

May 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

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

Simplified Stewardship Time #1 – Schedule your yearly calendar based on God's Festivals in Christ. Acts 20:16



Our Synod (LC-MS) has tried to simply define what it means to be a steward, God's child living in God's kingdom. Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of God's family — the church — in managing all of life's resources for His purposes.

Time, Talent, and Treasure

God has given you all things in Christ Jesus as a gift for His kingdom, for your neighbor, and eventually for your enjoyment. Many will simplify stewardship by saying it encompasses all of our Time, Talent, and Treasure. All that we do, each day, how we plan, and what we accomplish is all considered our stewardship of time. Our abilities, desires, strengths, weaknesses, and vocations are all considered our stewardship of talent. Our possessions, our income, our expenses, and our wealth are all considered our stewardship of treasure.

Time

God has redeemed you out of slavery of sin, from the devil, and from the sinful world. He has called you to be His child, a co-heir with Jesus Christ, and to work in His business according to His will. You are now a Christian steward of all the time that God has given you! You are no longer in control of your calendar. You



first have to look at your Master, Jesus Christ, and His Word in Scripture as to scheduling your life – your year, month, week, and days. So many Christians waste their time on sinful pleasures. They squander their time on earthly things that do not matter. They focus their time on themselves rather than on God and others. But God considers you a great manager of the time He has given you!

Talent

You are created by God the Father to be a specifically unique individual with amazing talents. You have been redeemed by God to live a life justified in Christ. You have been sanctified by God to live out this life in service to Him and to others. You have vocations of what God has called you to be and do - mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, member of a congregation, worker, etc. He has given you your abilities, your interests, your hobbies, your struggles, and your achievements. All these things have been graciously given to you so that you may work in His Kingdom and business, being productive in producing His fruit and sharing His generosity in service to Him and others.

Treasure

God has given you all your possessions and wealth. Now you use all of them in service to Him. That also means you give back to Him through your congregation (usually called a Tithe or Proportional Giving), through free will offerings in addition to those, and through your daily spending of your wealth. It isn't your house, your property, your wealth, your stocks, your investments, your bank account, or your cash. All these things are God's, and He has generously lent them to you to manage on His behalf for His kingdom. So, we look to His Word and will as to how best to serve Him with all our wealth and income.

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 and definition 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. I also ask that you share this with others in our congregation, as many have not yet read these newsletter articles or seen the Sunday morning slides. We joyfully learn and grow from and with each other as we are connected here at Holy Cross!

Living and growing in what it means to be a steward of God,

Pastor Zillinger

Note from the President

Nathan Borchers



March was a better month financially, but this will continue to be a challenging year and we are watching it closely. Overall numbers are below.

After years of service in multiple roles, Ron Heitz, our Treasurer needed to step down. We appreciate his service and thank God for all he has done over the years for Holy Cross. Janie Reinhardt (our Secretary) has moved over and stepped into the Treasurer role. We are now working to fill the Secretary position, which may come from someone already on the board. Regardless, we will need to find one more person for the Board to

fill the vacancy. If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors, please let me know.

I know a lot of people are wondering about the garden. After years of serving as the garden leaders, Trish and Vern Gillette stepped down from that role. We truly appreciate their service and all they have done. After not finding anyone to step into that role, I have decided to lead the garden efforts. I'm not sure what 2025 will look like as we hope to have several work days to do some needed improvements and repairs. More to follow soon.

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

Budget Update (as of March 31)

Monthly giving: \$ 99,761.46 Budgeted Monthly giving: \$ 94,853.70 Total giving YTD: \$ 227,971.45 Budgeted Giving YTD: \$ 232,452.06 Spending YTD: \$ 336,901.98 Budgeted spending YTD: \$ 338,262.17

Current budget deficit: \$-42,450.89 *

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

New Sunday Schedule

From Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend, Holy Cross will join together and worship as a church family in a single service at **9 a.m.** with fellowship and Bible study for all ages to follow at **10:30 a.m.**

This streamlined schedule gives us more opportunity for fellowship events, service events, and connection with each other during the summer as we ramp up and get excited for our regular scheduling.

