

DECEMBER 2025

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sharing God's Word, Living His Love

Monthly Newsletter

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

OUR DEAR CHRIST ENTERS IN

AN ADVENT
SERMON SERIES

Christmas Eve Worship

3:00pm – Contemporary

Candle Light Worship

5:00pm – Traditional

Candle Light Worship

7:00pm – Traditional

Candle Light Worship with Communion

Our Dear Christ Enters In

I read recently that in any given year approximately 131 million Americans travel to a place they call “home” to visit family and friends. For many of us home represents everything that is good, wonderful, and comforting. It is a fortress of love, a sanctuary of happiness, and a place of warmth and security. It is more than a structure, it's people, relationships, and memories. As we prepare our homes for the coming of Jesus on Christmas day, unfortunately, many times in the hustle and bustle of home life, the spiritual blessings of Advent and Christmas get buried in all the trappings of the season. What if our goal this year was to simply let our dear Christ enter into our homes and into our lives? How does His entry into the world speak into and even change our approach to this season? In this special sermon series for Advent and Christmas, we will look at what happens when Christ enters in and makes our hearts his home.

One of the ways we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth is through some additional worship services on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm, with dinner served from 5:45pm – 6:30pm. Our dinner menu will be as follows:

Dec. 3 – Turkey & Ham Subs (Jersey Mike's)

Dec. 10 – Chicken & Beef Tacos (Fiesta Mexicana)

Dec. 17 – Pizza from Papa Johns

In God's Service,

Pastor Bill

Pastor Bill

ADVENT SERMON SERIES:

Sunday, November 30:
“Preparing For The Light”
(John 1:1-13)

Wednesday, December 3:
“Family Tree”
(Matthew 1:1-17)

Sunday, December 7:
“Living A God Pleasing Life”
(Matthew 3:1-12)

Wednesday, December 10:
“Company Comes”
(Luke 1:39-45)

Sunday, December 14:
“Not What I Expected”
(Matthew 11:2-15)

Wednesday, December 17:
“Christmas Jubilee”
(Children's Christmas Service)

Sunday, December 21:
“The Name of Jesus”
(Matthew 1:18-25)

Wednesday, December 24:
“Home”
Christmas Eve

FAMILY & YOUTH

SHARING GOD'S WORD



Christmas Program:

- **Dress Rehearsal Sunday the 7th and 14th from 12:30-2:30 pm.** Lunch will be provided.
- **Performance: Wednesday the 17th(@ 7pm.** Please have your child(ren) here by 6:30pm.

Children's Church: During 8:30 am worship, after the Children's Message.



Let's praise God by celebrating Christ's birth throughout Advent with spirit. Join us for jolly good fun from 6:30—6:45 pm in Reese Hall.

- **December 3rd: Candy Cane Lane:**
Wear red and white.
- **December 10th: Sweater Weather:**
Bring your funniest, craziest, ugliest or most beautiful sweater.
- **December 17th: Shine Bright:**
Wear something that glows or sparkles!



- **During Advent, you have special sermon notes to fill out each service on Wed. at 7pm.**
- **The 17th you will help with the Worship Service**

