

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Pastor: James Anderson (E-mail: janderson007@luthersem.edu)

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

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

Organist: Nadine Hibbert, Faithful Sounds Director: Karen Jobman

Councilperson on call: Kodi Higgins, 402-239-4044

"Inspired by the Holy Spirit to Serve"

Shared values of our Worshiping Community are:

Community + Generosity + Hospitality + Serving

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturdays — 4:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship

Sundays — 9:00 a.m. Worship

(Please note—Saturday night worship goes back to 6:00 p.m. beginning March 14.)

Wednesdays – 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Worship
(following 6:00-6:45 p.m. Lenten supper)

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

Sundays — 10:15-11:00 a.m. Faithbuilders for all 3 year olds through 5th Grade.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME begins Sunday, March 8. On Saturday, March 7, be sure to turn your clocks one hour ahead before going to bed!



INSTALLATION OF ELECTED LEADERS was held this past month. Our thanks to these members who are willing to serve in these leadership positions:

Church Council 2026: President-Larry Kendall, Vice President-Tom Karlin, Secretary-Inez Trauernicht, Finance Leader-Kodi Higgins, Members-at-Large – Jeremy Engelman and Kevin Tranmer. With thanks for our council member who served in 2025 – Dallen Johnsen.

Other elections:

Mission Endowment: Mary Schuster-Graff

Nebraska Synod Assembly: Janet Byars, Karen Jobman

Synod Assembly Alternates: Roger & Valora Ideus

Nominating Committee: Rebecca Behrends,

Michelle Engelman, Valora Ideus, Gloria Paben,

Jolene Pike, Dallen Johnsen

INSTALLATION OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA

OFFICERS was also held. Officers for 2026 are:

Co-Presidents-Janet Byars, Keri Kendall; Secretary-

Karen Jobman; Treasurer-Nadine Hibbert;

Mission Action-Genell Copas; Past President-Nancy Johnsen.

Pastor's Page

Hello Friends!

In the words of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, “The waiting is the hardest part, Every day you get one more yard, you take it on faith, you take it to heart, the waiting is the hardest part.”¹ And that about sums up how I feel about the season of Lent. Whereas at Christmas time, we have lights, carols, cookies, and all manner of heart-warming things, during march we have... not much. But, if past experiences are anything to go on, the wait will all be worth it. And, while we are waiting for Easter, I have a couple of things for your attention.

First, if you have not already heard, I would like to invite you to our mid-week worship, every week this month, starting with a meal provided by Holy Cross group. Meals go from 6PM-6:45PM, with worship starting at 7PM. As part of our Lenten discipline, we are going back to the basics, and talking about Martin Luther's Small Catechism. For those of you who know these works by heart, welcome! And to those of you who might have nodded off during Confirmation, to you I say- welcome! I believe that you are never too old, too wise, or too experienced that you cannot find something new in our teachings. So, please, be our guests for meal every Wednesday, followed by worship.

Next, I would like to ask for your help. This year, I would like to expand the Holy Cross Easter Egg hunt to become a community event. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 4th (the day before Easter). What I am looking for is donations of plastic eggs, candy, and two groups of helpers, one group to stuff the eggs, and the second to hide the eggs on that morning. I am hoping to have sections for age groups from Pre-Kindergarten through high school. If you would like to help, we will have a collection bin to receive donations through the month of March, and a sign-up sheet in the Narthex of the church. You can also contact me directly to let me know your intention. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

And lastly, I want to ask: how are you? As busy as this time gets with planning and preparation, I would still love to hear from you. Even if there is nothing out of the ordinary going on, I am happy to make time. Recently, I've had a few people apologize for “taking me away from work.” Dearly beloved in Christ, you ARE my work, and I would love to hear from you. One of the, let's call it “joys” of ministry, is that there will always be more work. But for me, it's those moments of connection, spending time in fellowship that makes it all worthwhile. So, if you are ever in the neighborhood, our doors are always open to you. Dearly beloved, may the Lord bless you, and keep you on your Lenten journey, until we meet again.

