

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2026 Newsletter



August Newsletter 2026

Pastor's Ponderings By Pastor Carl Billings

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. & I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:3-6

You might have noticed that in the Prayers of the Church, we have started praying not only for our next permanent pastor but also for our congregation that the Lord might prepare us and make us ready to receive our new pastor.

This brings us to the final task of the interim congregation: commitment to a new direction in ministry. We begin sowing seeds that will grow and be harvested under the new pastor's stewardship.

Some of the seeds that have been planted:

- The faith and life team is working hard to start a Sunday School program this fall
- We will be installing a new Audio Video System in the coming weeks
- We continue to strengthen our ties both with Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ and the Augustana District.
- New areas of support include Feed My Starving Children and Liberty Christian Academy.

As we prepare for our new Pastor, I want to encourage in us an attitude of active patience. It is the same attitude as that of a couple expecting their first child. They start preparing for the birth. Active patience for us is trusting that the Holy Spirit is working in bringing the right Pastor here to Holy Cross. At the same time, we are preparing our congregation by taking active steps to prepare for ministry. I can't wait to see what God has in store for you.

Be Hope-filled, Stay Strong, God's Got This

Pastor Carl



Watch for coming dates:

- Confirmation Start Date
- Sunday School Resume Date
- Mid Week Worship Resume Date

Watch our Facebook Page, Emails and bulletins for information.

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WOW (Women of the Word) By April Goodwir

WOW Meeting Minutes - June 25, 2026

Jeanne opened the meeting with a devotional based on Psalm 23.

The treasurer's report was presented. The checking account balance is \$1,508.95, and as of March 31, 2026, the savings account balance was \$6,712.62.

WOW voted to contribute \$1,000 toward the purchase of the sanctuary TV screens, pending congregational approval. Joan made the motion, and April seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. Plans for the Garden Tour were discussed and finalized.

The event was scheduled for

August 1, 2026. 1-3 pm.

A drawing will be held at the conclusion of the tour using the ticket stubs.

Jeanne adjourned the meeting with a closing prayer.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Summer Garden Tour

August 1st
1:00-3:00 pm

\$20.00
for tour and flower picking
at Upick Flowers only
(Bring your own pint jar or vase.)

\$15.00 for tour only
Children may tour for free with adult

Presented By: WOW
(Women of the Word)

Gardens:
Carol McCarthy
Jennifer Kyle
Rita Palewicz
Jeannie Jeske
Upick Flowers

Tickets available at
Holy Cross Lutheran Church,
a WOW Member,
or from Jeanne Jeske

Property Management Team Update

The Property and Management Team met on Sunday, June 28th, 2026 after church.

They discussed

- Sidewalks
- Parking Lot
- Utility Shed
- Landscaping/edging around the church
- Facia & Soffits
- Restoring the building/maintenance fund
- Handicap accessible sidewalk for entry into the church via the front doors

Also discussed getting bids for

- Landscaping/edging around the church
- Sealant for parking lot to address pot holes and cracks
- Repair facia and soffits
- Utility shed

The team plans to meet on a more regular basis to address these issues.

The request to restore the building/maintenance fund will be brought to council for approval.

We will keep you updated as we discuss these issues.

Please inform a Property Management Team member, church office or a council member of any questions/suggestions you might have.



Resources Financial Update By Joan Bartz

Thanks be to God!

While June is our first full month of summer—a time when many people are on vacation or enjoying time at the lake—we experienced a very good month financially. It was both unexpected and greatly appreciated.

To put it in perspective, our giving in June 2025 was **\$7,496**, compared to **\$10,770** this year.

We truly believe God is at work, and great things are happening at Holy Cross!

We witnessed this firsthand at the fair stand this past week. Although we were concerned about having enough volunteers, many of you stepped forward and generously shared your gift of time. Not only did you serve, but you also invited others to join you. What a blessing it was to see our church family come together in service.

On behalf of the Resource Team, thank you for your continued gifts of time, talents, and financial support. Your generosity enables the ministry and mission of Holy Cross to thrive.

