

THE MONTH OF  
APRIL  
2024

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH NEDERLAND, TEXAS

## Staff:

**Joshua Knippa**  
Pastor  
409-722-1609

**Mary Helen Terrell**  
**Sandra Erickson**  
Secretary  
409-722-1609

**Veronica Ochoa**  
ECE Director  
409-722-2177

**Anna Shuford**  
Technology  
Coordinator  
5th-7th Confirmation  
ECE Chapel  
Assistant  
409-718-0336

**Jacob Clark**  
Church Organist

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## Message from Pastor

### **To War, to Christ, to Glory**

*Adapted from Greg Morse at [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org)*

What assassin better cloaks himself than Satan? He is a rumor whispered, a rustling of the bush, a cutthroat who leaves no witnesses. Everywhere he devastates, yet, seldom spotted. Out of sight, out of mind, he burrows to the roots; we only see the forest dying.

Scripture unearths and names him. Slanderer. Accuser. Adversary. Tempter. Deceiver. Evil One. Prince of Demons. Great Dragon. His arrows, venomous, sink to the heart. His chariot wheels, when meant to be heard, quake the brave. His crimson fingers colored a third of heaven's host. Their skirmish toppled heaven; the serpent spoke on earth.

Yet forward Christ calls us; to a victory we march. Advancing, for as Bunyan reminds us, we have no armor for our backs. But what can stir our blood and steel our mettle before such a terror? As great generals of the earth ride up and down the battlefield to rouse great deeds, men of God reached for words.

### **A Summons**

Overhear Paul's call to battle as he writes to Christ's troops in Ephesus. To begin, he does not undersell their foe. They cannot meet the like on earth: *We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* (Ephesians 6:12).

### **To War**

As if he can see the uncertainty in our eyes, the apostle cries, "*Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might*" (Ephesians 6:10). Mount no steed of your own strength. Paul rides to the front lines as the Levites did the Israelite armies of old: "*Let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them, for the Lord your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory*" (Deuteronomy 20:3-4). *Stand! Stand! Stand! in the Lord* (Ephesians 6:11, 13-14).

Stand upright, men of God; grip the hilt firmly. Your God is with you. Let not unbelief unhorse you now. As the fiends drum and hell hollers, one is with you higher than they, who greets their joint armies with a laugh. Stand firm. Withstand in this evil day. Take not one step back.

Spare not one piece: "Put on the whole armor of God." Fasten on the belt of truth. Clasp the breastplate of righteousness. Shod your feet with the gospel of peace and its readiness. Forget the shield of faith to your own peril. Step not within bow range without your helmet. Go nowhere without his word, God's two-edged sword. Pray for yourself; pray for each other. Watch over yourself; watch over others. Have each other's back, left, and right. To war we ride.



Cont'd

## To Christ

We dress not only in God's armor, but go forth with God's own Son, our own brother in the flesh. "I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep," Alexander the Great once remarked. "I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion."

## To Glory

Do not fail to look to the time beyond. Feed your warring spirit thoughts of coming peace. The end has been proclaimed from the beginning. Soon and very soon it shall be asked, Where now are his foes? Where now the boasts of men? Where now those mighty authorities and cosmic powers? Sunk to the bottom of the sea like a stone.

So come, my brothers and sisters, heirs of the kingdom, sons of Abraham by faith, mighty men of heaven, precious daughters of the King — while as yet despised of earth and beleaguered. Come, citizens of the unseen world, rulers of the age to come, judges of angels. Rise up, you men of the cross, sisters of the crown, soldiers of Christ endowed with his very Spirit. Come and speak. Come and die. Come and serve. Come and overcome. Come and stand firm. Crawl not after the same grass that entertains the cattle of the earth. Rise up! Partake of the heavenly bread, the heavenly conflict, the heavenly reward.

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers" march on. Make good your fealty of faith. For glory. For honor. For immortality. For the King, with the King, in the King's power. Onward against the foe, brothers and sisters: to war, to Christ, to glory.

*God's Peace and all the best,  
Pastor Joshua Knippa*



To our Holy Cross Church Family—

I want to thank you so much for the beautiful plant that was sent to my mom's, Alma Kirby's, service of celebration. Also, thanks for the prayers, cards, texts, and FB messages—they were all greatly appreciated. My mom was a strong Christian Woman and is finally whole in the presence of Jesus, my dad, and my sister. Thanks again.

