

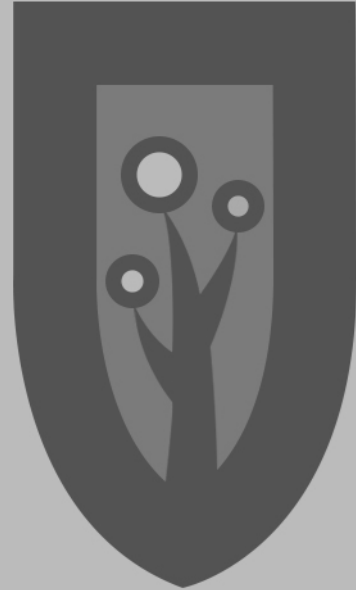
BELONGING



BELIEVING



BEARING 



Weekly Announcements for December 31 at ...



HOLY CROSS

LUTHERAN CHURCH

BELONGING, BELIEVING, & BEARING  IN JESUS

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Schedule change this week: This week we will only have one morning service at 10 a.m. There will be no Sunday School or “To Be” groups. We will have fellowship with cookies in the narthex after the service. We will resume our normal schedule on Sunday, January 7, 2024

Worship each week is normally at 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.: Each week we offer two services—an early more traditional service at 8:30 a.m. and a later more contemporary service at 10:45 a.m. The blessing of this schedule is that it allows for at least 45 minutes of fellowship over coffee and goodies in our Fellowship Hall with all worshipers from both services together. Please plan to join us for fellowship and worship! Fellowship is at 9:45-10:30 a.m. Weekly Sunday Services will break from this normal schedule on New Years Eve with service at 10 a.m. The normal schedule will resume January 7.

Offerings: We thank each of you for your continued financial support of Holy Cross. Donations may be made through our website, through your bank, through automatic transfers, by mailing a check into the office, or at one of the in-person services. Donations received from Dec. 18-24, 2023 were \$8,450.00 Questions? Need help? Contact the office at 509-483-4218 or secretary@holycrosslcms.net.

Stephens Ministry Leader Training begins January 9: In our community the characteristics of compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience serve as a meaningful foundation for what a Stephen Minister is called to be and do. Please pray for our class of new leaders and if you are interested in joining, please fill out an application and begin the discerning process today as it needs to be done before the classes start. There are applications on the long oak table in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Don Comi at 509-990-8145.

Prayer List: If you would like prayers for needs going on in your life or if you would like to be on our prayer list praying for others, please email Gwen at prayerlistholycross@gmail.com or call Barbara Ammons at 509-328-0213.

Life Light Bible Studies begin again in January. The Gospel of Mark is the next study. Books are in and available for pick up on the round table in the narthex. Study groups start Monday Jan. 8, Tuesday Jan. 9 and Wednesday Jan. 10.

Coffee Call: Needing regular coffee again. No decaf please, we have plenty. We could also use some individually wrapped tea bags so if you have a favorite tea you would like to share that would be great. Please bring all donations to the kitchen. Thank you!

Mission Community Outreach is in need of clothing and hygiene items. There is a barrel for donations in the narthex. Thank you!

Missing a favorite dish? We have several dishes that have been left in the kitchen or Fellowship Hall over the last few weeks. Stop by and see if any of them look familiar and need to find their way back home. Thanks.

Youth Sledding & Epiphany Bonfire Event for Middle & High School

Youth will be on Sunday afternoon January 7 from 1 pm to 6:30 pm. This will include sledding, bonfire, dinner, smores, God's word and more. Friends are welcome too. Please sign up at: <https://holycrosslcms.net/youth-ministry>

Holy Cross Resource Conservation Initiatives: Holy Cross recently implemented three initiatives to conserve resources and money: (1) a retrofit to all LED lighting, (2) a smart water irrigation system, and (3) smart thermostats. The thermostats have been set based on planned activities in the church. When the space is not scheduled they are set to 60 degrees in the winter and 90 degrees in the summer. This will save money, energy, and increase the life of our HVAC system. If the space is not at a comfortable temperature for your group, feel free to make an adjustment for the time you are here but please return the thermostat to the standard set point (60 degrees winter, or 90 degrees summer) when you are finished using the space. You can learn more about these initiatives in our January newsletter. If you have questions or concerns please call John Gillette at 509-990-7959.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Laughn' Souls) is looking forward to our next meeting, **Wednesday, January 3 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.** We are having a potluck and game day so bring a dish to share and a favorite game if you'd like. Come take a break and enjoy some company and fun. Questions, Call Staci Littrel 509-994-1299.

The Lost and Found Box has found a few things lately, so if you're missing something, go take a look. It's located in the hallway to the south of the sanctuary. The box has recently found a "tree" earring in the Fellowship Hall and an insulated cup and sweatshirt in the Narthex.

Crossroads 25: Our next meeting is coming up on Wednesday, January 10. We will meet at 5:30 p.m. in youth room for praise time, Bible study and games. See ya there!!

Your mail box in the Narthex: Please check your boxes, there is a new Portal of Prayer and some still have the new directory and offering envelopes in them.

2024 Flower Chart: The new flower chart is up for 2024. If you'd like to put flowers on the alter for any occasion, just sign your name up next to the date you'd like and grab a flyer that explains everything.



Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning “To Be” groups will start again on January 7.

- Sunday Morning “To Be” Groups:** Please sign up for “To Be” groups in the Narthex. Room numbers are indicated on the sign up sheets and also below. All are welcome. Join us!
- 9 am Loving Jesus,** a study on various aspects of the life of faith as found in the Gospels. Written by a Lutheran New Testament scholar, this is a great study for living a meaningful Christ-centered life. The study will be facilitated by Lisa Key. Room 036.
- 10 am 2nd Peter and Jude,** a Bible study of the New Testament books of 2nd Peter and Jude. This is a shortened 35 minute study to accommodate parents with kids in Sunday School or Youth Bible Class. These two short letters at the end of the New Testament seek to root every believer’s faith deeply in God’s word as we wait the soon coming return of Jesus. This study is a God’s Word for Today publication of Concordia Publishing House and will be facilitated by Margie Indahl. Room 029.
- 10:30 am Church Year Bible Studies,** a Bible study of the readings used in worship for that particular Sunday of the Church year. This will take you deeper into the scriptures for the week giving you more out of every Sunday service. This study is published by Concordia Publishing House and facilitated by David Gannaway. Room 003.
- 10:30 am Provoking Proverbs and the Ten Commandments,** a Bible study produced by Concordia Publishing House that looks at the ten commandments through wisdom of the book of Proverbs. It’s a great study for learning to navigate God’s way of wisdom in a wayward world. This study will be facilitated by Alan Meyers. Room 036.
- 10:30 am The Spirituality of the Cross,** a study of the fundamental themes in Lutheran theology and how these impact the way we live our everyday lives as believers in Jesus. This book is published by Concordia Publishing House and the study will be facilitated by Mike Shannon. Room 030.
- GLOW meets on Fridays via Zoom:** This is our Friday morning Women’s “To Be” group, currently meeting via Zoom. If you would like more information please contact Mardi Ellwanger 509-868-7354
- Men’s Bible Study:** This is a small group study on Thursday mornings at 6 a.m. in the fellowship hall, currently studying 1 Peter. Participants may join any Thursday by entering through the back doors by the kitchen.