

May 2026 Newsletter



May Newsletter 2026

Special points of interest:

- Senior Recognition
- VBS News
- New Members Received
- Spring Cleanup
- Lawn Mowing
- Blood Mobile in May
- VBS

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Pastors Ponderings By Pastor Carl Billings

FOR JUST AS THE BODY IS ONE AND HAS MANY MEMBERS, AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE BODY, THOUGH MANY, ARE ONE BODY, SO IT IS WITH CHRIST.... NOW YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST AND INDIVIDUALLY MEMBERS OF IT.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 12:12, 27

Paul makes it clear that we all have a part to play in the Body of Christ. That part might change over the years. On Sunday, April 26, we confirmed a score of youth into the faith. Up until now, they have been students learning from parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and pastors. In the years ahead, some of these youth will be future leaders of this congregation and other congregations. Who knows, one of those youths might be called to ordain ministry.

God is always raising up new leaders. We just need to be perceptive enough to realize it. That is the third developmental task during the interim process, identifying leadership changes that have happened during the Transition process. This concern was highlighted during the evaluation

process, particularly in the area of Children and Youth ministry. This is a very common and natural outgrowth of a transition time between pastors.

In weeks and months ahead, we will be identifying new leaders and new ways to lead as we prepare to enter a new phase of ministry that God has prepared for us.

What about you? Is there a leadership position at the Church that God is calling you to do? Remember, you are a part of the body of Christ and called to serve in some way.

Be Hope-filled, Stay Strong, and God's got this,

Pastor Carl

WOW (Women of the Word) By Jeannie Jeske

WOW (Women of the Word) March meeting—March 26, 2026

Attendance: Nancy Wold, Gloria Hill, Karen Marlette and April Goodwin

Treasurer's Report-Karen Marlette

Checking balance 5,546.95

Savings balance 6,707.66

Thank you Karen for keeping great records.

Old Business:

- Bingo at Glenhaven is the third Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am. Bingo has been well received at Glenhaven. We have had up to 15 people playing bingo. Circle leaders check to see what month is your turn to lead bingo.
- The checklist for kitchen use was finalized. This will be helpful for everyone who works in the kitchen to make sure all clean up is done. Thank you Nancy!
- Members voted to keep the WOW account separate from the general checking account.
- Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Lenten meal. We appreciate your help.
- Waiting to order the refrigerator until the soffit can be raised above the refrigerator area.

New Business:

- Brunch on Palm Sunday after service. Serving Egg bake and muffins.

Respectfully Submitted,
April Goodwin- Secretary

WOW served brunch on Palm Sunday. It was a huge success and it was very exciting to be a part of the experience. Thank you to everyone who helped by making food, serving, and cleaning up. There was a great crowd at Church on Palm Sunday and we served more people than we were expecting. It all went well and everyone had a fun time serving. Thank you to everyone who came to eat brunch and we plan on doing it again next year.

Blood Mobile at Holy Cross

Monday May 18, 2026
Noon—6:00 pm

Holy Cross will be hosting and sponsoring the bloodmobile. If you would like to help with this please contact Jill Logghe or Lisa Brigham, or contact the church office.



High School Youth By Melanie Hill

May is always a meaningful month in the life of our youth group as we celebrate milestones and look ahead to summer.

We invite the congregation to join us on **May 3rd** during worship as we celebrate our graduating seniors. Following the service, please stay for fellowship as we honor them and give thanks for the ways they have been part of our church family. We hope you can come and share in this special time of recognition and encouragement.

We also extend a heartfelt **congratulations to our confirmation students!** This is an important step in their faith journey, and we are proud of the time, effort, and commitment they have shown. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they grow in their faith and involvement in the church. As we wrap up another great year of youth group, we are grateful for all the support, encouragement, and participation from our congregation. Summer plans are just around the corner, and we look forward to staying connected in new and meaningful ways.

Council Meeting 4/13/2026 & Special Congregational Meeting 3/29/2026

Council Meeting minutes 4/13/26

The meeting was called to order by President April Goodwin at 7:04 pm

Attendance: Anna Mewis, Barb Eliason, Joan Bartz, Angela Logghe, Wes Booth, April Goodwin, Pastor Carl

Adoption of agenda :

Wes made motion, Angie 2nd; all were in favor.

Approval of Secretary's report from March:

Joan made motion, Wes 2nd; all were in favor.

Old Business:

- AV for worship services-will have 2 bids, considering options, need to research further
- Door Lock to be changed May 1st -reach out to office for code

New Business:

- Transition team discovery meeting and potluck along with new member Sunday scheduled for 4/19

Committee Reports:

Faith and Fun:

- noisy offering, changing to have faith and fun decide who the money is going to.
- VBS met, Immanuel Church in Forest will also be joining. Need to find the DVD player or buy one.
- Flowers to moms for Mother's Day? Candy for Father's Day?

