

## The Most Important Truth

I recently attended a birthday party in which everyone had to give a presentation on a silly conspiracy theory. My friends presented theories such as Georgia the state and Georgia the country being a single entity, or how Walt Disney's body is being kept frozen in a secure location, while I made the case that breakfast cereal mascots have been locked in a cold war over influence for decades. We did it entirely for laughs, and none of us took these theories seriously. But I thought back to that night as I sat down to write this month's *Koinonia* article. Did you know that there are a ton of conspiracy theories about the empty tomb on the first Easter morning? People who don't believe that Jesus rose from the dead that day have the unpleasant task of explaining how His tomb was empty anyway. Here are some of the prevailing theories:

### **The Stolen Body Theory**

This theory claims that someone snuck into the tomb before Easter morning, stole Jesus' body, and spread the rumor that He had risen from the dead. The chief priests and the Pharisees actually thought the disciples would try to do this, which is why they posted a guard of soldiers in front of the tomb. (Matthew 27:62-66)

### **The Swoon Theory**

Perhaps Jesus did not completely die on the cross, but fainted, then was moved into a tomb. He later regained consciousness, left the tomb, found His disciples, and told them He had risen from the dead.

### **The Twin Brother Theory**

Jesus must have had a twin brother who looked exactly like Him! His twin was the one who was crucified and buried, and Jesus Himself simply waited three days before being seen again.

### **The Wrong Tomb Theory**

This theory suggests that, in their confusion and grief, the women on Easter morning accidentally went to the wrong tomb, believing it to be Jesus' tomb. And upon seeing this empty tomb, they took it as a sign that Jesus had risen from the dead.

You may be tempted to laugh at these, but there are many people out there who take such theories seriously. Yet from their perspective, we're the crazy ones—someone rising from the dead? Impossible!

But it's the truth. It's the most important truth, really, that the tomb is empty *because Jesus rose from the dead*. Why does this matter so much? Because everything about us—our identity, our purpose, our faith, our life together, our forgiveness, our future—hinges entirely on the resurrection of Christ. Either Jesus is alive and all of God's promises are true...or He's still dead, and none of it is. There is no in-between, no middle ground, no other prevailing theory, nothing else to believe but everything that God has told us in His Word, or none of it at all.

So believe it all, my friends, because Christ is risen! And we'll rise too. Take that seriously this Easter season.

~Pastor Jason

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



**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.**

**Dani Richardson**  
**Preschool Director**  
**& Lead Teacher**

**Rebecca Nutter**  
**Assistant Director**  
**& Extended Care**

We kicked off March with Grandparents' Days in the gym. Families had muffins with grapes for snack time. Each class completed an All About My Grandparents paper, decorated a keychain, sorted and counted candy and a class game of color and shape Bingo. We concluded with a game of Mr. Fox and with a closing prayer. The 4-year-old class celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with Green Eggs and Ham and had a Teddy Bear Day. We studied music, spring, weather, birds, and bugs. The three-year-olds completed our 0-10 Number books where we worked on counting, forming letters/shapes, and sharing toys.

During Jesus time we heard how Jesus healed people who were blind and deaf. We learned Jesus is with us during storms just like He was with the disciples when He stopped the storm. We saw how the children praised Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem.

Registration continues for next year. Please share brochures from the Welcome Center with friends and neighbors so we can share the message of God's love with many children and their families.

Please contact Preschool Director Dani Richardson at 272-4505 if you have any questions on these programs.

**Butter Braids Preschool Fundraiser**

Thank you to all who ordered from our Show Me Dough Butter Braid fundraiser. Items will be available to pick up from 3:00PM to 5PM on Monday in the gym on March 30 in the gym. Freezer space is limited so please make every effort to pick up orders.

**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.

**GRANDPARENTS DAY**



**DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY!**



The Foot Book (above) & Green Eggs and Ham



# Monthly Music Minute for April 2026

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

In the geographic center of Germany, there is a sleepy town called Eisenach. It sits in the shadow of the Wartburg castle, where Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German. It is here in Eisenach where, on March 31, 1685, perhaps the second most important Lutheran, the composer and organist Johann Sebastian Bach, was born.

I've gotten several questions relating to Bach in the past few months. Why does David plan so much of his music in our church services? Why should we care so much about that complicated music? And what do those German titles to preludes and that "BWV" in the bulletin mean, anyway? As a bit of a Bach aficionado, I thought I'd lend some light into understanding his significance, not purely as a musician in history, but as a pioneer of our Lutheran musical heritage.

