



### 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](http://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 February 21&22, 2026

# The First Sunday in Lent

### WELCOME TO EVERYONE JOINING US FOR WORSHIP TODAY

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Submit prayer requests by filling out a prayer card found in the pew and putting it in the offering plate. Or call or email the church office. Confidential prayer requests are shared with the Pastors but not published.

### WE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS:

**Gerri Beckmann; Dennis Benassi; Paul & Carolyn Bertram; Mary Kay Bethke; Judy Bonney; Kacey Booth; Nancy Caldwell; Teegan Cannon; Doris Coots; Kathleen Day; Logan Day; Shirley Day; Sandy Dietz; Bob & Carolyn Delohi; Edna Deubel; Sherien Duello; Brenda Duncan; Renea Erickson; Rich Franzer; Ken & Sandie Fussner; Peggy Gallagher; Connie Gamache; Don Grzina; Iris Hackbarth; Janine Haffer; Kay Hardman; Marie Herrington; Elaine Howard; Lizzie Johansmann; Mike Kahler; Frieda Karl; Edna Kee; Ron Kettler; Judith Kirby; Sandra Kohrs; Debra Korte; Joyce Lang; Betty Lee; Roger & Sadie Liefer; Albert & Ingrid Marhanka; Terry McCann; Bill Price; Gloria Rariden; Zeita Reed; Eileen Reichert; Darlene Rhodes; Carol Santoyo; Roger Sawall; Vita Sayers; Betty Schroeder; Marion Schwentker; Verna Tucker; Wayne Walkenhorst; Larry Williams; Ernestine Wilson.**

### WE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

**Rachel** Butkovich (Tom & Sue Haywood)  
**Elizabeth** Cash (Heather Koepke)  
**Layne** Chartrand (Mark & Linda Ziolk)  
**Gina** Chitwood (William Wichern)  
**Mark** Chiodini (Nicholas Chiodini)  
**Charles** Claxton Jr. (Matthew Claxton)  
**William** Dafler (Wes Dafler)  
**John** Darby (Rick Walkenhorst)  
**Blake** Davis (Kari Spearman)  
**Hobie** Dufort (Jonathan Frasch)  
**Olivia** Erickson (Ralph & Renae Erickson)  
**Sandra** Fleak (Becky Edgar)  
Rev. Dr. **Lee** Hagan, LCMS MO Dist. President  
**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)  
**Vera** Piazza (Robert & Sherry Piazza)  
**Cindy** Preston (Maryanne McDaniel)  
**Kelly** Schlereth (Patti Koepf)  
**Brenda** Schlimpert McCowan (Loretta Ezell)  
**Blake** Schmalzer (Rebecca Schmalzer)  
**Rosemary** Schreiber (Peggy Gallagher)  
**Christine** Scott (Dianne Helvey)  
**Mark** Shearman (Lois Foster)  
**Noel** Scott Shipley (Amy Schipper)  
**Sara** Shroth (choir accompanist)  
**David** Steinbacher (Ernestine Wilson)  
Rev. **Aaron** Sterling (Georgia)  
**Tim** (Charity Smith)  
**Ryan** Stover (Brenda Marhanka)  
**Stanika** Todorova (Paul & Juliana Frerichs)  
**Rita** Unzer (Karl Schnoor)  
**Frank** Wachter (Elaine Howard)  
**Lance** Watkins (Jesse Smith)  
**Bobette** Wetzal (Faith Blackwell)  
**Sandy** Wischmeyer (Marilyn Mana)  
**Keith** Wooden (Randy Jones)  
**Mary** Young (Elaine Alton)

