

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

(979) 242-3333 | holycrosswarda.com | holycross@cvctx.com 600 FM 1482, Giddings TX 78942 PO Box 69, Warda TX 78960

Behold, the Lamb of God



23ho taketh away the sin of the world.

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, January 22, 2023

Second Sunday after Epiphany

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. Hymns not found in our hymnal are printed in the bulletin and indicated with a "-" on the hymn board. 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: God Reveals His Glory in Christ and His Cross

"The LORD, the Redeemer of Israel," calls forth "his Holy One" (Is. 49:7), Jesus, the Christ, "from the womb" of His mother (Is. 49:1). The incarnate Son of God is revealed as the Savior, not only for Israel but also "as a light for the nations," whose salvation reaches "to the end of the earth" (Is. 49:6). John came "baptizing with water" (John 1:31) to reveal Jesus as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), and who glorifies His God and Father by His atoning sacrifice upon the cross. When Jesus was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended "from heaven like a dove" and "remained on him" (John 1:32). By our Baptism, we are anointed by the same Spirit, adopted by God the Father, and "called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:9). Therefore, we "are not lacking in any gift," but we can trust Him who promises to sustain us to the end, "guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:7–8).

+ IN NOMINE JESU +

(In the Name of Jesus)

PRELUDE - Selected

THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

"Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"

Hymn 3

[Please stand]

OPENING SENTENCES

pg. 32ff.

P O Lord, open Thou my lips.

 \square And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

Psalm 51:15

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

Psalm 70:1

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!

INVITATORY AND VENITE

P Oh, come, let us worship the Lord:

[Hebrews 10:22]

☐ ☐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 Lord, our Maker.

For He is our God:

and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Psalm 95:1-7

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.

PSALMODY

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 19:1–4a, b; antiphon: v. 14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, **O LORD, my rock and my redeemer**.

The heavens declare the glory of God,

and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours out speech,

and night to night reveals knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words,

whose voice is not heard.

Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In them he has set a tent for the sun.

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.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

[Please sit]

OFFICE HYMN

"Behold the Lamb of God!"

Hymn 165

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 49:1-7

¹Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God." ⁵And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—⁶he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." ⁷Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and rise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

- **P** But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.
- **C ☐** Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!

GRADUAL Psalm 117:1-2a. 96:8

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- **P** But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.
- ☐ ☐ Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!

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

HOLY GOSPEL John 1:29-42a

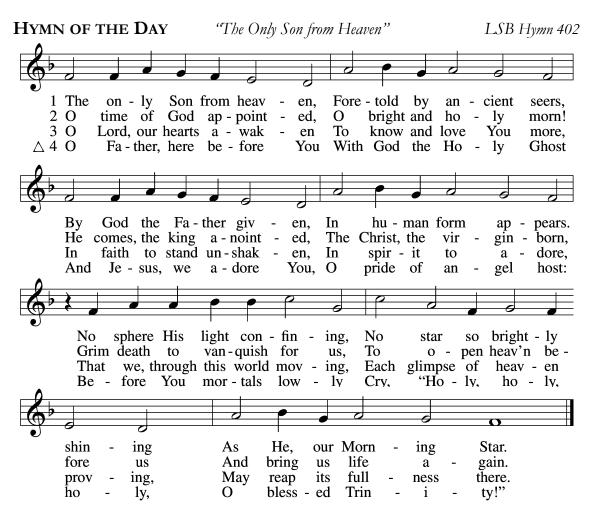
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

²⁹The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). ⁴²He brought him to Jesus.

- P But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.
- **C I**Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!

