



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE CROSS CONNECTION

*Providing Strength for the Faith Journey*

December 2023

## **Advent and Christmas: Going Beyond the Daydreams**

*by Pastor Chris Neptun*

In James Thurber's classic short story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," the titular character is portrayed as an ordinary, unremarkable man who often escapes his mundane life through daydreams of heroic adventures. Over the years, this character has been portrayed in various movie adaptations, each with its unique storyline. While the adaptations differ significantly from the original story, they all share one common element: Walter Mitty's tendency to dream rather than engage with reality.

Is there a similarity between Walter Mitty's daydreaming and the anticipation surrounding the seasons of Advent and Christmas? In a world filled with hope, joy, love, and peace, we are encouraged to actively prepare for the arrival of Christ and not merely daydream about it. Can we be inspired to engage more deeply with the true meaning of these seasons?



Advent marks a time of anticipation and active preparation for the arrival of the Christ child. It is a season filled with hope, where we eagerly await the birth of Jesus, not only in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago but also within our hearts. This period serves as a reminder that Jesus comes for all of us, and his presence is not limited to a historical event.

As we enter Advent and Christmas, we prepare to experience Christ in tangible ways, not merely hearing and remembering ancient stories only to return to life as usual. Too often, our approach resembles Walter Mitty's, where our expectations and hopes result in little or no change. However, God is inviting us to realize the reality of God's Kingdom.

Reflecting on the world in which Jesus was born, we find that the marginalized, the hungry, the sick, and the poor all yearn for deliverance from their afflictions. The tax collectors longed for honor and belonging and the people under Roman rule dreamed of freedom. Even the shepherds, often viewed as unruly and dangerous in Jesus' time, hoped to be seen without prejudice.

In Luke's Gospel, it is intriguing that the first announcement of Jesus' birth was made to the shepherds. These unlikely recipients of the angel's message were entrusted with the "good news of great joy for all nations." Perhaps God chose the shepherds because their role involved watching, waiting, guiding, and acting when needed. Their response, **"Let's go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us,"** exemplifies their faith's active and immediate nature.

Walter Mitty's tendency to daydream hindered him from living the exciting life he longed for. Similarly, wistfully reminiscing about the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem or fantasizing about some future event of Christ's return can keep us from experiencing the abundant life God intends for us today.

The message of Advent and Christmas is clear: the God who saves has come, is coming, and will come again. Faith, in its essence, requires active preparation. Christ has come, Christ is coming, and Christ will come again. We must be vigilant and ready for His presence in our daily lives.

This Advent and Christmas, my prayer is that we embrace the reality of Christ's presence. Join in worship, not just on Christmas Eve, but at every opportunity. Engage with Jesus by participating in ministries that serve the marginalized and underprivileged. As we actively prepare, we can experience the wonder of Christ's coming in the here and now. Christ has come, Christ is coming, Christ will come again. Amen, amen, amen.

Let us go now and see,

*Pastor Chris*

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LIFE

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DECEMBER  
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FIRST  
SATURDAY EVENING

December 2 at 5:30 pm

*Sanctuary*

SUNDAYS

December 3, 10, 17

8 & 10 am

*Sanctuary & Livestream*

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 17

5:30 pm - *Sanctuary*

SUNDAY

December 24

10 am - *Fellowship Area*

*& Recorded Message*

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24

4, 8 & 10 pm

*Sanctuary*

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25

10 am - *Sanctuary*

SUNDAY

December 31

10 am - *Sanctuary*

*A congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America*



## Annual Congregational Meeting

*Sunday, January 28, 2024*

*Meeting details will be communicated closer to the meeting date. All confirmed members of Holy Cross are encouraged to participate.*

Attention all ministry members:  
Kindly submit your reports for the 2023 Annual Report to [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org) by Tuesday, January 2.

### HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

1151 N. SAINT MARY'S ROAD  
LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048

(847) 367 - 4060

[OFFICE@HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG)

[HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG](http://HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG)

#### PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Christopher P. Neptun, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis, Pastor Emeritus  
Sarah Accettura, Administrative Coordinator  
Edwin Andrade, Director of Youth and Family Ministry  
Janet Carr, Congregational Activities  
Carmen & Abel Cervantes, Custodians  
Beth Fashimpaur, Handbell Choir Director  
Deaconess Katie Freund, Director of Early Faith Formation Ministries  
Beth Ann Koenemann, Financial Administrator  
Carrie Mack, Director of Youth Music Ministries  
Steve Oelschlager, Director of Operational Ministries  
Ellie Rautenbach, Congregational Communications  
Manny Rivera, Property  
Darrin Rose, Choir Director  
Dale Tippett Jr., Director of Contemporary Music and Worship Technical Arts  
Paul Vander Weele, Organist

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

Samantha (Sam) Cooper-Tuttle, Director  
Roxanne (Rocky) Lamont, Assistant Director  
Tania Zombolo, Assistant Director

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

Andy Eidson (*President*), Darin Chartier (*Vice President*),  
Karla Boucek, Wendy Brewer, Nicole Drake, Ralph Freye,  
Karen Karris, Gail Kelly, Jeannine Phillips, Harold Sargent,  
Joe Taylor, John Villani  
*Secretary*, Kathy Pritts  
*Treasurer*, Lori Fedyk  
*Financial Secretary*, Ryan Young

#### VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Altar Care: Julie Luczkiv  
Worship Volunteers: Therese Delli Paoli

The Cross Connection, parish newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, is published monthly and is available online at [HolyCrossChurch.org/newsletters](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/newsletters). Articles should be submitted by the 1st of the month to Janet Carr at [janet@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:janet@holycrosschurch.org)

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

#### First Saturday Evening

December 2  
5:30 pm - Sanctuary

#### First Sunday of Advent

December 3  
8 & 10 am - Sanctuary & Livestream

#### Second Sunday of Advent

December 10  
8 & 10 am - Sanctuary & Livestream  
9 am - Fellowship Coffee Hour

#### Third Sunday of Advent

December 17  
8 & 10 am - Sanctuary & Livestream

#### Blue Christmas Worship

5:30 pm - Sanctuary (No Livestream)  
*A reflective service to ease lament and provide hope.*

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24  
10 am - Fellowship Area &  
Prerecorded Message

#### Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24 at 4, 8 & 10 pm  
- Sanctuary & Livestream at 4 pm  
with Candle Lighting & Holy Communion.  
Children's Message at 4 pm.

#### Christmas Day

Monday, December 25  
10 am - Sanctuary (No Livestream)

#### First Sunday in Christmas

December 31  
10 am - Sanctuary (No Livestream)

***Let us go now and see - Luke 2:15***

## Blue Christmas

Sunday, December 17 at 5:30 pm

A worship service of lament and hope, anticipation and longing, restoration and renewal. The service is structured around three distinct movements of "hearing us," "healing us" and "sending us." We provide space for personal and communal reflection. The worship experience provides generous amounts of silence that are woven throughout.

