

March 2025



CrossTalk

Holy Cross Lutheran Church



The season of Lent begins this month on March 5th with Ash Wednesday. Worship services for Ash Wednesday are at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Lenten services will continue every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. until Holy Week. Please make a note of the new times for the meals and services! All of our Lenten services can also be seen on Facebook Live.

The Holy Week/Easter Worship Service times will be listed in the April Newsletter and the Worship Service bulletins.



Beginning on Ash Wednesday, a meal will be served every Wednesday evening before the worship service at **5:45 p.m.**

- Mar. 5th Church Council
- Mar. 12th Lutheran Church Women
- Mar. 19th Home Ministry / Worship & Music
- Mar. 26th Property & Investment
- Apr. 2nd Executive Committee / Evangelism
- Apr. 9th Christian Education / Youth

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ

March is here and it is the Season of Lent. Lent consist of the 40 days before the Resurrection (Easter Sunday). I encourage all members to attend the Wednesday Lenten services as you are able. They begin with dinner at 5:45 pm followed with a short Lenten service beginning at 6:30 pm. This time of gathering can benefit our Interim process providing opportunity for table discussions on issues we identify that are a concern to the congregational life of Holy Cross. Our topics focus on Recognition and Identification. Ash Wednesday begins with CONFESSION. Each following Wednesday topics will call us to recognize how the Lord makes his grace apparent to each of us – all believers – and how the Lord expects us to abide in his will. We will look at REPENTANCE, BAPTISM, CONSECRATION, TRANSFORMATION, EQUIPED, and PERSEVERANCE. I hope to see a good number of you there each Wednesday.

We have several topics of discussion that we need to take to the Lord in prayer. It is always a struggle for congregations to know the “Will of God” for their church. We are such – our natural desire – that it is easy to desire “our will” rather than our Father’s. The Scriptures can guide us and the Holy Spirit can open our minds to understanding, if we are willing to hear. The part of our confession from 1 John 1:8 states “if we say we do not have sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” This calls us to a humility, recognizing the challenge of accepting that God’s will can be not as we would want, or desire. So when we question the issues of the congregation we need to be open to our different feelings and or opinions. As we journey through our Lenten Vigil we shall discuss our issues and listen to one another that God’s will might prevail upon us as The Congregation of Holy Cross.

Expect a visit from the pastor, but be patient if it does not come quickly. I am going to try to visit with everyone on our directory list. This might take a while being I expect the reality will only comprise of 2 visits per week, but it’s a start. Susan will be keeping a listing of my visits and help schedule visits, expect a call, but have patience if it takes a while to make the rounds. I will not be visiting in alphabetical order, but visitation selection seems to work best at random. However, if you have special needs don’t hesitate to speak up. As a suggestion, if you wanted to visit in the sanctuary, or at the church, we could arrange Saturday or Sunday afternoons. At home or at Church, or at a restaurant, as the Lord provides I am looking forward to our visit. In the mean while, make sure I get your name right when you attend worship. Being dyslectic and left handed it takes me a while to put names and faces together, and the years of my recall memory seem to have waned.

May God richly bless you with his grace,

Pr. Rusty





2025 Church Council

- Ken Filip (President)
- Thomas Bland (Vice-President)
- Joyce Foster (Secretary)
- Jim Pohl (Treasurer)
- Bill Bergey
- Rachael Foster
- Patricia Kram
- John Langhoff
- Jody Maneth
- Gery Maneth
- Verlene Mikulenska
- Tomi Soehnge

40 days of prayer



LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>	<u>5:45 pm Meal by:</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>
Mar. 5th	10:00 AM	Ash Wednesday	-----	Confession
Mar. 5th	6:30 PM	Ash Wednesday	Church Council	Repentance
Mar. 12th	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek 1	LCW	Baptized
Mar. 19th	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek 2	Home Ministry/Worship	Consecrated
Mar. 26th	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek 3	Property/Investment	Transformation
Apr. 2nd	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek 4	Executive Committee/Evangel	Equiped
Apr. 9th	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek 5	Christian Ed/Youth	Perseverance of the Saints
Apr. 17th	6:30 PM	Maundy Thursday	-----	The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Apr. 18th	1:00 PM & 6:30 PM	Good Friday	-----	For Our Sake
Apr. 20th	7:30 AM	Easter Sonrise	8:00 AM Breakfast	He is Risen
Apr. 20th	10:30 AM	Easter	-----	He is Risen Indeed!

