



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Warda, Texas | Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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PO Box 69, Warda TX 78960

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IO?

ask,

and it will be given to you;

seek,

and you will find;

knock,

and it will be opened to you.

1873-2025

152 Years of God's Grace

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

Divine Service with
Holy Communion
9:00am

Bible Class and
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, August 3, 2025

Eighth 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: *The Prayer of the Church Is the Voice of Faith*
Jesus catechizes His disciples in the way of faith by teaching them how to pray. He promises us: "*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you*" (Luke 11:9). If earthly fathers know how to give good gifts to their children, "*how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him*" (Luke 11:13). Thus, father Abraham was bold in his prayer because he believed the gracious promise of the Lord, that he would "*surely become a great and mighty nation*" (Gen. 18:18). When we pray in Jesus' name, we also hold "*fast to the Head*" (Col. 2:19), "*rooted and built up in him and established in the faith*" (Col. 2:6-7).

PRELUDE - *Selected*

THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Hymn 376

[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.**

Psalms 124:8

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

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

Psalms 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 - *Psalms 49:7-8, 13-14a, 15; antiphon vv. 1-2*

Hear this, all peoples!

Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
both low and high,
rich and poor together!

Truly no man can ransom another,
or give to God the price of his life,
for the ransom of their life is costly
and can never suffice.

This is the path of those who have foolish confidence;
yet after them people approve of their boasts.

Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol;

death shall be their shepherd.

But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol,

for He will receive me.

Hear this, all peoples!

Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,

both low and high,

rich and poor together!

GLORIA PATRI

Pg. 16ff.

☩ ♪ 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.

☩ O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before you; 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]

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 18:17-33

¹⁷The Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.” ²⁰Then the Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” ³¹He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³²Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” ³³And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b, alt.

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news,
who publish peace and bring good news of salvation.
Their voice has gone out to all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the world.

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3:1-11

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Colossians 3:23-24a

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

P I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 11:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.

C **♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ²And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴and forgive us our sins,


for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

⁵And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷and he will answer from within, ‘Do

not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything? ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Hymn 457

SERMON

“Prayer”

[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: Luke 11:11 – “What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent?” A generous, giving spirit comes from knowing that you have a generous, giving Father. He will care for our needs. We are therefore free to reflect His generosity in our lives. We can be generous in raising our children, supporting the church and serving our neighbor in the community. In these three areas — home, church and society — the Lord has called us to show His grace and generosity to those around us.

[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, You hear the prayers of Your dear children and care for all their needs of body and soul. As we come before You with our petitions, unburden our hearts from the weight of our sins and troubles, and give us faith to live in light of Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You have bestowed a high honor and duty upon Your Church by teaching her to pray and promising to hear her. Bless our pastors in their prayers for Your people, and hear us all as we offer our petitions in the name of Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, You have called the hearts of fathers to their children by bringing Your Son into our world. Nurture the life of prayer in the homes of Your people, that we all would know the full blessing of Your fatherly care. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You have ordered the nations that men would seek after You. Curb the wickedness of this world, embolden the witness of the righteous, and make our nation a repentant and faithful place where Your gracious presence is welcomed with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous Lord, You do not wink at wickedness, and You promise that Your patience with evil will not last forever. As You punished Sodom and rescued Lot in days of old, save Your people today and vanquish our enemies. Give us prayerful hearts to leave all vengeance in Your hands. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You promise to hear our prayers and, through them, to involve us in Your divine plan. As You heard and considered the prayers of faithful Abraham, hear our prayers on behalf of Bryn, Dennis, and all who suffer. Spare their lives, and through all things draw them ever closer to You. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, give us a child's confidence as we come to Your table this day, that we might approach it in sure and certain faith so that, in the gifts of Christ's body and blood, the forgiveness we ask for will be given and the life we seek we will find. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we ask Your blessing and look to You as the Giver of all good gifts. Make us ever eager to come to You in prayer and thanksgiving, as Your Son has taught us. By Your Holy Spirit, bring us to behold in Christ the fulfillment of those things for which we pray — Your holy name, Your coming kingdom, daily bread, forgiveness, shelter in temptation and deliverance from every evil; 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.**

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Page 24ff.

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.

If you are unable to climb the chancel steps without assistance, please come forward at this time.

- 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>What Is the World to Me</i>	<i>Hymn 430</i>
<i>If God Himself Be for Me</i>	<i>Hymn 528</i>
<i>I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table</i>	<i>Hymn 315</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.**

Psalms 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.

