

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

1720 E Minnehaha Parkway  
Minneapolis MN  
612 722-1083

[www.holycrossmpls.org](http://www.holycrossmpls.org)

[facebook.com/HolyCrossMPLS](https://facebook.com/HolyCrossMPLS)

**Don Mulfinger, Vacancy Pastor**

## December 2018

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### FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DON



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

**Wednesday Bible Class at 10:30 am**

**Christmas Eve Worship Services  
7:00 pm and 10:00 pm**

**Christmas Day Worship Service  
9:30 am**

I've seen a lot of ways to celebrate this special time of year, but this is one of the best ever! Mary found it on Facebook.

*Pastor Don*

### REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day add an item to a box, and on Christmas Eve donate the contents to a food bank.

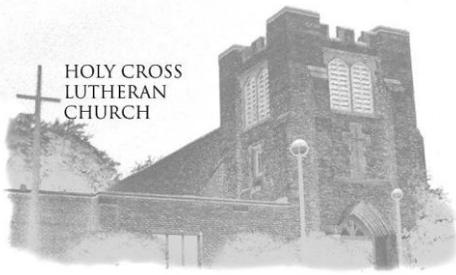
- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

*from [passionatepennypincher.com](http://passionatepennypincher.com)*

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### Let's Look in the Bible

How is faith defined in *Hebrews 11:1*?



We welcome **Dakota Goodbrand**, daughter of Nicholas and Janey Goodbrand, who was baptized November 18.

We celebrate with **Erick and Courtney Horrmann** the birth of their baby boy, Edward James Lee Horrmann (Eddie), on November 14th. We wish them health, love and happiness!

**Ring Christmas Bells, Merrily Ring  
Tell all the World Jesus is King**



**Would you like to sing or play for any of the upcoming services in December?**  
Sundays 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th at 9:30 am  
Christmas Eve 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm  
Christmas Day 9:30 am

If you are interested but not sure of a song choice, we can help!  
If you would like to be part of a small group, let us know.

Please talk to Julie Wright or David Hinrichs or contact Julie at 612-210-1982 [juliewrightphoto@comcast.net](mailto:juliewrightphoto@comcast.net)

**The greens from Gerten's will be available for pickup on Sunday, December 2.**

**Come to the Holy Cross Carol Sing Friday December 14, 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

**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. The plants are \$17.00, **please sign up by Sunday December 16.** Thank you!

**Holy Cross Call Committee members finalized the Synod Call Packet and President Steve Blomberg has taken it to a meeting with the Synod.** If you have a name for a possible Pastor, please see Steve; for submission you need to fill out a form for the Synod. The next step is to hear back from the Synod, which could take several weeks to several months.

**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. They picked up \$2192.00 of goods in November. Thank you so much for your time and effort!

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**Let's Look in the Bible**

When did the sun stand still?  
*Joshua 10*

**It's looking like Christmas, thanks so much to all who put up the tree and the nativity scene!** We'd be lost without our volunteers – **thanks as well to all those who helped with the Holy Cross clean up in November,** things are looking nice.

## 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 detailed itineraries, transportation and accommodation bookings. Black Swan Explorations  
Andy Tatham 651 755-2577 or  
Info@BlackSwanExplorations.com.

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## Glory to God



### Peace, Good Will

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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 elem-

entary 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*

*Submitted by Milly Phelon*



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jamie Lustfield	12/4
Ivah Pannkuk	12/6
Pastor Mulfinger	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
Alicia Blomberg	12/28
Steve Nyman	12/30

## USHERS

Dec 2	L Horrmann and A Horrmann
9	E Copeland and M Blomberg
16	T Phelon and K Lange
23	L Oolman and A Tatham
<b>24</b>	<b>K Lange and T Phelon</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>T Phelon and K Lange</b>
30	A Horrmann and L Horrmann

## COUNTERS

Dec 2	A Horrmann and R Woodraska
9	M Blomberg and G Klatt
16	M and K Lange
23	L Oolman and G Klatt
24	M and K Lange
25	M and K Lange
30	A Horrmann and R Woodraska

## LEAD DEACON AND ASSISTANT

Becky Swenson-Dennis and Ralph Asher

## ALTAR GUILD

Jean Anderson

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## Let's Look in the Bible

What is the source of "For everything there is a season"?

(not Pete Seeger or The Byrds — Turn, Turn, Turn)

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

## STRANGE BRANCH

Jeremiah 33:14-16 - *Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."*

Have you ever seen a fruit cocktail tree? Most trees produce only one kind of fruit, and all the branches of the tree are the same. But with a fruit cocktail tree, you can get apricots, nectarines, peaches, and plums from the same tree. It works because some of the branches are strange; they didn't naturally grow out of the tree they live on now. Someone has cut them from other trees and then grafted them all on to the same trunk. Strange branches produce unexpected fruit.

King David's family tree is a little like a fruit cocktail tree. It is a human family tree; every branch bears real people, but one branch is different from all the rest, strange. What makes it different? That branch is righteous: good, holy, perfect. This is Jesus' branch. In a tree full of sinners, He sticks out like a single branch of peaches among plums.

The prophet Jeremiah described Jesus as a righteous branch who will rule God's people in justice. But he says that Jesus will go further than that. "In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely." Jesus is coming to do more than govern; He is going to be our Savior. And then the prophet tops it all off by giving Jesus a name: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Wait a minute. Whose righteousness? Jeremiah says Jesus is our righteousness! The prophet knows perfectly well that we have no righteousness of our own. We are all of us imperfect, sinful human beings -- the fruit we bear is rotten and wormy, even the best of it. We are infected with evil, and on our own, we can never overcome it. We need help.

