



The Cross Bearer

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

December, 2019

www.holycrosselca.org

704-732-0251

holycrosselcanc@gmail.com

From the Pastor...

Are You READY for Christmas?

Here we are in December, one of the busiest times of the year. There are presents to buy, decorations to be put up, meals to prepare, and work events. There are pictures with Santa, wrapping to be done, cards to send and so much more that it can lead you to want to pull your hair out and scream. On top of all that there the daily duties that must be done as well, but this month they are done with Christmas music in the background reminding you of all the busyness you have in front of you. Christmas can too easily become ChristMESS.

I invite you to combat this busyness by taking up the practice of Advent. Taking time for Advent before Christmas will help you to take deeper breaths, be centered of the joy that is ours in Christ and enjoy this season more. One way you can do this is to have an Advent wreath at the house. It's important to actually light the candles on the wreath because there is something about candlelight that allows us to SLOW DOWN and appreciate the moment more deeply.

Another way you can take up the practice of Advent is to come to our Advent worship experiences on Wednesdays December 4th, 11th, and 18th at 6:30PM. These worship experiences last about a half an hour so that leaves plenty of time to go out to dinner or do some shopping afterward. Each worship will focus on a different question each week.

[\(continued on page 10...\)](#)

Church Council

Chairperson: Joey Wagoner

Vice Chair Cindy Dancoff

Secretary: Jennifer Burgin

Youth Rep: Jillian Joyce

Lisa Crowder

Cindy Duncan

Tracy Goodwin

Daniel Hayes

Sharon Hovis

Chelsea Morrow

Joni Smith

Craig Taylor

Mike Wootton

Non-voting positions:

Treasurer: Toni Whiteside

Financial Secretary: Karen Hayes

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Chad Walker

Parish Secretary: Rickie Allen

Communications: Karen Hayes

Worship Leader: Lee Burnette

*We are a place for **ALL**, no exceptions. We think the **TRUTH** about **LIFE** may just be **LOVE** and **LOVE** may just be the **WAY**.*

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

THE KNITTING CHICS/ANNA'S ARMY—Meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 PM. Shawls are knitted for those in crisis and in need of a tangible symbol of God's love and care. Anna's Army knits shawls and blankets for children in crisis. Peggy Schronce is available at meetings to help teach new knitters.

SASSY SENIORS—Meets on the second Monday of each month at 10 AM. This is our senior group for anyone over 55 and still young at heart.

GOOD SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY—meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 10 a.m. This Bible study is led by Dorothy Carsley.

HOLY CROSS BOOK CLUB meets every other month on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. The next meeting is January 28 at the home of Becky Ketner. The book for discussion is The Bookish Life of Nina Hill, by Abbi Waxman.

CHURCH COUNCIL will not meet in December. Committees will meet as scheduled by your chairperson.



Jordan Rayfield-Kolls	12/1
Josh Park	12/12
Dylan Surace	12/12
Scott Goodwin	12/14
Reese Whiteside	12/17
Kathy Cady	12/18
McKayden Tapp	12/18
McKinley Tapp	12/18
Rick Ulicny	12/18
Robert Allen	12/19
Natalie Edwards	12/21
Quentin Surace	12/22
Toni Whiteside	12/23
David Waggoner	12/25
Chip Joyce	12/28
Maggie Cook	12/29
Ethel Hovis	12/29
Melanie Freeman	12/30
Chelsea Hayes	12/31
Mark Smith	12/31



Craig Taylor	12/1
Linda Townsend	12/1
Paige Walker	12/4
Sarah Garrison	12/5
Gabriel Hovis	12/14
James Wolfe	12/14
Regina Clewell	12/15
Misty Gillelan	12/15
Lauren Knight	12/15
Pat Mosteller	12/15
Allie Blackburn	12/16
Rick Ulicny	12/17
Jason Hovis	12/18
Beau Cronland	12/19
Carrie Cronland	12/19
Wade Parlier	12/20
Dylan Surace	12/22
Thomas Garrison III	12/25
Anna Schneider	12/25

An advertisement for Pushpay. It shows a person's hands holding a smartphone. The background is a mix of blue and red. Text on the ad includes: "Text holycrosselca to 77977 to give!", "In a move to support your generosity, we're implementing a new way to give.", "YOU CAN GIVE WHENEVER AND WHEREVER IT SUITS YOU", "Thank you for your support as we continue to grow and impact our community together.", and "Manage your account at Pushpay.com".