**John** Allquist III, **Duane** Stuewe  
~ (Janet Allquist)  
**Ina** Guethle, **Brian** Lewis, **Dale** Stumpf  
~ (Amanda Alton)  
**Carson** Aston, **Chlaara** Aston, **Sharon**  
Staten ~ (Lisa Aston)  
**Krill** Family (Trudy Belter)  
**Mike & Norma, Terry** (Greg & Judy Bonney)  
**Carl** Bradley, **Butch** Whitworth, **Kathy** Lewis  
(Jerry & Darlene Bradley)  
**Eddie** Collier, **Bruce** Brown, **Rush** Brown  
(Denise Collier)  
**Tom** Heins, **Tony** LaChance, **Bill** Pratt  
~ (Becky Coomer)  
**Brian** Ottinger, **Scott** Ottinger (Carla Cooper)  
**Hilda & Doug** Breden (Kathleen Day)  
**Ben & Pat** Northcutt (Bryan Drilling)  
**Janet** Davidson, **Lowell** Duncan (Don Duncan)  
**Scott** Brockmann; **Lois** Jobe, **Ron** Kasten  
~ (Jan Flentke)  
**Bennett** Hoemann, **Eileen** Marting (Mark  
Hoemann)  
**Matt & Alissa** Schneider (Jean Holthe)  
**Tim** Deppe, **Rich** Waiwood (Kent & Janine Haffer)  
**Penni** Gronewald, **Kathy** Dore Jepsen,  
**Mike** Vanover ~ (Jayne Jepsen)  
**Alicia** Kincaid, **Mark** Kincaid, **Alicia** Kleb  
~ (Michelle Kincaid)  
**Brandon** Ward; **George & Sandra** Roberts  
~ (Elma Jane Kramer)  
**John** Bach, **Rachel** Long ~ (Betty Lee)  
**Pat & Edna** McCarty ~ (Orion Melton)  
**James** Olek, **Susan** Maag, **Steve** Wulff ~  
(Neal & Cynthia Menscher)  
**Gorman** Cooper, **Janie** Machens  
~ Tina Morrison)  
**Virginia** and **Mike** Niewald ~ (Niewalds)  
**Paul** Palombi, **Elsie** Palombi (Diane Palombi)  
**Brian** Rubar, **Chase** Russell, **Carol** Sills  
~ (Barb Parson)  
**Sarah** Hall, **Katie** Hawkey; **Maeve** Pardee &  
Family ~ (Jayme Price)  
**Irina, Cara, Mindi, Richard, Dawn, Ross,**  
**David** ~ Patricik Szopiniki  
**Amy** Mueller, **Lary** Schenk (Carol Santoyo)  
**Charlotte** Gaines, **Nisseem, Daniel**, Dr. **Eric**  
Semler (Sandra Semler)  
**Scott** Steinbruegge, **Marcia** Sheppard  
~ (Bob & Karen Steinbruegge)  
**Connie** Uhlis, **Tommy** Uhlis (Sue Williams)

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SATURDAY, February 21, 2026

HOLY CROSS YOUTH PRESENTS MYSTERY DINNER (6PM)  
 + DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM  
 11AM Dinner Prep  
 3PM Holy Communion  
 5:30PM Doors Open for Mystery Dinner  
 6PM HCYP Mystery Dinner

### SUNDAY, February 22, 2026

#### FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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

### MONDAY, February 23, 2026

#### CHURCH OFFICE: 9AM TO NOON

9:30AM TOPS  
 9:30AM Preschool Recess/Gym  
 11AM Line Dancing  
 1:30AM Preschool Recess/Gym  
 6:30PM Bell Choir

### TUESDAY, February 24, 2026

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO 11AM

9AM Preschool Chapel  
 9AM Quilting  
 9:10AM Preschool Recess/Gym  
 10AM Women's Bible Study (Rm 1&2)  
 12:30PM Staff Meeting  
 6:30PM Adult Bible Class

### WEDNESDAY, February 25, 2026

#### MIDWEEK LENT 2

#### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

9AM Preschool Chapel  
 9:30AM Adult Bible Class  
 11AM Service of Prayer & Preaching  
 11AM Preschool Gym/Recess  
 1:30PM Preschool Gym/Recess  
 5:30PM Lenten Dinner: 20s&30s&40s or BYOB  
 6:15PM Confirmation Level 100 & 200  
 7PM Evening Prayer  
 8PM Adult Choir