There are years when we hurt at Christmas time and may not be able to navigate through the festivities as others seem to do with joy. It is at such times we need to be mindful and attentive to our feelings and concerns. We need to know that we are not alone in moments like these.

We hope you consider joining us or inviting others in the community who may accompany you as you support them. This is a time of year when we long for peace. Let us journey together with meditation, prayer, music, and acts of restoration that help us entertain a renewed message of hope.








15th Annual  
**Cookie Walk**

Date: Saturday, December 9  
Time: 8:30 - 11 am  
Cost: \$10 per pound

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Holy Cross Cookie Walk is just around the corner! We are excited to once again present our annual Cookie Walk. Mark your calendars to join us.

Start your holiday shopping as there will be dozens of homemade cookies, bars, cakes and breads from which to choose. They make fabulous gifts for pastors, teachers, family and even yourself. There will be gift basket raffles as well as the charming Christmas Gingerbread House donated by Kris DeGregor. The Cookie Walk is a wonderful way for you and your family to kick off the holiday season, but more importantly, your generous donations immensely benefit those at the Two Strike Indian Reservation.

The proceeds from the Cookie Walk support three Two Strike organizations, which work collaboratively for individuals in need. They include:

-  **The Tree of Life:** Linda Garriott and her group of volunteers prepare 300+ meals per day for those in need. Due to the large number of meals, they have requested we provide the organization with disposable food containers to serve their meals.
-  **Rosebud Elementary School's Panther's Clothes Closet:** Each child receives winter coats, boots and necessary winter items to keep them warm. Also, additional items are provided such as school supplies, shoes, clothing, sports equipment and meals, if necessary, so that students may be successful and healthy learners.
-  **The Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud** mission is to enable all young people to reach their full potential and explore new opportunities. They provide after-school care, tutoring, meals, field trips, athletics and more.

We also support Dorothy Peterson, our Holy Cross Missionary Liaison, for her continued involvement providing food gift cards and various other items to those living in Rosebud. Dorothy has been a part of Rosebud for over 20 years bringing much needed prayer and loving care for our Lakota friends.

Unable to attend the Cookie Walk in person?  
Contribute online at [bit.ly/rosebud23](http://bit.ly/rosebud23)  
Donation deadline: Sunday, December 10



Please contact Therese Delli Paoli at (847) 921-4223 or by email at [dpchitown@yahoo.com](mailto:dpchitown@yahoo.com) with any questions.

Peace and blessings,

The Cookie Walk Team

Karla Boucek, Therese Delli Paoli,  
Sue Dittman, Melanie Houser,  
Gail Kelly, Carole Kenney,  
Amanda Komaschka, Joyce Kveton,  
Patty Moyer & Joyce Twardock



**We need your help by baking** so we can support three important organizations supporting the Two Strike Community at the Rosebud Sioux (which means friend or ally).




So bakers...pull out your family favorite cookie and/or candy recipe(s) and donate 3 dozen or more of your traditional, scrumptious treats to the Cookie Walk.

Sign up in person in the Gathering Space or online at [bit.ly/bakecookies23](http://bit.ly/bakecookies23)



Please drop off your wrapped treats to the Gathering Space on Friday, December 8 between 11 am and 8 pm.

Bakers will automatically be entered into a basket raffle!

 During the Cookie Walk, the Crossroads High School Youth Group will be offering a donation-based gift wrapping service to raise funds for the ELCA Youth Gathering. See page 13 for details.

**The Giving Tree**

For Christmas, the Holy Cross congregation is again reaching out to families and individuals in need in our community through our annual Giving Tree program. Gift items benefit families in the COOL Transitional Housing program in Waukegan.

Please return individually wrapped gifts with tags attached to the outside of each package.

Deadline to return gift donations:  
Monday, December 4.



**Holiday Meal Boxes**

COOL Ministries is preparing to provide food assistance for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays to thousands of people in Lake County.



A \$20 donation will provide a turkey meal and fixings for a family of six. Donations toward a meal box may be made by check, made out to Holy Cross Lutheran Church with "Holiday Meal Boxes" in the memo line or online at [bit.ly/mealbox23](http://bit.ly/mealbox23)

Please donate by Sunday, December 10.



## **A Year of Holy Days: Santa Lucia Day/Slaughter of the Innocents** *by Deaconess Katie Freund*

It's "that" time of year, and it's pretty much impossible to think of Christmas time without children being somehow involved. There's kids Christmas pageants, nutcracker ballets, toys, and escapades in the snow. Even if you are a total scrooge and hate children, your miniature porcelain Christmas village isn't complete until you have that magnetic frozen lake with kids skating in their hats and mittens. Or, even if you hate all that nostalgia... you can't escape the child at the center of this holiday lying in a manger. There is no season of Christmas without children.

An idyllic example of this is December 13, the feast day of St. Lucia or Saint Lucy's Day. If you were raised in an Italian or Scandinavian religious background, you might be familiar with the image of a young girl playing the part of saint Lucy. Portraying the image of a young girl bringing forth the light of Christ into darkness, during the winter solstice a girl has a winter wreath with lit candles placed on her head (definitely a fire hazard). Some countries say it's saint Lucy who leaves presents, others have a girl voted to be "Lucy that year" and lead a procession and songs in the church service.

In this darkest time of the year, and looking to the brightness of faith our children provide is indeed a blessing. But, relying too heavily on nostalgia can mean blocking out the brutal realities of this world. Realities that even children face. Just two weeks after the feast day of Saint Lucy will come December 28, the day we remember the slaughter of the innocents. The Gospel of Matthew lay bare the terror of Herod ordering the murder of all boys under the age of two in the greater Bethlehem area. Different Christian traditions have different numbers for how many children died by Herod's command, ranging from 20 to 144,000 children (and four other traditions with counts in between).

It's disorienting, looking at abstract numbers to represent the lives of children lost while kids play outside my window all bundled up in the sunshine. This is not a historic drama thousands of years in the past. Just two weeks ago, the number of children who have died this year in Gaza was at 3,700—the pictures and videos that have been shared are horrifying. That number has gone up since I started writing this two weeks ago, and as of November 14 the count has surpassed 4,500 children. What will it be by the time you are reading this newsletter? What will it be by Christmas? More than the number of innocents killed by Herod? Depending on who's counting...

Even if our hearts cannot bear to witness the horrors of the world, a safe way to stretch into this day of mourning would be to look up the original lyrics of "Coventry Carol", written as if a lullaby of another Bethlehem mother (not Mary) who is singing a goodbye to her child before he is found by Herod's soldiers.

