



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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Making peace by the blood of his cross — Colossians 1:15-20

Grace, peace, and mercy to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

“Turned in on yourself”: This phrase describes sinful self-destruction to a “T.” Luther rediscovered the concept in the writings of a fourth-century African bishop named Augustine. How frightening that this selfish turn proves universal, whether in the waning days of the Roman Empire, the first breaths of the Renaissance, or carried along the torrent of the information age!

No matter the continent or level of technology, human beings turn away from the wider world to their lonely individual being. The fearfulness of hoarding replaces the joy of sharing. The anxiety of defensiveness pushes aside the freedom of grace. Even God we try to transform into a means to an end, a vending machine of cheap grace, rather than Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The world recommends this time of year for New Year’s resolutions. We look at ourselves and decide in which way we think we can self-improve. There’s certainly a time for self-reflection, confession, and absolution.

There’s also a time to set your own self aside, to break the inward curve and look outside. What is God doing among my brothers and sisters? His mercies are new every morning!

Our congregation has concerns of our own, repairs and aspirations. God has always provided for us. There will be times this year to focus on those items. To start the year, we want to look outside and see how we can join His work around us.

Our bake sale fundraiser on January 20 is going toward hurricane relief and mission work in sister congregations, specifically toward roofs for Lutheran churches in Puerto Rico. Over these first weeks of the New Year, we’ll get you information about what is going on. I think you will be inspired.

Everywhere, God’s amazing grace is in action. As Luther taught us in the Small Catechism, “The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.” When Jesus breaks our inward curve, we don’t just see the kingdom coming. We are joined to the kingdom coming.

There are so many other movements or fads that dissipate or frustrate. This one is eternal. It started with a King who left His throne, who turned Himself out to the world, no matter its rejection. In His very posture of salvation, crucified, He opened Himself to a world that looked hostile. But what He saw in His faithful praying was a world redeemed, a kingdom coming. Thanks be to God!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti



Celebrations in January

Birthdays

- 1- Sarah Hollingworth
- 5- Jay Hollingworth
- 9- Joe Jager
- 11- Dani McKinley
- 18- Ellie Themer
- 20- Dustin Shreve
- 21- Ann Penfold Amyx
- 22- Gabriel Guagenti
- 23- Alena Guagenti
- 25- Brenda Moody
- 25- Kim McKinley
- 28- Sean Feole

2018 NEW MEMBERS

In the year 2018 we welcomed new members to the Holy Cross family:

Karen Hite
Steve Rusch
Lorie Rusch
Carl Clark
Roxanne Pontius
Dave Pontius
Anna Hayne
Andy Guagenti
Nancy Guagenti
Don Williams
Jack Bink



We thank the Lord for them and pray that they will be blessed here at Holy Cross.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Pastor will be starting a new members class in the next few weeks. A suggestion has been made to hold the classes on the weekend. For more information please speak with Pastor Guagenti.

VICTORIOUS IN THE LORD

Charles King, brother of Carol Spreitzer, and former member of Holy Cross passed away December 31, 2018. May our risen Lord comfort those who mourn.



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

John 11:25

SENIORS' GROUP: JANUARY 3

Seniors' Group will meet again on Thursday, January 3, at noon. Kelly Cable, one of our Shelbyville police officers, will be here to discuss cyber security.

BOOK CLUB: JANUARY 6

The book club is now reading "Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery" by Eric Metaxas for their January meeting. They will meet on Sunday, January 6th following the Divine Service. For more information please see Shelah Shreve.



LADIES NIGHT OUT: JANUARY 8

Ladies Night Out will be on Tuesday, January 8 at 6:30pm. They will meet at La Cocina de Mama in Shelbyville. Please let Rita Whitehouse know if you will be attending.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT: JANUARY 10

Men's Night Out will be on Thursday, January 10 at 6:30pm. They will be meeting at Tumbleweed in Shelbyville. Please let Rod Shreve know if you will be attending.

