

## Q & A: Tre Ore

We will be doing some things a little differently at Holy Cross this Holy Week, particularly on Good Friday. We will be hosting a Tre Ore service at 12 NOON. Here are some questions to help you learn more about what it is and why we are doing it.

### **First question: how do you pronounce it?**

There are no dumb questions! There is a little variation in pronouncing this across Christianity, but the Holy Cross staff is pronouncing it like: "Tray O-Ray"

### **Whew, I'm glad you cleared that up! What does that title mean?**

Tre Ore is from the Latin for "three hours." This corresponds to the three hours of darkness while Jesus was crucified as recorded in Luke 23:44: "It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour." The "sixth hour" is the sixth hour in the day after the sunrise, approximately 12NOON. The "ninth hour" then is the ninth hour in the day after sunrise, approximately 3PM.

### **Is that why the service is at 12 NOON then?**

Yes, we decided to follow the customary 12 NOON start time for this service, and we will not be having the 11AM Good Friday service as we have had in past years.

### **What about the evening service? Are we still having that?**

Yes, in addition to the Tre Ore service, we will still have the 7PM Tenebrae service, which is distinct and different from the Tre Ore and the rest of Holy Week. (The 7PM service was accidentally omitted from the Holy Cross postcard you may have received in the mail.)

### **So what is the Tre Ore service like?**

The biggie is that it is three hours long, starting at 12NOON and ending at 3PM. The service is broken down into nine sections of 20 minutes each. The sections will have a psalm, a reading, a hymn, a homily, and some occasional special music or

silent reflection. Each section begins in 20-minute intervals.

### **Seriously? Three hours of church? Do you really expect me to sit through a three-hour service?**

Actually, no, we don't expect everyone to attend all three hours, though everyone is more than welcome to do so if they would like. Historically, this service was one where parishioners would come and leave at their choosing throughout the three hours, and we would like to continue that practice as well. In other words, all those who attend are permitted to arrive late to church and leave early.

### **Whew. That's a relief. Now that you mention it, didn't we do this before at Holy Cross?**

Yes, we held a Tre Ore service on Good Friday in 2020 that was live-streaming only since things were shut down that year during Holy Week and Easter.

### **Let me ask a big question: Why are you doing this service and not leaving it the way it has been in previous years?**

There are a couple of reasons. First, we would like to use it as an opportunity to bring back a service with some well-anchored roots. Second, we are hoping that this would be a service that could bring together other area churches with us. For our first year, we welcome Holy Cross member, Rev. Denis Wittenberger, and Circuit Visitor Rev. Don Stock to each preach a homily. We also welcome Rev. Jeremy Klaustermeier and members of the St. John Warrenton choir as a part of the service. This service has the potential to grow and include more congregations and pastors in future years.

### **Wow, that sounds pretty neat! I've got that on my calendar!**

That's great! We would love to see you there! Friday, April 3, 2026, from 12NOON to 3PM right here at Holy Cross and streaming online at the usual places. ~ Pastor Gimbel

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

**Dani Richardson**  
Preschool Director  
& Lead Teacher

**Rebecca Nutter**  
Assistant Director  
& Extended Care



**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.**

In February, our classes had Valentine Parties. The three's class worked together to plan our party and cooperatively to set up for the party. They also practiced counting and cutting out hearts. Our fours class baked cookies and used their fine motor skills to spread the icing. We also had fun counting to ten in Spanish/English. We experimented with light to make shadows and with magnets to discover what is magnetic and nonmagnetic. We learned about healthy/non-healthy foods, the math concept of more or less moon, and about bears hibernation.

During Jesus time we learned that Jesus answers prayers and where God's house is. It is in heaven, the sanctuary, and he lives in our hearts.

You can continue to support our program through Thrivent and participating in our Butter Braids fundraiser.



Preschoolers appreciate having a warm gym during the cold winter to play and strengthen their movement skills.