The Parable of the Popcorn

Behold at the time of harvest, the ears of corn did bring forth kernels which were dried and prepared for the popper's hand. And it was that the popper did take the kernels, all that did appear alike unto him, and applied the oil and the heat. And it came to pass that when the heat was on, some did explode with promise and did magnify themselves a hundred fold. And some did burst forth with whiteness which did both gladden the eye and satisfy the taste of the popper. Behold, there were some that did lie there, and even though the popper's heat was alike unto all, some did just bask in the oil and keep everything that they had unto themselves. And so it came to pass that those which had given of themselves did bring forth much joy and delight to many munchers. But those which kept of the warmth and did not bring forth were only cast unto the pail and thought of with hardness and disgust. And thus we see that in the beginning, all appear alike, but when the heat is on, some come forth and give all, while others fall, their purpose as chaff, so as to be discarded and forgotten.



Jody & Gery Maneth attended the Winter Retreat in Concan February 5-7th. This year's focus was on "One Another". *"A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."*

The breakout sessions included topics like: "Relationships, what are they good for?", "Hinderances to Healthy Relationships", "Relational Boundaries", and "Fostering Healthy Relationships."



There will be a meeting after the worship service on Sunday, March 2nd, in which the call process will be discussed and questions may be asked. A lunch will be served so we are asking everyone that plans to attend to contact the church office as soon as possible.



DISTRICT NEWS!!



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth

In the Potter's Hands

This past month I had the privilege of hosting our fifth Harvest Workers Retreat. Ranging in age from 20-something to 70-something, a total of 24 ministry students, faculty, staff, and spouses came together from across Texas and around the country for three days of rest, instruction, worship, prayer, fellowship, and encouragement. While each retreat has been a delight in its own way, this year's retreat was extra special for me personally. I came away from this retreat overwhelmed with gratitude to God for the immense blessing it was—not only for me, but for so many of our students as well.

As I reflected on this fantastic weekend, I wondered what made this retreat so special. What was it that caused my heart to rejoice and feel so full of joy and thanksgiving? As I reflected, the lyrics of the song “Change My Heart, O God” by Eddie Espinosa flooded my mind: *Change my heart, O God; Make it ever true; Change my heart, O God; May I be like you; You are the potter; I am the clay; Mold me and make me; This is what I pray; Change my heart, O God; Make it ever true; Change my heart, O God; May I be like you.*

This beautiful song of repentance is born out of the words of Isaiah 64:8, *Yet Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we all are the work of your hands.* In this verse, we are reminded of the truth about our formation: that God desires to continue to mold, shape, and refine us throughout our lives. As long as we have breath in our lungs, God is not done with us!

What made this year's retreat remarkable was how the participants seemed to be so incredibly humble, moldable, malleable, and teachable. God prepared the hearts and minds of those who gathered in his Spirit to receive all that he intended to give. It reminded me of the importance of our posture before the Lord: What kind of clay are we? Are we dry, hardened, and set in our ways? Or are we moist, malleable, and eager to be shaped in the hands of the master potter?




So, I give thanks to God anew for the blessings of Harvest Workers students across our association of churches: women and men of every age and stage who are eager to learn and grow, to continue to be molded and shaped by our Lord in order to serve him in different and new ways as he leads and calls. And through these students, the Lord reminds me personally that he also continues to call me (and you, too) to learn, grow, and be formed by him.

This year as we enter the season of Lent, I pray that each of us can offer ourselves in a spirit of humility before our Lord. I invite you to adopt the prayer of the song “Change My Heart, O God”, repenting with an eagerness to be formed in the Potter's hands.



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

MARCH 2025

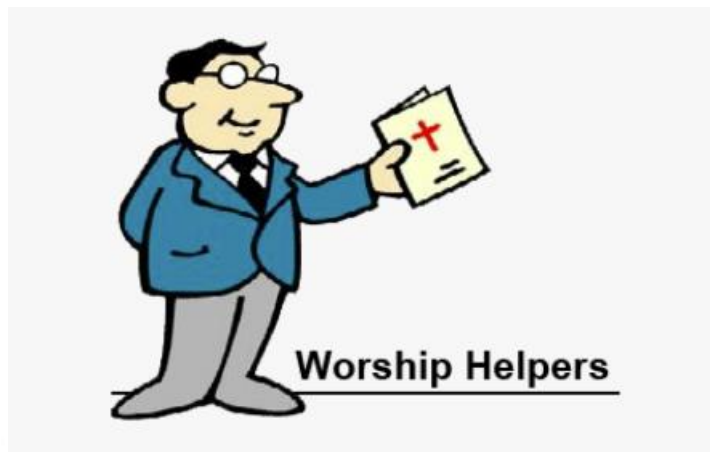
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:30 am Worship Service & call process meeting with lunch NO Bible Study	3	4 3:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir	5 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Confirmation 5:45 pm dinner 6:30 pm Worship	6 2:00 pm LCW Meeting	7	1 4:30 pm Worship
9 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Bible Study 	10 9a-noon Quilters 10a-2p Quilts & More open	11 3:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir	12 11:00 am Ministerial All. 4:00 pm Confirmation 5:45 pm dinner 6:30 pm Worship	13 6:00 pm Church Council 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	14	15  5:00 pm Worship
16 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Bible Study 2:30 pm Stevens NH Worship 3:30 pm Yoakum NH Worship	17	18 11:30 am Golden Nuggets 3:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir	19 4:00 pm Confirmation 5:45 pm dinner 6:30 pm Worship	20	21 	22 5:00 pm Worship
23 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Bible Study	24 9a-noon Quilters 10a-2p Quilts & More open	25 3:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir	26 4:00 pm Confirmation 5:45 pm dinner 6:30 pm Worship	27	28	29 5:00 pm Worship
30 9:30 am Worship Service followed by Potluck Movie "The Forge" NO Bible Study	31	3:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir	4:00 pm Confirmation 5:45 pm dinner 6:30 pm Worship	27 28 29 30	28 29 30	5:00 pm Worship

