



# *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 Jesus, the Son of David and King of Kings! Amen.

Jesus came first as the babe of Bethlehem who grew into the Lamb of God. It was an Advent of “mercy mild” so that God and man are reconciled. He will come again, the Son of Man, descending on the clouds to judge all nations. That will be an Advent of a different mercy, the final separation of sin from the redeemed. Our sins will be taken; sinners who refuse to repent will no more be able to hurt God’s children.

The first Advent was marked by its restraint of judgment. In Jesus’ first sermon, He said, “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you” (Matthew 7:1-2). Another time, He said, “You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one” (John 8:15). Dramatically, when a woman was brought to Him, caught in adultery, He demanded that the first stone be thrown by him who was without sin. When no one threw that first stone, He said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more” (John 8:11).

All along, He made clear that judgment would still occur. Jesus’ first Advent was not a revelation that God would never judge, always allowing His children to be hurt by sin and sinners. That first verse we quoted from Matthew 7 lays it out: “With the judgment you pronounce you will be judged.” Again, after Jesus said, “I judge no one,” a few verses later He said, “I have much to say about you and much to judge” (John 8:26). The past and future tenses are key. “I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day” (John 12:47-48).

Jesus declared that the measure with which we measured would be used on us. He practiced what He preached. The world judged Him. He did not condemn in return. He waited on the Lord. The Father raised Him in the mercy He Himself showed others.

We do not live as if judgment delayed means judgment canceled. Jesus took the judgment for our sins by dying on the cross. This is an unspeakably wonderful gift. We were lost. We were guaranteed condemnation apart from Christ. Not only has the Judge descended from the bar to tell us how the final judgment will proceed, but He has also already paid our penalties for the most serious crimes.

In response to this mercy, part of our “waiting on the Lord” is withholding judgment on our neighbor. We wait for condemnation. We do not rush ahead to insist we know the final judgment, that our enemy cannot change, cannot repent, cannot also be saved.

Jesus teaches that the ability to forgive enemies flows out of Christian faith. The ability to set aside judgment follows faith in Him. The ability to wait on the Lord is born from the mercy of His first Advent. We don’t earn salvation by being merciful to others. Salvation, received in the joy of faith, fills us with mercy. We can’t believe in the Jesus who died for our sins without believing in the Jesus who died for all sins.

So we wait on the Lord. We wait for judgment, refusing to stew in anger. We know the time for judgment will come. That is why we keep checking our own repentance. But even that is passing, for our focus, our hope and joy, is Jesus, the Lord who has chosen us, redeemed us, and even now pours out His Spirit for life.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti



## *Celebrations in December*

### **Birthdays**

7- Braylon Mumphrey  
7- Corrie Brian  
8- Shane DeVary  
9- George Wilson  
11- Jackie Hilbert Fowler  
12- Robin O'Neil  
12- Brian Gehrman  
13- Jennie Shreve  
15- Will Chapman  
16- Ann Barney  
17- Melinda Rutledge  
18- Bitsy Scott  
18- Shawna Nelson  
20- Tammy Chesher  
20- Steve Rusch  
22- Josh Wilbur

### **Anniversaries**

2- Joe & Sandy Jager (1972)  
18- Alan & Kim Whitehouse (2001)  
21- John & Merrie Feole (1984)

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

New Sunday School packets are available for anyone interested. These packets consist of activity sheets as well as a small lesson. We will have a number of activity sheets per packet so please take one packet per family. If we run out of packets and you would like one for your family please let Max or Danielle Themer know and we will create additional copies. The packets are located on the credenza at the front entrance of the church.

### **UPCOMING VOTERS' MEETING: DECEMBER 13**

We will have a voter's meeting, in person, following church on December 13, 2020. Major agenda items will include; council officer elections, church van sale and building repairs (roof and soffit). In addition, our current council will provide updates as appropriate. please support our church and attend the meeting.

An updated agenda will be posted to the church website (if memory is available) and church bulletin at least one week prior to the meeting.

We realize we will have to take covid-19 virus precautions. Our commitment will be to provide concise, accurate information so our members can stay informed and vote according.

Thanks, John

### **MEMBERS OF HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN**

#### **2021 COUNCIL NOMINEES**

Vice President: Greg Rutledge  
Stewardship: Suzanne Rutledge  
Trustee: Jennifer Harrod  
Treasurer: Charlie Adams  
Council Secretary: Corrie Brian  
Youth Group: Annette Semeniuk

### **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

On Wednesdays at 7 PM we have a Zoom Bible study on Ephesians. In six weeks, we will cover the six chapters of Paul's epistle, focused on a mystery. "This mystery is that the nations are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel" (Ephesians 3:6). We may not think of God's church today as a mystery, but in the first century it was something dramatically different. We'll look at how Ephesians explores this unfolding mystery, how Christ "fills all in all" (Ephesians 1:22).

