



HOLY CROSS

LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ENCOURAGING THOSE WHO HUNGER
to be nourished by God.

January at a Glance

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

2025 Holy Cross Milestone Statement

Connecting all to our identity and community in Christ at Holy Cross

Simplified Stewardship - Evaluate

2 Corinthians 8:3 ³ *For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord.*

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 ¹ *Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.* ² *On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.*

Simplified Stewardship

Our 2025 Milestone Statement focuses us on our identity and community in Christ here at Holy Cross. The church leadership and I desire for you all to grow in your identity as a Christian, as a Lutheran, and as members of our congregation. We also want to build stronger church community connections with one another. In short, we want to grow as God's family! One focus area in this theme is growing more as God's stewards here at Holy Cross with all the various gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure He has given us.

Making Stewardship Easier

Many Christians don't like to talk about stewardship. Usually, it is because they have been incorrectly taught or improperly motivated about stewardship. This year I would like to simplify Christian stewardship to some very easy habits to make our stewardship more of a joyful response to all that God has given us in His grace.

Evaluate God's Physical Gifts

Take stock each year of the physical gifts and Treasures that God has given you. What is your yearly income? What increase have you made in your investments? What physical things have you been given or have maintained in your household? These are all great physical gifts, Treasures, that God has generously entrusted to you for use in His Kingdom! God has made you His steward to take care of these things, use them appropriately, and to make Him an increase for His Kingdom.

Yearly Evaluation

Every year our government forces you to take stock of your Treasures and increase. It does it for an entirely different reason, for us to pay our taxes. However, the principle of yearly evaluation of our gifts from God is a good habit. A good Christian stewardship habit is to evaluate your income and Treasures every year either during the first of the year or in April when you evaluate your earthly taxes. (You can do it at other times,

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but these times correspond with how you already evaluate your taxes.) All your income, your assets, and your spending are gifts from God for His Kingdom!

Proportional Church Giving

It is at this time you can evaluate how you regularly and proportionally give to God through our congregation. It is an easy process to look at what you gave last year, look at how God has blessed you throughout the year, and then set a weekly number of what you will give to our congregation as your proportional giving. You can also evaluate how you can stretch, sacrifice, and grow in this giving in response to all the good gifts God has given us throughout the year.

Made Easy and Effective

This evaluated proportional giving of our stewardship of treasure helps remove the feelings of guilt that sometimes are incorporated with poor stewardship practices. If you are generously directing your Treasures for God's family, you are more joyful! It also is a first fruits budget so that you can better strategize your other bills and monetary responsibilities. If you set aside Treasures at the first, you are less likely to feel constrained at the last. Finally, it is a very effective way to help your congregation manage its Treasure stewardship. The church's budget, spending, and generosity become easier to manage and operate.

More Simplified Stewardship to Come

Throughout this year (and possibly beyond), we will be learning more Simplified Stewardship habits as we grow in our identity and community here at Holy Cross. If you have found this small simplified stewardship habit of evaluation beneficial, share it with others and pass it along to your family. Also, if you have other small tips, tricks, or habits that have helped you in your Christian stewardship please pass them along to me and other Christians. We joyfully learn and grow from each other as we are connected here at Holy Cross!

Evaluating all God's Good Gifts to Us,
Pastor Zillinger

Note from the President

Nathan Borchers



Merry Christmas, Holy Cross! It's the joyous time of the year where we hopefully can pause, catch our breath and celebrate Jesus' birth – the greatest gift of all!

Great job to the Holy Cross kids and all who helped with the wonderful Christmas play held Dec 15. Thanks for a delightful play and wonderful performance.

Did you see the new fence out by the school? It looks great and offers more security than the last one. Thanks for all the donations that helped fund the fence. On to bathroom work, siding and repairing the wall. You can still give online or through the regular offering (just mark it for school repairs) to support future work.

