

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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Scott Wegner

January 4, 2026

2nd Sunday of Christmas

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG

As with Gladness Men of Old

Insert

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: *Amen.*

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

C: *We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.*

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of V Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: *Amen.*

PASTORAL GREETING

THE KYRIE

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the Feast

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also, with you.**

P: Let us pray, together.

C: **Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

January 4, 2026 – Second Sunday of Christmas

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷This is what the LORD says:

“Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, ‘LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’ ⁸ See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return. ⁹ They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel’s father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

¹⁰“Hear the word of the LORD, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: ‘He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’ ¹¹ For the LORD will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. ¹² They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD—the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. ¹³ Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. ¹⁴ I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty,” declares the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

*Congregational response following the reading is: **Thanks be to God!***

THE PSALM

Psalm 147:12-20

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

*Congregation response following the reading is: **Thanks be to God!***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

ELW Pg. 151

*Alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 1:1-9 (please stand)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Congregational response following the Gospel is: **Thanks be to God!***

VIDEO – <https://youtu.be/TYaeV-D9dtg> (Same As Last Week – Per Pastor Jim)

APOSTLES' CREED

P: God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**C: I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**



**On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PEACE (Please share the Peace with a neighbor)

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

ELW Hymn 142

THE OFFERING PRAYER

All pray together:

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your

saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have, mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in Eternal Life.

POST COMMUNION SONG *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider:

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

Congregation: Amen.

THE BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Let All Together Praise Our God

ELW 287

GO IN PEACE, IN SERVICE

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 19:14

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*



- ♣ **Ken Beamesderfer**
- ♣ **Pr. Jim Berggren**
- ♣ **Darlene Fournier**
- ♣ **Jim Fritze**
- ♣ **Eliseo Gonzales**
- ♣ **Joyce Huey**
- ♣ **Shital Hungerford**
- ♣ **Nancy Lancaster**
- ♣ **Kelly Langridge**
- ♣ **David Magrill**
- ♣ **Chuck McWilliams**
- ♣ **Jeremy Mitchell**
- ♣ **Geraine Moore**
- ♣ **Ed Peterman**
- ♣ **Dorothy Preuss**
- ♣ **Lupe Romero**
- ♣ **Wayne Schaper**
- ♣ **Scott Spates**
- ♣ **Jaime Urbanski**
- ♣ **Bennie Valites**
- ♣ **Michael Williams**

COUNCIL MEETING

Council meeting will be Sunday, **January 18, 2026**,
at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council

USHERS

Month: January

Team # 3

Leader: Linda Cuzzort

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

DECEMBER

4 Reader — Jay Fort
P/E — Wendy Lambeth

11 Reader — Ike Thompson
P/E — Penny Schick

18 Reader — Alice Braun
P/E — John Stokes

25 Reader — Mallory Hileman
P/E — Russell Richter

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

The Fellowship Club will be meeting **January 17, 2026** at Katz,
located at 10321 Katy Freeway (713-510-5001).

Please let Nancy know by text, email or phone call (**281-814-4153**) by Wednesday,

January 14, if you plan to attend. We will begin to gather at 3:00 pm.

Hope to see y'all there!

Nancy Beamesderfer

TO ALL GROUP LEADERS

Crafty Ladies, Choir Rehearsal, Early Learning Center (ELC), Fellowship Club,
Food Pantry, Hymn Selection, Lutheran World Relief (LWR),
Men's Breakfast, Roundtable Group, Ruth Circle, WELCA, etc.

2026 CALENDAR REQUEST FORMS

Once again, you are kindly reminded that
you must fill out a Calendar Request Form
to schedule your meetings/events in 2026,
on the forms located on the table in the Atrium.

**Anything not written on the calendar
may lead to a conflict in scheduling.**

This applies to anyone and/or any group that meets and uses the church facilities,
and if any church related group or circle meets somewhere else
and would like to be scheduled on the church calendar as well.

Your meetings/events will be announced in the Sunday News,
Crossties Calendar and on the Church website.

Sussy Terry

Office Manager & Events Coordinator

**Today, we Welcome and Thank Scott Wegner
as he will be preaching and presiding during the service.**

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

- 9:30 a.m.** *Traditional Worship service with Rev. Jim Berggren —WC*
Nursery is available for small children during the service — Crib Room
- 10:30 a.m.** *Coffee fellowship following the service —FLCA*
- 5—6 p.m.** *Girl Scouts meeting —FLC green room*

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

5 Mon	6 Tues	7 Wed	8 Thurs	9 Fri	10 Sat
6—8 pm <i>Basketball Team Sumit —FLC</i>	<i>ELC Resumes classes</i>	9 am <i>Men's Breakfast</i> 11 am <i>Choir practice</i> —CL 12 pm <i>Bible Study</i> --AT	1 pm <i>Ruth Circle meeting —FLCA</i> 6:30—8 pm <i>Basketball Team Nguyen —FLC</i> 8 pm <i>AA Women mtg. —FLCA</i>	7—9 pm <i>Bayou City Band practice --FLC</i>	6 pm <i>Saturday Informal service —AT</i>

AT =Atrium, CL=Choir Loft, CR=Choir Room, FLC= Family Life Center, FLCA=Annex,
 KiM= Kids in Motion, MR=Media Room, WC=Worship Center, YR=Youth Room
 BLS=Basic Life Support, SST=Safeguards Safety Training, UCL=Upcycled Crafty Ladies