As we continue seeking God's guidance in our search for a new pastor, we also ask you to share another important resource—your prayers. Please pray for the Call Committee, our congregation, and especially the pastor whom God is preparing for Holy Cross. Pray that they may clearly feel God's calling and that we may faithfully recognize it when the time comes.

Thank you again for your faithful support and partnership in Christ's ministry at Holy Cross.

Blessings,

The Resource Team

HOLY CROSS FINANCIAL UPDATE As of June 30th, 2026

	Monthly	2026 YTD Actual	2025 YTD Actual	2026 YTD Budget
Regular Giving	\$ 10,770	\$ 62,906	\$ 59,849	\$ 57,498
Simply Giving	\$ 1,960	\$ 11,736	\$ 12,244	\$ 10,002
Misc Giving/Income	\$ 696	\$ 5,115	\$ 5,338	\$ 10,026
Total Income	\$ 13,426	\$ 79,758	\$ 77,431	\$ 77,526
Total Expenses	\$ 11,935	\$ 79,216	\$ 53,814	\$ 76,890
Net Income	\$ 1,491	\$ 542	\$ 23,617	
General Offering Checking Balance			\$ 53,688.55	
Restricted Funds			\$ 10,331.27	
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS			\$ 64,019.82	



The Call Committee has been busy.

Emails have gone out to about 400 pastors who are either available for call or are currently called within the Midwest area of WI, MN, IA, IL, ND, SD, and MI. We have had a lot of positive responses and have had several applications come in. We have had many pastors reach out to say they will lift our church in prayer during this time, and several have called to pray with us. God's presence is very much in this process. We are currently doing interviews and meeting with prospective pastors via Zoom.

Once we are ready, you will have a chance to meet, greet and hear them preach in person. We will of course have a congregational meeting prior to making a call.

The two candidates we are currently visiting with would not likely be available until close to the end of the year. The Call Committee asks for your prayers during this time of discernment. Please pray for our future permanent pastor. May he or she be open to a call and look forward to being part of our community and our church. May they feel His blessing as they consider this call. Pray that we as a congregation would recognize who it is that God is calling for us.

Please also pray for Pastor Carl as he guides and prepares us for our next pastor.

Council Meeting Minutes July 13, 2026

Council Meeting minutes Holy Cross Lutheran Church July 13th 2026

Pastor Carl Billings, Chair April Goodwin

Present at the meeting: April Godwin, Barb Eliason, Angela Logghe, Anna Mewis,

The Mission of Holy Cross is:

“Called by the Holy Spirit to come, to grow, to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.”

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by President April Goodwin

Adoption of Agenda with additions Barb made motion, Angela 2nd, all in favor

Approval of Secretary's Report - Joan made motion, Anna 2nd, all in favor

Old Business:

- Call committee update
- Wanda will be off July 11-19, August 6-11
- Pastor off July 15-22

New Business:

- AVE updates for church (electronic upgrade). Have received bid and council recommends that we proceed. Congregational meeting held on June 28th, 24 yes, 10 no votes. Main no votes were due to not having enough information, concerns about space etc, other priorities.
- Will need delegates for the LCMC annual meeting in Iowa the end of September.
- Joint letter from area churches to the school regarding Wednesday practices.

Committee Reports:

Faith and Fun:

- Confirmation dates? Schedule and expectations ready?
- Confirmation Sunday?
- starting a list and looking for volunteers to help with Sunday school
- Sundays on Mondays started.
- VBS scheduled for the end of July
- Fair food stand is happening this week.
- Looking at end of August outdoor service-recommend day of Sunday August 23rd, and also have the Blessing of the Backpacks

Next meeting August 3rd at 6:00 pm

Resources:

- Approval of financial report for June. Anna made motion, Barb 2nd, all in favor

Next meeting August 10th at 6 pm

Call Committee:

- Have had several interviews, narrowing down applicants

Property Management:

- Projects? (See *Property Management Team Update on page 2 of this newsletter*)
- Getting bids for landscaping

Mel will serve coffee on August 2nd.

