

**Weekly Email Blast from Holy Cross Lutheran Church
December 21, 2022**

Sunday Worship at 10:00am

Join us for Worship on Christmas Day, December 25, 2022, at 10:00am with Pastor Curtis Zieske.

If you are feeling ill or unable to attend, you can view a recording at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHbmFBDWLG1W-jcI8jRhOQ>.

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, December 21—Vocal Choir, 6:00pm; Bell Choir 7:00pm.

Saturday, December 24—Christmas Eve candlelight worship service, 4:00pm.

Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day worship service with Interim Pastor Curtis Zieske, 10:00am.

Tuesday, December 27—Tuesday Crew, 9:00am.

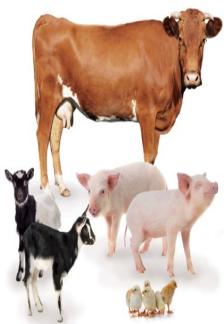
Thursday, December 29—Bible Study, 12:00 noon.

Sunday, January 1—Worship with Interim Pastor Curtis Zieske. “Lessons and Carols for

REMINDER!

I want to remind the heads of any of our committees to please send their reports to me, preferable via e-mail in Word format, no later than Thursday, January 5th. Yes, I am retiring on December 29th, but have offered to come in to work on the Annual Report.

Janet



ELCA GOOD GIFTS provides animals to make impoverished families throughout the world self-sufficient,

Thank you for providing a family with this gift of eggs, milk and meat to eat and sell, and tools and training to increase the harvest, this gift can make all the difference.

A Message From Bishop Laurie

Blessings Saints on the Way,

Blessed Advent! It is again that time of year when we are invited into divine Mystery, holy darkness, expectant waiting, and quiet miracles. This year has been a long one for many of us. While we hold sparkly celebrations and wait for snow, many of us, including me, also hold grief and loss and wait for fewer loved ones to walk through our door. I lost my amazing mother, Kay, in February, my gifted daughter will be on the other side of the world (near Bethlehem) for the holidays, and two of my dear friends have just entered hospice, way too young.

Our lectionary readings, thanks be to God, hold both grief AND hope, a sense of the "already and the not yet." The powerful do not see, and the marginalized see wonders. The faithful fear and flee, and unfamiliar foreigners point out the way. We are reminded by these ancient texts to look for miracles in the most ordinary places: small towns, midnight skies, teenage moms, hardworking laborers, animal troughs, and voiceless priests.

I am grateful for these stories handed on by our ancestors in the faith, for the privilege of having time to slow down, sit, and listen deeply to their wisdom, and for the unbelievable miracle of having a community in Christ to open my eyes and heart to what it all might mean for me, right now, and for our aching world. Scripture reminds me:

- We are called to accompany what Spirit is doing not only in our churches and temples, but all around us, and to seek God's presence in the most unexpected places.
- We are called to acknowledge all our grief and loss and confusion, and also in and through that journey, to find audacious, outrageous hope.

We are called to do all this together—to be connected to one another and to our larger community in healthy humility and courageous love.

Your faith, hope and love help ME find faith, hope and love even in hard times. Your generosity fills my cup of generosity. Thank you for being the church. Thank you for your willingness to be the church together! Let's open up even more into the surprising work Spirit is stirring up among us, and around us, and within us, this Christmas.

Blessed Feast of the Incarnation of God!

Bishop Laurie