

## Monthly Newsletter

WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AM AND 11:00AM



### “Let Us Adore Him”

I love to see the Christmas decorations that people put in their yards and on their homes during this time of the year. Some people are very serious about their decorations and they start decorating right after Halloween, while others wait until the last minute. All of the preparations for Christmas serve as a reminder that something exciting is coming. The decorations,

lights, trees, ornaments, and gifts reveal that something big is happening that you do not want to miss.

The four Sundays prior to Christmas are a time of preparation known as Advent, which literally means “coming.” It is during this time that Christians are invited to prepare for something the world has never experienced before – the birth of Jesus. Just as people prepare for the secular celebration of Christmas in a variety of ways, Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus during this time of Advent in many different ways.

One way we prepare at Holy Cross is through some additional worship services on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm, with dinner served from 5:45pm – 6:30pm. The theme for our Advent season is, “Let Us Adore Him,” and during this season we will consider the many ways we prepare to adore the amazing gift of Jesus who came to bring life and light to our world.



### ADVENT SERMON SERIES:

Sunday, December 1:

“Preparing To Witness”  
(John 1:1-14)

Wednesday, December 4:

“Preparing With Worship”  
(2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16)

Sunday, December 8:

“Preparing To Change”  
(Luke 3:1-14)

Wednesday, December 11:

“Preparing With Prayer”  
(Isaiah 64:1-9)

Sunday, December 15:

“Preparing To Carry”  
(Philippians 4:4-7)

Wednesday, December 18:

“Preparing With Joy”  
(Children’s Christmas Service)

Sunday, December 22:

“Preparing To Be Amazed”  
(Luke 1:39-45)



### Christmas Eve Worship

3:00pm – Contemporary

Candle Light Worship

5:00pm – Traditional

Candle Light Worship

7:00pm – Traditional

Candle Light Worship with Communion

In God’s Service,

*Pastor Bill*

Pastor Bill

# FAMILY NIGHT

## SHARING GOD'S WORD



- **Wed. Education: 6:45pm – 7:30pm**  
No Class Wed. 27th  
K—3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Classroom 5  
4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Classroom 4
- **Christmas Program Rehearsals Sundays in Classroom 4 & 5**  
Dec 1st at 10:00am Songs and Costumes  
Dec. 8th and 15th Dress Rehearsal  
12:30pm – 2pm. Lunch is provided
- **Children's Church:** Happens during the 8:30AM Worship after the Children's Message.
- **Nursery:** For babies 6M – 3-years-old.



- **Youth Group:** Advent Devotions and activities in the Youth Room at 6:15pm before Worship. Bring your dinner and your creative genes as we make ornaments, trees and dive into God's Word.
- **Christmas LOCK-IN: Friday, Dec. 20th 7pm – Sat. 21st at 7am.** Bring a gift-wrapped valuing \$10 for a gift exchange. Bring a jacket as we will go outside for some activities and games. Friends are welcome to join.
- **Gathering Meeting Dates:**  
January 12th 1pm – 2:30pm



- **Winter 2025: Classes resume January 8th.**  
*The Chosen Season 2 Bible Study led by John Michael Harlow.* This is the official companion study to season 2 of The Chosen, the groundbreaking television series about the life of Jesus. Blessed are the Chosen parallels each episode, connecting readers to the Bible in a brand-new way. Please watch Episode 1 of Season 2 before the first class. Click here for the episode companion. Class will take place in Classroom 1.

*Finance and Self-Control - A Christian Approach to Money Management led by Gary Scrofani.* You'll be equipped with practical financial tools and a deeper understanding of self-control in managing finances, rooted in Christian principles, to make wise choices in spending, saving, investing and giving. Class will take place in Reese Hall.




