

HOLY CROSS VOICE

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
2033 Kaskaskia Road
Renault, Illinois 62279



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October 2026

A Pastoral Perspective

October Celebrations

October has me thinking about Reformation Day and Wurstmarkt. I’ve participated in many Reformation Day celebrations, but I’ve never participated in Wurstmarkt. That will be something new for me but old hat for most of you. I am looking forward to embracing that “new” tradition into my life.

Those two festivities coincide this year. Though Reformation Day is officially October 31st, it’s most often celebrated on the last Sunday of October. So, this October 25th we will rejoice in a great feast day in the church and then rejoice in a great feast in Renault.

It may not seem as if these two events are all that connected. But give a pastor an inch, and he will take a mile!

A theme of the Lutheran Reformation is *sola gratia*. We are saved by grace alone. We are not saved by our strength, merits, or works. Jesus alone can save. It is by grace you have been saved through faith. It’s not your doing. It’s the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Jesus wins forgiveness by His death on the cross. God put His Son forward as an atoning sacrifice, or as a propitiation, for our sins (Romans 3:25). We have sinned but God declares us righteous on account of the work of His Son.

That is grace.

Now this grace of God doesn’t stay at Calvary. We don’t go to the cross of Jesus. We don’t travel back in time to be sprinkled by His blood. The grace of God is delivered to us now through means. We call them the means of grace.

The particular means of grace I want to focus on is Holy Communion. Wurstmarkt requires a lot of effort on the part of the congregation. There’s much work to be done so that meals can be served. The Lord’s Supper is a meal in which we simply open our mouths. Jesus gives Himself to us. We partake of Christ’s body and blood, according to His institution, for the forgiveness of sins. Grace is delivered to us. The forgiveness won on Calvary is now received.

Why do we need this grace of God? We need it because we still struggle with sin. We never get over needing forgiveness in this life, and Jesus

promises to give forgiveness in His holy meal. Christians go where Jesus has promised His forgiveness. Thus, we go to Holy Communion at our Lord’s bidding because of His promise.

The first point of connection between Reformation Day and Wurstmarkt is a meal. But there’s more.

What is new for me will be old for you. I’d be interested to find out if anyone has been part of every Wurstmarkt! There are so many traditions and practices I am eager to learn and participate in.

Sometimes what seems new is old. So it is with the idea of celebrating the Lord’s Supper every Sunday.

The Bible teaches us that after Christ’s resurrection, Ascension, and the gift of the Spirit on Pentecost, the Lord’s Supper, the breaking of the bread, was celebrated day after day. **“And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts” (Acts 2:46).** Indeed, **“they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42).**

They devoted themselves to the means of the grace.

The Lutheran reformers also desired to keep what was of old. Article XXIV of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession says, “Among us the Mass [Lord’s Supper] is celebrated every Lord’s day and on other festivals, when the sacrament is made available to those who wish to partake of it, after they have been examined and absolved.”

There’s a long and sordid history as to why weekly communion came to be abnormal in United States Lutheranism. But the practice of weekly communion, which may be new to many, is the old practice. It is the historic practice of the Lutheran Church and is grounded in Holy Scripture. *(Pastoral Perspective continued page 2)*



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(Pastoral Perspective from page 1)

That is why we will begin to have conversations on moving to weekly communion at Holy Cross and why the next few months of newsletters will be devoted to the topic.

Happy October! Blessed Reformation Day and happy wurstmarkt to all! God give us all eyes to see that the most blessed and holy meal he gives is the Supper of His grace.

Peace,

Pastor Stefanic



Our members says thank you....

Thanks Sandy, for taking me out to lunch and a friendly visit. The Board of Community Outreach definitely needs to be applauded for putting together such a wonderful program. It was so wonderful to see such a warm response to all the work that Sharon Bartosik and the committee of Sandy Schultheis, Sandra Ottoson, and Gina Matzenbacher did. Thanks to Bob Keller for cooking the delicious pork. Thanks to all those attending who brought along their favorite recipes. Thankful that 34 of my family attended.

