



Our Mission:

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

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
8945 Veterans Memorial Pkwy
O'Fallon, MO 63366
636.272.4505
secretary@hcross.com
www.hcross.com

Rev. Andrew J. Gimbel
Rev. Jason P. Kohm
Pastoral Team

Charity Smith
Director of Christian Education

David Gilson
Director of Music

Dani Richardson
Preschool Director

Joyce Niewald
Church Secretary
secretary@hcross.com

Services held in Sanctuary:
Saturdays, 3PM

Sundays, 8AM & 10:45AM
Live Stream on Sunday AT 8AM

Education Hour AT 9:30AM
Connect through

www.hcross.com or
YouTube channel at

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
O'Fallon MO

If you want an audio recording
(CD) of the Sunday 8AM service,
please notify the office. We also
send out bulletins, weekly
newsletters, and DVD
recordings (visual) to those who
request them.

CHURCH OFFICE

CHECK WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR
UPDATES 636.272.4505
secretary@hcross.com



News & Notes for November 15 & 16, 2025

Last Sunday of the Church Year

WELCOME TO EVERYONE JOINING US FOR WORSHIP TODAY

PRAYER REQUESTS: Submit prayer requests by calling or emailing the church office. Confidential prayer requests are shared with the Pastors but not published.

WE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS:

Gerri Beckmann; **Dennis** Benassi; **Paul** Bertram; **Mary Kay** Bethke; **Judy** Bonney; **Kacey** Booth; **Nancy** Caldwell; **Teegan** Cannon; **Electra** Day; **Logan** Day; **Shirley** Day; **Sandy** Dietz; **Bob & Carolyn** Delohi; **Edna** Deubel; **Sherien** Duello; **Brenda** Duncan; **Renea** Erickson; **Rich** Franzer; **Janice** Fred; **Sandie** Fussner; **Peggy** Gallagher; **Connie** Gamache; **Don** Grzina; **Iris** Hackbarth; **Janine** Haffer; **Kay** Hardman; **Marie** Herrington; **Lizzie** Johansmann; **Ron** Kettler; **George** Kirby; **Judith** Kirby; **Paul** Kirby; **Sandra** Kohrs; **Debra** Korte; **Jim** Kramer; **Joyce** Lang; **Betty** Lee; **Catherine** Loney; **Albert & Ingrid** Marhanka; **Terry** McCann; **Bill** Price; **Grace** Randazzo; **Gloria** Rariden; **Zeita** Reed; **Eileen** Reichert; **Darlene** Rhodes; **Carol** Santoyo; **Roger** Sawall; **Vita** Sayers; **Wayne** Walkenhorst; **Larry** Williams; **Ernestine** Wilson.

WE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Christy Benigno (Sal Benigno)
Rachel Butkovich (Tom & Sue Haywood)
Elizabeth Cash (Heather Koepke)
Mark Chiodini (Nicholas Chiodini)
Charles Claxton Jr. (Matthew Claxton)
Gorman Cooper (Tina Morrison)
William Dafler (Wes Dafler)
John Darby (Rick Walkenhorst)
Sandra Fleak (Becky Edgar)
Rev. Dr. **Lee** Hagan, LCMS MO Dist. President
Sarah Hall (Jayme Price)
Sharon Hesse (George & Barb Krieger)
Jan Hilton (Zeita Reed)
Jeff Johns (Denice Johns)
Bobbi Kistler (Mike Kahler)
Bill Knehans (Bob & Barb Knehans)
Joyce Kroll (David Schlesselman)
Sandy Lockwood (David Gilson)
Malu Martin (Dawn Kahler)
Rev. **Garry** McCracken (Trinity, Troy)
Kenny Meyer (Carla Cooper, Karen Copper)
Mike (Debbie Parks)
Barton Moenster (Carolyn Bertram)
Maeve Pardee & Family (Jayne Price)
Vera Piazza (Robert & Sherry Piazza)
Cindy Preston (Maryanne McDaniel)
Roy Price (Chris Price)
Drew Quinn (Terry Hardy)
Blake Schmalzer (Rebecca Schmalzer)
Rosemary Schreiber (Peggy Gallagher)
Christine Scott (Dianne Helvey)
Mark Shearman (Lois Foster)
Sara Shroth (choir accompanist)
David Steinbacher (Ernestine Wilson)
Stanika Todorova (Paul & Juliana Frerichs)
Rita Unzer (Karl Schnoor)
Ken Vesper (Mike Vesper)
Frank Wachter (Elaine Howard)
Lance Watkins (Jesse Smith)
Bobette Wetzel (Faith Blackwell)
Fred Wiese (Rick & Carla Wiese)
Sandy Wischmeyer (Marilyn Mana)