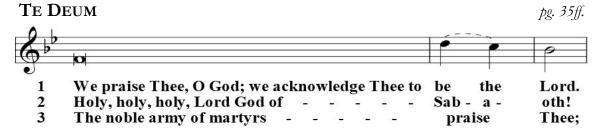
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

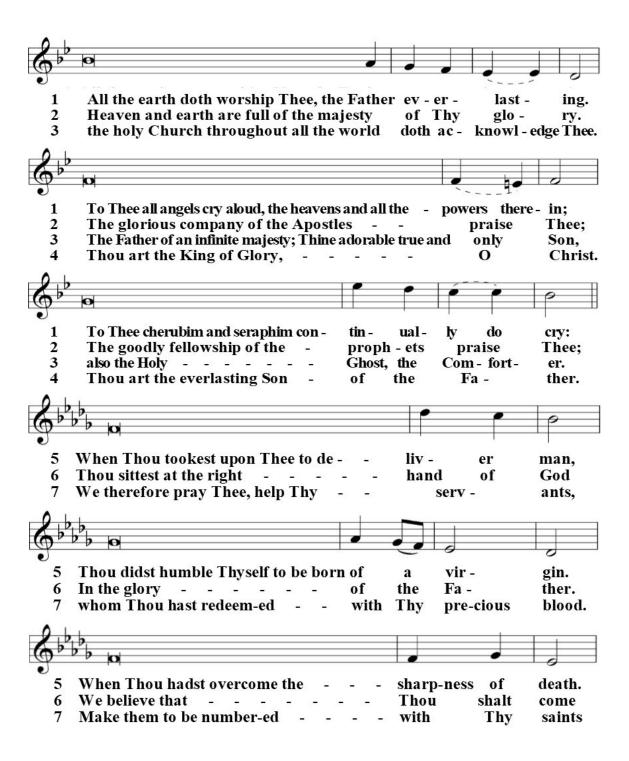


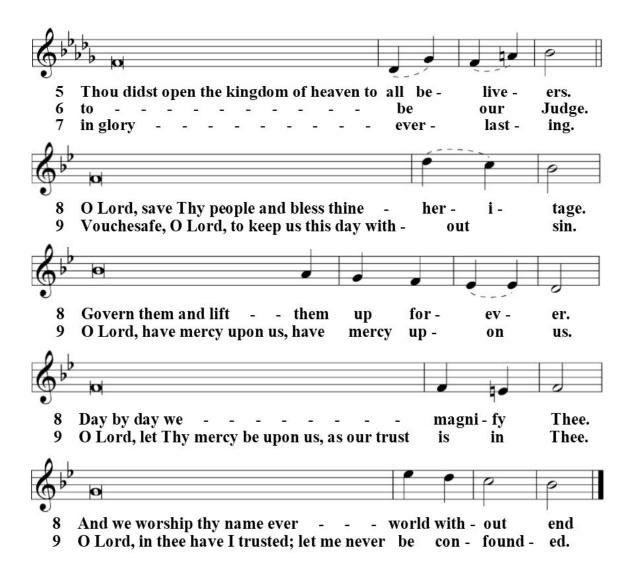
SERMON

God's Chosen Servant: The Lamb

[Please stand]







[Please sit]

RECEIPT OF OFFERINGS

PAUSE TO PONDER: John 1:29 – "The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" The Israelites of old offered a lamb to God at Passover so that death might pass over them and do no harm. Over those long centuries of sacrifice, did they understand that this was actually God's gift? That God would be the true Giver of the true Lamb? Truly, we can never out-give God, for all that we have is His.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

O Lord, let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to You, for You are our Rock and our Redeemer. Answer us according to Your promises and for the sake of Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful God, You formed Your Son in the womb of Your servant Mary to be a light for the nations. Preserve that light among Your people. Gather us around Your Word and Sacraments, enlighten and strengthen us by Your grace, and grant that we might reflect the light of Christ to those around us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of glory, the heavens declare Your handiwork, and each day and night testify to Your majesty. Bless all teachers and students, that in their explorations of the arts and sciences they may see Your creativity and glorify You. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, You watched over the tribes of Jacob, providing them both daily bread and redemption in abundant measure. Watch over the homes of Your people. Bless them with all that they need for this body and life, and preserve them in the glad confidence that Christ is their strength and their salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, Your Son consented to be the servant of rulers and to be abhorred by the nations so that He might redeem the world. Fortify all in authority with courage and wisdom to govern justly, and cultivate penitent hearts among them so that they may gladly prostrate themselves before their Redeemer on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, Your Son became the Lamb of God to take away all of our sins and infirmities by His death and resurrection. Remember all who are in need of Your help and healing, especially Al, Linda, Nancy, Nellie, Edward, Christine, Mark, Emma, Rachel, Jeanette, Theresa, and Donald. Deliver them according to Your merciful will, and preserve them in the certainty that their sins are taken away. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Grant that we who have celebrated the incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ, may die to sin and rise to new life, that we may treasure up and ponder in our hearts the Christ announced by Your forerunner; 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.**

KYRIE pg. 39

☐ ☐ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Mark 10:47

LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

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

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

pg. 14

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

- ☐ And with thy spirit.
- P Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☐ ☐ Amen.

