

*The Wise Still Seek Him*



## **Holy Cross Herald January 2024**

Aiming  
our lives toward  
Christ!

Proclaiming  
Christ crucified!

Reclaiming  
lost lives for Christ!

Review and Preview by Pastor Eric

Happy New Year! Blessed Epiphany Season!

By the time you read this I will have served at Holy Cross for about 8 months. It has been a whirlwind of blessings, activities, and challenges. Thank you all for your hospitality and welcoming us to Holy Cross! I want to thank those who took the time to send me an encouraging note or give me an encouraging word of support from time to time.

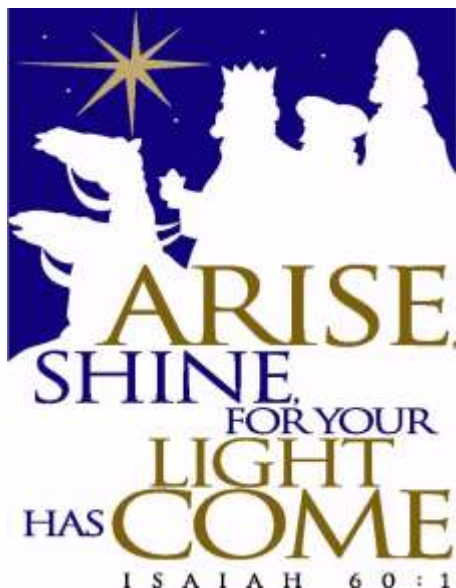
Jennie, Gloria and John and I are enjoying our new home we bought in Troy in July and our kids are attending St. John Lutheran School in Rochester and doing well, thank God. Rose and Ethan (bunnies) are thriving, and Duchess (our basset hound) is as cute and stubborn as ever. We turned in our big country truck and bought a new car, her name is Silvie.

Our lovely church has been slowly shrinking over the last decade (most churches are) as our society and

community changes. The average weekend attendance at HC in 2012 was 208 and in 2022 it was 101. Following this trajectory, our average weekend attendance for 2023 would be about 90 people. Through November of 2023 our current weekend worship service attendance is 103.5! God is doing something here. Let us all join in and invite those we know, those we meet, those in need, those without a church family, those God puts on your heart. Look for someone you don't know when you are at church services and say hello, look for that person who is by themselves and offer a smile. God wants to use you, he wants to work through you to reach the lost, the lonely, the seeking, the stranger, the visitor, the distant person. A word and a smile go a long way. But don't stop there, invite them out to eat, invite them to join you in what you are involved in at Holy Cross, invite them to an activity or event, to serve with you.

The last weekend in January we are declaring to be FRIEND WEEKEND! Following Saturday's non-communion worship on Jan. 27th and following Sunday morning's non-communion worship on Jan. 28th we will have a fellowship reception in the Hall featuring Gourmet Hot Cocoa, Peppermint Mocha, and Dairy-free Vanilla Cinnamon Steamers, with a variety of toppings to add to your choice. A great time to invite families with kiddos. And yes, we do have a staffed Sunday morning nursery/toddler cry room, Sunday school for kids and youth, and Jr. and Sr. Youth Group gatherings on Sunday nights.

It's a new year, a new day, full of God's hope, God's joy, and God's peace and God's grace, experienced here at Holy Cross. Be a part of what God is doing here at Holy Cross!



*Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth and thick  
darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord  
rises upon you and his glory appears over  
you. Nations will come to your light, and  
kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

Isaiah 60:1-3

Greetings brothers and sisters,

In the season of Epiphany we celebrate Jesus Christ as the Light of the World, the Light no darkness can overcome.

David states in Psalm 36:9, "For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light." In our LSB hymnal, the order of Evening Prayer, page 243, is called a "Service of Light"

We sing responsively:

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
**The light no darkness can overcome.**

Stay with us Lord, for it is evening,  
**And the day is almost over.**

Let Your light scatter the darkness  
**And illumine your Church.**

Consider again the line: "And the day is almost over". Perhaps we should expand the meaning of "evening" or night.

Jesus said, "We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; the night is coming, when no one can work". JOHN 9:4

As God's children of the new covenant in Christ, we reflect His light to other people we meet.

Yes, there is some time to do this, but let's be aware that the time may be shorter than we think.

Peter says, "...with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."  
2 PETER 3:8 and 9

So, "time's a wasting". Go forth in the new year, shining and being a blessing!

Peace in Christ.