It's Christmas time. That means in the midst of this horror, God comes down. God came down to be with us in this heartbreaking world. And we are reminded that "*the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does NOT overcome it*"—that doesn't mean we won't feel overcome sometimes. It means we know that it shouldn't be this way. It means we have a source of strength to pull from so we can push back with our own little lights. Hold them dearly, wear them as a crown, just don't let anyone blow them out.



Mark your calendars to save the dates for the following events in the Around the Cross Concert Series for 2023/24. Free admission. View all the concert offerings in the series at [HolyCrossChurch.org/atc](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/atc)

### **Christmas Party Hop**

**Date: Saturday, December 9**

**Time: 7:30 pm**

**Location: Fellowship Area**

Dale Tippett, Jr. and musicians from Holy Cross will offer a Christmas music party. Join us for an evening of classic holiday favorites and refreshments!

### **Chicagoland Voices**

**Date: Saturday, January 27**

**Time: 7:30 pm**

**Location: Sanctuary**

Chicagoland Voices was founded in 2011 by friends who have spent their lives teaching others to perform but rarely get the chance to sing for themselves. An auditioned choir based in Cary, Illinois, many of its singers are school music teachers and voice teachers in the area. They perform a wide variety of music from classical and Broadway to pop and vocal jazz.

### **The Gustavus Choir**

**Date: Friday, February 2**

**Time: 7:30 pm**

**Dinner with the Choir at 6:30 pm**

**Location: Sanctuary**

Established in 1932, the nationally renowned Gustavus Choir is the flagship choir in an active and highly integrated choral program that is comprised of nearly 300 students. Members of the choir are selected by audition and represent a broad spectrum of academic and life interests.



# Calling All Elves!

We need your help to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas



We will be handling Christmas decorations differently this year and we need some help to get the job done to make the sanctuary beautiful for Advent and Christmas. Our volunteer needs are as follows:

- Tuesday, December 5, 11 am** - retrieve, assemble, and decorate one large tree in gathering space (3)
- Tuesday, December 19, 11 am** - move creche figures and remaining decorations to gathering space (3)
- Wednesday, December 20, 11 am** - stage all decorations to allow for quick work on December 24. We will also set sanctuary lighting (4)
- Thursday, December 21, 11 am** - stage all decorations to allow for quick work on December 24. Continue setting sanctuary lighting (4)
- Sunday, December 24, following 10 am worship** - All hands on deck to help complete decorating by 1:30 pm. This will include finishing tree decoration, placing the creche, placing poinsettias and hanging the greens. Lunch will be provided. Any number of volunteers will all be most welcome!

Check your calendars and contact the church office at (847) 367-4060 to volunteer in the space that best fits your time and talents!

Many thanks to Chuck Allen and Deb Sherrock for spearheading this task.



## Help Turn Hunger Into Hope

by Emily Young



Less than a mile away from Holy Cross is the Libertyville location of Feed My Starving Children. Not only has Feed My Starving Children provided millions of meals to children in 111 countries around the world since the organization's formation in 1987, but it is one of the best volunteer experiences out there. Volunteers aged 5 and over and any ability levels can make a difference, as standing, heavy lifting, and seated jobs are all needed to pack and ship meals.

Holy Cross's partnership with Feed My Starving Children goes back many years, and the congregation was instrumental in helping the organization establish a permanent packing site in Libertyville, creating an enduring impact that continues to feed countless children worldwide. This partnership continues in 2023 with the establishment of a monthly pack for members of the Holy Cross community. Please join me on one or more days ahead to serve together!

- Monday, December 18 from 7 - 8:45 pm
- Wednesday, January 17 from 4:30 - 6:15 pm
- Saturday, February 3 from 11:30 am - 1:15 pm

To sign up for one or more group packing sessions, please contact me at [emily.young@allstate.com](mailto:emily.young@allstate.com)

New to Feed My Starving Children? Learn more about their mission at [fmsc.org](http://fmsc.org)



# Christmas Poinsettias

## 2023 Order Form

I/We would like to request a poinsettia placed at the altar on Christmas Eve at Holy Cross.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In celebration / memory

*(please circle one)*

of the following individual(s) or event:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 6" red poinsettia(s) at \$12 each

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Holy Cross Lutheran Church with "poinsettias" in the check memo line

**Order Due Date: Sunday, Dec 10**

Orders can also be placed online at

[bit.ly/poinsettia2023](http://bit.ly/poinsettia2023)



Poinsettias will be available for pick-up after the 10 pm Christmas Eve worship service or after the Christmas Day worship service on Monday, December 25.



## Incarnational Wonder

Ecumenical Advent Worship led by women in ministry

Wednesday, December 13  
 First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville  
 19 W. Maple Avenue  
 7 pm - Reception  
 7:30 pm - Worship

INCARNATIONAL

ECUMENICAL



ADVENT

WONDER

This lovely music-filled, contemplative Ecumenical Advent Worship service will be led by women in ministry from area churches at First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville.

The evening begins at 7 pm with a twinkly-lighted reception featuring treats in the social hall followed by worship at 7:30 pm in the chapel. All are welcome.

## American Red Cross Blood Drive

*Shake up your holiday tradition this year by giving blood.*

**Date:** Sunday, December 10  
**Time:** 9 am - 2 pm  
**Location:** Holy Cross  
 Basement  
**Register:** [bit.ly/ARC121023](https://bit.ly/ARC121023)



The American Red Cross of Illinois serves over 12.4 million people in 88 counties across Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri through a network of six chapters: Central Illinois, Greater Chicago, Illinois River Valley, Northwest Illinois, Quad Cities and West Central Illinois, and South Central Illinois. We're in our local communities every day, helping people prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Blood donors of all blood types are urgently needed to ensure patients at hospitals across the country continue to receive critical medical care. Please register. Walk-ins will also be accepted if space is available.



**American  
 Red Cross**

## Year End Gift Options to Consider

As we approach the end of the year, it's common for there to be questions about giving before the year ends. Whatever your situation is (traveling, limited services at Holy Cross, unclear financial picture), Holy Cross is happy to work with you to help you achieve your giving goals. Below are some options and timelines available to you:

- Give at one of the remaining worship services.
- Mail your check to Holy Cross, postmarked by Saturday, December 30.
- Contribute online at [donate.holycrosschurch.org](https://donate.holycrosschurch.org)
- Use your bank's bill pay system by Friday, December 29.
- If giving stock or funds managed by a broker, ask for a transfer to be completed by Friday, December 29. Contact Steve Oelschlager for instructions [Steve@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:Steve@holycrosschurch.org)
- Bring your gift to the church office by Friday, December 29. Due to the holiday schedule, if you choose to bring your gift to the church office, please call first to confirm that someone is here, or drop your gift into the locked portion of the brown mailbox.

