



# *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 the Savior of the Nations, Jesus Christ!

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play  
And mild and sweet their songs repeat  
Of peace on Earth, good will to men

And in despair I bowed my head  
“There is no peace on Earth” I said  
For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on Earth, good will to men.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow penned these words in 1863. It was the middle of the Civil War, a hopeless time for warring states. For Longfellow, personally, grief held a tight grip. Eighteen months prior, his wife died. She was attempting to seal with hot wax an envelope containing locks of their children’s hair. She accidentally lit her dress on fire. Waking from a nap to her screams, Longfellow rushed to her, covering her with a rug. The rug was too small, feeding the fire instead of staunching it. He tried to quench the flames with his own body. He could not save her. He could not save her with his own body. Longfellow’s burns were so severe, he was unable to attend his wife’s funeral. Grief devouring him, he worried he might go insane, pleading not to be sent to an asylum. Then, Longfellow’s son joined the army and was severely wounded. That Christmas, it is understandable, his thoughts dwelt on death.

Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound the carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Grief tells a hard story: “What you loved is gone. What you love and have not yet lost may soon be taken away. Be not at peace, for loss is not only present but future, too.”

The Gospel tells another story. The Son of God did not spurn or avoid this waning world. He became one of us, from the beginning of our story. From the fragile moments in the womb to the frustrating inabilities of the first years toddling, Jesus embraced our life. He didn’t just appear on stage, a full-grown man, do His thing, and run back to heaven.

The Gospel tells us there is so much more story after death. Jesus’ story wouldn’t still be told today if, after He was crucified, His corpse stayed moldering in the grave. He rose from the dead. He promised us we’re coming with Him. The Gospel tells us what we lose is not lost. “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and

mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life” (Mark 10:29-30).

Longfellow heard that story growing up. He knew the songs of Christmas.

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found.

And

Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in His wings.

When the church bells played the tunes, Longfellow knew the words. The Gospel echoed throughout even the war-torn land. Hearing that Gospel allowed Longfellow to end his poem in hope.

Did you hear Christmas bells this year? In fact, many churches stay closed on Christmas day. Sure, there may be “Christmas music” playing through December. But how much of that music tells a different story? Think about how Longfellow might hear music telling him it’s too cold outside to cut a romantic night short, that the meaning of the holidays revolves around family, about chestnuts and open fires! So much of our holiday “magic” is cold comfort for the grieving. Jesus, however, promised, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:4).

Our church building does not have bells. Brothers and sisters, you are the bells of Holy Cross. You are the ones who can tell the Gospel to those in need. It is a beautiful song, from generation to generation!

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail  
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”

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

### **BREAKFAST GATHERINGS**

First Friday of each month at 9:45 AM, our Louisville shut-ins meet at the Chic-fil-a, 3420 Bardstown Rd for fellowship and Holy Communion. All are welcome to join us.

### **ELDERS MEETING**

There will be an Elders meeting on Sunday, January 7, following the Divine service.

### **CHILI SUPPER**

Get out your recipes and mark your calendars! The annual Chili-Cook Off will be held on Saturday, January 27. Set up and entries at 5pm, dinner is at 5:30pm.

### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**

Zoom Bible Study is on Wednesday nights at 7pm. We will be looking at the stories and Scripture passages behind favorite hymns. To Join the Zoom Meeting:

:<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89139535214?pwd=d3pSUXM5eWhMSWc3Y01FR3VLNWWVnQT09>

Meeting ID:89139535214

Passcode: holycross

### **2024 HOLY CROSS CHAIRPERSONS**

At the December 10 Voters' Meeting members elected the following for the 2024 church council:

#### **President -**

Dave Pontius

#### **Head Elder -**

Charlie Moody

#### **Vice President -**

David Franke

#### **Chair of the Board of Education -**

Suzanne Rutledge

#### **Chair of the Board of Evangelism -**

Jason Van Evera

#### **Chair of the Board of Fellowship -**

Mike Boardman

#### **Chair of the Board of Stewardship -**

Rita Whitehouse

#### **Youth Group Leader -**

Danielle Botkins and Annette Semeniuk

Thank you to Dave Pontius, Charlie Moody, Dee Carnes, Annette Semeniuk and Pastor Guagenti for serving on this years nominating committee.

### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Beginning January 7 the Sunday Adult Bible class will be studying the book of Titus. This is a short book of the Bible. In Titus Paul is talking to a pastor about the work the church should be about and how it applies to us today. Please join us at 9:45am.



### **DAY-TIMERS: JANUARY 3**

Day-Timers will meet on January 3 at 10am. For more information please see Charlie Moody.