PUSHPAY

Three ways to give!

- To download app: Text "pushpay" to 77977
- Quick give without app: Text "holycrosselca" to 77977
- To give from your home computer: Go to www.holycrosselca.org, click on "connect," then click "give."

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

12/01	10 AM	Advent 1
12/08	10 AM	Advent 2
12/15	10 AM	Advent 3
12/22	10 AM	Advent 4
12/24	10 PM	Christmas Eve
12/29	10 AM	Christmas 1

The Eucharist is served every week.

NOVEMBER STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Date	General Fund	Special Giving	Attendance
11/03	\$4,881.00	\$800.00	95
11/10	4,920.00	400.00	?
11/17	2,807.00	305.00	103
11/24	3,798.00	385.00	90
Thrivent	-----	-----	-----
AmazonSmile	\$25.14	-----	-----
Total	\$16,431.14	\$1,890.00	96 (Average)
Needed each week: \$5,492.00 Needed-to-date: \$258,124.00 Received-to-date: \$221,531.22 Year-to-date over/(under): \$(36,592.78)			

ROOF FUND PROGRESS

Amount to date: \$3,719.17



- **John Duncan** is at home and recovering well from back surgery. Please continue to keep him and Cindy in your prayers.
- **Sandy Johnson** is recovering well from hip replacement surgery. Remember Sandy in your prayers for fast healing.
- **Linda Townsend** is recovering well from eye surgery. Please keep Linda in your prayers as she heals.
- **Elaine Wismar** continues with health problems. Please continue to pray for her.
- Full-time Military: **Danny Nichols, Lyndsey Mendenhall Clark, Kevin Sigmon, Joey Stamey, Jennifer Regan, Jed Beam, Max Fender, Jimmy Angle. Others in the Military: **William Scronce.****

Maybe **CHRISTMAS**,
he thought,
doesn't come
FROM A STORE.
 Maybe **CHRISTMAS**,
perhaps, **means**
A LITTLE BIT MORE.
 ~ **The Grinch** ~



Congratulations and THANK YOU to our newest council members: **Eric Anderson, John Dancoff, Nancy Melson and Brian Sigmon**. THANK YOU also to our off-going members: **Jennifer Burgin, Cindy Dancoff, Cindy Duncan and Craig Taylor**.



LAUGHTER YOGA

Join us for something different!

Hosted by

Fox Laughter Club and Holy Cross ELCA

Thursday, December 19, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

All ages!



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—VALE invites you to join them for:

Blue Christmas

**A service of Healing & Hope
for those for whom the season is difficult**

**Trinity Lutheran Church
2700 Trinity Church Road
Vale, North Carolina
Sunday, December 8, 2019
Six O'clock in the Evening**

VIA DE CRISTO

2020 WEEKENDS

Men's—February 20-23

Women's—March 12-15

Mixed—March 26-29

Men's—September 24-27

Women's—October 8-11

Mixed —October 15-18



Cost for pilgrims is \$90. *Holy Cross will pay the cost for all pilgrims.* After the weekend, if you can afford to reimburse all or part, you may do so. If you would like to attend one of these weekends or get more information, please speak with Pastor Chad, John Dancoff or Karen Hayes. You can also get information at www.wncvdc.org.

If you would like to help with the cost of sending pilgrims to VdC, please donate to the Holy Cross S.O.U.L. fund.

DECEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 9:00 AM Sunday Lift 10:00 AM Worship 5:00 PM Christmas Play Practice	2	3	4 6:30 AM Small Group 10:00 AM G.S. Bible Study 6:30 PM Advent Service	5 6:00 PM Ensemble	6	7
8 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Sunday Lift 10:00 AM Worship	9 10:00 AM Sassy Seniors	10	11 6:30 AM Small Group 6:30 PM Advent Service	12 6:00 PM Ensemble	13	14
15 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 9:00 AM Sunday Lift 10:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM Christmas Play	16	17	18 6:30 AM Small Group 10:00 AM G.S. Bible Study 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Advent Service	19 6:00 PM Ensemble 7:00 PM Laughter Yoga	20	21
22 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 9:00 AM Sunday Lift 10:00 AM Worship	23	24 10:00 PM Worship	25	26 6:00 PM Ensemble	27	28
29 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 9:00 AM Sunday Lift 10:00 AM Worship <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	30	31				



