

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Know Christ and Share God's Love

WEEKLY VOICE

DECEMBER 16, 2018

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No More Business as Usual

Lutherans looking for gospel may hear John the Baptizer's preaching as primarily law. It can be difficult to reconcile his fire-and-brimstone style with the joy that traditionally belongs to the third Sunday of Advent. Yet despite John's harsh words for the crowds, the people seem eager for his teaching- "What then should we do?" They keep asking questions fervently, even when the answers call them to higher expectations of moral and selfless living.

It's the kind of teaching that people associate with the Messiah: good news that business as usual is on the way out and something new is on its way in. The status quo of greed, selfishness, scarcity, and complacency no longer has power. A new day of mutual sharing and justice is almost here. Images of the winnowing fork and the ax at the root of the tree suggest clearing out old habits and fears to make room for something new. In calling people to repentance, John invites them to turn away from the old life and turning toward God's new life.

John has even better news: The Messiah is indeed coming, one who will not only call people to high expectations, but also enable that faithful living. Because the Messiah is coming to baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire," life will never be the same. Through baptism business as usual will be replaced by a fruit-bearing, joy-yielding, grace-filled relationship with God. It's an excellent reason to "rejoice always" (1 Thess. 5:16): The Lord is near!

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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. 16th - Dec. 22nd

Sunday, December 16

Worship and Communion 9:30 am
Christmas Pageant
"Once Upon A Night"
9:30 am
Women's Health and Wellness
12:00 pm

Monday, December 17

Boy Scouts
7:00 pm*

Tuesday, December 18

Alanon 11:00 am
Text Study 12:00 pm
Bible R&C 2:00 pm
High Country Chorus 6:00 pm
Alanon 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 19

OFFICE CLOSSES at 1:00 pm
Staff Meeting 1:00 pm
SonRise Singers 6:00 pm
Alanon 7:30 pm*

Thursday, December 13

Amicitia Circle 10:00 am
Alanon 6:00 pm
Council Meeting 6:30 pm
Mission Team Meeting 6:30 pm

Friday, December 20

Saturday, December 21

NarAnon 8:00 am
Scrap Booking Workshop
9:00 am
Alanon 10:00 am
St. Martin's Choir Performance
7:30 pm

*Denotes Community Group

Click [here](#) for a Full Holy Cross Calendar



Single Worship Service
Reminder

On **Sunday, December 16th** we are switching to one worship service at 9:30 am on Sundays; remember to mark your calendars! Two services will resume Sunday, January 13th!

Have You Filled Out Your Pledge Card Yet?

LIVE Courageously
Live Generously

Name: _____
Address: _____
E-Mail: _____
Phone: _____

As part of my/our commitment to ministry at Holy Cross, and in thanks to God, I/we plan to give to God's work through Holy Cross in 2019 (please fill out one):

\$ _____ weekly for 52 weeks \$ _____ monthly for 12 months
\$ _____ annually

Just a friendly reminder to turn your pledge cards in as soon as possible. A basket will be available during worship to place your cards into (or feel free to mail them) as we seek to *Live Courageously & Generously* into the mission God has called us to here at Holy Cross.

Your Pledge Matters
Thank You For Your Giving



Adult Education
December 16

No Adult Education or Sunday School. The children present a Christmas pageant during the one 9:30 am service!

December 23 & 30

- No adult education or Sunday school. One 9:30 service.



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

Those Who Serve Sunday, December 16th 9:30 am

Pastor: Ron Bock

Assisting Minister:
Janet Iona

Readers:
Bob Denning

Sound:
Matt Lydick

Nursery:
Andrea and Tori Foss

Communion Stewards:
Vianne and Norm Bertelsen &
Kieran McKenna

Acolytes:
Caden McKenna

Usher Captains:
Rex Thomsen & Gary Crocker

Tellers:
John Beverly & Merle Lydick

Communion Clean Up:
Martha Lydick & Vianne
Bertelsen

Bus Driver:
Jim Ritter

Greeters:
Holly and Bob Denning

Bread Baker:
Joyce Kamprath

Flower Delivery:
Karel and Tom Hemler

Hospitality Table:
Barbara Kaspersen

Welcome Pads:
Karen DeJean



Family Promise News

We get to play Santa this year! Our next Family Promise host week is December 23-30. Yes, that's right,

Christmas week! Since our guests will be with us Christmas day, we are adding a few special touches. First, there will be tags on our tree in the Narthex for donors (that's you) to buy \$35 Walmart gift cards for each of our guests. Sunday evening (December 23rd) Anne will take all of our guests to Walmart to buy gifts for their children and themselves. We'll end the evening with a wrapping party so we know there will be something under the tree Christmas morning! Second, 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!

Forever Young

**Saturday, December 15th
2:00 pm**

Enjoy an outing to a wonderful Christmas Music Concert at Arvada High School. The sights and sounds of barbershop, church, college and bell choirs will fill the room with an ambiance that can't be missed!



Sunday School Christmas Pageant "Once Upon A Night"

There will be a one hour dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 15th at 1:00 pm. Please know that you are welcome, even if you can't make it to all of the practices! If you have a friend or neighbor or grandchild who would like to be a part of this, please invite them to come too! The Christmas pageant will be on **Sunday, December 16th at 9:30 am**

during the worship service. If you have any questions please contact

Kim Guinn or Mary Haeger!



Christmas Choir

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

Rehearsals are:

Sunday, December 16th and 23rd after the 9:30 service.

We will be singing the beautiful anthem,



"All is Well".

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 Roedem'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!



Thank You

Thank you all for the prayers, calls, cards, rides, meals and moral support! You have been phenomenal! I am out of the intense nerve pain and I can't tell you how good that feels! I'm currently in Texas for further recovery with the help of my son, daughter-in-law, grandson and their menagerie of pets (two cats, two large dogs and a baby flying squirrel). The fact that Christmas and New Year's occurs while I'm here is icing on the cake! I'll see you all in January.

Thanks again. May you all have a blessed Christmas!

Love, Claudia Harris

Thank You

Thank you to all of those on the Property Team and Altar Guild for decorating our church for Christmas! What a lovely feeling it is to walk in and be greeted with beautiful, festive holiday cheer!



Attention "Scrapbookers"

Did you miss the first scrap booking get together? No worries, come join in on the fun at the next "crop". You can catch up on your photo albums, learn new techniques and make new friends! All are welcome to attend these FREE events.



Time: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (open crop-come and go as your schedule permits)

Dates:

Saturday, December 22nd

Please R.S.V.P. Call Darlene Besser at (303)902-4669 or Sheri Zamora at (303)946-3810 to reserve your table space or for more information.

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





New Beginnings Church
"Making Christ Known"

