

JANUARY 2026

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sharing God's Word, Living His Love

Monthly Newsletter

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

2026: Our Silver Jubilee

We like to celebrate anniversaries. Silver and gold wedding anniversaries are important milestones in people's lives. Workers celebrate 10, 20, 30, or 40 years with a company. A 100th anniversary of a church or a school is definitely an exciting event.

In the Old Testament, God required people to celebrate certain years by glorifying him for His wonderful works. Every 7th and 50th years were to be special events in their lives. After celebrating seven, seven-year anniversaries, the 50th year was to be a year of jubilee. The theme of the jubilee year was freedom (see Leviticus 25:23-38). Prisoners were set free, slaves were released, debts were forgiven, and all property was returned to its original owners. In addition, all labor was to cease for one year.

I think the "Jubilee" represents a great picture of the church. Jesus came to free us from our sin, as the debt of sin we owe to God was paid on the cross as Jesus died on our behalf. As a result we are no longer slaves to sin, having been freed by Christ, and we can truly rest in God's love as we no longer have to work at making ourselves acceptable to God by our own works.

This year marks our 25th anniversary as a congregation, as the church was chartered in October 2001. Therefore, I would like to celebrate this milestone all throughout the year under the theme, "Our Silver Jubilee." I would like to do some special activities each month leading up to our 25th anniversary at the end of October, such as highlighting 25 great blessings God has given to our church, bringing in some of our former church workers to celebrate with us, and putting together a special celebration on our anniversary weekend on **October 24-25, 2026**.

I would like to begin our "Silver Jubilee" year with a sermon series titled, "We Are The Church Together." We will look at Paul's words to the church in 1 Corinthians as we consider the amazing things God has done through all of you in building our church to be people who Share His Word and Live His Love with others. We will begin this year with our Epiphany celebration, remembering how the Wise Men followed a star to for the sole purpose of worshipping Jesus. They set a great example for us and I pray you will join us for the following worship services as we kick off our "Silver Jubilee:"



We Are The Church Together

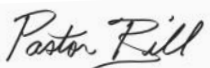
Sunday, January 18: "*The Family of God*" - 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Sunday, January 25: "*One People, One Church*" - 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Sunday, February 1: "*Boasting In Jesus*" - 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Sunday, February 8: "*Equipped By God*" - 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

In God's Service,



Pastor Bill

FAMILY & YOUTH

SHARING GOD'S WORD



- **L.I.F.T. Kids** Resumes Wednesday, Jan 7th @ 6:30 pm in Reese Hall.
- **Children's Church:** During 8:30 am worship, after the Children's Message.



- **Fill out one Sunday Sermon Note per month.**
- **Class resumes Wednesday, Jan 7th @ 6:30 pm** in Reese Hall. Instruction begins @ 6:45 pm in Classroom 2.



- **Youth Group** Resumes Wednesday, Jan 7th @ 6:30 pm in Reese Hall.



- **The Chosen Season 4:
The Road to Jerusalem**

This winter, prepare your heart for Lent by walking the hard road with the disciples. In our new 6-week series, we will explore the heavier, deeper themes of **The Chosen Season 4**. We will tackle the tragedy of John the Baptist, the mystery of suffering, and the stunning power of the Resurrection, culminating in the Triumphant Entry just in time for Ash Wednesday.

Wednesday nights at 6:45 p.m.

beginning January 7th in Classroom 1

For more information and copies of the Episode Guides, go to tinyurl.com/HC-Chosen.

- **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 the 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.

If you would like someone to talk with you through a life situation, please contact [Rebekah Bajwa](#) and we can partner you up with a Stephen Minister who will listen to you. Currently, we only have female Stephen Ministers available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN US



Follow us on Facebook

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

LWML SUNDAY

LWML Sunday is January 25, 2026. The ladies of the church will fill the positions to serve the church at both the early and late services. The positions are altar guild, greeters, scripture readers, ushers, acolyte, and serving refreshments.

If you would like to participate,
you can sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/49yWN4n>

OR



LWML Annual Ladies Christmas Luncheon



you're invited to

WINTER FEST

Sunday, January 25th
2:30 pm - 5:00 pm
in Reese Hall!

Come for the hot chocolate bar, snowball fight,
coaster making and much more! A great afternoon
of fellowship for our church family and friends.

HEY Y'ALL!

(YOUNG ADULT LUTHERAN LIVING)

A CHRISTIAN SOCIAL GROUP CONSISTING OF PEOPLE IN THEIR
20S AND 30S CONNECTING ONCE A MONTH AND GROWING OUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH EACHOTHER AND CHRIST

FRIDAY, JAN 16th @ 8:15 pm
NC STATE HOCKEY MATCH

Scan the QR code to join the
WhatsApp group or text Liz
Cvelbar at 812-344-1658 if you
would like more information!



Y'ALL
WhatsApp group





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. Once again, together with PASTOR Bill, we are declaring 2026 to be another “**YEAR of PRAYER**”

In JANUARY we at Holy Cross are offering up PRAYERS for “The Unborn”

Everyone is invited to join in. 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. HE would like to hear from you.

