

September 2026 Newsletter



Special points of interest:

- Sunday School Starts
- Confirmation resumes
- Mid-week Worship resumes
- Confirmation Menotors Needed
- St Croix County Food Bank at HC Ending
- Call Committee UPdate

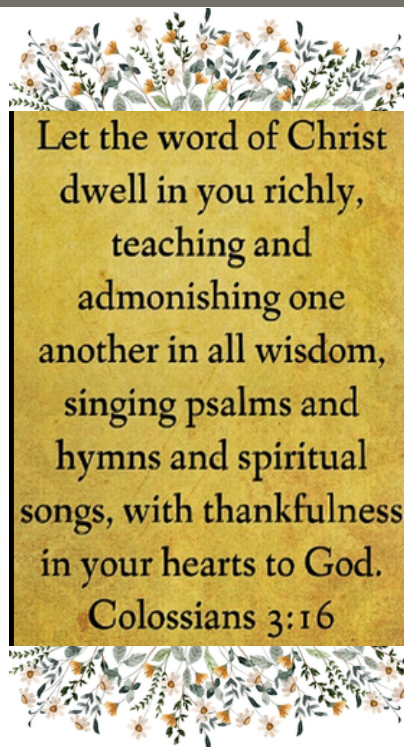
September Newsletter 2026

Pastor's Ponderings By Pastor Carl Billings

A major theme of our cottage meetings last spring was the dynamic children's ministry that used to be an important part of Holy Cross's overall ministry, and our deep desire to reinvigorate it. This fall, we are going to take an important step toward renewing our Children's Ministry with the start of Sunday School on September twentieth.

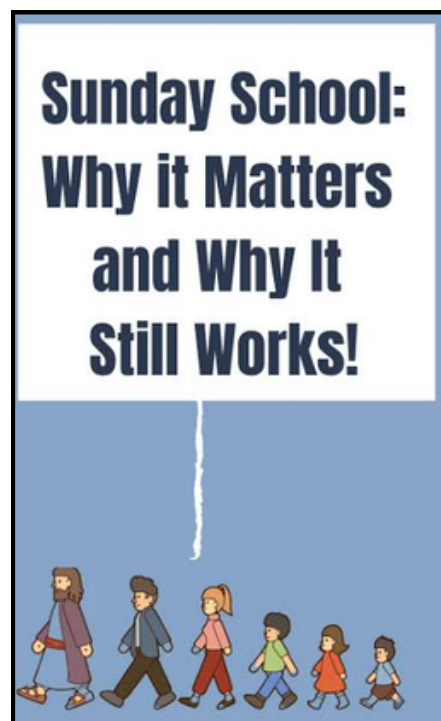
This is not an article about the logistics of Sunday School (see Missy Klatt's Article on Page 2); rather, it is about the importance of Sunday School in the lives of our children.

Sunday School provides a primary place for spiritual growth, Christian Community, and foundational learning for both our children and their families. Let me say a word about each of these important objectives.



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Spiritual Growth — regular attendance, with parents actively involved, helps children develop lifelong habits of faith and a deeper personal relationship with their Lord and Savior. Children learn how to pray and read the Bible. Teachers also grow spiritually as they work to pass on their faith to the children in the classroom. Sunday School lives out Paul's admonition to, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom."

Christian Community — Sunday School brings together different ages to learn the faith. It also supports parents in their baptismal promise to raise their children in the faith. It also helps children understand the blessings and responsibilities of being part of God's family.

Continued on Page 2

Pastors Ponderings Continued from Page 1

Foundational Learning — Sunday School is the most important part of learning in a week of classes, team sports, and music lessons. Children learn the basic stories of the Bible and their meaning. Most importantly, they learn that Jesus died on the Cross for them and they begin to understand what that means for them and all Creation. It also encourages Parents to draw closer to Jesus and their own faith as they take seriously their promises to raise their child in the faith.

I am excited about the start of our Sunday School this fall as our Children get to know their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, better.

