

# **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

**(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)**

**Divine Service Four**

**The Epiphany of Our Lord**

**January 7, 2024**





## The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

8:00 and 10:30 AM

### Prayer for the Epiphany of Our Lord

Lord Jesus, by Your preaching and the miracles that accompanied it, You revealed exactly who You are and exactly what You came into this world to accomplish. Your words and miracles forever stand as unshakeable proof that as the God-man You fully accomplished Your mission of earning forgiveness for a whole world of sinners. In this Epiphany season, as we study Your Word, strengthen our confidence in You as our only Savior and Lord. In Your name we pray. 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

### 396 Arise and Shine in Splendor

*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.

**G** Amen.



## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17*



I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;\*  
therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

**Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter  
of your kingdom is a scepter of up- | rightness;\*  
you have loved righteousness and hated | wickedness.**

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with  
the oil of gladness beyond your com- | panions;\*  
your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and | cassia.

**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 cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;\*  
therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

### Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*



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

## Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,

and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.  
And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,  
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

*Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*



**Praise the LORD, all | nations!\***

**Extol him, all | peoples!**

**For great is his steadfast | love toward us,\***

**and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.**

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;\***

**bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!**

## Epistle: Ephesians 3:1–12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of

Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Alleluia and Verse



*John 20:31*



## Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1–12

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

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

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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

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





## **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.**

# 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

## Sermon

**"We Have Come to Worship Him"**

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

*Stand*

## 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 worshippers.)*



## Service of the Sacrament



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



*Stand*

## Preface

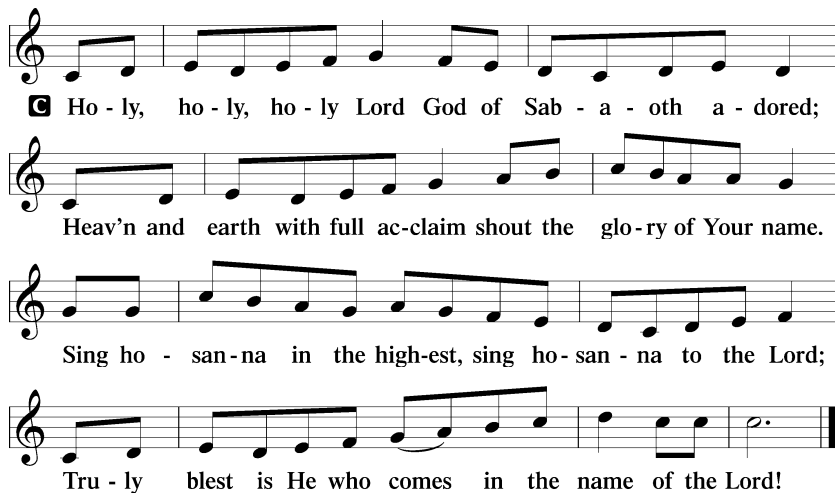
*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*

- 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 singing:

## 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.

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

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."

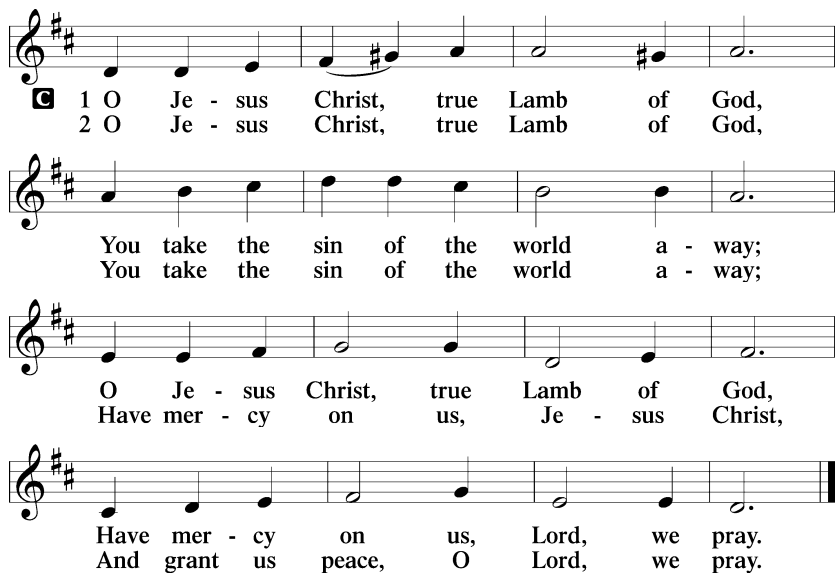
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **Pax Domini**

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

**397 As with Gladness Men of Old**

**401 From God the Father, Virgin-Born**

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

*Luke 2:29–32*

1 O Lord, now let 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 Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in lead 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.

**G** Amen.

## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1*

- P** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

- 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.

