



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!

“Resolution” is a word with many meanings, but they all tend towards the idea of something being determined and set, like concrete hardening. An hour-long TV show comes to a resolution in the last few minutes, the murderer discovered, captured, and all peril over. A couple come to a resolution, rejecting two offers and accepting the last, putting in motion the sale of their home and move to a new location. Our New Year’s resolutions reflect ideals we really want to put into action.

The funny thing is how “resolutions” often end up broken. The TV show starts the next episode with a new mystery, new murder, and new peril for the heroes. The bank doesn’t come through and the sale falls apart. Our New Year’s goals are too often forgotten by Super Bowl Sunday.

It’s not just our world where firm intentions soften. In Jesus’ parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15), both sons’ resolve recedes before the father. Only the father’s love remains firm. Jesus knew this wasn’t a modern issue, but a human nature issue.

The first prodigal leaves his family behind to live in dissolution. When the money runs out and he’s out of options, he makes a resolution. He’ll go home and ask to be a servant in his father’s house. At least the servants eat well. (And maybe pity will lead to him working his way back into his father’s favor.)

Meanwhile, the second son looks like he’s been resolutely good. He’s worked day in and day out for his father. It’s only when the first son returns, and the father welcomes him home that the second son rebels. He resolves not to go into the party being thrown for the prodigal.

The genius of Jesus’ parable is how the father interacts with both of these sons. There is no worry about the father’s dignity. He runs to the unclean son and pleads with the self-righteous son. His love would crumble both their resolutions.

The son who would work his way back is instead received with grace. The son who complains he was always working is told that everything the father had was always his.

This is the great problem with approaching God by resolutions of our (fleeting) good intentions. We end up approaching God as a boss and our time with Him as a duty we must resolve to do. He doesn’t want stern duty. He loves us and wants us to rejoice in love with Him and one another.

If you’ve made a resolution to come to church more or to read the Bible more or to pray more, these are all good as far as they go. Only don’t let them limit God’s response. We recognize the need to discipline our hearts and make regular time and space for God. But more than that, we come to expect His grace to override even our best intentions, for His love and goodness to pick up our feeble resolutions and make them glorious new beginnings.

He is the Rock that is higher than us (Psalm 61). His steadfast love is a sure refuge. In reading His Word we find wisdom and grace. In coming among His people, we find His Spirit building up and restoring. In prayer, we find His door open to us.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti



Celebrations in January

Birthdays

- 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

VICTORIOUS IN THE LORD

Virgie Butts passed away December 10, 2019. Virgie and his wife Letha have been members of Holy Cross for many years. December 10th was their 70th wedding anniversary. 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



ADULT BIBLE STUDY: SUNDAYS 9:45AM

Pastor plans to start a new Bible study January 5. He's glad for requests for books of the Bible or topics. Sunday December 22 will look at questions around Jesus' birth. How did the church settle on December 25 as the birthday of Jesus? What was the star in the sky the Magi followed? How accurate are the manger scenes we see at Christmas? Pastor Andy Guagenti will lead Bible study December 29.

MEN'S TIME OUT: JANUARY 11

Men's Time Out will be on Saturday, January 11 at Home Town Pizza in Shelbyville. They will meet at noon. Please let Rod Shreve know if you will be attending.

TEMPEST AND REFUGE- LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Tempest and Refuge- Ladies' Bible Study begins in the New Year, seeing how God's people go through storms and find peace under the wings of our God. We'll have mid-morning opportunities for those whose schedules are more flexible in daylight hours and a nighttime opportunity for those who prefer to come in the evening. Each class will be different so if you miss one- no problem- you can jump back in. In the daytime, ladies will meet the first, third, and fourth Tuesdays at 10 AM. In the evening, ladies will meet at 7 pm the Monday evening before the second Tuesday that is skipped. For January, that means meeting the 7th, 21st, and 28th at 10am and the 13th at 7pm.

