

Passing the Peace: More Than Just a “Holy Howdy”

We decided to bring back the preservice handshake this year at Holy Cross. People turn around in their pews and extend a hand for a handshake and greeting. Sometimes they even leave the pew to do that! It might seem like a moment of chaos for those unfamiliar with the practice.

Believe it or not, this practice of passing the peace is well-rooted in historic Christianity.

In the hymnal, the Divine Service includes a rubric in the middle of the service which reads, “Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘Peace be with you,’ as a sign of reconciliation and the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

In Matthew 5, Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, says these words: “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

With these words, Jesus shows that one of the top priorities for believers is to seek reconciliation with an offended believer.

And, in Ephesians 4:1-3, we hear the apostle Paul share these words: “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all

humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

God's call is a call to unity. All Christians have the heavy responsibility to keep that unity from being disturbed.

These are two big reasons for us to actively take some time to remind ourselves of this reality when we gather for worship at Holy Cross. When we come together for church, we have to admit that we have hurt each other as a church community. There have been harsh words said. There have been glaring looks. There have been uncaring and unsympathetic attitudes. There have been “big brush” judgments that unfairly pin people into the worst labels.

But with Jesus, ALL of that is covered. Now that Jesus has reconciled us through His blood, we no longer have those sins standing between us. And with that reality, we can stand before one another and greet them as friends, brothers, and family!

And this is the most important reason why we shake hands at the beginning of church — because it reminds all of us in a real and tangible way that Christ has forgiven us of ALL our sins and that He is the ultimate restorer of all relationships. So I, as your pastor, am happy to share that message with you, not only before worship begins but at other times too!

Your pastor and servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Gimbel

Monthly Music Minute for July 2025

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

In the 1500s, during the early days of the Reformation, Martin Luther and other reformers wrote hymns to convey and share their message to the common people. The primary role of hymnody was to teach. Hymns like "Dear Christians One and All Rejoice" and "Salvation unto Us Has Come" told the story of salvation and introduced ideas of Law and Gospel to the average parishioner. Hymns like "We All Believe in One True God" gave people a memorable way of learning the Creed. In an era where many people were illiterate, hearing, learning, and singing hymns proved to be a helpful tool.

About two hundred years later, Lutheran composers like Johann Sebastian Bach, Johann Ludwig Krebs, Georg Böhm, and Johann Gottfried Walther wrote grand organ and choir music, cantatas, and oratorios, creating glorious, intricate, lavish praises that paved the way for how we approach not just church music, but music in general.

But in the middle of these two eras we find a pastor and teacher who could be enshrined on the Mount Rushmore of Lutheran music, the hymn writer **Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676)**. If you don't recognize his name, you'll certainly recognize his hymns. After all, what Good Friday service is complete without "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"? How much more is an Easter service elevated with the singing of the joyful, dance-like, "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"? And what better hymn to sing your child to sleep than "Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow"? That's not even mentioning some of his other masterpieces, like "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth," "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising," "O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee," and the incredibly underrated Christmas prayer, "O Jesus, Christ, Thy Manger Is."

I could go on and on listing Paul Gerhardt's hymns. Part of what makes his hymns so special, I think, is that they are so personal. As I mentioned earlier, in the early days of the Reformation, hymns primarily served as teaching tools that were largely intellectual. While teaching about the faith is a good and wonderful thing, as the Reformation progressed, Gerhardt realized there was a need for something else as we sing our praises -- there was a need for some emotion. If Luther was the hymn writer of the mind, Gerhardt was the hymn writer of the heart. Take part of the fifth verse of "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded", which places us at the foot of the cross, realizing Christ's agony:

*What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?*

Again, take the fourth verse of "Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow," which is as simple and lovely a prayer as you can sing before going to sleep:

*Lord Jesus, since You love me,
Now spread Your wings above me
And shield me from alarm.
Though Satan would devour me,
Let angel guards sing o'er me:
This child of God shall meet no harm.*

There's something so intimate, so personal, so rich about the way in which Gerhardt writes. His texts bring such comfort to those who sing them. This brings us to what I believe may actually be his finest text, and it's certainly my favorite, a hymn we'll be singing on July 19-20, "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me."

