

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Word, Living His Love

December 2023

Worship Services: Sundays at 8:30am and 11:00 am

Church Office: (919) 553-4784

Email: Sarah.Elliott@holycrossclayton.com

www.holycrossclayton.com



The Promise

A promise is an assurance that a certain thing will come to pass. We make promises all the time. Sometimes we see them through, other times they never become a reality. However, when God makes a promise, we can be confident that He will be faithful to bring it to fruition. The Bible is full of promises from God to His people, and there is one life-changing promise we celebrate every Christmas: God's promise of a Savior named Jesus.

The Promise is a 4-week sermon series that will look at the promises God fulfilled through Jesus. We offer additional worship services on Wednesday nights during our Advent season to prepare us for our promised Savior. Worship will take place on Wednesdays from 7:00pm – 7:30pm, with dinner served from 5:45pm – 6:30pm. Please join us for the following worship services:



Sun., December 3 – The Promise of Love (Luke 1:26-38)

Wed., December 6 – *The Promise of Peace (Isaiah 40:1-11)*

Sun., December 10 – The Promise of Forgiveness (Mark 1:1-8)

Wed., December 13 – *The Promise of Joy (Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)*

Sun., December 17 – The Promise of Hope (John 1:6-8, 19-28)

Wed., December 20 – *The Promise is Coming (Children's Christmas Service)*

Sun., December 24 – The Promise is Jesus (Christmas Eve)

Christmas Eve Worship

3:00pm – Contemporary Candle Light Worship

5:00pm – Traditional Candle Light Worship

7:00pm – Traditional Candle Light Worship
with Communion

**No Sunday morning worship services on Christmas Eve.



In God's Service,

Pastor Bill Beyer

Pastor Bill Beyer

Children's Ministry

Christian Education

Wed. Education: At Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal from 5:30 – 6pm in the Sanctuary on 12/6 and 12/13. The Children will perform their Christmas Program on 12/20 at 7pm. .

- **Sign-up your family to join us for dinner.** <https://bit.ly/40KvPke>
- **Children's Church:** Happens during the 8:30AM Worship after the Children's Message. The children follow the cross out of Worship to the Music Room for a service on their level. The children are brought back to Worship during Sharing the Peace.
- **What is the purpose of Children's Church?** Our goal with this program is to connect children in a relationship with God using lessons and activities that are on their educational and developmental level. The final outcome of this ministry is for the child to go back into the worship service, ready to actively listen and follow along with their parents. They are not meant to stay in children's church forever. This program is designed to be a greenhouse where the children grow in their faith and understanding, are active in learning and studying with the word, seek to apply it to their lives, and learn more about praying and Scripture. If a parent would rather keep their children in the worship service with them and use that as an opportunity to help them connect with the sermon, engage with the service, and actively participate in worship, they are highly encouraged to do so!

Nursery: Open at both services for children birth – 3-years-old.

Adult Education: *We are taking a break in December. Tuesday Morning Classes and Wednesday Night Classes will pick back up in January.*

YOUTH MINISTRY

 [holycrossyouth](https://www.instagram.com/holycrossyouth)

Confirmation: Wednesdays

CY1, CY2, CY3 Students: Attend Advent Services at 7pm and complete Sermon Notes.

- **Family Dinner** will be from 5:45pm – 6:30pm in Reese Hall. Sign up here <https://bit.ly/40KvPke>

Youth Ministry

- No classes on Wed. in Dec. We'll start back on January 3, 2024.
- **Lock-In Friday, Dec. 8th 7pm – 7am** Bring a wrapped present \$5-\$10 for the gift exchange. Let Rebekah know you are coming! Please wear something Christmasy!

Fundraisers for the Youth:

Scrip Fundraiser Scrip is a great way to help raise funds towards youth ministry. Every church member can easily earn \$1,000 or more for youth ministry by buying gift cards through us. BJ Johns is our scrip coordinator. If you want more information, please send her an email at bjkjohns@gmail.com.

Widows and Friends

Next Meeting: December 16th at 10:00am in Classroom #1

Contact: Yvonne Chrisikos at 919-585-7216

"Seasons of Life" ~ a journey through grief!