Be Hope-filled, Stay Strong, God's Got This, Pastor Carl

Sunday School By Missy Klatt

Sunday School to start September 20th

The kids are back to school. Labor day and Rustic Lore will soon be behind us. That means its time for Sunday School once again.

Starting September 20th we will invite the children to leave worship after the Children's sermon and head down to our "one room" Sunday School classroom to learn more about Jesus in a form they can understand better. Sunday School will open to all those three years and older.

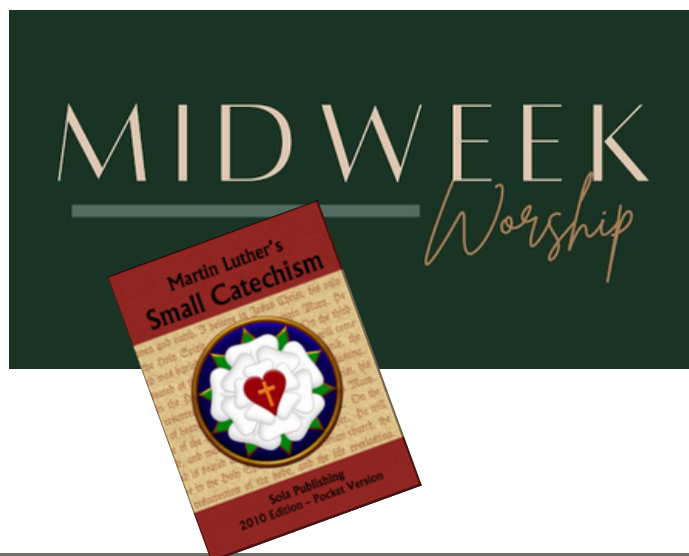
As mentioned before we plan to partner experienced teachers with a parent helper. Thus being said there will be a signup sheet in the narthex for you, the teachers and you the parents to sign up for a couple of weeks that work best for you. As they say it takes a village to raise a child. For us it takes a congregation to teach our children about Jesus' love.

Don't be afraid to help out.

Nothing is set in stone and if we find things are not working this way we will reevaluate and change things according to our needs.



Mid-Week Worship Resumes



Midweek worship will resume on

September 23rd at 6:30 pm

This fall, the half-hour worship service will focus on Faith Formation using Luther's Small Catechism. I encourage the entire congregation to attend this service as an important way to deepen their faith and understanding of their relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Council Meeting Minutes August 10th, 2026

Pastor Carl Billings - Chair April Goodwin

Present at the meeting: Melanie, Joan, Anna, Barb, Angela. Via Zoom: Pastor Carl Billings.

The Mission of Holy Cross is:

“Called by the Holy Spirit to come, to grow, to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.”

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm by Vice President Anna Mewes

Adoption of Agenda with additions Angela motion, Melanie 2nd, all in favor

Approval of Secretary's Report - Angela made motion, Melanie 2nd, all in favor

Old Business:

- Pastor report reviewed
- Pastor off September 9th-16th

New Business:

- AVE updates for church (electronic upgrade). Will have timeline to start soon

Committee Reports:

Faith and Fun:

- Confirmation: parent meeting (including 9th grade confirmands) Wednesday September 2nd.
First class will be September 23rd. Expectations and class time reviewed.
- Confirmation Sunday-October 25th
- Starting a list and looking for volunteers to help with Sunday school, potentially starting 9/20 or 27.
- Sundays on Mondays finishing up
- VBS was a big hit
- Fair Stand: discussing options for years forward
- Outdoor service at Hinman August 23rd with blessing of backpacks

Next meeting September 1st at 6:00 pm

Calendar reviewed

Resources:

- Approval of financial report for July. Barb made motion, Angela 2nd, all in favor

Next meeting September 14th at 6 pm

Call Committee:

- Have received several applications, have had several interviews.
Pastor Wes will be at Holy Cross on Wednesday August 26th to meet the congregation.
At this time the call committee is negotiating for potential salary

Angela made motion to spend up to \$1000 in expenditures for his travels, Barb 2nd all in favor

Property Management:

- Last meeting: water fountain-fixed
- Getting bids for sidewalks and shed
- Need volunteers to fix the playground, landscaping, and or donate new (used) playset?

