

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

1918 Garfield Street, Beatrice, NE 68310, Phone: 402-228-3172

E-mail: holycrosselcabeatrice@gmail.com, Website: holycrossbeatrice.com

Pastor: Kathee Forrest (kathee.forrest@gmail.com)

Administrative Secretary: Sandy Mahler (smahleris@gmail.com)

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., T, TH, F.

Organist: Nadine Hibbert Choir Director: Karen Jobman

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

"Inspired by the Holy Spirit to Serve"

Shared values of our Worshiping Community are:

Community + Generosity + Hospitality + Fellowship

"GO and ... BE PRESENT"



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturdays — 6:00 p.m.

Contemporary Worship

Sundays — 9:00 a.m. Worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays — 10:15-11:00 a.m. Faithbuilders for all 3 year olds through Confirmation class. No Faithbuilder classes on Dec. 24 or Dec. 31

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education meets Sunday mornings following worship, 10:30-11:15, Dec. 3, 10, 17 and 31, Grab some coffee and join us! (*see page 3 for details*)



POINSETTIAS:

Poinsettias for this year are being ordered. If you wish to order one in memory or honor of someone, please sign the sheet in the narthex, call the church office at

402-228-3172 or email Sandy at smahleris@gmail.com. Blossom Khardt will deliver them at a cost of \$18.00. You can leave your \$18.00 in an envelope marked with "Poinsettia" and your name in the offering plate.
DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS SUNDAY.



Dec.—Twelve Days of Giving

Dec.—Caring and Sharing Tree

Dec. 6—Midweek Advent Worship

Dec. 13—Midweek Advent Worship

Dec. 20—Advent Soup, Salad & Bread Meal

Dec. 20—Longest Night Worship Service

Dec. 24—Interactive Christmas Pageant

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Dec. 25—Christmas Day Worship

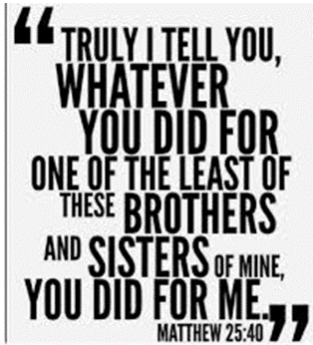
(See inside for details and a complete Advent/Christmas worship and event schedule.)

FAITHFUL SOUNDS

The Holy Cross choir has been renamed! They will now be called "Faithful Sounds!" Faithful Sounds fellowship will be held Sunday, December 3. Please join for Christmas cookies, coffee and, of course, fellowship following our church service! There will be a free will offering with funds going toward choir music.

CROSSROADS+

An Advent Walk with our Neighbors – Los Compañeros



It's Advent, one of my favorite times of the church year, as we wait and hope and long for the coming of Christ and ponder how we live out being CHRISTians. Little by little I am learning more about the newly arrived immigrants and refugees in Beatrice.

Los Compañeros is an ecumenical organization in Beatrice with a mission to walk with, welcome, and support them with basic needs as they become part of our community. What better way to live out Matthew 25:35-40?

First Mennonite Church and St. John Lutheran have been walking alongside families from Spanish-speaking countries such as Cuba and Nicaragua. The needs are great: setting up households, enrolling children in school, getting to appointments in Lincoln for immigration hearings when they do not have a car and cannot get a driver's license, all while learning the very-complicated English language.

While many in the community have been involved in assisting the families, there is a huge need for a Spanish-speaking volunteer to coordinate the efforts – put people and resources together. But there is so much that can be done, even for those who don't speak Spanish. Several couples from the Mennonite Church have adopted families and use Google translate to help with conversations. I used this Google App to talk to a man from El Salvador at a dinner fundraiser hosted by St. John. It was amazing!

Just recently, Connie Harmon from First Presbyterian took on the position of "Newcomer Furniture Coordinator." If you or anyone you know has household items they no longer use, call or text Connie. Below is a list of needed items.

- Bed frames, box springs, platform stands, mattresses – new or recently purchased
Bedding – sheets, towels, blankets
- Pots, pans, skillets, cooking utensils, plates, bowls, cups, glasses, silverware
Mixing bowls, dish clothes, hot pads
- Basic furniture: Chairs, coffee/end tables, kitchen table and chairs
- Microwave

Holy Cross will be collecting noisy offering the last weeks of November and December which will go to help our newly arrived neighbors. There are many reasons these families have found their way to the United States and it's very complicated. But leaving a home they love because the cost of staying there is deadly is one of the biggest reasons. Immigrants from Nicaragua and El Salvador are currently on Temporary Protected Status through July 5, 2025. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1990, temporary protected status (TPS) is a program that allows migrants whose home countries are considered unsafe the right to live and work in the United States for a temporary, but extendable, period of time.

