

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH–ELCA
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“Inspired by the Holy Spirit to Serve”

Shared values of our Worshiping Community are:
Community + Generosity + Hospitality + Serving

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 9, 2026

Welcome to Worship!

We are thankful that your voice joins others in praise and thanksgiving today, and pray that in worship, you encounter a God of grace and mercy.

To help you during worship:

- Please feel free to ask an usher, greeter or other worshiper if you need assistance.
- For everyone, please fill out an attendance card in the fellowship pad found in each pew and pass them down the row.
- Throughout the bulletin, responses of the assembly are printed in bold type. The leader’s portion is in regular font.
- Words to the hymns are printed on the PowerPoint. If these tunes are in a hymnal, hymn numbers are noted – ELW –Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red) or WOV – With One Voice (blue).
- If you are unable to hear during worship, Assistive Listening Devices are available as you enter the sanctuary. They may be used with or without hearing aids. Please contact an usher to assist.
- In the spirit of worship, please silence cell phones.
- Diaper changing station is located in the Family Bathroom in the hallway.
- Envelopes are provided in the pews for offering.
- We welcome children in worship! They are a blessing to the congregation. If time is needed to step out of the sanctuary with little ones, there are chairs available in the narthex. Also, children’s activity bags are hanging on a stand in the narthex.

Holy Communion

Jesus is the host of this meal; it is he who invites us to the table and we exclude none whom Jesus himself would welcome.

- If you are physically unable to come forward, tell an usher and the sacrament will be brought to you.
- White grape juice is in the center of the tray for those unable to drink wine.
- Gluten-free wafers are available. Tell the pastor/communion assistant serving you.
- Anyone not communing is invited to come forward for a blessing. Keep your hands folded to indicate you would like a blessing.

You may include any notes for the church office on the attendance card. Church office hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 am-3:00 pm

SUNDAY’S WORSHIP WILL ALSO BE ON YOUTUBE FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP.

Introduction: Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God’s presence to others.

(*—please stand as you are able)

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: “Jesus Loves Me” ELW 595

*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie (*spoken*) ELW, p. 147

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

P: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

R: Word of God, word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:8-13 (read responsively)

R: ⁸ Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

C: ⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

R: ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

C: ¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

R: ¹² The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

C: ¹³ Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,

in your mouth and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

R: Word of God, word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation: **“Alleluia!” ELW p. 151a**

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was

against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor James Anderson

Hymn: "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" ELW 817

*Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place, that your word may be heard. Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted, strengthen the church in its faithful witness. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy to all who are afraid or in danger. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer (*especially*).

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For this congregation and its ministries, that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide council members, elders, and other church leaders with your still, calm voice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us. Guide us in our earthly journey, that we may one day join them in your eternal kingdom. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

MEAL

Offering/Offering Music

(We contemplate our response to all that God has given us.)

*Offertory: **“We Are an Offering” ELW 692**

*Offering Prayer

P: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving (spoken) p. 152, ELW

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: it is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: (sung-p.153) Holy, holy, holy, Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*Eucharistic Prayer

*Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Invitation to the Table

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

Distribution (continuous)

Communion Hymn: **"Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me" ELW 755**

*Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

*Prayer after Communion

P: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Blessing

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

*Sending Song: **"I've Got Peace Like a River"**

1. I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river in my soul. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river in my soul.
2. I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean in my soul. I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean in my soul.
3. I've got joy like a fountain. I've got joy like a fountain. I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. I've got joy like a fountain. I've got joy like a fountain. I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

"I've Got Peace Like a River," Spiritual. Arr. By Lyndell Leatherman. ©1972 Lillenas Publishing Co. Used by permission. CCLI License #2452533.

*Dismissal
P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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WORSHIP MINISTRY	
Ministers.....	Members of the Congregation
Pastor.....	James Anderson
Cell: 402-570-9050; E-mail: janderson007@luthersem.edu	
Organist.....	Nadine Hibbert
Greeters.....	Steve & Pam Garton
Ushers.....	Betty George, Mary Schuster-Graff
Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers	Robert & Joyce Haecker
Reader.....	Joyce Haecker
Communion.....	Mary Schuster-Graff
Livestream	Jackie Rinne
PowerPoint Presenter.....	Terri Huls
On-call councilperson-August.....	Inez Trauernicht, 402-239-0469

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH! *We are delighted to have you with us in worship this weekend. Whether you come each week or came today for the first time, you are a valuable member of God's family and we're glad you're here! You are invited to stay for fellowship following worship.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Larry Cole, Betty George (Aug. 11), Dorothy Hofeling (Aug. 13), Leon Voight (Aug. 14).

