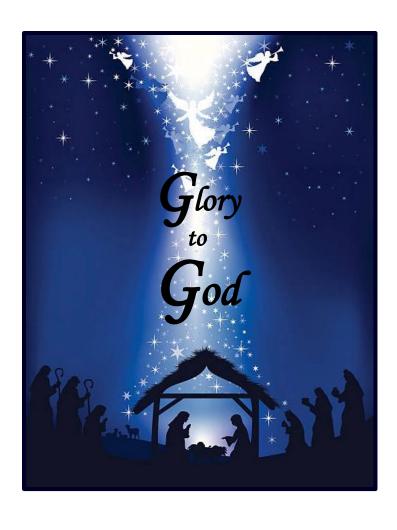
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

The Fourth Sunday in Advent Divine Service One December 20, 2020





The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 2020

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Prayer for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

Almighty God and Father, thank You for reminding us of how much You care for Your people. The Christmas message says that although we can never become like You, You have become one of us: in love, Jesus took our place and carried our sorrows and sins. May we, through the work of the Holy Spirit, learn to see Your grace wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. Grant that our eyes of faith see Emmanuel who was born to lift up those burdened with sorrows, carry those crushed by sin, and befriend those who are deserted and alone. Let us ever remember that Jesus is the Savior of sinners; He comforts all those who trust in Him. We pray this in His precious name. Amen.



The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body

and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Cor. 11:17-34), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to speak with the Pastor prior to communing with us for the first time. We thank you for respecting our belief and practice regarding the Lord's Supper.



Confession and Absolution

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



- O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. Refrain
- O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind; Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Tune and text: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation *Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

P In the name of the Father and of the

→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation 1 John 1:8–9

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution [John 20:19–23]

- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Stand





Service of the Word

Introit



Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;* let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.*

In them he has set a tent | for the sun,

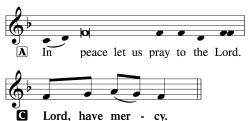
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,* and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

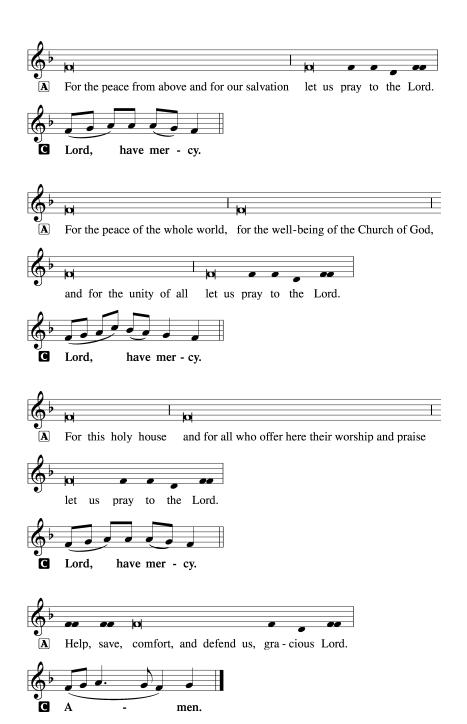
Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,* and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;* let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

Kyrie Mark 10:47





Hymn of Praise

During Advent the Hymn of Praise is omitted.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a

great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Gradual



Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle: Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand





Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

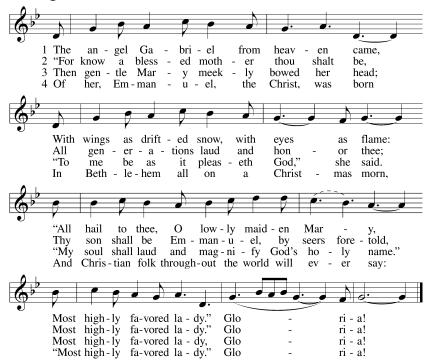
And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

"Giving God the Glory"

Text: Romans 16:25-27

Stand



Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,

begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man:

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the **Scriptures**

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.



There is an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary where you can deposit your offerings.



Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19





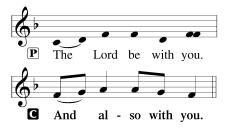
Service of the Sacrament

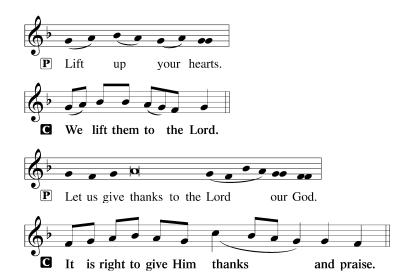
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Please read our Statement on Holy Communion on the inside cover of the bulletin before communing with us.

