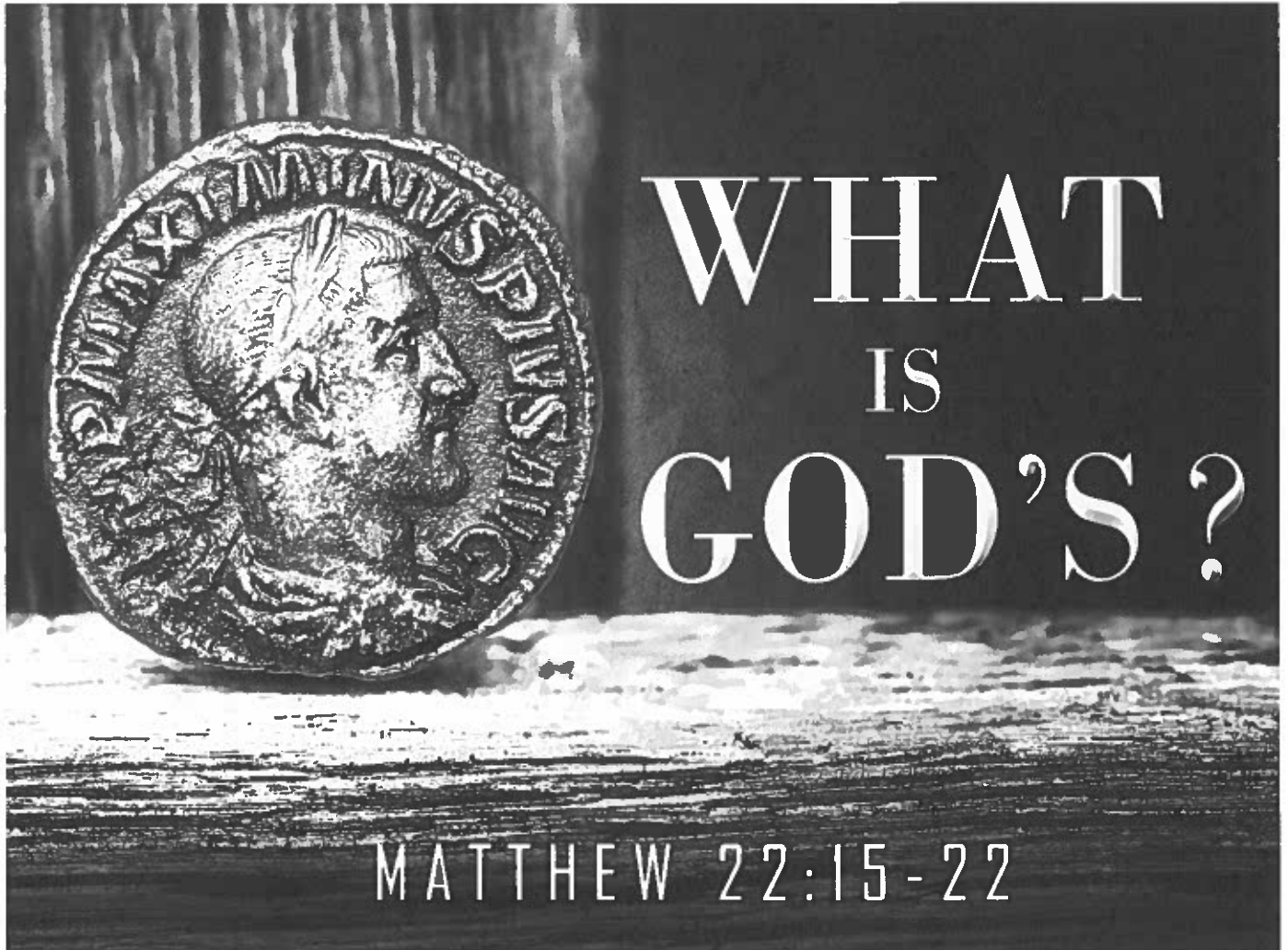


Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost
October 18, 2026



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, ELCA
holycrossmtnhome.com
48 Carnation Drive
Mountain Home, AR 72653
870-492-6636
holycrosssecretary.1@gmail.com
Dan Schmidt, Music Director



We're glad you're here!
Visitors are invited to fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. Join us for fellowship after worship!
Thank you to Sue & David Hahn for hosting today.

