

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 69 WARD, TX 78960

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Advent

GUESTS AND VISITORS: Welcome to Holy Cross and to today's worship service. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you have an interest in joining Holy Cross, please speak with Pastor or one of our Elders.

OUR COMMUNION POLICY: Communicant members of LC-MS congregations are welcome to join us for Communion. In keeping with our confessional heritage, we practice "close communion." If you are not a member of an LC-MS congregation and wish to commune, we ask that you please visit with Pastor or one of our Elders before partaking of Holy Communion. Thank you.

The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh

When King David *"lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,"* he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, "conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary" (Apostles' Creed). That holy child, the incarnate *"Son of the Most High,"* receives *"the throne of his father David"* and begins to reign *"over the house of Jacob forever"* (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is *"the mystery that was kept secret for long ages"* but is now *"made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God"* in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).

Prelude - Selected

The Ringing of the Church Bell

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn:

“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”

Hymn 114

1. Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev'ry knee
Bow in deep humility.
2. Jesus! Name decreed of old,
To the maiden mother told--
Kneeling in her lowly cell--
By the angel Gabriel.
3. Jesus! Name of priceless worth
To the fallen sons of earth,
For the promise that it gave,
"Jesus shall His people save."
4. Jesus! Name of mercy mild,
Given to the holy Child
When the cup of human woe
First He tasted here below.
5. Jesus! Only name that's given
Under all the mighty heaven
Whereby man, to sin enslaved,
Bursts his fetters and is saved.
6. Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee,
Helpless, O our God, to Thee. Amen.

[please stand]

The Invocation

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

C: ♪ Amen.

The Confession of Sins & Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

C: **O almighty God, merciful Father, I a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office, as a called an ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the

command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

C: ♪ Amen.

The Introit: Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

In them he has set a tent for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,

and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

The Gloria Patri

Pg. 16ff.

♪ **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

The Kyrie

♪ **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Solo: “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending” LSB Hymn 336

Lo! He comes with clouds descending, Once for every sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending, Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold Him Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him, Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, Shall their true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of His passion Still His dazzling body bears;
Cause of endless exultation To His ransomed worshippers;
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! Let all adore Thee, High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory, Claim the kingdom as Thine own;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign and Thou alone!

The Salutation & The Collect for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

P: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, “Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, “Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

Gradual: Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

P: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

P: Behold, your king is coming to you;

C: righteous and having salvation.

P: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle Reading: Romans 16:125-27 (ESV)

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

[please stand]

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Verse: Matthew 1:23a

P: Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

C: and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds. God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He will come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn:

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

Hymn 62

1. Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
3. Oh, come, Thou Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing night;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
4. Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.

The Sermon

“Advent Possibilities”

[we stand]

The Offertory

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Receipt of Offerings

The Prayers of the Day

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Most High, You have favored us in the incarnation of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Mary. In everything, let it be to us according to Your Word. Give us faith to believe that nothing is impossible with You, and so to pray boldly in childlike confidence. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, You have revealed in Christ Jesus the mystery kept secret for long ages, now made known to all nations through the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures. According to Your eternal command, give us faithful preachers of Your Gospel to bring about the obedience of faith. Bless our Synod president; our district president; our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ. Strengthen Your Holy Church in every place. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, hear our prayers on behalf of our nation, its president, all legislators and judges, and those newly elected to serve. Preserve their lives and guide their actions for the good of our people. Give peace among the nations of the earth, and preserve us from pestilence and famine, war and bloodshed, sedition, rebellion and every evil. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, grant all women with child and all mothers with infant children increasing happiness in their blessings. Look with compassion on the lonely, the depressed and the despairing. Grant healing to the sick, and give peace to the anxious and hurting especially Helen, Ruby, Linda, Zachary, Mark, Bernice, Cynthia, those in our hearts and on our continued prayer list. Comfort all who mourn the deaths of Curtis, Gussie, Bernell, Sandy, Robert, and all others with the certain hope of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, grant that all who receive Your Son's holy body and precious blood may do so in repentance and faith and in the unity of a true confession. Work in us this Christmas a love and desire for Your blessed Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, we give You thanks for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Key of David and the scepter of the house of Israel. By His death, He has opened the kingdom of heaven and closed the gates of hell for all who trust in Him. By His resurrection, He has rescued the prisoners who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Service of Holy Communion

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The Preface and The Proper Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: ♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: ♪ It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the Messiah, the very Lamb of God, and calling sinners to repentance, that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He cometh again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

The Sanctus

C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

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.

The Words of Institution

The Pax Domini & The Agnus Dei

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: ♪ Amen.

