

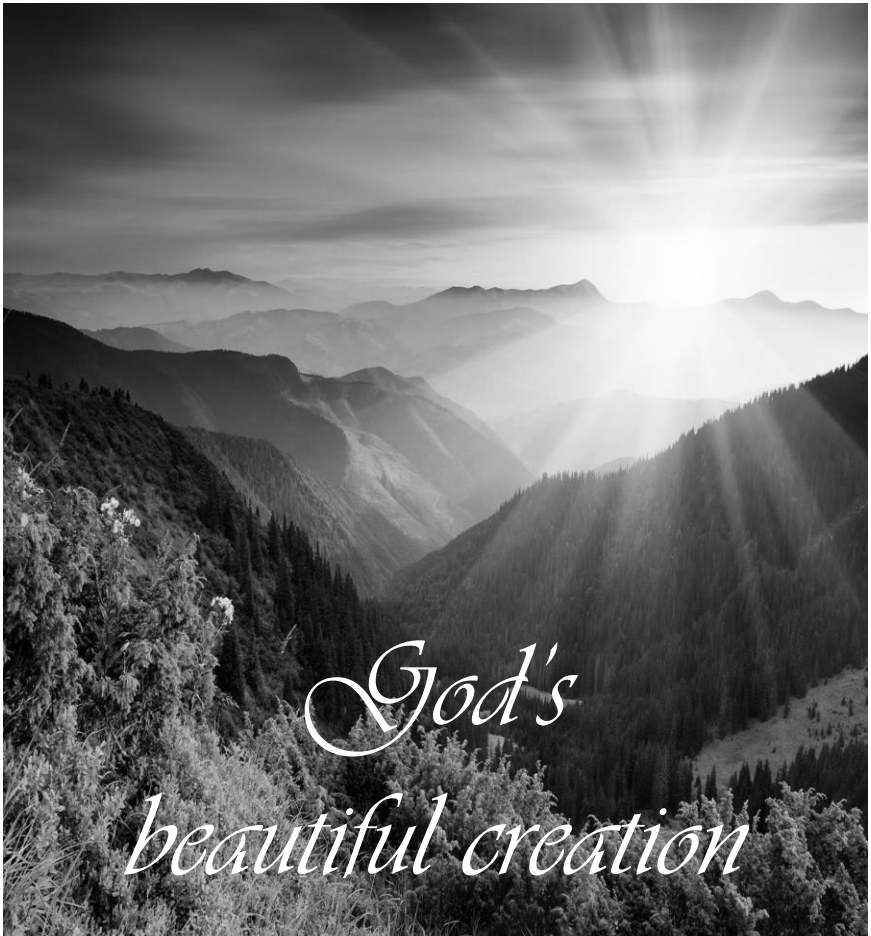
Holy  
Cross  
Lutheran Church

**June 2022**

*Transformed in Christ  
to share the hope of eternal life*



# CROSS-WORD



*God's  
beautiful creation*

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 200 Market Street, Ste. Genevieve, MO  
Office Phone: 573-883-5361  
Craig Reiter, pastor • Cell Phone: 414-916-0546  
Website: [holycrossstegen.org](http://holycrossstegen.org)  
Facebook Page: Holy Cross Lutheran Church- Ste. Genevieve

## Unless...

Recently, I was reading Psalm 127, which begins like this: ***“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”*** This verse shows our utter dependence upon the Lord as we plan and make decisions in daily life, both for ourselves and for those around us. This includes not only our immediate family but also our church family as well. While he will use us in the process, it is always sobering to remember who’s going to make things happen. It’s the Lord who is going to build the house; it’s the Lord who’s going to watch over the city.

Recently, our church has gone through a strategic planning process, and the strategic plan was adopted at the Voters’ Meeting on May 22. After prayerful consideration, the Lord has led us to affirm our mission statement, with the small addition of the first two words which we already say every week: We are Transformed in Christ to Share the Hope of Eternal Life. As God’s people at Holy Cross, he transforms us as we gather together to hear his word, receive his gifts, and to call upon his name in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Our God is a good and abundant God who transforms us from being dead in sin to alive in Christ (see Ephesians 2:1-5), from having no hope, to having a living hope (see 1 Peter 1:3), and from being condemned to being set free (see Romans 8:1-2).

While we have embraced this mission statement for the past six years, the Lord has worked through our strategic planning to help us identify key congregational values of our church. These values came out of the focus groups and were determined and clarified by our Strategic Planning Committee after discussion and prayer. They include four current values that are being lived out at Holy Cross and one aspirational value that we would like to strive towards. The four current congregational values are:

**Worship** - Our worship is strengthened by joining as a congregation:

- Hearing God's word
- Praising God through music
- Participating in the Sacraments.

