



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

January 2026 Newsletter

Faith and Film 2026

January 12: Wicked for Good

January 19: Zootopia 2

January 26: Song Sung Blue

Holy Cross is going back to the movies! For three Monday nights in January (12, 19 and 26), we will head over to the Phoenix Theatre at Laurel Park (Laurel Park Dr. off of 6 Mile and Newburgh Rd.) at 7:00 pm to see a current movie together. We have a theatre rented solely for Holy Cross! On Sundays, (January 18, 25 and February 1) we will hear a message in worship about the film. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us at the movies! Information about how you can watch Wicked and the first Zootopia movie will be provided soon. Discover how our faith intersects with films of today. Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the film.



SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor: Rev. Scott Seeker

Director of Worship & Music: Kyle Webber

Intern Pastor: Rick Durance

Ministers: The disciples at Holy Cross

Phone: 734-427-1414

Email: office1@holycrosslivonia.org

Website: www.holycrosslivonia.org



Internship, Year Two! Same, But Different

It's hard to believe, but Pastor Rick has been with us a year already! January 1st was the halfway point of his ministry at Holy Cross. We have been blessed by his ministry to us and with us, and have seen him grow as a person and as a leader. I am confident that Year Two will bring more of the same, but there will be some tweaks to how he gets there. This article will help you understand those differences so that you can know what is different and why.

During year one of an internship, the intern usually "drinks through a fire hose." It can be overwhelming. Not only does an intern not know a lot of things, but they often don't know what they don't know. It's hard for an intern to get the right answers when they don't even know the questions. Therefore, the first year of internship tends to be a lot of "I do, you help," where the supervisor (me) is doing a lot of things and the intern lends a hand.

Year Two is different. The intern has been through a whole year. They've done most everything once, at least. They have a foundation. In Year Two, the goal is to strengthen that foundation by building competency. This requires the intern to do more. There is a shift from "I do, you help" to more of "You do, I help." In Year Two, the intern does and I help. I help them prepare, and I help them process afterwards, but they are the ones doing it. You will see this shift play out more and more over the coming year.

A perfect example is on Palm Sunday. One the goals the seminary had for Pastor Rick was for him to gain experience planning and leading worship. So, he is in charge of Palm Sunday. I won't even be here that day. What I will be doing is making myself available to him during the planning, with my door always open for any kind of help that he needs. I will also have my door open *after*, so we can process together how it went: what went well, what can be improved upon, etc. He will do it, and I will help. That is the shift for Year Two of internship, and it is one that will prove a massive help as he enters his first call a year (or so) from now.

Speaking of which, that is another big shift in the second year. During his first year here, he was also a student taking seminary classes. This year, he is not taking any classes, but he will likely be interviewing with churches. There might even be members of another church who come to see him preach and lead worship. This is another important difference in year two.

I am so very proud of the way you have embraced Pastor Rick during his first year of internship, and I know you will do the same during his second year too. Hopefully this gives you a better sense of how. As always, I am happy to answer any questions you have. Here's to another great year with Pastor Rick!

-Pastor Scott

Pilgrimage in 2027

Pastor Scott is considering leading a pilgrimage in 2027. The first choice of destination is the Holy Land, but given the situation there, a trip to visit ancient Christian sites in Greece, Turkey and Rome seems more likely. Tentative date is April 2027, after Easter. There will be an info session on Sunday January 11, 2026, between services in the Meeting Room. If you are interested but cannot attend, please contact Pr. Scott.

Christmas Eve 2025



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those Ill or Recovering or in need of Special Prayers:

Lynda Ashbay	Arlene Fedoroff	Beverly Kunz	Trudy Rigg
Joyce Bigelow	Pat Ferrari	Robert Kunz	Sue Scherbarth
Al Buchfinck	Judi Feutz	Elaine Lempke	George Simmons
Cathy Buchfinck	Bruce Flohr	Julia Machnak	Virginia Smith
Eileen Clements	Larry Foster	Doris Miller	Judy Snider
Carolyn Elliott	Marion Hansen	Rusty Molnar	Terry Snider
Marti Enzmann	Shelby Haupt	David Nims	Dottie Taylor
Linda Erickson	Doris Johnson	Jerry Ransom	Jessica Ward
Greg Ewing	Jack Keck	Jayne Rautenberg	

The Family & Friends of the Following Persons Who Have Died:

Earl Scherbarth Ron Stuebben

To add a name to this list:

Call or email the office, office1@holycrosslivonia.org, put "Prayer Request" in the subject line: include only the request information and a general reason for the request.

Names will be removed after 3 months unless we are updated. Thank you!

What is Cindy's favorite color? Let her know you saw this by January 8th and you may win a prize!



Gratitude Garden

In gratitude for the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love we remember during the Advent season and the opportunities given to offer these gifts, by the way we live our lives, back to God, who shows up in our lives out of the blue.

If you would like to share something you have seen and are grateful for, please send an email to cindy@holycrosslivonia.org

Boiler System Update

Work on our boiler system continues. The focus has been on the delivery system rather than the boiler itself. This is because the boiler is heating water just fine, it has been the rest of the system which has been struggling to deliver the heated water to the correct places. We have informed the company doing the work that we want them to complete their work before the end of the year, and that is their plan. We have not received any bill yet. Once we have all the final details of what was done and how much it all cost, they will be presented to the congregation. We expect to do that in the early months of 2026.

