

AUGUST 2025

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sharing God's Word, Living His Love

## Monthly Newsletter

WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AM AND 11:00AM



### A CHAT WITH PASTOR BILL

God's design for us from the beginning was to live in community with each other. Jesus invested in teaching and fellowship with His disciples, and the early Church put a high priority on doing life together. According to Acts 2, people in the early Church devoted themselves to God's Word and prayer. They dedicated themselves to fellowship with one another, and they were generous in their giving. The Church was not a building, but a movement of people focused on loving God and one another.

In our new sermon series titled, "**Life is Better Together**" beginning this month, we will look at how we can be the Church to our community, and how we can find fulfillment and spiritual growth through loving God and each other. We will also see how we can be more involved in our community of faith through serving, sharing, and sacrificing.



August 24 - "Love in my Church" - Luke 13:22-30

August 31 - "Love by Sacrificing" - Hebrews 13:1-17

September 7 - "Love by Serving" - Luke 14:25-35

September 14 - "Love in Community" - Luke 15:1-10

September 21 - "Love in Sharing" - Luke 16:1-15

September 28 - "Love by Giving" - 1 Timothy 6:6-19

As we prepare for the fall, please note that many of our ministries will begin again, namely:

Wednesday, September 3: "Family Night" begins with new Bible studies and dinner

Sunday, September 7: New Member classes (between worship services)

Tuesday, September 9: Pastor Bill's weekly morning Bible study - 10:30am

In God's Service,

Pastor Bill

# FAMILY & YOUTH

## SHARING GOD'S WORD

### CONFIRMATION



- Starts up September 3rd!
- Parent Information Meeting for ALL students will be on Wednesday, August 27th @ 6:00 pm
- Register your rising 6th Grader by filling out the registration form:  
<https://www.holycrossclayton.com/wp-content/uploads/Confirmation-Registration-1.pdf>

### ADULT EDUCATION



#### • New Bible Study: *The Chosen* Season 3

Join us on Wednesday nights for a fun, clip-based Bible study on Season 3 of the hit series, *The Chosen*! This is a perfect opportunity for fellowship and to see the Gospels in a fresh way.

No prior viewing is necessary—just show up! All are welcome.

**When:** Wednesday Nights, 6:45 PM to 7:30 PM, beginning **September 3rd**

**Where:** Classroom 1

**For more information:**

Visit: [The Chosen Bible Study](#)

Or Contact:  
John Michael Harlow

### YOUTH MINISTRY

#### • Youth Group:

Back to School Kick-Off Party **Sept. 3rd**

#### • Youth Gathering:

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and support while we were in New Orleans. God worked in all our lives and we are thankful for the opportunity to Praise our Savior Jesus Christ.



Pool Party for students and families, **Sunday 10th** from 12:30– 3:00 pm @ The Sherwin's Pool. Check your email for details.

### Children's Ministry

#### • Family Night: Starts back up on **Sept. 3rd**

Sign your child up using the link below or on the website or in the app.

<https://bit.ly/3GsFrKL>

• **Children's Church:** During the 8:30 am Worship after the Children's Message.

• **Nursery:** For babies 6M – 3-years-old.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

LIVING HIS LOVE

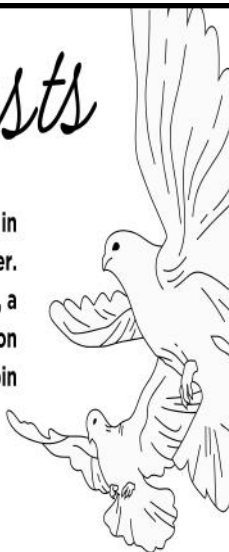
## ELDER CARE GROUPS

Elders care for the spiritual wellbeing of our church. The Elders meet faithfully to pray for our members, especially those with health concerns. To better assist our church, they asked to form Care Groups. This way they can better pray for our congregation. Please look for their email later this month as they will be reaching out to introduce themselves to you. If you wonder who our elders are, please check the Staff page on our website.

