

THE GOOD NEWS
FEBRUARY 2026

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 5.....Announcements**
- Page 6.....Food Pantry Report**
- Page 7.....Bible Readings, Bible Trivia**
- Page 8.....Ministry Contact Info.**
- Page 9.....Message from Baxter County Sheriff's Office**
- Page 10.....Word Search**
- Page 11.....Worship Assistants**
- Page 12.....Calendar**
- Page 13.....Property**
- Back Page.....Birthdays & Anniversaries**



March Newsletter
deadline is **February 15th**

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

HOLY CROSS CHURCH COUNCIL

President.....Dave Hahn
Vice President.....Kathy Owen
Secretary.....Lisa Streu
Call Committee.....Lisa Streu
Education.....Kathy Owen
Evangelism.....Dan Jones
Finance.....Charles Polacek
Property.....David Deterding
Stewardship.....Kathy Scott
Worship & Music.....Carol Wheeler

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

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DATE: December 11, 2025
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, Charles Polacek, Kathy Scott, Lisa Streu, Carol Wheeler

Excused Absence: Steve Kampen & Kathy Owen Absent: None

Observers: Dan Jones

DEVOTIONS: Kathy Scott, financial secretary, gave the devotions from a sermon she wrote for her SAM program. This was for Joy Sunday (Gaudete Sunday). It reflects the joy of Christmas. Joy is found in the 4 scripture readings. Christmas joy is found in many places and reflects the joy of the Resurrection. Charles Polacek will give January devotions and Carol Wheeler the February devotions.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Kathy Scott, financial secretary, gave the donations report; giving was above the yearly average in November. Charles Polacek, church treasurer, gave the financial reports. Assets remain stable while the checking account is up. \$5,000 was moved in November to the Mission Plus interest banking account and if donations continue at a good rate, more can be moved before the first of year. The building fund has been used to pay the remaining amount on the gutter replacement. The insurance claim is still being processed for the damage. Expenses remain normal with insurance bill coming due for the first quarter of 2026. There was a question if the accounting program would pull a YTD number for the prior year to add to the report. The program cannot do this at this time. David Deterding made a motion; seconded by Lisa Streu to accept the financial reports. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES: Some typos in the minutes will be corrected. Dave Hahn made a motion; seconded by David Deterding to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

VISIONING: Dave Hahn brought a postcard he received from a mass mailing from another church advertising Christmas programming. The concept may work for us, and it will be investigated. It is requested that others come up with ideas to potentially attract/advertise our church to attract others. Lisa Streu asked if the KTLO Community Calendar (online posts) were being utilized for events. Nobody was aware of any recent use of this system. That way even if someone misses the spots on *Talk of the Town*, people can look and find the programs/events and a description. It is free to put events on the site. Lisa Streu will start adding programs after the first of the year. Also, as a Chamber member, the idea of using the Chamber more was brought up and will be investigated. The flyer we have can be utilized at the Chamber for their packets for new community members and perhaps real estate agents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The 40th anniversary committee will start planning after the first of the year.

Rewording of the Constitution section regarding council membership will be needed due to not fulfilling the current quotas. This will bring us into compliance with the Constitution until the next set of ELCA changes (following triennial ELCA convention).

The current section is: “C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the **pastor (s), the officers of this congregation, and 8 members of this congregation, at least one of whom shall be a youth and at least one of whom shall be a young adult, if possible.** Any voting member of this congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation of the length of continuous service permitted in that office. In addition, only one person in a household can serve the council at any given time unless there are extenuating circumstances.” The proposed changes to the Constitution will be as follows: “C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the 3 officers of this congregation, and a **minimum of 4 members of this congregation, to make a minimum of 7 members.** Any voting member of this congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation of the length of continuous service permitted in that office. In addition, only one person in a household can serve the council at any given time unless there are extenuating circumstances.”

This will now be placed in written form and submitted to the congregation and voted on per the Constitution guidelines. The congregation approved proposal will be sent to Synod for final approval.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion occurred about placing the offering plates on a table in the center aisle in the back of the sanctuary. An offering song will be played prior to the ushers presenting the gifts during the offertory song. Charles Polacek moved to place the offering plates in the center aisle and ushers will carry forward to present the gifts. Kathy Scott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Kathy Scott asked if her tuition for her next SAM classes could be approved and sent in quickly. Enrollment is based on a first-come, first-serve basis and they are reducing class size. Charles Polacek made a motion to approve the tuition expense; seconded by Dave Hahn. The motion passed and the voucher will be cut immediately.

