



⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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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

372 O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003473

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  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.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!

**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.**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Kyrie

LSB 204



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

Gloria in Excelsis

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-shiped 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.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:4–15

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your

servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"'

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

MEM

Psalm 119:97–104; antiphon: v. 99

⁹⁷Oh how I love your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

⁹⁸Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.

⁹⁹I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.

¹⁰⁰I understand more than the agèd,
for I keep your precepts.

¹⁰¹I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.

¹⁰²I do not turn aside from your just decrees,
for you have taught me.

¹⁰³How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.

Epistle

Ephesians 1:3–14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:40–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” ⁴⁹And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

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 T of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933

Sermon

Seminarian John Hansen

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Second Sunday after Christmas January 04, 2026

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

Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have restored Your divine image to mankind. In Holy Baptism, You give that image to us. Give us joy in our adoption as Your sons and daughters. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, bless the work of pastors and missionaries. Bring forth Your harvest from the seeds they sow. Support those who endure fiery trials for Your name. As they shine the light of the Gospel into hostile darkness, guard them with the sign of Your cross. Let them rejoice that in tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or sword, they share in Your very sufferings. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You prepared a place for Your Son, Jesus, in the womb of the Virgin Mary and in the home of Mary and Joseph. Bless our homes and all who dwell in them, that Your Word would be heard and Your mercy be shown therein. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, uphold Donald, our president; _____, our governor; and all our leaders. Direct their work toward the common good of all people as found in God's Law written on our hearts and in Your righteous decrees — especially to protect the unborn and those who cannot speak for themselves. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, You promise to be near to the brokenhearted and to save the crushed in spirit. Look with compassion on the sick and suffering [*especially _____*]. Grant that they would cry out to You in their trouble and be delivered from their distress, according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, give grace to all who approach Your holy altar today, that they would receive this sacramental mystery worthily, the New Testament of our divine Redeemer, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, grant us strength in times of trial and perseverance in grace during the day of trouble. Especially care for all who are persecuted for the sake of Christ. 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.**

O Lord God, heavenly Father, You allowed Your Son, Jesus Christ, to become a stranger and sojourner in Egypt for our sake and led Him safely home to His fatherland. Mercifully grant that we poor sinners, who are strangers and sojourners in this perilous world, may soon be called home to our true fatherland, the kingdom of heaven, where we shall live in eternal joy and glory; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

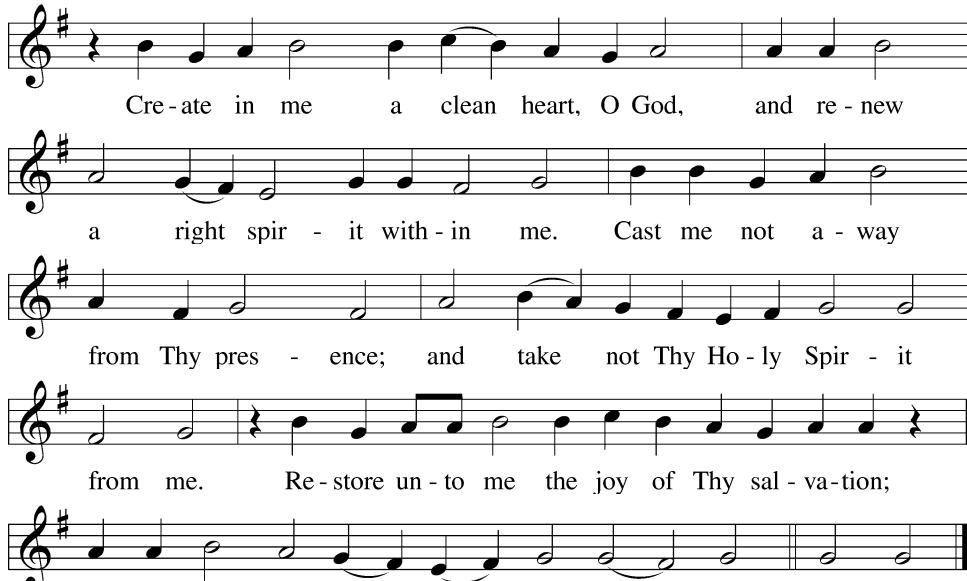
We honor the Lord with our tithes and our gifts. Please Stand as the offering is brought forward and sing

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



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.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12

Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your servant go.
2 All glory to the Father, to the Son,
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as in heaven it is, so on earth it will be.

