



HOLY CROSS

LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ENCOURAGING THOSE WHO HUNGER
to be nourished by God.

February 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 - Regular

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 *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 Please read January's Stewardship newsletter article if you have not already. We are learning about our identity and community here at Holy Cross all throughout this year. Stewardship is part of our Christian, Lutheran and Holy Cross identity. God desires of us to be generous, joyful and wise concerning our stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure.

Making Stewardship Easier Each month I will be writing about a simple "tip" or "trick" you can use concerning your stewardship. Last month the simplified stewardship principle was to Evaluate all the good things the Lord has given you at least once a year, either at the beginning of the year or around tax time. These natural cultural times can help us marvel at what all the Lord has given us this past year!

Regularly Paying Your Treasures In our world today, we have many conveniences to help us pay our earthly bills on time. I do remember a time when my father had to pay all bills once a month or once a week by check. I then learned how to use a checkbook. But then my world changed for the better when I began to start paying my bills online electronically! I no longer had to put a lot of mental energy and time into paying my earthly bills. I could set things up to automatically withdraw money or send money to those that I owed. Paying something like my house mortgage became easier and better for me to track. My creditors also liked that I was paying electronically and regularly so I didn't have fines, fees or missed payments.

Weekly or Monthly Giving It is a good and Godly habit to set aside Treasure (money) for your proportional giving to your local congregation (Holy Cross). Usually, I encourage people to give weekly to their church or, at the least, once a month. This is because if you don't make stewardship of Treasure a first fruit habit, you will always begrudge giving money later on. And if your creditors want their money on time, and this is good earthly stewardship, then God would want you to have a regular timed habit of giving your offerings, tithes or proportional giving for your Treasure stewardship. If you haven't already looked at your Treasure stewardship this year, please see if you can regularly give to Holy Cross once a week if not once a month.

Checks vs. Electronic Giving I want to thank all stewards who give to Holy Cross and those who have faithfully, weekly or monthly, written a check and put it in the offering plate. Your giving back to God in your

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stewardship has allowed His ministry to continue at Holy Cross! I would ask you, though, to consider changing the form of offering from writing checks to steady electronic giving. I ask this for a couple of reasons. Firstly, you will find it easier to give every week if it is automatically done. Even when there is 3 feet of snow, you will still be regularly giving in your Treasure stewardship. Secondly, this helps the congregational leadership, and the congregation as a whole, be better stewards as they can better track what offerings come in and what to expect in our budget. As a side note, giving checks in the offering plate can be a physical reminder of stewardship for you or others who see you put them in the offering plate. I recently realized that Holy Cross has around 70% of its regular giving being done by physical check and only 30% by electronic giving. If more members used electronic giving rather than check giving, it would greatly and positively benefit the congregation as a whole. (However, there are other physical ways of putting something in the offering plate when you give electronically so that you, your family and your siblings in Christ can benefit from the physical action of passing the plate. More to come on this later.)

Card vs. Auto Bill Pay Holy Cross has a great avenue of electronic giving to the congregation and to specific areas of need. If you go to our website and use the DONATE tab, you will go to a very easy way for you to regularly give your proportional giving to your congregation. There is one slight “catch,” though. When you use this method, there is a 3% fee charged by the card companies to use this service. You are even asked to help pay for this if you are using this service. It is a good form of regular electronic stewardship, but here is a way for you to not pay the 3% to someone else and give that or your original amount directly to church. You can go to your online banking, go to BILL PAY and then have them regularly deduct/pay to Holy Cross every week or month. You not only get the benefit of regular stewardship, but you can increase your giving by 3% if you desire.

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 regularity beneficial, please 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!

Regularly giving back to God because of all His good gifts to us,
Pastor Zillinger

Note from the President

Nathan Borchers



Welcome to 2025! As we close out 2024 financially, we end the year with **a budget surplus of just over \$21,000**. That’s the good news. As many of you know from attending the Annual Voters' Meeting, we start 2025 with a significant **budgeted deficit of around \$169,000**. That’s the bad news. We will be watching the budget closely and in addition to monthly updates here, we will be providing quarterly discussion of actual budget progress throughout the year and any steps taken or recommended to help ease the projected deficit.