## Preschool Butter Braids Fundraiser

The Preschool is offering products from Show Me Dough including the original Butter Braids pastry, frozen pizzas, cake rolls and cookie dough in individual servings. Orders may be **placed online** by holding your phone camera on the QR code below then click on Church Orders. Preschool Board members will be at a **table in the Welcome Center** to hand out and collect order forms each Saturday and Sunday

**Feb. 28 – Mar. 15.** Orders may also be dropped off at the Church office during office hours. All orders are due by Wed., March 18. Items will be available for **pick-up on Monday, March 30, 3 to 5PM, in the gym** — just in time for Easter. Funds raised will be used for playground improvements. Call Dani Richardson at 636-272-4505 for more information.



Scan this QR code to order Butter Braids.

**Registration for the 2026-2027 school year opened to the public on February 1.** Children must be 3 or 4 years old before August 1, 2026.

**Preschool** Our core curriculum is taught during the following times by teachers with degrees in Education. Classes are from 8:30AM – 11:30AM, and 12:30PM – 3:30 PM. Three-year-old Preschool classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday. Four-year-old Preschool classes meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**Full Day Program** School is available from 8AM to 5PM, Monday through Friday. Students attend Preschool for the core curriculum and spend the rest of the day participating in activities to reinforce and enhance the curriculum including computer time, more extensive science experiments, art projects suited to a smaller group setting, games, extra gym and outside time, and rest time in the afternoon. The day is divided into segments, so you only pay for the time needed.

New brochures are available in the Preschool display boards located on the Preschool Cubbies, in the Welcome Center, as well as in the Church office. All information is also on the website (hcross.com) then click on the Preschool tab. Contact Preschool Director Dani Richardson at (636) 272-4505 for more information and to schedule a personal tour.

# Monthly Music Minute for March 2026

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

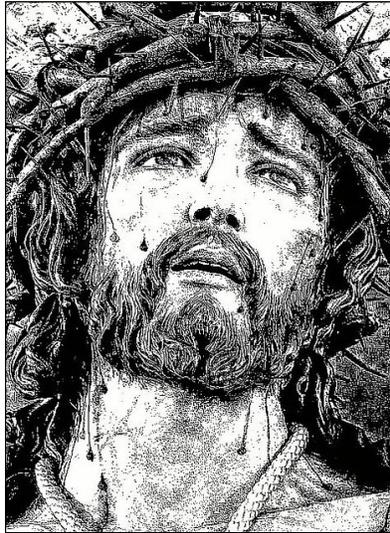
Lent is one of my favorite musical seasons in the church year. The season is full of intimate, reflective, heartfelt music that we really only get to hear this time of year. In March alone we get to hear the Adult Choir sing "God So Loved the World," be led by our Children's Choir and Beginning Bells, hear from the choir of Lutheran High, and meditate on music from our Adult Handbells.

I'm going to look ahead a little bit this month, though, into early April, as I want to make sure to talk about a specific piece of music happening at our Tenebrae service on Good Friday, April 3. It might be the most heart-wrenching piece of music of the season.

For context, our Lent theme this year is "Forgiveness is...", where each week during our Wednesday services we will look at some aspect of forgiveness about which Jesus teaches us. On Good Friday, we'll hear Jesus' last words of forgiveness from the cross, where he says to those who crucified him, "Father, forgive them." We'll then reflect on this great word of Jesus by listening to an aria from Johann Sebastian Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*.

The *St. Matthew Passion* is a monumental work of music. It is written for choir and orchestra, and takes the entire text of Matthew 26-27, the story of Jesus' betrayal, trial, and crucifixion, and sets it to music. It is full of *recitatives*, where a soloist sings the scripture verses; *arias*, which are longer solos that reflection on the story; and *chorales*, or hymns that are interspersed throughout. To compare it to something a little more familiar, think of it like the Good Friday version of Handel's *Messiah*.

