

## Pointing Back, Way Back

Recall the passage from Luke 24 in which the resurrected Jesus encountered two disheartened disciples trudging to the city of Emmaus. (I am aware of how ridiculous of an opening sentence that is for an article intended to set the tone for Advent.) These two disciples had gotten their hopes up about Jesus—He could be the one to redeem Israel! But those hopes died as they watched Jesus Himself die on the cross. They had no idea that Jesus would rise again three days later...and when He did, they didn't recognize the risen Jesus at all! And once they explained to Him why they were so sad, do you remember what Jesus told them? He didn't comfort them, nor did He reveal His identity to them. No, He called them fools! He said, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" (Luke 24:25-26) In other words, if these two disciples had truly read, heard, and believed what the Old Testament prophets had spoken of, then they would have known exactly who Jesus was and what He came to this earth to do. His identity would not have been a mystery, His crucifixion would not have been a letdown, and His resurrection would not have been a surprise.

I love Jesus' response here. Instead of reminding them, "Hey, remember all those times I told you I would die and rise again?", He instead points them back, way back, to people who lived hundreds of years before them and remarks, "This was always the plan. How did you not know?" The prophets did more than proclaim short-term hope to the people of their day. They provided glimpses of Christ Himself, the eternal, living



hope that God had prepared before the foundation of the world for us all.

My point is this: We don't know who Jesus is, or why He matters, without the Old Testament. So we're trying something a little different this Advent season. As we reset our church calendar and fix our hearts and minds on the Christ child once more, we're going to point you back, way back, to the prophets who lived hundreds of years before Jesus came to earth as an infant. Pastor Gimbel and I are preaching exclusively from the prophets this time! Our sermons on Sundays will be drawn from the book of Isaiah, while our sermons on Wednesdays will focus on the fulfilled prophecies referenced in Matthew 2. This may seem daunting. We are, after all, so much more familiar with the angel visitations, the traveling wise men, and that little town of Bethlehem than the kingdom of Babylon, the exile from Judah, and Balaam's talking donkey (stay tuned). But by pointing back, way back, I think you'll find that these prophets all point to Jesus and make Him more fully known to us.

~Pastor Jason



**Dani Richardson**  
Preschool Director  
& Lead Teacher

**Rebecca Nutter**  
Assistant Director  
& Extended Care

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."  
Matthew 19:14

Direct your  
**Thrivent Choice**  
**Dollars**  
Today! 

The preschoolers spent November learning about various jobs, homes, neighborhoods, forms of transportation and the Thanksgiving holiday including the harvest, turkeys, being thankful and using our manners. The 4-year-olds compared the lives of Pilgrims and Native Americans and how they differed from our lives. They worked like Pilgrims making their own butter and corn muffins. The three-year-old class each had a turn to tell us what they are thankful for and placed a scarf on the floor. They enjoyed it so much they asked for a second turn!

While learning the Bible stories about Samuel, David, Ruth, and Naomi, we discovered that we have much to thank God for: people who take care of us, good friends, our homes, food and especially God's saving love for us.

The preschoolers invite you to join us for a special Candy Cane Christmas service on Dec. 7 at 3PM. The children will gather in the Welcome Center at 2:50PM. Parents and family may then have a seat.



Four's Career Day



Three's Thankful Scarfs.



Students are learning valuable social skills while playing together (Sharing & turn taking skills).

The Ladies Guild is hosting its Christmas Party on December 12 at 10:45 and has invited the preschool children, along with Music Director David Gilson, to sing a few songs at their celebration. The children and teachers will be wearing pajamas. The theme for the ladies' celebration is "Sleep in Heavenly Peace."

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**  
**PRESCHOOL ROOMS 4-5, 7, 11-12**  
**ARE PEANUT- & NUT-FREE 24/7**  
**DUE TO A SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION.**  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**



# Monthly Music Minute for December 2025

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

This year's Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 21 at 3PM will be entitled "In Bethlehem." To help get your minds reflecting this season, I thought I'd share some thoughts in an essay on this theme.

...

Out of the ordinary comes the extraordinary. Out of weakness comes strength. Out of nothing comes everything. Time and time again, scripture tells us that God uses the unexpected to do unexpected things.

