

HAPPENINGS

December 1-8, 2024

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WELCOME GUESTS AND MEMBERS – Welcome to the Lord’s House. God bless you as you hear the Good News today of His unconditional love! Jesus promised wherever two or three are gathered in His name, His presence is there. Jesus is here! We pray and know He will bless you with faith, hope, and love for your daily life through His Word and Spirit! If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to one of our ushers or greeters.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Christmas program will be **Sunday, December 15th** during the worship service. Bonnie Nowak has once again shared her writing

expertise by writing, "The Story of Joseph". We will practice on Saturday mornings, December 7 & 14. at 10:00 am and early elementary at 11:00 am.

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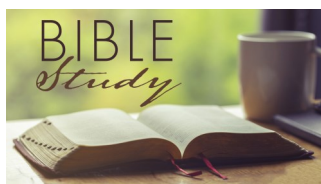


LIGHT UP OUR CHURCH! It’s that time of year again. We have all enjoyed how beautiful our church looks, and what a beacon it is, when it is lit up for the holiday season. We have been able to accomplish this in the past through your generous contributions. We will once again have a free will offering basket available at the end of services if you would like to contribute. Thank you for your support!

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SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us every Sunday at 10:15 am after the service.



PASTOR GADE'S APPRECIATION BRUNCH Pastor Gade will give his last sermon at Holy Cross on **Sunday, December 29th**. He first came to Holy Cross in February of 2021 and then became our Vacancy pastor that April. We will be recognizing his faithful service, of almost three years, to Holy Cross with a brunch following the worship service. There will be a signup to help and for brunch food. Please share how he has blessed you in a card, note, or tell him. We have also enjoyed his humor. Perhaps a "Roast" is in order!!

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CHRISTMAS WITH DIGNITY

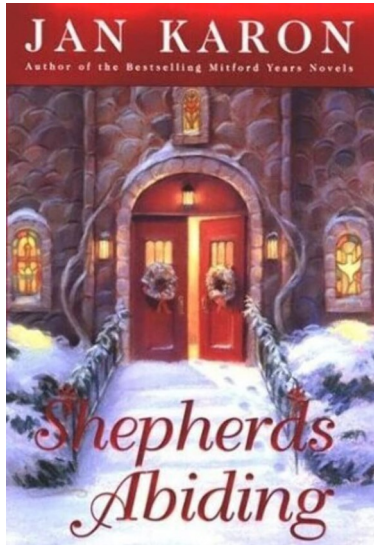
Hospitality House Youth Development (HHYD) will host Christmas with Dignity this year on **December 13th**. Last year, Holy Cross was amazing with the amount of gifts donated! So that HHYD can prepare for the many donations of items collected, **our deadline for collecting is TODAY, Sunday December 1st**. A list of gift ideas has been posted by the red HHYD collection box. Take a picture of it for a handy reference or you can go to hhyd.org/christmas to print it.

PASTOR MARC ENGELHARDT'S INSTALLATION

Pastor Marc's installation will be the afternoon of **Sunday, January 5th**. A dessert reception will follow the installation service. Further details will be shared in the Happenings.



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BIBLE BOOKENDERS

If you are someone who likes to plan ahead, get a copy of Jan Karon's book, *Shepherds Abiding*. It would be a great read for the first snowstorm, and it is the selection of Bible Bookenders book for **January 28th**. The story centers around a nativity set that Father Tim finds. It is in poor condition,

and even though he isn't the artist in the family, he decides to paint and repair the pieces himself. The story, of course, includes the Mitford characters we all love. This is the eighth book in the Mitford series and a nod to Karon's 30th anniversary this year. Any questions may be directed to Michele Lein or Bonnie Nowak.

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TIME OF GRACE connects people to God's grace—his love, glory, and power—so they realize the temporary things of life don't satisfy. However, through Jesus we have access to the eternal God—right now and forever. Subscribe to Time of Grace resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. You will receive daily devotion emails with "Grace Moments" written devotions and "Grace Talks" video devotions. Pastor Mike Novotny, The Core, Appleton, WI, KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am www.timeofgrace.org



PRAYER REQUESTS As a community of faith, we are called to lift each other up in prayer and support. We invite you to share your prayer requests with us so that we can pray together as a church family. Whether you have personal concerns, joys, or challenges weighing on your heart, we are here to pray with you. Your requests can be submitted confidentially through email at megan@holycross-pl.org or given to Pastor Gade. Let us join in prayer, knowing that together, we can make a difference through the power of prayer.



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December 1

Steve & Dorene Oak

December 22

Joy & James Anderson

December 8

Randy & Nancy Baldwin

December 29

Charlie & Donna Vig

December 15

Shari Schulze

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The volunteer schedule for January to April of 2025 will be coming out in a few weeks. We'd love to have some more volunteers to add to the list! If you're interested in volunteering for Lector, Usher, Acolyte, Audio/Video, or Offering Counting please let Megan know and she can get you on the schedule, and also find someone to train you in. Your help is greatly appreciated!



