



# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

(979) 242-3333 | [holycrosswarda.com](http://holycrosswarda.com) | [holycross@cvctx.com](mailto:holycross@cvctx.com)

600 FM 1482, Giddings TX 78942

PO Box 69, Warda TX 78960

FOR I AM WITH  
TO SAVE  
& DELIVER

YOU

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](http://holycrosswarda.com)

September 3, 2023

Fourteenth 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.

**USING THE LUTHERAN HYMNAL:** Holy Cross predominantly uses *The Lutheran Hymnal*, a hymnal that was first printed more than 80 years ago. There is a rich heritage associated with the hymns and liturgies that are contained within its pages. During today's service, you will notice page numbers in the bulletin associated with the various elements of worship. These are found in the front section of the hymnal. Scripture references to each element in the bulletin are included to demonstrate the Biblical nature of our liturgy. Propers for the day (lessons, prayers, hymns) are printed in the bulletin.

**IN TODAY'S READINGS:**

***The Glory of God Is the Passion and Cross of Christ Jesus***

After St. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, our Lord "*began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised*" (Matt. 16:21). Upon hearing this "theology of the cross," Simon Peter stumbled into a satanic "theology of glory." But the glory of God is revealed in the Passion and cross of His incarnate Son. The faithful prophets, such as Jeremiah, suffered persecution and rejection in anticipation of Jesus' cross. Yet the Lord did not abandon them; He remembered them, and He was with them to deliver them (Jer. 15:15–20). By His cross, Jesus has redeemed the world, and in His resurrection, He has vindicated all who trust in Him. Thus, the Christian life is a discipleship of self-sacrificing love. Since Christ Jesus has reconciled us to God, we "*live peaceably with all*" (Rom. 12:18). By the certainty of His cross and resurrection, we "*rejoice in hope,*" and we are "*patient in tribulation*" and "*constant in prayer*" (Rom. 12:12).



**P** Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*[Please sit]*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Jeremiah 15:15-21*

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. <sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. <sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? <sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the Lord: “If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. <sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the Lord. <sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

*Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

Fear the Lord, you his saints,  
**for those who fear him lack nothing!**  
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
**but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

## EPISTLE READING

*Romans 12:9-21*

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup>To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**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]*

## **HALLELUJAH AND VERSE**

*pg. 10*

*Matthew 16:25*

**P** Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 16:21-28*

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

**C** **♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. <sup>28</sup>Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

*pg. 12*

*[Please sit]*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus”*

*Hymn 367*

## **SERMON**

*“The Bittersweet Word of the Lord”*

*[Please stand]*

## **OFFERTORY**

*pg. 12*

*Psalm 51:10-12*

*[Please sit]*

## **RECEIPT OF OFFERINGS**

Matthew 16:26 – “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?” He who dies with the most toys ... is dead. But the one who trusts in the Lord, even though he dies, yet shall he live. We live out our trust in the Lord by faithfully fulfilling the roles God has given us to play in home, church and society as loving, generous people. Those who don't know the Lord are afraid to be generous because they think that what they give away is lost to them. But we who know the Lord know that the things of this world become true blessings when they are used for God's kingdom.

## **OFFERING HYMN**

*“God's Word Is Our Great Heritage”*

*Hymn 283*

*[Please stand]*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

In our prayers today, we remember Carolyn, Larry, Wally, Freddie, Becky, Louis, and the family of Clara Damerow.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*pg. 14*

*Matthew 6:9-13*

## **COLLECT FOR THE CHURCH**

*pg. 14*

## **BENEDICTION**

*pg. 14*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

## CLOSING HYMN

*“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”*

*LSB Hymn 722*



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;  
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,  
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.  
For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.  
I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.



With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;  
Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,  
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.  
For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.  
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: P. Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860  
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005050 Tune: Public domain

## POSTLUDE

**OUTREACH THOUGHT:** Matthew 16:21-28: “Get behind Me, Satan.” I’m sure glad Jesus said that to Peter and not to me! Have you ever been a hindrance to the Gospel? Have your thoughts, words or deeds ever led someone away from Christ, rather than to Him? We all must repent of the times that our sinful lives have done the very thing that Peter did in today’s Gospel lesson. We have mismatched the Person of Christ and the work of Christ. The work of the Cross is sacrifice. It’s less of me and more of Christ. (John 3:30) Self is the enemy of developing as disciples. Thanks be to God, Jesus puts our sin behind Him so we can follow Him as disciples. The cross we are to bear puts to death the things of this world so we can live the new life Christ has in mind for us to live for eternity. May God bless us with the labor of love in sharing the Gospel that puts us behind Jesus where we cannot hinder the Good News but share it boldly.