There is so much more I could say about the entire *Passion* (if you're curious, come find me and I'd be happy to chat about it), but I'd like to



really focus on the aria that will be sung on Good Friday. Entitled *Erbarme Dich* (Have mercy), in the *Passion* it falls immediately after Peter denies Jesus. I think the words are appropriate, though, for reflection after Jesus says "Father, forgive them." The translation goes as follows:

*Have mercy, my God, for the sake of my tears!  
Look here, heart and eyes weep bitterly before you.  
Have mercy, have mercy!*

The aria is for solo voice and violin. The voice's melody rises and falls in a pattern that almost sounds like actual weeping. In Bach's time, a solo violin would have represented the human soul - so, musically, the soul cries for mercy as it witnesses everything that Jesus is enduring on the cross. Underneath all of this, the organ pedal quietly plays the great passion hymn, "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded," a hymn about everything we did to put Jesus on the cross. It's truly one of the most stirring musical moments in the history of church music, and I can't wait to share it with you this Good Friday.

You see, it is on Good Friday, in particular, that we have the urge to cry that same "Have mercy, my God!"; for on this day, we return to Golgotha to witness the scene of our crimes, the place of our sins, the site of our failures. We ourselves are the soldiers nailing Jesus to the cross, for it is our sins that caused his death, our faults that caused his suffering. Not worthy of forgiveness, never deserving of grace, we still muster the cry, "Have mercy, my God!"

And, even on that cross, in all his agony, as we crucify him there, Jesus looks down at us, as blood streams down his face, and, in his deep love for us, prays on our behalf, "Father, forgive them."

- David Gilson



**Grace Evening Creates Resurrection Sets**  
 In March, Grace Guild will create **Resurrection Eggs** for Preschool & Sunday School students. Plastic eggs in a carton with a small booklet tell the story of Holy Week. Social hour with refreshments starts at 6PM, and the business meeting starts at 6:30PM.

Join Grace Guild for **Lenten Dinner on March 18**. Menu includes baked pasta (including Keto recipes), casseroles, salad, drinks, and desserts. Dinner starts at 5:30PM to 6:45PM.

**Alleluia Baskets:** Grace Guild is sponsoring a session at Alleluia Baskets on March 19 from 10 to 11AM. Alleluia Baskets has moved to **401 E. Wabash St., O'Fallon, MO 63366**. Baskets are given to all ages who are in need. If you would like to come, please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Center. **Donations** can be put in the designated container in the Welcome Center in March. Most needed items to fill baskets include bubbles, teen deodorant, and decks of cards. For more information, contact Darlene Drilling or the church office.

**Other plans:** In April, Grace Guild will assemble spring baskets for home-bound Holy Cross members. In May, the annual Rose Sale on Mother's Day returns, as well as a collection of personal items for Concordia Seminary families through Father's Day. More information on items will be in next month's *Koinonia*.

**Hope Seeds Packing for March 5**

Join the group in the gym at 9am to pack seeds for missions.

*Sponsored by Holy Cross Stewardship Board.*



**All women of Holy Cross are invited to attend the meetings of either or both Guilds.**

Join us as we "serve the Lord with gladness" by raising funds for missions at home and around the world.

Holy Cross has two LWML groups:  
**Grace Evening Guild** meets **Tues., March 10, 6PM.**  
**Holy Cross Ladies Guild** meets **Fri., March 13, 10AM.**

Spring is right around the corner! Time to start thinking about the beautiful flowers and plants you will want for your home and for gifts! **The Ladies Guild Flower and Plant Sale** starts on the weekend of February 28/March 1 and continues through the month of March. Wide, beautiful varieties will be available. Parkview Gardens of St. Charles provides the flowers and plants and is well-known for high-quality florals. Orders will be available for pick-up on the first weekend of May. Watch the *News&Notes* for more information, and plan to visit our table in the Welcome Center to place your order. Proceeds from the Flower Sale will be donated to Aging Ahead, which operates the O'Fallon Senior Center and the Meals on Wheels program in the City of O'Fallon.