We thank you for your continued support of God's ministries through Holy Cross. We would not be able to do what we do without people like you who generously give to our congregation.

## Multiply Your Impact Through Holy Cross and Minimize Taxes Too

If you are 70 1/2 years old or older, you have even more options to make a difference through Holy Cross while minimizing your taxes. You can give up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to a qualified organization like Holy Cross without having to pay income taxes on the money. This law no longer has an expiration date, so you are free to make annual gifts, this year, and well into the future.

Why consider this gift?

- Together through Holy Cross, we make significant ministries happen that benefit all ages, inside the congregation, inside Lake County, and around the world.
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for the year, your IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.

Please contact Steve Oelschlager to arrange your giving at this busy time of the year, or if you have any questions. Email to [Steve@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:Steve@holycrosschurch.org) or phone (847) 367-4060.





## Journey faith, discipleship, generosity

### Perceiving God at Work

by Steve Oelschlager

Do you see God at work, not just when you are attending worship, but throughout the week, in the morning, afternoon, and evening? Not just today but also in the past, with expectations to see God at work in the future? Not just out there, but at work through each of us including you? In his book *Love Wins*, Rob Bell writes this about God's life-giving power at work:

"There is an energy in the world, a spark, an electricity that everything is plugged into. The Greeks called it 'Zoe,' the mystics call it 'Spirit,' and Obi-Wan called it 'the Force.'

How does the sun give off that much energy and yet still regenerate itself at the same time? How do bees know to take that pollen from that flower over there and put it over here in this one? Why does my lawn have brown patches where I can't get the grass to grow, while five feet away grass grows through the cracks in the concrete in the driveway, grass much like the grass I wish would grow in those brown patches?

This energy, spark, and electricity that pulses through all of creation sustains it, fuels it, and keeps it going. Growing, evolving, reproducing, making more.

In many traditions, this energy is understood to be impersonal. Much like the Force in *Star Wars*, it has no name or face or personality. It's assumed to be indifferent to us. Our joy, meaning, and happiness are simply irrelevant. It does its thing; we do ours.

This is not, however, how things are explained in the creation poem that begins the Bible. In this poem, the energy that gives life to everything is called the "Word of God," and it is for us. God speaks... and it happens. God says it... and it comes into being. Before, it's chaotic and empty and dark. But then God speaks into that dark disorder radiant, pulsating life with all of its wonder and diversity and creativity. Order out of chaos. Life and light out of darkness and emptiness."

May we be ever aware of God's life-giving force, God with us, this Christmas, in the new year, and throughout our lives.

### Beware of Online Fraud (Phishing)!

We have recently become aware that scammers have again reached out to some of our members representing themselves as Holy Cross staff. This is a reminder that neither the pastors nor any other Holy Cross staff members will contact you via email or text to ask for your help to purchase gift cards or send money to any third parties.

Whenever there is any question about whether a request you have received is authentic, please call the church office first at (847) 367-4060 to verify the authenticity. Never reply to a suspicious email or click on any link in an email or text you receive unless you are certain where it has come from, even if it appears to have been sent by someone you know. It is always a safer practice to take the extra time to verify that any messages you receive are legitimate than to fall victim to cyber criminals attempting to take advantage of us, especially during the busy holiday season.

## PASTORAL ACTS

### BIBLE PRESENTATION

At every child's baptism, we promise to place the Holy Scriptures into their hands. On Sunday, November 12, Holy Cross presented Bibles to 3rd grade students. The students and their parents/guardians attended a Bible Basics program in advance of the presentations to become better acquainted with their Bibles.

If your child was unable to attend and did not yet receive a Bible from Holy Cross, please contact the church office to make arrangements to receive one at [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org) or (847) 367-4060.

### BAPTISMS

#### Jacob Tyler Penley

son of Tyler and Amanda Penley  
November 12, 2023

#### Athena Teresa Klein

daughter of Patrick and Jessica Klein  
November 18, 2023

## Visit the Olivewood Project Table for Christmas Shopping

by Patty Moyer

We will once again be offering items from The Olivewood Project for Christmas gift-giving. Please stop by the table in the gathering space to shop for olive wood carvings and unique gift items from Bethlehem and Jerusalem, including Christmas ornaments, jewelry, figurines, musical nativities, crosses, candlesticks, and kitchen utensils. **Items will be on sale in between worship services in the gathering space on Sunday, December 17.**

We are also happy to arrange for sales and pick-up at another time. Please contact Patty Moyer at (847) 502-3196 or at [patty@concertedsystems.com](mailto:patty@concertedsystems.com) or if you are interested in purchasing olivewood or helping with sales.

All money from your purchases is sent to a cooperative of Christian carvers in Bethlehem to help them support their families during these difficult times. Michael and Carmen Zoughbi, the founders of the cooperative, have visited Holy Cross several times to speak about life in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.



## A Moment of Gratitude

by Samantha Cooper-Tuttle

Director of CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare

The holiday season is a time of year that is eagerly awaited by people all over the world. It is a time when families and friends come together to celebrate and enjoy each other's company, sometimes after long periods of separation. The holiday season is marked by various festivities, including Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and others, each with unique traditions and customs. During this season, the streets, stores, and homes are adorned with colorful decorations, twinkling lights, and stunning displays. People exchange gifts, cards, and messages to convey love and gratitude to one another. The air is filled with the aroma of delicious food and baked treats that people savor with their loved ones.

This past month, we celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on our blessings and express gratitude for all the good things in our lives. It's a time to gather with family and friends, share a delicious meal, and enjoy each other's company. On November 15, that is precisely what our Early Childhood Ministries staff and families did. Each year, we provide a catered luncheon for our staff, students, and their families. On any given day of the year, our students eat meals and celebrate special days within the walls of their own classrooms. However, one day out of the year, we come together as a center to break bread and share a joyful experience. We share a traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey, potatoes, stuffing, green beans, and a dinner roll. With the help of our Pastor, the meal is blessed, and we are reminded of who and what we have to be thankful for. Some of my fondest memories come from our Thanksgiving Feast.

While the setup takes time, effort, and planning, the results are indescribable. It isn't easy to convey the feelings I have when surrounded by those important to me on such a meaningful day and being able to provide that feeling for those who attend. From the first moments of setting up the tables, I am overwhelmed with joy. In the hope of inspiring warm feelings in others while feasting, we take our time planning the event's details and presentation. As the space fills with hungry staff, students, and their families, one can easily see the chaos unfolding. Students are loud and excited, families are looking for seating and greeting one another, and staff are hard at work getting everything settled and organized. A whirlwind of activity occurs as food is served and guests connect with one another. Despite the hectic scene, I can feel the calm and gratitude building under the surface. As I look at the faces in the crowd, I'm filled with a sense of belonging and love. I can't help but feel lucky to know so many wonderful people in varying ways. Although the whole event is condensed into about one hour, the memories made will last a lifetime.