Ginny

Thank you to the Board of Community Outreach, Sharon Bartosik, Sandra Ottoson, Sandy Schultheis and Gina Matzenbacher for the excellent job they did in planning and holding the Rich in Years celebration. They worked hard at making everything work well.

Thanks also to Pastor Stefanic for leading the worship service; John Mark Stefanic for reading the Grandparents Tribute, Wayne Johanning for the organ music, Sunday School children for playing the bells, to groundskeepers for preparing the area, to everyone who helped set up the day before and cleaned up after the service. Especially thank you Lord, for the beautiful weather and the opportunity to share a joyful time in fellowship. Everything was truly appreciated.

Holy Cross Family

Thank you to Sandy Ottoson for bringing me the floral arrangement and the lotions to me for Rich in Years. The gifts are appreciated, but what I enjoyed the most was the time to visit with her. It was nice to visit with someone from Holy Cross and a friend. I regret that I was unable to attend the service and celebration at Holy Cross. I miss all of you and worshipping with you at Holy Cross. God bless you all.

Wilma



Holy Cross

and LWML



Holy Cross Women's Bible Study and LWML

We will meet on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 10:00am and 7:00pm in the social hall.

Our Bible study will be

"Humble Service"

on pages 17 in the Fall 2026

Lutheran Woman's Quarterly.

Join us, for a study of God's word, as we look at our blessings in disguise all around us. Please bring your Bible, mites and plan to attend.



October Voters' & Council meeting

The October Voters' Meeting will be held on Monday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. It will be held in the church. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend. The main item on the agenda will be the 2027 budget. The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.



Spiritual Discipline (October):

Attend Education Hour & Divine Service Every Sunday

Hymn of the Month (September):

LSB #555 "Salvation unto Us Has Come"



*****Remember*****

Wurstmarkt Sunday, October 25

Worship Service 9:00 am

Sunday School 10:00 am

No Adult Bible Class "Education Hour"

Flyers are available at the back of church.

See pages 5, 6 & 8 for more information.



2026 APPLE BUTTER DAYS

It was a very hot day on Friday, September 18 when 15 bushels of apples were peeled and cut into small chunks by 28 people. There were a number of fans running in the old hall and all the windows were opened as well.

Cooking day started at 6:00 using headlights to see. The goal was to get finished as soon as possible due to the temperature being well into the 90's. There were 4 kettles of apples on the fires by 6:30. By midafternoon we had filled 287 pints as well as 50 quarts. Jenny Candler calculated that to be 48.375 gallons.

As always there was quite a selection of baked goods to enjoy on both days as well as sausage/cheese on Saturday and various other goodies. We had about 50 members and nonmembers of all ages, including our LYF members to help with all the work. Our nine Stefanic family kids and the six others who came made for a lot of fun for all.

This was the first time that the Stefanics ever encountered making apple butter and it seemed like they all enjoyed the experience.



Shower gift ideas if you don't want to go thru Amazon Baby Registry:

baby play mat, onesies of all sizes, Huggies diapers (all sizes), wipes, diaper cream, etc., silicone pocket bibs, drool bibs, stainless steel toddler silverware, muslin swaddle blankets, white noise machine, baby booties (snap on), socks, baby toothbrush, board books



Board of Community Outreach
(By Sharon Bartosik)

September 13, 2026
Rich in Years Sunday

What a celebration! It began with the Board of Community Outreach members getting to have one-on-one visits with each of the Rich in Years members. It was a joy for our Board to have this opportunity to spend time with them. They were given a personalized invitation inviting them to bring their family along to church for the Rich In Years worship service which included a potluck meal and fellowship in the hall afterwards.

It takes a lot of people to put this event together and the Board appreciated all that help. We would like to thank Pastor Stefanic for the worship service and warm welcome, the youth bell choir for the beautiful hymn, Wayne Johanning for the organ accompaniment at the service, and John Mark for his presentation of the Tribute to our honored guests. Also, thanks to Suzanne Wilson for all the publishing required for this event.