Next meeting TBD

- Council will serve coffee on September 6th-
- Next meeting is September 14th at 7 pm.

Barb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM, Joan seconded; all were in favor.

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Barb

“These minutes have not been approved by the council so not yet official minutes”

WOW By Jeanne Jeske

WOW - Summer Garden Tour

Even though our garden tour was not well attended, the visitors seemed to enjoy their walk through four local gardens. Visitors enjoyed fresh baked cookies, lemonade, shared local plant stories and saw beautiful summer blooms.

Thank you to our local gardeners who graciously shared their gardens. Thank you to those who purchased tickets to help support our women's church group.

Doug Hill was the winner of the drawing.

We look forward to blooming together next year.

Next WOW Meetings

Thursday August 27th 1:00 pm

Thursday September 24th 1:00 pm



Confirmation Corner

Confirmation will be starting again in September with

Confirmation Orientation – Wednesday September 2nd.

6:00 pm – Incoming 7th Graders and returning 8th graders

7:15 pm – 9th graders being confirmed this fall.

Students, parents and mentors should attend this meeting.

Confirmation Classes begin Wednesday September 23rd.

5:30 pm – Confirmation Meal

5:55 pm – Confirmation Class

6:30 pm – Mid-Week Worship studying Luther's Small Catechism



Our 9th grade Confirmation Students will be getting Confirmed

Sunday October 25th . Please attend the September 2nd 7:15pm meeting for details on this.

St.Croix County Food Bank at Holy Cross ending



ST. CROIX VALLEY
**FOOD
BANK**

The St. Croix County Food Bank pantry truck that has been using our back parking lot once a month will be ending its drive-through distribution here in Glenwood City.

Thursday September 17th will be the last one.

MENTORS NEEDED !!

THERE ARE SEVERAL CONFIRMATION STUDENTS NEEDING A MENTOR!

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER FILLING THIS ROLE!

Questions: Please talk to the church office or Pastor Carl

Resources Financial Update By Joan Bartz

July is in the books, and it was a great month!

Thanks to everyone who helped make the fair stand a great success! It was a hot smoky weekend which caused the overall fair attendance to be down early in the week, but we pulled off a great fair stand with the help of everyone involved and came out with a profit of just under \$8400!!

Thanks everyone!

Thanks also for the gifts that came in for the AV equipment. The majority of this has been paid for with the WOW group's contribution yet to come in. With the fair stand and the AV donations, our income was much higher than normal, but we also had higher expenses with both projects going on. Overall, it was a solid month for regular giving, and we ended the month with a net profit of \$10,472.

Thanks be to God and to all of you for your part in making this another great month at Holy Cross.

God is Good – All the Time!



GIVING with
VANCO

HOLY CROSS FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of July 31st, 2026

	Monthly	2026 YTD Actual	2025 YTD Actual	2026 YTD Budget
Regular Giving	\$ 9,805	\$ 72,711	\$ 65,705	\$ 67,081
Simply Giving	\$ 2,011	\$ 13,747	\$ 14,255	\$ 11,669
Misc Giving/Income	\$ 29,893	\$ 35,008	\$ 30,325	\$ 11,697
Total Income	\$ 41,709	\$ 121,466	\$ 110,285	\$ 90,447
Total Expenses	\$ 31,237	\$ 110,453	\$ 70,612	\$ 89,705
Net Income	\$ 10,472	\$ 11,014	\$ 39,673	
Unrestricted Checking			\$ 42,127.12	
Restricted Checking			\$ 30,949.48	
TOTAL CHECKING BALANCE			\$ 73,076.60	

2026 Community VBS By Anna Mewis

Community VBS was a huge success!

We had over 65 children ages 4- 5th grade, each day learning the word of God and how Jesus is our True North. It was fun to see new leaders shine in different roles as well.

I am very proud that we have continued the legacy that was established by Jill, Jeanie and Bruce.

