



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER February 2026

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Lent is the season of the church year that begins on Ash Wednesday and continues until Easter. For centuries Christians all over the world have used this time as a season for prayer, repentance, and reflection on the sufferings and death of Jesus on the cross for the forgiveness of sin.

There are many activities and resources that help us during this time to reflect on Jesus and come to him and in prayer and repentance. The easiest way to do this if you haven't been already would be to simply start praying the reading the New Testament with us at Holy Cross, once a day every day. There is a daily guide available on the table at Holy Cross as you walk into worship. You could also come to Wednesday night worship during Lent at Holy Cross.

Sometimes people speak of fasting or "giving something up" for Lent. Maybe you want to try this. This is a fine practice but let's think about why someone might do this. Ephesians 2:8-9 says "8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast." The Bible is clear that doing "holy things" doesn't make us better Christians or more loved by God - only Jesus does that. So if giving something up during Lent doesn't make us more loved by God, why do people do it? They might give something up for the purpose of reflecting on Jesus and what He has done for us by either using that time for prayer or being reminded of Jesus every time one thinks of what they have given up. Someone also might give something up to increase self-discipline.

Ultimately Lent points to and helps prepare us for a very important observance - the events of Good Friday and Easter. These are the two most important days of the year for Christians! On Good Friday Jesus died on the cross and in doing so the Bible says that He satisfied God's righteous judgment and earned the forgiveness of sins for all. On Easter He proved that He is stronger than sin and death by rising from the dead. There is nothing more important than these two truths.

And here's where it all hits home for you and I; the Bible says we are connected to Jesus' death and resurrection because of our Baptism. Romans 6:3-5 says "3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."

Jesus died for the forgiveness of sins and rose from the dead in victory. Your sin has been forgiven and you will rise from the dead because Jesus did. May God grant us His grace as we reflect on these things in the coming weeks.

See you on Sunday

Pastor Zucker

Tithes and Offerings

Year To Date : Offerings~ \$119,290 Expenses~ \$137,166

Month To Date Offerings \$23,535 Expenses~\$26,399

This year to date has a shortfall of - \$18,876

Upcoming Lent Worship Times

Ash Wednesday is February 18 and marks the beginning of Lent. Once again, Holy Cross will have worship on that day at 7pm and offer the Imposition of Ashes. In addition, there will be midweek services on Wednesdays during Lent at 7pm. Also, you're invited to come join us for a meal at 6pm before our midweek services. Each week there will be a different soup offered, plus vegetables or salad.

Why worship in the middle of the week during Lent? Good question, I'm glad you asked! The Church has always observed the 40 days (not including Sundays) prior to Easter as Lent and used this as a time of focused repentance and reflection of man's need for our Savior Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross. Our midweek services help us do that. They'll be about 30-35 minutes in length. As you would expect, they'll point us to Jesus. See you on Wednesdays!



Are you 73 years old (or getting close)? If you have a traditional IRA, you will have to take Required Minimal Distributions (RMDs) from these accounts at age 73. There is a way to make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) to charitable organizations (like Holy Cross) that will satisfy these RMDs and the money will transfer tax free thereby decreasing your taxable income.

I didn't know about these until about 6 months ago. I know a person who would be willing to explain how they work along with Donor Advised Funds and Religious Funds.

If you would be interested in hearing a discussion about these things, please let me know. If there is enough interest, I can set up a time for this.

Jim Santala 810-624-2759

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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Fun Night

Put it on your calendar!
February 11, 2026 6pm-8pm
Come play games & cards
Bring your friends.
Pizza & Refreshments supplied
Signup sheet in the Narthex



Happy Hearts

February 9, 2026 noon
Country Carriage Restaurant
Miller Rd.
Swartz Creek

Ladies Lunchly -

February 11, 2026
Liberty Restaurant @ noon
All Ladies are invited

Bible Studies At Holy Cross

Sunday Morning 10am

Monday Evening—Men's Group &
Women's Group @ 7pm

Thursday Morning Bible Study—All
invited 10am

Join the fun in Plarn Mat production!

The next meetings are
February 3rd & 17th at 2:00pm
(No evening plarning)



Upcoming Services:

February 18—Ash Wednesday Service 7pm

Soup Supper @6pm

February 25—March 25 Soup Suppers at 6pm
followed by Lenten Service at 7

March 29 Palm Sunday

April 2 Maundy Thursday at 7

April 3 Good Friday at 7

April 5 Easter Sunday



Soup Supper

Sign up to bring
salad or vegetable

Or a Dessert

Sign up sheet on
the table in the
narthex

