

THE GOOD NEWS

JANUARY 2026

"ALL ARE WELCOME HERE"

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

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

Worship Sundays @ 9:00am

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February Newsletter
deadline is January 18th

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

! IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Beginning on January 4, 2026, the offering plates will be put on the table by the font as you enter the church.

Beginning in January on the 12th, WELCA will be holding a monthly birthday celebration on the second Monday of each month at 11:30 at Pizza Hut.



Men's fellowship

Men of Holy Cross

There was no breakfast meeting in December due to everyone's busy schedule of Christmas week.

From the November meeting, it was reported that the October Spaghetti Dinner was a big success. We served about 100 people and will plan another in the spring.

The next meeting will be at 9:00am January 17th, at Holy Cross. All are welcome.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DATE: November 13, 2025 9:30pm

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: Dave Hahn, Judy Hoover, Kathy Owen, Charles Polacek, Kathy Scott, Lisa Streu, Carol Wheeler. **Excused Absence:** Steve Kampen **Absent:** Dave Detering **Observer:** Dean Smith

DEVOTIONS: Carol gave the devotions. The pastor who wrote the article used church sanctuaries to tell a congregation's story. Space design and items in the sanctuary can tell the congregation's history as well as the Church's history. These symbols can help us to remember God's love for us and suggest how we can share his grace with the world. Steve Kampen is scheduled for December devotions; Kathy Scott is the alternate.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Kathy Scott, financial secretary, gave the donations report. The offerings were down, but we have lost several members, so this is expected, but will be a continuing issue. Loads of Love has become a recipient of nice donations from the Church. Charles Polacek, church treasurer, gave the financial reports. The checking account was up, so \$5,000 was moved to the Mission Plus interest-bearing account. Income still is greater than expenses because of not having a pastor. Dave Hahn made a motion to approve the financial reports; seconded by Lisa Streu. The motion was approved.

MINUTES: Minutes from October 9, 2025, were reviewed. No corrections, additions, or amendments. Dave Hahn made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Kathy Owen. The minutes were approved.

VISIONING: A clarification was asked for what visioning encompasses. A suggestion was made that all council members should present one or two ideas for visioning at the next meeting to explore further.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Annual congregational meeting is coming up. Only one nomination for council was received. Volunteers will be requested at the meeting. A suggestion was made that we suggest an

amendment to the constitution to reduce the number of council members, as the congregation is smaller than when the original number was set. The constitution states the council must include the officers (president, vice president, and secretary) plus 8 more members. A suggestion was made to make a motion and vote on it after discussion at the annual meeting to reduce the council members to the 3 officers, plus a minimum of 4 other church members.

Fortieth Anniversary: We would like Bishop Becca to attend. Judy had a list of weekends she has available. She will approach Bishop Becca with the primary date of May 16, 2026, to confirm she is still available.

NEW BUSINESS: There will be new Synod wide SAM requirements for background checks. This will be required to receive renewal/authorization of their SAM status. It will require criminal, credit, and motor vehicle check. The Synod will pay for this. The names will be turned into the Synod and then they will be contacted with forms from the Synod.

Property Updates: There was a change in cleaning companies to Flawless Cleaning, due to the previous company not doing the job properly and leaving lights on, thermostats up, etc. The price is the same. So far Flawless Cleaning has done a better job. This will be continually evaluated. The stove maintenance has been ignored for years. There is also a natural gas smell when the kitchen is entered. Dean and Dale have done basic cleaning, etc., to it but it needs to be checked by a professional plumber. Rob Stanton will be contracted to clean orifices, check regulators, and replace anything that needs to be replaced. This should be no more than a couple hundred dollars. Hopefully, this is all that is needed.

Insurance will pay for 450 feet of gutter replacement due to hail damage. We have 477 feet. Seamless Gutters will replace it with commercial gutters (6 inch) to handle the large amounts of rain we receive here. Also, we will receive new larger drain spouts, and they will end further from the building to prevent foundation damage. The total cost will be \$5,700 and the congregation cost will be approximately \$1,800. This will be brought to the congregation at the annual meeting.

The flooring in the parlor is in awful shape. The laminate is coming up in places, and it is stained beyond repair. To prevent further damage to the subfloor, and make it presentable, estimates are being obtained for a floating floor to be placed over the existing floor. The first estimate is from Village Carpet and is \$4,586. The Sunday School rooms will be a \$2,072 additional cost, but those rooms are in acceptable condition at this time. Further estimates are scheduled. This will be brought before a congregational meeting for parlor floor repair not to exceed \$4,600, following the receipt of all estimates.

Keisha requested a review of her work from council. It was agreed that her work exceeds expectations. We will collect money for a gift for her from the church and members as a recognition of her anniversary and work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

CALL COMMITTEE: No candidates currently. The next re-submission of the Ministry Site Profile will be in February 2026.

EDUCATION: Written report.

EVANGELISM: Flyers were handed out, and verbal discussion occurred with businesses in town when items were solicited for the bazaar silent auction.

