



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](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 March 14&15, 2026

The Fifth 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; Doris Coots; Logan Day; Shirley Day; Bob & Carolyn Delohi; Edna Deubel; Sandy Dietz; 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; Jayne Jepsen; Lizzie Johansmann; Mike Kahler; Frieda Karl; Edna Kee; Ron Kettler; Judith Kirby; Sandra Kohrs; Debra Korte; Joyce Lang; Betty Lee; 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; Wayne Walkenhorst; Larry Williams; Ernestine Wilson.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

Rev. Garry McCracken, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, in Troy, MO., entered the Church Triumphant on March 20, 2026. Arrangements are pending.
Gene Telle, a former Holy Cross member, entered the Church Triumphant recently at the age of 97.
Ron Kasten, 90, entered the Church Triumphant on Fri., March 13, 2026. He was Jan Flentke's brother. Visitation and funeral will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Washington, MO., on Fri., April 17, 2026.
Virginia "Ginny" Niewald, aunt of Joyce and sister-in-law of Shirley, entered the Church Triumphant on March 15. She was a member of Grace Chapel in North County and Chapel of the Cross in St. Peters, MO.

WE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Rachel Butkovich (Tom & Sue Haywood)	Noel Scott Shipley (Amy Schipper)	Scott Brockmann; Lois Jobe (Jan Flentke)
Elizabeth Cash (Heather Koepke)	Sara Shroth (choir accompanist)	Bennett Hoemann, Eileen Marting (Mark Hoemann)
Layne Chartrand (Mark & Linda Ziolko)	David Steinbacher (Ernestine Wilson)	Matt & Alissa Schneider (Jean Holthe)
Gina Chitwood (William Wichern)	Tim (Charity Smith)	Tim Deppe, Rich Waiwood (Kent & Janine Haffer)
Mark Chiodini (Nicholas Chiodini)	Ryan Stover (Brenda Marhanka)	Penni Gronewald, Kathy Dore Jepsen, Mike Vanover (Jayne Jepsen)
Charles Claxton Jr. (Matthew Claxton)	Stanika Todorova (Juliana Frerichs)	Alicia & Mark Kincaid, Alicia Kleb (Michelle Kincaid)
William Dafler (Wes Dafler)	Rita Unzer (Karl Schnoor)	George & Sandra Roberts (Elma Jane Kramer)
John Darby (Rick Walkenhorst)	Linda Vesper (Mike Vesper)	John Bach, Rachel Long (Betty Lee)
Blake Davis (Kari Spearman)	Frank Wachter (Elaine Howard)	Pat & Edna McCarty (Orion Melton)
Hobie Dufort (Jonathan Frasch)	Lance Watkins (Jesse Smith)	James Olek, Susan Maag, Steve Wulff (Neal & Cynthia Menscher)
Olivia Erickson (Ralph & Renae Erickson)	Bobette Wetzel (Faith Blackwell)	Gorman Cooper, Janie Machens (Tina Morrison)
Sandra Fleak (Becky Edgar)	Sandy Wischmeyer (Marilyn Mana)	Violet Mittenberg, Paul Palombi, Elsie Palombi (Diane Palombi)
Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, LCMS Missouri District President	Keith Wooden (Randy Jones)	Brian Rubar, Chase Russell, Carol Sills (Barb Parson)
Mark Hanna (Michael Hanna)	Mary Young (Elaine Alton)	Sarah Hall, Katie Hawkey; Mary Ellen McAlister; Maeve Pardee & Family (Jayme Price)
Jan Hilton (Zeita Reed)	John Allquist III, Duane Stuewe (Janet Allquist)	Amy Mueller, Larry Schenk (Carol Santoyo)
Jeff Johns (Denice Johns)	Ina Guethle, Brian Lewis, Dale Stumpf (Amanda Alton)	Charlotte Gaines, Nisseem , Daniel , Dr. Eric Semler (Sandra Semler)
Bobbi Kistler (Mike Kahler)	Carson Aston, Chlaara Aston, & Sharon Staten (Lisa Aston)	Scott Steinbruegge, Marcia Sheppard (Bob & Karen Steinbruegge)
Bill Knehans (Bob & Barb Knehans)	Krill Family (Trudy Belter)	Connie Uhlis, Tommy Uhlis (Sue Williams)
Joyce Kroll (David Schlesselman)	Mike & Norma , Terry (Greg & Judy Bonney)	
Sandy Lockwood (David Gilson)	Carl Bradley, Kathy Lewis (Jerry & Darlene Bradley)	
Malu Martin (Dawn Kahler)	Eddie Collier, Bruce Brown, Rush Brown (Denise Collier)	
Kenny Meyer (Carla Cooper, Karen Copper)	Tom Heins, Tony LaChance, Bill Pratt (Becky Coomer)	
Mike (Debbie Parks)	Brian Ottinger, Scott Ottinger (Carla Cooper)	
Barton Moenster (Carolyn Bertram)	Hilda & Doug Breden (Kathleen Day)	
Mike Niewald (Niewalds)	Ben & Pat Northcutt (Bryan Drilling)	
Vera Piazza (Robert & Sherry Piazza)	Janet Davidson, Lowell Duncan (Don Duncan)	
Cindy Preston (Maryanne McDaniel)		
Kelly Schlereth (Patti Koepf)		
Brenda McCowan (Loretta Ezell)		
Blake Schmalzer (Rebecca Schmalzer)		
Rosemary Schreiber (Peggy Gallagher)		
Christine Scott (Dianne Helvey)		
Mark Shearman (Lois Foster)		

