



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER - January 2026

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Holy Cross Prays and Reads God's Word

A year ago our church started praying the Psalms in order to be obedient to God's call to pray and to strengthen our daily devotional life. We've been blessed as we have prayed His Word.

I've never met a Christian who didn't think reading the Bible more is a good idea. So let's do that, let's read the Bible more. In fact, let's read all of the New Testament. There's 27 books that make up the New Testament, so we're not going to sit down and do it all at once. However, we can easily do it if we break up the readings a little bit each day. Commit to daily prayer and Bible reading.

You can do this by picking up one of the **Pray the Psalms** cards at Holy Cross. Read / Follow the steps on the card for daily prayer and reading of God's Word. On the back of the card is a schedule for reading a chapter or so of the New Testament each day. It takes just a couple minutes. But if you miss a day, don't fret! Just follow the reading schedule for whatever day it is and don't worry about what you missed. The focus here is on the cumulative effect of praying and reading God's Word and building the habit. It's a habit that is for your blessing. Before you know it, over time you will read entire books of God's Word in the New Testament.

As you read the New Testament and as you pray the Lord's Prayer, God promises that His Word will work salvation and strengthen faith (Romans 1:16), that the peace of God will guard your heart and mind (Philippians 4:7), that you will be "equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17), and that you will "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" (John 20:31).

God's peace to you as you pray and read His Word!

Thank You

Denys and I are blessed to be at Holy Cross. We're thankful for the Christmas gift we received from the people of Holy Cross. We love you very much and give thanks to God for your love and care for us.

-Pastor Zucker

Tithes and Offerings

Year To Date : Offerings~ \$98,259

Expenses~ \$110,372

Month To Date Offerings ~\$29,183

Expenses \$28,651

This year to date has a shortfall of \$12,413

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true” (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of “new” talk. Parties are held to ring in the “new” year. “New” year’s resolutions are made to set a “new” course of life in the “new” year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the “new” year on the dateline.

We use all this “new” talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the “new” resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That “new” person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The “new” habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The “new” person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need “new” talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of “new” is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This “new” comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of “new” is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary’s cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ’s body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God’s creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock. Because that is how the Lord works.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Fun Night

Put it on your calendar!
January 21, 2026 6pm-8pm
Come play games & cards
Bring your friends.
Pizza & Refreshments supplied
Signup sheet in the Narthex



Thank You from our Ministry Team

Jim Santala was able to give Pastor and Denys a gift at the 4:00 service on Christmas Eve. Your generosity was very much appreciated.

Happy Hearts

January 12, 2026
Potluck at Holy Cross
Event Planning Meeting
After lunch

Bible Studies At Holy Cross

Sunday Morning 10am

Monday Evening—Men's Group &
Women's Group @ 7pm

Thursday Morning Bible Study—All
invited 10am

Ladies Lunchly -

January 14, 2026

Liberty Restaurant @ noon

All Ladies are invited

Upcoming Services:

February 18—Ash Wednesday Service 7pm

February 25—March 25 Soup Suppers at 6pm followed by Lenten Service at 7

March 29 Palm Sunday

April 2 Maundy Thursday at 7

April 3 Good Friday at 7

April 5 Easter Sunday



Join the fun in Plarn Mat production!

The next meetings are

January 6 & 20th at 2:00pm

(No evening planning)



A Big Thank You from

Flushing Christian Outreach
Center. Thanks to your
generosity 38 Kids have
received coats this winter.



Calendar							January 2026		Month			
Today							MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SUN 28												3
9am Traditional Worship												
10am Sunday School for All												
11:15am Contemporary Wor												
4							5	6	7	8	9	10
9am Traditional Worship							7pm Bible Study Men	2pm Plarning		10am Adult Bible Study		10am Undecorate Sanctuar
10am Sunday School for All							7pm Bible Study Women					
11:15am Contemporary Wor												
11							12	13	14	15	16	17
9am Traditional Worship							12pm Happy Hearts Potluck		12pm Ladies Lunchly	10am Adult Bible Study		
10:15am Sunday School for							7pm Bible Study Men					
11:15am Contemporary Wor							7pm Bible Study Women					
18							19	20	21	22	23	24
9am Traditional Worship							7pm Bible Study Men	2pm Plarning	6pm HC Game Night	10am Adult Bible Study		
10:15am Sunday School for							7pm Bible Study Women					
11:15am Contemporary Wor												
25							26	27	28	29	30	31
9am Traditional Worship							7pm Bible Study Men			10am Adult Bible Study		
10:15am Sunday School for							7pm Bible Study Women					
11:15am Contemporary Wor												