



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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqF0Ll0L0L0L0L0L0L0L0L0)

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 December 13-14, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Advent

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:

Bill Adams, **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; **Sandie** Fussner; **Peggy** Gallagher; **Connie** Gamache; **Don** Grzina; **Iris** Hackbarth; **Janine** Haffer; **Kay** Hardman; **Marie** Herrington; **Lizzie** Johansmann; **Ron** Kettler; **George, Judith, & Paul** Kirby; **Sandra** Kohrs; **Debra** Korte; **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; **Betty** Schroeder; **Verna** Tucker; **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)
Olivia Erickson (Ralph & Renae Erickson)
Sandra Fleak (Becky Edgar)
Rev. Dr. **Lee** Hagan, LCMS MO Dist. President
Sydney Hagen (Craig Dement)
Sarah Hall (Jayme Price)
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)
Violet Mittenberg (Diane Palombi)
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)
Kelly Schlereth (Patti Koepf)
Mark Shearman (Lois Foster)
Sara Shroth (choir accompanist)
David Steinbacher (Ernestine Wilson)
Wendell Storm (Brian Storm)
Stanika Todorova (Paul & Juliana Frerichs)
Rita Unzer (Karl Schnoor)
Ken Vesper (Mike Vesper)
Frank Wachter (Elaine Howard)
Lance Watkins (Jesse Smith)
Bobette Wetzal (Faith Blackwell)
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)
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)
Penni Gronewald, **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)

Please review the prayer list and update the church office with any changes.

SATURDAY, December 13, 2025

3PM Holy Communion

SUNDAY, December 14, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8AM Holy Communion

9:30AM Education Hour

9:30AM New Member Orientation (Rm 1 & 2)

10:45AM Holy Communion

MONDAY, December 15, 2025

9:30AM Preschool Gym

9:30AM TOPS

11AM Line Dancing

6:30PM Bell Choir

TUESDAY, December 16, 2025**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

9:00AM Preschool Chapel

9:10AM Preschool Gym

9AM Ladies Guild Quilting

10AM Women's Bible Study (Welcome Center)

12:30PM Staff Meeting

6:30PM Boards of Education & Youth

WEDNESDAY, December 17, 2025: Advent 3**OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO 11AM**

9AM Preschool Chapel

9:30AM Adult Bible Class

11AM Midweek Advent Service

5:30PM Advent Dinner:

Missions & Stewardship Boards

6:15PM LYF, Confirmation, Midweek (not L.200)

7PM Midweek Advent Service

8PM Adult Choir

THURSDAY, December 18, 2025**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

8AM News&Notes Deadline

10:30AM Preschool Christmas Party (Gym)

6:30PM 20s&30s&40s Bible Study

FRIDAY, December 19, 2025**OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON**

Koinonia Production

10:30AM Preschool Christmas Party (Gym)

SATURDAY, December 20, 2025

9AM Choir & Music Rehearsal

2PM Baptism: Emmett Conroy

3PM Holy Communion

SUNDAY, December 21, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8AM Holy Communion

9:30AM Education Hour

Midweek Teacher Training (Sanctuary)

Sunday School: Happy Birthday, Jesus!
(Rm1 & 2)

10:45AM Holy Communion

3PM Lessons & Carols

PRAYER LIST FOR ACTIVE MILITARY:**Dominic Bisesi, Andrew Chema, Jacob Franke, Josh Linn, Thomas Matoushek, Justin Quinn, Joshua Rainwater, Jackson Redfield, Jesse Smith..****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:** Dec. 10, 2025
Families: 90 Individuals: 310 New Families: 3**Church Attendance for December 6&7, 2025**

Service	Attendance	Communion
3PM FAMILY CHRISTMAS	60	—
8AM	120	103
10:45AM	100	85
TOTAL	280	188
PRESCHOOL SERVICE 3PM	81	—

**Bible Class Attendance
Week of December 7, 2025**

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

Little Lambs, Sunday	1
Sunday School: PreK to Gr 5	12
Sunday School: Gr. 6-12	7
Sunday Adult Bible Class	61
BASICS	na
Tuesday Women's 10AM	nr
Tuesday Evening, 6:30PM	NA
Men's Breakfast & Bible	NA
Wednesday AM Bible Class	31
Wednesday Nights	28
20s&30s Thursday	nr

Church Attendance: Wed. Dec. 10, 2025

Service	Midweek 2 Attendance (No Communion)
8AM	44
10:45AM	91
TOTAL	135

Offerings: Dec. 1-7, 2025

General Fund	\$ 27,779.17
Endowment	\$ 150.00
Building Fund	\$ 260.00
Missions Weekly	\$ 149.00
Missions 4th Qtr	\$ 2,751.24

Year to Date as of 11/3102025

Income	\$ 700,147.69
Expenses	\$ 703,217.68
Deficit	\$ (3,069.99)

ADVENT Dinner & Services

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 week are The **Boards of Stewardship & Missions —menu: Chili Dogs, Veggie Trays, Chips, Desserts.**

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION (formerly TLC) will be held in Rm 18&2 on Sunday during the Education Hour.