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PLEASE SUBMIT ALL HAPPENINGS ARTICLES BY 10 AM WEDNESDAY TO megan@holycross-pl.org



MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

December 4, 11, and 18th at 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

December 24 at 4:00 pm
December 25 at 9:00 am

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CHRISTMAS TOGETHER CONCERTS

Steven C presents his 8th annual series of "Christmas Together" Concerts at the majestic Cathedral of Saint Paul. Talk to Carol or Dave Albrecht about carpooling. They have a group going on Friday and Saturday. Get your tickets today! <https://stevencmusic.com>



Concert Dates/Times:

December 12 & 13 - 7:00 pm | December 14 - 11:00 am

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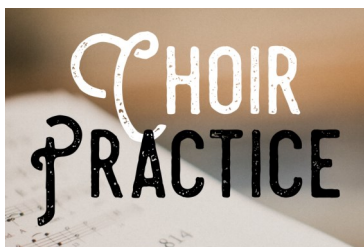
THE INFORMATION CENTER

is located at the main entrance of the church. There are a variety of items for you to take home or share with a friend. Prayer request forms

are available too. Please sign the guest book if you are visiting today. Thank you!

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CHOIR PRACTICE will be on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm December 4th to 18th. Then will move back to Thursdays at 7:00 pm. New members are welcome!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Dinah Gilberts December 4
- Ben Huston December 7
- Mui Cheng December 9
- Earl Drangstveit December 9
- Karly Oak December 19
- Jason Kruse December 20
- Lois Helms December 25
- Carol Albrecht December 26
- Bo Brunner December 28
- Nivedita Fulbert December 30



- DEC 3** Elder's Meeting
- DEC 4** Advent Midweek 1
- DEC 9** Church Council
- DEC 11** Advent Midweek 2
- DEC 15** Christmas Play
- DEC 18** Advent Midweek 3
- DEC 24** Christmas Eve Worship
- DEC 25** Christmas Day Worship
- DEC 29** Pastor Gade Appreciation Brunch
- JAN 5** Pastor Engelhardt's Installation/Reception
- JAN 7** Elder's Meeting

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DECEMBER 1 "Do you ever doubt the love of God? Perhaps you are just 'looking for love in all the wrong places,' if you'll pardon the expression. Don't look to your own feelings and emotions which can change with the wind, but look to Bethlehem and the manger. See God's love in this that His only begotten Son was sent to be humbled and to die for you. Understand that at Christmas 'God so loved the world that He gave ...'" *Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

SUNDAY

1 9:00 am Worship
10:15 am Bible Study
10:15 am Sunday School

MONDAY

2 6:00 pm IFC

TUESDAY

3 8:00 am Bible Study
7:00 pm Elder's Meeting

WEDNESDAY

4 10:00 am Happenings Articles Due
7:00 pm Advent Midweek 1
8:00 pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY

5

FRIDAY

6

SATURDAY

7

SUNDAY

8 9:00 am Worship
10:15 am Bible Study
10:15 am Sunday School



VACANCY PASTOR GADE'S church hours are **Monday and Tuesday, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm.** Other times can be arranged, call 763-333-5896.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated weekly. Our belief and practice is Confessional. Jesus clearly teaches He is truly present in His supper in the bread and wine. We



receive miraculously, in the gift of faith, His true body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. If this is your confession and you have been baptized and confirmed in our church body, please commune with us. If you have questions about communing, please wait to commune until receiving instruction in one of our communion classes. Thank you. **Note: Communion Kits are available, if needing one please contact Pastor.**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

All children are welcome to join us at 10:15 am for Sunday School! Testament, soon to

be focusing on the birth of Jesus with the early elementary. Thank you for your willingness to work with our children.

SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, DECEMBER 1

ELDER: Doug Brunner
LECTOR: Ben Woltmann
USHER: Jason Kruse
ACOLTYE: Tate Kruse
AV: Eric Brown
OFFERING: Wendy Fitzwater & Joyce Drenckhahn

SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, DECEMBER 4

ELDER: Dave Albrecht
LECTOR: Carol Albrecht
USHER: Eric Brown
ACOLTYE: Daniel Vannett
AV: Michael Schumacher
OFFERING: Carol Albrecht & Pam Hunter

SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, DECEMBER 8

ELDER: Dennis Waderich
LECTOR: Lance Lerum
USHER: Steve Oak
ACOLTYE: Daniel Vannett
AV: Dinah Gilberts
OFFERING: Dave Albrecht & Denny Case

SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, DECEMBER 11

ELDER: Doug Brunner
LECTOR: Dinah Gilberts
USHER: Lance Lerum
ACOLTYE: Tate Kruse
AV: Eric Brown
OFFERING: Wendy Fitzwater & Joyce Drenckhahn

ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

WORSHIP: 44 | BIBLE STUDY: 9 | SUNDAY SCHOOL: 4



14085 Pike Lake Trail NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 • Phone: 952-445-1779
Music & Choir Director: Mui Cheng • Praise Band: Nathan Hentges & Greg Albrecht
Office Ministry Assistant: Megan Luckfield • Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Dean Gade