



Holy Love Quarterly Newsletter December 2025

A summary of communications across the congregation's eNews, website, Facebook, and in-person worship service announcements.

A Note from Pastor Brittany: This quarterly newsletter is meant to repeat and remind us of the work we, here at Holy Love, are doing as we embody God's love. There's A LOT!

Building Use Share with LifeHouse: Holy Love's Council approved a continued space sharing agreement with LifeHouse Seventh-Day Adventist Church for another year, renewable in September 2026. Their congregation will continue to use parts of the facility on Saturdays from 10 am to 5:30 pm. The agreement allows for Holy Love to maintain first-use of the premises, so events like the Craft Fair do not conflict with their usage. They contribute towards building expenses with each use of the facilities.

God's Work, Our Hands 2025: We volunteered with Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) in September to help care for a local garden. Signature yellow t-shirts with "Holy Love Lutheran Church" on the back were provided for all who signed up. Special thanks to Laura Flynn for organizing this year's event, and for all the participants!

Pet Blessing: On the first Saturday in October, we offered a pet blessing for everyone in the community, on a request from some of our youth. We had paw-ticipants in person and represented by photos, toys, and leashes. The event raised money for a local Aurora animal shelter as well.

Parking Lot Re-Seal: Both parking lots have been re-sealed and re-stripped! Our entire community stepped up to help fundraise—32% of all donations came from non-church members, meaning people who use our facilities for other ministries and purposes. This is a testament to our value within the larger community.

Security Incident: Near the end of October, as Preschool staff were leaving for the day, two people tried to gain access to the building. Staff reported the individuals tried opening windows and were overheard talking about trying to see in. After leaving our property, they were seen doing the same at Trinity Baptist across the street. The police were called and a report was filed. Please remember to lock doors and be aware of your surroundings.

Trunk or Treat: On the last Saturday in October, we hosted our annual Trunk or Treat, with an estimated crowd of 150. We had 23 cars, including 5 from All Saints. Our preschool, Sunday School, and other church ministries were represented. Thanks to everyone who participated! Proud to report we had NO car crashes this year.

Stewardship 2025 “Fulfilling God’s Purpose”: Our annual stewardship drive concluded with Reformation Sunday in October. We heard from Property, the Preschool Board, and Worship & Music about ways we can contribute to our congregation with our time and involvement. Pledge cards continue to come in, but tangible results include: seven new pledges, a binder with volunteer opportunities for our Preschool available every Sunday and two new ushers in our rotation!

Synod Connection: On November 9, we welcomed guest preacher Yvonne Wilken of the Rocky Mountain Synod. She preached on Jesus’ invitation to Zaccheaus (Luke 19). Yvonne stayed for our coffee hour afterwards. The Synod has set a goal of being physically present in every congregation in the coming year.

Craft Fair in Review: We had 34 booths this year, 12 of whom were returning vendors from 2024 (6 were members of Holy Love). Many of our vendors donated prizes for the raffle held at the end of the day. In addition to those who came and shopped, we had 30 Holy Love members who helped out by donating food for the concessions, prizes for the raffle drawing, setting up, helping with concessions or door security, and cleaning up! Our thanks to Pam Engel, Julie Kennedy, Debbie West, Connie Trujillo, Beth and Lindy Whitney, Debbie Anderson, Gayle Rullo, Katherine Allen, Donita Harvey, Lynna, Ava, Aiden and Liam Sampsell, Joanne Markovich, Deb Watson, Kay Johnson, Brenda Begger, Eric Hermanson, Vina Gadde, Bob and Peggy

Apmann, Marcia Monson, Carolyn Boyd, Sheila Rice, Maridee Lyster, Kaitlyn Miller, Kristy Miller, Greg Harter, Rich Newman, Bruce Merritt, Mark MacKenzie, and Ed Truett. Proceeds from this year's fair have been designated to replace the broken water cooler in the hallway near the kitchen with one that will include a water bottle filler. Planning for the 2026 Craft fair is already underway. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with the Craft Fair!

New-to-us Hymnals: We are the new stewards of approximately 75 hymnals, donated to us at no cost by the congregation of Cross of Glory at its closure. We blessed and dedicated the hymnals in worship with our kids.

Kitchen Sharing: On Wednesday, November 26, we hosted volunteers from Mennonite Disaster Relief as they cooked enough food for 350 people to be distributed across three different Aurora nursing homes for Thanksgiving. Many of the volunteers were part of an Amish community outside of Westcliffe, while others were from an area LDS congregation. Pastor Brittany had read an article a week prior in 9News about an Aurora church, Meanstreet, looking for help hosting its annual "Madsgiving" meal. She reached out to the pastor, offering our kitchen, with Council approval. The entire organization was very appreciative. Should the ecumenical event happen again next year, we are hopeful to have volunteer cooking opportunities to participate in.

Food Pantry: November was a 5th Sunday month, which means we emphasize collections for a local food pantry. Sheila Rice connected us with Generational Opportunities to Achieve Long-term Success (G.O.A.L.S), a program of nearby nonprofit The Family Tree. The food collected was shared between their food pantry and Peace With Christ's. Our next 5th Sunday month is March 2026.

Church Management Software Change: We have changed our church management software from Servant Keeper to ChurchTrac. The new software offers more services for less expense and has an easier-to-work-with platform. The eNews will be getting a new design and sent through a different platform than Constant Contact and our website will be redesigned. We anticipate to complete the transition of website and eNews platform by end of March 2026.

Sunday School Review: We continue to offer two different Sunday School classes, one for 1st-5th graders (or so... older kids drop by, too!) and one for 3 year olds through Kindergarten. Our Sunday School kids raised enough money to purchase fish for fish farms through ELCA's Good Gifts program. They are currently raising money for fully supplied backpacks. Practice is currently underway for the original Christmas program!

Preschool Connection: Our Preschool ministry has expanded its Discovery Kids (after care) program to every day of the week. We currently have 56 students enrolled. The fall Butterbraid sale helped raise over \$2,000.00 for the PTO. Part of that money will be used to paint the fence around the west entrance's HVAC unit with the Preschool's logo and colors. Plans are underway for next year's classes and offerings.

Advent/Christmas Preview: Thanks to everyone who helped "deck the halls" this year! Our new, pre-lit Christmas tree was purchased with the proceeds from 2024's Craft Fair. Here's a list of all our upcoming services:

- 12/7: Choir-Led Worship Service "Our Faith-Rooted Things" during Sunday worship, 9:30 am
- 12/15: Sensory-sensitive worship at 6 pm
- 12/17: Preschool Christmas Program, 9:30 am
- 12/21: Sunday School Christmas Program, 9:30 am
- 12/21: Blue Christmas Service, 5 pm
- 12/24: Christmas Eve Services, both with Communion and candlelight "Silent Night"
 - o 3:30 pm, interactive family service
 - o 7:30 pm, traditional service

Not receiving the eNews? Contact Lori: admin@holylovelutheran.org