

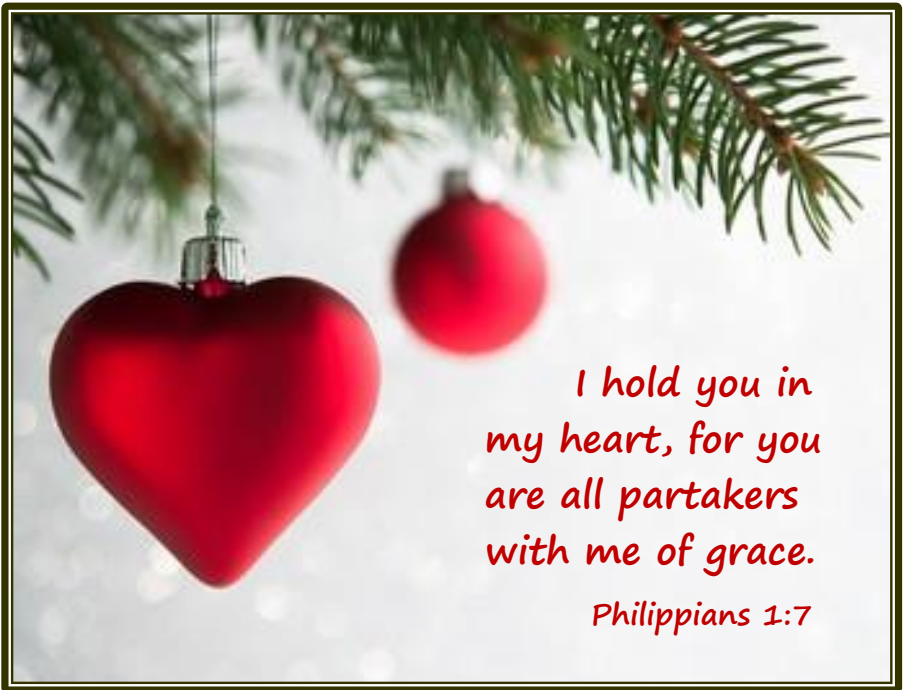
# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

## Divine Service Four

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 5, 2021



*I hold you in  
my heart, for you  
are all partakers  
with me of grace.*

*Philippians 1:7*



## The Second Sunday in Advent

December 5, 2021

8:00 and 10:30 AM

### Prayer for the Second Sunday in Advent

O Eternal God, we come before You with expectant hearts. Your words of promise in Zechariah, "See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation" stir us to believe that Jesus will come again. He will come in spite of, and to take away, the load of sin, guilt, sorrow, and doubt that we insist on carrying around. We give You praise and thanks that He comes neither in judgment nor in condemnation. Rather, Jesus comes with forgiveness for our sins so that we may be God's dear children and enjoy the bliss of heaven forever. Keep us safe until that day of Jesus' second coming! 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

### 343 Prepare the Royal Highway

*Stand*

*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

*Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13*

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

#### Confession of Sins

- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

## Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

**P** 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.



## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 81:8, 10–11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b*



The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:\*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight.”

**Hear, O my people, while I ad- | monish you!\***

**O Israel, if you would but lis- | ten to me!**

I am the LORD your God,

who brought you up out of the land of | Egypt.\*

Open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it.

**But my people did not listen | to my voice;\***

**Israel would not sub- | mit to me.**

Oh, that my people would lis- | ten to me,\*

that Israel would walk | in my ways!

**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.**

The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:\*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight.”

### Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis

### Omitted during Advent

#### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

*Sit*

#### Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1–7a

"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*



**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: Philippians 1:2-11

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse



**G** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*John 20:31*



## Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1–14

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

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
 'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
 make his paths straight.  
 Every valley shall be filled,  
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
 and the crooked shall become straight,  
 and the rough places shall become level ways,  
 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.



