



HOLY CROSS

LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ENCOURAGING THOSE WHO HUNGER
to be nourished by God.

March 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

Acts 20:16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

Simplified Stewardship - Festivals

Simplified Stewardship Please read the previous newsletter articles to learn more about stewardship.

Simplified Stewardship Treasure #1 - At the beginning of the year, evaluate your income and assets to regularly and proportionally give to your congregation. 2 Corinthians 8:3 Simplified Stewardship Treasure #2 - Regularly, weekly/monthly, give to your congregation your treasure stewardship. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Making Stewardship Easier Each month I will be writing about a simple “tip” or “trick” you can use concerning your stewardship. This month we will look at our Time stewardship and a simple way to be more connected to God and our church family.

Yearly Calendar I am amazed at how many households don't run on a monthly or yearly calendar. Yes, we have automated devices and programs to help us. But often these things help the individual but don't help the family. In our old home (and soon to be in our new home) we had a family calendar written and seen by all the family on a whiteboard by our kitchen. It contained our life, responsibilities, coordination, and fun. As we prepared our house to sell, we took it down and our family began to feel out of touch with time and not connected with each other. We felt lost because we didn't have a touch point on the times: years, seasons, months, weeks, and days in our household. Time, in our day and age, is now a more precious commodity than money. God wants us to be good stewards of our time in service to Him, our family, our church, and our community.

Yearly Festivals In the Old Testament, God's children were on a strictly commanded timetable. They knew their identity of who they were and what they did based on the day of the year and month. God even required them to keep certain festivals and times so as to remind them of His Grace and to make them more of a light to the nations as they practiced differently than their dark world. There were 3 major festivals that they even had to save up for as the family was expected to go to Jerusalem for them. Then there were church festivals for their community and their family to celebrate. God desired them to be on His timetable for their benefit and for their neighbor's benefit.

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Christian Yearly Festivals How many of you have your calendars marked for when Easter, the Resurrection of our Lord, happens this year? How many of you know when Pentecost happens or even on what day of the week Christmas happens? Have you set your family calendar as to when secular festivals happen like Thanksgiving or paid holidays? Do you know specific days of Christian celebration all throughout the year and have them marked on your calendar? I have a simple request. Get out your yearly calendar and mark the Christian festivals of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost (even more if you can!). Then coordinate with your whole family when you are going to worship that day. What special things do you all want to do during that time, and how do you all want to celebrate what God has done for you in Christ during those festivals? All it takes is a calendar that everyone in the family accesses, a highlighted title, and a short description of what you want to do.

Not Required but Best Practice You are not required to do anything for your salvation. That is a fact in your justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. However, as a Christian disciple, you oftentimes do what is best practice to follow and witness Christ better. Paul, in our text, even though he was free in the Gospel to “blow off” his traditional festivals, was excited to still celebrate them in Christ Jesus! Treat your stewardship of time as a best Christian practice. Become more of a disciplined disciple as you follow Jesus. Christian festivals are all designed to point us back to Jesus Christ our Lord, and they are a great way for you to witness to your neighbor.

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 festivals 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 all the new members, what a great sight to see on Sunday the 23rd!

January was cold, snowy with lots of sickness – I’m glad it’s gone. Our financial situation reflected the month. Giving was less than budgeted and due to some front loaded expenses, spending exceeded budget. We do expect spending to get back on budget in the next few months. The Board of Directors is continuing to closely watch our financial status.

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

Budget Update (as of Jan 31)

Monthly giving: \$53,414.20

Total giving YTD: \$53,414.20

Spending YTD: \$118,821.31

Current budget deficit: \$-42,918.22*

Budgeted Monthly giving: \$60,886.92

Budgeted Giving YTD: \$60,886.92

Budgeted spending YTD: \$106,949.50

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

New Communication Process

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.

March marks the one-year anniversary of Pastor Zillinger's ministry at Holy Cross.

Happy Anniversary Pastor Zillinger!

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

March 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.

March 2: Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany

Pastor Zillinger; "Chosen, Changed, Challenged"; Deut 34:1-12, Heb. 3:1-6, Luke 9:28-36

March 9: First Sunday in Lent

Pastor Zillinger; "Fruit Basket Upset"; Deut. 26:1-11, Rom. 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

March 16: Second Sunday in Lent; Honduras Team Commissioning

Pastor Zillinger; "Tale of Two Citizens"; Jer. 26:8-15, Phil. 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35

March 23: Third Sunday in Lent; Hillside Choir Visit

Pastor Zillinger; "Following His Footsteps"; Ezek. 33:7-20, Psalm 85, 1 Cor. 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Pastor Zillinger; "Prodigal Moment"; Isaiah 12:1-6, 2 Cor. 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Our nursery is open for children under 4 during Sunday services and Sunday School. Children 3+ and potty trained can attend Sunday School.