As we enter the sanctuary, let us quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements

Gathering

Sharing of the Peace

L: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you!

L: Let us offer this gift of God's peace to one another.

Confession & Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

L: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

L: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.



1 You ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a -
 2 As-cend-ed on high, al-might-y to save, yet still he is
 3 Sal-va-tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
 4 Then let us a-dore and give him his right, all glo-ry and



broad his won-der-ful name; the name, all-vic-to-rious, of
 nigh, his pres-ence we have. The great con-gre-ga-tion his
 loud and hon-or the Son. The prais-es of Je-sus the
 pow'r and wis-dom and might, all hon-or and bless-ing, with



Jc-sus ex-tol; his king-dom is glo-rious and rules o-ver all!
 tri-umph shall sing, as-crib-ing sal-va-tion to Je-sus, our king!
 an-gels pro-claim, fall down on their fac-es, and wor-ship the Lamb.
 an-gels a-bove, and thanks nev-er ceas-ing, and in-fin-ite love!

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie



1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-emn prayer.
 2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a-way our sin.
 3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de-part.



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin.
 Re-new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre-ate in us new hearts!

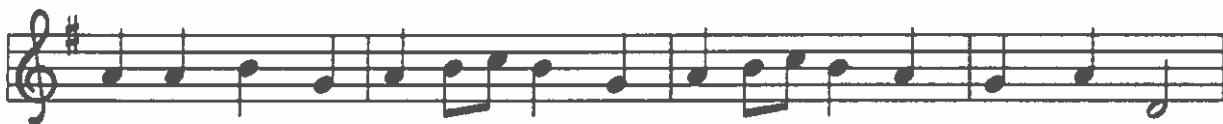
Hymn of Praise



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray the prayer of the day together;

C: Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Word

First Readings

Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 96:1-13

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples
with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that ¹ is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

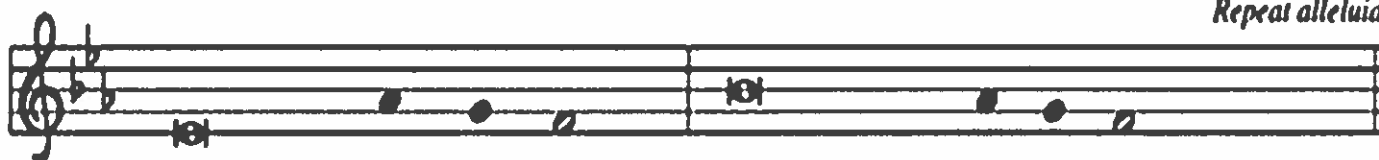
L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Repeat alleluia

Shine like stars - in the world, - *holding fast to the - word of life

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:15-22

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
 3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
 what-e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Apostles' Creed

