

THE GOOD NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

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

"ALL ARE WELCOME HERE"

Keisha Henning, Office Secretary
870-492-6636 - Office
holycrosssecretary.1@gmail.com



Monday-Friday
8:30am-12:30pm

Worship Sundays @ 9:00am

In This Issue

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Page 2..... | Council Minutes |
| Page 4..... | Announcements |
| Page 5..... | Food Pantry Report |
| Page 6..... | Bible Readings, Bible Trivia |
| Page 7..... | Ministry Contact Information |
| Page 8..... | Blanket Drive Flyer |
| Page 9..... | Word Search |
| Page 10..... | Worship Assistants |
| Page 11..... | Calendar |
| Page 12..... | Birthdays & Anniversaries |



January Newsletter
deadline is December 21st.

Sunday Bulletin
announcements are due
Wednesday afternoon.

If you would like something included in the
Sunday bulletin or monthly newsletter,
please submit it to the church office.



LIKE Holy Cross Lutheran Church on
Facebook (HCLC72653)
Questions?
Contact Dan Schmidt
or Charlie Newsom

CHURCH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE
SECOND THURSDAY
 OF EVERY MONTH AT 9:30 AM

| HOLY CROSS CHURCH COUNCIL | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Judy Hoover |
| Vice President | Dave Hahn |
| Secretary | Lisa Streu |
| Call Committee | Lisa Streu |
| Education | Kathy Owen |
| Evangelism | Kathy Owen |
| Finance | Charles Polacek |
| Property | Dave Hahn |
| Property | David Deterding |
| Social Ministries | Steve Kampen |
| Stewardship | Kathy Scott |
| Worship & Music | Carol Wheeler |

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DATE: 10-9-25 9:30 AM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church's mission is to reach out to all people with the Gospel of Christ:

- By worship
- By proclaiming God's saving grace, and
- By serving human needs, so that all may live together in peace and the love of Christ.

ROLL CALL: David Deterding, Dave Hahn, Judy Hoover, Kathy Owen, Charles Polacek, Kathy Scott, Lisa Streu, Carol Wheeler

Excused Absence: Steve Kampen Absent: None Observers: None

DEVOTIONS: Devotions were given by Lisa Streu from the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania. The devotion spoke of the duality of leaves: the green disappears in the fall as chlorophyll production slows, and it breaks down to reveal the bright reds, yellows, and oranges that are already in the leaves. This duality of leaves is an illustration of the duality of Christians described by Martin Luther; both sinner and saint at the same time. We cannot escape the sin but are continuously made clean and whole by God. God's love brings balance to His creation.

Steve Kampen has November devotions; Carol agreed to be alternate for him.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Charles Polacek, church treasurer, presented the giving report. September was slow and below the yearly average. He then presented the financial reports. The last installment from the insurance for the roof has been received. Expenses have been in line and despite lower income the overall financial picture is acceptable, as we do not have expenses for a regular pastor. The building fund shows we spent more than we took in on income, but the repairs were necessary for the overall maintenance of the church building and grounds. All insurance checks have been received unless gutter repair is needed. Dave Hahn made a motion to approve the financial reports; seconded by Dave Deterding. The motion carried.

MINUTES: The minutes of September 11, 2025, were reviewed. A typo was found and will be corrected. Discussion of whether to read the minutes aloud occurred, but it was decided to not do this at this time. Charles Polacek moved to accept the corrected minutes; seconded by Kathy Owen. The motion carried.

VISIONING: Kathy Scott presented a written report about Loads of Love. They have been having 6-7 regular customers with about 12 children. Positive feedback has been received. One of the women with multiple children was able to get a job. Total amount left from the initial anonymous donation and monthly additions is \$274.50. After the October Loads of Love, they will need to start using the congregation donations which are about \$1000. Other sources of income are being researched. They are currently at maximum capacity of machine use on that day. Kathy Scott had a project in her SAM training to interview a youth. She ordered a study Bible and Lutheran study guide for confirmation. Lisa Streu made a motion; seconded by Charles Polacek to reimburse Kathy for the materials. Motion was approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mike Clark's workshop on scams will be Saturday. The annual meeting date needs to be pushed to November 23, 2025; committee reports deadline will be delayed to one week from original deadline. The proposed budget was reviewed and discussed. Charles Polacek made a motion; seconded by Dave Hahn to accept the proposed budget. Motion was approved. It will now be taken to the congregation at the annual meeting. Possible new council members were discussed. Dan Jones is the only confirmed replacement for the 3 open spots at this time. Discussion arose regarding potentially reducing the number of council members, which will be consistent with constitution guidelines.