Remember Moses, who was afraid to speak, and yet God used him to proclaim His truths to Pharaoh in Egypt. Or remember Jonah, whose refusal to go to Nineveh made him the exact man that God wanted prophesying in that place. Think about Peter, whose brashness often caused him to say foolish things, but whose boldness at the same time served to rally the early church. And consider Paul, the very man who persecuted Christians, being the man who God called to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles.

And, in an ordinary village just 6 miles outside of Jerusalem, God did extraordinary things.

Long before the Christmas story, God called someone else out of ordinary Bethlehem. You may remember the story of the prophet Samuel going to Bethlehem to look for a new king — except, the king whom God had chosen wasn't who the prophet expected. Indeed, they had to send for him, since he was out in the fields with the sheep. And, one day, that shepherd boy named David would be the greatest king of Israel.

Later, the prophet Micah foretells of another, greater ruler who shall come out of Bethlehem:

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the  
clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel...  
And he shall stand and shepherd his  
flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of  
the Lord his God."

Out of the home of a shepherd, the Good Shepherd comes. Out of the birthplace of a king, the King comes.

But, in truth, even with all of these Old Testament references to Bethlehem, there is still so little that is significant about that humble place. It isn't a big city. It does not have a lot going for it. It's just a farming village outside Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph were only there because Caesar wanted a census. The shepherds were only there because that was where they were employed.

Perhaps it makes sense, though, that God would choose a humble town to be the place where he sends His Son to be born. It is a most appropriate setting to see the paradox of Jesus being fully God and fully man, as the third verse of the carol "See Amid the Winter's Snow" states:

"Sacred Infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this."

A small town. A simple birth. And yet, out of this quiet evening the glory of this great night shines. For in Bethlehem on this night armies and legions and choirs angels lit up the sky, singing the praises of God. In Bethlehem, the shepherds hurried to tell everyone the news of what has come to pass. In Bethlehem this night, the beings of heaven and beings of earth meet in a singular moment. How could Mary do anything but treasure up all these things in her heart?

So rejoice like the angels this Christmas season! Celebrate with worship and song! Proclaim, like the shepherds, the good news with fervor:

"Hail, thou ever blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'"

Indeed, your redemption dawned 2000 years ago.

In a humble manger.

In a lowly stable.

In Bethlehem.

— David Gilson

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES



## *Special Advent & Christmas Services and Events*

**Wed, Dec. 3, 10, & 17, 11AM & 7PM**

**Advent Midweek services:**

*Old Testament Prophecies*

**Midweek Dinners served 5:30 to 6:45PM**

**Sat, Dec. 6, 3PM**

*Family Christmas Service*

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

**Sun, Dec. 7, 3PM**

*Preschool Christmas Service*

"Candy Cane Christmas"

**Sun., Dec. 7, Mon., Dec. 8, Tues., Dec. 9**

**6 to 8:30PM**

*Celebration of Lights Walk-Through*

Holy Cross hosts its parking lot for walkers, its Sanctuary for prayers, and its gym for warmth, cookies, and musical interludes!

**Sun, Dec. 21, 3PM**

*"In Bethlehem"*

Service of Lessons & Carols  
Adult Choir, Handbells, and Orchestra

**Wed., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve**  
**Holy Communion in ALL services:**

**3PM, 5PM, 7PM, 11PM**

**Candlelight at 5PM, 7PM, 11PM**

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

**Holy Communion**

**Weekend Services: Dec. 28-29**  
**Regular Time Schedule**

*No Service on New Year's Eve*

## WARMING SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Holy Cross has been approached by the Emergency Weather Response Agency for St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren Counties about our providing a place to sleep for homeless people on extremely cold evenings. Our sister congregation, Chapel of the Cross, has been doing this for several years. They are looking for volunteers to help at their church during the weeks of Jan. 11, Jan. 25, and Feb. 22.

We encourage interested members from Holy Cross to sign up for a couple of nights for one week to watch how it works. It could provide a great way for us at Holy Cross to assist homeless people in the future. A person would work one shift on an evening with two other people. Shifts are from 9-11PM, 11PM-3AM, and 3AM-7AM.

Contact Jennie Bain at 636-288-3373 to sign up or ask more questions. Holy Cross members who can provide more information include Liz Belter, Melanie Dafler, David Schlesselman, and Kevin Smith.