Thanksgiving is more than just a holiday; it's a reminder to be thankful every day for the simple things in life. Whether it's a warm meal, a roof over our heads, or the love of family and friends, we all have something to be grateful for. This Thanksgiving, take a moment to express your gratitude to those around you. Whether it's a heartfelt thank you to a loved one or a simple act of kindness to a stranger, your gratitude can make a difference in someone's life. Remember that gratitude is contagious, and your appreciation can inspire others to be thankful as well.



CrossWays  
Preschool

[crossways@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:crossways@holycrosschurch.org)  
(847) 367-4367  
[cpreschool.org](http://cpreschool.org)



Celebration!  
Childcare

[celebration@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:celebration@holycrosschurch.org)  
(847) 367-6208  
[cchildcare.org](http://cchildcare.org)





# Book Club

The Holy Cross Book Club is open to anyone who is interested in reading and discussing books and routinely meets the fourth Thursday of every month from January through October and the Thursday before Thanksgiving in November. The group now meets via a hybrid format with both Zoom and in person access available. Join from wherever you are or meet in person—your choice!

Our 2024 reading list is ready in time to add these books to our Christmas wish lists! See page 10 for details to join the Book Club meeting in January. If you have any questions, please email Felicia Brandt at [felicia.s.brandt@gmail.com](mailto:felicia.s.brandt@gmail.com)

## 2024 Book Club Selections

Thursday, January 25 – hosted by Jeri Powers  
***The First Ladies*** by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

Thursday, February 22 – hosted by Susan Williamson  
***The Train to Crystal City*** by Jan Jarboe Russell

Thursday, March 28 – hosted by Heidi Dinter  
***Cold Sassy Tree*** by Olive Ann Burns

Thursday, April 25 – hosted by Jeri Powers  
***Lessons in Chemistry*** by Bonnie Garmus

Thursday, May 23 – hosted by Felicia Brandt  
***The Long Goodbye*** by Raymond Chandler

Thursday, June 27 – hosted by Felicia Brandt  
***What's Gotten Into You*** by Dan Levitt

Thursday, July 25 – hosted by Susan Williamson  
***Remarkably Bright Creatures*** by Shelby Van Pelt

Thursday, August 22 – hosted by Nancy Joiner  
***The Little Paris Book Shop*** by Nina George

Thursday, September 26 – hosted by Kay Meyer  
***Birnam Wood*** by Eleanor Catton

Thursday, October 24 – Book Club Group meet to select 2025 book list.

Thursday, November 21 – hosted by Felicia Brandt  
***Land of Milk and Honey*** by C Pam Zhang



## Women's Ministry News

by Beth Ann Koenemann

### Reel & A Meal

**Date:** Sunday, January 28

**Time:** 11 am

**Location:** Fellowship Area

**Cost:** Free, lunch included.

**RSVP:** [bit.ly/RSVPWT](https://bit.ly/RSVPWT)



On January 28, the LIFT group will continue the women's retreat theme with the movie “Women Talking” and discuss how we can use our voice in our everyday relationships and the greater community. You didn't have to go to the retreat to benefit from this event, as a recap of the retreat's key points will be given.

Right after the 10 am worship service on January 28, we will meet for lunch, (which will be provided) at 11 am in the gathering space, and then we will watch the movie “Women Talking”, followed by a discussion led by Deaconess Katie. This movie is rated PG-13, but some scenes may be triggering for some. I encourage you to review the movie trailer at: [bit.ly/WTmovie](https://bit.ly/WTmovie) to get a better idea if it will be right for you.

**Please RSVP by Monday, January 22, so we can plan for food and drinks at [bit.ly/RSVPWT](https://bit.ly/RSVPWT)**

As always, if you RSVP by the 22nd, your name will be included in the “Thanks for your RSVP” raffle. We hope that you will be able to join us as we tie the retreat and this movie together to conclude how we can use our voice to connect with others and be heard.

### Packing Event



**Date:** Saturday, February 3

**Time:** 11:30 am

**Location:** Feed My Starving Children  
742 E. Park Avenue, Libertyville

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP:** [bit.ly/LIFTFMSC24](https://bit.ly/LIFTFMSC24)



The women of LIFT, in conjunction with the Holy Cross Feed My Starving Children Group, will be packing meals at FMSC in Libertyville on February 3 at 11:30 am.

This event is not just for women as it is open to the whole congregation, so bring your friends and/or family—All ages (5+) are welcome and invited to participate in this worthy event. We hope you can join us! To register, please visit [bit.ly/LIFTFMSC24](https://bit.ly/LIFTFMSC24)



**MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP**

TUESDAYS, DECEMBER 5, 12, 19 & 26 AT 7 - 8 AM

LOCATION: THE LIBERTY RESTAURANT, 419 S. MILWAUKEE AVE, LIBERTYVILLE

Begin the day with coffee, breakfast, fellowship, and thought-provoking and stimulating conversation. All men are welcome to join us.

Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at [pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org)



**SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP**

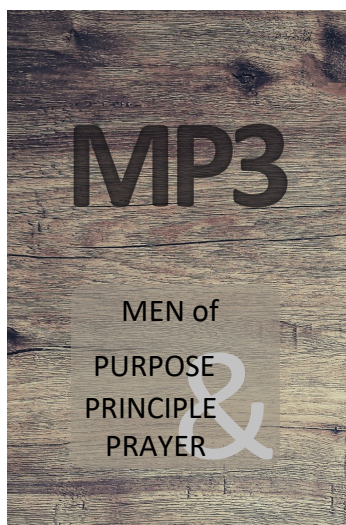
SATURDAYS, DECEMBER 9 & 23 AT 7 - 8:30 AM

LOCATION: IN-PERSON (ROOM 208) OR VIA ZOOM

 [holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/301891517](https://holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/301891517)

We will be continuing discussion of 'A' is for Alabaster: A Preacher's Alphabet, by Anna Carter Florence, the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and holds degrees from Yale University and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div. and Ph.D.). This new book brings winsome insight to an array of characters and stories in the Bible—some celebrated and some overlooked. Copies are available on the welcome center in the Fellowship Area. Please join us.

Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at [pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org)



**MP3: MEN OF PURPOSE, PRINCIPLE, & PRAYER**

THEME: SACRED MOMENTS

COST: FREE

**Men of Purpose, Principle & Prayer** is one of our men's ministries at Holy Cross. We meet on select Tuesday evenings for fellowship, food and conversation. The evenings begin with fellowship at 6 pm and conclude by 8:30 pm.

In 2024, we will be continuing the theme of "sacred moments". In Celtic spirituality there is the concept of 'thin places' where the everyday/ordinary moments intersect with the sacred/holy. We will explore this notion and how it actually presents itself in our life and faith journeys. The 2024 dates for continuation of this series finishing with **R** for relational, **E** for emptiness and **D** for deeper will be announced later.