C: ♪ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Silent Prayer before Communing:

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul at the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Distribution

Distribution Hymns

“Behold, a Branch is Growing”

Hymn 645

1. Behold, a Branch is growing Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sung, foreknowing; It springs from Jesse's race
And bears one little Flow'r In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.
2. Isaiah hath foretold It In words of promise sure,
And Mary's arms enfold It, A virgin meek and pure.
Thro' God's eternal will This Child to her is given
At midnight calm and still.

3. The shepherds heard the story, Proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of Glory, Was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped And in the manger found Him,
As angel heralds said.
4. This Flower whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness everywhere.
True Man, yet very God; From sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load.
5. O Savior, Child of Mary, Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of Glory. Who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, we pray. To the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day. Amen.

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Hymn 85

- 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:
2. "To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child, of lowly birth, Shall be the joy of all the earth.
3. "This is the Christ, our God and Lord Who in all need shall aid afford;
He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.
4. "He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.
5. "These are the tokens ye shall mark: The swaddling-clothes and manger dark;
There ye shall find the Infant laid By whom the heavens and earth were made."
6. Now let us all with gladsome cheer Go with the shepherds and draw near
To see the precious Gift of God, Who hath His own dear Son bestowed.
7. Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes! What is it in yon manger lies?
Who is this child, so young and fair? The blessed Christ-child lieth there.
8. Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
Thou com'st to share my misery; What can we render, Lord, to Thee?
9. Ah, Lord, who hast created all, How weak art Thou, how poor and small,
That Thou dost choose Thine infant bed Where humble cattle lately fed!

10. Were earth a thousand times as fair, Beset with gold and jewels rare,
It yet were far too poor to be A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.
11. For velvets soft and silken stuff Thou hast but hay and straw so rough,
Whereon Thou, King, so rich and great, As 'twere Thy heaven, art throned in state.
12. And thus, dear Lord, it pleaseth Thee To make this truth quite plain to me,
That all the world's wealth, honor, might, Are naught and worthless in Thy sight.
13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be A quiet chamber kept for Thee.
14. My heart with very joy doth leap, My lips no more can silence keep;
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradle-song:
15. Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto us His Son hath given!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth. Amen.

Silent Prayer after Communing:

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

The Dismissal

[please stand]

The Nunc Dimittis

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♪ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Thanksgiving

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C: ♪ **And His mercy endures forever.**

P: O God the Father, Fount and Source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness did send Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament; and we ask You not to forsake Your children, but evermore to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may

be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

C:  **Amen.**

The Benedicamus - The Benediction

P: The Lord be with you.

C:  **And with Thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C:  **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you † and give you peace.

C:  **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

“The Advent of Our King”

Hymn 68

1. The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.
2. The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be;
Himself a servant's form puts on To set His servants free.
3. O Zion's Daughter, rise To meet thy lowly King,
Nor let thy faithless heart despise The peace He comes to bring.
4. As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again
And His true members all unite With Him in heav'n to reign.
5. Before the dawning day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The old man all be put away, The new man now put on.
6. All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever One Through all eternity. Amen.

Postlude

Outreach Thought

Luke 1:26-38: It can be easy for us to fall into the temptation of thinking that God couldn't possibly use us to share His Good News with others. God responds to our doubts of “I'm not a good enough speaker.” or “I can't really make a difference.” or “What if I say the wrong thing?” with – “For nothing will be impossible with God!” Our God – with whom nothing is impossible – promises to bless our faithful witness to Him!

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In **Bible Class** this morning, we will continue our NEW study of the Old Testament book of Malachi. Join us as we study this somewhat obscure minor prophet and heed the words of the Lord as He challenges us to live faithful lives in the hope and knowledge of Jesus Christ!

Christmas week is here! Our children's Christmas Eve program will be Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Christmas Day worship will be Friday at 9:00 a.m. We will rejoice in the birth of our Savior and sing some of our favorite Christmas hymns!

Special Note about Christmas Eve: The elders have decided that, at this time, Holy Cross will still plan to have our Christmas Eve Children's Christmas Program. Out of an abundance of caution related to COVID, we are asking that family members of participants be given preferential seating in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. We will still practice social distancing, and will have *both* the New Narthex *and* the Fellowship Hall available for overflow seating. Also, the service will be streamed live on Facebook, so if you don't feel comfortable being in public, or would prefer not to sit in the overflow, please plan to watch on your computer from home. Thank you for your understanding.

Dress Rehearsal for the children's Christmas Eve program will be Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. We will have our annual Christmas party immediately afterward.

The Church Office will be open this week Monday thru Wednesday. It will be open next week Monday thru noon on Thursday. Pastor Beck will be out of the office next week. If you need Pastoral assistance, please call the church office or your elder.

An Ushers meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, January 14th, at 7:00 in the sanctuary. ALL ushers are asked to be here.

Need a last minute gift? The Ladies Aid still have cookbooks and RADA Cutlery available. These items can be purchased by contacting any Ladies Aid member or stopping by the church office during the week. They make great Christmas gifts!

