

Holy Cross
Herald
December 2022

Aiming
our lives toward
Christ!

Proclaiming
Christ crucified!

Reclaiming
lost lives for Christ!



Holy Cross Lutheran
Church—Warren, MI

RECEIVING GOD'S EMBRACE

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
1 John 3:1 NIV

Some people are born "huggers". They greet family members or complete strangers in the same way. They just can't help themselves. They must lavish love on those around them. Most of us agree that the closer the relationship, the more meaningful the hug.

Can you imagine receiving an embrace from our heavenly Father, the God of the universe? God lavished His love on us when He sent Jesus to earth. Jesus' sacrificial death on our behalf paved the way for adoption into God's family by faith. When we received the gift of Jesus, we become children of God. We are no longer strangers, alienated from a holy God. We have become family!

As you ponder God's great love for you, picture Jesus hanging on the cross. With arms outstretched, He came to embrace you! Receive the embrace of your heavenly Father today!

Dear Lord, I need Your embrace. May I receive the abundant love You desire to lavish upon me because I am Your child.

Wherever you are spiritually, whatever you have been through emotionally, you are already wrapped in the Lords embrace. Held by nail-scarred hands. Enfolded in the arms of One who believes in you, supports you, treasures you, and loves you.

IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

Elder zone #1

Marcus Coon



BEHOLD! CHIRST IS OUR PEACE.

This years Advent Midweek services are based on the theme “Behold.” This word is everywhere in the Scriptures, calling on us to straighten up our heads and pay attention. We lift up the eyes of faith at the beginning of a new Church Year, remembering Christ’s first advent among us and looking forward to His advent at the end of the world. Let us delight in His Word and “behold wondrous things out of your law” (Psalm 119:18).

Peace is found in the one sent by God to be the Savior. His name is Jesus, and He is God’s own Son in human flesh. His death and resurrection paid for all sin and earned eternal life for all who believe in Him. Jesus forgives the sins of all who believe in Him. Jesus’ love gives peace to all who trust in Him. Christmas is the time of peace and joy, of singing and laughing all because of Jesus This is the Good News of the Gospel and the true meaning of Christmas.

Advent Midweek services are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm: November 30—Jeremiah 33:14-16, December 7— Malachi 3:1-7b, December 14—Zephaniah 3:14-20.

Join us as we learn of the true meaning of Christmas.

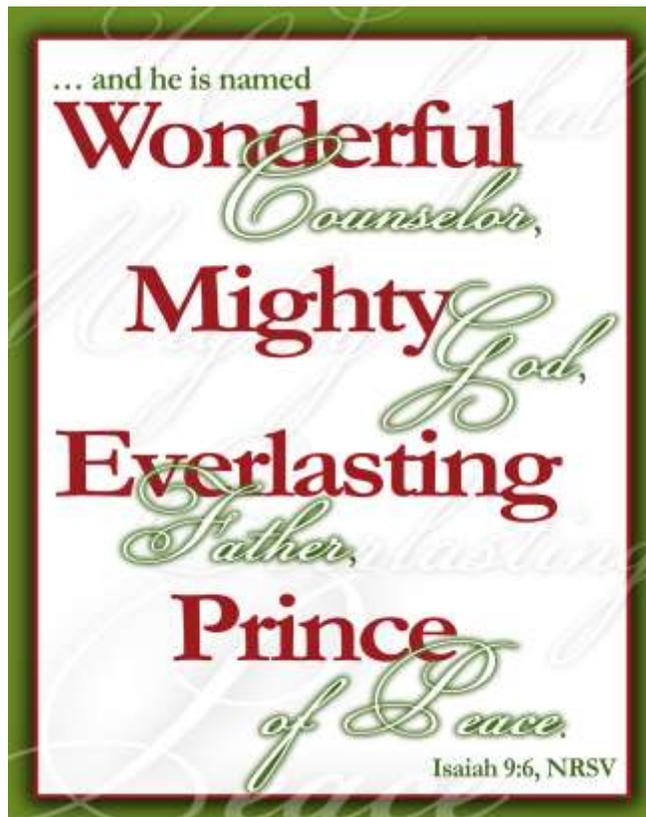
CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Come find out about your greatest Christmas gift. Join us on Christmas Eve for our Candlelight Worship Services at 4:00 and 7:00 pm. Come back on Christmas Day at 9:00 am to hear the rest of the story. Holy Communion will be offered at these services.





