

August 2023



CrossTalk

Holy Cross Lutheran Church



Have you been wondering how you can walk with Jesus and serve your community? Here at Holy Cross we will have a bin for food bank items available in the Narthex at all times because people aren't just hungry at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Items needed by Food Bank:

Canned vegetables (low sodium), Canned Beans
Canned: chicken, fish (tuna, Salmon), Spam, Ham
Fruit (canned or Dried) can be in plastic cups, choose packed in water instead of syrups.
Cooking oils (olive and canola)
Crackers
Granola bars, Nuts, peanut butter
Pasta, rice, Instant potatoes, meals in a box.
Powdered milk
Packaged Soup, stew, chili (low sodium if available)
Paper products

*try to buy pop top canned items, many people don't have can openers.

Things to avoid

Junk Food
Items with glass or cellophane packaging

When you go shopping keep this list in mind and add one or two of the items each month. Easy-peasy, but life saving for many.



FROM PASTOR'S HEART

I found these prayers/quotes from our founding fathers.

George Washington: “O eternal and everlasting God, Increase my faith in the sweet promises of the gospel; give me repentance from dead works; pardon my wanderings, and direct my thoughts unto thyself, the God of my salvation; teach me how to live in thy fear, labor in thy service, and ever to run in the ways of thy commandments; make me always watchful over my heart, that neither the terrors of conscience, the loathing of holy duties, the love of sin, nor an unwillingness to depart this life, may cast me into a spiritual slumber, but daily frame me more and more into the likeness of thy son Jesus Christ, that living in thy fear, and dying in thy favor, I may in thy appointed time attain the resurrection of the just unto eternal life bless my family, friends, and kindred.”

Benjamin Franklin: “I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that “except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.” I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better, than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and bye word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing governments by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest. I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service.” (Source: Benjamin Franklin, *The Writings of Benjamin Franklin*, Jared Sparks, editor (Boston: Tappan, Whittemore and Mason, 1840), Vol. X, p. 297, April 17, 1787.)

Thomas Jefferson: “Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable ministry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people, the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endow with Thy spirit of wisdom those whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth. In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (--Washington D.C., March 4, 1801)

We read in 2 Chronicles 7:14 (English Standard Version): “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

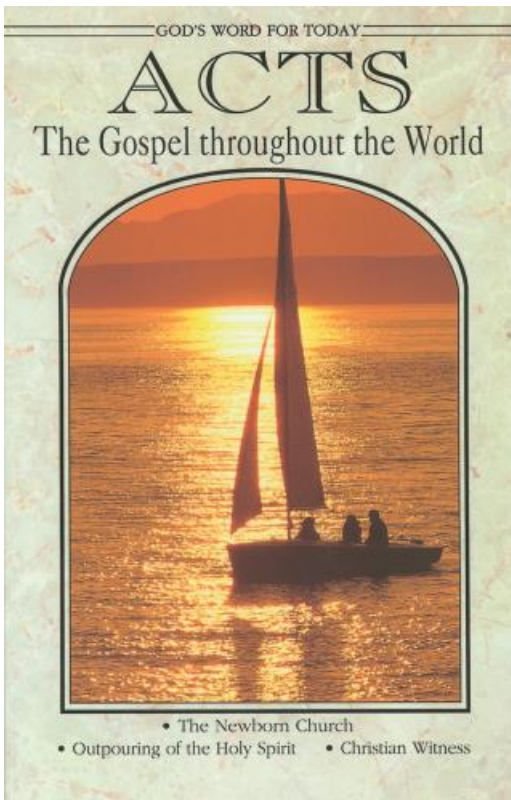
Now why did I quote these? Well, you see, it is always right and timely to be a people who humble ourselves before God, acknowledge our desire to serve our own wants, determine to go our own way, and set aside the Word of God. It is always right and timely to confess our need for mercy. It is always a godly thing to pray for God to establish our nation, for God to give us the principles that will honor Him. Voting is a privilege that God has given us in this nation. If you want a nation that reflects the Bible, then, it makes sense to vote the Bible. And then keep the vigil between the elections, continue the work and be a part of the solution to America's challenges. If we don't want to wake up and be surprised at where the United States is going, let's keep awake and do the work that a godly nation requires. I'm “preaching” to myself. Do you need to hear it as well? See you in Church!