## Nicene Creed

**C** 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.**

*Sit*

## **344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

### **Sermon**

**"Partnership in the Gospel"**

Text: Philippians 1:2-11

*Stand*

### **Prayer of the Church**

*After each portion of the prayer:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

*Sit*

### **Offering**

*Stand*



## **Service of the Sacrament**

✠ ✠ ✠

*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]

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

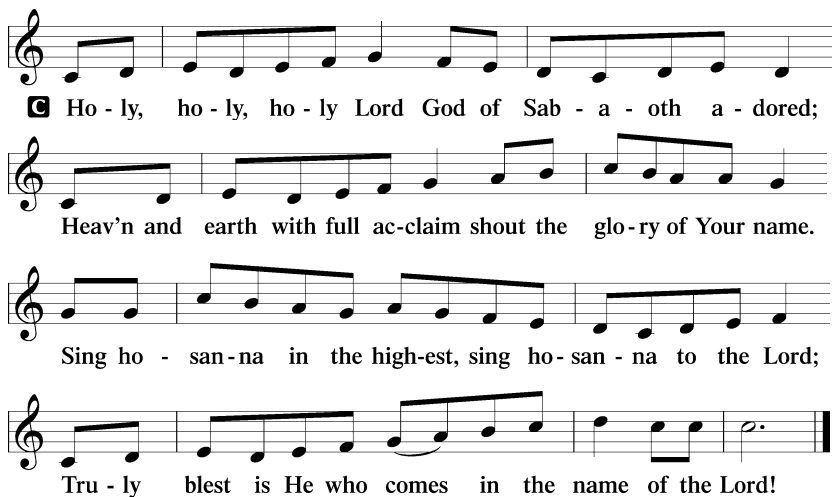
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!



## Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

- G** **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.**

## The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;  
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

- P** 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.



## Agnus Dei

John 1:29

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

### 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.*

### **350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come**

### **346 When All the World Was Cursed**

*Stand*

### **Nunc Dimittis**

*Luke 2:29–32*

1 O Lord, now let to Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## 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.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus and Benediction

*Psalm 103:1*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## 333 Once He Came in Blessing



***Soli Deo Gloria!***

***(To God alone be the glory.)***

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## Announcements



Assisting Elders:

8 a.m. – Andy Olson

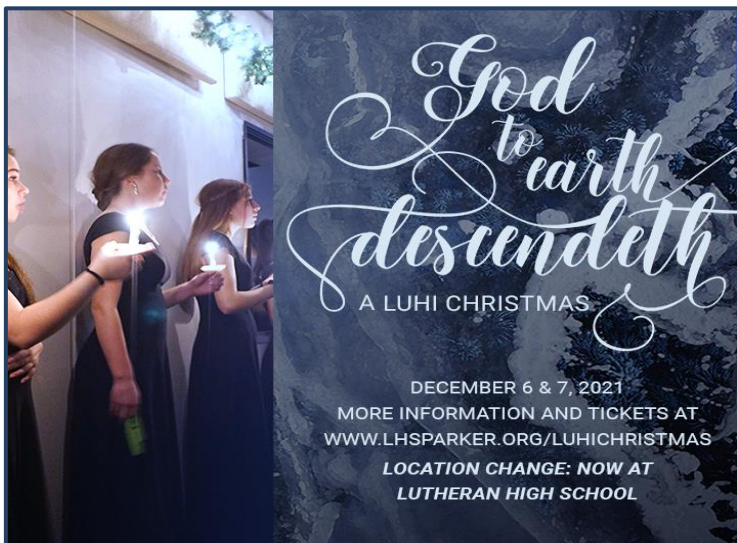
10:30 a.m. – Curt Oliver



## **Advent Worship Schedule**

Wed., Dec. 8	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	Soup dinner Advent Worship Service
Wed., Dec. 15	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	Soup dinner Advent Worship Service
Friday, Dec. 24	7 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship Service (NO Christmas Day Service)

The Soup Dinners are sponsored by the Elders and will be held in the downstairs fellowship room. Those attending are asked to bring a salad, bread, or dessert to share.





**The Voters' Assembly** will be held on December 12, between services at 9 a.m. Please plan to attend as this is an **extremely important** meeting concerning the future of HCLC.