Lynn Pastoria	12/4
Shawn Stafford	12/4
Bentley Wojciechowski	12/5
Sue Marchionda	12/6
JoAnn Hutchens	12/7
Joanne Vollbrecht	12/7
Ashley Vandenberghe	12/16
Brennan LeMieux-Hill	12/18
Jacob Llewellyn	12/18
Marie Richter	12/19
Ralph Klumpp	12/20
Reece Hintze	12/23
Carol Dehnke	12/24
Bob DeMoss	12/24
Amy Schwartz	12/28
Michelle Hoeft	12/29
Amy Breckenridge	12/31
Kristina Dehnke	12/31
Brianna Prewitt	12/31



Aaron & Laurel Clemens
 December 12, 2009 13 years

Our Members in care facilities and/or shut-in



Barb Ugo
 Shirley Pontious
 Donna Marshall
 Lotte Weber
 Linda Troppman
 Marylou Schmidt
 Harry Roberts
 Dolly Ferries

Peggy Majeske
 Siegfried Tyburski
 Shirley Tallman
 Barbara Unger
 Donna Kaip
 Fred & Betty Birchard
 Jim & Evelyn Cantwell
 Vern & Ruth Parker

NEW HOPE FOOD PANTRY



As of this date, Our Thanksgiving basket distribution has ended. The number of people served will be in the January Herald. We are now making preparations for Christmas food baskets. We plan to give out 60 baskets again. Each basket will contain the same items as thanksgiving except instead of pumpkin pie, we will give Christmas cookies and possibly Christmas candy. The cost of food is much more expensive at this time. In addition to cookies or candy, each basket will have a turkey, five pounds of potatoes, stove top dressing, a can of cranberries, cans of corn, cans of green beans, a loaf of bread and fresh apples and oranges.

It takes many helpers to accomplish all of this. PLEASE HELP IF YOU ARE ABLE IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. See or call David Difatta; he has a signup sheet. We will need a few people to work inside on the day of distribution which will be Saturday, December 17th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, or for just an hour if you are can. These helpers will take the client form and verify that they were sent an invitation to receive a turkey basket and offer them a Bible. Also, we need volunteers outside to load turkeys and baskets into the cars of our clients on the morning of December 17th. Before the day of distribution, help is needed to address envelopes and write out forms, and to make some reminder calls to clients. The 60 baskets will be put together in a procession line the Friday evening before hand (December 16th) at 7p.m. Children are welcome and encouraged to help in this area as well as adults. It takes only one hour to complete.

If you know of a family that could use a turkey and Christmas basket of food, please see JoAnne Vollbrecht as soon as possible. You may deliver it yourself, if you desire after the packing date or we can send them an invitation to pick it up December 17th. If you want to deliver it yourself, just write personal on a form from us and note how many people are in the family.

For the month of October, New Hope Outreach Ministries, (The Food Pantry) gave food to 30 families, serving 87 people, gave 4 Bibles and 1 package of diapers.

Our year-to-date totals through October are 250 families, 838 people, 253 units, 41 Bibles and 20 packages of diapers.

For those of you who always like to contribute, we are low on canned vegetables, soup and jelly.

Our first Food Pantry meeting in the new year will be Saturday, January 7th at 10 a.m. We hope to see some new people there. Please come.



Join us for Sunday School! Sundays at 9:00AM

Dates to Remember for December

December 4th: St. Nicolas Sunday

Classes will be combined as we learn about who St. Nicolas was and how he shared the love of our Lord Jesus. The children will also enjoy a Hot Cocoa bar.

