

**Holy Cross
Lutheran Church
(LCMS)
1873-2020
*147 Years of Grace***

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Holy Cross Lutheran
Church

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 WARDA, TX 78960

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

COVID UPDATE: With the uptick in the number of COVID cases in both Fayette and Lee County, we ask that you please wear your mask and observe social distancing (6 feet apart from those not in your family group). Thank you!!

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.

God's Gift of Forgiveness Engenders Our Forgiveness of Others

The Day of the Lord is "*near and hastening fast,*" and it will be "*a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation*" (Zeph. 1:14, 15). The Lord will search out and punish "*the men who are complacent*" concerning His Word, "*who fill their master's house with violence and fraud*" (Zeph. 1:9, 12). Then all their works and efforts will be for nothing: "*Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them*" (Zeph. 1:13). But those who fear, love and trust in the Lord are "*good and faithful*" stewards of His property (Matt. 25:21). They live by faith in His free gift of forgiveness, and they multiply His goods in the loving forgiveness of their neighbor, and "*the master of those servants*" settles His accounts with them by the gracious reckoning of His Gospel (Matt. 25:19). Likewise, "*God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ*" (1 Thess. 5:9). Therefore, let us also "*put on the breastplate of faith and love*" in our dealings with one another (1 Thess. 5:8).

Prelude - Selected

The Ringing of the Church Bell

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn:

“What Is the World to Me”

Hymn 430, v. 1-4

1. What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure
When Thou, and Thou alone, Lord Jesus, art my Treasure!
Thou only, dearest Lord, My soul's Delight shalt be;
Thou art my Peace, my Rest-- What is the world to me!
2. The world is like a cloud And like a vapor fleeting,
A shadow that declines, Swift to its end retreating.
My Jesus doth abide, Tho' all things fade and flee;
My everlasting Rock--What is the world to me!
3. The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty,
Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize Above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone-- What is the world to me!
4. The world seeks after wealth And all that Mammon offers,
Yet never is content Tho' gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good, Content with it I'll be:
My Jesus is my Wealth--What is the world to me!

[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

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your servant,

for no one living is righteous before you.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;

I ponder the work of your hands.

I stretch out my hands to you;

my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life!

In your righteousness bring my soul out

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

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 and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; 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: Zephaniah 1:7-16 (ESV)

⁷Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire.

⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.

¹⁰"On that day," declares the Lord, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill." ¹³Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."

¹⁴The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

Gradual: Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

P: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

C: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

P: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

C: in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (ESV)

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

[please stand]

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Verse: Matthew 25:29a

P: Alleluia. For to everyone who has will more be given,

C: and he will have an abundance. Alleluia.

P: Alleluia. For to everyone who has will more be given,

C: and he will have an abundance. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁴[Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five tal-

ents more.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.

²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

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:

“The Day is Surely Drawing Near”

Hymn 611

1. The day is surely drawing near When God's Son, the Anointed,
Shall with great majesty appear As Judge of all appointed.
All mirth and laughter then shall cease When flames on flames will still increase,
As Scripture truly teacheth.
2. A trumpet loud shall then resound And all the earth be shaken.
Then all who in their graves are found Shall from their sleep awaken;
But all that live shall in that hour By the Almighty's boundless pow'r
Be changed at His commanding.
3. A book is opened then to all, A record truly telling
What each hath done, both great and small, When he on earth was dwelling;
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen, And all be known as they have been
In tho'ts and words and actions.
4. Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but carnal pleasures,
Who here despised His precious Word And loved their earthly treasures!
With shame and trembling they will stand And at the Judge's stern command
To Satan be delivered.
5. O Jesus, who my debt didst pay And for my sin wast smitten,
Within the Book of Life, oh, may My name be also written!
I will not doubt; I trust in Thee, From Satan Thou hast made me free
And from all condemnation.
6. Therefore my Intercessor be And for Thy blood and merit
Declare my name from judgment free With all who life inherit,
That I may see Thee face to face With all Thy saints in that blest place
Which Thou for us hast purchased.
7. O Jesus Christ, do not delay, But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way In fear and tribulation.
Then hear us when we cry to Thee; Come, mighty Judge, and make us free
From every evil! Amen. Amen.