How can we at Holy Cross help our newly arrived Spanish-speaking neighbors?

In Christ's Mission that we share,
Pastor Kathee



FIRST COMMUNION:

Congratulations to Lucas Vogel and Bentley Wolken who received First Communion on Sunday, November 12!



MIDDLE SCHOOL GATHERING JANUARY 13-14, 2024

Leaning into the Nebraska Synod Go and... January theme of Go and...Rest, MSG 2024 invites middle schoolers to explore what it means to rest. How can one be grounded as a whole person despite the busyness of everyday life, find rest, and pause for prayer? MSG 2024 a time to come together to serve, learn, worship and make new friends. Middle schoolers are invited to attend MSG 2024 at Sheridan Lutheran Church as a group with Pastor Kathee. For more information please contact Pastor Kathee before December 15 for registration information.

CONFIRMATION CLASS SERVANT

PROJECTS: The HCLC Confirmation Class delivered all the food items collected at Holy Cross for the Thrivent Food Shelf Challenge to the Wymore Food Pantry on November 29. They will also shop for Angel Tree gifts with a Thrivent Action Team grant sponsored by Larry and Nadine Hibbert on December 6th. Thank you Holy Cross for helping support these young people.



Our last day of Sunday School for 2023 is December 17. We will resume on January 7.

This year, the Children's Christmas Program

will be part of our Interactive Worship on Sunday morning, December 24, at 9:00 a.m. All Faithbuilder kids (and their parents) are invited to be part of the Interactive Christmas Pageant on that morning. See page 4 for more details.



Sunday Morning Adult Study

Where and how do you

encounter God? God, through the prophet Isaiah, urges us to take comfort, trusting that "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it

together" (Isaiah 40:5) At a time when our world bears the wounds of conflict, hunger and disaster, it can be challenging to uncover where and how God is at work. Yet we know in faith that God is actively working in the world: transforming, reconciling, sustaining and inciting us to ever-greater acts of justice and mercy.

The first 3 Sundays in Advent, we will reflect on our biblical ancestors, waiting for the coming of the Messiah as they, too, longed for God to be revealed. You are invited to join this study, brought to us by ELCA World Hunger, as we discern together the ways we encounter the living God today.

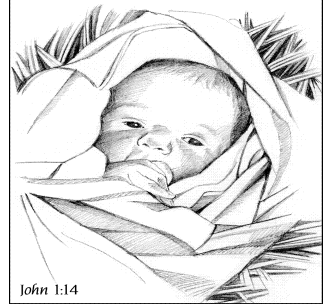
INFORMATION DEADLINES

If you are involved with anything that needs to be in a bulletin or newsletter in the next few months, please get it to Sandy as far ahead as possible. The months ahead will be busy and full, so the sooner we have your information, the better! **Bulletin items are always due by Tuesday noon.** (Items for Dec. 16/17, 23/24, and 30/31 bulletins are due by Dec. 12) **January newsletter items are due Friday morning, Dec. 8, and Annual Report items are due Tuesday morning, Jan. 2.**

You can leave your items at the church office or e-mail them to smahleris@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your timely reports!

SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS
2023 ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON

*The Word became flesh and
made his dwelling among us.*



You are invited to pause and breathe deeply during what can be a very hectic time of year by joining us at Holy Cross for Mid-Week Advent Worship. This year we will continue with the Go and...themes we have been exploring with others in the Nebraska Synod: Go and...Be Present and Pause

Wednesday, December 6.

6:30-7:15 p.m.— Midweek Advent Service. In the tradition of storytelling and being present this Advent season, we will take a moment in the busy days around Advent and hear the story given by Luke 1:1-80. Relax and share with our church family the vibrant story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, and their son John. Our storyteller for Dec. 6 and 13 will be Kevin Tranmer.

Wednesday, December 13.

6:30-7:15 p.m.— Midweek Advent Service. The story from Luke 1:1-80 continues.

Wednesday, December 20

5:00 p.m.—Advent Soup, Salad and Bread Meal—Pastor Kathee invites you for soup, salad, and French bread before our Longest Night worship service

6:30-7:15 p.m.— Midweek Advent Service. “Go and...Be Present on the Longest Night”
While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, loneliness, unemployment, Covid-19 and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. We come together on this longest night of the year seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

Saturday, December 23

4:00 p.m.—Prepare Green Bean Casseroles for Community Christmas Dinner (please sign sheet in narthex if you would like to help)

Sunday, December 24

A Surprise this Christmas Eve! This year we have the wonderful opportunity for two services on Christmas Eve because it falls on Sunday, December 24th!

9:00 a.m.—Interactive Christmas Pageant

An Interactive Christmas Pageant for everyone with Holy Communion, Carols and Luke's Christmas Story! At worship on Christmas Eve morning, there is an opportunity for all (children and adults) to choose to be part of the Christmas story with simple “costumes” and no lines to memorize. Luke's Gospel will guide us through the story of the birth of the Christ child.

5:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

Monday, December 25

10:00 a.m.—Christmas Day Worship Service with Holy Communion

Saturday/Sunday, December 30-31—Lessons and Carols

6:00 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 30

9:00 a.m., Sunday, December 31

(See page 5/6 for Caring and Sharing Tree and Twelve Days of Giving details)



CARING AND SHARING TREE—A Holy Cross tradition of Generosity.

This year you will find some wonderful opportunities for caring and sharing with CASA families, as well as giving to the ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts Program and Clinic with a Heart Free Store. Take an ornament off the tree, purchase your item or gift card and return it to the containers by the tree and/or your donation for ELCA Good Gifts in the offering plate. Remember to put an angel on the tree when you are finished.

- The Holy Cross caring and sharing tree will have ornaments for members to select for CASA families here in Gage County. Please put your CASA family gifts/certificates in the box marked CASA. *The mission of CASA of Gage County is to advocate through the court system for the best interest of children identified as abused and neglected through the recruitment and training of committed volunteers. We strive to ensure a safe, secure, and nurturing environment for each child and that each child has a voice as their future and care is determined. We are committed to the quality service of the CASA program to teach advocacy and the importance of providing all children a voice.*
- The Caring and Sharing tree will have ornaments to support the many projects worldwide through ELCA Good Gifts. Take an ornament and a card and put the amount in the offering plate designated as "ELCA GOOD GIFTS." Take the ornament home for your tree or pass it on.
- Our Caring and Sharing Tree will also have ornaments to help support the Clinic with a Heart Free Store. A faith-inspired organization, Clinic with a Heart serves people in the Lincoln and the surrounding communities who are uninsured and underinsured through a ministry of healthcare. Their volunteers provide free healthcare with hospitality, dignity, and grace. Denny and Gail Russell currently volunteer at the Clinic, and Jolene Pike has volunteered at the Clinic in the past. When people leave the Clinic, they are able to select items from the Free Store. Hygiene items are needed. Items should be regular size (not travel size), new and unopened. Shampoo, cream rinse, body wash, soap, deodorant, lip balm, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and razors are needed.

GREEN BEAN CASSEROLES FOR COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER: If you would like to sponsor a bucket of green bean casserole, please provide:

1 - Large #10 can green beans (101 oz)

2 - 26 oz cans Cream of Mushroom Soup

2 - 6-oz pkg French Fried Onions

Come and help assemble green bean casseroles on **Saturday, December 23, 4:00 p.m.** There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for those willing to help. These are for the Community Christmas Dinner at First Baptist Church on December 25 to which all community people are invited.



12 DAYS OF GIVING CALENDAR.

This is sponsored by CASA for students and families during Christmas break. Pick up your grocery bag and list in the narthex and bring your items to church by December 17. On December 20, CASA of Gage County will deliver the food to the Beatrice Public Schools to help families during Christmas break.

1  Canned Fruit	2  Cereal and a Box of Milk	3  Dish Soap
4  Tuna Box of Crackers	5  Veggie Oil and Rice	6  Cookies
7  Can of Soup	8  Trash Bags or Sandwich Bags	9  Canned Veggies
10  Stove Top Stuffing	11  Microwave Popcorn	12  Salt and Pepper



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Hope Circle met on Monday, November 13, for Bible Study. All women are invited to join in the monthly Bible Study & fellowship.

There will be no blanket sewing in November or December. Blankets & School Kits were delivered to Omaha on Monday, October 30, by Larry & Dianne Cole, Robert & Joyce

Haecker & Dallen & Nancy C Johnsen. The Women of Holy Cross appreciate your help in making the delivery of those items that will be shared around the world by Lutheran World Relief.

The women served at a Reception for Pastor Kathee (Pastor Appreciation) on Sunday, October 29, following the Worship Service. The Women served rolls after the All Saints service on Sunday, November 5. Pastor Kathee & Eric provided the rolls in appreciation to members of Holy Cross. The Women served refreshments after the Thankoffering service on Sunday, November 12, in honor of the First Communion of Lucas Vogel and Bentley Wolken & our guest speaker, Casey Holsing.

