

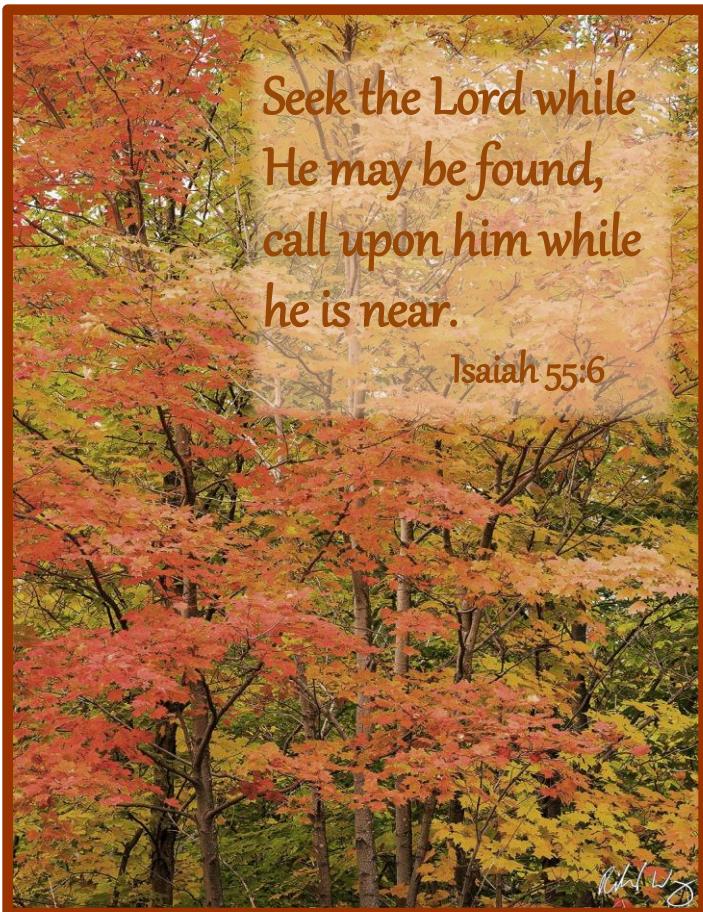
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Divine Service One

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023





The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023

8 AM and 10:30 AM

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.
Church Office.....303-683-1300
Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Cell.....303-908-3339
Fax.....303-470-0165

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

Prayer for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

O Lord our God, from whom we creatures derive life, there was never a moment You did not exist. From all eternity You are the same God and shall be in all eternity. You are the eternal source of life, the only source in heaven and on earth, and for that reason You are without beginning and without end. Our finite minds cannot fathom that eternity knows no distinction of time—today, yesterday, tomorrow. Let us, with Luther, acknowledge that what we were is past, and what we will be is not yet evident; as far as time is concerned, we have just this brief, present moment; of eternity we haven't the slightest concept. O Lord, help us in spiritual matters to not listen to our human reason lest we diminish the effectiveness of Your blessings in our lives. O living, eternal, and never-changing God, let us ever be content with the assurance and certainty afforded by Your gracious, steadfast Word, that we, too, may have everlasting life. In the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.



Confession and Absolution

497 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

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.
- G** Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- G** 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.
- G** 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]

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 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17



I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the LORD.

**What shall I render | to the LORD*
for all his bene- | fits to me?**

I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation*
and call on the name | of the LORD.

**Precious in the sight | of the LORD*
is the death | of his saints.**

O LORD, I am your | servant;*

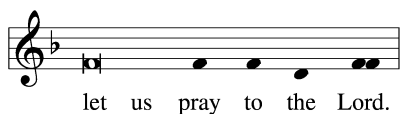
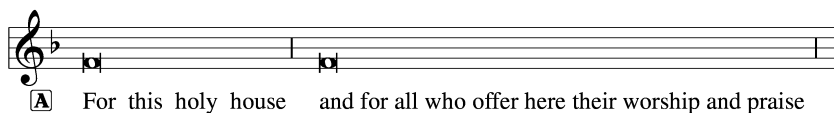
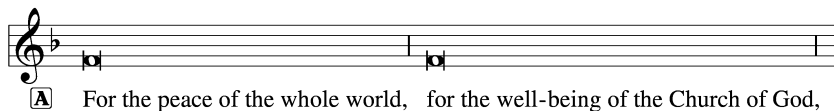
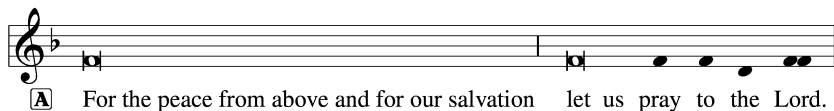
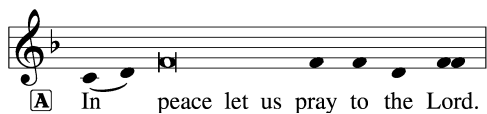
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have |
loosed my bonds.