For I have seen the glory of the Most High,
 the glory of the Only Begotten Son,
 the glory of the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

For You have shown me Your grace,
 Your truth, Your love, Your power,
 Your wisdom, Your justice, Your mercy.

For You have given me Your light,
 Your truth, Your love, Your guidance,
 Your wisdom, Your justice, Your mercy.

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.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

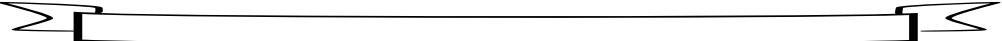
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
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JANUARY/FEBRUARY EVENTS

WEEKLY CALENDAR/UPDATES

**The fresh flower arrangement on the altar,
given by Anonymous Donor this Sunday.**

The occasion, to greet Jesus and the New Year.

- After Church service, we kindly request your assistance with taking down the Christmas decorations and please take a poinsettia to enjoy at home, then we will proceed to the fellowship hall for refreshments at Pastor Rux's Epiphany bible study celebration.**

Sunday, January 4th, 2026, at 4:00 PM Perry County Lutheran Chorale is having an after Christmas concert. Chorale with chamber ensemble- at the Trinity Lutheran church 57 Church St. Altenburg, MO. 63732, great music for everyone.

Our next voters' meeting is January 18th, when we'll induct new officers for the year 2026. Please attend to share your questions, concerns, or ideas.

Board of Elders 3-year terms requirement

***Wayne Schremp two years (left), Rick Hutson one year (left), Randy Ruzicka three-year term,**

Board of Trustees 3-year terms requirement

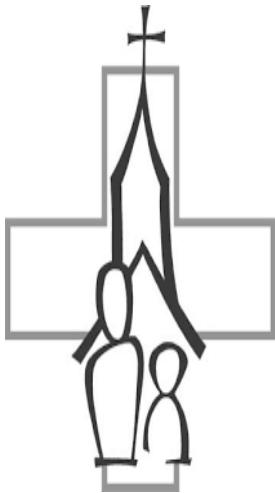
***Rick Hutson one year term (left), Jim Bell three-year term, Glenn Fluegge three-year term, Dan Sullivan three-year term.**

Board of Evangelism 3-year terms requirement

***Betty Schremp two years (left), Vicky Surman two years term (left), Cathy Dew two years (left).**

Holy Cross Church Council 1-year terms requirement

President – Vicky Surman, Vice President - Paul Ringwald, Treasurer - Tim Inman, Financial Secretary- Donna Ringwald, Recording Secretary – Connie Schwent.



SERVING TODAY

/Seminarian: John Hansen
Scripture Reader: Linda Ruzicka
Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson
Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka
Organist: iPad
Up-coming Date: January 11, 2026
Seminarian John Hansen
Scripture Readers: Randy Ruzicka
Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson
Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka
Organist: Todd Brueckner

Sunday Church Attendance	Attendance
First Week	36
Second Week	30
Third Week	35
Christmas Eve	63
Fourth Week	44

Your Financial Support of Your Church	12/28/25	Year-to-Date
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$2,777.00	\$144,404.00
Actual Offerings—including online offerings (budget)	\$3,418.00	\$120,130.35
Ahead/Behind Budget Requirement	\$641.00	-\$24,273.65
% Ahead/Behind	23.1%	-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 Bayuk, Nick Krege, Pansy Meyer, Valerie 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**, new cancer treatment, continued prayers for healing for **Wayne Phillips and prayers for Ray Beckham**. Please add prayers for **Maia Rottler** she is starting treatments for a form of Leukemia (Granddaughter of LaJune Rottler.)

For those celebrating birthdays in January **Paul Ringwald** (Jan. 04), **Ron Bollinger** (Jan. 05), **Colte Bolland** (Jan.10), **Nathan Ringwald** (Jan.16), **Delaney Perschbacher** (Jan. 23), **Michael Keir** (Jan. 30), **Nikki Ringwald** (Jan.31).

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries in January

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.

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.