

THE GOOD NEWS

December 2020

A monthly publication of
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, ELCA
48 Carnation Drive
Mountain Home, AR 72653

"ALL ARE WELCOME HERE"

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M-Thurs 8am- 2pm

Fri CLOSED

**BEGINNING JANUARY 4, 2020 THE CHURCH
OFFICE WILL BE CHANGING ITS HOURS TO:
M-F 8am-12pm**

Worship Every Sunday at 9am

**Food Pantry:
Wednesdays 9-11am, 1-3pm**

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January Newsletter

deadline is December 27th.

Sunday Bulletin announcements are due
by noon on Wednesdays.

If you would like something included in the
Sunday bulletin or monthly newsletter,
please submit it by the deadline.

A note can be left on my desk, in my box,
or you can call the office or send an email.
Thank you. -Keisha Henning, Office Sec.



LIKE Holy Cross Lutheran
Church on Facebook
(HCLC72653)

Questions?
Contact Dan Schmidt
or Charlie Newsom

Visit our website at
holycrossmtnhome.com.



Even Good News Sometimes Terrifies and Perplexes

In Luke’s Gospel story of the birth of Christ, an angel appeared to Zechariah. Chapter 1 verse 12 reads: **“When Zachariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him.”** In verses 28-29, Mary was more perplexed than terrified when hearing the angel say to her, **“Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered...”** In chapter two it is the shepherd’s turn to be fearful. Verse nine: **“Then an angel of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified.”**

In these modern days we hear bad news such as ‘Covid’ and we are fearful. For Zachariah, Mary, and the Shepherds they heard Good News and were fearful --at first but then quickly the initial fear gave way to great joy of the Savior. There is bad news that this year’s Christmas traditional ways of celebrating will be influenced by the pandemic. Good News is God’s love in Christ Jesus still comes every day to live with us. He is ‘Emmanuel,’ which means ‘God with us.’

Continuing with the terrified shepherds, Luke 2:10-14, reads:

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

May your bad news fears give way to the Good News: joy.
Have a safe, blessed, and joyful Advent and Christmas seasons.

Pastor Sherman

****Unless noted I generally cite scripture from the New Revised Standard Version****

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Due to the Covid19 risks, all in-person worship gatherings are suspended until further announced. Watch our Web and Facebook sites for recorded services.

HOLY COMMUNION

Due to suspended in-person worship and not knowing how long it will be until we can safely gather, a place for Holy Communion celebration will be offered during the recorded services. If you wish, you may have a little bread and either wine or grape juice set up then follow as directed in the service after the words of institution and Lord’s Prayer.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE SERIES

This year I hope to post a brief Advent devotional time on the Christ by the Lake Facebook site by each Wednesday of Advent at 4pm on December 2, 9, 16, and 23rd.

(Continued on the next page)

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE(S)

The Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be posted on either or both the Christbythelake.com and or holycrossmtnhome.com sites. You may wish to have traditional carol music on hand at home. You are invited to have a candle ready for each person in your household, then when directed, to light the candle and sing "Silent Night, Holy Night."

COUNCIL MEETINGS

If we have our council meetings they will be held with strict distancing, masks, and area sanitizing precautions. If you have anything to bring to the meeting please call or email Pastor Sherman or Council President Judy at Holy Cross or Tim at Christ by the Lake. The Holy Cross meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th at 11:00am. The Christ by the Lake council on December 16th at 9:00am.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

The annual meeting for Holy Cross that was to be on November 22nd will be rescheduled. The meeting for Christ by the Lake is scheduled for January 17th but most likely will be rescheduled. If you have a report to submit please do so as soon as possible. The folder of written reports, including 2021 budget proposal, will be delivered or can be picked up by calling ahead. Congregations will operate using the 2020 budget guide until your congregation can meet and then adjustments will be made to meet the adopted 2021 budget.

OFFERINGS/2021 OFFERING ENVELOPE BOXES

During the in-person worship service closure you are invited to remember that your ministries through the congregation continue as well as the church building operation's needs. Please mail in your support. The offering envelope boxes for 2021 have arrived and will be delivered to you or you may arrange to pick up your box. If you have not used the envelope system you may call and a box set of envelopes will be arranged. Thank you.

TWO ITEMS FROM THE ELCA

Additional Designated Offering Idea/Holiday Giving With ELCA Good Gifts

Even in a year when the needs can seem overwhelming, ELCA Good Gifts provide an easy way to make a real impact. Your gifts share the love of Christ — one goat, water well or school uniform at a time. New this year, you can help prevent spread of the coronavirus through the ongoing health care projects of ELCA World Hunger and the emergency programs of Lutheran Disaster Response. One of the best ways you can help is by sharing ELCA Good Gifts. Give in honor of a friend or loved one and announce your gift with a custom card.

