



HOLY CROSS

LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ENCOURAGING THOSE WHO HUNGER
to be nourished by God.

November at a Glance

Check out what's happening in worship, growth, service, and community at Holy Cross this month.

Worship Changes

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:19-25

Two Worship Services

It is a time of change at Holy Cross. Some have long anticipated that we will return to multiple worship services. For some, the change is difficult as they have enjoyed having only one worship service. And for others, just the thought of change causes anxiety. I was asked to explain a little of the BoLM's (your Elders) reasoning as to why we are moving to this change in worship and possibly not to other ideas about worship. I was also asked to anticipate reasons or difficulties that might prompt further changes in worship here at Holy Cross.

Trauma and Suffering

Starting even before COVID in 2020 Holy Cross had already begun to suffer what I call "trauma." There was a noticeable decline in weekly worship attendance, unity, and stewardship at Holy Cross. Then during COVID, people at Holy Cross felt out of control, some were sin-sick, and others were deeply hurt by changes placed upon them. I won't go into great detail about this, but it bears mentioning as it is a benchmark of the changes we now face today at Holy Cross. This trauma extended a few years after that as worship attendance, stewardship, and unity continued to decline to where we are today nearly half the size of the congregation as we once were before COVID. Then the congregation had an interim and Calling period, a period of rest before things might change with a new pastor, rescheduled worship, and rediscovering our identity as Christians, Lutherans, and people of Holy Cross. At the beginning of my Call here at Holy Cross, I specifically held a Bible study on Shepherd and Sheep to get members to lovingly talk about how the trauma had affected them, how they might have been hurt by others, or even hurt others during this trauma. Just by processing our trauma, we can better adapt to the changes we face today as a congregation.

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Indicators of Trauma

Even before I accepted the Call to Holy Cross, most of its members recognized the difficulties that Holy Cross had been through and with which it was still struggling. The Transition Team document was a great thermometer to gauge the health of the congregation as a whole and its individual members. After asking many questions to your leadership, members, Circuit pastors, District leaders, interim pastor, and many others, I began to get a clearer picture of issues and complications. One apparent indicator of trauma was that Holy Cross was used to a very busy Sunday and weekly life and yet these activities were causing sheep to be scattered rather than united in Word and Sacrament. With the already present decline in worship attendance and the seeming restart after COVID, congregation members wanted a lot of activity, but they were not united. It also came to my attention that many people have not ever had the opportunity of a Pastor led Bible study on Sunday morning because the worship schedule was so busy. Then on top of all this, there were varied opinions as to which style of worship should be and when. For some, there was the attitude of “my way is the only way” with little thought of what is best in worship and who all else is served in worship. Your Elders made the difficult decision to go to one worship service to promote unity and healing. And they wrestled with this decision all throughout the year to see if Holy Cross, as individual members and as a whole, was ready to go back to multiple worship services. Even before I became your pastor, I gauged that it was not good, right, and salutary to go back to the old ways of worship but to give opportunity for growth in the foundation of God’s Word in a dedicated education hour for all members. In May, the Elders were still hesitant to return to two services but with the help of the Worship Survey, we were glad to move to 2 worship services in November.

Worship Survey

It is important to note that the Worship Survey is not a democratic vote as to what the majority of people want and then go along with the mass decision. It was called and designed as a survey to gather opinions about many things, give direction as to what could and could not be, and then gauge the spiritual temperature of the congregation. It asked style questions but reassured us that liturgy would still be present. It tried to narrow down what times would work best while not giving poor freedom to scatter the congregation further. The Elders discussed closely the Survey results and comments. One important decision the Elders made was that even if the majority of the congregation wanted something a certain way, the whole congregation had to have an eye to serving the smaller/weaker group as that is what a family in Christ does. Just because there is a majority doesn’t mean we ignore the minority. We are a family here at Holy Cross - a flock - that worships, feasts on Sacraments, and serves our Lord, each other, and our neighbor. Compromises would be made for the sake of the weaker as well as the stronger whole. I was so pleased with the process of the Survey as it did give the NElders great data points and there were multiple avenues to hear from individual congregation members. It allowed us to make a wise decision to go to two worship services in November.