Advent Worship Services

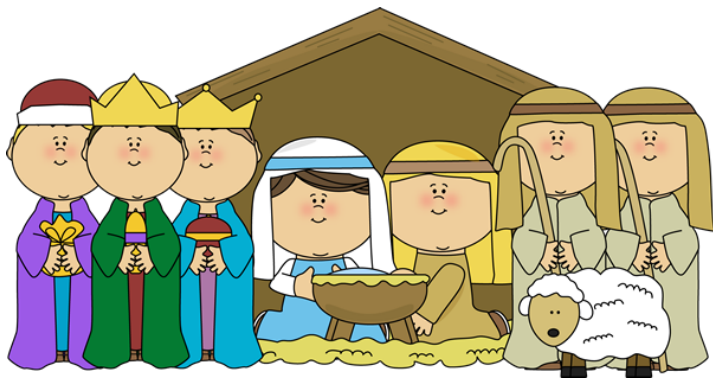
Wednesdays

Dec. 4th, 11th, & 18th

6:30 PM



Join us for our candlelight communion
Christmas Eve worship at 10:00 p.m.
Bring the kids, they are welcome to
wear their pajamas!



Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 15

5:30 PM

After the play, join us in the fellowship hall for a spaghetti/lasagna dinner and a cake auction. All proceeds will go to the youth to help finance their mission trip.

If you can donate a baked spaghetti, lasagna or a cake, please speak with Chelsey Morrow or Kimberly Surace.

Worship Assistants Schedule

Date	Service Time	Greeter	Aco/Crucifer	Lector	C. Assist.	Slides	Nursery	Lay Pastor
12/01	10:00 AM	D. Whiteside	C. Walker	CJ Nelson	T. Wilson	M. Smith	J. Joly	J. Elmore
12/08	10:00 AM	M. Freeman	P. Joly	C. Ulicny	J. Dancoff	G. Nichols	N. Melson	E. Miller
12/15	10:00 AM	B. Morrow	C. Hayes	T. Wilson	G. Nichols	S. Johnson	t. Whiteside	J. Dancoff
12/22	10:00 AM	P. Schronce	J. Clark	J. Payseur	CJ Nelson	E. Anderson	K. Harrill	B. Elmore
12/24	10:00 PM	M. Smith	C. Walker	J. Elmore	J. Wagoner	H. Smith		M. Freeman
12/29	10:00 AM	S. Hovis	L. Hummrich	N. Melson		C. Wilson	J. Joly	J. Elmore

Service Time	Ushers	Deacon	Altar Guild
10:00 AM	S. Johnson, B. Rosenlieb, L. Nelson, D. Whiteside	C. Taylor	K. Hayes N. Melson



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH


> **CALLING ALL MUSICIANS AND SINGERS** – come on **Thursdays December 5th and 18th at 5pm** and learn from Lee and others how to better play together in a Praise Band, and eventually play for some of our Sunday morning worship times.

> **December 15th YOUTH NIGHT**


> Don't forget to come to **SUNDAY LIFT** on **Sundays at 9am. December 1st & 8th**

> Youth are also welcome at our **Jesus @ the Center Small group** on Wednesday mornings.

WHAT **CHRISTMAS** IS ALL ABOUT



And, lo, the angel of the **Lord**
 came upon them... And the **angel** said
 unto them, Fear not: for, behold,
 I bring you **good tidings** of **great joy**,
 which shall be to all people.
 For unto you is born this day
 in the city of **David** a **Saviour**,
 which is **Christ** the **Lord**.

LUKE 2:9-11 

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY

for ALL AGES

Jesus @ the Center



there I Am in the midst

Join us on Wednesdays @ 6:30AM -7:30AM

where we will gather around with friends, coffee, and scripture – with Jesus at the center. Come grow in faith and Love.

If you would like to get a new small group started, and 6:30am is a bit early for you, we are looking to start additional groups. You can sign up for possible times on the bulletin board next to the pastor's office.

