



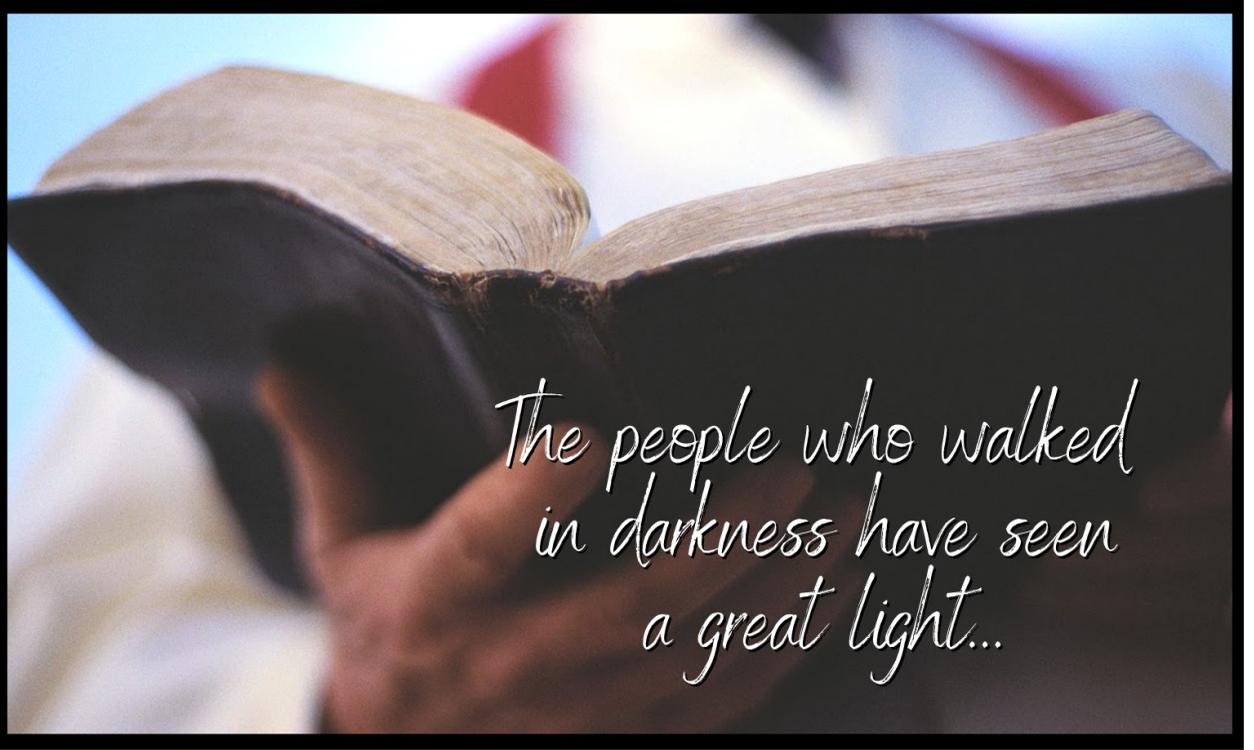
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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



*The people who walked
in darkness have seen
a great light...*

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.

✠ 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, January 29, 2023

Third 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. 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 Lord Manifests His Glory through His Office of the Holy Ministry

By His coming in the flesh and by His preaching and miracles, the Lord Jesus shines the light of His Gospel upon "*the people who walked in darkness*" and "*who dwelt in a land of deep darkness*" (Is. 9:2). He also has "*multiplied the nation*" and "*increased its joy*" (Is. 9:3) by calling disciples to Himself from the ends of the earth. For this purpose, He calls Peter and Andrew, with James and John, to follow Him and be "*fishers of men*" (Matt. 4:19). As Jesus did, they also go forth "*proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people*" (Matt. 4:23). They preach the foolishness of the cross of Christ as the very power and wisdom of God. This word and preaching of the cross divides "*those who are perishing*" from "*us who are being saved*" (1 Cor. 1:18), but it unites the Church, the one Body of Christ, "*in the same mind and the same judgment*" (1 Cor. 1:10).

PRELUDE - *Selected*

THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

"See This Wonder in the Making"

LSB Hymn 593

See this wonder in the making: God Himself this child is taking
As a lamb safe in His keeping, His to be, awake or sleeping.

Miracle each time it happens As the door to heaven opens
And the Father beams, "Beloved, Heir of gifts a king would covet!"

Far more tender than a mother, Far more caring than a father,
God, into Your arms we place her, With Your love and peace embrace her.

Here we bring a child of nature; Home we take a newborn creature,
Now God's precious son or daughter, Born again by Word and water.

RITE OF BAPTISM: *Mathilda Jean Smith*

HYMN

“Come, Thou Bright and Morning Star”

Hymn 539

[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.**

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*

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 Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office, as a called an 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 - Psalm 22:27–31; antiphon: v. 22

I will tell of your name to my brothers;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,

and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

For kingship belongs to the LORD,

and he rules over the nations.

All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

Posterity shall serve him;

it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,

that he has done it.

I will tell of your name to my brothers;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

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

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C **♪ And with thy spirit.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **♪ Amen.**

[Please sit]

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad then they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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 1:10-18

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in

my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

Matthew 4:17

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

P From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twelfth chapter.

C **♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹²When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

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 “O God of God, O Light of Light”

Hymn 132

SERMON “My Light and My Salvation”

[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.