While it may not be the most familiar hymn to many of you, we've slowly been incorporating this hymn more and more into our rotation at Holy Cross, as I believe it to be a hymn that really should be familiar. It is a hymn that fills a particular niche in our catalog - a hymn for those who are suffering, for those who need comfort. After all, what can be more comforting than Jesus' love that has no bounds? The first two verses talk about Jesus' love, a love that is relentless and uncompromising. The third, verse, then, is our response, as we are drawn to Jesus' love, particularly when we are hopeless:

*This love unwearied I pursue
And dauntlessly to Thee aspire.
Oh, may Thy love my hope renew,
Burn in my soul like heavenly fire!
And day and night, be all my care
To guard this sacred treasure there.*

What a statement, that we wish to guard and keep Christ's love in us above all else. It is the final verse, though, that I find particularly comforting, as we put Jesus' love in perspective, talking about what it means in all of our sufferings, even to the end of our lives:

*In suffering be Thy love my peace,
In weakness be Thy love my power;
And when the storms of life shall cease,
O Jesus, in that final hour,
Be Thou my rod and staff and guide,
And draw me safely to Thy side!*

— MONTHLY MUSIC MINUTE CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

BOARD OF ELDERS

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, policies, procedures, personal issues, or other issues. You may also contact either Pastor.

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Those with hearing aids can now download and use a smartphone or tablet app that broadcasts the service to their hearing aids. (Bluetooth connection required)

Step 1. Log in to the Guest Wi-Fi

Network Name: **HC-Guest**

Password: **Romans1:16**

You will be prompted to join the "HC-Guest" Wi-Fi network

Step 2. Download the ListenWIFI App

Search your device's app store for the **ListenWIFI** app by Listen Technologies



Come & Join us!
Thurs., **July 3, 2025**
Gym, 9AM-Noon

Seeds packed for missions.

Easy task.
Great Fellowship.
World Impact.

Sponsored by Holy Cross Stewardship Board.

— MONTHLY MUSIC MINUTE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

As I'm re-typing the words of this hymn and meditating on them once again, I have to be honest, I'm getting a little bit emotional. This verse is so, so incredibly meaningful to me. It is wonderful poetry; in just six lines we find the perfect prayer for comfort. For though I may suffer, Jesus' love gives me peace. Though I am weak, Jesus' love makes me strong. And though I will one day pass away, it is Christ's love and His love alone that will draw me to Him. It is my Good Shepherd who will guide me to be with Him, so that I may one day dwell in His house forever.

~David Gilson

Preschool Closes the 2024-25 School Year



The Four-year-olds sing their graduation song.



Three- and Four-year-olds sing "Jesus in the Morning."

The preschool year has flown by so quickly! The children have grown so much, and we are proud of their accomplishments. We had a wonderful End of Year Celebration.

As we conclude this school year, we want to express our heartfelt thanks to our teachers, Holy Cross church staff, and our families for making this year such a special and memorable year for our children.

Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to welcoming you back in the fall! God's blessings to all!

~ Morgan Calcaterra and Dani Richardson



**Fourth Annual CWST
Pork Steak Dinner
and Cornhole Tournament
Seminary Support Fundraiser**
Sat., July 26, 5:30PM to 7:30PM



Adult menu includes our now-famous pork steak, a choice of baked potato or potato salad, cole slaw, a choice of baked beans or corn on the cob, and dessert for \$16.

The children's menu includes a hot dog, chips, fruit cup, and dessert for \$5.

Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7:30PM. Carry outs are available.

The Cornhole Tournament will have gift card prizes. Please join us in supporting our Concordia Seminary students (Isaac & Alyssa Conrad from Holy Cross).

Tickets will go on sale Sat., June 28.



LWML News:

Holy Cross member Cynthia Menscher recently attended the LWML National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. While in the area, Cynthia delivered items which had been contributed by Ladies Guild members, Grace Guild members, and congregation members to the Orphan Grain Train facility there. We applaud Cynthia's dedication to helping this very worthwhile organization!

LWML ST. CHARLES ZONE RALLY

The Holy Cross Ladies Guild and Grace Evening Guild will host the **LWML St. Charles Zone Rally** on **Sat., Oct. 18, 2025**. The theme is "Equipped to Serve." The speaker will be Gail Hahn, LWML St. Charles Zone Vice-President.

DEAF OUTREACH

A Jesus Signs Immersion Workshop at Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Charles, will be held July 7-11, 2025. Come learn to sign, learn about Deaf Outreach, and have fun! For more information and to sign up, go to: <https://www.immersion2025.deafoutreach.org/home> Questions? Send an email to: katieb@deafoutreach.org

PHIL'S FRIENDS ACTIVITY

Join the Mission & Stewardship Boards in making care packages for Phil's Friends, an organization that supports those battling cancer. All ages are welcome! We plan to assemble care packages, make tie blankets, and color cards to put in the care packages. Mark your calendar for Sat., July 19, for this event! We will have more information on the start time and length of the event in the coming weeks. Please sign up at the Mission booth in the Welcome Center.

CRAFT EXPO

Grace Guild will sponsor the craft show on **Sat., Nov. 1, 2025**. We are looking for vendors of woodcraft, artwork, Christmas items, jewelry, cards, and other handcrafted items. **Contact Jan Paulson**, Applications Administrator, at HCGraceGuild@gmail.com for more information. Proceeds from vendor fees will be donated to the Holy Cross Benevolence Fund.



