

THE GOOD NEWS
MARCH 2026

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

"ALL ARE WELCOME HERE"

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

Worship Sundays @ 9:00am

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April Newsletter
deadline is **March 22nd**

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: January 8, 2026 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: Dave Hahn, Dan Jones, Kathy Owen, Charles Polacek, Kathy Scott, Lisa Streu, Carol Wheeler Excused Absence: David Deterding Absent: None Observers: Judy Hoover

DEVOTIONS: Devotions were given by Charles Polacek from *Our Daily Bread*. It was based on John's version of the feeding of the 5000. Through faith, God can turn meagerness into something mighty. By acting obediently and trusting in God, He will help us use something small to make a large impact.

2026 Devotions: February-Carol Wheeler, March-Kathy Scott, April-Kathy Owen, May-Lisa Streu, June-Dave Hahn, July-Carol Wheeler, August-Dave Hahn, September-David Deterding, October-Dan Jones, November-Charles Polacek, December-Kathy Scott

ELECTIONS: Dave Hahn was nominated for President, Kathy Owen for Vice President, and Lisa Streu for Secretary. Charles Polacek made a motion to accept this slate of officers; seconded by Kathy Scott. The motion was approved. A motion was made by Charles Polacek, treasurer, for Dave Hahn, President, Kathy Owen, Vice President, and Charles Polacek, treasurer, to be placed as authorized signatories on the following accounts: Farmers and Merchants Bank checking (#182444), Mission Plus Investment Fund (#9180015598), Mission Plus CD (#XXXX65803), ELCA Ministry Growth Fund (#E272547), and Thrivent Fund from Ken Apel (#504755244). This was seconded by Kathy Scott. The motion was approved. Endowment Fund signatories with Thrivent were deemed up to date. Discussion will need to occur on who should be signatories on the Pastor's Discretionary Fund at this time as we do not have a pastor.

MINUTES: The December 11, 2025, minutes were reviewed with no corrections. Kathy Scott made a motion to accept the minutes; seconded by Kathy Owen. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Kathy Scott reviewed the donations report. This was slightly less than the yearly average. Charles Polacek gave the financial reports. Giving was close to average, though below budgeted amount. Overall status is still ok, as expenses are within line as there is no pastor to pay salary/benefits. Mission Plus is lowered due to all the maintenance work done on the building this year. Insurance, trash pickup, and HVAC are higher than budgeted. A request was made to add month to month cumulative totals to the back sheet of the financial secretary's report to make track totals more easily. Kathy Owen made a motion to accept the financial reports; seconded by Lisa Streu. The motion passed.

VISIONING: An email from the Sheriff's Office will be printed in the newsletter regarding their new program for automated telephone check system (Confirm OK) for seniors and the disabled. Several weekly church programs have been placed on the KTLO Community Events website. More will be placed later. Our church information trifold brochures will be updated and given to the Chamber and Real Estate agents for their new resident packets. Our history will also be updated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The 40th anniversary committee will be headed up by Kathy Owen. She will be asking for help from congregation members. Planning will commence. Other ideas for advertising will be explored, i.e. KTLO, ribbon cutting from Chamber, etc. There was a suggestion that we investigate curved banners to draw more attention to the church. Also, a suggestion was made to rededicate the church with the planting of a tree.

The rewording of the Constitution regarding membership of council presented. The new wording reads as follows:

"C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the 3 officers and a minimum of 4 members of this congregation with a minimum total of 7 members. Any voting member of this congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. In addition, only one person in a household can serve on the council at any given time unless there are extenuating circumstances." A motion was made by Kathy Scott; seconded by Carol Wheeler to accept the rewording. The motion was approved and will be given to the congregation on January 11 and 18, 2026. The changes will be printed for congregation review. When the congregation approves the changes, it will be sent to Synod to be approved.

The Synod Assembly location was changed to St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Fort Smith, AR, on May 1-3, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS: Committee Liaisons were assigned for 2026:

Call Committee-Lisa Streu
Education-Kathy Owen
Evangelism-Dan Jones
Financial-Charles Polacek
Property-Dave Deterding
Social Ministry (Food Pantry)-Written reports
Stewardship-Kathy Scott
Worship & Music-Carol Wheeler

Dan Schmidt will be having surgery in April and needs 2-3 weeks off. He will pre-record the music for the first two weeks. We can get help for the third week if needed. A person to play the tapes during service will be needed. Kathy Scott made a motion to pay Dan Schmidt for his sick time from his paid vacation; seconded by Kathy Owen. The motion was approved. The Bull Shoals SAM's have increased their pay request from \$100 to \$125 a service. Kathy Owen made a motion to pay them \$125 a service; seconded by Kathy Scott. This was approved. (This will be only 1-2 Sundays a month).

Discussion occurred regarding the MSP and potential changes. Will be discussed by the Call Committee after more information is collected.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CALL COMMITTEE: New MSP will need to be submitted in February.

EDUCATION: Bible Study numbers are steady.

EVANGELISM: We are supporting Loads of Love.

FINANCE: Written and oral reports.