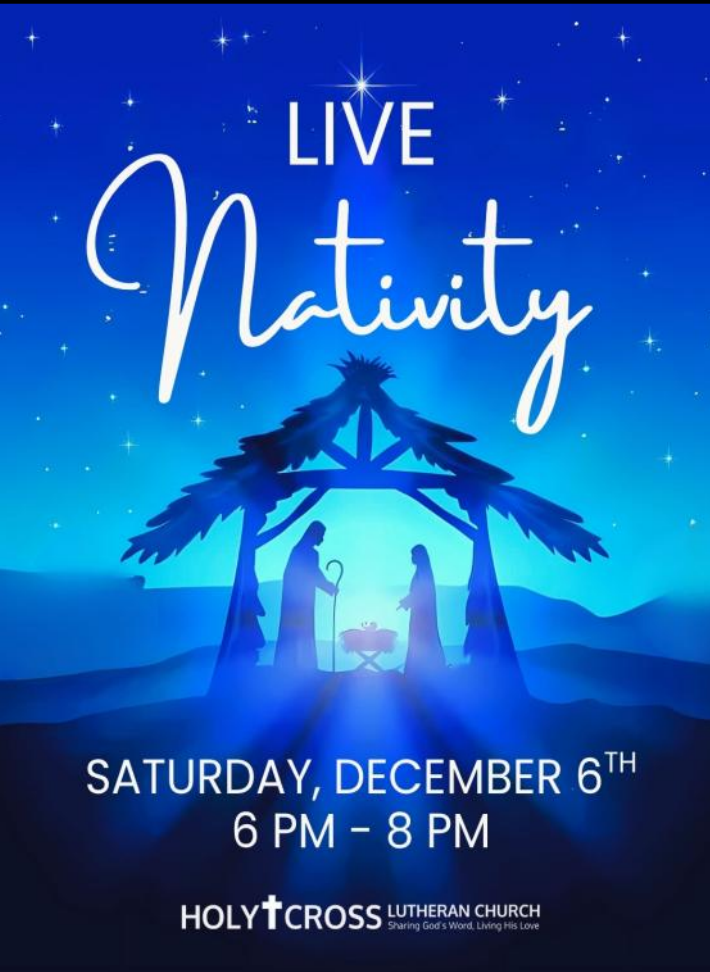
NEW NURSERY STAFF



Hello Families! My name is Penny Smith. I am thrilled to join the nursery for Sunday Service. I'm originally from Davie, Florida. I have four children of my own and two grandchildren. We relocated to NC in 2007. I worked as a TA before moving to NC, which gave me a passion to work with children. I believe children are a gift from God. I enjoy spending time with my own family and volunteering at an equine rescue. I look forward to getting to know you and your families and caring for you children.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN US




A blue-toned illustration of a nativity scene. The Virgin Mary and Joseph are shown with the infant Jesus in a manger, under a starry night sky. The scene is framed by a simple wooden structure.

LIVE
Nativity

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
6 PM – 8 PM

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



A large red bow with a ribbon, positioned at the top of the card.


PLEASE JOIN US FOR
Gal-a-tions
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 @ 6:30 PM

THIS MONTH, WE'RE GOING BIGGER, BETTER &
A WHOLE LOT JOLLIER!

If you have an ugly sweater or festive attire, please wear it. If
not, please come anyway! Dust off those sparkles and come
read to jingle, mingle and dominate the games!

Gals, RSVP for the holliest and jolliest meeting yet!
<https://bit.ly/4rqzfpj>

OR



A square QR code located below the text.



A decorative border featuring a red bow, holly leaves, and pinecones.

please join us for the LWML
Christmas Luncheon
December 14th at 12:30 P.M.
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
\$15 per person

Gifts of the Heart:
House of Hope &
Clayton Area Ministries Food Bank

RSVP
RSVP @ bit.ly/48UTXXH
or by scanning the
QR Code:



A square QR code located at the bottom right of the card.



HOLY CROSS PRAYER MINISTRY

“YEAR OF PRAYER 2025”

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.”

Together as a “Church Family” we are continuing to make 2025 a “YEAR of PRAYER”

In DECEMBER we at Holy Cross are offering up PRAYERS for “Peace on Earth”

In this stressful time of uncertainty PRAYER is as important as ever & is one thing we all can and should do.

PRAY together with your whole family. It is really simple!! You can PRAY from home, work, in the car, anywhere and anytime 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, You have called us to live at Peace with each other. Father, Bring an end to violence, hatred and discord. Calm those of us that act in anger to our neighbor. Slow the feet that rush into war. Guide all those in positions of power and give them wisdom to use their power wisely. Enable us to show compassion to all people. Teach us to listen to those we disagree with and to show patience in all circumstances. Heal the hatred in the world around us by healing our hearts first.

Let there be Peace on Earth AND let it begin with me!! Peace within my home and family, in my community, in our Nation and throughout all Nations of the World. We ask this, yet we know that everlasting peace will not happen until the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace Himself, returns to earth from His place in heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

We pray these things in the name of JESUS. AMEN.

HELP US,
HELP OTHERS

**MATTHEW
MINISTRY**

AMAZON 

WALMART 

**Backpack
BUDDIES**

Because hunger doesn't end on Friday.

AMAZON LIST 

WALMART LIST 

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sharing God's Love with Everyone

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN US

**SAT,
6**

LIVE NATIVITY

6:00 PM Reese Hall & Lawn

**CONTACT
DEBBIE FICK
919-632-3643**

**SUN,
7, 14**

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL 12:30 PM—2:30 PM

**CONTACT
REBEKAH BAJWA
919-553-4784**

**MON,
8**

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

6:30 PM

**CONTACT
CHUCK MUNSON, JR.
Chuckmunsonjr@gmail.com**

**MON,
8**

MOM'S IN PRAYER 7:00 PM (ZOOM MEETING)

**CONTACT
LIZY COLEMAN
lizy@e-colemans.com**

**WED,
10**

SEASONS OF LIFE

11:00 AM Library

**CONTACT
DEBBIE FICK
919-632-3643**

**SAT,
13**

MEN'S BREAKFAST

9:00 AM

**CONTACT
RALPH FICK
919-429-2301**

**SAT,
13**

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

6:30 PM

**CONTACT
DEBBIE FICK
919-632-3643**

**SAT,
13**

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

10:00 AM Classroom 1

**CONTACT
ELLA MCBRAYER
919-757-7955**

**SUN,
14**

LWML CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 12:30 PM

**CONTACT
DONNA HARLOW
919-600-2809**

**WED,
17**

RUTH CIRCLE

10:00 AM

**CONTACT
Brenda Gay
919-763-7117**

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
Connie Reid
Richard Lavery

Penny Schneider
Ed Leigh
John Miesch
Chuck Munson, Jr.
Dennis Reese
Bill McElwain
Garry Bleeker
Ernie Creech
Brenda Horne

