



# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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1873-2023

150 Years of God's Grace

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

Divine Service  
9:00 a.m.  
Holy Communion  
1st & 3rd Sundays

Bible Class &  
Sunday School  
10:15 a.m.

*Welcome to*  
**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
PO Box 69    Warda TX 78960  
979.242.3333 [holycrosswarda.com](http://holycrosswarda.com)

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠

(In the Name of Jesus)

**GUESTS & VISITORS:** Welcome to Holy Cross and to today’s worship service. We are glad you are here! Please register your attendance in the Fellowship Book in the pew (be sure to include the name of any children with you today). We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you have any questions, or 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.

**IN TODAY’S READINGS:** *Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us*

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger, but with compassion. He does not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (Matt. 18:23–27). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have “*mercy on your fellow servant*” and “*forgive your brother from your heart*” (Matt. 18:33, 35). By the Lord’s forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us, because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead and He has paid our entire debt with His lifeblood. Whether we live or die, we “*are the Lord’s*” (Rom. 14:8). Since we all will “*stand before the judgment seat of God,*” we are not to despise our brother (Rom. 14:10), but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also “*will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand*” (Rom. 14:4). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends “*to bring it about that many people should be kept alive*” (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: “*I will provide for you and your little ones*” (Gen. 50:21).

**PRELUDE - *Selected***

# THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

## WORDS OF WELCOME

### OPENING HYMN

*“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”*

*Hymn 324, v. 1-4*

*[Please stand]*

### INVOCATION

*pg. 15ff*

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

**C** *♪ Amen.*

*Matthew 28:20*

### CONFESSION OF SINS AND 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. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

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

**C** *♪ Who made heaven and earth.*

*Psalm 124:8*

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

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

*Psalm 32:5*

**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.*

*[John 20:19-23]*

### SERVICE OF THE WORD

**INTROIT - Psalm 143: 1-3; antiphon v. 9**

Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord!

**I have fled to you for refuge!**

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.  
Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord!  
I have fled to you for refuge!

### GLORIA PATRI

*Pg. 16ff.*

**C** **♪** 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.

### KYRIE

**C** **♪** Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. *Mark 10:47*

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**C** **♪** 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. *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

### SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**C** **♪** And with thy spirit.

**P** O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **♪** Amen.

*[Please sit]*

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Genesis 50:15-21*

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup>So they

sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died, <sup>17</sup>‘Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### GRADUAL

*Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

Fear the Lord, you his saints,

**for those who fear him lack nothing!**

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

**but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

### EPISTLE READING

*Romans 14:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup>for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*[Please stand and face the pastor in the center of the nave, a sign of Christ's presence among His people]*

## VERSE

*Matthew 6:14*

**C**  **Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**


**P** If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

**C**  **Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 18:21-35*


**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

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

<sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C**  **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

## NICENE CREED

pg. 22

**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.

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *“I Leave All Things to God’s Direction”*

*Hymn 529*

**SERMON**

“God Meant It for Good”

*[Please stand]*

**OFFERTORY**

*pg. 22*

**☩** *♪* 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.

*Psalm 51:10-12*

*[Please sit]*

**RECEIPT OF OFFERINGS**

**PAUSE TO PONDER:** Romans 14:7 – “For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.” We just don’t belong to ourselves — we belong first of all to God, and through Him, we belong to our neighbors. We are here to serve God in our service to one another. God has called you to this service through your vocation: as a Christian you serve others in the church, as a neighbor you serve others in society, and as a son or daughter, husband or wife, father or mother, you serve your family. ...

