

**Holy Cross
Lutheran Church
(LCMS)
1873-2020
*147 Years of Grace***

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Holy Cross Lutheran
Church

Divine Service

9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion

1st & 3rd Sundays

Bible Class &

Sunday School

10:15 a.m.

Sharing with Everyone
the Good News of
Salvation Through
Jesus Christ

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

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GUESTS AND VISITORS: Welcome to Holy Cross and to today's worship service. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you 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.

Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger, but with compassion. He does not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (Matt. 18:23–27). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have "*mercy on your fellow servant*" and "*forgive your brother from your heart*" (Matt. 18:33, 35). By the Lord's forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us, because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead and He has paid our entire debt with His life-blood. Whether we live or die, we "*are the Lord's*" (Rom. 14:8). Since we all will "*stand before the judgment seat of God,*" we are not to despise our brother (Rom. 14:10), but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also "*will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand*" (Rom. 14:4). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends "*to bring it about that many people should be kept alive*" (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: "*I will provide for you and your little ones*" (Gen. 50:21).

Prelude - Selected

The Ringing of the Church Bell

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn:

“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

Hymn 652

1. I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
White in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.
2. I lay my wants on Jesus, All fulness dwells in Him;
He healeth my diseases, He doth my soul redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases, He all my sorrows shares.
3. I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces, I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.
4. I long to be like Jesus, Meek, loving, lowly, mild;
I long to be like Jesus, The Father's holy Child.
I long to be with Jesus Amid the heav'nly throng
To sing with saints His praises, To learn the angels' song. Amen.

[please stand]

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.**

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 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.

The Introit Psalm 143:1-2, antiphon v. 9

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

I have fled to you for refuge!

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.

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

I have fled to you for refuge!

The 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.

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: Let us pray: O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50:15-21 (ESV)

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

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 14:1-12 (ESV)

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of

the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

[please stand]

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Verse: Matthew 6:14

P: Alleluia. If you forgive others their trespasses,

C: your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35 (ESV)

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

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger

his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C:  Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

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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.

Sermon Hymn: *“Lord of Glory, Who hast Bought Us”*

Hymn 442

1. Lord of Glory, who hast bo't us With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that hast freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To th'unthankful and the evil With Thine own unsparing hand;
2. Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Gladly, freely, of Thine own;
With the sunshine of Thy goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

3. Wondrous honor hast Thou given To our humblest charity
 In Thine own mysterious sentence, "Ye have done it unto Me."
 Can it be, O gracious Master, Thou dost deign for alms to sue,
 Saying by Thy poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
4. Yes, the sorrow and the sufferings Which on every hand we see
 Channels are for gifts and offerings Due by solemn right to Thee;
 Right of which we may not rob Thee, Debt we may not choose but pay,
 Lest that face of love and pity Turn from us another day.
5. Lord of Glory, who hast bought us With Thy life-blood as the price,
 Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
 Give us faith to trust Thee boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on Thee;
 But, oh! best of all Thy graces, Give us Thine own charity. Amen.

The Sermon

“A Timely, Challenging Question”

Matt. 18:21

[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

The Prayers of the Day

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

Almighty God, as once You kept Joseph from evil and brought good from his suffering in Egypt, deliver us by Your grace so that we may learn patience in trials. Teach us to be slow to judge, quick to forgive, and steadfast in love for You and for one another. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, You have shown great compassion to us; teach us to show such compassion to others, that we may welcome the stranger, love our neighbor in need, and be attentive to those new to the faith or vulnerable to temptation. Help us to serve

the refugee seeking safety, and give us opportunity to share Your gifts with those who live in poverty and want. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, bless those who preach and teach Your Word, and give the hearers willing ears to hear and willing hearts to learn the Scriptures well. Bless those now training to be pastors and church workers. Grant to all the baptized the aid of Your Holy Spirit so that, receiving Your Gospel with joy, we may share it freely with those outside the household of faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, give wisdom and courage to our elected and appointed leaders, that they may pursue justice, seek peace and protect life from its natural beginning to its natural end. Bring an end to the threats of terror and violence among the peoples, and open all nations to the voice of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, lead us to pursue reconciliation, that we may stand before You forgiven and united in faith. Give us unity of doctrine, and help us to walk together in harmony of life. Prepare us to receive Your own Son's body and blood with faith, and bring to fruition in our lives the precious gift of grace we receive in this communion. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed Father, You know our weakness of body and soul. Give to the troubled in mind Your peace, to the suffering relief, to the sick healing, to the grieving comfort and deliver the dying into everlasting life. Hear us especially for Dolores, Curtis, Larry, Jerrell, Amy, Wesley, Bethany, Margaret, those on our continued prayer list, and also for those named in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Giving Lord, all good things come from You. We give you thanks and praise for the rains that have refreshed our fields and watered our livestock and crops. We ask you to continue to bless us with seasonable weather in the weeks ahead. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty and everlasting God, deliver us from temptation and the powers of evil, that we may be faithful unto death and receive from Your hand the crown of everlasting life. Whether we live or die, we belong to You, and we pray You to comfort us with this promise, that we may join the company of the saints on the day You have appointed and enter into the heavenly places to worship at Your throne on high; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

