

JULY 2026

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sharing God's Word, Living His Love

Monthly Newsletter

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



There is no doubt that you will hear the word “**freedom**” used over and over during our nation’s Independence Day celebrations. This is the time of the year when many children are free from homework and tests, families are free to take a vacation, and as our nation celebrates 250 years of freedom, we will remember that many people around the world would give almost anything to have a measure of the basic freedoms we enjoy.

Yet there is a type of freedom that far surpasses the sum of all these examples. Jesus said, *“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free...Everyone who sins is a slave to sin. A slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”* – John 8:31-36

Believing in this truth changes your relationship with God and it changes your future too: *“So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.”* – Galatians 4:7. We are children of God through faith, and eternal life is our inheritance. I believe that is a cause for celebration – your own personal independence day.

Several of our youth will be reminded of the many blessings and freedoms they enjoy as they spend a week in Charleston, SC assisting poor and needy families in their community. Please pray for the following **students** and their **adult leaders** as they travel to Charleston for their servant event during the week of July 19-24:

Ella Boenker

Jadynn LaGattuta

Olivia Naylor

Richard Oelrich

Troy Sherwin

Beckett Smith

Danielle Urban

Emma Urban

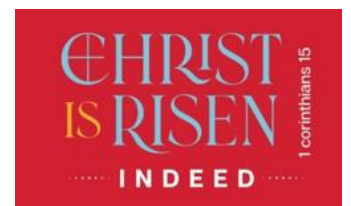
Reese Urban

Elliott Webb

Rebekah Bajwa

Derick Disch

Did you know that our LCMS denomination has a convention every three years? Many of you know that our denomination is divided into different geographical districts and we are located in the Southeastern District, which consists of just over 200 LCMS churches in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina. Our geographical districts are then divided into different circuits (we have 21 circuits in the Southeastern District), with one pastor and one lay member from each circuit serving as delegates to the national LCMS convention. The 69th convention of the LCMS will take place on July 18-23 in Phoenix, Arizona.



The theme for the convention is “Christ is Risen Indeed,” based on 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, *“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”* There are over 100 proposed resolutions that the 1000 delegates will have to consider during the convention. You may watch the convention at lcms.org/convention/livestream.

In God’s Service,

Pastor Bill

Pastor Bill

FAMILY & YOUTH

SHARING GOD'S WORD



- **Summer Pool Parties!** Bring a dish to share. We will grill hotdogs and have the fixin's.
Sunday, July 26th @ 1PM. The Urban Oasis: 1145 Fieldtrial Circle. Garner.
Sunday, August 23rd @ 1PM
 The Kelsay Cabana. 44 Annandale Drive, Clayton.
- **YOUTH SUNDAY: Sunday, June 19th.**
 We will serve during the worship services at 8:30am & 11:00am.
- **FUNDRAISER:** Heading to a concert this summer at Coastal Credit Union Music Park?? Please buy your beverages and snacks at the Market and Riffresher Cart on the West Side. You'll see some of our parents working there to raise funds for the Gathering 2028, and for Youth Ministry.



- **Children's Church:** During 8:30 am worship, after the Children's Message.
- **VBS:** Thank you to everyone who volunteered and donated to make our VBS a HUGE success!!!



- **Summer Pool Parties!** Bring a dish to share. We will grill hotdogs and have the fixin's.
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- **YOUTH SUNDAY: Sunday, June 19th.**
 We will serve during the worship services at 8:30am & 11:00am.
- **ATTN RISING 6th GRADE STUDENTS:**
 It's time to register for Confirmation. Registration is open Now through August 31st. [Click Here!](#)





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 July we at Holy Cross are offering up PRAYERS for
“churches, missionaries, and the unchurched”

In this stressful time of division, turmoil and great uncertainty PRAYER is as important than ever AND is one thing we all can and should do. 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.

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

Here is an idea of what You might PRAY this month!

Dear Heavenly Father,

We pray for all of Christ's church here on earth. For unity amid diversity. For a hunger in the preaching of your Word and doing your will. For a culture of making disciples as a daily part of the Christian life. For the church to engage all people and to be free from persecution throughout the world.

We further pray for all Christian missionaries, for physical and spiritual protection as they live a life of following Your command to “make disciples of all nations.” Send your Holy Spirit to work through them daily. We also pray for the unchurched. We know your heart yearns to have all your children in your flock, so we pray that you will send people to reach every unchurched person with the good news of Jesus Christ, that they may believe and have eternal life in your presence. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Bible

READING PROGRAM

for more information contact:

Al Popilek & Lee Quast

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN US



"Ladies' Bible Study"

Sat. 7/11/2026 (9-11am)

Reese Hall

Debbie Fick, Coordinator 919.632.3643



Men's Breakfast

Sat. 7/11/26

Lobby Coffee Area

9:00 – 11:00am

Contact: Ralph Fick 919.429.2301



"Seasons of Life" ~ Support Group

wed. 7/8/26 (11:00am - 1:00pm)

~ Church Library ~

Charles Lorton 704.779.1799

Edie Voorhees 919.915.0760



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 to appointments, simple home repairs, etc.