Dave Hahn brought up that Mike Clark will no longer be preaching the fourth Sunday at Bull Shoals. He is willing to preach a second Sunday a month at HCLC. Kathy Scott made a motion to pay Mike Clark to preach 2 Sundays a month; seconded by Dave Hahn. The motion was approved. This will start in January.

North Arkansas Fly Fishers requested to use a portion of the lawn for about 1-2 weeks in March 2026 for a banner advertising their Sowbug Roundup Fly Fishing Expo. This was requested for the 2025 show, but the banner didn't come in. This was agreed upon by council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CALL COMMITTEE: No candidates. Next Ministry Site Profile update submission is due in February.

EDUCATION: No report.

EVANGELISM: No report.

FINANCE: Written and oral reports given.

PROPERTY: Gutter replacement report was given earlier. The money for the parlor floor was approved by the congregation; bids are still being obtained. Everything else that was started is complete. The parking lot resurfacing will be addressed in the spring after the freezing and thawing of winter and spring.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Written food pantry report.

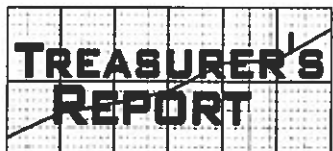
STEWARDSHIP: No report, except Loads of Love had larger participation last month.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC: Christmas Eve service at 4pm. Saturday, December 13 will be church decorating at 1pm.

Motion made to accept Committee reports by Dave Hahn and seconded by Kathy Scott. Motion carried unanimously. Motion to adjourn made by Lisa Streu and seconded by Charles Polacek. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:34am.

The next council meeting will be Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 9:30am.
All prayed the Lord's Prayer together.

Respectfully submitted by
Lisa Streu, Secretary



DECEMBER 2025

INCOME:

This month....\$8,531

This year.....\$112,323

EXPENSE:

This month....\$12,287

This year.....\$87,101

WELCA Fellowship

We would like to Thank the Women & Men that have served our Fellowship in 2025. Thank you also to those who donate supplies that mysteriously appear in the kitchen.

We would appreciate some additional volunteers in 2026 to sign up for a Sunday or to ask someone to share the time with them. Call Phyllis for information or to help if you are not familiar with the kitchen. It can be as simple as serving cookies, coffee cake, bought or baked, and clean up. Please ask a visitor on Sundays to join us in Fellowship Hall after the service and introduce them to others.

Monday Morning Workshop Women want to thank Dale Wheeler for making our quilt rack and Pastor Mike who recently attached wheels to the racks which help us to move them. Also, to the men who helped us during our Fall Bazaar.

Happy New Year to All!

-Phyllis Hamilton

Men of Holy Cross Meeting 1/17/2026

There were 7 men and no guests present and breakfast was served at this meeting.

We decided that there would be no changes in the elected officers.

The council has decided to hold a 40th anniversary celebration for Holy Cross this year. Kathy Owen has volunteered to chair the committee representing the Men's group.

The next meeting will be at 9:00am on February 21st here at Holy Cross. All are welcome.

Stewardship and the Grocery Store

Stewardship is taking care of and using wisely the gifts that God has given me. This little article will give us some tips for good stewardship practices at the grocery store. We have probably heard many tips on how to save money on groceries but sometimes they just don't work for a small or single person household. Some examples are: Buying in bulk, shopping what is on sale and clipping coupons. Buying in bulk only works if you can use the product in a timely manner and have the space to store it. Shopping sales only works if the food is something you really like and will use. Clipping coupons now means one has to have the store app on their phone and know how to use it. However, there are ways to fix these issues.

I find that buying in bulk works best for paper products. Many people now have some dietary restrictions, so food purchases don't always work. However, that huge package of napkins, that multi-pack of tissues or that 18-roll pack of toilet paper can easily be split between a friend or two or with family.

The way shopping sales can benefit a small household is by buying food that is canned or frozen. These two types of food have a longer shelf life than buying fresh produce which may spoil before it can be used.

I used to clip the coupons from the Sunday paper. But now coupons come on the store app. I just recently started using a store app for their coupons. I started this by finding a young person who was stocking shelves. He was very helpful in setting up my phone with the store's app and gave some simple explanations on what to do when I got to the register. With a little refresher course, I can now use coupons again.