Next meeting is August 10th at 7 pm.

Barb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM, Anna seconded; all were in favor.

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Barb



26th Annual Gathering & Convention

October 4-7, 2026

Lutheran Church of Hope (West Des Moines, IA)

Advance registration is required.

The deadline to register is September 10.



Freedom in Christ is LCMC's first core value and an essential part of our DNA,
but what does being free in Christ actually mean?

What are we free from, who or what are we free for, and what exactly are we free to do?

Join us for our 26th Annual Gathering & Convention to find out!

Please visit www.lcmc.net for more information.

If you would like to attend or have questions about this please reach out to
Pastor Carl or Council President April Goodwin.

Holy Cross Members vying for Miss Glenwood City

Candidates running for Miss Glenwood City during Rustic Lore Days in September are selling Raffle Tickets.

We have 2 from Holy Cross running this year!

Each Raffle Ticket has a coupon on the back for a local business.

They are 6(a book) for \$5 or 1 for \$1 the prizes are 1st. \$500 2nd. \$250 3rd. \$150 4th. \$100, they do not have to be present to win.

Sadie Rudolph - Those that wish to purchase can pay with cash/check or Venmo me @ Nikki-Mastbergen or call 763-232-5459

Alletta Meijer - Those that wish to purchase can contact Val Meijer at (715) 529-2195



Not every book(6 tickets) has the same coupons.

This is what coupons that they may get:

- Nilssens foods- 24 pack of water for \$2.99
- The Detour bar- BIG! free on rail or domestic beer
- Tribune Press Reporter- Buy one subscription get one free
- Wood City Tavern- \$2.00 off weekend breakfast buffet
- Ross Glenwood City Locker- Buy 1 brat pack get one 1/2 off
- Brothers County Mart- \$2.00 off any pizza
- Glen Hills Golf Club- Free Golf Cart rental
- w/purchase of Greens Fees up to 2 people
- Lil Mid Bar-Buy one drink get one free
- Marigold Quilt shop- 20% off any fabric purchase
- Leakers place- 50% off any appetizer
- Flettre Gifts & Thrifts- 25% off entire purchase

Quilters Work Day By Mary Ann Ross

June found a smaller group, but we managed to get 6 more quilts completed. We will need to make a trip soon to deliver those we have done.

We have a good supply of items and recently received several more from our generous people.

Thanks go out to Jan Sepurek, Ned Hahn, Irma Lindholm, Jean Booth, Birdie Olson and Geraldine Luepke & family. These people donate4d recently and we thank them all.I apologize if I forgot anyone.Geraldine has donated several times before and was one of our faithful sewers who sewed many quilts. We do miss her not being with us.

Our summer is fast going and it will soon be school time again. The days surely do go by fast and hope all are having a nice summer.

Hope to see more of you joining us for our quilting.



August Birthdays

8/2	Valerie Meijer	8/12	Michael Cassellius	8/21	Alexandra Lindelof
8/4	Lisa Smith	8/13	Derrick Oberle		Janet Scepurek
	Tom Ross		August Bartz		Heidi Wagner
8/5	Carson Thayer	8/14	Ellen Koosmann	8/23	Jesse Krizan
8/6	Margaret Wheeler		David Frieberg		Misty Ohman
	Terry Newton	8/16	Myah Eliason	8/25	April Ludtke
8/7	Albert Siler	8/17	Craig Anderson		Sherrie LeMay
	Dawn Polen	8/18	Richard Kahler	8/26	Ilan Anderson
	Charles Hoffman		Kloe Dahl		Noah Staiger
8/8	Harper Hoffman		Sawyer Talbert	8/30	Richard Koosmann
	Spencer Talbert		Xavier Mosing	8/31	Dean Anderson
8/9	Karen Stoner				Janelle Frieberg
					Aletta Meijer