NEW BUSINESS: Steve Kampen is resigning as financial secretary; thank you to him for his years of service. He will be replaced by Kathy Scott. New backups for Kathy and Charles as financial secretary and church treasurer, respectively, will need to be found after the first of the year. Microsoft Publisher will be eliminated as a program as of October 2026. We are currently using this to print our bulletins. Keisha has been experimenting with using Word to draft the bulletins. There are some issues in Word with printing two sizes (double the input, issue with hymns, etc.). Discussion occurred on solutions. Kathy Owen made a motion to just print a greater number of large print bulletins and eliminate the regular print ones effective immediately to accommodate the upcoming discontinuation of Publisher. Kathy Scott seconded the motion. The motion carried. There will be a Thanksgiving meal at church on Thanksgiving, pending confirmation that Dave and Sue Hahn will be in town to coordinate the meal.

Reformation Sunday is coming up; wear red please. The Sunday after that is All Saints Sunday. There will be a handout available to indicate names of friends/relatives who have passed away since last All Saints Sunday so they may be honored.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CALL COMMITTEE: Nothing new currently.

EDUCATION: No report.

EVANGELISM: Discussion of scheduling a blessing of pets again. Bazaar will be advertised on Talk of the Town on November 4.

FINANCE: Written and oral reports given.

PROPERTY: Discussion of possibly power washing the back alcove by the office. It is dusty and dirty. Kathy and Mike Owen are donating a power washer to the church. There will be a meeting with the insurance agent to review the current policies and make sure they are up to date.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Written food pantry report.

STEWARDSHIP: Nothing to report.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC: Special Sundays discussed earlier.

Motion made to accept Committee reports by Lisa Streu and seconded by Charles Polacek. Motion carried unanimously. Motion to adjourn was made by Charles Polacek and seconded by David Deterding. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:37 am. The next council meeting will be Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 9:30 am. All prayed the Lord's Prayer together.

Submitted by Lisa Streu
HCLC Council Secretary



There will be a Christmas Dinner held here at Holy Cross on Christmas Day at Noon.

Look out for a sign-up sheet closer to the day for attendance and noting the dish you will provide.



Christmas Decorating
Saturday, December 13th at 1:00pm

"Tis the Season"

Please mark your calendars to decorate our church for the Christmas Season. You are asked to help on Saturday, Dec. 13th at 1:00pm to decorate our tree and place the greenery in the sanctuary.

If you have any questions, please call Carol Wheeler at 488-5044.

Also, to add festive color to our church sanctuary you are asked to donate a poinsettia of your color and size and bring to the church Friday, Dec. 19th or Saturday, Dec. 20th. The Altar Guild will arrange your poinsettia in the altar area. Thank you for helping to decorate our church for the Christmas season!!



Join us for Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 4:00pm

Pastor Mike Clark will be presiding.

Christ by the Lake will hold their Christmas Eve Service at 5:00pm.



WELCA General Meeting
November 20, 2025

The WELCA group met to discuss the bazaar and set the budget for next year.

A date was set for the cookie tray assembly of Monday, December 15, 2025, at 10:30 am. Please consider donating 2 dozen or more cookies to brighten the holiday season for shut-ins.

Please come and help us fill the trays and then a potluck salad luncheon will follow. A sign-up sheet for salads, desserts, etc., will be placed in the narthex. Thank you.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 19, 2026.



Food Pantry Hours:
2nd & 4th Wednesdays
9-11a, 1-3p



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH FOOD PANTRY OCTOBER 2025 REPORT

In October, the food pantry served 20 households which included two new families. There were 40 individuals, with 7 between the ages of 0-17; 21 between the ages of 18-59 and 12 at the age of 60 or older. We served three veterans.

Our food pantry consists of six volunteers: Barb Kampen, Bob Hamilton, Marita Stanford, Jan Clark, Jan Pomeranke and Sue Gust. For the month of October the total volunteer hours were 46.50 hours. I appreciate their time and effort volunteering with the HCLC Food Pantry and helping to serve families in need of food assistance, here in Baxter County.

All donated food and money are greatly appreciated to help the families here in Baxter County. The families are allowed to come to the food pantry once a month. We are open the second and fourth Wednesday each month with the exception of holidays, the families are notified ahead of time any change in dates that they can come to get food.

The Love Offering for the month of December will go to Loads of Love, which is free laundry for families in need, on the 3rd Monday of each month located at A+ Laundry, 1211 Commerce Dr., Mountain Home, AR.

