



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!

The banner for the Christmas season ought to be the angelic message: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!” (Luke 2:14, KJV). The TV, however, squawks a different tune. “On earth stress, glory only for those who find prices the lowest.” Anxiety to get all the details right can be like a boa constrictor, squeezing out joy and peace. For others, it’s another kind of stumbling block. Each decoration and treasured tradition now carries the bittersweet memory of loved ones lost.

Well, there’s no simple recipe in the few paragraphs of a newsletter to fix all that. You do, however, have a commitment from your church. Our Advent theme is peace. We aim to be a safe harbor during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. In Advent, we confess we need our Prince of Peace to come. We confess what we lack and what He alone can bring. In Christmas, we celebrate, for Christ has come. It is not a shallow celebration. We recognize that babe in swaddling clothes has come to die for us all, to raise us up, to restore life, to put right our broken world.

Our Advent daily devotions will survey moments in the Bible when saints sowed peace and God blessed their sacrifices to raise up a harvest of righteousness (James 3:18). Our Wednesday night vespers will center on “The Man Who Would Not Be King.” In the Old Testament, King Saul’s son, Jonathan, sacrificed all ambition to the throne to be a force for peace in Israel. He foreshadows Jesus, who also refused to be made an earthly king. Jesus offered Himself to make peace and He raises a harvest of love among us.

This year, we’re going to use our new digital tools to show how to do home family devotions, the daily bread of peacemaking. Our YouTube channel will post a short video devotion based out of the hymnal and our Advent daily devotionals. We find doing family devotions together does bring peace. This year you can follow along with us and, we pray, share in the blessing.

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
- 17- Melinda Rutledge
- 18- Bitsy Scott
- 18- Shawna Nelson
- 20- Tammy Chesher

Anniversaries

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

LADIES LUNCH: DECEMBER 7

The ladies will be going to the Bell House for lunch on December 7 at 11:30am. Please let Rita know by November 29th so reservations can be made.

LUTHERANISM 101: SATURDAYS

Lutheranism 101 Saturdays December 4th at 2:00PM and December 11 & 18 and January 8 & 15 at 10:00AM. This is a great class for the basics on what the Bible teaches, the history of Jewish and Christian faith and what makes a Lutheran a Lutheran. Give it a try! Please see Pastor Guagenti for more information.

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 ingathering 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 19. If you have any questions, please contact me. Kathy Adams

BOOK CLUB



Nothing is set in stone as far as meeting times, but if members wish to participate, we are going to read 1st and 2nd Maccabees, as they pertain to Hannukah. I have attached a study guide that can be used as you are going through the books. The books themselves can easily be accessed in pdf format just by Googling them. If anyone needs help accessing materials or wants to know more about meeting up to discuss the readings, please contact Shelah using either her email or text messaging listed below.

[1-and-2-maccabees.pdf \(biblesociety.org.uk\)](#)

Shelah Shreve

sesme@bellsouth.net 502-640-4293

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES: DECEMBER 1, 8 & 15

Please join for our Wednesday Advent Vespers



7:00 PM December 1 Advent Vespers

The only Advent meal precedes this service
"The Man Who Would Not Be King," how peace endures while earthly thrones fall

7:00 PM December 8 Advent Vespers

Pastor Andy Preaching

How to pursue peacemaking when conflict seems unavoidable

7:00 PM December 15 Advent Vespers

"My Kingdom Is Not of This World"

How faithful friendship wins out over jealousy with peace

ADVENT MEAL: DECEMBER 1

There will be an Advent meal on December 1 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. There will be a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board for those who plan to attend. Advent Vespers will follow at 7:00pm. For more information please see Rita Whitehouse.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

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

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. 12th. Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service.



NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

The 2022 National Youth Gathering meets July 9-13 in Houston, TX. Registration is now open. Youth Gathering is for teenagers, ages 14-19, who are members of an LCMS church. We will be having a meeting in December to answer questions about the event and begin moving towards registration and fund raising.

JOB AND LEVIATHAN

The Zoom evening Bible study continues into Advent, but with a temporary time change. During Thanksgiving week, the class will suspend. Then, we pick up again on Thursdays at 7:30, starting December 2. We have been learning about how Job teaches the blessings of wisdom when our faith impacts with suffering in the world. Job shows how shallow counsel can end up pouring salt in the wounds of the suffering, but how deep faith can bring us face to face with a God who is with us in ways we would not expect. Indeed, as Leviathan keeps swimming in and out of the picture, we realize God has been at war with our deepest enemy, and He has triumphed for us.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL AND DAILY DEVOTIONS