Contact: Debbie Fick at (919) 632-3643

Amy Smith at (919) 820-5650



AUG 9
ICE CREAM SOCIAL

NOV 7
CRAFT FAIR

DEC 6
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Via de Cristo

We are taking applications for
 the upcoming retreat weekend
 at Camp Agape
September 17-20, 2026

Please contact Lizy Coleman:
lizy@e-colemans.com

More information can be found at encvdc.org



HOLY CROSS
 LUTHERAN CHURCH
 2001-2026

Celebrating 25 Years

Save The Date Upcoming events

MISSIONARY FAIR	AUGUST 29-30
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LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES	SEPTEMBER 19-20
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PASTOR MIKE MERKER	OCTOBER 11
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CELEBRATION WEEKEND	OCT.-NOV. 31-1
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HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

25 WEEKS OF
Service

As part of our 25th Anniversary, we are encouraging everyone to participate in 25 weeks of service leading up to our anniversary Sunday (November 1). Therefore, during the month of July please consider doing the following things in service to God and our neighbors:

In the week leading up to:

Sunday, July 5 – Pray for our nation.

Sunday, July 12 – Pray for our first responders.

Sunday, July 19 – Pray for our mission trip.

Sunday, July 26 – Bring in items for Military Packages.

[Click Here for the collection list](#)

LORD IN YOUR MERCY, *Hear Our Prayers.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR HOLY CROSS FAMILY

Jacob Boyd
Kathy Savoy
Rebecca Lavery
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
Jane Schoenberg
Brian Lawrence
Ron Harrison
Bill Sessoms
Carol Matino

Brenda Gay
Tom Hansen
Connie Swan
Ron MacKenzie
Anita McFadden
Betty Lotter
Ron Smith
Amy Smith
Matt Vessie

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
Karen, friend of Elaine Reese
Derryck Sauls
Candy Robinson, mother of Robin Oelrich
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

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
Michael Grannis, friend of Margaret Lee
Kay Beaulieu, friend of the Popileks
Chris Dennis, friend of Ed & Lesley Leigh
Rhett Turner, friend of Ed & Lesley 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
Carol & Larry, friends of Jerry Benditz
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
Kim Welch, cousin of Jaime Brannon

Heidi Goldman and Gretchen Schneider, daughters of Penny Schneider
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
Andrew Buskey, friend of Ed Leigh
Tim Johnson, friend of Frank Daughtrey
Dorothy Connolly, friend of the Mackenzies
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
Tammy Christian, friend of Ed & Leslie Leigh
Colter Codwell, child of a friend of Ed & Leslie Leigh
Christine Batton, friend of Joyce Smith
Martha Gale, mother of Jamie Brannon
Brad & Cindy Zimmerman, brother and sister-in-law of Lizy Coleman
Francine Harvey, grandmother of Arden Vessie
Clara Murphy, daughter of friend of Ginger Urban
Johnny Dildy, fiance of Janis Alford
Mark Sherwin, father of Mark Sherwin
Margaret Kohl, friend of Harold & Betty Winkle
Eric & Gianna Heiner, grandson & wife of Jane Wilson

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 8:30 am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship	6	7	8 11:00 am Seasons of Life (LIBRARY)	9 6:00 pm Open Arms Board Meeting	10	11 9:00 am Ladies Bible Study 9:00am Men's Breakfast (LOBBY) 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
12 8:30 am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship 12:15 am LWML Board Meeting	13	14	15	16	17	18 10:00 am Card Making Class (Reese Hall)
19 8:30am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship	20 6:30 pm GALatians (REESE HALL)	21	22	23	24	25 2:00 pm OWLS & Friends Game Day Potluck (REESE HALL)
26 MITE SUNDAY 8:30am Cont. Worship 11:00 am Trad. Worship 1:00 pm Youth Ministry Pool Party (Urban Oasis)	27 10:00 am Mite Counting	28	29	30	31	1 9:00 am Ladies Bible Study 9:00am Men's Breakfast (LOBBY)

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

Courtney Kelsay: President

clkelsay@gmail.com

Timothy Lavery: Vice President

talavery201@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

Jim McCormick & Chris Urban:

Board of Properties

james.mccormick@gofilta.com

curbanus@yahoo.com

BJ Johns: Financial Secretary

bjjohns@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>
5/3	308 (171 & 137)	\$ 13,053
5/10	327 (165 & 162)	\$ 8,023
5/17	329 (145 & 150)	\$ 8,753
5/24	268 (119 & 149)	\$ 8,003
5/31	366 (151 & 215)	\$ 9,310
Direct Deposit Offerings (May)		<u>\$ 19,955</u>

Total Plate/Electronic Giving: \$ 67,097

Avg. weekly offerings 22 weeks 2025: \$ 13,509

Avg. weekly offerings 22 weeks 2026: \$ 13,705

Avg. weekly attendance 22 weeks 2025: 299

Avg. weekly attendance 22 weeks 2026: 317

Total offerings received thru 5/31/26: \$ 301,513

Total projected offerings thru 5/31/26: \$ 288,530

Special Gifts (to Holy Cross):

Hurricane Helene Relief Fund: \$ 1,250

Matthew Ministry: \$ 1,170

Backpack Buddies: \$ 560

Youth: \$ 1,005

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$ 1,510

iChoose Pregnancy Support Services \$ 620

VBS \$ 25

2026 Mission Offerings (from Holy Cross):

iChoose Pregnancy Support Services: \$ 1,250

Southeastern District (LCMS): \$ 15,345

**HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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