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Wednesday night Bible Study group** will begin a new study on the Old Testament book of 1st Samuel this Wednesday, Sept. 6th at 6:30pm. This 11-week study will cover the calling of the first 2 kings of Israel, Saul and David. There is no cost to attend and all are welcome! Contact Cyndy Zoch at [cyndy.zoch@gmail.com](mailto:cyndy.zoch@gmail.com) or 979-966-3166 to sign up and receive the materials for this study.

**Christian Book Fund** - Holy Cross has started a new program designed to encourage members to read well-written, faithful theology. The Christian Book Fund is a completely voluntary program through which Holy Cross will subsidize a member's purchase of new Christian books at 50%. There are posters on the bulletin board with descriptions of each of the books that have been selected to be covered by the Fund. Payment can be made to the church in the Church Office and Christine will place the order. The Pietsch Endowment Fund, along with several anonymous individuals have graciously agreed to support the Christian Book Fund to get this project started.

**Giddings VFD** annual Patriot Day celebration is coming up on Friday & Saturday, September 8-9, at the Fireman's Park west of Giddings. This year, they will have their first BBQ Cook-Off associated with this event. If you would like to participate in the cook-off, please contact Colby Handrick at 979-716-1180. The weekend will also include their annual fundraiser auction starting Saturday at 6PM with a dance to follow.

**Fried Chicken Dinner:** The St. Paul Lutheran Church Adult Fellowship in Serbin are having their 26<sup>th</sup> annual fried chicken dinner on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00 at the Serbin Picnic Grounds. Preorders are preferred and all to-go plates will be sold for \$15.00. If you would like to order plates please contact Susan Michael at 540-0854 or Sharon Claxton at 540-7154 **by September 6<sup>th</sup>**. All proceeds will be going toward future church/school projects. Thank You!

The **Men's Club of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church**, La Grange, will hold their annual **BBQ chicken & sausage dinner** on Sunday, September 10th from 11 AM to 12:30 PM. Plates will be available by drive through only at the church's parking lot at 800 N. Franklin. Tickets are \$15 per plate. The meal includes half a barbecued chicken, sausage, homemade noodles, pinto beans, bread and sauce. Tickets are available at the church office, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Preschool, Lukas Bakery, La Grange Chevron, or with any Men's Club member. Tickets will also be available in the drive through line.



**Sunday, September 17th: Lee County 4-H Annual Fried Chicken Dinner** at the Lincoln Community Hall in Lincoln. Drive-thru only from 10:00-12:30. Plates are \$15 each. Tickets can be purchased at the Lee County Extension Office at 310 St. Grimes St. in Giddings or in line on the 17th.



### **Thank You!**

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

### **Save the Date!**

FLHS's annual Oktoberfest will be Saturday, October 28th. New this year will be **The Battle of the Vines**, in addition to **The Battle of the Brew** - both are home brew competitions, so start planning your brews now. Returning will be our traditional German meal, domino tournament, cornhole tournament, music, kids games, fellowship, and lots of fun!

### **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.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

Wally Lehmann, now in Schulenburg Regency Nursing Home

Carolyn Jurk, in Towers Rehab recovering from Flu B and a UTI

Larry Moerbe, back in Care Inn

Freddie Zoch, in rehab in Giddings following a fall

Becky Urban, niece of Linda and David Lehmann, moved out of ICU and now in rehab, doing remarkably well and on the road to recovery. Thank you all for your prayers.

Louis Jakiel (son of Wendy Wagner's co-worker) in ICU following a serious motorcycle accident this week

The family of Clara Damerow who passed away on Friday morning. She was the wife of Pastor Ronald Damerow, former pastor at St. John, Cypress, and a friend of David & Linda Lehmann.

*Those who serve today: September 3, 2023*

Rev. Dustin Beck	Pastor
Mrs. Gina Sanders	Organist
Mrs. Lorie Lehmann	Greeter
Mrs. Linda Hobratschk	Audio/Video System
Lexi Ahrens & Scarlett Landry	Acolytes
Elders on Duty	
Mr. Doug Lehmann, Mr. Brian Varner, Mr. Ron Zoch	

**CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES**

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
		Church Picnic Activities all Day
MONDAY		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
WEDNESDAY	10:30 a.m.	FLHS Chapel
	11:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. Confirmation—1st year class
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
	7:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	11:15 am.	Youth/Jr. Confirmation—2nd year class

**Attendance Last Sunday**

Divine Service: 150 Bible Class: 49  
Sunday School: 25

**Our Response to God's Blessings**

	<u>Aug. 20</u>	<u>Aug. 27</u>
Estimated General Fund Weekly Need	\$ 5,150	\$ 5,150
Offering Received	\$ 4,365	\$ 3,335
Short/Over	\$ (785.)	\$ (1,815)
Offerings received through e-giving Aug. 16-31:	\$666.06	

*Soli Deo Gloria*

(To God alone be Glory)