Men (21+) are invited to attend for an evening of fellowship, food, music, and conversation. Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at [pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org)



**BOOK CLUB**

(NO DECEMBER MEETING)

The Holy Cross Book Club meets using a hybrid format of meeting in person and via Zoom on the fourth Thursday evening of each month from January through October and the Thursday before Thanksgiving in November.

We read various genres, including fiction, biography/memoir, nonfiction, mystery, cultural, historical and classics. Consider joining the group, if just for a book or two. If you have any questions, please email Felicia Brandt at [felicia.s.brandt@gmail.com](mailto:felicia.s.brandt@gmail.com). We take December off and will resume on Thursday, January 25 to discuss **The First Ladies** by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Look for the 2024 reading list on page 9.



**STRENGTH & CORE**

MONDAYS, DECEMBER 4, 11 & 18 AT 6 PM

LOCATION: CELEBRATION! CHILDCARE ATRIUM

To join this exercise group, please contact Jodi Zombolo at (224) 595-8573.



**HOLY CROSS CHOIR**

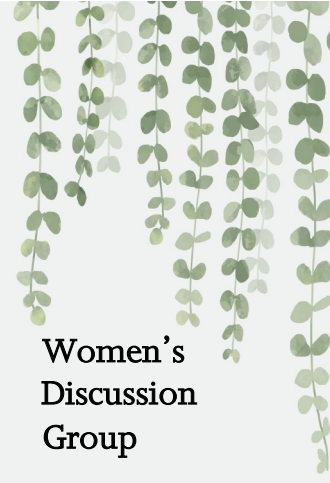
REHEARSALS: TUESDAYS, DECEMBER 5, 12 & 19 AT 7 PM

LOCATION: SANCTUARY

SING DURING WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 10 AT 10 AM, DECEMBER 17 AT 8 & 10 AM, AND DECEMBER 24 AT 4 PM.

We welcome singers of all ages to join the choir. For more information about joining, and to be added to the choir email list, contact Choir Director, Darrin Rose at [darrin@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:darrin@holycrosschurch.org)





## Women's Discussion Group

**WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP**  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 9:30 AM (NO SECOND MEETING IN DECEMBER)  
LOCATION: ROOM 208

*The Women's Discussion Group at Holy Cross meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month.*

The ongoing discussion topics are being taken from two books by Anna Carter Florence, *Rehearsing Scripture: Discovering God's Word in Community*, and her current book project, *'A' is for Alabaster: A Preacher's Alphabet*. Anna Carter Florence is the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and holds degrees from Yale University and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div. and Ph.D.). Before joining the Columbia faculty in 1998, Dr. Florence served as an associate pastor for youth and young adults at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

Copies of the books are available on the welcome center in the Fellowship Area. All women welcome.

Contact Pastor Chris at [pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org) with any questions.



**GROUNDING IN GRACE: FRIDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP**  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 6:30 - 9:30 PM  
LOCATION: TERRY BERGER'S HOUSE, 507 DRAKE STREET, LIBERTYVILLE

*Grounded in Grace is a social opportunity for women of faith to connect together in fellowship.*

Grounded in Grace will meet at Terry Berger's house for a no stress holiday get together. No need to dress up—come as you are! Bring a snack to share—or don't! It's an evening to laugh with friends—everything else is optional.

Contact Terry at [terryberger.08@gmail.com](mailto:terryberger.08@gmail.com) with questions or to be added to the Grounded in Grace Messenger group.



**PROJECT HEALING WATERS (PHW) FLY FISHING NORTH CHICAGO**

DAY SESSION: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

LOCATION: HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVENING SESSION: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT 7 - 9 PM

LOCATION: HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

We always welcome more volunteers to help with hospitality. If you would like to help in this way, please contact [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org)



**QUILTING GROUP**  
WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 6, 13, 20 & 27 AT 9 AM - 12 PM  
LOCATION: ROOM 404

We gather on Wednesdays to sew as a group. Completed quilts are donated to COOL Ministries for families residing in the Family Housing program or to Project Linus, an organization that provides blankets to comfort children who are seriously injured, traumatized, or in need.

Questions? Contact Deb Sherrock at [debs695@aol.com](mailto:debs695@aol.com) or (630) 267-7802.



**COMMON THREADS**  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 1 PM

We meet on the second Monday of most months in the Fellowship Area to knit, crochet and visit. No prior crafting experience necessary. Each blanket or shawl created is dedicated at a worship service and then presented to the prayer recipient. These pieces offer the healing power of prayer, crafted as an expression of God's love. Request a prayer blanket or shawl for a loved one by contacting the church office at [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org) Questions? Contact Judy Luplow at (847) 367-0242.



**HANDBELL CHOIR**  
REHEARSALS: THURSDAYS, DECEMBER 7 & 14 AT 7 PM  
LOCATION: BASEMENT  
PERFORM DURING WORSHIP: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 8 & 10 AM

We welcome all to join the Holy Cross Handbell Choir. If you can read music, you are in! Rehearsals are in the church basement on the first three Thursdays of each month.

Questions? Contact Beth Fashimpaur at [elizabeth.malecha@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.malecha@gmail.com)

# Sunday School

## The Journey to Christmas

by Deaconess Katie Freund



This month our journey leaves the Old Testament on our way to the manger!

Check in for Sunday School at 9:45 am in the Celebration! Childcare atrium.

### Sunday, December 3: Angels Visit

We'll learn the role of angels in declaring the coming Messiah! This Sunday School lesson will also include a rehearsal for all kids for the coming Christmas pageant.

### Saturday, December 9, 9:30 – 10:30 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Full rehearsal for speaking roles.

### Sunday, December 10: "Glory to God in the Highest" Christmas Pageant

We will need kids to arrive at 9:45 am so we have enough time to help them get ready for the pageant during the 10 am worship service.

### Sundays, December 17 - 31: No Sunday School - Christmas break

During the Christmas break, we're offering a chance for some intergenerational coloring during our coffee hour between the two services. All ages welcome!

We'll resume growing in faith for our children's faith formation on January 7, stepping into the New Testament and learning from the life and ministry of Jesus!

If you haven't registered your child(ren) aged 3 - 5th grade for Sunday School, please use this link: [bit.ly/sundayschool2324](https://bit.ly/sundayschool2324)



## Spring Shepherds

We need shepherds for the next leg of our journey!



The fall went beautifully! We are truly blessed with a vibrant community, and now we're asking parents to come join us for a few Sundays this spring. We have great kids, fun games, and clever crafts with all the supplies provided.

The spring Sunday School season will be held from January 7 to April 28. Some people can give a single Sunday, others sign up for a whole month at a time. Whatever works for you, we'd love to have you join us as we shepherd kids on their journey through the New Testament.