### THURSDAY, February 26, 2026

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON

9:10AM Preschool Gym/Recess  
 6:30PM 20s&30s&40s Bible Class

### FRIDAY, February 27, 2026

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON

9:30AM Preschool Gym/Recess

### SATURDAY, February 28, 2026

PRESCHOOL BUTTER BRAIDS FUNDRAISER BEGINS

LADIES GUILD FLOWER SALE BEGINS

3PM Holy Communion

### SUNDAY, March 1, 2026

#### SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

PRESCHOOL BUTTER BRAIDS FUNDRAISER BEGINS

LADIES GUILD FLOWER SALE BEGINS

8AM Holy Communion  
 9:30AM Education Hour  
 + Music Rehearsal in Sanctuary  
 10:45AM Holy Communion  
 + Preschool Sings  
 1:30PM Board of Elders

## Church Attendance for February 14&15, 2026

Service	Attendance	Communion
3PM	46	44
8AM	104	87
10:45AM	137	83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>214</b>
<b>ASH WEDNESDAY ATTENDANCE: FEB. 18, 2026</b>		
11AM	94	87
7PM	127	93
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>180</b>

Bible Class Attendance Week of February 15, 2026 <small>NA=not applicable; NR=not reported; C= cancelled</small>	
Little Lambs, Sunday	1
Sunday School: PreK to Gr 5	14
Sunday School: Gr. 6-12	12
Sunday Adult Bible Class	35
New Member Orientation	12
Tuesday Women's 10AM	10
Tuesday Evening, 6:30PM	NA
Men's Breakfast & Bible	NA
Wednesday AM Bible Class	41
Wednesday Nights	2
20s&30s Thursday	8

Offerings: February 9-15, 2026	
General Fund	\$ 18,418.36
Endowment	\$ 0.00
Building Fund	\$ 120.00
Missions Weekly	\$ 510.02
<b>Missions 1st Qtr</b>	<b>\$ 2,780.72</b>

Year to Date as of 11/30/2025	
Income	\$ 700,147.69
Expenses	\$ 703,217.68
Deficit	\$ (3,069.99)

**LENT**  
 Midweek Theme: Forgiveness

**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**. Requested food for March: *Beef Stew, Jelly, Peas, Pork & Beans*

**H.O.P.E. FOOD MINISTRIES: Weekly Totals:** Feb. 18, 2026  
 Families: 96      Individuals: 314      New Families: 5

## ELDER COMMUNICATION

**HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE:** Instructions for its use are provided in the Welcome Center.

**CONTACT AN ELDER:** Contact them if you have questions or concerns regarding services, policies, procedures, personal or other issues. Or contact either Pastor. Personal issues will be kept confidential.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** for January—March 2026 and new issues of *Lutheran Witness* are on the Welcome Center table.

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT:** Notice that the alleluias have been put away; we won't utter them in liturgy or song until Easter. Altar flowers are not placed during Lent. Wait for the trumpeting lilies of Easter!

**LENT DEVOTIONS:** More of the "Taste and See" devotionals are available. The "For Us" devotionals have not arrived yet.

**LENTEN DINNERS:** Ash Wednesday is 3 days away. This week's dinner will be hosted by the 20s&30s&40s Bible Study. Next scheduled: Missions & Stewardship, **March 4**; Elders, **March 11**; Grace Guild, **March 18**; Wednesday Morning Bible Class, **March 25**. Thanks to these groups for volunteering!

**SPRING IS COMING!** Time to think about the 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. Order pickup will be the first weekend of May. Watch the *News and Notes* for more information.

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

### **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. Compost was added last fall, and the ground 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, by phone (text/call) at 636-515-0501, or at [john.jameson@lutheranspecial.org](mailto:john.jameson@lutheranspecial.org)

**Walther League 2.0 Bible Study Dates** for the remainder of the school year at LHS: March 11, April 15, May 13! Join us at 8:15AM in the Academic Success Center. After the study, stay for Chapel at 9:20AM. Park at the front entrance, enter through the main doors, and head right to find the Academic Success Center (Library). Pastor Millard will continue leading a study through the Book of Revelation.

**A BIG Thankyou:** Thank you to everyone who sent cards, notes, meals, and especially for all of the prayers and support during my chemo treatments. I will be back with all of you soon! ~ Janine Haffer

~\*~\*~

Please extend **many thanks** to our congregation for the prayers offered up for me during my latest hospital adventure. I am home now, and in spite of contracting the flu two days after I got home, I am doing pretty well. I look forward to returning to our church home, and a return to normal--whatever that is....~ Zeita Reed

### **Butter Braids Preschool 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 (QR code available next weekend) or in person. Preschool Board members will be in the Welcome Center to collect order forms each Saturday **and Sunday, Feb. 28 – March 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 Mon., March 30, 3 to 5 PM, 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.