Keith Wooden (Randy Jones)
John Allquist III, **Duane** Stuewe (Janet Allquist)
Ina Guethle, **Dale** Stumpf (Amanda Alton)
Carson Aston, **Chlaara** Aston, **Sharon** Staten (Lisa Aston)
Krill Family (Trudy Belter)
Mike & Norma, Terry (Greg & Judy Bonney)
Eddie Collier, **Bruce** Brown, **Howard** Weber,
Rush Brown (Denise Collier)
Tom Heins, **Tony** LaChance, **Bill** Pratt (Becky Coomer)
Brian Ottinger, **Scott** Ottinger (Carla Cooper)
Hilda & Doug Breden (Kathleen Day)
Becky Clapper, **Sydney** Hagen (Craig Dement)
Janet Davidson, **Lowell** Duncan (Don Duncan)
Brenda Schlimpert McCowan, **Sherrill** Schlimpert (Loretta Ezell)
Scott Brockmann; **Lois** Jobe, **Ron** Kasten
~ (Jan Flentke)
Tim Deppe, **Rich** Waiwood (Kent & Janine Haffer)
Julie Germain & Family (Norma Helms)
Kathy Dore Jepsen, **Mike** Vanover
~ (Jayne Jepsen)
Alicia Kincaid, **Mark** Kincaid, **Alicia** Kleb,
Marian Schwentker (Michelle Kincaid)
George & Sandra Roberts, **Rodger** Bratvogel
~ (Elma Jane Kramer)
Linda Thiele, **Darlene** Barr-Walag
~ (Peggy Kuerschner)
John Bach, **Rachel** Long (Betty Lee)
Pat & Edna McCarty (Orion Melton)
Susan Maag, **Steve** Wulff (Menschers)
Virginia and **Mike** Niewald (Niewalds)
Paul Palombi, **Elsie** Palombi (Diane Palombi)
Brian Rubar, **Chase** Russell, **Carol** Sills
~ (Barb Parson)
Amy Mueller, **Larry** Schenk (Carol Santoyo)
Charlotte Gaines, **Nisseem**, **Daniel**, Dr. **Eric** Semler; **Larry** Kremer (Sandra Semler)
AJ, Blake Davis (Kari Spearman)
Scott Steinbruegge, **Marcia** Sheppard
~ (Bob & Karen Steinbruegge)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: For the family and friends of Winifred "Winnie" Thornton who entered the Church Triumphant on Wed., Nov. 19, at the age of 90. Visitation and funeral took place Sat., Nov. 22, at Baue Chapel in St. Charles, with Pastor Kohm as officiant.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO REJOICE: For the birth of Eloise Evelyn Gaines, daughter of Daniel & Megan Gaines, and sixth great-grandchild of Sandra Semler, who was born Wed., Nov. 19, in Birmingham, Alabama.