Psalms 51:10-12

[Please sit]

RECEIPT OF OFFERINGS

PAUSE TO PONDER: Matthew 4:20 – “Immediately they left their nets and followed him.” Discipleship cost Peter and Andrew everything they had. They left their trade, their hometown, their families, and they followed Jesus. God has called us to the same discipleship, the same devotion, though the exact details of how that

is lived out will vary. The important thing is this: we know that all we have is the Lord's, to be used for His purpose. We are His disciples and are ready to follow where He leads.

OFFERING HYMN

"The People That in Darkness Sat"

Hymn 106

[Please stand]

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Lord of all nations, Your Son became flesh to enlighten a world darkened by sin with His grace. Visit us with His gifts of forgiveness and life, that our way may be glorious with His salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty Lord, Your Son's cross and crucifixion is folly to the world, but it is the source of repentance and forgiveness for all His elect. Preserve the preaching of the cross in our midst, that from this life-giving tree we would continue to receive Your faith-preserving gifts. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You have called us to be united in the same mind and judgment in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Preserve us from divisions and quarreling wrought by false teaching and cults of personality, and fix our eyes on the Word of the cross. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son as the Savior of the world, that all the families of the nations might worship before You. Bless the families of this congregation with Your grace and protection, that they might remember You in both joy and trouble and worship before You forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, all kingship belongs to You. Rule over the nations for the good of Your people, that we might live in peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, Your Son welcomed the sick, the afflicted and those oppressed by demons and healed them. Have mercy upon all whom we bring before You in prayer, especially Al, Mark, Jeanette, Emma, Rachel and all those we name in our hearts, and deliver them according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, the fame of Your Son spread everywhere as people witnessed His miracles and wonders. As He has wondrously saved us from sin and death, so open our mouths to speak of Him to all who will hear. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and 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.**

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

pg. 14

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C **♪ And with Thy spirit.**

P Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C **♪ Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you ✠ and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C **♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"This Day at Thy Creating Word"

Hymn 12

POSTLUDE

OUTREACH THOUGHT: Matthew 4:12-25: God keeps calling and our calling is to keep witnessing. God called to Adam and Eve in the cool of the afternoon; Ezekiel by the river Chebar; Isaiah in the temple; Samuel while he slept; and Peter, James and John while they were fishing. From God's call comes His direction, guidance, correction, instruction, enlightenment, loving relationships, new missions, acts of care and fellowship bearing His name. So we pray: God, keep calling. Help me to hear Your call. Please don't ever quit calling just because I don't answer, or when I'm slow to respond or when obedience to Your call involves discomfort or trouble. God's call means so much to our witness in this life and for eternity. We belong to Him. We have life now and for eternity through Him. And because of His calling, our life and witness have significance. So, God keep calling - and we'll witness always!

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.

GEMS: Our Post Oak GEMS (Girls Embracing Mission Service) Group is meeting this afternoon 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!

The Ladies Aid will meet again on Tuesday, February 7th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. They will be assembling Valentine goody bags for our shut-ins. They meet on the first Tuesday of every month; new members and visitors are always welcome!

On Sunday, February 12th the Ladies Aid will have a Super Bowl Bake Sale in the Narthex. Come get some yummy goodies for the big game! Freewill donations will be accepted and proceeds will go towards an upcoming scholarship program.

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. In addition, if anyone interested in placing an ad on the page that will be in the paper for the anniversary, please contact Ann Bamsch for more details. As April 23 draws nearer, the anniversary committee will provide more details on many ways congregation members may help.

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 TODAY is the deadline to get them from Elijah Kueck. 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 two 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.

Attendance Last Sunday

Divine Service: 134 Bible Class: 50
Sunday School: 15

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

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.

Texas Lutheran Writer's Round Up

FLHS will host the Texas Lutheran Writer's Round Up on Friday, February 24th. More details will be forthcoming. We are blessed to offer this event to our community, so please plan to join us!

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.

Spring Raffle

FLHS raffle tickets will be available soon (by Sun, Feb 5). The Board of Directors has put together an amazing slate of items. You don't want to miss out!! Tickets are \$20 each. Drawing will be the week of March 6-10, during National Lutheran Schools Week. A limited number of tickets will be available! Please contact any FLHS delegate, student, staff or call (979) 242-2889 to get your tickets!!

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.



Altar Flowers



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of the baptism of Mathilda Jean Smith.

PRAYER REQUESTS



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

Al Jurk, recovering from a surgical procedure on Friday

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

Nancy I. Pietsch, undergoing treatments for cancer

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

This morning, we welcome Mathilda Jean Smith to God's family through the waters of holy baptism. Mathilda is the daughter of Matthew and Sami Smith and the granddaughter of Terry and Kathy Steglich-Smith. She was born here in Warda on December 23, 2022. Her baptism sponsors and witnesses are Stacy Drury and Shane Lewis.

Those who serve today: January 29, 2023

Rev. Dustin Beck
Mrs. Carol Schramm
Mrs. Brenda Woelfel
Mr. Shea Kasper
Vernon Smith, IV

Pastor
Organist
Greeter
Audio/Video System
Acolyte

Elders on Duty
Mr. Doug Lehmann
Mr. Brian Varner
Mr. Ron Zoch

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	10:30 a.m.	FLHS Chapel
	11:15 a.m.	Board of Ed.
	5:30 p.m.	Jr. Confirmation
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
	7:00 p.m.	Pastor Beck/Organists
SATURDAY	1:30 p.m.	Trail Life Lego Race in Gym
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Jr. Confirmation

Soli Deo Gloria

(To God alone be Glory)