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

Koinonia HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway, O'Fallon, MO 63366 January 2024 Volume 58 Number 1

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

# Walk Through the Park – Celebration of Lights

**THANKS** to everyone who donated invited acquaintances, providing musical entertainment, took pictures, or helped with serving cookies and hot drinks on December 3, 4, and 5. We parked almost 600 vehicles in our lot over the three evenings and served more than 700 guests. We distributed many different spiritual pieces to those who came into our building. Three wonderful takeaways from the evenings were:

- Numerous people wanted to pay for parking and instead we offered free parking plus cookies and hot drinks (a great example of God's free grace we offer regularly)
- Some know the routine and come to our parking lot each year because of the close parking and reception following (they know Holy Cross as a very friendly place — GREAT!)
- Several of our guests mentioned that they had been told about the parking and reception from our Holy Cross members (we are reaching out to our community – EVEN BETTER!!)

Through your efforts we can share the True Light of Christmas with more people from our community. Everyone is looking for light in this dark world. We have THE LIGHT that will shine through every darkness we encounter. Thanks for sharing.



The Photo Booth and Cookie Table were greatly appreciated by folks who stopped by the Holy Cross gym after viewing the light display in the park. *Above left:* Quinton & Vickie Glasstetter get their holiday picture taken. *Above right,* crowds filled the gym for three nights. Hot drinks and cookies were enjoyed by all!



*Top:* Brass Choir played on Dec. 3. *From left:* Matt Claxton, Matt Alton, Brian Storm, Byron Alton, Shana Ziolko, Larry Shroth, and Owen Duncan. *Middle:* The photo booth was a big hit with families! *Bottom:* Serving cookies: Loretta Ezell, Christel Hundt, Norma Helms. Also pictured: Karen & Dale Dusheke, Mark Hoemann.



& Teacher





Christmas program "Light One Candle"





"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

December was a busy month with our Light One Candle Christmas program and Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus parties. The children worked hard on their turn-taking skills, playing games, and making gifts for their families.

In class we discussed, if you could give Jesus one gift, what would it be? Some of the answers were a hug, a blanket, a toy, tell him I love him, or a puppy. The answers they gave were not our focus, but to open-up a discussion that Jesus is the ultimate gift of eternal life. He came in the simplest and humblest of wrappings to save us from our sins.

As we shift our focus to January's winter unit, each child will practice writing first and last names independently and use their fine motor skills to cut-out a snowman. Our Bible verse will be Psalms 5:7 "Wash me

and I shall be whiter than snow."

Our enrollment for 2024-25 preschool classes begins this month for current preschool families and Holy Cross Church members. If you any questions, please contact Morgan Calcaterra at <u>preschool@hcross.com</u> or 636 -272-4505 Ext.106.

Happy New Year and God's blessings!





Come! Join us for

**HOPE Seeds** 

on Thurs., Jan 4, Rm 1-2,

as more seeds are packed for those in need around the world. Sponsored by Holy Cross Stewardship Board.



## Monthly Music Minute for January 2024

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

appy New Year! January, for many, means back into routine. Christmas the and the holidays are over, vacations and travel plans come to an end, and it's back to the grind.

musicians For in the church, it's a similar The highs feeling. of Advent Christmas and are behind, and the planning for Lent and Easter begins. In the

Epiphany. January certainly isn't the most

Bell Choir members played at Dec. 4 during the Celebration of meantime, we head back Lights Walk-Through. Row 1: Jan Paulson, Lisa Aston, Gail to the green season of Hardebeck; Row 2: Music Director David Gilson, Mark Hoemann, Liz Belter, Ashleigh Wallace-Lacey.

Choir, Beginning Bell Choir, Lessons and Carols Orchestra, Brass Group, Handbell Choir, and others in December over so many special services. I was trying to do the math on how many people helped out and I couldn't come up with an exact count, but I believe it was in the range of **65** 70 or different musicians! I am overwhelmed bv the generosity you have all

shown with your time, service, and dedication, so thank you.

busy month for a church musician.

So, rather than talking about a hymn we'll be singing in January, this month I want to look back and reflect a little bit. I would like to thank all the musicians who have helped out in our Advent and Christmas seasons.