Preface

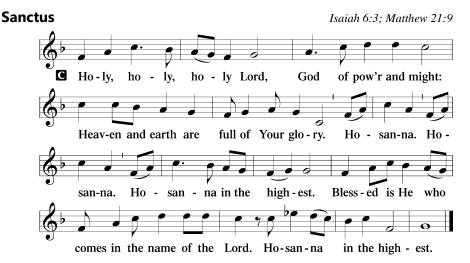
2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]





Proper Preface

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your onlybegotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

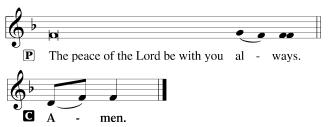
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

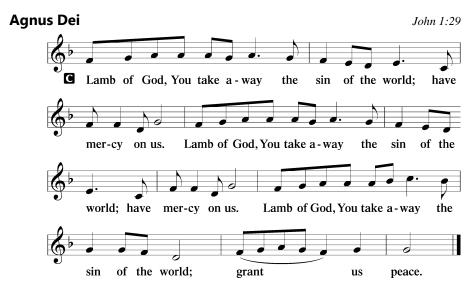


Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My
→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini John 20:19









Personal prayer before Communing

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

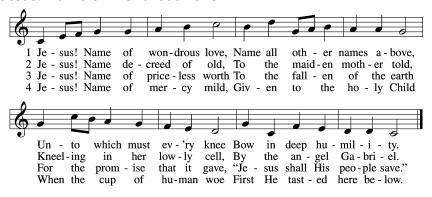


Distribution

Personal prayer of thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

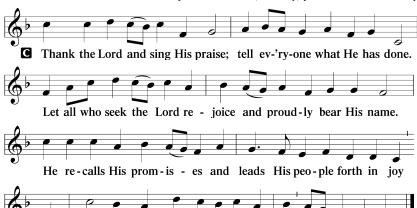


- Jesus! Only name that's giv'n Under all the mighty heav'n Whereby those to sin enslaved Burst their fetters and are saved.
- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above; Pleading only this, we flee Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Tune and text: Public domain



[Psalm 105:1-3, 42-43]; [1 Chronicles 16:8-10]



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu -

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

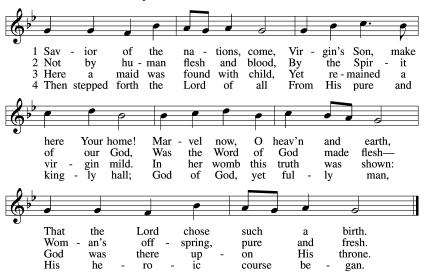
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

332 Savior of the Nations, Come



- 5 God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course. Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.
- For You are the Father's Son
 Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
 By Your mighty pow'r make whole
 All our ills of flesh and soul.
- 7 From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night. Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.
- △ 8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king, Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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From the Season of Advent to the Season of Christmas

The Season of Advent, which began November 29, is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ: both His coming in the incarnate at Christmas and His second coming at the end of the world as King and Judge. The blue paraments used during Advent emphasize its hopeful and anticipatory nature. They and the Advent candles will be removed from the chancel after the second service on December 20 as they belong to the season **preparatory** for Christmas.

The Season of Christmas begins on the evening of December 24, the Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord, and continues through January 5, the Eve of Epiphany. Christmas is the season in which we hear the "tidings of great joy" that the Savior of the world was born in Bethlehem. The Second Person of the Trinity had to become man in order to redeem mankind. White paraments, symbolizing divinity, eternity, light, and joy, are used during Christmastide. Because of the nature of this singular event in the history of the world and its meaning for our salvation, the festival and season of Christmas is a time of great joy

(The above information was taken from **The Altar Guild Manual** by Lee A. Maxwell and was authorized by the Commission of Worship of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The article was submitted by the Worship Committee.)

Announcements



Assisting Elders: 8 a.m. – Bob Stabo 10:30 a.m. – Gary Bartels



Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service Thursday evening, December 24, at 5 p.m. OR 7 p.m.

Christmas Day Communion Worship Service Friday, December 25 10 a.m.