## Prayer Requests

At Holy Cross Lutheran Church, we're here to share in each others' experiences and lift each other in prayer. Whatever you're facing - whether it's a cause for joy, a challenge weighing you down, or a particular intention you're holding close to your heart - we want to join you in prayer.

Please email your prayer requests to  
[GINGER.URBAN@HOLYCROSSCLAYTON.COM](mailto:GINGER.URBAN@HOLYCROSSCLAYTON.COM)



## Helping Hands Ministry



*"Carry each other's burdens  
and in this way we will be  
fulfilling the law of Christ!"  
(Galatians 6:2)*

Are you available to provide  
"tangible" help to those who  
have needs for meals, rides to  
appointments, simple home  
repairs, etc.

Contact: Debbie Fick (919) 632-3643

Grow Spiritually  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BECOME A STEPHEN MINISTER



ARE YOU A GOOD LISTENER?  
DO YOU HAVE A CARING HEART?  
DO YOU WANT TO HELP OTHERS, BUT  
DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

WE ARE OFFERING A STEPHEN MINISTRY  
TRAINING PROGRAM. PLEASE CONTACT  
REBEKAH FOR DETAILS.

THE STEPHEN MINISTRY PROGRAM EQUIPS  
EVERYDAY PEOPLE WITH THE SKILLS TO  
PROVIDE EFFECTIVE, CHRIST- CENTERED,  
CARING MINISTRY TO THE COMMUNITY.

REBEKAH BAJWA:  
[REBEKAH.BAJWA@HOLYCROSSCLAYTON.COM](mailto:REBEKAH.BAJWA@HOLYCROSSCLAYTON.COM)  
OR 919.553.4784



# HOLY CROSS PRAYER MINISTRY

## “YEAR OF PRAYER 2025”

Together as a “Church Family” we are making 2025 a  
“YEAR of PRAYER”

PRAYER is VERY POWERFUL.

Philippians 4:6-7 says: *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.”*

In August, we at Holy Cross are offerin gup PRAYERS for “schools”

In this stressful time of uncertainty and some fear about school safety

PRAYER is as important as ever

AND is one thing we all can and should do.

Everyone is invited to join in. It is really simple!! You can PRAY from home, work, in the car, anywhere and any-time the Holy Spirit leads you to PRAY.

Your PRAYERS can be formal or even better just have a conversation with GOD,  
after all HE is your Heavenly FATHER and BEST FRIEND.

**PRIORITIZE - Set a time to do this EVERY DAY,with your whole family.**

Here is an idea of what You can PRAY this month!

Dear Heavenly Father,

As a new school year begins, with much uncertainty and concern over protection from the evils of this world, we know YOU are in control and YOU have a plan to use everything for YOUR good.

We pray for all schools, from preschool to college. Bless our children, teachers, and staff, and keep them safe from physical and spiritual harm. Guard their hearts and minds from the devil's schemes. Fill them with compassion for their fellow students, teachers, and staff. Light their path with a passion for learning Your Word and Your will in their lives.

While it is hard to send our children out into a world that is so unstable and volatile, we know that You are bigger than all of our worries and fears. Remind us that our children are also Your children, and that You love them infinitely more than we do. We give You our thanks and praise that You love them and all of us so much that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to die on a cross.

We pray these things in the name of JESUS. AMEN

Ask GOD what role HE has designed for you and then contact

John & Linda Miesch, Prayer Ministry Leaders

at Church or at [Eagleprod@mindspring.com](mailto:Eagleprod@mindspring.com) OR call 919-553-3579



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## PLEASE JOIN US

**FRI,  
8**

**OWL'S & FRIENDS**  
INTERNATIONAL DINNER  
6:00 PM REESE HALL

CONTACT  
DEBRA RAYTER  
jardes2433@gmail.com

**SAT,  
9**

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**  
LEARNERS WELCOME  
10:00 AM CLASSROOM 1