Pastor James S. Anderson

¹ (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, “The Waiting”, *Hard Promises* album, released 1981)



FAITHBUILDERS CLASSES meet each Sunday morning at Holy Cross from 10:15-11:00 a.m.



A COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

is being planned at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on April 4 at 2:00 p.m. Details will be announced soon. If anyone has any plastic eggs they would like to donate, please bring them to church by March 15.



FOOD PANTRY BAGS PROJECT

Holy Cross has been asked to hand out bags again this year. We are praying donations will be a little better this year, but know

that this project will really help our community. We are in charge of the same area again from Market to Scott Streets north and south and 19th to 25th streets east and west and will be delivering bags the week of March 8. Anyone interested in helping, please meet after worship on March 8 in the Work Room (round table room) to divide out the area for delivering the bags. Pastor is working with the Confirmation class and they will be picking the bags up on March 21 with a pizza party following! Let Larry Kendall know if you have any questions or can help.

THE MATT 25 PROJECT

A Lenten Supper benefitting the Holy Cross Matt 25 Scholarship for high school seniors will be held on Wednesday, March 18, from 6:00 – 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Confirmation youth and families along with the Vision Team will be preparing and serving the food. Join us, bring a friend and help support this worthwhile ministry.



PREPARE FOR A SEASON OF HOPE: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF - PERSONAL CARE KITS IN LENT

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1-3 This season of Lent, Holy Cross will once again walk with people around the world afflicted by natural disasters, war, displacement and poverty by collecting and assembling Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Personal Care Kits. Each week, please bring one or more of the featured item to worship. Thank you for participating

in this ministry! We will assemble these on Palm Sunday weekend, March 28/29

First Week of Lent – Feb 21/22: One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"x 40" & 52" x 27"), dark color recommended.

Second Week of Lent – Feb 28/Mar 1: Two or three bath-size bars of gentle soap (3-5 ounces each) 8-9 oz. total, any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel-size bars.

Third Week of Lent – March 7/8: One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging. Multi-packs may be used. Do not provide toothpaste; it will be provided by LWR.

Fourth Week of Lent – March 14/15: Sturdy combs – have been donated, 0 needed

Fifth Week of Lent – March 21/22: One metal nail clippers (attached file optional). Remove packing

Palm Sunday – March 28/29: Any items that we are short of (we'll let you know through bulletins and email!) We will be assembling these on this weekend.



MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP is held every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. through March 25. You are invited for good food and fellowship at our Lenten suppers which are held **each Wednesday evening from 6:00-6:45 before our midweek Lenten service.** There is a freewill offering taken. Thank you to everyone for your time and efforts in providing this ministry.

PLEASE JOIN US for the "Sound of Music" brunch fundraiser, sponsored by Faithful Sounds to be held Sunday, March 15, during the Fellowship hour! The menu will include breakfast casseroles, coffee cake, muffins, yogurt & granola, juice, coffee, tea, and water. There will be a freewill offering, with proceeds to be used to purchase new music. This is a Thrivent sponsored event.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION: Sunday, March 22, 10:15 a.m. to vote on amendments to the constitution as approved by the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The 2025 amendments were approved at our Annual Meeting in January. These proposed amendments are in your February newsletter.

MERCY MEALS FOOD PACKAGING IN LINCOLN - Holy Cross is sponsoring a food packaging event on March 7 from 10 a.m.-Noon at the Mercy Meals/Orphan Grain Train Warehouse, 1901 SW 6th Street, Suite #1 in Lincoln. **If you want to carpool, please meet at the church by 8:45am.** We will need at least 20 volunteers, and we can have as many as 40. Invite your friends and family to help also! **Those that are interested will meet for lunch after the food packaging.** Signup sheets are available in the narthex.