The balance of the HCLCFP credit account at the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas is at \$538.22. The current checking account balance of the HCLCFP at First Security Bank is \$10,677.42 as of 10/31/25. Deposits were \$150.00 and expenses were \$534.74.

For the month of December, the food pantry will be open on Wednesday, Dec, 10 and Dec. 17. We will be closed on Wednesday, Christmas Eve.

Barb Kampen
Chairperson for HCLCFP



Loads of Love



December 7
Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 14
Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-17
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24
Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 28
First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

Test your Bible knowledge! The answers will be revealed in next month's newsletter!

Last Month's Correct Answers:

- 1) D. Deborah
- 2) A. Ahijah
- 3) B. Miriam

1. What was the name of the prophet Hosea's unfaithful wife?

- A) Delilah
- B) Anna
- C) Jezebel
- D) Gomer

Need a hint? Check out Hosea 1:2-3

2. Which prophet tried to flee when asked by God to preach against wickedness in Nineveh?

- A) Hosea
- B) Aaron
- C) Micah
- D) Jonah

Need a hint? Check out Jonah 1:1-3

3. What did Ezekiel prophesy in Ezekiel 26:3?

- A) A virgin would become pregnant.
- B) The Jews would return to their homeland.
- C) Nineveh would be destroyed.
- D) Many nations would rise up against Tyus.

Need a hint? Check out Ezekiel 26:2-4

Prayer Requests



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

If you would like someone listed in the weekly bulletin, please get that information to the office by Thursday morning. 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 the list.

The Prayer Chain is handled by the One Call Tell All System. The Prayer Chain call list of just a select group of people has been eliminated. When you have a prayer chain request, everyone in the congregation will now receive these calls.

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

Faith & Fellowship

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

--WELCA's Monday Morning Workshop: The ladies gather every Monday morning at 9:00am to sew and share in fellowship.

-Hope Circle on the **fourth Tuesday** of each month at 10:00am. We study the lessons in *Gather* magazine, a publication of WELCA.

-Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10:00am. We study the Bible readings for the upcoming Sunday as well as engage in good discussion and fellowship.

How can YOU help?

♦ You can donate flowers for the altar on Sunday. It costs \$17 per bouquet. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Talk to Carol Wheeler if you have any questions.

♦ You can sign up to host the fellowship time after worship on Sundays. Talk to Phyllis Hamilton for more information.

♦ You can put your loose change in the Pennies, ETC. jar to support the Ozark Center of Hope.

♦ You can donate food to support the Food Pantry.

♦ If you are the last person out of church, you can check to make sure all the lights are off, the heat set to unoccupied, and all doors are locked.

♦ You can lift up our church and its members in prayer.



We are always looking for people to help with our ministries. Some jobs are "behind-the-scenes" — Altar Guild, Counting, Food Pantry, and Prayer Chain. Some jobs are an integral part of the service — Greeters, Ushers, Readers, and Communion Assistants.

For more information contact:

Worship Ldr.'s/ALM.....Sue Hahn, 254-768-9651

Altar Guild.....Carol Wheeler, 488-5044

Building/Property.....Dean Smith, 424-8707

Counting.....Kathy Scott, 492-2155

Fellowship Hour.....Phyllis Hamilton, 425-9546

Food Pantry.....Barb Kampen, 405-0776

Prayer Chain.....Church Office, 492-6636

Ushers.....Sue Hahn, 254-768-9651



Ozark Center of Hope

BLANKET DRIVE

WINTER MONTHS

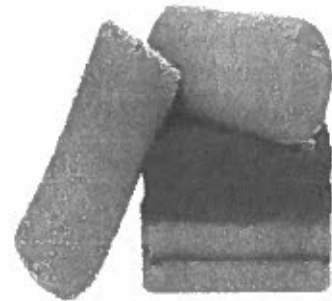


**PLEASE HELP
OUR FAMILIES
STAY WARM**

Ozark Center of Hope will be accepting NEW blankets in the winter months to be distributed to our clients during the winter months. Most needed are queens, full size, but twins will be accepted, we prefer not King. We ask that you not buy throws or rolled blankets, please.

Blankets may be dropped off at the Ozark Center of Hope or your local church. Information for drop offs or Cash donations to the Ozark Center of Hope is located at the bottom of this page.

Please call with any questions: 870-508-4374



Location: 307 West North Street, Mountain Home, AR 72653
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1317, Mountain Home, AR 72654
Phone: 870-508-4374

Mystery Christmas Carol #2

The words listed below are from a familiar Christmas Carol. What is it?

Find and circle all of the words hidden in the grid.