Celebration of Services

And now we are at a time of change once again. We are going to two services that are similar and yet different from what Holy Cross had in the past. The Elders are still looking for ways to better describe and announce our services to help people realize that even though they are similar to the past, they will also be different from what might have been done. We are not reupping the old but establishing the new. The first service, based on overwhelming Survey results, will be at 8 a.m. and will look in many ways like the former Traditional services except it will include all the liturgy from the hymnal because there is no need to cut out parts because of time constraints. The service can celebrate the hymnal, its liturgy, and hymns more fully. Fellowship and gathering to study God’s Word will be highlighted for everyone to engage, young and old, and it allows the reestablishing of our foundational beliefs, teachings, confessions, and practices without conflicting with Word and Sacrament worship. The 11 a.m. service will have the Praise Team lead music with Creative Worship liturgy as well as an opportunity to include some hymns throughout the year. There were a lot of people who both liked praise and

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worship music as well as traditional hymns, so this compromise was made. Because traditional hymns were appealing to many people across the congregation, we are even scheduling combined blended services throughout the year so that all can continue to enjoy this style of worship.

The New Norm

We celebrate in November two worship services on Sunday mornings that offer opportunities of style, blessings of community together, and growth in our study of God's Word. I look forward to hearing our choirs in both services and to the opportunities for all of us to gather together in combined worship services in the future. We should realize that we are a different congregation than we were just 5 years ago. We can have nostalgia but can't live in it. Holy Cross, as with most families, looks and acts differently than what it once did in the past.

Looking Ahead

One thing to realize, though, is that with changes in worship, there will be some things diminished. With one service we were blessed by having a full sanctuary with congregation members singing, lots of children at the Children's message, worshipping all together and coming to the Sacrament of the Altar, and many people involved with fellowshiping after worship. Two services will change this dynamic slightly. The leadership hopes that having two services will increase our weekly worship attendance and future stewardship so as to have both services full. However, the leaders will be evaluating the two worship services all throughout the year to see if all things are going well or if future tweaks/changes are in order. I would encourage you, as the verse above states, to weekly come to worship - God's divine service to you in Word and Sacrament. That you would engage in the times we all gather together to build unity and fellowship in the congregation. That you and your children all attend education hour here at Holy Cross. And that we continue to stir up one another in Christ our Lord!

Excited for the Change we have in Christ,
Pastor Zillinger

Note from the President

Nathan Borchers

Thank you to all who showed up for the Voters' Meeting where we elected new officers for next year and approved the 2025 Ministry Funding Plan. While we certainly have financial challenges ahead in 2025, thank God for this congregation and the dedication you all have shown. Thank God for the committed servants willing to serve on the Board of Directors, Board of Lay Ministry and Endowment Fund. We are still working on the exact format but will continue to use this forum to discuss financial matters, give Funding Plan updates and general information from the Board of Directors.

School repair funding: We are currently at \$75,000 into our goal of \$100,000 (\$25,000 from a donor; \$25,000 from the BOD; \$25,000 from congregation gifts). You can still give to fund these much needed repairs through the website or the offering plate (**just mark your gift for "School Building Repair Fund."**)

Election Results:

BOD Member at Large - Trish Gillette and Carma Van Orman **BOD Treasurer** - Ron Heitz

Affirmation of BOD mid-term appointments - Steffanie Hobelman, Gretchen Porter

BOLM - Bill Kenline, David Meyer, Larry Schumm, Rick Waters

Affirmation of BOLM mid-term appointments - Joel Larson, Carl Miedich

Endowment Fund - Laurie Calvert, Brent Hegg

2025 Budget - passed

Holy Cross, a community that's transformed through genuine **WORSHIP** so all may follow him.

Worship Schedule

Beginning November 3 (*All Saints Day Observed*), we will offer two services with education time in between:

8 a.m. - Hymnal liturgy and hymns with the organ

9:15 a.m. - Short "grab and go" refreshments in Hiller Hall

9:30 a.m. - Christian Education Hour (Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study)

10:30 a.m. - Food and Fellowship in Hiller Hall

11 a.m. - Creative Worship liturgy and songs and hymns led by the worship team

Altar Flowers

The 2024 sign up sheet is on the copy room door if you'd like to sign up to recognize a special anniversary, birthday, or other event or to remember someone who has passed, or just because. Cost is \$25. You may take the arrangement home after the service. We ask that the flower container be returned to the office when the flowers are done.