There will be no Board Meeting in December.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

December & January Calendar

Monday, December 11: Women's Bible Study 10:00am (and packing of containers for Shut-ins)

Monday, January 8: Women's Bible Study 10:00 am

Wednesday, January 10: Blanket Sewing 9:00 to 3:00 pm

Saturday, January 13: Winter Retreat at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Grand Island, Ne

Monday, January 15: WELCA Board Meeting: 7:00pm

WELCA Co Presidents

Nancy C Johnsen & Joyce Haecker

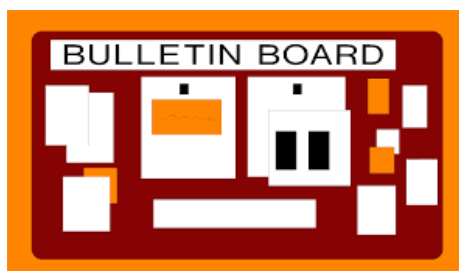
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THANK YOU! We want to say a big "thank you" to everyone that donated items for our school kits and sheets or fabric for our quilts. Thanks to all that helped put the kits together and to the ladies that came each month to stitch and tie the quilts. On Monday, October 30, we sent off 153 quilts, 115 school kits, and two blankets. Thanks to Dallen & Nancy Johnsen, Robert & Joyce Haecker, and Larry & Dianne Cole for hauling all of them to the trucking company in LaVista. Also to all that helped get all the boxes down from upstairs. All is very much appreciated!! The items will all be put to good use throughout the world.

— Genell Copas and Vi Kimminau, WELCA Mission Action Team

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CLIPPINGS AND PICTURES WANTED! One of the bulletin boards in the east entrance hallways is open for everyone's contributions. If you have any pictures or newspaper clippings you would like to share in this way, please go ahead and post it on that bulletin board or give to Sandy. Thank you!



WORSHIP MATTERS

Why Have a Procession? You may have noticed we had processions on Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday. The processional cross is the first to enter, pointing to the cross of Christ Jesus which leads us always in our lives: Jesus goes ahead of us, showing the way. Next, the acolytes bring in the light as a sign of the presence of Christ. Then the Bookbearer carries the Bible into the worship, emphasizing the importance of God's word in worship. The Choir also was part of the procession, singing "Enter His Courts with Praise" on Reformation Sunday. With the renewal of Assisting Ministers, they also process in with the Pastor as they enter to lead worship.

Why have a procession? With the procession are a variety of worship elements that enrich our worship. There is also a sense of celebration. Whenever we worship, we have been called together by God, so it is certainly appropriate to celebrate this gathering of the Holy Cross community, as the assembly is always part of the Procession as the Processional Hymn is sung..



GO AND...

BE PRESENT

As we await and celebrate Christ's birth, we remember that God is present and shows up. The babe in the manger, God Incarnate, is God's gift of deep love for us. We are invited to pause, be still, and be fully present in this holy season. Society calls us to a different place where busyness, spending, and rushing about are marks of success. God, in Christ, offers another way: Emmanuel – God with us.

Questions to Consider:

- What can I add to this season that would truly allow me to pause?
- What tradition do you have that nurtures being present at this time of year?
- As you are on the *GO*, how are you going to practice being present?
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Prayer: Emmanuel, you are present with us. Help us be present with each other. Amen.

Song: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (ELW 257)

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel. That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*
2. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height. In ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*
3. O come, strong branch of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*
4. O come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*
5. O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

©Public Domain. Words: Latin, twelfth century; trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), 1851.



RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS: We welcomed into our membership Paul Jobman and Russell, Michele, Caleb, Noah, Hannah & Samuel Jobman on Sunday, November 26. Please take the time to introduce yourself the next time you see them and welcome them to Holy Cross!



SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: Olivia Geri Bowhay and Calum Jace Bowhay, children of Jace and Bailey Bowhay, were welcomed into the family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 5. Olivia was born July 18, 2022 in Beatrice, NE and her sponsors are Maddy & Skylar Schmidt. Calum was born July 20, 2023 in Beatrice, NE and his sponsors are Matt & Emily Fujan. God's blessings to you and your family, Olivia and Calum!



OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Victor Kimminau, Ferdie Kimminau's brother, who passed away Saturday, October 28, in Colorado. We commend Victor to God's care and ask His blessings on his family and friends.



NOISY OFFERINGS: Noisy offerings on the last Sunday of December will go to Los Companeros, an ecumenical community organization in Beatrice. The mission of Los Companeros is to walk with, welcome, and support newly arrived immigrants/refugees in Beatrice with basic needs as they become part of the community.



THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Thrivent November 500 can Food Challenge for the Wymore Food Pantry. Thanks, also, to all those who walked and/or contributed to the CROP Hunger Walk on October 29, to everyone who participated in the meal packing event for Mercy Meals for Maui on November 18, and to those who supported our youth by attending and/or donating towards the Confirmation Camp Fund at the Thanksgiving Eve Pie Benefit. Your generosity to these ministries is very much appreciated!

DEAR FRIENDS,

Saint Paul writes, near the beginning of his epistle to the Philippians: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now."

That certainly captures our mood at the Oaks Indian Mission this season of Thanksgiving, as we pause to reflect upon all the gifts with which we have been blessed, the abundance of our life together in Christ. We recognize the hand of God at work through all of our partners in the Gospel.

