

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

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612 722-1083

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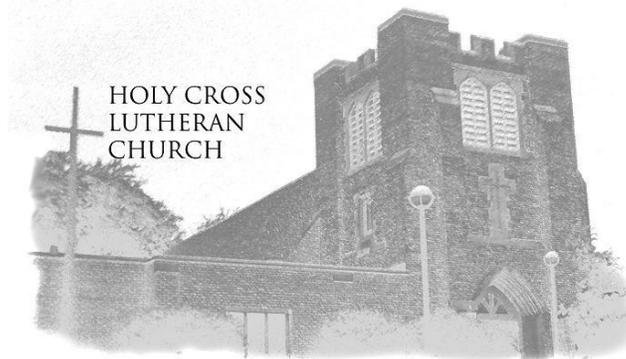
**Keith Meyer, Pastor**

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## January 2018

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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**

**Bible Verse of the Month:**

James 5:13-16

“Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

**Prayer of the Month:** Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. May His angels watch me through the night, and keep me in their blessed sight. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take. Amen.

**Prayers for Board of Directors:** Steve McConley, Kimberly Blomberg, Jean Anderson, Sally Gorski, Roberta Brooks, Judy Sorenson, and Lyle Horrmann.

**Prayers for our Members:** Diane and Alex Reyes; Jack and Marilyn Risser; Jerry and Carol Rusk; Harold and Evelyn Sand; Jim and Linda Scanlon; Dave and Barb Schlueter; Terry and Beverly Shingledecker; Errol and Judy Sorenson; Grant, Melissa, Lucas, and Leo Sorenson; Marlette Steinke; Andy, Darcy, and Anneliese Tatham; Dave and Tena Ubl; Durwood and Esther Witt; Kimberly Witt; Jonathon, Deni, Kalin, and Evangeline Woltmann; Reuben Woodraska; Chad, Carrie, Jude, and Dane Yeager.

**Thoughts for the Month:**

A man went to a barbershop, and as the barber worked, they talked about many things. When they touched on the topic of God, the barber said, "I don't believe that God exists." "Why do you say that?" asked the customer. "Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there wouldn't be any suffering or pain. I can't think a loving God who would allow such things."

The customer thought for a minute but didn't say anything because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished and just after the customer left the barber shop, he saw a man in the street with long hair and an untrimmed beard. The customer went back in to the barber shop and said, "Barbers don't exist!" "How can you say that? I'm here and I'm a barber", said the barber.

"No!" the customer said. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there wouldn't be people like that man out there with long hair and untrimmed beards." "Ah, but barbers do exist. What happens is that people don't come to me." "Exactly" said the customer. "God exists. What happens is that people don't go to Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

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As children bring their broken toys for us to mend,  
I brought broken dreams to God, He was my friend.  
But instead of leaving Him to work alone,  
I interfered, with ways that were my own.  
I pulled back my dreams and cried, "How can You be so slow?"  
"My child," He said, "What could I do? You never would let go."

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Finish every day and be done with it, you have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in, but forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day, begin it serenely, with prayer and with a high spirit. This day is all that is good and fair. It's too dear with its hopes and invitations to waste a moment on yesterdays.

Pray all the time. Don't ask God to do what you want, ask Him to do what is right. Your thumb is nearest to you so begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. The next finger is the

pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct, and heal - doctors, nurses, and pastors, who need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us to pray for our leaders in government and business, who shape our country. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, and it should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble, or in pain. You can't pray too much for them. And lastly comes our little finger, the smallest of all, and that is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for others, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

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Hugging is healthy, it aids the body's immune system. It cures depression, reduces stress, induces sleep, invigorates, and has no unpleasant side-effects. It is nothing less than a miracle drug. Hugging is organic, it's naturally sweet, has no pesticides, no preservatives, no artificial ingredients, and is 100% wholesome. Hugging is practically perfect, there are no movable parts, no batteries to wear out and no periodic checkups. It's low in energy consumption and high in energy yield, inflation proof, and non-fattening. There are no monthly payments or insurance requirements, it's theft-proof, non-taxable, non-polluting, and of course fully returnable.

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How do you know that you're getting older? Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work like it used to. You feel like the morning after and you haven't been anywhere. You need your glasses to find your glasses; your back goes out more than you do; your knees buckle but your belt won't; your mind makes contracts that your body can't keep. Dialing long distance wears you out, your children begin to look middle aged, and the gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals. You look forward to a dull evening, you know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions, you have too much room in your house but not enough room in the medicine cabinet. You stop looking forward to your next birthday but you're glad when it arrives.

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## **Time, Talents, and Treasures**

**Psalm 8:2** “Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength.”

Jesus points to children as the image of faith. Infants and children are a living picture of the way we should trust and depend on our Heavenly Father. The good works of our Christian life flow forth from that trust.