Resources:

- positive balance, 2 donations made for 1st month rent and building maintenance.

Wes made motion to accept financial report, Angela 2nd; all were in favor.

Property Management:

- Mike Myers out to look at drinking fountain and bathroom toilet.
Will look at sink in the kitchen and west bathroom.
- Wanda having trouble with vacuum, Will look into purchasing a new one.

Joan and April will serve coffee on May 3rd (Senior Sunday).

Next meeting is Monday May 11 at 7pm.

Joan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM,

Wes seconded; all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Barb

Special congregational meeting 3/29/26

10:15 am, meeting called to order by president April Goodwin

Motion made by Scott Teigan to increase the annual budget by up to \$7200 for the remainder of the year to supply a rental home for Pastor.

Doug Hill seconded the motion.

Ballots were passed out by council members along with a sign up sheet for members

Meeting concluded at 10:23 am.

Motion passed 65-1.

Submitted by Barb Eliason

Confirmation Corner *By Jill Logghe*

“Feed My Starving Children” Event

The HIGHLIGHT for April was our service project assisting at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. Feed My Starving Children (fsmc.org) is a Christian nonprofit feeding God’s children hungry in body and spirit. Our group of 21, which included members of Sunnyside 4H, assisted in packing 179 boxes (each box holds 36 Manna Pak meals) that will be sent to trusted partners throughout the world. In addition, a total of \$377 was contributed through our Lenten supper, Easter and Sunday coffee gatherings, as well as the Mission bank. Hope starts with food---and your donations and our efforts made it possible!

THANK YOU for this team effort!

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation for our 9th Grade Confirmation Class was April 26th at the 9:00 worship service.

Look for pictures in our June Newsletter.

Our final class will be Wednesday, May 6th which will also be our last midweek worship at Holy Cross till next fall.

Watch for Confirmation Orientation Meeting and fall Confirmation start date.



Pictured left to right: Holly Olson, John Logghe, McKinley Olson, Jill Logghe, Jaiden Inlow, Skyler Salman, Levi Staiger, Asher Hoffman, Skylar Mastbergen, Johnny Logghe, Abel Green, Connor Ohman, Charlie Hoffman, Aiden Lagerstrom, Reeyce Jeske, Michael Clark, Pastor Carl Billings, Heather Greene, Angela Jeske, Jeanne Jeske, Susan Kahler

1st Communion



On Thursday April 2nd we had 5 children take 1st Communion.

- Spencer Talbert
- Avery Brahmer
- Skyler Mastbergen
- Jaydeen & Tessa Berends

On Sunday March 29th they took a class, and part of the class they made the bread used for their 1st Communion.



New Members Received on New Member Sunday April 19, 2026

On Sunday April 19 during worship we received New Members at Holy Cross.

WELCOME!!



Steven Talbert
With his wife Megan and children Spencer and Sawyer

Leah Bartz
No picture available at time of printing



Stuart & Emma Bartz
Wesley & Sadie Bartz



Brent & Mary Staiger
Levi & Noah Staiger, Kale & Jenna Livingston





OFFERING COUNTERS

Volunteer Offering Counters Needed

- ◆ We are in need of volunteer to help count offering
- ◆ This task happens weekly and usually takes less than an hour. This is usually done Monday mornings but can be flexible.
- ◆ With enough people it would only be once a month or less....

We have a couple of our faithful counters who are needing to step back for a period of time so we need your help.

If you would like to be added to the rotation please contact the church office. If you would like to know more about offering counting please contact Joan Bartz or the church office.

Paint the Town Blue

My name is Reeyce Jeske, a confirmand in the Confirmation Project at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, I am looking to make a big difference in our community! I have decided to organize this "Paint the Town Blue" event to help raise funds for our Glenwood City Police Department. My mission is to sell Blue LED light bulbs to the community for outside porches to show their support for the ones that serve & protect. Each bulb sold will raise money towards safety equipment for our local officers. I'd also like to purchase dictation devices for the police department to use when writing reports, retaining statements from citizens, translate audio or as needed to complete their necessary duties. Our vision is to see houses across Glenwood City shining blue at night to unite one community, one bulb at a time!



If interested in supporting our GC Police Department:

-Please text orders to: 715-781-5416 & include:
Name & Quantity *OR*

-Scan the QR Code & complete the order form

Payment Collected when delivery arrangements are made!

(Cash or Venmo Accepted)



"Flip the Switch - Support the Blue
One Light, One Community"

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

Lawn Mowing At Holy Cross

With our lawn mower out of commission last year, we had to hire the lawn mowing out. We're happy to share that our mower is now working again, and we're looking for volunteers to help with mowing this season.