COLLECT FOR GRACE

pg. 40

- P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day, defend us in the same with Thy mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run in to any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Thy governance, may be righteous in Thy sight; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reignth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.
- **C A**men.

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

pg. 14

P Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

- **☐ ☐** Thanks be to God.
- The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with you all.

 2 Corinthians 13:14
- ☐ Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"All Glory Be to God on High"

Hymn 237

POSTLUDE

Outreach Thought: John 1:29-42a: John simply said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" What would the world stop and take notice of today? The word, "Behold," means to stop everything you're doing and take notice of something. For John, and for each of us, this Jesus would serve as the Lamb who would give His life as the perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life. Who or what is worthy of you stopping everything in your life and pointing out that this ONE person or thing is worthy of all your praise and the one for whom you have life? If it is anyone other than Jesus Christ, then they cannot give forgiveness and life that lasts for eternity. That's why John said, "Behold," and pointed everyone to Jesus. And that's why we live our lives in faith every day, because true life is found only in the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. The world around us needs to hear us proclaim, "Behold," with our thoughts, words and deeds and needs us to point to Jesus.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP in the New Testament: We're continuing our study in Adult Bible Class, walking through passages that pertain to WORSHIP. What is it? Why does it matter? How does it inform what we do every week in church? Please join us today in the Fellowship Hall to hear more about the nature of God-pleasing Worship.

The Wednesday night Bible Study group is currently studying the Old Testament book of Judges. It's not too late to come learn more about the faithfulness of God, despite the forgetfulness of His people. You'll read about and learn from some of the more well-known judges, like Deborah, Gideon, and Samson, as well as some you may not be familiar with - Othniel, Ehud, and Jephthah. There is no cost to join this study and all are welcome! Note that during Lent we will adjust the hours of the class so that it does not interfere with the regular Lenten services on Wednesday nights. For more information or to register, please contact Cyndy Zoch at cyndy.zoch@gmail.com or 979-966-3166.

The Voters Assembly will meet again on Monday, January 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Meeting packets are in members mailboxes this morning. Childcare will be made available free of charge during the meeting if enough families request it. Please call the church office at 242-3333 to let us know if you would like child care.

GEMS: Our Post Oak GEMS (Girls Embracing Mission Service) Group is meeting next Sunday, January 29, at 2:00 PM at Holy Cross, Warda. This group is open to all girls 5th-12th grade. We will have a brief meeting, an activity, and snack time. This month our activity is making fleece blankets for the Children's Advocacy Center in Bastrop. Moms are welcome too! Please join us for this time of fellowship and fun!

150th Anniversary Committee: The decorating committee needs volunteers to help cover and decorate tables Saturday afternoon on April 22. We will also need volunteers to help clean and collect vases at the end of the celebration on Sunday afternoon, April 23. Tables will have a simple vase with a long stemmed red carnation and white baby's breath. An example of the vase and flowers can be seen in the narthex. If any congregation member has any similar vases, the anniversary committee is asking to please borrow those vases for the anniversary celebration. Please put your name on the bottom of the vase(s), so it can be returned to you. A shorter vase would also be good. We'll also need volunteers to make cookies and desserts to be served at the reception and with the meal. As April 23 draws nearer, the anniversary committee will provide more details on many ways congregation members may help.

Camp Lone Star Women's Retreat - Ladies, join Camp Lone Star for their annual Women's Renewal Retreat Feb. 3-5! The weekend is a time set aside to reflect on Christ and His Word, be in fellowship with other sisters in Christ, and spend time in His creation. For more information or to register, visit www.camplonestar.org or call the camp office if you have any questions.