### ADVENT AT HOLY CROSS: DECEMBER 2, 9, 16

Advent Services will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 9, 16 at 7:00pm. Advent theme this year will center around waiting for the Lord.



The Psalms, Proverbs, and Isaiah all use this phrase exactly, "Wait for the Lord" (Ps 27:14, Pr 20:22, Is 40:31). Even more widespread in the Bible than the exact phrase is the concept, reaching from Abraham and Sarah waiting for Isaac's birth to the church's waiting for the return of Jesus. We will ask in Wednesday vespers and daily Advent devotions, how do we wait for the Lord? How does our hope lift us while our hearts cry, "How long, O Lord?" We will see His faithfulness, inspiring our faith. We will know the coming kingdom. I pray you join us in the Advent hope: "Come Lord Jesus!"

### CELEBRATE BIRTH INGATHERING

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, I propose we also celebrate the birth of other babies, specifically those helped by Shelbyville's ALC(A Loving Choice) Pregnancy Support Center and the mothers who choose to have their babies rather than abort. I will provide an in-gathering box where we can collect baby items for ALC to give the mothers as needed. Ideas would include, but are not limited to: receiving blankets, onesies, bath items, board books, baby toys, pacifiers, crib sheets, sleepers, wipes, outfits, etc. They are in particular need of larger size diapers (size 4,5,6) as they do not stop support at the newborn stage. I think it will be fun to shop for a baby as we remember that Jesus came to us as a babe in Bethlehem. **ALC especially needs clothing for newborn boys and girls, diapers size newborn and size 6, and baby bath products.**

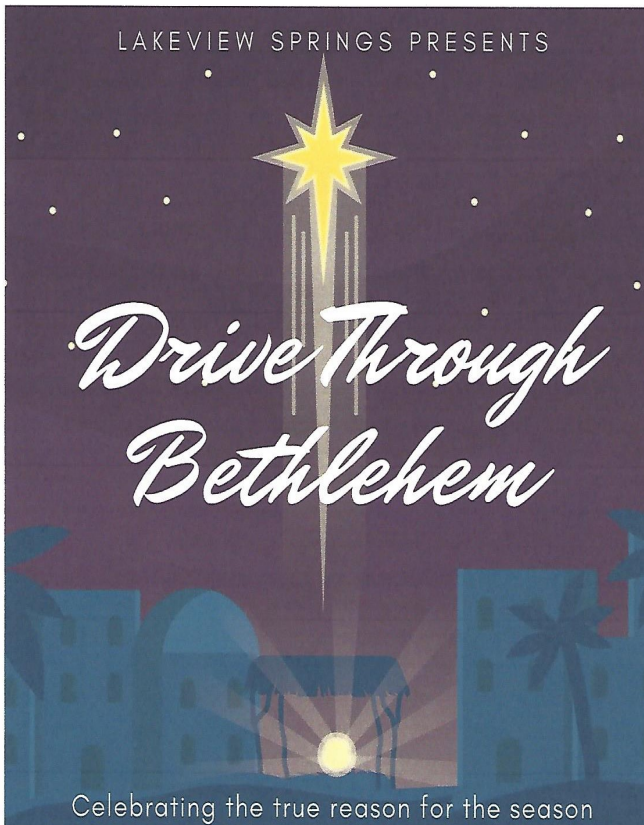


This year we were able to get a Thrivent action grant for our ALC gathering. This included a gift card allowing purchase of items. **If you donate, please sign your name on the sheet that is on the table.** This will be used in the follow up report to Thrivent. They want to know the number of participants. Also, if you would like a Thrivent T-shirt please take one off the table. The last date for donations will be Sunday, December 20. If you have any questions, please contact me. Kathy Adams

### THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held Thursday, December 24, at 7pm. Christmas Day service with communion will be at 10:00am Friday, December 25th.

LAKEVIEW SPRINGS PRESENTS



*Drive Through Bethlehem*

Celebrating the true reason for the season

Join us at Lanesville Heritage Park  
December 12th & 13th, 6:30pm - 8pm

Experience the story of Jesus' birth, re-enacted with costumed actors and live animals. Audio will be provided on CD or through your internet connection. Drive through the light display at the park then come witness the Christmas story.  
2800 Memory Ln NE, Lanesville, IN 47136

### POINSETTIAS

Orders for poinsettias are now being taken to decorate our church for the Christmas holidays. Cost this year is \$9.00. Please make checks payable to Holy Cross Lutheran. Flowers may be ordered in memory of someone or in honor of someone. Order forms are available. The last day to order is Sunday, Dec. 13th. Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service.