**American Red Cross Blood Drive**

**Save a Life, Give Blood**

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH GYM**  
**8945 VETERANS MEMORIAL PARKWAY,**  
**O'FALLON, MO 63366**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026**  
**10AM TO 2PM**

**PLEASE VISIT** [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) **and enter:**  
**HolyCrossLC** to schedule an appointment

**Give in March for a \$15 Gift Card by email,**  
**Successful donations get A1C testing!**  
[Rcblood.org/March](http://Rcblood.org/March)

## Meet Your Elder: Don Wischmeyer

*A series in which members of the Board of Elders introduce themselves and share some thoughts*

I was born into a loving Lutheran family and raised in North County St Louis. I was baptized at Our Savior in St. Louis, raised at Grace Chapel in Bellefontaine Neighbors where I went to grade school, and attended High School



at Riverview Gardens where I met my longtime friend and now wife, Darlene. I was involved at Grace Chapel as a child and have fond memories of the Youth Group and Walther League. Darlene and I were married at Grace Chapel in 1993. Between us, we have eight children and nine grandchildren. At one time, 7 of the 8 of our kids were teenagers—now you know why I have the white hair.

My father was my role model, not only as a firm believer in our traditional Lutheran faith but also in my occupation. I followed him as a third-generation electrician and retired as a Journeyman wireman after 40 years. I share my dad's traditional values in most things, and it is one of the many things I value at Holy Cross.

My bride and I joined Holy Cross in 2003, and we have found it to be our refuge and our strength. We often talk about our first visits here—when Bob Hayes would welcome us with a handshake and a hug and let us know we were welcomed—he was our first friend at Holy Cross, and we will never forget the warmth he showed us at the door. I hope we can do the same for others in the years to come.

Bob was the one who asked me if I would be interested in being an elder at Holy Cross, and I admit I was doubtful of my ability to fulfill the position. Darlene encouraged me, I accepted, and my life will never be the same. That was in 2008. In that time, I have worked with more than 30 other Elders and five Pastors. What I have gained on a personal and spiritual level far outweighs what I can hope to possibly give back to this position, and I thank God that He put this church into my life. I have learned and grown under our Father's watchful eye, and I am thankful.

I intend to be at Holy Cross for the rest of my life and look forward to meeting and making more lifetime friends—so if I have missed you, please look for the white hair at 8AM services and let's talk.

Your Brother in Christ,  
Don Wischmeyer

## Community Garden Plots Available at Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Would you like to eat fresh vegetables and save money at the grocery store? Holy Cross will again have 10-foot by 12-foot garden plots available for members this year. The ground had compost added last fall and will be tilled once the weather warms up. You may plant whatever you like and are responsible for weeding, watering, and harvesting. The cost for a plot is \$20 for the season. If you are interested in a plot, please contact David Schlesselman at 636-578-1766 or [daschlesselman@gmail.com](mailto:daschlesselman@gmail.com). We pray that participants will be blessed through the physical exercise, the fellowship with other gardeners, and the fruits of their labor.

**LASE Specialized Education** is seeking part-time and full-time Educational Specialists to serve the growing needs of our Lutheran partner schools. The demand for Christ-centered special educators and speech therapists to support and encourage our unique learners continues to rise. Should you be seeking a new avenue to share your gifts and experience, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact LASE's Executive Director, Rev. John Jameson, at [john.jameson@lutheranspecialied.org](mailto:john.jameson@lutheranspecialied.org), or by phone (text/call) at 636-515-0501.

