



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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GREATER LOVE
HAS NO ONE THAN
THIS, THAT
SOMEONE LAYS
DOWN HIS LIFE
FOR HIS FRIENDS.

1873-2021

148 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.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 69 WARDA, TX 78960

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

GUESTS AND VISITORS: Welcome to Holy Cross and to today's worship service. We are glad you are here! If you have any questions about today's service, or are interested in joining Holy Cross, please speak with Pastor or one of our Elders.

The Lord Jesus Is with His Church in the Apostolic Ministry of the Gospel

The crucified and risen Lord Jesus is with His Church through the word of His apostles, who *"are witnesses of all that he did."* He was anointed by God *"with the Holy Spirit and with power,"* and *"he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,"* and so He was with those whom He sent *"to preach to the people"* (Acts 10:38–42). The Holy Spirit is bestowed on those who hear that apostolic preaching, who are *"baptized in the name of Jesus Christ,"* so that *"everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name"* (Acts 10:43–44, 48). For as He came by the water of His Baptism, even to the blood of His Passion, so the Spirit testifies to the truth with *"the water and the blood"* in the apostolic ministry of the Gospel (1 John 5:6–7). By these means, Christ Jesus speaks to us, that His joy may be in us and that our *"joy may be full."* For this purpose, He appointed the apostles to *"go and bear fruit"* in order to make known His divine friendship to us (John 15:11, 15–16).

Prelude - Selected

The Ringing of the Church Bell

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn: ***"Morning Breaks upon the Tomb"*** ***Hymn 203***

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

C: ♪ Amen.

The Confession of Sins & 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.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: ♪ Who made heaven and earth.

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

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

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: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name, He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: ♪ Amen.

The Introit: Psalm 66:1–2, 8–9, 20; antiphon: v. 16

Come and hear, all you who fear God,

and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!

Bless our God, O peoples;

let the sound of his praise be heard,

who has kept our soul among the living

and has not let our feet slip.

Blessèd be God,

because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

Come and hear, all you who fear God,

and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

The 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.

The Kyrie

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

The 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.

The Salutation & The Collect for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with thy spirit.

P: Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

First Reading: Acts 10:34-48 (ESV)

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the

prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

The Gradual: adapted from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

P: Christ has risen from the dead.

C: God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor.

P: He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

C: He has put all things under his feet.

Epistle Reading: 1 John 5:1-8 (ESV)

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

[please rise and face the Pastor in the center of the nave, a sign of Christ's presence among His people]

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Verse: Romans 6:9; John 16:33

P: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.

C: In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: John 15:9-17 (ESV)

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

C: 🎵 **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

⁹[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord..

C: 🎵 **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

The Apostle’s Creed

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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.

Sermon Hymn: “Dear Christians One and All, Rejoice” Hymn 387, v. 1-4

The Sermon

“Jesus Chose You!”

[we stand]

The Offertory

♪ 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.

Receipt of Offerings

Hymn: *“Dear Christians One and All, Rejoice”* *Hymn 387, v. 5-10*

The Prayers of the Day

Blessed God, You do not reject our prayers or remove Your steadfast love from us. Hear us now and answer us in Your love for Your whole Church and for all people according to their needs. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You invite us to freely come and hear Your Word. Bless and increase our faith, that we may rightly fear You and learn what You have done for our souls. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of all, You make known the good news of peace through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Bless and direct the work of our missionaries, that in every nation there would be people who fear God, do what is right and, believing in Jesus, receive forgiveness of sins through His name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Your Son in His incarnation took on our human flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary. He submitted to His mother, honoring and obeying her, so fulfilling the commandment where we have not. On this Mother’s Day, graciously accept our thanksgiving for our mothers, whom You have given to us. Teach us to honor them aright — loving, obeying and giving thanks for them, as is fitting in Your sight. Strengthen all women with child, and give them safe delivery. Comfort all women who long to have children but cannot, that they may find their consolation in You and Your unfailing love. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty Father, You rule this world by Your established authorities in ways that we do not always understand; yet in the name of Jesus, we may ask You anything freely as friends and sons. Bless our nation’s leaders and cause them to serve wisely for our good. Give earthly peace and justice that is in accord with Your commandments and the order You have revealed. Bring an end to injustice, violence and disdain for Your truth, and let us receive all good with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, the Giver of all that is good, grant Your healing and support to all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity especially Ralph, Al, JC, Conway, Aidan, Todd, Damon, Georgette, Laura, Doris, those in our hearts and on our continued prayer list. Give them also the gift of Your grace to accept and bear their crosses with faith in You, that finally they would be prepared to depart this life and receive the gift of eternal life in Your kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Collect for the Word/Church

P: Blessed Lord, who has caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C: ♪ Amen.

The Benediction

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.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Closing Hymn: *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”* *Hymn 457*

Postlude

Outreach Thought

John 15:9-17: Jesus chose His disciples to go and bear much fruit through their love and their witnessing. The fire of the Spirit empowered them and still empowers us to share the greatest true story ever told!

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mom's this morning! The Ladies Aid will have a flower for you as you are leaving church this morning. We ask God's blessings on your day!

Adult Bible Class: This morning, we continue our study of the first book, Genesis, the book of beginnings, to talk about God's account of creation and the fall, and His calling a people to be His own possession (which, by faith in Christ, is us!) Join us for an exciting look at a foundational book that helps to foster our Christian worldview in a world that denies Christ and His salvation.

Don't forget dessert! The Ladies Aid reminds you that they will have desserts to go with your BBQ Chickens from the Couple's Club today. Be sure to drive by their table before you leave.