Sign up at this link: [bit.ly/shepherdsF23](https://bit.ly/shepherdsF23)



# Sunday School Christmas Pageant



Sunday, December 10 during the 10 am worship service.

This year our children's Christmas pageant's theme is "Glory to God in the Highest," a simple Christmas musical program with kids speaking parts and songs.

You'll hear some classic favorites as well as a song or two that you probably haven't heard before. The kids have been practicing and it's promising to be a great program with adorable angels. You won't want to miss it.



## CONFIRMATION

by Deaconess Katie Freund

Thank you to all of our families for all the hard work in kicking off our new confirmation program! Our first fall session was full and went even better than we could have hoped for.

If your student didn't participate in the fall, no worries. Each session is a self-contained series of six classes from start to finish. Details below for our next session this spring.

### Spring 2024 Session Dates:

**Registration & Orientation:** Sunday, February 4, 5 - 6 pm.  
Parents and students attend.

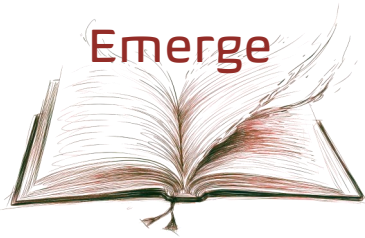
**Sessions 1 - 6:** Sundays, February 11, 18 & 25, March 3, 10 & 17  
from 5 - 8 pm, dinner provided.

**Affirmation of Baptism:** Sunday, March 24 at 10 am worship

The spring session schedule and more details can be viewed online at [HolyCrossChurch.org/confirmation](https://HolyCrossChurch.org/confirmation)

Questions? Contact Deaconess Katie at [deaconesskatie@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:deaconesskatie@holycrosschurch.org)





Fueling Curiosity, Nurturing Faith

Middle School Youth Group

by Edwin Andrade

Here's what's coming up for our *weekly events* in December. Each week will be focused on one of the following types of events:

**INVITE:** Join us for a fun event or outing and *INVITE* a friend!  
**NURTURE:** These are faith-formation events. We'll check in, explore a Bible story and pray.

- Sunday, December 3, 10 - 10:45 am - **Nurture Event**  
Faith Formation (Room 208)
- Sunday, December 10, Time TBD - **Invite & Nurture Event (Christmas Caroling)**, First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville (219 W. Maple Ave., Libertyville)
- Sunday, December 17, 10 - 10:45 am - **Invite Event**  
Christmas & White Elephant Party (Room 208)

As always, we'll share some snacks, check in with each other and with God! Friends are always welcome at any event!

Questions? Email Edwin at [edwin@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:edwin@holycrosschurch.org)  
 View more information at [HolyCrossChurch.org/emerge](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/emerge)

**December Happenings**

by Edwin Andrade

Our December calendar will be different than previous months. Last month, I had the opportunity to network and meet with other youth leaders from other churches in our local community, and we'll be collaborating as we move forward. First, we will be heading to First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville this month on December 10 from 6 - 8 pm for a short Bible Study, pizza, and games. Both of our youth groups, middle and high school are welcome to attend.

We will also have Christmas and White Elephant Parties for both our middle and high school youth groups on December 17. The price range for a Christmas gift should fall between \$10 - \$20. Additionally, we will also have a funny gift exchange, and that gift should be no more than \$5.

I want to highlight the Crossroads Serve Event we had in November at Timber Creek Park in Libertyville. We were assigned and given the opportunity to clean this local park. We even rescued a stray dog! I'm just messing, it belongs to one of the parents.



**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP**

by Edwin Andrade

Hey Crossroads! Here's what's coming up for our *weekly events* in December. Each week will be focused on one of the following types of events:

**INVITE:** Join us for a fun event or outing and *INVITE* a friend!  
**NURTURE:** These are faith formation events. We'll check in, explore a Bible story and pray.

Here are some dates to mark on your calendar:

- Sunday, December 3, 4 - 5:30 pm - **Nurture Event**  
Faith Formation (Room 208)
- Saturday, December 9, 8:30 - 11 am, **Gift Wrapping Fundraiser** during the Cookie Walk, (Fellowship Area)
- Sunday, December 10 - Time TBD - **Invite & Nurture Event (Christmas Caroling)**, First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville (219 W. Maple Ave., Libertyville)
- Sunday, December 17, 4 - 5:30 pm - **Invite Event**  
Christmas & White Elephant Party (Room 208)

As always, we'll share some snacks, check in with each other and with God! Friends are always welcome at any event!

Questions? Email Edwin at [edwin@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:edwin@holycrosschurch.org)  
 For more information about the Crossroads High School Youth Group, visit [HolyCrossChurch.org/crossroads](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/crossroads)



During this year's Cookie Walk on December 9, the Crossroads High School Youth Group will be offering a donation-based gift wrapping service from 8:30 to 11 am to raise funds for next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. You are invited to bring gift items from home to be wrapped or items purchased during the Cookie Walk. Gift wrap and gift tags will be provided. You may wait for gifts to be wrapped that morning, or pick up your wrapped gifts from the church office during the week of December 11. If you have any questions about this fundraiser, please reach out to Edwin Andrade at [edwin@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:edwin@holycrosschurch.org) or (502) 370-9572.

**Willow House**



Willow House provides free grief support groups to families who have lost a spouse/child and are actively parenting children ages 3 - 28. They also offer a Survivors of Suicide loss group (this group includes people with varying relationships to the person they lost to suicide). All family members are required to complete an intake process before attending a group. Willow House is available for consultation, as well as to offer additional resources depending on the individual/family's needs.

For details on specific programming, meeting dates and more information about Willow House, visit [willowhouse.org](http://willowhouse.org) or email [info@willowhouse.org](mailto:info@willowhouse.org)

**Volunteer Facilitator Training Opportunity**

Willow House will be holding Volunteer Facilitator Training in January in preparation to help support the monthly family peer grief support groups from February through May.

This training includes an experiential and guiding framework for understanding the grief and loss experience of children and families, a review of educational information and research on children's grief, and instruction on how to be an effective peer support group facilitator. There is a specific need for facilitators to assist with the Libertyville group.

To apply, please visit: [willowhouse.org/volunteer](http://willowhouse.org/volunteer)

**COOL Ministries**

by Jill McKeon



Thank you to all the extra donations in the month of November to honor Veteran's Day. COOL Ministries consistently has close to 100 veterans visiting the pantry every month. How wonderful it is to be able to provide essential items for them.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the gifts for Christmas for the families in the COOL Transitional Housing program. What a blessing it is to them all! It is amazing to see how the congregation always takes the tags within the first 1-2 weeks! How amazing!