## 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.**

## Lent/Holy Week Service & Event Schedules

### Lent Midweek 2, March 4

**Theme: Forgiveness is Our Greatest Need**

11AM: Service of Prayer & Preaching

**5:30PM Lenten Dinner: Missions & Stewardship**

**Menu: Soups, Salads, Desserts**

6:15PM Midweek [SEE PURPLE CALENDAR AT RIGHT]

7PM: Evening Prayer

8PM Choir

### Lent Midweek 3, March 11

**Theme: Forgiveness is Life-Changing**

11AM: Service of Prayer & Preaching

**5:30PM Lenten Dinner: Board of Elders**

**Menu: Pancakes**

6:15PM Midweek [SEE PURPLE CALENDAR AT RIGHT]

7PM: Evening Prayer

8PM Choir

### Lent Midweek 4, March 18

11AM: Service of Prayer & Preaching

**5:30PM Lenten Dinner: Grace Evening Guild**

**Menu: Baked Pasta, bread sticks, salad, desserts**

6:15PM Midweek [SEE PURPLE CALENDAR AT RIGHT]

7PM: Evening Prayer

8PM Choir

### Lent Midweek 5, March 25

11AM: Service of Prayer & Preaching

**5:30PM Lenten Dinner: Wednesday Bible Class**

6:15PM Midweek [SEE PURPLE CALENDAR AT RIGHT]

7PM: Evening Prayer

8PM Choir

## Holy Week

### Palm Sunday ~ Holy Communion

Sat., March 28, 10am to Noon Egg Hunt

Sat., March 23, 3PM

Sun., March 24, 8AM & 10:45AM

+Palm Processional

### Maundy Thursday, April 2

Holy Communion

11AM & 7PM (CHOIR AT 7PM + FIRST COMMUNION)

### Good Friday, April 3

NOON TO 3PM Good Friday Tre Ore

7PM Tenebrae Vespers

### Holy Saturday, April 4

7PM: Easter Vigil with Holy Communion

+ Confirmation + Beginning Bell Choir

### Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter), April 5

**Holy Communion at all services**

**+ 7AM, 9AM, 11AM**

Youth Easter Breakfast: 7:30AM to 11AM (gym)

**Church Office and Preschool closed Mon., April 6**

# LENT SCHEDULE

**5:30-6:45 pm Dinner**

**6:15-7 pm Beginning**

**Bells, Children's**

**Choir and**

**Confirmation**

**7-8 pm Service**

**FEB 18\* & 25**

**MARCH 4, 11,**

**18, & 25**

**\*No Music or Level 100\***



## Easter Egg Hunt!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28  
10AM TO NOON  
TODDLERS TO 5TH  
GRADE**

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BASKET OR BAG.  
FRIENDS & FAMILY WELCOME!

# Palm Sunday Processional

Toddlers through high school are invited to process into the Sunday Morning (3/29) services holding palm branches.

**Please gather in the Welcome Center 5 minutes before service.**

We will ask our oldest students to help guide the youngest into the sanctuary and back to their parents.



## 2026 New Melle Community Passion Play

New Melle Sports and Recreation

4700 Hwy Z New Melle, MO 63365

Saturday March 21

7:00 PM



Sunday March 22

2:00 PM & 4:30 PM



Saturday March 28

7:00 PM



Sunday March 29

2:00 PM & 4:30 PM

**Admission Free**

Seating is on First-come  
First-seated basis

For groups or  
more information

Call 636-384-0576

Or Email  
nmpassion@gmail.com

Check us out:  
Facebook us at:  
New Melle Community  
Passion Play

## Pretzel Making Party



March 22  
9:30-10:30AM  
6th-12th Grade

Meet in the Kitchen  
RSVP to Linda Ziolk  
mjllz@yahoo.com



## Easter Breakfast

7:30am to 11am  
In the gym

mo.lcms.org/district-youth-gathering/

**\$75 per person**

**6th-12th Grade**

MO District

# YOUTH GATHERING

April 17-19

Registration due March 15

Featured Guests: Remy Drive

Cross Pointe Retreat Center, Rocky Mount, MO

# JOIN US!

July 10-14, 2026

Visit [hcross.com/trip](http://hcross.com/trip)

## CREATION MUSEUM

Prepare to believe.

