

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

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Epiphany Observed

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 Elder's before partaking of Holy Communion. Thank you.

The Lord Jesus Is Found in the Temple of His Church

The Lord Jesus "grew and became strong" (Luke 2:40); He "increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). As His body grew and developed, His mind also increased in knowledge and understanding. For as our brother in the flesh, that we might "have redemption through his blood" (Eph. 1:7), He lived by faith in the Word of His Father. Thus, He was catechized by His parents, who took Him up "to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover" (Luke 2:41); and when He was of age, He gave attention to the Holy Scriptures in His Father's house (Luke 2:46, 49). Christ Jesus is still found in His Church, in "the word of truth, the gospel," by which we are adopted by His Father and sealed with His Spirit (Eph. 1:5, 13). Thus do we gain "an understanding mind" to go about our vocations, discerning "between good and evil" (1 Kings 3:9). And so do we also go up to Jerusalem, to stand "before the ark of the covenant of the Lord" (1 Kings 3:15), that is, in the Holy Communion of His body and blood.

Prelude - Selected

The Ringing of the Church Bell

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn:

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

Hymn 127

1. As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most glorious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee!

2. As with joyful steps they sped Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat!
3. As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King!
4. Holy Jesus, every day Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
5. In the heavenly country bright, Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown, Thou its Sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King! 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 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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.**

The Gloria in Excelsis

♪ **Glory be to God on high: And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King. God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Salutation & The Collect for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

P: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 3:4-15 (ESV)

⁴The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

Gradual: Isaiah 9:6, Psalm 98:1a

P: To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C: and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

P: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: for he has done marvelous things!

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14 (ESV)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to

the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

[please stand]

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Verse: Luke 2:40

P: Alleluia. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.

C: And the favor of God was upon him. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:40-52 (ESV)

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

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them,

“Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

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:

“How Lovely Shines the Morning Star”

Hymn 343

1. How lovely shines the Morning Star! The nations see and hail afar
The light in Judah shining. Thou David’s Son of Jacob’s race,
My Bridegroom and my King of Grace, For Thee my heart is pining.
Lowly, Holy, Great and glorious, Thou victorious Prince of graces,
Filling all the heav’nly places.
2. O highest joy by mortals won, True Son of God and Mary’s Son,
Thou highborn King of ages! Thou art my heart’s most beauteous Flow’r
And Thy blest Gospel’s saving pow’r My raptured soul engages.
Thou mine, I Thine; Sing hosanna! Heav’nly manna Tasting, eating,
Whilst Thy love in songs repeating.

3. Now richly to my waiting heart, O Thou, my God, deign to impart
The grace of love undying. In Thy blest body let me be,
E'en as the branch is in the tree, Thy life my life supplying.
Sighing, Crying, For the savor Of Thy favor; Resting never
Till I rest in Thee forever.

4. Thou, mighty Father, in Thy Son Didst love me ere Thou hadst begun
This ancient world's foundation. Thy Son hath made a friend of me,
And when in spirit Him I see, I joy in tribulation.
What bliss is this! He that liveth To me giveth Life forever;
Nothing me from Him can sever.

5. Oh, joy to know that Thou, my Friend, Art Lord, Beginning without end,
The First and Last, eternal! And Thou at length--O glorious grace!--
Wilt take me to that holy place, The home of joys supernal.
Amen, Amen! Come and meet me! Quickly greet me!
With deep yearning, Lord, I look for Thy returning. Amen.

The Sermon

“Safe in the Father’s House”

[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

Installation of 2021 Church Officers and Board Members

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.

Heavenly Father, we give You thanks that Your Son, the eternal Word, became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Extend His praise into all the world, that many more with us would come to hope in His steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Your Son diligently heard the Word of God and grew in wisdom and stature, submissive to His earthly parents and always about Your business and in Your house. Keep the families of Your Church abiding in Your Word, eager to be found among Your Word and Sacraments and always treasuring Your divine wisdom and favor. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You have blessed us in Christ, Your beloved Son, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Preserve Your Church by the preaching of the Gospel of salvation and the seal of the promised Holy Spirit in Baptism. Raise up among us faithful preachers to the praise of Christ's glory, until we acquire the inheritance promised us in Him. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You gave to Your servant Solomon unsurpassed wisdom to rule Your people Israel, chiefly the wisdom that begins in fearing You. Give to the leaders and elected officials of our nation wisdom for their task to discern between good and evil and to govern this people in peace and quietness. Be gracious to preserve our president and president-elect, our governor, and all legislators and judges. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, give patience and endurance to all who are sick or in any need, especially Shirley, Ruby, Rose, Kaden, Pastor Dennis and Georgette and all those sick with COVID, all those in our hearts and on our continued prayer list, and heal them according to Your will. Receive our thanksgiving for every blessing and kindness You have shown to Your people. Give comfort and hope to all who mourn the loss of loved ones as we start this new year. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Your Son has won redemption through His blood, granting the forgiveness of our trespasses. So now according to the riches of Your grace, receive those who come to Your blessed Sacrament this day. Grant worthy repentance and confident faith to all who commune, united in a sincere confession of the faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen.**

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. 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

“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

Hymn 90

1. Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.
2. Sin and death may well be groaning, Satan now may well be moaning;
We, our full salvation owning, Cast our every care away.
3. See how God, for us providing, Gave His Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding From earth's woes to heav'nly joy.
4. Christ, from Heaven to us descending And in love our race befriending,
In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily foe.
5. Jacob's Star in all it's splendor Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender, Breaking all the powers of hell.
6. From the bondage that oppressed us, From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us, We, the captives, now are free.
7. Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing
And to Thee we come confessing That our freedom Thou hast wrought!
8. Gracious Child, we pray Thee, hear us, From Thy lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us 'Till we join th'angelic choir.

“Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning”

Hymn 128

1. Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2. Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

3. Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion
Odors of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

5. Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid. Amen.

“O God of God, O Light of Light”

Hymn 132

1. O God of God, O Light of Light,
Thou Prince of Peace, Thou King of kings!
To Thee where angels know no night
The song of praise forever rings.
To Him who sits upon the throne,
The Lamb once slain for sinful men,
Be honor, might, all by Him won,
Glory and praise! Amen, Amen.

2. Deep in the prophets' sacred page,
Grand in the poets' winged word,
Slowly, in type, from age to age,
Nations beheld their coming Lord,
Till through the deep Judean night
Rang out the song "Good will to men!"
Hymned by the first-born sons of light,
Reechoed now, "Good will!" Amen.

3. That life of truth, those deeds of love,
That death of pain, mid hate and scorn,
These all are past, and now above
He reigns our King, once crowned with thorn.
Lift up your heads, ye heav'nly gates;
So sang His hosts, unheard by men;
Lift up your heads, for you He waits.
We lift them up. Amen, Amen.

4. Nations afar, in ign'rance deep,
Isles of the sea, where darkness lay,
These hear His voice, they wake from sleep,
And throng with joy the upward way.
They cry with us, "Send forth Thy light,
O Lamb, once slain for sinful men;
Burst Satan's bonds, O God of might;
Set all men free!" Amen, Amen.

5. Sing to the Lord a glorious song;
Sing to His name, His love forthtell;
Sing on, heav'n's host, His praise prolong;
Sing, ye who now on earth do dwell:
Worthy the Lamb for sinners slain;
From angels praise and thanks from men;
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign,
Glory and power! Amen, Amen. 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: *“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”*

Hymn 134

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem, In Thy birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to Thee addressed God in man made manifest.
2. Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,
And at Cana, Wedding-guest, In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow'r divine, Changing water into wine.
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

3. Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill.
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

4. Sun and moon shall darkened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine, All will see His glorious sign;
All will the the trumpet hear, All will see the Judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed, God in man made manifest.

5. Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Mirrored in Thy holy Word;
May we imitate Thee now And be pure as pure art Thou
That we like to Thee may be At Thy great Epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest. Amen.

Postlude

Outreach Thought

Luke 2:40-52: When Mary and Joseph finally found their lost child, they found Jesus at the Temple. "I must be about My Father's business," Jesus said. We too must be about our Heavenly Father's business. It is good that we are found in God's house today, for here is where we are strengthened, enabled by the Spirit and equipped to be His witnesses out in the world through the Word and Sacrament.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Class will be held this morning in the fellowship hall. We'll continue our study of the Old Testament book of Malachi.

NO Sunday School will be held this morning. Plans are to resume next Sunday.

Our first Wednesday communion services for those who do not yet feel comfortable coming to church on Sundays due to COVID will continue in the new year. Our next service will be this Wednesday, January 6th, at 9am. This service is especially for our older members or anyone whose health might prevent them from coming on a Sunday. Please help spread the word with your family and friends. Pastor Beck is still willing to set up private communion services any time you'd like or even bring communion to your home if you're anxious about getting out. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Pre-Service hymn singing will be held again next Sunday beginning at 8:30am. If you have any hymns you would like to be considered, please add them to the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

The Couple's Club meeting scheduled for this coming Friday has been cancelled.

The Bible study group will start up again this Wednesday, January 6th for a 6 week reading and discussion of the book *You'll Get Through This* by Max Lucado. All are welcome to join us! We meet starting at 6:30pm in the library. If you have any questions, please contact Cyndy Zoch at 979-966-3166 or cyndy.zoch@gmail.com

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

An Outreach group meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

As a reminder, the weekend rental rate at the picnic hall is now \$175 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The weekday rate will remain the same at \$100. This increase was approved by the voters assembly in the April 29, 2019 meeting and set to take effect on January 1, 2021. Please contact a Trustee or the church office if you have any questions.

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

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!



Prayer Requests for Today

Shirley Varner, recovering from hand surgery on Wednesday

Ruby Bohot, in Towers Nursing Home in Smithville (corrected from Monument Hill)

Rose Marie Kilian, mother of Lorie Lehmann, now on hospice care

Kaden Hernandez, friend of Scarlett Landry, recovering from injuries received in a car accident

Pastor Dennis and Georgette Bragdon, both fighting COVID

All those on our continued prayer list

All those fighting COVID in our community

Attendance Report

Christmas Eve: 122 Christmas Day: 55

December 27th: 94

Our Response to God's Blessings

	<u>December 20</u>	<u>December 28</u>
Estimated General Fund Weekly Need	\$ 4,610	\$ 4,610
Offering Received	\$ 1,765	\$ 7,786
Short/Over	\$ (-2,845)	\$ 3,176
Offerings received through e-giving December 16-30:	\$460.17	

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

January 3, 2021

Rev. Dustin Beck	Pastor
Mrs. Ann Bamsch	Organist
Mr. Mike Tabbert	Audio/Video System
Doug Lehmann, David Weishuhn, Allen Wolf	Elders on Duty
Kinlee Kays	Acolyte

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class (NO Sunday School today)
MONDAY	7:00 p.m.	Board of Ed Meeting
TUESDAY	7:00 p.m.	Ladies Aid
	7:00 p.m.	Elders
WEDNESDAY	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/Communion
	10:30 a.m.	FLHS Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Jr. Confirmation
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
	7:00 p.m.	Pietsch Endowment Fund Board meeting
Next Sunday		<i>1st Sunday after Epiphany</i>
	8:30 a.m.	PreService Hymn Singing
	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School