THREADS OF GRACE: JANUARY 15

Threads of Grace is now meeting at Holy Cross. Whether you knit, crochet, cross-stitch, needlepoint or just want to socialize - all are welcome. Please see Anita Themer for more information. They will meet again on Tuesday, January 15 at 7pm.

BAKE SALE / AUCTION: JANUARY 20

The Seniors' Group will be holding a Bake Sale / Auction on Sunday, January 20 following the church service. They are asking for donations of baked goods. Proceeds will go to help repair and / or replace roofs of Lutheran churches in Puerto Rico. For more information please see Rita Whitehouse.



DEEP ROOTS: JANUARY 24

Deep Roots, January 24th at 7pm, will look at some of the new ways Christians have been defending their faith and showing evidence for God.

LIFE QUOTE

"Our throw-away culture values ability and perfection. Those values increasingly and unfairly characterize the preborn diagnosed with disability as not even worthy to be born. But God's Word is clear in King David's Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV): 'For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.'"

Mona Fuerstenau, director of Lutheran Ministry Partnerships, Bethesda Lutheran Communities
 – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

KNOW YOUR BIBLE



Chariot Reader

The Ethiopian eunuch was reading from what book when Philip approached him?

Look for the answer in the February's Newsletter
 December's Answer: The 23rd Psalm


Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHER	USHER	CLEAN	NURSERY
January 6	Eden Guagenti	Jeff Wilson	Joel Franke	Harlan Joseph	Botkins family	Kathy Vetter
January 13	Elijah Smith	Madeline Botkins	Rod Shreve	John Feole	Franke family	Josh Botkins
January 20	Max Semeniuk	Charlie Moody	Harlan Joseph	Aaron Franke	Kathy Vetter	Shelah Shreve
January 27	Brenyn Botkins	David Themer	Charlie Moody	Rita Whitehouse	Harlan Joseph	Jennie Shreve
February 3	Isaac Guagenti	Nancy Kovach	Don Williams	Bob Myers	Sandy Runner	Alena Guagenti
February 10	Gracie McKinley	David Franke	Alex VanPelt	Charlie Adams	Botkins family	Josh Botkins

If you cannot serve on the appointed day, please call someone to serve in your place. Thank you!

2019 DIRECTORY

I am currently working on the Holy Cross 2019 Directory. On the table by kitchen window  you will find the pages of the updated directory. Please take a moment to check your address, phone number, and email address. Also, if you have a preferred method of contact please note that as well. Thank you, Merrie Feole

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nation—and the Nations to Church*. Lutheran Hour Ministries produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM's flagship program **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs Sundays at 9am on 102.7FM. For more information, visit www.lhm.org (<http://www.lhm.org>) or call 1-800-876-9880.

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MY NEW YEARS RESOLUTION THIS YEAR IS
TO DO THE THINGS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN
DOING LAST YEAR

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A LUTHERAN WHEN...

- You wish MTV, VH1 and CMT had hymns.
- Your coffee cup is permanently stained
- You actually understand the folks from Lake Wobegon.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flower chart has been updated for 2019. Please pencil in the date in which you will be providing flowers for the altar and fill out a form, located below the chart, with the information you would like to have printed in the bulletin. Please leave the form in the pocket provided, also located, beneath the chart. For more information please see Merrie Feole. 

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who donated to the A Loving Choice in gathering! They were very appreciative of your generosity! You always amaze me with the giving spirit of our church family. Kathy

CHURCH COUNCIL

Thanks go to John Feole, Brenda Moody, and Pastor Guagenti who served on the nominating committee this year. After prayers and deliberation, we have our council for 2019.