## ADVENT SERVICES & MEALS

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.

**Midweek Advent 1: Dec. 3, 2025**

**Sponsored by Holy Cross Preschool**

**Menu: Chili & Toppings, Soups, Crackers, Rolls, Salad, Desserts**

**Midweek Advent 2: Dec. 10, 2025**

**Sponsored by The Ladies Guild**

**Menu: Chili Dogs, Veggie Trays, Chips, Desserts**

**Midweek Advent 3: Dec. 17, 2025**

**Sponsored by Mission & Stewardship Boards**

**Menu: Sloppy Joes, Mac & Cheese, Chips, Veggies, Desserts**

*Free will offerings will be collected.*

# New Tracts to Share

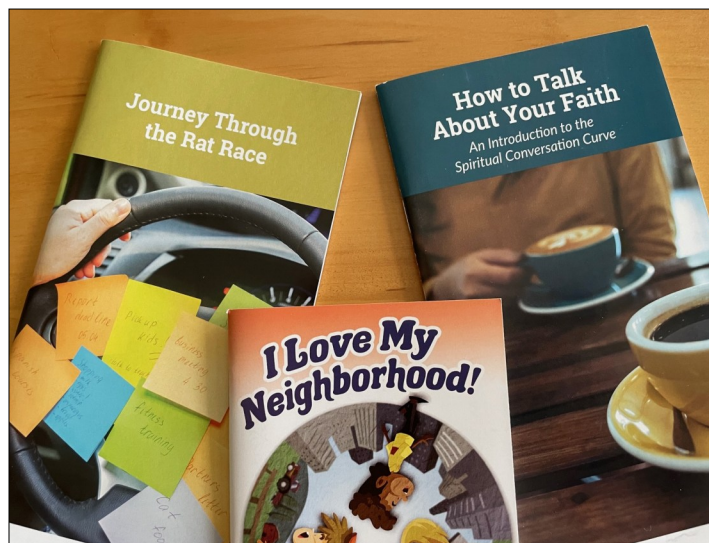
We continue to provide tracts which may prove helpful to you or provide some valuable insights for people you know. This is a wonderful way to reach out to people in our community meeting their present needs and possibly leading them to a closer relationship with God. The tract rack is located by the elevator in the Welcome Center. Check out these three tracts:

## **Journey Through the Rat Race**

This pamphlet provides a supportive voice to help identify and manage the perils of a life too full. Road-tested insights are combined with self-assessment exercises to help readers find the best path forward. Key Scriptures highlight God's desire for our lives to be balanced and centered on Him.

## **I Love My Neighborhood!**

This booklet's catchy and clever verses give kids some great examples of loving their neighbors and the neighborhoods where they live. Beautiful illustrations highlight key actions kids can do to show concern for others and reflect the love of Jesus in what they do and say. Being a good neighbor is all about loving our neighborhoods, and it's something kids can learn and practice every day.



## **How to Talk About Your Faith**

Sharing the good news you have in Jesus is made easier with this booklet. Inside you will discover a sensible and user-friendly model for assessing a person's spiritual posture (unreceptive, receptive, seeking) and easy-to-use guidelines for having fruitful spiritual conversations.



## **Support our LCMS Schools**

with MOScholars & The Missouri District

## **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 save you money but also will not cost you 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, helping more than 900 students 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.



# The CHRISTmas Tree Family Christmas Service

December 6, 2025



## Special Music During Advent and Christmas at Holy Cross

**Saturday, 12/6, 3PM:** Family Christmas Service  
with Beginning Bells and Children's Choir

**Sunday, 12/7, 3PM:** Preschool Christmas Service

**Sunday, 12/21 3PM:** "In Bethlehem" A Service of Lessons and  
Carols with Orchestra, Adult Choir, and Handbells,

**Tuesday, 12/24, 3, 5, 7, and 11PM - Christmas Eve**  
Divine Services with Brass and Handbells at 5PM & 7PM.



# Celebration of Lights 2025

Holy Cross participates in the Celebration of Lights (COL), sponsored by the City of O'Fallon, to spread the good news of the true meaning of Christmas.