Have you (or someone you know) lost a spouse and would like to get together with those who are going through the same struggles?

For more information contact: Debbie Fick
919.632.3643 Drfick1014@gmail.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, moving help, etc. **Contact: Debbie Fick** (919) 632-3643 or **Marvin Fordham** (919) 219-0982



Moms
in Prayer
INTERNATIONAL™

**Tuesdays @ 7pm
(on Zoom)**

Please contact
Lizy Coleman at:
919-455-8788 or via email
Lizy@e-colemans.com

Stephen Ministry

A caring ministry.

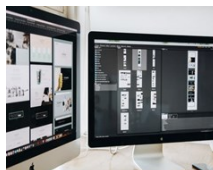
We have trained women who enjoy helping others in the name of Jesus. These ladies share Christ's love to individuals through listening, reflecting, praying and asking questions.

If you think it would be beneficial to talk something out, please contact Rebekah Bajwa to be partnered up with one of our Stephen Ministers.



WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE:

Sound Booth: help play the slides for in-house services and/or online services. We make the slides, you play them. Training provided. Please see Rebekah if you are interested and for more information.



Quilting Group



Our quilting meets the 2nd & 4th Thursday every month, from 9am-11:30am in classroom 1.

Please contact Dewie Francis for more info and to be included in the group reminders.

Dewie.francis2@gmail.com



"I Tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for it will be done for you by My Father in heaven for where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them"
(Matthew 18:19-20)

If you have any prayer requests for yourself (or your family) please email them to: Berta Hinton at berta37@msn.com



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Prayer Shawl Ministry will not meet in December We will resume our meetings on Saturday, January 13th from 10:00 until noon in Room 1.

She seeks wool and flax and works with willing hands. She opens her hands to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy"
(Proverbs 31: 13, 20)

If you knit or crochet, or if you'd like to learn, we invite you to join us. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the emailed reminder list, please contact Joan Neuner at wolfpackgirl518@gmail.com or call or text 919.412.2064.



Carolinas District LWML CONVENTION 2024

Women in Mission Carolinas District Convention
September 20-21, 2024
Guest Speaker: Deb Burma, author
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cary NC

**Holy Cross
2023 Ornament
\$5.00**

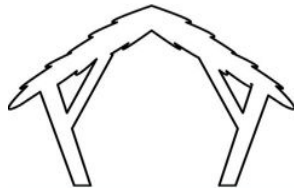
Available in the narthex



LWML Sunday is January 28, 2024.
The Board will be installed and the LWML will fill the positions to serve the church.



Please help provide cookies for the live Nativity on 12/9/23



Annual Ladies Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, December 3, 2023
12:30 pm in Reese Hall

A tasty cookie swap will be held after lunch.

We will be supporting Backpack Buddies with our Gifts of the Heart.



Salvation Army Angel Tree

This year, with your help, we will be making a special Christmas for children with the angel tree.

ANGEL TREE

Take a tag from the Angel Tree and go to the signup genius to pick a child to help. .

Gifts should be brought to church



Follow us on Facebook @

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lwmlevents>

Holy Cross Prayer Ministry

2023 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.”

Together as a “Church Family” we are continuing to make 2023 a “YEAR of PRAYER”

In DECEMBER we at Holy Cross are offering up PRAYERS for “peace on earth”

In this stressful time of uncertainty, violence, hatred and discord PRAYER is as important as ever & is one thing we all can and should do. Everyone is invited to join in. 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



*She will give birth to
a son, and you are to
give him the name
Jesus
because he will save his
people from their sins.*

Matthew 1:21

CrossCards



Holy Cross serves the homeless in our area through
MATTHEW MINISTRY

To serve the 20 men & women weekly,
we are in need of the items below:

Beanie Wienies



Cans of Soup or Chili



**WE ALSO NEED YOUR PRAYERS
and MONETARY DONATIONS
PLEASE Consider a DONATION &
ADD**

**Matthew Ministry to your Daily
PRAYERS**

For more info contact
John or Linda Miesch
(919-553-3579)

Eagleprod@mindspring.com

We are praying for—Those receiving cancer care:

