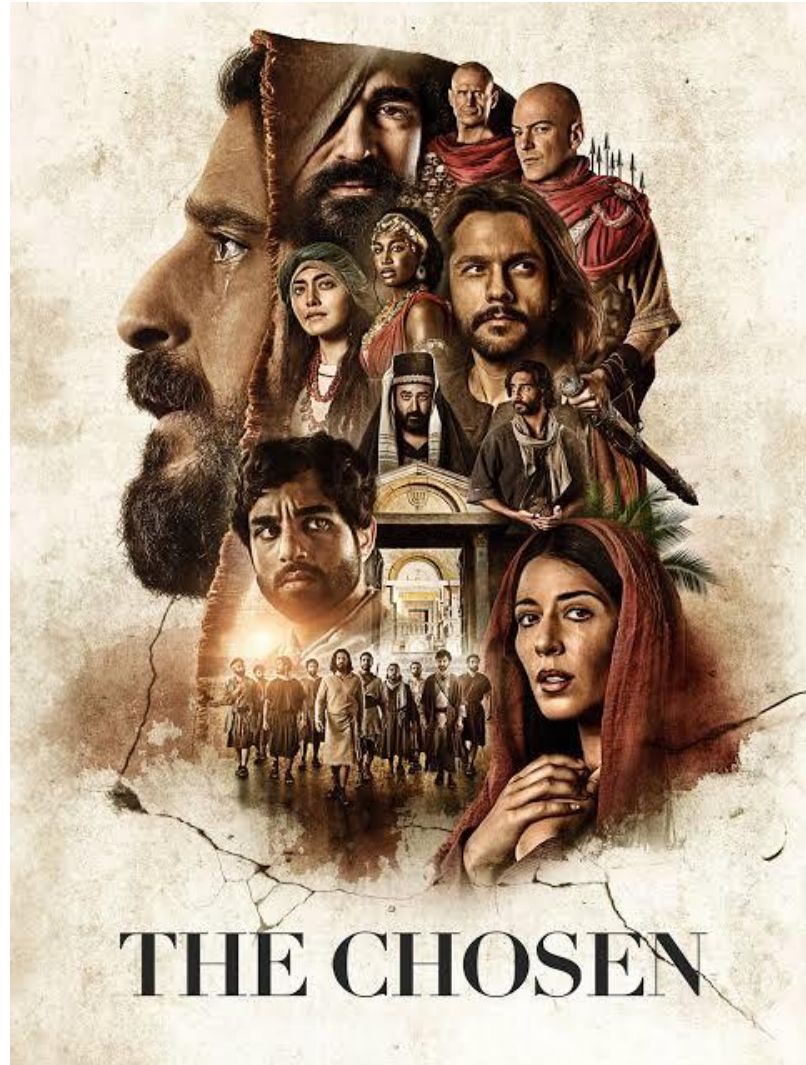


February 2025



# CrossTalk

Holy Cross Lutheran Church



Bible Study is on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. and Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m.

We start each study by watching an episode of the “Chosen” with brief discussion afterwards. The Sunday class is on season 1 and the Tuesday class is on season 2.

Bible study is for all adults men and women. We invite all members and non-members who wish to hear and share the word of Jesus Christ.

# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

What I like best about February is that it is a short month that precedes Spring-time. I am not a cold weather person, you will not hear me complaining about the heat (well I try not to). All things considered, Spring is my favorite time of the year. I love the Spring colors, how the bright green new leaves contrast among the evergreens. It is garden time, and it is a good time to be outdoors.

The best day of February many will say is Valentine's Day. I like to look at this day as an opportunity to pray for and do something for others. For our loved ones, we can make it a special time, but we should do this regularly all year. My wife tells me she likes flowers throughout the year – I take that as a direct hint. Valentine day can be a day we for some serious intercessory prayer. There are many needs, and many people we do not have opportunity to know firsthand, but that is the beauty of the power of prayer. To be a valentine for someone does not mean we receive or send a card – though it is nice for those closest to us. You can be someone's valentine just by praying for them. James writes in his Epistle, "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." (Jas. 5:16 ESV) Look for a list that will be in our bulletin for intercessory prayer – and if you have someone you would like us to pray for in our worship time, write their names and we will pray for them the weekend following Valentine's Day.