In addition to regular Sunday worship, we've had extra participation from the Adult Choir, Children's Christmas is a really cool time of year for ministry because you get to minister to people whom you don't normally see. Events like the Celebration of Lights Walk-Through or Christmas Eve candlelight services bring people through the door that may not set foot in a church any other time of year. All the musicians who volunteer their time and their attitudes make such a difference, sharing the Light of Christ to those who may not usually see it. So, again, thank you! — David Gilson





INSTALLATION RITE for all Newly-Elected and Incumbent CHURCH OFFICERS, COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS, ELDERS, as well as Officers of Auxiliary Groups (LWML and others) will take place

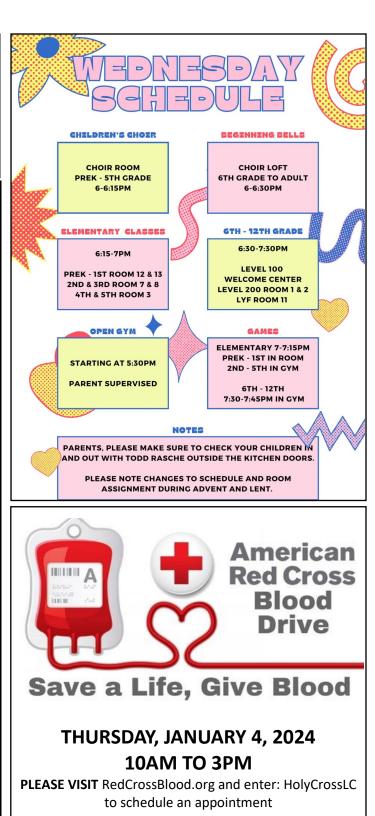
Jan. 6-7, 2024, at <u>all</u> services.

If you are a recently elected official or an incumbent, attend the service of your choice. Please participate in the installation rite.

### HOLY CROSS LEADERSHIP

**CHURCH OFFICERS, COUNCIL BOARDS, & ELDERS** 

POSITION	NAME								
Executiv	e Committee								
President	Greg Emerick								
Vice President	vacant								
Council Secretary	Barb Grosch								
Treasurer	Anita Linneman								
Board of Elders									
John Bertram	Neal Menscher								
Mike Claxton	Rob Paoletti								
Solomon Conrad	Chris Price								
Kent Haffer	Bruce Richardson								
Paul Helvey	Brian Storm								
Jerry Lancour	1 vacancy								
Board of Stewardship									
Chair Einen in Chair	Ashleigh Wallace-Lacey								
Financial Secretary	Karen Belter								
Member	Cynthia Menscher								
Board of Youth									
Member	Trudy Aston Jennifer Reed								
Member Board o	f Education								
Chair	Linda Ziolko								
Member	Karen Copper								
Member	Debbie Parks								
	Evangelism								
Chair	David Schlesselman								
Member	Dianne Anderson								
Member	Mark Hoemann								
	of Property								
Chair	Mark Ziolko								
Member	Terry Hardy								
Board	of Missions								
Chair	Liz Belter								
Member	Diane Jones								
Member	Emily Kahler								
	Technology								
Chair	Tim Laufer								
Member	Bryan Drilling								
Member	Nathan Temple								
Member	Jeff Waltersdorf								
	nool Board								
Chair	Bruce Linn								
Member	Elaine Alton								
Member	Laura Gimbel								
Member	Dawn Kahler								
Member	Sue Williams								
Director	Morgan Calcaterra								



### HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH GYM

8945 VETERANS MEMORIAL PARKWAY, O'FALLON, MO

In November, the American Red Cross collected 13 productive units of blood on a goal of 15. These units will help 39 patients in nearby hospitals!

### **Update: Calling an Associate Pastor**

Thanks to all of you who have completed the survey and/ or attended one of the forums discussing the results. If you were unable to be at one of the forums you will find highlights of the survey results posted on the Call Committee bulletin board in the Welcome Center.

