

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Know Christ and Share God's Love

WEEKLY VOICE

DECEMBER 23, 2018

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Being Recognized, Encountering Christ

Often called the visitation, the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth is full of joy, recognition, gratitude, and blessing. Luke immediately follows the annunciation with Mary's journey to visit Elizabeth, who gives this unmarried pregnant girl not only a safe haven but also the first glimpse of what it means to be the mother of the Savior. The encounter is full of mystery and grace: the mystery of new life forming but still invisible, and the grace of recognizing each other as the Spirit-filled mothers they are becoming.

The story is also full of theological gravity: as the women encounter each other, so do Jesus and John the Baptist. Yet the theological meaning is almost overshadowed by the sheer physicality of the encounter. Imagine the hasty travel, demonstrative greeting, joyful exclamation, the unborn John leaping for joy, and robust singing. As the celebration of Christ's birth approaches, the four active and responsive bodies in this text remind us that this is, after all, the incarnation itself unfolding.

God becomes a body in Jesus, and that body will be offered up for the sake of the world. This body, recognized already by John in the womb, will eventually undergo the suffering and shame of death on a cross. Without losing sight of that big picture, today we enter into the up-close picture of Mary and Elizabeth's encounter and share in the joy and gratitude they have in common with all who recognize Christ in their neighbor.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

About Us



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
4500 Wadsworth Blvd
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
303-423-5654

www.holycrosswheatridge.org

e-mail:
office@holycrosswheatridge.org

Church office is open
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday through Friday

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

**This Week at
Holy Cross
Dec. 23rd - Dec. 29th**

Did you know Holy Cross has a facebook page? Like us to keep updated on what's happening.

Those Who Serve Sunday, December 23rd 9:30 am

Pastor: Ron Bock

Assisting Minister:
Carleen Woolley

Readers:
Win Ferrill

Sound:
Maurice Lydick

Nursery:
Amanda and Chad Grell &
Charlie Rex

Communion Stewards:
Paula and Ralph Bunge &
Grace Pipho

Acolyte:
Tori Foss

Usher Captains:
Rex Thomsen & Gary Crocker

Tellers:
John Beverly & Merle Lydick

Communion Clean Up:
Cindy Beverly, Harrison & Lucy

Bus Driver:
Jim Ritter

Greeters:
Ellen and Steve Robinson

Bread Baker:
Darlene Besser

Flower Delivery:
Gordy Ellingson

Hospitality Table:
Martha Lydick

Welcome Pads:
Judy Makowski

Youth News

High School Bible Study and Sunday School

Please enjoy this holiday season; we will see you back on January 13th for Sunday School and January 16th for Bible Study. Merry Christmas!



RMS Youth Gathering

January 19th-21st

Those of you who are attending the gathering in January, be on the lookout for weekend information!



Family Promise®
of Greater Denver

Family Promise News

We are hosting a potluck Christmas day dinner at 6:00 p.m. Come and join our guests and others from our

Holy Cross family for a festive meal together. Please see the sign up board in the Narthex to participate.

Thank You!



Christmas Choir

Please consider singing in our Christmas Choir on Christmas Eve at 6:30 pm!

Rehearsals are:

Sunday, December 23rd after the 9:30 service.

We will be singing the beautiful anthem,

"All is Well".

Join Susan in the choir loft for rehearsals!

Annual Reports Due

Can you believe we are coming to the end of yet another beautiful year? With that being said, this is just a friendly reminder that Annual Reports are due to Kamila in the office by

Wednesday, January 2nd. There is so much to take care of this holiday season, but make sure you mark the deadline down on your calendar!



Recycle Your Styrofoam

Please bring that White Christmas styrofoam to church on Sunday, Dec. 30th and/or Jan. 6. Sue Von Roedern's truck will be parked out front. Load the styrofoam into the back of her truck before or after the 9:30 am service on one of those two days. Give our planet a gift this year and keep it out of the landfill!



Rainbow Trail News

Registration is Open

Looking for a perfect gift? Give the gift of camp! Who wouldn't enjoy such a gift and relive all the memories made during their time at camp for years to come.

Each year Rainbow Trail opens registration in November, with first priority going to congregations from within the Rocky Mountain Synod. Then the first of January, the registration is opened to ALL interested parties and spots will fill up quickly. Please schedule your registrations in advance to avoid any potential disappointments.

Did you know Rainbow Trail has year round opportunities? Looking for a place to retreat, have a reunion or just refresh? Check out the additional opportunities that exist, visit the bulletin board located in the southwest hallway for more information or [CLICK HERE](#).



Rainbow Trail Thanks You!

What an amazing Colorado Gives Day. Thanks in part to your participation in Colorado Gives, RTLC raised just over \$88,000. We are truly humbled by the generosity of people towards RTLC. Thank you for your continuing support in many ways to the outdoor ministry at Rainbow Trail.



Tellers Needed

Tellers wanted that are available to serve at the early service. Being a teller requires only a short time investment and is done after the offering collection during the service. You will work with a partner and be trained on the duties. Contact the church Office or Gary Crocker for more information.
Thank You!

Volunteer Opportunities in the Nursery

Calling Nursery Volunteers!! We have many youth members who have signed up to volunteer in the nursery, but we are needing adult volunteers as well. We have only



TWO adults who are currently volunteering in the nursery for the 10:45 service. There are many people who graciously gave of their time for years and have decided to give in other ways. Please consider giving your time for our youngest members and visitors. This is an easy way

to give to the congregation-- You can hear the service in the nursery. Most parents pick their children up before communion so you can often join worship for communion. Spending time with some adorable babies and toddlers is fun and rewarding. Your help would be greatly appreciated!



Blood Pressure Screening

The next blood pressure screening will take place **Sunday, December 23rd** from **10:30-11:00 a.m.**

Feel free to contact Kamila with any requests to add your announcements to the Weekly Voice at 303-423-5654 or office@holycrosswheatridge.org. Announcements are required to be emailed or dropped off at the church office by Wednesday afternoon. The Voice is emailed on Thursday afternoons.

Ministry Partners