[Psalms 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

All People that on Earth do Dwell

Hymn 14

POSTLUDE

OUTREACH THOUGHT: Luke 11:1-13: How often have you stood before a full table or before a gathering of people and everyone looks at each other but no one wants to be the one to pray? Prayer is not a natural inclination of those who are sinful by nature and sinful in thought, word and deed. We need to be taught how to pray because prayer is so often seen as only an emergency measure, or a desperate attempt to get a higher power to act on our behalf when we're in trouble. One of the best ways we can share the Good News is by demonstrating a prayer life that reflects an honest communication with God; the ability to, in times of celebration and in times of need, to speak with God as a child speaks to their dear father. That's what Jesus taught His disciples and that's what we can share when we openly pray throughout the day letting the whole world know that before we do anything, we talk to God first in prayer.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE CLASS - Everyone is invited to join Pastor Keistman this morning for Bible Class in the fellowship hall. Coffee and refreshments are available.

Door Offering - This morning, the Ladies Aid will collect a door offering for school supplies for Immanuel Lutheran School in Giddings. Please consider supporting their efforts. Checks should be made payable to Holy Cross Ladies Aid.

The Picnic Auction Committee will meet tomorrow, Monday, August 4th, at 7PM in the library. An email was sent to all committee members.

Blessing of the Backpacks - August is here and a new school year is just around the corner! In worship next Sunday, August 10th, we will pray for and celebrate the start of school with the "Blessing of the Backpacks." Parents with school age children, please be sure to have your children bring their backpacks to church next Sunday. We look forward to blessing your children and their backpacks and the start of the 2025/26 school year!

Game Day - Our monthly game days have been a big hit for everyone who has joined us! Our next one will be Thursday, August 21st, from noon-2PM with a light lunch provided. Invite a friend to join us for a fun afternoon of games and visiting.

South Lee County VFD 44th annual BBQ & Auction will be held next Saturday, August 9th, at the Serbin picnic grounds. BBQ by the pound will be available starting at 4:30. BBQ plates with all the trimmings will be available starting at 5PM. Free-will donation for meal plates, dessert, and drinks. Music by the Lost Cause Band will play from 3:30—6:00. The live auction will begin at 6:30. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the evening!

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Be a Falcon!

It's not too late to register for the 2025-2026 school year. We look forward to greeting many new students on campus! We offer an awesome high school experience with our caring faculty, safe Christian atmosphere, strong academics and numerous activities and athletics. If you know of a family with a high school student that would thrive in this environment, please reach out to them and us! We would love to share more about Faith! Contact us by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at www.flhstx.org.

***Any newly enrolled student at FLHS will receive \$1,000 off of their first semester tuition - Please reach out to Mrs. Kueck for more information about this.**

First Day of School

Please keep our faculty and students in your prayers as classes begin Wednesday, August 13th. Final preparations are underway in preparation for the big day!

Opening Service

Please join us on Wednesday, August 6th at 6 pm as we will officially open our ninth academic school year. "Belong" based on Ephesians 2:19-20 is the theme for 2025-2026. A worship service will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Warda. The service will be led by our association Pastors. Offering will be collected to support the FLHS Scholarship Fund. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served, as well as a potluck dessert bar will follow the service.

Help us clear our list!

FLHS has created a wish list on Amazon, for needed materials for the upcoming school year. The easiest way to find it is by clicking on the link on the FLHS Facebook page or website. Thank you for your generous support as we provide the necessary materials and supplies for our students and staff!

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 Mrs. Nikki Kueck.

**** FLHS now has ACH payment options available. You can set up monthly, quarterly, or even yearly payments to FLHS without the hassle of remembering to write a check. Please contact us to learn more.**

Thank You!

Thank you for all the prayers and support you have offered on behalf of FLHS. As

we prepare to begin 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.

2025 - 2026 Faculty and Staff

Mrs. Chelsea Beck - History, English, Spanish

Pastor Dustin Beck - Part-time Religion

Mr. Gary Himmler - Part-time Science, Math

Mr. Jonathan Kueck - Religion, English, P.E.

Mrs. Nikki Kueck - Administrator, Math, History

Mrs. Kristin Lehmann - Science, Math, Technology

Mr. Dan Schaefer - Part-time History, Music

HOLY CROSS CHURCH PICNIC

Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 31, 2025.

The ***Ladies Aid*** will once again be taking **pre-orders for sides** for the picnic. Sides include noodles, beans, potato salad, and coleslaw. They are pint size containers for \$4.00 each. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board or you can call Cindy Heselmeyer at (713) 628-1056, Judy Wagner at (979) 540-0547, or Gale Mersiovsky at (979) 966-9791. All preorders must be picked up by 12PM.