First and foremost, Johann Sebastian Bach was a Lutheran. He served as a church musician all over Germany, eventually settling in Leipzig, where he wrote most of his cantatas and major works. In addition to his remarkable quantity of secular music, about half of his music was written for liturgical use in mind. He wrote over 1000 works for choir, organ, or other instruments that we know of, and it's likely that he wrote at least a couple hundred more things that we have lost in time. Just because of this sheer quantity of music he produced, there was a need to organize all of this music, and in 1950 the standard *Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis (BWV)*, which literally means "Bach Works Catalogue," was introduced, grouping his works by type of music he wrote. BWV 1-224 are his cantatas, sacred pieces that are for small orchestra and choir that run about 20 minutes or so. One of the most incredible periods of Bach's creativity was during the years 1723-1725, when Bach wrote and performed a cantata every week for three years, with each one matching the themes of the lectionary readings. He also wrote 6 oratorios (BWV 244-249), which were basically operas of biblical texts (such as his *Passions*), about 250 works for organ (BWV 525-771), and a couple hundred chorales (BWV 250-438).



Johann Sebastian Bach

What makes Bach so remarkable as a musician was not just his quantity of output, but the quality, consistency, and innovation in which he did so. I'll spare you too many details in this article - you can come ask me if you want to know more - but much of the way we think about music today is built on principles and formulas that Bach pioneered. Music theory classes today still use the music of Bach more than any other musician to teach how music works.

Perhaps the best place to see this is in his chorales, which are

basically German hymns. We actually have several of Bach's chorales in our hymnal, such as LSB 414 "Tis. Good, Lord, to Be Here" and LSB 449 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded." These types of chorales are written in rich four-part harmonies. What that means is, if you open your hymnal and look at the music, you'll find that most of the hymns have four notes, two above the lyric and two below. For musicians, these four notes are pivotal in understanding harmony. And, while four-part harmony certainly existed before Bach, most musicians would argue that, through his hundreds of cantatas and chorales, he refined and perfected the formula.

Okay, you may be thinking, so Bach is this great musician who just so happened to be Lutheran and wrote the music for a bunch of hymns. But what does that matter to me in a church service? Well, in addition to quality and quantity, he brought a third element to music that we cannot overlook - his faith. Bach didn't just write sacred music - he *believed* it. Think again of the great Lenten chorale "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" - that melody sounds like the very tears we might be crying out when we think of our sin put on Jesus on the cross. Or think of "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," a motet that is simultaneously intimate and joyful, a fitting way to ponder the depths of Jesus' love for us. Bach wrote faith-filled music because he knew that music was such a personal, emotional way to express our faith. And he follows the example of the songs of praise written in Scripture.

—See page 5, *Bach*



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:

**Holy Cross Ladies Guild** meets **Fri., April 10, 10AM.**  
**Grace Evening Guild** meets **Tues., April 14, 6PM.**

### Grace Evening created Resurrection Sets

In March 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.

**Spring Baskets** 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** from Mothers' Day through Father's Day.

Also, Grace Guild members will guide youth in baking special treats for a **bake sale on May 16.**



### LADIES' GUILD FLOWER AND PLANT SALE

The Ladies Guild Flower and Plant Sale ended at the end of March. 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 Fri., May 1&2. Shown at the flower sale table are Ladies Guild members Denise Lackey (left) and Cynthia Menscher (right).



Grace Guild creates sets of Resurrection Eggs: Each numbered egg is paired to a booklet page that explains its contents. Eggs are filled in an assembly line and given to preschool students. Youth helpers Jocelyn and Natalie Elick folded, stapled, and placed the booklets in the egg cartons.

## Meet Your Elder: Chris Price

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

I just wanted to reach out to my Christian family and give an introduction of who I am as your elder.

I live in O'Fallon with my wife Jayme and 10-year-old daughter Carter. We have been members at Holy Cross for about 18 years. My parents, Roy and Carol Price, were full-time members for many years, and that is how I was first introduced to Holy Cross. Pastor Wachter married us, and our daughter was baptized here.

We continue to be involved in the church. Jayme teaches Sunday school and is on the Holy Cross Board of Education. I recently took on the chair of Celebration of Lights and Vice President of the Board of Elders. Carter and I really like to take on Usher duties. We mostly attend the 8AM service and sometimes the 10:45AM.

We have a lovely home in O'Fallon and are proud owners of two pugs. Carter is very active in soccer and has a fondness for Taylor Swift. We are a big Texas A&M family and bleed maroon every Saturday. So that is a little bit about my family and me.

