



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 7-8, 2026

The Third 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; Bob & Carolyn Deloхи; 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; 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)
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 Wetzel (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, **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 & Mark Kincaid, **Alicia** Kleb
~ (Michelle Kincaid)
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; **Mary Ellen**
McAlister; **Maeve** Pardee & Family ~ (Jayme
Price)
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, March 7, 2026

PRESCHOOL BUTTER BRAIDS FUNDRAISER

LADIES GUILD FLOWER SALE

2PM Holy Baptism

3PM Holy Communion

SUNDAY, March 8, 2026

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

PRESCHOOL BUTTER BRAIDS FUNDRAISER

LADIES GUILD FLOWER SALE

8AM Holy Communion + LHS Choir

9:30AM Education Hour

10:45AM Holy Communion

MONDAY, March 9, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON

9:30AM TOPS

9:30AM Preschool Recess/Gym

11AM Line Dancing

1:30PM Preschool Recess/Gym

6PM Executive Council

7:30PM Church Council

TUESDAY, March 10, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

9AM Preschool Chapel

9:10AM Preschool Recess/Gym

10AM Women's Bible Study (Rm 1&2)

12:30PM Staff Meeting

6:00PM Grace Guild (gym)

6:30PM Adult Bible Class (Rm 1&2)

WEDNESDAY, March 11, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO 11AM

6:30AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

9AM Preschool Chapel

9:30AM Adult Bible Class

11AM Service of Prayer & Preaching

11AM & 1:30PM Preschool Gym/Recess

5:30PM Lenten Dinner: Elders

6:15PM Confirmation Level 100 & 200

6:15PM Midweek Music—all

7PM Evening Prayer

8PM Adult Choir

THURSDAY, March 12, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON

NEWS&NOTES DEADLINE

10AM American Red Cross Blood Drive

5:30PM Audit Committee

6:30PM 20s&30s&40s Bible Class

FRIDAY, March 13, 2026

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON

10AM Ladies Guild

SATURDAY, March 14, 2026

PRESCHOOL BUTTER BRAIDS FUNDRAISER

LADIES GUILD FLOWER SALE

3PM Holy Communion

SUNDAY, March 15, 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

PRESCHOOL BUTTER BRAIDS FUNDRAISER

LADIES GUILD FLOWER SALE

8AM & 10:45AM Holy Communion

9:30AM Education Hour

NOON SPECIAL VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

Church Attendance for February 28&March 1, 2026

Service	Attendance	Communion
3PM	56	54
8AM	112	95
10:45AM	116	70
TOTAL	284	219

LENT MIDWEEK ATTENDANCE: MARCH 4, 2026

11AM	70	—
7PM	65	—
TOTAL	135	—

Bible Class Attendance Week of March 1, 2026

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

Little Lambs, Sunday	1
Sunday School: PreK to Gr 5	13
Sunday School: Gr. 6-12	7
Sunday Adult Bible Class	56
New Member Orientation	—
Tuesday Women's 10AM	12
Tuesday Evening, 6:30PM	NA
Men's Breakfast & Bible	NA
Wednesday AM Bible Class	43
Wednesday Nights	6
20s&30s Thursday	7

Offerings: February 23-March 1, 2026

General Fund	\$	24,195.42
Endowment	\$	100.00
Building Fund	\$	120.00
Missions Weekly	\$	131.02
Missions 1st Qtr	\$	3,091.76

Year to Date as of 01/31/2026

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

LENT Midweek 3 Theme:

Forgiveness Is Life-Changing

JOIN US!

July 10-14, 2026

Visit hcross.com/trip



**ARK
ENCOUNTER®**

Hosted by
Holy Cross Lutheran Church in O'Fallon, MO
Regular Registration Closes March 15th

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: *Beef Stew, Jelly, Peas, Pork & Beans*

H.O.P.E. FOOD MINISTRIES: Weekly Totals: March 4, 2026

Families: 82 Individuals: 272 New Families: 5

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 Thanksgiving Psalms.

HOLY BAPTISM: Emmett Conroy, born Feb. 24, 2025, will be baptized Saturday, March 7, at 2PM, by Pastor Gimbel. Parents are William III & Heather (Kraml) Conroy.

MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY meets Wed., March 11, at 6:30AM Sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center.

GRACE GUILD meets Tues., 6PM in the gym. Resurrection Eggs will be done.

LADIES GUILD meets Fri., March 13, at 10AM in the gym.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE in the gym from 10AM to 2PM. Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter HolyCrossLC to schedule an appointment.