PRIORITIZE - Set a time to do this EVERY DAY in 2026, with your whole family.

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

DEAR Heavenly Father, Your WORD tells us that before we were born you knew us. Protect those helpless little ones, who YOU have given life in the womb, from the evil of the devil. Touch the hearts of those women and men facing a pregnancy in our world today who are not thinking of motherhood or fatherhood. Help them to see that the child they carry is made in YOUR image, made for eternal life. Dispel their fears & selfishness. Give them true hearts, to love their babies, give birth to them and give them all the needed care that a mother and father can give.

Give us the strength to defend human life against every influence or action that threatens or weakens it. 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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN US

**SAT,
3**

MEN'S BREAKFAST

9:00 AM

CONTACT
RALPH FICK
919-429-2301

**SAT,
3**

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

9:00 AM

CONTACT
DEBBIE FICK
919-632-3643

MON

***MOM'S IN PRAYER**

7:00 PM (ZOOM MEETING)

CONTACT
LIZY COLEMAN
lizy@e-colemans.com

**THU,
8, 22**

QUILTING GROUP

9:00 AM Classroom #1

CONTACT
DEWIE FRANCIS
919-302-6193

**SAT,
10**

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

10:00 AM Classroom 1

CONTACT
ELLA MCBRAYER
919-757-7955

**MON,
12**

GAL-ATIANS

6:30 PM Reese Hall

CONTACT
TERRI PELLE
919.320-3608

**TUE,
13**

***ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

10:30 AM Sanctuary

CONTACT
CHURCH OFFICE
919.553.4784

**WED,
14**

SEASONS OF LIFE

11:00 AM

CONTACT
CHARLES LORTON
704-779-1799

**WED,
21**

RUTH CIRCLE

10:00 AM Classroom 1

CONTACT
BRENDA GAY
919-763-7117

***MOM'S IN PRAYER & ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

MEET WEEKLY. 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
Carol Matino
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

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
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
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
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
Rick Santos, brother-in-law of Doug Aitken
Glen Rust, brother of Ed Leigh
Jimmie Walsh, son of Betsy Harsch
Tyler, friend of Karen Harms
Ryan Burda, son of Renee Stull

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JANUARY

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 9:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Ladies Bible Study
4 8:30 am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship	5 5:30 pm Elders' Meeting 7:00 pm Mom's In Prayer	6	7 LIFTed (Family Night) 5:45 pm Dinner: Jersey Mikes Subs 6:30 pm LIFT Games 6:45 pm Education Breakout	8 9:00 am Quilting Group	9	10 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
11 8:30 am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship 12:15 pm LWML Board Meeting	12 5:30 pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm GALatians (Reese hall) 7:00 pm Mom's In Prayer	13 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	14 11:00 am Seasons of Life LIFTed (Family Night) 5:45 pm Dinner: Venero's 6:30 pm LIFT Games 6:45 pm Education Breakout	15	16 8:15 pm Y'ALL Group Outing to NC State Hockey Game	17
18 8:30 am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship	19 10:00 am Mite Counting 7:00 pm Mom's In Prayer	20 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	21 10:00 am Ruth Circle LIFTed (Family Night) 5:45 pm Dinner: Fiesta 6:30 pm LIFT Games 6:45 pm Education Breakout	22 9:00 am Quilting Group 6:00 pm Open Arms Board Meeting	23	24 8:00 am Stephen Ministry Training Retreat
25 MITE SUNDAY 8:30am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship 2:30 pm 1st Annual Winter Fest	26 10:00 am Mite Counting 7:00 pm Mom's In Prayer	27 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	28 LIFTed (Family Night) 5:45 pm Dinner: Pizza 6:30 pm LIFT Games 6:45 pm Education Breakout	29	30	31

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>
11/2	345 (176 & 169)	\$ 12,231
11/9	307 (173 & 134)	\$ 7,865
11/16	294 (194 & 100)	\$ 12,584
11/23	300 (160 & 140)	\$ 6,915
11/27 (Thanks Eve)	87	\$ 834
11/30	317 (150 & 167)	\$ 9,419
Direct Deposit Offerings (Nov.)		<u>\$ 15,814</u>

Total Envelope/Plate Giving: \$ 65,662

Avg. weekly offerings 48 weeks 2024: \$ 13,071

Avg. weekly offerings 48 weeks 2025: \$ 13,015

Avg. weekly attendance 48 weeks 2024: 286

Avg. weekly attendance 48 weeks 2025: 298

Total offerings received thru 11/30/25: \$624,705

Total projected offerings thru 11/30/25: \$572,448

Special Gifts (to Holy Cross):

Mortgage Reduction: \$ 15,519

Hurricane Helene Relief Fund: \$ 405

Matthew Ministry: \$ 6,045

Backpack Buddies \$ 440

Youth \$ 170

2025 Mission Offerings (from Holy Cross):

iChoose Pregnancy Support Services: \$ 2,750

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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