



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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1873-2022

149 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.

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

Sunday, May 8, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Easter

GUESTS AND 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.

The Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came from the Father and became flesh among us in order to rescue us, His sheep. He laid down His life for us and took it up again in order to give us eternal life. By the preaching of His Gospel, He calls His sheep to Himself and keeps them with Him forever. As they hear His voice and follow Him, *"they will never perish"* (John 10:28), for *"no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand"* (John 10:29). In the same way, faithful pastors (literally, "shepherds") *"care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood"* (Acts 20:28), *"testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Acts 20:21). Therefore, with all the company of heaven, the Good Shepherd gathers His flock in worship, as they cry: *"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"* (Rev. 7:10).

Prelude - Selected

The Ringing of the Church Bell

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn: *"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"* *Hymn 436*

The Invocation

pg. 5ff

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.

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end, that by Thy grace, we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name, He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: ♪ Amen.

The Introit: Psalm 78:70–72; 79:13; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds;

from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance.

With upright heart he shepherded them

and guided them with his skillful hand.

But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever;

from generation to generation we will recount your praise.

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

The Gloria Patri

pg. 6ff

♪ 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, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; 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.**

First Reading: Acts 20:17-35

¹⁷Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own

blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual: adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

P: Christ has risen from the dead.

C: [God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

P: He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

C: he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle Reading: Revelation 7:9-17 (ESV)

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

[please rise and face the Pastor in the center of the nave, a sign of Christ's presence among His people]

Verse: Romans 6:9; John 10:14

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Holy Gospel: John 10:22-30 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Apostle’s Creed

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I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Children’s Message

Sermon Hymn: *“The King of Love, My Shepherd Is”* *LSB Hymn 709*

The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his And he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul he leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love he sought me
And on his shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill With thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise Within thy house forever!

The Sermon

“The Shepherd’s Voice”

[we stand]

The Offertory

pg. 12ff

♪ 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

Pause to Ponder

John 10:27 – “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

On their own sheep are in great danger. They need a shepherd to guide them. The sheep know the Shepherd’s voice, and we delight to go where He leads. Of course, the world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh want to pull us in another direction. Namely, they want to pull us in the direction of death. But following the Shepherd means life. So, no matter how difficult the path is, let us follow the Shepherd!

Hymn:

“I Am Jesus Little Lamb”

Hymn 648

The Prayers of the Day

Heavenly Father, in Your name Your Son purchased us with His own most holy blood, and He now leads us through the gate of death to our eternal home with You. As the sheep of His fold, inspire us to hear His voice gladly and to follow Him steadfastly through every tribulation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, Shepherd of souls, Your servant Paul entrusted his flock to the care of faithful men, urging them to follow him in the way of Christ. Bless Your Church under the care of her pastors, and instill in them all wisdom, fortitude, humility and grace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You have provided us with the gift of family. Bless those who have shown us a mother's love and nurtured our lives from childhood. Bless and protect all mothers with child, all those who have suffered miscarriage or the death of a child, and all those who have yearned for a child and lived with the pain of this unfulfilled longing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate Lord, You will not allow any power or enemy to triumph over Your saving purpose or snatch Your lambs from Your hand. Give us wise and faithful leaders who will govern in our land according to Your Law and defend the lives of the unborn, the orphaned, the widowed and the aged. Bless all those who make, administer and judge our laws, that they may not hinder Your purpose. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, You have not forgotten us in our afflictions or abandoned us in our weakness. Deliver the sick and suffering according to Your will, and give Your comfort to the dying, especially to those who have requested our prayers including Amy, Al, Allen, Bernice Joyce, Wesley, Clara, Margaret, and all those we name in our hearts. Guard us against despair, and grant us patience in the days of our trouble as we await Your perfect healing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, enthroned in heaven, You gather Your saints into the shelter of Your presence, making them white in the blood of the Lamb. Keep us faithful throughout our lives here, and bring us through death to join them in the ceaseless praises of heaven. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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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 Collect for the Word/Church

pg. 14

P: Blessed Lord, who has caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C:  Amen.

The Benediction

pg. 14

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.

C:  Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Closing Hymn: *“Savior, Who Thy Flock art Feeding”* *Hymn 631*

Postlude

Outreach Thought

John 10:22-30: Most of us have seen the commercial by Verizon Wireless. It's the old one where the guy walks around to various places where a phone normally would not work and he asks the question, “Can you hear me now?” And getting the affirmation that he has been heard - loud and clear - he responds, “Good!” The risen Good Shepherd gives us renewed clarity today. The Day is coming when everyone will hear His voice. By then, it will be too late to respond to that Voice in repentant faith. So, our daily mission is to give clarity to one voice and to one voice alone - the Risen Christ. When the storms of life are raging, when the doctor says, “cancer,” when people are facing the crossroads of life, can they hear Jesus, their Good Shepherd and follow Him? Only when the answer is YES for the entire world can we feel content. Until then, keep asking, “Can you hear the Good Shepherd?”