In Christ,
Pastor Alsen



L-R: Pastor Formwalt, Pastor Wenzel

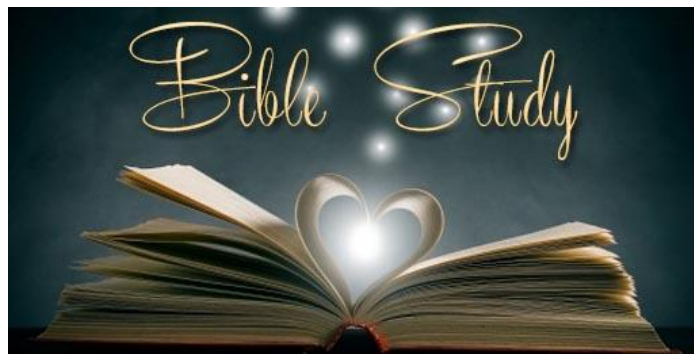
Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make Pastor Wenzel's Ordination Anniversary Celebration a success! We are grateful to Pastor Bryce Formwalt from the LCMC Texas District for being our guest preacher.



NEW STUDY!!

Pastor Wenzel will begin a new study on Tuesday, August 22nd. The same lesson will be given on Sunday, August 27th so members have a choice of which to attend.

We are asking that those who wish to attend either call the church office or sign up on the sheet in the office by August 6th so we can have the books ordered and on hand.



A quiz for people that know everything



1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backwards?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several or more growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw'. They are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S'.

(for those of us that don't know everything, the answers are on page 11)

Daily reasons to celebrate



Poor August, the only month without holidays! Still, there's lots to celebrate these final weeks of summer. Enjoy some summer flavors: August 1 is National Raspberry Cream Pie Day; August 2, National Ice Cream Sandwich Day; August 3, National Watermelon Day; August 10, National S'mores Day (have a bonfire!); and August 24 is National Peach Day.

If you share life with young kids, have a water balloon fight on — you guessed it — National Water Balloon Day, August 6! Head out for a final (National) Beach Day on August 30. Or head out for an intergenerational hike on National Trail Mix Day, August 31.

And don't forget to celebrate God's precious gifts of friends — National Friendship Day is the first Sunday in August; creation — Global Sleep Under the Stars Night is August 8 (prime time for meteor showers!); laughter — National Tell a Joke Day is August 16; and the opportunity to put God's love into action by serving others — on August 22, National Be an Angel Day, or August 28, National Thoughtful Day, and, for that matter, every day of the year — holiday or not.

DISTRICT NEWS!!



Gathered and SENT

As I sit down to write this article, my mind is full of all the last-minute arrangements that are yet to be completed for our 2023 District Gathering in New Braunfels, Texas. Yet as many of you read this, the Gathering itself will already be in the rearview mirror. I am praying for a wonderful Gathering that inspires and empowers God's people to be SENT by Jesus to be his witnesses in the world!

Our theme this year is SENT and is derived from Jesus giving the Great Commission in Acts 1:8, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." It is my firm belief that the church is defined by its mission. We do not simply occupy space in this world while consuming resources. We are SENT by Jesus for a mission! The challenge is for each person, and every congregation to discern what that looks like in your day-to-day life in your community and context.

I would like to invite you to take inventory of all the activities that occupy your day-to-day life, both personally as well as for your church. Typically, our lives are filled with those activities that could be broadly categorized in one of three groups: activities required to sustain life, the things that we enjoy, and then everything else! While it may be worth analyzing the stewardship of all three categories, it is this third that needs our greatest attention.

Here we may identify things that we do because of others' expectations, or traditions that simply haven't been broken or updated, and even things that we have no idea why we do them! It is tempting to replace these activities with more things that we enjoy. But I would suggest that we focus instead on pursuing mission, our God-given purpose. This third category ought to be filled with God-directed and empowered activities of purpose connected to what Jesus SENT us to do and be!