Santa Workshop Response

Thanks to all for your generous contributions to the Santa Workshop for Micah 6! These donations will go a long way in ensuring that many, many families have presents to give their children on Christmas morning! The response has been overwhelming and very humbling to those of us on the committee! What a blessing it was to deliver these gifts to the Micah 6 community!

We also want to thank you for your generous support of Micah 6 all year! From the sock collection, shoes for Summer Slam, winter wear gear in the fall and of course the support of food and paper products for our eight meal serves each year! We could not do this without the support of our wonderful congregation! We are truly blessed to have this support and continue to grow God's reign here in Livonia and Pontiac!

DO JUSTICE*LOVE KINDNESS*WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD

Many Thanks!

Holy Cross WELCA and Lydia Circle would like to thank everyone who donated gifts to Samaritas through our Wish Tree.

A special thank you to all Holy Cross elves for their hard work organizing, sorting and delivering gifts, Tami Klopfer, Peggy Hefner and Bob, Karen and Dennis Tulpa, Jeff Hatteberg, Kim Chartrand, Jeanine Patla and Lisa Hepburn. The Holy Spirit and the love of Christ is active in the hearts of our Holy Cross Community.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

for January

Assisting 8 am/10 am

January 4	Kathy Weaver (8 am) Shari Dudek (10 am)
January 11	Cara Nims (10 am)
January 18	Lunice Clay (10 am)
January 25	Laura Baker (10 am)

Lectors 8 am/10 am

January 4	Cindy Garcia (8 am) Bill Coughlin (10 am)
January 11	Dennis Walker (8 am) Cara Nims (10 am)
January 18	Tami Klopfer (8 am) Lunice Clay (10 am)
January 25	Tim Collins (8 am) Karen Berean (10 am)

Communion Teams (10 am)

January 4	WELCA Team
January 11	Adams Team
January 18	Berean Team
January 25	Dudek Team

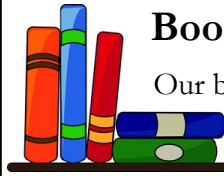
Altar Guild (10 am)

January 4	Val Schulz
January 11	Karen Sheve
January 18	Xxx
January 25	Xxx

Staff Christmas Thanks

The staff of Holy Cross wishes to express our heartfelt thanks for your generous Christmas gifts. We very much appreciate it.

*Thank you!
~ The Holy Cross staff*



Book Club News

Our book for January is
Reckless Girls by
Rachel Hawkins

Join us on January 15, 2:30 pm, for a discussion. Contact Joan Onkka if you would like a copy. We have plenty to share!

Fellowship Servers for January

January 4	Betty Parsley (8 am) Susan Scholz & Linda Haddock 10 am)
January 11	Schrecengost (8 am) Please sign up! (10 am)
January 18	Weavers (8 am) Ruth Circle (10 am)
January 25	Klopfers (8 am) Please sign up! (10 am)

Altar Flowers For January

January 4-25 **Please sign up!**

U of M Lutheran Campus Ministry

The University of Michigan has a thriving campus ministry. Holy Cross receives regular updates via email and letter, and has been invited to bring a meal for their Sunday night dinners. If this is something you would like to learn more about, see Pastor Rick or Pastor Scott. You can learn more about Lutheran Campus Ministry at U of M here: www.lcm-um.org



February
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
 is set for
January 19

Pizza & Game Night

Saturday, January 10 at 6 pm



Open Mic Night Friday, January 16

Refreshments and socializing in
 the Abbey begins at 6:30,
 Open Mic at 7 p.m.

Come play and sing, share your
 original poetry, or just enjoy.

Join our little community! All are welcome!



Able Bodied Help Needed

One of our members is seeking assistance with moving items out of a storage unit. There are no huge items, the biggest thing is a dresser. The helpers do not need to be bodybuilders, just able to move things like boxes of books. This person needs help because even modest items are beyond their physical capacity. If you are interested in helping, contact Pastor Scott and he will connect you to the person in need to make arrangements. Three or four people to help would be ideal.

QUILTING BEE

Mark your calendar
 for upcoming quilting days
 in January!

Wed., Jan. 7 & Thur., Jan. 15

Please join us for this much loved ministry!
 Questions? Contact Susan, 248-974-8899.

We believe all people are created in God's image.
 We are passionate about the radical hospitality that Jesus showed all people,
 and are committed to being a place of that same hospitality.
 We welcome all people to our life and ministry together –
 in worship, at the font, at the table, and in fellowship.
 We commit ourselves to embracing the work of anti-racism
 and social and economic justice.
 We affirm we are all beloved children of God,
**whatever our race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation,
 gender expression, age, physical or cognitive abilities,
 or any other category society uses to differentiate between people.**
 We are Holy Cross and you are welcome here!



*There is no longer Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female;
 for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28*

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
30650 Six Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48152-3499

Our mission:
Claimed, Met, Called and Sent to be
God's People Doing God's Work

Our vision:
To be a community of faith
where people are inspired and equipped
for a journey of living lives
centered in Christ

*You are invited to give
an offering using this
QR code.*



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