



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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PO Box 69, Warda TX 78960

*How beautiful
are the feet of
Him who brings
good news.*



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.

✠ **IN NOMINE JESU** ✠
(In the Name of Jesus)

Welcome to
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
PO Box 69 Warda TX 78960
979.242.3333 holycrosswarda.com

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

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 Life-Giving Word of God Dwells Among Us

The Lord sends out His ministers of the Gospel to make disciples "*of all the nations,*" so that "*all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*" The Lord has "*bared his holy arm*" in the incarnate Christ (Is. 52:7, 10). The child in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, is the very Word of God, the only begotten Son of the Father, "*whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world*" (Heb. 1:2). As "*all things were made through him*" (John 1:3), so are all things redeemed and made new in Him. In His body of flesh and blood, we behold "*the radiance of the glory of God*" (Heb. 1:3), "*glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*" (John 1:14). He dwells among us in peace, that we might have life and light and salvation in Him. For by His Word of the Gospel, we are born again as the children of God, bearing His name and sharing His eternal life.

PRELUDE - *Selected*

THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"


Hymn 102

[Please stand]

OPENING SENTENCES


pg. 32ff.

P O Lord, open Thou my lips.

C  **And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.**

Psalms 51:15

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C  **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

Psalms 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!**

HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, This Happy Morn”

Hymn 79

PSALMODY

PSALM OF THE DAY - *Psalm 2*

Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
**and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,**
“Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us.”
He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
“As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”
I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.
Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”
Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
Kiss the Son,
**lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.**
Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.
**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.**

[Please sit]

OFFICE HYMN

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”


Hymn 98

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” ⁸ The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

[P] But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

[C]  Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷ Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸ But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” ¹⁰ And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹ they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹² like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

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

C 🎵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 1:1-14 (15-18)

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

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

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

C 🎵Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
 2 In that un - like - ly place I find Him as they said:
 3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
 4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;
 Sweet new-born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:
 His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
 Its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
 To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
 To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

SERMON

"The Anatomy of a Savior"

[Please stand]



The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

HYMN

"O Sing of Christ"

LSB Hymn 362



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
 2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
 3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
 4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
 Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
 Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
 As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man-i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
 For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
 To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
 Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
 He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
 Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
 That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

[Please sit]

RECEIPT OF OFFERINGS

PAUSE TO PONDER: John 1:5 – “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Through all of our hardships, all of our sorrows, all of our pains and loneliness, Jesus’ light shines in the darkness, and we are not overcome. In the face of our sin, in the midst of our pettiness, against all our pride, Jesus’ light shines and illuminates our hearts and changes us, day by day, into a greater reflection of His likeness.

[Please stand]

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Heavenly Father, we give You thanks that Your Son, the eternal Word, has become flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Extend His praise into all the world, that with us many would come to hope in His steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Send forth men to publish Your peace and bring us Your good news of happiness. Keep them faithful to declare Your gracious reign in Christ. Bless the work of missionaries at home and abroad, that all the ends of the earth may see Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As our families gather in this holy season, give us patience, that we may be slow to judge and quick to forgive. Comfort the lonely with Your presence, and help us extend the welcome of our homes and the friendship of Your grace. Make us mindful of those less fortunate, who celebrate this blessed feast in poverty and want, and teach us to be generous. Accept with our offerings the living sacrifice of our bodies to Your service and our voices in praise and thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son upholds the universe by the word of His power. Grant our nation to walk humbly before You. Bless our soldiers who stand watch this day. Keep them in safety as they serve us, and uphold their families while they are apart. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, guard and keep all who are sick, lonely, overwhelmed by grief or poor in spirit, especially Linda, Elaine, Carol, Jane, Layne, Edward, Christine, Mark, Ann, Shirlene, Emma, Rachel, Gayle and all those we name in our hearts, that they may be comforted and healed according to Your good and gracious will. Let them look to Jesus Christ and be reminded that He is the light no darkness can overcome. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank You, Lord God, for all Your people who have gone before us and now rest in Your presence. Keep us faithful with them until that day when You make all things new; for You live and reign with Christ 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:

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

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

pg. 14

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C **♪ And with thy spirit.**

P Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **♪ 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 reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

C **♪ Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

pg. 14

P Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C **♪ Thanks be to God.**

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

2 Corinthians 13:14

C **♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Joy to the World, the Lord is Come"

Hymn 87

POSTLUDE

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Merry Christmas! No Bible class or Sunday school today. We wish you all a blessed day with family and friends!

The church office will be closed this week on Monday and Wednesday.

The floors of the church sanctuary, narthex, and throughout the new building will be cleaned this week on Tuesday, starting at 9am. If you need to come to the church office, we ask that you please come around the back by the cemetery and come through the walkway between the church and office building. Thanks!

Our New Year's Eve Worship w/Communion will be held on Saturday at 7:00 p.m. We'll welcome in 2023 with regular Sunday morning worship w/communion next Sunday at 9:00a.m. Installation of 2023 Church officers will also take place during that service. *(No Bible Class or Sunday School next Sunday.)*

Bible Study - The Wednesday night Bible Study will begin a new study starting January 4, 2023. This 11-week will take you through the entire Old Testament book of Judges. 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.

Picnic Hall rates - Just a reminder that picnic hall rental rates will be going up on January 1st. Friday thru Sunday will be \$200 and Monday thru Thursday will be \$125. Use of just the patio area will be \$75. This was approved by the voters assembly in the July 2022 meeting.