- **Fill out 1 Sermon Notes each month.**
- **Attend Advent Services at 7pm.** Fill out a specific sermon note focusing on the Advent Services.
- **Christmas Program Dec. 18th** sing to support the children
- **No Class the 25th and January 1st.**



# SAVE THE DATES


SWING ON BY



FOR A COUPLES SHOWER  
BEFORE

**Sarah & Derick**

SAY "I DO"

JAN 5TH  11:30-2:30 PM

In Reese Hall  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

## LIVE NATIVITY



**Saturday, December 7th**  
6:00pm, 6:30pm, 7:00pm, and 7:30pm  
showings (outside)

**Hot Chocolate and Cookies, inside Reese Hall, after each performance.**  
**Perfect event to invite friends and neighbors to come!**

**"Fritz" the donkey, "4" sheep and a baby cow named "Oscar" will be there, as well!**

## YOUTH FUNDRAISERS

**Butter Braids are here!**  
**Thank you for your support!**



**See Rebekah to pick them up.**

## SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you for all the birthday wishes and cards that I received from the Holy Cross congregation. Your thoughts were very much appreciated and made my milestone birthday even more special and memorable!

God's Blessings  
Dennis Reese

*The LWML invites you to our annual ladies Christmas Luncheon*

**Sunday, December 8, 2024**  
**12:30 pm in Reese Hall**  
**Lunch from Carolina Braised**

(Smoked honey ham, sweet potatoes w/brown sugar pecan glaze, red potatoes, green beans, succotash, and brioche rolls)

A tasty cookie swap will be held after lunch. We are asking each person to bring two dozen cookies to swap with one another.



RSVP by scanning the QR Code



**2024 LWML ORNAMENTS FOR SALE**

**\$5 IN THE NARTHEX**



**LET'S HELP** • Helping the Homeless in Raleigh

*Them* **Matthew's Ministry**

Amazon List Walmart List

Scan the QR Codes:




**HOLY CROSS PRAYER MINISTRY "YEAR of PRAYER 2024"**

**PRAYER is VERY POWERFUL.**



**Philippians 4: 6 -7** says "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God."

**Together as a "Church Family" we are continuing to make 2024 a "YEAR of PRAYER"**

**In DECEMBER we at Holy Cross are offering up PRAYERS for "Peace on Earth"**

**In this stressful time of uncertainty PRAYER is as important as ever & is one thing we all can and should do.**

**PRAY together with your whole family. It is really simple!! You can PRAY from home, work, in the car, anywhere and anytime the Holy Spirit leads you to PRAY. Your PRAYERS can be formal or even better just have a conversation with GOD, after all HE is your Heavenly FATHER and BEST FRIEND.**

**PRIORITIZE - Set a time to do this EVERY DAY, *with your whole family.***

**Here is an idea of what you can PRAY this Month.**

**DEAR Heavenly Father,** You have called us to live at Peace with each other. Father, Bring an end to violence, hatred and discord. Calm those of us that act in anger to our neighbor. Slow the feet that rush into war. Guide all those in positions of power and give them wisdom to use their power wisely. Enable us to show compassion to all people. Teach us to listen to those we disagree with and to show patience in all circumstances. Heal the hatred in the world around us by healing our hearts first.

**Let there be Peace on Earth AND let it begin with me!!** Peace within my home and family, in my community, in our Nation and throughout all Nations of the World. We ask this, yet we know that everlasting peace will not happen until the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace Himself, returns to earth from His place in heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**We pray these things in the name of JESUS. AMEN.**



# MINISTRY EVENTS

## LIVING HIS LOVE



### “Ladies’ Evening Bible Study”

Surround yourself with Deliberate Women...women who live out their faith in God with purpose and diligence... and who encourage you to do the same.

**Thursday 12/5**  
Reese Hall  
(7:00pm – 8:30 pm)

Contact: Debbie Fick (919) 632-3643



“Seasons of Life” ~  
our journey through grief!

**Wednesday 12/11**  
Reese Hall  
(11:00am-1:00pm)  
Lunch and drinks are provided.

Contact: Debbie Fick drfick1014@gmail.com



### Quilting Ministry

**Thurs. 1/9/2025**  
Classroom 1  
(9:00am—12:00pm)

No Experience Necessary &  
All Supplies Provided.

