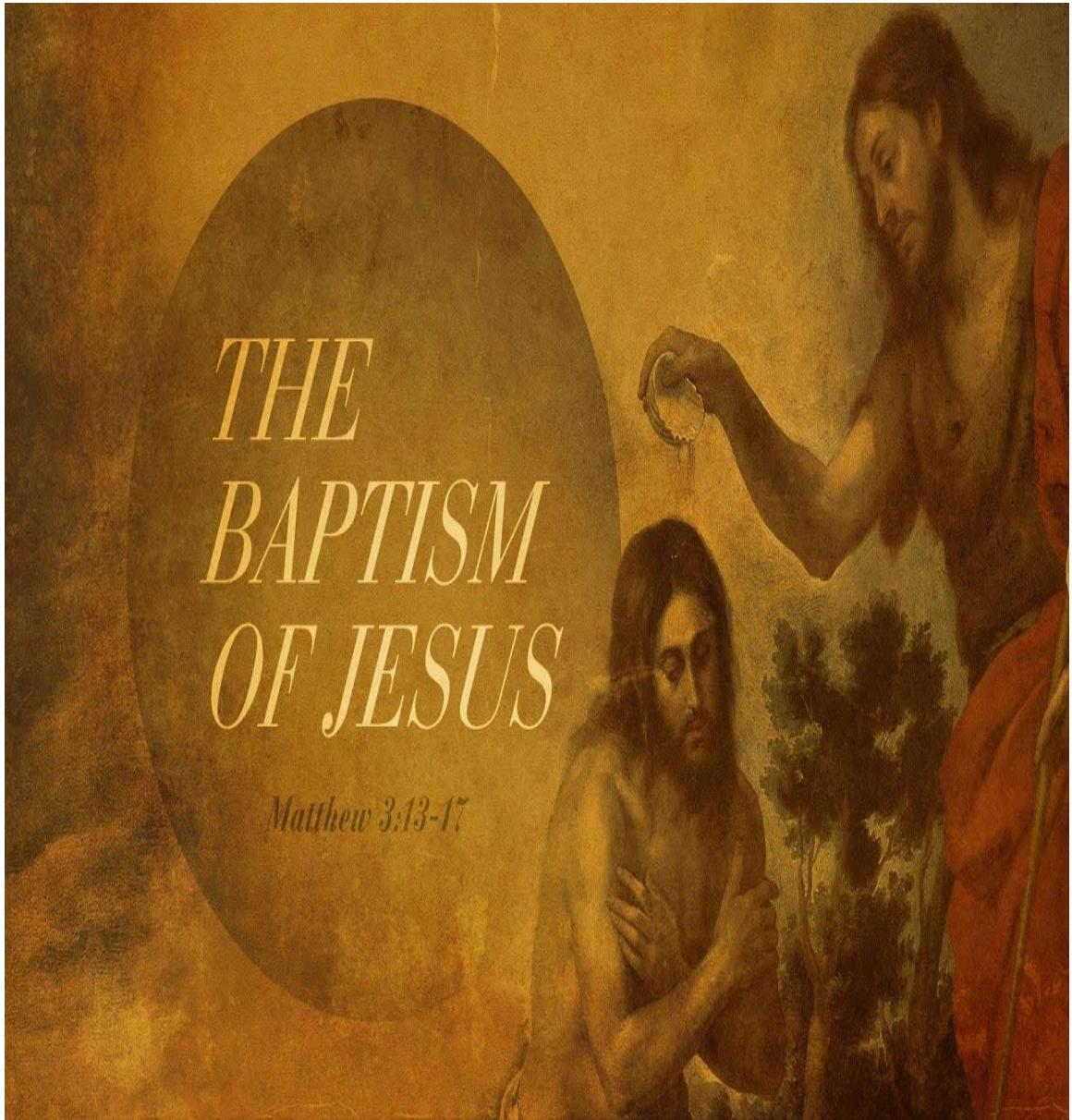




WE ARE TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST
to Share the Hope of Eternal Life.
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 11, 2026

A painting of the baptism of Jesus. In the center, Jesus is standing in the water, with John the Baptist standing behind him, placing his hands on Jesus' chest. The Holy Spirit is represented by a dove with a cross on its wing, descending from above. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color.

*THE
BAPTISM
OF JESUS*

Matthew 3:13-17

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

548 **Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious**

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942

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 $\text{\textt{T}}$ 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.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 2:7–11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.
Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.

**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 my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

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-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.

