

# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Word, Living His Love

November 2023

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

Church Office: (919) 553-4784

Email: Sarah.Elliott@holycrossclayton.com

www.holycrossclayton.com



*"Be joyful always; pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

As we look ahead to our national day of Thanksgiving, there are many things we need to consider as we get ready for this special holiday, such as family, travel plans, meal preparation, house cleaning, work schedules, and even Christmas decorating. It can be a busy road we travel that leads to Thanksgiving, which can also cause us to forget about God in all of our Thanksgiving activities.



I ran across some words recently that I thought could have been written or spoken by someone in describing our country today. See if the following words sound familiar to you:

*"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us."*

You might have figured out that the words listed above were written by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 as part of his Thanksgiving Proclamation. Amazing, though, how they could easily describe our nation today. God has blessed all of us, especially our nation in so many ways, yet as I look at our own community, the words of Abraham Lincoln really make me wonder at times, "Have we forgotten God?"

Therefore, during the month of November I will be doing a 3-week sermon series titled, ***"The Road To Thanksgiving,"*** in which we will seek to put God first in all of our Thanksgiving plans and preparations. Please join us for the following worship services:

Sunday, November 5: *"Finding Rest"* – Matthew 23:1-12 (All Saints Sunday)

Sunday, November 12: *"Being Ready"* – Matthew 25:1-13 (Parable of the 10 Virgins)

Sunday, November 19: *"Using Your Talents"* – Matthew 25:14-30 (Parable of the Talents)

Also, I would like to invite everyone to bring some food with them to worship to support our *Backpack Buddies* ministry on Sunday, November 19. Each week we fill 30 backpacks with food for food needy children at East Clayton Elementary School. Listed below are the items we pack each week:

30 cans of meat – such as Chef Boyardee products	60 -100% juice boxes
30 cans of vegetables	60 small or 30 large cans of fruit
30 breakfast bars	60 small or 30 large packages of noodles
30 packages of oatmeal, or breakfast cereal	60 small or 30 qt size shelf stable milk

If you could bring some food from the list above to worship on **Sunday, November 19** it would really help to restock our shelves.

In God's Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Bill Beyer".

Pastor Bill Beyer

# Children's Ministry

Christian Education

**Wed. Education:** At 6:45pm in Classroom 4 & 5.

- **Sign-up you family to join us for dinner.** <https://bit.ly/498f0n5>
- **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.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

 holycrossyouth

### Confirmation: Wednesdays

**CY1, CY2, CY3 Students:** Class at 6:45pm. Bring your materials.

- **Service Project:** <https://bit.ly/3FuE1LX> Bring in Food for Thanksgiving Boxes
- **11/22:** No class. Have a Happy Thanksgiving. Bring your materials each week.
- **Save the Date: Confirmation Retreat: 11/10-12/23 5pm – 12pm**

**CY1 & CY2**

- **Confirmation Retreat: 11/10-12/23 5pm – 12pm**

### Youth Ministry

- Youth Group Join us at 6:45pm in the Youth Room.
- **Service Event:** Assemble Bags for Backpack Buddies 11/8 in the Youth Room at 6pm.
- **Service Event 11/15:** We will go off site to Feed My Sheep Food Pantry
- **11/22:** No class. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.
- **Save the Date: Lock-In Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm – 7am**

## 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](mailto:bjkjohns@gmail.com).

# Widows and Friends

October 21st @ 10am

3rd Saturday of the Month

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:

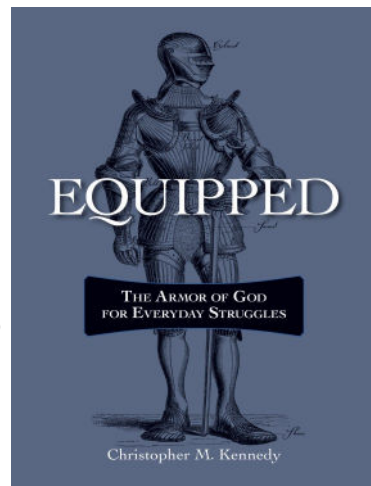
**Sound Booth:** help play the slides for in-house services and/or online services. We make the slides, you play them. Training provided. Please see Rebekah if you are interested and for more information.



## ADULT EDUCATION

**Equipped: The Armor of God for Everyday Struggles** By: Christopher Kennedy.

Join Richard Lavery as we finish up this study on Wednesdays this month. Our last study will be 11/29. No study on 11/22.



## 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](mailto:berta37@msn.com)



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet **Saturday, Nov. 1th from 10am-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](mailto:wolfpackgirl518@gmail.com) or call or text 919.412.2064.



*Announcing!!!  
Caryl Fuqua's Garner  
First Ever Ultreya!!  
November 4th 2023*

The Ultreya is open to the entire VDC community! Bring a friend & bring a dish to share

11am to 3 pm  
100 Lochmere Drive West  
Cary, NC 27518

Music, worship, sharing and food.