*[Please stand]*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

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

Heavenly Father, in Your mercy You have forgiven our insurmountable debt of sin, ransoming us with the death of Your Son. Free us from our grudges and unforgiving nature, lest through our lack of mercy we exclude ourselves from Your forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, as You kept Joseph from evil and brought good from his suffering in Egypt, deliver us by Your grace so that we may learn patience in trials. Teach us to be slow to judge, quick to forgive, and steadfast in love for You and one another. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We praise You, O Lord, for retaining among us Your Holy Word and Sacraments. Continue to raise up faithful stewards of Your mysteries, that repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Christ's name would be proclaimed in our midst and throughout the world. Prepare Your baptized children to be faithful confessors of the hope that is in them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Caring Father, visit the homes of Your people. Keep them from all harm and danger, and grant that we would dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of power and might, sustain the nations of the earth and lead them in the way of justice and truth. Defend life and liberty, and give us honest and faithful rulers, that our nation may strive toward what is honorable, true and just. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, according to Your will grant healing to the sick and infirm especially Bob, Al, Carolyn, Becky, Louis, and all those we name in our hearts this morning. Grant them patience to endure their time of suffering, and crown their days with Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, though we come to Your table as servants who owe a debt we cannot pay, Your Son has forgiven it in its entirety. As we receive His very body and blood for our forgiveness, let us be grateful and go out to serve others with the same spirit of forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



**PREFACE AND PROPER PREFACE**

- P** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
- C** **♪ And with thy spirit.**
- P** Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*
- C** **♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God. *[Psalm 136]*
- 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:

**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.** *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**LORD'S PRAYER**

- P** Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.** *Matthew 6:9-13*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24  
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**PAX DOMINI AND AGNUS DEI**

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always! *John 20:19*
- 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.** *John 1:29*

## 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.*

## DISTRIBUTION

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

<i>“Grace! Tis a Charming Sound”</i>	<i>Hymn 374</i>
<i>“If Thy Beloved Son, O God”</i>	<i>Hymn 375</i>
<i>“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”</i>	<i>Hymn 376</i>
<i>“Salvation Unto Us has Come”</i>	<i>Hymn 377</i>


## 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.*

*[Please stand]*

## NUNC DIMITTIS


*pg. 29ff*

**C**  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.

*Luke 2:29-32*

## THANKSGIVING AND POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

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

**C**  **And His mercy endures forever.** *Psalm 107:1*

**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.**

## BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

pg. 31

**P** The Lord be with you.


2 Timothy 4:22

**C**  **And with Thy spirit.**


**P** Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

**C**  **Thanks be to God.**

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

Numbers 6:24-26

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

## CLOSING HYMN

*“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”*

*Hymn 324, v. 5-8*

## POSTLUDE

**OUTREACH THOUGHT:** Matthew 18:21-35: Where’s your cross? Some point to the cross they are wearing as a necklace or on their ears. Some may pull out of their purse the “Cross in my pocket” that they have been carrying around for years. Today, some may even point to a tattoo or belly-button cross. Strangely enough, many people will draw your attention to a burden they are bearing as their “cross.” Today is the Feast of the Holy Cross, which is a symbol of victory over sin, death and the power of the devil. The Cross of Christ Crucified is upon you in remembrance of your Baptism on your forehead and hearts marking you as one who belongs to Him. It is in your life as you face the burdens of this world; not as the burdened, but as the overcomers of the world, triumphant in Christ. People will want to be their best around you because your best is Christ living in you. There is no room for foul language, tasteless jokes, gossip, or tolerating sinful behavior around you because Christ lives in you and everyone knows it. Celebrate the Cross in your life. Bear it passionately, on your forehead, in your heart, and through your life, because the Cross of Christ makes a difference in you as one belonging to Jesus and to all those around you who will want to be at their best. This celebration will become contagious and will be of great joy until our Lord returns.

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday Morning Bible Class** is studying the book of Revelation. Dragons, beasts, and plagues...armies of angels, martyrs, and a slaughtered lamb...If you've never studied Revelation, or if it's a book that intimidates you, this will be a class you won't want to miss. We'll talk about the importance of Revelation; its place in the Bible; why it's not really a scary book for Christians; what some of the strange visions and images are really all about; and more. This study will provide an overview of the book and a chapter by chapter survey of the material. Please plan to join us as we take up the last book of the Bible and learn of the great comfort and hope that it imparts!