Tithe Update – after years of faithful service, the Mantey's are retiring from the Mission field. We have supported them with a portion of our tithe. Since they have retired, the Board of Lay Ministry recommended and the Board of Directors approved to move that tithe to Rev. David/Rachel Baker (family) LCMS Missionary in Mongolia. This switch was effective for the last quarter 2024.

During the informational meeting (just prior to the Voters' Meeting) and at the annual Voters' Meeting, several

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people asked for more frequent updates not only on giving, but the church's financial health overall. The information below seeks to provide that information on a monthly basis in the newsletter. Please let me know if you have questions or would like to discuss more in depth.

Budget Update (as of Nov 30)

Monthly giving: \$69,504.48

Budgeted Monthly giving: \$73,093.93

Total giving YTD: \$812,130.91

Budgeted Giving YTD: \$844,979.79

Spending YTD: \$1,056,820.74

Budgeted spending YTD: \$1,091,443

Current budget surplus: \$13,738.93*

* Note: complete budget totals include other factors not shown in this report

Note from the Chairman

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,



As I conclude my tenure as Chairman of the Board of Lay Ministry, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your support, prayers, and commitment during these past four years of significant transition for our church family. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated victories, and remained steadfast in our faith.

I am pleased to announce that **Todd Boesdorfer** will be taking on the role of Chairman starting in 2025, continuing our tradition of dedicated lay leadership. Joining Todd on the Board of Lay Ministry will be new board members **Bill Kenline, Larry Schumm, and David Meyer**, bringing fresh perspectives and committed hearts to our ministry.

I want to thank the entire Board of Lay Ministry and our church staff for their exceptional service and dedication these past years. I'd like to also thank all of the Board members who have served the last few years and as **Kevin Diekelman, Kevin Hein, and Gordon Weldon** roll off this year, I encourage our congregation to extend your gratitude to them for their faithful service and leadership during this critical time in our church's journey.

Please continue to lift up our staff and board in your prayers, that we may be faithful to God's calling.

As we look forward to the coming year under Pastor Z's leadership, I am filled with hope and excitement for the growth and blessings that await us.

As we are reminded in Ephesians 2:8-10, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

I encourage each of you to be watchful for the opportunities God is placing before you to share His love and serve His kingdom.

May God continue to bless and guide us.

In Christ's love,
Jacob Mueller

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

Worship Schedule

We offer two services with education time in between:

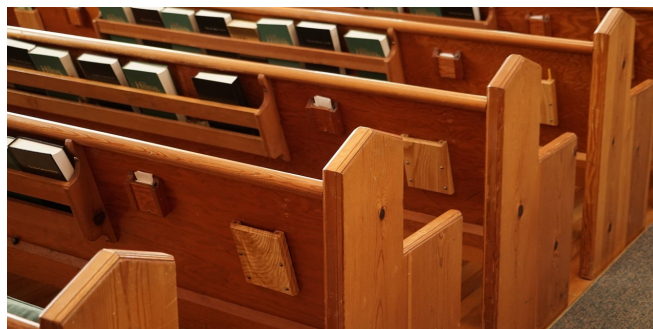
8 a.m. - Hymnal liturgy and hymns with the organ

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



January Worship

8 a.m. or 11 a.m.

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.

January 5: Epiphany Sunday

Pastor Zillinger; "Sweet Tooth"; Psalm 119:97-104

January 12: The Baptism of Our Lord

Pastor Zillinger; "Wheat and Chaff"; Luke 3:15-22

January 19: Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Pastor Zillinger;

January 26: Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Pastor Zillinger;

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.

Altar Flowers

The **2025** 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. We have had to **increase the cost to \$30**, and 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.

*Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.*
- Psalm 100:2 -



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

Classes will resume on January 8th.

<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.

Classes will resume on January 5th.