At a Special Voters Meeting on Sun., Dec. 10, Voters approved the motion for the Call Committee to pursue the avenue of calling a candidate from one of our seminaries. We will be submitting our call documents to both seminary placement directors who will then review their candidates graduating this spring and select up to five candidates from each seminary best meeting our needs and send information to us about those candidates. The Call Committee then plans to conduct interviews with those candidates. Shortly thereafter at a Special Voters Meeting, information will be shared and Voters will be asked to extend a call through the seminaries.

Please pray for the seminary personnel who will select our candidates, our Call Committee that will be interviewing them, the candidates being interviewed, and the District Presidents who will be making the assignments. Pray that God's will might be accomplished through the work of all humans involved. Please note that there are more congregations requesting pastors than there are candidates available, so this process does not guarantee that we will receive an associate pastor.

The Call Committee is now working on forms that must be submitted with any request for candidates for the position of associate pastor. These include a congregational profile sheet, a job description for our associate pastor, and information about our congregation. In addition, church leaders have completed a pastoral profile ranking to prioritize the talents and characteristics that they feel are most important in our new associate pastor.

Please continue to pray that God will lead and guide this process as we work to accomplish His will for the ministry at Holy Cross.



Adrienne Tolson of Gentiva Hospice received the quilts made by the Holy Cross Ladies Guild quilting group in 2023. Norma Helms (at right) helped tuck the quilts into her car to be delivered to hospice patients. The finished tied-quilts were displayed in church on LWML Sunday in October.



**Quilt-Tying** resumes Jan. 16 at 9AM. Bring a lunch! This group is sponsored by Holy Cross Ladies Guild. Quilt tops are sewn and tied during this time. All products are given to those in need. Contact Norman Helms.

Quilting Fellowship meets Sat., Jan. 20, from 10AM to 3PM in the gym. Bring your quilting projects and get help from experienced quilters. All experience levels are welcome. Contact Cynthia Menscher for more information.





### **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 2022 or 2023, let us know so that your church family can share this milestone with you in your life.

8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion	28	8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour + Midweek Teacher Training 10:45AM Holy Communion Noon: 4 Family Life	21	Retirement Recognition — all services 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion Noon: NYG Meeting	14	CHURCH OFFICER INSTALLATION —all services 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion 1:30PM Board of Elders	7 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD	9:30AM Matins 9:30AM Sunday School only 10:45AM Matins	S	
9:30 AM TOPS 11:00AM Line Dancers 6:30PM Handbells	29	<i>Koinonia</i> Mailing 9:30 AM TOPS 11:00AM Line Dancers 6:30PM Handbells	22	Preschool Closed 9:30 AM TOPS 10:00AM Quilt Setup 11:00AM Line Dancers 6:30PM Handbells 6:30PM Handbells	15 MLK DAY	9:30 AM TOPS 10:00AM Ladies Guild Exec 11:00AM Line Dancers 6:00PM Council Boards 6:30PM Handbells 7:30PM Council Meeting	8	NEW YEAR'S DAY CHURCH OFFICE & PRESCHOOL CLOSED	Monday	Holy Cross L
9:00AM Preschool Chapel 10:00AM: Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meetings	30	9:00AM Preschool Chapel 10AM: Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meetings 6:30PM Adult Bible Class	23	9:00AM Preschool Chapel 9:00AM Quilting (gym) 10:00AM: Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meetings 2:00pm Preschool Board	16	9:00AM Preschool Chapel 10:00AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meetings 6:00PM Grace Guild 6:30PM Adult Bible Class	9		7 Tuesday	Lutheran Church
9:00AM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 1:00PM Preschool Chapel 5:30PM: Open Gym 6:00PM Beginning Bell Choir 6:00PM Children's Choir 6:15PM MVV PreK—5th 6:30PM Confirmation, LYF 6:45PM Adult Choir 7:00PM Gym	31	9:00AM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 1:00PM Preschool Chapel 5:30PM: Open Gym 6:00PM Beginning Bell Choir 6:00PM Children's Choir 6:15PM MW PreK—Sth 6:30PM Confirmation, LYF 6:45PM Adult Choir 7:00PM Gym	24	9:00AM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 1:00PM Preschool Chapel 5:30PM: Open Gym 6:00PM Beginning Bell Choir 6:00PM Children's Choir 6:15PM MVV PreK—5th 6:30PM Confirmation, LYF 6:45PM Adult Choir 7:00PM Gym	17	6:30AM Men's Breakfast 9:00AM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 1:00PM Preschool Chapel 5:30PM: Open Gym 6:00PM Beginning Bell Choir 6:00PM Children's Choir 6:10PM Children's Choir 6:15PM MW PreK—5th 6:30PM Confirmation, LYF 6:45PM Adult Choir 7:00PM Gym	10	<u>د</u>	2 Wednesday	Calendar of Ev
8am News & Notes Deadline 9am HOPE Seeds (gym) 6:30pm 20sa30s	1 FEBRUARY	8am News & Notes Deadline 6:30PM 20ss.30s	25	8am News & Notes Deadline 6:30pm 20sa30s	18	8am News & Notes Deadline Circuit Meetings —At Holy Cross 8:30am 10 1PM 6:30PM 20sa.30s	11	<ul> <li>Parent-Teacher</li> <li>Conferences</li> <li>Bam News &amp; Notes</li> <li>Deadline</li> <li>9AM HOPE Seeds (gym)'</li> <li>10AM-3PM American Red</li> <li>Cross Blood Drive</li> <li>6:30PM 20s&amp;30s</li> </ul>	Thursday	ents –
	2	MS Circuit Event (offsite)	26	Koinonia Production	19	Koinonia Deadline 10AM Ladies Guild	12	PS: Parent-Teacher Conferences <b>NOTE:</b> deadline for bio and picture for Retire- ment Recognition, Jan. 13-14.	Friday	January 2024
3PM Holy Communion	3	3PM Holy Communion	27	9AM-11AM Cradle Roll Book Exchange (Welcome Center) 10AM TO 2PM (GYM) —Quilting Fellowship 3PM Holy Communion	20	9AM TO 2PM— Church Game Day 3PM Holy Communion + Retirement Recognition	13	9 Gerieriany 9AM Undecorate Church/Christmas 3PM Holy Communion CHURCH OFFICER INSTALLATION		