We had 136 attending the worship service and around 97 who stayed for the meal and fellowship. We thank all those members and guests who helped set up the hall ahead of time, with meal prep and all the clean up later. We don't want to forget to mention the food at the meal. We have a lot of good cooks who brought delicious sides and desserts. Also, thanks to Bob Keller for cooking the pulled pork for us.

We had some fun challenges for those in attendance. There were items with a little age to them, set out on a table that everyone could take a guess at to determine what they were. We had two winners to the number of candies in the container game. The lucky winners were Helen Koch and Raya Lambert.

We wish God's Blessings to our fellow Rich in Years members who were unable to join us in worship and fellowship on this day. Let's all continue to include them in our church family by giving them a friendly call or sending them a caring note.

* * * * *

If you would like to receive your monthly Voice by email, please send a note to holycross@htc.net. Please let the office know if you have a new address, phone # or email.



****CELEBRATING IN OCTOBER****

God's Blessings to Holy Cross

October Birthdays

- 1 – Mary Mueller
- 4 – Matthias Henry
- 6 – Kathy Baker
- 8 – Sue Kunkel
- 9 - Clancy Roth
- 12 – CJ Veach III
- 13 – Marlene Deterding
- 13 – Christi Keller
- 14 – Justin Braun
- 14 – Kathryn Kelley
- 14 – Gina Matzenbacher
- 16 – Dwight Jacobs
- 16 – Erica Lenhardt
- 17 – Evan Keller
- 17 – John Mark Stefanic
- 17 – Abbie Yearian
- 18 – Audrey Pape
- 20 – Mike Melching
- 25 – Evelyn Gross
- 29 – Steven Mosbacher
- 31 – Kinsey Schultheis



October Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Jeremy & Caitlin Roth | October 1, 2016 |
| Nick & Tara Lanoue | October 3, 2020 |
| Mark & Sandra Ottoson | October 12, 1996 |
| Leland & Wendy Mueller | October 20, 1984 |
| Bobby & Karen Schultheis | October 21, 1995 |

Calendar of Upcoming Oct Events:

- Oct 2: Friday Morning Bible Study 10:15 am
- Oct 4: SS Mission Sunday/Trinity Sausage Dinner
- Oct 5-6: SID Pastors' Conference, Columbia
- Oct 6: Board of Community Outreach 7:00 pm
- Oct 7: Confirmation Class 6:00 pm
- Oct 7: Wm Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm
- Oct 7: Elders' Meeting 7:00 pm
- Oct 9: Friday Morning Bible Study 10:15 am
- Oct 11: LWML Sunday
- Oct 13: Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- Oct 14: Confirmation Class 6:00 pm
- Oct 14: SS Teachers & Bd Of Ch Ed Mtg 7:15 pm
- Oct 16: Friday Morning Bible Study 10:15 am
- Oct 17: Church Workday for Wurstmart 8:00 am
- Oct 18: Planning Your Legacy 6:30 pm
- Oct 19: Voters' Meeting 7:00 pm
- Oct 21: Confirmation Class 6:00 pm
- Oct 21: November Voice Deadline
- Oct 23: Friday Morning Bible Study 10:15 am
- Oct 23: Lower Kaskaskia Zone Fall Fellowship
- Oct 25: HC Wurstmart
- Oct 27-29: Pastor @ SID Pastoral Rest & Respite Retreat
- Oct 30: Friday Morning Bible Study 10:15 am
- Oct 31: Circuit Reformation Hymn Festival @ St. Paul's Columbia

Scheduled to Serve in October

October 4:
Elder: Bill Kunkel
Head Usher: Don Roth
Ushers: Bob Keller, Mark Ottoson, Donald Schultheis, Austin Melliere
Acolyte: Cailyn Wilson
Counters: Bill & Sue Kunkel

October 11:
Head Usher: Kyle Guebert
Ushers: Kenny Schultheis, Bob Keller Bob Schultheis, Dwight Jacobs
Acolyte: Elizabeth Stefanic
Counters: Gina Matzenbacher & Bonnie Meyer

October 18:
Elder: Mark Ottoson
Head Usher: Jim Seboldt
Ushers: Tim Dougherty, Bella Corona Matt Keller, Tad Henry
Acolyte: Elijah Stefanic
Counters: Kenny & Sandy Schultheis