MERCY MEALS FOOD PACKAGING IN ODELL - Mercy Meals (Blue River) of Odell will be hosting a Mercy Meals packaging event on Monday, March 23, in Odell. Two-hour shifts will be available throughout the day and into the evening if supplies last. **A 10am-Noon shift has been added to the signup.** The goal is to package 60,000 meals that day. Signup sheets are available in the narthex.

EASTER DECORATING – The Landscape Team will be decorating for Easter (Flower Cross and Outside Planters) on Saturday April 4 at 9am. Everyone is welcome to help!

LANDSCAPE TEAM WORK DAY – March 21st 1-3pm. If you are interested in helping in the Holy Cross landscape for any of our work days or projects, we would love to have you join us. Come when your schedule allows. Come when you are interested in the work we have planned. We often change our schedule last minute because of the weather, so make sure you can be notified of our work schedule and changes. Please contact Gail Russell or Denny Russell.

GRATEFUL HEARTS AND GOLDEN PANCAKES! The Improvement Committee would like to sincerely thank everyone for their support in making our very first "Pancakes with a Purpose" pancake feed a delicious success. We were truly blessed to raise \$1,224.48 after expenses, which will help fund continued church improvements.

We were overwhelmed by the incredible number of volunteers who gave up their time. Many thanks to all who volunteered, including Russ, Missy, Hannah & Sam Jobman; Larry & Keri Kendall; Paul Jobman; Denny Russell; Inez Trauernicht; Larry & Nadine Hibbert; Morgan & Jackie Nielsen; Karen Jobman; Gloria Paben; Linda Hemmert; Betty George; Pastor Anderson; Dianne Cole; Michelle Engelman; Roger Ideus; Mary Schuster-Graff & Tim Graff; and Matt & Sydney Sejkora. Your generosity and willingness to serve truly made this event a blessing for our church family.

Thank you to Larry Hibbert for sponsoring this Thrivent Action event.

THANK YOU to LaNette Klostermeier for reporting our weekly copyrighted song usage to OneLicense. We appreciate your ministry!



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Holy Cross Bible Study and Fellowship met on Monday, February 9, with nine people present. The Bible Study is open to anyone wanting to participate. Blanket sewing is held on the second Wednesday of each month. All women are welcome to participate in this project. They start at 9:00 am & usually finish at 3:00 pm. They welcome anyone to help anytime during that time. Blanket sewing was not held

in February.

The WELCA Board met on Monday, February 16. The soup luncheon was well attended on Sunday, February 1, with approximately 110 people attending. Chili, chicken noodle soup, vegetable beef soup, desserts, and a beverage were served.

WELCA participated in Bingo at Good Samaritan Center in Beatrice on Wednesday, February 11, and on Friday, February 20, at Gold Crest Retirement in Adams.

WELCA served the Ash Wednesday Lenten supper on Wednesday, February 18.

Installation of the WELCA Board was held on Sunday, February 22.

Rhonda Minzel has resigned as Member-At-Large and we will be replacing her prior to the Board meeting in March.

The WELCA Board is reviewing and researching the Facility Use/Fee Schedule and will be making recommendations in the near future.

We invite all women of Holy Cross Lutheran Church to participate in WELCA-sponsored activities.

Calendar:

- March 4 - Spring Gathering Registration Deadline
- March 9 - Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- March 11 - Blanket Sewing - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- March 11 - Lenten Services - 7:00 p.m.
- March 14 - Spring Gathering in Falls City
- March 16 - WELCA Board meeting - 5:30 p.m.
- March 18 - Lenten Services - 7:00 p.m.
- March 25 - Lenten Services - 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

WELCA Co-Chairpersons, Janet Byars and Keri Kendall

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SPRING GATHERING FOR SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA WELCA will be held on Saturday, March 14th, from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Falls City. Registration forms are located in the narthex and are due by March 4th. A carpool sign-up sheet is available in the narthex as well. We will leave at 7:30 a.m. from the church parking lot.