We are already planning for next year!



You're invited to an open house for Don and Missy Klatt's 30th Wedding Anniversary

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Noon till ???

At the farm: E1099 890th Ave
Downing, WI



No presents please – However if you would like to honor us, we will be collecting donations for Seed Program Guatemala. You can read more about this program at <https://iglesialuteranaagustina.org/programa-seed/>.

Missy had the opportunity to go to Guatemala a few years ago and has met the director of this program, Diego Gil, on multiple occasions. He even made a brief visit here to our farm.

Call Committee Update By Joan Bartz



While we hoped to be having a pastor visit us this week and the committee felt we may have been nearing the end of the search, God showed us He has different plans – we believe bigger and better plans!

Thanks to everyone for the prayers and support for the call committee and for the next permanent pastor God has in store for us at Holy Cross.

The search is still on as we source new candidates and work with a few new applications that have come in.

Please continue those prayers as we seek God's will in this search. Thanks to Pastor Carl for his care and leadership as we go through this process.

September Birthdays

9/1	Amelia Hoffman	9/13	Jordan Bonte
9/2	Kadie Wildenberg		Brad Hoitomt
9/3	Hanna Strehlo	9/14	Anna Brigham
9/4	Mark Voeltz	9/18	Wes Booth
	Tessa Wagner		Warrick Anderson
	Mark Eliason		Daxon Arsola
9/5	Brent Standaert	9/19	Jenna Frieberg
9/6	Vanessa Brahmer	9/21	April Goodwin
9/7	Carson Anderson	9/25	Jolene Bonte
	Nathan Hill		Scott Thompson
9/9	Robert Higgins		Mazxwsell Janson
9/10	Luanne Flick	9/27	Natasha Lagerstrom
	Gracelin Krizan	9/29	John Logghe
9/11	Blake DeSmith		Nicco Riley
			Camden Brahmer



September

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00pm Fath & Life/FUN	2 6:00 pm Confirmation Orientation 7 & 8 Grade 7:15 pm Confirmation Meeting 9 th Grade	3	4 9:30am Coffee	5
6 9am – Worship 10:10 – Fellowship	* 7 Labor Day 11:00am Bible Study at Havenwood	8 6:00 pm Threads of God's Love	9	10 10:30 am Glenhaven Worship	11 9:30am Coffee	12
13 9am – Worship 10am - Queen's Tea - no coffee time	14 11:00am Bible Study at Havenwood 6:00 pm Resources Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	15	16 10:00 am WOW Bingo at Glenhaven	17 11-12 Mobile food pantry truck in back parking lot	18 9:30am Coffee	19
20 9am – Worship Sunday School 10:10 – Fellowship	* 21 11:00am Bible Study at Havenwood NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE	22	23 5:30 pm - Confirmaiton 6:30 pm - Midweek Worship	24 8:00 am Quilting 1:00 pm WOW	25 9:30am Coffee	26
27 9am – Worship Sunday School 10:10 – Fellowship	28 11:00am Bible Study at Havenwood	29	30 5:30 pm - Confirmaiton 6:30 pm - Midweek Worship	31		* Holy Communion

Assisting with Worship

Month	Altar Guild	Ushers	3 rd Sunday Fellowship	Sundays
September	Jeanne Jeske	Jeanne Jeske	Needed	4 Sundays
October	Gloria Hill & April Goodwin	Mastbergens	Needed	4 Sundays

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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for Holy Cross Facebook Page

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

September 2026

September 2026 NEWSLETTER

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EVENTS | A LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING This fall at Holy Cross

September

- 9/2 Confirmation Orientation
- 9/7 Labor Day (Church office closed)
- 9/23 Confirmation Classes Start
Mid-Week Worship Resumes

October

- 10/21 Annual Fall Supper
- 10/25 Confirmation Sunday

November

- 11/1 All Saints Sunday
- 11/8 Veterans Appreciation Dinner
- 11/24 Ecumenical Worship (Hosted by Holy Cross)
- 11/26 Thanksgiving Day (Church Office Closed)