

THE GOOD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 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

In This Issue

Page 2.....Council Minutes
Page 4.....Announcements
Page 5.....Altar Guild, Recipe
Page 6.....Food Pantry Report
Page 7.....Bible Readings, Bible Trivia
Page 8.....Ministry Contact Information
Page 9.....Word Search
Page 10.....Worship Assistants
Page 11.....Word Search
Back Page....Birthdays & Anniversaries



October Newsletter
deadline is **September 20th**.

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.....TBD
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: July 9, 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: None Absent: Dave Deterding Observers: None

DEVOTIONS: Carol Wheeler gave devotions based on "moving in faith". It highlighted the story of Abam and Sarai giving up everything and not knowing where they were going to follow God's direction. That was an amazing act of faith in Him. In our own lives, we should continue to believe in God's plan, even though the journey may contain surprises. Follow God's GPS (God's Plan for Salvation). Dave Hahn has August devotions. Kathy Owen will take September devotions.

MINUTES: The minutes from June 11, 2026, were reviewed. There were no changes, corrections, or additions. Carol Wheeler made a motion; seconded by Dan Jones to accept the minutes written. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Kathy Scott, financial secretary, gave the devotions report. Donations were significantly lower as is common in the summer. August has 5 Sundays, so hopefully it will be a bit stronger, despite August traditionally being the lowest month. Social services donations were good. Charles Polacek, church treasurer, gave the financials. The checking balance is lower than normal, but there were extra (and higher than budgeted) expenses in June. This consisted of insurance, Dan Schmidt's July salary was paid in June as he had his surgery and cannot attend services for several weeks, and increased music supply due to Dan's surgery. The building fund is part of 3 different accounts: ELCA Growth fund (long term investment), the Mission Plus CD (medium term investment), and the Mission Plus money market (investment with check writing capabilities). The building portion of the Mission Plus money market is in negative due to all the improvements made during the last year, although the overall fund totals are in

the black and sufficient for financial institution requirements. This is despite removing \$40,000 last year for property improvements. The only planned property improvement for the year will be to get bids on crack filling, seal coating, and striping the parking lot. It has been about 3 years since this was last completed. The Mission Plus CD is due at the end of July, and Charles' recommendation is to remove \$5,000 from the CD and place it in the money market and then re-invest the remainder in a new one-year Mission Plus CD. The \$5,000 taken from the CD will cover both the improvements and the shortfall in the property fund portion of the money market. Dan Jones made a motion to remove \$5,000 from the CD upon maturity and place the money in the money market and re-invest the remainder in a Mission Plus one-year CD; seconded by Kathy Owen. The motion passed unanimously. Quarterly social service reports were presented. Lisa Streu made a motion; seconded by Dan Jones to approve the financial reports. The motion carried.

VISIONING: Wanda, Paula, and Kathy Owen went to the new permanent RV park with our literature. They were received well by those at home, although many people weren't there at the time. There is a plan to go back in the evening when more people may be home. Council will try to invite others to attend services at HCLC, but everyone from the congregation is invited to also ask neighbors, friends and new acquaintances.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Loads of Love was added to the website. Permission from the Chamber was obtained by Kathy Owen to embed the video that they made about HCLC on our website. Keisha will work on that project. Postcard mailing is still a possibility. Tabletop advertising in restaurants has just been replaced, and as they only replace every 3 years, this idea was placed on hold. Kathy Owen will investigate the possibility of a regular ad on KTLO. The MSP was updated and submitted to Synod. It will be placed on their job site. Wanda and Marita are attempting to contact Northern Synods who may have information on pastors who are getting close to retirement and may want a part-time position as they transition to retirement. 40th Anniversary Review: Consider a meeting at the very beginning of planning to discuss expectations and potential issues with setting up group booths. Providing a hard copy of speech outline to speaker at event would be helpful. Perhaps having it inside would control the flow better. Coming WELCA and Men's Group fundraising was discussed. WELCA will be discussing future fundraising at their August meeting

NEW BUSINESS: Dave Deterding has not been to greater than 4 council meetings and has not communicated with anyone regarding absences. Per the constitution C12.02 "A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause." A motion was made by Charles Polacek ; seconded by Kathy Owen to remove Dave Deterding from the council. The motion passed. Per the constitution C12.06 "Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next meeting." Council members will be looking for someone to fill his position until at least the annual meeting in November. Please consider volunteering. Possible re-establishment of Senior VBS has been discussed and will be investigated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CALL COMMITTEE: See unfinished business.