**Isaiah 60:6** “They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.”

Faith in God moves the heart toward thanksgiving, which moves us toward making offerings to the Lord in His House. It's what Christians do: our thanksgiving to our Lord overflows into sacrificial giving to the Lord. What Isaiah prophesied, the Wise Men did, and what we still do today is to give with a thankful heart.

**Mark 1:7** And John preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I,

the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.”

John is right, Jesus is greater than any of us, yet behold how He came to serve! That is the grace of God, that the innocent Jesus takes our sinner’s place. The greatest act of giving the world has ever known was the Father’s gift of His Son to die in the place of sinners.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** “You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

God owns everything. We were made to serve Him and glorify Him and will never truly be happy or find our fulfillment until we learn that lesson. Jesus has redeemed us and brought us back into the Kingdom of the Father, and that has set us free to serve Him in joy, generosity, liberty, and faith.

**Mark 1:14-15** Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

To repent means to turn away from sins and our former way of thinking and turn toward belief in God and His Gospel of grace and mercy. The whole Christian life is one of repentance and faith. Where is God calling you to repent today? How is He calling you to deeper faith?

**Mark 1:22** “And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.”

Authority is a word we sometimes don’t like to hear, but that’s our sinful flesh talking. Jesus’ authority is something we need. We need him to show us what to believe and how to live, for his authority is always connected to his love.

It’s a new year. It’s a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come, and a time when we sit down to plan what we want to accomplish and what we want to change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year. We may find this difficult, daunting and even joyless, but it doesn’t have to be. To make that planning less stressful, begin by answering these three questions: Who am I? To whom do I give? And how much?

The Table of Duties in the Small Catechism informs us. You are a hearer of God’s Word, a citizen of society and a member of a family. Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, family. We don’t particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties and our questions arise in giving to the church. So, what is our duty as members of the church with regard to giving? The Table of Duties, again, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer, a member of the church who receives instruction, St. Paul taught: “Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor” (Galatians 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord’s blessed sacraments to you, and your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the church, He has the local congregation in mind. For “the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our instructions are these: to give regularly, proportionally, and generously of our first fruits with a spirit of

eagerness, earnestness, cheerfulness, and love. Giving to the church is deliberate. We give regularly, keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set our gift aside before anything else is spent.

We set aside a proportionate and generous amount, ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself, is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

We give with eagerness and earnestness, cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, “it is more blessed to give than to receive”.

In stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

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## INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY

### Holy Cross

Phillip Brandvold,  
DCE/DCO

**Vision Statement:**  
Rooted in Christ,  
tangled together,  
branching out.



### **Mission Statement:**

To focus on multi-generational education, community, and service to others, as we collectively deepen our roots in Christ.

### **Purpose:**

To bring all ages together in education, community and service so we can learn from one another by serving as Christ's hands and feet.

*Biblical education and study will be in lifespan education style. Lifespan education is about learning the same topics together, which encourages discussion across multiple generations.*

This means that we will gather those from 6th grade through adult on Sundays to delve into God's word. We will learn from each other what God wants us to seek, and as he created us for relationship, what better way than to grow together in our learning?

Community, the people next to us, is a gift from God. Because we are created for relationships, we need community to support and encourage us in our life and faith walks. *Community will be built through activities and outings that encourage relationship across multiple generations.*

*Service to others is our way of sharing God's love for His children. As Christ's followers, we are given the opportunity to be the deliverers of God's love through our actions, thoughts and words. As we focus on service to others through outreach opportunities, we look to Matthew 25:*

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation.’”

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**Thank you for sharing your poinsettias,** such a lovely addition to our Christmas services.

Reuben Woodraska  
Carol and Lyle Horrmann  
Donna Bristol  
Klaus, Heidi and Clara Guenther  
Jean Anderson  
Keith and Mary Lange  
Trish and Pastor Meyer  
Steve and Kimberly Blomberg  
Jerry and Carol Rusk  
Roberta and Steve Brooks



**We put our arms around the family of Sandi Likely on the death of her brother, Big Steve Bete,** who died December 11.

**We celebrate with Ralph and Lynnae the birth of their daughter, Esther Ellen Asher.**

**The annual altar guild meeting will be held on Saturday, January 20 from 9:30 to 11:30 am,** all altar guild members are encouraged to attend.

*Jean Anderson*

**December Mite Offering was \$195.72, thank you.**

**Thanks to those who supported our Intergenerational ministry by buying Christmas greens.**

**From the Trustees**

We had to replace a church furnace blower motor, the cost was approximately \$500.00.

Many have commented on the concrete work done outside the church office. When the contractor returns in the spring, we will discuss with him what needs to be done. We

have not yet been billed for the \$1500 cost of the project.

We'll keep you informed as to future projects and their costs.

For security, the lower level door on 18th Ave will be locked at 9:30 on Sunday mornings.

