



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 December 20-21, 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; **Elaine** Howard; **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)
Mark Hanna (Michael Hanna)
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)
Tim (Charity Smith)
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 Wetzel (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)
Brandon Ward; **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 20, 2025

9AM Choir & Music Rehearsal
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 Service of Lessons & Carols

MONDAY, December 22, 2025

Koinonia Mailing
Preschool Closed
9:30AM TOPS
11AM Line Dancing

TUESDAY, December 23, 2025

PRESCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED
8AM News&Notes Deadline
2PM Altar Guild Setup

WEDNESDAY, December 24, 2025

PRESCHOOL AND CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Christmas Eve — Holy Communion:
3PM
5PM, 7PM, 11PM— candle light

THURSDAY, December 25, 2025

PRESCHOOL AND CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Christmas Day
9:30AM Holy Communion

FRIDAY, December 26, 2025

PRESCHOOL CLOSED
1PM Altar Guild Cleanup/Reset

SATURDAY, December 27, 2025

9AM Carpet Cleaning
3PM Holy Communion

SUNDAY, December 28, 2025

8AM Holy Communion
9:30AM Education Hour
10:45AM Holy Communion

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 January—March 2026 and the November and December issues of **Lutheran Witness** are 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. 17, 2025
Families: 81 Individuals: 288 New Families: 1

Church Attendance for December 13&14, 2025

Service	Attendance	Communion
3PM	56	66
8AM	100	75
10:45AM	67	62
TOTAL	223	203

Bible Class Attendance
Week of December 14, 2025
NA=not applicable; NR=not reported; C= cancelled

Little Lambs, Sunday	2
Sunday School: PreK to Gr 5	17
Sunday School: Gr. 6-12	9
Sunday Adult Bible Class	47
New Member Orientation	7
Tuesday Women's 10AM	NR
Tuesday Evening, 6:30PM	NA
Men's Breakfast & Bible	NA
Wednesday AM Bible Class	29
Wednesday Nights	29
20s&30s Thursday	9

Church Attendance: Wed. Dec. 17, 2025

Service	Midweek 3 Attendance (No Communion)
11AM	44
7PM	63
TOTAL	107

Offerings: Dec. 8-14, 2025

General Fund	\$ 19,142.77
Endowment	\$ 0.00
Building Fund	\$ 0.00
Missions Weekly	\$ 60.00
Missions 4th Qtr	\$ 2,811.24

Year to Date as of 11/30/2025

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

Happy Birthday Jesus!

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

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.

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.

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.

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.



In Bethlehem *A Service of Lessons & Carols*

*Holy Cross Orchestra,
Adult Choir, & Handbells*

David Gilson, Music Director

*Sunday, December 21, 2025
3PM*

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.

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.



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 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

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.

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

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 Ziolko at shana.ziolko@gmail.com

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