EDUCATION: Bible Study numbers down due to summer.

EVANGELISM: Those who received invitations to the 40th Anniversary celebration may be contacted with a general message to remind them we are here.

FINANCE: Written and oral reports.

PROPERTY: As mentioned, bids will be obtained on parking lot repairs.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Written Food Pantry report.

STEWARSHIP: Nothing currently.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC: Nothing currently.

Motion made to accept Committee Reports by Lisa Streu and seconded by Kathy Owen. Motion carried unanimously. Motion to adjourn was made by Dan Jones and seconded Charles Polacek. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11am. The next council meeting will be Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 9:30am. All prayed the Lord's Prayer together.

Submitted by Lisa Streu
HCLC Council



Men of Holy Cross

Meeting on 8/15/2026

There were 6 men and no guests present;
breakfast was served at this meeting.

We discussed the Spaghetti Dinner and are still planning for a date of October 17th from 4:00-6:00pm. We will set up on Friday, October 16th at 10:00am with final preparations being done on Saturday, October 18th at 2:00pm. We will need help from the ladies to make desserts and possibly assist crew during the dinner. We wondered whether the ladies would like to incorporate a quilt sale at the same time as the dinner.

The next meeting will be at 9:00am on September 19th here at Holy Cross. All are welcome.

TREASURER'S REPORT

JULY 2026

INCOME:

This month....\$9,840

This year.....\$65,385

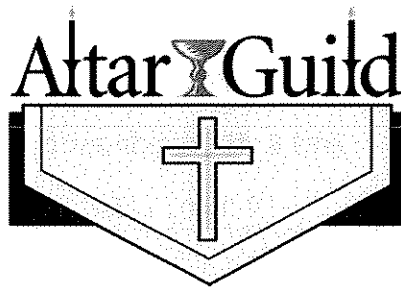
EXPENSE:

This month....\$5,847

This year.....\$54,889



**Bible Study resumes normal schedule
on September 16th at 10:00am.**



PASCHAL CANDLE: The paschal candle (sometimes called the Easter candle) is a large decorated candle that symbolizes our Lord's glorious Easter triumph over the over the darkness of death and sin. It is reminiscent of the pillar of cloud and fire that led the people of God to the promised land. Paschal candles have been used in worship since at least the fifth century. The paschal candle itself is at least 30 inches tall, and is placed in a floor stand, which is usually at least four feet tall. The paschal candle should be the largest candle in the space. Some great paschal candles in church history weighed three hundred pounds, and some stands were themselves ten feet tall--so important was it to symbolize the magnitude of Christ's Easter victory. As a part of the Easter Vigil liturgy on Easter Eve, the paschal candle is incised with a cross, the Greek letters *alpha* and *omega* (meaning the beginning and the end). The paschal candle remains in its central position in the chancel throughout the weeks of Easter, and it is lighted for all worship services during the season. On the Day of Pentecost, the paschal candle may be extinguished by an acolyte as the gospel reading concludes. After the final parish liturgy on the Day of Pentecost, the candle is moved to a place near the baptismal font and is lighted for each baptism and for funerals (but not at other times, as indicated below). It is a visual connection between baptism and Easter, reminding us that in our baptism we are buried and raised with Christ (Romans 6:3-5). Baptismal candles (see the chapter on baptism) are lighted from the paschal candle for presentation to the baptized. For funerals, the paschal candle is carried immediately behind the processional cross, at the head of the entrance procession. It is placed in its stand at the head of the casket for the burial liturgy

HOT CHICKEN SALAD CASSEROLE

(Submitted by Carol Wheeler)

3 cups cooked chicken diced
2 cups finely chopped celery
1 small onion chopped
1 cup mayonnaise
1 can mushroom soup
1 can water chestnuts, drained
Salt and pepper

