

November 2026 Newsletter



Special points of interest:

- Pastor's Ponderings
- Poinsettia Orders
- December WOW Gathering Event
- SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Nov 1st



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November Newsletter 2026

Pastor's Ponderings By Pastor Carl Billings

Endings can be a tough time. This November I will be preaching on the Gospel of Matthew chapter 25. In that chapter, Jesus describes the end of the Age in a series of parables. As I read and study, I could not help but think about the ending of our partnership. Sometime in the near future, my ministry will be ending at Holy Cross. I want to share three important attitudes to hold on to when we face an ending.

Gratitude

When we are faced with an ending, whatever it is, we should be grateful for the experience and the people with whom we shared it. It might be the last game of your softball team or the end of a family vacation. It might be more serious, like the death of a loved one or the end of a job. In any case, there should be gratitude for the experience and the people. I know that I am deeply grateful for my time here at Holy Cross.

Sometimes your response to an ending, whether you say it out loud or not, is "Whew, I am glad that is over. Even then, there can be some gratitude. Gratitude for what you learned from that experience and that God walked with you through that difficult time.

Grief

Sometimes your response to an ending, whether you say it out loud or not, is "Whew, I am glad that is over. Even then, there can be some gratitude. Gratitude for what you learned from that experience and that God walked with you through that difficult time.

Grief is a part of any serious ending, and that's okay. There is a sense of loss, and it is good and right that we mourn what we have lost. Whether it is a person, lifestyle, or an experience, it is okay to acknowledge that life will not be the same and that you are uncertain exactly what the future holds. This is certainly true with the death of a loved one but also with retirement from a job or changes at Church. To acknowledge that Grief does not take away from the gratitude that you feel toward the people and the experience. Again, when it comes time for me to leave, I will deeply miss you, folks.

Hope

We follow A God who makes all things new. We follow a Lord whose answer to the cross was the empty tomb. God is working here at Holy Cross, and you can hope as you look to the future. Every ending promises a new beginning until that final new beginning when the Lord will wipe away our sin and the tears from all faces.

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

Pastor Carl

**"SEE, THE HOME OF
GOD IS AMONG
MORTALS.
HE WILL DWELL WITH
THEM AS THEIR GOD;
THEY WILL BE HIS
PEOPLES, AND GOD
HIMSELF WILL BE WITH
THEM; HE WILL WIPE
EVERY TEAR FROM
THEIR EYES. DEATH
WILL BE NO MORE;
MOURNING AND
CRYING AND PAIN WILL
BE NO MORE, FOR THE
FIRST THINGS HAVE
PASSED AWAY."**

Revelation 21:3-4

Resources Financial Update By Joan Bartz



This time of year is typically when we encourage you to prayerfully consider what you give to the church and how you are a steward of all that you have. With the potential pastoral change coming up, the Resource Team has decided to wait until January to do our stewardship drive. In lieu of this, I would like to remind you that stewardship of your finances, is more about what God and your church want FOR you than what He and your church want FROM you. As Deuteronomy 15:10 reminds us, "Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand on."

You may consider electronic giving as a way to give regularly and assure that your giving continues, even if you are at the lake or at your child's sporting event. This is good to note this past month as church attendance fell off as our members enjoyed the last nice weekends of summer – and our giving was down as a result. If more of us used electronic giving, this would not be seen quite as dramatically. For more info on ways to give electronically, reach out to Wanda in the church office. Even with our giving down this month and a net loss of \$2,499 for the month, we are still up over \$9,000 for the year. Typically as we get back into the fall schedules, we see giving lift and our year-end giving is usually strong.

As always, thanks be to God, and all of you for your faithfulness to Holy Cross! As we ponder Deuteronomy, just think of the blessings God has in store for us as we give with generous hearts.