SATURDAY, November 22, 2025**GIVING TREE ENDS**

11AM Private Event (gym)

3PM Worship Service

SUNDAY, November 23, 2025**GIVING TREE ENDS**

8AM Holy Communion

9:30AM Education Hour

10:45AM Holy Communion

NOON VOTERS' MEETING**MONDAY, November 24, 2025****OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON**

9:30AM TOPS

11AM Line Dancing

6:30PM Bell Choir

TUESDAY, November 25, 2025**OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON****8AM News & Notes Deadline**

9:00AM Preschool Chapel

12:30PM Staff Meeting

6:30PM Adult Bible Class

6:30PM FZN 5K Jingle Bell 5K, parking lot use

WEDNESDAY, November 26, 2025**OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO 11AM**

11AM Thanksgiving Eve (communion) service

9:30AM Adult Bible Class

7PM Thanksgiving Eve (communion) service

THURSDAY, November 27, 2025**CHURCH OFFICE & PRESCHOOL CLOSED****FRIDAY, November 28, 2025****CHURCH OFFICE & PRESCHOOL CLOSED****SATURDAY, November 29, 2025**

9AM Decorating the Church for Christmas

3PM Worship Service (No Communion)

SUNDAY, November 30, 2025

8AM Matins (No communion)

9:30AM Education Hour

10:45AM Matins (No communion)

ELDER COMMUNICATION

HEARING ASSISTANCE NOW AVAILABLE: Those with hearing aids can now download and use a smartphone or tablet app which broadcasts the service to your hearing aids (Bluetooth connection required). Instructions for its use are provided in the Welcome Center.

CONTACT AN ELDER: Their pictures are displayed in the Welcome Center, so contact them if you have questions or concerns regarding services, policies, procedures, personal or other issues. You may also contact either Pastor. Personal issues will be kept confidential.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for October-December 2025 and a new *Lutheran Witness* are available on the Welcome Center table.

HOLY CROSS LADIES GUILD collects packaged and canned **food** and all types of **soap** for the Concordia Seminary Food Bank. Most needed: **soap — all types; gluten-free items; canned soup, toothpaste, canned vegetables. Thank you for filling those bins!**

MITES: Pick up a Mite box from the LWML table to collect change for LWML grants to missions around the world.

STAMP COLLECTION: Ladies Guild collects canceled postage stamps to raise money for missions. Cut stamps from envelopes with about half an inch of paper left all around. Collection baskets are on the Welcome Center bookshelf and above the coatrack by the kitchen.

MISSION BOARD provides *fresh fruits and vegetables* to **Concordia Seminary students**. Write your check to Holy Cross with a memo line for *Mission Board Fresh Foods to the Seminary*.

***HOPE Ministries food bank donations** are accepted in the bin *beneath the Mission Board bulletin board in the Welcome Center*. See list in the bottom right corner.

H.O.P.E. FOOD MINISTRIES: Weekly Totals: Nov. 19, 2025
Families: 109 Individuals: 362 New Families: 7

Church Attendance for November 15-16, 2025

Service	Attendance	Communion
3PM	49	48
8AM	108	92
10:45AM	127	89
TOTAL	284	229

Bible Class Attendance**Week of November 16, 2025**

NA=not applicable; NR=not reported; C= cancelled

Little Lambs, Sunday	2
Sunday School: PreK to Gr 5	12
Sunday School: Gr. 6-12	6
Sunday Adult Bible Class	61
BASICS	11
Tuesday Women's 10AM	14
Tuesday Evening, 6:30PM	—
Men's Breakfast & Bible	—
Wednesday AM Bible Class	33
Wednesday Nights	42
20s&30s Thursday	8

Offerings: Nov. 3-9, 2025

General Fund	\$ 16,527.99
Endowment	\$ 150.00
Building Fund	\$ 140.00
Missions Weekly	\$ 105.00
Missions 4th Qtr	\$ 2,437.22

Year to Date as of 09/30/2025

Income	\$ 576,237.31
Expenses	\$ 578,644.35
Deficit	\$ (2,407.04)

HOPE Ministries requests items for **OCTOBER:** Pancake Mix, Syrup, Oatmeal, Stuffing, Corn Muffin mix, Pasta Roni, Ramen Noodles. Place items in the box under the Mission Board display in the Welcome Center. **No expired goods.**

ADVENT BEGINS Nov. 29-30

The Advent Series will focus on Old Testament prophecies. Sunday sermons will be drawn from the book of Isaiah, while Wednesday sermons will focus on the fulfilled prophecies referenced in Matthew 2.