ANNUAL HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH LADIES GUILD RUMMAGE SALE

Sat., Aug. 9; 7 AM to Noon

Drop-Off Dates for donated items at the gym are:

Wed., Aug. 6, 1 to 7PM

Thurs., Aug. 7, 1 to 4PM

We cannot accept clothing, electronics, or large furniture.

Proceeds from this year's sale will be donated to Youth in Need. This group provides emergency shelter for kids ages 10 - 19, transitional housing for homeless youth ages 16-21, youth development programs, school-based counseling, early Head Start, teen parenting services, foster care case management, and regional safe-place provider programs.



Summer Youth Nights
6:45-8pm

May 21 & 28
Brainstorm + Vote on ideas for next school year & Games!

June 4, 11 & 18
VBS days

June 25, July 2, July 9, 16, 23 & 30
Blow Up Your Bible & Games!

Aug 6
High School: Backyard Bash at Holy Cross with local LCMS churches. *Note flyer for different times*
Middle School: Photo scavenger hunt at Fort Zumwalt Park.

Church Anniversary

The **65th Anniversary of Holy Cross Lutheran Church** will be celebrated the weekend of **Sept. 13-14, 2025**.

As part of that celebration, a dinner and program will take place Sunday, Sept. 14, at noon, at the Christy Banquet Center, located across the street from Holy Cross on Veterans Memorial Parkway. **Tickets for the dinner will go on sale the weekend of August 26-27 for \$10 each**, with the remainder of the cost covered by the church.

Another aspect of the celebration will give you the opportunity to purchase items featuring the **Holy Cross name and logo**. Available for purchase will be embroidered polo shirts, screen-printed t-shirts, hoodies, coffee mugs, water bottles, and koozies. **Orders and payments will be accepted before and after church services in the Welcome Center on July 26 & 27 and August 2 & 3**. Payments can be made by cash or checks payable to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Items will only be for sale for two weekends!

Watch the *News and Notes* for more information.

AMERICAN RED CROSS **Blood Drive** Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Gym
8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway
O Fallon, MO 63366

Thursday, July 10, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-793-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App
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JULY 2025: Holy Cross Lutheran Church Calendar of Events

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
29	8 AM Matins 9:30AM Education Hour + TLC 10:45AM Matins Noon NYG Meeting	30	9:30AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing	1	12:30PM Staff Meeting (Office closed) 2PM Preschool Board 6PM Missions, Stewardship	2	9:30AM Adult Bible Class 6:45PM Summer Youth Night	3	8AM News & Notes <u>Deadline</u> 9AM HOPE Seeds 6:30PM 20s&30s Bible Class	4	FOURTH OF JULY ALL OFFICES CLOSED	5	5PM Holy Communion
6	8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion 1:30PM Board of Elders	7	9:30 AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing	8	10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting 1:30PM Evangelism Board 6:30PM Adult Bible Class	9	9:30AM Adult Bible Class 6:45PM Summer Youth Night	10	8AM News & Notes <u>Deadline</u> American Red Cross Blood Drive. gym, 10AM-3PM 4PM Ladies Guild Setup 6:30PM 20s&30s Bible Class	11	10AM Ladies Guild	12	5PM Holy Communion
13	Stewardship 4: Enduring Together—The Communion of Saints 8 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion	14	9:30 AM TOPS (Rm 1-2) 11AM Line Dancing 6PM Church Boards 7:30PM Church Council	15	9AM Quilting 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meetings	16	9:30AM Adult Bible Class 6:45PM Summer Youth Night	17	8AM News & Notes <u>Deadline</u> 6:30PM 20s&30s Bible Class	18	KOINONIA DEADLINE For August	19	Phil's Friends —TIME TO BE DECIDED 5PM HOLY COMMUNION
20	8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion	21	9:30 AM TOPS (Rm 1-2) 11AM Line Dancing	22	10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Adult Bible Class Rm3	23	9:30AM Adult Bible Class 6:45PM Summer Youth Night	24	8AM News & Notes <u>Deadline</u> 6:30PM 20s&30s Bible Class	25	KOINONIA PRODUCTION	26	PORK STEAK DINNER 5:30PM—7:30 PM CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT 5PM Holy Communion
NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING JULY 17-24													
27	8 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion Church Pool Party 7:45-9:45pm Alligator Creek (see ad)	28	KOINONIA MAILING 9:30 AM TOPS (Rm 1-2) 11AM Line Dancing	29	9AM Quilting 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting	30	9:30AM Adult Bible Class 6:45PM Summer Youth Night	31	8AM News & Notes <u>Deadline</u> 6:30PM 20s&30s Bible Class	1	August	2	5PM Holy Communion

July Celebrations

May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. —Ps. 20:4

Happy Birthday!