*Judy Sorenson, Head Trustee*

**It takes a congregation!** Advent is a busy time, and our staff and volunteers made Christmas lovely again this year. We thank Pastor for the services, and Julie Wright, David Hinrichs, Wendy Kofoot, the choir and all of the special musicians. A huge thanks to Phil Brandvold for his hard work organizing Intergenerational classes, activities, and service events. There was the Christmas program by the children, congregation, and DCE/DCO and the brunch; the people who put up and decorate the tree, order and install the wreaths and the nativity set, those sewing and assembling the Christmas stockings, setting up and decorating the candelabras, purchasing, coordinating and ordering the poinsettias, Tim and Jeanne Phelon who do the beautiful luminaries every year - it really does take a lot of people to put everything together and to do it so well.

**We put our arms around the family of former Holy Cross Pastor Gartner,** who died in Michigan in May.

**“ I can't describe how blown away we are by your generosity to CES and our neighbors. Thank you! *Chris Nelson, CES Director of Development***

**We received a card and gift of \$500.00** from Paul and Teresa Mulhausen “in gratitude for all you have done for the Mulhausen's, and in memory of Bob and Marcia”.

## HOLY CROSS YELLOW PAGES

**“Thank you very much for your congregation's kindness and compassion throughout the time of our father's passing.** Holy Cross was a church family in every sense of the word - my dad and mother loved their church and always spoke affectionately about it.” *Bill and Cindy Bartlett*

**If inclement weather has you wondering** if worship services will be held, Holy Cross will be listed on Fox 9 TV and KTIS 98.5 FM radio broadcasts. Pastor will also email if he's canceling services, please check it if things look treacherous.

**Our 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.

**Make it easy on yourself.** Check with your bank to set up automatic payment for your Holy Cross offering; many members use this time-saving method.

Until mid April, **Shelley's office hours are in the mornings, 8 am – 11 am M-F.**



Having a chat.

**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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Fundraisers – 40% of sales go to your group  
Parties – get free items  
Host a Bridal Shower  
Order your favorite from the catalog or choose from In-House Inventory. Super discount, no waiting.  
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)

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## USHERS

- 7 Lyle and Adam Horrmann
- 14 J and M Blomberg
- 21 Phelon and Lange
- 28 Oolman and Tatham

## COUNTERS

- 7 A Horrmann and Woodraska
- 14 M Blomberg and G Klatt
- 21 Lange and Lange
- 28 Oolman and G Klatt

## ALTAR GUILD

Linda Scanlon

## LEAD DEACON AND ASSISTANT

Ralph Asher and Lyle Horrmann



## JANUARY

## WEDDINGS

Jan 13 Dave and Tena Ubl

## BIRTHDAYS

- Jan 9 Joyce Baago
- 11 Jon Adams
- 17 Jackie Bock
- 20 Jon Woltmann
- 28 Evelyn Sand



December 6, 2017

# JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>9:30 am Worship Service</b>  <b>10:45 Sunday School, IG Bible Study</b>  7:00 pm GA	1 6:30 pm Craft Group	2 <b>7:00 pm Deacons Meeting</b>  7:00 Russian Soul Rehearsal	3 <b>10:30 am Bible Study</b>  <b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	4 7:00 pm AA Meeting	5 7:00 pm AA Meeting	6 8-10 am AA  3-5 GA Intergroup  <b>5 pm Worship Service</b>
7 <b>9:30 am Worship Service</b>  <b>10:45 Sunday School, IG Bible Study</b>  7:00 pm GA	8 <b>10:30 Prayer Group</b>  6:30 ICAN	9 7:00 Russian Soul Rehearsal	10 <b>10:30 am Bible Study</b>  <b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	11 <b>2-4 Hands in Ministry</b>  7:00 pm AA Meeting  <b>7 pm BoD Meeting</b>	12 7:00 pm AA Meeting	13 8-10 am AA  1:00-4:00 pm MG Club Family Rm  <b>5 pm Worship w/Communion</b>
14 <b>9:30 am Worship Service</b>  <b>10:45 Sunday School, IG Bible Study</b> Russian Yolka? 3-5 pm  7:00 pm GA	15 Martin Luther King Day	16 7:00 Russian Soul Rehearsal	17 <b>10:30 am Bible Study</b>  <b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	18 7:00 pm AA Meeting	19 7:00 pm AA Meeting	20 8-10 am AA  <b>9:30-11:30 am Altar Guild Annual Meeting</b>  <b>5 pm Worship Service</b>
21 <b>9:30 am Worship Service</b>  <b>10:45 Sunday School, IG Bible Study</b>  7:00 pm GA	22	23 7:00 Russian Soul Rehearsal	24 <b>10:30 am Bible Study</b>  <b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	25 7:00 pm AA Meeting	26 7:00 pm AA Meeting	27 8-10 am AA  <b>5 pm Worship Service</b>
28 <b>9:30 am Worship Service</b>  <b>10:45 Sunday School, IG Bible Study</b>  7:00 pm GA	29	30 7:00 Russian Soul Rehearsal	31 <b>10:30 am Bible Study</b>  <b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>			