CONTACT  
ELLA MCBRAYER  
919-757-7955

**MON,  
11**

**CANCER SUPPORT  
GROUP**  
6:30 PM

CONTACT  
CHUCK MUNSON, JR.  
chuckmunsonjr@gmail.com

**WED,  
13**

**SEASONS OF LIFE**  
OUR JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF  
11:00 AM LIBRARY

CONTACT  
DEBBIE FICK 919-632-3643  
drfick1014@gmail.com

**THU,  
14**

**QUILTING MINISTRY**  
LEARNERS WELCOME  
9:00 AM LOBBY AREA

CONTACT  
DEWIE FRANCIS  
919-302-6193

**SAT,  
23**

**ANGEL MINISTRY**  
DRESS REHEARSAL  
9:00 AM REESE HALL

CONTACT  
DEBBIE FICK 919-632-3643  
drfick1014@gmail.com

# **LORD IN YOUR MERCY,** *Hear Our Prayers.*

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR HOLY CROSS FAMILY**

**Sonja Coull**  
**Jacob Boyd**  
**Kathy Savoy**  
**Rebecca Lavery**  
**Tom Hansen**  
**Judy Fowler**  
**Mark Wilson**  
**Margaret Lee**  
**Connie Reid**

**Richard Lavery**  
**Penny Schneider**  
**Ed Leigh**  
**Connie Beal**  
**John Miesch**  
**Chuck Munson, Jr.**  
**Dennis Reese**  
**Bill McElwain**  
**Garry Bleeker**

**Eric Roeser**  
**Ernie Creech**  
**Brenda Horne**  
**Elisabeth Junker**  
**Carla McMullen**  
**John H. Wood**  
**Caroline Schust**  
**David Lawrence**  
**Joan Tucker**

**Carolyn Selby**  
**Chris Urban**  
**Duane Scheller**  
**Karla Bishop**  
**Linda McLoughlin**  
**Lanny Scroggs**  
**Kim Ruggero**  
**Berta Hinton**  
**Betty Lotter**

**Carol Matino**  
**Lorna Preston**  
**Holly Tetzloff**  
**Donna Gracey**  
**Beth Szalecki**  
**Caroline Wrisley**

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE RECEIVING CANCER CARE**

**Tonya Gordon**, friend of Diane Reczek  
**Judy Evans Stoudt**, cousin of Doug Aitken  
**James Atkins**  
**Bill Berry**, friend of Doug Aitken  
**Leon Goldapple**, father of Jennifer McNally  
**Nathan Fannin**, Margaret Lee's neighbor  
**Karen**, friend of Elaine Reese  
**Mason Fannin**, friend of Margaret Lee  
**Derryck Sauls**  
**Candy Robinson**, mother of Robin Oelrich  
**Colleen Gilmartin**, friend of George & Donna Rossetti  
**Carla Barbour**, daughter of Sharon & Chuck Fox

**Angela Stancil**, niece of Terri Pelle  
**Fred Oelrich**, father of Robin Oelrich  
**Cora Lee Cox**, Niece of Carrie Benner  
**Everette Kelley**, child of a friend of Tara Webb  
**Janet Crowe**, mother of Ed Crowe  
**Donna Sappington**, niece of Joyce Smith  
**Dave & Leslee**, brother & his girlfriend of Cindy Barnes  
**Traci Via**, Open Arms teacher  
**Donna Marano**, sister of Mary Olson-Sinz  
**Susan Schlotter**, friend of the MacKenzies  
**Jennifer Hawkins**, sister of Victoria Sullivan