The Board of Elders sets up a handcrafted nativity scene in the park and provides volunteers for two gate nights. Gate night duties include directing traffic at the front and rear gates and scanning entry tickets. Holy Cross' gate nights are **Dec. 8, and Dec. 11 from 5:30 to 9PM.**

## Some things to remember:

ALL tickets must be purchased before visiting the display at any time (including the Walk-Through)

2024 Admission Pricing:

Cars \$16 (for nights other than walk-through); Stroll ("Walk Through") \$8

Volunteers needed! See signups in the Welcome Center.

By manning the gates, Holy Cross receives a portion of the contributions. So, if you're planning to go, go on a Holy Cross Gate Night and help support the Board of Elders who work on this project almost year-round!



Opens Nov. 29

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

COL Closes Dec. 30, 2024

## HCLC Gate Nights: Dec. 8, 11

By manning the gates, Holy Cross receives a portion of the contributions. So, if you're planning to go, go on a Holy Cross Gate Night and help support the Board of Elders who work on this project almost year-round!

**For More Information** about volunteer opportunities for Celebration of Lights: Contact Don Wischmeyer, Joe Snyder, Ed Belter, and Chris Price.

## Sharing the Light of Christmas with Friends

During the Walk-Through Nights of O'Fallon's Celebration of Lights (Dec. 7-9), Holy Cross will park cars for free in our lots, open our sanctuary, and serve hot drinks and cookies in the gym. This presents some great opportunities to share Jesus with people who only know Him from afar.

- ◆ Invite someone to walk through with you and share our Nativity scene with them
- ◆ Donate cookies to welcome our guests
- ◆ Share our beautiful sanctuary with them (elders will have it open for viewing, meditation, and prayer)
- ◆ Sign up to serve cookies or park cars one evening
- ◆ Encourage families to use the free photo booth in the gym

Postcards are available on the table in the Welcome Center. Share one with a friend or family as you invite them to make Jesus the center of their Christmas.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT 2025 CONTRIBUTIONS

The last day to submit contributions for Holy Cross for the 2025 calendar year is Wed., Dec. 31, 2025.

All contributions received by end of business on that date (noon) will be included on the 2025 contribution statement. Donations hand delivered to the church by Tues., Dec. 31, or received via USPS with a postmark of 12/31/25 or before, will also be included on the 2025 contribution statement.

Any contributions received on or after Thurs., Jan. 1, 2026, will be on the 2026 contribution statement.

# ADVENT SCHEDULE

Dinner 5:30-6:45 pm

Midweek,  
Confirmation\* and  
LYF 6:15-7 pm  
Service 7-8 pm

DECEMBER  
3, 10 & 17

\*No Level 200 Class\*

## The CHRISTmas Tree Family Christmas Service

December 6, 2025

SERVICE 3-4 PM  
SERVICE PROJECT  
& DINNER  
4-6 PM

For unto us  
a child is born!



Happy  
Birthday  
Jesus!

December 14, 2023  
9:30-10:30 AM

Please join  
us for a  
party for  
Jesus!

JOIN US!

July 10-14, 2026

Visit [hccross.com/trip](https://hccross.com/trip)

CREATION  
MUSEUM

Prepare to believe.

ARK  
ENCOUNTER®

Hosted by  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church in  
O'Fallon, MO

Early Bird Closes January 15th



# Semler to lead Concordia International School Shanghai

Contributing Writer

*By Brianna Dehn*

On June 30, during daily chapel at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis, Dr. Eric Semler was installed as head of school for Concordia International School Shanghai (CISS). Semler has worked at CISS since 2009, serving in several different roles, including elementary school principal and assistant head of school of teaching and learning. He was called to serve in this new role during the 2024–2025 school year. CISS currently serves more than 1,150 students from over 30 different countries.

Semler was installed by the Rev. Kevin Robson, LCMS chief mission officer, who also preached and served as liturgist. "Today we install a man into a high office as head of our international school in Shanghai, a school that serves ... students, their families [and] hundreds of faculty and staff," said Robson. "Eric, this morning our prayers are with you, dear brother. Let [the students] know that they have been brought near by the blood of Jesus. Announce His peace, that they would, by His Spirit, join a multitude in ... chorus of acclamation and praise that will continue into eternity."

