



THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

August 16, 2026

The Lord Lifts Up the Lowly

“And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard” (Gen. 4:1–15). For unlike Abel, Cain’s offering did not proceed from a heart that revered and trusted in the Lord. Thus, the lowly tax collector who prayed, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” was the one who went down to his house justified before God, not the respectable, outwardly righteous Pharisee who trusted in himself and his own good living (Luke 18:9–14). “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:1–10). The one who penitently despairs of his own righteousness and relies completely on the atoning mercy of God in Christ is the one who is declared righteous. For Christ died for our sins and rose again the third day (1 Cor. 15:1–10). Therefore, “everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

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, August 9: 73; Adult Bible Class: 25

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

Stewardship Thoughts—Luke 18:11–12 – “The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’” The Pharisees got so much right, and so much wrong. It’s a good thing for this Pharisee to be faithful to his wife and faithful in his giving to the Lord’s work, but these things are worthless if they proceed from a prideful heart! After all, what do we have to be proud of? If we have followed the Lord’s ways, we have only done our duty. Better to be thankful (and amazed!) that the Lord has blessed us by making our giving part of His work!

Life Thoughts from Lutherans For Life— Heaven and earth grieve every life ended by another (Genesis 4:10). Worse yet is believing ourselves any better than murderers (Luke 18:11-14). Lord God regards all as precious as little babies, and His Son’s forgiving Word and works of faith rescue from death’s mouth when tempted (Genesis 4:7) and from hell’s mouth when guilty (Genesis 4:15). *Merciful Father, intervene that we may be saved and safe from death and hell. Amen.*

Swaddling Clothes - Our next opening is Saturday, September 12th (10:00 am - 1:00 pm). If you would like to volunteer to help at our opening PLEASE sign-up on the SC bulletin board by Sunday, September 6th. By signing up ahead of time it helps us know how many volunteers are available for our opening. Any questions please see or text Shara at (816) 654-2294. Thank you!



Portals of Prayer—The July-September 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.

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.



Performing Arts Association of St. Joseph Inc presents The Looney Lutherans in “Young(ish) at Heart!” on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026 at 7:30 pm on the Missouri Western University Campus. Tickets are \$50 for the show only or \$65 with dinner (Dinner starts at 6:30 pm) We can receive a discount of 10% off with a group of 10 or more people. If you are interested in attending, please let Terrie Reece (816-216-4904 or tkrophs1968@gmail.com) know by September 1st.

You are invited to celebrate with Our Saviour Lutheran Church (4153 Rainbow Blvd.) in Kansas City, Kansas, as they launch their David’s Harp music conservatory. This exciting event (hymn festival and light meal) will take place on Wednesday, August 19, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. David’s Harp exists to raise the next generation of church musicians. We hope to see you there!

Open house and blessing and gathering at the Meissner’s. All members are welcome once again to our place on August 23rd from 4:00-6:00pm. With the house blessing we’ll be having a baked potato bar with plenty of extras and Lutheran beverages. Please RSVP to Rebekah..

Our Children’s Sunday School Fall Rally Day for the 2026-2027 school year is set for Sunday, September 13, 2026. Please let us know if your children/grandchildren will be attending and we’ll get you registered. If you are interested in teaching please contact me (816-654-2293). Peace in Christ / Carl Pigors, Sunday School Superintendent

Handbell choir will resume this fall on Saturday, September 19 at 9:00 am. We need some new players. We would love to have you join us! We can teach you everything needed to ring a position. You do not need to know how to read music! See Linda Rusche (816-797-2696) if you have any questions.

The Champions Network for Religious Liberty enables congregations and individuals to engage the community for the sake of the church. See <https://champions-network.com> for more information.

On the Calendar

Sunday, August 16:	Corporate Confession & Absolution.....	8:00 A.M.
	Adult Bible Class.....	8:45 A.M.
	Divine Service	10:00 A.M.
Monday, August 17:	Matins.....	7:30 A.M.
Tuesday, August 18:	Men’s Bible Breakfast.....	7:00 A.M.
	Matins.....	8:00 A.M.
Wednesday, August 19:	Matins.....	7:30 A.M.
Thursday, August 20:	Matins.....	7:30 A.M.
	ECC Chapel.....	9:15 A.M.
Saturday, August 22:	Matins.....	8:00 A.M.
	Choir Rehearsal.....	10:00 A.M.
Sunday, August 23:	Corporate Confession & Absolution.....	8:00 A.M.
	Adult Bible Class.....	8:45 A.M.
	Divine Service	10:00 A.M.
	Meissner Open House.....	4:00 –6:00 P.M.

