



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!

A year ago, what plans we made. We had expectations and scheduled events and meetings lined up. How much of your calendar got scratched out?

Nine days into 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) noted alarming cases in Wuhan, China. On January 21, I was still thinking the year would unfold apace; I was planning two upcoming family birthdays. That same day, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) announced the first US case, and China confirmed that COVID-19 could be transmitted from human beings to human beings. I didn't hear either of those news items and would not recognize their significance for some time.

If you had told me two days after that, as my family sang "Happy Birthday," people would soon be afraid to have birthday parties, to sing together, to share cake, I would not have believed it. If you told me that was the last birthday party I would celebrate that year out of lockdown, I would have wondered at the claim. But January 23 was also the day China put the 11 million people of Wuhan into quarantine.

Why relive this history? There is a lesson each of us should take. 2020 was hard. For some families, who lost loved ones, whose work is reeling, 2020 was excruciatingly hard. But rather than think 2021 will soon bring us back to normal, 2020 should be a warning shot across the line we are traveling. We do not have control of where our lives go. James, apostle of wisdom, wrote, "You do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that'" (James 4:14-15).

As we stare at our fresh new 2021 calendars, there is one day I want you to mark. Mark the day Jesus rose from the dead. Mark the day we know these temporary mists can find eternal bodies to come home to the Lord. Mark the day where God's plans are revealed in full and we see Him face to face. Mark that day Jesus rose triumphant. Mark Sunday. "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Make a plan you know the Lord wills: to rest in Him and build up the kingdom of hope. Join as best you can. For some of us, the ties that bind currently seem limited to prayers, digital windows, letters, and phone calls. That's still a lot. Hopefully, as this year unfolds, we will regather in person in full. Regardless of how the year unfolds, the ties that bind are not limited to human social networks. For us, the ties that bind were poured out in Baptism and reside in the strength and vigor of the Holy Spirit.

In all the tension of this year, amidst the falling rubble of our plans, we have all made missteps. We have tested our friendships. But the ties that bind are not feeble. The ties that bind are the wings of the Spirit, gathering us together under fierce pinions of sanctifying fire.

Mark each Sunday. This day of triumph, each week, we will pray for each other. This day of death's

defeat, each week, we will gather as best we can. This day of the tempter's crushing, each week, we will receive God's gifts, restoring love. This day of new creation, each week, we will rest in His ark.

Brothers and sisters, this is a blessing for each of us, but it is not only meant for us. That first ark was limited—only eight, only the symbolic number of new creation, only the feeble faithful of Noah's family. The ark of Christ's church has wide open doors. Any can join us, and we need every member's strength to pass that invitation wide. 2020 was hard enough. It tore through families and friendships. There are so many who need a strong church to gather in, to welcome, to share the life and peace Christ gives.

So, for our sake, for your sake, and for the sake of the brothers and sisters we will meet in the new year, return, return and lend your strength, return and drink deeply from the wells of salvation, return as you are able and thrive. "And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).

Isaiah spoke those words of a people coming home from exile. They were able to plan by prophetic word when this would occur. There's so much of the future we don't know. We don't know when Christ will return, when our lives will twist or turn or end, what even is not yet on our radar, as at the beginning of last year.

But we know something so much more important than Isaiah's returning exiles knew. We know who wins. We know where God gives strength and peace. We know what the world cannot take away. We know the pearl of great price and where to find it. We know God Almighty in Jesus. We know His salvation for us.

Mark Sunday, the Lord's Day. It is the only plan I am counting on for 2021.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti

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>)

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.



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

VOTERS' MEETING: DECEMBER 3

The next voters meeting will be held Sunday, January 3, 2021 following the Divine Service. We will meet in person and plan to keep the meeting length to approximately 30 minutes. Voters will have the option to attend the meeting virtually via the Zoom meeting application on the internet. The agenda will include retention or sale of the church van and, if time permits, a discussion and vote to replace the church roof. Meeting details will be posted to the church website.

