



***WE ARE TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST
TO SHARE THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE.
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 08, 2026***

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet."



"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house." — Matthew 5:13-15 ESV

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

825 Rise, Shine, You People

Text: Ronald A. Klug, 1939–2021, alt.

Stand

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

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

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.

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.

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 119:9–16; antiphon: v. 12

Blessèd are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes!
How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.
With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!
I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.
Blessèd are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes!
With my lips I declare
all the just decrees of your mouth.
In the way of your testimonies I delight
as much as in all riches.
I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.
I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.
**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.**
Blessèd are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes!

Kyrie

LSB 204



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

The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

³“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’
Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,
and oppress all your workers.
⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to hit with a wicked fist.
Fasting like yours this day
will not make your voice to be heard on high.
⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day for a person to humble himself?
Is it to bow down his head like a reed,
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?
Will you call this a fast,
and a day acceptable to the LORD?
⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 2:1–16

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing

among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

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.

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

Je-sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:13–20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

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

¹³[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

583 God Has Spoken by His Prophets

Text: George W. Briggs, 1875–1959, alt.

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Sermon

Seminarian John Hansen

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.

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

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8, 2026

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

Give counsel and aid, O Lord, for Your people cry to You in weakness and in need. Bless and prosper Your Church according to Your purpose, that she may be salt and light, giving bold witness to the redemption You have provided in Jesus Christ and giving shape to Your love by showing compassion to all in need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless our Synod, her congregations and schools, her pastors, teachers, deaconesses, musicians and all her faithful servants. Bless all preparations for the coming convention this summer, especially those gathering nominations for elected office. Send laborers into Your harvest and sustain those whom You have sent, that they may be faithful and steadfast in their work. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, give Your blessing to our homes, to husbands and wives, to the children in their care, and to extended family. Guide us to serve each other in love. Make our homes places of blessing and peace where Your Word is spoken, forgiveness is shown and love is demonstrated in word and deed. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, according to Your wisdom You establish rulers of this age for a time. Remember Donald, our president; _____, our governor; and all those You have placed in authority, that they might fulfill their duties with wisdom. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, give healing to the sick, relief to the suffering, comfort to the grieving and peace to the dying [*especially* _____]. According to Your will, deliver them from their afflictions, sustain them in their struggles and give them patience in their adversities. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, in Christ Your righteousness goes before us and Your glory is our rearguard. Answer our pleas for mercy this day in the gift of Christ's body and blood, and prepare all those who commune to receive Him worthily and joyfully. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, endow us with the mind of Christ by the work of Your Spirit, that we do not dismiss Your gifts as folly, but judge and discern all things according to Your wisdom. 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 we pray, O Lord, in confidence of Your mercy. Supply us with all things needed and beneficial to us and to our faith, and keep from us all things harmful, that we may rest our fears in You and be granted a clear conscience and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (intro)

LSB 211

C 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.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

C Amen.

873 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88

Sit

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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FEBRUARY/MARCH EVENTS

February 14th FREE Spaghetti Lunch, ALL are welcome 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM Catapult Creative House 612 Broadway St. Cape Girardeau MO hosted by Hanover Lutheran Church.

February 14: 77th Annual Pancake Day

Immanuel Lutheran School Gym (225 W South St., Perryville, MO) presents its 77th Annual Pancake Day, serving whole hog sausage, pancakes, syrup, coffee, milk, orange juice, and water. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5 to 12, and free for children 4 and under.

March 14: Trinity Lutheran Church Trivia Night

Trinity Lutheran Church in Friedheim, MO, presents Trivia Night at the Jackson Civic Center (381 E Deerwood Dr., Jackson, MO). The evening includes a silent auction, food, and raffles. Doors open at 4:30 PM; trivia begins at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$40 each or \$320 for a table of eight (meal included).

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.

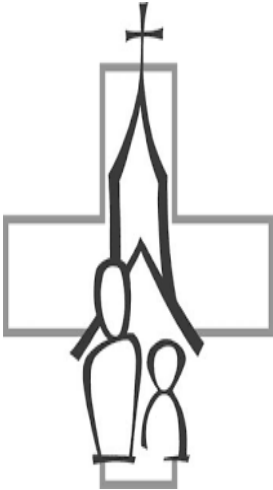
WEEKLY CALENDAR/UPDATES

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



SERVING TODAY

Seminarian: John Hansen
Scripture Readers: Randy Ruzicka
Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson
Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka
Organist: Todd Brueckner

UP COMING SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Seminarian Michael Wilke
Scripture Readers: Meaghin Schremp
Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson
Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka
Organist: Todd Breuckner

Sunday Church Attendance	Attendance
First Week	42
Second Week	
Third Week	
Fourth Week	
Fifth Week	

Your Financial Support of Your Church	02/01/26	Year-to-Date
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$2,902.00	\$14,510.00
Actual Offerings—including online offerings (budget)	\$3,197.00	\$13,834.65
Ahead/Behind Budget Requirement	\$295.00	-\$675.35
% Ahead/Behind	10.2%	-4.7%

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**. Continuing prayers for **Maia Rottler** she is on treatments for Leukemia (granddaughter of LaJune Rottler)

For those celebrating birthdays in February **John Perschbacher** (Feb.07), **Hailey Rodgers** (Feb. 08), **Jan Sullivan** (Feb. 08), **Donna Ringwald** (Feb. 19), **Connie Schwent** (Feb. 24), **Mark Schwent** (Feb. 24), **Kelsea Inman** (Feb. 25).

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries in February **Paul and Donna Ringwald (Feb.20)**

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.