



# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

(979) 242-3333 | [holycrosswarda.com](http://holycrosswarda.com) | [holycross@cvctx.com](mailto:holycross@cvctx.com)

600 FM 1482, Giddings TX 78942

PO Box 69, Warda TX 78960

*Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way,*

*the voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight!'*

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (LCMS)**

**1873-2020**

***147 Years of Grace***

Divine Service

9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion

1st & 3rd Sundays

Bible Class &

Sunday School

10:15 a.m.

Sharing with Everyone the Good News of Salvation Through Jesus Christ!



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

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Second 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. Please mark the Fellowship Book, providing us with your address and the name of your home congregation. 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 Elder's before partaking of Holy Communion. Thank you.

**You Are Prepared through Repentance for the Coming of the Lord**

*"The gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God"* (Mark 1:1) begins when John the Baptist appears and comes *"proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins"* (Mark 1:4). As the prophet Isaiah had written, John is the messenger of the Lord, sent before His face to prepare His way. To this day, the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of the Law and the Gospel and in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. By these ways and means, *"the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together"* (Is. 40:5), and the Good Shepherd *"will gather the lambs in his arms"* (Is. 40:11). He speaks *"tenderly to Jerusalem,"* and He comforts His people by pardoning their iniquity (Is. 40:1–2). What is more, He promises *"new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells"* (2 Peter 3:13). Repent, therefore, and humble yourself as you wait for His coming in peace (2 Peter 3:14), because He *"is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9).

**Prelude - Selected**

**The Ringing of the Church Bell**

**Words of Welcome**

**Opening Hymn:      “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”      LSB Hymn 345**

1. Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!  
"Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness,  
all you children of the day!"

2. Startled at the solemn warning,  
from the darkness we arise;  
Christ, our sun, all ill dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.

3. See, the Lamb so long expected  
comes with pardon down from heaven.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all, to be forgiven;

4. So when next he comes in glory  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
he will shield us with his mercy  
and with words of love draw near.

5. Honor, glory, might, dominion  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the everliving Spirit  
while eternal ages run. 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 and 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 80:1; 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon v. 3

Restore us, O God;

**let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**

You brought a vine out of Egypt;

**it took deep root and filled the land.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;

**let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Restore us, O God;

**let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**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.**

**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.

## The Salutation & The Collect for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: ♪ And with thy spirit.**

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

## 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:** 2 Peter 3:8-14 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup>But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

*[please stand]*

**C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Verse:** Luke 3:4b, 6

P: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;

C: all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

**Holy Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8 (ESV)

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

**C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way,

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,”

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist

and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C:  Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

### The Nicene Creed

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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:

### *“ On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”*

*Hymn 63*

1. On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Come, then, and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

2. Then cleansed be every Christian breast  
And furnished for so great a Guest.  
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

3. For Thou art our Salvation, Lord,  
Our Refuge, and our great Reward.  
Without Thy grace our souls must fade  
And wither like a flow'r decayed.

4. Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in every place.

*[we stand]*

5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom, with the Father, we adore,  
And Holy Ghost forevermore. Amen.

## The Sermon

*“The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ”*

*[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.

Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved! As You led Joseph like a flock, so now by Your Son lead us into straight paths. Bring us out of the bondage of our sins and plant us securely in Your eternal promises. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, in Your blessed patience, You send Your prophets and apostles, pastors and teachers in all times, that sinners would not perish but rather reach repentance and find comfort in Your Word, which alone will stand forever. Preserve the servants of Your Church. Give to our congregation and all congregations an increase of hope, that we may await the revealing of the new heavens and new earth in lives of holiness and godliness, diligent to be found without spot or blemish and at peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, preserve Your gift of marriage against the ravages of sin, the schemes of the devil and the raging of the world. Bless the couples and families of our congregation. Strengthen them in love and care for one another, and establish them on the foundation of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all comfort, Your Word alone endures forever. The nations of the world come and go before You. Even kings and rulers are like grass before Your breath. Preserve us from placing our trust in princes and mortal men. Give us leaders who will rule after Your good pleasure, keeping order and protecting life, that we may live in godly quietness and honesty. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, graciously regard all for whom we pray especially Ruby, Linda, Sandra, Zachary, Bernice, Cynthia, the family of Bernell Teinert, those in our hearts and those on our continued prayer list. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, we thank you for the rain that you have sent to give relief to Your dry land. Continue to look upon us with favor this winter, sending abundant rain to replenish and sustain the earth You created. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, You once prepared the way of Your only begotten Son through the preaching and baptism of John. Prepare now Your baptized Christians with true repentance and faith that seeks the forgiveness of sins, that they would worthily eat and drink Christ's true body and blood in the blessed Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through 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

