



February 8, 2026 - 9:30 am

**Reconciling in Christ
Celebration Sunday**



GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Call to Worship

Gathering Song

"All Are Welcome"

ELW 641

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Special Music

"Won't You Be My Neighbor"

Sunday School Kids

WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

Children's Message

Scripture readings adapted from *The Inclusive Bible*.

Isaiah 58:1-9...Shout for all you are worth, raise your voice like a trumpet! Proclaim to the people their faults, tell the house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob their sins! ² They seek me daily, they long to know my ways, like a nation that wants to act with integrity and not ignore the Law of its God. They ask me for laws that are just, they long for God to draw near. ³ Yet they say, "Why should we fast, if you never see it? Why do penance, if you never notice?" Because when you fast, it's business as usual, and you oppress all your workers! ⁴ Because when you fast, you quarrel and fight and strike the poor with your fist. Fasting like yours today will never make your voice heard on high! ⁵ Is that the sort of fast that pleases me - a day when people humiliate themselves, hanging their head like a reed, lying down on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call fasting, a day acceptable to Yahweh? ⁶ On the contrary! This is the sort of fast that pleases me: Remove the chains of injustice! Undo the ropes of the yoke! Let those who are oppressed go free, and break every yoke you encounter! ⁷ Share your bread with those who are hungry and shelter homeless poor people! Clothe those who are naked, and don't hide from the needs of your own flesh and blood! ⁸ Do this and your light will shine like the dawn—and your healing will break forth like lightning! Your integrity will go before you, and the glory of Yahweh will be your rear guard. ⁹ Cry, and Yahweh will answer; Call and God will say, "I am here." Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 112...Alleluia! Happiness comes to those who revere Yahweh, who greatly delight in God's commands. ² Their children hold power on earth; the descendants of the just will be blessed. ³ There will be riches and wealth for their families, and God's justice can never be changed. ⁴ For the just, Yahweh shines like a lamp in the dark; God is merciful, compassionate and righteous. ⁵ Good people are generous, and lend money without interest; they are honest in all their dealings. ⁶ They are never shaken, because they love justice and will leave an imperishable memory behind them. ⁷ They never fear bad news, because their unwavering hearts trust in Yahweh. ⁸ With peaceful hearts, they fear nothing; and in the end they will look in triumph over their enemies. ⁹ Quick to be generous, they give to the poor, doing justice always and forever; their horn will always be lifted in honor. ¹⁰ The corrupt

become infuriated when they see this; they grind their teeth and waste away, finally vanishing like their empty dreams.

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

Matthew 5:13-16...“You are the salt of the earth. But what if salt were to lose its flavor? How could you restore it? It would be fit for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled under foot.¹⁴“You are the light of the world. You don’t build a city on a hill and then try to hide it, do you?¹⁵ You don’t light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket, do you? No, you set it on the lampstand where it gives light to all in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Abba God in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Message Pastor Heather Grell

Special Music

River City Mixed Chorus

“*You Have More Friends Than You Know*”

“*Like a River in My Soul*”

“*Singing for Our Lives*”

Prayers

Sharing God’s Peace

MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

Offering

Special Music

Offertory

“*Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy*”

ELW 762

Words of Institution

“*Remember Me*”

Lord’s Prayer

Communion

Communion Song

“*All Belong Here*”

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

Blessing

Sending Song

“*For Everyone Born (A Human Rights Hymn)*”

Dismissal

Postlude

Announcements

- ⇒ Altar Flowers are given by Duane and Sandra Doering in celebration of their 52nd wedding anniversary!
- ⇒ Food Pantry Our next food pantry is Thursday, February 19th from 5 to 7pm. [CLICK HERE](#) to help. Donations are needed! Our most pressing needs right now are canned fruit, tuna, pasta/potato, saltines 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.
- ⇒ Altar Flowers for 2026 are now available for purchase for \$47. Please [click here](#) to sign up or contact the church office.
- ⇒ Lunch Bunch meets Thursday, February 19th at 11:30 am at the Olive Garden off 75th and Dodge. All are welcome!
- ⇒ RIC Celebration Come and celebrate our 8th year as a Reconciling in Christ Congregation! Today Holy Cross will have our annual RIC celebration worship with special music provided by the River City Mixed Chorus. Following worship the celebration continues with a pot-luck brunch - everyone is welcome!
- ⇒ Centering Prayer Group meets every Sunday from 8:45am to 9:15am in the Community Room in the Education hallway. For questions, call Paula McDonald at 402-210-6040.
- ⇒ The River City Mixed Chorus Founded in 1984 and rooted in Omaha, RCMC is a community chorus dedicated to creating exceptional musical experiences that support diversity, inspire change, and empower communities. What began with a small group of friends longing to share powerful messages of love, unity, inclusion, and acceptance has grown into one of the longest-standing and largest LGBTQ+ choruses in the country, with nearly 200 singing members today. Their vibrant performances blend artistic excellence with meaningful stories that connect people of all backgrounds. Upcoming events include Momentum Gala Dinner in March, Considering Matthew Shepard performance in April, and Express Yourself: An 80's Celebration performance in June. Visit www.rcmc.org for upcoming events and to purchase tickets.
- ⇒ Giving through Venmo You can support the ministries of Holy Cross via Venmo. Find us on Venmo @HolyCrossLutheran.

Calendar for Upcoming Week

Sunday, February 8

9:30 am RIC Celebration Worship
10:40 am RIC Celebration Potluck
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troup 48012 Mtg

Monday, February 9

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

Tuesday, February 10

7:00 pm Rachel Circle
7:30 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, February 11

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, February 12

6:00 pm Finance Committee Mtg
6:30pm Carolon Bell Choir
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, February 13

1:00 pm Knitting in the Narthex

Saturday, February 14

9:30 am Sarah Circle at Holy Cross

Sunday, February 15

9:30 am Worship
10:40 am Sunday School/Adult Forum
10:50 am MS/HS Ensemble
11:00 am MS/HS Bell Choir

Prayer Requests from our Church Community

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

Friends and Relatives: Pablo Adame, great-grandson of Connie Mertz; Kim Jones, sister-in-law of Trisha Ryan; 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.