

# HAPPENINGS

December 22-29, 2024

[www.holycross-pl.com](http://www.holycross-pl.com) • [www.facebook.com/holycrosspl](https://www.facebook.com/holycrosspl)

**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 MARC ENGELHARDT'S INSTALLATION

Pastor Marc's installation will be the afternoon of **Sunday, January 5th at 3:00 pm.** A dessert reception will follow the installation service. Further details will be shared in the Happenings.



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## THE STORY OF JOSEPH

What a wonderful Christmas program we experienced and enjoyed last Sunday! A huge thank you to EVERYONE involved; Bonnie Nowak for writing the story of Joseph and Sheri Brunner for directing and staging. Dorene Oak and Wendy Fitzwater stepped in to keep everything on track on the day of the program, which was huge. Thank you! And of course, thank you to all the participants in the story of Joseph, from the youngest to the adults. Everyone did a great job! Bravo!!

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**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 is a signup to help and for brunch food, please check it out. And 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!!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

There will be no Sunday School today or on December 29th. Have a blessed Christmas and we will see you in the new year on January 5th.





**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES**

December 24 at 4:00 pm  
December 25 at 9:00 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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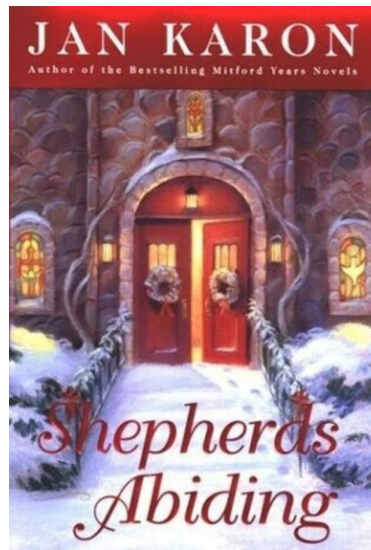
**TIME OF GRACE** connects people to God's grace—his love, glory, and power—so they realize the temporary things of life don't satisfy. However, through Jesus we have access to the eternal God—right now and forever. Subscribe to Time of Grace resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. You will 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)



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



**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 22**  
Joy & James Anderson

**December 29**  
Charlie & Donna Vig



**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.

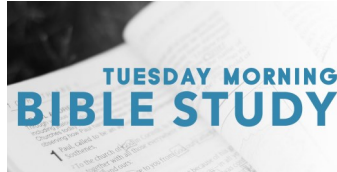


**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 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

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

There is no Bible Study December 24 or 31st. Join us again on Tuesday, January 7 from 8:00-9:00 am. All are welcome!



*Life* QUOTES

**DECEMBER 22** "Merry Christmas! And may the certainty of God's love for you in Jesus Christ give you strength, comfort, and confidence this day to face whatever comes tomorrow. For, nothing can overpower the persevering power and blessing of Christmas." *Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**UPCOMING**

- DEC 24** Christmas Eve Worship
- DEC 25** Christmas Day Worship
- DEC 29** Pastor Gade Appreciation Brunch
- JAN 5** Pastor Engelhardt's Installation
- JAN 7** Elder's Meeting
- JAN 13** Church Council
- JAN 26** Voter's Meeting
- JAN 28** Bible Bookenders

Welcome to Holy Cross



**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!



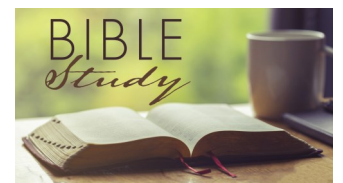
**SUNDAY SCHOOL** All children are welcome to join us at 10:15 am for Sunday School! Testament, soon to

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



**NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING** Registration for the 2025 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans is now open. Go to their website for all the details. <https://www.lcmsgathering.com/registration>

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



**ENDURE**  
2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING  
HEBREWS 12:1-3

# THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

## SUNDAY

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

## MONDAY

**23** 6:00 pm IFC

## TUESDAY

**24** 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

## WEDNESDAY

**25** *Merry Christmas*  
9:00 am Christmas Worship

## THURSDAY

**26**

## FRIDAY

**27**

## SATURDAY

**28**

## SUNDAY

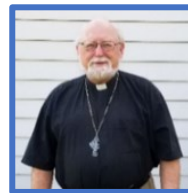
**29** 9:00 am Worship  
10:15 am Bible Study  
10:15 am Sunday School

**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 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

### SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, DECEMBER 25

**ELDER:** Dennis Waderich  
**LECTOR:** Ben Woltmann  
**USHER:** Lance Lerum  
**ACOLTYE:** Daniel Vannett  
**AV:** Michael Schumacher  
**OFFERING:** Wendy Fitzwater & Joyce Drenckhahn

### SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, DECEMBER 29

**ELDER:** Doug Brunner  
**LECTOR:** Joy Anderson  
**USHER:** Steve Oak  
**ACOLTYE:** Daniel Vannett  
**AV:** Dinah Gilberts  
**OFFERING:** Dave Albrecht & Denny Case

**ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**

**WORSHIP: 68 | BIBLE STUDY: 12 | SUNDAY SCHOOL: 11**



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