For example, churches often adopt patterns of ministry that were designed with a mission to reach their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ generations ago. Many churches still fill their time and expend their energy trying to maintain these same activities that were once integral to the church's mission but stopped being effective decades ago. Sometimes we need to pause and rethink what we are doing and both why and how we are doing it. Is this how Jesus is sending us to be his witnesses to our community today?

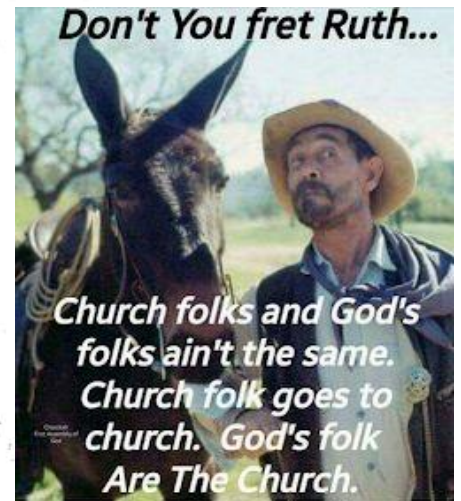
I am excited for our Gathering because we gather for a purpose. Just like Jesus' first followers in Acts 1:8, we gather to be encouraged, inspired, empowered... and SENT by Jesus to live with a mission and on purpose in our communities.



Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for the LCMC Texas District. Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org. Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/lcmctexas

AUGUST 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																											
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27 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Worship on Radio 10:45 am Bible Study 2:30 pm Evangelism Comm. 4:00 pm Movie Night	28 Pastor Wenzel's day off 9:00 am Quilters	29 4:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	30 2:00 pm Radio Recording 4:00 pm Confirmation	31 10:00 am Chapel 4:15 pm Chapel																																																																																													



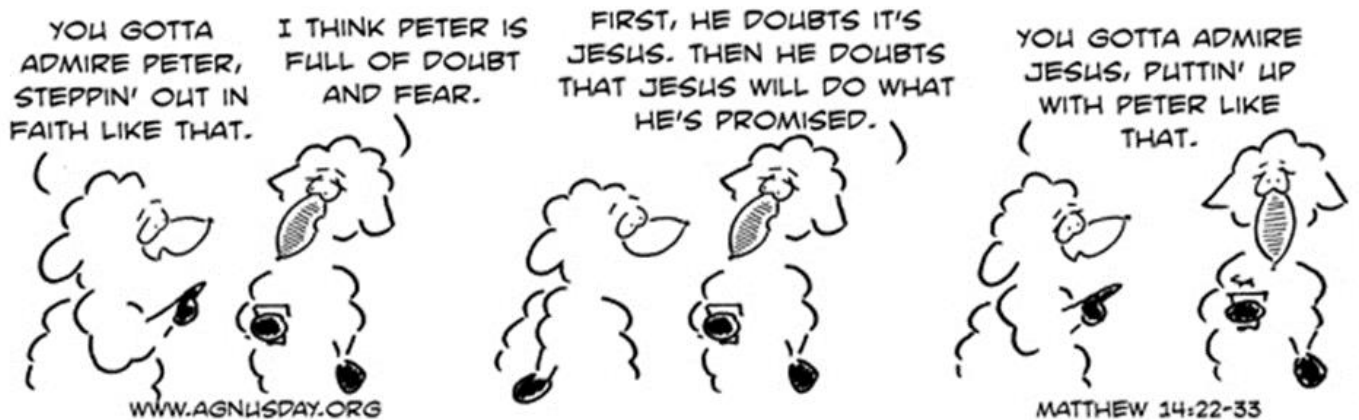
August 2023 - Ushers/Readers/Greeters Schedule

Saturday night - 5:00 p.m.			Sunday morning - 9:30 a.m.			Greeters	Council in Charge Debra Vinklerek - Sat. Donald Prause - Sun. <hr/> Chancel Committee Saturday Stephanie Almand <hr/> Sunday Linda Schmidt Rose & Bobby Bland
Ushers	Readers		Ushers	Readers			
5th	Doris Zimmerman Ralph Polzin	Aaron Lehnert	6th	Sharla Pohl Jim Pohl	Carol Pugh	John Langhoff	
12th	Lily Mae Richter Patrick Kram	Sue Schneider	13th	Dorothy Mgebroff Gale Schneider	Bill Bergey	Sandra Bergey	
19th	Charles Vahalik Debra Vahalik	Debra Vahalik	20th	Jody Maneth Linda Schmidt	Jody Maneth	David Soehnge	
26th	Lily Mae Richter Mabel Hickey	Elda Mae Petrich	27th	Mark Brewer Suzi Brewer	Linda Colman	Donovan Dekowski	