I see the caption that says the mission of Holy Cross is to make disciples. Mission is defined by Vision. Vision is defined by the understanding of discipleship. Jesus' vision for the Church is found in the book of Acts, "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8 ESV) We can interpret this as Yoakum, Texas, our country, and the world. The Mission of the Church is defined in Matthew, "19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:19-20 ESV) To be a church of vision and mission the congregation has to be of "one mind", and that mind is the "mind of Christ Jesus". (Phil 2:5) This is the challenge, in what ways can you the congregation of Holy Cross put on "the mind of Christ" and fulfill the vision and mission of our Lord?

I feel that relationship is a path to rebuild the congregation. As we recognize Valentine's Day let's commit to gathering regularly – even as part of our worship practice – to become one in Christ and disciples of vision and mission.

May our Lord Jesus bless you richly in God's grace,

Pastor Rusty





All members are invited to attend the annual congregational meeting which will be held after the worship service on Sunday, February 16th. Annual Reports will be handed out at this time.

## Meeting Agenda Feb. 16th, 2025

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer - Pastor Rusty
3. Establish quorum
4. Approve Nov. Cong. Mtg Minutes
5. 2024 Annual Report
6. Lenten Services Schedule
7. Holy Cross Constitution/By-Laws team
8. Conversation (swot)
9. Announcements / Questions
10. Adjourn meeting

The Holy Cross Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting was held on November 17th, 2024. Pastor Rusty Bailey opened with reading and prayer. President Thomas Bland called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Verification of a quorum was made. Voting Ballot Ushers will be Carol Pugh, Edwin Steinmann, John Langhoff and David Soehnge.

Thomas Bland gave instructions for voting per the HCLC BY LAWS Chapter 10: C10.5.

Thomas Bland read the September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Congregational Meeting Notes. Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read. Motion Carried.

A question was raised regarding the Intentional Interim Pastor Agreement. The congregation agreed that time frame for evaluation was set at 3 months. Donna Hagan requested a correction to the monthly salary on the IIP. Motion was made and seconded to accept IIP Compensation Package with corrections. Motion Carried to Accept Pastor Rusty Baily as IIP.

### Budget:

The Budget Committee members were inquired about. Clarification was made. List as follows: Linda Schmidt, Wayne Rudolph, Larry Leahy, Billy Goodrich, John Langhoff, James Pohl.

A question was raised about lawn maintenance. Lawn Maintenance is the fields around the church and Evergold takes care of the landscaping around the church.

A question was asked about scholarship moneys and the amounts. The Scholarship line item reflects that we don't have a high school graduate this year.

Information was requested about restroom remodel in the Fellowship Hall and where the money came from.

Clarification was given the moneys came from the building maintenance fund.

Motion was made and seconded to accept Budget with corrections. Motion Carried.

Council Election of Members: Floor Opened at 11:42 am with Rachael Foster and Jim Pohl on the ballot. Floor nominations opened with Tomi Soehnge agreeing to the open 1 year slot. Clarification of Church Council responsibilities was reviewed.

Bill Bergey and John Langhoff accepted nomination from the floor. Election was made by hand vote. Motion Carried.

Evangelism committee requested help on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to fill goody bags for Yoakum Christmas on Grand on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Food Bank donations were listed. The Food Bank is very appreciative of the donations.

Church Council did a walk thru in Parsonage 1 and reported necessary repairs.

Review of Eric Hulstrand recommendations with the possibility of moving to one service on the weekends or even making two on Sunday, (one in the morning and one in the afternoon).