Stars and Promises Christmas Concert with Peter Mayer

In the first-ever ELCA event of its kind, ELCA World Hunger presents an online Christmas benefit concert featuring Peter Mayer, a longtime Lutheran and the lead guitarist for singer Jimmy Buffett. The concert will premiere on the ELCA Facebook page on Dec. 9, 7 p.m. Central time. The concert is a gift to you this Advent season, a way for us to thank you and provide a place for you to gather online with the church community as we prepare for the birth of our Savior. Donations to ELCA World Hunger are encouraged and will support our church's work to respond to hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries. Register now to receive a free Peter Mayer Christmas album download, created just for this event!



Due to rising cases of COVID-19, all church activities are suspended until further notice.

However, the church office is still open.

We will be posting a weekly worship video, along with the bulletin, to both ours and Christ by the Lake's Facebook and webpages.

Once we are able to commence our normal routine, the congregation will be notified by the One Call Tell All system as well as via our website and Facebook page.

You may mail in your offerings or use the direct link below.

Stay healthy and know that you all are in our prayers!

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.-Isaiah 41:10



TITHE.LY

**Our direct giving link:
<https://tithe.ly/give?c=558114>**



SOCIAL MINISTRIES

In October, we served 23 households(44 clients) which included 5 new families. Six were between the ages of 0-18; 33 between the ages of 19-64; and 5 over the age of 64.

Our food pantry volunteers worked a total of 73.25 hours.

We received 130.39 pounds of donated food from individuals and 46.77 pounds of donated baked goods from Harps. The food donation item for the month of December will be CEREAL. We appreciate all donations given to our food pantry throughout the year to help the needy families in Baxter County.

Our expenses for the food pantry in October totaled \$346.16 and deposits totaled \$130.00. The current balance in the HCLCFP checking account with First Security Bank as of 10/31/20 is \$5,720.18. The current credit balance available on our Food Bank of North Central Arkansas account is \$919.62 as of 10/31/20.

Barb Kampen
Chairperson for HCLCFP



Food Pantry Donation Item:

CEREAL



WELCA Mission Statement

To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

Since the church was closed due to the virus, we did not have our general meeting in Nov. We will set a date for the meeting as soon as church is open again. We will present the budget for 2021 and also elect new officers. There will not be cookie trays distributed this year unless things change in the next couple of weeks. Hope to have better news soon!

-Roberta Dulaney, vice president



We have two types of prayer lists at Holy Cross: the Prayer Concerns in the newsletter and the Prayer Chain.

If you would like someone listed in the monthly newsletter, please get that information to the office by the newsletter deadline. You can leave a note in the secretary's box, by the computer, or email it to:
holycrosssecretary.1@gmail.com

Be sure to let us know when that person can be taken off of the list.

The Prayer Chain is handled by the One Call Tell All System. Once a prayer has been requested, a recorded message will go out to those on the chain. No further action will be required.

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer Chain you can do so by calling the office at 870-492-6636.

Prayer Concerns

Holy Cross Members

Pam Munson

Holy Cross Members in Assisted Living or Homebound

Mark Hunt

Family & Friends

Jack Hollingsworth

Wanda Sanders

Carl Stratton



December 6-2nd Sun of Advent:

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15

Mark 1:1-8

December 13- 3rd Sun of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20- 4th Sun of Advent

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

December 27- 1st Sun of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

IN PERSON SERVICES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, THESE LISTS WERE JUST MADE IN ANTICIPATION OF RESUMING WORSHIP



DECEMBER 2020

Ushers

Dec. 6 Joyce Hahn & Kathy Scott

Dec. 13 Roberta Dulaney & Eileen DeMoulpied

Dec. 20 Kathy Owen & Charles Polacek

Dec. 27 Judy Hoover & Pete Cvengros

Lay Assistants

Dec. 6 Jamie Scott & Kathy Scott, chalice

Dec. 13 Roberta Dulaney & Kathy Arnold, chalice

Dec. 20 Frank Fusco & Carol Wheeler, chalice

Dec. 24 Kathy Scott & Frank Fusco, chalice

Dec. 27 Carol Wheeler & Roberta Dulaney, Chalice

Counters

Dec. 6 Wanda Soutter & Nancy Thoren

Dec. 13 Lenora Walejko & Kathy Arnold

Dec. 20 Judy Hoover & Kathy Arnold

Dec. 27 TBD

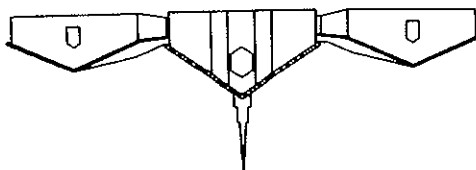


12/11 Bob Hamilton
 12/12 Tracy Munson
 12/15 Josiah Munson
 12/15 Kathy Scott
 12/19 Fritzie Cvengros
 12/20 Susan Felker
 12/21 Ron Westergaard
 12/29 Diane White



12/30 Ron & Alice Westergaard

* * * * *
 * If your birthday or anniversary *
 * is missing or incorrect, *
 * please put the information in the *
 * Church Secretary box in the office. *
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