Worship - 9 a.m. with rotating service styles

Bible study - 10:30 a.m.

May 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.

May 4: Third Sunday of Easter; Senior Anointing Guest Pastor Rick Johnson

May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day; New Member Recognition

Pastor Zillinger

May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter; Armed Forces Day Chaplain Flor

May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter; Beginning of Summer Worship schedule with ONE SERVICE at 9 a.m. Pastor Zillinger

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.

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

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.

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

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

Wednesday Night

[Last class May 21]

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

Class Title/Level	<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.

[Last Regular Class May 18 - Summer Sunday School begins June 1 at 10:30.]

Class Title/Level	<u>Location</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Baptism (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



Midweek Adult Classes

- 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.
- Psalms: A New Song. All of Your Wonderful Deeds (women's study) meets on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Led by Cheryl Dempsey and 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.

Summer Sunday School Help Wanted

I am looking for people willing to serve as Summer Sunday School Assistants and Substitute Teachers. An Assistant is someone who helps the main teacher with teaching, supplies, and classroom management and engages with the students. A Substitute Teacher is someone who can fill in when the main teacher is unable to teach. We will have 4 classes, Prek-1st Grade, 2nd-5th Grade, 6th-8th Grade, and 9th-12th Grade. Summer Sunday School will run from June 1-August 24. For more information, contact Lizz at lizzm@holycrosscs.org.

Never Alone | May 10, 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.

VBS

June 9-13 Register Now

Join us for the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaci-



ers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today, but Jesus is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! Monday-Friday, 9-noon,

FREE. https://vbspro.events/p/a149e4 Sign up sheets for volunteers are also by the mailboxes.



Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

Upcoming Events

- RADA Knife Sales great gifts for weddings, graduation, Mother's Day, Father's Day. Sample knives and other information at the Ministry Center.
- May 11 Mother's Day Baby bottle Boomerang Fundraiser for LifeNetwork. Baby bottles will be handed out on 5/11 and will be returned on Father's Day 6/15. Fill the bottle with checks made out to LifeNetwork, cash, or coins.
- May 13 Annual LWML gathering at 6pm in Hiller Hall. Chicken Salad croissants will be provided.
 Please bring salad or dessert. MANY LWML board positions are open. Please pray about volunteering & contact your Circle leader for information prior to 13 May.
- May 18 Mites Sunday is the third Sunday of each month. All are welcome to drop off donations at the Ministry Center.
- June 7 Colorado Springs Walk for Life We need a CONGREGATIONAL champion. Contact Kay McCarthy for information

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

Holy Cross Lutheran School

Run to Jesus!

It seems like just yesterday we walked back into the classroom – it's hard to believe the school year is drawing to a close! The students are still actively enjoying events.

You are invited to our Graduation!

They would also like to invite you all to the preschool Graduation and Moving Up ceremony on Wednesday, May 7th at 11 am in the church sanctuary. The preschoolers are excited to recite the Bible verses and songs they've learned throughout the past year!



The preschool held a fun **trike-a-thon** to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. They not only helped other children with life threatening illnesses but also learned some bike/trike safety in the process.

Hiring for next year

Do you have any experience with children aged 5-13? Would you like some experience with children aged 5-13? Are you a retired teacher? Are you a high school or college student? Are you available 1, 2, 3, or 5 days a week from 2:30-5:45 pm? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then the school needs you! We greatly need help with our after school elementary program. If you are interested in applying, or even just a conversation, please email me at hcls@holycrosscs.org. We are happy to accept resumes for other positions as well. The school is open 7:15 am – 5:45 pm, Monday-Friday from August-May, with varied shifts available.

Thank YOU!

Thank you to all of you for the support this school year as we work to share Jesus with the students and families of the school. Know that all support is greatly appreciated, whether it is through prayer, monetary donations, time commitments, or any other capacity, thank you!!

This year has been wonderful as we 'Run to Jesus' in all that we do, since He is always there for us. We look forward to next school year filled with learning, growing, and sharing Christ's love.