Time and Talent sheets where reviewed for the congregation to find what they can do to support the church.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded to accept. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Foster, Secretary of Church Council

# Hilarious Struggles That Every Parent Will Relate To:

(from Reader's Digest Canada)



I don't know what kind of life I envisioned myself having at this age, but watching a half-naked toddler lick the frosting off a Pop-Tart while sitting on my chest at 5:45 a.m. was almost definitely not a part of it.

Three-year-old: Can we go to the farm for lunch?

Me: ....

Three-year-old: Daddy takes us to the farm.

Me: Um, do you mean McDonalds?

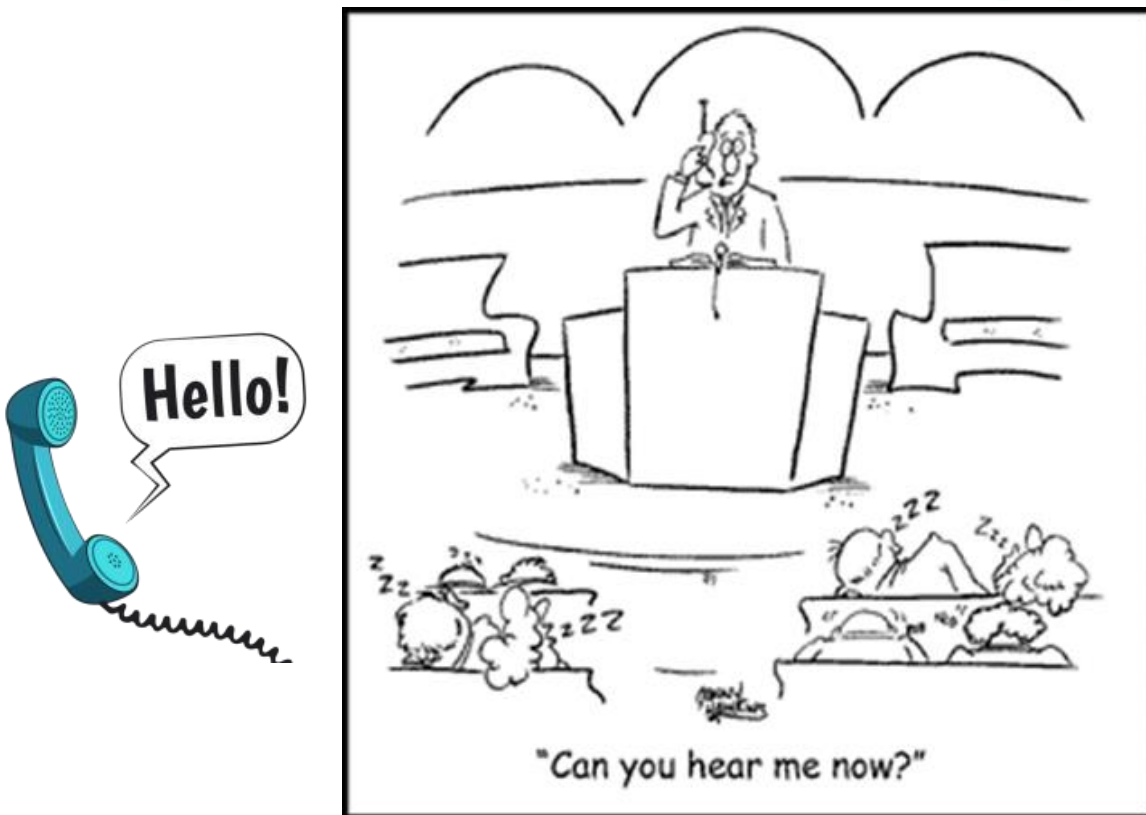
Three-year-old: Yes.

My two-year-old referred to her coat pockets as "snack holes" and this is what I shall forever call them.

Son: What's for dinner?

Me: Fish.

Son: (Screams, starts hyperventilating, suddenly stops) wait. Have I ever had fish?