### **2024 HOLY CROSS DIRECTORY**

I will be running the 2024 directory this month. Copies of the directory can be found on the table across from the kitchen. Please check to make sure that your address, phone number and email are correct. Please also note your preferred method of contact.

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR



### **BAPTISM**

On Sunday, December 10, 2023, Sebastian William VanPelt was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Sebastian is the son of Alex and Beth VanPelt. His sponsors are Joe and Megan Jany.

We wish Sebastian God's continued blessings.



### **PICTURES WITH SANTA DECEMBER 16, 2023**

Thank you to Cindy Alvano and Jason VanEvera for organizing the event and to all those who volunteered to help.



### **A LOVING CHOICE DONATION EVENT**

Thank you to all who donated items to A Loving Choice Pregnancy Center! They were very appreciative!



# Light A Candle

## Children's Christmas Program



Thank you  
to Marilyn  
and Mark  
Murray,  
those who  
helped with  
the Chil-  
dren's  
Christmas  
Program and  
especially  
our children!



## ALTAR FLOWERS

The flower chart has been updated for 2024. 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.



## HOLY CROSS FOOD BOX

The food box in our driveway is the result of an idea from the Day-Timers group. This is an outreach to the community that all the members of Holy Cross can share and participate in.

Several have been very generous in stocking the box but we continue to need help. There is a list of items on the kitchen door that are suggestions for donations. However, the food box is getting low. We need canned tuna and chicken, beef stew, ravioli, spaghetti o's, soups, fruit cups, jello, pudding cups, mac & cheese, spaghetti, tomato sauce, vegetables, peanut butter and jelly. Money donations, or if those of you who have the Thrivent card would like to share, that too would be appreciated. Thanks to all who are helping and we look forward to future donations. Day-Timers Group

## DAY-TIMERS COMMUNITY PROJECT

Holy Cross Day-timers participate in a community project the 3rd Monday of each month. We prepare a meal for the women who reside at Awake Ministries in Shelbyville. The food does not have to be homemade. We provide a main dish, salad, dessert, bread, and drinks. The women are always so appreciative! If anyone would like to help, please speak with Brenda Moody.

### YOU KNOW YOU'RE A LUTHERAN WHEN...

- Folgers has you on their Christmas list.
- Your congregation's first two operating rules are "don't change" and don't spend."
- You feel guilty about not feeling guilty.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

## 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...*

*Rutledge family– 2 poinsettias in memory of our dearly departed, in honor of our children*

*Dave & Anita Themer– 1 poinsettia in celebration of our granddaughters.*

*Guaqenti family– 2 poinsettias in celebration of Nathaniel's and Hannah's baptismal birthdays.*

*Kathy Adams– 2 poinsettias in memory of loved ones and in honor of my children.*

*Charlie & Brenda Moody– 1 poinsettia in honor of our son and church family.*

*John & Merrie Feole– 2 poinsettias in memory of Raymond Kelly and in honor of our parents and children.*

*David & Lori Franke– 1 poinsettia in memory of loved ones.*

*Cindy Alvano & Jason VanEvera– 2 poinsettia in honor of our loved ones; friends and family.*

*Michael & Annette Semeniuk– 3 poinsettias in memory of departed family members and in honor of our 3 sons.*

### LIFE QUOTE

"What is it that is essential for your life this New Year? What gifts do you cherish? Certainly, Jesus is the most precious gift we have! Let Him shine through your whole life this year. Take Him with you everywhere. Remember whose family you belong to! Cling to Jesus, our Father's Son this New Year! Our Father goes with you and promises His blessings, now and forever!"

*Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*

Heartfelt  
**THANKS**  
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

### KNOW YOUR BIBLE



#### Looking for Jesus

Who was the short man who climbed a sycamore tree to get a better view of Jesus?

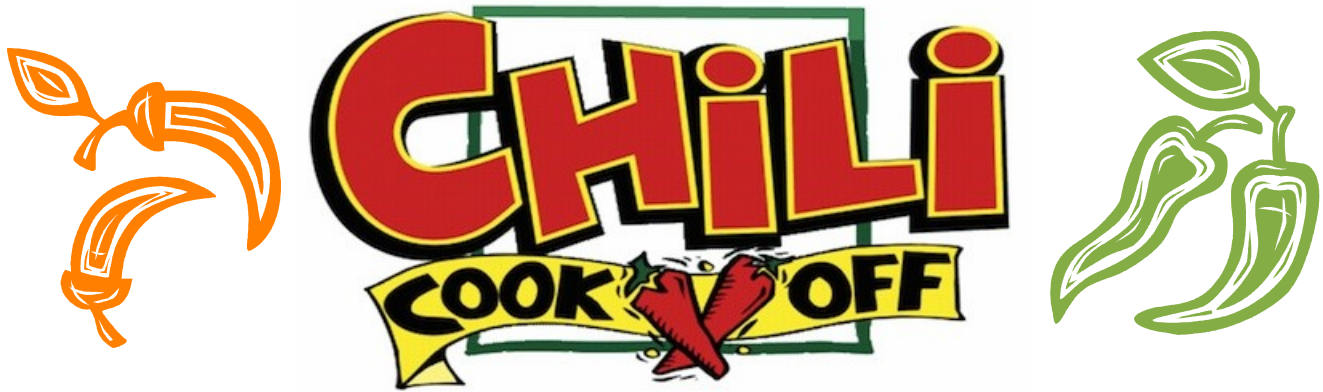
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Look for the answer in the February's Newsletter  
December's Answer: Hosea (see Hos.1:2)