Welcome to **Carma VanOrman** who joins the Board of Directors as a member at large.

We are putting together a committee to help organize events as we look to the **60th anniversary celebration** later this year. **If you would like to be on this committee, please see me or any member of the Board of Directors.**

Finally, as we look to 2025, the Board of Directors has the following goals in addition to our regular work:

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finalize and approve the new revision to the Employee Handbook; review all church policies; review and recommend any changes to the Constitution and by-laws to be approved by the congregation at the Annual Voter's Meeting.

As always, if you have questions, please let me know.

Budget Update (as of Dec 31)

Monthly giving: \$97,266.46

Budgeted Monthly giving: \$95,020.21

Total giving YTD: \$909,397.37

Budgeted Giving YTD: \$940,000.00

Spending YTD: \$1,167,665.91

Budgeted spending YTD: \$1,203,331.00

Current budget surplus: \$21,425.15*

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



2025 Holy Cross Board of Directors

Back Row L to R: Pastor Z, Jim Waldron, Todd Boesdorfer, Nathan Borchers, Trish Gillette

Front Row L to R: Carma VanOrman, Janie Reinhardt, Gretchen Porter, Steffanie Hobelman, Ron Heitz

Not pictured: Kally Handlon, Mike Fluegge

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



2025 Holy Cross Board of Lay Ministry

Back Row L to R: Bill Kenline, David Meyer, Pastor Z, Todd Boesdorfer, Carl Miedich

Front Row L to R: Larry Schumm, Vern Gillette, Joel Larson, Dan Fink, Rick Waters, Dean Reinhardt

Not Pictured: Jeff Faunce

New Communication Process Beginning February 1

For scheduling events, fundraisers, announcements, room usage, etc.

Communication is hard. We are trying to make it easier and more streamlined, so we are launching a new system for requesting rooms, holding events, and making announcements. All of these requests will funnel through **one form** that will get disseminated to the necessary staff or other people. The form is to *request permission*, not a guarantee or permission.

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



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.

Call for Musicians!

Do you have experience playing a musical instrument, and would you enjoy contributing to worship in this way? We often have a need for instruments to accompany special music in the service, and we would love to keep you in mind! Please email Michelle at MichelleM@holycrosscs.org and let us know your name and instrument(s) you would be willing to play for worship. We understand you may not always be available, but this gives us a starting point when instrumental needs arise. Thank you for sharing your gifts!

February 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.

February 2: The Purification of Mary and Presentation of Our Lord; Lutheran Schools Week

Pastor Zillinger; "Dedication to the Lord"; 1 Sam. 1:21-28

February 9: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany; Scout Sunday

Pastor Zillinger; "Don't Rock the Boat"; Luke 5:1-11

February 16: Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany; Special Anniversary Recognition

Pastor Zillinger; "Your Valentine Present"; 1 Cor. 15:1-20

One Blended Service

10 a.m. on February 23

February 23: Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany; New Member Reception

Pastor Zillinger; "Bless the Lord"; Psalm 103

We are planning to celebrate our new members by having one blended service on 2/23.

9 a.m. - intergenerational Bible study in the sanctuary;

9:30 a.m. - refreshments in Hiller Hall;

10 a.m. - worship

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

<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.

[Intergenerational Bible study on 2/23 at 9 a.m.]

<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.