Who really knew that we could practice stewardship at the grocery store!



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



**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOOD PANTRY DECEMBER 2025
MONTHLY REPORT**

In December, the food pantry served 31 households which included 8 new families. There were 63 individuals, with 12 between the ages of 0-17; 30 between the ages of 18-59 and 21 at the age of 60 or older. We served 3 veterans.

Our food pantry volunteers are Barb Kampen, Bob Hamilton, Marita Stanford, Jan Clark, Jan Pomeranke and Sue Gust. For the month of December, the total volunteer hours were 56.5. I appreciate our volunteers dedicating their time and effort in helping with the food pantry to serve these families that need food assistance here in Baxter County.

All donated food and money are greatly appreciated to help the families that come to our food pantry. The donated baked goods from Harps provides bread and desserts to the families that appreciate all that is given to them. Our food pantry received 53.4 pounds of donated Harps baked goods.

For the month of December, each family was given a small boneless sliced ham with an additional holiday bag of food; besides the food that is normally given to each family. The families expressed how happy they were to get the ham. For those families that didn't come in November, they received the boneless Butterball turkey breast and the ham.

The Love Offering for the month of February will go to the Twin Lakes Literacy Council.

The balance of the HCLCFP credit account at the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas is \$350.68 as of 12/31/25. The First Security Bank checking account balance as of 11/28/25 was \$9,890.90 with deposits of \$100.00 and checks totaling \$886.52. For the month of December, the First Security Bank checking account balance as of 12/30/25 was \$9,576.23 with deposits of \$250.00 and checks totaling \$564.67.

Barbara Kampen
Chairperson for HCLCFP



**Twin Lakes Literacy
Council**



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

**February 1
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

**February 8
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany**

Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 112:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Matthew 5:13-20

**February 15
Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

**February 22
First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Last Month's Correct Answers:

- 1) C. 450
- 2) C. 12
- 3) A. Isaiah

1. What new name did God give to Jacob?

- A) Israel
- B) Abraham
- C) Saul
- D) Mohammed

Need a hint? Check out Genesis 35:10

2. Which of the following was NOT one of the twelve tribes of Israel?

- A) Benjamin
- B) Joseph
- C) Gad
- D) Judah

Need a hint? Check out Genesis 48

3. In 1 Kings 21, who did the Lord say shall be eaten by dogs?

- A) Isaac
- B) Bilhah
- C) Jezebel
- D) Samson

Need a hint? Check out 1 Kings 21:23

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.

-Senior Exercise Class: A gentle exercise class that accommodates senior aches and pains. Most exercises can be done sitting or standing. Join us for some fellowship, good stretching and movement.

-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



The Baxter County Sheriff's Office is now ready to implement the new automated telephone wellness check system for seniors and disabled persons who live alone. This system, called CONFIRM OK, was made possible through funding provided by the Baxter County Sheriff's Foundation Board of Directors after hearing a presentation on the system from Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Brian Davis earlier this month. Lieutenant Davis will be serving as the manager and coordinator of this program. The system works by placing an automated telephone call one or more times per day to the participant at the phone number on file. If the participant is able to answer, he or she will hear a recorded message from the Sheriff's Office through the CONFIRM OK system that will provide the participant with instructions on how to respond on the phone keypad. The participant can report that he or she is OK and does not need assistance by simply pressing two keys on the phone. If the participant does not answer, a deputy will be dispatched to the residence to personally check on the welfare of the participant, and emergency medical services will be dispatched if needed.

Many times we find senior citizens who have fallen and are unable to call for help. They are forced to lie on the floor for hours or days before being found to receive medical attention. Unfortunately, sometimes we find those who have passed and have not been found for long periods of time. We feel this is unacceptable and we strongly believe this automated service can be of great benefit to many of our senior citizens who live alone. An application to participate in the CONFIRM OK system can be made in person at the Sheriff's Administration Offices during normal business hours, 8:00AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday (holidays excepted). If the applicant is unable to come to the Sheriff's Office, then a deputy can be dispatched to the residence to assist the applicant with filling out the documents. While family members, friends, or neighbors may suggest this program to an eligible person, applications from third-parties on behalf of a senior or disabled person residing alone cannot be accepted because the participant will need to sign documents in person and agree to the terms of the program.