The Preface and The Proper Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: ♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

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:

The 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.

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 Words of Institution

The Pax Domini & The Agnus Dei

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: ♪ Amen.

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.

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.

The Distribution

Distribution Hymns

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

Hymn 342

1. Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high, Lived that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
2. Oh, the height of Jesus' love! Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity.
Love that found me--wondrous tho't!-- Found me when I sought Him not.
3. Jesus only can impart Balm to heal the smitten heart;
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n;
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.
4. Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is All in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
Safe with Him from earthly strife, He sustains the hidden life.
5. O my Savior, help afford By Thy Spirit and Thy Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die. Amen.

“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”

Hymn 339

1. All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.
2. Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God Who from His altar call;
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod And crown Him Lord of all.

3. Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, Ye ransomed from the Fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
4. Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line, Whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, Man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, Man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.
5. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
6. Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
7. Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all. Amen.

“How Lovely Shines the Morning Star”

Hymn 343

1. How lovely shines the Morning Star! The nations see and hail afar
The light in Judah shining.
Thou David's Son of Jacob's race, My Bridegroom and my King of Grace,
For Thee my heart is pining.
Lowly, Holy, Great and glorious, Thou victorious Prince of graces,
Filling all the heav'nly places.
2. O highest joy by mortals won, True Son of God and Mary's Son,
Thou highborn King of ages!
Thou art my heart's most beauteous Flow'r And Thy blest Gospel's saving pow'r
My raptured soul engages.
Thou mine, I Thine; Sing hosanna! Heav'nly manna Tasting, eating,
Whilst Thy love in songs repeating.
3. Now richly to my waiting heart, O Thou, my God, deign to impart
The grace of love undying.
In Thy blest body let me be, E'en as the branch is in the tree,
Thy life my life supplying.

Sighing, Crying, For the savor Of Thy favor; Resting never
Till I rest in Thee forever.

4. A pledge of peace from God I see When Thy pure eyes are turned to me
To show me Thy good pleasure.
Jesus, Thy Spirit and Thy Word, Thy body and Thy blood, afford
My soul its dearest treasure.
Keep me Kindly In Thy favor, O my Savior! Thou wilt cheer me;
Thy Word calls me to draw near Thee.

5. Thou, mighty Father, in Thy Son Didst love me ere Thou hadst begun
This ancient world's foundation.
Thy Son hath made a friend of me, And when in spirit Him I see,
I joy in tribulation.
What bliss is this! He that liveth To me giveth Life forever;
Nothing me from Him can sever.

6. Lift up the voice and strike the string, Let all glad sounds of music ring
In God's high praises blended.
Christ will be with me all the way, Today, tomorrow, every day,
Till traveling days be ended.
Sing out, Ring out, Triumph glorious, O victorious, Chosen nation;
Praise the God of your salvation.

7. Oh, joy to know that Thou, my Friend, Art Lord, Beginning without end,
The First and Last, eternal!
And Thou at length--O glorious grace!--Wilt take me to that holy place,
The home of joys supernal.
Amen, Amen! Come and meet me! Quickly greet me! With deep yearning,
Lord, I look for Thy returning. Amen.

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.

The Dismissal

[please stand]

The Nunc Dimittis

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♪ 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.

The Thanksgiving

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C: ♪ And His mercy endures forever.

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.

The Benedicamus - The Benediction

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with Thy spirit.

P: Bless we the Lord.

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.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”

Hymn 324

1. Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve--Jesus sinners doth receive.
2. We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim. Here their ills have perfect healing
Who with humble hearts believe-- Jesus sinners doth receive.

3. Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live-- Jesus sinners doth receive.
4. Come, ye sinners, one and all, Come, accept His invitation;
Come, obey His gracious call, Come and take His free salvation!
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.
5. I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession;
Savior, mercy show to me Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.
6. Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter Passion;
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.
7. Now my conscience is at peace, From the Law I stand acquitted;
Christ hath purchased my release And my every sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve-- Jesus sinners doth receive.
8. Jesus sinners doth receive. Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave-- Jesus sinners doth receive. Amen.

Postlude

Outreach Thought

Matthew 18:21-35: Where's your cross? Some point to the cross they are wearing as a necklace or on their ears. Some may pull out of their purse the "Cross in my pocket" that they have been carrying around for years. Today, some may even point to a tattoo or belly-button cross. Strangely enough, many people will draw your attention to a burden they are bearing as their "cross." Today is the Feast of the Holy Cross, which is a symbol of victory over sin, death and the power of the devil. The Cross of Christ Crucified is upon you in remembrance of your Baptism on your forehead and hearts marking you as one who belongs to Him. It is in your life as you face the burdens of this world; not as the burdened, but as the overcomers of the world, triumphant in Christ. People will want to be their best around you because your best is Christ living in you. There is no room for foul language, tasteless jokes, gossip, or tolerating sinful behavior around you because Christ lives in you and everyone knows it. Celebrate the Cross in your life. Bear it passionately, on your forehead, in your heart, and through your life, because the Cross of Christ makes a difference in you as one belonging to Jesus and to all those around you who will want to be at their best. This celebration will become contagious and will be of great joy until our Lord returns.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Class this morning will be led by Pastor Stelling in the sanctuary. His topic today is “Joseph forgave them. Would we?” based on Genesis 50:15-21.

New Series in Adult Bible Class! Starting Sunday, September 20, our Adult Bible Class will begin a conversation based on a study from the LCMS Office of National Mission called “Shepherding Our Strays.” It’s going to be a time of reflection on how important it is for us (the branches) to be connected to Jesus (the vine) so that we might bear fruit! We’ll study how and why reaching out to folks who have slipped away from regular worship is expected of Christians; and we’ll work together to find creative and effective ways to care spiritually for our brothers and sisters IN Christ who have found themselves OUTside His Church.

If you received a nominating card for a church office and have not returned it yet, please do so ASAP this week. You can drop it off at the church office or give Christine a call and let her know of your decision at (979) 242-3333.

Sewing Circle—Ladies, Are you looking for things to do to keep busy and still have social distancing as well? Holy Cross Sewing Circle can use your help! If you can cut a fabric square or trim a stamp, you can help us! Squares are used to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and the stamps are sold to collectors to help pay for shipping them. We gather on Thursday mornings from 9-noon in the old parish hall at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. We take a break at 10:00 and enjoy coffee and snacks while we share friendly updates on family and friends. If you would like more information, you can email Cindy Heselmeyer at cindyhesel@yahoo.com, or just come join us on a Thursday morning!

The Wednesday night Bible study group has begun an 11 week study on the book of Psalms. They meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. in the family room. Please contact Cyndy Zoch at cyndy.zoch@gmail.com or 979-966-3166 for details and to obtain the necessary materials. We'd love for you to join us!

Personal Care Kit Ministry - The Ladies Aid collection for Lutheran World Relief is going to take place during September and October. Items collected will be made up into little personal care kits and sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to needy people throughout the world. Items we need are individually wrapped bars of soap (8-9 oz, individually wrapped), light-weight bath-sized towels (20” x 40” to 52” x 27”) - dark colors are recommended, metal nail clippers, and combs. (We have toothbrushes already.) Items may be placed in the basket in the hallway leading to the narthex. We will be assembling the kits at our meeting in November. In addition, we are looking for monetary donations for the LWR shipping fund. It costs about \$2.65 to ship one kit and about \$2.25 to ship one quilt. If you would like to donate money to the shipping fund, please make a check out to the Ladies Aid and place LWR Shipping Fund on the note line. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Ladies Aid and Lutheran World Relief! You may have seen in the La Grange newspaper that Lutheran World Relief lost the contents of three 40-foot shipping containers in the Beirut Explosion last month. The total loss included 22,000 quilts and 300 cartons of personal care kits. We pray that those items can be replaced through the generosity of their donors.