**There's a NEW Sunday morning Bible Class** for our post-Confirmation youth. If you've been confirmed, this one might just be a good fit for you! Chelsea Beck will be leading this discussion-based class for our high school and college age students. Join in each Sunday to dive deeper into the faith and to continue your growth beyond Confirmation and into navigating life as a Christian adult!

**Nominating Cards** for church officers for 2024 were mailed on September 8th. If you received a card, please return it to the church office or David Weishuhn by September 25th.

**150th Anniversary t-shirts** are now available for FREE on a first-come, first-serve basis. Get yours this morning in the narthex after church.

**GEMS:** Please note that the Post Oak GEMS group (Girls Embracing Mission Service) will not be meeting at our regularly scheduled time and place for September. Instead, we will have a booth at the Wendish Festival on Sunday, September 24, doing glitter tattoos from noon until 3:00. All proceeds will go toward sending our girls to the GEMS program of the LWML convention in Corpus Christi next summer. Please stop by to support us!

**WENDISH FEST:** The 35th Annual Wendish Fest will be hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church and the Texas Wendish Heritage Society on Sunday, September 24, 2023 @ Serbin, Texas. Guest speaker for the 8:30 English Church Service and the 10:30 German Church Service will be Rev. Dr. Gerald Paul (serving in Grad Cayman), Rev. John Schmidt, St. Paul Serbin (English Liturgy), and Rev. Thomas Ober-sat of Ebenezer Manheim (German Liturgy). Church tours will be offered @ 12:30 & 1:30p.m. The day will offer lots of Wendish history, heritage, culture and family activities @ the St. Paul Picnic Grounds. Tickets for the traditional Wendish noon

meal will go on sale at 10:30 a.m. Adults are \$15 and children \$6. To-Go and drive-thru will also be available at 9:30 – all take-out meals are \$15. The joy of polka music will be shared throughout the day by The Shiner Hobo Band, and students of St. Paul Lutheran School will present Ptači Kwas (Wendish Bird Wedding). The Texas Wendish Heritage Museum Complex will feature Wendish folkways, demonstrations and exhibits, a German Christmas Market and the traditional decorated Wendish Easter Egg demonstrations and sales. Research and genealogy assistance will be available. Wendish Fest is made possible through the work of many volunteers. We appreciate each and every one! For information contact 979-366-2441 or [museum@texaswendish.org](mailto:museum@texaswendish.org) or [www.texaswendish.org](http://www.texaswendish.org)

The **Post Oak Zone LWML Fall Rally** will be held on Sunday, October 1st, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Dime Box. Registration begins at 1:30 with the rally starting at 2:00. Election of officers will be held. A monetary in-gathering will be collected for University Lutheran Chapel in College Station. A salad supper will follow the rally. All ladies are invited to attend!

**St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Winchester** will have a Pork Steak dinner on Sunday, October 8th. Drive-thru only from 10:30-1:00 at the church. Advance ticket sales only by September 30th at the St. Michael's church office or from Mirlyn Griffin at (979) 966-8912. Proceeds benefit St. Michael's Mission and their sponsored missionaries.

### Attendance Last Sunday

Divine Service: 146   Bible Class: 45  
Sunday School: 22

### Our Response to God's Blessings

	September 3	September 10
Estimated General Fund Weekly Need	\$ 5,150	\$ 5,150
Offering Received	\$ 2,370	\$ 4,680
Short/Over	\$ (2,780)	\$ (470)
Offerings received through e-giving September 1-15:	\$144.84	



**Chapel Time Change:**

Due to 7th and 8th grade visit days, our chapel time on Wednesday September 20th, and September 27th will be adjusted to 11:20 am. Please plan accordingly! See you there!

