

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

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612 722-1083

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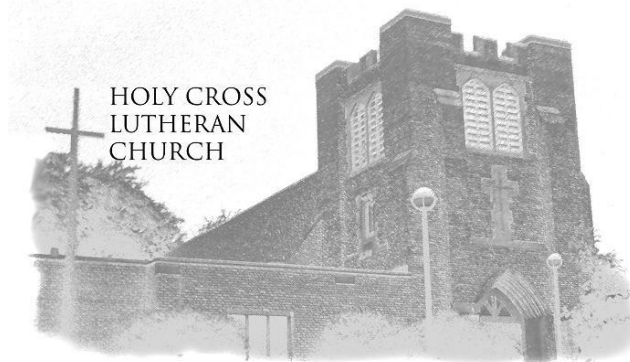
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## December 2017

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**FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR KEITH**

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Saturday Worship Services at 5 pm

Sunday Worship Services at 9:30 am, followed by Fellowship,  
Intergenerational Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:45 am

Wednesday Bible Class at 10:30 am

*There will be no Wednesday Evening Advent Services*

*Saturdays December 23rd and 30th there will not be a 5 pm service.*

**Sunday Dec 24th Morning Worship at 9:30 am**

**5:00 pm and 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Services**

**Monday December 25th 10:00 am Christmas Day Worship Service**

## **Bible Verses of the Month:**

*Who am I?*

I am a human being, created by God with a mind, body, and spirit.

*Genesis 1:27*

*Whose am I?*

I belong to God. My baptism tells me that Jesus' death and resurrection make it possible for me to be a child of God. *1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 1 John 3:1-2, Romans 6:3-5*

*Why am I here?*

God's love for me moves me to serve Him, my family, my neighbors, and strangers. *Ephesians 2:7-10*

*How do I live?*

With hope. Lord, You have been my hope and my confidence since my birth. *Psalm 71:5*

With assurance. Lord, You will be my guide even to the end. *Psalm 68:14*

With intention. I will still bear fruit in my old age. *Psalm 92:14*

With witnessing. Even when I am old and gray I will declare Your marvelous deeds, I will tell them to the next generation. *Psalm 71:13 and 18*

With comfort. The Lord will sustain me, even to my old age and gray hairs; He will carry me and He will rescue me. *Isaiah 46:3 and 4*

With prayer. Teach me to number my days aright, that I may gain a heart of wisdom. *Psalm 90:12*

## **Prayer of the Month:**

O Lord, help me to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with more gusto than I do the earthly meaning of Christmas. Grant me the will to celebrate with joy the fact that on this day You sent Your One and only Son Jesus to cover the cost of all my sins with his life, death, and resurrection. In His name I pray. Amen.

## **Prayers for all the wonderful musicians with whom God has blessed Holy Cross.**

### **Prayers for our Members:**

Keith and Mary Lange, James, Sandi, Steven and Caleb Likely, Jason, Jamie, Makenzie and Braydon Lustfield, Jasmine, Peter and Aryanne Macht, Steve, Linda, Jackson, Matthew and Katherine McConley, Keith and Trish Meyer, Mark and Angela Newfield, Gloria Noetzelman, Steve and Judy Nyman, Lynn Oolman, Ivah Pannkuk, Milly Phelon, Tim and Jeanne Phelon, Amelia Phelon, Sheila Platt, George and Sandra Price and Harrison Riddle, Susan, Emily and John Protzner.

## Thoughts for the Month:

T'was the Night before Jesus Came

*By Lou Pinter*

'Twas the night before Jesus came, and all through the house  
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.  
Our Bibles were laid on the shelf without care  
Not even hoping that Jesus would come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,  
No one was kneeling or bowing a head.  
Mom sat in her rocker, baby on her lap,  
Watching the Late Show, and I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

And what to my wondering eyes should appear  
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.  
With light like the sun sending forth a bright ray,  
I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!