If babysitting is needed, please let us know.

Contact:  
Lynn Hoffman  
[lhoffman2426@gmail.com](mailto:lhoffman2426@gmail.com)  
Sue Campau  
[tscampau@gmail.com](mailto:tscampau@gmail.com)  
Debbie Worden,  
[apexdebbie@alol.com](mailto:apexdebbie@alol.com)

### 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:

NEW MEN'S WHITE Crew Socks  Cans of Soup or Chili 

 Small cans of Vienna Sausage  Serve SPAM or Beanie Wienies 

SNACK CRACKERS

**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](mailto:Eagleprod@mindspring.com)



### **Older and Wiser Lutherans The OWLs**

Thank you to Joyce & Dennis Ray for leading our OWLs Group the past 17 years!

We are looking for someone or multiple people to become new leaders of the OWLs. If you are 50 years or older, please consider becoming leader(s) of this valuable ministry and contact Pastor Bill.



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 NOVEMBER we at Holy Cross are offering up PRAYERS for "military & those who serve us"

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, thank You for our military and all first responders; men and women who protect us, our community and this nation! Father, as they protect us, protect them! You know where they will be today, and what physical and spiritual challenges they will encounter. Grant them courage when they are afraid, Godly wisdom when they must make quick decisions, strength when they are weary, and compassion in all their work.

Many of our first responders and troops don't know You. I pray that You would provide men and women of faith to share the Good News to those who have not made Jesus their Lord and Savior. Father, may they feel Your presence today! Draw them to You! Be with all of them and their families.



### 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.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church LWML

### CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, November 18th in Reese Hall from 9:00-3:00.

Please joins us for some faith and fellowship ... and don't forget the shopping!

Help is needed for the kitchen, LWML sale table, and breakdown the end.

Spots still available Please contact Val Feick at [wfeick@embarqmail.com](mailto:wfeick@embarqmail.com) if you can help.



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

### Salvation Army Angel Tree

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

Look for the Angel Tree 11/18/23 in the Narthex.

Gifts should be brought to church  
December 9th, from 9:00 am-11:00 am.

**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
- ♥ Maureen McElwain
- ♥ 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.
- ♥ 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
- ♥ Ashley Stenger, friend of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Heidi Mayer, friend of Doug Aitken
- ♥ Deborah, daughter of Richard and Sharon Hoh
- ♥ Gene Gevers
- ♥ Elisabeth Junker
- ♥ Cindy Zimmerman, sister-in-law of Lizy Coleman



We want to honor all our Veterans here at Holy Cross Lutheran Church with a very special Luncheon

Sunday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> in Reese Hall  
(12:30 – 2:30pm)

Please help us recognize and thank each and every one of them, personally, for their service, their sacrifices and their incredible dedication to protecting all of us!

If you are (or know) a Veteran, please contact Debbie Fick, we want to know your branch of service and we would love to collect pictures of each one of you – in your uniforms.

We are so very grateful for your service!

Debbie Fick (919) 632-3643 [drfick1014@gmail.com](mailto: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 15 mins. long)**

**...and then come and enjoy some Hot Chocolate and Christmas Cookies with us, following each performance – inside Reese Hall.**

**Let’s make this a Christmas to remember!**

**Date: Sat. 12/9/23**

**Time: 5:00 -8:00pm**

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

**Contact: Debbie Fick [drfick1014@gmail.com](mailto:drfick1014@gmail.com)**

## Operation Christmas Child

Use image to match slides in Worship. Also add this information.

**Operation Christmas Child Ends on, November 13th.**

Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Each box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever! Delivered by our local church partners, shoebox gifts provide an opportunity to present the Gospel to boys and girls in a clear, child-friendly way.



Thank you very much for all the love and support. Your letters were very touching. I appreciate all of you very much and look forward to many more years together as we serve God and grow in His Word. Blessings, Rebekah



# 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
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>
9/3	242 (130 & 112)	\$ 10,049
9/10	309 (158 & 151)	\$ 8,935
9/17	252 (142 & 110)	\$ 8,451
9/24	292 (159 & 133)	\$ 7,439
Direct Deposit Offerings (Sept.)		<u>\$ 8,861</u>
Total Envelope/Plate Giving:		\$43,735
Total offerings received thru 9/30/23:		\$432,778
Total projected offerings thru 9/30/23:		\$443,235
Avg. weekly offerings 39 weeks 2022:		\$ 11,285
Avg. weekly offerings 39 weeks 2023:		\$ 11,097
Avg. weekly attendance 39 weeks 2022:		221
Avg. weekly attendance 39 weeks 2023:		262

## Special Gifts (to Holy Cross):

Building Fund:	\$ 150
Matthew Ministry:	\$ 385
Backpack Buddies	\$ 50
Outdoor Chapel	\$ 25
Youth	\$ 100

## 2023 Mission Offerings (from Holy Cross):

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