

## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

2033 Kaskaskia Rd

Sunday School/Table Talks 9:00 a.m.

Rev. Royal Boeder, Interim Pastor

Rev. Tyler McMiller, Missionary

Michael Conroy, Seminarian

Office: 618-458-6680

Email: [holycros@htc.net](mailto:holycros@htc.net)

Website: [holycrossrenault.org](http://holycrossrenault.org)

Wayne Johanning, Organist

1853 – “COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE” – 2026

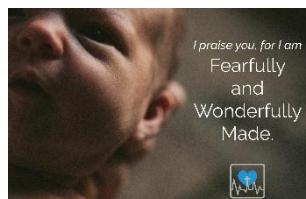
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## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY



January 18, 2026

Life Sunday



**Welcome:** Everyone is cordially welcome to this time of worship, study, and fellowship that we share together in Christ. May each of us grow in faith, that Christ be the center of our life and the Source of new Life - Life everlasting. May the Holy Spirit lead you to worship with us again.

### Our Worship on the Second Sunday after the Epiphany:

The Liturgy: ..... LSB Divine Service Three, p. 184

Opening Hymn: ..... LSB 412 The People That in Darkness Sat

Sermon Hymn: ..... LSB 557 Seek Where You May to Find a Way

Distribution Hymns: LSB 396 Arise and Shine in Splendor

LSB 411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

LSB 810 O God of God, O Light of Light

Closing Hymn: ..... LSB 918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Gospel: John 1:29-42a

The Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

**Together in Mission:** January is the first month in 2026 that is set aside to receive gifts for Together in Mission. Please place your gift in the “Special Mission” envelope that is in your offering envelope box.

Renault, Illinois

Worship 10:00 a.m.

### How We Praised the Lord Last Week in The Parish:

Worship Attendance: ..... 84; a year ago, ..... 45

Sunday School: ..... 16; a year ago, ..... 11

Adult Bible Class: ..... 14; a year ago, ..... 9

### At Work and Worship This Week in The Parish:

Wednesday: Confirmation Class ..... 5:00 p.m.

February Voice deadline

Saturday: Pastor James Stefanic's Installation ..... 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: Sunday School & Table Talks ..... 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service ..... 10:00 a.m.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week in The Parish:

January 19 – Linda Keller

22 – Mark Seboldt

21 – Xavier Melliere

22 – Peyton Siebuhr

21 – Abigail Stefanic

**Thank you** to everyone at Holy Cross for the unloading help, the warm welcomes, the gracious provision, and everything else you have done for our family. There are far too many to thank by name. We are very excited to be here and looking forward to the time the Lord will grant us with our Holy Cross family. Peace, *The Stefanics*

**Beginning next Sunday**, join us each Sunday morning at 9am for a Bible Study on the book of Exodus. On January 25th Pastor Stefanic will lead us through a general introduction to this book of Moses, and we will discuss chapter 1.

**If you need to reach Pastor Stefanic**, his personal email is [ijstefanic15@gmail.com](mailto:ijstefanic15@gmail.com) or phone # 414-305-8565.

### Serving on Sunday January 25:

Head Usher: Don Roth

Ushers: Mark Ottoson, Tim Doughtery

Bob Schultheis, Larry Mueller

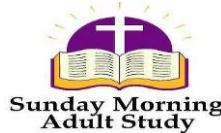
Acolyte: Bella Corona

Counters: Jim & Connie Seboldt



**Thank you** Pastor Royal Boeder for being our Interim Pastor this past year. Holy Cross was truly blessed.

**Sunday School:** In our Christian education time this week, we study the account of Daniel in “A Trap and a Release.” Daniel’s promotion to a high leadership role in Babylon causes political jealousy among other leaders. King Darius decrees that everyone must worship only him, but Daniel remains faithful to the one true God, praying three times daily. The king condemns Daniel to the lions’ den, but God’s angel shuts the lions’ mouths so Daniel remains unharmed. Discuss how God protects His people from danger today.



**Table Talks: PHILIPPIANS:** Paul had a warm and close relationship with the people of Philippi. We will look at the history of that relationship and then study this letter that God inspired Paul to write to the congregation at Philippi as they were instructed in God’s salvation and lived by the knowledge of God’s will in their lives.

**Communion:** Because the serving of the Lord’s Body and Blood is an act of pastoral care, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith confessed at this altar, any who are not currently members of this congregation, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, please speak with the pastor before the service.

**Communion Wine:** The wine is offered in the individual glasses. If for health or personal reasons you cannot drink full strength wine, the lighter color glasses in the middle of the tray contain a small amount of wine mixed with water. This allows communicants to receive the Sacrament without health concerns.

Who doesn't love chocolate? Who doesn't love tea?

# afternoon tea

Join us on  
Sunday, February 15, 2026  
from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## for “A Chocolate Life Tea”

All women of the congregation are invited and welcome to bring a family member or guests to enjoy our afternoon.

