



### 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](http://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](http://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 27-28, 2025

# The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

### 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; **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; **Judith** 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; **Joe** Snyder; **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)  
Gina Chitwood (William Wichern)  
**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, **Harry** Martin (Craig Dement)  
**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)  
**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)  
**Mary** Young (Elaine Alton)  
**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, **Harry** Martin (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)  
**Sarah** Hall, **Katie** Hawkey (Jayme Price)  
**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.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### 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

### MONDAY, December 29, 2025

Preschool & Church Office Closed

### TUESDAY, December 30, 2025

PRESCHOOL CLOSED

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON

8AM News&Notes Deadline

### WEDNESDAY, December 31, 2025

PRESCHOOL CLOSED

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON

### THURSDAY, January 1, 2026

PRESCHOOL AND CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

New Year's Day

### FRIDAY, January 2, 2026

PRESCHOOL CLOSED

CHURCH OFFICE: 9AM TO NOON

### SATURDAY, January 3, 2026

3PM Holy Communion

+ Church Officers Installation

### SUNDAY, January 4, 2026

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS (BOTH)

8AM Holy Communion

9:30AM Education Hour

10:45AM Holy Communion

### Bible Class Attendance Week of December 21, 2025

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

Little Lambs, Sunday	1
Sunday School: PreK to Gr 5	18
Sunday School: Gr. 6-12	6
Sunday Adult Bible Class	37
All other weekly classes canceled due to the holiday!	

### Offerings: Dec. 15-21, 2025

General Fund	\$	18,459.25
Endowment	\$	10.00
Building Fund	\$	70.00
Missions Weekly	\$	454.04
Missions 4th Qtr	\$	5,765.28

### Year to Date as of 11/30/2025

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

## 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. 23, 2025  
Families: 75      Individuals: 248      New Families: 2

### Church Attendance for December 20&21, 2025

Service	Attendance	Communion
3PM	72	67
8AM	124	99
10:45AM	77	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>226</b>
3PM 12/21 LESSONS & CAROLS	166	

### Church Attendance for December 24, 2025

Service	Attendance	Communion
3PM	153	114
5PM	186	126
7PM	162	131
11PM	71	56
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>427</b>

### Church Attendance for December 25, 2025

9:30AM	92	71
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### Church Attendance: Wed. Dec. 17, 2025

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

### PRAYER LIST FOR ACTIVE

**MILITARY:** Dominic Bisesi,  
Andrew Chema, Jacob Franke,  
Josh Linn, Thomas Matoushek,  
Justin Quinn, Joshua Rainwater,  
Jackson Redfield, Jesse Smith..

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS ON SUNDAY:** Since the heating unit in the gym still needs to be fixed, Adult Bible Class will be held in the Sanctuary this week.

#### **INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: Next Weekend**

At all services next weekend, newly elected and current church officers, elders, and officers of auxiliary organizations (LWML, Altar Guild) are invited to participate in an installation rite. Please attend your regular service and come to the altar when invited.

**UNDECORATING THE CHURCH** — The date for taking down the Christmas decorations has changed to Jan. 10, 2026, at 9AM. Traditionally, Christmas time ends with Epiphany on Jan. 6. Please put this date on your calendar and help out. Then you can attend the Church Game Day in the gym, which also starts at 9AM.

#### **HOPE SEEDS PACKING FOR JANUARY**

The HOPE Seeds group will not pack seeds on its regular first Thursday of January since it is New Year's Day. You are invited to join the Immanuel Wentzville crew at The Boulevard Senior Living the following Thurs., Jan. 8, from 9AM to noon. The address is 110 Perry Cate Blvd, Wentzville. You will need to sign in at the desk on the right as you enter the building then take the elevator to the left of the front door to the third floor. The packing room is across the hall from the elevator. Please call Darlene Birk at 314-607-2751 with any questions.

#### **OTHER FUTURE CALENDAR EVENTS:**

01.04 Elders' Meeting 1:30PM  
01.05 Preschool Parent-Teacher Conferences  
01.06 Preschool Classes resume  
01.07 Midweek, Confirmation Classes, Choirs resume  
01.09 Ladies Guild meets in the gym, 10AM  
01.10 Church Game Day, Undecorating Christmas, 9AM  
01.12 Handbells resume at 6:30PM  
01.13 Grace Guild meets at 6PM; Adult Bible Class, 6:30PM  
01.14 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study, 6:30AM  
01.15 American Red Cross Blood Drive, 10AM-3PM, gym  
01.16 February Koinonia Deadline  
For the full monthly calendar, check the January Koinonia.

#### **NOTES FROM LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL-ST. CHARLES**

Do you have a heart for teaching and a passion for sharing Christ's love? Lutheran High School is seeking a full-time Biology teacher beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. If you feel called to this ministry or know someone who is, please **apply on the Lutheran High website** or reach out to [careers@lhssc.org](mailto:careers@lhssc.org). Join us in our mission to equip students to Grow and Serve in Christ!

Walter League 2.0 Bible Study Dates for the remainder of the school year! We hope you can join us, beginning at 8:15 am in the Academic Success Center. After the study, we invite you to stay for Chapel at 9:20 a.m. Please park at the front entrance and enter through the main doors, then head to the right to find the Academic Success Center. Pastor Millard will continue leading us through the Book of Revelation. A special thank-you to LCEF for generously providing coffee and donuts each session! Dates: Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11, April 15, May 13

The Technology 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. 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.

**OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE HOMELESS:** Holy Cross has been asked 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.

**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 at shana.ziolk@gmail.com

Produced by special arrangement with  
Hever Publishing LLC of Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**JOIN US!**  
July 10-14, 2026  
Visit [hcross.com/trip](http://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 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](http://HCCROSS.COM/YOUTH)

## 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.**

**SHOW-ME  
LUTHERAN TEC**  
EST. 1980

**TEENS  
ENCOUNTER  
CHRIST**

**JANUARY 17-19  
GLENDALE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GLENDALE, MO**

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

**Higher Things AT** Washington University in St. Louis

**SAVE THE DATE**

**June 30–July 3, 2026  
Rising 9<sup>th</sup> – 2026 Grads**

**DYING CHURCH  
RISING HOPE**  
Higher Things Conference 2026

**Higher Things**

**CONFIRMATION CAMP**  
SAVE THE DATE

Adventure, Fun, and Learning!  
July 27-31, 2026\*

Solon, IA  
Youth going into grades 5-8.

**\$75 PER YOUTH**

**\*Official Dates TBA\***

*Servin' in the Hills*

**HIGH SCHOOL  
SERVANT EVENT**  
MAY 30-JUNE 6

**CAMP TRINITY  
NEW HAVEN, MO  
\$50 PER PERSON  
REGISTER BY MAY 1**

**... VBS ...**

**Save the Date**

June 22-26, 2026  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

**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.**

**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.