

Monthly Newsletter

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

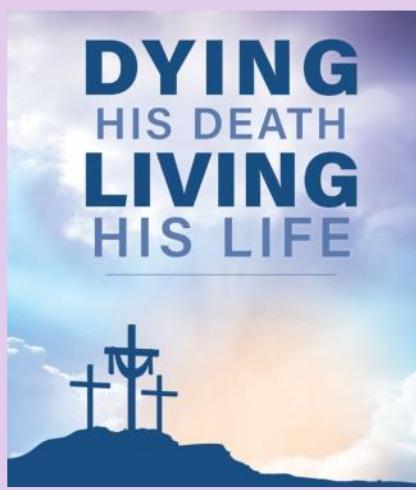


A Note From Pastor... On Wednesday, February 18, we begin a season of self-examination and sorrow for our sin known as Lent. It is a time when, through a period of 40 days, we remember Jesus' journey to the cross. By setting aside a special 40-day period to reflect on our lives through prayer and worship, we imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for 40 days after He was baptized.

However, did you know that the word "Lent" is not found in the Bible? Originally Lent was nothing more than the English name of the season between winter and summer. In the German and Dutch languages, they have the same word, but with a slightly different spelling. In German, "Lenz" means "spring," and in Dutch the word "lente" still describes the season between winter and summer, and is used in everyday life.

The church preparation for Easter always took place during the season of lent. However, in England, Lent came to mean the observance instead of the season, which created some confusion. Imagine how difficult it would have been to explain to someone that "Lent" happens during the season of lent. Therefore, English speaking people came up with the word "spring" to describe the season between winter and summer.

Lent, though, is more than just a word, it is a season when we remember how Jesus went to the cross to die on our behalf so that we could live with Him forever. Therefore, our midweek Lenten worship series is titled, **"Dying His Death, Living His Life,"** in which we will be reminded that each day we have an opportunity to die to ourselves and to live for Jesus. Please join us for the following worship services:



- Ash Wednesday, February 18: "Dying To Sin, Living In Forgiveness" - 5:00pm Traditional Service & 7:00pm Contemporary Service
- Wednesday, February 25 - "Dying To Pride, Living For Others" - 7:00pm
- Wednesday, March 4 - "Dying To Greed, Living For Treasures" - 7:00pm
- Wednesday, March 11 - "Dying To Doubt, Living By Faith" - 7:00pm
- Wednesday, March 18 - "Dying To Turmoil, Living In Peace" - 7:00pm
- Wednesday, March 25 - "Dying To Judgment, Living In Grace" - 7:00pm
- Maundy Thrs., April 2 - "Dying To Ourselves, Living In Remembrance" - 7:00pm
- Good Friday, April 3 - "Dying To Brokenness, Living With Hope" - 7:00pm

In God's Service,

Pastor Bill

Pastor Bill

FAMILY & YOUTH

SHARING GOD'S WORD

ADULT EDUCATION

STUDIES END FEBRUARY 11TH

- **The Chosen Season 4:** In the fourth installment of this series, we will look at the rising tensions, internal disciple conflicts, and growing opposition to Jesus as His ministry moves towards Jerusalem, culminating in the lead-up to the Passion, with key events including the tragic death of John the Baptist, and the healing of Lazarus. Led by John Michael Harlow.
- **Rooted & Reaching:** Our Christian faith is rooted in six chief parts: The Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Communion, Creeds, and Confession. In this study we will take a closer look at the meaning of these words we speak in our faith as listed in Martin Luther's small catechism and we will apply them to our Christian lives. Join us for some "R & R" on Wednesday nights as we reach deeper into our Christian faith. Led by Pastor Bill & Rebekah.

BIBLE READING PROGRAM

- **Home Bible Reading Program:** Our church has a Home Bible Reading Program. It started in November, but it is open to anyone at anytime. To join us, please give your email address to Al Popilek, Lee Quast or Ginger Urban in the church office.



- **L.I.F.T. Kids Wednesday, Feb 4th & 11th** @ 6:30 pm in Reese Hall.
- **Children's Church:** During 8:30 am worship, after the Children's Message.
- **Family Event: Church Social Sunday, February 22nd 3:30pm-5:30pm.** Kids play and make crafts while parents supervise and socialize. Pizza will be served for dinner Let [Rebekah](#) know if you can attend.



- **Fill out one Sunday Sermon Note per month.**
- **Class Wednesday, Feb 4th & 11th** @ 6:30 pm in Reese Hall. Instruction begins @ 6:45 pm in Classroom 2.
- **Lent:** Lenten Services start the 18th with Ash Wednesday. Complete the Worship Notes.
- **Gathering Fundraising Meeting:** Wednesday the 11th @ 7:30 pm in the Youth Room. *THIS MEETING IS FOR YOUTH AND PARENTS!*



- **Class Wednesday, Feb 4th & 11th** @ 6:30 pm in Reese Hall.
- **Gathering Fundraising Meeting:** Wednesday the 11th @ 7:30 pm. *THIS MEETING IS FOR YOUTH AND PARENTS!*



HOLY CROSS PRAYER MINISTRY “YEAR OF PRAYER 2026”

We have formed one of the most powerful and important Ministries any Church can have, the **PRAYER MINISTRY**, Holy Cross is becoming a “House of Prayer” where **EVERY** aspect of our Church is constantly SATURATED in Prayer.