Upcoming Concert

March 23

Hillcrest Lutheran Academy, Fergus Falls, MN, classical choir is touring in our area and will be performing a concert in Holy Cross Lutheran Church Sanctuary at 3 p.m. on Sun. Mar. 23. They will also be singing at Holy Cross for 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services. All are welcome to enjoy this talented choir.



SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND
SERVICES FOR LENT

Join us for
Midweek Lenten Service

Beginning Wednesday, March 5

- 11:30 a.m. (morning prayer)
- 7:15 p.m. (evening prayer)

Pick up your
FREE Lenten Devotional
at the Ministry Center

40 DAYS

Week 1: FORGIVER
Week 2: HEALER
Week 3: LISTENER
Week 4: ENCOURAGER
Week 5: PROTECTOR
Week 6: COMFORTER

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

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.

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.

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



Thank You for Supporting Our Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser!

We raised over **\$1900** towards youth missions and had a good time doing it. Guests gave the food and service rave reviews! Be on the lookout for another opportunity to participate next February.

Youth Butter Braid Fundraiser March 2-16

Support our Youth going on mission trips by buying Butter Braids! Butter Braids are a delicious pastry that are a wonderful addition to your breakfast or dessert tables. The Youth will be selling Butter Braids in person from March 2-16.

Save the Dates:

The Youth will be hosting **Easter Breakfast** on April 20. Be on the lookout later this month for ways to help support the Youth.

Easter Encounter

Saturday, April 12 from 10-noon

We will also need volunteers and candy. See the Ministry Center for a candy bucket and more information on Sunday, March 16

Wednesday Night

[No class on March 5 for Ash Wednesday.

No class on March 26 for spring break.]

· 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.

<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.

New Class Starting March 9: The Resurrection Study

The overall purpose of this course is to provide an overview on the historical evidence that supports the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The goal is to help individuals understand the most significant pieces of evidence supporting the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Class runs March 9-April 13. Led by Mike Forbis.

New Member Basics Class Starting Again March 23

This class is intended for those who have completed Lutheranism 101 or who are transferring from another LCMS church. The class is a great opportunity to meet other new people and be introduced to the ministries and leadership of Holy Cross.



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.
- **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.

Middle and High School Game Night

Friday March 14

6-8 p.m. at Holy Cross

Bring your favorite board games for a night of fun! Weather permitting, we will get to do some outdoor games too! Bring your friends and a snack to share, if you would like. Please eat dinner beforehand. Let Lizz know if you can come.

Never Alone | March 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.



Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

Upcoming Events

- **March 5 - Ash Wednesday Soup Luncheon** - after the midday service. Menu: chicken noodle soup, rolls, crackers, brownies. Freewill offering supports LWML missions voted on in May.
- **March 16 - Mites Sunday** is the 3rd Sunday of each month. All are welcome to drop off donations at the Ministry Center.
- **Save the Date: April 26 - Mother/Daughter Tea**

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 children were so happy to be part of the worship last month. We thank you so much for attending the Open House in the school and for being so welcoming to the children and their families.

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is still open.

To register for next year, please go to the website: holycrosscs.org/school and click on the Register tab.

Thank you for telling others about our Christ-centered program serving children age 2.5, potty-trained, through 5, not in kindergarten. More information can be found out or tours can be set up by contacting the school office at hcls@holycrosscs.org. Please continue to share the school with families in our church and community.

The school is **seeking eligible candidates** to serve in all positions to work with preschool and elementary students for next school year as well. We offer flexible, part-time hours Monday through Friday, during the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Interested persons may send a resume to: hcls@holycrosscs.org.

Your continued prayers are always welcome.

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



You **heard** them in worship on 2/2, but now you can **see** some of them who made a joyful noises unto the Lord.

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

Stitchin' Servants | March 22

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.

Community Garden

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.

Endowment Fund Grant Applications

If your ministry could use some extra funds for supplies or a special project, complete an application for a grant from the Endowment Fund. Contact Don Paulus 719-650-8680 or Mary Lu Dietzman at 505-870-7136 for more information or pick up an application at the office or Ministry Center.

Deadline March 15

Honduras Special Project

Final Preparations

The Holy Cross Honduras Mission Team is in final preparations. We will be commissioned on Sunday, March 16th and head to the Denver airport on the 19th. The next few weeks will be a whirlwind of packing and final preparations. We appreciate your continued prayers and encouragement, and we especially thank all who helped out with the giving tree or have signed up to be prayer partners!