### LAKEVIEW MINISTRIES NEEDS YOUR HELP

Camp changes lives. We need your help to sustain this life-changing ministry. We have weathered many storms in our 55 years of existence, but this pandemic has been crippling. Due to the cancellation of summer camp programs and group rentals, we have seen a loss of income nearing \$800,000. We have cut expenses wherever possible, but we need additional assistance in order to help preserve this ministry for future generations. Our goal is to generate \$400,000 of income by the end of the year. This will help sustain us until summer 2021. For more information and to find out how you can donate and/or take action, visit [lakeview.camp/storm](http://lakeview.camp/storm). Please help us weather this storm and continue to be a place for people to connect, grow in faith, and spend incredible time in God's creation for years to come.

### 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 information, visit [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) (<http://www.lhm.org>)

### KFUO.ORG RADIO

Listen to Worldwide KFUO.org, your radio station for practical Lutheran talk, daily Bible and Confession studies, daily worship opportunities, and current issues from a Lutheran worldview. Programs are archived at KFUO.org for 24/7 on-demand listening. You can also find our programming wherever you get your podcasts! Have a question or comment? Find us at @KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

### SHARE THE WARMTH!

Redeemer Lutheran Church is sponsoring a **Blanket Give Away** in conjunction with the Food Pantry. YOU CAN HELP! Please deliver your donation of NEW blankets, quilts, and/or throws to Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3640 River Park Drive, Louisville, KY 40211. Items are needed by Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Questions? Call the Church Office at 502-776-5945.



### EQUIPPING THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS...

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen on-demand at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

### 2020 STOCKING STUFFER PROJECT

#### STUFFING STOCKINGS-

Please Join Us : Tuesday December 08, 10:00-Noon  
Boxed Lunches will be available:

Grace Lutheran Church

1787 Klerner Ln, New Albany

ITEMS NEEDED: Small toys (McDonalds are fine), COLORING BOOKS, Small Stuffed Animals, Candy Bars, Candy Canes, Mittens/Gloves, Hats, Children's personal care items, Socks, Hair decorations, Card games, Baseball Cards, Crafts/Art, Games, Stickers, Small cars/trucks, Small school supplies, Dolls, Jewelry, Playdough, Books, Christian items. Anything that will fit in a Christmas stocking. Please no gum, play guns, or anything that would encourage violence.

Stockings will be given to children visiting an incarcerated parent during the holidays, children in youth shelters and other children needing help and support.

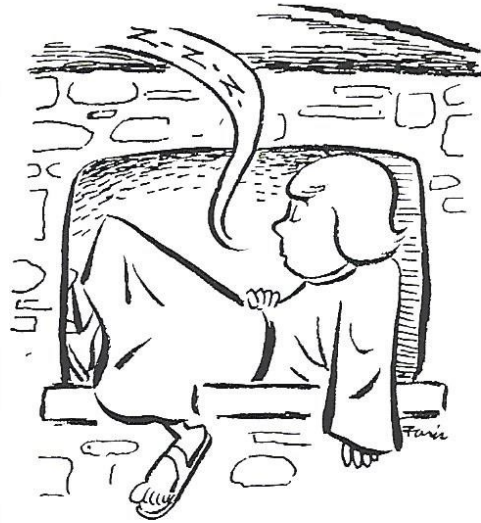
Note to Thrivent Members: If your church has a collection for this, it could be a Thrivent Project. Contact Dolly Jenkins at 812-989-3093



### LIFE QUOTES

"The slaughter of the innocents continues in our time ... done not out of anger, but because the arrival of these little ones is deemed inconvenient or too expensive or sometimes simply because they are not the 'right' sex. We, like Rachel, weep over our lost children. But mourning their loss does not mean that we do not fight to end this assault on the sanctity of life. The holy birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, which has transformed the world for the good in so many ways, gives us hope that abortion, too, can be ended." *Steven Mosher, Population Research Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)  
A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

### KNOW YOUR BIBLE



#### Bad Fall

Who went to sleep and fell from a window during a sermon preached by the apostle Paul?

Look for the answer in the January's Newsletter  
November's answer: Amos (Amos 1:1)



### VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHER	USHER	CLEAN	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
November 29	n/a	n/a	Charlie Moody	Rita Whitehouse	Franke family	n/a	Jennifer Harrod Jennifer Dillard
December 6	n/a	n/a	Alex VanPelt	Charlie Adams	Sandy Runner	n/a	Rita Whitehouse Nancy Guagenti
December 13	n/a	n/a	Corrie Brian	Charlie Powell	Don Saltzman Bob Myers	n/a	No Communion
December 20	n/a	n/a	Rebecca Spreitzer	Greg Rutledge	Theresa Tippet Jennifer Harrod	n/a	Brenda Moody Nancy Guagenti
December 27	n/a	n/a	Rod Shreve	John Feole	Roxana Pontius Guagenti family	n/a	No Communion

**IF YOU CANNOT SERVE ON THE APPOINTED DAY, PLEASE CALL SOMEONE TO SERVE IN YOUR PLACE.**

# Christmas

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city called Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them at the inn.