October 25:
Head Usher: Mark Seboldt
Ushers: Wayne Seders, Steve Henry Neil Huntley, John Mark Stefanic
Acolyte: Andrew Candler
Counters: Bob & Linda Keller

Calendar of Upcoming November & December Events:

- Nov 1: All Saints Day
- Nov 4: Women's Bible Study 10:00 am / 7:00 pm
- Nov 4: Confirmation Class 6:00 pm
- Nov 4: Elders' Meeting 7:30 pm
- Nov 6, 13, 20, 27: Friday Bible Study 10:15 am
- Nov 7: Sarah's Baby Shower 11:00 am
- Nov 8: Recognition of our Military Veterans
- Nov 8: Council Meeting 11:00 am
- Nov 11: Veterans' Day
- Nov 11: Confirmation Class 6:00 pm
- Nov 18: Confirmation Class 6:00 pm
- Nov 19: Dec. Voice deadline
- Nov 26: Thanksgiving Day
- Dec 2: Confirmation Class 6:00 pm
- Dec 2: Advent Service 7:30 pm
- Dec 2: Elders' Meeting 8:15 pm
- Dec 4, 11, 18: Friday Bible Study 10:15 am
- Dec 6: Election Meeting 11:00 am
- Dec 6: Christmas Eve Practice 11:15 am
- Dec 9: Confirmation Class 6:00 pm
- Dec 9: Advent Service 7:30 pm
- Dec 11: January Voice Deadline
- Dec 13: Christmas Eve Practice 11:00 am
- Dec 16: Confirmation Class 6:00 pm
- Dec 16: Advent Service 7:30 pm
- Dec 20: Christmas Eve Practice 11:00 am
- Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm
- Dec 25: Christmas Day Service 9:00 am

WURSTMARKT News



(By Laura Henry)

Our **80th Annual Wurstmarkt** will be held on **Sunday, October 25, 2026**.

Wurstmarkt Workday is scheduled for **Saturday, October 17, 2026**, beginning at **8:00 a.m.**



- *If you are unable to help on October 17, a work list will be available on the social hall kitchen counter by September 19th (Apple butter cook day). Please consider completing a task before Workday and checkmark/initial completed items. Your help, whether on Workday or beforehand, is greatly appreciated.*

Scheduling Reminder:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
As we begin scheduling work times, we would appreciate hearing from anyone who has special scheduling requests. **If you are unable to work, have a preferred job assignment or need a specific shift, notify a committee member by Sunday, September 13.** We will do our best to accommodate all requests received by that time.

Receiving this information in advance makes it much easier to prepare the work schedules. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak with any committee member. Thank you for your cooperation and willingness to serve. We appreciate all you do to help make the Wurstmarkt a success.

In Christ's service,

Kitchen Committee: Laura Henry, Sandra Ottoson, Kinsey Schultheis, Brenda Seboldt

Butchering Committee: Jason Bartosik, Donald Schultheis, Kenny Schultheis, Wayne Seders



gg80332184 GoGraph.com

(By Betty Gross)

With the Wurstmarkt, October 25, fast approaching, it is time to start planning some craft items to sell in our Country Store. Homemade items seem to sell the best. All jellies, jams, and of course, the Hot Pepper Jelly always sell out. Let's all put on our thinking hats and get creative this year. We will need grab bags again this year. Boy & girl bags are available in the old social hall. Thank you.