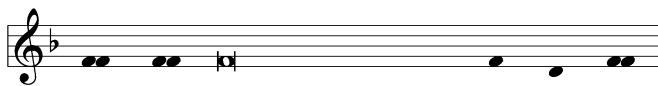
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the LORD.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47





A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord,



You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:6–9

"Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.



**Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.**

Epistle: Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with a 'C' time signature indicating common time. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1–16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with a 'C' time signature indicating common time. The piece ends with a double bar line.

[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have

borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

555 Salvation unto Us Has Come vs. 1-5

Sermon

"Looking for Forgiveness"

Text: Isaiah 55:6-9

555 Salvation unto Us Has Come vs. 6-10



Apostles' Creed

G I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

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

Sit

Offering

*(Please add your name to the red fellowship
book and pass it to your fellow worshipers.)*

Stand

Offertory

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

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

C **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.**

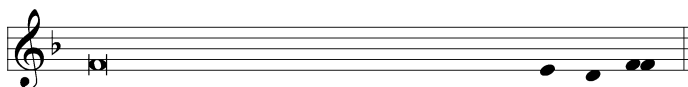
Closing Collect

P Lord Jesus Christ, giver and perfecter of our faith, we thank and praise You for continuing among us the preaching of Your Gospel for our instruction and edification. Send Your blessing upon the Word, which has been spoken to us, and by Your Holy Spirit increase our saving knowledge of You, that day by day we may be strengthened in the divine truth and remain steadfast in Your grace. Give us strength to fight the good fight and by faith to overcome all the temptations of Satan, the flesh, and the world so that we may finally receive the salvation of our souls; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26





826 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Announcements



Assisting Elders:

8 a.m. – Steve White

10:30 a.m. – Joe Tabris



God's Riches At Christ's Expense =
GRACE!



A big thank you to all who made the Rally Sunday Church Picnic a huge success! The cool and rainy weather held off until after the festivities. The music by Joe Tabris and the Commonwealth Jazz Quartet was super and enjoyed by the crowd, both inside and outside the church, as were the lawn games. The food was delicious thanks to our grill master, Steve and to all who brought sides to share. A special thank you to the Fellowship Committee, the Parish Ed. Board and others who helped plan and prepare menu items, set up for the picnic and clean up after the picnic.



IN HIS HANDS

Job 12: 7-10

Ascension Lutheran Ladies Guild Invites you to the South Central Zone LWML Fall Rally

Saturday, September 30, 2023
at Ascension Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO
9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Registration at 9:00 a.m. Registration cost is
\$5.00/person.

Light breakfast & lunch will be provided.

Free Will Offering for food expenses.

Childcare will be provided, please send lunch with them.

Portals of Prayer for October - December 2023 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!

HEART HEART - a Non-Profit

We have been working with this neighborhood group for a few years. Heart 2 Heart provides start-up goods for the homeless who are moving into their own housing. This includes Veterans, sheltered families and battered women, and young people transitioning from foster care. Other organizations find the housing and basic furniture, we provide the start-up needs.

The organization was founded by our neighbor, Linda Garrity, about 10 years ago. Caseworkers provide the names, ages, and needs of the families and a few of us “grandmas and grandpas” put together the orders for these families and load them into the cars for deliveries.

Donations come in from our neighbors and from those who have heard about Heart 2 Heart through word of mouth. Additionally, we scour thrift stores and purchase some new items, especially toys for the kids. One organization provides homemade quilts!

Needed donations include lightly used bedding, towels, books, toys, kitchen items such as pots, pans, dishes, cups, mugs, glasses, silverware, coffeemakers (each Veteran gets one), plastic storage like Glad or Tupperware, baking dishes, spatulas, etc. We do not deal with food, furniture, or clothing. However, we do purchase outfits for newborns, as no baby should leave the hospital in hand-me-down clothing.

If you have something that you no longer need, you can bring your items to church and we will drop them off at Linda's. If you have any questions, please call me, Becky White, at 303-506-8417. Thank you.

Steve and Becky White – 303-979-5978



ALL LIFE STARTS WITH A SINGLE SEED

Evangelism Board

John: 15:16: You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

The banner by the pulpit throughout August and September made me think about pastor's recent sermons on planting seeds and on our mission to share the Gospel with unbelievers.

The banner shows the progression of a seed to a mature, healthy plant bearing fruit. Additionally, the word **FAITH** is spelled out. Each letter in that word provides us understanding and gives us courage to evangelize. Here is what came to my mind.

- F Faith** that God is in control. Our **Father** gives us opportunities and words that we need, to plant seeds of Salvation.
- A Attention, undivided.** Listen to others who ask questions about your faith and/or might want to share about their own experiences, problems, etc. (Fertile ground for sowing seeds.)
- I Invest** in your own faith by attending Church, Bible Study, and in home Bible study. Show **interest** in others and **invite** them to attend service or a church event. (Fertile grounds for sowing seeds.)