**7th and 8th Grade Visit Day:** 8th grade students from our area private schools will be joining us in the afternoon of Wednesday, September 20th, and 7th grade students will be joining us in the afternoon of Wednesday, September 27th. This annual visit event is a great opportunity for future students to see what FLHS is all about and what high school might look like. If you have a 7th or 8th grader, and would like to bring them for visit day, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

**7th and 8th Grade Game Night:** FLHS will be hosting a game night for 7th and 8th grade students on Friday, September 29 from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm at Faith Lutheran High School. We will have lots of food, fun, and fellowship!

**Save the Date!** FLHS's annual Oktoberfest will be Saturday, October 28th. New this year will be **The Battle of the Vines**, in addition to **The Battle of the Brew** - both are home brew competitions, so start planning your brews now. Returning will be our traditional German meal, domino tournament, cornhole tournament, silent and live auction, music, kids games, bounce house, and lots of fun! Find our Facebook event, or see our flier for all the details about the day!

**Oktoberfest Meal Tickets:** Tickets for our annual Oktoberfest celebration are now available! Meal includes brats, noodles, green beans, potato salad, kraut, bread and coffee cake. Meals will be available on Saturday, October 28 from 11 am to 1 pm at the Holy Cross Picnic Grounds. Tickets are \$15 each and available for pre-sale only! Talk to a FLHS student, staff, board, or delegate today!!

**Thank You!** Thank you for all the prayers and support you have offered on behalf of FLHS. As we have just begun another year, we are thankful for each of you who faithfully pray and support the ministry God has created at FLHS. Thank you, on behalf of the students who will be instilled with wisdom as they become faithful leaders tomorrow, for your generous support!

# Altar Flowers

**Altar flowers** are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Ronnie Schnell, in remembrance of his birthday, our anniversary, and all the memories we made and shared by Kay, Wendy, Callie & Gary.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

Bob Peters, recovering from a mild stroke

Al & Carolyn Jurk, both recovering from COVID; Carolyn is in Towers Rehab for physical therapy

Becky Urban, niece of Linda and David Lehmann, now at home and walking with a walker.

Louis Jakiel (son of Wendy Wagner's co-worker) in ICU following surgeries for a serious motorcycle accident

I would like to thank the congregation and the members who were able to help me last Sunday when I had my stroke. I'm so thankful for being a member of the Holy Cross family, and I'm grateful for your treating me as a brother in Christ. *Bob Peters*

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers for Whitney and Amber. Amber is doing well and we are so grateful she donated her kidney to help Whitney. Whitney is still recovering from her kidney transplant. Whitney is doing well but is having some issues from medication she is on. Please continue to keep Whitney in your prayers. Thank you again for your prayers. *Tommy & Lana Swearingen*

Thank you all for another very successful church picnic! For all those who donated and purchased items from our auction, all those who purchased items from our various church organizations throughout the day, and most importantly all those who volunteered their time and talents to improve our picnic year after year! God's Blessings to each and every one of you and Lord willing we will try it again next year!

*Chris Kovar, Chairman*

*Those who serve today: September 17, 2023*

Rev. Dustin Beck	Pastor
Mrs. Carol Schramm	Organist
Mrs. Brenda Woelfel	Greeter
Mr. Shea Kasper	Audio/Video System
Callie Wagner & Hailey Bamsch	Acolyte
Elders on Duty	
Mr. Doug Lehmann	
Mr. Brian Varner	
Mr. Ron Zoch	

**CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES**

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	11:15 a.m.	Jr. Confirmation (2nd Year)
TUESDAY	9:00 a.m.	Pastors Circuit Mtg. in Lexington
	5:30 p.m.	Pastor Beck/Organists
WEDNESDAY	FLHS 8th Grade Visit Day	
* NOTE time change:	*10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	*11:20 a.m.	FLHS Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. Confirmation (1st Year)
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
Next Sunday	WENDISH FEST	
	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School

*Soli Deo Gloria*

(To God alone be Glory)