Thank you, friends, for the spirit of generosity that has sustained and shaped this ministry. Because of it, we are stronger than ever and prepared to boldly serve these beloved ones the Lord entrusts to our care and keeping. - Your thankful friends at Oaks Indian Mission



WHOLLY FOOD: Our Wholly Food team meets the last Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. to prepare casseroles for people who could use uplifting and comfort in the midst of life's struggles. If you are interested in joining this team, please let Glennys Lienemann know. If you know anyone who could use a casserole to brighten their day, please fill out the paper in the jar in the narthex. While this is an outreach ministry of Holy Cross, delivery is open to anyone in our community.

FOOD PANTRY INGATHERING: Holy Cross Lutheran Church gathers food and monetary donations for the Community Pantry and Emergency Services in Beatrice on an ongoing basis. All items are very much appreciated. NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE! If you

would like to give to this ministry, please leave your donated items in the shopping cart in the narthex or your monetary donation in an envelope in the offering plate.

32 items were donated in October and 9 items donated in November.

RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES

Plastic Shopping Bags - Used to make sleeping mats for Orphan Grain Train. Recycling bin is in the narthex.

Aluminum Cans - Aluminum Cans - Proceeds go to the Youth Fund. Please put cans outside in the barrels in the enclosure east of the kitchen. Lids open easier if grabbed with both hands on front dimples.

Computer Ink Cartridges - Proceeds go to the Matt 25 Project Fund. Sorry - we are no longer able to recycle toner cartridges. Recycling bin is in the narthex.

Cell Phones - Donated to the Hope Crisis Center. Recycling bin is in the narthex.

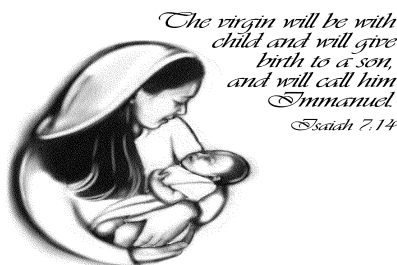
THE COMMUNITY COAT CLOSET at First Christian Church, Beatrice, is in need of gently worn coats, especially children's coats. Gently used scarves, gloves and stocking hats are also accepted. Take them to First Christian Monday-Thursday 9-noon or bring them to Holy Cross and put them on the hangers on the hallway coat rack marked "COMMUNITY COAT CLOSET" and they will be delivered. Thank you!

FREE DEVOTIONALS: Please pick up your free copy of Portals of Prayer, Christ in Our Home, or Our Daily Bread. They can be found on the table in the narthex.

THE POWER OF PRAYER: If you have a prayer request for our prayer team, please call or email Holy Cross at holycrosselcabeatrice@gmail.com or fill out a prayer slip found next to the prayer box located on the rack in the narthex. Thank you and God's blessings!

JOYFUL STEPS: Everyone is invited to come join us in the church basement at 10:00 a.m. Tuesdays for our weekly hour of fellowship and exercise. No equipment needed. Bring a friend or neighbor. You may wish to bring a bottle of water. See you all then!

THE LIVE STREAM of Holy Cross worship can be found on our YouTube Channel. To access the YouTube live stream go to the Holy Cross website www.holycrossbeatrice.com. There is a link to the live stream on the homepage and also on the "Watch Live" page.



OCTOBER 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT

Sandy Mahler, Treasurer

2023 General Operating	Balance Forward	Income	Transfer in	Transfer out	Expense	Monthly Balance	YTD Balance
JANUARY	\$0.00	\$9,598.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,184.73	-\$4,586.39	-\$4,586.39
FEBRUARY	-\$4,586.39	\$17,035.98			\$15,392.22	\$1,643.76	-\$2,942.63
MARCH	-\$2,942.63	\$12,352.40	\$2,500.00		\$15,232.78	-\$380.38	-\$3,323.01
APRIL	-\$3,323.01	\$16,469.57	\$3,333.33		\$13,789.31	\$6,013.59	\$2,690.58
MAY	\$2,690.58	\$13,068.29			\$13,516.05	-\$447.76	\$2,242.82
JUNE	\$2,242.82	\$11,877.68			\$13,830.22	-\$1,952.54	\$290.28
JULY	\$290.28	\$14,201.63			\$15,022.29	-\$820.66	-\$530.38
AUGUST	-\$530.38	\$10,762.84	\$540.00		\$14,072.99	-\$2,770.15	-\$3,300.53
SEPTEMBER	-\$3,300.53	\$11,250.74	\$3,400.00		\$13,546.25	\$1,104.49	-\$2,196.04
OCTOBER	-\$2,196.04	\$13,277.91	\$2,200.00		\$14,339.71	\$1,138.28	-\$1,057.84
TOTALS YEAR TO DATE:		\$129,895.38	\$11,973.33		\$142,926.55		-\$1,057.84

Thank you to everyone for your contributions during this year so far. Our income is \$13,031.17 less than our expenses for the year as of 10-31-23. \$11,973.33 has been transferred in as of 10-31-23 to General Operating from our Prior Years Long/Short Account. May you prayerfully consider a year-end gift for a balanced budget in 2023.

