



Volume 44 Issue 52 Published Weekly by Holy Cross Lutheran Church December 24/25, 2016

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HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
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Senior Pastor

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Associate Pastor

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Minister of Outreach

Brian Amey
Minister of Youth

Kent Hoyer
Business Manager

AS WE GATHER

An old song expresses the yearning well: "I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams." This time of year, we long to be home, to be surrounded by family, to remember simpler times. Home is more than a place. It's more than family. It's a sense of belonging. This very special weekend, we celebrate the God who left His home to join us here, so heaven could be our home. We'll celebrate with many old songs, as we praise this Jesus who opened up heaven to be our home. The Lord Himself bless you as He welcomes you home today!



HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

We who would be at home on Christmas day,
Secure in earliest love, with old friends thronging,
Let us remember Mary as she lay
In the strange place begrudging her, faint with longing
For her familiar home in Nazareth,
Where neighbors' talk and her deep silence blended
In little rooms made fragrant by the breath
Of baking, and of small fires carefully tended.

Let us remember men who left behind
Home, family, country, all, because of seeing
One certain light that led them far to find
The Child; and let us be content with being
Away from home, in places far and dim,
If only our hearts may be at home with Him.
-Jane Merchant

The Blessing Place will be closed on Dec 24th and 25th so that our volunteers may worship and celebrate with their families.

Holiday Worship Schedule

New Year's Eve Service
Saturday, December 31st

6:00 p.m.—Worship and Communion

New Year's Day Services
Sunday, January 1st

8:15 and 11:00 a.m.—New Year Worship and Communion
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School & Bible Classes



POINSETTIA PICKUP

If you donated a poinsettia and would like to pick it up, you may do so after the 11:00 a.m. worship on December 25th. Since the facility is closed on December 26th, you may also pick it up between December 27th and December 31st. The poinsettias that remain at that point will be delivered to shut-ins.



FLOWER CHART



If you would like to contribute flowers for the altar during 2017, the new chart is now available so that you can sign up. The chart is on the bulletin board near the bell tower entry. *At the bottom of the chart are instructions regarding the flowers.*

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
December 31/January 1, 2017
 Numbers 6:22-27
 Galatians 3:23-29
 Luke 2:21



SEED TO SOW: What difference does it make? A familiar question and one that can be asked, and answered, regarding Christmas. It makes all the difference! Christ coming to earth in human form forever changes our world...and us! Share with others the difference it makes in your life!

BEFORE YOU RECYCLE...

Please continue to save those coupons from the Sunday newspaper. In the past, your coupons have supplied breakfast foods to the Drop-In Center for the homeless, as well as personal and health products like deodorant, shampoo, lotion, shavers, etc. Almost every Sunday, the paper contains one or two coupon inserts (those folders stuffed full of coupons). By strategically using these coupons, super shoppers can make large purchases for very little money. You can bring your unused Sunday-only coupons and deposit in the "Coupon Box" in the Church Office. Thank you!

Another Seed to Sow: Serving together is more effective than going it alone. We can involve each other in our faith and our witness. Talk about how you can work together to share God's love...as a team (Philippians 2:2)

MEN'S BASKETBALL



We will not be playing the next two weeks. Join us for a fun game of basketball on Thursday, January, 12th, from 8 to 9:30 p.m. We would love to have you join us!

DILLONS COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM



We thank everyone who has registered their Dillons Plus card in the Community Rewards Program and designated Holy Cross to receive 5% back from all their purchases. Dillons requires all Plus card holders to re-enroll in the Community Rewards Program each calendar year. You can do this by going to www.dillons.com/communityrewards. After signing in, select Holy Cross as the Non-Profit Organization (NPO) by using the NPO number 10231 and searching for Holy Cross.

ZIPPERED BAGS

We can always use zippered plastic bags (the kind that sheets, blankets, comforters, etc. come in) to safely store supplies and finished work for various outreach projects (like Christmas stockings!). Any of these can be left in the Church Office.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

December 2016 - February 2017

Saturday (4:45 - 5:45 p.m.)

Ezra - Nehemiah Concordia Room

Sunday (9:45 - 10:45 a.m.)

Middle School Youth Gym

High School Youth The Lighthouse

Young Adults - Counter Culture Parlor

Christmas Is Crafts Room

Hebrews, Part 2 School Library

Adult Information Class Church Library

Woman's Bible Study, Part 2 School Art Room

Ezra - Nehemiah .. Fellowship Hall, Center Section

Exodus: "Our God is A Strong Deliverer!"
 Concordia Room

Sunday (7:28 - 8:28 p.m.)

