



THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

December 15, 2024

John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: “*Prepare the way of the Lord . . .*” (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah’s coming through repentance, for “*all flesh is grass*” (Isa. 40:6). Now He asks from prison, “*Are you the one who is to come . . .?*” (Matt. 11:2). Jesus’ works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord’s hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The “*stewards of the mysteries of God*” (1 Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ’s overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God’s people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

Welcome to our guests and members! Let us rejoice together in the presence of our gracious Lord! If you are new to Holy Cross, or just visiting, please be sure to sign our guest book and fill out an attendance card found in your pew. We hope you will join with us in worship again.

Cell Phones & Devices - Please remember to silence these during today’s service. Thank you!

Cry Room Available - If you exit the rear of the sanctuary into the narthex, the room is on the right. Please feel free to rejoin the service at any time.

Fruits of God’s Love: Sunday, December 8: 99; Bible Study: 20; Sunday School: 13; Wednesday, December 11: 21

Please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate as it is passed.

Stewardship Thoughts - Luke 3:4 – “As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than seven hundred years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do! That’s yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives: He knows what’s coming and we don’t.

Life Thoughts from Lutherans For Life– “Speak tenderly” in Isaiah 40:1-2 is literally “speak to the heart.” More than nice-sounding words, all of the Good News encapsulated in the first and second coming of Jesus speaks powerfully to those with struggling and burdened hearts. The life issues give us opportunity to speak this Good News to matters of the heart, especially those considered “controversial” and “divisive.” *Prayer: Thank You for touching our hearts with the Good News! Help us share it with all who deal with matters of the heart. Amen.*

SWADDLING CLOTHES: We will have a workday this Wednesday, December 18th from 9:30-11:00 am. All help is appreciated! Our next center opening will be Saturday, January 11th (10:00 am - 1:00 pm). If you would like to volunteer please sign up on the SC bulletin board. For more information please contact Nancy Neill (816)556-6555 or email @ nancyneill78@gmail.com. Thank you!



The Chancel Guild is offering poinsettias for purchase to beautify our sanctuary. The plants are \$7.00 and can be taken home after our service on Wednesday, December 25th. The envelopes for ordering are on the bulletin board next to the flower chart. Thank you!

From the Board of Stewardship: If you’d still like to pledge, please place your pledge card in the offering plate. **Also, 2025 Giving Envelopes** are available for pick-up in the Narthex on the table near the elevator. Even if you participate in on-line giving, please still pick up your envelopes. Each box of envelopes contains special service envelopes that you may want to use throughout the year. Please don’t use your new envelopes until January. Contact the church office with any questions.

Men’s Dart Ball Team - Our congregation is seeking to field a team for the Kansas City - North Circuit Dart ball league. Like last year, games are played at Christ Lutheran Church, Platte Woods on Thursday nights at 7pm, every second Thursday of the month, Jan-May. Interested? Contact Mike Schaubman at 816-507-0974.

Angelic Announcements of the Lord's Advent - This Advent's theme observes the Lord's announcements through angels of the coming of His Christ. Evening Prayer this Wednesday, 12/18 at 6:00 pm.

Each Sunday in Advent, the Youth Group Kids will "turn" the Advent Calendar with suggestions on items needed to donate to local food pantries. This week is pasta! Come to Bible Class to see which food items are chosen when we turn the Advent Calendar!

On the Calendar

Sunday, December 15:	Corporate Confession & Absolution.....	8:00 A.M.
	Adult Bible Study	8:45 A.M.
	Divine Service	10:00 A.M.
Monday, December 16:	Matins.....	7:30 A.M.
	ECC Chapel.....	9:15 A.M.
Tuesday, December 17:	Matins.....	8:00 A.M.
Wednesday, December 18:	Matins.....	7:30 A.M.
	Swaddling Clothes Work Day.....	9:30 A.M.
	Evening Prayer.....	6:00 P.M.
Thursday, December 19:	Matins.....	7:30 A.M.
	ECC Chapel.....	9:15 A.M.
Saturday, December 21:	Matins.....	8:30 A.M.
	Choir Rehearsal.....	10:00 A.M.
Sunday, December 22:	Corporate Confession & Absolution.....	8:00 A.M.
	Adult Bible Study.....	8:45 A.M.
	Divine Service	10:00 A.M.
	Lessons & Carols.....	6:00 P.M.

GIVING MADE EASY— You may now make a one-time donation or set up recurring contributions through our website’s *eGiving* donation page. The eGiving option is secure, fast, and easy to use. You can donate by visiting www.holycrosskc.org and selecting “eGiving” or by simply scanning this QR code, which takes you directly to our eGiving page. Please contact the church office at 816-452-9113 if you have any questions.



The Large Catechism - Join us every Sunday, and bring a friend, as we study the Large Catechism in Sunday morning Bible Class (8:45 am in the Fellowship Hall). Copies will be provided.

Portals of Prayer—The January –March edition of Portals of Prayer is available on the cabinet in the Narthex. Please consider leaving a donation for your copy. A standard issue costs the church \$2, and a large print copy costs the church \$3.

The Board of Christian Mercy continues to collect non perishable food and paper products for the three Northland pantries that we support: MLM, Turning Point and Northland Cathedral. **The Christian Mercy Board will take food to the food donation locations every THREE months.** Please bring your donations to the box in the coat room any Sunday (or any other day) is fine. Please see the newsletter for a list of needed items. Thanks for your support!

TRUTH, GOODNESS & BEAUTY... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Movie “Gladiator II,” The Hymn “May God Bestow on Us His Grace,” Roman Catholicism & Indulgences, Mary Visits Elizabeth, The Testimony of John the Baptist and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn or a podcast provider.

Ben Franklin once observed, “It is in the region of ignorance that tyranny begins.” The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty provides devotions, podcasts, op-ed pieces, and more in an effort to inform. You are invited to join the LCRL mailing list – see www.LCRLFreedom.org to subscribe.

Sunday Coffee Cadre: The church is always seeking folks who can provide coffee service for Sunday morning Bible Class fellowship on a monthly or substitute basis. With our convenience Bunn coffee makers it's very simple, and only requires a few minutes for one or two people. Please let Linda or Nancy know if you can join our "cadre" and we will show you everything you need to know.