Since its founding in 1998, CISS has served students and their families by providing both an academically rigorous education and opportunities for faith formation. Areas of focus include academics, athletics, fine arts and applied learning programs. Plans are underway to build an indoor pool facility and a new performing arts center.

Semler noted the ever-present need at CISS for Lutheran teachers with a strong commitment to Lutheran identity. "We're looking for teachers whose faith is ... important to them," said Semler. "I've been very impressed with Lutheran educators. ... I think they are willing to go above and beyond. It's not just a paycheck; it's a calling. They want to be the salt of the earth, the light of the world, an ambassador and a witness."

Semler began serving at Lutheran international schools in 1994, and has taught and held leadership positions in Hong Kong, Japan and Indonesia. In the U.S., Semler served at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Collinsville, Ill., and Concordia Lutheran School in San Antonio.



Semler earned bachelor's degrees in music and elementary education from Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward, Neb.; a master's in educational administration from Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.; and a doctorate in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Fla. He and his wife, Karin, have two children, Gavin and Elena, who are both in college.

Semler is both honored and excited to lead CISS and help continue its mission. "The visionaries who started this school wanted the Gospel to be shared," he said. "They wanted people to know Jesus."

*Brianna Dehn is a freelance writer in St. Louis.*

*Posted Aug. 20, 2025*

*Article reprinted from Reporter, August 2025*

August 20, 2025



**HOPE SEEDS**  
Come & Join us!  
**December 4, 2025**  
**Gym, 9AM-Noon**

# Holy Cross Lutheran Church Calendar of Events – December 2025

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
First Sunday in Advent		1		2		3		4		5		6	
8AM Worship Service 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Worship Service		9:30 AM TOPS 9:30 AM PS Gym 11:30AM Line Dancing 6PM Executive Council 6:30PM Handbells 7:30PM Council Meeting		9AM Preschool Chapel 10AM Women's Bible Study Noon Staff Meeting 3PM Preschool Board 5PM Missions & Stewardship Boards		9AM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM Advent Service 5:30PM FamService practice 5:45PM Advent Meal 6:15PM LYF, Confirmation, Midweek (not level 200) 7PM Advent Service 8PM Adult Choir		8 AM News & Notes Deadline 9AM HOPE Seeds 6:30PM 20s&30s&40s Bible Class				1:30PM Family/Christmas Service Practice 3PM Family Christmas Service 4PM Service Project and meal	
Second Sunday in Advent		8		9		10		11		12		13	
8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion 1:30PM Elder Meeting 3PM Preschool Christmas Service		Holy Cross Celebration of Lights Gate Night 9:30 AM TOPS 9:30AM PS Gym 11AM Line Dancing 6:30PM Handbells		9AM Quilting 9AM Preschool Chapel 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting 5:30PM Grace Guild (off-site)		8AM News & Notes Deadline 9AM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM Advent Service 5:45PM Advent Meal 6:15PM LYF, Confirmation, Midweek (not level 200) 7PM Advent Service 8PM Adult Choir		Holy Cross Celebration of Lights Gate Night 8AM News & Notes Deadline 10AM Ladies Guild Setup 6:30PM 20s&30s&40s Bible Class		<b>Church Office Closed</b> <i>Koinonia</i> Deadline 9:30AM PS Recess — (not gym) 10AM Ladies Guild Christmas Party		3PM Holy Communion	
CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS WALK THROUGH 6-8:30PM (Gym)													
Third Sunday in Advent		15		16		17		18		19		20	
8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 9:30AM New Member Orientation 9:30AM Birthday Party for Jesus (Sunday School) 10:45AM Holy Communion		9:30 AM TOPS 9:30 AM PS Gym 11AM Line Dancing 6:30PM Handbells		9AM Preschool Chapel 9am Ladies Guild Quilting 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Bds of Ed and Youth		9AM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM Advent Service 5:45PM Advent Meal 6:15PM LYF, Confirmation, Midweek (not level 200) 7PM Advent Service 8PM Adult Choir		8AM News & Notes Deadline 10:30AM Preschool Christmas Party (gym) 6:30PM 20s&30s&40s Bible Class		<i>Koinonia</i> Production 10:30AM Preschool Christmas Party (gym)		9AM to NOON: Choir & Music Rehearsal 2PM Baptism: Emmett Conroy 3PM Holy Communion	
Fourth Sunday in Advent		22		23		Christmas Eve		25	Christmas Day	26		27	
8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 9:30AM Midweek Teacher Training (Sanctuary) 10:45AM Holy Communion 3PM Lessons & Carols		<b>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</b> <i>Koinonia</i> Mailing 9:30 AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing		8AM News & Notes Deadline <b>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</b>		<b>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>  Christmas Services At 3PM, 5PM, 7PM, 11PM — All Communion Services Candlelight at 5, 7, 11PM		<b>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>  9:30AM Holy Communion		<b>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</b>		3PM Holy Communion	
28		29		30		31		1	JANUARY	2		3	
8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion		<b>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</b>		<b>PRESCHOOL —CLOSED</b> 8 AM News & Notes Deadline Noon: Church Office Closes		<b>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>		<b>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>		<b>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>		9AM Undecorating the Church from Christmas 3PM Holy Communion	