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Merry Christmas!!

Faith Lutheran High School wishes you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year! We pray God would shower blessings upon you this holiday season and in the year ahead! Thank you for being a blessing to FLHS!

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

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.

Raffle Items

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck if you have something to donate! Thank you!

End of Year Giving

In Proverbs 2:6, God's Word promises: "The LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding." Faith Lutheran High School exists to instill Christ's wisdom in His Word to prepare faithful leaders for tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of this mission through your prayers and financial support. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to further Lutheran education in our area. Matching funds are currently available to us from some gracious private donors, so please help us take full advantage of this opportunity. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

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!

Christmas Poinsettias

Thank you to everyone who has given a Poinsettia to beautify our sanctuary this year! You may take your poinsettia home after this mornings service.

In memory of Robert and Della Mae Lehmann and Arnold and Rose Marie Kilian by Doug and Lorie Lehmann

In memory of Buddy Whited, Harold and Irene Kasper, and Ralph Kasper by Margie Whited and family

In memory of Otto and Alice Kunze and Glenn Kunze by Allen Kunze, Charles Kunze, and Karen and Mark Gerdes

In memory of my great-aunt Sidonia Pietsch on her birthday by Diane Becker

In memory of Roy and Ruth Lehmann by Roland and Betsy Guettler

In memory of Elmo and Helen Pietsch, Daniel Pietsch, Adele Schulze, and Kenneth Wiederhold by Dennis and Diann Pietsch

In memory of Lawrence and Edline Weishuhn, Kathleen Weishuhn, Joyce Weishuhn, and Elizabeth Kappler by David, Ingrid, Brandon, and Kelsey Weishuhn

In memory of John's parents, Lawrence and Mary Gay, and his uncle and aunt, Jimmy and Bea Guarino, by John and Lisa Gay

In memory of Evelyn Buscha, Barbara Buscha, and Steven Reedy by Bobby Buscha, Sr. and family

In memory of Billy & Jo Ann Lange & Jimmie Lehmann by Kevin & Sandra Lange

In memory of loved ones by Ralph and Carolyn Bamsch

In memory of Clarence, Sr. and Adeline Pietsch and Clarence Pietsch, Jr. by Nancy Pietsch

In memory of David Schramm & Verna Mae Becker by Allene Schramm & family

In memory of Della Mae and Robert Lehmann, Martha and Clarence Urban, and Clarence "Buddy" Urban by David and Linda Lehmann

In memory of loved ones by Mary Ann Rucker

In memory of Tucker's parents, Larry Joe and Mary Jane Briscoe and in honor of Leann's parents Harry & Patricia Lehmann by Tucker, Leann, Alyssa, & Jolee Briscoe

In memory of George & Eunice Dunk and many loved ones celebrating Christmas in heaven by Daryl, Patty and Eric Schulze

In honor of my children and grandchildren by Allene Schramm

In honor of our first grandchild, Scarlett Kate Melcher, by Gary and Diane Becker

In honor of the Holy Cross organists and Sunday school teachers and in thanksgiving for all they do by the Holy Cross Congregation (1 for each)

To the glory of God by Lee and Cindy Heselmeyer

To the glory of God for all the many blessings He has once again bestowed on our family by J.C. and Carol Schramm

The sanctuary Christmas Tree is given to the glory of God by Jerrell and Oranell Dunk in loving memory of Joyce Bise, Annie Beasley, Alfred Boriack, and all those members of Holy Cross that went to their heavenly home during 2022.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Linda Hobratschk, thankful diagnosis was modified, waiting on additional tests

Elaine Kieschnick, recovering from a broken elbow

Carol Jurk, recovering from a broken leg following a fall

Jane Chapman, recovering from shoulder surgery

Layne Schramm, continuing recovery from recent surgery

Edward & Christine Buscha, various health issues

Mark Landry, son-in-law of Calvin & Gale Mersiovsky, recovering from leg amputation

Ann Marie Heinrich, daughter-in-law of Roger Heinrich, dealing with serious health issues

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

Gayle, cousin of David and Linda Lehmann, recovering from surgery on Thursday

Theresa Krause, wife of Billy Krause, undergoing treatments for cancer

Our sympathy to Scott and Sherry Schramm and family on the death of Sherry's grandfather, Herbert Roeber, on December 18th. His funeral was on Wednesday at St. Paul, Serbin.

Our sympathy to David and Linda Lehmann on the death of Linda's cousin, Shir-lene (Hannes) Clampit, on Wednesday.

Attendance Last Sunday

Divine Service: 144 Bible Class: 39

Sunday School: 19

Those who serve today: December 25, 2022

Rev. Dustin Beck	Pastor
Mrs. Carol Schramm	Organist
Mr. Cory Knox	Lector
Mr. Mike Tabbert	Audio/Video System
Elijah Kueck	Acolyte

Elders on Duty
Mr. Jonathan Kueck
Mr. Dennis Pietsch
Mr. J.C. Schramm

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m. Divine Service NO Bible Class & Sunday School
MONDAY	Church Office Closed
TUESDAY	Church/New Building Floors Cleaned
WEDNESDAY	Church Office Closed
SATURDAY	7:00 p.m. New Years Eve Worship/Comm.
Next Sunday	<i>1st Sunday after Christmas</i> Installation of 2023 Church Officers and Board Members 9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/Holy Communion NO Bible Class & Sunday School Youth Lock-In

Soli Deo Gloria
(To God alone be Glory)