I am very happy to represent Holy Cross as an elder. I am very thankful that the Lord has given me this place to worship and has filled my heart with the Holy Spirit.

Our Board of Elders offers assistance to members any time. If you ever need to talk or just want to say Hi, please reach out to me. God Bless!

### **MARK CALENDARS:**

THE **SPRING NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON** is on **Sun., April 12, 2026**. Holy Cross welcomes its newest members including confirmands at this potluck starting around noon (after the second service). Current church members are asked to bring side dishes:

**Last Names A to K: side dish & salad**

**Last Names L to Z: side dish & dessert**

The Evangelism Board provides a meat dish, and Grace Guild will serve and cleanup. *Bring your name tags!*

## Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Sign up in the Welcome Center

## Hope Seeds will not meet in April — Come May 7

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

*Sponsored by*

*Holy Cross Stewardship Board.*



### **—Bach, from page 3**

At the beginning of many of his pieces, Bach would write "Iesu, Iuva," Latin for "Jesus, help us." And, in his personal Bible (which is now located at the seminary here in St. Louis), we have a number of annotations that Bach put in the margins. I think two in particular are helpful in understanding his mindset. Firstly, by Exodus 15:20, where Miriam and all the women of Israel sing a song of thanksgiving to God for getting the Israelites through the Red Sea, Bach writes, "The first prelude for choirs to be sung to the glory of God." Secondly, in 2 Chronicles 5, we see a scene where God's people play instruments and sing a song of praise. Once they do so, a great cloud of God's presence fills the temple. Here, Bach writes, "Where there is devotional music, God is always present with His grace." To Bach, music in worship mattered because it was a way to connect us directly to He who gave us all good things, including music.

There is so much more to say about Bach, but I hope this at least gives you an introduction to him. Please come bug me if you want to hear more about Bach! I could talk about him all day.

~David Gilson

April 2026 5

## 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

# Missions & Stewardship Board Update

As we continue our year together under the theme “The ‘Things’ God Has Created,” the Missions and Stewardship Board invites you to take part in several upcoming opportunities to serve, give, and support others in our community and beyond. Each of these efforts is a reminder that God works through His people to care for one another in both big and small ways.

Our Mission of the Quarter collection supporting LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs concluded on March 31, 2026. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this meaningful ministry that brings comfort and hope to people in times of need. We hope you enjoyed having the dogs in church in February!

**Beginning April 1 through July 31**, our next 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. NLOMA is a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

**On April 11, 2026**, we will participate in SHINE at Camp Wartburg, a day dedicated to service and fellowship. Volunteers will assist with projects such as painting picnic tables, trail maintenance, gardening, and organizing indoor storage. This is a full day event. Lunch and a devotion will be included. Sign-ups will be available March 8–29, and we will carpool from Holy Cross for those interested in attending together. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve alongside fellow members while supporting a ministry that blesses many.

Each year we also help encourage **first-year seminarians** during finals week by assembling **treat bags** filled with snacks and small comforts. This year we will prepare 65 treat bags for students facing exams May 11–14, with delivery scheduled for May 4. We need your help with donations of pre-packaged snacks and travel-size items. Collections will occur **April 11–26**, and we are asking for items like candy, pretzels, granola bars, chips, fruit snacks, cookies, hot cocoa mix, and other study-friendly treats. These items can be placed in the labeled blue bin under the Missions table in the Welcome Center. Volunteers will also be needed during the week of April 26 to help pack the bags, signups are coming.

Looking ahead, the **Outback Camping Weekend** will take place **May 1–3, 2026 onsite**. The weekend will include service projects around camp, fun activities and games, and time for devotion and fellowship. Watch for sign-up opportunities in the coming months if you would like to participate.

Mark your calendars for our **Father's Day Bake Sale on June 20–21, 2026**. Funds raised will help families offset costs associated with youth events and activities, ensuring more young people can participate in faith-building experiences.

Whether through donations, volunteering, or simply spreading the word, there are many ways to take part in these ministries. Thank you for continuing to share your time, talents, and resources as we work together to serve others and reflect God's love in action.