Contact: Dewie Francis @ (919) 302-6193



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Saturday, 12/14**  
Room 1  
(10:00am– 12:00pm)

“She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She opens her hands to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.” (Proverbs 31:13&20)

Contact Ella McBrayer via phone or text at 919-757-7955



### OWLS & FRIENDS (Older, Wiser, Lutheran’s)

**Thurs, Dec. 5th**

**Dinner @ 5pm** At Cleveland Draft House  
in Clayton followed by the  
**Tree Lighting Ceremony @ 7:15pm**

For additional information

Contact: **Debra Rayter @ 585-530-9839**



### Cancer Support Group

Meets the 2nd Monday of each month.

**Monday 12/9**  
Reese Hall  
@ 6:30 pm

Contact: Chuck Munson Jr. @chuckmunsonjr@gmail.com



### Helping Hands Ministry

“Carry each other’s burdens and in this way we will be fulfilling the law of Christ!”  
(Galatians 6:2)

Are you available to provide “tangible” help to those who have needs for meals, rides, moving help, etc?

Contact: **Debbie Fick (919) 632-3643 or Marvin Fordham (919) 219-0982.**



“I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for it will be done for you by My Father in heaven for where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18:19-20)

If you have any prayer requests please email them to:  
Contact: Berta Hinton @berta37@msn.com



### MOM'S IN PRAYER

Fall/Winter '24- '25 school year  
Monday Nights @ 7:00pm  
Starting September 9th

SCAN THE QR  
CODE TO JOIN  
THE ZOOM  
MEETING



- Do you want to feel closer to God?
- Could your faith walk use a boost?
- Would you like to serve God more enthusiastically and intentionally?

The next EASTERN NC LUTHERAN Via De CRISTO weekend retreat will be held at Camp Agape Feb 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Contact: Lizy Coleman@ [Lizy@e-colemans.com](mailto:Lizy@e-colemans.com)

# LORD IN YOUR MERCY, *Hear Our Prayers.*

## Please Pray For Our Holy Cross Family With Health Concerns:

**Sonja Coull**  
**Jacob Boyd**  
**Kathy Savoy**  
**Rebecca Lavery**  
**Tom Hansen**  
**Judy Fowler**  
**Mark Wilson**  
**Margaret Lee**

**Connie Reid**  
**Richard Lavery**  
**Penny Schneider**  
**Ed Leigh**  
**Connie Beal**  
**John Miesch**  
**Chuck Munson, Jr.**  
**Dennis Reese**

**Bill McElwain**  
**Garry Bleeker**  
**Eric Roeser**  
**Ernie Creech**  
**Karla Bishop**  
**Elisabeth Junker**  
**Carla McMullen**  
**Caroline Schust**

**David Lawrence**  
**Joan Tucker**  
**Carolyn Selby**  
**James Lucas**  
**Christopher Urban**  
**Velvet Shank**  
**Duane Scheller**  
**Chris Frost**

## Please Pray For Friends and Family of Holy Cross Receiving Cancer Care:

**Tonya Gordon**, friend of Diane Reczek  
**Ralph Souter**, friend of Harold Winkle  
**Peggy Davis**, niece of Linda Beers  
**Reid Yaple**, brother-in-law of Doug Aitken  
**David Coleman**, brother of Paul Coleman  
**James Atkins**  
**Pam Denning**, friend of Candice Patterson  
**Bill Berry**, friend of Doug Aitken  
**Leon Goldapple**, father of Jennifer McNally  
**Nathan Fannin**, Margaret Lee's neighbor  
**Karen**, friend of Elaine Reese  
**Cora Lee Cox**, Niece of Carrie Benner  
**Mason Fannin**, friend of Margaret Lee