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Faithbuilders Attendance</u>	<u>Faithbuilders Offering</u>
Oct. 28/29	16-56	\$1676.00	4	\$10.00
Nov. 4/5	20-100	\$4756.74	5	\$10.00
Nov. 11/12	18-75	\$2090.90		
Nov. 18/19	12-52	\$2256.68	6	\$10.00
Nov. 22	44	\$520.00 Regular, \$633.00 Thanksgiving		
Nov. 25/26	15-49	\$2663.00		

Other offerings/income: Benevolence-\$150.00, Holy Cross only-\$865.00, Food Pantry-\$105.00, Mission Festival-\$10.00, Oaks Indian Mission-\$610.00, Confirmation Camp Fund (Pie Fellowship)-\$541.00, Youth Fund (aluminum cans)-\$120.00, October Noisy Offering/donations-CROP Hunger Walk-\$192.59, November Noisy Offering-Los Compañeros-\$58.53, GWOH T-shirt-\$10.00, Directory Submitted Photo-\$15.00, WELCA Thankoffering-\$25.00, Mission Endowment Fund-\$20.00, Poinsettias-\$72.00.

WAYS TO GIVE



Financial offerings may be given in a number of ways:

- ♦ You can send your donations by mail to Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1918 Garfield St, Beatrice, NE 68310. If you would like pre-addressed envelopes, please call the church office.
- ♦ You can drop your offering off in the mail slot at the southeast end of the church.
- ♦ You can give electronically by visiting our website at <https://holycrossbeatrice.com/> and clicking the "Giving" tab at the top of the webpage, or clicking on the "GIVE TO HCLC" button at the bottom of the home page
- ♦ or try downloading the Vanco Mobile *Faith Engagement* app.
 - Make one-time or recurring donations using your checking/savings account or credit/debit card

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

WORSHIP HELPERS **INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORSHIP**

HELPERS: Please remember that if

you cannot serve on the day that you are scheduled, it is your responsibility

to find someone else to take your place. The easiest way is usually to trade with someone on another date. Please make the church office 402-228-3172 aware of the change so the right names can be put in the church newsletter & bulletin. If you absolutely cannot find a replacement, for Saturday nights – please call Norma Huls at 402-223-3184, for Sunday mornings, please call Nancy Johnsen 402-806-0376 and they will find someone to replace you. Worship helpers – please be at church 30 minutes before worship begins. Instructions will be in the back window of the sanctuary. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Johnsen 402-806-0376 or ask the Pastor. Thank you for your ministry!

Saturday, December 2

Ushers/Greeters: Sally Diekman, Beth Dunker

Reader: Beth Dunker; Communion: Tom Karlin

Sunday, December 3

Assisting Minister: Gloria Paben

Greeters: Steve & Pam Garton

Ushers: Steve & Toni Janzen

Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Eric Forrest, Larry Hibbert

Reader: Larry Hibbert; Communion: Gloria Paben

Audio/Video: Jackie Rinne

Wednesday, December 6

Ushers: Berlita Grell, Sheryl Harrington

Saturday, December 9

Ushers/Greeters: Berlita Grell, Adonna Otto

Reader: Berlita Grell; Communion: Norma Huls

Sunday, December 10

Assisting Minister: Larry Hibbert

Greeters: Kodi & Misty Higgins

Ushers: Robert & Joyce Haecker

Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Makenna & Kierra Higgins

Reader: Richard Schnaidt; Communion: Kendall Hein

Audio/Video: Dallen Johnsen

Wednesday, December 13

Ushers: Beth Dunker, Terri Huls

Saturday, December 16

Ushers/Greeters: Kyle & Kim Bahnsen

Reader: Denny Russell; Communion: Kyle Bahnsen

Sunday, December 17

Assisting Minister: Richard Schnaidt

Greeters: Karen Jobman, Gloria Paben

Ushers: Dallen & Nancy Johnsen

Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Alex & Cortney Ideus family

Reader: Peggy Johnsen; Communion: Gloria Paben

Audio/Video: Larry Cole

Wednesday, December 20

Ushers: Larry & Keri Kendall

Reader: Rose-Ann Parde

Saturday, December 23

Ushers/Greeters: Duane & Inez Trauernicht

Reader: Rose-Ann Parde; Communion: Inez Trauernicht

Sunday, December 24, 9:00 a.m.

