



THE TRUMPETER

Trinity Lutheran Church, LCMS

SEPTEMBER 2025

A New Processional Cross for Trinity

On *Holy Cross Day*, September 14, our congregation will begin using a new processional cross. This cross is more than wood and metal; it is a visible confession of our faith and a reminder of what Christ has done for us.

The **corpus** (the figure of Christ on the cross) has been taken from the altar cross of our former church building. It has been carefully replated in memory of Wendell and Jo Ann Miller, whose lives bore witness to the hope we have in Christ crucified. The corpus is central because it shows not just the shape of the cross, but the Savior who hung upon it. A plain cross can sometimes be misunderstood as an empty symbol of endurance or strength. The crucifix, with the body of Christ, proclaims the heart of the Gospel: *"We preach Christ crucified... the power of God and the wisdom of God"* (1 Corinthians 1:23–24). When we see the corpus, we are reminded that our sins were borne by Jesus, that His suffering was for us, and that His death brings us life.

The new wooden cross itself was built and lovingly donated by Jim Pearce, a member of Bethlehem in Mason City. In its design, Jim sought to blend the traditional style of the altar cross with the more modern style of the cross already in our sanctuary. His craftsmanship gives fresh form to the old corpus, showing how God continually joins past and present in His Church. Together, the old and the new bear witness that Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Holy Cross Day is a festival the Church has observed since the early centuries. It does not celebrate the piece of wood on which Christ was crucified, but rather the salvation that came through the cross. Jesus Himself said, *"When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to Myself"* (John 12:32). On this day, we rejoice that by His cross our Lord has triumphed over sin, death, and the devil. The processional cross that now leads us into worship is a vivid reminder that we follow Christ the Crucified, who has gone before us and now leads us into everlasting life.

We give thanks to God for this new cross, for the memory of Wendell and Jo Ann Miller, and for the generous gift of Jim Pearce. Most of all, we give thanks that in every generation, the cross of Christ remains our glory, our hope, and our life.

"Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."
(Galatians 6:14)

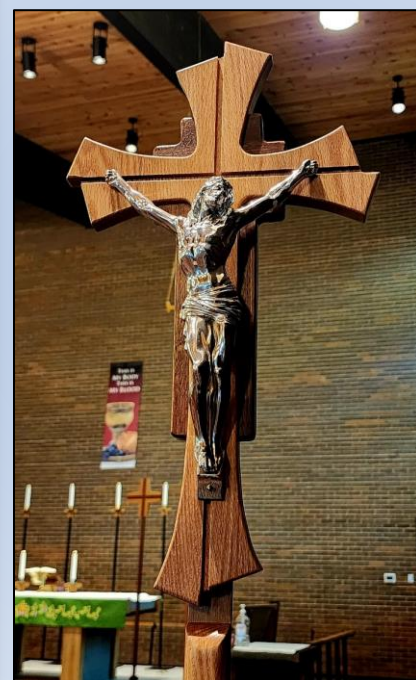
Sunday Schedule

8:30 am Worship Service
with
Holy Communion

9:45 am Sunday School and
Adult Bible Study

On KLMJ, 104.9...

7:30 am The Lutheran Hour
10:15 am Radio Broadcast



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Why Lutherans Keep the Corpus on the Cross

Some churches display only a plain, empty cross. While the empty cross can point to Christ's resurrection, Lutherans have traditionally kept the corpus (the body of Christ) on the cross. Why?

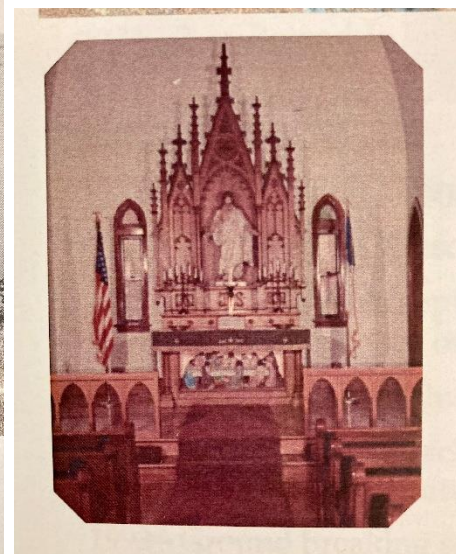
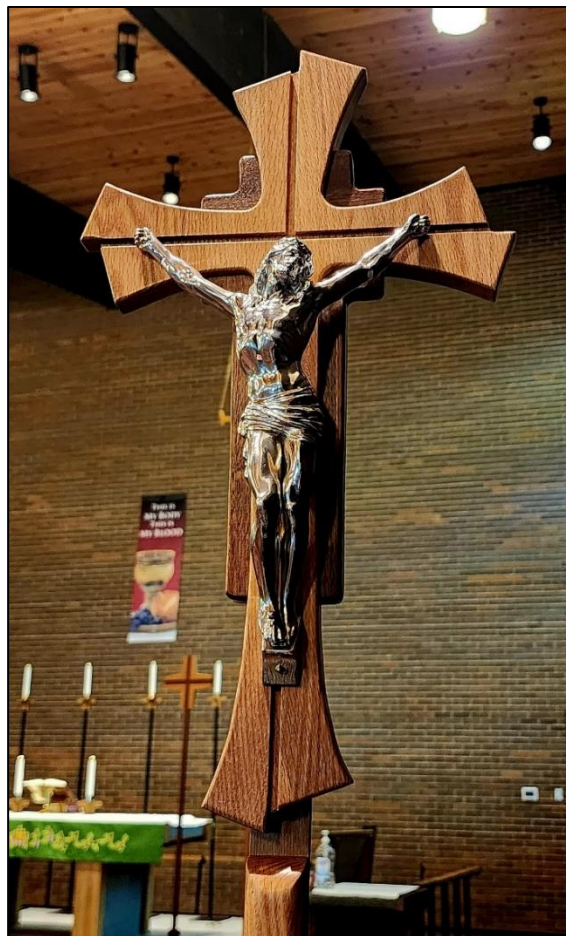
It preaches the Gospel visibly. The crucifix shows the very price of our redemption: Christ's suffering and death for the forgiveness of our sins.

It keeps Christ, not us, at the center. A bare cross can be mistaken as a general symbol of faith, endurance, or strength. The corpus declares specifically that Jesus is the One who saves.

It ties our worship to the Sacrament. The crucified Christ we see on the cross is the same Christ we receive in His body and blood at the altar.

It holds together Good Friday and Easter. We do not rush past the cross to the resurrection; rather, the risen Lord is the One who was crucified for us. The crucifix shows both His victory and His love.

In this way, the corpus on the cross continually reminds us of St. Paul's words: "I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2).



Photos of the altar cross (located in front of the Christ statue) in the former church building, for reference.