***“O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee”***

***Hymn 58***

1. O Lord, how shall I meet Thee, How welcome Thee aright?  
Thy people long to greet Thee, My Hope, my heart's Delight!  
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy Thy lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly All that may please Thee best.
2. Thy Zion strews before Thee Green boughs and fairest palms,  
And I, too, will adore Thee With joyous songs and psalms.  
My heart shall bloom forever For Thee with praises new  
And from Thy name shall never Withhold the honor due.
3. I lay in fetters, groaning, Thou com'st to set me free;  
I stood, my shame bemoaning, Thou com'st to honor me;  
A glory Thou dost give me, A treasure safe on high,  
That will not fail or leave me As earthly riches fly.
4. Love caused Thy incarnation, Love brought Thee down to me;  
Thy thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, That led Thee to embrace,  
In love all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race!
5. Rejoice, then, ye sad-hearted, Who sit in deepest gloom,  
Who mourn o'er joys departed And tremble at your doom.  
Despair not, He is near you, Yea, standing at the door.  
Who best can help and cheer you, And bids you weep no more.
6. Ye need not toil nor languish Nor ponder day and night  
How in the midst of anguish Ye draw Him by your might.  
He comes, He comes all willing, Moved by His love alone,  
Your woes and troubles stilling; For all to Him are known.
7. Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Let not your souls distress;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for men procuring The peace of sin forgiven,  
For all God's sons securing Their heritage in heaven.
8. What though the foes by raging, Heed not their craft and spite;  
Your Lord, the battle waging, Will scatter all their might.  
He comes, a King most glorious, And all His earthly foes  
In vain His course victorious Endeavor to oppose.
9. He comes to judge the nations, A terror to His foes,  
A Light of consolations And blessèd Hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Thy beams so cheering, And guide us safely home! Amen.

1. The Bridegroom soon will call us:  
Come, all ye wedding guests!  
May not His voice appall us,  
While slumber binds our breasts!  
May all our lamps be burning  
And oil be found in store  
That we, with Him returning,  
May open find the door!

2. There shall we see delighted  
Our dear Redeemer's face,  
Who leads our souls benighted  
To glory by His grace.  
The patriarchs shall meet us,  
The prophets' holy band,  
Apostles, martyrs, greet us  
In that celestial land.

3. They will not blush to own us  
As brothers, sisters dear;  
Love ever will be shown us  
When we with them appear.  
We all shall come before Him,  
Who for us man became,  
As Lord and God adore Him,  
And ever bless His name.

4. Our Father, rich in blessing,  
Will give us crowns of gold  
And, to His bosom pressing,  
Impart a bliss untold,  
Will welcome with embraces  
Of never-ending love,  
And deck us with His graces  
In blissful realms above.

5. In yonder home shall never  
Be silent music's voice;  
With hearts and lips forever  
We shall in God rejoice.  
The angels shall adore Him,  
All saints shall sing His praise  
And bring with joy before Him  
Their sweetest heavenly lays.

6. In mansions fair and spacious  
Will God the feast prepare  
And, ever kind and gracious,  
Bid us its riches share.  
There bliss that knows no measure  
From springs of love shall flow,  
And never-changing pleasure  
His bounty will bestow.

7. Thus God shall from all evil  
Forever make us free,  
From sin, and from the devil,  
From all adversity,  
From sickness, pain, and sadness,  
From troubles, cares, and fears,  
And grant us heavenly gladness  
And wipe away our tears. 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:**

***“Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes”***

***Hymn 64***

1. Jesus, Thy Church with longing eyes  
For Thine expected coming waits,  
When will the promised Light arise  
And glory beam from Zion's gates?

4. Oh, come and reign o'er every land;  
Let Satan from his throne be hurled,  
All nations bow to Thy command,  
And grace revive a dying world.

2. E'en now, when tempests round us fall,  
And wintry clouds o'er cast the sky,  
Thy words with pleasure we recall  
And deem that our redemption's nigh.

5. Teach us in watchfulness and prayer  
To wait for the appointed hour  
And fit us for Thy grace to share  
The triumphs of Thy conquering power.  
Amen.

3. Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,  
Our foes repel, our wrongs redress,  
Man's rooted enmity subdue,  
And crown Thy Gospel with success.

**Postlude**

**Outreach Thought**

Mark 1:1-8: An elderly man had been fitted with a hearing aid and returned to his doctor's office a week later for a checkup. "How do you like your new hearing aid?" the doctor asked. "Just fine," the man replied. "How does your family like it?" inquired the doctor. "Oh, I haven't told them yet," the man answered, "but I have changed my will three times already." How's your hearing? If we are hearing God's Word, well...it may not be just our will that we change, but our entire lives. God's voice was proclaimed loud and clear through the voice of Isaiah, Peter, and John the Baptist, who all speak the Law and Gospel calling for us to repent of our sin, to be forgiven, and to walk the way of God. By the grace of God, your hearing has changed your life! Ask someone, "How's your hearing?" and tell them what a difference hearing the Word of God has made for you

## 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!

**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.

**Practices** for the children's Christmas Eve program continue this morning during the Sunday School hour. Children who are not participating in the program here at Holy Cross will have Sunday School with Mrs. Beck.