Let's now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

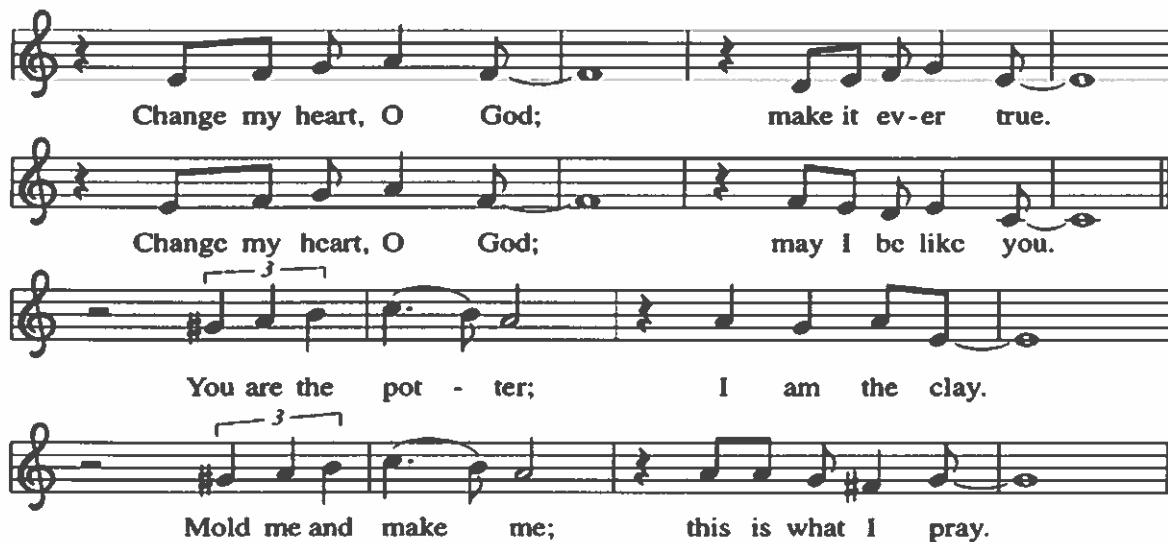
Prayers of the People

After each petition of the prayers:

L: Hear us, O God; **C:** **Your mercy is great.**

Call Committee, Dan Alderman, Doris Arnold, Jan Clark, Pam Guth, Mary Henson (Member of our Exercise Group), Troy Koch (Friend of Dan Jones), Dorothy Meyer, Dan & Donna Schmidt, Kathy Scott, Dion Stanford (Marita's Husband), Tom Wager (Friend of Judy Hoover), Lenora Walejko, Kim West (Barb Kampen's Sister in Law), Matt Zipperer (Former member), and for all our homebound members and friends. Those serving in uniform, for our First Responders, for our enemies and those we find hard to love, and for all who travel.

Offering & Offertory



Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first two staves are for a vocal part, and the last two are for a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: 'Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true.' for the first staff, 'Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.' for the second staff, 'You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.' for the third staff, and 'Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.' for the fourth staff. There are triplets in the piano part on the third and fourth staves.

Offering Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy Holy Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

L: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

L: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

L: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

L: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Holy Communion

All who are repentant of their sins and believe in the Real Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Sacrament are welcome to receive the elements. As usual, the wine is the dark liquid and the grape juice is the light liquid. Please be cautious and only touch the cup you choose to commune with. Those who are not communing may come forward, with arms crossed upon the chest, to receive a blessing.

Communion Hymn ELW#466

"In the Singing"



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Prayer After Communion

Sending

Benediction



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Dismissal

L: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

~FAITH & FELLOWSHIP~

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. Join us Tuesdays at 1:00pm for some good stretching, moving and fellowship.

Hope Circle is on the **Fourth** Tuesday of each month at 10:00am. Study lessons from *Gather* magazine, a publication of WELCA.

Bible Study Attendance 10/7: 10



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS TODAY!



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

It's that time of year again!

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, November 15th immediately following church service. If you have a report to add, please submit it to the church office no later than

NEXT SUNDAY, October 25th. Thank you!



ALTAR FLOWERS

*Altar Flowers are given today by
Dan & Pat Jones in celebration of
October birthdays*

Those Serving This Week:

Worship Leader & ALM: Sue Hahn & Jan Clark

Organist: Dan Schmidt

Ushers: Judy Hoover & Pete Cvengros

Altar Guild: Carol Wheeler

Counters: Judy Hoover & Pat Jones

Ministers: All the members of HCLC

Church Attendance 10/11: 39

This Week at Holy Cross

Mon. 10/19	8:30am-12:30pm 9:00am	Church Office Open WELCA Workshop
Tue. 10/20	8:30am-12:30pm 1:00pm	Church Office Open Senior Exercise Class
Wed. 10/21	8:30am-12:30pm 10:00am	Church Office Open Bible Study
Thurs. 10/22	8:30am-12:30pm	Church Office Open
Fri. 10/23	8:30am-12:30pm	Church Office Open
Sat. 10/24		
Sun. 10/25	9:00am 10:00am	Worship Fellowship

Those Serving Next Week:

Worship Leader & ALM: Pastor Mike Clark & Charles Polacek

Organist: Dan Schmidt

Ushers: Dean & Jane Smith

Altar Guild: Jane Smith

Counters: Judy Hoover &

Ministers: All the members of HCLC