This Advent, we will be posting short family devotions on our YouTube channel. Brief daily devotions with your family are outstanding ways to grow in faith and love together. If you can't do it as a family, it's still good on your own. Often people say, "I don't know what to do exactly," or "It's hard to get into the habit." By posting these each day, we hope answer both of those concerns. You can see what to do and join along side us (well, virtually at least). You can subscribe to our YouTube channel by clicking "subscribe" at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyEYS2vyKx1PLc45wHJcjinw>

BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

We will have a bake sale in December to raise funds for the church. Bring your kringles, molasses cookies, gingerbread houses, rum cakes, key lime pies, first Saturday in May pies, biscotti, red velvet cakes, bourbon balls, chocolate covered peanuts, pepperoni bread, pumpkin spice muffins, cheesecakes, yule logs, and more!



AMAZONSMILE

We are now signed up to participate in AmazonSmile, which enables .5% of the purchase price of eligible products to be given to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. To do this, start at smile.amazon.com.

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 KFUE.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 KFUE.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 @KFUEradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



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.

YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN IF...

- You're willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.
- All of your casserole dishes have your name on the bottom.
- The third service each Sunday is coffee hour.

MEMBERS OF HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN

Voters' meeting following Divine service December 5, 2021. Major agenda items will include FY 2022 budget and council office elections.

Nominees for the 2022 Church Council are:

President: Dave Themer,
Youth: Max & Danielle Themer,
Education: Mark & Marilyn Murray,
Evangelism: Don Saltzman,
Head Elder: Charlie Moody,
Fellowship: Rita Whitehouse.

Thank you to Greg Rutledge, Cindy Alvano, Nancy Kovach, Dave Themer and Pastor Guagenti for serving on the nominating committee.

People continue to store items in the attic either on top of the gas furnaces or next to them. Please do not store flammable material within 3 feet of any furnace. We have natural gas furnaces that contain pilot lights that produce considerable flame and heat. If we have a fire and the fire marshal determines we were negligent, we will NOT be reimbursed by the insurance company. Furthermore, we may be held liable for loss of property or life if found negligent. Please, make the effort to store items in the attic properly.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-19-2014

IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM

LIFE QUOTES

"When we have eyes of faith, eyes that recognize these delights are gifts from God, then we realize that what we're missing, what we should be longing for, what we cannot live without, isn't Amazon or Starbucks or McDonalds. It's Him. And when we have Him, every other gift makes sense. Every other gift falls into its proper place."

Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life for Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutherans-

Heartfelt
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

KNOW YOUR BIBLE



Tearful Prophet

What prophet of the Old Testament is known as the "weeping prophet"?

Look for the answer in the January's Newsletter
November's answer: Lydia (see Acts 16:14)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHER	USHER	CLEAN	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
December 5	Nathaniel Guagenti	Jeff Wilson	Corrie Brian	Greg Rutledge	Dave Pontius Don Saltzman	Merrie Feole	Brenda Moody Nancy Guagenti
December 12	Zoe Shreve	David Franke	Cindy Alvano	John Feole	Charlie Adams	Brenda Moody	No Communion
December 19	Eden Guagenti	Charlie Moody	Don Saltzman	Bob Myers	Franke family	Anita Themer	Rita Whitehouse Nancy Guagenti
December 26	Brenyn Botkins	David Themer	Charlie Moody	Rita Whitehouse	Sandy Runner	Suzanne Rutledge	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
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter article – December 2021

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the great physician of both body and soul, healed a man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1–6). Dropsy is a paradoxical ailment, with an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body is over inflated with fluid, a craving that, when indulged, served not to ease but to feed the disease.

And so, if a man drinks a great deal but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body, and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, *Consolation to His Mother Helvia*, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for 10, or the owner of 10 tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress?

For this is not want or lack, it's a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, "we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches ... the more eagerly he desires them" (*The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, 4:135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us to not to be consumed by money. "No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13). Our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We think, "If I just had this much then I would be happy."

But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, happiness evades us. The desire for more is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy, either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician's diagnosis and a physician's remedy. And our Lord Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, applies His Word to us as He did to the man healed of dropsy. He shows us how we have put our fear, love, and trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things.

In essence, He says, "Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. You cannot have two masters. Repent!" And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us to live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has given? Do we simply go back to our old ways? "By no means!" St. Paul says (Rom. 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways, the ways that lead us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy and love of God toward us. And God's great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us.

So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society and our church. For money is God's gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way around. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.— LCMS Stewardship Ministry lcms.org/stewardship

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Trunk or Treat October 30, 2021

Congratulations to the Guagenti family for winning the Best Decorated Trunk Award!
Thank you to all who came and decorated trunks and for donating candy for the event!





SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

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

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021



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