FINANCE: Written and oral reports given.

PROPERTY: Presented in new business.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Printed food pantry report. Good Gifts catalog will be looked at for future giving.

STEWARSHIP: Loads of Love is a quiet evangelism.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC: Christ the King Sunday and the start of Advent coming up soon.

Motion made to accept Committee reports by Kathy Owen and seconded by Charles Polacek. Motion carried. Motion to adjourn was made by Dave Hahn and seconded by Kathy Owen. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11 am. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 9:30am. All prayed the Lord's Prayer together.

Respectfully submitted by
Lisa Streu, Secretary



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



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH FOOD PANTRY NOVEMBER 2025 MONTHLY REPORT

In November, the food pantry served 31 households which included eight new families. There were 69 individuals, with 14 between the ages of 0-17; 39 between the ages of 18-59 and 16 at the age of 60 or older. We served 4 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 November, the total volunteer hours were 42.75. 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. This has kept our food pantry to continue to operate and serve the families that come every month for food assistance. We are open the second and fourth Wednesday each month with the exception of holidays, the families are notified ahead of time of any change in dates that they can come to get food.

On November 7, the North Central Board of Realtors annual Feed Our Children event delivered nearly 40,000 pounds of food to area food pantries just as demand peaked during the government shutdown. The food was distributed to 18 hunger relief organizations across Baxter, Marion counties and Calico Rock. Our food pantry was one of the hunger relief organizations to participate. We received 76 cases of food- Spinach, pinto beans, green beans, cream of chicken soup, corn muffin mix, specialty rice, peanut butter, cranberry sauce, mac & cheese, chicken stuffing, sweet potatoes, dark kidney beans, turkey gravy and pancake mix.

Besides what each family receives from our food pantry once a month, each family received one frozen boneless Butterball turkey breast and an additional bag of food which included a box of stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes and a can of green beans. Bob & Phyllis Hamilton, who are Thrivent members contributed a \$250 Thrivent gift card towards the purchase of the turkey breasts and will contribute another \$250 Thrivent gift card for the month of December for small hams. For the month of December, each family will receive a small boneless sliced ham with an additional food bag of traditional holiday fixings.

The Love Offering for the month of January will go to the pastor's discretionary fund.

The balance of the HCLCFP credit account at the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas is at \$465.05 as of Dec. 10. The First Security Bank checking account statement was not available for the Dec. 11 church council monthly meeting. The HCLCFP First Security checking account balance, credits and deposits will be reflected in next month's report to council.

Barbara Kampen
Chairperson for HCLCFP



**Pastor's
Discretionary Fund**

Thank You



To Our Holy Cross Family:

I want to thank all the women in WELCA for their help and support during my first year as President. I have another year to fulfill my two-year term. I look forward to working beside all of you as we continue to find ways to fund the many charities in Mountain Home that need assistance. Loads of Love was added to our program of work this year, which has been a tremendous success to help people not as fortunate as we are, to keep clean clothes for their children, as well as bedding and towels. As long as we have volunteers to fill the leadership role once a month to pass out quarters to those using the machines, as well as spending that evening with the people who come. We've had contributions from Thrivent, WELCA, and the Men's group, as well as scores of quarters from all of you. Thanks to all.

I also want to thank all the ushers for accepting monthly assignments to serve our members at services every week. These members serve on a monthly basis and bring lessons and prayers to our worship service. I'm grateful for you as well.

I'm also grateful to Carol Wheeler, who is a vital part of WELCA in working as the leader of the Altar Guild with the teams that are mentioned in the bulletin every week. Not only do they "dress" the Altar but also fill all the cups with wine and the plate of bread for communion each week. Carol is always there when you need her, whether it's meals, i.e. Easter breakfast, Men's fundraisers as well as the leader of the annual Bazaar....and I could go on and on. Please remember to thank her for all she does for our church family.

I know we are all grateful for the 3D Team (Dean, Dale David) for helping with all the needs of the church building, i.e., repairs, replacements, and important upkeep of the building that needs to be done, some jobs weekly, some monthly, and other large projects like they did this year, with windows, siding, gutters, and landscaping.

I think you all know that Kathy Scott has begun a two-year study program to become a Synod Authorized Minister. She will be able to begin her service as a worship leader in June, and after another year, will also be able to preside over communion as well.

I will continue as a SAM for as long as can be of service. We all know that the "calling of a pastor" has been a long and difficult process, which might never happen. We are so grateful to Mike Clark for agreeing to serve 2 Sundays a month in 2026, and as long as he can with the blessing of God. We should only need a SAM for Christ by the Lake once or twice a month next year. Since we are trying to find a pastor who will do a 2 point church (2 congregations), we formed the SAM team to share responsibilities between the churches. We've been blessed to have Marilyn, Linda, and Tim this year.