The speaker will be Susan Johnson, Director of Sixpence. Sixpence partners with communities in providing needed services to early learning programs. Beatrice Public Schools is one of their partners. Tangible offering will go to Sixpence. They are especially in need of unscented diaper wipes, diapers, and Pull-ups in various sizes. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Tangible offering items may be left at the church. Please indicate if you want them to be given to Beatrice Public Schools, as well as any monetary contributions.

If you have any questions, please contact Janet Byars @ 402-223-4439 or jb68310@gmail.com. All women of Holy Cross are invited to attend.



Greetings to all,

Our first council meeting has happened already, and I must say I am excited for the positive energy from everyone for Holy Cross. Even though most of us have been together for a year or more we are excited to welcome Tom Karlin to serve as Vice President. He brings a lot of experience and knowledge to the team which we are grateful for.

At the end of the meeting, I challenged each member to have a goal or two for 2026 for Holy Cross. I believe that this is very important in life because it will help motivate us to follow our dreams and encourage personal growth. I also encourage that each person in the congregation as well not just in your personal life but as well for Holy Cross. If we each set goals which is proven to enhance our performance, persistence and track progress. I feel we cannot help but succeed, plus it helps redirect our focus away from negative obstacles and reconnect with your innermost self. So, ask yourself... What are your goals?? Please share them with me or the council. Another great idea would be to sit in and share them at a vision team meeting. Next one is March 12th at 7 pm.

We do have a lot of Great Ideas in the making, but I don't want to take anyone's Thunder on that as they aren't all mine. But I can say that it's going to take a village, i.e. the church of volunteers, to pull these things off. I look forward to hearing from everyone on their goals or visions for the church for 2026. Of course, if you want to share a long-term plan, I am open to that too as well as we all know "Rome wasn't built in a day".

We have a very busy month of March planned already. With Lent getting started and Easter right around the corner these are just a few things that are going to keep our church busy. But as a team we can pull this off as well we always do.

However, I leave you with something I heard recently on a Podcast. It helped me understand a little more of why change is so hard sometimes in our life. Remember if it was easy everyone would do it...

Your brain will block you from achieving your goals, because your brain does not care about your success... it cares about your survival. And to achieve something means you have to do something that you have never done before, [you need to get out of your comfort zone and if anything, that means anything out of your comfort zone is a threat to the brain. It will subconsciously sabotage you to achieve your goals.

Have a Great Month Everyone

Larry Kendall



EVANGELISM AND YOUR CHURCH

When Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4, he begins with conversation. He listens. He engages. He offers living water. Evangelism often looks like that: showing up, asking questions, and sharing the story of what Christ has done in our lives.

During Lent, many people are already spiritually curious. They are aware of their need for renewal. A simple invitation — to worship, to a Lenten soup supper, to a Holy Week service — can be a powerful act of love. Consider inviting someone to join you during Holy Week. The drama of Maundy Thursday, the solemnity of Good Friday, and the hope of Easter proclaim the gospel in word, sacrament, and song. Sometimes the most faithful evangelism is simply making room at the table.

As we enter March and the season of Lent, we are also reminded that evangelism isn't just about inviting others to church though — it's about sharing the love of Christ in everyday life. Let's root ourselves in prayer, grow in compassion, and open our hearts to the Holy Spirit's leading.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart... and your neighbor as yourself." — Luke 10:27

** Please consider volunteering to help with the Food Pantry pick up items within a Beatrice neighborhood. Paper grocery bags are handed out to neighbors during the week of March 8th and collected on March 21st. See Council President Larry Kendall for more information!

You are always welcome here as we grow in faith, serve with love, and share Christ's hope together.

A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* (ESV)

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the promise of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to share the good news. Grant us boldness and strength as we proclaim Your message, starting with those around us and reaching the ends of the earth. Let Your Spirit guide our words and actions, that we may reflect Your love and truth to all we encounter.

Please contact Kevin Tranmer if you are interested in developing the Evangelism program at Holy Cross Church.