# January Celebrations 2024

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

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

- 1: Gracie Niemeyer, Bev Smith
- 3: Lisa Byers, Clara Doyle
- 4: Judith Kirby
- 5: Karen Belter, Don Grzina
- 6: Earl Dietz
- 7: Marilyn Benassi, Anna Koepke, Karin Nieman, Randy Sagez, Lacey Sumski, Mark Ziolko
- 8: Diane Gade, Laurie Heizmann, Denise Lackey
- 9: Lovisa Davison, Jacob Klootwyk
- 10: Christian Eaton

2: Lvdia Smith

3: Laura Irvin

11: Emma Rheinecker

- 11: Madalyn Cagle, Bentley McNiff, Diane Palombi, Wayne Wiese
- 12: Alexa Berjer, Ellie Berjer, Owen 21: Karen Gaglio, Shelby Morgan,

- Berjer, Mike Ehlers, Peggy Gallagher, Laura Gimbel, Lizzie Johansmann, Esther Legoute, **Dorothy Morrison**
- 13: Aurora Edison
- 14: Maverick Bartlett, Jonathan Ehlers, Iris Hackbarth
- 15: Dixie Booth, David Darst
- 16: Cynthia Schwab
- 17: Cooper Dunajcik, Barbara Parson
- 19: Susan Bollinger, Chris Gaglio 20: Dylan Crider, Don Otto, Landon Henningfeld, Michael Vesper

- Tracey Schuler, Sandra Semler
- 22: Luciano Chinnici, Michelle Dunajcik, Jocelyn Gibbs, David Sutliff
- 23: Carla Addison, Jaidyn Benson, Aiden Claxton, Tidus Willis
- 24: Elaine Howard
- 25: Greg Bonney, Justin Haffer
- 26: Jim Boyd, Camden Danchus, Terry Hardy, Debra Korte
- 27: Cheryln Landgraf, Carla Wiese
- 29: Nancy Plesia
- 30: Baylee Albano, Cindy Buehne, Floyd Darling Jr., Jack Estill,
- 31: Trudy Aston, Brody Van Wave

