

THE MONTH OF
DECEMBER

2013

SENIOR PASTOR'S ARTICLE
Pastor Francis L. Schroeder
Holy Cross Lutheran—Nederland

"THE CROOKED TREE OF CHRISTMAS"

**PASTOR
FRANCIS'
PROJECTS**

SUNDAY MORNING
ADULT CLASSES

CONFIRMATION CLASS
WEDNESDAY 6:00 PM

CIRCUIT MEETINGS

EARLY CHILDHOOD
CHAPEL SERVICES

WEDNESDAY ADVENT
SERVICES at 2 & 7:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE - 5 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE - 11 PM
CHRISTMAS DAY - 10 AM



ENJOYING EACH DAY
TO THE FULLEST!

The first time I saw a twisted Christmas tree, I wondered who in the world might fix it. There are some people gifted with the ability to take a twisted tree and make it look beautiful. One such man would get out his saws and clippers and begins cutting and shaping. When he was done, the tree looked as it had been grown in a greenhouse where a caring gardener had watered, pruned, and protected it from storms, drought, and the nasty bugs.

Once his task was done he would turn it over to the rest of the family to finish the job. There the lights, ornaments, and the garland would be added, and the imperfect tree was ready for a perfect celebration. What an incredible transformation!

Life is like that crooked tree. Each of us come to God bent and misshapen from the effects of sin. But when we have been washed in the waters of Holy Baptism and have our faith in the Christ-child, God lovingly begins His work in us, transforming us from the inside out (Philippians 1:6). He then He puts us in the care of His family, the church, and they continue His work by adding lights of truth (Ephesians 4:15), the ornaments of encouragement (2 Timothy 4:2), and the garland of love (1 Peter 4:8). The message of the crooked tree is this: Under God's loving care, a life marred by sin can become beautiful! — jcl

Pastor Francis L. Schroeder

DECEMBER SERVICES AT HOLY CROSS

- Sunday, December 1st, THE 1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT—with Communion**
10:30 AM—Church Sanctuary
- Wednesday, December 4th MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE ONE**
2:00 & 7:30 PM—Church Sanctuary
- Sunday, December 8th THE 2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
8:00 AM & 10:30 AM—Church Sanctuary
- Sunday, December 8th THE 2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT—
SECOND CELEBRATION**
10:30 AM—Family Life Center Gymnasium
- Wednesday, December 11th MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE TWO**
2:00 & 7:30 PM—Church Sanctuary
- Sunday, December 15th THE 3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT—with Communion**
German/English Service
10:30 AM—Church Sanctuary
- Wednesday, December 18th MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE THREE**
2:00 & 7:30 PM—Church Sanctuary
- Sunday, December 22nd THE 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT—CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**
10:30 AM—Church Sanctuary
- Tuesday, December 24th CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE with Communion**
5:00 PM—Church Sanctuary
- Tuesday, December 24th CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT with Communion**
11:00 PM—Church Sanctuary
- Wednesday, December 25th CHRISTMAS DAY with Communion**
10:00 AM —Church Sanctuary
- Sunday, December 29th THE LAST SUNDAY SERVICE IN 2013**
10:30 AM—Church Sanctuary

DID YOU KNOW THIS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

Our Sunday Morning Elders' Prayers Lift Up...

December 1st
Hope Lutheran Church - Winnie, Texas
Pastor Joe Howlett

December 8th
St. Paul Lutheran Church - Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Pastor Alan Kretschmar (Son of Holy Cross)

December 15th
Trinity Lutheran Church - Port Arthur, Texas
Pastor Tim Dinger & Pastor Mario Casillas

December 22nd
Grace Lutheran Church - Orange, Texas
Pastor Tom Haas

December 29th
St. Paul Lutheran Church - Groves, Texas
Pastor Richard Turner

January 5th
Our Savior Lutheran Church - Centerville, Texas
Pastor Jan "Trey" Rienstra (Son of Holy Cross)

January 12th
St. Paul Lutheran Church - Jasper, Texas
Faith Lutheran Church - Woodville, Texas
Pastor Mark Follett

January 19th
Redeemer Lutheran Church - Beaumont, Texas
Pastor Fred Kelm

January 26th
St. John Lutheran Church - Beaumont, Texas
Pastor Doug Rathgeber



DID YOU KNOW THIS TOO ?

OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONS (December, January, & February) are available in the narthex of the church.

PORTALS OF PRAYERS (October, November, & December) are available in the narthex of the church.

THE NEXT CIRCUIT PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE will be on the second Tuesday of every month at a different church in the circuit.

December 10th @ Redeemer Lutheran in Beaumont
January 21st @ St, John Lutheran in Beaumont

We gather at 8:30 AM for coffee and refreshments, 9:00 AM for Opening Devotion, 9:15 AM for Bible Study, 10:15 AM for Break, 10:30 AM for Topical Study, 11:15 AM for Circuit Business and Casuistry.