Together with PASTOR Bill, we are declaring 2026 to be another **“YEAR of PRAYER”**

In FEBRUARY Holy Cross is offering up PRAYERS for **“enemies”** (someone who hurts you)

We have ALL been hurt by others and it is difficult but
JESUS calls us to PRAY for them.

Here is an idea of what you can PRAY this Month.

JESUS, Prince of Peace, you have asked us to love our enemies and pray for those who have hurt us in any way. I can't do it on my own, I need YOUR help. YOU know the misunderstandings that exist between myself and certain people. Harsh words and thoughtless actions have been exchanged.

I do not pray for YOU to change them, BUT instead to 1st change me.

Thank YOU for YOUR example when YOU cried, “Father forgive them...” from the cross, as YOU were dying not only for me, BUT for everyone, even those who have hurt me.

Forgive my enemies Lord and all those who have tried to hurt or have harmed me. Look down in pity on all those who I term “enemies” and give me the grace to show them the love of Christ in my actions and attitudes towards them.

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 OR call 919-553-3579



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
DEBBIE FICK @ DRFICK1014@GMAIL.COM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE “TANGIBLE” HELP TO THOSE WHO HAVE NEEDS FOR MEALS, RIDES, MOVING, ETC?

CONTACT
DEBBIE FICK: 919 - 632 - 3643

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN US

TUE, 3	ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM Sanctuary	CONTACT CHURCH OFFICE 919.553.4784
SAT, 7	MEN'S BREAKFAST 9:00 AM	CONTACT RALPH FICK 919-429-2301
SAT, 7	LADIES BIBLE STUDY 9:00 AM	CONTACT DEBBIE FICK 919-632-3643
MON, 9	GAL-ATIANS 6:30 PM Reese Hall	CONTACT TERRI PELLE 919.320-3608
TUE, 10	ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM Sanctuary	CONTACT CHURCH OFFICE 919.553.4784
WED 11	SEASONS OF LIFE 11:00 AM	CONTACT CHARLES LORTON 704-779-1799
THU, 12	QUILTING GROUP 9:00 AM Classroom #1	CONTACT DEWIE FRANCIS 919-302-6193
SAT, 14	PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY 10:00 AM Classroom 1	CONTACT ELLA MCBRAYER 919-757-7955
SUN 15	Y'ALL DINNER 5:00 PM (Garibaldi's in Garner)	CONTACT LIZ CVELBAR bellelizabeth1658@gmail.com
TUE, 17	ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM Sanctuary	CONTACT CHURCH OFFICE 919.553.4784

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN US

**WED,
18** | **RUTH CIRCLE**

10:00 AM Classroom 1

CONTACT
BRENDA GAY
919-763-7117

**WED,
18** | **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

5:00 PM & 7:00 PM

CONTACT
CHURCH OFFICE
919.553.4784

**WED,
18** | **L.I.F.T. DINNER**

5:45 PM - 6:30 PM (Tacos from Fiesta)

CONTACT
CHURCH OFFICE
919.553.4784

**SUN,
22** | **CHURCH FAMILY SOCIAL**

3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

CONTACT
REBEKAH BAJWA
919.553.4784

**MON
23** | ***MOM'S IN PRAYER**

7:00 PM (ZOOM MEETING)

CONTACT
LIZY COLEMAN
lizy@e-colemans.com

**WED
25** | **L.I.F.T. DINNER**

5:45 PM - 6:30 PM (Pizza)

CONTACT
CHURCH OFFICE
919.553.4784

**WED,
25** | **MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE**

7:00 PM

CONTACT
CHURCH OFFICE
919.553.4784

**THU,
26** | **QUILTING GROUP**

9:00 AM Classroom #1

CONTACT
DEWIE FRANCIS
919-302-6193

***MOM'S IN PRAYER**

To join mom's in prayer zoom meeting,
please scan the code:
Meeting ID: 883 7635 2383
Passcode: 702958



LORD IN YOUR MERCY, *Hear Our Prayers.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR HOLY CROSS FAMILY