The light of His face made me cover my head.  
It was Jesus! Returning, just like He had said.  
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,  
I cried when I saw Him, in spite of myself.

The Book of Life which He held in His hand,  
Listed the name of every saved man.  
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name,  
When He said "It's not here", my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love  
He gathered to take to His Father above.  
With those who were ready He rose without sound,  
While all of the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late:  
I had waited too long, and thus sealed my fate.  
I stood and cried as they rose out of sight:  
"Oh, if only I had been ready tonight!"

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear,  
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.  
There's only one life and when comes the last call,  
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

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In happy moments, praise God  
In difficult moments, seek God  
In quiet moments, worship God  
In painful moments, trust God  
Every moment, thank God!

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Plato said, "Wise men talk because they have something to say. Fools talk because they have to say something."

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### Christmas Greetings

I've kept a list of folks in a book, and each year at Christmas, I take a look.  
Each person has crossed my path at some time, they have become the rhythm of my rhyme.  
Though it sounds fantastic to make this claim, I feel I'm composed of each person's name.  
You may not be aware of a special link, but meeting you shaped my life more than you think -  
The years do not erase the memories of kind words or a friendly face.  
So don't ever think my Christmas greeting is just a routine, of names on a list,  
forgotten between.  
I send Christmas greetings to folks I have met, and you happen to be one I cannot forget.  
And whether I've known you many days or few, you're a big part of the things that I do.  
Each year at Christmas I see it anew, the biggest gift life brings is folks like you.



Time, Talents, and Treasures

#### **1 Corinthians 1:9**

"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

The faithfulness of God is our great comfort. He has made promises to us and He will keep them, He is kind and loving toward us and will not break faith with us. This gives us the confidence to step out in faith, to leave fear behind. So when it comes to following the Lord's commandments for our daily lives, we know His will is best for us because our God is faithful.

#### **1 Corinthians 1:7**

"...so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Lord sees to it that we do not lack any gift – He has given us every spiritual blessing in Christ as well as every earthly need. He is the Provider, and we can trust Him to provide for us in every way.

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Christians express their thanks to God in prayer, in giving to the Lord, in acts of service to others, in faithful living in their daily callings. Everything we do to honor God in our lives is a means of returning thanks for the Lord's many gifts to us.

## **2 Samuel 7:4**

“But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan . . .”

Nathan thought David’s idea was great, so he blessed it with the Lord’s name. But later that night, the Word of the Lord set him straight. The Word of the Lord must be the basis for what we think, say, and do in God’s Kingdom, not our own desires or whims.

## **Luke 2:12**

“And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Truly, as St. Paul said, He who was rich for our sakes became poor, for behold the King who must be laid in a manger, no crib for His bed! There in the manger is the very picture of self-giving generosity.

## **John 1:12**

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

What a joy to be called the children of God! We have a Father who cares for us and loves us, we have no need to fear. And with our fear set aside, we are free to serve the Christ who has become flesh.

## **Luke 2:39**

“And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord. . .”

The Law of God is good. Of course, it always shows us our sins, but that is good, too! We need to be driven back to the forgiveness of Christ. But the Law also shows us the blessed way to live. As Mary and Joseph found their joy in a godly life, so should we see the Law as a guide for Christian living, as the roadmap for saying thank you to the Lord for all His grace and mercy to us.

## **Luke 2:21**

“And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”

The Name of Jesus means “the Lord Saves.” There is no better way to end or begin a year than with the sweet comfort of the Name of Jesus - He saves us, He loves us, He desires to bless us. That assurance is the basis for all we do in our Christian lives.

Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament. We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”. We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace”.

We receive the proclaimed Savior not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger, but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy because of this blessing from our Lord and God.

God’s people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people, and He commanded them to feast upon it. The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord’s name dwelled, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessings of the Lord.

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings, and they enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they heard His promises of blessing, sang of His

bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave. We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas, but throughout all the year.