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

¹Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a

bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. ⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶“I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. ⁹Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 29; antiphon: v. 3

¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
 ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
 worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
 the God of glory thunders,
 the LORD, over many waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful;
 the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
 the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
 and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD
 flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
 the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth
and strips the forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Epistle

Romans 6:1–11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

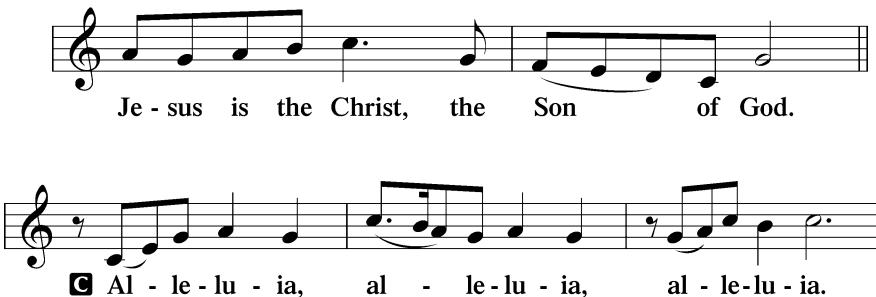
C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse (intro)



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



Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:13–17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

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  everlasting. Amen.

Sit

406 To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Elizabeth Quitmeyer, 1911–88, alt.
Text: © 1976 Elizabeth Quitmeyer. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003473

Sermon

Pastor Jarold Rux

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)

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

Prayer of the Church First Sunday after the Epiphany January 11, 2026

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

O Lord, You have redeemed us in Christ and declared us righteous and holy in Him. Graciously grant that we may offer You our very selves as living sacrifices, that we may glorify You in all we think, say and do. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, prosper Your Church. Bless Matthew, our Synod president; _____, our district president; _____, our circuit visitor; _____, our pastor(s); all church workers; and those preparing for vocations in Your service. Make them wise unto salvation and faithful in all the duties and responsibilities assigned to them for our benefit. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have adopted us into Your family through Holy Baptism. Renew the fathers of Your Church after Your own likeness, that they would proclaim Your faithfulness to the next generation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Omnipotent Lord, all the might of man is nothing before You. Bless all who serve in government, as first responders, in disaster relief and in the armed forces. Give them compassionate hearts for service, and lead them by Your Word to know and do what is right and in accordance with Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, You sent Your Son as the Servant who preserves the bruised reed and the faintly burning wick. Hear us on behalf of those in need of healing and deliverance *[including _____]*. Provide healing, restoration and justice according to Your good and gracious will, and grant that we rejoice in Your Son's everlasting faithfulness toward us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, give us grateful hearts as we approach Your Son's table, that we would receive the blessing of Christ's body and blood to our benefit and manifest in our daily lives the righteousness of faith. Hasten the day when all earthly divisions cease and we will be one people in doctrine and fellowship. 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.**

Almighty God, You raised Your Son from the dead, never to die again. We give thanks to You for all the saints whom You kept in their baptismal grace in life and in death. As You have granted us to be born again by water and the Spirit, preserve our lives in Christ by Your Word and Supper, that we would rejoice with all the faithful in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come; 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



C 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.

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

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 \ddagger 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 \ddagger 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

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, O 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 † in peace.

C Amen.

596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. Jon D. Vieker, 1961

594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957

Text: © 1991 Robert E. Voelker. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003473

601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

C 1 O Lord, now let to Your servant, De All
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen to the glo - ry
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry seen to the glo - ry

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the be - Gen - tiles, Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Un Is
to now, Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
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 ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

Sit

590 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

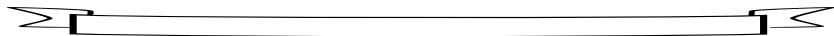
Text: Johann Jacob Rambach, 1693–1735, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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DECEMBER/JANUARY EVENTS

**The fresh flower arrangement on the altar,
given by Paul and Donna Ringwald this Sunday.
The occasion, Nathan Ringwald Birthday!!**

Reminder of the voters meeting on the 18th of January after service we will have coffee and breakfast treats for refreshments you're welcome to join us.

WEEKLY CALENDAR/UPDATES

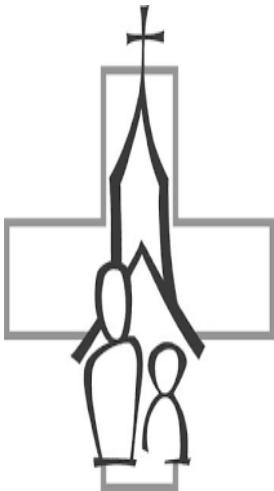
Vacancy pastoral hours upon request

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 11:3

SERVING TODAY



Pastor/Seminarian: Pastor Jarold Rux
Scripture Reader: Randy Ruzicka
Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson
Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka
Organist: Todd Brueckner
Up Coming Sunday January 11,2026
Seminarian Michael Wilke
Scripture Readers: Meaghin Schremp
Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson
Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka
Concordia Organist I Pad

Sunday Church Attendance	Attendance
First Week	35
Second Week	
Third Week	
Fourth Week	
Fifth Week	

Your Financial Support of Your Church	1/04/26	Year-to-Date
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$2,902.00	\$2,902.00
Actual Offerings—including online offerings (budget)	\$3,061.28	\$3,061.28
Ahead/Behind Budget Requirement	\$159.28	\$159.28
% Ahead/Behind	5.5%	5.5%

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, 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) that her blood counts stay strong. And continued prayers for healing for **Wayne Phillips**.

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

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.