HOLY CROSS FINANCIAL UPDATE				
As of September 30th, 2026				
	Monthly	2026 YTD Actual	2025 YTD Actual	2026 YTD Budget
Regular Giving	\$ 5,760	\$ 88,305	\$ 81,242	\$ 76,664
Simply Giving	\$ 2,078	\$ 17,755	\$ 18,143	\$ 13,336
Misc Giving/Income	\$ 71	\$ 37,440	\$ 31,977	\$ 13,368
Total Income	\$ 7,909	\$ 143,500	\$ 131,362	\$ 103,368
Total Expenses	\$ 10,407	\$ 134,351	\$ 87,966	\$ 102,520
Net Income	\$ (2,499)	\$ 9,149	\$ 43,396	
Unrestricted Checking			\$ 51,391.46	
Restricted Checking			\$ 21,078.15	
TOTAL CHECKING BALANCE			\$ 72,469.61	



Call Committee Update By Joan Bartz

The Call Committee would like to thank everyone for your patience and your continued prayers as we have gone through the call process and taken time to discern who God has for our next permanent pastor. We had Pastor Myke Main preach at Holy Cross on October 18th. Based on the feedback on the surveys and via word of mouth, he was well received. The council has approved him as a worthy candidate and is recommending him to the congregation to call. We will be holding a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 1st to vote whether to extend a call to him or not. Please be sure to mark your calendars and plan to worship with us on November 1st and stay for a brief meeting following the service. We ask that you continue to keep Holy Cross in our prayers as we place this decision in God's hands and prayerfully consider this call.



Council Meeting Minutes October 12, 2026

Council Meeting minutes Holy Cross Lutheran Church

October 12th 2026

Pastor Carl Billings - Chair April Goodwin Present at the meeting: April, Joan, Anna, Barb, Via Zoom-Pastor Billings

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 7:04 pm by President April Goodwin.

Adoption of Agenda with additions: Anna made motion, Joan 2nd, all in favor.

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

Approval of Pastor's Report

Old Business:

New Business:

- Approve \$50 to Augstana per month starting October 2026, retroactive to January when originally voted upon. Joan made motion, Barb 2nd.
- Council encouragement of Wednesday night service and engagement.
- Speaker for current and prospective council members in January, TBD. Joan made motion, Anna 2nd, all in favor.
- Council to meet Monday 11/30 for budget meeting.
- Discussion regarding future council members, who will have completed and considering staying, who is needed
- Approved by consensus outside advertising of upcoming events.
- Tuesday 11/24 Ecumenical service at Holy Cross.
- AVE for instructions regarding the new equipment October 22nd at 6:30 pm. Anyone welcome who is interested.

Committee Reports:

Call Committee:

- Pastor Mike Main to preach at the Sunday October 18th Service -call committee to meet following October 18th service.
- resources to meet October 19th at 6 pm.
- Council meeting October 19th at 7 pm to review package details.
- congregational meeting to vote for potential pastoral call on November 1st after service.

Faith and Fun:

- October 14th is the feed my starving children event, all are welcome.
- Confirmation: meeting on the 18th after church. For making bread, practice and bookmarks.
- October 21st Fall supper. No confirmation or service.
- Confirmation October 25th: during the service 9 am. Cake after for fellowship.
- Trunk and treat on Main Street, community club is hosting. Holy Cross will have a trunk there.
- All saints Sunday: Nov 1st.
- Plan a day/evening to visit Glenhaven? Caroling, there and/or out in the community?
- Next meeting November 2nd at 6 pm.

Resources:

- Financial report reviewed. Barb made motion to accept financial report, Anna 2nd, all in favor.

Property Management:

- Barb made motion to accept bid from Harvest Hill for snow removal, Anna 2nd all in favor.
- Toilet to be fixed.

Anna will serve coffee on Sunday 11/1.

Next meeting is Monday November 9th at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8 PM,

Closed with Lords Prayer



Respectfully submitted, Barb

“These minutes have not been approved by the council so not yet official minutes”

Special Council Meeting 10/19/26

Call to Meeting: 7:05 PM

Present: Melanie, Joan, Angela, Anna, April, and Barb Absent: Wes

Call Committee Update

• The Call Committee presented survey results regarding the pastoral candidate. Responses were overwhelmingly positive, with 23 yes, 9 unsure, and 1 no recommendation responses. Feedback highlighted strong biblical knowledge, community engagement, and an approachable personality.

Survey Highlights

• Members reported positive impressions of the sermon, message clarity, communication style, and congregation connection. Concerns centered primarily on microphone volume, which was attributed to equipment settings rather than presentation abilities.

Additional Feedback

• Congregational comments emphasized the candidate's efforts to learn names, participate in community activities, and connect personally with members. Several comments cited his sense of humor and authentic engagement.

Candidate Background Discussion

• Council discussed the candidate's ministry history, including long-term service in previous congregations, current part-time ministry work, and desire to return to full-time ministry.