But that's where the strange branch comes in. When God grafted Jesus into the human family tree, He did more than just stick a single unusual branch among us. He put a branch into our tree that has the power to transform all the other branches, too. We aren't just watching while Jesus does His own strange thing, apart from us and our problems. Because Jesus is our Savior, He is changing all our branches as well -- making everyone who trusts in Him into people who are like Him.

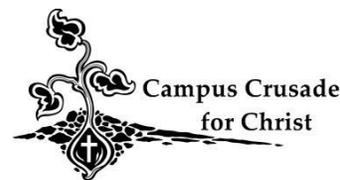
Because Jesus has died and risen for our sake, we too can be righteous. Jesus is our righteousness *now*. When God looks at us, He doesn't see bad branches bearing rotten fruit. He sees branches that belong to Jesus -- righteous with His righteousness.

That is good news for us!

**THE PRAYER:** Lord, thank You for becoming my righteousness and making me one of Your branches. Amen.

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo. Used by permission; all rights reserved by the Int'l LLL (LHM).

*Submitted by Julie Wright*



Meet Ashley, she's been a part of our movement since she



was a freshman. Though she was reluctant to get involved at first, over the years she's surrendered to the Lord and He has moved in her life in profound ways. She discipled, and her disciples discipled others. The impact and legacy she's had are great, the women she's poured into walk with Jesus, share their faith, and teach others to do the same. Students have come to know Jesus as a result of Ashley and her girls taking steps of faith to share the Gospel. We're praying mightily for her as she prepares to graduate this December – we're excited to send her to the world to continue to make disciples.

Pastor Matt invited Erick a few weeks ago as a guest on his podcast series talking about relevant topics from a Christian perspective. Erick chose something that he's passionate about, race and racism in America, feeling that it's a topic that can't go ignored in the Christian community. The recording time was full of great coffee-fueled conversation and a lot more to think on, pray about and discuss further.

Pray for us as we are in the thick of the biggest transition of our lives. We're blessed to be parents to our new son – the learning curve is high, our sleeping hours are low, but we are bursting with joy and love for Eddie.

Yours in fulfilling the great commission,  
*Erick and Courtney*

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Adam and Eve - First ones to ignore Apple Terms and Conditions

A problem is a chance for you to do your best — *Duke Ellington*

This year we changed our tuition system. Tuition has always been based on family size and income level. However, this change greatly simplified the process for the families. It also allowed us to better highlight what we designed the program to accomplish – increase our parent's participation and allow us more opportunities to make an impact on each child's home! This new program offers a clearer pathway to zero tuition for our lowest income families, but all families benefit. We offer tuition credit for participation in activities such as volunteering, parent education events, choir performances, Adult Life groups, and parent-teacher conferences.

We were happy too because it kept parents highly involved and gave them a real stake in their child's education. This caused some growing pains as we had to figure out a system to track all of this, but it brought joy too! We got to see the Spirit move.

This year we also changed our administrative structure so that we could be more proactive to the needs God is bringing to us. It also puts us on steadier grounds to better handle many of the challenges we face.

Thank you for another year of partnering with us to bring education and hope to our students and families.

School Year Verse: *Galatians 5:22-23*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Sarah JS Wippich

# December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Nov 30 7:00 pm Al Anon in Family Room  7:00 pm AA Meeting  <b>Gertens del greens to HC</b>	1 8:30 – 10:30 am AA Group  <b>Set up for party.</b>  3-5 GA Intergroup
<b>2 Mite Offering</b> <b>9:30 am</b> <b>Worship</b>  <b>Pick up your greens</b>  <b>10:45 Sunday School and IG Bible Study</b>  <b>11:00 Ivah Pannkuk's Party</b>  7:00 pm GA	3	4 7:00 Russian Soul Group	5 <b>10:30 am Bible Study</b>  <b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	6 <b>7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting</b>  7:00 pm AA Meeting	7 7:00 pm Al Anon in Family Room  7:00 pm AA Meeting	8 8:30 – 10:30 am AA Group
19 <b>9:30am</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>w/Communion</b>  <b>10:45 Sunday School and IG Bible Study</b>  7:00 pm GA	10 <b>10:30 Prayer Group</b>  6:30 ICAN	11 7:00 Russian Soul Group	12 <b>10:30 am Bible Study</b>  <b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	13 <b>2:00 Hands in Ministry</b>  7:00 pm AA Meeting	14 <b>7 pm Carol Sing at Klatt's</b>  7:00 pm Al Anon in Family Room  7:00 pm AA Meeting	<b>15</b> 8:30 – 10:30 am AA Group  <b>GA Party Fellowship 4-10 pm</b>
16 <b>9:30 am</b> <b>Worship Svc</b>  7:00 pm GA	17	18 7:00 Russian Soul Group	19 <b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	20 7:00 pm AA Meeting	21 7:00 pm Al Anon in Family Room  7:00 pm AA Meeting	22 8:30 – 10:30 am AA Group
23 <b>9:30 am</b> <b>Worship Service</b>	24 <b>7 pm</b> <b>Christmas Eve Service</b>  <b>10 pm</b> <b>Christmas Eve Service</b>	25 <b>9:30 am</b> <b>Christmas Day Worship Service</b>	26	27 7:00 pm AA Meeting	28 7:00 pm Al Anon in Family Room  7:00 pm AA Meeting	29 8:30 – 10:30 am AA Group
30 <b>9:30 am</b> <b>Worship Service w/Comm.</b>	31					