Pastor's Page

There is a page on our website with information about Pastor Z, his current Bible study, and a link to a daily devotion video he creates, Monday through Friday.

- Mondays - A recap of Sunday's sermon
- Tuesdays - Dig deeper into the Psalms
- Wednesdays - A look at *Luther's Small Catechism*
- Thursdays - Open Topics
- Fridays - A preview of Sundays texts

Prayer Room in Room 223

Come in to our prayer room anytime during business hours (M-F, 9-3) to find a quiet place to pray. The prayer team would like to invite you to join them on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. to pray for our church, our community, country, and others.

November Worship

Sundays

Join us in person or online on YouTube or Facebook to worship Jesus at 8 a.m. or 11 a.m. on Sundays. Communion is offered at all services.

November 3: All Saints Sunday

Pastor Zillinger; "Paradise is Who You are With"

November 10: Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Pastor Chaplain Benjamin Riley

November 17: Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Zillinger; "Our High Priest"; Hebrews 10:11-25

November 24: Last Sunday of the Church Year

Pastor Zillinger; "Have No Fear! The End is Near! Christ is Here!"; Mark 13:24-37

Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 27 at 7 p.m.

Join us as we give thanks in worship to our God.

Pastor Zillinger; "Response-Ability"; Deut. 8:1-10

Join us afterwards for a pie social and a Pie/Dessert Auction:



PIE AUCTION

It's back!!
Sit back and enjoy a slice of pie while you bid on delicious pies and desserts for your own Thanksgiving Celebrations!

All funds go to help youth offset travel costs for upcoming mission trips and the National Youth Gathering this summer

NOVEMBER 27, 8:15 P.M.

Holy Cross, a community that's transformed through genuine **GROWTH** so all may follow him.

Wednesday Night

- 5—5:45 p.m. Meal and salad bar, free will offering
- 6—7 p.m. Classes for all ages

There will be **NO Meal and Classes on November 27** for Thanksgiving Eve.

<u>Class Title/Level</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Leaning on Jesus (adult, co-ed)	Room 102	Richelle Hecker
The Chosen (adult, co-ed video study)	Fireside Room	Rick Waters
6th grade affirmation	Room 210	Carl Miedich
7th/8th grade affirmation	Hiller Hall	Pastor Zillinger
High School	Youth Room	David Wickert/Michelle Mueller
Children	Rooms 213 and 225	DCE Lizz
Nursery (under 4)	Nursery	Trained nursery workers

Sunday Morning Classes for all ages 10:30-11:30 a.m.

There will be **NO Sunday School and Youth Classes on December 1** because of Thanksgiving break. Enjoy the extra time with your family.

<u>Class Title/Level</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
The Creeds (adult)	Sanctuary	Pastor Zillinger
Lutheranism 101 (adult)	Fireside Room	Vern Gillette
High School	Youth Room	Chris and Heather Abatelli
Middle School	Room 210	Jim Waldron
Preschool/Kindergarten	Room 213	
1st/ 2nd Grade	Room 222	
3rd-5th Grade	Room 225	
Nursery (under 4)	Nursery	Trained nursery workers

Lutheranism 101 (adult confirmation) and New Member Class

Lutheranism 101 is set to begin in September for people who wish to join Holy Cross from a non-LCMS background or for people who just want a refresher. Our new member class for people who wish to join by transfer or who have completed Lutheranism 101, will take place in January. Please reach out to Christine if you need more information. christineb@holycrosscs.org or 719-596-0661.

Kids and Youth Activity and Medical Release Form

It's that time of the year to fill out the 2024-2025 Activity and Medical Release Form. This form must be filled out once per year and serves as your activity and medical release for all classes and activities at Holy Cross.

