

WE ARE TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST
to Share the Hope of Eternal Life.
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026

He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know.
One thing I do know, that though

I was blind, now I see."

John 9:25

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

200 Market Street, Ste. Genevieve, MO.63670

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Facebook: facebook.com/holycrossstegen

Needs for pastoral care in our area, call one of our Elders-

Rick Hutson 573-780-9390,

Randy Ruzicka 314-210-4279 or Wayne Schremp 573-883-6060

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

The ringing of the bells starts at 9 a.m. Pastor/Seminarian prepares for a long set of bell tones before walking up to altar.

Words written in **Bold** generally signify congregation response.

The Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We are transformed in Christ

To share the hope of eternal Life.

Welcome, let us stand and share the sign of peace and conversation.

Sit

Confession and Absolution

551 When to Our World the Savior Came

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.
¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.
¹⁶And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.
¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”
¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?
²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

John 9:1–41

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

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

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them,

“He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

- C 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.

Sit

697 Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

Homily

Pastor David Mahsman

For today's prayer requests, please write them on the attendance card provided during the service. Once completed, fold the card and either hand it to an usher or place it in the offertory plate. The Pastor or Seminarian will include these requests during the Prayers of the Church.

We honor the Lord with our tithes and our gifts. Please Stand as the offering is brought forward and sing

Stand

Three ways to give:

- 1) offering plate—cash or check.
- 2) online at holycrossstegen.org • Click the “Give” icon.
- 3) by mail.

956 Create in Me (intro)

Psalm 51:10-12

■ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 15, 2026

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Great Physician, enlighten our eyes by Your blessed Gospel, and hide us in Your shelter in the day of trouble. Provide a home in Your Church for those cast out by this world, and

unite them with us in the pure confession of Your name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of glory, You have gathered Your Church and sanctified us in Your truth. Guide and direct Matthew, our Synod president; _____, our district president; and _____, our circuit visitor. Preserve all vacant congregations, send laborers into Your harvest and sustain those whom You have sent. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty Father, uphold in mercy all authorities, especially parents and the civil servants of our nation. Strengthen our homes, and keep families firm in the Christian faith. Preserve us from wickedness, and uphold order and justice for a peaceful life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You have promised that what we suffer does not condemn us, but instead displays Your glory. Sustain the afflicted in body or soul, *[especially* _____,] that they would take heart, trust You for healing and find You even in the midst of their trials. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed, O Lord, is everyone who is not offended by Your Christ. Give us faith to believe His blessed testament, seek His Holy Supper for the forgiveness of our sins, and confess Your truth with honest hearts in the communion of this altar. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, those who wait for Your salvation have the promise that You will not forsake them. Lead those who wander in darkness through rough places, that they would find the way of righteousness and not be put to shame. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gracious Father, Grant to this congregation the guidance of the Holy Spirit to choose a Pastor according to Your will for Holy Cross church, Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

All these things, O heavenly Father, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, asking You to grant our prayers not for our sake but for His sake alone. Teach our hearts to be content with Your will and to trust that You will answer with what is best for us and at the right time for our need. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

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 saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



☐ 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.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

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 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 T 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.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei (intro)

LSB 210



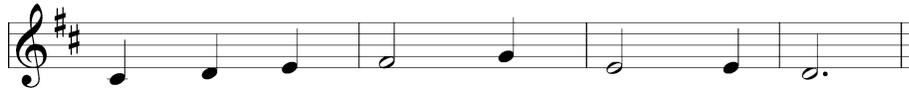
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart T in peace.

C **Amen.**

411 I want to Walk as a Child of the Light

841 O Son of God, in Galilee

Stand

Nunc Dimittis (intro)

LSB 211

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 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

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.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

LSB 212

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 T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

Sit

Acknowledgments

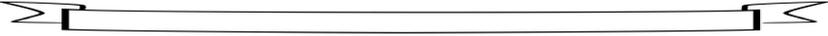
Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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FEBRUARY/MARCH EVENTS

**The fresh flower arrangement on the altar,
given by Randy and Linda Ruzicka this Sunday.
The occasion, Molly Bell and Maverick Brumfield's Birthday's.**

The Holy Cross Lutheran Church is organizing a large basket of summer-themed items for **Mighty Maia's Silent Auction**, as noted on the Narthex Bulletin Board. The list of donations needed includes beach towels, sunscreen, water goggles, snacks, and gift cards. We kindly invite you to sign up and contribute; your generous donations are greatly appreciated.

March 15: Homemade Chicken and Dumplings Dinner 11:30am to???

Immanuel Lutheran Church Family Life Center 221 Brierton Lane, Festus, MO Adults \$ 15.00 children 6-12 years \$ 6.00 under 6 FREE Benefit for the Immanuel Renovation Fund. CASH ONLY PLEASE.

March 13-22: "The Taming of Judge Roy Bean" Performance

Salem Adults in Christ presents "The Taming of Judge Roy Bean" on March 13 (7:00 PM), March 15 (5:00 PM), March 21 (7:00 PM), and March 22 (5:00 PM) at Salem Lutheran Gym (299 PCR 328, Farrar, MO 63747). Admission is \$12 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under. Concessions, including pork burgers, hot pretzels, nachos, and soda, will be available.

March 27: Salem Lutheran Church Trivia Night

Get your team together and enjoy the best trivia night around. This year's trivia night will benefit 14-year-old Brayden Deckerd who was recently diagnosed with bone cancer. Held at Immanuel Hall in Altenburg. Doors open at 6:00 PM trivia starts at 6:30. \$120.00 per team of eight people. 13 +. Concessions available. Call or text Bleau Deckerd at 573 769 9141 to reserve your spot. A night of laughter, fun and fellowship.

