

Prayer

for God's Blessings throughout the New Year!

We know that the joy of the Lord is our strength and, as we meditate on Your Word, saturate our hearts.

Teach us to confess what the word says so we can see the manifestation of our prayers.

Your word will not return to You void of fulfillment, but it will accomplish everything for which You sent it.

Remind us to not worry about what is happening around us, but to trust You.

A Zeal for God's Word By Pastor Mundinger

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing." James:1:22-25

As I reflect on this past year at Holy Cross I find more and more things to be grateful for. The Lord has indeed blessed me beyond measure. The first thing that comes to mind is your zeal for the Word of God which has been an absolute blessing to witness; whether it be in the Divine Service, Bible studies throughout the week, or your personal lives during devotions and meditations. The precious gift of God's Word.

The Apostle James reminds us that the hearing of God's Word is accompanied by action. To hear the Word means that one will act out the Word in their own lives. We believe and confess that the Holy Spirit works through the Word of God to convert, enlighten, and sustain the faith of the believer. St. Paul reminds us that, *"because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake."* (1 Thessalonians 1:5). The Word is not just simple words like when we read



Shakespeare or Tolkien. Sure these stories can move us emotionally but only the Word of God can change our very being because the Holy Spirit is at work through it.

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St. James makes a point to tell us that to hear God's Word means we are called to action. The Holy Spirit dwells within us and works with us to do the works that flow from faith. This process is called sanctification, where the Holy Spirit works within us, through faith, to create good works in our lives. Our Lutherans Confessions say, *"This faith is the true knowledge of Christ; it uses the benefits of Christ, it renews hearts, and it precedes our fulfillment of the law."* Fulfillment doesn't mean that we fulfill the law for our salvation, rather it means that we, as justified and sanctified Christians, can follow the will of God for His glory and for our neighbor's sake.

As we enter this New Year, it is my desire that James's words would be on our heart, as would all of Scripture. There is such a zeal for God's Word among the members here at Holy Cross and that is a tremendous blessing. I commend all of you and I thank God every day for your faithfulness to His Word! This coming year we are going to have a greater focus on outward works which expand into our communities (while not neglecting our own members spiritual and physical needs). James reminds us that hearers of the Word are also doers of the Word, that is ones who love and serve and help their neighbors. The branches that have life in them produce good fruit and so too, the Christians, who has been made new by faith through the Holy Spirit, now lives a new life in the Spirit, one of good fruit for our neighbors sake. We must show the love of Christ to a dying world through our Word and deeds. *"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him ^uof whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear ^vwithout someone preaching?"* Romans 10:14. They will come to know Christ through our word and deeds; not just deeds but deeds accompanied by God's Word which has the power to save through the Holy Spirit.

January Bible Studies

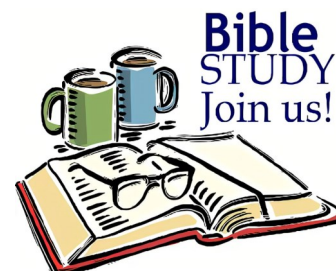
Pastor's Sunday Adult Bible Study, 11:15am, Parish Hall

Children's Sunday School, 11:15am, Parish Hall

Monday Women's Bible Study, 10am, Zoom ***

Pastor's Wednesday Evening Bible Study (on break till end of January)

*** Zoom links are the same each week/in the Friday Announcements email.



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Brittany	1/7	Bill	1/24
Josh	1/15	Addison	1/24
Christl	1/16	John	1/25
Luke	1/20	Grace	1/26
Pat	1/22	Marc	1/28
		Samantha	1/29
Peter & Liz	1/10		



**11/26/23 We welcomed
Byron Nelson as our new Elder!**



Member's Last Name	Elder & Home Number
A-G	Bill Riechmann (925) 935-3391
H-L	Byron Nelson (925) 938-4472
M-R	John Coyne (925) 408-0386
S-Z	Herb Neumann (925) 687-4691



**12/4/23 we welcomed Pat Ketchum, and Rich & Connie Batchelder as Holy Cross members!
They each are a blessing in many ways.**



Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your son and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that by Your Word and Spirit they may continue steadfast in the one true faith in the fellowship of this congregation as together we await the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



12/4/23, John & Josh Bennett were baptized by Pastor Munding at his home. They asked for an immersion baptism, which Pastor was able to accommodate.

We thank you, Gracious Father, for receiving John and Josh through Baptism, into the covenant and kingdom of your grace, in which we have forgiveness of sin and the hope of everlasting life. We pray that, being buried to sin with Christ in Baptism, they may be as St. Paul says in Romans 6: “dead unto sin and alive unto righteousness,” that in the end, together with all believers, they may obtain the promised inheritance in heaven. Strengthen us all in our own baptisms, so that we may share eternity together, and the salvation you have given us all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



On Christmas Day, 12/25/23, John & Josh, as well as John & Lisa were accepted as new members of Holy Cross and took communion for the first time. We will celebrate & officially welcome them on Sunday, 12/31!



"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10

Advent 2023 has started!

Sunday, 12/3, evening, Pastor Mundinger led a short devotional service as we lit the first candle on our Advent Wreath. We ended by singing O Come, O Come, Emmanuel a cappella (and by memory). Some did better than others. Afterwards we headed inside to share an appetizer potluck supper.

This is our 3rd year displaying our Advent wreath - a redesign was led this year by Mike Liebe. Here are 4 of the 5 men who helped with set up this year: Allen Brueckner, Mike, Gregg Syrovatka, and Pastor (absent John Beutel).

