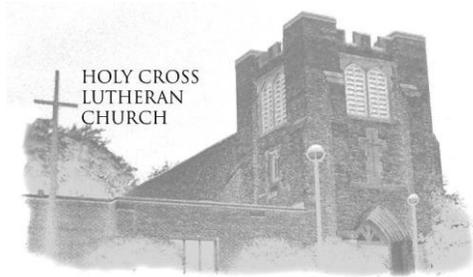


# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

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**Rev. Don Mulfinger, Vacancy Pastor**



**January 2019**

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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**

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There are lots of quick Bible readings that might give us a kick-start for the new year. Here's one that might be not only a starter, but one we can take with us all the way until December 31.

*“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”*

Luke 16:10

## A Quarter

Several years ago a preacher moved to Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area.

When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, “You better give the quarter back, it would be wrong to keep it.”

Then he thought, “Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company already gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet.”

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, “Here, you gave me too much change.”

The driver, with a smile, replied, “Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking lately about going to worship somewhere. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change.”

When my friend stepped off the bus, he grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, “Oh God, I almost sold Your son for a quarter.”

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read.





It's a new year, so let's celebrate the opportunities a fresh beginning can offer us as a congregation! I think we can all be very positive in our approach to the challenges we will face as a congregation in the coming year.

Challenge Number One is not the selection and installation of a new pastor, which may surprise many of you reading this. I say this because I firmly believe that our gracious God is ultimately in charge of that process. Here's the proof: As we await our new pastor, we can take comfort in the fact that we have truly been blessed by having Pastor Don as our vacancy pastor. If you are reading this and have not taken the opportunity to attend a service led by Pastor Mulfinger, I urge you to come and experience his energy and the loving power of his message - you will be impressed. Further proof that our God has his arms around us are the dedicated committee members and volunteers who have stepped forward to keep our church running smoothly. This is a blessing we must not take for granted, and we should give thanks daily that we have been blessed by the efforts of these people.

Challenge Number One will be how we, as members of the body of Christ, prepare for the growth we need to continue the work the Lord has given us here at Holy Cross. The way we address this challenge will affect this church for years to come. We have many opportunities for members to participate in this challenge:

First, and most important, is your attendance on Sundays - when we fill the sanctuary visitors see a congregation that is alive in Christ.

Second, we need to keep up with our donation pledges. This church, like all others, must have resources to operate, and you are the only source we have of those resources.

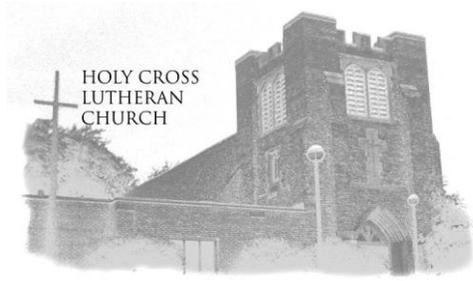
Third, ask to participate in the service. People with musical ability can join the choir or perform special music during the service; others can read the scripture lessons, or volunteer to usher or make coffee or bring treats for after the service.

All of these things are needed and appreciated.

I believe that by this time next year we will be celebrating the arrival of our new pastor. We are a loving congregation with a big heart. As Romans 8:28 tells us "All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose".

Expect good things!

Steve Blomberg  
President



Pastor Mulfinger chose "**I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day**" as the final carol for the Christmas Day service. It is based on the 1863 poem "Christmas Bells" by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. In 1861, Longfellow's personal peace was shaken when his wife was tragically burned in a fire. Then in 1863, Longfellow's son, Charles, joined the Union cause of the American Civil War as a soldier without his father's blessing

The song tells of the narrator's despair, upon hearing Christmas bells, that "hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men". **The carol concludes with the bells carrying renewed hope for peace among men.**



I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th' unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song

Of peace on earth, goodwill to men."  
Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound the carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn, the households born  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Then ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day –  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

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**It takes a congregation!** The Christmas services were lovely again this year. We thank Pastor Mulfinger for the services, and Julie Wright, David Hinrichs, Wendy Kofoot, the choir and all the special musicians. Our Carol Sing at the Klatt's and the Advent at the Table dinners hosted by the Blombergs, the McConleys, and the Skogerboe Ashers were a celebration of season and fellowship. There was the special Christmas music program by the McConley children, the people who put up and decorate the tree, order and put up the wreaths and the nativity set, the installation of the cruciform lights in the big spruce tree, those sewing and assembling the Christmas stockings, setting up and decorating the candelabras, purchasing, coordinating and ordering the poinsettias, preparing the altar and candles, and the beautiful luminaries - it really does take a lot of people to put everything together.