The ***Ladies Aid*** booth always has people looking to buy **home canned/preserved items**. We would like to ask any congregation members that do canning to consider setting aside an extra jar or two of home canned items to donate to the Ladies Aid booth. We would also appreciate plants, quality handcrafted items, and items for our silent auction. If you have any questions, you can contact Gale Mersiovsky, Cindy Heselmeyer, or any of the Ladies Aid members.

The ***Picnic Auction Committee*** will meet on Monday, August 4th, at 7:00 in the church library. Auction committee members are Brian Varner, Shirley Varner, Nichole Varner, Elaine Kieschnick, Carol Schramm, Cyndy Zoch, Howard Konetzke, Natalie Canada, Kristy Hentschel, Lisa Gay, Kathy Steglich-Smith, Brenda Woelfel, Jonathan Kueck, Cindy Heselmeyer, Grace Walker, Doug Lehmann, Lorie Lehmann, and Carolyn J. Lehmann. Now is a great time to **be on the lookout for items you may be able to donate** to the picnic auction. Handmade items and crafts are always popular! If you have any questions about what type of items may be donated or to have an item picked up before the picnic, please call Chris Kovar at (318) 458-8558, or Brian Varner at (979) 966-3761. Items can be brought to the church office anytime this month.

REMINDER - ALL auction items must be on the list by Friday, August 29th at noon, to be included in the auction on Sunday. It's OK to bring your item that weekend, but it must be on the list by Friday at noon. Put it on the list by calling the church office, Brian Varner, or any of the auction committee members. NO NEW ITEMS will be added to the list after 12PM on Friday. Thank you!!

At the April voters assembly meeting, the **picnic proceeds** were designated with ½ of the auction proceeds toward the Parochial School Tuition Assistance Fund. All remaining picnic proceeds will go to the picnic fund to be used for future projects.

The ***wood, pit cleaning, and preparation*** group will meet at the picnic grounds on Friday evening, August 23rd, starting at 5:30pm to get things ready for the picnic. This group includes **ALL BBQ Cookers** plus David Lehmann, J.C. Schramm, Lance Schramm, Layne Schramm, Bobby Hentschel, Ryan Hentschel, Tommy Swearingen, Daniel Bamsch, Phillip Wagner, Wayne Brugger, Calvin Mersiovsky, David Weishuhn, Brandon Weishuhn, Randy Schramm, Darrell Schubert, Darrick Schubert, and Curtis Kieschnick.

In addition, the ***Young Adult Fellowship group*** and anyone else who is interested and willing is asked to come and help on the 22nd at 5:30 and get things set up for the picnic. Benches will be set up and pressure washed, the patio area cleaned up and washed, and the inside of the picnic hall cleaned. Everyone should bring their own refreshments and anyone interested in bringing snacks to share when the work is done is welcome to do so. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be served following the work. If you will come help, please RSVP to the church office or Scott Schramm so we will be sure and have enough food. We are looking forward to a great picnic and hope to see everyone there!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Bryn Henderson, scheduled for surgery to remove her tonsils tomorrow

Dennis Pietsch, recovering from knee replacement surgery

Our sympathy to the family and friends of † Lawrince Heinrich † who was called to eternal rest on July 28th. His funeral will be Tuesday at 10AM here at Holy Cross.

Thank you all for the many cards, calls, memorials, and words of sympathy and encouragement for our family following the passing of our wife and mom, Frances Gray. Thanks to Pastor Beck for his visits and words of comfort at her service and to the Ladies Aid for serving the luncheon. God's blessings to you all. *Zane Gray & family*

Those who serve today: August 3, 2025

Rev. Herb Keistman	Guest Pastor
Mrs. Carol Schramm	Organist
Mrs. Lisa Gay	Greeter
Mr. John Gay	Lector
Mrs. Linda Hobratschk	Audio/Video System
Bryn Henderson & Karly Hentschel	Acolytes

Elders on Duty
Mr. Ron Zoch & Mr. Calvin Mersiovsky

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
MONDAY	8:00 a.m.	Board of Ed
TUESDAY	10:00 a.m.	The Funeral of † Lawrince Heinrich †
	7:00 p.m.	Ladies Aid
	7:00 p.m.	Elders
WEDNESDAY	6:00 p.m.	FLHS Opening Worship
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
FRIDAY	7:00 p.m.	Couples Club
Next Sunday		<i>Blessing of the Backpacks</i>
	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Youth Group Meeting

Attendance Last Sunday

Divine Service: 116 Bible Class: No report Sunday School: 15

Our Response to God's Blessings

	<u>July 20</u>	<u>July 27</u>
Estimated General Fund Weekly Need	\$ 5,505	\$ 5,505
Offering Received	\$ 3,480	\$ 7,110
Short/Over	\$ (2,025)	\$ 1,605

Soli Deo Gloria

(To God alone be Glory)