<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

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.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Midweek Adult Classes

- **NEW:** Starting January 6th, a new study on **justification and sanctification** (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.
- **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 and High School Lock-In

Middle and High Schoolers, come on January 17-18 for a Lock-In! We will stay up all night for Bible studies, a midnight service, games, food, and fun. Invite your friends. We will start at 7 p.m. on the 17th and end at 7 a.m. on the 18th. Sign up by going to <https://holycrosscs.churchcenter.com/people/forms/869376>

Parents, please let us know if you are willing to help. Many hands make light work and we will need your help to make the lock-in a success. Contact Chris Abatelli at abbo98@hotmail.com with any questions.

Holy Cross Nursery Now Hiring

Are you interested in serving our youngest members? The Holy Cross Nursery is hiring new workers. Applicants must be at least 14 years old in order to apply. Go to <https://holycrosscs.churchcenter.com/people/forms/329060> or to the Nursery for a hard copy. Please turn your applications in by **January 31**. Interviews will take place in February. Contact Lizz at lizzm@holycrosscs.org or Mrs. Diekelman at HCLNurserycoordinator@holycrosscs.org with any questions.



Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

Upcoming Events

- **January 19 - Mites Sunday** is the third Sunday of each month. All are welcome to drop off donations at the Ministry Center.
 - **January 18 - Pregnancy Center Baby and Toddler Shower.** Starts at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. If you can't make the shower, you are welcome to drop off donations to the Ministry Center. (See invitation below.)
- Save the Date: Evening of March 14 and all day March 15 - Holy Cross Women's Retreat "Come Away..."** Registration will open February 2nd. Childcare will be available.

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**

PREGNANCY CENTER BABY & TODDLER SHOWER

January 18th - 9:30-11 a.m.
Holy Cross Fireside Room

To: Holy Cross and Friends
From: LWML

Come and learn about LifeNetwork and all its wonderful programs in the community. Most needed items: new/gently used clothes and pajamas for 12M-3T, board books, sippy cups, size 5 diapers, diaper rash cream, small gifts for moms (lotion, lip balm, socks, etc.)



Holy Cross Lutheran School

Run to Jesus!

Happy New Year from Holy Cross Lutheran School! We hope you were able to come enjoy the preschool students telling the story of Jesus' birth at our Christmas program "Uncertain Poor Shepherds" in December. They did a fantastic job of sharing the story of salvation.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School will be celebrating **National Lutheran Schools Week January 27-February 2**. Watch the slides and weekly emails for more information on how the school is celebrating and how you can join us in celebrating Lutheran schools.

School enrollment to church members for the 2025-2026 school year will kick off this week as well. The new school year will begin August 4th, 2025. If you are interested in touring the school and receiving more information about registration for the 2025-2026 school year, please contact the school office at hcls@holycrosscs.org. Holy Cross Lutheran School serves children aged 2.5 (and potty-trained) through age 5 (not in kindergarten), plus students in grades kindergarten through 5th grade from Thomas MaClaren Charter School for after school elementary care. To learn more about the school, visit our website.

With enrollment comes a need for staff for the 2025-2026 school year. If you know someone who loves to share Jesus with children, please send them our way. The school's hours are 7:15 a.m. – 5:45 p.m. with several part-time positions available. Interested parties may contact the school office by email at: hcls@holycrosscs.org.

May this year be filled with many blessings,
Mona Book, School Director

Volunteer Need at Our School

We need some volunteers to help walk elementary students from Thomas MaClaren to Holy Cross and others to help with preschool recess. This would be from **2:45-3:30**. Would you be able to make a one-day weekly commitment to help the school for less than an hour? Walkers are needed Wednesday and Thursday and recess help is needed Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Contact the church office at 719-596-0661 or the school at hcls@holycrosscs.org

Middle School Summer Mission Info. Meeting

Middle Schoolers, are you interested in serving the Colorado Springs Community this summer? Come to an informational meeting for a local Middle School Mission Trip this summer on **Wednesday, January 15** after Confirmation (approx. 7:15 p.m.) in Hiller Hall. Contact Lizz at lizzm@holycrosscs.org with any questions.