**We thank these musicians who graced our worship services during this season of remembering the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!**

Jack, Matt and Katie McConley

All of our choir members

Edward Copland

Mike, Katie, and Alex Dennis

Annie Deutsch

David Hinrichs

Trinda Jevne

Wendy Kofoot

Caleb and Jim Likely

Tim Phelon

Emily Protzner

Andy, Darcy, and Anneliese Tatham

Julie Wright

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

Reuben Woodraska

Carol and Lyle Horrmann

Donna Bristol

Jean Anderson

Keith and Mary Lange

Steve and Kimberly Blomberg

Milly Phelon

**We appreciate the Sunday School students and adult volunteers who made scarves for the Holy Cross Pillar of Warmth and Love, and those who have donated items.** Many of the Pillar items have been taken for use by our community, thanks to the fruit of your hands.

**Errol and Judy Sorenson picked up \$2923 of baked goods from Cub this month,** sharing them with CES. Thank you both for your dedication and hard work.

**Ivah Pannkuk's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday luncheon on December 2 was a rousing success,** despite the wintery weather. The food was

delicious, the company was delightful, and a good time was had by all.

**We celebrate with Les DeGolier** his recovery and return home from the hospital. Les, you are an inspiration!

**The Altar Guild annual meeting** will be held on Saturday, January 26 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

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

**"I ran across the picture on your Facebook page of the Christmas stockings** under the tree. These are identical to the tütten I received at Holy Cross beginning in 1943 (75 years ago)! Amazing." *John Rixe*

## **HOLY CROSS YELLOW PAGES**

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## TRAIN YOUR BRAIN FOR HAPPINESS

The human brain is hardwired to focus on  
threats and imperfections, but you can flip  
the switch.

Your brain has two modes. 50-80% of time  
is spent in **default**

Mind wandering

Searching for threats and faults

Obsessing over undone tasks

Relationships lose appeal because they are  
no longer novel.

### Focused mode is

Processing something interesting or novel

Happy

Happiness is the combination of present  
moment experiences and overall life satis-  
faction. The 5-3-2 Plan transforms your  
connection to others and how you perceive  
life's moments. *This plan cultivates grat-  
itude and compassion by switching your  
brain to focused mode.*

### 5 People

Start each day with gratitude. When you  
wake up, focus on five people for whom  
you're grateful. "See" them in your mind,  
and silently thank them.

### 3 Minutes

Find novelty where love is. At the end of  
the day, spend three minutes meeting your  
loved ones as if you haven't seen them in  
months. Be genuinely interested and  
creatively praise. Do not judge or try to  
improve them.

### 2 Seconds

See others differently. Mentally say "I wish  
you well," within the first two seconds of  
encountering someone. Choose a positive  
frame, before your mind judges negatively.

**Make it a habit, and happiness will find  
you. Repeatedly switching your brain to  
focused mode and firing positive neural  
connections will eventually become your  
new "normal".**

*From Mayo Clinic Health Highlights  
Contributed by Shelley*

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## WEDDINGS

David and Tena Ubl 1/13

## BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Baago	1/9
Jonathan Adams	1/12
Jackie Bock	1/17
Jonathan Woltmann	1/20
Gail Klatt	1/25
Evelyn Sand	1/28



## USHERS

- 6 E Copeland and M Blomberg
- 13 L Oolman and A Tatham
- 20 L Oolman and A Horrmann
- 27 T Phelon and K Lange