With the loss of our ELC, the Council and the Ad Hoc committee have been dealing with some challenging realities and possible options. Below are items for the meeting:

- a. The approval of the 2022 budget
- b. Options and recommendations concerning the building:
  - i. These options include leaving the space vacant, for use by church only; attempting to resurrect our own ELC; leasing and/or renting the space.
  - ii. Approval of a Building Use Policy
- c. The real need for volunteers to serve our congregation and consequences of not having help – possible going to one Sunday service.

A packet for previewing all reports and recommendations will be available on December 5.

+++++

*For where two or three are gathered  
in my name, there am I among them.*

*Matthew 18:20*





A big thank you to the following who helped decorate the church last week. Debby Skelton, Scott and Barbara Schlopko, Marie McQuarry, Chad Otto, Fred Piazza, Randy Shelton, Shirley Tuell, Steve and Becky White.



If you wish to beautify the Lord's sanctuary this Christmas season with a beautiful 6-inch poinsettia, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex by, Sunday, December 12. The cost is \$10 per plant. If you wish to purchase one in honor of a special event or in memory of a loved one, please note that next to your name.

Please make checks payable to Holy Cross, note "poinsettia" in the memo section, and place in the offering plate.

Plants can be taken home after either of the services on Sunday, December 26.



Pick up your Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent devotions from the table by the mailboxes in the narthex.



Prepare the  
way of the  
Lord, make his  
paths straight.  
Luke 3:4



## Congregational Christmas Giving “Blessings at Christmas”

This Christmas we again have the opportunity to support "Blessings at Christmas" through Bethesda Lutheran Communities Ministry headquartered in down-town Littleton. This project is sponsored by "Women of the Cross."

Gift-giving this year is purchasing Gift Cards in any amount determined by your Heart. Suggested gift cards for easiest shopping: Walmart or VISA cards.

Place your "Gift Card" in the slotted Christmas-wrapped box. This will be located on your right side as you depart the Sanctuary. (Cards will be collected after second service.) We will receive you gifts beginning Sunday, November 7 through the deadline of Sunday, December 5.

Should you wish to make a cash donation or by check, make your check to: LWML - Women of the Cross - Memo: For Bethesda Christmas Blessings, and put in the slotted Christmas-wrapped box.



Bethesda Lutheran Communities will purchase meaningful and useful gifts using the donated gift cards for those living in Bethesda's home situations. Bethesda will wrap and place the gifts under the Christmas trees.

Thank you for your generosity in making someone's  
Christmas special! Women of the Cross

**Petitions and Prayers:** Knowing God's great love for us, we ask that He listen and "answer (us) speedily."



### **Health concerns:**

*Heavenly Father, as You sent Your Son to be with us in times of illness and pain, we beseech You to bring healing to those who are ill as best suits Your will. Bless the efforts of their doctors, surgeons, and health care workers to facilitate their return to health. Keep Your holy angels around them in their times of worry and pain. Amen.*

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Sandy Olson (daughter of Jerry and Shirley Tuell) recovering from surgery as a result of a car accident
- Angela (single mother in Illinois) friend of Helen Tabris who is waiting to get on the heart transplant list.
- Jamie and young daughter Jade (Jamie is missing and has mental health issues)
- Sonja Bowles – Cancer
- Julie Ann Zamora – on-going health issues

### **Prayer of intercession:**



#### *A Prayer for Advent*

*\*Lord Jesus Christ, we remember that at Your first advent You came as a lowly baby. How eagerly we anticipate celebrating that breakthrough day when You, the God made flesh, entered human history. Grant us, saints who live between Your first and second advents, an even greater anticipation for Your Second Coming, the Day of the Lord. Amen.*

### **"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life December 5, 2021**

"When we have eyes of faith, eyes that recognize these delights are gifts from God, then we realize that what we're missing, what we should be longing for, what we cannot live without, isn't Amazon or Starbucks or McDonalds. It's Him. And when we have Him, every other gift makes sense. Every other gift falls into its proper place."

*Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life for Lutherans For Life  
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*



***For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.***

***Romans 8:18***

## **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

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**

**or**

**go to [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) and click on**

**"Listen Now" anytime.**

**Holy Cross  
Lutheran Church**



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***Remember,  
Christmas is all  
about His presence,  
not your presents!***

