THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

November 23, 2025

By Faith We Are Prepared for Christ's Return

"The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:1–11). The arrival of the bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise virgins. *"For you know neither the day nor the hour"* when the Son of Man is to return. (Matt. 25:1–13). The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in baptism, preaching, and the supper, and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God's grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people (Is. 65:17–25).

From the Budget and Finance Committee - As of October 27, 2025, we have reached 100% of our goal and the mortgage has been PAID OFF! Thanks be to God!!

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, November 16: 81; Bible Study: 25; Sunday School: 9

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

Stewardship Thoughts—Matthew 25:2 – "Five of them were foolish, and five were wise." A truly wise man, as Jesus once said, builds on the Word of Jesus. There is no other foundation which will stand. Any other path is a foolish one. His Word leads to life, and to depart from His Word leads to death. Clinging to His Word, we know we have His blessing.

Life Thoughts from Lutherans For Life– Our Savior considers human bodies so precious that He has already begun making a new earth for them to enjoy eternally (Isaiah 65:17-25). He has not designed humankind's bodily existence as disposable but as indispensable to our identity and abundant life. How shall this affect our approach to illness, disability, conception, and age?
Prayer: King of creation, increase our respect and protection for the bodies of others with the esteem You bestow upon our own. Amen.

Swaddling Clothes- We will have a workday on Wednesday, December 3 (10:30 am-12:30 pm). Our next Center opening will be Saturday, December 13 (10:00 am - 1:00 pm). Volunteers can sign-up on the SC bulletin board by Sunday, Dec. 7th. By signing up this helps us know how many volunteers are available to help? Any questions see or text Nancy Neill (816)556-6555 or Carolyn Falls (816)674-5021. Thank you!

Are you a baker? Swaddling Clothes needs your help! We are planning to give out Christmas cookies to our families at our shopping day on December 13th. We need 60 dozen cookies (homemade or store bought cookies - either are fine.) We are asking that the cookies do not contain nuts or peanut butter. Cookies can be brought to church on Sunday, December 7th and we will freeze them or you can drop them off on Saturday, December 13th by 9:00 am. Please contact Nancy at (816)556-6555 if you have any questions or would like to donate cookies.

Pledge cards are still available on the counter in the Narthex. **Giving envelopes are available for pickup on the table in the hallway near the elevator.**. If you didn't get a set of giving envelopes for this current year & wish to receiving a set for 2026, please contact the church office.

Updated Information: If you have recently joined Holy Cross, moved or gotten a new phone number, please make sure that our records are up to date. You can email church@holycrosskc.org with your updated information. Also, if you'd like to receive any Holy Cross announcements or the newsletter via email, please make sure we have your email address.

From the Board of Church Properties: After getting the boiler serviced on Oct. 21, it was determined that it is unsafe to use. The boiler is 27 years old and was found to be releasing dangerous and deadly carbon monoxide. The Board of Properties has received a bid for a new boiler and plans are moving ahead to get it installed as soon as possible. For the time being, the Narthex, Sanctuary & a few other areas will not be heated.

Ladies' Night Out will be held on **TUESDAY, December 2nd at 6:00 pm at Cascone's** (3733 N. Oak Trfy, Kansas City, MO 64116). **Please note the change of day and time from our usual monthly get-togethers.** Instead of our usual gift exchange, please bring an unwrapped gift (new or gently used) for Swaddling Clothes. Please sign up on the counter in the Narthex if you plan to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Elenita Wendt.

On the Calendar

Sunday, November 23:	Corporate Confession & Absolution	8:00 A.M.
	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School	8:45 A.M.
	Divine Service	**10:00 A.M.**
Monday, November 24:	Matins	7:30 A.M.
	ECC Chapel	9:15 A.M.
Tuesday, November 25:	NO Men's Bible Breakfast or Matins	
Wednesday, November 26:	Matins	7:30 A.M.
	Bible Class	9:00 A.M.
	Divine Service	**7:00 P.M.**
Thursday, November 27:	*Thanksgiving Day - Offices Closed*	7:30 A.M.
		9:15 A.M.
Friday, November 28:	*Offices Closed*	
Saturday, November 29:	Matins	8:30 A.M.
	Handbell Choir Rehearsal	9:00 A.M.
	Choir Rehearsal	10:00 A.M.
Sunday, November 30:	Corporate Confession & Absolution	8:00 A.M.
	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School	8:45 A.M.
	Divine Service	**10:00 A.M.**

The Art of Biblical Reading - "How do you read it?" our Lord asked the lawyer in Luke 10. At Sunday morning Bible Study next week we are planning to begin a new video-based study using materials from the Luther Institute of Theology (lutheraninstitute.org) on how to read the Bible, video-portion taught by Dr. Adam Koontz. All are welcome and encouraged to come! The description reads: "Where did the Bible come from, and how can we trust it? This course explores the origin, authority, and literary structure of the Scriptures from a Lutheran perspective. Dr. Koontz explains how the Bible was formed, what makes it dependable, and how to read it with Christ at the Center. He also unpacks major Biblical themes and the beauty of God's Word as both history and proclamation. Rediscover the Bible as the living voice of God, not just a book of the past."

Theology on Tap - The Kansas City North Circuit invites you to Theology on Tap, a monthly theological discussion publicly led by Circuit pastors. This monthly discussion will return on January 29th. Watch the info notes on more information on location.

Men's Dart Ball Team - Our congregation is fielding a team for the Kansas City - North Circuit Dart ball league. Like last year, games are played on Thursday nights at 7pm, every second Thursday of the month, September-April. **The next game night will be Thursday, December 11th at King of Kings Lutheran Church**. Interested? Contact Mike Schaunaman at 816-507-0974.

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 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."**

THE FAITH ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent topics include: The Hymnal as Devotional Resource, Why Christians Should Build Cathedrals, Late First-Century Bishop Clement of Rome, The Third Use of God's Law, 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.

Thanksgiving Day – football, food, family – and church. Sometimes discussions can get heated around the dinner table. Dr. Seltz presents "How to talk politics and cultural issues with friends, family, and others." See www.LCRLFreedom.org and look under Podcasts.

Use Your Tax Dollars to Support Lutheran Education - Taxpayers to the state of Missouri—both individuals and businesses—have the unique opportunity to direct up to 50% of their state taxes to Lutheran Education. The tax credit program, MOScholars, allows the Missouri District to convert tax dollars into scholarships for qualifying students attending LCMS schools throughout the state. Reserving these tax credits is easy and can be completed online in a matter of minutes. Head to https://mo.lcms.org/mo-scholars/ to learn more about MOScholars and get the process started. Thank you for your participation in MOScholars through the Missouri District!