BOOKBAGS OF LOVE



We have begun sending food to school for Bookbags of Love. If you would like to donate money, make your check out to Holy Cross with "Bookbags of Love" in the memo, or designate it on

an envelope with cash, or use Pushpay and note "Bookbags of Love" in the misc. fund. We need \$100 a week to do this ministry.

There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for those who would like to volunteer to pack and/or deliver bags.

Unapproved Council Minutes

November 10, 2019

Present: Jennifer Burgin, Pastor Chad Walker, Joni Smith, Tracy Goodwin, Cindy Duncan, Cindy Dancoff, Sharon Hovis, Mike Wootton, Lisa Crowder
Absent: Craig Taylor, Daniel Hayes, Jillian Joyce, Chelsey Morrow, Joey Wagoner
Cindy Dancoff called the meeting to order: 7:05 p.m.

Devotions: Lisa Crowder

Minutes from the October meeting approved.

Committee Reports

Christian Ed - A suggestion for Sunday Lift, perhaps a children's activity while adults have discussion.

Evangelism - North Lincoln HS to come and pack bags for Project Matthew. 125 turkeys on order at Wal-mart. New members to participate.

Finance - finances going out were higher than offering received for month of October; YTD expenses have been cut by 7% but offering is down by 13%

Property - mailbox was replaced and post reset, van has been inspected, waiting for tag stickers, some lights are out, Audie Lail will be consulted to get those fixed, dirt needs to be moved

Stewardship - mailing and talk are scheduled to discuss giving "steps" in monetary donations
Worship/music - beginnings of a youth band on Thursday nights

Pastor's Report - thank you for those who served for VDC weekend; Christian Ministries has added one additional food drop; some additional soup kitchen dates; band did an incredible job at Reformation ceremony; new event at Holy Cross on November 21st - Laughter Yoga. Christmas play practice going well.

Old Business - no report

New Business - Joey wished to express his thanks to outgoing board members. Eight members are on ballot for vote to serve on council. Budget is on website and copies will be printed for meeting on Sunday. A suggestion of 10 p.m. for Christmas Service was made, discussion followed. It was decided to change it to 10 versus 10:30. There will be Advent services.

Next Council Meeting January 12, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Sunday LIFT is an intergenerational (that means it's for ALL AGES) time we share on Sunday mornings. We will be meeting at **9AM** on **Sundays December 1st and 8th**. We will be taking a short break after that for Christmas and return on January 19th. Sunday lift is based on Acts 2:42 "The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers." We engage in each of these four early church practices each week. Our new unit is entitled:

Here Comes Jesus! Here Comes Jesus!

It introduces the main characters of the Christmas story in the context of Advent themes of love, joy, hope, and peace. Each session features costumed visitors from the time of Jesus' birth, each with part of the story to tell.

December 1: Here Come Mary and Joseph! Luke 2:1-7

December 8: Here Come the Shepherds! Luke 2:9-20

January 19: Here Come Anna and Simeon! Luke 2:22-38

January 26: Here Come the Magi! Matthew 2:1-12

This is a great way to learn more about preparing for and celebrating the season. We hope to see you there!



Love is what's
in the room
with you at Christmas
if you stop
opening presents
and listen.

www.sayingsplus.com

Preparing in Christ's Presence: An Advent Midweek Series

December 4th Week 1: Do Less

Focus Question: What can you let go of or erase from your to-do list in order to be more present with Christ this Advent?

December 11th Week 2: Experience Wonder

Focus Question: How can we experience wonder for God's works and be fed by wonder in the midst of this busy season?

December 18th Week 3: Hold on to Hope

Focus Question: How can we hold on to hope in the midst of the world's troubles?

It is my hope that you will make the time this month to pick up the practice of Advent. May you truly prepare to celebrate the gift of grace that was placed in a manger so long ago. Please don't get so wrapped up in the busyness of this season, and may you be filled with true peace as you gather with others in celebration.

Christ Makes Christmas CHRIST-massy,

P. Chad

The Cross Bearer-December, 2019

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

2639 East Highway 150

Lincolnton, North Carolina 28092

FIRST-CLASS MAIL

God's
Grace

Dated Material

Address Label