 **MISSOURI DISTRICT NEWS:** The celebration Sunday for *Tomorrow’s Teachers & Preachers*—August 30—is right around the corner! Many congregations and schools will be collecting offerings to help defray the educational expenses of the next generation of pastors, DCEs, deaconesses, teachers, and more as they complete their studies. Praise God for guiding these people towards service in His kingdom and for the way He works through all of you in supporting them!

TRUTH, GOODNESS, BEAUTY... Issues, Etc. is a podcast and radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent teachings include: What Is Critical Theory?, The Reliability of the Bible, The Population Bust, The Term “Flesh” in the Bible and more. You can listen at your convenience at [issuesetc.org](https://www.issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app or a podcast provider.

St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Topeka, KS, will host its tenth annual Worship Conference on Saturday, August 29, at 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. This conference provides continuing education and conversation for pastors, church musicians, and congregation members interested in the song and worship of the Church. The keynote speaker for this year’s conference is **Rev. Timothy Frank**, who is the associate pastor and kantor at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa. A summary of the keynote presentations & the registration form can be found on our website at <https://stjohnlcmstopeka.org/worship/worship-conference/>

In HIS Image - On Saturday, September 19, 2026, St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Liberty, MO is hosting a seminar presented by Doxology called "In HIS Image: Navigating Christian Sexuality in a Post-Christian Culture." This seminar is designed to equip all Christians with tools to speak constructively and live confidently amid the current confusion over gender, rapidly changing sexual norms in society, and the legal redefinition of marriage. The seminar includes lunch and is completely free, thanks to a grant from the LCMS Office of National Mission. Registration link:<https://forms.gle/p64Wgr7V7gQY1ioT8>)

We will have an Organ Workshop at Holy Cross on **Saturday, October 17, 2026.** Mrs. Bethany Johnson, Kantor at Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Topeka, Kansas, will share her knowledge during an organ workshop at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri. Our sessions will include information about the tempo and pulse of hymns, planning music from pre-service to postlude, and organ pedaling skills. If you have specifics you would like to include in any of these topics, please send them to us! This year we are offering an optional **MasterClass** This will be after Session III in the early afternoon. If you would like to participate, please prepare a piece (or hymn) to play. Bethany will work with you (similar to a private music lesson) in front of everyone else on how to improve your technique for whatever you are playing. It may seem intimidating, but it is such a positive growing experience, and there is always more to learn. The cost is \$35.00 per person or \$45.00 if you participate in the MasterClass. Cash or check at the door. If you would like to attend please send a message to holycrosskcmusic@yahoo.com.

Swing for a Cause! Join us for a Four-Person Scramble sponsored by St. Stephen Lutheran Church, benefiting the Liberty Women's Clinic on Saturday, August 22, 2026. Morning registration: 7 am | Shotgun start: 8 am; Afternoon registration: 12 pm | Shotgun start: 1 pm. Location: Excelsior Springs Golf Course, 1201 E. Golf Hill Drive, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. Grab your team and get ready for a day of friendly competition, all in support of the Liberty Women's Clinic. The Four-Person Scramble format ensures that players of all skill levels can participate and enjoy the game. It's about camaraderie, fun, and making a positive impact. Exciting prizes, contests, and a fantastic atmosphere await you. Plus, you'll have the opportunity to connect with fellow golf enthusiasts and passionate supporters of the Liberty Women's Clinic. Let's come together, swing for success, and empower women in our community! Register Here: <https://forms.gle/4L6k41HjSt6d16BC9>

Our Saviour Lutheran Church (4153 Rainbow Blvd, KCKS, 66103; phone: 913-236-6228) is celebrating its centennial this year, Sept. 25-27, 2026. Visit www.oskc.org and look for the Upcoming Event banner that links you to info about Fri.-Sat events (open house, service of hymns and prayer, banquet) and Sunday's 10am worship service. You can enter your contact info via an RSVP button. Former members, former Preschool and K-8 school students, as well as congregation friends are encouraged to attend - giving God the glory for 100+ years of worship, ministry and service in our neighborhood.