2021 Offering envelopes were put in your church mailboxes. Envelopes were not re-numbered for 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Hobratschk or the church office. Thanks!

The member address and phone directory is being updated and will be printed by the end of January. Have you have had a change of address, phone number, marital status, etc.? Have your grown children moved out on their own? Would you like to add a cell phone number or email address to your information? If any of these apply to you, please contact the church office by January 15th so that the correct information can included the new directory. Thank you!

End of Year Offerings - If you are planning to make an end of year offering to the church, please do so by December 31st so you will be given credit for this year. You can put it in the offering plate on Sunday morning or bring it by the office during the week. If it's more convenient, you can donate online at www.holycrosswarda.com and click on the link for Online Giving on the top right corner.

The 2021 altar flower schedule is on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have a special date you would like to reserve for altar flowers next year, you can do so now.

Attendance Last Sunday

Divine Service: 104 Bible Class: 39
 MidWeek Advent: Morning: 27, Evening: 40
 Sunday School: 17

Our Response to God's Blessings

	<u>December 6</u>	<u>December 13</u>
Estimated General Fund Weekly Need	\$ 4,610	\$ 4,610
Offering Received	\$ 5,176	\$ 2,740
Short/Over	\$ 566	(\$-1,870)
Offerings received through e-giving November 25-Dec. 15:	\$1,129.86	

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Merry Christmas!!

Faith Lutheran High School wishes you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year! We pray God would shower blessings upon you this holiday season and in the year ahead! Thank you for being a blessing to FLHS!

End of Year Giving

In Proverbs 2:6, God's Word promises: "The LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding." Faith Lutheran High School exists to instill Christ's wisdom in His Word to prepare faithful leaders for tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of this mission through your prayers and financial support. The Board of Directors encourages faithful giving during this time to further the ministry and mission of FLHS. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to further Lutheran education in our area. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. Parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

Raffle Items

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck if you have something to donate! Thank you!

Thank you!

Everyone at FLHS is blessed by each gift that we receive from our supporters. It's not about the size of the gift, but the cheerful attitude that gives thanks to God (2 Corinthians 9:7). Whether your gift seems big or small, it is greatly appreciated and makes a bigger impact than you know!

Christmas Hours

Faith will be out of school from December 19-January 4. During that time, we will have limited office hours to allow our staff the opportunity to spend time with their families. We will reopen with regular hours starting January 5. If you need immediate assistance, please contact Nikki Kueck at (501) 940-6259.



Those requesting our prayers today:

Helen Kaiser, back in Care Inn after surgery for a broken hip following a fall
Ruby Bohot, in Monument Hill for therapy
Linda Lehmann, recovering from surgery
Zachary Pietsch, recovering from back surgery
Mark Noack, dad of Ryan Noack, undergoing tests
Bernice Guettler, mom of Roland Guettler, recovering at home
Cynthia Segura, friend of Wendy Wagner, still in ICU battling COVID
Lowell and Joan Powell of Hecker Illinois, best friends of David and Linda Lehmann.
Lowell's sister, Sandy, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 11th of a blood clot.
All those on our continued prayer list

Our sympathy to William and Al Jurk and their families on the death of their cousin Robert Yurk, on Dec. 14th following a battle with cancer. His funeral was yesterday at St. James Lutheran Church in Lexington.

Thank you very much for your prayers and support for Curtis during his illness. Thank you, Pastor Beck, for your guidance during our grief. We appreciate Holy Cross for the service and preparations. *Sincerely, The Davis Family*

The family of Bernell Teinert would like to thank everyone at Holy Cross Lutheran Church for all of the kindness shown to our family during our mother's sudden passing. A special thank you to those who helped make her funeral service a special remembrance of her and a reminder for the hope we have in Jesus. Thank you to Pastor Beck for the beautiful service; organist, Carol Schramm; sound technician, Shea Kasper; Christine Hunt, for help with the bulletins; the Ladies Aid and all who brought food and helped serve at the luncheon; the ushers; and her elder, Allen Wolf. We rejoice knowing we will be reunited with her in heaven again someday!

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

December 20, 2020

Rev. Dustin Beck	Pastor
Mrs. Ann Bamsch	Organist
Mr. Curtis Wedgeworth	Lector
Mr. Shea Kasper	Audio/Video System
Dennis Pietsch, J.C. Schramm, Brian Varner	Elders on Duty
Avery Davis	Acolyte

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	10:15 a.m.	Christmas Program Practice

MONDAY—WEDNESDAY Church Office Open

TUESDAY 6:00 p.m. Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

THURSDAY—FRIDAY Church Office Closed

THURSDAY 6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Program

FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship

Next Sunday *1st Sunday after Christmas*
9:00 a.m. Divine Service
No Bible Class or Sunday School