September 2023 - Ushers/Readers/Greeters Schedule

**** NOTE: This schedule is subject to change. See the September newsletter for the correct schedule.**

Saturday night - 5:00 p.m.			Sunday morning - 9:30 a.m.			Greeters	Council in Charge Charlene Kloesel - Sat. Bill Bergey - Sun. <hr/> Chancel Committee Saturday Elda Mae Petrich Debra Vahalik Sunday Rhonda Faltesek
Ushers	Readers		Ushers	Readers			
2nd	Connie Zimmerman Doris Zimmerman	Elda Mae Richter	3rd	Sherri Kusak Glen Kusak	Gery Maneth	Linda Colman	
9th	Ralph Polzin Lily Mae Richter	Aaron Lehnert	10th	Larry Leahy Linda Colman	Danielle Pohl	Cindy Goodrich	
16th	Charles Vahalik Debra Vahalik	Debra Vahalik	17th	Cindy Dekowski John Langhoff	Cindy Dekowski	Dorothy Mgebroff	
23rd	Mabel Hickey Patrick Kram	Jan Boehm	24th	Chris Jendrzey Bobby Bland	Gayle Stasa	Tomi Soehnge	
30th	Connie Zimmerman Doris Zimmerman	Sue Schneider	1st	Edwin Steinmann Sandra Steinmann	Sandra Steinmann	Edwin Steinmann	





MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Polka Worship Services
featuring the Polka Spirit
Band of Shiner
Sat. August 12th 5:00 pm
Sun. August 13th 9:30 am

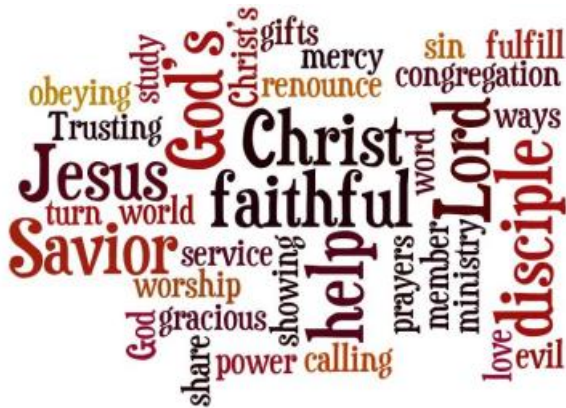


Golden Nuggets

Please join us on Tuesday, August 15th at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for fun, fellowship and great food!! Everyone 55+ is welcome to join us!
CALL the church office - 361-293-3033 to sign up if you plan to attend!

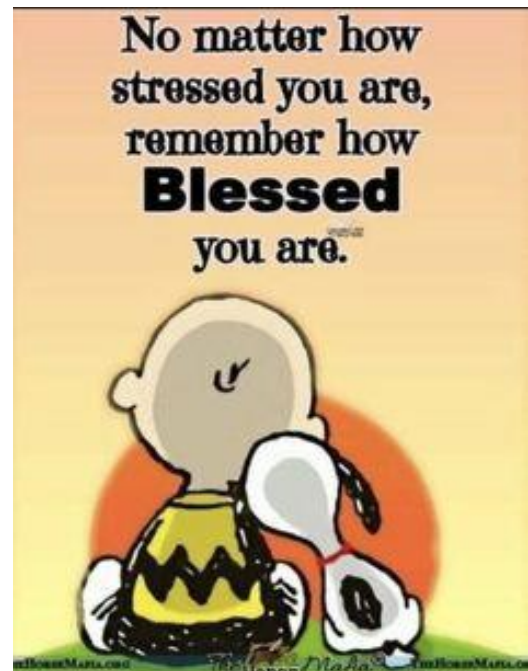
MOVIE NIGHT

Join us for Movie Night at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 27th
The movie is: "Jesus Revolution"
The public is invited!
There is no cost for admission, popcorn or drinks.