We ask for your prayers to keep the Food Pantry the successful entity it is. We thank Bob Hamilton, Barb Kampen, Jan Clark, Pat Jones, Marita Stanford, and Sue Gust for volunteering their time every other week-all year long. The dollars and/or goods you give to the food pantry keep many, many families with items that provide for their needs.

WELCA also has a Monday morning work time, making quilts, knitting, crocheting, embroidering and so many other things to give to charities, Fire Departments, Police Departments, Hospital and so on.

Cannot forget about our organist, Dan and secretary Keisha, both faithful and kind.

Happy New Year to every member for using their time, talents, and resources to keep this congregation together, helping others as is the call Jesus has given us.

Sue Hahn

Thank you to WELCA for their kindness given to me for the wonderful platter of Christmas cookies. I am grateful to you all for thinking of me. Blessings to you, "Angels of God"-Almayrene Reinthaler

Merry Christmas & I'd like to thank everyone who gave me Christmas cards and the gifts that were with them. THANK YOU EVERYONE! God loves you and so do I. -Eileen DeMouplied



Bible Readings for the Month

January 4 Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18

January 11 Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 18 Second Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 25 Third Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23



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

Last Month's Correct Answers:

- 1) D. Gomer
- 2) D. Jonah
- 3) D. Many nations would rise up against Tyrus.

1. How many prophets of Baal did Jezebel support?

- A) 62
- B) 170
- C) 450
- D) 1,000

Need a hint? Check out 1 Kings 18:19

2. How many "minor prophets" are there?

- A) 5
- B) 7
- C) 12
- D) 14

Need a hint? Check out Hosea 1:1-Malachi 4:6

3. Who prophesied that the Lord would punish the kings of the earth by gathering them together as prisoners in a pit?

- A) Isaiah
- B) Jeremiah
- C) Gideon
- D) Barnabus

Need a hint? Check out Isaiah 24:21-22

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.



- ◆ 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

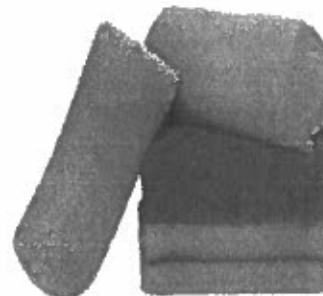


PLEASE HELP
OUR FAMILIES
STAY WARM

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

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

BABY
BALTHAZAR
BAPTISM
BETHLEHEM
CASPAR
CHRISTIAN
EPIPHANY
FEAST
FIRST MIRACLE
FRANKINCENSE

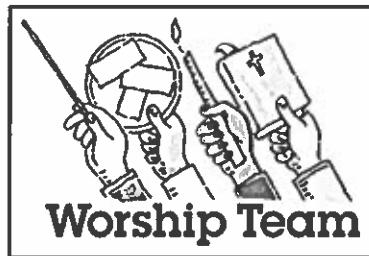
Epiphany

Word Search



GOLD	MYRRH
HEROD	REVELATION
HOLIDAY	SIXTH
HOPE	STAR
JANUARY	SUNDAY
JESUS	THREE KINGS
MAGI	TWELFTH DAY
MELCHIOR	WISE MEN

JANUARY



DATE	WORSHIP LDR. & ALM	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTERS
1/4/26 2nd Sunday of Christmas	Tim Koenig & Carol Wheeler	Kathy Scott & Charles Polacek	Kathy Scott	
1/11/26 Baptism of Our Lord	Pastor Mike Clark & Jan Clark	Kathy Owen & David Deterding	Carol Wheeler	Judy Hoover &
1/18/26 2nd Sunday After Epiphany	Sue Hahn & Kathy Scott	Judy Hoover & Pete Cvengros	Jane Smith	Judy Hoover & Lenora Walejko
1/25/26 3rd Sunday After Epiphany	Pastor Mike Clark & Charles Polacek	Dean & Jane Smith	Lisa Streu	
	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
January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 2nd Sunday of Christmas 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	5 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop	6 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Exercise Class	7 8:00am-12:30pm Office Open 10:00-11:00am Bible Study	1 New Years Day  Closed for Holiday	2  Closed for Holiday	3
11 Baptism of Our Lord 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Love Offering for Pastor's Discretionary Fund	12 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop 11:30am WELCA Birthday Celebration @ Pizza Hut	13 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Exercise Class	14 8:00am-12:30pm Office Open 9:11am; 1-3pm Food Pantry 10:00-11:00am Bible Study	15	16	17
18 2nd Sunday After Epiphany 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	19 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop	20 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Exercise Class	21 8:00am-12:30pm Office Open 10:00-11:00am Bible Study	22	23	24
25 3rd Sunday After Epiphany 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	26 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop	27 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 10:00am Hope Circle 1:00pm Exercise Class	28 8:00am-12:30pm Office Open 9:11am; 1-3pm Food Pantry 10:00-11:00am Bible Study	29	30	31



15-Phyllis Hamilton
21-Cheryl Newsom
28-Barb Kampen
31-Jane Smith



15-Dean & Jane Smith
15-Jami & Rick Scott

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