April 16: Options for Women is having a Banquet for Life Dinner begins at 6:30 PM

Keynote speaker Mike G Williams is nationally known as a speaker writer who has a passion for life. More information in fellowship hall bulletin board.

WEEKLY CALENDAR/UPDATES

Vacancy pastoral hours upon request

Secretarial hours Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Sunday's church doors open at 8:00 AM service begins at 9:00 AM following with a Bible Study coffee and pastries generally served.

Tuesdays Bible study starting at 10:30 AM to 11:30AM



Palm Sunday March 29th 9:00 AM (HC)

Pastor Alex Smith

Fellowship Breakfast Following the Service – A sign-up sheet for the potluck breakfast will be available on the round table at the back of the church.



Maundy Holy Thursday at 6 PM (HC)

Pastor Stephen Constien

Good Friday at 6 PM

Seminarian Peyton Holland

Easter Sunday at 9:00AM (HC)

Pastor Jarold Rux



- **EASTER SERVICE NEEDS PLEASE**

A Volunteer List is available at the back of the church on the round table for Sunday Service sign-ups. Help is also needed during the Lent Season.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

If anyone would like to make a flower donation to the Easter lilies fund, you are welcome to.

Local Churches in Areas for Lenton Services

- **St Paul Lutheran Church Farmington MO**
Ash Wednesday 11 AM and 6:30 PM (HC)
Lenten services are held every Wednesday
9:00 AM and 6:30 PM -Feb. 18th to Mar.25th
Holy Thursday (Maundy) 6:30 PM (HC)
Good Friday 6:30 PM (HC)
Easter Sunday 7AM – 10 AM (HC)
- **Immanuel Lutheran Church Perryville MO**
Ash Wednesday 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM (HC)
Hymn Sing – starting at 5:40pm
Lenten Worship Mon/Tues/Wed Noon service
Holy Thursday (Maundy) 6:00 PM (HC)
Good Friday 12PM - 6:00 PM (HC)
Saturday 8:00 PM Easter vigil (HC)
Easter Sunday 730 AM and 10 AM (HC)
- **Immanuel Lutheran Church Festus/Crystal City**
Ash Wednesday 10 AM and 7:00 PM (HC)
Lenten services are held every Wednesday
Feb. 18th to Mar. 25th 10 AM and 7:00 PM
Holy Thursday (Maundy) 7:00 PM (HC)
Good Friday 7:00 PM (HC)
Easter Sunday (HC) 6AM-8AM-10:30AM

with a breakfast call for times though 636-937-5525
 Have a program starting called silent witness call for details too.



SERVING TODAY

Pastor : David Mahsman
 Scripture Readers: Linda Ruzicka
 Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson
 Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka
 Orgnist: IPad

UP COMING SUNDAY MARCH 22,2026

Pastor Stephen Constien
 Scripture Readers: Meaghin Schremp
 Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson
 Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka
 Organist: Todd Breuckner

Sunday Church Attendance	Attendance
First Week	36
Second Week	43
Third Week	
Fourth Week	
Fifth Week	

Your Financial Support of Your Church	3/08/26	Year-to-Date
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$2,902.00	\$29,020.00
Actual Offerings—including online offerings (budget)	\$1,635.00	\$25,053.65
Ahead/Behind Budget Requirement	-\$1,267.00	-\$3,966.35
% Ahead/Behind	-43.7%	-13.7%

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In Our Prayers This Week and Celebrations

Throughout the week, please keep these people in your daily prayers. As a model for prayer, consider going through the A.C.T.S. of prayer. *Adoration*: praising God for who He is.

Confession: confessing your sins to God, especially those that weigh on your heart. *Thanksgiving*: thanking God for specific blessings. *Supplication*: asking God for help.

For those who are homebound Barb Jones, Sharon Estes, Doug Arnold, Nick Krege, Pansy Meyer, Val Rakey.

For healing and continued recovery Bill Staffen (Bonnie Keir's brother, cancer), Dustin Hutson (recovering from a brain bleed), Pastor Jim Kirk (treatment for myeloma) Carol Steiger-Rudoff continued prayers for recovery of cancer (Connie Schwent's Sister In-law), Laura Pruneau Fallert (Cancer treatment) Great news from her doctors her cancer is almost in remission according to labs and tests. Doctor had said with her case file it is extremely unique and they're perplexed at how this great news happened. (God is Good!). Continued prayers for healing for Wayne Phillips. Continuing prayers for Maia Rottler she is on treatments for Leukemia give her family faith to help her in this journey. (granddaughter of LaJune Rottler)

For those celebrating birthdays in March Frances Krueger (March 01), Cheryl Noll (March 02), Linda Trimmer (March 02), Eric Huck (March 05), Molly Bell (March 14), Carl Noll (March 22), Wayne Schremp (March 28).

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries in March

For Those Who Mourn

For local, state, and national elected officials that they uphold goodness and work humbly for those they serve.

For our community that more people believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We continue to pray for a Pastor to find his calling to Holy Cross Church.

For our church family that we are transformed in Christ to share the hope of eternal life.

To submit a prayer request for inclusion in the bulletin, contact Connie, the church secretary, at 573-535-0084, or the church office at 573-883-5361 or holycrossstegen@gmail.com. Please provide your request by Wednesday noon to ensure it appears in that week's bulletin. Prayer requests will continue to be listed until removal is requested by the submitting family. If you would like the Pastor or Seminarian to read a request aloud during the service, write it on the attendance card, fold the card, and either give it to an usher or place it in the offering plate.