The Sermon

“Knowing the Master”

[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

Almighty God, everlasting Father, You are worthy of being praised for all Your gifts and graces, which You have given to us, Your unworthy people. Hear us this day as we cry to You for mercy toward all people as they have need.

You have made us Your people and preserved us through the ministry of Your Word and Sacraments. Continue to pour out upon us grace upon grace, that we may be kept in faith and guarded in hope. Make Your Church throughout the world one in doctrine, confession and life, and give to Your Church faithful pastors who will preach and teach Your Word with conviction. Deliver us from confusion and error by the power of Your Holy Spirit, and raise up those who will continue to serve in faithfulness and humility. Deliver all enemies of Your Church and convert their hearts to repentance and faith. Strengthen all Christians in their faith and in their vocation of service as Your children, that we may be obedient to Your Word and receive the salvation of our souls.

Deliver the nations from oppression and ungodly rulers and governments. Bless all in authority within our own nation, that righteousness may flourish and injustice end. Bless all those places where Your people teach and learn, that our children may honor You, walk in Your commands, and show forth in their lives the fruits of the Spirit.

Prevent all disaster and calamity, deliver us from war and violence, and spare us from pestilence. Help us to know and rejoice in the good fruits of the earth by providing your much needed gift of rain. Bless all noble occupations and help the arts to flourish, that our lives may be enriched by beauty. Help us to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of the earth You supply for our common good.

Receive with our song of praise and sacrifice of thanksgiving the tithes and offerings we bring, that, through good use of the skills, talents and time You have given us, You may be glorified in all we are and do.

Give unity to Your people, that we may not be divided in doctrine or witness, and grant us grace, that we may come to the Lord's table and receive there the body and blood of our Lord Jesus in sincere repentance and faith.

Give to the sick healing, to the suffering relief, to the grieving hope and to the dying peace. Hear us especially on behalf of those who have requested our prayers especially Sandra, Curtis, David, Linda, Bernice, Jessie, those in our hearts and those on our continued prayer list. Sustain us in the day of trial, deliver us from all our enemies of body and soul, and keep us steadfast in the day of trouble.

Remembering that here we have no abiding city but heaven is our home, give us Your aid so that we may by true faith and godly life prepare for the coming of our Savior, doing the works You have called us to do and accomplishing Your purpose in our daily lives. Help us to multiply Your mercy by loving our neighbor in need and loving You with all our body, soul, strength and will; through Jesus Christ, 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. 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

“One Things Needful; Lord, This Treasure”

Hymn 366

1. One thing's needful; Lord, this treasure Teach me highly to regard;
All else, though it first give pleasure, Is a yoke that presses hard.
Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striving,
No true, lasting happiness ever deriving.
The gain of this one thing all loss can requite
And teach me in all things to find true delight.
2. Wilt thou find this one thing needful, Turn from all created things
Unto Jesus and be heedful Of the blessed joy He brings.
For where God and Man both in one are united,
With God's perfect fullness the heart is delighted;
There, there is the worthiest lot and the best,
My One and my All and my Joy and my Rest.

3. How were Mary's thro'ts devoted Her eternal joy to find
As intent each word she noted, At her Savior's feet reclined!
How kindled her heart, how devout was its feeling,
While hearing the lessons that Christ was revealing!
For Jesus all earthly concerns she forgot,
And all was repaid in that one happy lot.

4. Thus my longings, heav'nward tending, Jesus, rest alone on Thee.
Help me, thus on Thee depending; Savior, come and dwell in me.
Although all the world should forsake and forget Thee,
In love I will follow Thee, ne'er will I quit Thee.
Lord Jesus, both spirit and life is Thy Word;
And is there a joy which Thou dost not afford?

5. Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure, Jesus, lies concealed in Thee;
Grant that this may still the measure Of my will and actions be,
Humility there and simplicity reigning,
In paths of true wisdom my steps ever training.
Oh, if I of Christ have this knowledge divine,
The fullness of heavenly wisdom is mine.

6. Naught have I, O Christ, to offer Naught but Thee, my highest Good.
Naught have I, O Lord, to proffer But Thy crimson-colored blood.
Thy death on the cross hath Death wholly defeated
And thereby my righteousness fully completed;
Salvation's white raiments I there did obtain,
And in them in glory with Thee I shall reign.

7. Therefore Thou alone, my Savior, Shalt be All in all to me;
Search my heart and my behavior, Root out all hypocrisy.
Restrain me from wand'ring on pathways unholy
And through all life's pilgrimage keep my heart lowly.
This one thing is needful, all others are vain;
I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain. Amen.

“What is the World to Me”

Hymn 430, v. 5-8

5. The world is sorely grieved Whenever it is slighted
Or when its hollow fame And honor have been blighted.
Christ, Thy reproach I bear Long as it pleaseth Thee;
I'm honored by my Lord--What is the world to me!
6. The world with wanton pride Exalts its sinful pleasures
And for them foolishly Gives up the heavenly treasures.
Let others love the world With all its vanity;
I love the Lord, my God-- What is the world to me!
7. The world abideth not; Lo, like a flash 'twill vanish;
With all its gorgeous pomp Pale death it cannot banish;
Its riches pass away, And all its joys must flee;
But Jesus doth abide-- What is the world to me!
8. What is the world to me! My Jesus is my Treasure,
My Life, my Health, my Wealth, My Friend, my Love, my Pleasure,
My Joy, my Crown, my All, My Bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare: What is the world to me! Amen.

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

Hymn 400

1. Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.
3. Take my voice and let me sing Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.
4. Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
5. Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.
6. Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee. Amen.

“Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”

Hymn 311

1. Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior, Turned away God's wrath forever;
By His bitter grief and woe He saved us from the evil Foe.
2. As His pledge of love undying He, this precious food supplying,
Gives His body with the bread And with the wine the blood He shed.
3. Whoso to this Board repaireth May take heed how he prepareth;
For if he does not believe, Then death for life he shall receive.
4. Praise the Father who from heaven unto us such food hath given
And, to mend what we have done, Gve into death His only Son.
5. Thou shalt hold with faith unshaken That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distrest, By hearts that long for peace and rest.
6. Christ says: "Come, all ye that labor, And receive My grace and favor;
They who feel no want nor ill Need no physician's help nor skill.
7. "Useless were for thee My Passion If thy works thy weal could fashion.
This feast is not spread for thee If thine own savior thou wilt be."
8. If thy heart this truth professes And thy mouth thy sin confesses,
His dear guest thou here shalt be, And Christ Himself shall banquet thee. 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: *“Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy” Hymn 659*

Feed Thy children, God most holy, Comfort sinners poor and lowly;
O Thou Bread of Life from heaven, Bless the food Thou here hast given!
As these gifts the body nourish, May our souls in graces flourish
Till with saints in heavenly splendor At Thy feast due thanks we render.

Postlude

Outreach Thought

Matthew 25:14-30: Jesus again teaches us about His Kingdom with a parable but as He does - He reveals two diametrically different understandings about the Master, the Creator and Giver of all things: one where the receiver of the talents sees the Master as a generous giver and invests the talents with joy in the “business” of the Master; the other where the receiver of the talent sees the Master as hard and stingy and therefore hides the talent in fear of the Master. As a steward of all that God has given you, how do you see the Giver? If you see Him as hard, stingy, unfair in comparison to what others have and question His giving to you, you will never steward with the joy that God intended. But, if you believe that God gave you exactly the talent and the blessings and has in mind the purpose for His Kingdom that He has intended through you, you will go about your daily tasks with joy and contentment and you will rejoice to hear the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” May God fill your heart and life with this trust and joy going about the stewardship of your Master’s business.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Class this morning will continue our conversation based on a study from the LCMS Office of National Mission called “Shepherding Our Strays.” It’s has been a time of reflection on how important it is for us (the branches) to be connected to Jesus (the vine) so that we might bear fruit! We’re learning how and why reaching out to folks who have slipped away from regular worship is expected of Christians; and we’re working together to find creative and effective ways to care spiritually for our brothers and sisters IN Christ who have found themselves OUTside His Church.