PROPERTY: All improvements are completed currently. The burn pile was burned.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Written food pantry report.

STEWARDSHIP: Kathy Scott will be putting together stewardship information regarding groceries, shopping, cutting down waste, etc. from resources she discovered.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC: Baptismal font and Paschal candle will be moved to the front of the church permanently. Baptism of Our Lord is Sunday.

Motion made to accept Committee reports by Kathy Owen and seconded by Dan Jones. Motion carried unanimously. Motion to adjourn was made by Charles Polacek and seconded by Kathy Owen. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:50am. The next council meeting will be Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 9:30am. All prayed the Lord's Prayer together.

Respectfully submitted by
Lisa Streu, Secretary

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
MOUNTAIN HOME, AR
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026
10:01 AM**

The special congregational meeting was called to order at 10:01am by council president, Dave Hahn. The meeting had been announced for 2 weeks and a handout with the proposed constitutional changes had been available for those weeks for the congregation.

The current wording of C12.01 of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church constitution is:

"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 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 on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. In addition, only one person in a household can serve on the council at any given time unless there are extenuating circumstances."

The proposed change to C12.01 of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church constitution is:

"The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the 3 officers and a minimum of 4 members of this congregation with a minimum total of 7 members. Any voting member of this congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. In addition, only one person in a household can serve on the council at any given time unless there are extenuation circumstances."

Dan Schmidt made a motion; seconded by Mike Clark to accept the wording change to the constitution. The motion passed unanimously.

Information was presented that 3 bids for new flooring for the parlor were received. This will be addressed further. A request was made to offer a gift card for Mark Guth's helper, Mark, for his work clearing the parking lot. This was agreed to by the congregation (less than needed for a formal congregational vote). Mike Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dale Wheeler. The motion passes.



"God Can Do It: We Can Help"

Stewardship- All Around Town

Gasoline, produced from oil which many believe to be a limited resource, just seems to be an ordinary purchase for us. We buy gas for our vehicles, boats, lawn mowers and lawn equipment. But how would our lives change if we had no gas? Unfortunately, the victims of hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and fire have had those experiences. There were severe shortages of gas or even no gas at all to fill their vehicles to evacuate, or little gas for generators to power lights and appliances.

So it looks like gasoline may be something we should be conserving as stewards of the earth. But how can we accomplish this? Some practices may be very easy to do. The simplest is not to drive so much. We can plan our trips so that we can complete two, three, or even four errands at one outing. We make that big trip around town. This saves on gas, money, and time-a three for one deal.

We can easily overlook proper maintenance of our vehicles. Two simple steps are keeping our tires properly inflated and keeping the air filters clean. These steps can increase our gas mileage which can result in less trips to the gas station and more money in our pockets. In many larger cities, public transportation is the way to go. Many people travel on the same gallon of gas. Unfortunately, here in Mountain Home, there is limited public transportation. But we can carpool. Not only are we saving gas by doing this, but we also get an additional chance to connect with people.

Before we go about our daily routines, let us give thanks to God for the abundance of natural resources He has given us. Let us pray that we may be good stewards in conserving the riches of our planet.



Easter Breakfast

Come join together on Easter morning to enjoy breakfast with your church family and friends. Breakfast will be served before church and after the worship service. The meal will be ready at 7:45am, so come enjoy breakfast when you are ready. The menu is as follows: Egg casserole, biscuits and sausage gravy, bakery goods, fruit salad, juice and coffee. The sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex starting on Sunday, March 22nd, so please sign up if you are planning to attend! Bring your friends, relatives, and neighbors for good food, good fellowship and rejoicing in our Lord's resurrection! If you have any questions, please call Carol Wheeler at 488-5044.

Easter Flowers

Would you like to donate Easter Flowers for our Easter Sunday worship service? If so, please bring flowers of your choice to the church on Friday, April 3rd or April 4th and place them in the Parlor. The Altar Guild will then arrange them on the altar area for our beautiful Easter Sunday worship. Any questions, please call Carol Wheeler at 488-5044. Thank you.



The WELCA general meeting was held Thursday, February 19, 2026. Thank you to Phyllis and Judy for the wonderful refreshments. Discussion occurred around whether to have another bazaar this year or perhaps change to less labor-intensive fundraisers. No final decision was made, so please come to the next meeting to have your input. The women will have multiple manned booths at the 40th Anniversary celebration, so we need volunteers. Please consider coming to the next meeting and helping make the 40th anniversary of Holy Cross special. The next meeting is Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 1 pm in the fellowship hall.



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



**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
 FOOD PANTRY
 JANUARY REPORT**

In January, the food pantry served 13 households. There were 20 individuals, with 4 between the ages of 0-17; 7 between the ages of 18-59, and 9 aged 60 or older. We served two veterans. Our food pantry was closed on January 28 due to inclement weather.

Our food pantry volunteers are: Barb Kampen, Bob Hamilton, Marita Stanford, Jan Clark, Sue Gust, and Jan Pomeranke. For the month of January, the total volunteer hours were 21.25. I appreciate our volunteers dedicating their time in helping with the food pantry to serve these families that need food assistance here in Baxter County.