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

- 1: Rachel Bauer, Carolyn Bertram, Jerry Bradley, Gerald Lancour, Paul Helvey, Liane Higgins, Valerie Schnefke, Charles Wardenburg, Ernestine Wilson
- 12: Aleeah Ray
- 14: Greg Emerick, Jared Klootwyk, Justin Klootwyk
- 16: Doris Coots
- 17: Julie Northrup, Sara Schwab
- 18: Anna DeMent, Kaylee Diedrich
- 19: Shirlev Amos
- 20: Don Otto, Sarah Schnoor, Mark Ziolko
- 22: Diana Snyder
- 23: Jacob Drilling, Chase Markham, Alyssa Parks
- 24: Alli Smith
- 25: Eric Polashek
- 27: Susan Haywood
- 29: Aiden Claxton, Laura Gimbel
- 31: Riley May

## Wedding Anniversaries!

- 3: Vickie & Quinton Glasstetter (9)
- 4: Sal & Barbara Benigno (55)
- 4: Mike & Dawn Kahler (49)
- 8: Mark & Darlene Drilling (41)
- 10: John & Gloria Anderson (54)
- 11: Bill & Pam Beck (46)
- 19: Paul & Jennifer Goris (17)
- 21: Doris & Jim Coots (63)
- 21: Gordon & Phyllis Robinson Jr. (68)
- 25: Carl & Kay Hardman (55)
- 25: John & Linda Jackson (60)
- 27: Ron & Linda Kettler (56)
- 29: Don & Bridget Grzina (53)
- 30: Bev & Charles Smith (8)

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 February 2024 issue is Jan. 12, 2024. Email submissions to secretary@hcross.com prior to the deadline.

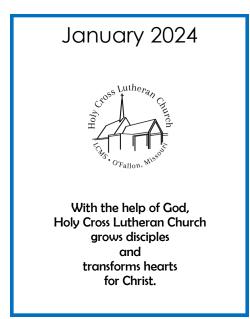
PHOTO DIRECTORY: We want pictures of all Holy Cross members. Just snap your personal or family photo with your phone, have someone take your photo, or use a holiday photo you had taken. Email your picture to directory@hcross.com —If you have questions or need help, contact David Schlesselman at 636-578-1766. A new pictorial directory will be very helpful to our new associate pastor who will need to learn all these new names and faces. Thank you for helping us to be even more friendly and caring about each other.

### Holy Cross has two LWML groups:

Grace Evening Guild meets Tues., Jan. 9, 6PM. Holy Cross Ladies Guild meets Fri., Jan. 12, 10AM. All women of Holy Cross are invited to attend 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 Lutheran Church 8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway O'Fallon, MO 63366 Address Service Requested





Put Address Label Here

#### Holy Cross Lutheran Church: 1960 ~ 2024 GROW YOUR FAITH THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Holy Cross **Preschool** for 3s & 4s — Weekdays, varying hours. Call for details. Lutheran Church Sunday School for ages 3 through High School — Sundays, 9:30AM & Preschool and **Little Lambs** (under 3s with a parent) Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class: 9:30AM in the gym 8945 Veterans Memorial Pkwy O'Fallon, MO 63366 BASICS: For those who want to join the Lutheran Church (636) 272-4505 TLC (Transfer for Lutherans Class): Call the office for next date. www.hcross.com Women's Bible Study: Tuesday mornings at 10AM secretary@hcross.com Adult Bible Class: Tuesdays, Jan. 9, 23, 6:30рм Rev. Andrew J. Gimbel Pastor Men's Breakfast & Bible Study: Jan. 10, 6:30AM Charity Smith Adult Bible Class: Wednesdays at 9:30 AM Director Christian Education David Gilson Confirmation (grades 6-8); MidWeek Classes (grades PreK-5) Director of Music — Wednesdays, see calendar Morgan Calcaterra High School Wednesdays, see calendar Preschool Director 20s & 30s Bible Study: Thursdays, 6:30рм, Rm 1&2. Joyce Niewald Church Secretary