## 398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed



***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. – Keith Christian  
10:30 a.m. – Andy Olson



*O Comforter of priceless worth, grant a measure of Your presence to those who loved **Laurel Jean Burkett** who fell asleep in Jesus on Sunday, December 31, 2023. May knowing that Jesus' death has undone the fear of death enable those who loved Laurel to look forward to the day when they shall be reunited before the Father's throne. Amen.*

## Offering Envelope



The 2024 Offering Envelopes are available. Check your box in the narthex. If you didn't find yours or would like to request envelopes, please contact Dave Shavlik.



*Lord of our lives, the seasons and years change, but Your steadfast love remains the same. While we live among various changes in this world, help us to accept and adapt to the changes of this life. Knowing that You are with us through all things. May Your constant presence be our strength. Assure us that all things lead to the purpose for which You have called us. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

## Chancel Flowers



*If you are interested in donating flowers to adorn the chancel, please sign up on the flower calendar located on the bulletin board in the narthex. The price for a floral arrangement is \$35. **Orders need to be placed by the first Sunday of that month to be included.***

## **Portals of Prayer for January-March 2024 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!*

# The Visit of the Magi

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV).



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

PRIESTS  
GOD  
STAR  
WORSHIPED

MYRRH  
CHILD  
MAGI  
EAST

BETHLEHEM  
HOUSE  
TEACHERS  
SEARCH

KING  
INCENSE  
WORSHIP  
BORN

CHRIST  
MARY  
MOTHER  
HEROD

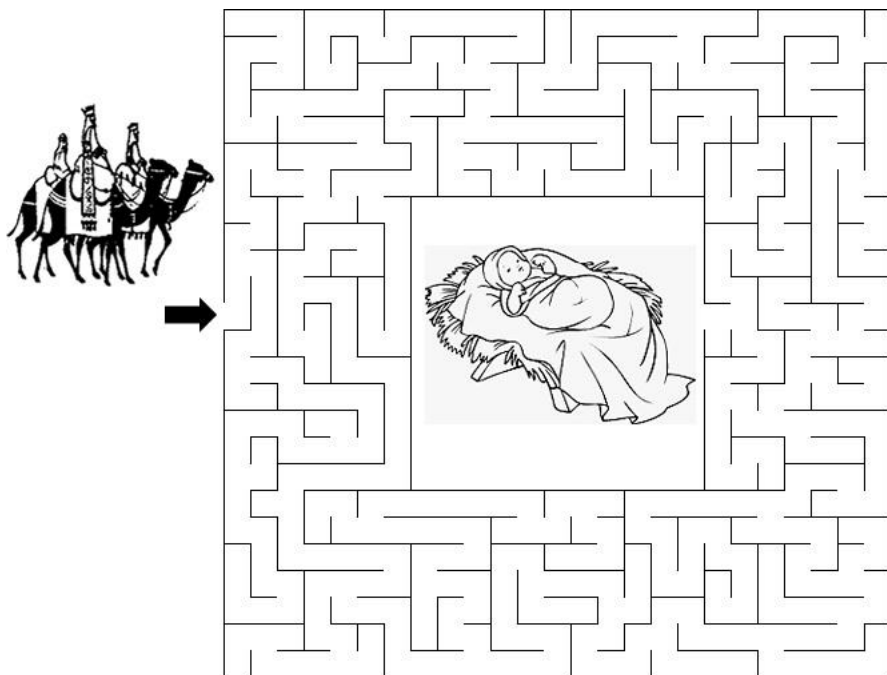


Oh I wouldn't worry about getting lost ... Wiseman #1 told me that he has some sort of global positioning system.

Can you help the Wise Men find the way to the baby Jesus?

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?  
We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:2



Wise Men Search for Jesus



**Petitions and Prayers:** Jesus invites us to come to Him through prayer, and promises that He will give us “rest.”



### **Health concerns:**

*Dear Jesus, You are the Great Physician. You took our flesh upon Yourself: You know our weaknesses because You bore them on the cross. We pray that You would deliver those with illnesses and afflictions. Likewise, enable them to believe that Your grace is sufficient for them in all circumstances. Thank You that we can look to You for hope and healing. Amen.*

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- **McKinley Ford**, daughter of Erica and Andy Olson, is having doctor appointments trying to figure out the cause of a low white blood count and a resolution.
- **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**) healing from infection.
- **Kathy**, daughter of **Helen** and **Joe Tabris**, is recovering from surgery. Pray for healing and restored faith.
- **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** who has been adopted by family. Pray for the family's salvation.

### **“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life January 7, 2024**

“What is it that is essential for your life this New Year? What gifts do you cherish? Certainly, Jesus is the most precious gift we have! Let Him shine through your whole life this year. Take Him with you everywhere. Remember whose family you belong to! Cling to Jesus, our Father's Son this New Year! Our Father goes with you and promises His blessings, now and forever!”

*Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
Redwood Falls, Minnesota  
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*



When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.  
And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother,  
and they fell down and worshiped him.

**Matthew 2:10-11**

## **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

Website.....[www.hclchr.org](http://www.hclchr.org)

***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](https://facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch).

## **New Year's Resolution: Exercise Daily**

- **Walk with God**
- **Run from Sin**

