



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

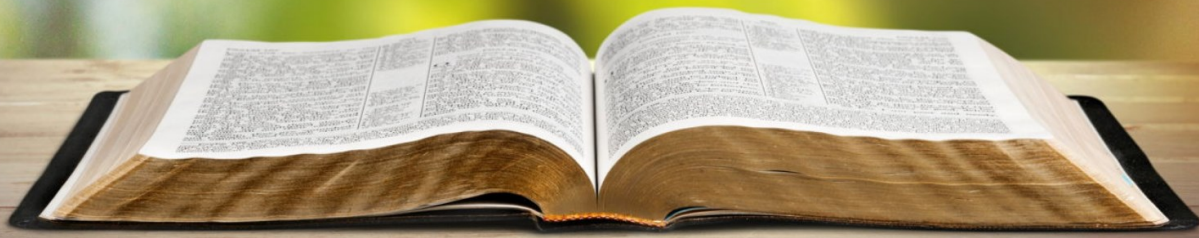
WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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AN *Eternal Gospel* TO PROCLAIM TO THOSE WHO DWELL ON EARTH



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

Sunday, October 29, 2023

Reformation Observed

✠ 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.

IN TODAY'S READINGS:

The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His Grace

"Wisdom is justified by her deeds" (Matt. 11:19), and the true wisdom of God, Christ Jesus, the incarnate Son, justifies us by His deeds. He prepares His way by the preaching of repentance, but He has suffered the violence of the Law and voluntarily handed Himself over to violent men, in order that we may eat and drink with Him in His Kingdom and *"remain in the house forever"* (John 8:35). He is *"a friend of tax collectors and sinners"* (Matt. 11:18–19), and He has rescued us by His grace from the slavery of sin and death. By the proclamation of His eternal Gospel *"to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people"* (Rev. 14:6), *"the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law"* (Rom. 3:21), *"that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus"* (Rom. 3:26). And by the hearing of that Gospel of Christ Jesus, *"whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith"* (Rom. 3:25), *"you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"* (John 8:31–32).

PRELUDE - Selected

THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *"Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation"*

Hymn 258

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM: Kamryn JoAnn Canada & Myles Frederick Canada

[Please stand]

INVOCATION

pg. 5ff

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*

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, hath had mercy up on and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C **♪ Amen.**

[John 20:19-23]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT - *Psalm 34:1–2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46*

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
and shall not be put to shame.

I will bless the Lord at all times;

his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the Lord;

let the humble hear and be glad.

Come, O children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

The Lord redeems the life of his servants;

none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]

and shall not be put to shame.

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.**

KYRIE

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

Mark 10:47

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.**

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR THE DAY

☩ The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

☩ **♪** **And with thy spirit.**

☩ Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ **♪** **Amen.**

[Please sit]

THE FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6-7

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalms 48:1a, 12-14a

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised

in the city of our God!

Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers,

consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels,

that you may tell the next generation

that this is God, our God forever and ever.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

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

Luke 12:32

C  **Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**


P Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

C  **Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31-36


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

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

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free?'"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

APOSTLES' CREED

pg. 12

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Hymn 262


SERMON

"The Gospel Forever!"

[Please stand]

OFFERTORY

pg. 12

C  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: John 8:36 – “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” Today we celebrate Reformation Day! Luther is rightly remembered as a champion of the Gospel — but he also called himself “the apostle of good works.” For only by being set free by the Gospel can we do good works. Jesus has set us free: His blood covers over our sins, and now we stand before God as His beloved children, invited to live our lives to His glory for the good of His kingdom.

OFFERING HYMN

“Flung to the Heedless Winds”

Hymn 259

[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.

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, sustain Your Church. Deliver her from error and preserve in her the proclamation of Your Gospel, that it would resound to every nation, tribe, people and language and that all may fear and give You glory. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, bless all ministers of Your Word. Help them rightly to preach Your Law so that all are held accountable to You without excuse and joyfully proclaim Your Gospel, that all would know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, look with compassion on all who are blind to the bondage of their sin. Open their eyes by the words of Jesus, and grant them the true freedom of sonship and a permanent place in Your household. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, make us truly Your disciples. Keep us in Your Word, free us from all errors, and make our homes and families peaceful. Preserve all fathers and encourage them for their godly task, that children would be brought up in the fear and instruction of the Lord. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, bless all civil authorities, especially our president; Congress; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Protect them from the temptations that beset their offices, and grant them wisdom and courage to serve with integrity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, be near to all who cry to You for healing of body and soul especially Wilma, J.C., Douglas, Wesley, Louis, and all those on our hearts and minds. Grant them release from their afflictions according to Your will. Sustain their hope in the full and final healing that awaits them at the day of Christ's appearing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, we give You thanks for all Your servants who have departed this life in faith. We especially bless You today for the great reformers of Your Church who call us back to the Gospel and to the righteousness we have in Christ alone. Keep us in fellowship with them, and bring us at last to our heavenly home to see our Redeemer face to face; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

pg. 14

P Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Thy holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reignth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

C **♪ Amen.**

BENEDICTION

pg. 14

☐ 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

☐ 🎵 Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Preserve Thy Word, O Savior”

Hymn 264

POSTLUDE

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!