“Almost” Wendish Fest: The TWHS board made the difficult but necessary decision to cancel our normal Wendish Fest for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have an alternative event on Wendish Sunday, September 27th, at St. Paul that will allow us to safely celebrate the rich heritage of the Wends here in Texas and raise some funds for the society. Please join us for a pick-up only meal at the St. Paul Picnic Grounds in Serbin. Meal tickets are \$12 and will be loaded with sausage, Wendish Noodles, pickles, beets, sauerkraut, green beans, bread, and peaches. Pick up your plate from 10am to 1pm. Reserve your plate by buying a ticket (available in the church office), or calling, (979)366-2441, or emailing (museum@texaswendish.org) the Wendish Museum. After you pick up your meal, stop by our drive-through country store where you can purchase uncooked sausage & noodles, pickles, sauerkraut, pot holders, hats, and other Wendish related goods. While we are disappointed not to host Wendish Fest this year, we look forward to seeing you at the festival in 2021. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Lutheran Witness - It's time to renew our Lutheran Witness subscriptions for 2021. Cost for next year is \$14.25 per subscription. If you are not receiving it and would like to, or want to cancel your subscription or change your address, please call the church office by October 7th. Thanks!

Planning is well underway for our Children's Christmas program to be held on Thursday, December 24th, at 6pm. Sign-up sheets will be available soon! Please be planning if your child/grandchild will participate; deadline to sign-up will be October 18th.

A benefit Fried Chicken Dinner for Bethany Behrens Lara will be held on Sunday, October 11th. Drive-thru at The Silos on 77 starting at 11:00 a.m. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased from Brooke Kovar ((979) 716-8252), at City Meat Market or Round Top State Bank. Bethany was recently diagnosed with Lymphoma and is undergoing chemo treatments at this time.

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Busy Night? Dinner's On Us!

FLHS is selling 8 X 8 Chicken Spaghetti casseroles, available for pick-up on Tuesday, September 29th. Pre-orders only. Cost is \$20 each. Pick up at FLHS or Immanuel in Giddings from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex or call FLHS to order at (979) 242-2889, as limited amounts are available.

Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday, beginning at 10:30 am. We will be social distancing.

Oktoberfest

FLHS will be hosting a family friendly event on Saturday, October 24th at the Holy Cross Picnic grounds. This event may look different than in years past, so stay tuned for more details!

Follow Us On Facebook!

With a new school year underway, you may want to see the exciting things happening inside here on a daily basis! By “liking” our Facebook page and “sharing” our posts, you will be in the loop on all the great things happening and sharing Faith with your friends as well. If you're not on social media, head to our website (faithlutheranhighschool.com) which is updated regularly as well.

Thank you!

Thank you so much for your participation in the Fall Envelope fundraiser. It has been a wonderful blessing to us. Your generous contributions continue to enable Faith Lutheran High School to grow and instill wisdom as the students become faithful leaders for tomorrow. 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 for our Family Fun Nights and Oktoberfest.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

Dolores Wolf, recovering from shoulder surgery on Wednesday

Larry Woelfel, recovering from knee replacement surgery

Curtis Moerbe, doing better at home

Jerrell Dunk, finishing up procedures from skin cancer surgeries

Amy Wagner and Wesley Cervenka, undergoing cancer treatments

Bethany Behrens Lara, friend of Brooke Kovar, undergoing treatment for Lymphoma

Margaret Sladeczek Fitchette, friend of Linda Lehmann, recovering from back surgery

All those on our continued prayer list

Our sympathy to Lee and Cindy Heselmeyer on the death of Cindy's mom, Mary Ann Comeaux, last Sunday. Her funeral was Thursday in Lafayette, LA.

Thank you so very much for all of you wonderful folks that volunteered last Sunday to make our drive-thru BBQ a big success! So many of you worked in multiple capacities to make this event run smoothly with the group limits placed on gatherings to stay within Covid-19 guidelines. I appreciate each and every one of you and look forward to next year when we can gather together again for our normal picnic activities! *Chris Kovar*

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

September 13, 2020

Rev. John Stelling	Guest Pastor
Mrs. Carol Schramm	Organist
Mr. Curtis Wedgeworth	Lector
Mrs. Linda Hobratschk	Audio/Video System
Doug Lehmann, David Weishuhn, Allen Wolf	Elders on Duty
Kinlee Kays	Acolyte

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
WEDNESDAY	10:30 a.m.	FLHS Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. Confirmation
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
Next Sunday	<i>16th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	
	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School

The Lutheran Hour — September 20

"I Stand at the Door"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus is the Guest who will become the Host for all who trust in Him.

" New Series "Households of Faith" (Luke 24:13-35)