

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 2019



Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Canada

322 East Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 1Z5 (519)742-5812 www.holycrosskitchener.org

The First Sunday after Christmas

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Divine Services

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School and Moncton Mission Presentation

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Four, LSB page 203

Hymns: 373, 383, 393, 388

Readings: Isaiah 63:7-14 (Pew Bible, Page 726)
Galatians 4:4-7 (Pew Bible, Page 1130)
St. Matthew 2:13-23 (Pew Bible, Page 934)

Anthems: Judy Lumsden (*vocal*), Heather Schein (*accompanist*)

Sermon: St. Matthew 2:13-23

“KEEPING HEROD IN CHRISTMAS”

Special Music: Judy Lumsden (*piano*)
(11:00) Sam Schafer, Brigitte Bridgemohan (*violin*),
Justus Schafer (*piano*)

Serving in God’s House Today: Pastor Nolan Astley (*Preacher*), Pastor Roland Syens (*Officiant*), Jennifer Massicotte (*Organist*), Bridget Coleman (8:30 *Acolyte*), Madison Freiter (11:00 *Acolyte*), Ken Griffin (8:30 *Sound Operators*), Mike Koch and Jack Chuol (11:00 *Sound Operators*).

Prayer Concerns: In our prayers today ***we remember the family of Joe Kirkey*** who passed away on December 24. May God’s promises of resurrection and eternal life comfort his family as they mourn! ***We also remember those of our congregational family who battle illness***, including ***Judy Hebner*** (Innisfree House), ***Lorraine Planert*** (Freeport) and ***Tom Schaefer*** and ***Ken Frank*** who are undergoing various treatments at home. ***We also pray for our prospective refugee families*** asking that according to God’s will the doors be opened for them to come to Canada in 2020. We also pray God to protect all who travel at this holiday time.

New Births in the congregation! We give thanks to God for the safe arrival of two babies born to families in the congregation. ***On December 20, Michelle and Colin Palmer*** welcomed ***Kayla Grace Palmer*** into their family and ***on December 22, Erik and Katie Reed*** welcomed the safe arrival of ***Monika Mary Reed***. May God continue to bless these families and grant them great joy!

Moncton Mission presentation TODAY during the Adult Bible class time. Join us in the Sanctuary at **10:00 a.m.** to hear how God's Word was shared by members of Holy Cross at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Moncton, NB.

Sunday School Opening will be downstairs today due to the Mission presentation in the church.

Church Office closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2020. *Debbie Pritchard* is taking holidays this week **returning on Thursday, January 2.** With the exception of leading the liturgy on New Year's Eve, **Pastor Astley will be out of the office from December 30 to January 7.**

Join us again **Tuesday night** for our ***New Year's Eve Holy Communion Service at 7:00 p.m.*** Let's gather around God's Word and at His Table one last time in 2019!

Coming Events...

ESL Conversation Circle begins here at Holy Cross ***on Monday, January 6 from 10:30 am to noon.***

A Board of Directors' Meeting will be held on ***Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00 p.m.***

The Men's Retreat will be held at the ***Guelph Bible Centre on February 28 and 29, 2020.*** The topic will be "Jesus and Archaeology" presented by Stephen Chambers. Registration forms are available on line at holycrosskitchener.org.

Please Note...

Those Who Make Offerings to the Lord's work: Just a reminder that **new offering envelopes for next year are in mailboxes and ought not be used until the new year and the cut-off for 2019 offerings is December 31.** All donations received after year end will be credited in 2020.

Last Week at Holy Cross...

Sunday Attendance: 99 & 277 & 28 Total 404 ('18- 374)

Memorial: In memory of **ELAINE SCHAEFER** to the *Unified Church Budget* from Lynne Seshagiri.

Update on Congregational Finances: Over the past several weeks we have been gratified to see the support given by members to help prevent finishing the year in a financial deficit. We give thanks to God for the generous hearts of our congregational family and trust Him to supply all our needs through the richness of His grace in Christ our Lord.

Weekly Calendar

Monday December 30 to Sunday January 5, 2020

Tuesday **New Year's Eve Holy Communion Service, Church**..... **7:00 p.m.**

Wednesday **New Year's Day, Church office closed**

Sunday **The Epiphany of Our Lord**
Holy Communion Service, Church..... **8:30 a.m.**
Sunday School, *Downstairs*..... 9:45 a.m.
Adult Bible Class, *Church*..... 9:45 a.m.
YABS, *Conference Room*..... 9:45 a.m.
Youth Bible Class, *Youth Centre*..... 9:45 a.m.
Holy Communion Service, Church..... **11:00 a.m.**
Nuer Language Service, Church..... **2:00 p.m.**



The Pastors and Staff thank all of you, our Holy Cross family, for your kind words, gifts, cards and prayers that we have received over the Christmas Season. Know that we have all been blessed by the kindness you have shown us.

By God's grace, the members of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church will be a caring, vibrant diverse community of blessed believers, lovingly reaching out with the message of Jesus Christ." - *Vision Statement 2010*