## COUNTERS

- 6 M Blomberg and R Woodraska
- 13 L Oolman and G Klatt
- 20 L Oolman and A Horrmann
- 27 M Lange and K Lange

## ALTAR GUILD

Linda Scanlon

## LEAD DEACON AND ASSISTANT

Ralph Asher and James Blomberg

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## HOW TO SUCCEED IN LIFE

- Talk **softly**
- Eat **sensibly**
- Breathe **deeply**
- Sleep **sufficiently**
- Dress **smartly**
- Act **fearlessly**
- Work **patiently**
- Think **creatively**
- Behave **decently**
- Earn **honestly**
- Save **regularly**
- Spend **intelligently**

*Contributed by Julie Wright*

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Thank you for joining with us as we reach the world for Christ. It's been an incredibly exciting, fun, and fruitful semester with students and staff across the region. In Central WI alone we've seen more than 30 students begin relationships with Christ for the very first time, and many more who have surrendered their lives to Jesus! Praise God! We've experienced new challenges, growth and development in our roles, and continued strength and grace from God. The Lord has also met us mightily on campus as we disciple our students.

This year Erick has the opportunity to disciple a junior named Lucas. He's been faithfully involved in Cru the last few years and has grown a ton in his faith. He discipled two younger guys and leads a Bible study in Smith Hall. Recently Lucas took on the role of Student President of Cru at UWSP. He's growing into quite the leader and gatherer of others. Continue to pray for Lucas as he provides leadership to his peers, and as President, serving as the liaison between the organization and the university.

"I'm scared and really not sure what is in store, but I'm doing it," Hannah, a junior leader within our Greek ministry said about applying to go on summer mission. From surrendering her life to Christ last fall, speaking the Gospel boldly to her sorority sisters and friends, and going home to share the Gospel with her parents and her vision of going on summer mission with them – God is moving! The Spirit leads in bold ways in

Hallah's life and she is courageously applying to go to Jersey Shore on summer mission in 2019.

You are part of Lucas's story, and part of Hannah's story, and these are just a few! You labor alongside us each and every day on campus. Thank you for joining with us and reaching the world for Christ, we praise God for you!

Will you consider giving a special gift for our ministry so that we can continue this important work of reaching students for the Lord?

Thank you for partnering with us to bring the message of hope to students in Central Wisconsin,

Yours in Christ,

*Erick, Courtney and Eddie*

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Community Emergency Service

Serving our community is a privilege, having received more than I can ever repay. Example after example demonstrate people overcoming difficult situations in life and still maintaining a positive outlook. I am grateful to have met people of great value and worth, not financially in the way the world sees them, but as God sees them, irreplaceable creations of the most high God. Thank you for your support! *Mike Lloyd*



Dear Friend in Christ,

Thank you for helping Trinity First Lutheran. I am thankful for you helping our

school. I thank God for making you. You are someone very special. God made you for a reason. Keep on helping this school. This school is great! Keep doing what you are doing now. Make Jesus proud of you. Remember, Jesus loves you. He is happy. Sincerely, *Hawi*



Happy New Year! Our Crest View Senior Communities are bustling with activity during the holidays. Special entertainment. Festive foods. Laughter with friends and family. And, lingering sweet memories of holidays from long ago. I love this time of year.

Our greatest gifts often come wrapped in unexpected ways. For me, it's the gift of community. Each day provides us new beginnings, and each day makes the gift worth savoring. Everyone at Crest View is committed to making this not only a place for us, but a home for all. We couldn't do this without you. Throughout the year, we were blessed with gifts of time, talents and riches. You lifted up our seniors and became part of the glue that holds our communities together. Thank you.

Peace and Hope, *Shirley Barnes*

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**Men's Sheds give retirees a place to talk, give back and feel valued.**

The men grab glue sticks from a basket, brown paper grocery bags and a pile of colored sheets. They begin to affix the artwork onto the bags which will be distributed to a local food shelf and thrift store.

About 30 seconds in, the ribbing begins.

“We generally have one person doing and four supervising,” one of the men clarifies to robust laughter.