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS**

**Lois Lintner**, mother of Madonna Bennett  
**Sherry Whalen**, friend of Judy Fowler  
**Spenser Goldman**, grandson of Penny Schneider  
**Sandy & Bill**, friends of Edie Voorhees  
**Joseph & Mary Littleton**  
**Shirley & Brian Blatchley**, sister & brother-in-law of Bill McElwain  
**Steve Estes**, husband of Gail Estes  
**Barbara Ekerdt-Creecy**, niece of Donna Steele  
**Thomas Craig**, brother of Caroline Schust  
**James Norris**, father of Meredith Marsh  
**Danny McCarthy**, friend of Michele Capozzi  
**Monica Clonts**, sister of Blake Ball  
**Faith Hicks & her daughter Grace**, goddaughter of the Colemans  
**Heather, Charlie, & Joyce Pike**, friend of Doug Aitken  
**Tod & Karen**, parents of Sean Pritchard  
**Joyce Moore**  
**Matthew Marek**, cousin of Robert McNally  
**Rosie Villamil & Mahtob Mahmoody**, friends of Elisabeth Junker  
**Linda Williams**, aunt of Jamie Brannon  
**Michael Costa**, brother of Jennifer McNally  
**Carol & Larry**, friends of Jerry Benditz  
**Mary Ruth Nicols**, niece of Eunice Burch  
**Carlos & Tamy Garcia**, friends of Sandy Nesselrode  
**Donna Cantarella**, friend of Ellie Shep  
**Rita Giudice**, friend of Penny Schneider  
**Lucy Giudice**, friend of Penny Schneider  
**William Schramm**, friend of Harold Winkle

**Jim Scroggs**, son of Jeanie Scroggs  
**Shawn Roeser**, Son of Juie & Eric Roeser  
**Artie V.**, friend of John Lundoy  
**Al Barbour**, cousin of Robert Bennett  
**Heidi Goldman and Gretchen Schneider**, daughters of Penny Schneider  
**Nancy Morse**, friend of Ellie Shep  
**Kim Welch**, cousin of Jaime Brannon  
**Kris Jaeckle**, friend of Doug Aitken  
**Francis Larry Overby**, friend of John Paul Keon  
**Ralph Hendrex**, father of Travis Bjorklund  
**Angie Basette**, friend of Jamie Brannon  
**Gail Estes**, sister of Kathy Savoy  
**Amy Aldinger**, friend of Rick & Dewie Francis  
**Brian Cochran**, brother of Terri Cochran  
**Betty Begg**, friend of Doug Aitken  
**Keith & Cynthia Brown**, friends of Ed & Leslie Leigh  
**Peggy & Buddy Roberts**, family of Ella McBrayer  
**Kyle**, son of Amy McCormick  
**Johnathan Reed**, Open Arms parent  
**Stephen Bippes**, brother of Wendy O'Brien  
**Robert Hosenfeld**, brother of Jim Hosenfeld  
**Andrew Buskey**, friend of Ed Leigh  
**Brett Springfield**, friend of John Paul Keon  
**Mark Spinazzola**, brother of Traci Via  
**Tim Johnson**, friend of Frank Daughtrey  
**Connie Herzog**, friend of Doug Aitken  
**Dorothy Connolly**, friend of the Mackenzies  
**Houston Holcomb**, friend of John Paul Keon,  
**Glen Smith**, brother of Ron Smith

2025

August

| SUN                                                                                            | MON                                                                                                    | TUE | WED                                                                                   | THU                                              | FRI                                                                        | SAT                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                |                                                                                                        |     |                                                                                       |                                                  | 1                                                                          | 2<br>9:00 am<br>Men's Breakfast<br>(Front Lobby)<br>10:00 am<br>Prayer Shawl<br>Ministry |
| 3<br>8:30 am<br>Cont. Worship<br>9:45 am<br>LWML Board<br>Meeting<br>11:00 am<br>Trad. Worship | 4                                                                                                      | 5   | 6<br>7:30 pm<br>Praise Team<br>Practice                                               | 7                                                | 8<br>6:00 pm<br>Owl's & Friends<br>International<br>Dinner<br>(Reese Hall) | 9<br>10:00 am<br>Prayer Shawl<br>Ministry                                                |
| 10<br>8:30am<br>Cont. Worship<br>11:00 am<br>Trad. Worship                                     | 11<br>5:30 pm<br>Council<br>Meeting<br>6:30 pm<br>Elders Meeting<br>6:30 pm<br>Cancer<br>Support Group | 12  | 13<br>11:00 am<br>Season's Of<br>Life (Library)<br>7:30 pm<br>Praise Team<br>Practice | 14<br>9:00 am<br>Quilting Group<br>(Classroom 1) | 15                                                                         | 16                                                                                       |
| 17<br>8:30 am<br>Cont. Worship<br>11:00 am<br>Trad. Worship                                    | 18                                                                                                     | 19  | 20<br>7:30 pm<br>Praise Team<br>Practice                                              | 21                                               | 22                                                                         | 23<br>9:00 am<br>Angel Ministry<br>Dress Rehearsal                                       |
| 24<br>8:30 am<br>Cont. Worship<br>11:00 am<br>Trad. Worship                                    | 25                                                                                                     | 26  | 27<br>7:30 pm<br>Praise Team<br>Practice                                              | 28<br>9:00 am<br>Quilting Group<br>(Classroom 1) | 29                                                                         | 30                                                                                       |
| 31<br>MITE SUNDAY<br>8:30am<br>Cont. Worship<br>11:00 am<br>Trad. Worship                      |                                                                                                        |     |                                                                                       |                                                  |                                                                            |                                                                                          |