We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessings that He has given us. Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in Christ the Lord.

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## Glory to God



Peace, Good Will

*Submitted by Milly Phelon*

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Once upon a time while the world for a sacred moment stood solemnly still, it came upon a midnight clear. Angels bending near the earth, singing full-throated, a glorious song: Glory to God, peace, good will...

Why? Because to a pair of ordinary unknowns from an insignificant town

visiting in an unspectacular village in which they had no decent place to stay, a child was born.

It is a story that we have come to know by heart.

And, yet, we are always ready to hear it again, I think, because in a world that is loud with many sounds, the most holy and often hidden part of us still longs to hear the angels sing.

The world is loud with the silence and alienation of weary people. A New Yorker cartoon shows a crowd of people walking down a busy street with tired eyes, sideways glances, downcast faces, and the caption says, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." High expectations, disappointing results. It is a weary world in which we live, but do you hear the angels?

The world is loud with cries of conflict and instant, often deadly anger – among nations, in communities, within families, in elementary schools. Retaliation and revenge run roughshod over peace and reconciliation. Our fingers are often pointed at someone else. It is an angry world, but do you hear the angels?

The world is loud with the crushing load of the burdens of life. Loved ones lost, lost ones forgotten, little ones mourned. We are both the victims and the perpetrators of misbegotten coping skills: violence, intimidation, compulsion, blame.

It is a frightening world, but do you hear the angels?

The world is loud with many sounds that break our hearts, that fuel our skepticism, that scar our souls, but tonight we are here to listen closely, to listen more deeply than our battered hearts, our broken trust, our barren

souls often let us listen, to hear the sound of angels singing. Glory to God, peace, good will...

Listen. Because the angels that sang to stunned shepherds once upon a time still sing. And for those who listen for their song amid the cackling confusion, the sad silences, the angry actions of the weary world, they sing a song of hope and peace. They sing the song of a savior born in an out of the way place among ordinary people. They sing a song of God with us, God for us, God become one of us so that we might be saved from the loud and silent sounds that surround us and sneak within.

Listen. The angels sing at odd times in unexpected places among ordinary people. They sing whenever a human being responds to the love of God by turning that love toward another whether they know it is the love of God at work in them or not. When a friend who knows that times are kind of tough says without pretense or affect that he will pray for you this week...when a daughter leaves a note on your desk with a big heart on it that says "I love you."...when someone cooks a meal for another in need, the angels sing.

When one falsely imprisoned is set free...when a child reared in poverty receives a college degree...when one stops long enough to listen when someone else needs to talk, the angels sing.

When, for a brief shining moment, we put aside our fears and insecurities, lay down the armor of bravado and pride, and simply love one another as we *are*, never mind our many differences...when compassion outlasts competition; when reconciliation bests re- crimination. Whenever we come together

when we could be torn apart, the angels sing. Do you hear them?

And tonight as we tell the old, old story and sing the familiar carols and light our candles, the song the angels sing becomes the message that we share. Glory to God, peace, goodwill...And whenever we lift our meager voices in praise of the God who comes to us in the fullness of Christ even when some of us can't carry a tune and don't know a b-flat from a c-sharp, the angels sing right along with us. Glory to God, peace, good will...

Make no mistake, there will continue to be the sounds of the siren songs of temptation and pride, of insecurity and doubt, of fear and failure, and sometimes or more than that we will be enticed by them, impressed by their power, lured by their false promises. But the angels sing, every day, every waking and sleeping hour. Even now. And for a time – for a blessed, miraculous, magnificent moment that in its way stretches to eternity – for a time, the loud and destructive sounds of the world retreat and diminish. The angels sing. In the present tense, yes, and forevermore. That's a message worth sharing, isn't it?

They sing because a child is born, because God is with us. Because God does for us what we are powerless to do for ourselves.

