



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!

I once heard that people who are too good at their jobs can put themselves out of business. If the repairman fixes everything so well that you don't have to call him again, how does he pay next year's bills? We learn to live with things just good enough.

That's not how Jesus has done His job, however. Consider one of our usual Epiphany readings, Jesus' exorcism of demons. Throughout the Gospels and Acts, the ability of Jesus and His apostles to show mastery over evil spirits is reported with wonder and thanksgiving.

If we were looking at this from an earthly perspective, we'd say Jesus had done His job too well. Where Christianity has spread, demonic activity is usually left to dark corners. As a pastor, I am more aware of reports of demonic activity around us, but many Christians do not expect to have encounters with evil spirits. Some Christians may even doubt the reality of evil spirits. The protection we receive in Baptism, the sealing of the Holy Spirit, is mighty and wonderful.

In a similar way, I was once told by a famous speaker that he was willing to come and speak for free. But in his experience if you charge just five dollars, it won't keep very many people away. And more people, he promised, would actually come if there was an entry fee. He said having spoken many times at many churches, he found when churches offered free attendance people thought that if it was free, it was less valuable than if we charged things.

Again, this is not how Jesus does His job. He came and paid for our sins completely and fully. His death on the cross wiped away our entire debt. How do we "monetize" this? We don't! He wants us to find salvation free and full, by grace alone.

The ways of this world just don't match with the ways of the kingdom Jesus is bringing. He promises a life to come where the things we value don't wear out or rust (Matthew 6:19-20). He promises a final end to our enemies and every tear wiped away (Revelation 21:4). All of that, though, will not mean we don't need God anymore.

Quite the opposite- we will finally be restored to God. He doesn't put Himself out of business, because He doesn't work with a business model. He loves in a family model. Our Father would gather His family to feast and rejoice together forever. Our Father will give us a home eternally. All thanks and praise to Him!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti



Celebrations in February

Birthdays

- 4- Robert T. Chesher
- 7- Dave Pontius
- 11- Logan Skellie
- 13- Joshua Shreve
- 13- Darcy Themer
- 15- Ruth Hacker
- 17- Travis Jager
- 18- Preston Garrett
- 22- Dottie Weed
- 23- David Franke
- 24- Cathy Delk
- 24- Tracy Lancaster
- 26- Judy Chapman

Anniversaries

- 1- Andy & Nancy Guagenti (1974)
- 7- Dave & Roxana Pontius (1980)
- 21- David & Lori Franke (1987)
- 27- Cecil & Lisa McCarty (2006)

LUTHERANISM 101:

Lutheranism 101 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. Baby sitting will be provided for parents who want to attend the class together. Please let Pastor Guagenti know if you are interested.



ALL HANDS ON DECK!

IN-PERSON SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages resumed January 30. Pastor began a new Bible class on 2 Timothy January 30. To Timothy, Paul wrote, "Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:14-17). How can we get the wisdom and ability to live the good life, loving our neighbors and God? We must get into God's Word together, starting our children in the Word young, and continuing through every stage of life.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RE-OPENS

Sunday School reopened January 30. We are excited that 2 Sunday School classes for children and youth will be in session. Thank you to all who lent a hand to make this happen. Please remember our wonderful teachers and students. We ask our Lord to make this a time of joy and growth! If you are interested in teaching our youth please see Marilyn Murray.

BOOK CLUB: FEBRUARY 6

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. We will be meeting on Sunday, February 6th following the Divine Service. [1-and-2-maccabees.pdf \(biblesociety.org.uk\)](https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/1-and-2-maccabees.pdf)

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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.

HOLY CROSS 2022 DIRECTORY

The 2022 Directory is available. You may pick one up from the credenza at the front entrance of the church. If you would like to have one mailed to you please let me know. Merrie

secretary@holycrosslutheran-ky.org



Issues, Etc.

Expert Guests, Expansive Topics, Extolling Christ

issuesetc.org

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.

CHILI COOKOFF AND FUNDRAISER: FEBRUARY 19

Members and guests, the date of the Chili Cookoff fellowship event is scheduled for Saturday, February 19, 2022, at 6:00pm.. Please mark your calendars. A signup list will be posted in the rear of the church for volunteers to help set-up and clean-up and for items needed for the chili cook-off. See you there! Greg and his 'Campaneros'.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flower chart has been updated for 2022. 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.

AMAZONSMILE

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

OFFERING ENVELOPES

It has come to our attention that some of our members did not receive their offering envelopes last month. If you did not receive your envelopes please let me know.

Thank you, Merrie.