President- Gregory Rutledge

Vice President- Chris Phoebus

Treasurer- Corrie Brian

Trustee- Jennifer Harrod

Education- Max, and Danielle Themer; Josh and Madeline Botkins

Youth Leader- Charlie Adams and Danielle Botkins

Stewardship- Kathy Vetter

Church Secretary- Nancy Kovach

Elders- David Franke

Evangelism- Debra Nelson

Fellowship- Rita Whitehouse

Thank you to each who has agreed to serve. Your work is a blessing! We pray you also will be blessed in your service in 2019.

Continuing their appointments:
Charles Moody and Rod Shreve
Financial Secretaries

To our outgoing council members we thank you for your dedication and service in 2018!

HOUSE NUMBER PEDESTALS

Charlie Schufer says he will make anyone a house number pedestal if they give an extra \$20 donation to church.

Christmas Poinsettias

Our beautiful Christmas Poinsettias given to the glory and honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birthday we celebrate, were provided by the following. . .

Rutledge family— 2 poinsettias in memory of Mother Rutledge and in honor of our parents.

Dave & Anita Themer— 2 poinsettias in memory of those who have gone before us and in honor of our children and granddaughter.

Guagenti family— 2 poinsettias in honor of Nathaniel's and Hannah's baptismal birthdays.

Chris & Brenda Phoebus— 1 poinsettia in memory of Marvin & Stella Kuhn.

Jeff and George Wilson— 1 poinsettia in honor of Gerda Powley.

Kathy Adams— 3 poinsettias in memory of loved ones and in honor of my family and my church family.

Charlie & Brenda Moody— 3 poinsettias in memory of Tommy McClain and in honor of Pastor Guagenti and family and our son, Charles Moody.

John & Merrie Feole— 2 poinsettia in memory of departed ones and in honor of our parents and children.

Shreve family— 2 poinsettia in memory of Carol Gazzetta and in thankfulness for God's many blessings.

David & Lori Franke— 1 poinsettia in memory of Frank Kaufman.

Carnes Family— 1 poinsettias in memory of Lois Cardalino.

Barbara Eaton— 1 poinsettia in memory of departed love ones.

Julie Dillard— 2 poinsettias

Steve & Lorie Rusch— 4 poinsettias in memory of Zachery and Jessica Smith.

Bob Myers— 2 poinsettias in memory of parents and wife.

Christmas and Year End Thanks go to...

- All who faithfully serve as church officers, board members, committee members, trustees and representatives to various organizations.
- Our Sunday School staff and its teachers and substitutes for faithfully teaching our children.
- Max and Danielle Themer for the Christmas Program this year.
- All who purchased a poinsettia and / or lily to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas and Easter.
- Rita Whitehouse and those who helped cook and serve the Advent and Lenten meals.
- All the faithful people who cleaned the church this year
- All who planted flowers, mowed the grass, trimmed trees and shrubs, mulches, weeded and taking care of the brush pile.
- Lori Franke and all the wonderful music she has provided us with during our worship service.
- Those who helped make Friendship Sunday and Rally Day a success.
- All who purchased flowers to beautify our sanctuary this year.
- All who helped make our 14th annual Trunk or Treat a great success.
- All who contributed to helping with the ALC donations and for Kathy Adams who helped make it happen.
- Rita Whitehouse who organized our "Ladies Night Out".
- Rod Shreve for organizing "Mens Night Out".
- Those who talked to visitors and made them feel welcome.
- Alena Guagenti for handling our prayer chain and those who prayed for people who are sick and in need.
- Our acolytes, readers, ushers, soloists, worship assistants, technical assistants, altar guild, we thank you.
- All who helped with Vacation Bible School, especially Dave, Anita, Max and Danielle Themer who directed this year.
- All those who help with the youth and youth activities.
- To all those who helped make the Chili Cook-Off a success.
- Everyone who helped the church this year with special offerings.
- Jim Weed for the beautiful stain glass artwork he has made and donated to the church.
- Pastor Guagenti for leading the Adult Bible Studies, Jr. Confirmation, Adult Information, Book Club, and Deep Roots classes.
- All those who provide transportation for our shut-ins to and from the church for services, functions and shopping especially,
- Harlan Joseph, Rick & Carol Spreitzer, Pastor Guagenti, Rod Shreve, Bob Myers, Merrie Feole, and Debbie Nelson.
- Greg Rutledge and the church council for faithfully leading our congregation.
- All who volunteer in the nursery.
- Corris Brian organizing Helping Hands.
- The Clarks for cooking the pork for this years' Rally day.
- Anita Themer for our ladies knitting class.
- John Feole who volunteers to do maintenance on the furnaces each year with his brother, Chris.
- All of those who did maintenance in and around the church.
- Pastor Guagenti, Greg Rutledge, and John Feole planning and leading the Leadership Training Meeting.
- Debbie Nelson for organizing the Plant Swap Give-Away.
- Those who donated to the flooring fund and those bought and baked for the fundraiser.
- To the Botkins family and Debbie Nelson for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt. And for all those who donated candy and helped stuff Easter eggs.
- John Feole, Mike Carlson, and Steve Rusch who took care for the maintenance on the mowers this year.
- Those who donated to School Supply Give-away, Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat and Plant Swap this year.
- Those who volunteered for Thrivent's Habitat for Humanity.
- Bob Myers, our jack of all trades, who also takes care of the recycling within the church.
- To Greg Rutledge and Pastor Guagenti for organizing the canoe event.
- To Corris Brian for donating office supplies.
- All of you for the many things you do without being asked. We have accomplished so much by pitching in and working together.