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHERS	CLEAN	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
January 7	Brenyn Botkins	Nancy Kovach	Charlie Adams Corrie Brian	Charlie Adams	Anita Themer	Brenda Moody Cindy Alvano
January 14	Gabriel Guagenti	David Franke	Michelle Ewers Greg Rutledge	Franke family	Suzanne Rutledge	No communion
January 21	Zachary Semeniuk	Corrie Brian	Don Saltzman John Feole	Sandy Runner	Merrie Feole	Rita Whitehouse Cindy Alvano
January 28	Nathaniel Guagenti	Jason VanEvera	Charlie Moody Tammy Clark	Theresa Tippet Jennifer Harrod	Anita Themer	No communion
February 4	Masyn Botkins	Mark Murray	Cindy Alvano Zoe Shreve	Roxanne Pontius Guagenti family	Suzanne Rutledge	Jennifer Harrod Karen Hite
February 11	Nathaniel Semeniuk	Charlie Moody	Alex VanPelt Jason VanEvera	Don Saltzman	Merrie Feole	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

**Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 5:30PM (5:00PM set-up & Entries)**

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

- Awards for 'Best in show' and runner-up in 'Red', 'White', 'Spicy', 'and Most Unique' 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 Charlie Moody and/or the Elders

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





## *2023 Christmas and Year End Thanks go to...*

- All who faithfully serve as church officers, board members, committee members, trustees and representatives to various organizations.
- Marilyn and Mark Murray for organizing the Sunday School, VBS, and Children's Christmas program.
- All who purchased a poinsettia for Christmas and lilies at Easter to decorate our sanctuary.
- 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 for all the wonderful music she has provided us during our worship services including recording for services while she was away.
- Isaac, Eden, and Gabriel Guagenti for playing piano during our Christmas services.
- All who purchased flowers to beautify our sanctuary this year.
- John and Merrie Feole for organizing the Trunk or Treat and for those who volunteered to help.
- Charlie Moody for organizing the Chili Cook-Off.
- Jason VanEvera and Cindy Alvano for organizing the Easter Egg hunt and Pics w/ Santa event.
- 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.
- Rita Whitehouse for organizing the Ladies Lunch Out and church outings.
- Everyone who helped the church this year with special offerings.
- For Corrie Brian and Jason VanEvera for organizing our Easter Breakfast.
- 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 classes and the church hikes.
- Pastor Andy Guagenti for assisting Pastor Guagenti on the YouTube videos and for preaching on Sundays.
- All those who provided transportation for our shut-ins to and from the church for services, functions and shopping especially, Pastor Guagenti, Merrie Feole, Jennie Shreve, Greg and Suzanne Rutledge.
- Dave Themer and the church council for faithfully leading our congregation.
- Charlie Moody for organizing the Day-Timers.
- Sean Feole and Merrie Feole for taking the school supplies to Clear Creek School.
- Nancy Kovach for her work with the food box and Brenda Moody for setting up meals to Awake Ministries.
- All who volunteer in the nursery.
- Jennifer Harrod who organized the Life-line screening
- Corrie Brian organizing the blood drive.
- John Feole who volunteers to do maintenance on the furnaces each year with his brother, Chris.
- John Feole, Anthony Ewers and Dave Themer for the maintenance and prep work on the lawn mowers.
- Jennie Shreve and Merrie Feole for organizing the ALC ingathering at Christmas.
- All of those who did maintenance in and around the church.
- John Feole for plowing and salting the church parking lot.
- 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 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**  
**January 2024**

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

**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>)

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(See Genesis 6–8)

07-24-2015

WELL BOYS, I HAVE TO SAY IT'S BEEN  
NICE HAVING THREE DOGS THESE PAST  
YEARS ... BUT NOT SO MUCH TODAY



## SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

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Phone-502-647-3696  
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Website: holycross.360unite.com

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

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2024



*The Epiphany of Our Lord*  
*January 6, 2024*