**Advent worship:** Join us on Wednesdays in December for Advent worship services at either 10:30am or 7pm. The earlier service may be more convenient for folks who would prefer not to drive after dark. Students and faculty from Faith Lutheran High School are joining us for the daytime services. Our theme is "The Word Became Flesh," an in depth series de-tailing the first three chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism, their connection to Christ, and His connection to us!

**PreService singing** will be held again next Sunday, December 13th, starting at 8:30. Come and join us in singing some of our favorite Christmas hymns! If you have a Christmas hymn you would like us to consider, please add it to the list on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

**Christmas Poinsettia's** - If you would like to give a Poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one, please pick-up a orange order form from the bulletin board in the Narthex, fill it out and return it to the church office by Friday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$10.00 each and payment must accompany your form. Checks should be payable to Holy Cross Ladies Aid. If you have any questions, please call Cyndy at 966-3166 or the church office. You may take your plant home after the Christmas Day service.

**The Wednesday evening Bible study group** has completed their study on the book of Psalms and will take a break for the remainder of the year. Beginning January 6th, they will begin a short 6 week discussion of a book called *You'll Get Through This* by Max Lucado. If you are interested in joining this discussion, please let Cyndy Zoch know by **Monday, December 7th**, as she will be ordering books to have available before Christmas. You can reach her at 979-966-3166 or [cyndy.zoch@gmail.com](mailto:cyndy.zoch@gmail.com). The cost of the book will be approximately \$15.00.

**Christmas Poinsettia's** - If you would like to give a Poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one, please pick-up an orange order form from the bulletin board in the Narthex, fill it out and return it to the church office by Friday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$10.00 each and payment must accompany your form. Checks should be payable to Holy Cross Ladies Aid. If you have any questions, please call Cyndy at 966-3166 or the church office. You may take your plant home after the Christmas Day worship service.

**Attendance Last Sunday**

Divine Service: 94   Bible Class: 18  
 Advent: Morning: 42   Evening: 37

**Our Response to God's Blessings**

	<u>November 22</u>	<u>November 29</u>
Estimated General Fund Weekly Need	\$ 4,610	\$ 4,610
Offering Received	\$ 2,375	\$ 1,841
Short/Over	\$ (-2,235)	\$ (-2,769)
Offerings received through e-giving November 1-30:	\$1,124.51	

## FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### Faith at Christmas” Program

FLHS students will present a Christmas concert, “Faith at Christmas,” on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00 pm at FLHS. Program will include a collection of choir pieces, handbell pieces, hymns, scripture readings and more. Refreshments will be served following the program. Masks are required for those in attendance. Please join us!!!

\*This event will also be live streamed on Facebook, for those who would prefer to view the sounds of Christmas from home.

### 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.

### 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. 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.

### 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!

### Accreditation Visit

FLHS had a very successful accreditation visit on November 8th - 10th. FLHS has been recommended for accreditation in good standing, with no major deficiencies from both the visiting team and the Texas LSAC Board. We are awaiting final approval from the National Accreditation Board next week. Praise the Lord for the wonderful blessings He continues to bestow on FLHS.

### 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!



**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Larry and Brenda Woelfel in honor of their 48th wedding anniversary on December 9th.

**Piano flowers** are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Betty Wolfram's birthday on December 6th by Sherrie and Aidan Halpain.



### **PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY**

Ruby Bohot, in Monument Hill for therapy

Linda Lehmann, scheduled for surgery on Monday

Sandra Lange, thankful for good surgery results; no additional treatments needed

Zachary Pietsch, recovering from back surgery

Bernice Guettler, mom of Roland Guettler, recovering at home

Cynthia Segura, friend of Wendy Wagner, in hospital ICU fighting COVID

All those on our continued prayer list

All those affected in some way by COVID-19

Thanksgiving for rain

*Our sympathy* to the family and friends of Bernell Teinert who was called to her heavenly home on Thursday afternoon. Her funeral will be here at Holy Cross on Tuesday at 10AM. We pray for God's peace and comfort for her family during this difficult time.

*We would like to thank* everyone who purchased BBQ chickens at our fundraiser held on November 22nd. With your support, we will again be able to make contributions to area organizations through the year. Thank you!! *Holy Cross Couple's Club*

# THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

December 6, 2020

Rev. Dustin Beck

Pastor

Mrs. Carol Schramm

Organist

Mrs. Shea Kasper

Audio/Video System

Dennis Pietsch, J.C. Schramm, Brian Varner

Elders on Duty

Sarah Kay

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
	11:00 a.m.	Pick up Ladies Aid 80 & over dinners
TUESDAY	10:00 a.m.	Funeral for Bernell Teinert
	7:00 p.m.	Faith at Christmas program
WEDNESDAY	10:30 a.m.	Advent Worship
	5:30 p.m.	Jr. Confirmation
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Worship
Next Sunday	<i>16th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	
	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	10:15 a.m.	Christmas Program Practice