**Sign up by the month,
or find someone to split a month...
or help us for the whole season...**

If you are willing to lend a hand,
please contact the church office 715-265-4411
or gcholocross@cltcomm.net
Or Wes Booth at 715-688-9428.

Sign up sheet in the office



Thank you for your continued support and willingness to help!



Ben Standaert
Son of Brent and Sally Standaert

Join us for
Senior Recognition
Sunday May 3rd
at our **9:00 am**
Worship Service.



Nicco Riley
Son of Dan and Amy Groves



Anaka Eliason
Daughter of Barb & Jim Eliason



Brody Olson
Son of Patrick and Holly Olson

Carson Anderson
Son of Paula Anderson



Sadie Stansbury
Granddaughter of Robert Forrest



No Pictures

- Alex Anderson
- Eli Obermueller
- Ethan Polmanter

What we found out at the Transition Team Cottage Meetings By April Goodwin

On Sunday, April 19, following the worship service, the Transition Team shared the results from the recent cottage meetings. Approximately 50 people attended, and the gathering was followed by a potluck meal and time for fellowship.

Members of the Transition Team—Scott Teigen, Anna Mewis, Missy Klatt, and Jordan Bartz—each presented key findings. At the conclusion of the presentations, attendees participated in a brief five-minute brainstorming session at their tables. The ideas gathered will be reviewed by the team and shared in next month's newsletter.

Scott began by highlighting the strengths and traditions identified in the cottage meetings. Holy Cross is known for its strong tradition of community involvement. Our building serves not only our congregation but also the wider community, hosting events such as the blood mobile, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, the community Easter egg hunt, and Trunk or Treat. We also offer a community-wide Vacation Bible School. Programs like JAM have been a strong ministry for children in the past.

In addition, Holy Cross is recognized as a warm and welcoming congregation, supported by a loyal and caring core of members. We are blessed with a unique and well-maintained facility in an excellent location near the school, where many families pass by daily. Our rural setting, within driving distance of the Twin Cities and Eau Claire, offers a balance of small-town community and broader accessibility.

Anna then shared areas identified as challenges. These include limited children and youth ministry, a lack of Sunday school programming, and low youth participation. There is also a need for greater involvement from young families and increased participation in Sunday services. While these were identified as weaknesses, they also present meaningful opportunities for growth and renewal.

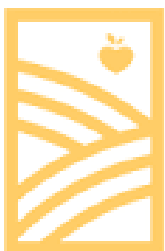
Next, Jordan outlined potential threats facing the church. Many people feel increasingly busy and less able to prioritize church involvement, with competing demands such as school activities, sports, and social media. Additional concerns include a limited pool of pastoral candidates, declining financial contributions, increased strain on active members, rising costs due to inflation, and ongoing building maintenance expenses.

Finally, Missy shared opportunities for moving forward as a congregation. As we look ahead, we are encouraged to honor our strong traditions while remaining open to change. There is potential to restart or reimagine programs—beginning with small, manageable steps and building over time. As our society continues to evolve, we are called to adapt while staying rooted in our core values and mission.

The gathering concluded with a brief brainstorming session at each table. All ideas were collected and will be thoughtfully reviewed by the Transition Team, with a summary to be shared in next month's newsletter.



Did You Know??



ST. CROIX VALLEY
**FOOD
BANK**

Did you know??

The St. Croix County Food Bank has a truck that visits Glenwood City once a month?

3rd Thursday of the Month

11:00 am — Noon

At Holy Cross Lutheran Church

This is a drive through event in our back parking lot.

For more information please visit their website @

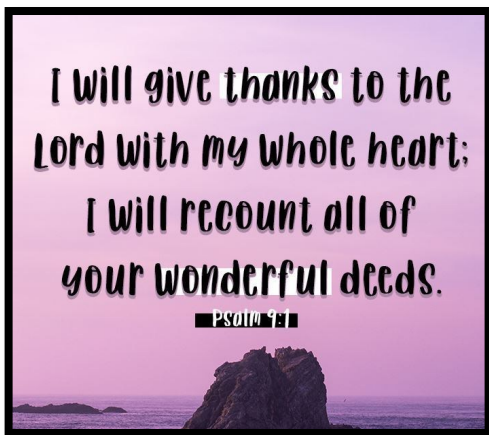
<https://www.stcroixvalleyfoodbank.org/>

Resources Financial Update *By Joan Bartz*



GIVING with VANCO

Praise God from whom all blessings flow – and we have lots to sing praises about as Holy Cross has been blessed again this month. As we review our financials, we can see that our regular giving and Simply Giving are both ahead of budget for the year to date. Our misc. giving is off pace with budget, but that is to be expected as it is prior to the fair so our fair stand income is not showing up yet. Miscellaneous giving will always lag in the first half of the year, but even so, our overall income is only off pace by \$315 year to date from our budget. In other good news, our expenses are pacing under budget. We have Easter offering coming in April so that is expected to be a nice boost. This will be good as it comes before the summer months when giving tends to drop as people head out of town to hang out at the lake or their cabin. If you are not using our automated giving, we encourage you to sign up for this. It helps to keep the church income more consistent and helps the church council be able to plan more accurately. We thank you as always for your continued support to Holy Cross and its missions and ministries!