Greeters: Ferdie & Vi Kimminau

Ushers: Glennys Lienemann, Joyce Haecker

Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Susan Kreft, Melanie Laflin

Reader: Janet Byars; Communion: Joyce Haecker

Audio/Video: Terri Huls

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Greeters: Burley & Genell Copas

Ushers: Bill & Rebecca Behrends

Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Larry & Dianne Cole

Reader: Rebecca Behrends; Communion: Dianne Cole

Audio/Video: Dallen Johnsen

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

Greeters: Stacie Bruns, Barb Scott

Ushers: Jeremy & Michelle Engelman

Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Kylie Belt, Ziel Tut

Reader: Jeremy Engelman; Communion: Gloria Paben

Saturday, December 30

Ushers/Greeters: Norma Huls, Rhonda Minzel

Reader: Gail Russell; Communion: Norma Huls

Sunday, December 31

Greeters: Aaron & Jackie Nielsen

Ushers: Austin Wolken, Steve Rippe

Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Madelyn & Morgan Nielsen

Reader: Jackie Nielsen; Communion: Steve Rippe

Audio/Video: Jackie Rinne

Saturday, January 6

Ushers/Greeters: Ken & Deb Sillman

Reader: Denny Russell; Communion: Beth Dunker

Sunday, January 7

Greeters: Dorothy Hofeling, Elsie Otto

Ushers: Ryan & Angie Vogel

Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Kayleigh & Lucas Vogel

Reader: Kevin Tranmer; Communion: Ryan Vogel

Audio/Video: Dallen Johnsen

Saturday, January 13

Ushers/Greeters: Berlita Grell, Adonna Otto

Reader: Berlita Grell; Communion: Tom Karlin

Sunday, January 14

Greeters: Stacie Bruns, Barb Scott

Ushers: Bill & Rebecca Behrends

Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Kylie Belt, Ziel Tut, Shawnee Ford;

Reader: Bill Behrends

Communion: Rebecca Behrends

Audio/Video: Larry Cole

Saturday, January 20

Ushers/Greeters: Kyle & Kim Bahnsen

Reader: Rose-Ann Parde; Communion: Kyle Bahnsen

Sunday, January 21

Greeters: Burley & Genell Copas

Ushers: Larry & Dianne Cole

Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Eric Forrest, Larry Hibbert

Reader: Janet Byars; Communion: Larry Hibbert

Audio/Video: Terri Huls

Saturday, January 27

Ushers/Greeters: Duane & Inez Trauernicht

Reader: Gail Russell; Communion: Inez Trauernicht

Sunday, January 28

Greeters: Donna Rosenthal, Shirley Wiens

Ushers: Jeremy & Michelle Engelman

Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Austin Wolken, Steve Rippe

Reader: Richard Schnaidt;

Communion: Mary Schuster-Graff

Audio/Video: Jackie Rinne



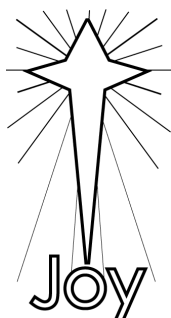
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

(If we missed your anniversary or birthday this month, please give the church office a call at 228-3172. Thanks!)

Dec. 1 Larry Hibbert
 Dec. 3 Wilma Knudsen
 Kayleigh Vogel
 Dec. 5 Jorja Grabouski
 Donald Huls
 Betty Siefkes*
 Duane Trauernicht
 Dec. 6 Linda Skala
 Dec. 9 Wayne Schuster
 Dec. 10 Bessie Smith
 Dec. 13 Tom Karlin
 Dec. 16 Scott Parde
 Dec. 17 Burley Copas
 Dec. 18 Austin Hein
 Dec. 20 Jason Kreft
 Dec. 21 IZIAHA Johnson
 Dec. 22 Jones Grabouski
 Lanny Ropers
 Dec. 23 Michele Gartner
 Joyce Haecker
 Joey Staley
 Dec. 26 Jacob Karlin
 Dec. 27 Howard Nelson, III
 Dec. 31 Pastor David Frye

***Special Birthday Greetings to:**

Special birthday greetings to Betty Siefkes who will be 94 on Dec. 5...**God's blessings to you — may you have a happy & healthy year!**



DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

12-28-57

Dwayne & Roma Garrison

Congratulations to Dwayne & Roma Garrison who will be celebrating their 66th Wedding Anniversary on December 28! God's blessings to you—may you have many more happy years together!



Season's Greetings

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We have included a list of our homebound for those of you who might like to send them a Christmas card or remember them in some other way this Christmas season.

(Names and addresses are not listed on the website newsletter. Please check with the church office if you would like to send cards.)



**Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2023**

Present: Dallen Johnsen, Larry Kendall, Ryan Vogel, and Inez Trauernicht

Absent: Pastor Kathee Forrest, Austin Wolken, Kodi Higgins

Council Meeting called to order at 7:10.