Special Project Update

God's bounty and your generosity have continued to amaze! Not only were we able to help Betesda with all the requested materials for the next phase of the clinic — building the concrete roof of the first floor which will also provide the flooring for the second floor mental health area — we have been able to provide even more funds towards additional clinic needs. We also learned of some special needs from our brothers and sisters at Good Shepherd in Tegucigalpa — community outreach materials, reinforced shelving for Bibles and hymnals, and expansion to storage so that they no longer have to keep church materials in their homes — and God, through you, has met those needs as well! We are so thankful and in awe of our amazing God and His people. **Thank you!**

We would love to see you all on **Ash Wednesday** where we will be happy to serve you a delicious breakfast for dinner before the evening service. We would love to answer any questions you might have also.

Drivers Needed

March 19 and March 28

The Honduras Team is still **in need of drivers** to help transport people and luggage to and from the Denver airport. If you can help, **even just one way**, you can contact me (Christine) via email or the church office 719-596-0661 or contact Jim at mccormjd@yahoo.com.

- The trip to Denver starts at 7:30 p.m. on March 19th at Holy Cross.
- The return flight arrives in Denver on March 28th at 11:37 p.m.

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.



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.

Stephen Ministry

Holy Cross is reinitiating Stephen Ministry. Carl Miedich has volunteered to go through Leader Training, and once that is complete, we will have Stephen Minister training classes for those interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or who want to refresh their old training. More to be announced this spring and summer. Please check out their website to see if you would be interested in becoming a Stephen Minister here at Holy Cross. Contact Carl to be put on his interested contact list, cmiedich@liberty.edu



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.

Food Pantry

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

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

Thank you, congregation, for the many donations of food items, egg cartons, prayers and continued tithes. Our patrons are blessed to have you. I would also like to give a big shout out to our **volunteers**. Not all superheros wear capes- sometimes they wear bright green food pantry shirts! If you want to see some hard physical labor happening, come check us out on Tuesday morning. We would love to have a few more volunteers to hand out groceries and/or marshal.

Please reach out to Kelly Carter (mrs_kelc@yahoo). There are direct service positions as well as behind-the-scenes roles.

As modeled by Jesus,

we will build a **WELCOMING** community.

Scrapbooking Group | Mar 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.

Concordia Seward Wind Symphony Tour | Immanuel Lutheran Church March 7 at 7 p.m.

The theme of this year's tour will be the text of Romans 8:38-39: "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The band is under the direction of Robert Cody, Assistant Professor of Music at Concordia Nebraska. Admission to concerts is free, and free-will offerings will be collected at each concert to assist with tour costs.

Young At Heart | Mar 3 | 11:30 am

- **March 3** - Edelweiss German Restaurant
- **April 7th** - Immanuel Lutheran Church, meal by "Roger." Program presented by Mark Dickerson entitled "The Tuskegee Airmen."

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

Living Last Supper Presentation

April 5 at 7 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church, 1310 Evergreen Heights Drive, Woodland Park, will present a drama titled *The Living Last Supper* on Saturday, April 5, at 7 p.m. During this presentation, each of Jesus' disciples (played by members of Faith) speak of how they met the Savior and how He changed their lives. As they gather in the upper room for the Passover meal, they will share their reactions to the words of Jesus as He says, "One of you will betray me." Come and discover the drama of that Last Supper! There is no cost – invite your friends and neighbors – this is a fantastic way to share your faith! If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 719-687-2303 or go to faithteller.org



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 **March 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.

SAVE THE DATE

BENEFIT CONCERT

Saturday March, 15th Doors open at 5:00 Band starts at 6:00 Entry: Minimum \$10 donation

*Free will childcare will be available!



ALL proceeds from this event will be donated to Searchlight Foundation



**LIVE PERFORMANCE
FOOD TRUCKS
FELLOWSHIP
GIVING BACK**

Family of Christ Lutheran Church
675 W Baptist Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

*Carter * Fisher * Hov * Riggs*

Searchlight exists to engage in intelligence-gathering, investigation and work in tandem with law enforcement, government and military throughout the United States and foreign jurisdictions to aid in and facilitate the location and recovery of children, women and boys who are victims of human sex and labor trafficking/slavery, and to provide assistance to such law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies as are appropriate in the arrest, prosecution, mitigation and termination of the illegal actions of those engaged in such human trafficking; and to do everything necessary, proper, advisable or convenient for the accomplishment of the purposes set forth in its Articles of Incorporation, and to do all other things incidental thereto or connected therewith.



Create in me a clean heart,
O God; and renew
a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10