



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.



2026 Holy Cross Milestone Statement

United in our Mission at Holy Cross, we walk together in community

Holy Cross Mission Statement

Gathered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, we live in the Father's forgiveness, show mercy, proclaim the Gospel, and grow disciples of Jesus Christ.

Simplified Stewardship – Prioritizing Sabbaths

Please read the previous newsletter articles to learn more about Christian 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

Simplified Stewardship, Time, Talent, Treasure #1 – Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of God's family — the church — in managing all of life's resources for His purposes. Luke 12:42

Simplified Stewardship, Talent #1 – Be available to your siblings in Christ and to your neighbor. Be aware of their needs so that you may use your talents to serve them well. Hebrews 10:24-25

Simplified Stewardship, Treasure #2 – Plan to give proportionally out of your income and wealth to your congregation. Plan to give additionally by free will offerings. Psalm 54:6

Simplified Stewardship, Time #2 – Make plans and preparations to be in worship at your home congregation every week. When you are gone, make alternative worship plans. Isaiah 58:13-14

LC-MS Stewardship Definition

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. Simplified Stewardship 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. All of our possessions, our income, our expenses, and our wealth are all considered our stewardship of treasure.

The Christian Curse

Imagine a scenario where you are hired to be a 3rd grade teacher and are supposed to show up at work every Monday during the school year. On that day, the PTA even gives you a free breakfast in appreciation. Also, on that day, your students and coworkers are fresh, enjoyable and eager to work with you. But then, in your selfish

indulgence, you make the conscious decision to purposefully not go to work on Mondays. You have better things to do. You want to sleep. You want something more exciting. You aren't getting the breakfast that you want. If this bad habit happens on too many Mondays, you will begin to experience problems. You will resent your job, your students, and your coworkers - always finding more excuses. You will miss out on the blessings of companionship and fulfillment in your work. And eventually, you will have the consequence of losing your job, as it is also a duty and expectation. This is similar to the curse many Christians inflict upon themselves when they don't go to weekly worship in their home congregations! We sin in our Christian liberty by not attending worship weekly and not prioritizing God's rest day for us in his purpose. We hurt ourselves. We hurt our brothers and sisters at church. We hurt our neighbor by not living joyfully in this Commandment. And we hurt God because He has great things to give you every week!

Unused Vacation

Every week, your boss, your Dad, your Heavenly Father, gives you a free day of rest to spend it well. But how dumb would we be in our normal jobs if our boss gave us a paid holiday every week to rest at home, and then we either decide to keep working that day or we fill it up with meaningless self-indulgence? And yet, God gives us a weekly Sabbath for our benefit and enjoyment! He wants us to rest from our labors. He wants us to go to worship and receive His forgiveness with our brothers and sisters in Christ. He wants us to study His Word and rejoice in Him with your family. He wants to give you a great weekly vacation!

Prioritized Change

So, how can we go back to being steadfast in faith, worship, and Bible study attendance at our congregation? Set a calendar and prioritize worship each week! If weekly worship and corporate Bible study are so much of a drudgery, then incentivize yourself and your family by going out to eat afterward as a little reward. Cut things out of that day. Don't go shopping. Limit kids' sports and activities. Stay at home together with your family, eating, reading, playing games, and talking. You will find that you all are blessed more and that you confess Jesus, your Lord and Savior, more strongly as you have rested well to live out your life in Christ the rest of the week!

More Simplified Stewardship to Come

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. Please share this article and tip 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!

Prioritizing Worship to receive God's Gifts,
Pastor Zillinger

Note from the President

Nathan Borchers — nathan.borchers@yahoo.com

Happy 2026! Hope everyone had a magnificent holiday season and start to the year

We knew 2025 would be a challenging year financially, but we ended up much better than we thought. We had budgeted a \$169,000 loss but ended up with only a \$77,230.19 loss, \$24,000 of which was transferred to the Building Renewal Fund. While still not good to end with a loss, it was much better than expected. I do want to stress that although this year was a loss we had sufficient reserves to get through the year (we did NOT take out any loans). December saw a sharp uptake in giving, even though we budgeted for a larger month we exceeded our expectations by quite a bit. Thanks to all, and a special thanks to anyone who helped by giving an extra \$10 per week. All contributions will continue to go a long



way as we start 2026 with a deficit budget. Did you know you can give online automatically? If you have questions about this process or how to sign up, please see me or your Board of Elders representative.

