

January 2024

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Word, Living His Love

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

Church Office: (919) 553-4784

Email: Sarah.Elliott@holycrossclayton.com

www.holycrossclayton.com



A Chat With Pastor...

You may have heard me tell the story before about a man who was looking for a place to go to church one weekend and ended up going to a Quaker church. After sitting in his seat for quite a while in a room full of quiet worshipers, the man turned to the person who was seated next to him and asked, "When does the serve begin?" The person turned to him and responded, "As soon as the worship ends."

Now that Christmas is over and we begin a new year, ask yourself, "Will our year be like what that man heard at the Quaker church – one of service to our Lord?" I know many of you have served faithfully over the past year and I would like to thank all of you for your service during the past year, especially those of you who worked hard to make our Christmas celebration very special. In particular, it was great to see our students in our first live nativity and to have a children's Christmas service again.

On a personal note, I would like to thank to all of you for your generosity this past fall with your church worker appreciation gifts, and then for all of the cards, cookies, and gifts you shared with me and my family during the Christmas season.

As we begin a new year, we also begin a new church season known as **Epiphany** (a Greek word that means "to show forth, make known"). Therefore, as Christians it is our duty to go forth and make known to our sinful world the news that Jesus, the true Savior of the world, has come to save us. One of the ways the church helps to equip us to share the good news about Jesus, in addition to worship, is through Bible study. I invite you to join us for the following new adult Bible studies that will be starting in January:



"Together We Believe" – *A Study of the Apostles' Creed* (6 weeks)

Led by Pastor Bill. Meets Tuesdays at 10:30am (streamed live),
Beginning Tuesday, January 9

This book, written by a Lutheran missionary and drawn from her work in Asian countries, is designed to equip people to share the Gospel with others in a relatable and practical way based on the Apostles' Creed.

"The Bible & Our Culture" (6 weeks)

Led by Drew Murray. Meets Wednesdays at 6:45pm,
Beginning Wednesday, January 3

In this study we will focus on many aspects of our modern culture and examine how the narratives we have adopted often conflict with Biblical narratives. We will look at how the Bible sees the world and how the world sees itself.



In God's Service,

Pastor Bill Beyer
Pastor Bill Beyer

Children's Ministry

Christian Education

- **Wed. Education 6:45-7:30pm:** Children meet in classrooms 4 & 5. All children are welcome to join and participate Kindergarten – 5th Grade. Children younger will need to be in the nursery
- **Sign-up you family to join us for dinner.** <https://bit.ly/41odkCQ>
- **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: (Update) . *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 Class on Wednesdays 6:45-7:30PM.
- **Family Dinner** will be from 5:45pm – 6:30pm in Reese Hall. Sign up here <https://bit.ly/41odkCQ>

Youth Ministry

- **Youth Group** on Wednesday's from 6:45pm – 7:30pm.

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.



**Begins Tuesdays
January 9th @ 7pm
(on Zoom)**

It is **ViadeCristo** this month,
We are hosting a team meeting (as you
know) Saturday, January 13 th 9am-
4pm. Please contact
Lizy Coleman at:919-455-8788
or via email Lizy@e-colemans.com



Via de Cristo
NORTH CAROLINA
40 YEARS • PSALM 126:3



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)

"Seasons of Life" ~ a journey through grief!

Our next Lunch/Meeting is scheduled for
Wed. 1/10/24 , 11:00am - 1:00pm
Classroom #1
~ Lunch and drinks are provided ~

For more information contact: Debbie Fick
919.632.3643 Drfick1014@gmail.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.



"Ladies' Evening Bible Study"

1st Thursday of each month
7:00 - 8:30pm
Church Library

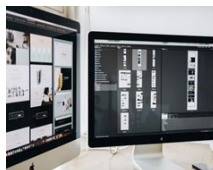


Surround yourself with
Deliberate Women...women who
live out their faith in God with
purpose and diligence... and who
encourage you to do the same.

Debbie Fick, Coordinator (919) 632-3643

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 here at Holy Cross "shared the warmth" in November by delivering 50+ blankets and shawls to area nursing care facilities, the Cancer Center near the church, and the Hospice House in Smithfield.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please join us for our first meeting of 2024 on Saturday, January 13th from 10:00am until noon in Room #1. We will meet every second Saturday after that through May!

Questions?? Contact Joan Neuner via voice or text at 919-412-2064 or email at wolfpackgirl518@gmail.com.

HOLY CROSS serves the homeless in our area through MATTHEW Ministry

** We need a constant supply of the items below **

Beanie Wienies

Cans of Soup or Chili



Bring Your DONATIONS to the Church anytime.

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



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.