*Ladies Lunch Out at Cocina de Mama
Shelbyville - January 10, 2022*



The Day-Timer group has established a food box giveaway for those in need. The box is located on the driveway of Holy Cross Lutheran Church at the corner of Hwy 53 & Old 7 Mile Pike. The idea is if you need staples for your family check the box and take what you need. Give back to the box when you can. We hope this will be a blessing to those in need as it is a blessing to those who supply the box.

Happy Valentine's Day!

YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN IF...

- You automatically sing "amen" at the end of every song you sing.
- You count the coffee among the sacraments.
- You actually understand the folks from Lake Wobegon.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Genesis 29:14-30)

02-11-2008

FLOWERS?!? ... I MARRIED ONE OF YOU AGAINST MY WILL AND WORKED FOURTEEN HARD YEARS FOR THE OTHER ... I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH OF A VALENTINE'S GIFT THIS YEAR

LIFE QUOTE

"The Church can become a place of belonging for everyone. As much as a person feels invisible in their loneliness, the church has a place for them. Your Church can be a place where each person finds they are indispensable to the body of Christ."

Mona Fuerstenau – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org



KNOW YOUR BIBLE



Old Testament Books

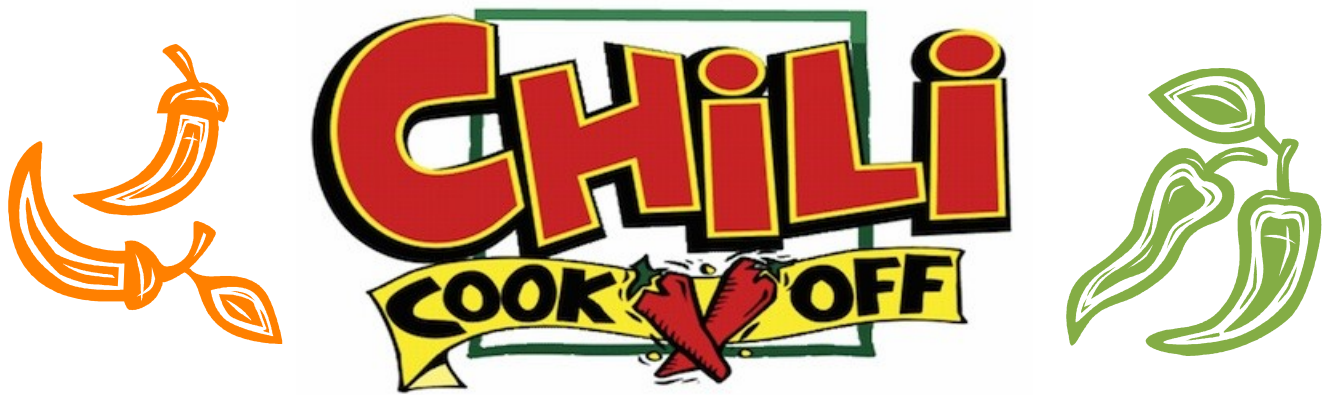
How many individual books of the Bible are included in the Old Testament?

Look for the answer in the March Newsletter
January's Answer: Jeremiah (see Jer. 9:1)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHERS	CLEAN	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
February 6	Gabriel Guagenti	Charlie Moody	Alec VanPelt Charlie Adams	Franke family	Danielle Themer	Rita Whitehouse Karen Hite
February 13	Nathaniel Guagenti	Dave Themer	Corrie Brian Greg Rutledge	Sandy Runner	Brenda Moody	No Communion
February 20	Zoe Shreve	Nancy Kovach	Cindy Alvano John Feole	Don Williams Bob Myers	Merrie Feole	Brenda Moody Karen Hite
February 27	Eden Guagenti	David Franke	Don Saltzman Bob Myers	Theresa Tippet Jennifer Harrod	Anita Themer	No Communion
March 6	Brenyn Botkins	Charlie Moody	Charlie Moody Rita Whitehouse	Roxanna Pontius Guagenti family	Suzanne Rutledge	Jennifer Harrod Roxanna Pontius
March 13	Gabriel Guagenti	David Themer	Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams	Dave Pontius Don Saltzman	Danielle Themer	No Communion

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



THE EVER-POPULAR ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendars! Our ever-popular event is scheduled for

February 19, 2022 at 6:00PM

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

We will again invite neighbor Lutheran churches to our cook-off.

- 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.
- Note: A signup list will be posted in the rear of the church for volunteers to help set-up and clean-up and for items needed for the chili cook-off.

For more information, please see Greg Rutledge

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



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY: [LCMS.ORG/STEWARDSHIP](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)
NEWSLETTER ARTICLE – FEBRUARY 2022

GOD IN MAN MADE MANIFEST

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.



SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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EVERY SUNDAY
BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE-11:00AM

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2022



March 2, 2022
7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service