December 18th: Jesus' Birthday!

Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We will enjoy a devotion given by Deacon Larry. Children will also decorate cupcakes.

There is NO Sunday School, December 25th.

MOTOWN Soup Fundraiser: The Ladies Guild and Sunday School will be selling MOTOWN Soup through the end of December. You can purchase items before and after services. We thank you for your support.

Our Sunday School would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there and I among them”
Matt. 18:20

**MOTOWN SOUP SALE UPDATE FROM
LADIES GUILD AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We are off to a *STIRRING* start and we're happy that you are enjoying *WARM* and *DELICIOUS* Motown Soup once again. Of course, there are many great items to choose from, such as; Peanut Butter Cookie Mix, Pancake Mix, Michigan Cherry Scones and Pumpkin Bread. Assortment boxes make great gifts and the dips are always welcome at a holiday party. Thank you for your support!

**LAST ORDER DATE - Sunday December 11
PICK UP - Saturday & Sunday, December 17 & 18**

What Are They Singing Up There?!

Advent through Christmas Eve you'll hear the Choir's presentation of the seven "Great 'O' Antiphons of Advent" *These antiphons (short verses or refrains) are ancient Gregorian Chants dating back to before the 6th Century.*

The antiphons titles are each based on a different name or Messianic Title of Jesus. And they make up the verses to one of our favorite advent hymns "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LSB 357 (If you have a hymnal handy you can find the Antiphons on the page next to the hymn!)

*O Sapiencia (O Wisdom),
O Adonai (O Lord),
O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse),
O Clavis David (O Key of David),
O Oriens (O Rising Sun),
O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations),
O Emmanuel.*

*Now — Stay with me here!
If you take the first letter of each of these names:*

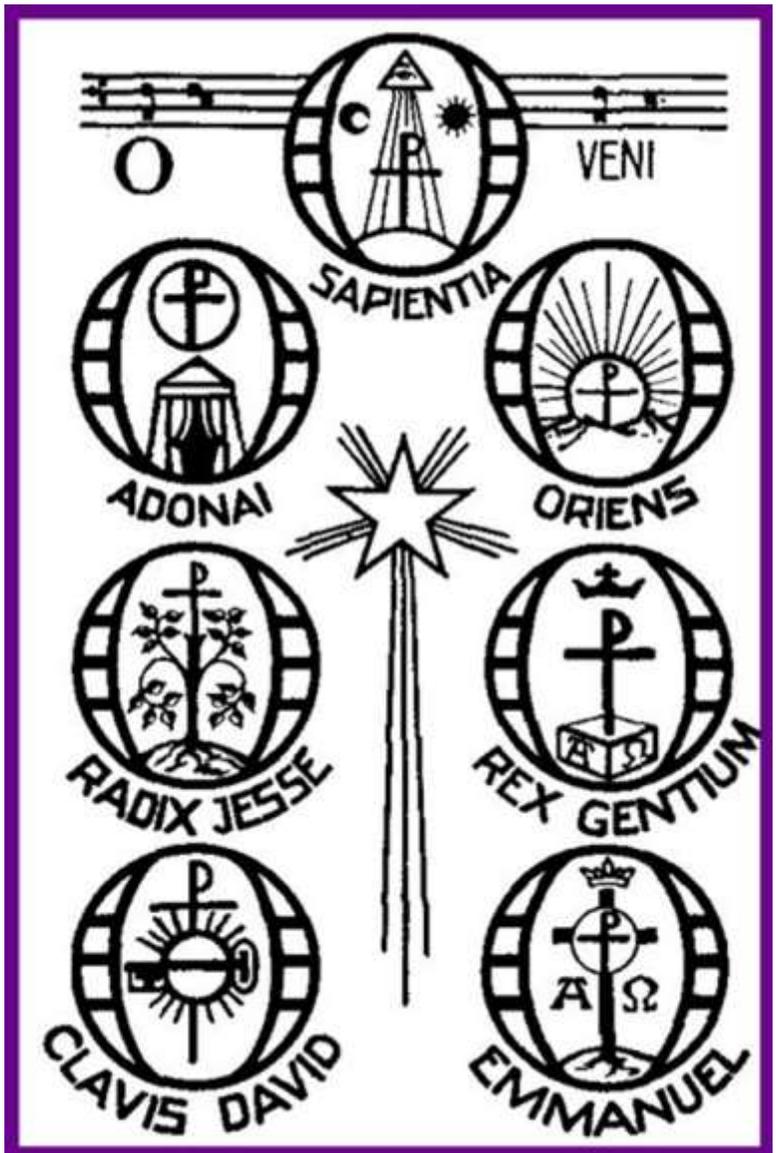
Emanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia,