Lieutenant Davis proposed the idea for this program to help ensure that people who live alone and lack daily or frequent contact with family or friends are regularly checked on to make sure they are well. Lt. Davis was familiar with a similar program that was used in Forest City and St. Francis County where he was previously employed. Lt. Davis's research led to the CONFIRM OK system that is being used in multiple agencies in several states with great success.

Anyone interested in applying for this service or learning more about the program may contact Lt. Brian Davis at (870) 425-7000 or in person at the Sheriff's Office during normal business hours.

Sheriff John Montgomery



- AQUARIUS
- CANDLELIGHT
- CARNATION
- CHOCOLATE
- COZY
- CUPID
- FEBRUARY
- FIREPLACE
- FRIENDSHIP
- GROUNDHOG DAY
- HEART
- HUG
- KISS
- LEAP YEAR
- LOVE
- MARDI GRAS
- PINK
- PISCES
- PRESIDENTS DAY
- RED
- ROMANCE
- ROSES
- SKIING
- SNOW
- SWEETHEART
- VALENTINE
- WINTER

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

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

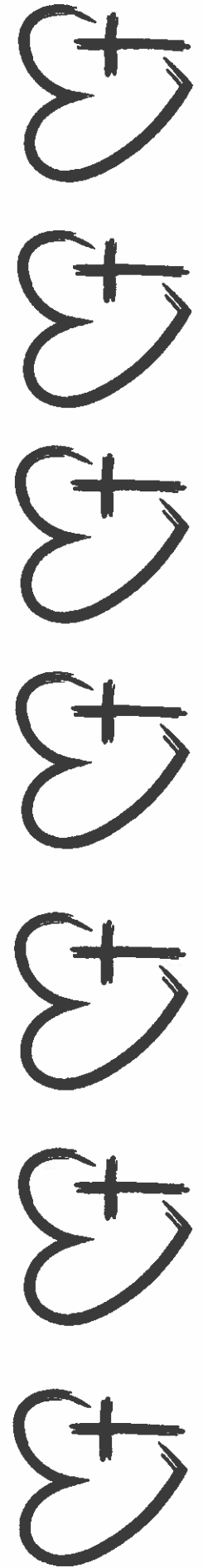
FEBRUARY



DATE	WORSHIP LDR. & ALM	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTERS
2/1/26 4th Sunday After Epiphany	Kathy Scott & Carol Wheeler	Kathy Scott & Charles Polacek	Carol Wheeler	Marita Stanford & Dan Alderman
2/8/26 5th Sunday After Epiphany	Pastor Mike Clark & Jan Clark	Kathy Owen & David Deterding	Kathy Scott	Judy Hoover & Pat Jones
2/15/26 Transfiguration Of Our Lord	Sue Hahn & Kathy Scott	Judy Hoover & Pete Cvengros	Lisa Streu	Judy Hoover & Lenora Walejko
2/18/26 Ash Wednesday			Carol Wheeler	
2/22/26 1st Sunday in Lent	Pastor Mike Clark & Charles Polacek	Dean & Jane Smith	Jane Smith	
	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 February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 4th Sun. Aft. Epiphany 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	2 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop	3 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Exercise Class	4 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 10:00am Bible Study	5 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	6 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	7
8 5th Sun. Aft. Epiphany 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship <i>Love Offering for Twin Lakes Literacy Council</i>	9 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop 11:30am WELCA Monthly Birthday Celebration @ Pizza Hut	10 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Exercise Class	11 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9-11am; 1-3pm Food Pantry 10:00am Bible Study	12 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:30am Church Council Mtg.	13 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	14
15 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship *Newsletter Deadline*	16 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop	17 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Exercise Class	18 Ash Wednesday 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 10:00am Bible Study	19 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm WELCA Mtg.	20 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	21 9:00am Men's Group Mtg.
22 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	23 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop	24 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 10:00am Hope Circle 1:00pm Exercise Class	25 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9-11am; 1-3pm Food Pantry 10:00am Bible Study	26 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	27 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	28





It's FINALLY done!!

The big pile of branches, etc. that has been on the property has been burned and cleared. Thank you to Dean Smith, Dale Wheeler, Dave Hahn & Mike Clark for their work on this project!

Pictured: Dale Wheeler & Dean Smith