# VBS

...  
**Registration  
Opens April 1st!**

June 22-26, 2026

Holy Cross  
Lutheran Church

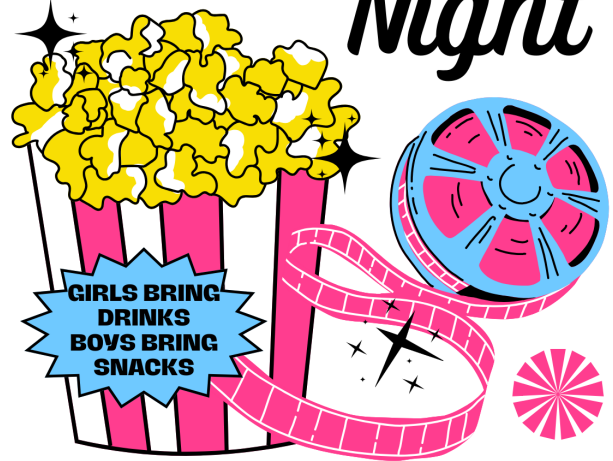


[hcross.com/VBS](http://hcross.com/VBS)

GRADES 3-5

# MOVIE

## Night



**GIRLS BRING  
DRINKS  
BOYS BRING  
SNACKS**

**APRIL 18 TIME**



FRIENDS ARE WELCOME! RSVP BY 4-12  
HOSTED AT HOLY CROSS BY TBA



**American  
Red Cross  
Blood  
Drive**



**Save a Life, Give Blood**

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

**THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026  
10AM TO 2PM**

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

# Graduation Recognition

MAY 16 & 17

Write ups and pictures must be turned in by  
May 1st to Joyce at [secretary@hcross.com](mailto:secretary@hcross.com)



## Shine Again Sale

Jewelry • Purses • Scarves

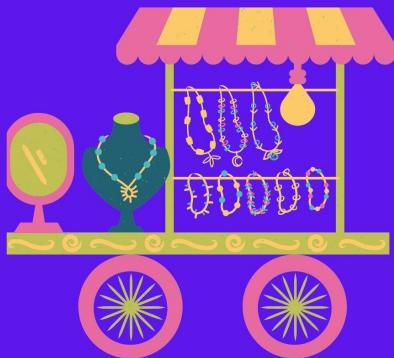
Saturday, May 16, 2026

Trinity Lutheran School Gym  
4689 N Hwy 94 - St. Charles, 63301

Enjoy tables full of new & used jewelry, purses, & scarves!  
Many designer & name brand items!!

**CASH ONLY**

Prices start at \$1.00



10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
FREE Admission

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
PREVIEW Sale  
(\$2.00 Admission Fee)

Sponsored by the WINGS (Women in God's Service) Group at Trinity Lutheran Church

# Serv'n in the Hills

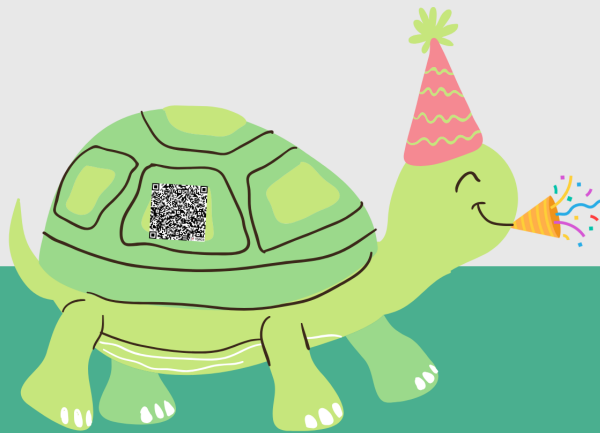
## HIGH SCHOOL SERVANT EVENT

MAY 30 - JUNE 6



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

## High School Only Lock-in



Date: May 8-9

RSVP: May 1

Friends Invited

Questions? Trudy Belter

Tbelter@fz.k12.mo.us

## PAINT BALL!

RSVP BY MAY 1

May 8th

6th-12<sup>th</sup> Grade + Friends

\$25 per person

Drop off and Pick Up at  
Wacky Warriors Paintball in  
Wentzville.