Steve Northcott - Elder, Zone 8

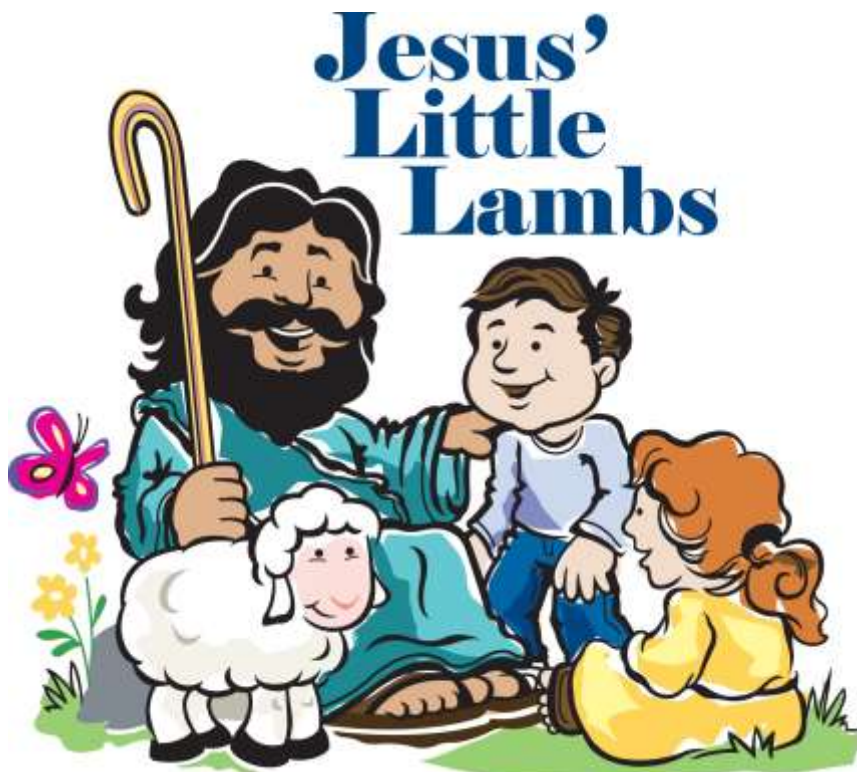
# Sunday School

Happy New Year and welcome to 2024! Our prayer is that you all had a happy and healthy Christmas Season. It is a great time for you and your family to join us for Sunday School and Youth Bible Study! We have some fun things planned and would love to see you all there!

Sunday School/Youth Bible Study  
Sunday Mornings at 9:00am-9:45am  
Adult Bible Study meetings at the same time.

Jr. Youth/Youth Group  
1/7 and 1/21  
6pm-7:30pm  
Fellowship, Fun, Snacks, Games and Devotions!

Sunday School would like to thank all of you who donated toys for our toy drive for Gifts for All God's Children. You helped to make Christmas special for so many.



# MEMORIALS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

## IN MEMORY OF MARCUS COON

### For the General Fund

Earl & Pat Crilley  
Ron & Joanne Vollbrecht  
Shirley McClenahan  
Joan VanHouteghen  
Dianna Vangorden  
John & Sandi Pepperman  
Steve & Becky Northcott  
Peggy Majeske  
Bonnie Esch  
Merle & Lorinda Wilhelm  
Ralph Klumpp  
Charles & Elaine Miller  
Norman & Marlaine Miller  
Don & Lillian Erwin  
Sharon Adler  
Pat Stewart

### For the Food Pantry

Jan Cook  
Erick & Lorraine Nickel  
Carol Dehnke  
Mike & Marie Metcalfe  
Holy Cross Choir

### For the Elders

Brian & Susan Williams

### For the Sunday School

Philip & Kathy Green

### For the Music Ministry

Mike & Marie Metcalfe  
Lynn Marshall-Hintz



## **THANK OFFERING** **For the General Fund**

Kathleen Fell



# JANUARY

## Birthdays

Shirley vandenBerg	1/1
Suzanne Adler	1/2
Marlene Wiley	1/2
Gerrie Bufford	1/3
Steve Northcott	1/4
Eli Hecker	1/5
Carter Salis-South	1/7
Pat Stewart	1/7
Allison Kaupp	1/10
Mark Meyerand	1/13
June Moore	1/17
Gloria Grunow	1/19
Ron Hintz	1/19
Lee Wiley	1/20
Mark Coon	1/22
Kim Ritthaler	1/23
Ron Vollbrecht	1/23
Connie Haugan	1/24
Daniel Haugan	1/24
Nicholas Mekjian	1/24
Bob Bell	1/25
Elena Garza	1/25
Beth Gillespie	1/25
Dominic Leithead	1/25
Elyse Bearse	1/26
Erik Wiley	1/30