- ♥ David Coleman, brother of Paul Coleman
- ♥ James Atkins
- ♥ Pam Denning, friend of Candice Patterson
- ♥ Bill Berry, friend of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Peggy Davis, niece of Linda Beers
- ♥ Clyde Williams, uncle of Jamie Brannon
- ♥ Ralph Souter, friend of Harold Winkle
- ♥ Tonya Gordon, friend of Dinae Reczek
- ♥ Leon Goldapple, father of Jennifer McNally
- ♥ Clyde Williams, uncle of Jamie Brannon
- ♥ Nathan Fannin, Margaret Lee's neighbor
- ♥ Jean Barbour, Robert Bennett's aunt
- ♥ Candy Robinson, mother of Robin Oelrich
- ♥ Colleen Gilmartin, friend of George & Donna Rossetti
- ♥ Jesse Lee, friend of Rick & Dewie Francis
- ♥ Connie Beal
- ♥ Carla Barbour, daughter of Sharon & Chuck Fox
- ♥ Reid Yaple, brother of Paul Coleman
- ♥ Karen, friend of Elaine Reese
- ♥ Mason Fanning, friend of Margaret Lee
- ♥ Al Carter, friend of Lizy Coleman
- ♥ Gayle Keen, friend of Sue Beyer and Ellie Shep

We are praying for—Those with health issues:

- ♥ Ed Leigh
- ♥ Sonja Coull
- ♥ Jacob Boyd
- ♥ Kathy Savoy
- ♥ Rebecca Lavery
- ♥ Tom Hansen
- ♥ Judy Fowler
- ♥ Mark Wilson
- ♥ Connie Reid
- ♥ Margaret Lee
- ♥ Richard Lavery
- ♥ Penny Schenider
- ♥ Eleanor Shep
- ♥ John Miesch
- ♥ Dennis Reese
- ♥ Garry Bleeker
- ♥ Eric Roeser
- ♥ Ernie Creech
- ♥ Brenda Horne
- ♥ Connie Beal
- ♥ Chuck Munson
- ♥ Bill McElwain
- ♥ Lorna Preston
- ♥ John Wood, Sr.
- ♥ Gene Gevers
- ♥ Bobbi Hall
- ♥ Elisabeth Junker
- ♥ Amanda Kearney, friend of Tara Webb
- ♥ 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
- ♥ Joyce Moore
- ♥ Charlotte Bucklen & Steven Kelley, friends of the Coleman Family
- ♥ Brian Blatchley, brother-in-law of Bill McElwain
- ♥ Steve Estes, husband of Gail Estes
- ♥ Donna, daughter of Caroline Schust
- ♥ Barbara Ekerdt Creecy, niece of Herman & 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
- ♥ Janie Bruton, friend of Bob Lotter
- ♥ Faith Hicks & her daughter Grace, goddaughter of the Colemans
- ♥ Heather, Charlie & Joyce Pike, friends of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Tod & Karen, parents of Sean Pritchard
- ♥ Matthew Marek, cousin of Robert McNally
- ♥ Rosie Villamil & Mahtob Mahmoody, friends of Elisabeth Junker
- ♥ Mark Morgan, nephew of Tim & Billie Shank
- ♥ Linda Willians, aunt of Jamie Brannon
- ♥ Michael Costa, brother of Jennifer McNally
- ♥ Carol & Larry, friends of Jerry Benditz
- ♥ Marcia & Phil Riley, Blake Ball's sister and brother-in-law
- ♥ Carlos & Yamy Garcia, friends of Sandy Nesselrode
- ♥ Donna Cantarella, friend of Ellie Shep
- ♥ Rita Giudice, friend of Penny Schenider
- ♥ Lucy Giudice, friend of Penny Schenider
- ♥ Mary Ruth Nicols, niece of Eunice Burch
- ♥ David Nicols, nephew of Eunice Burch
- ♥ William Schramm, friend of Harold Winkle
- ♥ Jim Scroggs, son of Jeanie Scroggs
- ♥ Larry Wilkening, father of Dewie Francis
- ♥ Shawn Roeser, son of Julie & Eric Roeser
- ♥ David Aitken, brother of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Artie V, friend of John Lundoy
- ♥ Cora Lee Cox, niece of Carrie Benner
- ♥ Al Barabour, Robert Bennetts cousin
- ♥ Nancy Morse, friend of Ellis Shep
- ♥ Justus Epley, grandson of Manuel and Glenda Sainz
- ♥ Heidi Goldman & Gretchen Schneider, daughters of penny Schneider
- ♥ Heidi Mayer, friend of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Deborah, daughter of Richard and Sharon Hoh
- ♥ Cindy Zimmerman, sister-in-law of Lizy Coleman