Call Committee Recommendation

• The committee recommended moving forward with offering the congregation an opportunity to vote on issuing a call to the candidate.

Resource Committee Update

• The Resource Committee reviewed compensation and gave recommendations for salary negotiations.

Motion

Joan moved to extend an offer to the pastoral candidate. Anna seconded the motion.

Compensation Discussion

• The council agreed that compensation discussions should occur with the candidate prior to a congregational vote in order to ensure acceptance of the proposed package.

Vote

• The recommendation was approved with no opposition noted.

Adjournment - With no further discussion, the meeting concluded.

Poinsettia Orders

The Altar Guild is happy to receive your order for a poinsettia flower (or two)! They are just \$14 each this year. Choose between Red, White, Pink or jingle bells. Please consider purchasing one to beautify our sanctuary for Christmas. Simply fill out the form (forms available at the church) and return it along with your payment to Holy Cross - you may leave your completed form in the church office. Orders/money/check into due in the church office by Tuesday November 12, 2026. We invite you to please take your plant home with you any time after Christmas Day.



Confirmation Corner

By Jill Logghe

On Wednesday, October 14, our seventh-, eighth-, and ninth-grade confirmands traveled with parents and mentors to Coon Rapids, Minnesota, to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children. From 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., we helped pack MannaPack Rice meals. The experience was both humbling and rewarding, especially as we learned that a child dies from hunger every four seconds. This was our second time volunteering, and we plan to make it an annual event. To learn more or volunteer, visit fmsc.org.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian nonprofit organization that coordinates the packaging and distribution of food to people in developing nations. Founded in 1987, it says it has been involved in more than 110 countries.^[1]



Pictured front row left to right:

Jill Logghe, Adrian Schneider, Charlotte Ploszay, Kennedy Ploy (kneeling) Deelia Hoffman, McKinley Olson, Jake Thompson, Levi Staiger, Noah Staiger Jesse Krizan.

Back row left to right: Aiden Thompson, Asher Hoffman, Pastor Carl, Christine Thompson, Reeyce Jeske, Mary Staiger Connor Ohman, Charlie Hoffman, Joe Krizan

Founding

Richard Proudfit, a Minneapolis businessman, founded the organization in 1987 after visiting Honduras after a hurricane and seeing food insecurity among children.

In 1993, with the help of a team of Cargill food scientists and colleagues from General Mills and Pillsbury, a vitamin-and-mineral fortified rice meal was created specifically for malnourished children around the age of five years old. FMSC changed the name from "Fortified Rice Soy Casserole" to MannaPack Rice in 2008.

The organization recruits volunteers, including schoolchildren, to assist in packing. It also employs paid staff to supervise the operations.^[2] FMSC has eight packing facilities: three in Minnesota (Coon Rapids, Eagan and Chanhassen), three in Illinois (Aurora, Libertyville and Schaumburg), one in Richardson, Texas, and one in Tempe, Arizona.^[2]



November

Acolyte

11/1 Brody Blume

11/15 AJ Schneider

Confirmation Supper

11/4 Deelia Hoffman

11/11 Needed

11/18 Staiger Boys

11/25 Thanksgiving Week / No Confirmation



Sunday School By April Goodwin

Sunday school is underway and going well. The children have had 6 weeks of lessons already. We have had 10 to 15 students each week. There is one class with multiple ages from 4 to 11. Teachers in October were Joe Krizan, Emma Bartz, and Barb Eliason. Thank you for volunteering to educate our children. It is a great group of kids. We are taking turns teaching so no one has to commit to every Sunday teaching. Please sign up to teacher, the sign up is in the fellowship hall on the Sunday School bulletin board. All are welcome to teach from high schoolers on up.



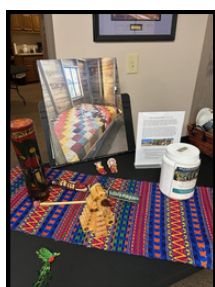
For November we need volunteers to teach on November 15th and 22nd. There will not be Sunday school on November 29th due to Thanksgiving weekend. Looking ahead we need teachers in December on the 6, 13, and 20. The lessons are online, you can pick out what you want to teach and call Wanda to print what you need or print it yourself. You can get the web address from Wanda, April or in the Sunday school room.