College-Age Bible Study School Library

 With Our Low Prices, You Saved
\$1.52
 Annual Card Savings \$12.25
PARTICIPATING ITEMS <+ = 1
 At your request Dillons is donating to
 HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN SCHOOL
 Now Hiring - Apply Today!
 Jobs.dillons.com
 www.dillons.com

Then, the next time you use your Dillons Plus card for purchases, check the bottom of your receipt for these words: "At your request Dillons is donating to Holy Cross Lutheran School."

If you have any questions, contact the Church Office at 684-5201.



Did you know there is a wealth of information on our church website (our school has its own and it's great, too!)? There you can find sermon notes, a digital recording of our sermons, current and past editions of Life at Holy Cross, descriptions of our church ministries, church history and so much more! Explore at www.holycrosslutheran.net. The school site is www.lovemyschool.net.



WELCOMING GUESTS

Holy Cross is blessed by the number of guests who join us in our worship services. Last weekend, we were joined by **32** guests. One or more of these individuals may have been sitting next to you. Did you help to make them feel welcome?

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The boxes of offering envelopes for 2017 are in the entryway to the Worship Center and ready to be picked up.

About every 6 or 7 years, we reassign offering envelope numbers to everyone, as the sequencing gets a bit jumbled over time. This aids in the process for the recording of donations. The increase in electronic giving has significantly reduced the use of envelopes by our members. Last year, we ordered 800 boxes. This year, we only ordered 600 boxes.

Continue to use your current envelopes until December 31, 2016. After that, throw them away. Do not use your new envelopes until January 1, 2017. At that time, do not use your old numbers, as it is possible that your donations will get recorded to someone else.

As always, if you have questions, do not hesitate to give Kent Hoyer a call in the Church Office at 684-5201.

Be sure to pick up your
January - March 2017 copy of
Portals of Prayer before they are gone!

RECORD OF OUR RESPONSE December 17/18, 2016

Worship Attendance (82,191,275).....	548
Children's Sunday School.....	82
Adult Bible Classes.....	124
Youth Bible Study.....	46
Needed to meet weekly budget 2016/17	\$32,727
Weekly offering plate receipts.....	\$34,147
Weekly electronic receipts	\$9,639
Year-to-date offering budget.....	\$867,274
Year-to-date offering receipts.....	\$802,886



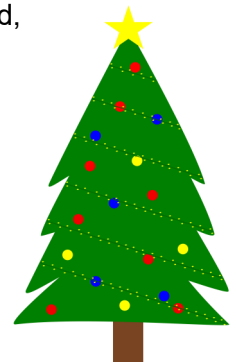
Pledges.....	\$1,514,647
Year-to-date receipts.....	\$555,603
Percent of pledges received.....	36%
Year-to-date principal payments made.....	\$387,764

HOMELESS MEAL!

Our next homeless meal is Wednesday, January 4th and features: ham with au gratin potatoes, green beans, bread and cookies! We need your help with food items. Check the sign-up sheet on the Outreach bulletin board in the main hallway between the Worship Center and Commons Area. Please bring food items to the Church Kitchen by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3rd.

ONLY THE REAL THING WILL DO

I think I shall never be
Sold on an artificial tree.
A Christmas tree with plastic limbs
Just doesn't stir me up to hymns;
A tree with needles made of foil,
That grew in factories, not in soil;
And, though it will not burn nor shed,
Will neither be alive nor dead.
Perennial, yes, it may be,
And formed in perfect symmetry.
But only God can make a tree
To suit old-fashioned fools like me.

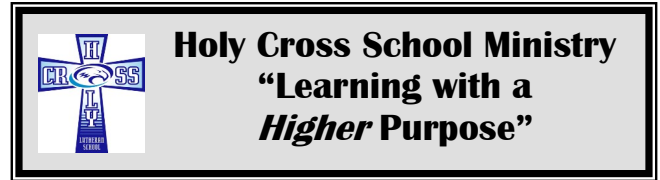


Nuggets Magazine



Welcome to the 75th Anniversary Information corner. Watch for the logo to find updated information. If you have not done so, please pick up your envelope from the table in the entryway to the Worship Center. Help us out by delivering envelopes to family members or friends you may see. Enclosed in the envelope is a cover letter, a magnet with Event Dates for the 75th Anniversary celebration and a postcard. If you know of a former member or someone that would like the information, please fill out that postcard and drop or mail to the Church Office. There are ADDITIONAL magnets on the table for someone you may want to invite to share our festivities.