Wednesday services at 11AM & 7PM will be Dec. 3, Dec. 10, and Dec. 17. Advent Dinners on those same nights will start serving at 5:30PM until 6:45PM. Dinner hosts this year are Holy Cross Preschool, Ladies Guild, and the Missions & Stewardship Boards. More information will follow.

THE GIVING TREE: The Missions and Stewardship Boards are partnering with Youth in Need (youthinneed.org) for the **2025 Giving Tree**. Holy Cross will sponsor 44 youth this year and bless them with some gifts this Christmas. We will have a tree in the Welcome Center beginning the weekend of **Nov. 15 through Nov. 23** for you to **pick a youth tag** to sponsor from the tree. Grab a name from the tree and a paper bag from underneath the tree. **Return items in the paper bags with the tag inside underneath the Welcome Center tree by Dec. 3.** Please direct any questions to Liz Belter or Ashleigh Lacey.

MOTQ: Currently, the Missions and Stewardship Boards are supporting Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT), a ministry program of the LCMS that trains volunteers to assist in times of disaster. These teams respond to both natural and man-made disasters by providing Christian care and assisting with cleanup, debris removal, and other essential services in affected communities. Several members of Holy Cross have attended LERT training in the past and have utilized the skills learned to support our community. All MOTQ donations from now through the beginning of 2026 will be used to help fund and support LERT projects.

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS – WALK-THROUGH NIGHTS

The City of O'Fallon is hosting **Walk-Through Nights on Dec. 7, 8, and 9**. Holy Cross will provide free parking and serve hot drinks and cookies in the gym as we share hospitality with our community. People come to us, and we get to share Jesus with them. Once again, we will need a few volunteers to help with parking cars and serving refreshments, as well as more people to donate cookies. You can sign up on the sheets in the Welcome Center. Thanks in advance for helping with this outreach project.

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS — More Help Wanted:

Gate Nights: **Dec. 8** at the back gate starting at 5:30PM—six people needed; **Dec. 11** at the front gate starting at 5:30PM—six people needed. During the Holiday Stroll (Dec. 7-9), at least two volunteers are needed to hang out at the scene and greet visitors. Sign up sheets are on the Welcome Center table. For more information, contact Elder Chris Price.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Ronald & Linda Kettler in memory of their son Timothy, and by Peggy Kuerschner in Thanksgiving for God's blessings of life, family, and friends.

Holy Cross Voters' Assembly

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025

after the 10:45AM worship service

In the gym (around noon)

All Holy Cross Voting Members are encouraged to attend.

Attendance counts! Contact Council Secretary Barb Grosch

(councilsecretary@hccross.com or 314.368.8142)

if you are unable to attend to get an excused absence.

Agenda Items Include: Officer & Board Elections, 2026 Budget Approval, Council Board Reports

Please sign in when entering the meeting.

Only a physical signature records attendance.

New Members to Holy Cross:

Contact your Elder or the church office about becoming a Voting Member of Holy Cross.

A lunch will be served prior to the meeting.

MENU:

Pasta dishes, salad and cookies

Join Us
**THANKSGIVING
SERVICE**
WED., NOV. 26, 2025, at 11AM & 7PM
HOLY COMMUNION

Decorating for Christmas



Help us decorate
the church for
Christmas
Nov. 29
9AM
Bring the family!
Sign up in the
Welcome Center!

CANDY & NUTS

from the Ladies Guild fundraiser
will be available to pick up this weekend
in the Welcome Center.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH BOAR'S HEAD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL: The 29th year for this medieval pageant celebrating our Savior's birth. 2025 presentations: Thurs., **Dec. 4**, 7:30PM; Fri., **Dec. 5**, 7:30PM; Sat., **Dec. 6**, 7:30PM; Sun., **Dec. 7**, 2:30PM, and 6PM. Tickets are free and available Nov. 3 at 737 Barracksview Road, St. Louis, MO 63125. Call 314.892.5610 or www.peaceboarshead.org. Free will offering will be accepted at each service.