Holy Cross Women's Bible Study
and LWML News
October 2026
by Linda Keller



- On September 2nd, 11 ladies met for our Bible Study and we collected \$180.00 in Mites. If you are unable to attend, you may always place your Mites in an envelope, marked for **Mites**, and place them in the offering plate during the morning service. These offerings support programs in our district and those of the National LWML organization.
- Our next Bible Study will be on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 10:00am and 7:00pm in the social hall.
- Our Bible Study will be from the Fall Quarterly, titled "**Humble Service**", **pages 17-19**. Copies of the bible study are available in the back of church on the Ushers' table. Pick on up and join us on **October 7th** !
- **The Lower Kaskaskia Zone Fall Fellowship**, Friday, October 23, 2026—8:30-11:30am, St. Paul Lutheran Church (Wine Hill), 11854 Wine Hill Road, Steeleville, IL 62288

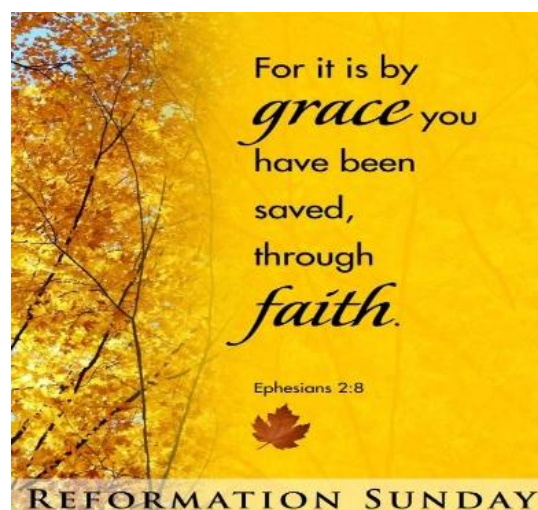
Theme: "To All Nations.....Go!

Scripture Verse: Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Guest Speaker: Alice Decker—Mission Trips



REMINDER

Information for the
October Voice
is needed by
*****October 21 *****



October 25, 2026

Praise the Father for ...
Pastor James Stefanic
& Sarah:

The Lord works in
wondrous ways through you.
You are an expression of
God's Love.
Hebrews 6:10



For our VICAR
Michael, Arianna & Jude Conway



&
For our Missionary
Rev. Tyler, Yanela, Lia & Alessia
McMiller



80th Annual

WURSTMARKT



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Renault, Illinois

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026
Dine In: Noon – 4:00 p.m.
Carry Out: Noon – 5:00 p.m.
Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

MENU:

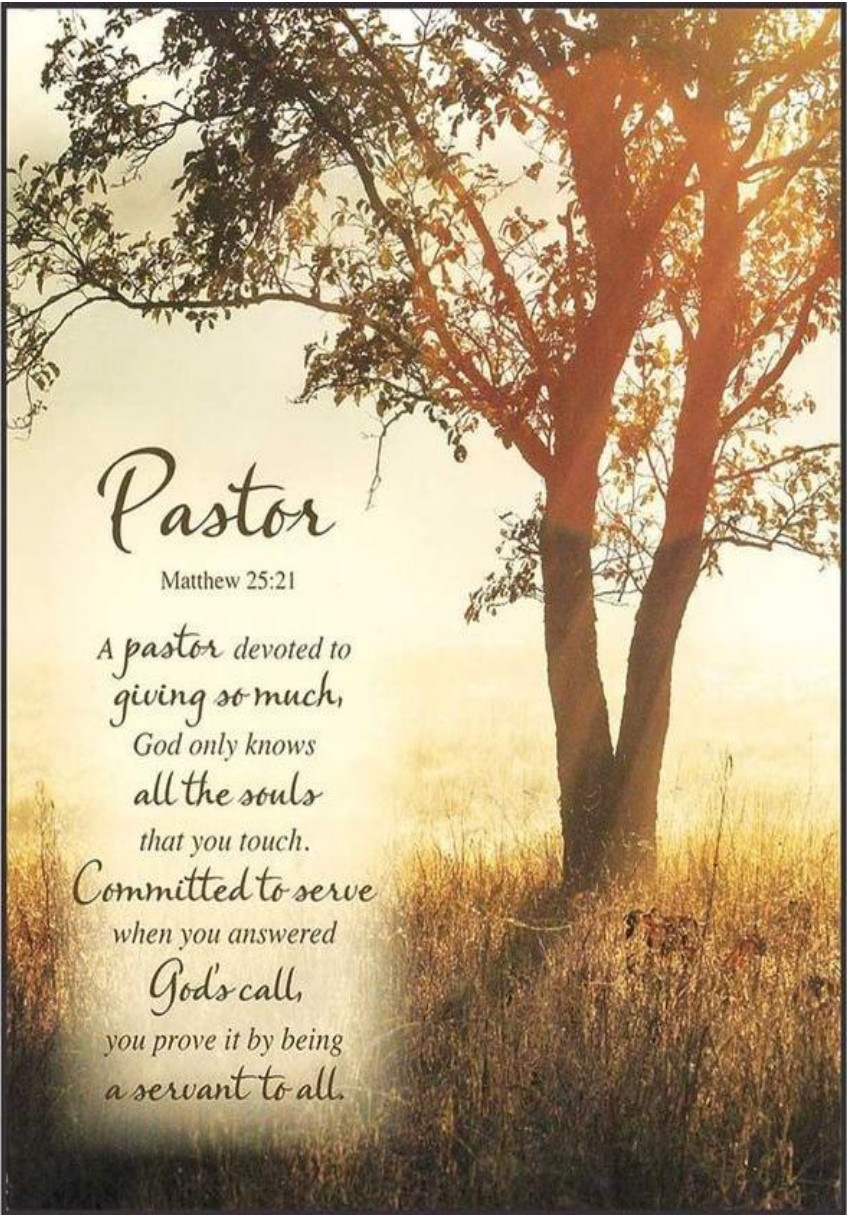
Pork sausage, mashed potatoes, milk gravy, sauerkraut, corn,
green beans, cranberry sauce, applesauce, apple butter,
homemade pies, coffee & lemonade