Registration will begin at 1:45 p.m.

Please bring your favorite teacup and saucer to use for the afternoon.

The program will include a Bible Study, a Chocolate Tasting, Yummy Desserts, and Fellowship.

Questions?  
Ask Linda Keller  
Call 618-458-6896 or  
text 618-340-1957



### 2026 Calendar of Upcoming Events:

- Jan 21: February Voice Deadline
- Jan 21: Confirmation Class 5:00 pm
- Jan 24: Rev. James Stefanic's Installation 3:00 pm
- Jan 26: Congregational/Voters' Meeting 7:00pm
- Jan 28: Confirmation Class 5:00 pm
- Feb 4: Women's Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm
- Feb 4: Confirmation Class 5:00 pm
- Feb 4: Elders' Meeting 7:00 pm
- Feb 6: Movie Night 7:00 pm
- Feb 8: Council Meeting 11:00 am
- Feb 10: Bd of Community Outreach 7:00 pm
- Feb 11: Confirmation Class 5:00 pm
- Feb 11: SS Teachers & Bd of Ch. Ed 7:30 pm
- Feb 15: Friendship Sunday
- Feb 15: Ladies “A Chocolate Life Tea” 2 pm – 4 pm
- Feb 18: Confirmation Class 5:00 pm
- Feb 18: Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
- Feb 25: Confirmation Class 5pm /Lenten Service 7pm
- Mar 4: Confirmation Class 5pm /Lenten Service 7pm
- Mar 4: Elders' Meeting 8:15 pm
- Mar 8: Council Meeting 11:00 am
- Mar 11: Confirmation Class 5pm /Lenten Service 7pm
- Mar 18: Confirmation Class 5:00 pm
- Mar 18: Lenten Service 7:00 pm
- Mar 25: Confirmation Class 5:00 pm
- Mar 25: Lenten Service 7:00 pm
- Mar 29: Palm/Confirmation Sunday 10:00 am
- Apr 2: Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm
- Apr 3: Good Friday 7:00 pm
- Apr 5: Easter 6:30 & 10:00 am
- Jun 22 – 26: VBS Week



**In Our Prayers:** Johanna Dougherty; Larry Matzenbacher; Kathy Baker; Jim Keller; Glen Meyer; Joe Whelan; Ella Guebert.

**Rich in years members:** Anita Mueller; Laverne Hinrichs; Virginia Strong; Roger Johnson; Wilma Heller; Marlene Deterding; Mary Veach; Roger Toenjes.

**friends and family of members:** Jo Ann Candler; Andrea Kuehner; Dave Moore; Floyd Higgerson; Rosemary Schultheis; Riley Foster; Kenneth Kelley; Ashley Schrader; Randy Wetzler; Evelyn Marquardt; Doris Wilson; Allison Ford; Zachary Glenn; Carolyn Henry; Janine Drury; Troy Biernbaum.

**Members, family, and friends in the military:** John Michael Glossip; Brett Biernbaum; Luke Crider; Gage Baldwin; Madelyn Brown; Stephen Beaulieu; Cameron Hill; Cameron Jackson.

## Pastoral Installation

Rev. James Stefanic

Saturday, January 24, 2026

3:00 p.m.

Potluck meal after the service.

Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy provided.

Please bring a salad, vegetable or dessert.

Signup sheet at church



**Voters' Meeting:** The first congregational/voters' meeting in 2026 will be held on Monday, January 26 at 7:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend. Anyone who would like to become a voting member, please contact Jim Seboldt.

## Holy Cross Movie Night

Featuring: "Cars"

Friday, February 6, 2026

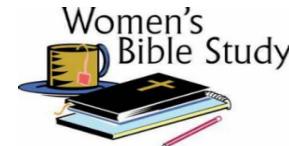
7:00 pm

HC Social Hall

Snacks & drinks provided

Bring your family and friends!

Lawn chairs, pillows & Blankets are optional.



Feb 4, 2026, 10 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in Social Hall

Our Bible study will be from the Winter Quarterly on page 18-19. The title is "What-Is-Hap-pen-ing?" We go through many trials in our lives. We feel we have gotten over the hump, but it is just a bump in a long road of potholes. Join us to find out where we can go for comfort in the book of Psalms.



Wednesday, February 4  
7:00 pm



Sunday, February 8  
11:00 am



Tuesday, February 10  
7:00 pm



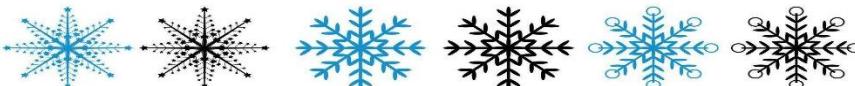
Wednesday, February 11  
7:30 pm

Board of  
**CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**



## Holy Cross Friendship Sunday February 15, 2026

Friendship Sunday is being celebrated on February 15 at 10:00 a.m. On this Day of Transfiguration, we view Jesus in all His glory as we ascend the mountaintop through the eyes of faith—standing alongside the apostolic trio of Peter, James, and John as they view Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. All members of Holy Cross, including children, are urged to invite any number of friends and acquaintances.



