



**WE ARE TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST**  
*to Share the Hope of Eternal Life.*  
*1st Sunday in Advent*  
*November 30, 2025*



*What Is the Meaning of*  
**MATTHEW 24:36?**

# *Holy Cross Lutheran Church*

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**

**200 Market Street, Ste. Genevieve, MO.63670**

**Office Phone 573-883-5361**

**holycrossstegen@gmail.com**

**Website: holycrossstegen.org**

**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

## 343 Prepare the Royal Highway

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003473

### 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.**

# Service of the Word

## Introit

Psalm 118:25–28; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.

Behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation.  
Save us, we pray, O LORD!  
O LORD, we pray, give us success!  
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!  
We bless you from the house of the LORD.  
The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.  
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!  
You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God; I will extol you.  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation.

## Kyrie

LSB 204



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

## Gloria in Excelsis (intro)

LSB 204



**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-shipped 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.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## ***Salutation and Collect of the Day***

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**Sit**

## ***Old Testament Reading***

**Isaiah 2:1–5**

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the LORD  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and all the nations shall flow to it,

<sup>3</sup>and many peoples shall come, and say:  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.”  
For out of Zion shall go the law,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;  
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.  
<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## ***Psalm***

## **Psalm 122; antiphon: v. 6**

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”  
<sup>2</sup>Our feet have been standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem!  
<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem—built as a city  
that is bound firmly together,  
<sup>4</sup>to which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD,  
as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.  
<sup>5</sup>There thrones for judgment were set,  
the thrones of the house of David.  
<sup>6</sup>Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
“May they be secure who love you!  
<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls  
and security within your towers!”  
<sup>8</sup>For my brothers and companions’ sake  
I will say, “Peace be within you!”  
<sup>9</sup>For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek your good.

## Epistle

## Romans 13:8–14

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup>Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## Stand

### Alleluia and Verse (intro)





## **Holy Gospel**

## **Matthew 24:36–44**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

<sup>36</sup>[Jesus said:] “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup>As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup>Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Apostles’ Creed**

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**



**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life T everlasting. Amen.**

**Sit**

### **332 Savior of the Nations, Come**

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

**Sermon**

**Pastor Mark Hofferber**

*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

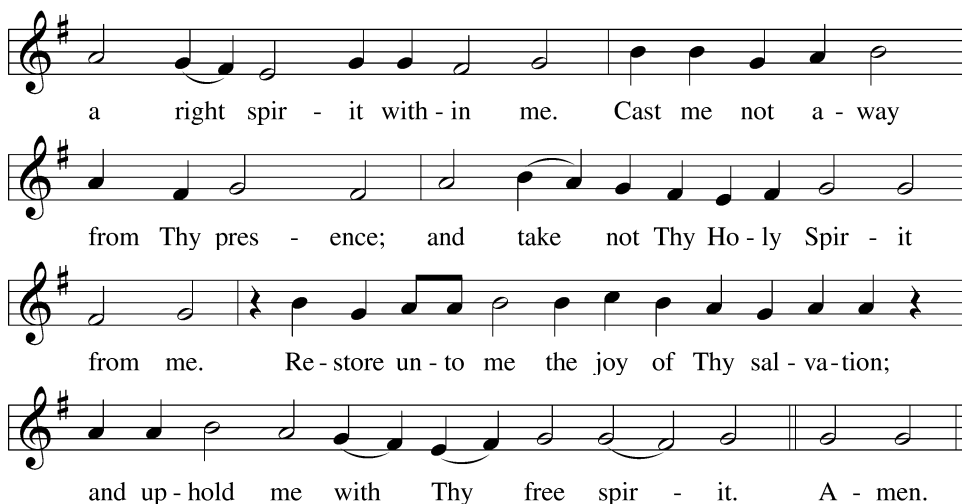
**Stand**

*Three ways to give:*

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

### **Create in Me (intro)**





Text: Psalm 51:10-12  
Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Stand

### *Prayer of the Church*

**First Sunday in Advent November 30, 2025**

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

Be with Your whole Church, Lord, that as we wait for the coming of Christ, our King, our hearts may be filled with His joy and our lips with His praise. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, encourage the preachers of Your Word and all who hear, for salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. Give boldness and faithfulness to Matthew, our Synod president; \_\_\_\_\_, our district president; \_\_\_\_\_, our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ. Renew the faith and quicken the love of all Christians to cast off the works of darkness, put on Jesus Christ and live as children of the eternal day. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, our Father, Giver of all good gifts, look upon the households of Your people. Provide companionship for those who are alone and strengthen the bonds of marriage.