The latin words "Ero Cras" are formed, which means, "Tomorrow I will come."

Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us, Tomorrow, I will come. So the O Antiphons not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation, but bring it to a joyful conclusion on Christmas Eve.

Join us this advent to hear the origins of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" with the Great O's!

Michael Katopodes
Organist and Choir Director



UNITED WOMEN'S MINISTRY-CONTINUED

LWML Mites Spotlight

MISSION GRANT #3 is 'Scholarships for the Deaf'
St Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf = \$25,000



St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf was established by Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society (ELMS) in 2018 in order to provide education for students in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities, including hearing children of Deaf adults, with a focus on their specific needs and an emphasis on bilingual education in American Sign Language (ASL) and English. St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf is located in and partners with hearing Lutheran school, Emmanuel, located in Dearborn, MI. St. Martin provides a Christ centered bilingual environment for students from Kindergarten through 8th grade. They are committed to provide a quality education, faithful teaching of Biblical truths as confessed by the LCMS and to enhance the self-worth of each child, leading them to awareness of God's presence and developing the talents that God has given them. ELMS requests this Grant for \$25,000 to establish scholarships for six students to attend St. Martin's for the next two years.

Please continue to contribute to your mite box to help fund this Mission Grant.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY will be Saturday, December 10th, at 9:15 am in the conference room. Margaret Yusko is our Bible study leader. Please join us!



CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

By Doug Conger, President Church Council

I am the oldest of three boys, and in 1956, my youngest brother was not even born yet. I grew up during the early days of television and whenever there was a special program on at Christmas time, we would all get excited about it. One of the premier shows on TV during that year was the Alcoa Hour. When you tuned in, you never really knew what to expect, because they had all different types of entertainment. But my parents knew that this show was going to be a very special Christmas presentation. We didn't have a color television but it didn't matter, because the program we were about to experience was not even broadcast in color.

My brother and I were very excited to watch this because it was an updated version of Charles Dickens' famous story, A Christmas Carol, starring the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge – "The Stingiest Man in Town". We were soon gathered around the TV screen, waiting for the show to start, got through the commercials, and then it started. It was a musical and the story was told through wonderful tunes and lyrics. My brother and I were anxious to see the three ghosts of Christmas that my parents told us about: The ghost of Christmas PAST, the ghost of Christmas PRESENT, and the ghost of Christmases YET TO COME.

Well, it took a little while to get into it, but soon we were huddled up close to our parents because we knew the ghosts were about to appear on our TV screen. Experiencing that program with my family, will forever be one of my favorite childhood memories. It was only a couple days before Christmas when this program was broadcast. The story ended with *Johnny Desmond* singing the following song. These lyrics have always held a special place in my heart and so I want to share them with you.

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY OF THE KING

Christmas trees are brightly lighted, through the world the church bells ring
Great and small are all invited to the birthday party of the King.
Mighty prince and humble peasant, each will choose a gift to bring
Do you have a birthday present for the birthday party of the King?

Once wise men came in His honor bringing incense, myrrh and gold
But what is gold to a ruler who has all the stars to hold!
Do you know what gift will please Him? Please Him more than anything?
Bring a heart that really loves Him to the birthday party of the King.