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to Dorothy Hofeling who will turn 90 on August 13. God's blessings to you – may you have a happy and healthy year!

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Duane & Inez Trauernicht (8-9-97) and Henry &

Denise Williford (8-10-01).

CONGRATULATIONS to Henry & Denise Williford who are celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary on August 10.

DOROTHY HOFELING will be celebrating her 90th birthday on August 13. Her family would like to have a card shower for her. Dorothy and her late husband, Willy, had been members of Holy Cross since its beginning.

Dorothy Hofeling
1952 Rolling River Cir
O'Fallon, MO 663366

IT'S TIME FOR BINGO AGAIN!

Please join us for an evening of fun **TODAY, August 9, beginning at 5:00 p.m.** Enjoy **Bingo, prizes, pizza, and pop**—what a great way to spend a Sunday evening! A special thank you to Jackie Rinne for sponsoring this event with a \$250 Thrivent Action Team Card.

BLANKET SEWING will be held this Wednesday from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. All women are welcome to participate in this ministry. They start at 9:00 a.m. and usually finish at 3:00 pm. They welcome anyone to help at any time during that period.

HELP IS NEEDED for August 11 at 2:00 p.m. We will be making beaded bracelets for the Trunk or Treat event. If you have questions, contact Linda Hemmert, Adonna Otto or Glennys Lienemann.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION: All voting members of the congregation are asked to attend a brief Special Meeting of the Congregation at 10:15 a.m. **NEXT SUNDAY, August 16, 2026.** The purpose of the meeting is to vote on changes to our constitution. Please see the July newsletter or the table in the narthex for items we will be voting on. If you have any questions, see Pastor James.

THE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE will be meeting on Sunday, August 23, beginning at 10:15 a.m. in the conference room. We will be discussing future projects including painting.

FUNDS BEING RAISED FOR PROPERTY PROJECTS: We are collecting donations for two unexpected property projects at church: Concrete on the south side of the church (cost-\$1416.00) and removing the bell from the roof and rewiring it to a new site (final cost not determined yet). If you would like to help with these, you can use an envelope from the pews, put your name on it and mark your donation as "Property Projects". (See the

August newsletter for more details.) Please contact Larry Kendall if you have any questions. Thank you!

PLEASE HELP FILL OUR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS!

Our summer project this year is School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will be collecting items throughout the summer and then assembling them on September 12/13. Please watch for sales on these items, add them to your shopping lists and bring them to church. Why school supplies? To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies sometimes mean the difference between getting an education or not. In the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development. Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage. Many of these school kits go to war torn countries where the children are affected through no fault of their own. The bags are sent with no symbols for their own safety. All items should be new and in good condition. You can leave your donations in the tub in the narthex. Thank you for your gifts to this ministry! Thank you to Shirley Wiens for providing a \$250 Thrivent Action Team card for the purchase of the school bags and to Genell Copas for coordinating this project.

We surpassed our goal of 100 last year—Can we do it again this year?

Each School Kit needs: *(to make 100 as of 8-4-26)*

Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper – **need 96**

One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other - **need 33**

One pencil sharpener – **need 0**

One box of 16 or 24 crayons - **need 19**

One 2½" eraser – **need 1**

One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well) – **need 25**

Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink) – **need 33**

Five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers - **need 0**

GARDEN PRODUCE: You are welcome to bring garden produce to share. We will no longer be asking for donations to the Community Food Pantry. Any left-over produce will be taken to the Community Food Pantry.

YOU ARE WELCOME to use envelopes from the pews for your offerings. If you wish to be credited for what you give, please be sure to write your name on the outside of the envelope. Thank you!

JOYFUL STEPS: Each Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. come join us for our weekly hour of fellowship and exercise. No equipment needed. You may wish to bring a bottle of water. See you all then!

THE LIVE STREAM of Holy Cross worship is 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.

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.

THIS WEEK’S EVENTS:

Sunday, Aug. 9....	9:00 a.m. Worship; 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Memorial & Gifts Team 5:00 p.m. Bingo and Pizza Night
Monday, Aug. 10...	10:00 a.m. Holy Cross Bible Study
Tuesday, Aug. 11.....	10:00 a.m. Joyful Steps 2:00 p.m. Bracelet Making
Wednesday, Aug. 12..	9:00-3:00 Blanket Sewing
Friday, Aug. 14...	8:00 a.m. Men’s Fellowship @ Michael J’s
Saturday, Aug. 15...	6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship
Sunday, Aug. 16....	9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Special Meeting of the Congregation
Office Hours...	8:30-3:00-Tuesday, Thursday & Friday