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

The **LHS Cheer Team** competed in a new division at Gameday State and earned 2nd Overall in the State! Three stunt groups also competed: Stunt Group B – 5th Place (Samantha, Bella, Kayla & Brooklyn); Stunt Group A – 7th Place (Promyssa, Claire, Maddy & Reese); Stunt Group C – 15th Place (Addie, Lucy, Savannah & Violet)

LHS announces the start of an **Intentional Christian Grandparenting Group**. Come on Sun., March 8, from 3 to 4 PM at Lutheran High School in the Library, to hear the vision, ask questions, and see how grandparents can support one another. All grandparents, future grandparents, and adult children who want to encourage their parents' spiritual role are welcome! Light refreshments will be served. RSVP on the LHS website or contact Vince & Karen Braddy (+kvb6483@gmail.com).

**Staffing for 2026-2027:** If you know someone gifted in teaching or student engagement, please invite them to visit the LHS website and apply under "Work at LHS" or reach out to [careers@lhssc.org](mailto:careers@lhssc.org) with questions.

**Trivia Night 2026:** Get your teams together now! Go to the LHS website and scroll down on the home page to find details for the Fri., Feb. 27 event. Questions will be about music, pop culture, movies, and more – all based on these two epic decades. Whether you lived through the 90's, the 00's, or both, this night promises tons of nostalgia and fun!

The **Lutheran High Hall of Honor** celebrates alumni, athletes, coaches, teachers, and supporters who exemplify faith, service, and excellence. Nominations are open until March 15, 2026. Nominate a deserving individual whose contributions reflect the Christ-centered values that define LHS. Celebrate those who have shaped our legacy! More information and the nomination form are found on the LHS website. Questions: contact Dr. Doug Kuhlmann at [dkuhlmann@lhssc.org](mailto:dkuhlmann@lhssc.org)

### CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2025 Offering Statements for Church Members who do not have an email address in Breeze or who have requested paper statements were mailed Fri., Jan. 30, 2026.

All other offering statements were emailed to members at 9AM on Fri., Jan. 30, 2026. Please check your spam folder if you did not receive it in your inbox.

If you have any questions, contact Brenda Marhanka, the church bookkeeper. She is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons after 1PM, and can be reached by email (bookkeeper@hcross.com) or voicemail (636.272.4505 x 105) any time. Or call the church office to get in contact with her.

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



**SALEM (AFFTON) MEN'S CLUB** has **RESCHEDULED** its **SAUSAGE DINNER**, to **Sun., March 1**, from 11AM-4PM in the Salem School Cafeteria (originally scheduled for Sun., Feb. 1). Tickets are still available (\$14 per adult / \$6 per child, ages 5-12/kids age 4 and younger eat free!). Call their church office for ticket information. Previously purchased tickets will be honored March 1. Contact Tim Howard at 314-574-7596 for a refund if unable to attend.

### ANNUAL SAUSAGE DINNER AND SPRING BAZAAR

Sun., March 1, 2026, Serving 11AM—3PM. Carry-outs available 11:30-3:30PM. **Immanuel Lutheran Church—Olivette** (9733 Olive Blvd. (east of St. Paul's cemetery; 3 miles east of I-270)). Featuring home-made sausage made by the Immanuel Men's Club. Menu includes all you can eat pork sausage, real mashed potatoes, with gravy, sauerkraut w/pork meat, green beans w/bacon & onion, applesauce, bread, dessert (pie, cake, cookies), drinks. Adults \$16; Children (6-12) \$8; children 5 and under — free; All carry-outs \$16 Bring your family, friends, and neighbors and enjoy a great home-cooked meal. You can also do some shopping at the Spring Bazaar, featuring many hand-made, unique items.

## 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](http://hcross.com/trip)

## CREATION MUSEUM

Prepare to believe.

# ARK ENCOUNTER®

Hosted by

Holy Cross Lutheran Church in O'Fallon, MO

Regular Registration Closes March 15th