**Everyone is invited** to a hymn festival commemorating the liturgical Festival of the Conversion of St. Paul on January 25. Four SID churches named 'St. Paul' will join together for this hymn festival that afternoon: St. Paul's Columbia, St. Paul Hamel, St. Paul's Troy, and St. Paul Wood River. **The Hymn Festival will be Jan. 25, 2026 at 3:00 PM at St. Paul's Troy, 112 N. Border St., Troy, IL.** Hymn commentaries will be provided by pastors of the participating churches. The organist will be Joseph Meador from St. Paul, Wood River and MELHS. The choir conductor will be Karen Shimkus from St. Paul's, Troy and St. Paul's, Columbia. The accompanist will be Kantor Janet Muth from St. Paul, Hamel. Singers and instrumentalists from all 4 churches and MELHS will participate.

In the spirit of St. Paul, a mission offering will be collected for the Seminario Concordia El Reformador in the Dominican Republic (a mission partner of the SID).

**St. John's Lutheran Church in Ruma and St. Peter's Lutheran Church** in Evansville are once again hosting a series of six presentations on the Bible. This year's Bible Presentations will focus on Hebrews 11 and its list of great Old Testament men and women who lived by the faith worked in them by God, their Father. Light refreshments will be served after each presentation.

TODAY, join us at St. John's Lutheran Church in Ruma at 1:30 pm. The topic will be an introduction to Hebrews 11 and God's working faith in those who believe in the Genesis account of Creation. The presentation will be by Rev. Jonathan Winterfeldt, St. John's Ruma/St. Peter's Evansville.

Tuesday, January 20, join us at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Evansville at 6 pm. The topic will be the faith of Cain and Abel, Enoch, and Noah. The presentation will be by Rev. Scott Hojnacki, Trinity Lutheran, Red Bud.

Sunday, January 25, join us at St. John's Lutheran Church in Ruma at 1:30 pm. The topic will be the faith of Abraham and Sarah. The presentation will be by Rev. Tony Troup, Retired.

Tuesday, January 27, join us at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Evansville at 6 pm. The topic will be the faith of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. The presentation will be by Rev. John Lukomski, Retired.

Sunday, February 1, join us at St. John's Lutheran Church in Ruma at 1:30 pm. The topic will be the faith of Moses and the Exodus. The presentation will be by Rev. Randy Fischer, Retired.

Tuesday, February 3, join us at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Evansville at 6 pm. The topic will be the faith of "The Rest and Conclusion". The presentation will be by Rev. Rodney Benkendorf, Hanover Lutheran, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

# Come explore The Bible with us!

Introduction to Chapter 11 and Creation  
**Sunday, Jan. 18**  
Presenter: Rev. Joshua Whitehill, St. John Ruma St. Peter Evansville

Cain and Abel, Enoch, and Noah  
**Tuesday, Jan. 20**  
Presenter: Rev. Scott Honacki, Trinity LC, Red Bud

Abraham and Sarah  
**Sunday, Jan. 25**  
Presenter: Rev. Tony Troup, Retired

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph  
**Tuesday, Jan. 27**  
Presenter: Rev. John Lukomski, Retired

Moses and the Exodus  
**Sunday, Feb. 1**  
Presenter: Rev. Randy Fischer, Retired

**The Rest and Conclusion**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 3**  
Presenter: Rev. Rodney Benjamin, Hanover LC, Cape Girardeau, MO

**Sundays at 1:30 p.m.**  
St. John's - Ruma  
8446 1st Rd., Ruma  
Light refreshments served.

**Tuesdays at 6 p.m.**  
St. Peter's - Evansville  
900 Church St., Evansville  
Light refreshments served.

All are welcome!  
No cost to attend!

**Follow us on Facebook for updates!**  
For more information, please contact Nathan Koester at 618-528-2395.

## Hymn Festival

The Conversion of St. Paul, January 25, 2026 – 3:00 PM  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 112 N. Border St., Troy, IL



Featuring choirs and instrumentalists from:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Columbia, IL

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hamel, IL

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Troy, IL

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wood River, IL

Metro East Lutheran High School, Edwardsville, IL



Hymn Commentaries by pastors of  
the participating churches



## A Mission Offering will be collected to benefit Seminario Concordia El Reformador

The Southern Illinois District Convention approved to establish a partnership with Seminario Concordia El Reformador as the new foreign mission partner. The seminary, located in the Dominican Republic, serves Spanish-speaking Lutherans from all over Central and South America by training pastors and deaconesses who then plant churches in their home countries. The seminary is part of Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Confesional, the church body in fellowship with the LCMS in the Dominican Republic.

"You then, my child, be strengthened by grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:1-2