



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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O LORD, YOU GRANTED YOUR PROPHETS STRENGTH
TO RESIST THE TEMPTATIONS OF THE DEVIL
AND COURAGE TO PROCLAIM REPENTANCE.

GIVE US PURE HEARTS AND MINDS
TO FOLLOW YOUR SON FAITHFULLY
EVEN INTO SUFFERING AND DEATH;

THROUGH THE SAME JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD,
WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND
THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER.

AMEN.

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, July 11, 2021

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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 Brings His People through Death into Life by the Preaching of Repentance

Amos did not choose to be a prophet, but the Lord took him *"from following the flock"* and said to him, *"Go, prophesy to my people Israel"* (Amos 7:15). It was a hard word given him to preach: King Jeroboam would *"die by the sword,"* and Israel would *"go into exile away from his land"* (Amos 7:10–11). For this word, Amos was hated and threatened. St. John the Baptist also suffered for his faithful preaching of repentance. King Herod *"sent and seized John and bound him in prison,"* even though he knew that John *"was a righteous and holy man"* (Mark 6:17, 20). Out of pride and fear, Herod *"sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head"* (Mark 6:27). Yet in Christ, St. John the Baptist *"has been raised from the dead"* (Mark 6:14, 16). For Christ is the destruction of death itself *"before the foundation of the world,"* and even now by faith, *"the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"* has blessed us in Christ *"with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places"* (Eph. 1:3–4). Through Baptism into Christ, you also *"were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit"* for life and salvation (Eph. 1:13).

Prelude - Selected

The Ringing of the Church Bell

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn:

"O Day of Rest and Gladness"

Hymn 9

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 143:1–2, 8a; antiphon: v. 11

For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life!

In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your servant,

for no one living is righteous before you.

Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,

for in you I trust.

For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life!

In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

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: O Lord, You granted Your prophets strength to resist the temptations of the devil and courage to proclaim repentance. Give us pure hearts and minds to follow Your Son faithfully even into suffering and death; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Amos 7:7-15 (ESV)

⁷This is what [the Lord God] showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the Lord said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel I will never again pass by them; ⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

¹⁰Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said, “Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.””

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. ¹⁵But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

The Gradual: Romans 11:33, 36

P: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

C: How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

P: For from him and through him and to him are all things.

C: To him be glory forever. Amen.

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14 (ESV)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

[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: Matthew 5:10 (ESV)

P: Alleluia. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

C: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Mark 6:14-29 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.


C: 🎵 Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I

beheaded, has been raised.” ¹⁷For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because he had married her. ¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²²For when Herodias’s daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you.” ²³And he vowed to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom.” ²⁴And she went out and said to her mother, “For what should I ask?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist.” ²⁵And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” ²⁶And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. ²⁷And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison ²⁸and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

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.

Children’s Message

Oranell Dunk

Sermon Hymn:

“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

Hymn 347

The Sermon

“Heavenly Blessings in Christ”

Pastor John Stelling

[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

Pause to Ponder

Amos 7:8 – “And the LORD said to me, ‘Amos, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘A plumb line.’ Then the Lord said, ‘Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them.’ ” In the book of Amos the Lord condemns the people for their lack of kindness, charity, and generosity toward the weak and lowly. God takes great offense at this because his activity toward us is built on kindness, charity, and generosity. He wants us to respond in kind.

Hymn:

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

Hymn 441

The Prayers of the Day

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Preserve Your Church, O Lord, for Your name’s sake, in Your righteousness and answering in Your faithfulness. Since You have sent us forth in this world to testify to Your Word, let us find conviction and confidence in our confession, that salvation is found in the forgiveness of sins through Christ Jesus alone. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain the preachers You send, O Lord. Make them bold to proclaim Your Law against sin, and grant that Your Spirit would work powerfully in that Word to humble the proud and bring them to repentance, that they would hear the Gospel and receive the forgiveness of sins won for them by Christ. Vindicate all who suffer for continuing steadfast in their callings, and keep us from despising Your Word of correction. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preserve Your blessed estate of marriage, O Lord. Let chastity be prized among Your Christians and honored also in the world. Bind husband and wife together in love and forgiveness. Equip them by Your Spirit with every good gift to care for and teach the children You give. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You, O Lord, are King over all the earth. You bring ruin on wicked nations and their rulers and are no respecter of persons. Spare our nation and its leaders, O Lord. Let the conduct of our civil servants and of our people be wise, just, honorable and in accord with Your revealed will. For the sake of Christ, be merciful to those who oppose You, and remember that You desire all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Emboldened by our adoption through Jesus Christ, O Father, we bring before You every need of body and soul. Lavish the riches of Your grace on Nancy, Robert, Ruby, Judy, those in our hearts and on our continued prayer list. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God 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:

"I Walk in Danger All the Way"