Thank you to the following members for gracing our chancel with poinsettias this Christmas: the Greg Allan family; Tim and Nancy Gropp; John and Diane Lee; Marie McQuarrie; Terry and

Connie Mitchell; Jerry and Shirley Tuell; Jane Wheatley; Steve and Becky White; Dave and Helga Weiss; and Julie Ann Zamora.



Julie Ann Zamora needs a ride to and from church on Sunday mornings and Wednesdays (during Advent and Lent) from Wind Crest. If you are able to help out, please call her at 720-863-8688.



Thank you to the following members who helped spruce up the church and decorate for Christmas!

Fred and Tina Boehne and their grandkids, Robbie and Lily, Chad Otto, Lynne Rodefeld, Rachel and Robyn Ruetz, Robyn's mom, Scott and Barbara Schlapkohl, Pastor Skelton, Bob Stabo, Shirley Tuell, Jane Wheatley, Steve and Becky White



Portals of Prayer for January-March 2021 are out!

Pick up your copy from the table in the narthex. We have digest size copies if you need larger print. These are a great resource to use in your daily devotions!

Chrismons

The Christmas tree is decorated with Chrismons and small white lights. Chrismons are ornaments whose designs are monograms of and symbols for our Lord Jesus Christ. Because these designs have been used by His followers since biblical times, they are the heritage of all Christians and serve to remind us of the One we follow. All Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold to symbolize the purity and majesty of the Son of God and the Son of Man.

- The star represents Jesus who said, "I am ... the bright and morning star."
- The Latin cross symbolizes the cross on which our Lord died for our sins.
- ❖ The Chi Rho (XP) is the oldest known monogram for Christ and was commonly used in the early church. "X" and "P" are the first two letters of the Greek word for "Christ."
- The Greek cross was much used by early Greek artists. The extensions are of equal length.
- The triquetra represents the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The triangle represents the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The open book represents the Bible, the written Word of God.
- The orb with cross symbolizes our Lord Jesus' dominion over the earth.
- The **shell** with three drops of water signifies Baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The chalice represents the Lord's Supper, the Sacrament of the Altar.
- The descending dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit.
- The lamb is a scriptural symbol for Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
- The butterfly represents our Lord's resurrection, assuring all believers of eternal life.
- The **crown** symbolizes the victory Jesus won for all on the cross. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Petitions and Prayers: Prayer is continuously looking to God and relying on His strength.



Health concerns:

Lord Jesus, great is Your love and great is Your mercy. Grant those who are sick hearts that trust in Your promise never to leave them nor forsake them. Whether or not removing their suffering and restoring their health is Your will for their lives now, keep them in Your grace and strengthen their faith. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Joyce Hansen cancer
- Theresa Kingham cancer
- Kevin Koessel (Karlee Shavlik's brother) cancer
- Julie Ann Zamora multiple health issues

Prayer of intercession:

A Prayer for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

*Heavenly Father, we offer a prayer of thanksgiving that Jesus is the Root and Offspring of David. Jesus is the Anointed One – the Christ – whom You had promised through Your holy prophets. Jesus, the stem of Jesse, has fulfilled and will fulfill their prophecies to the letter. We await the final fulfilling of those prophecies with eager expectation. Amen.

"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life December 20, 2020

"As we look forward to Christmas dinner and the celebration of our Savior's birth, let us remember that Christ's coming into the world began with an unexpected pregnancy. Mary of Nazareth was unmarried and certainly had reason to be confused and afraid when she was asked to carry the Son of God. But she courageously let God's plan unfold for her and her Child and brought our Savior into this world, despite her uncertain circumstances."

Right to Life of Michigan
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.ora



Find Pastor Skelton's Bible Study based on First Samuel posted on facebook.com/holycrosshighlandsranch and click on videos to see the Bible Study and worship services.



"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Luke 1:30-31

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod) 9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd. Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Sunday Worship Services	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Bible Classes and Sunday School	9:25 a.m.
Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Office	303-683-1300
Kristen Foss, Director, Early Learning Cent	ter303-683-1311
Fax	303-470-0165

Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:
Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!



Check out
The Lutheran Hour
Sunday mornings at
6 a.m. on 850 KOA Radio

go to www.lhm.org and click on "Listen Now" anytime.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church





Holy Cross Lutheran is on Facebook. Check us out and Like us at facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch.



Don't celebrate
Christmas without inviting
the guest of honor!