The remaining letters will spell the name of the Christmas Carol.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | H | N | D | Y | H | T | I | W | T | T | E | E | W | S |
| W | G | W | R | C | H | I | L | D | R | E | N | A | P | C |
| S | I | O | O | T | H | E | E | Y | I | I | N | O | N | R |
| T | N | D | L | T | W | A | K | E | S | A | O | D | A | I |
| A | M | R | H | L | O | O | K | E | D | R | L | N | E | B |
| Y | S | E | A | M | A | B | S | E | L | T | T | A | C | R |
| A | R | R | O | E | R | M | N | S | A | I | H | E | G | Y |
| E | J | R | A | I | N | O | F | K | E | E | V | R | N | A |
| S | F | E | G | T | E | R | E | O | A | L | E | E | I | L |
| C | I | H | S | V | S | N | G | V | R | G | B | H | W | I |
| L | T | D | O | U | S | I | E | N | N | E | A | W | O | T |
| O | K | L | E | E | S | N | H | A | I | Y | V | D | L | T |
| S | S | R | K | K | G | G | M | E | W | Y | E | E | U | L |
| E | A | A | Y | P | E | E | L | S | A | A | R | B | R | E |
| C | M | P | R | A | Y | B | A | B | R | D | Y | C | E | R |



| | | | | |
|--------|----------|--------|---------|--------|
| ALL | CATTLE | HEAVEN | LOWING | STAY |
| AND | CHILDREN | HIS | MAKES | SWEET |
| ASK | CLOSE | JESUS | MANGER | TAKE |
| ASLEEP | CRIB | LAI | MORNING | TENDER |
| AWAY | CRYING | LAY | NEAR | THEE |
| BABY | DEAR | LITTLE | NIGH | THERE |
| BED | DOWN | LIVE | POOR | THY |
| BLESS | FOREVER | LOOK | PRAY | WAKES |
| BRIGHT | FROM | LOOKED | SIDE | WHERE |
| BUT | HAY | LORD | SKY | WITH |
| CARE | HEAD | LOVE | STARS | |

DECEMBER



| DATE | WORSHIP LDR. & ALM | USHERS | ALTAR GUILD | COUNTERS |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| 12/7/25 2 nd Sunday of Advent | Linda Masters & Carol Wheeler | Kathy Scott & Charles Polacek | Lisa Streu | |
| 12/14/25 3 rd Sunday of Advent | Pastor Mike Clark & Jan Clark | Kathy Owen & David Deterding | Kathy Scott | Judy Hoover & Pat Jones |
| 12/21/25 4 th Sunday of Advent | Kathy Scott & Sue Hahn | Judy Hoover & Pete Cvengros | Jane Smith | Judy Hoover & Lenora Walejko |
| 12/24/25 Christmas Eve | Pastor Mike Clark & Sue Hahn | | Carol Wheeler | |
| 12/28/25 1 st Sunday of Christmas | Marilyn Pool & Charles Polacek | Dean & Jane Smith | Carol Wheeler | Pat Jones |
| | Questions? Willing to Serve? Call Sue 254-768-9651 | Questions? Willing to Serve? Call Sue 254-768-9651 | Questions? Willing to Serve? Call Carol 870-488-5044 | Questions? Willing to Serve? Call Kathy S. 870-492-2155 |

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Calendar December 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
|  | 1 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop | 2 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Senior Exercise | 3 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 10-11am Bible Study | 4 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open | 5 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open | 6 |
| 7 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship | 8 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop | 9 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Senior Exercise | 10 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9-11am; 1-3pm Food Pantry 10-11am Bible Study | 11 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:30am Church Council | 12 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open | 13 1:00pm Decorating the Sanctuary |
| 14 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Love Offering for Loads of Love | 15 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop 10:30am Cookie Tray Assembly/Luncheon | 16 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Senior Exercise | 17 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9-11am; 1-3pm Food Pantry 10-11am Bible Study | 18 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open | 19 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open | 20 9:00am Men's Group Mtg. |
| 21 4 th Sunday of Advent 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship *Newsletter Deadline* | 22 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop | 23 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 10:00am Hope Circle 1:00pm Senior Exercise | 24 Christmas Eve 8:00am-12:00pm Office Open 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship | 25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed 12:00pm Christmas Potluck | 26 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open | 27 |
| 28 1 st Sun. of Christmas 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship | 29 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop | 30 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Senior Exercise | 31 New Year's Eve 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 10-11am Bible Study |  | | |



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ If your birthday or anniversary is missing ★
 ★ or incorrect, please inform the Church ★
 ★ Office Secretary. ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★