HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

November 15, 2026- 9:30 am

25th Sunday after Pentecost



GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Gathering Song *"Jesus in the Morning"* Uke Choir and Congregation

Greeting

Song *"God of the Poor"*

Prayer of the Day

Special Music *"Simple Gifts"* Carolon Bell Choir

WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

Children's Message

Psalm 90:1-8, 12... Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. [2] Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. [3] You turn us back to dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals." [4] For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past or like a watch in the night. [5] You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; [6] in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. [7] For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. [8] You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. [12] So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11... Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 25:14-30... Jesus said to the disciples: [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had

the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

Message Gretchen Ahrens

Hymn of the Day *"Light Dawns on a Weary World"* ELW 726

Prayers

Sharing God's Peace

MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

Offering

Special Music

Offertory *"We are an Offering"*

Words of Institution *"Remember Me"*

Lord's Prayer

Communion

Communion Song *"Come as You Are"*

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

Blessing

Sending Song *"This Little Light of Mine"* ELW 677

Dismissal

Postlude

Announcements

⇒ **Food Pantry** Our next food pantry is Thursday, November 19th from 5 to 7pm. CLICK HERE to help. Every item donated is very much appreciated. This week our specific focus will be ramen noodles, cereal and plastic bags.

⇒ **Knitting Group** - the Knitting Group has been busy knitting and crocheting soap sacks for the upcoming Thanksgiving pantry. Please help us fill these soap sacks with donations of bar soap. The display in the main entrance area shows the work that has been done! Thank you for considering this opportunity to partner with the Knitting Group.

⇒ **Lunch Bunch** is Tuesday, November 17th at 11:30 am at Le Peep—2012 N 117 Ave. Please RSVP to Linda at 402-690-3342 to reserve a seat. Everyone is welcome to join!

⇒ **Owl Luncheon Featuring Neal Brenner** Calling all Older Wiser Lutherans! Join us for a time of food, fellowship and fun on Tuesday, November 24th at 11:30am. Neal Brenner will be here to give a presentation on his work refurbishing antique clocks. Sign upin the main entrance area today!

⇒ **Hanging of the Greens** Join us Sunday, November 29 at 9:30 am for our Hanging of the Greens worship service where we decorate and prepare our worship space for the Advent Season.

⇒ **Celebration to Honor Indigenous People** Join us at **6:30pm on Wednesday, November 25th** for a special service designed to honor indigenous people. It is an opportunity to give thanks and praise together, to celebrate and honor our indigenous siblings, and of course there will be time afterwards for fellowship and pie! Bring a pie, bring a friend...and together we can continue to learn and grow into the people God has called us to be.

⇒ **Advent Celebration** Join us as we prepare for the coming King! On Sunday, November 29th, everyone is invited to join in the fellowship hall following worship for our Advent Celebration! There will be fun Advent activities for all ages, family sizesand abilities!

⇒ **Christmas Poinsettias** are available to order. Help decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas with a $10 donation towards a Christmas Poinsettia. Click here to purchase online or use a poinsettia envelope located on the usher stand Sunday.

⇒ **Christmas Caroling** Join your Holy Cross Family on December 13 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 20th 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 raffle. We hope you can join us and support the Youth Fund!

⇒ **Giving through Venmo** You can support the ministries of Holy Cross via Venmo. Find us on Venmo @HolyCrossLutheran.

Calendar for Upcoming Week

Sunday, November 15
9:30 am Worship
10:40 am Adult Forum/Wonder Together
10:30 am MS/HS Ensemble
11:00 am MS/HS Bells
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 48012 Mtg

Monday, November 16
6:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting
9:00 pm CMA Meeting

Tuesday, November 17
11:30 am Lunch Bunch
6:30 pm Council Meeting
7:30 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, November 18
12:30 pm Tai Chi
6:00 pm Confirmation/Uke Choir
6:30 pm Youth Worship
7:00 pm Youth Group/Radical Ringers.

Thursday, November 19
5:00 pm Food Pantry
6:30 pm Carolon Bell Choir
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, November 20
1:00 pm Knitting in the Narthex
7:15pm AA—Good Orderly Direction

Saturday, November 21
6:00 pm Brennan/Anderson Wedding

Sunday, November 22
9:30 am Worship
10:40 am Adult Forum
10:40 am Wonder Together
10:30 am MS/HS Ensemble
11:00 am MS/HS Bells

Prayer Requests from our Church Community

Member Concerns: Mary Youngerman, Norm Firkins; Donna McCoy; Connie Mertz.

Friends and Relatives: Edward Leza; Connie James, friend of Wendy Brenner; **Josh & Nicole Irvin,** family of Joel Irvin; **Emalyn**, granddaughter of Pat Butterfield; **Kimberly Sobota,** mother of Joel Irvin; **Madelyn Abbott**, daughter of Heather Abbott; **Meg Trowbridge**, friend of Nicole Szymczak; **Bobbi Valandra**, sister of Jason Valandra; **Arthur Oberwetter**, father of Julie Leahy; **Gordon Blake,** father of Alisa Krueger; **Kim Jones**, sister-in-law of Trisha Ryan; **Scott Matheson**, brother in law of Julie Noteman; **Joshua Perilo**, son of Sharon Perilo; **Sonrisa Lewis**, friend of the Harvey family; **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; **Dave Huggins**, friend of Jim & Peg Schneider; **Mya Calendar**, daughter of Trisha Ryan; **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; **Linda Anderson**, Barb Kay's sister; **Aaron McDonald and Family and Caregivers,** McDonald's grandson.