

# HAPPENINGS

**December 15-22, 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.



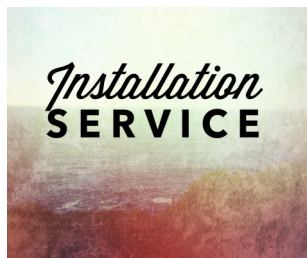
**PASTOR GADE'S APPRECIATION BRUNCH** Pastor Gade will give his last sermon at Holy Cross on **Sunday, December 29th**. He first came to Holy Cross in February of 2021 and then became our Vacancy pastor that April. We will be recognizing his faithful service, of almost three years, to Holy Cross with 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!!

**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](http://www.timeofgrace.org)



**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.



**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!



**COMMUNION WINE** Did you know that Viking Liquor in downtown Prior Lake has been providing our communion wine to us free of charge? So, as you are planning your holiday celebrations, you may wish to stop in to Viking Liquor to purchase your liquid refreshments. While you’re there, please make sure to tell John (the manager) “Thank You” for supporting our congregation in this wonderful way over the years.



**ARE YOU A GIVER OR A GETTER?**

Reading, listening to or studying the bible is like looking into a mirror (James 1:23-24). The longer you look at yourself the



more you see and get a clear view of yourself. When it comes to the act of giving, a lot of us should spend a lot of time looking into that mirror. As wealthy Americans, many of us have spent our lives in "the pursuit of happiness" or should I say, "Working so we can get more stuff." We buy and consume way more than we need or deserve and if we're not careful we'll fall into the snare of perpetual consumerism. 1 Timothy 6:6-19 warns those of us who have been blessed materially that "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (v.10) and to beware lest we fall into temptation and perdition, straying from the faith because of our greediness. If we have food on the table and clothes on our backs we are to be content because "godliness with contentment is great gain." (v.6) Godliness includes being rich in good deeds, ready to give and willing to share our blessings with others. (v. 18)

God has always wanted His people to show benevolence to those in need. He included instructions for helping the poor in the Law of Moses (Deuteronomy 15:7-11) and continues those directions into the Christian age. Not only are we to give an offering from the heart to the church each week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) but as we have opportunity, do good to all people all of the time. (Galatians 6:10). Jesus assured us that if we give it will be given back to us and with the amount we give, we'll be blessed with as much so that we can give again (Luke 6:38). Therefore, let us always be givers rather than getters.

Jay Launius – 2021 Maud church of Christ Maud, Texas

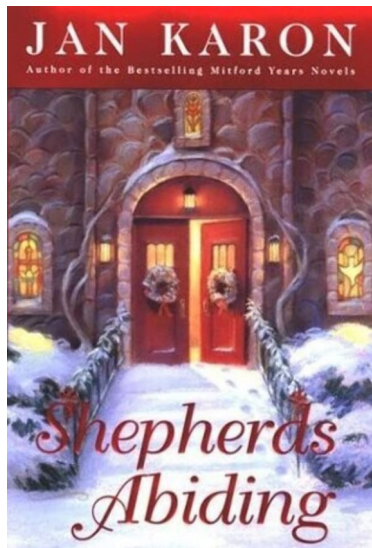
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**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL HAPPENINGS ARTICLES BY 10 AM WEDNESDAY TO [megan@holycross-pl.org](mailto:megan@holycross-pl.org)**

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**"READERS" FOR HAITI** Thank you to all who donated! 43 pairs of eye glasses and 18 bottles of eye drops were shipped to Michigan.



**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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**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](mailto: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 15**  
Shari Schulze

**December 29**  
Charlie & Donna Vig

**December 22**  
Joy & James Anderson





**MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES**

December 18 at 7:00 pm

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES**

December 24 at 4:00 pm

December 25 at 9:00 am

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*Life* QUOTES

**DECEMBER 15** "Who is going to be king? Christ or Herod? Christ or I? Every day we make dozens of decisions which either acknowledge Christ's lordship or which assert our own. The star of the Magi reminds the Christian that he has a gracious King to whom he can, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, submit his will and live. By His word Christ desires to reign in our hearts through faith!" *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

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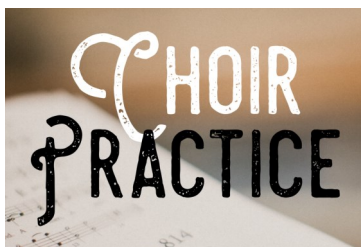
**THE INFORMATION CENTER**

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

**UPCOMING**

- 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
- JAN 13** Church Council
- JAN 26** Voter's Meeting
- JAN 28** Bible Bookenders

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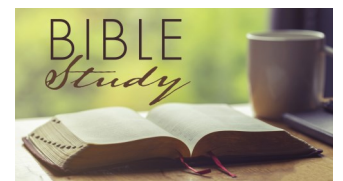
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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.

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**SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY**  
Join us every Sunday at 10:15 am after the service.



# THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

## SUNDAY

**15** 9:00 am Worship / Christmas Program  
 10:15 am Bible Study  
 10:15 am Sunday School

## MONDAY

**16** 6:00 pm IFC

## TUESDAY

**17** 8:00 am Bible Study

## WEDNESDAY

**18** 10:00 am Happenings Articles Due  
 7:00 pm Advent Midweek 2  
 8:00 pm Choir Practice

## THURSDAY

**19**

## FRIDAY

**20**

## SATURDAY

**21**

## SUNDAY

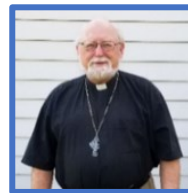
**22** 9:00 am Worship  
 10:15 am Bible Study  
 10:15 am Sunday School

**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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**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.

### SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, DECEMBER 15

**ELDER:** Dave Albrecht  
**LECTOR:** Michele Lein  
**USHER:** Steve Oak  
**ACOLTYE:** Daniel Vannett  
**AV:** Rostina Vannett  
**OFFERING:** Carol Albrecht & Pam Hunter

### SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, DECEMBER 18

**ELDER:** Dennis Waderich  
**LECTOR:** Robert Nowak  
**USHER:** Denny Case  
**ACOLTYE:** Tate Kruse  
**AV:** Michael Schumacher  
**OFFERING:** Dave Albrecht & Denny Case

### SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, DECEMBER 22

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

### SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, DECEMBER 24

**ELDER:** Dave Albrecht  
**LECTOR:** Robert Nowak  
**USHER:** Jason Kruse  
**ACOLTYE:** Tate Kruse  
**AV:** Eric Brown  
**OFFERING:** Carol Albrecht & Pam Hunter

**ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

**WORSHIP: 62 | BIBLE STUDY: 14 | SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10**



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