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# ARK ENCOUNTER®

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

Regular Registration Closes March 15th

# 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**

CAMP IO-DIS-E-CA SINCE 1962

\*Official Dates TBA\*

# ... VBS ...

## Save the Date

June 22-26, 2026

Holy Cross Lutheran Church



**SLICK CITY  
ACTION PARK**

**March 14**  
**Middle School Only**  
**Time: 1 - 4 pm carpool**  
**from Holy Cross**  
**Cost \$20 per person**  
**Friends Invited**  
**RSVP Due March 8**



*Serv'n in the Hills*

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



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

**March 2026 LCEF Newsletter Article**

"I took my car to one place for an oil change, another for the brakes, and still another for a tuneup. Yet my car just doesn't seem to be running right, and no one is offering to step in to help me." That same scenario might be true about your Christian estate plan. You might be tempted to focus on one thing at a time, a will here, an insurance policy there, a conversation with the financial planner periodically and then the annual tax preparation. But do we think about how all those things are linked together? We need to, in order to have a comprehensive plan.

In a busy world, focused on quick productivity, we often miss the opportunity to weave the conversations of all our advisors together. In addition, inviting your pastor into these conversations, and your family, can bring a fullness otherwise missed. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help facilitate conversations in your circle of important people. Contact Teresa Nelson at (319)351-6529 or Teresa.Nelson@lfnd.org.