Equip parents to raise their children in love and faith. Grant that our homes may be places of joy, reasonableness, peace and prayer. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, behold our nation and its leaders and protect our armed forces, taking them under Your care and blessing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, show compassion to the sick, the suffering and those in need [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Relieve their pain, increase their faith, and grant healing and peace in accordance with Your wisdom and will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, comfort those who mourn with Your promises in Christ, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] and fill their hearts with the peace that passes understanding. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gracious Father, You led Your holy apostles to ordain ministers for the proclamation of Your word and the faithful administration of the Sacraments of Christ. Grant to this congregation the guidance of the Holy Spirit to choose a suitable pastor according to Your will for the blessing of Your Church in this place; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lord of life, Your Son humbly rode into Jerusalem to the shouts of “hosanna!” so that He might give us righteousness and salvation by His death and resurrection. Mercifully grant that we would repent of our sins and rejoice in His presence as He visits us with His body and blood in His Holy Supper this day. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, You have made us glad to enter into Your presence to hear the good news of our Savior and receive Your gifts. Preserve Your Church against all her enemies, and lead us to walk in Your ways and to follow Your paths, that when Jesus returns in His glory we may welcome Him with glad hosannas. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

***Into Your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the 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;



## ***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.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

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 T 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 us, 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.**

## ***333 Once He Came in Blessing***

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547

## ***340 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates***

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

## ***350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come***

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

**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

A 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**

A 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.**

**Sit**

## ***335 O Bride of Christ, Rejoice***

Text: Danish, c. 1600; tr. Victor O. Petersen, 1864–1929, alt.

## ***Acknowledgments***

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EVENTS

**You are welcome to purchase a poinsettia for \$25.00 during any week in December, whether it's for a birthday, an anniversary, or in memory of someone special during the holidays, and add it to the flower chart located by the kitchen.**

**December 5th, 11:30 AM–4:00 PM: Drop off your cookies for the Sainte Geneviève Holiday Festival.** Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board; please let us know which kind you'll be bringing this year.

**December 6th & 7th:** Concerts scheduled from 1:00 to 1:45 PM, with repeat performances from 2:00 to 2:45 PM each day.

**December 7th:** Additional concert times are 12:30 to 1:15 PM, with another show from 1:30 to 2:15 PM. Volunteers who can help host or donate cookies are highly appreciated—sign up in the Narthex hallway.

**December 14th: Voter's Meeting** will take place after the service, during which new officers for 2026 will be elected and future activities discussed.

**The Christmas Country Church Tour** is back! It's a fantastic program, and we're looking forward to everyone's involvement—whether helping with preparations or visiting local churches.

Key December dates:

- December 16th, 10:00 AM: Volunteers gather for general cleaning and setup.
- December 17th, 10:30 AM–12:30 PM: Help arrange the poinsettia display at the altar.
- December 18th, 1:00–8:00 PM: Annual Christmas Country Church Tour. Sign up to be a tour guide; cookies will be served. Sheets for sign-up are in the Narthex hallway.

**December 24th: Christmas Eve Service** led by Seminarian Peyton Holland begins at 6:00 PM. Check the bulletin board located in the Narthex and along the corridor to the restrooms for details about upcoming events within our church and neighboring Lutheran communities.

We warmly encourage you to set aside time to support seasonal activities at Holy Cross. Your help as a volunteer is invaluable to making these events successful.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR/UPDATES

Vacancy pastoral hours upon request

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

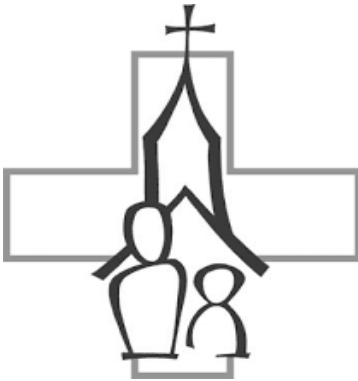
Sunday's church doors open at 8:00 AM service begins at 9:00 AM following with a Bible Study coffee and pastries generally served. Tuesdays Bible study starting at 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

## December 24th, Christmas Eve service candlelight vigil

starting at 6:00 PM

Seminarian Peyton Holland.

# SERVING



# TODAY

Pastor: Mark Hofferber

Scripture Reader: Meaghan Schremp

Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson

Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka

Concordia Organist iPad

### Up-coming December 07th

Pastor: Jarold Rux

Scripture Readers: Vickie Eisenbeis

Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson

Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka

Concordia Organist iPad

Sunday Church Attendance	Attendance
First Week	39
Second Week	38
Third Week	38
Fourth Week	40
Fifth Week	

Your Financial Support of Your Church	11/30/25	Year-to-Date
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$2,777.00	\$130,519.00
Actual Offerings—including online offerings (budget)	\$905.00	\$108,622.35
Ahead/Behind Budget Requirement	-\$1,872.00	-\$21,896.65
% Ahead/Behind	-67.4%	-16.8%

## 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, Doris Bayak, 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 getting ready to have surgery** (Connie Schwent's Sister In-law), **Laura Pruneau Fallert** (Cancer treatment). **John George Jr.** (Debbie George's son) has been diagnosed with cancer and will be seeking a 2nd medical opinion regarding the next steps in treatment. **Continued prayers for healing for Wayne Phillips.**

*For those celebrating birthdays in November* **Cathy Dew** (Nov. 3), **Lisa Schlueter** (Nov. 13), **Bill Surman** (Nov. 20), **Bonnie Zerwig** (Nov. 24) **Randy Ruzicka** (Nov.7).

*For those celebrating wedding anniversaries in November* **Carl and Cheryl Noll** (Nov. 2), **Jim and Stacy Bell** (Nov.26).

*For Those Who Mourn* Warm thoughts for the people missing their loved ones over the holidays

*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.**

*For our circuit congregations & missionaries*

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

*For all prayer requests not listed here but in our hearts.*

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.