The King who loves all creation brought the hope of peace to men
Each day throughout every nation, let that hope be born again.
Every man shall be thy brother, hear the word the angels sing
Let this day and every other be THE BIRTHDAY PARTY OF THE KING.

SOME OF THIS & SOME OF THAT

VOTERS' MEETING



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Voters' Meeting

Join us for our Voters' Meeting on December 11, 2022 after the *worship service*. *On the agenda is the election of the 2023 Church Council Officers and the approval of the 2023 Budget. Copies of the 2023 proposed budget will be available on the Welcome Center in the narthex. Please make every effort to attend this very important meeting.*

The Nominating Committee presents to the Holy Cross congregation the names of the candidates for serving as Congregation Officers:

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL—OFFICER NOMINEES.

Nominee for President

Mark Coon

Nominee for Vice-President

TBD

Nominee for Council Secretary

TBD

Nominee for Treasurer

John Pepperman

Nominee for Financial Secretary

Denise Vandenberghe

As you can see, at the time of this publishing we have 2 open roles on council. We are actively seeking individuals to fill those spots. We ask you to pray that God will move the hearts of those He wants to fill these positions. Everything we ask in prayer our Lord will grant according to His will. This is promised to us in the scriptures (Mark 11:24 & others). Prayerfully we will have the (2) TBD's filled by the December 11th Voters Assembly. We will see you then, Gods Blessings, Church Council.

FOR TO US
A SON IS GIVEN

SOME OF THIS & SOME OF THAT - CONTINUED

thank you

As we come to the end of our two-year term as Council President and Secretary, we want to thank you for allowing us to serve our Lord and Holy Cross in this capacity. We have been privileged to be part of the decision-making process of significant changes, both great and

small. We pray with confidence that our Lord will guide our new President and the Church Council to carry us through the next phase of our journey together.

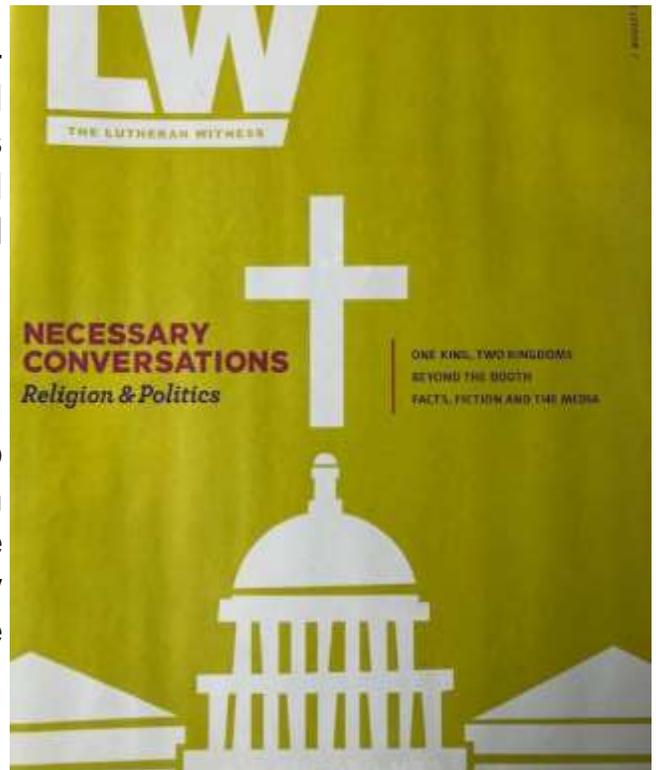
Doug & Linda Conger

BUILDING & PROPERTY THANK YOU

The amplifier in Haggarty Hall was recently replaced and it works great. In fact, it was replaced just in time for the October 30th Potluck. Holy Cross would like to thank ROGER WITHROW for using his expertise and connections in making this purchase, at a substantial savings to the church.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

The Lutheran Witness is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is published 11 times a year. It provides Missouri Synod lay people with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. The subscription also includes the Michigan In Touch supplement. Holy Cross subscribes to the Lutheran Witness at \$12.00/year for each member household, and it is time to update your information. If you need to make any changes: address, add, or delete, please contact Becky, by December 1.