IMMANUEL BOAR'S HEAD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL
The 37th Boar's Head Festival will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles, **Dec. 11, 12, 13, and 14**. There will be a 7:30PM performance each evening with afternoon performances at 4PM both Saturday and Sunday. Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 8AM Mon., Nov. 3, by calling their church office at 636-946-2656. While there is no charge for the tickets, there is a limit of 5 tickets per person.

THE H.O.P.E. FOOD PANTRY needs a volunteer for the 4th and 5th Thursdays of each month to pickup food from the Olive Garden in Wentzville. Pickup time would be around 9 to 9:30AM. If you are interested, please call Cheryl at the Pantry number 636-281-1069 on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday between 10AM and 2PM; or leave a voice-mail on her landline (no texting) 636-240-6443.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WARMING SHELTER: Are you looking for a way to serve your neighbor this winter? Chapel of the Cross-St. Peters will be hosting a warming shelter during the weeks of Jan. 11, Jan. 25, and Feb. 22. They are looking for volunteers. The shelter will open any night during those weeks when the temperature is expected to be 20 degrees or below. Chapel needs help with greeting and registering people as they arrive (from 9 -11PM) and overnight in two shifts: 11PM to 3AM, and 3AM to 7AM. If you are interested in helping or would like more info, please contact Jennie Bain at 636-288-3373 or jenniembain@gmail.com. Thank you!

Direct Up to Half of Your Missouri Taxes to Lutheran Schools: Through a fairly simple process, you can send half of your taxes to the State of Missouri to support a student in a Lutheran school. This will not only save you money but also will not cost additional dollars. If your Missouri State Tax on Line 36 last year was \$1,000, you could have sent \$500 to support a student in a Lutheran school and the other \$500 to the State of Missouri. This program began in 2022. Since then, the Missouri District has awarded over \$5 million in scholarships, enabling more than 900 students to attend 45 Lutheran schools across Missouri. Many of these children are experiencing their first year in a Lutheran school—an opportunity made possible through MOScholars. Interested? Pick up a colorful sheet entitled "Support Our LCMS Schools" and/or talk with David Schlesselman to learn more. Together, we can help another child learn more about Jesus.

Special Music at Holy Cross in December:
LESSONS & CAROLS at Holy Cross: Sunday, Dec. 21, 3PM
FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE, Saturday, Dec. 6, 5PM
PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE, Sunday, Dec. 7, 3PM

"Come Lord Jesus" Musical Service Dec. 21, 3PM: Join the members of **Our Redeemer Lutheran in Overland** on Sun., Dec. 21, as instrumental guests and vocal friends join Our Redeemer's vocal and handbell choirs in leading the musical service "Come, Lord Jesus." Hymns and season music composed by Hildebrand, Schalk, Manz, Bunjes, Scott, and Mendelssohn blend Advent expectation and Christmas fulfillment. The musical service begins at 3pm and takes place at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 9135 Shelley Avenue, Overland. For more information, contact Pastor Schilbe at pastorschilbe@ourredeemerstl.org or their church office at 314.427.3444. A freewill offering will be collected to support Our Redeemer's Music Ministry.

Concordia Seminary: Advent Lessons and Carols, 7PM, Tues., Dec 2, Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus.

As we prepare for Christ's birth this Advent season, come and enjoy beautiful music performed by the Seminary Chamber Choir, *Laudamus*, St. Louis Lutheran Chorale, Concordia Seminary Children's Choir, Concordia Seminary Youth Choir and talented instrumentalists. A reception will follow in Koburg Hall.

This service is part of the **Concordia Seminary Music Series**, which is free and open to the public. Advent Lessons and Carols also will be livestreamed at csl.edu/live.

OUR SAVIOR
Christmas
MARKET
DECEMBER 6TH
10AM - 2PM
40+ LOCAL VENDORS - COOKIE SALE
FREE PHOTOS WITH SANTA
2800 ELM, ST. CHARLES, MO

PRACTICE SCHEDULE
NOV 23 9:30-10:30 AM
DEC 3 5:30-6:30 PM
DEC 6 1:30-2:30 PM
RSVPS DUE OCT 15
TO DCE SMITH@HCROSS.COM

The CHRISTmas Tree
Family Christmas Service
December 6, 2025