Our prayer is that every child who walks through our doors knows they are loved by God and by their church family. Please join us in praying for our students and volunteer teachers. May God bless them, strengthen our faith, and continue to build His kingdom through the children of Holy Cross.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers each week to make Sunday School possible. We appreciate YOU!

WOW By Joan Bartz

A great big THANKS to everyone who helped us pivot as we had to postpone the Fall Supper by a day due to unforeseen circumstances. We appreciate everyone who helped to serve, cook, bake or help in any way! This could not happen without all of you doing your part. This year was a true team effort and a special thanks to Jeannie Jeske, Nancy Wolf, Nancy Stack and Betsy Glenn for filling in the gaps. We served 193 meals and grossed \$3,146.00 before expenses to support the WestCAP's Food Pantry and other WOW ministries. Thank you to everyone's generosity.



We also raised \$425.00 at the silent auction for building materials for the Casas por Cristo mission trip in January. Thanks again to everyone who helped and attended the Fall Supper. Everyone had fun!



WOW December Gathering Event:

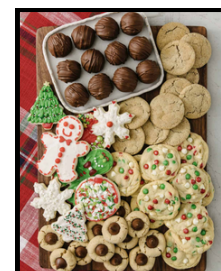
In December, we will be spreading holiday cheer to children in need at WestCAP by stuffing Christmas stockings. Plus, we will gather together with a cookie exchange along with a little holiday "spirit".

Watch for further details on our Facebook page and website.



We are always looking for new activities, if you have any to share, please reach out to one of the circle leaders:

Jeannie Jeske, Joan Bartz, Nancy Wold and Nancy Stack.



November Birthdays

11/1 Tom Knox	11/15 Stephanie Johnson	11/22 Marlene Kerr
11/2 Gabriel Hoffman	Angela Jeske	Barbara Eliason
11/3 Jonathon Logghe	Skylar Mastbergen	Keith Larson
11/4 Dean Teigen	11/16 Sadie Rudolph	Michael Mewis
11/5 Janice Rsmussen	Jean Anderson	11/23 Alexis Rassbach
11/6 Owen Swenby	Bill Wold	11/24 Logan Brahmer
Douglas Hill	11/17 Olivia Brahmer	11/25 Heidi Eliason
Amber Hoffman	Brent Brahmer	11/26 Betsy Glenn
11/11 Katie Drinkman	11/19 Anaka Eliason	Nelson Polen
11/14 David Anderson	11/20 Orville Jeske	11/30 Don Klatt



Assisting with Worship

Month	Altar Guild	Ushers	3 rd Sunday Fellowship	Sundays
November	Gloria Hill	Wes Booth & Family	Booth Family	5 Sundays
December	Jill, Nancy, Vicki, Denise	Logghe	John & Jill Logghe	4 Sundays

November

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day * 9am – Worship Sunday School 10:10 – Fellowship 	2 11:00am Bible Study at Havenwood 6:00pm Fath & Life/FUN	3 Election Day 	4	5	6 9:30 am Friday Morning Coffee	7
8 9am – Worship Sunday School 10:10 – Fellowship 5:30 pm Veterans Appreciation Dinner	9 11:00am Bible Study at Havenwood 6:00 pm Resources Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	10 6:00 pm Threads of God's Love	11 	12 10:30 am Glenhaven Worship 8:00 am Quilting	13 9:30 am Friday Morning Coffee	14 7:30-4:30 Building Rental Marigold Quilt Class
15 9am – Worship Sunday School 10:10 – Fellowship	*16 11:00am Bible Study at Havenwood	17	18 10:00 am WOW Bingo at Glenhaven NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE	19 11-12 Mobile food pantry truck in back parking lot	20 9:30 am Friday Morning Coffee	21
22 9am – Worship Sunday School 10:10 – Fellowship	23 11:00am Bible Study at Havenwood	24 6:30 pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service	25	26 	27 9:30 am Friday Morning Coffee	28
29 First Sunday of Advent 9am – Worship Sunday School 10:10 – Fellowship	30 11:00am Bible Study at Havenwood					

* Holy Communion

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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

November 2026 NEWSLETTER

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ATTENTION!

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday November 1st

10:10 am immediately following worship

All are encouraged to attend as there will be a discussion about calling Pastor Michael (Myke) Main to become our next permanent pastor. After the discussion there will be a vote.