THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

December 21, 2025

John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah

The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut. 18:15–19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39–56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19–28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:4–7).

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: Wednesday, December 17:16; Sunday, December 14: 52; Bible Study: 20; Sunday School: 8

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

Stewardship Thoughts—Philippians 4:4 – "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice." Life was no easier for the Philippians than it is for us. They had the same sorrows, sicknesses, and disappointments as we have. And yet St. Paul tells them to rejoice in the Lord. We have an abiding joy, a peace which passes all understanding, because we know our Lord Jesus and His love for us. This gives us confidence in the face of every hardship; it gives us strength to lead lives in imitation of Jesus' own generous love.

Life Thoughts from Lutherans For Life– Jesus brought God delicately amidst sinners, as humble in crucifixion as He was helpless in conception. Yet this estate did not hinder but, in fact, heralded the full realm and reign of God for us. And thereby He reaffirmed the worth of even the feeblest human beings. God's gift of life arrives all the better for the plain packaging He habitually hides it behind. *Prayer: Lamb of God, make it so that our taking hold of You leads us to cradle Your little ones as well. Amen.*

Swaddling Clothes– We will have a workday on Wednesday, January 7th (10:30 am-12:30 pm). Our next Center opening will be Saturday, January 10 (10:00 am - 1:00 pm). Volunteers can sign-up on the SC bulletin board by Sunday, January 4th. By signing up this helps us know how many volunteers are available to help? Any questions contact Nancy Neill (816)556-6555 or Carolyn Falls (816)674-5021. Thank you!

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.

The Chancel Guild is offering poinsettias for purchase to beautify our sanctuary. The plants are $9.00 and can be taken home after our service on Thursday, December 25th. The envelopes for ordering next to the flower chart. Thank you!

Christmas Caroling - The choir is planning to go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 28th after the Divine Service. We would love to have you join us! If you are interested in caroling, please sign up on the sheet (at Bible class or in the Narthex) so that we can gauge interest and possibly organize a light lunch before caroling. Please see Myla Miller or Rebekah Meissner if you have questions or want to sign up to go with us.

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, January 13th at 7:00 pm. **Our next regular Voter's meeting** will be on Sunday, January 25th at 11:30 am.

Offices Closed & Vacation - The Church & ECC offices are closed December 24-25 & December 31-January 1. Brandi will be on vacation December 24-January 4. Pastor Meissner will be out of the office December 29-30.

The January/February *Reflections from the Cross* newsletter was emailed out this week. Printed copies are available to pick up on the cabinet in the Narthex.

The adult choir will take a break in January. They will resume their Saturday 10:00 am rehearsals in February.

On the Calendar

Sunday, December 21:	Corporate Confession & Absolution	8:00 A.M.
	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School	8:45 A.M.
	Divine Service	**10:00 A.M.**
	Lessons & Carols	**4:00 P.M.**
Monday, December 22:	Matins	7:30 A.M.
	ECC Chapel	9:15 A.M.
Tuesday, December 23:	Men's Bible Breakfast	7:00 A.M.
	Matins	8:00 A.M.
Wednesday, December 24:	No Matins or Bible Class	
Offices Closed	**Divine Service**	7:00 P.M.
Thursday, December 25:	No Matins or Chapel	
Offices Closed	**Divine Service**	10:00 A.M.
Saturday, December 27:	Matins	8:30 A.M.
Sunday, December 28:	Corporate Confession & Absolution	8:00 A.M.
	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School	8:45 A.M.
	Divine Service	**10:00 A.M.**
	Christmas Caroling	11:30 A.M.

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 & a large print copy costs the church $3.

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, & how can we trust it? This course explores the origin, authority, & literary structure of the Scriptures from a Lutheran perspective. Dr. Koontz explains how the Bible was formed, what makes it dependable, & how to read it with Christ at the Center. He also unpacks major Biblical themes & the beauty of God's Word as both history & 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 info 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, January 8th at Christ 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."**

SACRED MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON… "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is," "Once in Royal David's City," "Silent Night, Holy Night," "Joy to the World." Beginning Christmas Eve, you can listen to sacred music for the Christmas season 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

December 21 marks the Winter Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere—the shortest day and longest night of the year. The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty offers inspirational and informational ways to pass the long night. You are invited to join the LCRL mailing list—see www.LCRLFreedom.org to subscribe.

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.