ALSO, watch for the launch of our new web blog, 75.holycrosslutheran.net to keep up on all the events throughout the year.



"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11

THOSE SERVING THE LORD IN JANUARY as...

Ushers—

Saturday, 6:00 p.m.—Jerry Stigge, Sarah Christenson, Tim Kloth;

Sunday, 8:15 a.m.—Mark Guetersloh, Bill Hayden, Bruce Burnett, Tim Kaufman, Todd Guetersloh, Jeff Pearce, Tim Witek, Paul Raab;

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.—Cliff Pfortmiller, Danny Witt, Brad Macy, Rick Matz, Derek Mullins, Al Schulz, Jerry Stigge, Jeremy Zellers.

Altar Guild—

Gwen Hillis, Deb Schmidt, Anita Norris, Pat Kalitta, Vanda Heil and Jean Horstman.

MEMBERS WORSHIPING OUT OF TOWN OR AT OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES... Mark & Marna Atkinson—Linn, Kansas; Barbara Kees—Grace Lutheran, Wichita, Kansas; David & Jac-E. Ersland—Omaha, Nebraska; Barbara Davis—Kansas City, Missouri; Dan & Marcia Chinberg—St. Louis, Missouri; Bob & Fran Ohm—Fort Wayne, Indiana; Don Endorf—Tobias, Nebraska; Carl & Barb Fiegenbaum & Family—Dodge City, Kansas; Sharon Lewallen—Immanuel, Wichita, Kansas; Carl & Gail Burger—Salt Lake City, Utah; Doris Endorf—Arvada, Colorado; James & Shannon Nickerson and Ella Schaffer—Sapulpa, Oklahoma; Terri Vanwey—Kansas City, Missouri; Steve & Bev Mardis—Stuart, Florida.

BASKETBALL SCHEDULES

Here's the link for Middle School basketball
www.athletics.lovemyschool.net/calendar.

Follow the principal's Twitter posts at
<https://mobile.twitter.com/ICTLoveMySchool>

HCLS ALUMI SEEKING SUPPORT

Lynette Bosch, a Holy Cross member and alumni, will be traveling to China next February to teach English. She will be serving for a year and a half with English Language Institute/China (ELIC) which has been sending teachers to China since 1982. English teachers are in very high demand in China. Since ELIC's start they have sent over 10,000 teachers and continue to send more teachers to Asia than any other organization. However, ELIC is about more than just teaching English. Their teachers are highly focused on building relationships, both as a team and with the citizens of China. Through these relationships the teachers can be a light in the darkness and share the hope of new life. Currently Lynette is looking for people who are interested in sponsoring this work. There are a variety of ways to become involved including prayer, monetary donations, or even with Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you would like to become a partner or simply learn more, you can call her at (316) 833-6013 or send her an email at lynetteb53@gmail.com.




Young Adult Ministry

Sunday Morning Bible Class for Young Adults meets in the Parlor each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. and is led by Aaron Zimmerman. This winter we will study hot topics that impact both the church and our culture using *Counter Culture*: A compassionate call to counter culture in a world of poverty, same-sex marriage, racism, sex slavery, immigration, persecution, abortion, orphans, and pornography.

College-Age Ministry: Young adults, age 18-22, are invited to Bible Study on select Sunday evenings. Join us from 7:28 to 8:28 p.m. in the Holy Cross School Library. The "Life Together" series is a relational journey that helps move us from just a member or a group to being a vital part of an unbelievable spiritual community. If you are college-age, we hope you will join us in this community on Sunday nights as we pause from our busy lives to read and discuss the truth of God's Word. Contact Ali Walton at 295-0481 for more information.

Young Adult Couples: We are excited to be starting a Bible study on Sunday mornings for young adult couples. Join us as we study *The Indestructible Marriage* – Led by Jeff and Leah Davis. We will be meeting in the Craft Room starting January 1st.

Singles Ministry


 January 8th - Singles Brunch at Abuelo's Mexican Restaurant, 1413 N Waterfront Parkway, at 12:30 p.m.

Singles Bible Study will not meet during the month of January, will resume on February 6th.

SPIRIT NIGHT AT PAPA MURPHY'S
(21st & Webb location only)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29TH
11:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PAPAMURPHYS.COM
OR CALL THEM AT 316-315-0606

20% of the sale will be returned to Holy Cross!