And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said to them,

*Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born today in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:  
*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men.*



And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

*Let us go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.*

And they came with haste, and found, Mary, Joseph and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

*The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 2 verses 1-20.*



**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**  
**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY**  
**DECEMBER 2020**

Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14)! We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God's people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deuteronomy 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas but throughout all the year. We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us. Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.

**LUTHERAN HOUR PROJECT CONNECT**

The booklets we have on the turning display are on-line, several of them in audio format so you can listen while doing other things. It's a great way to get solid Bible-based content in a digital way. There are the adult-focused booklets we're familiar with as well as content for children, too.

**YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN IF...**

- You're at an evangelistic rally and you actually manage to raise your hands waist high.
- The only mealtime prayer you know is "Come Lord Jesus."
- You and your family of six squeeze into the last pew along with the 50 members already sitting there.

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Thanks to John Sanders

12-20-2006

**PASTOR JONES COULD SENSE THE CLOSE PRESENCE OF CHRISTMAS AS HE SLOWLY MADE HIS WAY THOUGH THE JUNGLE OF POINSETTIAS**

# DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neh. 7:66-72;</li> <li>Ps. 122;</li> <li>Rev. 2:12-17</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neh. 8:1-12;</li> <li>Ps. 123;</li> <li>Rev. 2:18-29</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neh. 8:13-18;</li> <li>Ps. 124;</li> <li>Rev. 3:1-6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neh. 9:1-15;</li> <li>Ps. 125;</li> <li>Rev. 3:7-13</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neh. 9:16-38;</li> <li>Ps. 126;</li> <li>Rev. 3:13-22</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neh. 10:1-39;</li> <li>Ps. 127;</li> <li>Rev. 4:1-11</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neh. 11:1-36;</li> <li>Ps. 128;</li> <li>Rev. 5:1-14</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neh. 12:1-43;</li> <li>Ps. 129;</li> <li>Rev. 6:1-17</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neh. 12:44-13:30;</li> <li>Ps. 130;</li> <li>Rev. 7:1-8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hag. 1;</li> <li>Ps. 131;</li> <li>Rev. 7:9-17</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hag. 2;</li> <li>Ps. 132;</li> <li>Rev. 8:1-13</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 1;</li> <li>Ps. 133;</li> <li>Rev. 9:1-21</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 2;</li> <li>Ps. 134;</li> <li>Rev. 10:1-11</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 3;</li> <li>Ps. 135;</li> <li>Rev. 11:1-19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 4;</li> <li>Ps. 136;</li> <li>Rev. 12:1-17</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 5;</li> <li>Ps. 137;</li> <li>Rev. 13:1-10</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 6;</li> <li>Ps. 138;</li> <li>Rev. 13:11-18</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 7;</li> <li>Ps. 139;</li> <li>Rev. 14:1-20</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 8;</li> <li>Ps. 140;</li> <li>Rev. 15:1-8</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 9;</li> <li>Ps. 141;</li> <li>Rev. 16:1-21</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 10;</li> <li>Ps. 142;</li> <li>Rev. 17:1-18</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 11;</li> <li>Ps. 143;</li> <li>Rev. 18:1-24</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 12;</li> <li>Ps. 144;</li> <li>Rev. 19:1-21</li> </ul>	<b>CHRISTMAS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is. 7:10-14;</li> <li>Ps. 110:1-4;</li> <li>1 John 4:7-16;</li> <li>Matt. 1:18-25</li> </ul>	<b>CHRISTMAS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is. 52:7-10;</li> <li>Ps. 2;</li> <li>Heb. 1:1-6;</li> <li>John 1:1-14</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 13;</li> <li>Ps. 145;</li> <li>Acts 6:8-10</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zech. 14;</li> <li>Ps. 146;</li> <li>Luke 2:22-40</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mal. 1;</li> <li>Ps. 147;</li> <li>Rev. 20:1-10</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mal. 2;</li> <li>Ps. 148;</li> <li>Rev. 20:11-21:8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mal. 3;</li> <li>Ps. 149;</li> <li>Rev. 21:9-22:5</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mal. 4;</li> <li>Ps. 150;</li> <li>Rev. 22:6-21</li> </ul>		





### SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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PHONE-502-647-3696  
WEBSITE: HOLYCROSS.360UNITE.COM  
EMAIL-SECRETARY@HOLYCROSSLUTHERAN-KY.ORG

EVERY SUNDAY  
BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:45AM  
DIVINE SERVICE-11:00AM

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm, December 24*  
*Christmas Day Communion Service 10am, December 25*