Email: kevintranmer1985@gmail.com

Phone/Text 402 440 0298



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!

Sunday, March 1

Greeters: Robert & Joyce Haecker
Ushers: Burley & Genell Copas
Reader: Janet Byars
Communion: Joyce Haecker
Livestream: Dallen Johnsen

Lenten Wednesday, March 4

Ushers/Greeters: Larry & Dianne Cole
Reader: Mary Schuster-Graff

Saturday, March 7

Ushers/Greeters: Sally Diekman, Beth Dunker
Reader: Beth Dunker Communion: Beth Dunker

Sunday, March 8

Greeters: Betty George, Sheryl Harrington
Ushers: Jeremy & Michelle Engelman
Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Steve & Pam Garton
Reader: Jeremy Engelman
Communion: Sheryl Harrington
Livestream: Larry Cole

Lenten Wednesday, March 11

Ushers/Greeters: Burley & Genell Copas
Reader: Burley Copas

Saturday, March 14

Ushers/Greeters: Berlita Grell, Adonna Otto
Reader: Berlita Grell; Communion: Tom Karlin

Sunday, March 15

Greeters: Kodi & Misty Higgins family
Ushers: Larry Hibbert, Steve Rippe
Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Roger & Valora Ideus
Reader: Larry Hibbert; Communion: Steve Rippe
Livestream: Terri Huls

Lenten Wednesday, March 18

Ushers/Greeters: Dallen & Nancy Johnsen
Reader: Gloria Paben

Saturday, March 21

Ushers/Greeters: Norma Huls, Rhonda Minzel
Reader: Norma Huls; Communion: Norma Huls

Sunday, March 22

Greeters: Alex & Cortney Ideus family
Ushers: Steve & Toni Janzen
Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Karen Jobman, Susan Kreft
Reader: Paul Jobman; Communion: Karen Jobman
Livestream: Jackie Rinne

Lenten Wednesday, March 25

Ushers/Greeters: Darrell & Jackie Rinne
Reader: Bill Behrends

Saturday, March 28

Ushers/Greeters: Ken & Deb Sillman
Reader: Denny Russell; Communion: Denny Russell

Sunday, March 29

Greeters: Ferdie & Vi Kimminau
Ushers: Larry & Keri Kendall
Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Glennys Lienemann, Jackie Nielsen; Reader: Peggy Johnsen
Communion: Jackie Nielsen
Livestream: Dallen Johnsen

Thursday, April 2, Maundy Thursday

Ushers/Greeters: Bill & Rebecca Behrends
Reader: Bill Behrends; Communion: Rebecca Behrends

Friday, April 3, Good Friday

Ushers/Greeters: Larry & Dianne Cole
Reader: Janet Byars

Saturday, April 4

Ushers/Greeters: Sally Diekman, Beth Dunker
Reader: Beth Dunker; Communion: Beth Dunker

Sunday, April 5, Sunrise Service, 7 a.m.

Greeters: Glennys Lienemann, Shirley Wiens
Ushers: Larry & Keri Kendall
Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Darrell & Jackie Rinne
Reader: Larry Hibbert; Communion: Keri Kendall

Sunday, April 5, 9 a.m.

Greeters: Jeremy & Michelle Engelman
Ushers: Burley & Genell Copas
Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Steve & Pam Garton
Reader: Burley Copas
Communion: Mary Schuster-Graff, Gloria Paben
Livestream: Larry Cole

Saturday, April 11

Ushers/Greeters: Berlita Grell, Adonna Otto
Reader: Berlita Grell; Communion: Tom Karlin

Sunday, April 12

Greeters: Sheryl Harrington, Betty George
Ushers: Robert & Joyce Haecker
Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Larry Hibbert, Steve Rippe
Reader: Joyce Haecker; Communion: Sheryl Harrington
Livestream: Terri Huls

Saturday, April 18

Ushers/Greeters: Norma Huls, Rhonda Minzel
Reader: Norma Huls; Communion: Norma Huls