The moment seems ordinary. It’s anything but. The 15 retired men around a U-shaped table at the Hopkins Activity Center aren’t just crafting. They’re staving off depression and suicide.

Ranging in age from late-50s to mid-80s, they’re members of the Hopkins-based Men’s Shed, part of an international movement begun 20 years ago in Australia to address growing concern about isolation and loneliness, particularly among men post-retirement. Sheds now number more than 2,000 worldwide, in urban and rural areas, with plans to open 500 more in the next five years.

Of the 12 American sheds, four are in Minnesota and two are in Wisconsin.

“During the last 20 years of my father’s life, he just could not get himself out of the house,” said Phil Johnson, 69, founder of the Hopkins-based group and managing director for the [U.S. Men’s Sheds Association](#).

“We lose our work buddies,” he said. “Wives would like their guys to get out at least one day a week and go bother somebody else.”

After retiring from software development in 2014, Johnson spent a few years volunteering and fixing things around his house. Then he got restless. He did a Google search on “retired men’s activities” and up came the Australian Men’s Sheds, funded by the Australian government to give men a sense of purpose.

The Men’s Sheds motto: “Men don’t talk face-to-face. They talk shoulder-to-shoulder.” And they do that, preferably, while pursuing projects together from painting houses to wood-working to, well, affixing shopping bags with crayon art.

“Loneliness is a big issue, particularly right now,” said Julia Hildebrand, spokeswoman for ChangeX, a digital platform that helps to spread good ideas by finding funders and leaders in new locations. A 2017 study published in *Lancet Public Health* found that loneliness was associated with a 58 percent higher risk of death in men, compared with a 34 percent increase in women. When ChangeX launched in Minnesota in 2016 with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “we knew the Men’s Sheds idea was one with huge potential in the U.S.,” she said.

Minnesota was particularly appealing because of the state’s high rate of volunteerism. Johnson registered with ChangeX to start the Hopkins Men’s Shed in 2016, expanding more recently to New Hope and Roseville.

Nick DeMichael, who recently moved to Willmar, is recruiting members for a shed there. Other sheds are located in Hawaii, Florida, Louisiana, Washington state and Michigan.

“There are so many men who can talk about how the Shed has helped them out of depression, got them away from sitting at home in front of the TV all day,” Hildebrand said.

“A Men’s Shed was a place to find rescue. These stories, they just make you cry.”

By [Gail Rosenblum](#) Star Tribune

*Contributed by Shelley*

*This article will be continued in the next newsletter*

# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00 pm AA Meeting  <b>7:00 pm Deacons Meeting</b>	<b>4</b> 7:00 pm AA Meeting  7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting	<b>5</b> 8-10:30 am AA  3-5 GA Intergroup
<b>6</b> <b>9:30 am Worship Service</b>  <b>10:45 Sunday School, Bible Study</b>  7:00 pm GA	7	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>10:30 am Bible Study</b>  <b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>10</b> <b>2-4 Hands in Ministry</b>  7:00 pm AA Meeting  <b>7 pm BoD Meeting</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting	<b>12</b> 8-10:30 am AA
<b>13</b> <b>9:30 am Worship Service</b>  <b>10:45 Sunday School, Bible Study</b>  7:00 pm GA	<b>14</b> Martin Luther King Day  <b>10:30 Prayer Group</b>  6:30 ICAN	15	<b>16</b> <b>10:30 am Bible Study</b>  <b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm AA Meeting	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting	<b>19</b> 8-1:300 am AA  1:00-4:00 pm MG Club Family Rm
<b>20</b> <b>9:30 am Worship Service</b>  <b>10:45 Sunday School, Bible Study</b>  7:00 pm GA	21	22	<b>23</b> <b>10:30 am Bible Study</b>  <b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm AA Meeting	<b>25</b> 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting	<b>26</b> 8-10:30 am AA  <b>9:30-11:30 am Altar Guild Annual Meeting</b>
<b>27</b> <b>9:30 am Worship Service</b>  <b>10:45 Sunday School, Bible Study</b>  7:00 pm GA	28	29	<b>30</b> <b>10:30 am Bible Study</b>  <b>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	31		