High School Ministry

 **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Meet with us in the Lighthouse each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. Currently we are doing an Advent study on Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. Starting in January we will get back to our study on "The Gospel in Six Words" from Dare2Share. We look forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday Night Bible Studies: Join us next Wednesday, January 4th at 7:00 p.m. as we get back to our weekly study. Our youth will spend time in praise and prayer, group building, study, and fellowship using the Nooma videos to guide the discussions.

Lighthouse Game Night Join us Sunday, January 8th to play some games and relax before school gets started. We will be in the Lighthouse from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Snacks are provided - be sure to bring your friends!

COMING EVENTS:

- Jan. 4th Bible Study
- Jan. 8th Lighthouse Game Night
- Jan. 11th Bible Study

Middle School Ministry

Sunday Morning Bible Class meets at 9:45 a.m. in the Gym. We look forward to seeing you there!

Middle School Quake registration is online at www.holycrosslutheran.net on the Middle School page. The event this year is Feb 3-5th at the Wichita Hyatt. The cost is \$140. Additional information about the weekend can be found on the Holy Cross website. If you have questions about this event please contact Pam Amey at 737-9559.

Friday Night Lock Down on January 6th from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 to cover dinner and supplies. Non-Holy Cross school or church guests are free! Can't wait to see you there!

COMING EVENTS:

- Jan. 6th - Friday Night Lock Down

★ ★ ★ ————— ★ ★ ★
ATTENTION CRAFTERS
★ ★ ★
★ If you donated items to the LWML Christmas Shoppe, please stop by the Church Office to pick up any of your unsold items. After January 1st, any remaining items will be disposed.
★ ★ ★
★ Thanks, LWML ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ————— ★ ★ ★

Happy Birthday To...

Some members of our church family will be celebrating birthdays this week and we would like to take this opportunity to wish them God's richest blessings on their special day. Why not join us by giving them a call or dropping a line to them to let them know you care! If you are not listed, we apologize and ask you to contact the Church Office so we can update our records. *Thank You.*

May God bless you and keep you on your special day and throughout the year.

December 26

Tricia B
Johnathan F
Emily H
Sallie J
Alyssa P
Weston W
Todd W

December 27

Sherry J
Marshall K
Keanie V O
Jacque S

December 28

Erma A
Chris B
John Mark C
Russ K
Abbie H

December 29

Andy A
Kim H
Matthew H
Megan H
Ken K
Blake S
Corbin S

December 30

Elizabeth F
Audrey C
Jeremy L

December 31

James W
Bruce W
Tim W

January 1

Hunter H
Madison J
Jei S
Emily S

Sylvia S
Gered W



THE XMAS OF CHRISTMAS



Someone has written that people use Xmas and it means Xhaustion, Xcuses, Xchanges, Xcesses, Xtravagances, Xasperations, Xhibitions and worldly Xcitement. How much better to make Christ the very center of our Christmas observances and know joy, happiness, sharing and contentment in Him.

GRIEFSHARE TO BEGIN

St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 2555 N Hyacinth Ln, Wichita, KS (I-235 bypass & 25th St. N.) will begin a new 13-week *GriefShare* Group beginning on January 8, 2017 and meet every Sunday afternoon from 2:00-4:00 p.m. through April 9, 2017. *GriefShare* is a positive, uplifting, caring group in which participants can learn how to deal with the emotions and challenges that come when a loved one dies. Any adult who has experienced the death of a family member or friend, whether recently or in years past, is invited to attend the *GriefShare* series. A \$15 registration fee covers the cost of the workbook. (scholarships available) Each week's material is "self-contained" so a person can catch a missed session when the next series begins. Please call St. Andrews office at 838-0944 to register.

CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY

Each month we invite you to be a part of a card shower to help celebrate the birthday of members who are either shut-ins or are somewhat confined to their home. The month of January, we celebrate with:

- 1/10 Margrethe Carter
10600 E. 13th St. N. Rm. 103
Memory Care at Regent Park
Wichita, KS 67206-3706
- 1/10 Naomi Kindler
420 Lioba Dr. Apt. 202
Andover, KS 67002-9079
- 1/18 Shirley Perkins
8600 E. 21st St. N. Unit 117
Sterling House at Tallgrass
Wichita, KS 67206-2931
- 1/25 Frank Clobes
115 S. Rutan St. Apt. 8F
Wichita, KS 67218-1135



PRAYER and PRAISE



This prayer page invites you to join in a ministry of prayer in faithfulness to our Lord's injunction to "watch and pray..." (Matthew 26:41) The requests listed here represent only some of the many needs for prayer among us. Your requests may be added by filling out a prayer request card and placing it in the collection plate during the offering or by sending it to the Church Office.