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.



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 2021.

President- John Feole
Vice President- Greg Rutledge
Treasurer- Charlie Adams
Trustee- Jennifer Harrod
Education- Max and Danielle Themer
Youth Leader- Annette Semeniuk
Stewardship- Suzanne Rutledge
Church Secretary- Corrie Brian
Elders- David Themer
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 2021.

To our outgoing council members we thank you for your dedication and service in 2020!


BIBLE STUDY

Our newest Bible study will look at the Psalms, particularly Psalms that Jesus and the Apostles used in their prayers and teaching. Each class will be self-contained so if you miss one, you can jump in easily to the next class at 7:00pm on Wednesdays.

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. Please help us weather this storm.

2021 DIRECTORY

I am currently working on the Holy Cross 2021 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. If you will not be able to view the pages in person please send any corrections you have made to your address and/or phone contacts during the year to secretary@holycrosslutheran-ky.org. Also, if you have a preferred method of contact please note that as well. Thank you, Merrie.

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.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



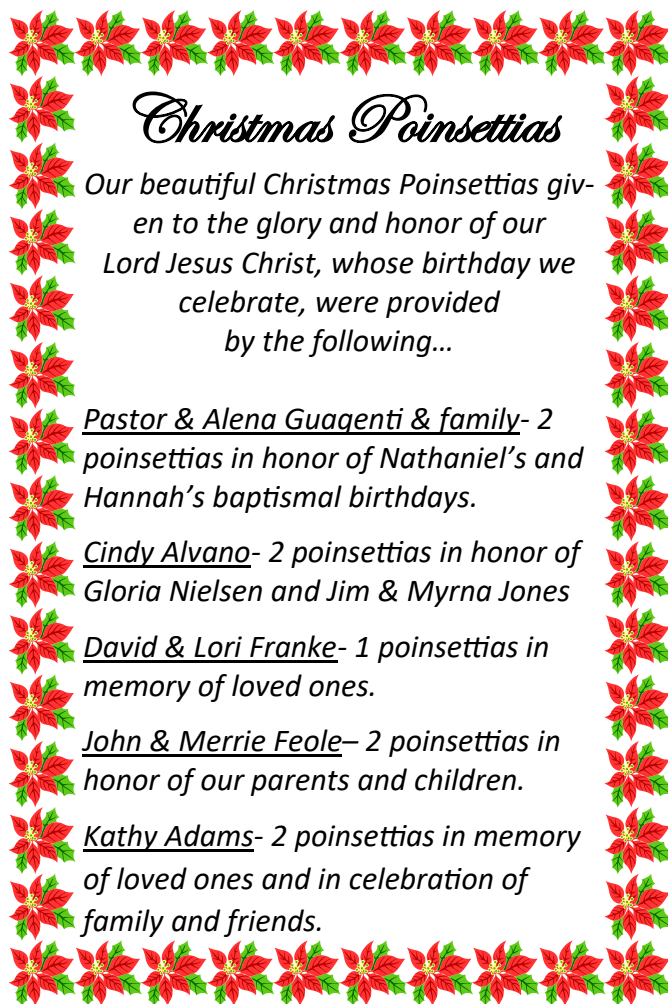
(See Genesis 6-8)

02-01-2008

I TOLD YOU NOT TO CHASE THE CATS
UNTIL AFTER NOAH SHUT THE DOOR

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A LUTHERAN WHEN...

- 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."
- At the close of a memo it states "Peace be with you" and you respond "and also with you."



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...

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

Cindy Alvano- 2 poinsettias in honor of Gloria Nielsen and Jim & Myrna Jones

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

John & Merrie Feole- 2 poinsettias in honor of our parents and children.

Kathy Adams- 2 poinsettias in memory of loved ones and in celebration of family and friends.

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.



Issues, Etc.

Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

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, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

LIFE QUOTE

"God is not just our God or the God of just our people or just our nation or our congregation or our denomination or our demographic category or our tribe or our ethnicity or our language. There is no justice if it's just about just us. No, God is the God of all time and all space and all people. In Christ, all things hang together. Step into your new year with this fresh recognition that the Holy Spirit wants to fill every nook and cranny of your life until you overflow with God's everlasting love for everybody."

Pastor John Nunes on The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransfor-life.org

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

Heartfelt
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHERS	CLEAN	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
January 3	n/a	n/a	Don Saltzman Bob Myers	Dave Pontius Don Williams	n/a	Jennifer Harrod Nancy Kovach
January 10	n/a	n/a	Charlie Moody Rita Whitehouse	Charlie Adams	n/a	
January 17	n/a	n/a	Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams	Franke family	n/a	Rita Whitehouse Nancy Kovach
January 24	n/a	n/a	Corrie Brian Greg Rutledge	Sandy Runner	n/a	
January 31	n/a	n/a	Rod Shreve John Feole	Don Saltzman Bob Myers	n/a	Brenda Moody Nancy Kovach
February 7	n/a	n/a	Don Saltzman Bob Myers	Theresa Tippet Jennifer Harrod	n/a	Jennifer Harrod Jennifer Dillard

KNOW YOUR BIBLE



What a Victory!

What judge of Israel won a victory against the Midianites with trumpets, pitchers, and lamps?

Look for the answer in the February's Newsletter
December's Answer: Eutychus (see Acts 20:9)

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

2020 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. And to Max and Danielle Themer for providing Sunday School material during the year.
- All who purchased a poinsettia to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas and Easter.
- 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.
- All who purchased flowers to beautify our sanctuary this year.
- All who helped with organizing the drive thru Trick or Treat and for those who donated candy for the event.
- All who contributed to helping with the ALC donations and for Kathy Adams who helped make it happen.
- 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 those who helped make the Chili Cook-Off a success.
- Rita Whithouse and Rod Shreve for organizing the Ladies night out and Men's time out.
- Everyone who helped the church this year with special offerings.
- Charlie Adams for organizing the youth Lock-In.
- 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, and Adult Information classes.
- Pastor Andy Guagenti for assisting Pastor Guagenti on the YouTube videos and for preaching on Sundays.
- Nancy Guagenti for leading the women's Bible study this year.
- 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, Bob Myers and Debbie Nelson.
- John Feole and the church council for faithfully leading our congregation.
- Shelah Shreve for organizing the monthly Book Club.
- All who volunteer in the nursery.
- For the Ladies who made and distributed Easter Baskets to our shut-ins.
- Corrie Brian organizing Helping Hands.
- John Feole who volunteers to do maintenance on the furnaces each year with his brother, Chris.
- Dave Themer and John Feole for the maintenance on the lawn mowers.
- those who came out to help move the shed and trim and remove brush around the church building.
- All of those who did maintenance in and around the church.
- Bob Myers, our jack of all trades, who also takes care of the recycling within the church.
- Charlie Schufer for making the house number pedestals and for the new American flag and flag pole which he erected himself.
- The Elders and Rod Shreve who made telephone calls during this year.
- Isaac, Eden, and Gabriel Guagenti for playing the preludes and postludes during our Christmas Eve service.
- All who helped with sanitizing and organizing during this COVID-19 year.
- All of you for the many things you do without being asked. We have accomplished so much by pitching in and working together especially during this difficult year.

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 2021

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often, we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless, but it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So, here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions:

Who are you?

To whom do I give?

And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the *Luther's Small Catechism* informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, and family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties, and our questions arise in giving to the Church.

So, what is our duty as members of the Church with regard to giving? Again, the Table of Duties, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer – a member of the Church who receives instruction – St. Paul taught: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the Church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are to give:

Regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2);

Proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12);

Generously (2 Cor. 8:20);

Of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30); and

With a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the Church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: Do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the Gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.



SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

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

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2021



The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 6, 2021