In other news:

-- As discussed at the Voters' meeting, the BOD will be leading a staff composition review next year to try and determine the ideal staff composition as we move forward. We are looking for 1-2 congregation representatives to be participants in this study. If you are interested in serving, please let me know. We will keep the congregation informed as we progress. As always, if you have questions, please let me know.

Budget Update (as of December 31)

Monthly Giving	
Budgeted	Actual
94,656.99	116,727.84
Total Giving YTD	
Budgeted	Actual
885,000	904,564.56
Total Spending YTD	
Budgeted	Actual
1,300,008	1,300,170.50

*Other General Fund Revenue: 342,375.75
Transfer to Building Renewal Fund: 24,000
2025 end of year budget deficit: \$-77,230.19*

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

Regular Worship Schedule

- 8 a.m. - Hymnal liturgy and hymns with the organ
- 9:15 a.m. - Short "grab and go" refreshments in Hiller Hall (freewill offering)
- 9:30 a.m. - Christian Education Hour (Sunday School/Adult Bible Study)
- 10:30 a.m. - Food and Fellowship in Hiller Hall (freewill offering)
- 11 a.m. - Creative Worship liturgy and songs and hymns led by the worship team

Our nursery is open for children under 4 during 8 a.m. Sunday service and Sunday School. Children 3+ and potty trained can attend Sunday School.

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 Sunday's texts



February Worship

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

February 1: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany; Lutheran School/Education Sunday

Pastor Zillinger; "Indictment"; **Micah 6:1-8**, Psalm 15, 1 Cor. 1:18-31, Matt. 5:1-12

February 8: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany; Scout Sunday

Pastor Zillinger; "Preaching, Crucifixion and Resurrection"; Isaiah 58:3-9a, **1 Cor. 2:1-16**, Matt. 5:13-20

February 15: Transfiguration Sunday; Special Anniversary Recognition [ONE SERVICE ONLY TODAY AT 9 AM]

Pastor Zillinger; "Eating with God"; **Ex. 24:8-18**, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matt. 17:1-9

February 22: First Sunday in Lent

Pastor Zillinger; "Living as a New Creation"; Gen. 3:1-21, **Psalm 32**, Rom. 5:12-19, Matt. 4:1-11

Annual Special Anniversary Recognition | Feb 15 Worship

[Note that this is a SINGLE SERVICE at 9 a.m.]

If you had/have a special anniversary in 2026 (1,5,10,15,20,25,30,35,40,45, and 50 years or more), we invite you to be recognized in worship on February 15th. Invitations have gone out to those couples we know about, but you can also email/call with your name, how many years, and to let us know you will attend. christineb@holycrosscs.org or 719-596-0661. We will do one public recognition for special anniversaries in February for the whole year and then include anniversaries in our church prayers each week throughout the year.

Ash Wednesday | Freewill Meals

- Stay after the midday meal for a **soup luncheon** hosted by LWML to benefit their mission projects.
- Come at 6 p.m., before the evening service, for a **pancake dinner** hosted by members of the Honduras Mission Team.

Lenten Worship

Services at Holy Cross at 11:30 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Wednesdays

2026 Wednesday Pikes Peak Circuit Lenten Rotation and Themes

Lent 2026: Holy Interruptions - The Parables of Jesus Reorient Our Hearts

Series Description: Few people like to be interrupted. Typically, we appreciate routine, structure, and order in our lives. We orient our lives around that which we value most. But "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) Sometimes normalcy and comfort orient our hearts away from God's kingdom and toward the less valuable things of this world. We need these habits and patterns of our hearts interrupted, so that we might have a greater treasure that lasts.