February 2025

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April 2025

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March 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		2nd	Sharla Pohl Jim Pohl	Gayle Stasa	Rose Bland
8th	Ralph Polzin Lily Mae Richter		9th	Gale Schneider John Langhoff	John Langhoff	Nancy Langhoff
*	5:00 pm Worship Service begins					
15th	Connie Zimmerman Doris Zimmerman	Elda Petrich	16th	Cindy Goodrich Billy Goodrich	Edwin Steinmann	Beverly Rudolph
22nd	Debra Vahalik Charles Vahalik	Debra Vahalik	23rd	Edwin Steinmann Linda Colman	Rachael Foster	Dorothy Mgebroff
29th	Suzi Brewer Mark Brewer		30th	Sandra Bergey Bill Bergey	Sandra Bergey	David Soehnge

Council in Charge
Sat - Gery Maneth
Sun - Jody Maneth

Chancel Committee
Saturday
Mark & Suzi Brewer

Sunday
Judy Cretors

April 2025 - Ushers/Readers/Greeters Schedule

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

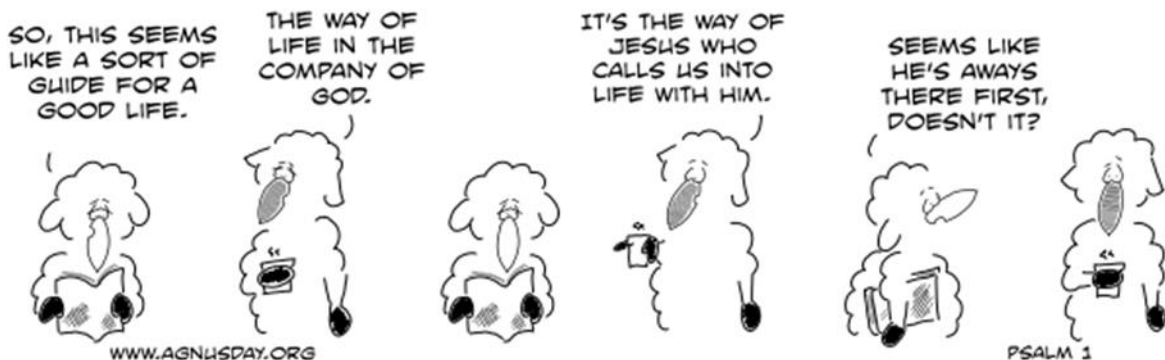
Saturday evening - 5:00 p.m.			Sunday morning - 9:30 a.m.			
Ushers	Readers		Ushers	Readers	Greeters	
5th	Ralph Polzin Patrick Kram	Elda Mae Petrich	6th	Jody Maneth Gery Maneth	Sandra Steinmann	Sandra Bergey
12th	Connie Zimmerman Doris Zimmerman		13th	Bobby Bland Gale Schneider	Bill Bergey	Rachael Foster
19th	Debra Vahalik Charles Vahalik	Debra Vahalik	20th	EASTER SUNDAY!		
26th	Suzi Brewer Mark Brewer		27th	Sherri Kusak Glen Kusak	Linda Colman	John Langhoff

Council in Charge
Sat - Ken Filip
Sun - Tomi Soehnge

Chancel Committee
Saturday
Ralph Polzin

Sunday
Linda Schmidt

Psalm 1





POTLUCK/MOVIE NIGHT will be Sunday, March 30th right after the worship service. A luncheon will also be served. This month's movie is "The Forge". A 19-year-old with no job or plans for the future comes across a man who will impact his life so he's able to discover God's purpose for him.