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Bible Class Topic! TODAY, we'll be venturing into the Minor Prophet book of Amos! This fiery book will introduce us to the themes of God's judgment in the Old Testament, the depths of Israel's sin (and ours!) and how even a few brief words of comfort can bind up our broken consciences and can point us to Jesus, Who alone can restore us to life!

The Youth Group will meet again next Sunday, May 15th at 11:00 a.m. Note the date change due to today being Mother's Day.

I want to thank all of our brothers and sisters in Christ at Holy Cross for the many calls, visits and cards received during my absence due to surgery. Your continued prayers for a successful recovery are appreciated. It was refreshing to be able to attend worship services again this past Sunday. Yours in Christ, *Allen Wolf*

TOUR OF THE LUTHER LANDS OF GERMANY WITH THE OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

Pastor Mark & Connie Barz of Crown of Life Lutheran Church in San Antonio, invite you to join them for an 11-day journey of discovery from September 6 to 16, 2022. We will visit most of the key cities and sites of the Reformation and in the life of Martin Luther, explore various places of history and beauty in Germany, and experience the world-renown Oberammergau Passion Play. Flights, hotels, tickets, and most meals are included in the tour package. Daily devotions will also add to this time of faith and friendship. Send an e-mail to Pastor Barz at pastor@crownoflifesa.org to receive a tour brochure or to ask your questions.

Texas Wendish Heritage Society Scholarship Program: The TWHS scholarship program is available to students of Wendish descent and encourages students to learn more about their Wendish heritage. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited college, university or trade school for Fall 2022 semester. 2022-2023 scholarship applications will be available beginning April 19th online at texaswendish.org and on the Texas Wendish Facebook Page. The entire process is online and must be submitted digitally by the deadline; 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 15th, 2022. For more information contact the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum at 979-366-2441 or museum@texaswendish.net. Thanks for your support!

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The Spring Thing!

FLHS is proud to present The Spring Thing! This will be a showcase of our students' work in the fine art department. Please join us at Holy Cross's Fellowship Hall this Wednesday, May 11th, at 7pm.

Youth Camps

Summer camps are back! We are excited to offer a variety of camps for youth this summer. Ages are for grades NEXT school year.

June 1 - Frog Dissection - Grade 6 to 8 - \$15

June 6-8 - Volleyball - Grade 3 to 8 - \$15

June 13-15 - Basketball - Grades K to 8 - \$15

June 20-22 - STEM Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$ 30

June 27-29 - Art Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$30

Aug 1-2 - Archery - Grade 4 to 8 - \$15

Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information! Don't wait --- Sign up today!! Space is limited!

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is underway. We would love to welcome you into our Falcon family as well. Call us at (979) 242-2889 to schedule a shadow day or visit our website at www.flhstx.org for registration information.

Thrivent Action Team Grants

If you are a Thrivent member willing to submit an application for a \$250 grant to be used on projects at Faith, please contact Nikki Kueck by calling (979) 242-2889. Help us to be able to take advantage of these funds for the good of our school. *We are currently looking to utilize Action Grants to offset expenses associated with our summer camps!

Amazon Smile

Did you know Faith Lutheran High School is on Amazon Smile? After you select FLHS as the charity of your choice, everytime you purchase something from Amazon Smile, FLHS will receive a donation. In the past two years, FLHS has received over \$400 from this program. Thank you!



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of my mommy, Amanda Knox, by Emma Knox.

Pulpit Stand flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Ruby Bohot by Alfred Bohot and family.



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

Amy Wagner, recovering from surgery this week

Al Jurk, recovering from neck surgery

Allen Wolf, doing well following back surgery

Bernice Guettler, mom of Roland Guettler, recovering from hip surgery following a fall

Joyce Bise, sister of Jerrell Dunk, in Oakland Manor under hospice care

Wesley Cervenka, brother of Debbie Knox, undergoing cancer treatments

Clara Damerow, friend of Linda Lehmann, in rehab following a fall and broken hip

Margaret Menzies, friend of Wendy Wagner, recovering from emergency hip replacement after falling off a ladder

All those on our continued prayer list and those we know fighting cancer and other illness

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

May 8, 2022

Rev. Dustin Beck	Pastor
Mr. Cory Knox	Lector
Mrs. Ann Bamsch	Organist
Mrs. Oranell Dunk	Greeter
Mr. Curtis Wedgeworth	Audio/Video System
Doug Lehmann, Allen Wolf, Ron Zoch	Elders on Duty
Ashton Grimm	Acolyte

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	10:30-Noon	Pick Up BBQ Chickens
WEDNESDAY	10:30 a.m.	FLHS Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Pastor Beck/Organists
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	FLHS Spring Thing
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
Next Sunday		<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>
	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Youth Group