We hope that we have not forgotten to thank anyone. If we have please forgive us, but the Lord knows who you are and the work that you do. We appreciate all your willingness to help in whatever service you perform.

Thank you and may the Lord continue to bless you as you use your gifts to serve HIM.

JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 10; Ps. 1; Acts 15:22-35 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 11:1-27; Ps. 2; Acts 15:36-16:10 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 11:28-12:7; Ps. 3; Acts 16:11-24 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 12:8-13:8; Ps. 4; Acts 16:25-40 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 13:9-25; Ps. 5; Acts 17:1-9
6 EPIPHANY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 60:1-6; Ps. 72; Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 14; Ps. 6; Acts 17:10-21 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 15; Ps. 7; Acts 17:22-34 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 16:1-14; Ps. 8; Acts 18:1-17 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 16:15-31; Ps. 9; Acts 18:18-28 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 17; Ps. 10; Acts 19:1-10 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 18:1-17; Ps. 11; Acts 19:11-20
13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 18:18-31; Ps. 12; Acts 19:21-41 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 19; Ps. 13; Acts 20:1-16 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 20:1-25; Ps. 14; Acts 20:17-38 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 20:26-48; Ps. 15; Acts 21:1-16 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 21; Ps. 16; Acts 21:17-26 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth 1; Ps. 17; Acts 21:27-36 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth 2:1-16; Ps. 18:1-15; Acts 21:37-22:5
20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth 2:17-3:6; Ps. 18:16-30; Acts 22:6-21 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth 3:7-4:4; Ps. 19; Acts 22:22-29 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth 4:5-22; Ps. 20; Acts 22:30-23:11 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sam. 1:1-20; Ps. 21; Acts 23:12-22 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sam. 1:21-2:11; Ps. 22; Acts 23:23-35 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sam. 2:12-26; Ps. 23; Acts 24:1-27 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sam. 2:27-3:21; Ps. 24; Acts 25:1-12
27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sam. 4; Ps. 25; Acts 25:13-27 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sam. 5; Ps. 26; Acts 26:1-11 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sam. 6:1-7:1; Ps. 27; Acts 26:12-32 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sam. 7:2-17; Ps. 28; Acts 27:1-12 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sam. 8; Ps. 29; Acts 27:13-38 		



SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

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Every Sunday
Bible Study and Sunday School-9:45am
Divine Service-11:00am
JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2019



The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 6, 2019