HOLY CROSS HOMEBOUND MEMBERS receive on a weekly basis an audio copy of Holy Cross' Sunday morning services. They also receive on a monthly basis a DVD from Lutheran Ministries Media.

WORSHIP BULLETINS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS

Trinity Lutheran Church in Klein, Texas
Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Winnie, Texas
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Epiphany Lutheran Church in Pearland, Texas
Evang. Luth. St. Lorezenkirche Nurnberg, Germany
Saint Michael's Lutheran Church in Winchester, Texas
Trinity Lutheran Church in Port Arthur, Texas

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—PORT ARTHUR is in need of volunteers to work in their **THRIFT SHOP** on Tuesday, Friday, & Saturdays from 8 AM until 12 Noon. Please contact Trinity Lutheran at 983-1130.

TRINITY LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY will open its doors on the third Saturday of the month from 9:00 AM until 12 Noon.
The doors for the pantry will open on December 21st.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR SETH DAVIDSON

Greetings, salutations, and all that jazz... An interesting article to ponder, some points I agree with, others I don't. It is worth meditating on.

“Every Imperfect and Normal Family wants their kids to turn out right. So, we establish goals for character development and try to create an environment where our kids can mature. Church, school, sports teams, and family relationships... each of these provides a context where our kids can learn to “love your neighbor as yourself...”

Too many times, (Christian) parents have it as their goal to make their kids good and moral. It is as if the entire purpose of their family's spiritual life is to shape their children into law-abiding citizens who stay out of trouble. The only problem with this goal is that it runs in stark contrast to what the Bible teaches. The gospel is not about making bad people moral, but about making dead people alive. If we teach morality without the transforming power of the gospel and the necessity of a life fully surrendered to God's will, then we are raising moral pagans. We end up teaching the wrong thing because we have the wrong objectives...

And that was such a huge shift for me from the American Christian ideal. We're drinking a cocktail that's a mix of the Protestant work ethic, the American dream, and the gospel. And we've intertwined them so completely that we can't tell them apart anymore. Our gospel has become a gospel of following your dreams and being good so God will make all your dreams come true. It's the Oprah god.

Do we teach our kids ‘be good because the Bible tells you to’ or do we teach our kids that they will never be good without Christ's offer of grace? There is a huge difference. One leads to moralism; the other leads to brokenness. One leads to self-righteousness; the other leads to a life that realizes that Christ is everything and that nothing else matters.

I want my kids to be good. We all do. But as our kids grow up, the truth of the gospel can easily get lost somewhere between salvation (where we know we need Jesus) and living life (where we tend to say ‘I've got this’). My experience is that the vast majority of parents are encouraging moral behavior in their kids so that God will bless their (usually self-centered) pursuits. It's the American Dream plus Jesus. And it produces good, moral pagans.

Take a minute to think about what would deem you a successful parent. If your goals are focused on your kids' behavior, their happiness, or their accomplishments (but don't include a dependence upon Christ and a submission to His will and work), then you might want to make some adjustments.

Because the world has enough pagans. Even plenty of really nice ones. What we need is kids who fully grasp the reality that they have nothing to offer, but who intimately know a God who has everything they need.”

An interesting article with some interesting points to make....

God's Peace—Pastor Seth



News from our: Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LWML is: Lutheran Women who are: in the Word,
of the Word, walking with their Lord!
We have many opportunities for the
congregation to help us with our worthy mission projects.



LWML

**Tuesday,
December 10 @ 6pm**

Hostesses:

Executive Committee
Laurenda Wolford
Donna Gunn
Lauri Ford
Rosemarie Herring

Christmas Party

Reveal Secret Pals
Draw for 2014 Secret Pals
LWML members are reminded to bring a covered dish.

All ladies of Holy Cross are Invited. If you don't have a Secret Pal bring a gift for the gift exchange.

*Merry Christmas from
LWML!*



Ladies Small Group Bible Study
will **not** be meeting in
December & will resume in January!

We will **NOT** meet for
QUILTING during
December.
We will resume in January.



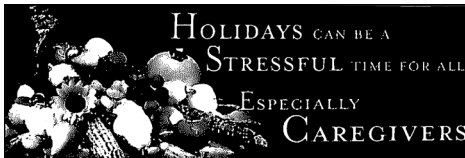
Reminder to LWML'ers:
We will be decorating the
Education Building
Christmas Tree
on Tuesday, December 3,
before & after Voters' Meeting.



LWML Recycles for Missions

Stamps—any postage stamp on mail you receive, 1/4"-1/2", edge if you trim, or just put entire envelope (or torn off of envelope) and we'll trim. Stamps help pay the delivery of health kits. It cost \$2.62 per kit to be shipped. Commemorative & out of USA stamps are worth more.