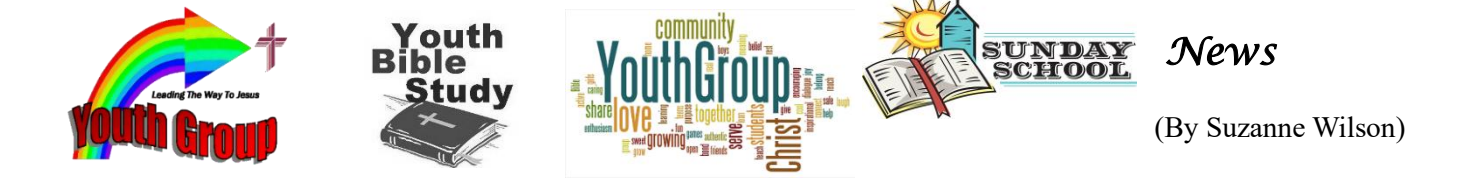
ADULTS \$15.00 - CHILDREN (6-12) \$7.00 - CHILDREN (5 & UNDER) FREE (DINE IN ONLY)
(CASH OR CHECK ONLY)

COUNTRY STORE:

Fresh Meat, Apple Butter, Home Baked Goods and Crafts in a
Beautiful Country Setting.

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE DINING/RESTROOMS



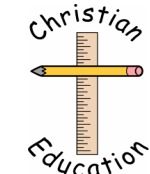


(By Jenny Candler)

Six LYF members helped with making Apple Butter on September 19. We are planning a fall activity on October 3 possibly a corn maze at a local farm. We will elect our officers and decide when we will set up our soda stand at our next meeting on October 11. Our next fundraiser is selling soda and candy at the Wurstmartk on October 25. Jenny will send out a work schedule in a couple of weeks

Acolyte October Schedule:

- 4: Cailyn
- 11: Elizabeth
- 18: Elijah
- 25: Andrew



Sunday School Teachers & Board of Christian Education Meeting:
October 14 at 7:15 pm



Winning Kickball team

Sloppy Jo Cookoff

Thank you to everyone who were able to stay and vote for their favorite recipe on September 6. A special thank you to all the participants who made their Sloppy Jos: Sarah Stefanic, Johanna Dougherty, Bob Keller, Suzanne Wilson and the winning recipe from Sandra Ottoson.



We played the bells “Seek Ye First” on Rich in Years Sunday. John Mark gave the Grandparents Tribute.