Prayer(s) of Thanksgiving:

- O Holy Christ Child, you come into this world as the Son of God to light the world as the angels proclaim the news of your birth. Let the light of joy radiating from our hearts be a sign that the Christ Child has arrived in all his majesty to fulfill the prophecy of ages past.

Those in Need:

- For all who continue to deal with cancer and other chronic illnesses, including: Danille Cary, Tim Corwin, Kurt Davenport, Rosey Day, Bob Edwards, Debra Ellerbusch, Edward Ellis, Ian Hemmings, Alicia Huckstadt, Suzanne Malcolm, Larry McKown, Charolette Milam, Ashley Personey, Bridget Schmidt, Suzi Simmons, Mary Stigge, Trudi Stigge, Tripp Stratton, Leitha Wills.

Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.

- Devon Alford, Michael Ashcraft, Caleb Becker, Trent Clark, Adam Edwards, Monique Farness, Megan Harris, Kris Heck, Phil Heseltine, Geoffrey Jensen, Joshua Gerstenberger, Joanna Hannum, Phillip Lim, Nathan Mavia, Sara Pearce, Amber Peterson, Joseph Schubert, Eric Scott, Andrew Shepherd, Nathan Smith, Jordan Solomon, David Thomas, Jeremiah Waggoner, Jesse Wallace, Joshua Weidner, J.D. Wilson, Nick Wilson, Matt Ziegelbein.

Other Prayers:

- For the unborn children, for women who may be considering abortion. May hearts be open to accept God's truth. May the *South Wind* and *Planned Parenthood* abortion clinics in Wichita be peacefully closed soon.
- This week, we pray for college students at Friends University: **Kayla Guetersloh** and **Seth Kelley** and those at Wichita State University: **Ashley Allenbach, Sarah Bittle, Reece Burns, Kelly Cernik, Aubrey Chinberg, Dylan Clark (Graduate Student), Wyatt Clark, Megan Dargel, Katie Deutsch, Kellie Deutsch, Lori Goodwin, Sarah Gunzelman, Whitney Jensen, Lauren Kahovec, Maggie Koops, Austin Linhardt,**

Jordan Ollenberger, Ali Walton, Marissa West (Graduate Student) and **Katie Wolgast**. May the Lord bless their time in college and keep them safe in His grace.

Mission Prayers:

- That the Lord would open the doors of opportunity and empower us to serve our community.
- That the Lord would preserve His Word and Sacraments in our midst, so that we may be kept strong in the one, true faith.
- That the people of God would be faithful in their attendance of worship, where God strengthens our faith toward Him and our steadfast love for one another.
- That all the people of God would grow into the stature of the fullness of Christ.
- That the people of God would live out their vocations in a godly manner, always glorifying the Lord through their actions and words.
- For useful and gainful employment for those who are unemployed or underemployed.
- For both the rich and the poor in the Church, that those who have much may always be a blessing to those who have little.
- For the ministers of the Word, that they would be able to devote themselves to the ministry full time while being able to support their families.
- For the Church's missionaries, that through them the Word would go forth into the world with power.
- That the people of God would be good neighbors in the communities where God has placed them.
- For parents, that they would see their role in raising children as a holy calling from God.
- For wisdom in caring for the earthly affairs of the Church, that God's people would be honest, faithful and compassionate.

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
600 North Greenwich Road
Wichita, KS 67206-2633

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Sunday School Program	4:00 pm
Christmas Eve Communion Worship Service	6:00 pm
Candlelight Communion Christmas Worship	10:00 pm

Sunday, December 25th - Christmas Day

Lessons & Carols Communion Service	8:15 am
Birthday Party for Jesus	9:45 am
Lessons & Carols Communion Service	11:00 am

Monday, December 26th

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 27th

Deadline for Life at Holy Cross	12:00 pm
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Wednesday, December 28th

Men's Bible Study	6:30 am
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Thursday, December 29th

"Spirit Night" at Papa Murphy's	11:00 am - 9:00 pm
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Friday, December 30th

Saturday, December 31st - New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve Communion Worship Service	6:00 pm
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Sunday, January 1st - New Year's Day

Worship & Communion Service	8:15 am
Sunday School/Bible Classes	9:45 am
Baptismal Class	9:45 am
Worship & Communion Service	11:00 am

CHRIST
THE SAVIOR
IS BORN!