Series Practice: The Pike's Peak Circuit of the Rocky Mountain District, your local LC-MS churches and pastors are circulating pastors for preaching in Lent. Throughout Lent, different pastors will preach and lead Lenten services at Holy Cross. Each pastor will preach select texts, and there will be a rotation of preaching and texts all throughout our Circuit. A schedule will be available (later) so that if you miss one Parable of Holy Interruptions, you may join in worship with a sister congregation that is hearing that specific text that evening

Wed. Feb. 18 Ash Wed. - Pastor Zillinger - God's Gracious Interruption: A Season of Repentance

Wed. Feb. 26 Lent 1 - RMD Pres. Maxwell Preaches (from Rock of Ages)- The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Wed. Mar. 04 Lent 2 - Pastor Moon Preaches (from Family of Christ) - The Banquet Invitation

Wed. Mar. 11 Lent 3 - Pastor Kern Preaches (from Immanuel)- The Builder and the King

Wed. Mar. 18 Lent 4 - Pastor Schuschke Preaches (from Faith Woodland Park)- The Wicked Tenants

Wed. Mar. 25 Lent 5 - Pastor Zillinger- The Rich Man and Lazarus

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

Wednesday Night

5-5:45 p.m. - Free-will meal for everyone

6-7 p.m.—Classes for all ages

****No Classes on Ash Wednesday February 18****

Kid/Youth Classes	Location	Teacher
PK-1 st	Room 213	Linda Baker
2 nd —5 th	Room 225	Susan Smith
1st year confirmation	Room 210	Gail Neal
2nd/3rd year confirmation	Hiller Hall	Pastor Z
High School Youth	Youth Room	David W/Michelle M
Children	Rooms 213 and 225	DCE Lizz
Adult Classes	Location	Teacher
Romans	Room 120	Lee Guthrie
The Chosen	Fireside Room	Rick Waters
Women's Bible Study	Room 102	Richelle Hecker

Sunday Morning Classes for all ages 9:30– 10:30 a.m.

Kid/Youth Classes	Location	Teacher
Under 4	Nursery	Trained Staff
PK-K	Room 213	Donna Speer
1st-2nd grade	Room 222	Becky Kuenn
3rd-5th grade	Room 225	Nicole Berry
Middle School	Room 210	Jim Waldron
High School	Youth Room	Chris & Heather Abatelli
Adult Classes	Location	Teacher
Stewardship	Hiller Hall	Pastor Z
Lutheranism 101	Room 102	Vern Gillette
1 & 2 Peter	Room 120	Nathan & Christi Borchers

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Rom. 15:4

Midweek Studies

There are lots of other learning and fellowship opportunities during the week on and off-site. Please call the church office at 719-596-0661 for contact information or to join a Zoom class.

Topic/Group	Day	Time/location	Teacher
1 Corinthians	Mondays	6:30 p.m./Zoom	Wayne & Lisa Gayler
Young at Heart (55+)	1 st Mondays	11:30 a.m./varies	Larry Schumm
*NEW: Acts of the Apostles (women)	Mondays	2:15 p.m./Zoom	Gail Neal
Theology on Tap (Men)	NEW DAY: 4 th Wednesdays	6:30 p.m./105 West Brewing (Garden of the Gods Rd.)	Carl Miedich
Theology on Tap (Women)	3 rd Mondays	6 p.m./105 West Brewing (Garden of Gods Rd.)	Kelly Carter
Military Women’s Coffee	1 st Tuesdays	9:30 a.m./Hiller Hall	Rosey Dudden
Women’s Group	Wednesdays	10 a.m./home group	Cheryl D/Karen G
2nd Corinthians	Thursdays	10 a.m./Fireside	Larry Schumm
Revelation	Thursdays	6 a.m./Wades Café	Neil Ridenour
Women’s Group	Thursdays	9 a.m./Zoom	Gail Neal
Never Alone (women)	2 nd Saturdays	10 a.m./Fireside	Lorrie Faunce

***If you would like to purchase the book Acts by N.T. Wright for Gail Neal’s new class, please contact Gail, and she will order one. Approx. cost is \$7. gailneal007@gmail.com

Holy Cross Lutheran School

Let's Make a Joyful Noise!

