PM 20s&30s	8	Koinonia Deadline (January issue) 8:30AM Ladies Guild Setup 10AM Ladies Guild	9	11AM TO 4PM Private Event (Gym) 3PM Holy Communion
10	ADVENT II 8 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion 4PM Gateway Ringers Concert	11	9AM Quilt Setup 9:30 M TOPS 11AM Line Dancers 6PM Council Boards 6:30PM Handbell Choir	12	9AM Preschool Chapel 9AM Quilting (gym) 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meetings 6:30PM Grace Guild (away) 6:30PM Adult Bible Class	13	MIDWEEK ADVENT 2 6:30AM Men's Breakfast/Bible Study 9AM/1PM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class: ABC 11AM Midweek Advent Service 5:30PM Advent Dinner 6PM Confirmation, High School 6PM Children's Choir 6:15PM Midweek (gr. 2-5) 7PM Midweek Advent Service 8PM Adult Choir	14	<u>8AM News & Notes</u> <u>Deadline</u> 6:30PM 20s&30s	15	Koinonia Production	16	9:30AM Choir Rehearsal 1:30PM Baptism 3PM Lessons & Carols (without choir or orchestra)
17	ADVENT III 8 AM Lessons & Carols 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Lesson & Carols	18	9:30AM TOPS 10:30AM, 2:30PM—Preschool: Jesus' Birthday Parties 6:30PM Handbell Choir	19	9AM Preschool Chapel 10:30AM Preschool: Jesus' Birthday Party 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meetings 6:30PM Adult Bible Class	20	MIDWEEK ADVENT 3 PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK Dec. 20—Jan. 3 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM Midweek Advent Service 5:30PM Advent Dinner: Elders 6PM Confirmation, High School 6:15PM Midweek (gr. 2-5) 7PM Midweek Advent Service 8PM Adult Choir	21	<u>8AM News & Notes</u> <u>Deadline</u> 6:30PM 20s&30s	22		23	NO SATURDAY SERVICE
24	ADVENT IV & CHRISTMAS EVE 9:30AM Holy Communion (Advent IV) Christmas Eve Candlelight/No Communion: 3PM/5PM/7PM 11 PM Holy Communion with candlelight	25	CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30AM Holy Communion Church Office Closed	26	Church Office Closed	27	Church Office Closed Tile floors burnished on both levels	28	<u>8AM News & Notes</u> <u>Deadline</u> 6:30PM 20s&30s (OFFSITE) GYM FLOORS, LOWER LEVEL OFF-LIMITS Gym floor will be waxed	29		30	TBD WEDDING 3PM Matins

Sun., Dec. 31: Regular Sunday Schedule: 8AM, 10:45AM Matins: 9:30AM Sunday School (film); No Adult Bible Class
Mon., Jan 1: New Year's Day: No service: Church Office Closed.

December Celebrations 2023

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

Happy Birthday!

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1: Bill Holt, Donna Johnson, Julie Northrup | 12: Rachel Bauer, Jenna Rincand, Keson Grissom, Susan Haywood, Jaxson Showen | 24: Ed Belter, Carleen Hardy, George Kirby, Chris Marhanka, Natalie Van Wave |
| 2: Betty Kling, Andi Stover | 13: Christel Hundt | 26: Connie Ryan, Paul Woelfer |
| 4: Tracey McKinney | 14: Vita Walkenhorst, Rick Wiese | 27: Delores Daly, Eric Polashek |
| 5: Lucas Buehne, Pat Koepp, Dee Paoletti | 16: Kayleigh Brown, Sherry Piazza | 28: Ryleigh Bowers, Ronald Kettler, Sarah Schnoor |
| 6: Alison Blundell | 17: Warner Macke, Audrey Stover | 29: Brad Leapley, Grace McKinney, Vita Sayers, Lydia Sumski |
| 7: Rory Fink, Joyce McEntire | 18: Kelli Bullington, Wayne Fore | 30: Mia Frerichs, Lauren Kunzweiler |
| 8: Brenda Fore, Lila Gimbel, Marek Linn | 19: Booker Henningfeld, Katie Ziolko | 31: Amelia Hunter, Bryce Hunter, Steven Liescheidt, Nancy Scaglione |
| 9: Maddie Dawdy, Rick Johns | 20: Mike Dawdy, Samantha Kessels, Harper Prose, Mick Thoene | |
| 10: Jonathan Davison, Wyatt Dunajcik | 21: Jacob Drilling, Anne Ziegemeier | |
| 11: Faith Blackwell, Kristine Morgan, Larry Schilling, Chris Storm, Nancy Thoene, Lily Witte | 22: Cooper Freand, Brandon Kemper, Diana Snyder | |
| | 23: Shawn Huber | |

Baptism Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1: Matthew Claxton, Marilyn Otto, Bernice Sutliff | Wanda Woodhouse | 25: Gary Schuler |
| 2: Connie Gamache, Peggy Kuerschner | 11: Judith Bonney, Marek Linn | 26: Theodore Langley |
| 3: Greyson Linn | 12: Oria Ray | 27: McKenzie Kiely, Peggy Linn |
| 5: Brian Belter, Melanie Dafler | 13: Ian Curtis, Bob Knehans, Neil C. McDaniel, Anya Ziolko | 28: Payton Frederking, Mike Kahler, John Schneider IV, Taylor Schneider |
| 6: Kaitlyn Cunningham, Jocelyn Elick, Natalie Elick, Shana Elick, Darlene Wischmeyer | 14: Emily Kahler | 29: Emmett Zimmerman |
| 7: Doris Hewkin, Linda Ziolko | 15: Drew Linn | 30: Bill Beck, Lauren Bowers, Levi Bowers, Ryleigh Bowers, Carla Cooper, Sherry Piazza, Abigail Schlereth, Logan Schulte |
| 8: Steven Estes | 16: Nimve Smith | |
| 9: Greg Bonney, | 17: Craig DeMent, Leonidas Franklin | |
| | 18: Lila Gimbel, Patty Ulrich | |
| | 20: Lisa Aston, Michelle Kincaid | |
| | 24: Robert Blundell | |

Wedding Anniversaries

- Dec. 16:** Brad & Darlyne Leapley
Dec. 28: Tracy & Floyd Porter

Merry Christmas

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS

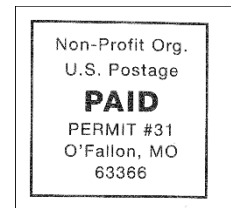
Gate nights for Holy Cross are

December 4, and 14 from **5:30 to 8:30 PM**;

Six volunteers are needed each night.

See article inside about signing up!

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



December 2023



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

Put Address Label Here

Holy Cross Lutheran Church: 1960 ~ 2023

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
Pastor

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 — Weekdays, varying hours.
Call for details.

Sunday School for ages 3 through High School —Sundays, 9:30AM
With **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 date.

Women's Bible Study: Tuesday mornings at 10AM

Adult Bible Class: Tuesdays, Dec. 12 & 19, 6:30PM

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study: Dec. 13, 6:30AM

Adult Bible Class: Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

Confirmation (grades 6-8); MidWeek Classes (grades 3-5)
— Wednesdays, see calendar

High School Wednesdays, see calendar for December

20s & 30s Bible Study: Thursdays, 6:30PM, Rm 1&2.