Confirmation Classes

will begin on Wednesday, August 23rd at 4:00 pm in the Youth Building. Please contact Pastor Wenzel if you have any questions.



LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

LCW Meeting, July 6, 2023
02:00 PM

Attendance: Jan Boehm, Stephanie Almand, Annie Mae Kremling, Doris Zimmerman, Joyce Manning, Ginger Filip, Jody Maneth and Patricia Kram.

Jan Boehm and Stephanie Almand hosted meeting.

Jan Boehm opened meeting with prayer.

No birthdays for the months of May, June or July.

It was noted that 11 were in attendance on June trip to Gruene Tx.

Jan Boehm read Thank you from Blue Santa, for LCW's participation in the program.

Jan handed out Mable Hickey's recipe for cream cheese roll.

It was decided that the trip for August would be to Rockport, Tx. on August 9, 2023. Motion made to have lunch at the Paradise Cove, in Rockport. Motion passed.

Participants should arrive at church at 9:00 AM, depart for Rockport at 9:30 AM. Please call Jan Boehm by Aug. 6th if you would like to attend.

A motion was made to give \$200.00 for school supplies to the office of the superintendent of schools in Yoakum. Monies to be used at their discretion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Bingo was played, followed by a hotdog lunch.

Upcoming LCW

Events

Adventure Trip

August 9th, 2023
9:00 am

Bible Study

Starting August 22nd
Every Tuesday 4:00 p.m.

Quilting

Aug. 14th & 28th 9 am - 3 pm

LET US PRAY

Why? Because Christ commands us to. God wants us to ask for what we need and what we want. The Father wants us to communicate with Him through prayer. Over time, we can learn to recognize His voice as He speaks back to us. To help us along, we will be including a prayer calendar in the newsletters for you to use if you wish.



PRAYER CALENDAR - AUGUST 2023

		1 Thank God for the youth in our congregation	2 Pray for strength to withstand peer-pressure	3 Thank God for whoever brought you to Baptism	4 Ask God for a clean heart	5 Pray for safety of those targeted by human traffickers
6 Thank God for the ability to earn a living	7 Ask God to relieve you of guilt you're holding onto	8 Pray for orphans and foster families	9 Thank God for camps where children can grow and learn	10 Thank God for what He has done in your life	11 Pray for everyone suffering with mental health issues	12 Pray for pastors and all who lead and serve us
13 Thank God for the beauty of nature	14 Ask God to use technology for His purpose	15 Pray for the leaders of the world	16 Pray for encouragement when under trials	17 Pray for teacher's spirits to be revived during spring break	18 Ask God to comfort those with broken hearts	19 Pray that the Gospel will continue to spread
20 Pray for family and friends that are unbelievers	21 Pray for someone who is afraid of the future	22 Ask God to strengthen your desire to attend Bible Study	23 Ask God to quiet your mind so you can hear Him	24 Pray for those who lure God's followers away from Him	25 Thank God if faith is more important than your social status	26 Ask God for opportunities to serve others
27 Pray for those contemplating suicide or murder	28 Thank God for knowing you better than you know yourself	29 Ask God to protect children and teachers in our schools	30 Ask God to strengthen those who are weary	31 Pray for Habitat for Humanity		





Bible Wordsearch

Jesus the Healer 3

Wordsearch 248

Matt.8:28-9:8

S	J	W	E	L	O	H	W	L	G	H	T	R	A	E
S	E	A	D	E	M	O	N	S	I	N	W	O	T	S
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H	N	V	A	P	U	S	R	L	I	O	L	E	B	G
T	G	E	M	L	O	S	A	G	R	D	A	L	N	S
I	Y	D	C	R	A	R	H	B	I	D	N	I	E	R
A	Y	F	C	O	G	K	R	E	E	V	Y	E	M	F
F	E	R	L	E	A	V	E	D	D	L	E	C	T	Y