*Sandra and Cary Erickson  
& Family*



## 2024 GOLDEN TRIANGLE SPRING RALLY

at Holy Cross Lutheran

**Saturday, April 20, 2024**

Registration begins @ 9:30am —

\$5 registration fee.

Program at 10am.

*Join us as we celebrate  
women of diversity.*

Come join us and bring a friend.



Save the dates!



**Vacation Bible School**

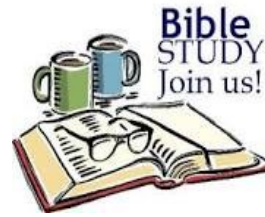
June 17-20--SCUBA:

*"Diving into friendship with God"*

**High School Servant Week**

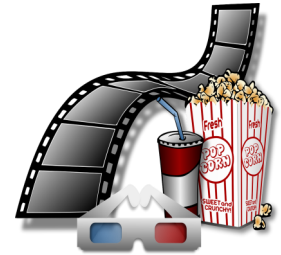
July 8-12

*\*More Details to follow on both events\**



**Pastor Haas' Adult Bible Study, on the Book of John on Wednesdays in the conference rms.**

Join us for **Classic Movie Night** on Friday, April 19th @ 7:30pm in the Education Building Big Room.



Mark your calendar for **Confirmation Sunday, May 5th**



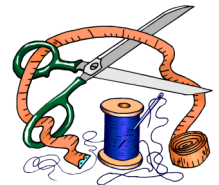
Our Confirmation Class of 2024: *Brennyn Denn, Greyson Elisar, Grace Prioux, Jude Stewart, & Victoria Wolfe.*

**Quilting:**

Thursdays 9:30am-3pm.

Join us on a Thursday for fun & fellowship. If you know someone that needs a quilt call *Rosemarie Herring* @ #(409) 201-5710.

\*We are short on king or queen flat sheets for quilt backings if you have any to donate\*



**"Check Out"** our books available on the red cart in the Narthex. Please feel free to take 1 or 2—just leave check out card in the bucket provided on the cart.

You can also visit our Church Library in the Education Bldg.

If you take a book, just sign your name on the card & leave it on the desk.



Please contact the church office at **409-722-1609** upon the illness, hospitalization, and/or death of a member or loved one. Please

update us with the status of prayer requests. We try to notify members via FB page and text messages of deaths & funeral arrangements. Please contact the church office with details.

**Also, please update us with any new or changed contact information as we are working on updating our Church Directory.**

**Join us for Fit & Fun Fellowship**

Tuesday, April 16th

@ 1-3:30pm FLC foyer for food & fellowship.



*Deadline for May Newsletter is Monday, April 27th.*



# APRIL

## Birthdays

- 2—Mary Adix  
Luke Day  
Zackery Odom
- 3—Amanda Aguero
- 5—Kristen Stewart
- 6—Debbie Cook  
Moni Hopper
- 7—Eric Ronning  
Cadence McCullough
- 8—Chris Wolfe
- 10—Keaston Benoit  
Braeden Caywood  
Jaysa Fortune  
David Prioux
- 11—Kim Carter  
Connie Weber
- 12—Brytni Borel
- 14—Rachel Shuford
- 16—Casey Runnels
- 17—Ethan Becker  
Janna Hall
- 18—Jamie Reue
- 20—Brice Perryman
- 21—Hugh Smalley  
Mike Sturgis
- 24—Randell Howard  
Cameron Ocegüera
- 25—Emily Albright  
Marilyn Sanders

- 26—Jeannie Heider
- 27—Emma Bruney  
Carol Loupe  
Lance Vincent
- 28—Paige Digiovanni  
Will McCall
- 29—Jeff Mayfield  
Jennifer Reue  
Mary Helen Terrell  
Corey Tucker
- 30—Luna Hogge  
Bryson Molbert  
Dane Stewart



## Anniversaries

- 2—Whitney & Lucas Gore
- 4—Judy & Pat Sturgis
- 6—LuAnn & Tom Hansen
- 8—Mary & Carl Adix
- 12—Cindy & Gil  
VanBrocklin
- 14—Nicole & Joey Arena
- 15—Kristin & Blake Foster
- 18—Jill & Beau Blackwell
- 24—Laynie & Scott  
DeSerrano  
Jordan & Tiger Martinez
- 26—Ashley & Tim Terrell
- 30—Sandra & Cary  
Erickson



All voices & musical talent are invited to join the choir!

