

FEBRUARY 2026

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sharing God's Word, Living His Love

## Monthly Newsletter

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

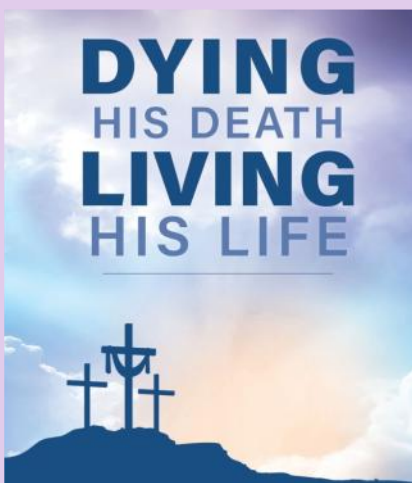


**A Note From Pastor...** On Wednesday, February 18, we begin a season of self-examination and sorrow for our sin known as Lent. It is a time when, through a period of 40 days, we remember Jesus' journey to the cross. By setting aside a special 40-day period to reflect on our lives through prayer and 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 Thurs., 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 11<sup>TH</sup>

- **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.

### Children's Ministry



- **L.I.F.T. Kids Wednesday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> @ 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### CONFIRMATION



- **Fill out one Sunday Sermon Note per month.**
- **Class Wednesday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm** in Reese Hall. Instruction begins @ 6:45 pm in Classroom 2.
- **Lent:** Lenten Services start the 18<sup>th</sup> 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!*

### YOUTH MINISTRY

- **Class Wednesday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> @ 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](mailto:Eagleprod@mindspring.com) OR call 919-553-3579

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

# 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  
bellezabeth1658@  
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  
Jacob Boyd  
Kathy Savoy  
Rebecca Lavery  
Tom Hansen  
Judy Fowler  
Mark Wilson  
Margaret Lee  
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  
Kim Ruggero  
Berta Hinton*

*Donna Gracey  
Elizabeth Winkle  
Ellie Shep  
Traci Via  
Eric Roeser  
Julie Roeser  
Nadene Kilburn  
Blaine Hall  
Jane Schoenberg  
Sarah Elliott*

*Brian Lawrence  
Ron Harrison  
Bill Sessoms  
Skip Hulland  
John Neuner  
Carol Matino*

## **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 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  
**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



# FEBRUARY

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

# 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:

robertbennettiii@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>
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

Avg. weekly offerings 52 weeks 2024: \$ 13,384

Avg. weekly offerings 52 weeks 2025: \$ 13,165

Avg. weekly attendance 52 weeks 2024: 288

Avg. weekly attendance 52 weeks 2025: 300

Total offerings received thru 12/31/25: \$ 684,595

Total projected offerings thru 12/31/25: \$ 620,160

### Special Gifts (to Holy Cross):

Mortgage Reduction: \$ 57,457

Hurricane Helene Relief Fund: \$ 1,425

Matthew Ministry: \$ 845

Backpack Buddies: \$ 845

Youth: \$ 215

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$ 1,000

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

iChoose Pregnancy Support Services: \$ 3,000

Southeastern District (LCMS): \$ 55,814

**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