Midweek Adult Classes

- **The Study of Mark** (co-ed) meets on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Led by Wayne & Lisa Gayler.
- **Hebrews** (women's study) meets on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Led by Gail Neal.
- **Hebrews** (men's study) meets on Thursdays at 6 a.m. at Wade's Café. Led by Neil Ridenour.
- **Max Lucado books** (women's study) meets on Thursdays at 9 a.m. via Zoom. Led by Connie Bond.
- **Bible Study-Acts** (co-ed) meets on Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room.
- **Theology on Tap** (men's study) meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Brewing (4630 Forge Rd.) Please call Carl Miedich (618) 780-3139 for more information.



Middle School Movie Night

November 22 | 6-8 p.m.

We will watch a movie, eat food, have fellowship, and do a Bible study. Pizza will be provided. Feel free to bring other snacks and invite your friends. Let Lizz know if you are able to make it!



Thank You For Being So Sweet!

Thank you to everyone who donated their time or candy for the Fall Festival! We had **over 300 people** attend, mostly from the community. You were able to be God's light to those in our community!



Holy Cross Lutheran School

Run to Jesus!

Happy Autumn! The school has enjoyed three months of fun, learning, and most importantly, sharing the gospel of Jesus with our current roster of 59 students, ages 2.5 through age 13. As we continue to celebrate the autumn season, we remember that, although the seasons change, our God remains the same – yesterday, today and forever. As things change around us and we find ourselves in a season of unknown, we can be so grateful for the constant that is God. We can 'Run to Jesus' anytime we are in need of solace, encouragement, or for any reason.

In this month of gratitude, we remember all the things that we are grateful for here at the school. Our school families are amazing. Churched or not, they want their children here in the safe, caring environment of Holy Cross. We are grateful for your monetary support in our efforts to upgrade the building in order to maintain safety. We very much appreciate your prayer support as well. Please keep all Lutheran schools in your prayers. Our school volunteers make us extremely grateful; without them, we would not be able to do many of the things we do, thank you! Most importantly, we are certainly grateful that our Savior is there for us always, never changing.

God's Blessings to you and yours as Thanksgiving approaches. We truly have so much for which to be grateful!

Mona Book, School Director





Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

Upcoming Events

- **November 17 - Mites Sunday** is the third Sunday of each month. All are welcome to drop off donations at the Ministry Center.
- **Holiday RADA knife sales** began in mid-October. You can also visit the [website](#) to order anytime. Great Christmas gift idea!
- **December 6 - Packaging Day for Cookies for the Military**
- **December 7 - Birthday Party for Jesus/ Christmas Sing-Along**

We'd Love to Have You Join an LWML Circle

- **Sarah Circle** - 2nd Mondays at 10 a.m. in Fireside Room/Zoom. Study: *The Baptismal River: Studying the Sacrament throughout Scripture* by Richard Davenport
- **Joy Circle** - 3rd Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Hiller Hall. Study: From the LWML Quarterly
- **Deborah Circle**-3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in Fireside Room/Zoom. Study: *God's Relentless Love - A Study of Hosea* by Sharma Fritz
- **Esther Circle** - Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. **ON HIATUS**



Christmas Craft Day

November 16
9 a.m. - noon

We have spots for 25 (individuals or families) to join us for our Christmas wreath-making activity. Cost is \$7. To reserve your spot, sign up and pay at

the Ministry Center on Sunday November 3rd or 10th. **Note:** The picture above is a sample. There will be a variety of ornaments, ribbons, accent pieces, and lights from which to choose.

Never Alone | November 9, 10 a.m.

Any women looking for Christian fellowship are invited to attend gatherings in the Fireside Room. We will share a devotion followed by fellowship time. Those attending may bring their own food or beverage if desired. If you have any questions please call Lorrie at 719-360-2272.