# DISTRICT NEWS!!



## Mission Moment

## God's Extraordinary Work

Texas District

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth

**I**n my days as a pastor of a congregation, one of my joys was planning sermon series during the different liturgical seasons of the church calendar. One year I stumbled upon the idea of doing a summer series called “Characters of the Bible.” Each Sunday after Pentecost, we started walking through the Old Testament and studied the men and women of God that we read about in the Bible. For many adult congregation members, this was the first time these stories had been revisited since their childhood days when they were taught in Sunday School classes. Unfortunately, these stories are often not the topic of the regular preaching during Sunday morning sermons.

Through this sermon series, we began to focus on a theme that we find throughout the Old and New Testaments of the Bible: that God uses ordinary people like you and me to do his extraordinary work! Sometimes we remember the Sunday School stories of these Bible characters and imagine them as superheroes. As we stand in awe at what God does in and through their lives, sometimes it is easy for us to forget that the bible character themselves was a sinful human being just like us.

For some people, learning that the person God used in a mighty way as an instrument of his activity in the world is also an imperfect sinner can somehow be seen as a stain, as if it makes the story less powerful. Perhaps this is why the undesirable or scandalous parts of these stories are often glossed over. But I truly believe that the fact that God works through sinful men and women like you and me is by God's own design and demonstrates that the power is not of man, but of God. Because of this fact, it displays God's power even more! As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:7, *Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us. We who minister in Jesus' name are mere sinners: imperfect, broken vessels who are tasked with delivering the perfect and powerful Gospel of Jesus Christ.*







Therefore, no one should be overly impressed with the messenger and our hope ought not be placed in a pastor. When we place pastors or any church leader on a pedestal, we inevitably will be disappointed when we realize that they, too, sin and fall short. Pastors and all church leaders are called to lead not perfect lives, but to walk honestly and humbly, confessing their sin before God and one another and receiving the forgiveness of sins we all need.

The church is often attacked when the sin of a church leader is exposed... as if it somehow invalidates the many ways God worked through that person for Kingdom good. While it is true that the church is hurt whenever sin goes unconfessed or covered up, God continues to perfectly move, display power, proclaim the Word, and deliver grace and blessing in the sacraments of baptism and communion through the work of imperfect vessels in the church. Despite our sinfulness and brokenness, God still does extraordinary work through ordinary people like you and me.

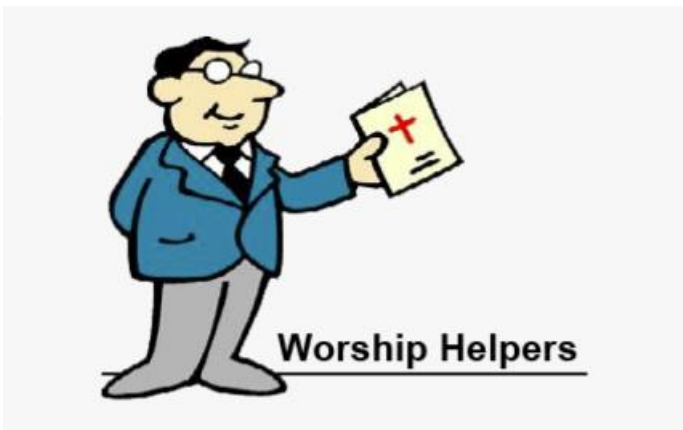


Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for the LCMC Texas District. Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or [bryce@lcmctexas.org](mailto:bryce@lcmctexas.org). Like us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

# FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Bible Study 	<b>3</b> 12:00 pm LLA Task Force	<b>4</b> 9:30 am Home Ministry 3:00 pm Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation	<b>5</b> Pastor @ Winter Retreat NO Choir	<b>6</b> 2:00 pm LCW Meeting 5:30 pm Christian Ed.	<b>7</b> 	<b>1</b> 4:30 pm Worship <b>8</b> 4:30 pm Worship
<b>9</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Bible Study 	<b>10</b> 9a-noon Quilters 10a-2p Quilts & More open	<b>11</b> 3:00 pm Bible Study	<b>12</b> 11:00 am Ministerial All. 4:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Choir	<b>13</b> 6:00 pm Church Council 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b> 4:30 pm Worship
<b>16</b> 9:30 am Worship Service and Congregational Mtg. NO Bible Study 2:30 pm Stevens NH Worship 3:30 pm Yoakum NH Worship	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> 11:30 am Golden Nuggets 1:30 pm Evangelism 3:00 pm Bible Study	<b>19</b> 4:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Choir	<b>20</b> 5:30 pm Dominoes	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b> 4:30 pm Worship
<b>23</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Bible Study	<b>24</b> 9a-noon Quilters 10a-2p Quilts & More open	<b>25</b> 3:00 pm Bible Study	<b>26</b> 4:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>





**February 2025 - Ushers/Readers/Greeters Schedule**

Saturday evening - 4:30 p.m.			Sunday morning - 9:30 a.m.				
	Ushers	Readers		Ushers	Readers		Greeters
1st	Debra Vahalik Charles Vahalik	Debra Vahalik	2nd	Jody Maneth Gery Maneth	Jody Maneth	Tomi Soehnge	<b>Council in Charge</b> Sat - Thomas Bland Sun - John Lanhgoff
8th	Connie Zimmerman Doris Zimmerman		9th	Linda Colman Bobby Bland	Linda Colman	Judy Soehnge	
15th	Ralph Polzin Lily Mae Richter		16th	Suzi Brewer Mark Brewer	Cindy Goodrich	Beverly Rudolph	<b>Chancel Committee</b> <b>Saturday</b> Doris Zimmerman
22nd	Patrick Kram Ralph Polzin	Elda Mae Petrich	23rd	Dorothy Mgebroff Edwin Steinmann	Bill Bergey	Bill Bergey	<b>Sunday</b> Billy & Cindy Goodrich

**March 2025 - Ushers/Readers/Greeters Schedule**

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

Saturday evening - 4:30 p.m.			Sunday morning - 9:30 a.m.				
	Ushers	Readers		Ushers	Readers		Greeters
1st	Debra Vahalik Charles Vahalik		2nd	Cindy Goodrich Billy Goodrich	Gayle Stasa	Rose Bland	<b>Council in Charge</b> Sat - Gery Maneth Sun - Jody Maneth
8th	Ralph Polzin Lily Mae Richter		9th	Gale Schneider John Langhoff	John Langhoff	Nancy Langhoff	
15th	Connie Zimmerman Doris Zimmerman	Elda Petrich	16th	Sharla Pohl Jim Pohl	Edwin Steinmann	Beverly Rudolph	<b>Chancel Committee</b> <b>Saturday</b> Mark & Suzi Brewer
22nd	Debra Vahalik Charles Vahalik	Debra Vahalik	23rd	Dorothy Mgebroff Linda Colman	Linda Colman	Dorothy Mgebroff	<b>Sunday</b> Judy Cretors
29th	Patrick Kram Lily Mae Richter		30th	Sandra Bergey Bill Bergey	Sandra Bergey	David Soehnge	



Ever since sinfulness first afflicted creation, labor and delivery sheds a mother's blood. The Law of the Lord laments that this echo and threat of death operates right where human life emerges from. So He intervenes with atonement to preserve that precious life. And Jesus embodies this opposition to abortion from the very beginning (Luke 2:22-24).



Ladies of Holy Cross!!

We will have our monthly meeting on February 6th at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

We need EVERYONE to attend so we can discuss our future as the Lutheran Church Women.



We would like to include your favorite hymns during our worship services. If you would like to submit yours, please call the church office 361-293-3033 or e-mail us at [staff@holycrossyoakum.org](mailto:staff@holycrossyoakum.org).



If there was a problem with your envelopes (didn't get them, want them, wrong kind—monthly or weekly), please contact Tomi Soehnge, Suzi Brewer, Linda Colman, or the church office. We will be ordering 2026 envelopes in the next couple of months.