GEMS: All girls 5th-12th grade are invited to attend our monthly GEMS (Girls Embracing Mission Service) event TODAY at 2:00 in the fellowship hall for some devotional time, a fun activity, snacks, and fellowship. We will also start planning for the TX District LWML Convention in Corpus Christi in June 2024! Contact Ruth Meyer at 979-540-9868 with any questions. We hope to see you there!

A freewill bake sale will be held on Monday, November 13th, in conjunction with the Amanda Knox Memorial Scholarship Fund pulled pork taco dinner. **(A few Taco tickets are still available this morning.)** Baked goods will be available for pickup at the picnic grounds from 4:30-6:30 when you pick up your taco plates. If you would like to bake and donate an item or two, we would be so thrilled! You are welcome to bring anything. Please bring your items to church on Sunday morning, the 12th, or have them to the picnic grounds by 3pm on Monday, the 13th. The Amanda Knox Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to provide full tuition to Faith Lutheran High School to an incoming freshman. For questions or more info, contact Cyndy Zoch at 979-966-3166.

Christ Lutheran Church in Loebau will hold their annual **Turkey Supper** this Friday, November 3rd, starting at 5PM. Plates are \$15 each, drive-thru to go only. First come, first served; no presales.

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Cross Country Meet

Faith Lutheran High School is hosting the 5th Annual Private Schools of Central Texas Cross Country Meet on Friday, November 3rd for students in K to 8th Grade with the first race at 2pm. We are excited to host this fun event on our campus!

Junior High Game Night

FLHS will be hosting a game night for 7th and 8th grade students on Friday, November 10th from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm at Faith Lutheran High School. We will have lots of food, fun, and fellowship! Please join us for this fun evening!

Pie Sale

FLHS will have a Pie Sale on Sunday, November 19th with pick up at Holy Cross, Immanuel, St. Paul Serbin and Mt. Calvary. All pies are a generous 10-inch size and deep-dish. PreOrders only. **Pecan pies** are \$30 each and **Pumpkin pies** are \$25 each. Place your order by calling FLHS at 242-2889. Deadline to order is Monday, November 13th.

Thanksgiving Chapel and Feast

Join us Thursday, November 16th, beginning at 10:30 am for our 7th Annual Thanksgiving Celebration. Rev. Thomas Obersat will be leading us in worship. Stay and fellowship with us during our pot-luck Thanksgiving feast lunch, immediately following chapel.

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 at (979) 242-2889 today to set up a shadow day for your child.

Share the Gift of Love

Faith Lutheran High School has a unique role in combining knowledge and God's love in a student's high school experience. We are partnering with families at the intersection of education and faith development. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, Thrivent Action Grant, or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Nikki Kueck to learn more.

Altar Flowers



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Raymond and Sandra Matthijetz in honor of their 58th wedding anniversary on October 30th.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Wilma Kaiser, at home, recovering from an infection

J.C. Kaiser, recovering from surgery on Wednesday to remove a cancerous spot on his ear

Douglas Beck, dad of Pastor Beck, waiting on test results

Wesley Cervenka, brother of Debbie Knox, cancer has spread

Louis Jakiel (son of Wendy Wagner's co-worker) making good strides in recovery following a serious motorcycle accident several weeks ago

This morning, we welcome Kamryn JoAnn Canada & Myles Frederick Canada to God's family through the waters of Holy Baptism. They are the children of Kevin and Natalie (Varner) Canada. Kamryn was born on August 5, 2019. Her sponsors and witnesses are Nichole Varner and Erica Brandt. Myles was born on September 26, 2023. His sponsors and witnesses are Kyle Canada and Paige Ehrlich.

Those who serve today: October 29, 2023

Rev. Dustin Beck	Pastor
Mrs. Ann Bamsch	Organist
Mr. Cory Knox	Trumpeter
Ms. Carolyn Lehmann	Greeter
Mr. Jonathan Kueck	Lector
Mr. Mike Tabbert	Audio/Video System
Emeree Townsend	Acolyte

Elders on Duty
Mr. Jonathan Kueck
Mr. Calvin Mersiovsky
Mr. Dennis Pietsch

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	2:00 p.m.	GEMS Group
WEDNESDAY	9:00 a.m.	Board of Ed
	10:30 a.m.	FLHS Chapel
	11:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. Confirmation
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
FRIDAY	2:00 p.m.	FLHS Cross Country Meet Here
Next Sunday	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 class)

Attendance Last Sunday

Divine Service: 125 Bible Class: 46 Sunday School: 13

Soli Deo Gloria

(To God alone be Glory)