And that's always the start of something great, something like a life worth living. So, go tell somebody else. And let's keep getting together to remind one another of the song the angels sing.

Glory to God, peace and good will...  
Amen.

*Common Ground Recovery Worship  
Pastor Rick Summy, December 2012*

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## USHERS

|           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| Dec 3     | Horrnann and Phelon     |
| 10        | Lange and Lange         |
| 17        | J and M Blomberg        |
| 24        | Phelon and Lange        |
| <b>25</b> | <b>Phelon and Lange</b> |
| 31        | Oolman and Tatham       |

## COUNTERS

|       |                           |
|-------|---------------------------|
| Dec 3 | A Horrnnann and Woodraska |
| 10    | M and K Lange             |
| 17    | M Blomberg and G Klatt    |
| 24    | Oolman and Woodraska      |
| 31    | Oolman and Klatt          |

## LEAD DEACON AND ASSISTANT

Roberta Brooks and Klaus Guenther

## ALTAR GUILD

Jean Anderson

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## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Jamie Lustfield  | 12/4  |
| Ivah Pannkuk     | 12/6  |
| Kimberly Witt    | 12/9  |
| Trinda Jevne     | 12/18 |
| Sandi Likely     | 12/19 |
| Jason Lustfield  | 12/19 |
| Carolyn Blomberg | 12/22 |
| Donna Bristol    | 12/22 |
| Paul Jevne       | 12/27 |
| Steve Nyman      | 12/30 |

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**We put our arms around the family of Mary Treziok, who died October 8.** Her funeral service was November 18.

**We also put our arms around the family of Bill Bartlett, who died November 25.** His funeral service was Nov 28.

**We say a big “thank you” to those who helped with our Holy Cross clean up day.** The weather didn’t cooperate, but the McConley family, Dave and Tena Ubl, Mike Dennis and Judy and Errol Sorenson got a lot done – raking, picking up sticks, cleaning gutters and waterways, tidying the furnace room, replacing light bulbs and more. We are grateful for our volunteers!

**Join us on Saturday, December 2nd, for the Holiday Shoppe Christmas Artisan Sale.** Support local artists, do your holiday gift shopping, and support local charities at the same time! The Holiday Shoppe will be in the church Fellowship Hall.

**Mite offering will be collected Sunday December 3, thank you.**

**Plan to pick up your greens and wreaths Sat and Sun December 2 and 3.**



**Sign up in the narthex to purchase a poinsettia plant to decorate our church for Christmas.** You can take your plant home after the Christmas

Day worship service. Envelopes are provided near the sign-up sheet, to be placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

**We celebrate Ivah Pannkuk’s 99<sup>th</sup> birthday December 6, we love you, Ivah!**

**Come to the Holy Cross Carol Sing Friday December 8, 7:00 pm at Peter and Gail Klatt’s house.** Please bring finger foods and/or your favorite beverage. 1070 Tiffany Place, Eagan 651 452-5411



**We are putting together an Intergenerational Christmas program**, which will happen as part of worship on **December 17th** at 9:30 am. We are looking for volunteers to read, participate in skits or monologues, or use their musical gifts. If you will participate, please contact Phil. **A light brunch will follow the worship service and Christmas program**, join us.

**Our Hands in Ministry have chemo hats.** If you, friends, or family are in need, please feel free to take as many as you can use.

**We are grateful to Errol and Judy Sorenson for picking up the baked goods at Cub each week**, it's a lot of work! They drive to Cub and load up, move the boxes in and down the stairs to pack our freezers, and then take the rest to share with CES food shelf. Thank you so much for your time and effort!

**The We Care fund** is dedicated to help Holy Cross families who are in need. If God is calling you to support this mission do not hesitate, please donate. If your family needs financial assistance, please contact Pastor - all inquiries will remain confidential.