PASS	ARRIVED
BOAT	BEGGED
DIED	BROUGHT
DRIVE	CROWD
EARTH	COMING
EASIER	CROSSED
FAITH	DEMONS
FILLED	FEEDING
GIVEN	FORGIVE
HEART	FELLOW
HERD	MATTHEW
JESUS	PLEADED
KNOW	PRAISED
LAKE	REGION
LARGE	RUSHED
LEAVE	STEEP
LYING	TENDING
TOWN	TOMBS
WALK	VIOLENT
WATER	WHOLE

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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Answers to quiz: 1. Boxing. 2. Niagara Falls...The rim is worn down about 2-1/2 feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute. 3. Asparagus and rhubarb. 4. Strawberry. 5. It grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over the pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off the stems. 6. Dwarf, dwell, and dwindle. 7. Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses. 8. Lettuce. 9. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.

During our Worship Services August 12th & 13th, we will take time for the Blessing of the Backpacks for the new school year.



Blessing of the Backpacks

All students are asked to bring their backpack to the service with them for the blessing.

These homebound people would gladly take phone calls or visits from our church family. Please remember them in your daily prayers.

TRIALS AND ILLNESS

- Virgie Barta
- Georgie Clark
- Joan Fink
- Lisa Garrett
- Robert Hybner
- Eden Marie
- Jacqueline Meyer
- Ben Mozisek
- Peggy Oliver
- Roy Richter
- Landra Richter
- Judith Russell

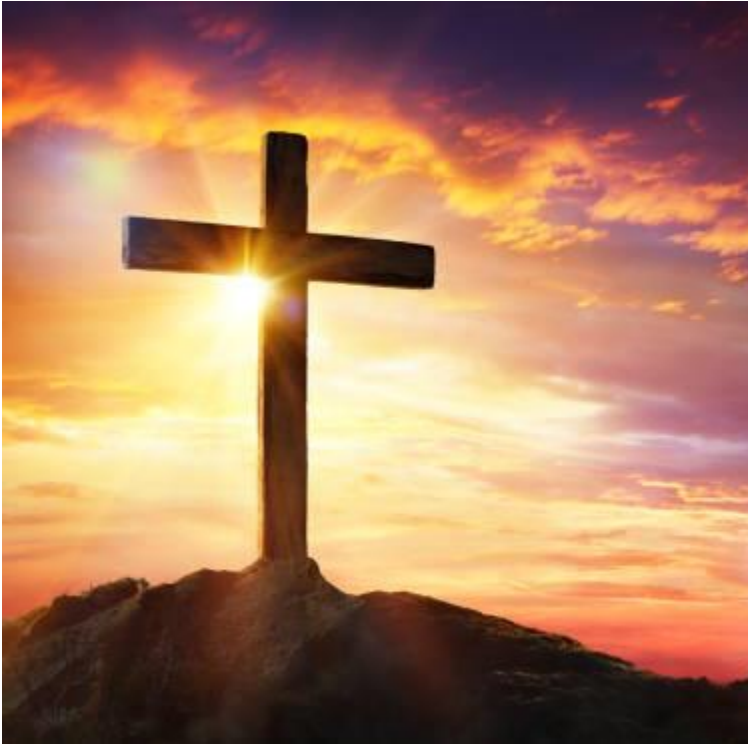
- Eunice Schumann
- Mona Welke
- Dennis Wenzel
- Our Soldiers and their families

NURSING HOME/ HOMEBOUND/ OUT OF TOWN

- Georgie Clark
- Ruby Colle
- Darleen Dieringer
- Luella Dvorak
- Eric Eckhardt
- Patricia Hicks
- Gerald Johnson
- Lois Josephus
- Renie Knape
- James Moore

- Herbert Ogg
- Mary Pargmann
- Robert Putnam
- Betty Rathkamp





Him
I
Serve

CONTACT US:

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Yoakum, TX 77995

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(Fax) 844-350-6102

(Pastor Wenzel's cell)

325-977-2111

www.holycrossyoakum.org

staff@holycrossyoakum.org

Lord's Little Angels

361-293-9203

OFFICE HRS:

Mon-Fri 8 am—5 pm



Return service requested

Yoakum, TX 77995

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Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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