Sunday, April 19

Greeters: Terri Huls, Jane Ideus
Ushers: Roger & Valora Ideus
Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Alex & Cortney Ideus family
Reader: Terri Huls; Communion: Terri Huls
Livestream: Jackie Rinne

Saturday, April 25

Ushers/Greeters: Ken & Deb Sillman
Reader: Denny Russell; Communion: Tom Karlin

Sunday, April 26

Greeters: Karen Jobman, Glennys Lienemann
Ushers: Steve & Toni Janzen
Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers: Larry & Dianne Cole
Reader: Karen Jobman; Communion: Toni Janzen
Livestream: Dallen Johnsen



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

If we missed your anniversary or birthday this month, please

give the church office a call at 228- 3172. Thanks!)

Mar 1	Lorraine Hoyle Jill Karlin
Mar 2	Whitney Grabouski
Mar 3	Janet Cooper Shawnee Ford Sherman Skala
Mar 4	Tiffani Bayless
Mar 5	Sydney Sejkora
Mar. 6	Adalyn Smith
Mar 10	Sara Buss
Mar 12	Charlotte Belt
Mar 15	Greyson Engelman
Mar 16	Dwayne Garrison Ferdie Kimminau
Mar. 17	Renee Griffeth Jay Kreft
Mar. 21	Linda Hemmert
Mar 22	Carson Bagwell Sheryl Harrington
Mar 25	Chris Paben Sommer Sejkora Mitch Waltke
Mar. 31	Cole Miller

Special Birthday Greetings to:

Dwayne Garrison who will turn 90 on March 16....and Ferdie Kimminau who will turn 91 on March 16.

Our best wishes to you both for a year of happiness, health and blessings!



MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

March 4, 1973	Roger & Valora Ideus
March 6, 1981	Richard & Lynn Pomajzl
March 6, 2004	Josh & Crystal Houseman
March 10, 2018	Cody & Stacie Brown
March 23, 2001	Kyle & Kimberly Bahnsen

Those celebrating 25, 50, 60 or more anniversaries:

CONGRATULATIONS to Kyle & Kimberly Bahnsen who will celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary on March 23! God's blessings to you – we wish you many more happy years together!



OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Bev Daubendiek, sister of Duane & Wayne (Rita) Schuster. Bev passed away Saturday, Feb. 7, and her funeral was Wednesday, Feb.

11 at Faith Lutheran, Fairbury. We commend Bev to God's care and ask His blessings on her family and friends.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Marvin Wolken who passed away Tuesday, February 24. Marvin's funeral was Saturday, February 28, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. We commend Marvin to God's care and ask His blessings on his family and friends.



THE BINGO AND PIZZA NIGHT was filled with fun and laughter, with 40 attendees and 10 winners. Our winners included Dallen Johnsen, Bill Behrends, Valora Ideus, Steve Rippe, Steve Janzen, Larry Cole, Burley Copas, Janice Waltke, Paul Jobman, and Shirley Wiens. Thank you to Jackie Rinne for providing a Thrivent Action Card for the event.



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. 57 items were donated during January and 51 items were donated during February—Thank you!

CURRENT RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES

Aluminum Cans – Proceeds go to Mercy Meals. Please put cans outside in the barrels in the enclosure east of the kitchen. Lids open easier if grabbed with both

hands on the front dimples.

Computer Ink Cartridges – Proceeds go to the Recycling 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.

Plastic Shopping Bags – Donated to the Salvation Army Thrift Store

PLEASE CHECK the new Address Directory draft that will be on the table in the narthex next week to see if your name, address, phone number and, if wanted, your email address is correct. Place a check mark or write ok by your name if it is correct and put any changes needed if it is not.

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!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP meets every Thursday at 8:30 a.m. at Across the Trax. All men are welcome! For more information or for a ride contact Ferdie Kimminau at 331-276-7380.

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 put your request on the registration card at worship.

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.

KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S GOING ON by liking our Holy Cross Group Facebook Page, which can be accessed from our website www.holycrossbeatrice.com.

MINISTRY DOLLARS THROUGH THRIVENT CHOICE DESIGNATION: The deadline for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2025 is March 31, 2026. If you are an eligible Thrivent member please consider directing some or all of your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. You can do it online or by calling 1-800-847-4836 and saying “Thrivent Choice” at the prompt. If you have any questions you may contact Thrivent or the church office. See page 4 for more information.

JANUARY 2026 TREASURER'S REPORT

Sandy Mahler, Treasurer

2026 General Operating	Balance Forward	Income	Transfer in	Transfer out	Expense	Monthly Balance	YTD Balance	YTD Balance including Balance Forward
JANUARY	\$1,098.72	\$20,686.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,836.50	\$6,850.10	\$6,850.10	\$7,948.82
TOTALS YEAR TO DATE:		\$20,686.60			\$13,836.50		\$6,850.10	\$7,948.82

Our Insurance Deductible Fund as of the end of January, 2026 is at \$6317.50. We will be posting an updated amount a few times a year for those interested.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Worship Attendance Offerings

Jan. 25	36	\$ 751.00
Jan. 31/Feb. 1	15-61	\$10,086.00
Feb. 7/8	11-49	\$5186.90
Feb. 14/15	14-56	\$2043.00
Feb. 18	58	\$601.00
Feb. 21/22	16-50	\$1310.30
Feb. 25	38	\$1240.00

Other offerings/donations include: Benevolence-\$160.00, Holy Cross only-\$125.0, Initial Offering Envelopes-\$20.00, Food Pantry-\$55.00, Souperbowl of Caring (Food Pantry)-\$255.00, Oaks Indian Mission-\$600.00, Entryway Flooring-\$100.00, Jan. & Feb. Noisy Offerings (BPS Mini-Mart)-\$108.13, Insurance Deductible Fund-\$220.00, Holy Cross Improvement Fund-\$1424.48



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

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2026**

Present: Pastor James Anderson, Kevin Tranmer, Larry Kendall, Jeremy Engelman, Kodi Higgins, Tom Karlin, Inez Trauernicht

Council called to order at 7:05.

A. An opening reading was read and a Prayer was said by Pastor James.

B. Agenda

1. A motion was made by Jeremy E. with a second by Tom K. to approve the agenda. The motion was approved.
2. A motion was made by Jeremy E. with a second by Kodi H. to approve the Jan. 13, 2026 Council minutes. The motion was approved.

C. Information

1. Ash Wednesday service is February 18, 2026 at 7:00.
2. The Bingo/Pizza evening is February 15, 2026 at 5:00. Jackie Rinne will provide the pizza and prizes with a Thrivent card.
3. A motion was made by Inez T. with a second by Jeremy E. to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was approved.

D. Committee Reports

1. Kodi H.-Finance, all reports look accurate. Memorial and Gifts, no report.
2. Tom K.-Stewardship/Mission Endowment, no report.
3. Kevin T.-Nominating, no report.
4. Kevin T.-Evangelism/Social Ministry, no report
5. Jeremy E.-Youth/Parish Education-discussed having a social event for the youth.
6. Inez T.-Worship, everything is going well. Discussed having an Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 am, with an Easter breakfast following.
7. Tom K.-Property/Improvement, the kitchen entryway concrete is poured. The sealer will be put down in about 20 days. The Property Committee is going to do more investigation of the structure as it's unsure if it's attached to the church.
8. Pastor James-Mutual Ministry, no report

E. Unfinished Business

1. The Pancake feed for Church Improvement Committee is February 21, serving will be from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the American Legion. There will be a Free will donation.
2. The Vision Team will meet on March 12, 2026 at 7:00. Everybody is welcome.
3. There will be a Special Meeting of the Congregation on March 22, 2026 following the church service to vote on the 2022 ELCA Amendments to our church's Constitution.
4. The kitchen entryway concrete bid was tabled till our March meeting as there might be some extra expenses before it's all completed.
5. There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for helping package Mercy Meals. The dates are March 7,

2026 in
Lincoln and March 23, 2026 in Odell.