Holy Cross Lutheran School had a wonderful time celebrating **National Lutheran Schools Week** this past week! What a blessing it is to join with more than **1,800 LCMS schools across the nation** in *Making a Joyful Noise*. Lutheran schools make up the largest Protestant parochial school system in the United States—**praise the Lord!**



Looking ahead, Holy Cross Lutheran School hopes to open **registration in February** for the **2026–2027 school year**. We are excited to share that another parochial elementary school will be partnering with us to provide after-school care. As we finalize details to ensure a smooth registration process, we ask for your patience and encourage you to watch church communications for updates on open enrollment.

With growing enrollment comes a need for additional staff for the 2026–2027 school year. If you know someone who has a heart for sharing Jesus with children, we would love to hear from them. School hours are **7:15 a.m. – 5:45 p.m.**, with several part-time positions available. Interested individuals may contact the school office at hcls@holycrosscs.org.

Thank you for your continued support! “Love one another. As I have loved you, you must also love one another” (John 13:34).

Blessings,
Mona Book
 School Director



'Praying, Praising and Serving our Lord'

Upcoming Events

- February 8th** - “Souper Bowl” Sunday - Please join us in donating hearty soups for the Bread of Life Food Pantry at the Ministry Center.
- February 15th** - Mites Sunday is the third Sunday of each month. All are welcome to drop off donations at the Ministry Center.
- February 18th Ash Wednesday** - freewill soup lunch after midday service to benefit LWML missions.
- February 19th** - (3rd Thursday) Fellowship and games in Fireside at 1:30 p.m. We plan to play every third Thursday of the month through May.

All women of the church are invited to attend LWML Circles:

Circle	Day	Time/Location	Topic
Sarah	2 nd Mondays	10 a.m./Fireside/Zoom	Women of the Bible based on books by John MacArthur and Max Lucado
Joy	3 rd Tuesdays	9:30 a.m./Hiller Hall.	LWML Women’s Quarterly
Deborah	3 rd Tuesdays	7 p.m./Fireside Room	“Joy” a study of Philippians by Deb Burma

Never Alone

February 14 | 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.



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.

Student Ministry

Valentine’s Dinner Youth Fundraiser | Feb 13 Seatings from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Join us for an Italian Valentine’s Dinner hosted by our youth. Meal includes salad, bread sticks, soup, entrée, and cake with gelato for dessert. Gluten and dairy-free options available. Cost: \$25 per person. Sign up at the Ministry Center or [online](#). Adults only. Childcare available upon request.

Middle Schoolers

Grab your basket- it’s time to create! Middle Schoolers, come to a Chopped style Middle School event on **Sunday, February 22 from 4-6 p.m.** We will make our own dinner and play games. Sign up with the link. I hope to see you there! <https://holycrosscs.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1137971>

The Youth will begin selling ButterBraids on March 1. Be on the lookout for more information.

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

Honduras Mission Update

Honduras Mission 2026

Travel Plans

As of February 1st, the team is 45 days away from traveling! (The trip is March 18-27, 2026.) We have been making lots of preparations - practicing skit, singing songs, finalizing games, preparing hygiene kits, and much more.

The team travelers will be introduced through the social media page over the coming weeks so keep an eye out. We also continue to ask for your prayers.

Special Project

Thank you again for your support of the Honduras special projects! We are so excited to see the amazing things God will be able to do through our sister churches and your generosity and stewardship. We will continue to provide more updates on the specific special projects over the coming months.

Honduras Giving Tree

The giving tree is up and if you are able to help fill any of the tagged needs including carnival, hygiene, medical or shipping costs, it is a huge blessing! The tags and the drop off box are at the Ministry Center on Sundays and Wednesdays. If you'd rather leave the shopping to us, you can donate online or in the offering plate. Thank you!

Feed the Children

(a tithe ministry of Holy Cross)

From Pastor Omar: "Please tell Holy Cross that we are happy about this, because we had suspended the snack this month of January due to lack of resources. The children will be very happy to know that we will start sending them food again so they can enjoy their lunches in our churches. Blessings."

Prayer Partners Needed

We are once again looking for mission partners for the "home team." Sign up to pray for a particular person or events during the March trip to Honduras. Visit the Ministry Center or email Christine at christineb@holycrosscs.org for more information. We need you.