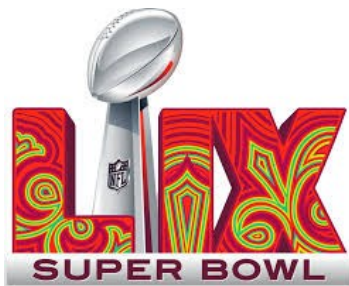
“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

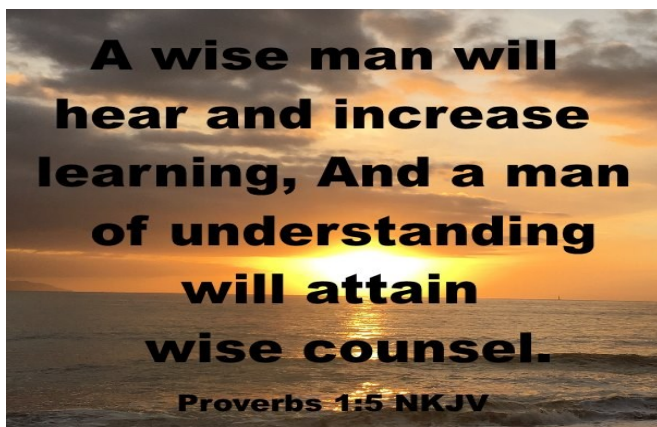
Midweek Adult Classes

- **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.
- **James, Peter, John & Jude** (men's study) meets on Thursdays at 6 a.m. at Wade's Café. Led by Neil Ridenour.
- **NEW: Belonging to Christ & One Another** (women's study) meets on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Led by Cheryl Dempsey and Karen Givens. "***We just started on Wednesday January 22. We would love to have you join us! We meet Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 at the home of Karen Givens.***"
- **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.

Youth Super Bowl Party Feb 9 4-8 p.m.



Middle and High Schoolers, come to a Super Bowl Party at Holy Cross. Watch the game, hang out with friends, and enjoy delicious food! Bring food to share potluck style. Let Michelle know if you can make it at michellem@holycrosscs.org.



Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

Upcoming Events

- **February 9 - "Soup"-er Bowl Sunday.** Donate canned soups for our food pantry. Use the large soup can bin at the Ministry Center.
- **February 16 - Mites Sunday** is the third Sunday of each month. All are welcome to drop off donations at the Ministry Center.

We Need Your Help

We have a faithful group of people who are reaching out to our homebound, ill, and elderly members through "Care Card Connections," and they could use your help in keeping this ministry going with **donations of cards** (thinking of you, get well, sympathy, birthday, blank, etc.). It's okay if they do or don't have envelopes. Another huge blessing would be donations of **postage stamps**. Any donations can be dropped off at the Ministry Center. Thank you so much!

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**

Come Away... Women's Retreat Evening of March 14 and all day March 15

At this retreat, you will be inspired to connect deeper with Christ while also enjoying connection with other Christian women through fellowship, crafts, and a service project. Register at the Ministry Center from 2/2-3/2. Cost is \$35. Childcare is available if you request it at registration. Space is limited, so register early.



Holy Cross Lutheran School

Run to Jesus!

The school had so much fun celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week this past week. We cannot wait to celebrate with you all on February 2. Join us for an **Open House between services**. School children will also be present at the 11 a.m. service to sing. What a blessing to be a part of such a large and vital system in our country!

Holy Cross Lutheran School is opening registration to church families, for the 2025-2026 school year, on February 2, 2025. There is a discount for members of the congregation. Please email the school office at: hcls@holycrosscs.org if you would like more information about our Christ-centered high quality program serving children aged two and a half (and potty-trained) through age 5 (not in kindergarten). Plus, after school elementary care for kindergarten through 5th grade students attending Thomas MaLaren Charter School. Spaces will fill up quickly. You can also check us out, and register, on the church's website: holycrosscs.org/school.

Thank you for telling others about our Christ-centered program as well. The events hosted at Holy Cross are an important part of the school mission. Events like the Easter Encounter, Fall Festival and Vacation Bible School draw in families from our community and several of those families end up back here to enroll their child(ren) in our school. Please continue to share the school with others.

"Love one another. As I have loved you, you must also love one another" (John 13:34).