Mix together all the above ingredients and place in 9x13 pan

1/3 cup butter, melted
1/2 package Pepperidge Farm stuffing or 1 package seasoned croutons
Mix together and put on top of casserole

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes until bubbly



WELCA RETREAT

Arkansas/Oklahoma Women of the ELCA

Sept. 19th, 2026
At Oaks Indian Mission
Oaks, OK
10:00am-3:00pm

This is a One-Day Retreat
Recipe for Renewal
No Charge
Lunch will be provided
In-kind offering will be to Oaks Indian Mission



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



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOOD PANTRY
JULY 2026

In July, the food pantry served 23 households. There were 38 individuals, 7 between the ages of 0-17; 16 between the ages of 18-59 and 15 at the age of 60 or older. We served 2 veterans.

Our food pantry volunteers are Barb Kampen, Bob Hamilton, Marita Stanford, Jan Clark, Sue Gust and Jan Pomeranke. For the month of July, the total volunteer hours was 43.75. Our food pantry received 54.66 lbs. of donated food. These volunteers help in the food pantry stocking shelves, entering the families information in the computer for Oasis, a website for the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas, Dollar Tree, and Walmart. Our food pantry receives donated food from- the congregation, venison from hunters, baked goods from Harps grocery store, free produce and certain food items occasionally from the Food Bank. For several years, on the first Friday in November, the North Central Board of Realtors in Mountain Home has donated a large amount of various canned goods and other items to several food pantries in Marion and Baxter County. This really helps stock our food pantry, especially during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

The Love Offering for the month of September will go to Into the Light. The Light's mission is to provide refuge and restoration for minor survivors of sexual exploration and to bring awareness and education to the issue of human trafficking.

The credit balance for our food pantry at the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas as of 07/25/26 is \$2,052.59. The HCLCFP checking account balance with First Security Bank as of 07/31/26 is \$9,799.63 with 0 deposits and checks totaling \$307.27.



Into the Light

Barbara Kampen
Chairperson for HCLCFP

Bible
Readings *for the* Month

September 6

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119: 33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 13

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:1-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Jonah 3:10—4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Bible Trivia

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

Last Month's Correct Answers:

- 1) C. Reuben
- 2) B. Elihu
- 3) C. Silas

1. By what name was the disciple Tabitha also known?

- A) Dorcas
- B) Tamar
- C) Susanna
- D) Anna

Need a hint? Check out Acts 9:36

2. Who promised to pay back the people he cheated four times over?

- A) Judas Iscariot
- B) Peter
- C) Simeon
- D) Zacchaeus

Need a hint? Check out Luke 19:8

3. Who fell asleep while Paul was preaching?

- A) Eutychus
- B) Corinth
- C) Alphaeus
- D) Thaddeus

Need a hint? Check out Acts 20:9

4. Who was the sister of Herod Agrippa II?

- A) Beatrice
- B) Judith
- C) Diana
- D) Bernice

Need a hint? Check out Acts 25:13

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 YOU can 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