**Hospitality** - Through our words and actions, we welcome people of all backgrounds to share the love of Jesus.

**Fellowship** - We provide opportunities to gather and grow together in the love and teachings of Jesus Christ.

**Family** - We focus on Acts of Service for our church family by helping, supporting, and encouraging each other.

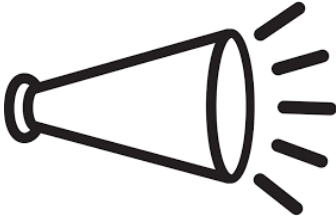
Our aspirational value is:

**Christian Education** - We strive to teach and equip people of all ages, creating disciples of Jesus who encourage others to know and follow Him.

As we begin using our strategic plan, everything we do as a church family at Holy Cross will be considered in light of our mission statement and core values. In other words, there always needs to be a connection between the initiatives and the mission statement and core values.

Whenever Christians are actively striving to share the love of Jesus with each other and with others, the devil will try to thwart it. He will try especially hard to stir up sin and division amongst us. When this happens, we need to remember three phrases as brothers and sisters in Christ: I'm sorry, I forgive you, and I love you. Doing so helps us to look to the master builder so that sin is put away from us and so that our eyes are squarely fixed on Jesus. Here's how Peter describes it in 1 Peter 2: So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it, you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. May God continue to build us as his living stones, so that we and others may be Transformed in Christ to Share the Hope of Eternal Life!

***Pastor Craig***



# Evangelism News

**Some exciting events are happening this summer and fall at Holy Cross. Since we are in the middle of all the town's festivals, we plan to spread our love for Jesus to all.**



## **June 25 • The Honey Festival**

We plan to open the church to the visitors for a cool rest area and a place to eat their lunch. More news to follow shortly. Watch for a sign-up sheet for volunteers to host and welcome guests to Holy Cross.



## **August 13 & 14 is Jour de Fete.**

Please continue to bring in items for the sale to the old basement. We do accept books, holiday decorations, dishes, pots and pans, toys, tools, working small appliances, CDs, DVDs, gently-used bedding, crafts, knick-knacks, jewelry.

### ***Remember:***

1. **No** clothes.
2. **No** heavy or large furniture, easy-to-carry items only.
3. **No** electronics with rechargeable lithium-ion batteries (i.e., old computers, phones, etc.), printers or routers as these items are difficult to dispose of.
4. Please, **no** encyclopedias.



**August is also picnic month for Holy Cross.**

Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more info.



**Oktoberfest is September 17 & 18.**

A new festival this year. We plan to sell our tacked quilts and other crafts made and donated by some of our members. If you have a craft project and would like to donate/share, let us know. We plan to have this sale in the parking lot. Watch for the sign-up sheet.



**New red, white, and blue buntings were purchased for the fence.**

**If you have questions or suggestions for these events, please feel free to let the Evangelism Committee know.**



**Bonnie Zerwig, chairperson**

**Betty Schremp**

**Vicky Surman**



# **Flower Waterers** **and Mowers Needed**

**We need volunteers  
for help with watering  
the flowers and lawn  
care at church  
throughout the summer.**



shutterstock.com • 109711562

**Betty Schremp will water the  
flowers on Tuesdays when she is at  
church for Bible Class.**

**Please sign up on the sheets on the  
table in the back of the sanctuary.**

**Thank you**  
**to all our volunteers!!!**





***Would you like to give flowers  
on the altar?***

**The following Sundays are available:  
June 12,  
July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

Sign up on the flower chart on the wall by the kitchenette above the water fountain. Print clearly your name and occasion. Please put \$20 in an envelope, mark it "Flower Fund," and place it in the offering plate.



# SEARCH-A-WORD PUZZLE

## GOD'S CREATION

E F S S N A E C O B Z D N  
R P L D B C T L R X X R O  
U V A O X Z R F L J V F O  
T L M P N M L E T V L P M  
A O I Y N O S K A O G M G  
N N N U W E E H G T E B P  
O V A E E U V S M Y I T V  
D Y R R D P Y G D I W O F  
Q S T M Z P U J T U G I N  
D T H E A V E N V H O X Z  
S T E N A L P A B F P L F  
N E L P O E P L W F V U C  
I N U S X M S Z U I X H K

**CREATION**

**PEOPLE**

**NATURE**

**TREES**

**FLOWERS**

**OCEANS**

**SUN**

**MOON**

**PLANETS**

**CLOUDS**

**ANIMALS**

**HEAVEN**



# LCMS STEWARDSHIP ARTICLE FOR JUNE 2022

## *What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?*

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed in *Luther’s Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed’s First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

“He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

“(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

“That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this? How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry:**

**[lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)**



# Holy Cross

Lutheran Church

---

---

---