KFUO: From November 30 through December 6, Holy Cross was featured as the Church of the Week on KFUE Radio, 92.7 FM. An on-air interview with Pastor Kohm and DCE Charity Smith can be accessed at www.kfuo.org by opening the Practical Talk drop-down menu, then finding The Coffee Hour for December 1.

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.

The Tech Board is sponsoring a **Smartphone and Tablet Collection Drive** from Sat., Dec. 20, 2025, to Sun., Jan. 4, 2026, to provide devices for Lutheran Deaf Outreach to use when traveling abroad. The devices must be less than 5 years old and capable of video conferencing. A collection box will be placed in the Welcome Center.

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.

HOPE Ministries requests items: 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.



In Bethlehem *A Service of Lessons & Carols*

*Holy Cross Orchestra,
Adult Choir, & Handbells*

David Gilson, Music Director

*Sunday, December 21, 2025
3PM*

**Happy
Birthday
Jesus!**

Sunday School Students:
You are invited to a
Birthday Party for Jesus!
Next Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025
9:30-10:30AM

PLEASE NOTE that this event date has been changed to next Sunday.

Something NEW for the New Year? Are you a Special Education Teacher looking for a new calling and challenge? Are you a retired Special Education Teacher seeking to use your gifts and experience in a ministry setting? Consider working for LASE Specialized Education. LASE (Lutheran Association for Special Education) has part-time and full-time Educational Specialist positions available working in our Lutheran Schools to share Jesus' love and provide excellent services to children with unique learning needs. Contact Rev. John Jameson (LASE Executive Director) at 636-515-0501 (text/call) or Dr. BJ Wiemer (Program Administrator) at 314-952-4251 (text/call) for more information.

THE LADIES GUILD CANDY AND NUT SALE has concluded and was a great success thanks to your support. A representative from the Concordia Seminary Adopt-A-Student Program will be accepting a check for the proceeds at the January Ladies Guild meeting. Thank you for supporting this important work.

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.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE HOMELESS: 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.

CAROLING TO OUR SHUT-INS: On Mon., Dec. 22, we will form caroling groups to share Christmas carols with our members unable to get out. We will meet in the parking lot at 6pm to receive group assignments and materials. Groups should be done somewhere around 8:30. Song sheets will be provided. This is an excellent family event. The elderly really enjoy seeing little kids. Musical talent is not required, just the desire to brighten someone's day. Please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Center to help in organizing groups.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: If you are a newer member at Holy Cross, you are invited to attend this session on Sun., Dec., 14, during the Bible Class hour from 9:30 to 10:30. Pastor and several church leaders will be present to learn more about our new family members and share information about programs at Holy Cross. You will also have the opportunity to meet other new members.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS Sign up in the Flower Book (by the Welcome Center restrooms) if you want to purchase one of the 20 poinsettias ordered by the Altar Guild that can be taken home after the Christmas Day service. Cost \$11. \$11.



JOIN US!
July 10-14, 2026
Visit hcross.com/trip

CREATION MUSEUM
Prepare to believe.

ARK ENCOUNTER®

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

Early Bird Closes January 15th

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

SHOW-ME LUTHERAN TEC
EST. 1980

TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST

JANUARY 17-19
GLENDAL E LUTHERAN CHURCH
GLENDAL E, MO

\$25 per person
Must be 16 or older
RSVPs due to Pastor Kohm

Lutheran Education Tuition Assistance

Holy Cross Lutheran Church supports families who desire a Lutheran Education. Students who, along with parent(s) or legal guardian(s), are members of Holy Cross are eligible for Tuition assistance. Students must be enrolled in grades K-12 at an LCMS Lutheran school in St. Charles County or in a Concordia University System (LCMS) higher education institution.

Applications are in the Welcome Center and must be turned in by March 31.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
8945 VETERANS MEMORIAL HWY

GAME DAY

1.10.2026

BRING GAMES | BRING FOOD | HAVE FUN

Doors Open from 9-2 pm

HCCROSS.COM/YOUTH

HOLY CROSS YOUTH PRESENTS MYSTERY DINNER

Sat., February 21
As part of the
Annual Youth Group Fundraiser

ALIBIS by Peter Kennedy
Everyone is Dying to have this much Fun!

TICKETS AVAILABLE JANUARY 25

Want to be an actor? Contact Shana Ziolk o at shana.ziolk o@gmail.com

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