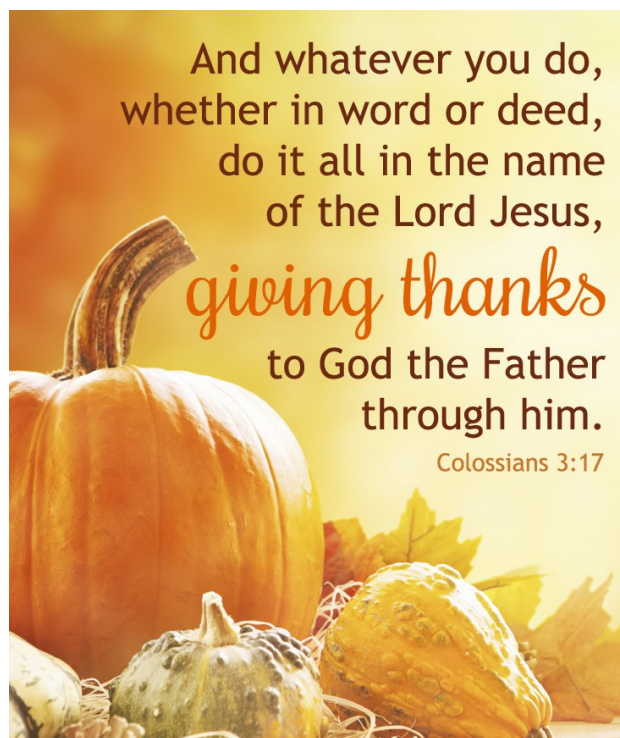


Noodles and Company Youth Fundraiser

November 14th | 4-8 p.m.

Take a break from cooking and help our youth earn funds for their upcoming trip to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering! It's simple and tasty, take this flyer (either digital or print out) to Noodles and CO on Nov. 14 between 4-8. Order whatever sounds most delicious for you and your family! Holy Cross Youth get 25% of the sales for this evening! It's that easy! Enjoy a night out!

Eat in or Order to go. Pick up a flyer at the Ministry Center.



Holy Cross, a community that's transformed through genuine **SERVICE** so all may follow him.



Volunteer Help Wanted

Ministry Center: We are looking for friendly faces to serve at the Ministry Center. The time commitment is shortly before and after service/s. Sign up for as many or few Sundays as you like. Email Kelly for more info: kellycrih@yahoo.com.

Greeters: We need 3, one each for the west, north, and east doors. We would love to have couples greet together. You need to arrive 15 minutes before service. Any questions contact Cheryl Dempsey or Bev Smith.

Ushers: We would love men, women, and teens to help greet and seat people at worship. Beginning in November, we will be in need of people for the 11:00 service in particular. Sign up in the Ministry Center or email Dennis. dennisamccarthy@msn.com.

Coffee Fellowship: We have a coordinator, but we need more hands to help with set up and clean up on Sundays on a rotational basis. Please let Christine know if you can help at christineb@holycrosscs.org.

Choir: Need new and returning singers. Practice is on Thursdays at 7:15 p.m. in the choir loft. Contact Michelle at michellem@holycrosscs.org

Stitchin' Servants November 16

This group usually meets on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room. They make baptismal blankets, prayer shawls, and other handmade items for local organizations.

Thanksgiving Baskets and Christmas Giving Tree

Thanksgiving - Our annual Thanksgiving meal giveaway for the community will be on **Saturday November 23**. If you'd like to donate money towards the cost of the basket, you can donate with a check in the offering indicating Thanksgiving baskets or [give online](#). The approximate cost of each basket is \$25, but any amount helps. Contact Jennifer Seeley if you'd like to help with this ministry. 719-459-0044 or jenniferseeley@hotmail.com

Giving Tree - We are partnering with local schools and Mosaic to provide Christmas gifts to children in need and adults with disabilities. If you'd like to donate, the Giving Tree will be up in November with gift requests. You can also leave the shopping to us and donate in the offering plate to "Christmas Giving Tree" or [give online](#). We spend \$30 on each gift/gift card, but any amount helps. Reach out to Michelle Wingert if you need more information. wingertmk@gmail.com or 719-439-6159.



Be a Sockstar! Knock Our Socks Off!

For this year's Thanksgiving Basket giveaway, we are going to give out socks in addition to holiday food. Please help by donating **new clean socks**. All sizes, colors, and varieties will be accepted. Look for a drop-off at the Ministry Center.



Food Pantry

NEW HOURS: Open Mondays & Tuesdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.

November needs: holiday baking and meal items. We can also accept **meat, eggs** and **dairy products** such as butter, yogurt, and milk if you bring them in during office hours so they can be refrigerated promptly.

If you would like to help in the food pantry, contact Kelly Carter at foodpantryhc@gmail.com or Gail Youngmeyer at gailyoungmeyer@yahoo.com. There are direct service positions as well as behind-the-scenes role.