**Men's Breakfast & Bible Study**

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

**Sign up in the Welcome Center**

*Lent.*

A SEASON OF RENEWAL



# MARCH 2026: Holy Cross Lutheran Church Calendar of Events

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
<b>1</b>	PS Butter Braids Sale LG Flower Sale 8 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion + Preschool Singers 1:30PM Board of Elders	<b>2</b>	9:30AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing 6:30PM Bell Choir	<b>3</b>	9AM Preschool Chapel 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting 3PM Preschool Board 6:30PM Boards of Stewardship & Missions	<b>4</b>	9AM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM Lent Service 5:30PM Lenten Meal Missions 6:15PM Conf., L. 100, 200 7PM Lent Service 8PM Adult Choir	<b>5</b>	<u>8AM News &amp; Notes Deadline</u> 9AM HOPE Seeds 6:30PM 20s&30s&40s Bible Class	<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>	PS Butter Braids Sale LG Flower Sale 2pm Baptism 3pm Holy Communion
<b>8</b>	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME PS Butter Braids Sale LG Flower Sale 8AM Holy Communion + LHS Choir 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion	<b>9</b>	9:30AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing 6PM Executive Board 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Council Meeting	<b>10</b>	9AM Preschool Chapel 10AM Women's Bible Study 10:30AM PS Grandparents Day (gym) 12:30PM Staff Meeting 6PM Grace Guild 6:30PM Adult Bible Class	<b>11</b>	6:30AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9AM Preschool Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class (Sanctuary) 9:30AM PS Grandparents Day (Gym) 11AM Lent Service 5:30PM Lenten Meal: Elders 6:15PM Conf., L. 100, 200 6:15PM Midweek Music, all 7PM Lent Service 8PM Adult Choir	<b>12</b>	<u>8AM News &amp; Notes Deadline</u> <u>Last Day for PS Butter Braids Blood Drive (Gym)</u> 6:30PM 20s&30s&40s Bible Class	<b>13</b>	MARCH KOINONIA DEADLINE 10AM Ladies Guild	<b>14</b>	PS Butter Braids Sale LG Flower Sale Noon: Wedding 3PM Holy Communion
<b>15</b>	PS Butter Braids Sale LG Flower Sale 8 AM Holy Communion + Children's Choir 9:30AM Education Hour 9:30AM Midweek Teacher Training (Sanctuary) 10:45AM Holy Communion	<b>16</b>	9:30 AM TOPS (Rm 1-2) 10:30AM Preschool St. Pat's Party (Classroom) 11AM Line Dancing 6:30PM Bell Choir	<b>17</b>	9AM Preschool Chapel 10AM Women's Bible Study 10:30AM Preschool St. Pat's Party (Classroom) 12:30PM Staff Meetings 6PM Youth & Education Bds.	<b>18</b>	9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM Lent Service 5:30PM Lent Dinner- GGuild 6:15PM Conf., L. 100, 200 6:15PM Music, all 7PM Lent Service 8PM Adult Choir	<b>19</b>	<u>8AM News &amp; Notes Deadline</u> <u>Circuit Meeting (Pastors)</u> 10AM Alleluia Baskets (offsite) 6:30PM 20s&30s&40s Bible Class	<b>20</b>	MARCH KOINONIA PRODUCTION 10AM LWML St. Charles Zone Board of Directors (gym)	<b>21</b>	LG Flower Sale 3PM HOLY COMMUNION
<b>22</b>	LG Flower Sale 8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion	<b>23</b>	PRESCHOOL CLOSED KOINONIA MAILING 9:30 AM TOPS (Rm 1-2) 11AM Line Dancing	<b>24</b>	PRESCHOOL CLOSED 9AM Ladies Guild Quilting 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meetings 6:30PM Adult Bible Class 6:30PM Bell Choir	<b>25</b>	PRESCHOOL CLOSED 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 11AM Lent Service 5:30PM Lenten Meal: WedABC 6:15PM Conf., L. 100, 200 6:15PM Music, all 7PM Lent Service 8PM Adult Choir	<b>26</b>	PRESCHOOL CLOSED <u>8AM News &amp; Notes Deadline</u> 6:30PM 20s&30s&40s Bible Class	<b>27</b>	PRESCHOOL CLOSED 10AM Altar Guild — Clean Silver and Palms	<b>28</b>	10AM Easter Egg Hunt 3PM Holy Communion
<b>29</b>	HOLY WEEK Palm Sunday	<b>30</b>	HOLY WEEK Butter Braids Pickup Day!	<b>31</b>	HOLY WEEK	<b>1</b>	HOLY WEEK APRIL	<b>2</b>	HOLY WEEK Maundy Thursday	<b>3</b>	HOLY WEEK Good Friday	<b>4</b>	HOLY WEEK Easter Saturday
Professional Sunday 8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion	9:30AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing 3 to 5PM Preschool Fund-raiser—Pickup Time 6:30PM Bell Choir	9AM Preschool Chapel 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting 3PM Preschool Board 6:30PM Stewardship, Missions Board	Preschool: Classroom Easter Celebration 9AM PS Chapel 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 6:30pm 6:45PM Adult Choir	<u>8AM News &amp; Notes Deadline</u> Preschool: Classroom Easter Celebrations 9AM HOPE Seeds 11AM Holy Communion 7PM Holy Communion + First Communion	Church Office Closed Preschool Closed: Teacher Work Day 12PM—3PM: Te Ore 7PM Tenbrae	WORK DAY FOR EASTER BREAKFAST 7pm Easter Vigil Holy Communion + Confirmation + Beginning Bells							
PRESCHOOL RECESS TIMES	9:30AM—9:50AM 1:30PM—1:50PM	9:10-9:30AM	11-11:20AM 1:30-1:50PM	9:10-9:30AM	9:30AM—9:50AM 1:30PM—1:50PM								

# March Celebrations 2026

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

## Happy Birthday! God's Blessings in Your New Year!

1: Dina Polashek	Koprowski, Sarah Langley, Lily	21: Spencer Dunajcik, Donna Reany (90), Mark Schnefke
2: Gerri Beckmann, Denice Johns	Schoenike, Sandra Vickers	22: Sharon Falter, Elise Martens, Stevie Schuler
3: Harold Kohrs, Peggy Linn	12: Tim Laufer, Zeita Reed	23: Hunter Cross, Larry Williams
4: Margie Biegenger, Bob Cross, Shirley Mercurio, Lucas White	13: Rick Grayson, Janine Martens, John Temple, Lilly Temple	24: Emma Davison
5: Bailey Schoenike	15: Matthew Grabanski, Marilyn Otto	25: Pat Hanna
6: Brayden Einsporn, John Schneider II	16: Bill Day, Jennifer Goris	26: Iam Essmyer, Barb Knehans, Alaina Martens, Baylor O'Brien
7: Jacob Elick, Hugh Heckman, Eileen Reichert	17: Frank Hegykozi, Diane Jones, Chase Markham	27: Sarah Miget
9: Isaac Conrad	18: Jeff Coomer, Ernest Foster, Jacob Hardebeck, Ashlyn White	28: Bethany Claxton
10: Keith Wachter	19: Peggy Lancour	29: Margie Green
11: Michael Cammann, Judith	20: Charlie Feller, Todd Rasche	31: Caden Martens