August

2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Blessing of the
Backpacks

Sunday August 23rd
Outdoor Worship
with Blessing of the Backpacks



1
1-3 pm Summer
Garden Tour

2 9am – Worship 10:10 – Fellowship	* 3 11am Bible Study at Glenhaven 6pm Faith & Life/FUN	4	5	6	7 9:30am Coffee	8
Blue Thunder using Fellowship hall 8/4-8/6 5:30-7:30 pm						
9 9am – Worship 10:10 – Fellowship	10 11am Bible Study at Glenhaven 12-6 Bloodmobile at HC 6pm Resources Mtg 7pm Council Mtg	11 6pm Threads of God's Love	12	13 10:30am Glenhaven Worship	14 9:30am Coffee	15
16 9am – Worship 10:10 – Fellowship	* 17 11am Bible Study at Glenhaven	18	19 10:00 am WOW Bingo at Glenhaven	20 11-12 Mobile Food Pantry Truck in back parking lot	21 9:30am Coffee	22
23 9am – Worship 10:10 – Fellowship Outdoor Worship & Blessing of the Backpacks	24 11am Bible Study at Glenhaven NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE	25	26	27 8am Quilting 1pm WOW Meeting	28 9:30am Coffee	29 7:30-4:30 Bldg Rental - Marigold Quilt Class
30 9am – Worship 10:10 – Fellowship	* 31 11am Bible Study at Glenhaven	Assisting with Worship				
		Month	Altar Guild	Ushers	3 rd Sunday Fellowship	Sundays
		August	Joan Bartz	Ned Hahn	Mastbergen Family	4 Sundays
		September	Jeanne Jeske	Jeanne Jeske	Needed	4 Sundays

* Holy Communion

Holy Cross Fair Stand

By April Goodwin

Fair Stand 2026



The St. Croix County Fair was held last week, and as part of a tradition spanning more than 50 years, Holy Cross was there serving roast beef, chicken, burgers, walking tacos, breakfast, and more. Over the years, we have developed a loyal following of people who are grateful they can enjoy a real home-cooked meal at the fair instead of just “fair food.”

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who worked, baked pies and bars, or made monetary donations. Every bit of help matters and is appreciated.

I especially want to thank our Fair Stand Committee for the countless behind-the-scenes tasks that often go unnoticed. Peder and Anna Mewis were there multiple times each day, every day, making sure the roast beef, potatoes, and gravy kept flowing while taking care of a million other details to keep everything running smoothly. Angie Logghe worked numerous shifts, kept everyone's enthusiasm high, organized the volunteers, and baked at least ten pans of bars! Amber, who was unable to help this year because she was ill, was greatly missed.

Our church iPad mysteriously disappeared just before the fair, so a special thank you goes to Dustin for lending us his iPad and getting it set up for us. Your generosity saved the day!

The fair is our biggest annual fundraiser and helps carry us through the slower summer months. This year brought hot, humid weather along with smoky skies from the wildfires to the north. Even so, so many people worked long hours in difficult conditions and came back day after day, knowing each day would be hotter than the last because we were short on volunteers. We were also blessed to have five community members, who are not Holy Cross members, volunteer to work alongside us. Their willingness to serve was truly a blessing.

There are so many people who faithfully step up year after year. Brian Teigen stores our commercial dishwasher all winter, then hooks it up before the fair and disconnects it afterward. John Logghe came to the rescue when our stove broke the day before the fair by switching it out with the stove from the church. Thank you to the anonymous donor who generously provides so much of our food each year. Jill Logghe who started us out on Wednesday serving walking tacos to ending on Sunday with Dave and Joan Bartz serving breakfast, faithfully donate the chicken, and stay to help with cleanup.

It was truly humbling to witness everyone's willingness to help at the last minute. Over and over I heard the words, “What do you need? I'll help.” What a wonderful reminder that we need to trust God at all times. He provides in ways we often don't expect.