"Angels from Heaven"

Dance Ensemble

this Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023

at Springbrook Rehab. Center

195 Springbrook Ave, Clayton, NC 27520

near the Johnston Hospital

2:00 – 3:00pm

Presented by:

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(919) 632-3643

We are so very grateful for your service!

Debbie Fick (919) 632-3643 drfick1014@gmail.com



"Live Nativity"



Come and experience the re-enactment of Jesus' birth, as you begin your holiday celebrations, this year!

Be sure to dress warmly, as the performances will be held – outside.
(each performance will be about 20 mins. long)

...and then enjoy some Hot Chocolate and Christmas Cookies inside Reese Hall, following each performance.

This is the perfect opportunity to invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers and introduce them to Jesus!

Let's make this a Christmas to remember!

Date: Sat. 12/9/23

Times: 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00 and 7:30pm

Place: Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2920 NC Hwy 42
Clayton, NC 27520

Contact: Debbie Fick drfick1014@gmail.com



Your Ministry Team



Senior Pastor:	Rev. Bill Beyer	william.beyer@holycrossclayton.com
Dir. of Family Ministry:	Rebekah Bajwa	rebekah.bajwa@holycrossclayton.com
Admin. Assistant:	Sarah Elliott	sarah.elliott@holycrossclayton.com
Music Director:	Seth Berger	bergerseth2@gmail.com
President:	Gary Scrofani	gscrofani57@gmail.com
Vice President:	Beth Miller	kurtandbethmiller@gmail.com
Board of Elders:	Mark Sherwin	sherwin16@gmail.com
	Brian Lawrence	brian1480@gmail.com
	Tony Swann	rtraviator@gmail.com
	Robert Bennett	robertbennettiii@protonmail.com
	Brad deCathelineau	braddecath1@gmail.com
	Randy Williams	
Open Arms Board:	John Michael Harlow	jmharlow2011@gmail.com
Social Ministries:	Debbie Fick	drfick1014@gmail.com
Board of Education:	Tara Webb	taradawnwebb@hotmail.com
Board of Properties:	Chuck Munson, Sr.	wgmunson@aol.com
Financial Secretary:	BJ Johns	bjkjohns@gmail.com
Asst. Fin. Secretary:	Todd Hinton	toddhinton60@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Kelly Derflinger	kellycpa@mail.com

Vital Stats

<u>Date</u>	<u>In Person Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
10/1	276 (154 & 122)	\$ 7,809
10/8	259 (147 & 112)	\$ 11,363
10/15	241 (124 & 117)	\$ 8,431
10/22	260 (160 & 100)	\$ 6,912
10/29	251 (128 & 123)	\$ 6,610
Direct Deposit Offerings (Oct.)		<u>\$ 9,066</u>
Total Envelope/Plate Giving:		\$50,191
Total offerings received thru 10/31/23:		\$482,969
Total projected offerings thru 10/31/23:		\$500,060
Avg. weekly offerings 44 weeks 2022:		\$ 11,248
Avg. weekly offerings 44 weeks 2023:		\$ 10,977
Avg. weekly attendance 44 weeks 2022:		224
Avg. weekly attendance 44 weeks 2023:		262

Special Gifts (to Holy Cross):

Building Fund:	\$ 335
Matthew Ministry:	\$ 435
Backpack Buddies	\$ 235
Outdoor Chapel	\$ 25
Youth	\$ 125

2023 Mission Offerings (from Holy Cross):

iChoose Pregnancy Support Services:	\$ 2,250
Southeastern District – LCMS:	\$ 38,250