3:45-7:15pm



# April 2026

## Holy Cross Lutheran Church Calendar of Events

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
<b>29</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>31</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>APRIL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>MAUNDY THURS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>
<b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Professional Sunday</b>		<i>Preschool fundraiser pickup</i> 9:30 AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing		10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting		Preschool Easter Activities 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 10AM Visitation: D. Rattner 11AM Memorial Service (offsite) 6:30PM Adult Choir		8AM News & Notes <u>Deadline</u> Preschool Easter Activities 11AM Holy Communion 7PM Holy Communion + First Communion		Preschool closed Church Office Closed Circuit Tre Ore —Noon to 3PM 7PM Tenbrae		9am Youth Breakfast Preparation 7PM HC—Easter Vigil + Confirmation + Beginning Bells	
8 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion 1:30PM Elders' Meeting		6:30PM Handbells											
<b>5</b>	<b>EASTER</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>EASTER MONDAY</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>ELECTION DAY</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>11</b>	
8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion		Church Office & Preschool Closed		ELECTION—St. CHARLES Cty 6AM TO 7PM		6:30AM Men's Breakfast 9:30AM Adult Bible Class 6PM Beginning Handbells 6PM Children's Choir 6:30PM Midweek 6:30PM Confirmation 6:30PM LYF 6:45PM Adult Choir		8AM News & Notes <u>Deadline</u> 6:30PM 20s/30s/40s Bible Class 6:30PM Springhill Estate HOA		10AM Ladies Guild Wittenberger 50th Wedding Anniversary 4:30PM Prep 5:30PM Service 6:30PM Dinner (gy)		SHINE EVENT At Camp Wartburg 5PM Holy Communion	
7:30am to 11am— Easter Breakfast				12:30PM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Missions & Stewardship									
<b>12</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>17</b>		<b>18</b>	
8AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion <b>Noon New Member Luncheon</b>		9:30 AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing 6PM Executive Board 6:30PM Bell Choir. 7:30PM Council Meeting		9AM Quilting 3PM Preschool Board 6PM Grace Guild 6:30PM Adult Bible Study		9:30AM Adult Bible Class 6PM Beginning Handbells 6PM Children's Choir 6:30PM Midweek 6:30PM Confirmation 6:30PM LYF 6:45PM Adult Choir		8AM News & Notes <u>Deadline</u> 9AM Circuit Pastors' Meeting 6:30PM 20s/30s/40s Bible Class		Koinonia <u>Deadline</u> Missouri District Youth Gathering April 17-19		5PM Holy Communion- Missouri District Youth Gathering April 17-19 LWML St. Charles Rally at Immanuel Wentzville Movie Night for grades 3-5	
<b>19</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>21</b>		<b>22</b>		<b>23</b>		<b>24</b>		<b>25</b>	
8 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour + Midweek Teacher Training 10:45AM Holy Communion Missouri District Youth Gathering April 17-19		9:30 AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing 6:30PM Bell Choir		10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Youth & Education Bds.		9:30AM Adult Bible Class 6PM Beginning Handbells 6PM Children's Choir 6:30PM Midweek 6:30PM Confirmation 6:30PM LYF 6:45PM Adult Choir		8AM News & Notes <u>Deadline</u> 6:30PM 20s/30s/40s Bible Class		Koinonia PRODUCTION & MAILING		5PM Holy Communion	
<b>26</b>		<b>27</b>		<b>28</b>		<b>29</b>		<b>30</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>2</b>	
8 AM Holy Communion 9:30AM Education Hour 10:45AM Holy Communion + Beginner Bells		9:30 AM TOPS 11AM Line Dancing 6:30PM Bell Choir		9AM Quilting 10AM Women's Bible Study 12:30PM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Adult Bible Study		9:30AM Adult Bible Class 6PM Beginning Handbells 6PM Children's Choir 6:30PM Midweek 6:30PM LYF 6:45PM Adult Choir		8AM News & Notes <u>Deadline</u> 6:30PM 20s/30s/40s Bible Class		Ladies Guild Flower Delivery—6:30AM Flower Distribution — 3 to 6pm Camping Weekend —offsite		10AM TO 1PM —Flower Distribution 5PM HC Camping Weekend —offsite	
PRESCHOOL		9:30AM—9:50AM		9:10-9:30AM		11-11:20AM		9:10-9:30AM		9:30AM—9:50AM			
PRESCHOOL CHAPEL				9AM		9AM							