- 2:** Debbie Breden, Alexis Durmeier, Dale Ledford, Jan Paulson
- 4:** Karen Copper
- 5:** Stacy Andrews, Steven Lackey
- 6:** Shawn Duncan, Dale Dusheke, Payton Frederking
- 7:** Jeremy Day, Greyson Linn
- 8:** Donna Nordmeyer
- 9:** Jim Dunajcik, Emma Estes, Werner Heizmann, Sandy Macke, Chris Mizel, Stanley Ziolk
- 10:** Rowan Fink, Harrison Sweeso
- 11:** Chris Alton, Carol Boyd, Debbie Cammann, Trina Christiansen, Karl Schoenike, Tucker Stephens
- 12:** Mia Blackwell, Mariah LaBeau
- 13:** Keri Berjer, Carolyn Bertram, Paul Helvey, Dottie Nagel
- 14:** Roger Sawall, Logan Schulte
- 15:** Bob Kunz (95), Joe Snyder
- 16:** Jeannine Bisesi, Tom Haywood, Tricia Hogan, Debbie Parks, Bob Steinbruegge
- 17:** Jill Albano
- 18:** Mark Humphries, Grant Jennings, George Krieger, Melinda Windsor
- 19:** Rachel Laufer, Shirlene Reed
- 21:** Abigail Schlereth
- 22:** Matt Benigno, Carter Danchus, Russell Zilka
- 23: Verna Tucker (102!)**
- 24:** Christy Jones, Ashley Zimmerman
- 25:** Donna Kaltmayer, Matt Lackey, Evelyn Smith, Christine Wein
- 26:** Nicholas Aston, Lisa Markham
- 28:** Allen Ehrlich, Max Ellis, Tina Hevey
- 30:** Curtis Hemman, Linda Kettler, Joyce Niewald
- 31:** Sal Benigno, Carol Carson, Edna Kee, Hazel Langley



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
August 2025 issue is July
15, 2025. Email submissions
to secretary@hcross.com
prior to the deadline.

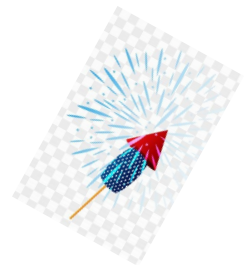
Happy Baptism Anniversary!

- 1:** Alexander Frerichs, Marc Maull, Marc Maull Jr., Michael McKinney
- 2:** Rebecca Schmalzer
- 4:** Jacob Davison
- 6:** Logan Day, Ralph Erickson
- 7:** Magdalene Smith
- 8:** Bryan Drilling, Madison Lott
- 9:** Marilyn Benassi, Liam Conroy IV
- 10:** Harper Prose
- 11:** Jeremy Day
- 12:** Ashley Cameron, Owen Schnoor
- 13:** Dottie Nagel
- 15:** Wes Dafler, Jill Frederking, Sue McCann
- 18:** Bill Adams, Josie Jones
- 20:** Emma Davison, James Foster, Trenton Kreyling, Lisa Markham
- 21:** Mark Morrison
- 29:** Lucy Ellis



Blessed Wedding Anniversary!

- 2:** Jeremy & Kathy Day (14)
- 3:** Brian & Chris Storm (21)
- 6:** Justin & Amanda Saale (12)
- 7:** Steven & Carla Cooper (41)
- 8:** Paul & Dianne Helvey (53)
Michael & Jennifer Vesper (30)
- 10:** Earl & Sandy Dietz (49)
Larry & Loretta Ezell (49)
Tom & Cherie Zimmerman (49)
- 11:** Jeff & Cheryln Landgraf (33)
- 14:** Idel & Ken McCullough (52)
Don & JoAnn Pickens (46)
- 15:** Alisha & Matthew Ellis (8)
- 16:** Jeff & Becky Coomer (31)
- 17:** Tom & Peggy Gallagher (54)
John & Jodi Schneider (43)
- 18:** Lisa & John Markham (22)
- 21:** Melinda & Bob Meyers (46)
- 22:** Jim & Glenda Kramer (64)
Chris & Danielle Mizel (19)
Ashley & Brett Zimmerman (8)
- 30:** David & Kathy Weseman (42)



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

STAMP

JULY 2025



Put Address Label Here

Holy Cross Lutheran 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

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: To Be Decided

Adult Bible Class: Wednesdays at 9:30 AM, GYM

Confirmation (grades 6-8); MidWeek Classes (grades PreK-5)
— see Wednesday night schedule

High School Wednesdays, see calendar

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