Stew lunch - St. Paul, Serbin 7th & 8th grade classes will have a stew lunch fundraiser on Sunday, February 5th. Pick up will be at the drive-thru of First National Bank in Giddings. Tickets are \$12 each and can be purchased from Elijah Kueck this morning or in the church office during the week. Proceeds go to their class trip to Washington DC this summer.

Tickets are now on sale for the Holy Cross Youth Group Valentine's Dinner on Saturday, February 11th in the Holy Cross Fellowship Hall. There will be a limited number of seats - advance tickets for you or for you and that special someone will be on sale through Sunday, February 5th or until sold out. Seating will begin at 6 pm - Meal served @ 6:30 pm. The cost is \$25 per person. Menu is Creamy Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta &/or Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Garden Salad (Ranch or Italian Dressing), Garlic Bread & Cheesecake w/ your choice of toppings. Tea, Water & Coffee will also be served. This fundraiser will benefit youth attending the Higher Things Conference this summer in San Antonio. Tickets can be purchased from any youth member or in the church office during the week. The Youth Group, Youth Leaders and their Parents thank you for your support!

The Warda Bunch (supporters of the Lee County Junior Livestock Show exhibitors) will have their organizational/appreciation luncheon at the Picnic Grounds on Sunday, February 12th beginning at 11:00 a.m. The committee will furnish fried chicken and members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to complete the meal. If you are interested in joining this group, please attend this meeting or call (979) 542-8372 if you have any questions or need further information.

New Pictorial Directory! Starting TODAY, there will be a backdrop set up in the new Narthex for Holy Cross members to have their pictorial directory photos taken. We will take photos for the next three Sundays (final Sunday will be February 12). If you would like, we can also email your photos to you so that you can order prints for your home. Our hope is to have directories printed and available before the April anniversary celebration.



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

Al Jurk, scheduled for a colonoscopy on Monday and a surgical procedure on Friday Linda Hobratschk, waiting on test results for a treatment plan

Nancy I. Pietsch, undergoing chemo treatments

Nellie McBride, now in rehab following a stroke

Edward & Christine Buscha, various health issues

Mark Landry, son-in-law of Calvin & Gale Mersiovsky, recovering from additional surgery Jeanette Schramm, still undergoing health issues.

Emma & Rachel Soenksen, granddaughters of Rev. Al & Kathy Gallmeier, both with health issues

Theresa Krause, wife of Billy Krause of Serbin, undergoing treatments for cancer Donald Pietsch, Jr., son of Donald Pietsch, Sr., recovering from bleeding ulcers



Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. 8th Grade parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is underway. One new student has already enrolled and we are looking to add more students to our family. Any new student who registers for FLHS prior to **Friday, March 10, 2023** will only pay \$100 in registration fees. Register early to take advantage of this savings! You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at www.flhstx.org.

We've Got SPIRIT, YES, we do!

FLHS has partnered with BSN Sports and is now offering an online spirit wear store - including clothes, tumblers, decals, and more, and it's all customizable. Use the code SPIRIT before February 15, 2023 and you will receive 25% off your total purchase. Please use the QR code shown or visit https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/texas/warda/faith-lutheran-high-school to place an order.



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. Thank you! *This program is ending February 20,2023, so please help us take advantage of this program before the opportunity expires.

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!

Those who serve today: January 22, 2023

Rev. Dustin Beck
Mrs. Carol Schramm
Organist
Mr. John Gay
Lector
Mrs. Lisa Gay
Greeter
Mr. Shea Kasper
Audio/Video System
Lexi Ahrens
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
	11:00 a.m.	Pastor Beck to Epiphany
	Pick Up Wei	ndish Scholarship Fund Meal Plates
MONDAY	7:00 p.m.	Voters Assembly
WEDNESDAY	10:30 a.m.	FLHS Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Jr. Confirmation
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
Next Sunday	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	
	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School

Attendance Last Sunday

Divine Service: 190 Bible Class: 57 Sunday School: 16

Our Response to God's Blessings

	<u>January 8</u>	January 15
Estimated General Fund Weekly Need	\$ 4,610	\$ 4,610
Offering Received	\$ 5,250	\$ 4,615
Short/Over	\$ 640	\$ 5
Offerings received through e-giving Dec	cember 29– Ianu:	ary 15: \$959.03

Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone be Glory)