All donated food, money, and memorials to our food pantry helps keep our food pantry operating to serve these families. Our food pantry received 53.34 lbs. of donated baked goods from Harps and 4.88 lbs. of donated items from an individual.

The Love Offering for the month of March will go to Informed Choices in Mountain Home, AR. They provide support for the pregnant women and their families through religious, charitable and educational means. They help women of all ages by providing counseling, parenting classes, and emotional support.

The balance of the HCLCFP credit account at the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas is \$465.05 as of 01/31/2026. The First Security Bank checking account balance as of 01/30/2026 is at \$9,576.56 with deposits of \$45.00 and checks totaling \$44.67.



Informed Choices

Barbara Kampen
 Chairperson for HCLCFP

**TREASURER'S
 REPORT**

JANUARY 2026

INCOME:

This month....\$5,519

This year.....\$5,519

EXPENSE:

This month....\$5,865

This year.....\$5,865



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

March 1
Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 8
Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March 15
Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 22
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

March 29
Palm Sunday
Procession: Matthew 21:1-11

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14—27:66 or
Matthew 27:11-54

Last Month's Correct Answers:

- 1) A. Israel
- 2) B. Joseph
- 3) C. Jezebel

1. To whom was Joseph sold in Egypt?

- A) Herod
- B) Pharaoh
- C) Potiphar
- D) King David

Need a hint? Check out Genesis 37:36

2. Babylonian king Belshazzar saw a hand writing words on the wall. Who was the only person able to interpret the message?

- A) Isaiah
- B) Elijah
- C) Jeremiah
- D) Daniel

Need a hint? Check out Daniel 5:12-28

3. Solomon's wisdom was compared to this Ezrahite in 1 Kings 4.

- A) Ethan
- B) Samuel
- C) Moses
- D) Uriah

Need a hint? Check out 1 Kings 4:29-31

Prayer Requests



How YOU can help?

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.

- ◆ 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

- APRIL
- BLOSSOM
- BREEZE
- BUD
- BULBS
- BUNNY
- BUTTERFLY
- CHICK
- DAFFODIL
- EASTER
- EGGS
- GRASS
- GREEN
- HATCH
- JUNE
- MARCH
- MAY
- NEST
- PUDDLE
- RAINBOW
- ROBIN
- SEASON
- SHOWERS
- SUNSHINE
- THAW
- TULIP
- UMBRELLA



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



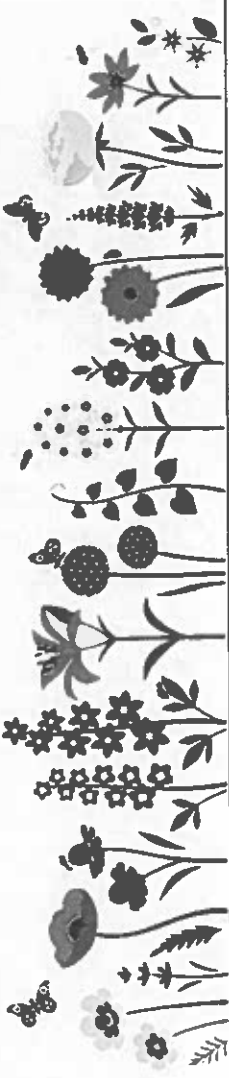
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X	X	I	J	W	E	W	R	D	V	E	D	D	K	A	A	W	H	M

MARCH



DATE	WORSHIP LDR. & ALM	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTERS
3/1/26 2 nd Sunday in Lent	Kathy Scott & Carol Wheeler	Charles Polacek & TBD	Lisa Streu	Marita Stanford & Dan Alderman
3/8/26 3 rd Sunday in Lent	Pastor Mike Clark & Jan Clark	Kathy Owen & David Deterding	Carol Wheeler	Judy Hoover & Pat Jones
3/15/26 4 th Sunday in Lent	Sue Hahn & Kathy Scott	Judy Hoover & Pete Cvengros	Kathy Scott	Judy Hoover & Lenora Walejko
3/22/26 5 th Sunday in Lent	Pastor Mike Clark & Charles Polacek	Dean & Jane Smith	Jane Smith	Lisa Streu & Judy Hoover
3/29/26 Palm Sunday	Kathy Scott & Sue Hahn	David & Sue Hahn	Carol Wheeler	Judy Hoover & TBD
	Questions? Willing to Serve? Call Sue H. 254-768-9651	Questions? Willing to Serve? Call Sue H. 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 March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st Sunday in Lent 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  spring forward
8th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Love Offering for Informed Choices	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
15th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	16 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop	17 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Exercise Class	18 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 10:00am Bible Study	19 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	20 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 	21 9:00am Men's Group Mtg.
22nd Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship *Newsletter Deadline*	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
29th Palm Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	30 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop	31 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Exercise Class				



3-Wanda Soutter
8-Terri Clark
10-Almayrene Reinthaler
15-Doris Arnold
20-Mary Ferron
22-Lisa Streu
25-Charles Polacek

20-Lisa & Jon Streu

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