WE PRAY FOR ACTIVE MILITARY MEMBERS & RELATIVES

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, March 21, 2026

LADIES GUILD FLOWER SALE — FINAL WEEKEND
10AM-3PM Private Birthday Party (Gym)
3PM Holy Communion

SUNDAY, March 22, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

LADIES GUILD FLOWER SALE —LAST DAY
8AM & 10:45AM Holy Communion
9:30AM Education Hour
+Adult Bible Class (sanctuary)
+Pretzel-Making (gr. 6-12) -Kitchen

MONDAY, March 23, 2026

PRESCHOOL IS ON SPRING BREAK THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON

9:30AM TOPS
11AM Line Dancing

TUESDAY, March 24, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO 11AM

9AM Quilting
10AM Women's Bible Study (Rm 1&2)
12:30PM Staff Meeting
6:30PM Education & Youth Boards
6:30PM Bell Choir

WEDNESDAY, March 25, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO 11AM

9:30AM Adult Bible Class
11AM Service of Prayer & Preaching
5PM to 6:45PM: Egg Stuffing
5:30PM Lenten Dinner: Wednesday Bible Class
6:15PM Confirmation Level 100 & 200
6:15PM Midweek Music—all
7PM Evening Prayer
8PM Adult Choir

THURSDAY, March 26, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON

NEWS&NOTES DEADLINE

10AM to 1PM: Visitation at Holy Cross
1PM Funeral
Following Funeral — Dinner (Gym)
5:30PM Audit Committee
6:30PM 20s&30s&40s Bible Class

FRIDAY, March 27, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON

10AM Altar Guild — Cleaning

SATURDAY, March 28, 2026

10AM TO NOON Easter Egg Hunt
3PM Holy Communion

SUNDAY, March 29, 2026

PALM SUNDAY + PROCESSIONAL SUNDAY

8AM & 10:45AM Holy Communion
9:30AM Education Hour
1:30PM Board of Elders Meeting

Church Attendance for March 14&15, 2026

Service	Attendance	Communion
3PM	75	75
8AM	107	87
10:45AM	94	87
TOTAL	276	243

LENT MIDWEEK ATTENDANCE: MARCH 18, 2026

11AM	52	—
7PM	73	—
TOTAL	125	—

Bible Class Attendance Week of March 15, 2026

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

Little Lambs, Sunday	1
Sunday School: PreK to Gr 5	16
Sunday School: Gr. 6-12	8
Sunday Adult Bible Class	51
New Member Orientation	—
Tuesday Women's 10AM	11
Tuesday Evening, 6:30PM	NA
Men's Breakfast & Bible	NA
Wednesday AM Bible Class	41
Wednesday Nights	4
20s&30s Thursday	4