Hymn 413

Postlude

Outreach Thought

Mark 6:14-29: John the Baptist helped to prepare the way for the Lord by calling sinners to repentance. He did that work with great power and success and was faithful to God and his mission unto death. We are also called to be faithful witnesses about Jesus unto death (Revelation 2:10), so that many sinners will be saved and also receive the crown of life.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Bible Class: Last month, Ron & Cyndy Zoch attended a conference with Pastor called “Doxology: the Encore.” This morning, they will share with you many of the things we learned there that are beneficial for our congregation to hear about. Please join us as we share about the conference and what it taught us about the care of our congregation and Pastor. *(Pastor Beck will resume his study on Genesis next Sunday.)*

Our annual church picnic with auction will be held Sunday, September 5th. Please be on the lookout for items for the live auction. With some businesses still hit hard financially by the Covid pandemic, we are relying more heavily on our congregation for donations of auction items this year. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself (318-458-8558) or Brian Varner (979-966-3761). Thank you! *Chris Kovar*

Healing Hearts and Friends adventure for July is to Majek's Vineyard and Winery located in Moravia (Schulenberg), Texas on Saturday, July 17, 2021. We will listen to classic country music by Sean Orr and Texas Gold, try wine tasting from their vineyard, should you choose to do so, and have dinner at the restaurant prior to leaving at 6:00 p.m. The only cost is the food and drink you will partake of. We will leave the church parking lot at 1:00 p.m. and return between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, contact Emily Matheson at 979-250-3027 (text or call) or email to emilymatheson123@gmail.com.

Winchester VFD Annual Fish Fry will be held Saturday, July 24th, at St. Michael's pavilion in Winchester. Meal will be served from 5pm-7pm. Dine in or take-out; a free will offering will be collected. Silent Auction and Bucket Raffle start at 4pm. Live auction will start after the announcement of the Bucket Raffle winners at 5:30. Regular raffle tickets are also on sale and can be purchased from Raymond and Ann Bamsch. Everyone is invited to come out and support the Winchester Area Fire Department as they serve Winchester and the surrounding area!

Camp Lone Star annual picnic will be held Sunday, July 25th, at Camp Lone Star in La Grange. The day includes music starting at 10:30 am, an outdoor worship service at 11:00 led by Pastor Ryan Neuhaus, a barbecue meal at noon, and the benefit auctions from 1-3 pm. The swimming pool will also be open from 1:00-2:30 pm for those wanting to enjoy the cool water. Each year Camp Lone Star serves over 11,000 individuals through their retreats, outdoor education, and of course our summer camp ministry. This annual event is a great opportunity to show support for Camp Lone Star and help it to continue the ministry into the future!

The Lehmann/Woyte reunion will be held on Sunday, August 1st at the picnic grounds from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Drinks and paper goods will be supplied; families are asked to bring a dish to share for the potluck meal.

A benefit fundraiser for Conway Whited, infant son of Justin and Amanda Whited, will be held on Sunday, August 22nd, at the Holy Cross Picnic Grounds. A drive-thru meal will be served from 10am—1pm consisting of Port steak, green beans, corn, homemade noodles, and bread. Meal tickets are \$12 each. Baked goods will be available for a free-will donation. Raffle tickets are also being sold for \$20 each. The drawing will be held at 2:00 p.m. on the 22nd. Winners do not need to be present to win; it will be streamed via Facebook live. Meal and raffle tickets are available in the church office during office hours. Justin and Amanda extend their thanks to everyone for all their continued prayers and support and a special thanks to the quilting group for the quilt for Conway!

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

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.

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is underway. We are looking to add more students to our family. Are you looking for a Christ-centered education, a rigorous college prep curriculum, small class sizes? Call for a tour and check out FLHS!! Call (979) 242-2889 today!

Lend a Hand

There are many opportunities to serve at Faith throughout the summer. Please contact Nikki Kueck with your interests. Thank you!

Thrivent Action Team Grants

If you are a Thrivent member willing to submit an application for a \$250 grant to be used on projects at Faith, please contact Nikki Kueck by calling (979) 242-2889. Help us to be able to take advantage of these funds for the good of our school. *We are currently looking to utilize Action Grants to offset expenses associated with our summer camps and student retreat!

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.

Amazon Wish 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!

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Worship Service: 122 Bible Class: 45

Sunday School: 11



Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Delbert and Judy Zoch in honor of the 30th wedding anniversary on July 13th.

Altar stand flowers are given to the glory of God by Paul and Jeanette Schramm in honor of their 49th wedding anniversary on July 8th.



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

Nancy I. Pietsch, home following a hospital stay

Robert Lehmann, diagnosed with Leukemia

Ruby Bohot, moved to Bec's Blessing, looking forward to visitors

Judy Symank, friend of Wendy Wagner

All those on our continued prayer list

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

July 11, 2021

Rev. John Stelling

Mr. Cory Knox

Mrs. Ann Bamsch

Mrs. Lisa Gay

Mr. Shea Kasper

Doug Lehmann, David Weishuhn, Allen Wolf

Andrew Davis & Eleanor Carey

Guest Pastor

Lector

Organist

Greeter

Audio/Video System

Elders on Duty

Acolyte

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
MONDAY-TUESDAY	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
TUESDAY	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
WEDNESDAY	CHURCH OFFICE OPEN	
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
Next Sunday	<i>8th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	
	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School