The Sunday before the fair, I made a plea for help because we had only three people scheduled to work on Saturday—our busiest day of the fair. It looked as though we might have to close the stand that day. We also had 30 fewer volunteers than we did in 2025, and even then we were stretched thin. I asked our members to consider working a shift or inviting family members and friends to help. The response was overwhelming. So many people stepped forward that we had enough volunteers to stay open on Saturday. Thank you to everyone who answered that call!

Continued on Page 8

Holy Cross Fair Stand *Continued from Page 7*

Despite the sweltering heat and smoky conditions, everyone seemed to enjoy working together and found time to visit and reconnect. One of my favorite parts of the fair is listening to stories from years gone by—tales of almost burning down the building, funny mishaps, and the creative ways volunteers have convinced fairgoers to come inside for a meal. Those memories are part of what makes our fair stand such a special ministry.

I don't have the final financial numbers yet, but because of the weather, fair attendance was down and our sales were lower than we had hoped. It appears we will still make a profit, although not as much as in previous years.

Whatever the final amount, we are grateful for God's provision and for every person who helped make this year's fair another success.

Thank you again for your time, your hard work, your generosity, and your servant hearts.

May God continue to bless our Holy Cross family.



2 of our Holy Cross youth at 2026 St. Croix County Fair.

Emily Tews - Fairest of the Fair

Adielynn Groves - Jr. Fairest of the Fair

Photo submitted by Amy Groves



Do you or someone you know need prayers?

We have a prayer chain for prayer requests of our church members, friends & family.

Their name will be on the prayer chain for one month, unless you request that we remove it earlier.

Strength comes in uplifted united prayer.

James 5:16: "Pray for one another."

If you would like to join our Prayer Chain Warriors or know of someone who needs prayers please contact Nancy Wold at 715-781-2318 and the prayer chain will be activated.

Dear Friends,

The St. Croix Valley Food Bank has made the difficult decision to end our drive-through distributions in Deer Park and Glenwood City.

This decision was not made lightly. Due to declining participation and a reduction in federally funded TEFAP food available to our organization, these distributions are no longer the most effective use of our resources. The final distributions will be:

- Deer Park: September 10, 2026
- Glenwood City: September 17, 2026

Participants will receive a food resource directory that includes information about other local programs and services available to help access food assistance.

We are grateful for the opportunity to have served you and your families over the years. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your community. It has been our privilege to support you, and we remain committed to helping connect individuals and families with food resources throughout the St. Croix Valley.

Sincerely, St. Croix Valley Food Bank www.scvfb.org endhunger@scvfb.org



Back to School Supply Drive

Holy Cross will be a drop off sight for this.

If you would like to donate there will be a box in the church lobby for donations.

If you would like to contribute monetarily please

- use a Offertory envelope and mark for Back to School Drive
- Send checks to WestCAP and mail to PO Box 308 Glenwood City
- Donate to Angel Fund payable to West CAP - Angel Fund and mail to PO Box 308 Glenwood City

Most Needed Items

Backpacks (new, sturdy)

Wide-ruled & college ruled notebooks

Folders - plastic w/pockets

Pencils #2

Colored Penciles

Crayons (24-pack)