## GOLDEN NUGGETS

Golden Nuggets has been an outreach of Holy Cross to our shut-ins and community. A hot, home-cooked meal, sing-a-long, fellowship, and door prizes are enjoyed by everyone who attends. This is a vital ministry because it is the only chance, once a month, that many of our shut-ins and nursing home members get to visit with their church family.

In order to have enough food, we ask that you call the church office by Feb. 16th to let us know you are coming. Please join us for Golden Nuggets on Tuesday, February 18th at 11:30 a.m.



**A Call for Help!** - the Evangelism Committee needs someone well-versed in Social Media to post a calendar of events. Please contact Tommy Barre 361-293-4129 or Stephanie Almand 361-772-6319 if you can help.

**Prayer Works!** - Unlike some faiths, Christians are allowed to speak directly to God through prayer. Don't ignore this opportunity. Outside the church office is a bulletin board with wire and cups of ribbons. Choose the color of ribbon that most matches the prayer you want to pray and tie it in a knot on one of the wires. As you say your prayer, tie the ribbon in a bow. When your prayer is answered, regardless of how long ago you attached it, pull the ribbon but leave the knot as proof that God answers prayers. After a time, we will have a beautiful wall of colored ribbons as a testament to God's promise of hearing us.







# COMMUNITY EVENTS

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025 • 8:30 AM - 3 PM**  
**FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



Featuring speaker, author, television host, recording artist  
**SHANNON PERRY**

**IN HER SHOES** is designed to strengthen relationships between moms and teen daughters with the truth of God's word in the following areas:

- Parent/Teen Communication
- Handling Bullies
- Dating/Purity and God's Promises
- Esteem/Body Image and the Media
- Friendship
- Social Media

- Door Prizes
- Games
- Break-out Sessions for Moms & Teens
- FUN

**MOTHER/TEEN DAUGHTER EVENT**  
**AGES 12-18**







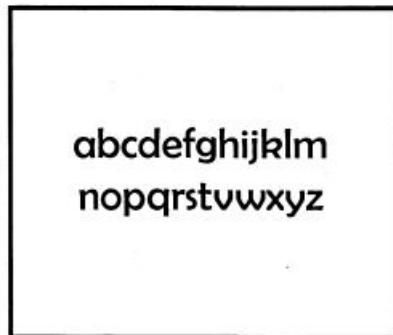
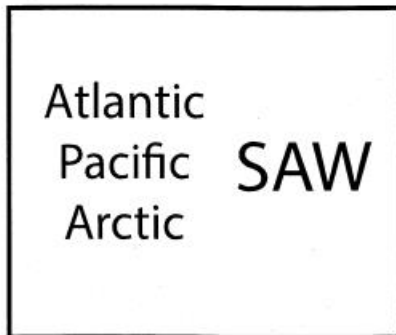
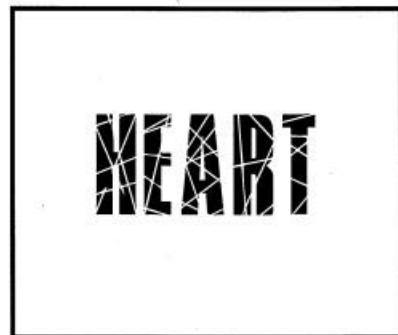
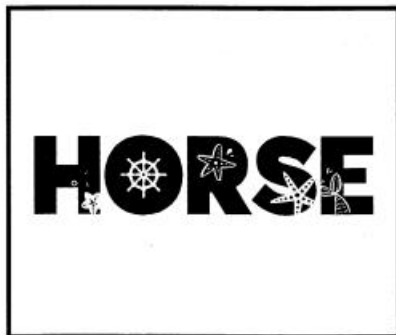
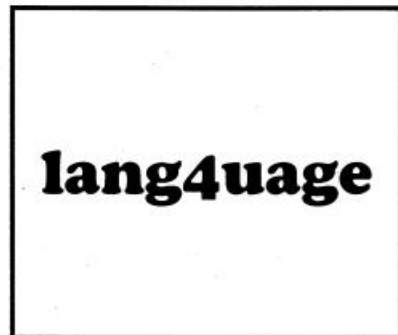
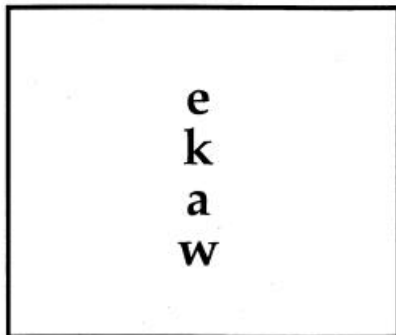
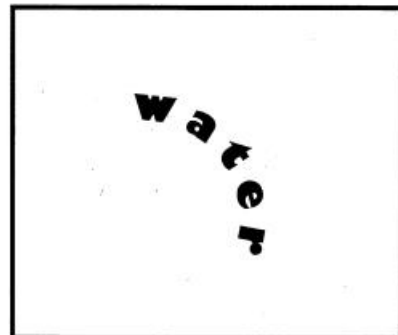
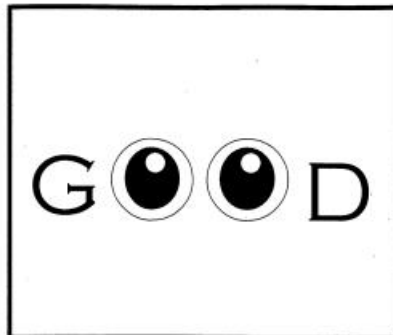
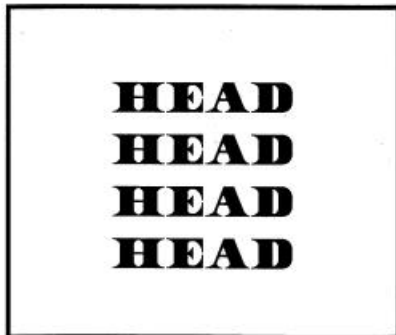