**Choir practices are  
Thursdays @ 6pm Choir & 7pm Band**

Call **Kay Brown**  
@ **409-728-8180** if interested.

## ECE News

We are closed Monday, April 1st & Tuesday, 2nd for Easter Holiday.  
We have a fundraiser lunch Wednesday, April 17th and Thursday, April 18th.  
We are still enrolling new students for the upcoming year.



*Veronica Ochoa  
Director, & the  
ECE Staff*

## UBM NEEDS YOU!

**United Board of Missions**  
is in need of Volunteers  
(stocking & organizing  
pantries & more).



If you're interested, please contact either—  
**Pam** or **Steve Vincent** @ 409-718-5767  
or **Carolyn Barras** @ 409-963-7866 or  
**Lori Halbert** @ 409-719-6235. Thanks!

## UBM Pantry

is in need of: pasta, rice, canned fruit,  
& canned meat. A donation box will  
be available in the Narthex!



# Holy Cross Lutheran Church—Nederland, TX

## April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Elders:</b> Art Richard Todd Shuford  <b>Altar Guild:</b> Lisa Richard Marilyn Sanders	1 Church Office 	2  <i>ECE off/MSD off</i>	3 9:30am ECE Chapel  5:30pm Midweek Meal 6pm Midweek, HS, Confirmation Classes Adult Bible Study 7pm ECE Board Meeting	4 9:30am Quilting	5   7:30pm Classic Movie Night	6  10am VBS Work Day
7 9:30am Bible Class 10:30am Worship with Communion	8  9 9:30am ECE Chapel	9 9:30am ECE Chapel	10 9:30am ECE Chapel  5:30pm Midweek Meal 6pm Midweek, HS, Confirmation Classes Adult Bible Study	11 9:30am Quilting	12  <i>(Set-up for Rental)</i>	13  9-30am LWML Spring Rally @ Holy Cross 
14 9:30am Bible Class 10:30am Blended Worship  2-4pm Private Rental FLC	15  16 9:30am ECE Chapel 1-3:30pm Fit & Fun Fellowship	16 9:30am ECE Chapel 1-3:30pm Fit & Fun Fellowship	17 9:30am ECE Chapel  5:30pm Midweek Meal 6pm Midweek, HS, Confirmation Classes	18 9:30am Quilting	19   7:30pm Classic Movie Night	20  9-30am LWML Spring Rally @ Holy Cross 
21 9:30am Bible Class 10:30am Worship w/Com  <b>Hamburger &amp; Hot Dog Lunch</b> after worship 	22  23 9:30am ECE Chapel	23 9:30am ECE Chapel	24 9:30am ECE Chapel  5:30pm Midweek Meal 6pm Midweek, HS, Confirmation Classes Adult Bible Study	25 9:30am Quilting	26  <i>(Set-up for Rental)</i>	27  28 9:30am Bible Class 10:30am Worship  2-4pm Private Rental FLC
28 9:30am Bible Class 10:30am Worship  2-4pm Private Rental FLC	29  30 9:30am ECE Chapel	30 9:30am ECE Chapel	<b>Lay Readers:</b> 7—Erin Prioux 14—Ronnie Gribnau 21—Daryl Williams 28—Jim Lavespere	<b>Ushers:</b> 7—Jim Lavespere Pat Sturgis 14—Justin Stewart Daryl Williams 21—David Prioux Charles Schrader 28—Thad Kieschnick David Smalley	<b>Confirmation Camp—LaGrange</b>  <b>Acolytes:</b> 7—Victoria Wolfe Hugh Smalley 14—Brennyn Denn Grace Prioux 21—Greysan Elisar Jude Stewart 28—Bryson Molbert Carrigan McCullough	28  29  30  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25  26  27  28  29  30  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25  26  27  28  29  30  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25  26  27  28  29  30  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25  26  27  28  29  30  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9 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