God's blessings to our October birthdays:

Matthias Henry,
Evan Keller, & John Mark Stefanic

Happy October baptismal anniversaries:



Jenny Candler, Amos Matthews,
Oliver Keller, Charles B, and
John Mark.
Celebrating on October 18.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- October 4: Mission Sunday
- October 25 – Wurstmartk Sunday
Sunday School is at 10:00 am
- November 8 – TBA
- December 6 – Christmas Eve practice 11:15 am
- December 13 – Christmas Eve practice 11:30 am
- December 20 – practice during Sunday School
Christmas Eve practice 11:00 am
- December 24 – Children’s Christmas Eve
Service 7:00 pm

SEPTEMBER MISSION PROJECT

Collecting monetary items for the
LCMS Disaster Response & Training
for



****Sunday School will join the Adult Bible Class in the Social hall on October 4 for our Mission Sunday Speaker, Rev. Dr. Brian Heller with LCMS Disaster Response & Training. ****

SS Scheduled to Serve in October:

- Oct 4:** Offering Usher: Matty
- Oct 13:** Acolyte: Bella
Am. Flag: Elijah
Ch Flag: Hannah
Greeter: Andrew
Offering Usher: Joshua
Pledge Boards: Craig
- Oct 20:** Acolyte: Tad
Am. Flag: Elizabeth
Ch Flag: Abigail
Greeter: John Mark
Offering Usher: Rebekah
Pledge Boards: Miriam
- Oct 27:** Wurstmart Sunday
(Sunday School after Worship Service)

Our 80th Annual

WURSTMARKT

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Renault, Illinois

October 25, 2026

Dine In 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Carry-outs until 5:00 pm

Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

MENU

	Pork Sausage	
Mashed Potatoes	Milk Gravy	Sauerkraut
Corn	Green Beans	Applesauce
Apple Butter	Homemade Pie	Cranberry Sauce
Coffee		Lemonade

KITCHEN COMMITTEE

Laura Henry, Sandra Ottoson,
Brenda Seboldt

BUTCHERING COMMITTEE

Jason Bartosik, Donald Schultheis,
Kenny Schultheis, Wayne Seders

EACH FAMILY PLEASE BRING

- 3 homemade pies for the dining room
- Bakery item for the Country Store
- Butter or stick margarine (Members whose last name begins with A through K)
- Milk (Members whose last name begins with L through Z)

CLEANING & SET-UP DAY

Saturday, October 17, 2026 8:00 a.m.

Please come and work with your fellow members to help prepare the church for our annual Wurstmarkt. The job becomes lighter when there are more people...men, women; young and old.

CLEANING & SET-UP DAY LIST

If you are not available to come help on October 18th, the clean-up/workday list will be available in the social hall kitchen by the last Sunday in September. Please mark off any job you complete prior to the workday.

~Thank you!

BAKED GOODS

- Country Store items should be marked with their flavor.
- Cookies should be packaged with 6 or 12 per container.
- Items that sell well are:
Cookies, flavored breads, loaf breads, dinner rolls, cinnamon rolls, doughnuts, small or medium pies and angel food cakes

NOTES CONCERNING WORKING

Please check your work slips for the hours you are scheduled to work. If you cannot work the time or job assigned to you, please tell someone on the kitchen committee as soon as possible. This will allow the committee to arrange a replacement.

First shift table servers should arrive early enough to set your table before noon.

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for men,
since you know that you will receive
an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.
It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”
Colossians 3:23-24*

CLEAN UP AFTER WURSTMARKT

Clean up will begin at 5:00 p.m. on the day of the Wurstmarkt. Those who are unable to work a shift might consider coming in to help with clean up.

CRAFT STAND

Items may be brought in before or early morning on the day of Wurstmarkt. Please put a suggested price on your donation. This makes it easier for the workers.

GRAB BOX

Items may be brought in before or early morning on the day of Wurstmarkt. Try to keep items valued under \$1.00. They should be wrapped and marked boy, girl or either.

Please note: Profits from the craft stand and grab box go into the Wurstmarkt profits.

LARD

If you are interested in purchasing lard, please contact a member of the butchering committee. Do this early, a week or more before Wurstmarkt, so they can make arrangements.