Open Arms would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers that helped with playground landscaping. The old rubber mulch was removed from the far back playground and new wood playground mulch was spread on all 3 of our playgrounds. Concrete was then poured to fill in the sandboxes and to give an outdoor multi-use shaded area on 2 of the playgrounds. The kids and teachers love the upgrades!



"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.



Let us not give up meeting together and let us encourage one another, (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Sat. Jan 6, 2024 – Lobby Coffee Area (9-11am)

Contact: Ralph Fick (919) 429-2301

HOLY CROSS PRAYER MINISTRY

“YEAR of PRAYER 2024”



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 2024 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 PRAY EVERY DAY in 2024, with your whole family.

Here is an idea of what you might 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

We are becoming a “PRAYER SATURATED CHURCH”.

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



LWML Annual Ladies Christmas Luncheon



Carolinas District LWML CONVENTION 2024



Women in Mission Carolinas District Convention
September 20-21, 2024

Guest Speaker: Deb Burma, author

LWML Sunday is January 28, 2024.

The Board will be installed and the LWML will fill the positions to serve the church.

LWML Sunday is January 28, 2024. The Board will be installed. The LWML will fill the positions to serve the church. at both the early and late services. If you would like to participate, please sign up on this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0548ADA82DA6F85-lwml4#>



Follow us on Facebook @

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

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.
- ♥ 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
- ♥ Ervin Preston, father of Lee Preston
- ♥ Kate Loeffel, friend of Denise Sears

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 Mite Sunday ● 8:30am Contemporary Worship Servi ● 11am Traditional Worship Service ● 4pm Boy Scouts (Troop 58, Pack 57,	Jan 1	2	3 ● 11am Hannah Circle ● 5:30pm Family Night	4 ● 7pm Ladies Evening Bible Study ● 7pm Praise Team Practice	5	6 ● 9am Ments Breakfast
7 ● 8:30am Contemporary Worship Servi ● 11am Traditional Worship Service ● 12:15pm LWML Monthly Board Meet ● 4pm Boy Scouts (Troop 58, Pack 57,	8 ● 5:30pm Council Meeting	9 ● 10:30am Pastor's Bible Study	10 ● 11am Seasons of Life Meeting ● 5:30pm Family Night	11 ● 9am Quilting Group ● 7pm Praise Team Practice	12 ● 8am VDC Team Meeting	13
14 ● 8:30am Contemporary Worship Servi ● 11am Traditional Worship Service ● 4pm Boy Scouts (Troop 58, Pack 57,	15	16 ● 10:30am Pastor's Bible Study	17 ● 10am Ruth Circle Meeting ● 5:30pm Family Night	18 ● 6:30pm Parkinsons Group Meeting ● 7pm Praise Team Practice	19 ● 10am Widows & Friends	20
21 ● 8:30am Contemporary Worship Servi ● 11am Traditional Worship Service ● 4pm Boy Scouts (Troop 58, Pack 57,	22 ● 6:30pm Elder's Meeting	23 ● 10:30am Pastor's Bible Study	24 ● 5:30pm Family Night	25 ● 9am Quilting Group ● 7pm Praise Team Practice	26	27
28 Mite Sunday ● 8:30am Contemporary Worship Servi ● 11am Traditional Worship Service ● 4pm Boy Scouts (Troop 58, Pack 57,	29	30 ● 10:30am Pastor's Bible Study	31 ● 5:30pm Family Night	Feb 1 ● 7pm Ladies Evening Bible Study ● 7pm Praise Team Practice	2	3 ● 9am Ments Breakfast



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	deeran72@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>
11/5	270 (161 & 109)	\$11,128
11/12	260 (132 & 128)	\$ 8,132
11/19	308 (179 & 129)	\$ 9,607
11/26	269 (128 & 141)	\$ 7,206
Direct Deposit Offerings (Nov.)		<u>\$ 8,854</u>
Total Envelope/Plate Giving:		\$44,927
Total offerings received thru 11/30/23:		\$527,896
Total projected offerings thru 11/30/23:		\$545,520
Avg. weekly offerings 48 weeks 2022:		\$ 11,241
Avg. weekly offerings 48 weeks 2023:		\$ 10,998
Avg. weekly attendance 48 weeks 2022:		228
Avg. weekly attendance 48 weeks 2023:		263

Special Gifts (to Holy Cross):

Building Fund:	\$ 310
Matthew Ministry:	\$ 260
Backpack Buddies	\$ 100
Youth	\$ 125

2023 Mission Offerings (from Holy Cross):

iChoose Pregnancy Support Services:	\$ 2,750
Southeastern District – LCMS:	\$ 38,250