## Baptism Anniversaries: May God Continue to Bless You!

1: Carla Addison, Lisa Byers, Debra Korte	15: John Bewig III	25: Anthony Losch
3: Brinn Miller, Barb Wittenberger	16: Anna Schnoor	26: Harold Kohrs, Sandra Kohrs
6: Denton & Debbie Raymond	17: Cory Cross, Erika Cross, Justin Cross, Nolan Jones, Dawn Kahler	27: Shelby Morgan
7: Isabel Cross	18: Justin Haffer, Mollie Linn	28: Dylan Crider, Brayden Einsporn, Brody Einsporn
8: Hannah Cannon, Christian Eaton	20: Aubrey Rheinecker	29: Kevin Munoz
9: Esther Legoute, Lydia Legoute	21: Jonathan Davison, Neal Menscher, Dale Witte	30: Chloe Benigno, Dennis Gamache, Bryan Meyer
10: Jill Grabanski, Mildred Stevens Brody Van Wave	23: Jack Estill, Andrew Gaglio, Judith Koprowski	31: Alexa Berjer, Ellie Berjer, Owen Berjer, Evelyn Estes
12: Cooper Dunajcik	24: Mark Drilling	
13: Bentley McNiff		

## Wedding Anniversaries: God Bless Your Marriage!

<b>3:</b> Christine & Charles Mueller (42)	<b>11:</b> Clay & Autumn Jones (9) Dale & Betty Kling (35)	<b>17:</b> Kenny & Vita Sayers (29)
<b>4:</b> Todd & Elizabeth Rasche (37)	<b>14:</b> Marc & Jessica Maull (17)	<b>19:</b> Kelli & Deron Bullington (10)
<b>6:</b> Don & Darlene Wischmeyer (33)	<b>15:</b> Cassa & Jonathan Henderson (2) Dan & Kari Spearman (29)	<b>21:</b> Michael & Beverly Wade (41)
<b>7:</b> Jim & Michelle Dunajcik (28)	<b>16:</b> Ashley & Steven Cameron (8)	<b>25:</b> Ken & Sandie Fussner (59)
<b>9:</b> Matt & Marie Benigno (14)		<b>26:</b> Jim & Nancy Redfield (4)
<b>10:</b> Jacob & Rachel Estes (14)		

*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 April 2026 issue is March 13, 2026. Email submissions to [secretary@hcross.com](mailto:secretary@hcross.com) **prior** to the deadline.

### ELDERS AND CONGREGANT COMMUNICATION

One of the Elders' responsibilities is to address any questions or concerns from the congregants of Holy Cross. Please feel free to contact any Elder displayed in the Welcome Center if you have questions or concerns regarding services, policies, procedures, personal issues, or other issues. You may also contact either Pastor if you don't feel comfortable discussing something with an Elder. The Elders will keep personal issues confidential unless you state otherwise.

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

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**March 2026**



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## Holy Cross Lutheran Church: 1960 ~ 2026

### Holy Cross Lutheran Church & Preschool

8945 Veterans Memorial Pkwy  
O'Fallon, MO 63366  
(636) 272-4505  
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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  
**New Member Orientation (formerly Transfer for Lutherans)**  
*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:** March 11, 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 & 40s Bible Study:** Thursdays, 6:30PM, Rm 1&2