**“Thank you so much for your gifts to Holy Cross in memory of our mother, Marcia.** We are so fortunate that we were able to experience our younger years at Holy Cross, and pleased that Mom was able to “go home” for her service. She really appreciated the beautiful cards your Card Group sent, no holiday was complete without one from her beloved friends at Holy Cross. Thank you!” *Jean, Karen, Paul, and John Mulhausen*

From now until mid April, **Shelley's office hours will be in the mornings, 8 am – 11 am.**

## **HOLY CROSS YELLOW PAGES**

**CUSTOM TRIP PLANNING** for your next vacation in Britain. Customized small group tours of “Off-the-beaten-path” Britain. Please contact us to talk over any level of detail from general advice to de-tailed itineraries, transportation and accommodation bookings. Black Swan Explorations Andy Tatham 651 755-2577 or [Info@BlackSwanExplorations.com](mailto:Info@BlackSwanExplorations.com).

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Doris duBois 612 722-7950

**PIANO LESSONS** in your home, ages 7 – adult. Steve Brooks 612 825-9050, or [stevebrooks@bunsonmars.com](mailto:stevebrooks@bunsonmars.com)

# December 2017

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
|   |  |  |  |  | 1<br>7:00 pm AA Meeting<br><br><b>Gertens del greens to HC</b>   | 2<br><b>10 – 4 Craft Sale</b><br><br>3-5 GA Intergroup<br><br><b>5 pm Worship Service</b> |
| 3 <b>Mite Offering 9:30 am Worship w/Comm.</b><br><br><b>Pick up your greens</b><br><br><b>10:45 Sunday School and IG Bible Study</b><br><br>7:00 pm GA | 4<br>6:00 pm Craft Group                                 | 5<br><b>7 pm Deacon's Meeting</b><br><br>7:00 Russian Soul Group | 6<br><b>10:30 am Bible Study</b><br><br><b>6-7 pm Confirmation here</b><br><br><b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>  | 7<br>7:00 pm AA Meeting  | 8<br><b>7 pm Carol Sing at Klatt's</b><br><br>7:00 pm AA Meeting | 9<br><b>5 pm Worship Service w/Communion</b>  |
| 10 <b>9:30am Worship w/Communion</b><br><br><b>10:45 Sunday School and IG Bible Study</b><br><br>7:00 pm GA   | 11<br><b>10:30 Prayer Group</b><br><br><br><br>6:30 ICAN | 12<br>7:00 Russian Soul Group                                    | 13<br><b>10:30 am Bible Study</b><br><br><b>6-7 pm Confirmation here</b><br><br><b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b> | 14<br><b>2:00 Hands in Ministry</b><br><br><b>7 pm Trustee Meeting</b><br><br>7:00 pm AA Meeting | 15<br>7:00 pm AA Meeting   | 16<br>S. Likely Kitchen<br><br><b>5 pm Worship Service</b>                                |
| 17 <b>9:30 am Worship Svc &amp; INTERGEN. CHRISTMAS PROGRAM</b><br><br><b>Brunch</b> after worship service<br><br>7:00 pm GA                            | 18   | 19<br>7:00 Russian Soul Group                                    | 20<br><b>6-7 pm Confirmation here</b><br><br><b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>                                    | 21<br>7:00 pm AA Meeting   | 22<br>7:00 pm AA Meeting   | 23<br><b>No 5:00 pm Worship Service</b>   |
| 24 <b>9:30 am Worship</b><br><br><b>5 pm Christmas Eve Service</b><br><br><b>10 pm Christmas Eve Service</b>  | 25<br><b>10:00 am Christmas Day Worship Service</b>      | 26<br>7:00 Russian Soul Group                                    | 27<br><b>No Confirmation</b>   | 28<br>7:00 pm AA Meeting   | 29<br>7:00 pm AA Meeting   | 30<br><b>No 5 pm Worship Service</b>  |
| 31 <b>9:30 am Worship Service w/Comm.</b>   |  |  |  |  |  |   |