2019 NEW MEMBERS

In the year 2019 we welcomed new members to the Holy Cross family:

Don Saltzman, Donna Saltzman, Charlie Powell, Lexi Powell, Jennifer Dillard, Theresa Tippet, Mark Murray, Marilyn Murray.

Baptism of Aria Themer.

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

BOOK CLUB: JANUARY

For January the Book Club will be reading the *Storm Crossed Family* by Russell Moore. In *The Storm-Tossed Family*, bestselling author Russell Moore teaches readers whether you are married or single, whether you long for a child or are shepherding a full house, you are part of a family.. Family can be the source of some of the most transcendent human joy, and family can leave us crumpled up on the side of the road. Family can make us who we are, and family can break our hearts. A date is soon to be determined.

DEEP ROOTS: JANUARY 15


Deep Roots January 15, 7 PM tackles miracles. What are they? Do we still seem them today? If Bible writers had all the scientific knowledge we have today, would they still have thought what they saw was a miracle? What's the meaning of a miracle? All this and more will be addressed Wednesday 1/15.



THANK YOU

Pastor, Alena, and their family want to thank the church for all the generosity this Christmas. "We really appreciate all the goodies and gifts. It means so much to us to be a part of this church family and receive your love. We are thankful everyday for being a part of this congregation, receiving the Lord's richest gifts together. Thanks!"


2020 DIRECTORY

I am currently working on the Holy Cross 2020 Directory. On the table across  from the 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.

CAMP LAKEVIEW AND LAKEVIEW VILLAGES

Where can your children experience Christian growth while riding horses, canoeing, swimming, and zip-lining? At Lakeview Ministries! Online registration for Camp Lakeview and Lakeview Villages will open on February 3rd at 9am. Don't let your children miss the adventure, joy, and wonder that a week at a Christian camp can bring. For more information, visit the camp's website at www.lakeviewministries.camp or call the camp office at 812-342-4815.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flower chart has been updated for 2020. 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. 

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A LUTHERAN WHEN...

- someone asks you after church if there's any "decaf coffee" and you laugh because you KNOW that if it doesn't have caffeine, it can't be coffee!
- you think anyone who says "casserole" instead of "hotdish" is trying to be uppity (or maybe even Episcopalian!)

CHURCH COUNCIL

Thanks go to Dave Themer, Pastor Guagenti, Annette Semeniuk, Corrie Brian, and David Franke who served on the nominating committee this year. After prayers and deliberation, we have our council for 2020.

President- John Feole

Vice President- Greg Rutledge

Treasurer- Corrie Brian

Trustee- Jennifer Harrod

Education- Max and Danielle Themer

Youth Leader- Charlie Adams

Stewardship- Kathy Vetter

Church Secretary- Nancy Kovach

Elders- David Themer

Evangelism- Debra Nelson

Fellowship- Rita Whitehouse

Continuing their appointments:
Charles Moody and Rod Shreve
Financial Secretaries

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 2020.

To our outgoing council members we thank you for your dedication and service in 2019!

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who donated items for A Loving Choice. They were so appreciative when I dropped off the many items. Your generosity always amazes me! Kathy

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01-01-2010

LET'S START TODAY'S SERVICE OFF WITH
OUR ANNUAL POST-HOLIDAY BREATHING
EXERCISES

LIFE QUOTE

"As this New Year begins and you make resolutions of things to do for yourself, consider ways in which you could spend one hour a week helping someone in need—at a crisis pregnancy center, a hospice house, a nursing home, etc."

Rev. Scott Licht, National Director of Lutherans For Life

"A "LIFE QUOTE" FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE-WWW.LUTHERANSFORLIFE.ORG