# JANUARY

## Anniversaries

Ron & Lynn Hintz	1/14/2000	24 years
John & Sandi Pepperman	1/18/1992	32 years

## REMEMBER THOSE IN HOSPICE CARE.



Paul Meyerand  
Jim Cantwell

Barb Ugo  
Shirley Pontious  
Donna Marshall  
Lotte Weber  
Linda Troppman  
Harry Roberts  
Dolly Ferries  
Siegfried Tyburski

Vern & Ruth Parker  
Shirley Tallman  
Barbara Unger  
Barb Rohde  
Donna Kaip  
Shirley Handy  
Jane Bennett



*Remember Our Homebound*

## HOLY CROSS WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Lutheran Women in Mission  
(LWML)

\*Mission Grants/Thank You\*

**ST. MARTIN LUTHERAN  
SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF,**

Mission Grant #3 for \$25,000 is PAID IN FULL. St. Martin School for the Deaf was established by Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society in 2018 to provide education for students in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities, including hearing children of Deaf adults with an emphasis on bilingual education in American Sign Language (ASL) and English. This grant gave scholarships to six students at St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf in Dearborn, Michigan for the biennium 2022-2024. Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society is very thankful to the LWML Michigan District, for the grant of \$25,000 for the ministry to the Deaf. Thank you again and may God continue to bless you as you bless others.

**LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION**, Mission Grant #5 for \$16,500 is also PAID IN FULL. This grant was for teenagers around the world. The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) created a new resource, 'God's Word for You,' a Bible storybook specially written at the teen level. This 300-page volume included an historic timeline and Gospel connection to Jesus. These books were provided to teens in Southeast Asia where Buddhist and atheist cultures have few resources to teach the faith to young people. The cost was only \$5.00 to print each storybook. This has enabled LHF to translate and publish 2,500 storybooks written in the language they can read. Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise, Exec. Director of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, thanks the ladies of LWML, Michigan for helping to share God's Word with teens in places like Vietnam and Cambodia.

**WOMEN'S SMALL BIBLE STUDY** will meet Saturday, January 13th, at 9:30 am in the conference room. We are using the book, *Promised Rest, Finding peace in God's presence* by author Michelle Diercks. This is a study on the various names and characteristics of God to deepen your understanding of Him and your identity as His child. The names of God reveal important aspects of His character as well as how He relates to you and how He offers the peace we crave. Come and join us!

# Woman of the Year

Congratulations to  
Carol Dehnke  
our 2024 Woman of the Year!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the nomination and election process. Other nominees include Laurel Clemons, Pat Stewart, Denise Vandenburg and Jamie Yusko. Holy Cross is blessed to have such a rich supply of talented sisters in Christ.

The Council of Lutheran Women luncheon is Tuesday, March 19, 2024, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. It will be held at The Mirage, 16980 18 Mile Road, Clinton Township, MI, 48038. The price is \$38.00/a person and the entertainment is Living Truth 2.

Please use the sign-up sheet on the Women's Ministry Bulletin Board and provide your payment to Linda Conger (586-337-2573) by February 11. Please indicate if you want to carpool and meet at the HC parking lot by 9:45 AM.

Congratulations to the CLW on its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

## LADIES GUILD

The January Ladies Guild meeting is **Tuesday January 9 at 1:00 pm** in the Conference Room. Our usual meeting schedule is the first Tuesday of the month. However, we all need an extra week to wrap up our own holiday activities before focusing on the LG's business for 2024. We welcome new members and look forward to a new year of Service, Fellowship and Christian Education.







## NEW HOPE FOOD PANTRY

For the month of November, New Hope Outreach Food Pantry served 57 families, 210 people, gave 58 units, 22 Bibles and 4 packages of diapers.

For Thanksgiving we gave 40 turkey food baskets, serving approximately 161 people. We gave 10 Bibles.

The year-to-date total through Thanksgiving is 458 families, approximately 1622 people, 463 units, 85 Bibles and 44 packages of diapers.

The items that we are in need of this month are any non-perishable foods and hygiene products. Thank you!

We are thankful for the new people who have joined. We would welcome more new people. Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 6th, 2024, at 10:00 am.



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**holycrosswarren.com**

**NEW HOPE  
FOOD PANTRY  
586-751-2517**



**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!**

**Saturday - 5:30 pm**

**Sunday - 10:00 am**

**BIBLE STUDY CLASSES**

**Saturday - 4:30 pm**

**Sunday - 9:00 am for all  
Adult, Youth & Sunday  
School for Children**