

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

Mailing

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Holy Cross Warda—
Private Group

Facebook Page

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 WARD, TX 78960

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Last Sunday in the Church Year

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.

Prelude - Selected

By the Cross of Christ, We Enter the Kingdom of Our God and Father

When the crucified and risen Lord Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead, *"he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats"* (Matt. 25:32). *"To those on his right,"* who have been crucified and raised with Him through repentance and faith in His Gospel, He will grant the blessed kingdom of His Father (Matt. 25:34). Having been justified by His grace, they live unto righteousness in Him (Matt. 25:35–40). But *"those on his left,"* who trust in themselves and despise their neighbor, will depart *"into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels"* (Matt. 25:41). Until that day, the Lord searches for His sheep *"as a shepherd seeks out his flock"* (Ezek. 34:11–12). Through His preaching of repentance, He disciplines the proud sheep and goats, *"the fat and the strong,"* but through the preaching of forgiveness He rescues the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak and feeds *"the lean sheep"* (Ezek. 34:16, 20). In this way, He destroys the power of death in the children of Adam by His cross, so that *"in Christ shall all be made alive"* by His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20–26).

The Ringing of the Church Bell

Words of Welcome

Entrance Hymn: "Through All the Changing Scenes of Life" Hymn 29

1. Through all the changing scenes of life, In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still My heart and tongue employ.
2. Of His deliv'rance I will boast Till all that are distrest
From my example comfort take And charm their griefs to rest.
3. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, With me exalt His name!
When in distress to Him I cried, He to my rescue came.

4. The hosts of God encamp around The dwellings of the just;
Deliv'rance He affords to all Who on His succor trust.
5. Oh, make but trial of His love! Experience will decide
How blest are they, and only they, Who in His truth confide.
6. Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then Have nothing else to fear:
Make you His service your delight, He'll make your wants His care. Amen.

[please stand]

Opening Sentences

pg. 32

P: O Lord, open Thou my lips.

C: ♪ And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: ♪ Make haste to help me, O Lord.

**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. Hallelujah!**

The Invitatory and Venite

Hymnal Pg. 33ff.

P: Oh, come, let us worship the Lord:

C: ♪ For He is our Maker.

**♪ Oh come, let us sing unto the Lord:
let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving:
and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God:
and a great King above all gods.
In His hand are the deep places of the earth:
the strength of the hills is His also.
The sea is His, and He made it:
and His hands formed the dry land.
Oh, come, let us worship and bow down:
let us kneel before the Lorde, our Maker.**

**For He is our God:
and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.**

**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.**

Psalm: Psalm 39:4–5, 7–8, 12a; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 (NIV)

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,
the home of righteousness.

O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!

Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.

And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.

Deliver me from all my transgressions.

Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!
For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,
the home of righteousness.

[be seated]

Hymn:

“Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus”

Hymn 367

1. Hail, Thou once despised Jesus! Hail, Thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us; Thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, Thou universal Savior, Who hast borne our sin and shame,
By whose merits we find favor! Life is given thro' Thy name.
2. Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, All our sins on Thee were laid;
By almighty love anointed, Thou hast full atonement made.
Ev'ry sin may be forgiven Thro' the virtue of Thy blood;
Open is the gate of heaven; Peace is made 'twist man and God.
3. Jesus, hail, enthroned in glory, There forever to abide!
All the heav'nly host adore Thee, Seated at Thy Father's side.
There for sinners Thou art pleading, There Thou dost our place prepare,
Ever for us interceding Till in glory we appear.

4. Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing Thou art worthy to receive;
Loudest praises, without ceasing, Meet it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits, Bring your sweetest, noblest lays;
Help to sing our Savior's merits, Help to chant Immanuel's praise. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (ESV)

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. . . .

²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (ESV)

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

[we stand]

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 (ESV)

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

C:  **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

³¹[Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’

³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P: But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C:  **Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!**

Hymn:

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

LSB Hymn 845

1. Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ’s love, by love are we thus bound.

2. With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul Now love Him in return.
3. Forgive we now each other's faults As we our faults confess;
And let us love each other well In Christian holiness.
4. Let strife among us be unknown, Let all contention cease;
Be God's the glory that we seek, Be ours His holy peace.
5. Let us recall that in our midst Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined, We are in Him made one.
6. For love excludes no race or clan, That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all Whose Father is the same. Amen.

Sermon

“Knowing Sheep...and Goats”

Hymn:

“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”

Hymn 250

1. Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim, All in heav'n above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.
2. Hark! the glad celestial hymn Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim, In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy, Lord!
3. Lo, th'apostles' holy train Join Thy sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain, And the white-robed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun Thro'the Church the song goes on.
4. Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee,
Though in essence only one, Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee While we own the mystery. Amen.