Drivers Needed | March 18 & March 27

The Honduras Team is in need of drivers to help transport people and luggage to and from the Denver airport. I'll tell you right now that the hours are not great, but the benefits are fantastic! If you can help, even one way, you can contact Christine via email christineb@holycrosscs.org or the church office 719-596-0661. *As with any air travel, times are subject to change based on weather and other factors.

- ✧ The trip to Denver starts at 7 p.m. on March 18th at Holy Cross.
- ✧ The return flight arrives in Denver on March 27th at 11:59 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Pancake Dinner

Honduras team members will be hosting a pancake dinner (pancakes, sausage, and fruit) fundraiser on Ash Wednesday before service from 6:00-6:45. Please join us for some delicious BFD (breakfast for dinner) and meet the team as we all prepare our hearts and minds for the Lenten season.

Honduras Coffee

Have you tried the coffee that is planted, tended, and harvested by our Christian friends in Honduras? You should! It is smooth and delicious – and inexpensive. On average, one nine dollar bag will yield 31 eight ounce cups (30 cents/cup) or 21 twelve ounce cups (43 cents/cup). It's available at the Ministry Center every Sunday. See you there!



Food Pantry

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

Current needs: *VOLUNTEERS, macaroni and cheese, jelly, condiments, small bags of flour/sugar, oil.* Monetary donations are always appreciated also.

Help Wanted:

Food Pantry Coordinator

Our food pantry ministry needs a new coordinator in January. The position includes organizing, delegating, and communicating with volunteers, staff, and other food bank agencies. The position includes a small stipend. Reach out to John Davis for more information or to apply. JohnD@holycrosscs.org.

February National Days to Celebrate

- February 1—Baked Alaska Day
- February 2—Ukulele Day
- February 3—Four Chaplains Day
- February 7—Ice Cream for Breakfast Day
- February 9—Bagel & Lox Day
- February 10 —Cream Cheese Brownie Day
- February 16—Do a Grouch a Favor Day
- February 17—Fat Tuesday
- February 18—Ash Wednesday
- February 19—Iwo Jima Day
- February 22—Play More Cards Day
- February 23—Tootsie Roll Day
- February 26—Toast Day
- February 28—Chocolate Soufflé Day



Stitchin' Servants | Feb 21

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.

Prayer Shawls

WHAT IS A PRAYER SHAWL OR SQUARE?

A way of reaching out to others who are hurting—physically, emotionally, or spiritually. It's a way to let them know our congregation is praying for them in their time of need. We now have small prayer squares available to put in your purse or pocket as well as quilts. Please visit us the first Sundays of each month next to the blood pressure clinic outside Hiller Hall.



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

Holy Cross Armed Forces Ministry

Upcoming Events:

- **Military Women's Coffee Group** – Military Women/Spouses/ Moms, join us February 3 at 9:30 a.m. in Hiller Hall for this fun casual coffee group that meets the first Tuesday of each month. Childcare available. Children are always welcome. Contact Rosey with questions. 719-651-3084



You Can Help:

Armed Forces Ministry would like to invite anyone interested in helping with this important ministry. The Committee is refocusing on fewer activities that are higher impact for our Active and Retired military/families at Holy Cross. Please contact Rosey dr651@live.com if interested.

Scrapbooking Group

February 21

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.
***Please note the change in date and location for this month.**

Young Adult Game Night at Immanuel

March 6

Immanuel Lutheran is inviting other churches to its young adult game night the first Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Feel free to bring a friend, a card or board game from home, and snacks to share! Doors will be locked for security; please call Teresa upon arrival to be let in the building, or knock on the eastside basement door to the fellowship hall kitchen. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 846 E Pikes Peak Ave., Colorado Springs Questions? CONTACT: Teresa Evans, 913-370-2571, teresaevans2021@gmail.com

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.

The link on our website is near the bottom of our web page www.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.)

Young At Heart

Feb 2 at 11:30 a.m.

- **February 2**—Meet for lunch at Red Lobster
- **March 2** - Meet for lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory

For more information regarding Young at Heart, a group for those 55+, please call, text or leave a message on Larry Schumm's phone, 567-259-9559.