T **Trust** in God who is the only one who can make those seeds take root and grow. The smallest seed may take **Time** to produce fruit.

H **Holy Spirit** and the **Harvest** of souls when Christ returns. The Holy Spirit works through the Word to provide understanding and to keep us in the one true faith. God wants all to be with him eternally in **Heaven**. That is why it is so important to share God's love and Christ's sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of all sins and for our salvation. **Plant the seed.**

I have found that many times those who ask me about my faith are lost and/or are looking for something. Two incidents came to mind.

The first involves a Jewish friend of ours, a very prominent Boston doctor, who asked me on two different occasions about my faith. That really caught me by surprise. I shared. I asked him why he wanted to know, and he replied that he is basically an atheist and is only Jewish by nationality. I also found out that he has terminal cancer. **Seed planted.**

The second incident involved a friend, raised Mormon, who had no time for religion. We shared with him our faith and how we were always there for him. While suffering greatly in hospice care, he reached out to us through his son and asked if our pastor would visit. After a phone call, Pastor showed up within 20 minutes. The time Pastor spent, sharing the Word and in prayer, led to our friend's acceptance of Christ as his Savior. While our friend was supposed to linger for another week, he peacefully passed away that very evening. **Fruit harvested.**

There are times when God puts us in the right place at the right time. **Don't be afraid.**

All the Glory to God

Isaiah 55: 6-9

E L A T R E T U R N C H
T E O B E R E H T I E N
H O K R U L H S Y A W N
O S Y A D N N T V E L D
U A A E S O D E R L W E
G I M N D R N A I A H K
H T H R F S O W N I E C
T H A I M R D F M T A I
S P N E G D N U O F L W
U N R I G H T E O U S Y
H C T D O G E O M A N H
Y C A L L K G R O H T L

ABUNDANTLY	HEAVENS
CALL	HIGHER
EARTH	HIM
FORSAKE	LET
FOUND	LORD
GOD	MAN
MAY	SAITH
MERCY	THOUGHTS
NEAR	UNRIGHTEOUS
NEITHER	WAYS
PARDON	WICKED
RETURN	WILL

The Workers in the Vineyard

'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' Matthew 20:12 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 20:1-16



D V O M O N E Y Q K J F E Q L
R Y H Q P G Y Y V V D B S K P
E U G V H E H E A V E N U I H
C S S Z Q N M J N R U N N N O
E A V I N E Y A R D R S F G U
I M I D T R I Z V E B M A D R
V W R S X O U F N P D T I O V
E O S P M U Q W M E E B R M C
D R D G B S O K R R T Q E R A
E K R Y P D M I T H V L U S W
H E Y V N P H E G E B Q E A A
O R C A V S Y I C M W G P K L
N S L H N Q R G U B A R W J K
U H G S Z L W R U W H I F E G
G B Z Y G D G T X R E V Q B N

MONEY	HOURLY	EQUAL	WORKERS	VINEYARD
LANDOWNER	HEAVEN	GRUMBLE	KINGDOM	GENEROUS
WAGES	HIRED	UNFAIR	RIGHT	RECEIVED

Petitions and Prayers: We pray in response to God's loving invitation, "Call upon Me..." and "Ask, and it shall be given you."



Health concerns:

Dear Jesus, Great Physician of body and soul, hear our prayers for those who are ill. Help them to see their suffering as a reminder not only of our mortality, but also a blessed remembrance of how You "took our illnesses and bore our diseases" (Matthew 8:17) to the cross of Calvary. If it be Your will, bring healing to these people as we anticipate the ultimate freedom from pain in the joys of heaven. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- **Becky Ryder** is having hip replacement surgery this Wednesday.
- **Paula Mayer** broke her arm and had surgery last Tuesday. Pray for healing and renewed strength.
- **Devon** Hanson (grandson of **Connie and Terry Mitchell**) – mental health issues
- **Dillon** (grandson of **Connie and Terry Mitchell** - health issues
- **Roger Frank** (brother of **Connie Mitchell**) cancer
- **Mary** (relative of **Tabris**) pray for protection and wisdom for her family concerning special needs.
- **Angela** (single mother in Illinois) friend of **Helen Tabris** –waiting for heart transplant
- **Jamie** (is missing and has mental health issues) and young daughter **Jade** (is being adopted by family in Colorado)

**May the God of peace be with me and guide me this day. Fill me with the trust that comes from knowing that through no act of my own, my sins have been forgiven in Christ's sacrifice and I will have eternal life. Remind me to be content because everything in this world pales in comparison to Your blessings, Lord; Your Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life September 24, 2023

"Every human life meets us as gift and privilege, created and redeemed and called by our Lord as His own precious treasure from fertilization to forever. And our life-affirming witness and service is surrounded and celebrated by a magnificent multitude of like-minded saints gone before, yet to come, and the world over."

*Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



*The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Psalm 103:8*

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***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
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.



**Look!
God is painting
the mountains.**