# December Celebrations 2025

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

## Happy Birthday!

- |                                             |                                   |                                   |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1: Bill Holt, Donna Johnson, Julie Northrup | Lily Witte                        | Kemper, Diana Snyder              |
| 2: Betty Kling, Andi Stover                 | 12: Rachel Bauer, Jenna Rincand,  | 23: Shawn Huber, Thiago Rincand   |
| 3: David Weseman                            | Keson Grissom, Susan              | 24: Ed Belter, Carleen Hardy,     |
| 4: Tracey McKinney                          | Haywood, Jaxson Showen            | George Kirby, Chris Marhanka,     |
| 5: Lucas Buehne, Pat Koepp,                 | 13: Christel Hundt, Nolan Jones   | Natalie Van Wave                  |
| Dee Paoletti                                | 14: Rick Wiese III                | 26: Connie Ryan, Delores Daly,    |
| 6: Alison Blundell                          | 16: Kayleigh Brown, Sherry Piazza | Eric Polashek                     |
| 7: Rory Fink, Joyce McEntire                | 17: Warner Macke, Audrey Stover   | 28: Ronald Kettler, Sarah Schnoor |
| 8: Brenda Fore, Lila Gimbel,                | 18: Kelli Bullington, Wayne Fore  | 29: Brad Leapley, Grace           |
| Marek Linn                                  | 19: Booker Henningfeld, Katie     | McKinney, Vita Sayers, Lydia      |
| 9: Maddie Dawdy, Rick Johns                 | Ziolko                            | Sumski                            |
| 10: Jonathan Davison, Wyatt                 | 20: Mike Dawdy, Samantha          | 30: Mia Frerichs, Lauren          |
| Dunajcik                                    | Kessels, Harper Prose, Mick       | Kunzweiler                        |
| 11: Faith Blackwell, Kristine               | Thoene                            | 31: Steven Liescheidt, Nancy      |
| Morgan, Larry Schilling,                    | 21: Jacob Drilling, Bob Kaltmayer | Scaglione                         |
| Christine Storm, Nancy Thoene,              | Jr., Anne Ziegemeier              |                                   |
|                                             | 22: Cooper Freand, Brandon        |                                   |

## Baptism Anniversaries

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

## Wedding Anniversaries

- Dec. 11:** Roger & Joyce Trost (71)  
**Dec. 16:** Brad & Darlyne Leapley (19)  
**Dec. 28:** Tracy & Floyd Porter (43)  
**Dec. 29:** Greg & Karla Allsberry (27)  
**Dec. 30:** Brian & Trudy Belter (2)

*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 2026 issue is December 12, 2025. Email submissions to [secretary@hccross.com](mailto:secretary@hccross.com) **prior** to the deadline.



Help us  
**UNDECORATE**  
 the church  
 January 3, 2025  
 9AM  
 Bring the family!



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

STAMP

**DECEMBER 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](http://www.hcross.com)  
[secretary@hcross.com](mailto:secretary@hcross.com)

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

Charity Smith  
Director Christian Education

David Gilson  
Director of Music

Dani Richardson  
Preschool Director

Joyce Niewald  
Church Secretary

### GROW YOUR FAITH THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Preschool** (weekdays) 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:** November 12, 6:30AM

**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