Book Bank

We are always accepting **donations of good quality books (in English or Spanish), appropriate for children ages 3 to 9.** Books may be dropped off at the front office during the week or at the **Ministry Center on Sunday mornings after worship.** If you wish to make a targeted monetary contribution for this effort we would be quite grateful. Thank you for your support! For more information, contact Dan Szarke at szarke@yahoo.com.

As modeled by Jesus,
we will build a **WELCOMING** community.

Advent Calendar Mission

Fundraiser \$5

Purchase a Christian nativity themed Advent calendar at the Mission Marketplace on Nov. 24 OR If you'd like to order a large number, you can sign up in advance at the Ministry Center. Count down the 24 days to Christmas with a premium chocolate behind each window. Calendars are 10" wide by 13.5" tall.

Young Adults

Holy Cross would love to get a group started just for you! There are even funds set aside to help get you started. If you are interested in being part of this group please let Christine know.



Scrapbooking Group | Nov 16

Bring your scrapbooking or other projects to work on while we fellowship and create. We *usually* meet the third Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in Fireside Room. Contact Janet Grangruth with any questions: 719-638-6874 or janetgrangruth@msn.com.

Holy Cross Armed Forces Ministry

Upcoming Events:

- **Military Women's Coffee Group** – Join other Military Moms/Women/Spouses for a fun casual coffee group on the first Tuesday of each month. This month's coffee is on **October 1** at 9:30 a.m. in Hiller Hall. Come join the fun and fellowship. Childcare is provided and children are always welcome.
- **Armed Forces Activities** – We are planning our next potluck on November 10th in conjunction with Veterans Day. We are inviting the entire congregation to the potluck to help us celebrate all those who make the day so special. As a special treat, our very own Chaplain Benjamin Riley will be conducting both services that day as well as being our guest speaker at the potluck. Come hear what it is like to be an LCMS Chaplain and serve both our Lord and our country at the same time. All dishes should serve 6-8 people. Those with last names A-M please bring a main dish while those with last names N-Z please bring a side dish, salad or fruit. Cake will be provided.



Roster Updates:

Email us at holycrossafmc@gmail.com if your address, email, or phone number has recently changed, or if you would like to be added/removed from the roster.

Who We Serve:

We are dedicated to those who have served or are currently on active duty and their family members (including Gold Star families). We invite you to experience fellowship, outreach, Bible study, and support services.

Where to Find Us:

Find us on Facebook at [Holy Cross Armed Forces Ministry](#). Be sure to also check out the Armed Forces Ministry bulletin board located outside room 102 for information, highlighted events, and the quarterly spotlighted person or family.

Young Adult Game Night at Immanuel November 1

Young adults (ages 18-39) are welcome to join us in the fellowship hall at 6:30 p.m. the first Friday of each month for a game night. Feel free to bring your favorite game and a snack to share! Text or call Becky Fisher at (254) 747-0016.

Young At Heart | Nov 4 | 11:30 am

- **November 4** - Immanuel Lutheran Church. Program by Lynette Kemp "Adopted as a Child: A woman returns to Korea in search of her birth family." Meal provided by Rodger.
- **December 2** - Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Lunch by "Lil' Howards." Program by Gus Meza.

For more information regarding Young at Heart please call, text or leave a message on Larry Schumm's phone, 567-259-9559.



MISSION MARKETPLACE

NOV 24, 9-11 AND 12-1

Breakfast Burritos served at 7:00
Lunch from **Paravicini's** served at 12:00
Bake sale and hot chocolate bar.
(all free will offering!)

Guess who's coming to the
Mission Marketplace?
Santa and Mrs. Claus!!
They will be joining us from the
North Pole for pictures and
fellowship!



WE NEED VENDORS AND DONATIONS!
NEW THIS YEAR- WE WILL FUND YOU TO HOST A TABLE
Vendor forms are located at the Ministry Center.
Please leave any handmade donations at the
Ministry Center.

NEW THIS YEAR- SILENT AUCTION

We are looking for a few items to host a silent auction table. A donation sheet will be located at the Ministry Center.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Kelly Carter-mrs_kelc@yahoo.com
Cassie Hein- mzmusical@hotmail.com