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

KNOW YOUR BIBLE



Canaanite God

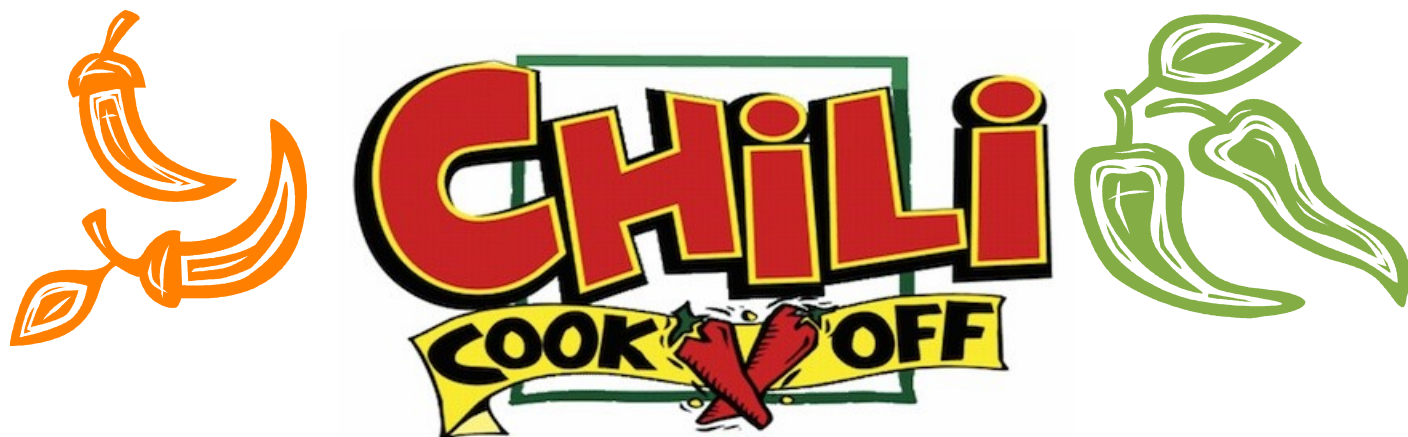
What was the chief pagan god worshipped by the Canaanites?

Look for the answer in the February's Newsletter
December's Answer: To dip seven times in the Jordan River (see 2 Kin. 5:10)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHERS	CLEAN	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
January 5	Max Semeniuk	Jeff Wilson	Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams	Franke family	Josh Botkins	Brenda Moody Jennifer Dillard
January 12	Brenyn Botkins	Charlie Moody	Rod Shreve John Feole	Kathy Vetter	Shelah Shreve	No Communion
January 19	Isaac Guagenti	David Themer	Don Saltzman Joel Franke	Sandy Runner	Jennie Shreve	Rita Whitehouse Jennifer Dillard
January 26	Gabe Guagenti	Nancy Kovach	Charlie Moody Rita Whitehouse	Bob Myers	Alena Guagenti	No Communion
February 2	Zoe Shreve	David Franke	Don Williams Bob Myers	Botkins family	Kathy Vetter	Rita Whitehouse Nancy Guagenti
February 9	Eden Guagenti	Jeff Wilson	Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams	Charlie Adams	Josh Botkins	No Communion

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



THE EVER-POPULAR ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendars! Our ever-popular event is scheduled for,
January 25, 2020; 6:00PM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 181 Old Seven Mile Pike, Shelbyville.

- Awards for 'Best in show' and runner-up in 'Red', 'White', 'Spicy', 'Most Unique' and '**Hot**' chili.
- Please bring a ladle, warming dish and any extra-ordinary utensils you may need to serve your chili. Holy Cross will provide all other standard kitchen items.
- As always, we will provide some other menu item for those who do not wish to eat chili.
- Free will offering.

Thanks in advance for your support. See you there!!

For more information, please see Greg Rutledge



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...

Bob Myers- 2 poinsettias in memory of parents Leslie and Josephine and wife Joy and to the Glory of God.

Julie Dillard- 2 poinsettias

Charlie & Brenda Moody-2 poinsettias in honor of our son, Charles and our church family.

The Rutledges- 2 poinsettias in memory of our dearly departed and in honor othe Glory of God and our children.

Pastor & Alena Guagenti & family- 2 poinsettias in honor of Nathaniel's & Hannah's baptismal birthdays.

Steve & Lorie Rusch- 3 poinsettias in honor of Zachery D. Smith.