Amy Wagner Benefit Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for Amy’s pork steak dinner today!! We are preparing over 1,200 plates! Be sure to pick up some dessert when you get your plates.

Raffle tickets for Amy’s benefit are still available!! They are \$10 each or 6 for \$50. You can get them today when you pick up your meal, at the church office, or from any family member until November 25th. The drawing will be held on Thanksgiving Day.

The Holy Cross Couple’s Club will have their BBQ Chicken fundraiser on Sunday, November 22nd. Pick up from 10:00-noon at the Holy Cross picnic grounds. Chickens are \$9.00 each and 16oz cups are sauce are \$2.00. Advance orders only by signing up on the sheet in the narthex or calling the church office at 242-3333 **by TOMORROW**.

Thanksgiving Eve worship will be held on Wednesday, November 25th, at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited!

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays - Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings will again sponsor a two-hour special seminar entitled "Surviving the Holidays" for anyone facing the holidays after the death of a loved one this afternoon from 3-5 pm in the Fellowship Hall of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings. The Fellowship Hall is large enough for social distancing in seating and all are encouraged to wear masks. Bottled water will be provided; participants can bring snacks if they wish. Please contact Kathy Bartels if you have any questions or concerns at (512) 461-5442 and or email monniebartels@gmail.com.

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Thanksgiving Chapel and Feast

Join us Wednesday, November 18th, beginning at 10:30 am for our 4th Annual Thanksgiving Celebration. Rev. Thomas Obersat will be leading us in worship and some students will be assisting with music. Stay and fellowship with us during our pot-luck Thanksgiving feast lunch, immediately following chapel. Students are encouraged to invite their families and friends to join us for this wonderful holiday celebration and fellowship!

*Students and guests are asked to bring a holiday dish to share. Mrs. Kueck will make the turkeys, but sides and desserts are welcome!

Accreditation Visit

The FLHS had a very successful accreditation visit on November 8th - 10th. FLHS has been recommended for accreditation in good standing, with no major deficiencies. Praise the Lord for the wonderful blessings He continues to bestow on FLHS.

The visiting team was able to identify some major strengths of FLHS as noted below:

- The faculty of FLHS are intentional about creating and fostering a culture and climate that exemplifies the mission and ministry of the school.
- The variety of course offerings surpasses the expectation for a school of this size.
- The faculty of FLHS have genuine care and concern for the students and each other, which creates a positive, supportive family atmosphere.
- FLHS does an excellent job of offering struggling students opportunities for additional academic support through 1:1 instruction, homework support, and Power Hour.

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.

Thanksgiving Break

FLHS offices will be closed for Thanksgiving Break from November 23rd to November 27th. Have a safe, happy, and healthy holiday!

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 in loving memory of David Schramm's birthday on November 13th by Allene Schramm.



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

Sandra Lange, scheduled for tests this week

Curtis Kieschnick, recovering from back surgery on Monday

David Lehmann, recovering from multiple skin cancer surgeries

Linda Lehmann, waiting on additional appointments

Bernice Guettler, mom of Roland Guettler, home following a hospital stay

Jessie Mendoza, former Superintendent of the Fayette county sweetening plant and pipeline and good friend of Dee Herbert and Howard Konetzke, fighting stage four Lymphoma

All those on our continued prayer list

All those affected in some way by COVID-19

