



December 14, 2025 - 9:30 am

3rd Sunday of Advent



GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent Song "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" ELW 257

Call to Worship

Gathering Song "Prepare the Royal Highway" ELW 264

Greeting

Kyrie

Hymn of Praise "Blessed Be the God of Israel" ELW 250

Prayer

Special Music "Coventry Carol" Carolan Bell Choir

WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

Children's Message

Isaiah 35:1-10... The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

James 5:7-10... Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11: 2-11...When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see:⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message Pastor Heather Grell

Hymn of the Day

“The King Shall Come”

ELW 260

Prayers

Sharing God’s Peace

MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

Offering

Special Music

Offertory

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

ELW 247

Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Communion

Communion Songs

“Lamb of God”

“Wait for the Lord”

ELW 262

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

Blessing

Sending Song

“Prince of Heaven”

Dismissal

Postlude

Announcements

- ⇒ **Food Pantry** Our next food pantry is our Thursday, December 18th from 5 to 7pm. [CLICK HERE](#) to help. Donations are needed! Our most pressing needs right now are cereal, soup, bar soap and toilet paper. To help with our inventory control please only put your donations in the blue bin. Thank you for your continued support of this vital community ministry.
- ⇒ **Christmas Caroling** Join your Holy Cross Family TODAY, December 14 at 1:45 p.m. (event: 2-4:00 p.m.) as we go Christmas Caroling to some of our members who are not out-and-about. Meet at the church at 1:45 p.m. to form groups of carolers. Music is provided, and all ages welcomed!
- ⇒ **Cookie Walk & Hot Cocoa Bar!** Save the Date—Sunday, December 21st following worship you are invited to a winter wonderland in the Fellowship Hall. The High School Youth Group will have homemade holiday cookies ready to go home with you. For a suggested donation of \$10, you can fill a to-go box to the brim! There will also be a free hot cocoa bar and a small silent auction with themed gift baskets to bid on. We hope you can join us and support the Youth Fund!
- ⇒ **Recycle your Christmas Lights!** Joe Evans is taking old strings of lights to Scrap Central which provides recycling at no cost. There is a bin in the Narthex marked Christmas Lights Only.
- ⇒ **Altar Flowers** for 2026 are now available for purchase for \$47. Please [click here](#) to sign up or contact the church office.
- ⇒ **Christmas Eve Services** Join us for Christmas Eve Worship Services December 24th at 4:00 pm for Carols, a children's sermon, and Candlelight and at 7:00 pm for Carols, candlelight, and sermon.
- ⇒ **Giving through Venmo** You can now support the ministries of Holy Cross via Venmo. Find us on Venmo @HolyCrossLutheran.

Calendar for Upcoming Week

Sunday, December 14

9:30 am Worship
10:40 am Sunday School/Adult Forum
10:50 am MS/HS Ensemble
11:00 am MS/HS Bell Choir
2:00 pm Christmas Caroling
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troup 48012 Mtg

Monday, December 15

6:30 pm Boy Scouts
9:00 pm CMA Meeting

Tuesday, December 16

6:30 pm Council Meeting
7:30 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 17

12:30 pm Tai Chi Balance Class
6:00 pm Confirmation/Uke Choir
6:30 pm Youth Worship
7:00 pm Radical Ringers/Youth Group

Thursday, December 18

11:30 am Lunch Bunch
5:00 pm Food Pantry
6:30pm Carolon Bell Choir
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, December 19

1:00 pm Knitting

Saturday, December 20

9:00 am Music Rehearsals
11:00 am Birthday Party

Sunday, December 21

9:30 am Worship/Cantata
10:40 am Cookie Walk
12:00 pm Kern Family Cookie Party

Prayer Requests from our Church Community

Member Concerns: Norm Firkins; Phyllis Beam; Donna McCoy; Connie Mertz.

Friends and Relatives: Jane Marsh, aunt of Jen Gitt; Jim O'Grady, uncle of Pastor Heather Grell; Pat & Barry Butterfield, mother and father of Amy Odson; Deniel Algarin, nephew of Alicia Glesne; Scott Matheson, brother in law of Julie Noteman; Joshua Perilo, son of Sharon Perilo; Crosby Vargas, friend of Julie Noteman; Savannah Barb, cousin of Emma & Geno Roberts; Sonrisa Lewis, friend of the Harvey family; Avery W.; Ken Gross, cousin of Julie Noteman; Josh Moreau, friend of Wendy Brenner's family; Nancy Bartell, sister-in-law of Peg Schneider; Michael Schadendorf, grandfather of Edith and Tanya Valandra; Erin Peters, daughter of Gail Ginger; Anna Victor, aunt of Jen Gitt; Dave Huggins, friend of Jim & Peg Schneider; Mya Calendar, daughter of Trisha Ryan; Carol Deditz, sister of Julie Noteman; Opal Calendar, foster granddaughter of Trisha Ryan; Kelsey Schneider, daughter of Jim & Peg Schneider; Theresa Ramelb, friend of Jacque Petersen; Shari Jensen, friend of Ed Krueger; Ronda Bayer, friend of Debbie Risinger; Debbie Haacke, coworker of Debbie Risinger; Linda Anderson, Barb Kay's sister; Aaron McDonald and Family and Caregivers, McDonald's grandson.

Grieving: Bill Turley and his family as they mourn the death of Dorothy.

Irene and Troy Schnack and their families as they mourn the death of Gordon.

Charlene Pilger and her family as they mourn the death of Virgil.