VBS Planning is underway!! Registration forms were in the church newsletter and can be turned in to the church office. There will be an online registration link available at the end of the week.

A planning meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, May 16th, in the fellowship hall immediately following Bible Class. Anyone who wants to help with any part of VBS (decorating/set up, leading groups/classes, clean-up, etc.) is encouraged to come get more information. Families or groups planning to bring food don't need to be there.

Are you cleaning out closets or toy boxes? Looking for someplace to go with all those gently used Lego's, building blocks, Lincoln Logs, etc.? Look no further! We will be glad to take them to use for VBS. Any size Legos, wood or cardboard building blocks, large cardboard boxes, kids building materials, etc. would all be greatly appreciated! You can bring them to the church office during the week or make arrangements with Chelsea Beck for a convenient time.

Check out the Czechs! The Healing Hearts group invites you to join them for Slavnost "May Fest" - Honoring the Czech Immigrants to Texas, Sunday May 16th, after Sunday School. Plate lunch of fried chicken and trimmings, \$10.00, Music from 11:30 to 4:00, visit the museum and grounds, car show, saw mill and much more. Located at the Fayette County Fairgrounds in La Grange. Lawn chairs may be needed for visiting in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome to join us for a relaxing afternoon. Contact Emily Matheson 979-250-3027 or emilymatheson123@gmail.com for information.

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The Spring Thing!

FLHS is proud to present The Spring Thing! This will be a showcase of our students' work in the fine art department. Please join us Wednesday, May 12th, at 7pm in the fellowship hall at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Graduation

The first senior class of Faith Lutheran High School will be graduating this May. Graduation will be Saturday, May 29th at 1:30 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Congratulations to Valedictorian - Magdalena Obersat and Salutatorian - Andrew Laake. Please join us as we celebrate all our seniors and celebrate their accomplishments.

Youth Camps

Summer camps are back! We are excited to offer a variety of camps for youth this spring and summer. Ages are for grades NEXT school year.

June 7-9 - Volleyball - Grade 3 to 8 - \$15

June 14-16 - Basketball - Grades K to 8 - \$15

June 21-23 - Art Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$ 30

June 28-30 - STEM Camp - GradesK to 6 - \$30

Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information! Don't wait --- Sign up today!! Limited spots remaining!

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is underway. **Nine** new students have already enrolled. We would love to welcome you into our Falcon family as well. Call us at (979) 242-2889 to schedule a shadow day or visit our website at www.faithlutheranhighschool.com for registration information.

Staff Positions Available

Faith Lutheran High School will have part time openings on its faculty for the 2021-2022 academic year! Interested individuals who teach science, social studies, English, Spanish, or electives, or would like to supervise dual credit or study hall students may submit resumes to Faith Lutheran High School, PO Box 138, Warda, TX 78960, call (979) 242-2889, or email them to kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com. If you have the time and talents, please consider applying and sharing your gifts with our students. Thank you!

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 Nikki Kueck to learn more.



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of my mommy, Amanda Knox, by Emma Knox.



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

Ralph Bamsch, recovering from neck surgery on May 6th
Al Jurk, thankful for successful foot surgery; recovering at home
J.C. Kaiser, recovering from AFIB and cellulitis
Aidan Halpain, struggling with a difficult situation
Conway Whited, infant son of Justin and Amanda Whited, came home this week
Todd Morgan, nephew of Gerald and Mary Sledge, hospitalized with viral encephalitis
Damon Sledge, great-grandson of Gerald and Mary Sledge, undergoing tests
Georgette Bragdon, wife of Pastor Dennis Bragdon and friend of the community,
scheduled for surgery on June 1st to remove a tumor from her kidney
Laura Bragdon, daughter of Pastor Dennis and Georgette Bragdon, dealing with
stomach problems
Doris Pietsch, friend of Calvin & Gale Mersiovsky, hospitalized in Austin
All those on our continued prayer list

We rejoice with Aaron Domingo Wagner on his baptism here at Holy Cross on Saturday. Aaron is the of Phillip and Mayra Wagner and was born on May 8th. His sponsors and witnesses are Nicolas Gruetzner, Daniel & Yuritzi Garza, Blake Carter, and Destiny Orocio.

Thank you to all the members who voted in the recent LGISD school board election. It is a very good feeling to be part of such a wonderful church family. *Calvin Mersiovsky*

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

May 9, 2021

Rev. Dustin Beck	Pastor
Mr. Jonathan Kueck	Lector
Mrs. Ann Bamsch	Organist
Mr. Mike Tabbert	Audio/Video System
Doug Lehmann, David Weishuhn, Allen Wolf	Elders on Duty
Kinlee Kays	Acolyte

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	<i>Happy Mother's Day!</i>
	8:30 a.m. PreService Singing
	9:00 a.m. Divine Service
	10:15 a.m. Bible Class & Sunday School
	10:30 a.m. Pick Up BBQ Chickens and Dessert
TUESDAY	9:00 a.m. Pastors Circuit Mtg. in Giddings
WEDNESDAY	10:30 a.m. FLHS Chapel led by Pastor Jason Kaspar from Mt. Calvary
	6:30 p.m. Bible Study
	7:00 p.m. FLHS Spring Concert in Fellowship Hall
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m. Sewing Circle
FRIDAY—SATURDAY	Pastor Beck to Doxology
Next Sunday	<i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>
	9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m. Bible Class & Sunday School

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Worship Service: 148 Bible Class: 44

Sunday School: 16