David & Lori Franke- 1 poinsettias in memory of loved ones.

Semeniuk family-2 poinsettias in memory of Allan Tomnitz and honor of our parents and siblings.

Rod & Jennie Shreve- 2 poinsettias on memory of our parents and in honor or our children , grandchildren and great-children.

The Themers- 1 poinsettia in honor of our family & church family.

Mark & Marilyn Murray- 1 poinsettia

Barbara Eaton-1 poinsettia in memory of departed loved ones.

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

Rita Whitehouse- 1 poinsettia in honor of my children and grandchildren.

John & Merrie Feole- 1 poinsettia in honor of our 35th wedding anniversary.

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, mulched, weeded and took care of the brush pile.
- Lori Franke and Lexi Powell for all the wonderful music they provided us with during our worship services.
- Those who helped make Rally Day a success.
- All who purchased flowers to beautify our sanctuary this year.
- All who helped make our 15th 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" and Senior's meetings.
- Rod Shreve for organizing "Mens Time 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, especially Charlie Adams who organized the Youth Lock-In.
- 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 provided transportation for our shut-ins to and from the church for services, functions and shopping especially, Harlan Joseph, Pastor Guagenti, Rod Shreve, Merrie Feole, and Debbie Nelson.
- Greg Rutledge and the church council for faithfully leading our congregation.
- All who volunteer in the nursery.
- For the Ladies who made and distributed shawls at the Masonic Home.
- Corrie Brian organizing Helping Hands.
- 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.
- Those who donated to and baked for the Puerto Rico hurricane 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.
- Joni Skellie for her bulletin art.
- John Feole, Mike Carlson, Dave Themer, 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, VBS, Trunk or Treat this year.
- 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 family events.
- For Charlie Schufer for making the house number pedestals
- 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.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – January 2020

Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

"I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

"For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ]," St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His "yes" to you, but others will find it, too, through you. "But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also" (2 Cor. 8:7).

The Ladies Group made shawls in November and delivered them to the residents of the Masonic Home in December. The shawls were filled with goodies for the resident. They focused on the residents that don't have family in the area and don't get many visitors.



COOKIE EXCHANGE

On December 7, the ladies had their very first cookie exchange. There were many tasty treats and hopes that this will become an annual event!

JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 29:1-10; Ps. 5; John 3:16-36 	EPIPHANY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 60:1-6; Ps. 72; Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 29:11-24; Ps. 6; John 4:1-15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 30:1-7; Ps. 7; John 4:16-45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 30:8-17; Ps. 8; John 4:46-5:17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 30:18-33; Ps. 9; John 5:18-29 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 31:1-9; Ps. 10; John 6:1-21
	5	6	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 32:1-20; Ps. 11; John 6:22-40 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 33:1-24; Ps. 12; John 6:41-59 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 34:1-17; Ps. 13; John 6:60-71 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 35:1-10; Ps. 14; John 7:1-24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 36:1-22; Ps. 15; John 7:25-36 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 37:1-13:12; Ps. 16; John 7:37-52 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 37:14-29; Ps. 17; John 8:1-11
	12	13	14	15	16	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 37:30-38; Ps. 18:1-30; John 8:12-30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 38:1-21; Ps. 18:31-50; John 8:31-47 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 39:1-40:8; Ps. 19; John 8:48-59 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 40:9-23; Ps. 20; John 9:1-23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 40:24-31; Ps. 21; John 9:24-41 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 41:1-13; Ps. 22; John 10:1-21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 41:14-29; Ps. 23; John 10:22-42
	19	20	21	22	23	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 42:1-9; Ps. 24; John 11:1-27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 42:10-25; Ps. 25; John 11:28-44 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 43:1-28; Ps. 26; John 11:45-57 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 44:1-28; Ps. 27; John 12:1-11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 45:1-13; Ps. 28; John 12:12-26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 45:14-25; Ps. 29; John 12:27-43 	
	26	27	28	29	30	31



SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

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Website: holycross.360unite.com

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

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2020



The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 6, 2020