Offerings: -March 9-15, 2026

General Fund	\$	9,013.80
Endowment	\$	—
Building Fund	\$	—
Missions Weekly	\$	690.02
Missions 1st Qtr	\$	6,771.80

Year to Date as of 01/31/2026

Income	\$	51,999.75
Expenses	\$	66,798.22
(Deficit)	\$	(14,798.47)

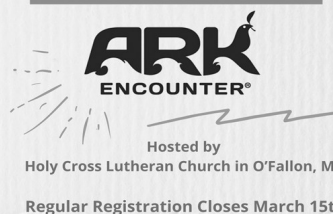
LENT Midweek 5 Theme:

Forgiveness Is Freedom

JOIN US!

July 10-14, 2026

Visit hcross.com/trip



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.

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: *Cereal, Oatmeal, Boxed Potatoes (scalloped, au-gratin), Canned Beef Stew or other canned meats*.

H.O.P.E. FOOD MINISTRIES: Weekly Totals: March 18, 2026
Families: 87 Individuals: 282 New Families: 3

For questions about contribution statements, 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).

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS: Join the class at 9:30AM to learn about the Good Friday services.

LENTEN DINNERS: This week's dinner on **March 25** will be hosted by the **Wednesday Morning Bible Class**. *Thanks to all our volunteers!*

LADIES' GUILD FLOWER AND PLANT SALE ends this weekend. We hope you had a chance to purchase some of the beautiful varieties available, and we appreciate your support. Flowers and plants will be available for **pickup on May 1&2**.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS Available at Holy Cross

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 636-636.578.1766.

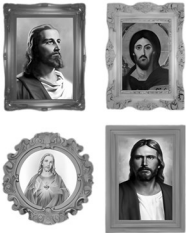
Vocatio: Retreat at Concordia Seminary: College students and second-career men and women considering service as a pastor, deaconess, missionary, or chaplain are invited to *Vocatio: Retreat April 12-15, 2026*, at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. This distinctively Lutheran retreat offers an introduction to life as a seminarian, as participants spend time in God's Word and join in sessions with the Seminary's renowned faculty. Register by March 22 at www.csl.edu/vocatio-retreat or by Googling "*Vocatio: Retreat*Concordia Seminary."

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.

Thanks to special volunteers who cleaned the kitchen and cleaned the altar floor this past week!



PORTRAITS of JESUS
Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John
Women's Bible Study
Tuesdays at 10 AM
Led by Pastor Andy Gimbel

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS for Teegan Cannon: Visitation at Holy Cross from 10AM to 1PM on Thurs., March 26. Funeral at 1PM. Luncheon in the gym follows the service.

Mission of the Quarter supporting LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs will end on March 31. We thank everyone who contributed and helped welcome the dogs to church in February. Beginning April 1 through July 31, Mission of the Quarter will support National Lutheran Outdoors Ministry Association (NLOMA) camps, helping provide camp experiences that nurture faith and fellowship for youth and families.

The Missions & Stewardship Board invites you to participate in upcoming opportunities to serve and support others. Our annual **SHINE event** will be at **Camp Wartburg on April 11**, where volunteers will assist with service projects: painting picnic tables, trail maintenance, gardening, and organizing storage. Lunch and a devotion will be included in the day, with carpooling from Holy Cross. This is a whole-day event. Sign-ups will be available March 8-29 in the Welcome Center.

EASTER LILLIES: Sign up at the Flower Book in the Welcome Center.

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

PORTALS OF PRAYER for April—June 2026 and new issues of **Lutheran Witness** are in the Welcome Center.

PRESCHOOL BUTTER BRAIDS FUNDRAISER: All orders are due by Wed., March 18. **Pick-up items on Mon., March 30, 3 to 5 PM, in the gym.** Funds raised will be used for playground improvements.

COMMUNITY "EMPTY" EASTER EGG HUNT at Holy Cross on Sat., March 28, at 11AM: There will be eggs to hunt for children up to age 10. Bring your children or grandchildren. Invite your friends and neighbors' children as well. Pick up one of the green cards in the Welcome Center to share with them. Most eggs will contain candy, but some "empty" eggs can be redeemed for special gifts reflecting the fantastic gift we receive through Christ's "empty" tomb. Use this opportunity to share with others the joy we have as Easter Christians.