Never Alone | January 11, 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.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

1 Peter 1:3

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



Position Open

The Community Garden is **seeking new coordinators** for this ministry as Trish and Vern are stepping down. Please call the office if you are interested in learning about this opportunity.

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—singles, couples, teens. You need to arrive 15 minutes before service. Contact Cheryl Dempsey or Bev Smith with questions.

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 at the Ministry Center or email Dennis. dennisamccarth@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. Christineb@holycrosscs.org

Security Team: Keep an eye on doors and people and make sure everyone is safe and where they need to be.

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

Honduras Special Project

The 2025 Holy Cross Honduras mission team is assembled and already in preparations for our trip next March. We have exciting news to share about this year's special project! Pastor Omar has long had a desire to establish a medical clinic in Lepaterique to serve the community. With help from church partners, Betesda church has been able to secure land and is building a first floor which focuses on physical needs.

The next phase is to build a second floor focused on providing mental health trauma and counseling services. Betesda is asking Holy Cross to partner with them to complete this phase. From Pastor Omar: ***"The clinic will aim to receive mothers who have suffered from sexual assaults, children who have suffered physical or psychological abuse, children from the middle school and high school who may be exhibiting aggressive behaviors, and to address multiple forms of discrimination. It will also serve as a support for them and provide counseling."***

Funds raised this year will go toward this project and additionally to support the churches of Santa Redencion and LCMS Good Shepherd in Tegucigalpa.

Honduras Special Project donations can be made through January 19th online through the church donation tile labeled "Honduras Special Projects" or by check to Holy Cross with the same designation in the note. I am so thankful to God for all of our Holy Cross members and their amazing support of Honduras missions!

Update: A generous Holy Cross donor has offered to match the **first \$5000 of donations**.

Looking for a good cup of coffee to start the New Year?

Lepa coffee from our friends in the mountains of Honduras is perfect for any occasion. Help us to sell out our stock before the team returns from the 2025 mission (around March 31st). \$8 per bag at the Ministry Center.



Food Pantry

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

January needs: cereal, macaroni and cheese, jelly. Monetary donations are always appreciated also.

Our **food pantry** has been blessed recently. Kelly says, "Lots of thank you's to hand out! We had 60# of food donated by a member, another 67# from the Bares family, and the FUN Committee brought in 28# from bingo. Madison Elementary brought over 262.5#. And if that wasn't awesome enough, a family at the school decided to match the school's donation and donated another 306 pounds. God is good!!"

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.

Stitchin' Servants | January 4

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.

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

Scrapbooking Group | Jan 18

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.

The scrapbookers took advantage of the lovely Christmas backdrop and snapped a group photo (see photo on the right).



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 **January 7** at 9:30 a.m. in Hiller Hall. Come join the fun and fellowship. Childcare is provided and children are always welcome.
- **Wreaths Across America** – Thanks to those who attended this year's event at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery. Once again, the ceremony was awe-inspiring and well worth attending.



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 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.

Young Adult Game Night Immanuel January 3

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 | Jan 6 | 11:30 am

- **January 6** - Business meeting (election of officers, presentation of 2025 agenda) at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.
- **February 3rd** - Black Eyed Pea at Citadel Crossing. Meal From Menu

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



Online Movie Night

- A company called Catalyst streams Christian movies every Friday and Sunday night at 7 p.m., and they allow churches such as Holy Cross to put them on their websites.
- The movies are not an "on demand" type of thing where you can watch the movie anytime you want. It plays at exactly 7 p.m. and goes from start to finish.

You can see the movie schedule and also access other resources such as study questions at <https://movienights.catalystmovies.com>

The link on our website is near the bottom of our web page holycrosscs.org. This is where you need to go to watch the movie at 7 p.m. Friday or Sunday night. Let us know if you give it a try and tell us what you think.