# April Celebrations 2026

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

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

- |                                                                               |                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1:</b> Madeline Maull                                                      | <b>19:</b> Jim Redfield                                                                                                            |
| <b>2:</b> Willa Gimbel, Heather Koepke, Beth Wuertz                           | <b>20:</b> Robert Aubertin, Valerie Schnefke, Christy Witte                                                                        |
| <b>5:</b> Amanda Alton, John Bertram, Electra Day                             | <b>21:</b> Mason Dillender, Luke Gaglio, Kathy Holt, Robyn Johnson, Callie Jones, Christine Mueller, Jackson Purtle, Jordyn Purtle |
| <b>6:</b> Barb Krieger, Theodore Langley, Elizabeth Rasche, Aubrey Rheinecker | <b>23:</b> Alisha Ellis, Alexander Frerichs                                                                                        |
| <b>7:</b> Chloe Benigno                                                       | <b>24:</b> Dennis Benassi, Jamie Estes, Andy Goodman, Jill Kirk, Kristin Sadler, Rachel Tichich                                    |
| <b>9:</b> Owen Gooding, Gregg Kreyling Jr., Ashleigh Wallace-Lacey            | <b>25:</b> Tom Duncan, Tim McDaniel, Nick Sampl                                                                                    |
| <b>10:</b> Marc Maull Jr., Terry McCann, Kelly Sumski                         | <b>26:</b> Anna Gilson, Kathy Losch, Ernestine Wilson                                                                              |
| <b>11:</b> Bob Brueggeman, Jennifer Crider, Kathy Darst                       | <b>27:</b> Alyssa Crider, Kari Spearman                                                                                            |
| <b>13:</b> Barbara Benigno                                                    | <b>28:</b> Brett Albano                                                                                                            |
| <b>15:</b> Ray Booth                                                          | <b>29:</b> Wesley Durmeier, Ede Emerick, Steven Macke, Tina Morrison                                                               |
| <b>16:</b> Beckett Einsporn, Carolyn Delohi, Tonya Walkenhorst                | <b>30:</b> Ben Schnoor                                                                                                             |
| <b>17:</b> Tristan Claxton                                                    |                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>18:</b> Diana Antal                                                        |                                                                                                                                    |

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

- |                                                                                                                     |                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1:</b> Geri Beckmann, Bethany Claxton, Peggy Lancour, Idel McCullough, Mark Schnefke, Anna Stiffler, John Temple | <b>18:</b> Byron Alton                                        |
| <b>3:</b> Kayleigh Brown, Tricia Hogan, Lily Schoenike                                                              | <b>20:</b> Tom Gallagher                                      |
| <b>4:</b> Andrew Darst                                                                                              | <b>21:</b> Darlene Bradley, Ashton Estill, Margie Green       |
| <b>6:</b> Matthew Alton, Mike Dawdy, Carleen Hardy, Dee Paoletti, Bailey Schoenike, Carolyn Tichenor                | <b>22:</b> Luciano Chinnici                                   |
| <b>7:</b> Chris Marhanka                                                                                            | <b>23:</b> Julia Tichenor                                     |
| <b>12:</b> Baylee Albano, Jill Albano                                                                               | <b>24:</b> Darlene Rhodes                                     |
| <b>15:</b> Willa Gimbel, Cara Shouse                                                                                | <b>25:</b> Trudy Belter                                       |
| <b>16:</b> Lainey Alton, Grace Niemeyer, Ashleigh Wallace-Lacey                                                     | <b>27:</b> Cindy Downs, Jaxson Showen                         |
|                                                                                                                     | <b>28:</b> Jeff Coomer, Jill Kirk, Tim Laufer, Larry Williams |
|                                                                                                                     | <b>30:</b> Charlie Feller                                     |

## Wedding Anniversaries: God Bless Your Marriage!

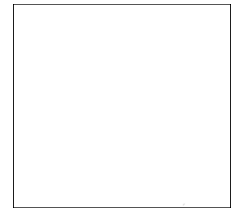
- |                                                                        |                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1:</b> Jesse & Charity Smith (10)                                   | <b>26:</b> Chris & Jayme Price (12)                                  |
| <b>7:</b> David & Patty Ulrich (36)                                    | <b>27:</b> Jerry & Darlene Bradley (58)                              |
| <b>8:</b> Jennifer & Dalton Powers (9)<br>Sandra & Richard Semler (59) | <b>28:</b> Bill & Joy Adams (47)                                     |
| <b>10:</b> Denis & Barbara Wittenberger (50)                           | <b>29:</b> Laura & Bryce Irvin (9)<br>Madalyn & Trystan Bartlett (3) |
| <b>12:</b> Nathan & Katie Temple (12)                                  |                                                                      |

*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 May 2026 issue is April 15, 2026. Email submissions to [secretary@hcross.com](mailto:secretary@hcross.com) **prior** to the deadline, between April 10—15.

## Holy Cross Lutheran Church

8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway  
O'Fallon, MO 63366

Address Service Requested



**April 2026**

Put Address Label Here

### Holy Cross Lutheran Church: 1960 ~ 2026

#### Holy Cross Lutheran Church & Preschool

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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:** April 8, 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