Mona Book, School Director

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

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

Food Pantry

HOURS: Open Mondays & Tuesdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Current needs: *Progresso soups, crackers.*Monetary donations are always appreciated also.

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

Honduras Special Project

Greetings to all of you! I am thrilled to report that we have safely concluded our 2025 trip to Honduras. We had 18 travelers depart for Denver on March 19th and return to their homes in the early morning hours on Saturday, March 29th.

There are so many blessings that God provided over the course of the trip that I cannot possibly recount them all, but I will share a few highlights.

In Lepaterique, we were able to see firsthand the incredible progress that Pastor Omar has made



on the community clinic. The Holy Cross men joined in with ~ 40 men from Betesda church as we mixed concrete with hand tools, loaded it into buckets, and carried tons of concrete up the stairs one bucket at a time to complete the 1st floor roof and provide the foundation for what will become a mental health area for the clinic. The raw materials were all provided by the Holy Cross special project fundraiser. It was a further joy for me to recognize four men helping as recipients of a roof for their home from former Holy Cross special projects as well. Several of our older sponsor children were also there, working alongside the men of their church. It was hard work, but a joy to be able to participate and encourage. As continued reassurance of Pastor Omar's good stewardship, there were additional funds remaining from what Holy Cross sent and he intends to continue using those funds further building out the clinic, focusing next on the walls for the second floor.

The "main event" for our time in Lepaterique was the VBS at the field in Cirmatagua. Over 500 children from the surrounding villages participated as we sang songs, presented a skit about Jesus (almost entirely in Spanish!), and played carnival games. We then helped with distributing a meal to 1,025 men, women, and children. Just further showing God's blessings, Holy Cross' impact, and Pastor Omar's stewardship, the meal's protein was from the slaughter of two pigs which were purchased by sales of eggs from chickens purchased two years ago by members of Holy Cross.

The team had in-person visits with 28 children directly sponsored by team members. It is always such a joy to see those connections made, whether for a first time or when it is like visiting extended family. The mission team further hand-delivered an additional 57 gifts from Holy Cross members and friends who also sponsor children. (Only 9 of the 57 children were not present to meet with a Holy Cross team member.) The team shared stories and took notes, prayer requests, and pictures and are delivering those back to their sponsor families.

We further conducted a family night event with ~20 families, shared a meal and visited with 10 university students partially supported by Holy Cross, and attended two weddings and Sunday morning worship. We then transitioned back to Tegucigalpa, sharing a final "fun" day and blessed 24 of the Betesda staff with a small gift of appreciation for all they do for Betesda throughout the year.

In Tegucigalpa, we were able to do VBS for ~ 40 children at Santa Redencion. This is the first trip since Santa Redencion ended its partnership with Compassion International. The young children now only visit the church on Saturdays for learning and meals. They were so grateful that Holy Cross continued to visit them faithfully as they are struggling somewhat with the Compassion change. However, Pastor Jorge, remains optimistic and he is very excited about his desire to establish vocational opportunities for older youth. About 110 youth have already made it through a first introductory workshop in a variety of fields including jewelry making, barbering,

baking, carpentry, and electrical. He is developing ways that Holy Cross and other churches could potentially partner further to reach more children and help equip them spiritually and vocationally. Hopefully more to come on that.

We also visited Casa David and one of the local public hospitals. At the hospital, we provided care packages including food and toys for young children. At Casa David (which is like a Ronald McDonald house), we were able to present a devotion, sing, and visit/pray with patients/family members while providing a meal for them and staff.

We had a few of our veterans become ill over the course of the trip, but Susan McCormack,





our medical team lead, quickly provided excellent care. Prayer requests were being fervently relayed back home and Holy Cross prayer warriors were engaged. It was such a joy after several days of having one or more participants have to sit out to rest to again be at full strength as we visited Good Shepherd LCMS in Comayaguela for VBS, worship, and a meal with their staff. The VBS had ~70 children, but they were so excited to see us return, we received a welcome there that nearly rivaled in volume the 500 in Cirmatagua. Aaron Tisdale, former Holy Cross member who is currently in the SMP, led the worship service and the congregation responded natively in both English and Spanish simultaneously. It was a challenge at the beginning of the service, but as we started the Lord's prayer both the English and Spanish somehow synchronized, the language barrier evaporated, and we were all praying the prayer Jesus taught us as one body in Christ. Such a humbling and powerful moment.

