



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/HolyCrossLutheranChurchO'FallonMO)

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 29 & 30, 2025

First 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:

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; **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)
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 **Jim Kramer**, husband of Glenda Kramer, who entered the Church Triumphant on Wed., Nov. 26. Visitation at Newcomer Funeral Home on Mid-Rivers will be Sun., Nov. 30, from 4 to 7PM. On Monday, visitation at Holy Cross will be 10-11AM with funeral at 11AM. Funeral lunch will follow.

Sharon Hesse, sister of Barb Krieger, who entered the Church Triumphant last week.

SATURDAY, November 29, 2025

9AM Decorating the Church for Christmas
 3PM Worship Service (No Communion)

SUNDAY, November 30, 2025**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

8AM Matins (No communion)
 9:30AM Education Hour
 10:45AM Matins (No communion)

MONDAY, December 1, 2025

9:30AM TOPS
 10AM Visitation for Jim Kramer
 11AM Funeral—Jim Kramer
 6PM Executive Council
 6:30PM Bell Choir
 7:30PM Council Meeting

TUESDAY, December 2, 2025**OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON****8AM News& Notes Deadline**

9:00AM Preschool Chapel
 9AM Quilting
 10AM Women's Bible Study
 12:30PM Staff Meeting
 3PM Preschool Board
 5PM Missions & Stewardship Boards

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

9AM Preschool Chapel
 9:30AM Adult Bible Class
 11AM Advent Service
 5:30PM Family Christmas Service Practice
 5:30PM Advent Meal: Preschool Board
 6:15PM LYF, Confirmation, Midweek (not L.200)
 7PM Advent Service
 8PM Adult Choir

THURSDAY, December 4 2025**OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON**

8AM News&Notes Deadline
 9AM HOPE Seeds
 6:30PM 20s&30s&40s Bible Study

FRIDAY, December 5, 2025**OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON****SATURDAY, December 6, 2025**

1:30PM Family Christmas Service Practice
 3PM Family Christmas Service (No Communion)
 4PM Service Project and Meal

SUNDAY, December 7, 2025**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

8AM Holy Communion
 9:30AM Education Hour
 10:45AM Holy Communion
 1:30PM Board of Elders
 6PM—8:30PM:
 CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS WALK-THROUGH,
 Parking, Cookies in the gym

Special Music at Holy Cross in December:

LESSONS & CAROLS
 at Holy Cross:
 Sun, Dec. 21, 3PM
In Bethlehem

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. 25, 2025
 Families: 81 Individuals: 296 New Families: 3

Church Attendance for November 22-23, 2025

Service	Attendance	Communion
3PM	60	55
8AM	102	78
10:45AM	132	117
TOTAL	294	250

Bible Class Attendance
Week of November 23, 2025
NA=not applicable; NR=not reported; C= cancelled

Little Lambs, Sunday	0
Sunday School: PreK to Gr 5	11
Sunday School: Gr. 6-12	3
Sunday Adult Bible Class	46
BASICS	na
Tuesday Women's 10AM	C
Tuesday Evening, 6:30PM	NR
Men's Breakfast & Bible	NA
Wednesday AM Bible Class	C
Wednesday Nights	C
20s&30s Thursday	C

Offerings: Nov. 10-16, 2025

General Fund	\$ 7,560.96
Endowment	\$ 0.00
Building Fund	\$ 50.00
Missions Weekly	\$ 220.00

Offerings: Nov. 17-23, 2025

General Fund	\$ 16,310.31
Endowment	\$ 10.00
Building Fund	\$ 20.00
Missions Weekly	\$ 110.02
Missions 4th Qtr	\$ 2,692.24

Year to Date as of 10/31/2025

Income	\$ 640,331.68
Expenses	\$ 644,821.51
Deficit	\$ (4,489.88)

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 week are Holy Cross Preschool; menu— Chili & toppings, soups, crackers, rolls, salad, desserts.

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.

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

The CHRISTmas Tree Family Christmas Service

December 6, 2025



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



JOIN US FOR A

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DECEMBER 7, 2025
3:00 PM

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL
STUDENTS WILL PERFORM SONGS AND POEMS!

PLEASE MEET US IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX
AT 2:45 PM PRIOR TO TAKING YOUR SEAT.

8945 VETERANS MEMORIAL PARKWAY
O'FALLON, MO 63366

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.

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.

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.

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.

"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.



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 CSMITH@HCROSS.COM

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



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

THANKS to the brave souls who came out on a snowy Saturday to partially decorate the church for Christmas: John Bertram, David Schlesselman, Don Wischmeyer, Bob & Karen Steinbruegge. Listen for other times to finish decorating.