# MINISTRY TEAM

## Rev. Bill Beyer: Senior Pastor

william.beyer@holycrossclayton.com

## Rebekah Bajwa: Dir. of Family Ministry

rebekah.bajwa@holycrossclayton.com

## Ginger Urban: Administrative Assistant

ginger.urban@holycrossclayton.com

## Brett Jacobs: President

jacobsbrettr@yahoo.com

## Courtney Kelsay: Vice President

clkelsay@gmail.com

## Board Of Elders:

### Mark Sherwin:

sherwin16@gmail.com

### Gary Scrofani:

gscrofani57@gmail.com

### Tony Swann:

rtraviator@gmail.com

### Robert Bennett:

robertbennetiii@protonmail.com

### Randy Williams:

deeran72@gmail.com

### Brian Lawrence:

brian1480@gmail.com

## John Michael Harlow: Open Arms Board

jmharlow2011@gmail.com

## Debra Rayter: Social Ministries

jardes2433@gmail.com

## Tara Webb: Board of Education

taradawnwebb@hotmail.com

## Marvin Fordham: Board of Properties

mfordham@mindspring.com

## BJ Johns: Financial Secretary

bj.johns@holycrossclayton.com

## Todd Hinton: Asst. Financial Secretary

toddhinton60@gmail.com

## Kelly Derflinger: Treasurer

kellycpa@mail.com

# VITAL STATS

| <u>Date</u>                             | <u>In Person Attendance</u> | <u>Offerings</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 6/1                                     | 269 (125 & 144)             | \$ 10,303        |
| 6/8                                     | 318 (173 & 145)             | \$ 9,591         |
| 6/15                                    | 336 (174 & 162)             | \$ 10,244        |
| 6/22                                    | 295 (148 & 118)             | \$ 8,880         |
| 6/29                                    | 266 (148 & 118)             | \$ 9,260         |
| Direct Deposit Offerings (June)         |                             | \$ 13,985        |
| <b>Total Envelope/Plate Giving:</b>     |                             | <b>\$ 62,263</b> |
| Avg. weekly offerings 26 weeks 2024:    |                             | \$ 13,046        |
| Avg. weekly offerings 26 weeks 2025:    |                             | \$ 13,306        |
| Avg. weekly attendance 26 weeks 2024:   |                             | 292              |
| Avg. weekly attendance 26 weeks 2025:   |                             | 299              |
| Total offerings received thru 6/30/25:  |                             | \$345,964        |
| Total projected offerings thru 6/30/25: |                             | \$310,076        |

### Special Gifts (to Holy Cross):

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Hurricane Helene Relief Fund: | \$ 1,480 |
| Matthew Ministry:             | \$ 1,460 |
| Backpack Buddies              | \$ 1,060 |
| Youth                         | \$ 240   |

### 2025 Mission Offerings (from Holy Cross):

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| iChoose Pregnancy Support Services: | \$ 1,500  |
| Southeastern District (LCMS):       | \$ 27,908 |

**DID YOU KNOW HOLY CROSS OFFERS ONLINE GIVING?**

**SCAN ME! >>>**

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Sharing God's Word, Living His Love

**HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

919.553.4784  
www.holycrossclayton.com

Ginger.Urban@holycrossclayton.com

2920 Veterans Parkway  
Clayton, NC 27520