F. New Business

1. March 11, 2026 the Council will be having a baked potato bar at 6:00 before the Lenten service.
2. We will hand out sacks for the Beatrice Food Pantry the week of March 8 and will pick the sacks up on March 21. Larry K. will ask the congregation for volunteers to hand out the sacks as well. We are going to ask the confirmation class to help on the morning of the 21st to collect the sacks and then they will have a Pizza party before Confirmation class. A motion was made by Larry K. with a second by Jeremy E. to buy the pizza out of the Youth Funds. The motion was approved.
3. We discussed having a Skating/Bowling party for the Youth, it was tabled till next month to wait for the bowling alley to officially open.
4. The Policy and Procedures for Memorial and Gifts are being reviewed and updated.
5. Discussed having a community Easter egg hunt on April 4, 2026 at 2:00. The Easter egg hunt will be for High school and younger children. We will also have drinks and cookies. Will need many volunteers for this project.
6. Discussed the Council goals for this year. Each member was encouraged by Larry K to come up with 1-2 goals on improving Holy Cross or what they would like to accomplish as a Council Member.

G. Adjournment and Closing with the Lord's Prayer

1. A motion was made by Inez T. with a second by Jeremy E. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:45. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Inez Trauernicht
Council Secretary



MARCH 2026

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1918 Garfield St., Beatrice; 402-228-3172;
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holycrosselcabeatrice@gmail.com; Office Hours: 8:30 am-3:00 p.m., T,Th, F
 Pastor James Anderson- janderson007@luthersem.edu
 Sandy Mahler- smahleris@gmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Ed	2	3 10:00 a.m. Joyful Steps	4 5:45 p.m. Faithful Sounds 6:00-6:45 p.m. Lenten Supper 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service	5 8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship @ Across the Trax 8:15 p.m. N.A.	6	7 10:00-12:00 Mercy Meals Food Packaging Lincoln 2:30 p.m. Confirmation 4:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship
8 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 Food Pantry Bags Meeting, Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	9 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study	10 10:00 a.m. Joyful Steps 7:00 p.m. Council	11 9:00-3:00 Blanket Sewing 5:45 p.m. Faithful Sounds 6:00-6:45 p.m. Lenten Supper 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service	12 8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship @ Across the Trax 7:00 p.m. Vision Team 8:15 p.m. N.A.	13	14 WELCA Spring Gathering at Falls City 2:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship
15 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. "Sound of Music" brunch fundraiser 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Ed	16 5:30 p.m. Women of the ELCA Board Meeting	17 10:00 a.m. Joyful Steps	18 5:45 p.m. Faithful Sounds 6:00-6:45 p.m. Lenten Supper 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service	19 8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship @ Across the Trax 8:15 p.m. N.A.	20 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	21 Confirmation Class picks up Food Pantry Bags/Pizza Party 1:00-3:00 Landscape Team Work Day 6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship
22 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Special Meeting of the Congregation	23 Mercy Meals Food Packaging Odell	24 10:00 a.m. Joyful Steps	25 5:45 p.m. Faithful Sounds 6:00-6:45 p.m. Lenten Supper 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service	26 9:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship @ Across the Trax 8:15 p.m. N.A.	27	28 2:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship/Noisy Offering
29 9:00 a.m. Worship/Noisy Offering 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	30	31 10:00 a.m. Joyful Steps 3:00 p.m. Wholly Food				

A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity

Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness. Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger, envy, or self-pity.

Create space in my life for more kindness and less spitefulness, greater generosity and few self-centered needs, stronger compassion and weakened judgement of others.

Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognize the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me.

*In your sacred name, I pray.
Amen*

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1918 Garfield Street
Beatrice, NE 68310

MARCH 2026