Mona Book, School Director

Volunteer Need at Our School

We need some volunteers to help walk elementary students from Thomas MaLaren 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

Never Alone | February 8, 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.



Youth Bowling and Laser Tag

Feb. 28 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Cost- \$19

Main Event- 1180 Interquest Parkway, 80921

Middle and High Schoolers, come for a night of fun at Main Event! For only \$19, we will have 1 hour of bowling, laser tag, 2 slices of pizza, a medium soft drink, and a \$10 fun card for the arcade. Students will get dropped off and picked up from Main Event. Bring your \$19 to Main Event.

Please let Lizz know if you are coming **BY Friday, February 21**. We need to get finalized numbers to Main Event 5 days before the event. Let Lizz know if you have any questions.

Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

ROMANS 12:11 (ESV)





5-Course Valentine's Dinner |

Feb.14 Seatings between 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Student Ministry is providing a special Valentine's Dinner for adults only. Three main entrees to choose from (filet mignon, salmon, or chicken). Stop by the Ministry Center for more information and to RSVP. Cost is \$30 per person and all proceeds support student missions.

Couples/Marriage Seminar on Communication

Feb. 15, noon to 3 p.m. | Hiller Hall

"To keep your marriage brimming with love, whenever you're wrong, admit it; whenever you're right, shut up." Ahh. The art of communication in relationships is a beautiful thing that we so often get wrong, don't we? Couples, whether you have just started dating, you've been married for a month or 50 years, we can all learn something new. Come to a short marriage seminar on communication led by Carl Miedich and Pastor Z. Lunch will be provided. Freewill donation. **Please sign up at the Ministry Center**, so we have enough food.

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

Honduras Special Project

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who helped contribute to this year's special project! The match challenge one of our donors offered was completely **met and exceeded**. We will be able to help Betesda complete the mental health portion of the Lepaterique clinic and also further bless the churches of Betesda, Santa Redención and Good Shepherd LCMS with whom we partner. You are all such a blessing from God!

The mission team is continuing to meet and prepare for our upcoming trip in March. Check out the [Holy Cross social media page](#) to learn more about this year's participants (and to follow along on our trip in March). We are currently collecting supplies through the giving tree and also seeking participants for prayer partners. Please seek out a mission trip participant at the ministry center for more details. We are so thankful for your support!

***Giving Tree items are due back on February 16th**

Looking for a good cup of coffee?

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.



Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. *Rom 12:10*

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.



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.

Stitchin' Servants | Feb 15

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.

Food Pantry

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

February needs: small bottles of oil, small packages of flour/sugar, eggs and egg cartons. Monetary donations are always appreciated also.

If you are curious- 2024 saw **2945.65 hours donated by volunteers.** Thank you, volunteers, you are a true blessing! If you are interested in serving at the food pantry- we would love to have you. Please reach out to Kelly Carter mrs_kelc@yahoo.com. There are direct service positions as well as behind-the-scenes roles.



Save the Date:

All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Dinner

March 5

The 2025 Honduras Mission Team will host a free will offering pancake dinner on Ash Wednesday, March 5, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in Hiller Hall to help offset travel expenses of the team. Please join us for all the pancakes and fixings you can eat!

As modeled by Jesus,

we will build a **WELCOMING** community.

Scrapbooking Group | Feb 15

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: janetgrangruth@msn.com or 719-638-6874.

Young At Heart | Feb 3 | 11:30 am

- February 3rd - Black Eyed Pea at Citadel Crossing. Meal From Menu
- March 3 - Edelweiss German Restaurant

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

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 **February 4** at 9:30 a.m. in Hiller Hall. Come join the fun and fellowship. Childcare is provided and children are always welcome.



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 Immanuel

February 7

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.



Fellowship BINGO

February 8 | 5:00

FUN Committee is hosting a **FREE, DINNER INCLUDED**, BINGO night. We would love to have YOU join us. Feel free to bring your family, neighbor, friend, or come make new friends. Please sign up at the Ministry Center. so we will have enough food.

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.