EGG STUFFERS NEEDED: On Sat., March 28, Holy Cross will sponsor a community "Empty" Easter Egg Hunt. We invite our children 10 and under to participate, but we also want you to invite others. We want to share the resurrection story with all the children. Everyone who finds an "empty" egg will receive a special Easter story book, and children will leave with the Christian book of their choice.

However, we will need plenty of eggs with candy inside. Here is where we need your **help to stuff 1,500 eggs** with candy. We will be filling eggs with candy on **Wed., March 25, from 5 to 6:45PM**, before the Lenten service. This is a task that everyone aged 11 to 99 can help. You may come for a half hour before or after you eat, or simply drop by before evening worship. We will be working in Rooms 1&2 downstairs. If you plan to help, please sign up in the Welcome Center.

MISSIONS BOARD: The current

The highly acclaimed **American Kantorei** will return to perform the *St. John Passion* Version II (1725) by Johann Sebastian Bach at 3PM Palm Sunday, March 29, in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the Concordia Seminary campus at 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105. The public is invited to this Service of Sacred Music. The *St. John Passion* is part of the annual **Concordia Seminary Music Series**.

Lent/Holy Week Service & Event Schedules

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 for Easter Monday.

Holy Cross will host a Tre Ore service at 12 NOON TO 3PM on Good Friday. The service is broken down into nine sections of 20 minutes each. No one is expected to attend all three hours, though everyone is more than welcome to do so. Historically, parishioners would come and leave at their choosing throughout the three hours, and we would like to continue that practice as well. All who attend are permitted to arrive late to church and leave early.

Tre Ore Assignments 2026

Sections:

The Suffering Servant (12:00) - no sermon

Host pastor as liturgist: Jason Kohm, Holy Cross, O'Fallon

The First Word (12:20) "Father, forgive them..."

Jason Kohm, Holy Cross, O'Fallon

Psalm 32:1-5, 10

Luke 23:32-38

453 Upon the Cross Extended sts. 1, 3-4, 6-7

The Second Word (12:40)

"You Will be With Me in Paradise"

Jeremy Klaustermeier, St. John Warrenton

Psalm 16

Luke 23:39-43

439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken sts. 1, 4, 7, 12, 15

"At the Cross" by McDonald.

The Third Word (1:00) "Woman, behold, your son!"

Rev. Andrew Gimbel, Holy Cross O'Fallon

Psalm 116:1-9

John 19:23-27

425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

The Fourth Word (1:20)

"My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?"

Rev. Don Stock, Wentzville Circuit Visitor

Psalm 22:1-8, 11

Matthew 27:39-49

451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

The Fifth Word (1:40) "I thirst."

Rev. Denis Wittenberger, emeritus

Psalm 42:1-3, 7-11

John 19:28-29

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded sts. 1-4

The Sixth Word (2:00) "It is finished"

Rev. Don Stock, Wentzville Circuit Visitor

Psalm 130

John 19:30

452 O Perfect Life of Love

The Seventh Word (2:20) "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!"

Rev. Andrew Gimbel, Holy Cross O'Fallon

Psalm 143:1-8

Luke 23:44-49

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded sts. 5-7

Prayer (2:40) - no sermon

Host Pastors Kohm and Gimbel

Bidding Prayer

Reproaches



7:30AM to 11AM
In the gym

This year, the youth will host an Easter Breakfast from 7:30-11am, featuring breakfast casseroles and baked goods. The youth use the Easter Breakfast to serve the congregation and to raise funds for the Youth Gathering, much like the Mystery Dinner. The Youth Board asks two things of the congregation: 1) help keep costs low for the Easter Breakfast: pick up a 9x13 tin from the Welcome Center and fill it with either a casserole or baked goods. You'll find further instructions inside the tins themselves; 2) There will be a free-will offering taken at the breakfast. Please consider donating. We continue to thank you for the generous congregation of Holy Cross!

Please review the prayer list and update the church office with any changes.