Sonja Coull	Penny Schneider	Carla McMullen	Donna Gracey	Brian Lawrence
Jacob Boyd	Ed Leigh	John H. Wood	Elizabeth Winkle	Ron Harrison
Kathy Savoy	John Miesch	Caroline Schust	Ellie Shep	Bill Sessions
Rebecca Lavery	Chuck Munson, Jr.	Joan Tucker	Traci Via	Skip Hulland
Tom Hansen	Dennis Reese	Carolyn Selby	Eric Roeser	John Neuner
Judy Fowler	Bill McElwain	Chris Urban	Julie Roeser	Carol Matino
Mark Wilson	Garry Bleeker	Duane Scheller	Nadene Kilburn	
Margaret Lee	Ernie Creech	Linda McLoughlin	Blaine Hall	
Connie Reid	Brenda Horne	Kim Ruggero	Jane Schoenberg	
Richard Lavery	Elisabeth Junker	Berta Hinton	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
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
Doug Anderson, friend of Frank Daughtrey
Cheryl Webster, friend of Diane Reczek
Sue Nichols, friend of Ed Leigh
Case Belsley, child of a friend of Tara Webb
Melissa Hulland, sister of Skip Hulland
Rose Harnois, friend of the Urban family

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 Mahmood, friends of Elisabeth Junker
Linda Williams, aunt of Jamie Brannon
Carol & Larry, friends of Jerry Benditz
Mary Ruth Nicols, niece of Eunice Burch
Carlos & Tammy Garcia, friends of Sandy Nesselrode
Rita Giudice, friend of Penny Schneider
Lucy Giudice, friend of Penny Schneider
William Schramm, friend of Harold Winkle
David 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
Kim Welch, cousin of Jaime Brannon
Francis Larry Overby, friend of John Paul Keon
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
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,
Christopher, grandson of Gail Fikes
Rick Santos, brother-in-law of Doug Aitken
Jimmie Walsh, son of Betsy Harsch
Tyler, friend of Karen Harms
Ryan Burda, son of Renee Stull
Larry Wilson, brother of Mark Wilson

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FEBRUARY

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship	2 7:00 pm Mom's In Prayer	3 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	4 LIFTed (Family Night) 5:45 pm Dinner: Spaghetti from Venero's 6:30 pm LIFT Games 6:45 pm Education Breakout	5 5:30 pm Elders' Meeting	6	7 9:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Ladies Bible Study
8 8:30 am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship 12:15 pm LWML Board Meeting	9 5:30 pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm GAL-atiens (Reese hall)	10 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	11 11:00 am Seasons of Life LIFTed (Family Night) 5:45 pm Dinner: Jersey Mike's Subs 6:30 pm LIFT Games 6:45 pm Education Breakout	12 9:00 am Quilting Group	13	14 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
15 8:30 am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship 5:00 pm Y'all Dinner Garibaldi's in Garner	16 7:00 pm Mom's In Prayer	17 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	18 10:00 am Ruth Circle ASH WEDNESDAY 5:00 pm Traditional Service 5:45 pm Dinner: Tacos from Fiesta 7:00 pm Contemporary Service	19	20	21
22 MITE SUNDAY 8:30am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship 3:30 pm Church Family Social in Reese Hall	23 10:00 am Mite Counting 7:00 pm Mom's In Prayer	24	25 LIFTed (Family Night) 5:45 pm Dinner: Pizza 7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Worship Service	26 9:00 am Quilting Group 6:00 pm Open Arms Board Meeting	27	28

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

jacobsbrett@yahoo.com

Courtney Kelsay: Vice President

ckelsay@gmail.com

Board Of Elders:

Mark Sherwin:

sherwin16@gmail.com

Gary Scrofani:

gscrofani57@gmail.com

Tony Swann:

rtraviator@gmail.com

Robert Bennett:

robertbennettsiii@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

Date	In Person Attendance	Offerings
12/3 (Wed.)	146	\$ 1,051
12/7	314(174 & 140)	\$ 11,539
12/10 (Wed.)	123	\$ 725
12/14	300 (158 & 142)	\$ 8,143
12/17 (Wed.)	180	\$ 657
12/21	312 (149 & 163)	\$ 6,220
12/24 (Christ Eve.)	535 (200, 181, 154)	\$ 7,461
12/28	219 (150 & 167)	\$ 6,593
Direct Deposit Offerings (Dec.)		<u>\$ 17,501</u>

Total Envelope/Plate Giving:	\$ 59,890
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Avg. weekly offerings 52 weeks 2024:	\$ 13,384
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Avg. weekly offerings 52 weeks 2025:	\$ 13,165
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Avg. weekly attendance 52 weeks 2024:	288
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Avg. weekly attendance 52 weeks 2025:	300
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Total offerings received thru 12/31/25:	\$ 684,595
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Total projected offerings thru 12/31/25:	\$ 620,160
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Special Gifts (to Holy Cross):

Mortgage Reduction:	\$ 57,457
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Hurricane Helene Relief Fund:	\$ 1,425
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Matthew Ministry:	\$ 845
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Backpack Buddies:	\$ 845
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Youth:	\$ 215
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Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,000
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2025 Mission Offerings (from Holy Cross):

iChoose Pregnancy Support Services:	\$ 3,000
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Southeastern District (LCMS):	\$ 55,814
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**DID YOU KNOW
HOLY CROSS OFFERS
ONLINE GIVING?**

**SCAN
ME! >>**



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

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