**Derryck Sauls**  
**Jean Barbour**, aunt of Robert Bennett  
**Candy Robinson**, mother of Robin Oelrich  
**Colleen Gilmartin**, friend of George & Donna Rossetti  
**Carla Barbour**, daughter of Sharon & Chuck Fox  
**Gayle Keen**, friend of Sue Beyer & Ellie Shep  
**Christy Dollar**, Open Arms parent  
**Kevin McKenzie, Sr.** friend of John Paul Keon  
**Angela Stancil**, niece of Terri Pelle  
**Fred Oelrich**, father of Robin Oelrich  
**Janet Crowe**, mother of Ed Crowe  
**Everette Kelley**, child of a friend of Tara Webb  
**Cristie**, neighbor of Annie & Scott Dull

## Please Pray For Friends and Family of Holy Cross With Health Concerns:

**Lois Lintner**, mother of Madonna Bennett  
**Sherry Whalen**, friend of Judy Fowler  
**Spenser Goldman**, grandson of Penny Schneider  
**Sandy & Bill**, friends of Edie Voorhees  
**Joseph & Mary Littleton**  
**Charlotte Bucklen and Stephen Kelley**, friends of the Coleman Family  
**Steve Estes**, husband of Gail Estes  
**Barbara Ekerdt-Creecy**, niece of Donna Steele  
**Thomas Craig**, brother of Caroline Schust  
**James Norris**, father of Meredith Marsh  
**Danny McCarthy**, friend of Michele Capozzi  
**Monica Clonts**, sister of Blake Ball  
**Faith Hicks & her daughter Grace**, goddaughter of the Colemans  
**Heather, Charlie, & Joyce Pike**, friend of Doug Aitken  
**Tod & Karen**, parents of Sean Pritchard  
**Joyce Moore**  
**Matthew Marek**, cousin of Robert McNally  
**Rosie Villamil & Mahtob Mahmoody**, friends of Elisabeth Junker  
**Mark Morgan**, nephew of Tim & Billie Shank  
**Linda Williams**, aunt of Jamie Brannon  
**Michael Costa**, brother of Jennifer McNally  
**Carol & Larry**, friends of Jerry Benditz

**Marcia & Phil Riley**, sister & brother-in-law of Blake Ball  
**Carlos & Tamy Garcia**, friends of Sandy Nesselrode  
**Donna Cantarella**, friend of Ellie Shep  
**Rita Giudice**, friend of Penny Schenider  
**Lucy Giudice**, friend of Penny Schneider  
**Mary Ruth Nicols**, niece of Eunice Burch  
**David Nicols**, nephew of Eunice Burch  
**William Schramm**, friend of Harold Winkle  
**Jim Scroggs**, son of Jeanie Scroggs  
**Shawn Roeser**, Son of Julie & Eric Roeser  
**Artie V.**, friend of John Lundoy  
**Al Barbour**, Robert Bennett's cousin  
**Heidi Goldman and Gretchen Schneider**, daughters of Penny Schneider  
**Nancy Morse**, friend of Ellie Shep  
**Heidi Mayer**, friend of Doug Aitken  
**Margot Coleman**, mother-in-law to Lizy Coleman  
**Kim Welch**, cousin of Jaime Brannon  
**Kris Jaeckle**, friend of Doug Aitken  
**Priscilla Hillard**, neighbor of Gene & Jeannie Gevers  
**Shirley & Brian Blatchley**, sister & brother-in-law of Bill McElwain  
**Francis Larry Overby**, friend of John Paul Keon  
**Ralph Hendrex**, father of Travis Bjorklund  
**Sharon Porter**, cousin of Penny Schneider


