



THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

January 5, 2025

The Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a “Thirteenth Day” of Christmas; and yet, it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. While Christmas has focused on the Incarnation of our Lord—that is, on God becoming flesh—the season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth—not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word, to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6). With gold they confess His royalty; with incense, His deity; and with myrrh, His priestly sacrifice (Matt. 2:11).

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: Tuesday, December 24: 65; Wednesday, December 25: 49; Sunday, December 29: 76; Bible Study: 33

Altar Flowers this week are from Gene & Toni Bosse in memory of Toni’s sister, Terri Bartels.

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

Genesis 46:1 – “So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.” Every sacrifice in the Old Testament pointed forward to the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus upon the cross. That is the one sacrifice for sin. But the New Testament tells us to offer sacrifices as well: sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving, and even to present our very bodies and selves as “living sacrifices” to the Lord.

Life Thoughts from Lutherans For Life— John’s baptism convicted every human being – “Jerusalem and all Judea” (Matthew 3:5-6). No physical incapacities excused anyone. Jesus’ baptism consecrates every human being. God, in giving His Son, identifies with us at our weakest and embraces us at our worst. Even when we don’t resemble anything our Maker intended, He doesn’t call us “unwanted” or “better off dead.” Instead He declares, “This is my beloved [child], with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). In this newness of life, Christians can also welcome the least among us. *Lord, construct Your kingdom of little ones like us. Amen.*

SWADDLING CLOTHES: We will have a workday on Wednesday, January 8th at 9:30-11:00 am. All help is appreciated! Our next center opening will be next 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!



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 Schaunaman at 816-507-0974.

Pastor Meissner will be out of the office January 6-17. Pastor Griebel will be our Guest Pastor next week. If you are in need of Pastoral care, please call the church office or your Elder.

The theme of the 2025 Faith of Our Father Conference is “The Gospel Shows the Father’s Grace”. The proper understanding of the Law of God is essential for a Christian. Unfortunately, there has been much disagreement in American Lutheranism concerning the role of the Law in the Church. Last year, we focused on the dangers of antinomianism, the importance of the third use of the law, and how these topics have impacted the Missouri Synod’s preaching and teaching in recent years. This year, we will be focusing on the beautiful harmony of God’s Law and Gospel and how His promises shape the Christian life. Over two days, **February 28th and March 1st, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville, IL,** we will learn about and discuss the Law of God. This conference is for both laity and pastors. Come join us for good theology, fellowship, and maybe even a little fun with some fellow Lutherans! **Speakers and preachers include:** Speakers: Rev. Ben Ball; Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss; Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger; Rev. Dr. Gifford Grobien; Rev. Andrew Packer; Rev. Andrew Preus; Rev. David Ramirez; Rev. Joshua Scheer Rev. William Weedon; and, Rev. Andy Wright. Learn more and register for the conference at: <https://yourgrandfatherschurch.org/>.

On the Calendar

Sunday, January 5:	Corporate Confession & Absolution.....	8:00 A.M.
	Adult Bible Study & Sunday School	8:45 A.M.
	Divine Service	10:00 A.M.
Monday, January 6:	No Matins or ECC Chapel	
Tuesday, January 7:	No Men's Bible Breakfast or Matins	
Wednesday, January 8:	No Matins or Bible Study	
	Swaddling Clothes Workday.....	9:30 A.M.
Thursday, January 9:	No Matins or ECC Chapel	
	Winkel at King of Kings Lutheran Church.....	9:30 A.M.
Saturday, January 11:	No Matins	
	Swaddling Clothes Store.....	10:00 A.M.
Sunday, January 12:	Corporate Confession & Absolution.....	8:00 A.M.
	Adult Bible Study & Sunday School.....	8:45 A.M.
	Divine Service	10:00 A.M.

The 2025 Flower Chart is posted in the breezeway. Consider ordering an arrangement to observe a significant event in your life and beautify the church. **Arrangements are \$28.00 each. Checks should be made payable to "Chancel Guild."**

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.

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!

EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING CHRIST... Issues, Etc. is a podcast and radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Promises of God, The Top Biblical Archeological Discoveries of 2024, Eastern Orthodoxy, the Book of Lamentations and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

The year 2025 promises to be filled with exciting news. Be sure you stay up-to-date by subscribing to the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty email list. You will receive devotions, podcasts, opinion pieces, and more. To subscribe see www.LCRLFreedom.org/email.

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.