Holy Cross
LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

December 4, 2022 - 9:30 am

2nd Sunday in Advent



GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Welcome and Announcements		
Lighting of the Advent Wreath		
Advent Song	*"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*	ELW 257
CALL TO WORSHIP		
Gathering Song	*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*	ELW 249
Greeting		
Kyrie		
Hymn of Praise	*"Blessed be the God of Israel"*	ELW 250
Prayer		
Special Music	*"Mary, How Could You Have Known?"*	Chancel Choir

WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

Children's Message and Arlo Glesne's Blessing

Isaiah 11:1-10…A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. [2]The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. [3]His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; [4]but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. [5]Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. [6]The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. [7]The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. [8]The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. [9]They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. [10]On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Romans 15:4-13…Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. [5]May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, [6]so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. [7]Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. [8]For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, [9]and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; [10]and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; [11]and again, "Praise the Lord, all you

Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; [12]and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." [13]May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 3:1-12…In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, [2]"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." [3]This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' " [4]Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. [5]Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, [6]and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. [7]But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? [8]Bear fruit worthy of repentance. [9]Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. [10]Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. [11]"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. [12]His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message Vicar Misty Lampshire

Hymn of the Day *"Love Divine All Love Excelling"* ELW 631

Prayers

Sharing God's Peace

MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

Offering

Special Music

Offertory *"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"* ELW 247

Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Communion

Communion Songs *"Lamb of God*
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" ELW 254

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

Blessing

Sending Song *"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"*

Dismissal

Postlude

Announcements

⇒ **The 6 Yellow Roses** are in celebration of Gordon Schnack's 85th birthday.

⇒ **Call Process Update** Throughout the building, you will see **Call Process** posters. We are currently in the Preparation Phase, steps 2 & 3. In **Step 2** (The Transition Projects) the church council has been looking at community demographics, compiling a digital view book about the ministry of Holy Cross, and ensuring that our governing documents are up to date. In **Step 3** (The Ministry Site Profile) the church council has begun to compile and draft a ministry site profile for the congregation. Due to the starting of a new Bishop in our synod and the transition to a new synodical staff, our Assistant to the Bishop will change starting in January. Pastor Juliet Focken will help facilitate this transition and beginning in January we will be working with Pr. Gregory Berger. Pastor Heather will continue to serve as our full-time interim pastor throughout the call process.

⇒ **Centering Prayer Group** will meet Monday's at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room here at Holy Cross. Questions, contact Paula McDonald at 402-210-6040.

⇒ **Food Pantry** Our third Thursday of the month Food Pantry is Thursday, December 15th. CLICK HERE to help. We are in need of canned veggies, canned fruit, pasta sauce, pasta, cereal, juice, bar soap, and paper sacks.

⇒ **Recycle your Christmas Lights!** Joe Evans is taking old strings of lights to Scrap Central which provides recycling at no cost. There will be a bin in the Narthex marked Christmas Lights Only.

⇒ **Advent Celebration** All ages are invited to our Advent Celebration on December 4th following worship as we prepare for the birth of Jesus! We'll have crafts, snacks, fellowship, devotions and fun!

⇒ **The River City Mixed Chorus,** Omaha's only LGBTQ+ community choir, is presenting Wrapped in Rainbow on Saturday, December 10th at the Holland Performing Arts Center at 7:05pm. Tickets are available at the door or in advance, with prices starting at $20. Go to www.rcmc.org/concerts for more information!

⇒ **Christmas Pantry** For the December 15th Food Pantry, we will be providing cookies and hot cocoa to each family and we need your help! Use the link below to sign up for either a dozen cookies or a box of hot cocoa. Please have to the church no later than Wednesday, December 14th. Thanks! Click Here to Sign Up.

⇒ **Middle School Gathering** 6th-8th graders are taking a trip to Kearney, NE for the NE Synod Middle School Gathering January 14-15, 2023. Cost is $40 and registration forms have been emailed to parents. Registrations are due December 9th. Hope you can join us!

⇒ **Christmas Caroling** Join your Holy Cross Family as we go out and carol to some of our members that are not out and about. Meet at the church at 1:45 pm where we will form groups of carolers and head out. Music provided. Come and make a joyful noise! Click Here to register.

Calendar for Upcoming Week

Sunday, December 4
9:30 am Worship
10:45 am Advent Celebration
10:50 am Youth Ensemble
11:00 am High School/Middle School Bells
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 48012 Meeting

Monday, December 5
1:00 pm Centering Prayer Group
6:30 pm Boy Scouts
9:00 pm CMA Meeting

Tuesday, December 6
7:30 pm A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, December 7
6:00 pm Confirmation/Uke Choir
6:30 pm Youth Worship
7:00 pm Radical Ringers/Youth Group

Thursday, December 8
6:30 pm Carolon Bell Choir
7:00 pm Boy Scout Committee Mtg
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Saturday, December 10
9:30 am Sarah Circle

Sunday, December 11
9:30 am Worship
10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Forum
10:50 am Youth Ensemble
11:00 am High School/Middle School Bells
2:00 pm Caroling

Prayer Requests from our Church Community

Member Concerns: **Jan Swanson** as she recovers from a fall. **Connie Mertz** as she deals with medical concerns.

On-Going Member Concerns: **Edie Nabity** at Hillcrest Papillion

Friends and Relatives: **Todd & Kristie Erickson**, brother & sister in law of Wendy Erickson; **Marilyn Schneider**, mother of Jim Schneider; **Cliff & Carol Speck,** friends of Loreen & Harvey Gifford; **Walt Weaver & Carson Rich**, family of Carol Rich; **Angela Gehring,** friend of Brad Yearwood; **Ronda Bayer,** friend of Debbie Risinger; **Debbie Haacke**, coworker of Debbie Risinger; **Logan Black,** son of Joey Black; **George Adamson**, friend of Sue Spengler; **Tatyana Povazhnaya**, friend of Sue Spengler; **Gaylen Grunke**, Wes Grunke's Brother; **Jason West,** Sue Spengler's boyfriend's cousin; **Andie Hunter**, Elizabeth Yearwood's sister; **Linda Anderson**, Barb Kay's sister; **Amy Churchill,** friend of Barb Kay; **Ronald Gulbranson,** Julie Noteman's brother; **Josh Prochotsky and family,** Paula McDonald's nephews son and family; **Aaron McDonald and Family and Caregivers,** McDonald's grandson.