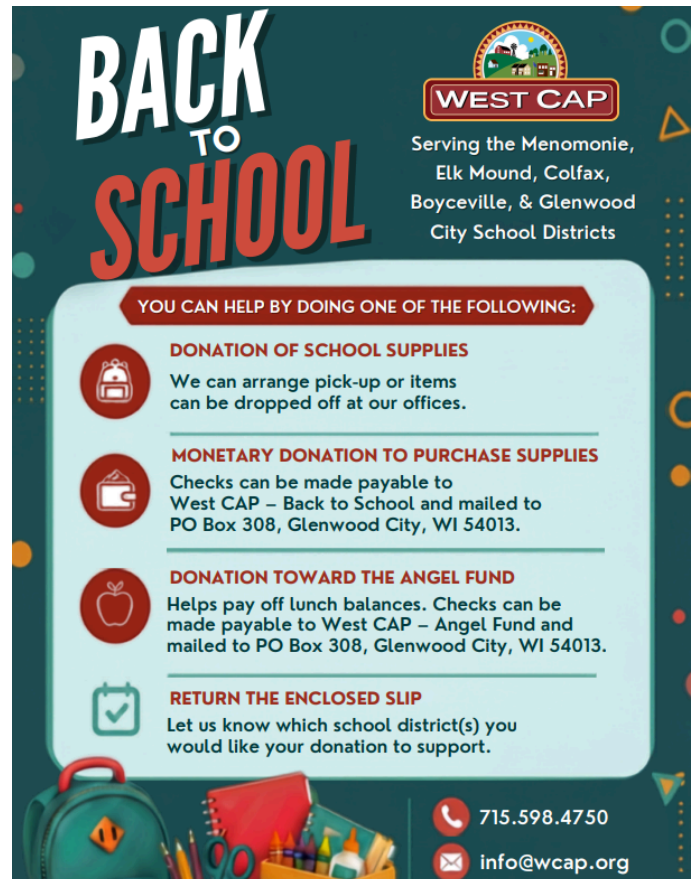
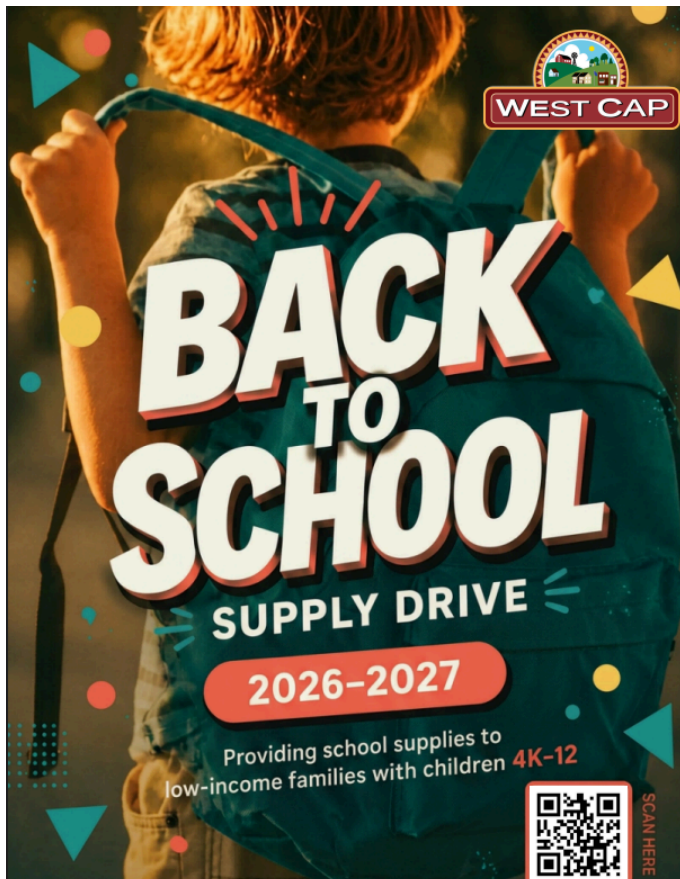
Washable markers

clue sticks

scissors

pencil boxes

Complete list at church



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

615 Maple Street
PO Box 65
Glenwood City, WI 54013

Phone: 715-265-4411
email - gcholycross@cltcomm.net
Web page - www.gcholycross.net



Click on QR Code above
for Holy Cross Facebook Page

The Mission of Holy Cross:
Called by the Holy Spirit
to come,
to grow,
to live
as disciples of Jesus Christ

August 2026 NEWSLETTER

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GLENWOOD CITY, WI 54013



Bloodmobile at Holy Cross

Monday August 10, 2026

Noon—6:00 pm

Holy Cross will be hosting and sponsoring the bloodmobile.

Workers and snacks needed!

High school youth are encouraged to donate blood and also assist with checking and hospitality/snack table.

Please note that we can offer homemade cookies and cheese/crackers.

Sign up sheet on kiosk in narthex or contact Jill Logghe (715-977-2092)

Thank you!