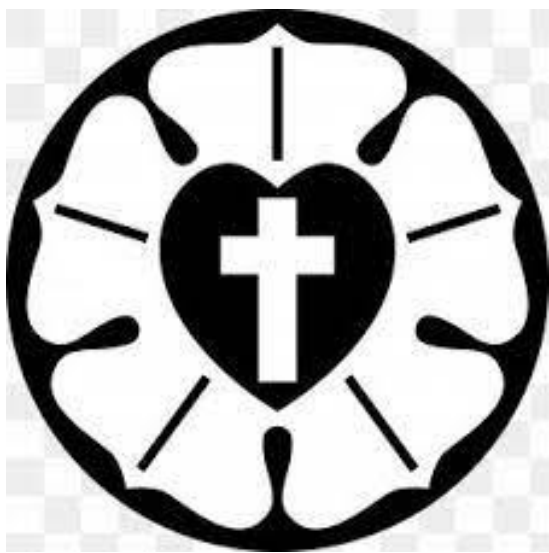


**October 2023**

*We are transformed in Christ  
to share the hope of eternal life.*



# CROSS-WORD



**Reformation Sunday**  
**October 29, 2023**

**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**

## **What Is Your Favorite Season?**

The other day, I found myself reflecting on which season of the year is my favorite. I don't know why I think I would need to choose a favorite, but I tried anyway because it seems as having favorites is what a person does. A person who goes through life without having a favorite seems to lack the answer to many of life's questions. What is your favorite song, color, vacation, memory, Bible verse, food, college football team, hymn, dessert, car, etc.? Favorites are ever before us and questioned of us. So, I figured I probably should come up with a favorite season too, just in case someone asked.

So, I began the quick—and I mean quick—process of comparing seasons to see if I really had a favorite at all. I first considered fall. After all, it is the season where we now find ourselves. Why not be attentive to one's present? I considered the aspects of fall that I like: apple picking, the smell of apple butter cooking, outdoor woodfire, indoor wood fires, pumpkin picking, pumpkin carving, roasting pumpkin seeds, making fun of pumpkin spice anything, cooler days, the possibility of snow, colorful leaves on trees, a fall garden, caramel apples, Thanksgiving, and pumpkin pie.

Now that is quite the list. What I realized, however, is that I can come up with just as many good qualities for the other three seasons that make me look forward to them as well. That is a good thing, a really good thing. As we tread further into fall, however, I recognize that there are things about the changing of seasons that people don't always appreciate. Usually those things revolve around the "extremes" those seasons have to offer: bitter cold, short days, scorching heat, raking 750 pounds of leaves daily, shoveling snow.

Whereas these days are all parts of the season too, maybe the "extremes" sometimes influence us too much. Sometimes they create in us a sense of dread. Maybe we would like to skip those days or even the whole season. However, there is something here we must confront. What does the beautiful fall day with highs in the

60s framed with multi-color trees have in common with the cold, dark, rainy day with gusty winds that bring the tired leaves precipitating to your front lawn? God made them both. He gave you life to live in both. He has promised to take care of you on both. His mercies come to you anew on both. You live as a forgiven, redeemed child on both.

It's so easy to let our earthly, daily circumstances dictate what kind of day or life we are going to have. We think sometimes that we are defined by those things. We are NOT defined by those things. We are defined by an act that is the ultimate action of love that is 100% outside of us. We are defined by the loving God who spoke His creation into existence and still takes care of it. We are defined by that same God who dies on two pieces of wood fixed together who carried the brutality of our sin and wretchedness. We are defined as what God has bought us to be—His children. This reality is true all our days, no matter what we feel about it or how that day is treating us. I was reminded of this powerful lesson once again from a program on KFUD, and it needs to be repeated: "Belief never makes reality." What you *believe* about yourself is not what makes you who you are. What you *feel* about yourself is not what makes you who you are. What you *perceive* about your days does not make them what they are. God might fill your day with 12 inches of blinding snow or 72 degrees of a day that seems almost perfect. The joy of life and the definition of your life is in the constancy of ....

His love,  
His gift,  
His care,  
His promise,  
His presence,  
His compassion,  
Him.

The Lord be with you this day, whether it is your favorite or not. You are in Him.

*Pastor Kyle Castens*  
*from Immanuel, Crystal City*



# **UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOLY CROSS**

## **Evangelism Planning Meeting for upcoming events**

Friday, October 13, at 9:30 a.m.

## **Church Christmas Decorating**

On Sunday, November 26,  
following the church service,  
we will decorate the church  
for Advent and the town's  
Christmas holiday.



## **Ste. Gen.'s Christmas Holiday**

December 2 & 3

## **Christmas Country Church Tour**

Thursday, December 14, and  
Friday, December 15:  
2:00—9:00 p.m.





**Center for Life  
WALK FOR LIFE**

**Saturday,  
October 28, 2023**

**9:00 a.m.  
(Registration begins  
at 8:15 a.m.)**

**TG Trail, Perryville, MO**

**Register:  
[centerforlife.org](http://centerforlife.org)  
or  
573-883-2088**



**Holy Cross will be included in the Christmas Church Tours on December 14 and 15. Over 30 churches will take part. We will need greeters both days from 2:00—9:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Watch the bulletin for more info.**

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**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
UNIONTOWN, MO  
84 Grace Lane, Uniontown, MO**

**PORK SAUSAGE SUPPER  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1**

**GRACE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
(school basement)**

**\$12 for adults ~ \$6.00 for children**

**SERVING FROM  
3:00—7:00 PM**

**WHOLE HOG PORK SAUSAGE  
parsley potatoes, green beans, sauerkraut,  
applesauce, dessert**



# **Watering the Flowers**

We have started a new sign-up procedure to water the outside flowers in the front of the church.

Instead of one volunteer watering for the entire week, we now have a schedule in which a volunteer can choose just one day of the week throughout the month he/she can water.

**We have openings on Tuesdays and Thursdays in October for volunteers to water the flowers.**

Sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary.





**Are you musical? Can you carry a tune? Whether yes or no, handbells are for you! Pastor and Christa Reiter have purchased a set of handbells and are surveying members of Holy Cross and Immanuel, Festus, to form a joint handbell choir. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or contact Pastor or Christa with any questions.**





# SEARCH-A-WORD PUZZLE

## THE REFORMATION

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

**REFORMATION**

**MARTIN**

**LUTHER**

**NAILED**

**THESES**

**CONFESSION**

**FAITH**

**JESUS**

**BIBLE**

**INDULGENCES**

**MOVEMENT**

**OCTOBER**

## LCMS STEWARDSHIP ARTICLE FOR OCTOBER 2023

### **“It’s in the Way That You Use It”**

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball that may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour but that might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots.

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It’s all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should “not misuse the name of the Lord.” In the *Small Catechism*, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

“We should fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name—but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.”  
(SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism, and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord’s name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God’s gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It’s all in the way that you use it!



**LCMS Stewardship Ministry –**  
**[lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)**

# Holy Cross

Lutheran Church

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