Elisabeth Junker
Carla McMullen
John H. Wood
Caroline Schust
Joan Tucker
Carolyn Selby
Chris Urban
Duane Scheller
Linda McLoughlin

Lanny Scroggs
Kim Ruggero
Berta Hinton
Carol Matino
Donna Gracey
Beth Szalecki
Betty Winkle
Ellie Shep
Eric Roeser

Julie Roeser
Traci Via
Nadene Kilburn
Bobbi Hall
Jane Schoenberg
Margaret Lee
Sarah Elliott

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE RECEIVING CANCER CARE

Tonya Gordon, friend of Diane Reczek
Judy Evans Stoudt, cousin of Doug Aitken
James Atkins
David Coleman, brother of Paul Coleman
Bill Berry, friend of Doug Aitken
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
Jennifer Hawkins, sister of Victoria Sullivan
Ron, brother-in-law of Evelyn Scheller
Doug Anderson, friend of Frank Daughtrey
Cheryl Webster, friend of Diane Reczek
Sue Nichols, friend of Ed Leigh

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
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
Joyce Moore
Rosie Villamil & Mahtob Mahmoody, friends of Elisabeth Junker
Linda Williams, aunt of Jamie Brannon
Carol & Larry, friends of Jerry Benditz
Mary Ruth Nicols, niece of Eunice Burch
Carlos & Tamy Garcia, friends of Sandy Nesselrode
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 Bassette, friend of Jamie Brannon
Gail Estes, sister of Kathy Savoy
Amy Aldinger, friend of Rick & Dewie Francis
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
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
Dorothy Connolly, friend of the Mackenzies
Houston Holcomb, friend of John Paul Keon
Fran Bove, mother of Michele Smith
Christopher, grandson of Gail Fikes

December

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 5:45 pm Dinner 6:30 pm L.I.F.T. Games 7:00 pm Advent Worship Service	4	5	6 6:00 pm Live Nativity
7 8:30 am Cont. Worship 9:45 am LWML Board Meeting 11:00 am Trad. Worship 12:30 pm Christmas Play Rehearsal	8 6:30 pm Cancer Support Group 7:00 pm Mom's In Prayer	9 NO BIBLE STUDY	10 11:00 am Seasons Of Life 5:45 pm Dinner 6:30 pm L.I.F.T. Games 7:00 pm Advent Worship Service	11	12	13 9:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
14 8:30 am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship 12:30 pm LWML Christmas Lunch 12:30 pm Christmas Play Rehearsal	15 7:00 pm Mom's In Prayer	16 NO BIBLE STUDY	17 10:00 am Ruth Circle 5:45 pm Dinner 6:30 pm L.I.F.T. Games 7:00 pm Advent Service Christmas Program	18	19	20
21 8:30 am Cont. Worship 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 11:00 am Trad. Worship	22	23 NO BIBLE STUDY	24 3:00 pm Contemporary Candle Light 5:00 pm Traditional Candle Light 7:00 pm Traditional Candle Light w/Communion	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27
28 MITE SUNDAY 8:30am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship	29 10:00 am Mite Counting	30 NO BIBLE STUDY	31	HAPPY NEW YEAR!		

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

Matt Vessie:

Mpvessie@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>
10/5	322 (183 & 139)	\$ 12,424
10/12	326 (160 & 166)	\$ 7,752
10/19	310 (164 & 146)	\$ 8,437
10/26	308 (155 & 153)	\$ 9,670
Direct Deposit Offerings (Oct.)		<u>\$ 13,060</u>

Total Envelope/Plate Giving: \$ 51,343

Avg. weekly offerings 43 weeks 2024: \$ 12,973

Avg. weekly offerings 43 weeks 2025: \$ 13,001

Avg. weekly attendance 43 weeks 2024: 285

Avg. weekly attendance 43 weeks 2025: 296

Total offerings received thru 10/31/25: \$559,043

Total projected offerings thru 10/31/25: \$512,818

Special Gifts (to Holy Cross):

Hurricane Helene Relief Fund: \$ 850

Matthew Ministry: \$ 410

Backpack Buddies \$ 325

Youth \$ 130

2025 Mission Offerings (from Holy Cross):

iChoose Pregnancy Support Services: \$ 2,500

Southeastern District (LCMS): \$ 41,862

**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**

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