EASTER LILIES



We are now taking orders for Easter Lilies at \$12.00 each. Please sign up on the sheets in the Bell Tower and Narthex. If you do not sign up, only your name will be listed in the Easter bulletin. The last day to order and pay for them is **March 24th**. Make checks payable to LCW, mark that it is for Easter Lilies, and place in the offering plate in a separate envelope or bring to the church office. Please call Marlene Boone at 361-293-3069 or the church office if you have any questions.



Our sympathy and prayers from the family of Holy Cross goes to the family of William Renken who passed to his heavenly home on Feb. 11th. May God bring peace and comfort to this family in their time of mourning.



LCW Quilts & More continues to offer home-crafted items for sale. The shop is open on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Daylight savings time starts on March 9th so we spring ahead and lose one hour. Saturday evening worship services will change from 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning March 15th.



GOLDEN NUGGETS

Golden Nuggets is a wonderful 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 no later than March 14th and let us know you will be attending. Please join us for Golden Nuggets on March 18th at 11:30 a.m.



Bible Study Opportunities

Classes take place on Tuesdays at 3:00 pm & Sundays at 10:45 am. We are currently going through the series, "The Chosen". Sunday classes are on Season 1 and Tuesday classes are on Season 2. It's never too late to join us!

LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



The ladies met on Feb. 6th for their monthly meeting. They had a turnout of 11 ladies who made about 300 Valentine cards for the nursing homes and Assisted Living residents and staff along with the congregation shut-ins. We had a great time visiting and having fun. Refreshments made by Judy Cretors and Charlene Kloesel were enjoyed by all.

More crafts and activities are planned for future meetings including the next one on March 6th. See you then!!



Ushers, Readers, and Greeters are needed for the following services. Please call the church office if you can help.

Apr 17 (M Thurs) 6:30 pm
Apr 18 (Good Fri) 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm
Apr 20 (Easter) 7:00 am & 9:30 am



A suggestion box will be placed in the Narthex for helpful suggestions and comments. If you have a complaint, please also include a possible correction that might be made to resolve it.

**PUZZLE 4: PRESERVE ME, O GOD
(PSALM: 16-20)**

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

ANSWERED

AWAKE

BATTLE

BLOOD

BOWING

BRIDEGROOM

CHARIOTS

CONSUMED

DAVID

DELIGHTED

DEPARTED

EXCELLENT

FEIGNED

FLESH

HASTEN

INSTRUCT

MARVELLOUS

MOUTH

MULTIPLIED

PRESENCE

PRESERVE

ROUND

SALVATION

SETTETH

THEREOF

UNDER

WICKED

Whisper or Brick?

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and spun the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. He jumped out of the car, grabbed the kid that was standing there and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, "What do you think you're doing, boy?" Building up a head of steam he went on, "That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?" "Please sir, please. I'm sorry. I didn't know what else to do," pleaded the youngster. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop..." Tears were dripping down the boy's chin as he pointed around the parked car. "It's my brother, sir," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up." Sobbing, the boy asked the executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair, sir? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me." Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He lifted the young man back into the wheelchair and took out his handkerchief and wiped the scrapes and cuts, checking to see that everything was going to be okay. "Thank you and bless you, sir," the grateful child said to him. The man watched the little boy push his brother down the sidewalk toward their home. It was a long walk back to his Jaguar...a long, slow walk. He never did repair the side door. He kept the dent to remind him not to go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention. God whispers in your soul and speaks to your heart. Sometimes when you don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at you. It's your choice: Listen to the whisper—or wait for the brick.



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

TRIALS AND ILLNESS

- Jane Baxmann
- Michael Boehm
- Alfred Chumchal
- Don Darnell
- Billie Diebel
- Louis Diebel
- Ernie Miller
- Carlos Morales
- Denette Moss
- Henry Pohl
- Lily Richter
- Wayne Rudolph
- Andrew Scheral
- Eary Taylor
- Joyce Tenberg
- Jeremy Vakslavik
- Alvin Vakslavik
- Chandler Vakslavik
- Gary Valis
- Our Soldiers and their families

NURSING HOME/ HOMEBOUND/ OUT OF TOWN

- Georgie Clark
- Ruby Colle
- Patricia Hicks
- Gerald Johnson
- Lois Josephus
- Annie Mae Kremling
- Lillian Mantey
- James Nolte
- Herbert Ogg

- Bob Putnam
- Betty Rathkamp





CONTACT US:

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507-230-0326

OFFICE HRS:

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

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Return service requested