HOLY CROSS FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of March 31st, 2026

	Monthly	2026 YTD Actual	2025 YTD Actual	2026 YTD Budget
Regular Giving	\$ 13,243	\$ 29,618	\$ 29,948	\$ 28,749
Simply Giving	\$ 2,135	\$ 5,817	\$ 6,241	\$ 5,001
Misc Giving/Income	\$ 2,032	\$ 3,013	\$ 3,971	\$ 5,013
Total Income	\$ 17,409	\$ 38,448	\$ 40,160	\$ 38,763
Total Expenses	\$ 16,193	\$ 37,864	\$ 25,924	\$ 38,445
Net Income	\$ 1,217	\$ 584	\$ 14,237	
General Offering Checking Balance			\$ 52,326.99	
Restricted Funds			\$ 10,296.69	
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS			\$ 62,623.68	

VBS

Community Vacation Bible School 2026

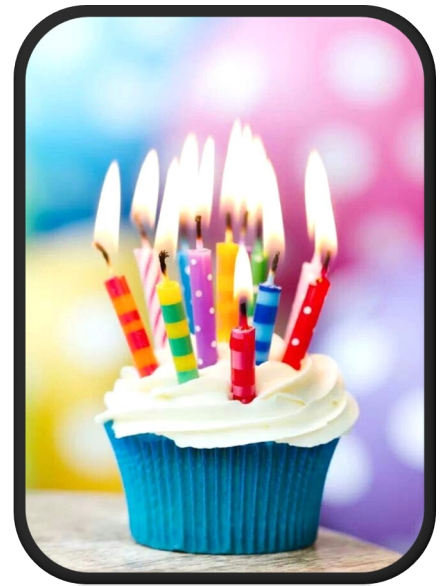
Save the Date: July 27—July 30
Time: 6:00 pm—8:00 pm
Ages: Grades 4k-5th Grade
Place: Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Contact: Rochelle Ashleson 715-688-9619
 Holy Cross—715-265-4411 or gholycross@cltcomm.net
 Immanuel Lutheran Church — info@immanuelforest.com

May Birthdays

5/1 Carlotta Anderson
Clayton Thayer
5/3 Debbie Wagner
Laura Teigen
5/4 Jamie Grutt
5/7 Janine Jeske
5/8 Tim Glenn
5/11 Nancy Stack
5/13 Jill Logghe
Moriah Kuendorf
Peter Hill
5/18 Paul Rasmussen
5/19 Riley Brahmer
5/20 Roger Bonte



5/21 Ashley Wildenberg
5/22 Dan Goodwin
5/23 Denise Jeske
Tammy Oberle
5/26 Sara Arsola
5/27 Don Frieburg
5/29 Robert Forrest
Theresa Hoffman
Waylon Wagner



May

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10-2 Church Yard Spring Cleanup (bring your rake)
3 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	* 4 11:00 am Bible Study At Havenwood 6:00pm Resources Meeting 6:00pm Faith & Life/FUN	5	6 5:30pm — Confirmation Meal 5:55pm — Confirmation 6:30pm — Midweek Worship (Last midweek worship till fall)	* 7	8	9
10 Mother's Day 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	11 11:00 am Bible Study At Havenwood 7:00 pm — Council Meeting	12 6:00pm Threads of God's Love	13	14 10:30am Glenhaven Worship	15	16 Church Rental Graduation Party
17 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship 10:15 — Property Management Meeting	* 18 11:00 am Bible Study At Havenwood 12-6 pm Blood Mobile Sponsored by Holy Cross	19 Newsletter Article Deadline	20 10:30 am — WOW Bingo At Glenhaven	21 11-12 Mobile food pantry truck in back parking lot	22	23
24 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28 8:00am Quilting 1:00pm WOW	29	30
31						



* Holy Communion

**HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

615 Maple St
PO Box 65
Glenwood City WI 54013

Phone: 715-265-4411
gholycross@cltcomm.net



Click on QR Code above
for Holy Cross Facebook Page

May 2026 NEWSLETTER

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #65
GLENWOOD CITY, WI 54013

**Spring
Yard Cleanup**
At Holy Cross Lutheran Church

**Saturday
May 2nd**
10:00 am—2:00 pm

Contact Wes Booth
Or the Church Office
With questions.

Bring your own rake

Backup date: if needed is Saturday May 16th 10-2

The Mission of Holy Cross:
Called by the Holy Spirit
to come,
to grow,
to live
as disciples of Jesus Christ