2024

# December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>8:30am Cont. Worship</p> <p>9:45 am Bible Study</p> <p>11:00 am Trad. Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 pm Mom's In Prayer (Zoom)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30 am Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:45 pm Dinner</p> <p>7:00 pm Advent Service</p> <p>7:45 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 pm Ladies Evening Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 am Men's Breakfast</p> <p>6:00 pm Live Nativity</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30am Cont. Worship</p> <p>11:00 am Trad. Worship</p> <p>12:30 pm Children's Program Rehearsal</p> <p>12:30 pm LWML Luncheon</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:00pm Council Meeting</p> <p>6:30 pm Cancer Support Group</p> <p>7:00 pm Mom's In Prayer (Zoom)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:30 am Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00 am Seasons of Life</p> <p>5:45 pm Dinner</p> <p>7:00 pm Advent Service</p> <p>7:45 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30am Cont. Worship</p> <p>9:45 am Bible Study</p> <p>11:00 am Trad. Worship</p> <p>12:30 pm Children's Program Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 pm Mom's In Prayer (Zoom)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30 am Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 am Ruth Circle</p> <p>5:45 pm Dinner</p> <p>7:00 pm Children's Christmas</p> <p>7:45 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 pm High School Lock In</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30am Cont. Worship</p> <p>11:00 am Trad. Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 pm Mom's In Prayer (Zoom)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:00 pm Contemporary Christmas Eve</p> <p>5:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve</p> <p>7:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve W/Communion</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p><b>MITE SUNDAY</b></p> <p>8:30am Cont. Worship</p> <p>11:00 am Trad. Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 am Mite Counting</p>	<p>31</p>				

# YOUR MINISTRY TEAM

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Bill Beyer	william.beyer@holycrossclayton.com
Dir. of Family Ministry	Rebekah Bajwa	rebekah.bajwa@holycrossclayton.com
Admin. Assistant:	Sarah Elliott	sarah.elliott@holycrossclayton.com
PT Admin. Assistant:	Ginger Urban	ginger.urban@holycrossclayton.com
Music Director:	Seth Berger	bergerseth2@gmail.com
President:	Beth Miller	kurtandbethmiller@gmail.com
Vice President:	Brett Jacobs	jacobsbrettr@yahoo.com
Board of Elders:	Mark Sherwin	sherwin16@gmail.com
	Gary Scrofani	gscrofani57@gmail.com
	Tony Swann	rtraviator@gmail.com
	Robert Bennett	robertbennettiii@protonmail.com
	Randy Williams	deeran72@gmail.com
	Brian Lawrence	brian1480@gmail.com
Open Arms Board:	John Michael Harlow	jmharlow2011@gmail.com
Social Ministries:	Debbie Fick	drfick1014@gmail.com
Board of Education:	Tara Webb	taradawnwebb@hotmail.com
Board of Properties:	Marvin Fordham	mfordham@mindspring.com
Financial Secretary:	BJ Johns	bj.johns@holycrossclayton.com
Asst. Fin. Secretary:	Todd Hinton	toddhinton60@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Kelly Derflinger	kellycpa@mail.com

Vital Stats			Special Gifts (to Holy Cross):	
Date	In Person Attendance	Offerings		
10/6	279 (179 & 100)	\$ 9,839	Hurricane Helene Relief Fund:	\$ 31,907
10/13	294 (143 & 151)	\$ 8,346	Building Fund:	\$ 210
10/20	260 (136 & 124)	\$ 8,329	Matthew Ministry:	\$ 205
10/27	278 (138 & 140)	\$ 8,967	Backpack Buddies	\$ 110
Direct Deposit Offerings (Oct.)		<u>\$12,434</u>	Youth	\$ 140
<b>Total Envelope/Plate Giving:</b>		<b>\$47,915</b>	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 100
Avg. weekly offerings 43 weeks 2023: \$10,977			<b>2024 Mission Offerings (from Holy Cross):</b>	
Avg. weekly offerings 43 weeks 2024: \$12,973			iChoose Pregnancy Support Services:	\$ 2,500
Avg. weekly attendance 43 weeks 2023: 262			Southeastern District (LCMS)	\$ 41,040
Avg. weekly attendance 43 weeks 2024: 285				
Total offerings received thru 10/31/24: \$557,847				
Total projected offerings thru 10/31/24: \$502,757				

<b>HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH</b>	919.553.4784 <a href="http://www.holycrossclayton.com">www.holycrossclayton.com</a>
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