A Opening Devotions "Go and ...ask" by Bishop Scott Johnson. Read by all and discussed.

B Agenda

1. A motion was made by Larry K. with a second from Ryan V. to approve the agenda.
Motion was approved.
2. A motion was made by Larry K. with a second from Ryan V. to approve the September 19, 2023 minutes. Motion was approved.

C Information

1. A motion was made by Inez T. with a second from Larry K. to move \$2,200 from the over/short from previous years to the general account to cover monthly bills. Motion was approved.
2. A motion was made by Larry K. with a second from Ryan V. to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion was approved.

D. Committee Reports

1. A motion was made by Ryan V. with a second from Larry K. to approve \$110 from the Roxine Weichel memorial for choir music. Motion was approved.
2. A motion was made by Ryan V. with a second from Larry K. to approve \$200 for a Bosch Under the Sink on Demand Water Heater. Motion was approved.
3. The basketball hoop was fixed.

E. Unfinished Business

1. The church directory is almost complete.

F. New Business

1. The Vision team will meet October 19, 2023.
2. The annual meeting will be held Jan. 21, 2024 following the church service.
3. A motion was made by Larry K. with a second from Ryan to approve the transfer of Brian Brauer to St. Paul, Soap Creek; Natalie and Zach Coffin, Chloe, and Sydney to Zion Lutheran Church; and to remove Jon, Teri, Dawson, and Gerin Zimmerman who have moved to Arkansas from our membership roles. Motion was approved.
4. Help for Mercy Meals was discussed.
5. Pastor's Appreciation will be October 29, following the church service.
6. We are working with Nick Grummert of Jones Insurance to find a new Insurance company.
7. The next Council meeting will be November 9, 2023.


G. Adjournment and closing with the Lord's Prayer.

1. A motion was made by Larry K. with a second from Ryan V. to adjourn the meeting.
Motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Inez Trauernicht
Council Secretary

December 2023

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1918 Garfield St., Beatrice; 402-228-3172;
Website: www.holycrossbeatrice.com; E-mail: holycrosselcabeatrice@gmail.com;
Office Hours: 8:30 am-3:00 p.m., T,Th, F
Pastor Kathee Forrest-Kathee.forrest@gmail.com; Sandy Mahler-smahleris@gmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00 p.m. N.A.	2 6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship
3 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Faithbuilders, Faithful Sounds Fellowship Fundraiser 10:30 Adult Ed	4 5:15 p.m. Mission Endowment Team	5 10:00 a.m. Joyful Steps	6 2:30-4:30 p.m. Confirmation 5:15 Faithful Sounds 6:30-7:15 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship	7 8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship @ Across the Trax 8:15 p.m. N.A.	8 January 2024 Newsletter articles due 8:00 p.m. N.A.	9 6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship
10 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Faithbuilders, Fellowship 10:30 Adult Ed	11 10:00 a.m. Hope Circle (will put baskets together)	12 10:00 a.m. Joyful Steps 6:30 p.m. Memorials & Gifts Team	13 No confirmation 5:15 Faithful Sounds 6:30-7:15 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship	14 8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship @ Across the Trax 7:00 p.m. Council 8:15 p.m. N.A.	15 8:00 p.m. N.A.	16 6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship
17 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Faithbuilders, Fellowship 10:30 Adult Ed	18 No WELCA Board Meeting	19 10:00 a.m. Joyful Steps	20 No confirmation 5:00 p.m. Advent Soup & Salad Meal 6:30 p.m. The Longest Night Advent Worship	21 8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship @ Across the Trax 8:15 p.m. N.A.	22 8:00 p.m. N.A.	23 4:00 p.m. Assemble Casseroles 6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship
24 9:00 a.m. Interactive Christmas Pageant 10:15 a.m. Fellowship 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/ communion	25 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship	26 10:00 a.m. Joyful Steps	27 No confirmation	28 8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship @ Across the Trax 8:15 p.m. N.A.	29 8:00 p.m. N.A.	30 6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship / Noisy Offering
31 9:00 a.m. Worship/ Noisy Offering 10:15 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 Adult Ed						



DECEMBER 2023

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1918 Garfield Street
Beatrice NE 68310



FACING CHRISTMAS

I shall attend to my little errands of love early this year,
That the days before Christmas may be unhampered and clear of the fever of hurry.
The breathless rushing that I have known in the past shall not possess me.
I shall be calm in my soul, and ready at last for Christmas.
I shall kneel and call out His name.
I shall take time to watch the light of a candle's flame.
I shall have leisure. I shall go out from my roof and my door.
I shall not miss the silver silence of the stars as I have before.
And if I stand there very still and very long,
I shall hear what the clamor of living has kept from me: The Angel's Song!

Grace Noel Crowell