Each day the pantry seems to see more and more people. This year we are on track to serving 10,000 more customers than last year. The need is real since the cost of living has increased so much this year. If you are thinking of making any year-end contributions, please consider COOL Ministries.

As always, food donations are always needed. Feel free to drop off any extra pantry items such as pasta, mac-n-cheese, canned vegetables, canned meat, cereal, and peanut butter at the donation box near the church office. Please check expiration dates.

You may donate online by visiting [donate.holycrosschurch.org](http://donate.holycrosschurch.org) or by scanning the code to the right. Thank you for your support.



If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. Jill McKeon at [jill.mckeon@att.net](mailto:jill.mckeon@att.net) or (847) 331-7908.



**Green Oaks  
Holiday Chorus**

*Benefit Concert for  
PADS of Lake County*

**Friday, December 15 at 7:30 pm**  
*Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Sanctuary*

The chorus will perform seasonal choral selections, popular Christmas songs and carols. This concert has just the right dose of Christmas cheer to get you and your family infused with Christmas spirit. No reservations or tickets required. The concert is free, but donations to PADS Lake County are appreciated. All welcome!



**"Would I rather put you on a pad  
or put you in a hotel?"**

- Allen Swilley Executive Director PADS Lake County

by Peg Chartier

I know where I'd rather lay my head. With an incredible government grant, PADS Lake County is now serving this community by placing clients into hotels instead of churches. Meeting them where they are and addressing their individual needs to overcome homelessness 24/7. Help from church partners is still greatly needed. The Holy Cross PADS Ministry Team has agreed to prepare and deliver 30 warm, individually packaged meals every 2nd and 5th Monday. We can always use more hands to make this happen, so please consider joining the PADS Ministry Team. This is also a wonderful opportunity for families to deliver and distribute meals to our friends living in Mundelein.

As always, we are grateful to be considered in your giving to Holy Cross to continue on our new path to helping PADS end homelessness in Lake County. Please use the QR code to help out this important ministry.



The PADS Ministry Team wishes all of you a blessed and joyful Christmas season.





# December

## Friday, December 1

6 pm BSA Lock-In, 402

## Saturday, December 2

5:30 pm First Saturday Evening Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary

## Sunday, December 3

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

9:45 am Sunday School, Celebration! Childcare Atrium

10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

## Monday, December 4

6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium

6:30 pm Willow House, Fellowship Area

## Tuesday, December 5

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

## Wednesday, December 6

9 am Quilting Group, 404

4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

## Thursday, December 7

7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 402

## Friday, December 8

11 am Cookie Walk Cookie Drop-Off, Fellowship Area

## Saturday, December 9

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208

8:30 am 15th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk, Fellowship Area

9:30 am Sunday School Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7:30 pm Around The Cross Concert Series: Christmas Party Hop, Fellowship Area

## Sunday, December 10

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

9 am Fellowship Coffee Hour, Fellowship Area

9 am American Red Cross Blood Drive, Basement

9:45 am Sunday School, Celebration! Childcare Atrium

10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

## Monday, December 11

1 pm Common Threads, Fellowship Area

6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium

6 pm Green Oaks Chorus Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7 pm BSA Troop 194 meeting, 404

## Tuesday, December 12

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

9:30 am Women's Discussion Group, 208

4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

## Wednesday, December 13

9 am Quilting Group, 404

11 am Project Healing Waters, Fellowship Area

4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

7 pm Project Healing Waters, Fellowship Area

7 pm Church Council, 208

## Thursday, December 14

7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 402

## Friday, December 15

7:30 pm Green Oaks Chorus Holiday Concert, Sanctuary

## Sunday, December 17

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

9:45 am Sunday School, Celebration! Childcare Atrium

10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

5:30 pm Blue Christmas Worship, Sanctuary

## Monday, December 18

11 am ECM Holiday Concert, Sanctuary

6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium

## Tuesday, December 19

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

## Wednesday, December 20

9 am Quilting Group, 404

4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

## Saturday, December 23

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208

## Sunday, December 24

### Christmas Eve

10 am Worship, Fellowship Area & Pre-recorded Message

4 pm Worship with Holy Communion & Candle Lighting, Sanctuary & livestream

8 pm Worship with Holy Communion & Candle Lighting, Sanctuary

10 pm Worship with Holy Communion & Candle Lighting, Sanctuary

## Monday, December 25

### Christmas Day

#### Church office closed

10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary

## Tuesday, December 26

#### Church office hours: 9 am - 1 pm

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

## Wednesday, December 27

#### Church office hours: 9 am - 1 pm

## Thursday, December 28

#### Church office hours: 9 am - 1 pm

## Friday, December 29

#### Church office hours: 9 am - 1 pm

## Sunday, December 31

### New Year's Eve

10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary

## Monday, January 1, 2024

#### Church office closed

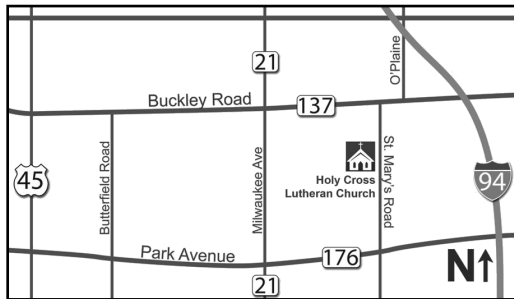
*Happy New Year*



**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 1151 N SAINT MARY'S RD  
 LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048-1575

Postmaster: Request in home by **December 1**

Non-Profit Org.  
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 Libertyville, IL  
 Permit No. 14





### Christmas Party Hop

**Date:** Saturday, December 9  
**Time:** 7:30 pm  
**Location:** Fellowship Area

Dale Tippett, Jr. and musicians from Holy Cross will offer a Christmas music party. Join us for an evening of classic holiday favorites and refreshments.

*See page 4 for additional concert dates.*

**Around the Cross**  
 CONCERT SERIES

## Blue Christmas

**Sunday, December 17 at 5:30 pm**

*A reflective service to ease lament and provide hope. More on page 2.*



### Cookie Walk

**Date:** Saturday, December 9  
**Time:** 8:30 - 11 am  
**Cost:** \$10 per pound



*Raffles 🍪 Ornaments 🍪 Gifts*

Choose from dozens of homemade cookies and candies! Enter to win raffle prizes including a traditional gingerbread house. All proceeds benefit The Tree of Life, Panther's Clothes Closet, and The Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud.

*Details on page 3.*

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

<b>FIRST SATURDAY EVENING</b> December 2 at 5:30 pm	<b>SUNDAYS</b> December 3, 10, 17 8 & 10 am	<b>SUNDAY</b> December 24 at 10 am	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Monday, December 25 at 10 am
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> Sunday, December 24 4, 8 & 10 pm	<b>SUNDAY</b> December 31 10 am		