LENTEN DINNERS: This week's dinner on March 11 will be hosted by Elders (pancakes). Next up is Grace Guild (casserole, bread sticks, salad, desserts), **March 18**; Wednesday Morning Bible Class, **March 25**. *Thanks to these volunteers!*

THE LADIES GUILD FLOWER AND PLANT SALE is happening through March 22. Please visit the Flower Sale table in the Welcome Center before and after services to see the beautiful choices available. Orders must be paid by cash or check (payable to Holy Cross Ladies Guild) at the time of the order. Flowers and plants make great Mother's Day gifts! **Flower pickup is Fri., May 1, from 3 to 6PM; and Sat., May 2, from 10AM to 1PM.** No Sunday pickup this year. Proceeds will be donated to World Lutheran Deaf Outreach. Thanks for your support.

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 from any member can be put in the designated container in the Welcome Center. For more information, contact Darlene Drilling or the church office.



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

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.

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

PRESCHOOL BUTTER BRAIDS FUNDRAISER: The Preschool offers products from Show Me Dough, including the original Butter Braids pastry, frozen pizzas, cake rolls, and cookie dough in individual servings. 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 items on Mon., March 30, 3 to 5 PM, in the gym.** Funds raised will be used for playground improvements. Call Dani Richardson at 636-272-4505 for more information.

MISSIONS BOARD: The current 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, our Mission of the Quarter will support NLOMA camps, helping provide camp experiences that nurture faith and fellowship for youth and families. The Missions & Stewardship Board also 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.

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. We pray that participants will be blessed through the physical exercise, the fellowship with other gardeners, and the fruits of their labor.

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

SPECIAL VOTERS' ASSEMBLY on Sunday, March 15, at noon (after second service) to approve proposed bylaws shared at the Feb. 15 special meeting. This is a one-item agenda. Please sign in at the desk. Members are urged to attend in order to vote. Attendance is recorded by signature. If you are unable to attend, contact Council Secretary Barb Grosch at councilsecretary@hcross.com or 314.368.8142 by Fri., March 13 for an excused absence.

Dear Church Family,

Our Sunday School Program will undergo some changes beginning in Summer 2026. Before sharing those details, we want to take a moment to express deep and heartfelt gratitude to several individuals who have poured extraordinary love, time, and dedication into this ministry.

For more than a decade, Jenny Conrad and Debbie Parks have served as the faithful, steady, and joy-filled leaders of our Sunday School program. Their creativity, commitment, and devotion to the spiritual growth of our children have shaped countless young lives. They have given their time week after week, season after season, to teaching, planning, organizing, coordinating, and supporting families with grace and compassion. Their leadership has immeasurably blessed our church community, and we cannot thank them enough for their years of service.

We also want to recognize and thank Dave Ulrich and Stacey Sweeso for their ongoing help and support within the program. Their willingness to step in, assist, and uplift the work of the ministry has been a tremendous gift to our children and church.

As Jenny and Debbie step back to enjoy new seasons of life, we now look toward the future of our Sunday School program—and we need your insight, participation, and guidance as we reshape what comes next.

Would you please take a moment to answer the brief questions using the QR code? Your responses will help us understand our families' needs and build a sustainable, nurturing program for our children and youth.



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."

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

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

WELCOME: Holy Cross welcomes the choir of Lutheran High School— St. Charles County in Sunday's 8AM service where they will add some choral pieces for our worship service. us. The choir is directed by Brian Scheller.

FROM LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL-ST. CHARLES

At Lutheran High, our mission is not a slogan. Our core values are non-negotiable. And what happens in our classrooms, hallways, practices, rehearsals, and conversations matters. Thousands of students have graduated from LHS, and many times, we may never know how the Holy Spirit has worked through the ministry of Lutheran High. And, sometimes we do. Visit our website to read Dana's story.

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@lhsc.org with questions.

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@lhsc.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 is leading a study through the Book of Revelation.

STATE CHAMP x2!!! Congratulations to Sophomore Caleb Dyer on becoming a 2-time Class 2 113 lb State Champion and breaking another school record! Your dedication, grit, and heart make us so proud!

Congratulations to the **LHS SAPPHIRES** on an incredible finish at State — 2nd Place in both Pom and Jazz!

We are proud to celebrate **Cameron Bell**, who has officially been named a **NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST!** This is an exceptional academic honor, as National Merit Finalists represent less than 1% of high school seniors nationwide. This distinction is earned through outstanding PSAT performance, followed by a rigorous application process that includes confirming SAT scores, maintaining an exemplary academic record, submitting a detailed application, and receiving a school recommendation. *It is truly one of the highest academic recognitions a high school senior can achieve!*