Farmers Market

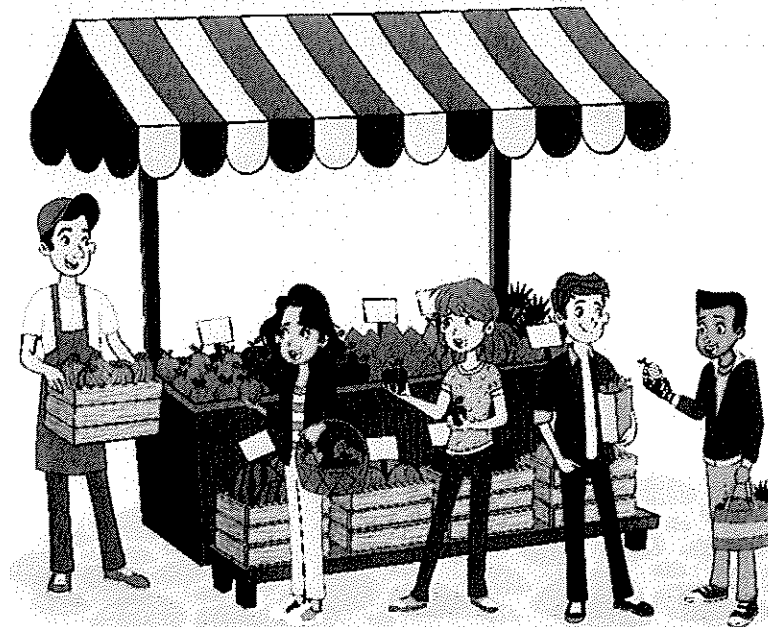
Word Search

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

ARTISAN
BAKED GOODS
CHEESE
COMMUNITY
CRAFTS
EGGS
FARMER
FLOWERS
FRESH
FRUIT
HANDCRAFTED



HARVEST
HERBS
HOMEMADE
HONEY
JAMS
LOCAL
MARKET
NUTS



ORGANIC
PRODUCE
SACK
SCALE
SEASONAL
STAND
VEGETABLES
VENDOR

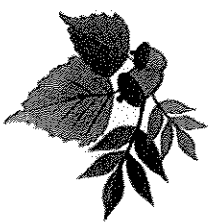
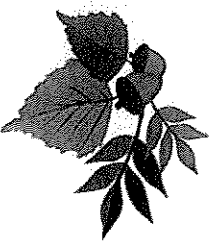
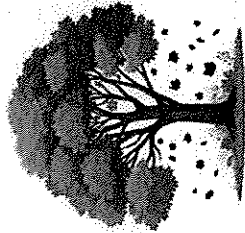
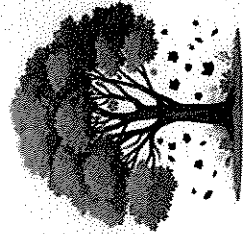
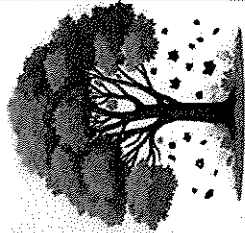
SEPTEMBER



DATE	WORSHIP LDR. & ALM	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTERS
9/6/26 15th Sunday After Pentecost	Kathy Scott & Carol Wheeler	Charles Polacek & David Hahn	Lisa Streu	Marita Stanford
9/13/26 16th Sunday After Pentecost	Pastor Mike Clark & Charles Polacek	Kathy Owen & David Hahn	Kathy Scott	Judy Hoover
9/20/26 17th Sunday After Pentecost	Sue Hahn & Kathy Scott	Judy Hoover & Pete Cvengros	Jane Smith	Judy Hoover & Lenora Walejko
9/27/26 18th Sunday After Pentecost	Pastor Mike Clark & Charles Polacek	Dean & Jane Smith	Carol Wheeler	Pat Jones & Judy Hoover
	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

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Exercise Class	2 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open BIBLE STUDY ON HIATUS UNTIL SEPT. 16TH	3 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	4 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	5
6 15th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	7 Labor Day 	8 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Exercise Class	9 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9-11am: 1-3pm Food Pantry BIBLE STUDY ON HIATUS UNTIL SEPT. 16TH	10 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:30am Church Council Mtg.	11 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	12
13 16th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship <i>Love Offering for Into the Light</i>	14 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop 11:30am WELCA Monthly Birthday Celebration @ Pizza Hut	15 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Exercise Class	16 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 10:00am Bible Study	17 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	18 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	19 9:00am Men's Group Mtg.
20 17th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship *Newsletter Deadline*	21 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop	22 First Day of Fall 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 10:00am Hope Circle 1:00pm Exercise Class	23 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9-11am: 1-3pm Food Pantry 10:00am Bible Study	24 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	25 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open	26
27 18th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	28 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 9:00am WELCA Workshop	29 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 1:00pm Exercise Class	30 8:30am-12:30pm Office Open 10:00am Bible Study			



2-Paula Crawford
5-Mike Owen
7-Dan Alderman
9-Martin Bauman
11-Dean Smith



21-Bob & Phyllis Hamilton

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