EASY WAY TO INVITE FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS TO CHURCH FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS!

Yard signs are available for you to use now! These signs are an excellent (and easy!) way to invite your neighbors and everyone who drives by your house. Pick up your sign at the Welcome Center or at either door.

Make Christmas meaningful this year!

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!



Join the Holy Cross Lutheran Church family for services Wednesday evenings (7 PM), Christmas Eve (4 PM or 7 PM) or Christmas Day (9 AM)!
30003 Ryan Rd (12 1/2 and Ryan Rd)

CHURCH DECORATING



As we celebrate the season of Jesus' birth, let's get together and share our joy by decorating the church on Sunday, December 4 after the worship service. Fun & fellowship abound while we deck the halls with the appropriate holiday swag! Join us! You won't want to miss this fun annual Holy Cross event!

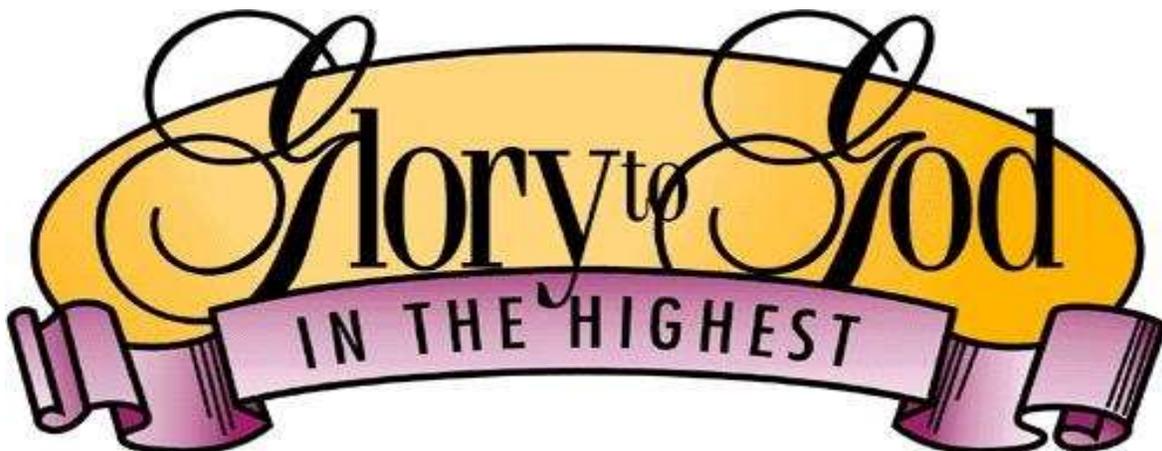
The office will be closed on the following days in honor of the holidays.

**Friday, December 23 thru
Monday, January 2**

If you have an emergency, please contact your Elder. You can also leave a phone message at the church office. We will be checking our messages. Thank you!



HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON!!



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
30003 Ryan Road
Warren, MI 48092

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Wishing you a blessed Christmas and very happy New Year!



CHURCH OFFICE
586-751-2550
FAX 586-751-3926

NEW HOPE
FOOD PANTRY
586-751-2517

Church Staff

Michael Katopodes, *Organist*
michaelkatopodes@gmail.com

Becky Northcott, *Admin. Assistant*
office@holycrosswarren.com

Tony Wojciechowski, *Deacon*
twojo01@gmail.com

Larry Hoeft, *Deacon*
Lhoeft1961@gmail.com

Michelle Hoeft, *MA*
Mhoeft1965@gmail.com

Church Council

Doug Conger
President

Mark Coon
Vice-President

John Pepperman
Treasurer

Denise Vandenberghe
Financial Secretary

Linda Conger
Council Secretary

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

SATURDAY MERITAGE 5:30 PM

**BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY
SCHOOL 9:00 AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM**

**ADVENT WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY 11/30, 12/7, 12/14
7:00 pm**