**516 N. Main Street • Victoria, Tx. 77901**  
**Tickets: [InHerShoesTour.com](http://InHerShoesTour.com)**



The origin of Presidents' Day lies in the 1880s, when the birthday of Washington—commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and the first president of the United States—was first celebrated as a federal holiday. In 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill, which moved a number of federal holidays to Mondays. The change was designed to schedule certain holidays so that workers had a number of long weekends throughout the year, but it has been opposed by those who believe that those holidays should be celebrated on the dates they actually commemorate. During debate on the bill, it was proposed that Washington's Birthday be renamed Presidents' Day to honor the birthdays of both Washington (February 22) and Lincoln (February 12); although Lincoln's birthday was celebrated in many states, it was never an official federal holiday. Following much discussion, Congress rejected the name change. After the bill went into effect in 1971, however, Presidents' Day became the commonly accepted name, due in part to retailers' use of that name to promote sales and the holiday's proximity to Lincoln's birthday. Presidents' Day is usually marked by public ceremonies in Washington, D.C., and throughout the country.

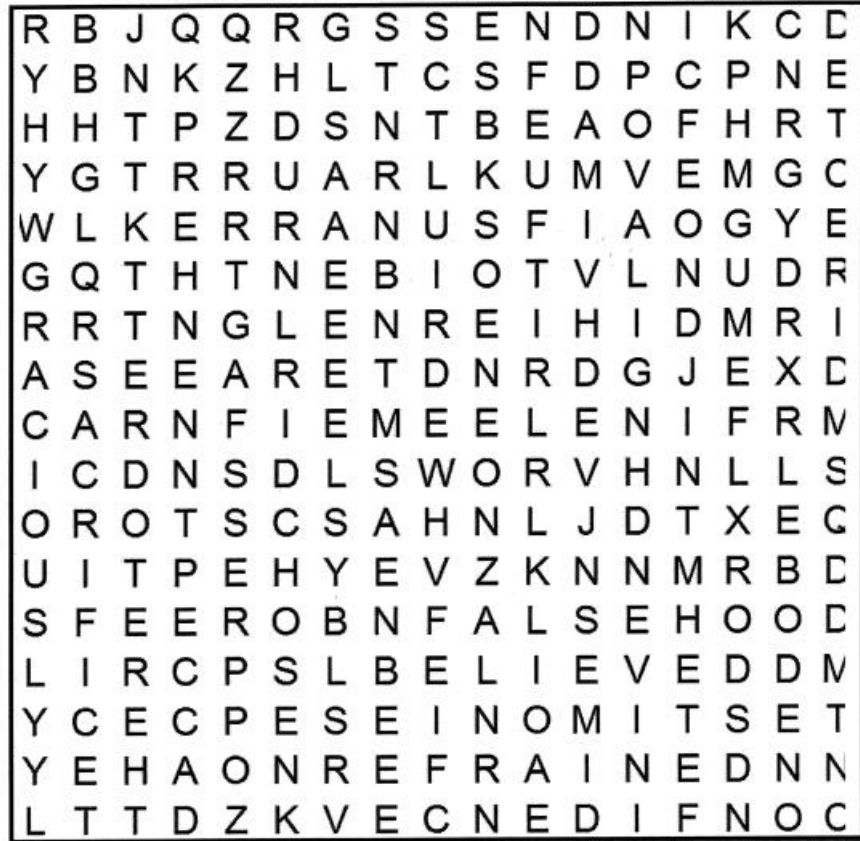
### Rebus puzzles 3

Can you guess the words and expressions?




Answers: Forehead, Good Looking, Waterfall, Wake Up, Tuna Fish, Foreign Language, Seahorse, Middle-aged, Broken heart, See-saw, Miss you or Missing you, Teabag

**PUZZLE 24: I LOVE THE LORD, BECAUSE HE HATH HEARD... (PSALM 116-120)**



- |            |            |             |
|------------|------------|-------------|
| ACCEPT     | ENTRANCE   | REFRAINED   |
| BEHOLDING  | FALSEHOOD  | RENDER      |
| BELIEVED   | FAVOUR     | SACRIFICE   |
| BUILDERS   | GRACIOUSLY | STRANGER    |
| CHOSEN     | HEAVINESS  | TESTIMONIES |
| COMFORTED  | KINDNESS   | THEREIN     |
| CONFIDENCE | MELTETH    | THERETO     |
| DELIGHTS   | OPPRESS    | THRUST      |
| DIRECTED   | REBUKED    | VALIANTLY   |

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

<p><b><u>TRIALS AND ILLNESS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iris Berger</li> <li>• Michael Boehm</li> <li>• Alfred Chumchal</li> <li>• Don Darnell</li> <li>• Esequiel Gonzales</li> <li>• Joseph Hartman</li> <li>• Dorothy Heiman</li> <li>• Carlos Morales</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Henry Pohl</li> <li>• Gary Valis</li> <li>• Our Soldiers and their families</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>NURSING HOME/ HOMEBOUND/ OUT OF TOWN</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patricia Hicks</li> <li>• Gerald Johnson</li> <li>• Lois Josephus</li> <li>• Annie Mae Kremling</li> <li>• Nancy &amp; George Migl</li> <li>• James Nolte</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob Putnam</li> <li>• Betty Rathkamp</li> </ul> 
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**A**

**NEGATIVE**

**GESTURE**

**ENDING IN**

**RESENTMENT**



**CONTACT US:**

**Holy Cross Lutheran  
Church**

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[staff@holycrossyoakum.org](mailto:staff@holycrossyoakum.org)

(Pastor Rusty's cell #)  
507-230-0326

**OFFICE HRS:**

Mon-Fri 8 am - noon  
1:15 pm - 5 pm

**Return service requested**

***Holy Cross Lutheran Church***  
P. O. Box 647  
Yoakum, TX 77995