Thank you gentlemen!



Christmas Eve 2023

Heavenly Father –
thank You for the
precious gift of Your
dear Son, Jesus
Christ – in His name,
Amen.

HOLY CROSS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Let's celebrate!



12/21/23





**HOLY CROSS
CHRISTMAS LUNCH**
Let's celebrate!





**HOLY CROSS
CHRISTMAS LUNCH**
Let's celebrate!



WoHC (Women of Holy Cross):

2023 LSS Holiday Gift Drive

We held our annual Christmas Gift Drive benefiting Lutheran Social Services and supporting 50 children that are part of their LSS local Mi Casa program. Most of the gifts were purchased by Holy Cross members & the remaining gifts with funds donated at our Thanksgiving dinner. What a generous congregation we have! The extra funds were presented as a check to LSS.

We had a very efficient turnout of helpers for our wrapping party in the parish hall on Saturday, 12/9, including Rachel Flores from LSS. Thanks to all who participated: Suzi Aubert, Nancy Hoffman, Kaytlyn Coyne, Sandy Coyne, Melarie Seidel, Grace Gin, & Joyce Liebe.

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."— John 3:16.*

Considering God's priceless present to the world,
this holiday season is an opportune time to share with family, friends, and those around us.





We were blessed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day by our choir and special guest musicians.

Thank you Ruth, Grace, Connie, Annaliesa, Kaytlyn, Cheryl, & Nancy.

Lastly, thank you David Abramsky for your exquisite cello playing on Christmas Eve. And Nick Kaye, your trumpet accompaniment added much joy to our Christmas Day hymns!



Our sanctuary on Christmas Eve!



Martin Luther Brewing Guild (MLBG) in Action!

The MLBG met on a Saturday morning just before Thanksgiving for our latest brewing consortium. We had to move the burners under the breezeway due to intermittent rain but braved the weather with a brunch of Egg McMuffins provided by Commander, washed down with Irish coffees.

Mike Voss presented a clinic on more advanced brewing that starts with raw grains. He was creating his special "Wiseman" Christmas Porter. A Hefeweizen and a juicy IPA rounded out the brewing session.

If you have an interest in brewing, spectating, or sampling, or you enjoy haute cuisine, reach out to the MLBG to be part of the fun. [Join the Guild!](#)



Men's Mandatory Formation, 12/14/23



ATTENTION: Women of Holy Cross

All aboard for an
afternoon of fun
and fellowship!

Join us for
Mexican Train Dominoes!



Thursday, 1/18. 1-3pm

In the Parish Hall

Bring your drink - snacks will be served.



Never played before?
Played, but forgot how?
WE WILL TEACH YOU!
Need a ride? **WE CAN HELP!**
SIGN-UP now!

Hostess this month: Looking for a Volunteer

JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 *** OFC CLOSED	2 *** 10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	3 ***	4 *** 5pm Choir Practice cl	5	6 9am Altar Guild "UN"Decorate
7  9:30am Worship Service After Coffee Fellowship 11:15am Pastor's Bible Study	8 10-11:30am Women's Bible Study Zoom 6:30pm Council Mtg 7-9pm Scouts PH	9 10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	10	11 OFC CLOSED 5pm Choir Practice cl	12 OFC CLOSED	13 9am Vision Meeting Zoom
14 9:30am Worship Service After Coffee Fellowship 11:15am Pastor's Bible Study	15 *** OFC CLOSED  7-9pm Scouts PH	16 *** 10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's 7m Trivia, Calicraft	17 ***	18 *** 9am Men's Mandatory Formation, Diggers Diner 1-3pm WoHC Mexican Train, PH 5pm Choir Practice cl	19 ***	20
21 9:30am Worship Service After Coffee Fellowship 11:15am Pastor's Bible Study	22 OFC CLOSED 6:30pm Elders Mtg 7-9pm Scouts PH	23 10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	24	25 1pm Nifty Fifty, A-Z Lunch, Red Lobster, Pittsburg 5pm Choir Practice cl	26	27
28 9:30am Worship Service After Coffee Fellowship 11:15am Pastor's Bible Study	29 OFC CLOSED 7-9pm Scouts PH	30 10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	31	*** Pastor Munding on vacation Monday, 1/1 — Thursday, 1/4. *** Pastor Munding in Fort Wayne, IN 1/15-1/19, attending Symposium on Exegetical Theology.		

YVCS School Daily Schedule

*Morning Care: 7:30a - 8:40a
Classes Mon-Fri: 8:45a - 3:00p
*After Care: 3:45p - 5:30p



NOTE: YVCS on Christmas Break 12/21-1/5

cl=choir loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg., PH=Parish Hall



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President: Mike Liebe

Vice President: Gregg Syrovatka

Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger

Financial Secretary: Jan Walker

Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka

Trustees: Allen Brueckner, Bill Luker

Elders: Bill Riechmann, John Coyne,
Herb Neumann, Byron Nelson

Secretarial Staff: Joyce Liebe, Sandy Coyne

Church Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 9am-1pm

Newsletter Editor: Joyce Liebe

Sunday Worship Schedule:

Worship Service 9:30am

Pastor's Bible Study 11:15am (In person)

Sunday School 11:15am

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies) 10am Zoom

Wednesday (Adult) 7pm Zoom

Bulletin & Cross Currents Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

Feb. 2024 Cross Currents: Jan. 26, 2024