God blessed this trip from beginning to end and I am thankful for the hearts and minds of the entire travel team. They are all wonderful children of God! It has been amazing for me personally to see how God continues to drive change and growth both in Honduras and Colorado Springs each year. On behalf of all of our friends there, please know that they are so incredibly grateful for the love, support, encouragement, and prayers provided by Holy Cross. I cannot say thank you enough from myself, the team, and our brothers and sisters in Honduras to the Holy Cross staff, prayer partners, drivers, countless other volunteers, and the congregation. Thank you.

Blessings, Kevin

Honduras Coffee | Buy Now - Price Increase Soon

Honduras coffee is available for purchase at the Ministry Center. By purchasing this coffee, you are helping provide employment for several families. Get it while the getting is good - \$8 per package. When we start selling the newly arrived coffee, the price will be \$9 per bag.



Stitchin' Servants | May 17

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.

Lutheran Kindergarten Opportunity

Rock of Ages Lutheran church is going to begin offering kindergarten for the 2025-2026 school year. Registration has already begun. School starts August 11th. For more information:

rockofagespreschool@gmail.com or 719-632-9394. (It is the Circuit's long-term goal to once again have Lutheran grade school education here in the Springs. A thriving kindergarten is one step in that direction.)

Garden Update

After several years of running the Holy Cross garden, Trish and Vern Gillette have stepped down — we so very much appreciate all their hard work and all they have done! **Nathan Borchers** has stepped into the garden leadership role. After careful review and several discussions, it has been decided this year will largely be a year to focus on some of the repairs and upgrades / updates needed in the garden. That said, returning gardeners who have plots and wish to garden this year will be able to do so, but support may be limited as we prioritize the entire garden and look to the future. Be on the lookout for work days and help needed in the next few months. Reach out to Nathan with questions or contact the church office and we will connect you.

As modeled by Jesus,

we will build a **WELCOMING** community.

Ultrasound Preventive Health Screenings

Monday May 12 in Hiller Hall

11 ultrasound screenings are provided for \$200. Space fills quickly, so schedule now. Call 602.254.7130 to schedule or book online at https://rightpathscreenings.org/upcoming-screening -events Offered by RightPath, not affiliated with Holy Cross Lutheran Church & School. Flyers with more details at the Ministry Center or viewed here.

Young At Heart | May 5 | 11:30 am

- May 5th Holy Cross Lutheran Church
- June 2—Fargo's Pizza, order from menu. No program.

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

Lutheran Hour Ministry Changes

Changes to The Lutheran Hour® broadcast are coming to our area. The program's final broadcast on KOA 850 AM was on April 27, 2025. To find other airings, visit lhm.org/guide. The weekly broadcast of The Lutheran Hour is also available at lutheranhour.org, on the Connected by LHM mobile app, on Sirius XM Family Talk Channel, and platforms like Spotify, iHeartRadio, dialing in on your phone, and more.

Scrapbooking Group | May 17

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 719-9638-6874 or janetgrangruth@msn.com. Room Change: We will meet in room 102 this month.

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
May 6 at 9:30 a.m. in Hiller Hall. Come join the fun and
fellowship. Childcare is provided and children are always
welcome.



Roster Updates:

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 <u>Holy Cross Armed Forces Ministry</u>. 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.

Class of 1975 Reunion - Lutheran High School - August 2, 2025 at Lutheran High School in Parker

The reunion committee wants to get the word out for anyone that they don't have contact information for that was a part of the class of 1975 and would like to attend! Please contact:

Connie Holway Van Skike (831) 521-1346 cavanskike@gmail.com

If you know of some 1975 grads or want to put the word out, I know the committee would greatly appreciate it. We have been blessed to host several 50 year reunions over the last few years on our campus.

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 here.

The link on our website is near the bottom of our landing page. 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.

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.

John 11:25 (English Standard Version)