The Receipt of Gifts and Offerings

The Prayers of the Day

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

For the faithful proclamation of Christ, our King, and for the strengthening of God's people in this true faith and their baptismal life in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For Christ's holy, catholic and apostolic Church; for all who faithfully confess the saving name of Christ; and for the protection of the Lord to extend over us against the devil, the world and our own sinful selves, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For God's people in this place, for the mission and work God has given us to do, and for the unity of the Spirit and a spirit of cooperation and harmony in our life together, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all the schools of our church body, for the seminaries where our pastors are being trained for Your service, and for the campuses where our young are prepared for their occupations by their vocation as God's people by Baptism and faith, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have wandered from the flock of God, for the faithful shepherds who gather them in through the voice of God's Word, for our forgiveness, and for our willingness to forgive others in Christ's name, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our president and governor, our newly elected leaders and all in authority over us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all artists and artisans; for science and invention; for those who serve us in the medical arts; for tradespeople and laborers; and for those who serve and protect us as police, firefighters and military personnel, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the hungry and homeless, for the unemployed and underemployed, for those who work in disaster relief, and for the social-service agencies of our church, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For rain and seasonable weather, for those devastated by storms and floods, for those affected by drought and famine, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For a giving spirit, that we may not neglect the poor nor fail to provide resources to the Church to fulfill the Lord's bidding and spread the Gospel to every place, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those afflicted by illness of body or mind and for those who care for them, especially Sandra, Curtis, Zachary, Bernice, Cynthia, those in our hearts and on our continued prayer list, that with God's strength they may kept through patience and delivered to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the grieving, that they may have hope, and for those near the end of their earthly lives, that they may be sustained in faith to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Kyrie

pg. 39

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

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 Salutation

pg. 40

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with thy Spirit.**

The Collect for Grace

P: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who has safely brought us to beginning of this day, defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C:  Amen

The Benedicamus and Benediction

pg. 40

P: Bless we the Lord.

C:  Thanks be to God.

P: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with you all.

C:  Amen.

Closing Hymn:

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Hymn 341

1. Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee
And hail Him as thy matchless King Thro' all eternity.
2. Crown Him the Virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn;
Fruit of the mystic rose, As of that rose the stem;
The root whence mercy ever flows, The Babe of Bethlehem.
3. Crown Him the Lord of Love, Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye At mysteries so bright.
4. Crown Him the Lord of Life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.
5. Crown Him the Lord of Heaven, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to whom is given The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is King of all. Amen.

Postlude

Outreach Thought

Matthew 25:31-46: The parable of the sheep and the goats does not put an emphasis on works, but instead, it puts them in their proper perspective. Here is the greatest perk for serving the Lord. With every task and every deed and with every person, we have the opportunity to meet Christ in that person and through that deed. So, how do we wait for Judgment Day? With certainty in His pronouncement of our sins forgiven, with certainty of receiving inheritance that our compassionate Judge has prepared us for eternity, and with certainty that every day, every task, every vocation has significance to God and to us, because unbelieving souls are saved through the power of the Holy Spirit and believing souls meet Christ as they wait.

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 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 Fundraiser - Raffle tickets for Amy's benefit are still available!! They are \$10 each or 6 for \$50. You can get them at the church office or from any family member until November 25th. The drawing will be held on Thanksgiving Day.

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

Practices for the children's Christmas Eve program will start next Sunday, November 29th during the Sunday School hour. All participants are asked to be here. Children who are not participating in the program here at Holy Cross will have Sunday School with Mrs. Beck.

Advent worship this year will have two services each Wednesday starting December 2nd. The morning service will be at 10:30 a.m. and the evening service will be at 7:00 p.m. We invite and encourage everyone to come to one of these services as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Care Packages - Our college students, like many of us, haven't had an ideal year. We want to send them some encouragement from our church family in the form of small care packages including a letter from Pastor Beck. If you would like to help out, there are a few ways to do so. First, you can drop off notes to be included in the packages. If you want it to go to a specific student, please make sure their name is on the front. Second, you can shop, when we have sent these out in the past, some favorites were new school supplies (pens, post-its, mechanical pencils, highlighters, etc.), hygiene items (small lotion, fun soap, hand sanitizer, etc.), and snacks that won't spoil quickly or spill; but please don't limit yourself to what has been suggested here. Please keep in mind that the boxes will not be very large. These items and the notes can go in the box labeled "college care packages, near the Ladies Aid collection box for World Relief items. Last, if you'd like to help sponsor postage for the packages, or

pizza for the youth group when they pack them, please drop it off with Christine. We will pack them on Sunday, December 6th, so please drop off any items you wish to contribute before then. If you aren't able to help with this event in any of the ways listed above, would you please pray for our students this month?

If you have a student in 5th-12th grade that is interested in a youth night where we pack the boxes (and write notes to the students), please join us on Sunday, December 6th, from 4:00-7:00 in the Fellowship Hall. After we pack the boxes, we will have pizza and play some games. Feel free to bring a dessert or other snack to share. RSVP to Chelsea or Pastor by December 1st. We can't wait to see you!

If you have a college student (trade school, master's program, etc), please make sure that Chelsea Beck (chelseakayebeck@gmail.com) has their name and mailing address no later than Tuesday, December 1st, so that they can be included.

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. The cost of the book will be approximately \$15.00.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Worship: 81 Bible Class: No report

Sunday School: 12

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Thanksgiving Break

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

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.

“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.

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!



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Allen and Dolores Wolf in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary on November 26th.



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

Sandra Lange, scheduled for surgery on Monday
Curtis Kieschnick, recovering from back surgery
Zachary Pietsch, recovering from back surgery
Bernice Guettler, mom of Roland Guettler, home following a hospital stay
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

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

November 22, 2020

Rev. Dustin Beck
Mrs. Carol Schramm
Mr. Curtis Wedgeworth
Doug Lehmann, David Weishuhn, Allen Wolf
Abbi Noack

Pastor
Organist
Audio/Video System
Elders on Duty
Acolyte

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
TUESDAY	5:30 p.m.	Pastor Beck/Organists
WEDNESDAY	7:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Eve Worship
THURSDAY-FRIDAY		Church Office Closed
Next Sunday		<i>First Sunday in Advent</i>
	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	10:15 a.m.	Christmas Program Practice