**What a Blessing
to Recycle for God!**



TRISUN Healthcare Offers
RESPIRE CARE

The premier choice for specialized care

To learn more, please call:

Cypress Glen East
4225 Lake Arthur Dr.
Port Arthur, TX 77642
Katherine Nix (409) 727-3193



If you're interested in further details on
Respite Care for Caregivers,
flyers are available in church narthex.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

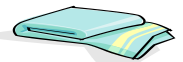
LWML is collecting items for personal care kits to send to **Lutheran World Relief** & LWML invites the congregation to help with this project.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

The following items are included in each personal care kit:

- * **One sturdy comb**
- * **One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging** (*Toothbrushes purchased in multiple packs will be accepted*)
- * **Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping**
- * **One light-weight bath-size towel (maximum 52" x 27"), dark color recommended**
- * **One metal nail clippers** (*attached file optional*)



**We have extended the collection period, starting OCTOBER 2013
& continuing each month through MARCH 2014.**

(In March 2013 we shipped 115 kits. Goal is to assemble and ship even more.)

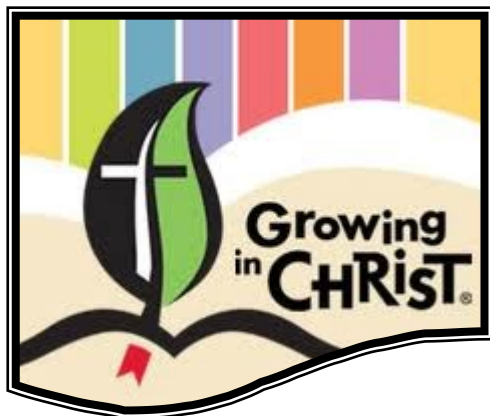
Collection boxes located in the church narthex & Education building.

Rosemarie Herring has organized a **quilting group that makes quilts for LWR**. The group meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 9am in the Conference room. They are looking for more quilters. Contact Rosie @ 727-0991 if you would like to help, or just show up. **SHIPPING NOTE:** Approximate shipping cost per kit: \$2.65.

Sunday Morning Classes

9am - Classes

10:30am - Worship



Holy Cross Lutheran Church is "Growing In Christ" and we have a place for everyone in your family. The material we will be using for Sunday morning children's classes is called "Growing in Christ." Growing in Christ is a traditional classroom Sunday School for all ages. This same-age classroom model helps students learn and grow in faith alongside their peers as they explore the Bible, draw connections to the Small Catechism, and learn the traditions of the Lutheran Church. Questions? Contact our Sunday School

Superintendent, Sheri Furby at 409-350-2107 or DCE Kristy Witek at 722-1609 or dcekristy@sbcglobal.net

We hope you will join us. Bring a friend!

Please join us on Sunday mornings @9am!

Where Do Classes Meet on Sunday Mornings?

Baby and Me (0-2 years) Class

Education Building
Room #2

3 Years to 1st Grade Class

Education Building
Room #3

2nd to 4th Grade Class

Education Building
Room #1

Middle School Youth

(5th-8th Grade) Class
Education Building (upstairs)
Room #15 & #16

High School Youth

(9th-12th Grade) Class

Education Building (upstairs)
Room #12, #13, #14
(aka: HS Youth Room)

Pastor Francis Schroeder's

Adult Bible Class

Conference Room A
(New Office Building)

Pastor Seth Davidson's

Adult Bible Class

Conference Room B
(New Office Building)

Matthew 25: Neighbors in Need

Grant Program Information and Proposal



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

—Matthew 25:35-36

Holy Cross is proud to announce that we are in the process of applying for the Matthew 25: Neighbors in Need Grant to supplement our many outreach programs that we are involved in.

The Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation is pleased to offer the Matthew 25: Neighbors in Need grant program to qualifying Lutheran organizations and congregations for ongoing outreach ministries to their local communities. Based on Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35-36, the program seeks to help Lutheran nonprofit organizations that address the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of their neighbors. The competitive program includes an immediate grant of \$5,000 for outreach operations and an additional \$5,000 challenge grant opportunity designed to encourage ministry support locally (for every \$2 raised, \$1 in grant funds will be provided, up to \$5,000).

ECE NEWS

We hope that all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. And we rejoice as we jump into the Christmas Season!

We would like to send a big THANK YOU! to all of the parents who volunteered to help with our 4's Thankful Feast. We hope you enjoyed the time you spent with us and the wonderful meal that was prepared.

Thank you to all who gave donations to our Thankful Boxes. All food items donated will be distributed to families in our area.

We currently have 62 children enrolled on Mon.-Wed. & 79 on Tues.-Thurs..

Monday, December 16 & Tuesday, December 17 will be **Christmas Party Days**. We will also have **pizza** on those days.

Wednesday, December 18 & Thursday, December 19 will be **Christmas Program Days**. Our program will begin at **9:30** with our regular chapel time. After chapel (about 20 minutes) the children will begin their part of the program. Everyone is invited to join us!

This Christmas Season we will sponsor a **Giving Tree**. You can pick a tag from the tree and purchase the item listed for a child who might not otherwise get gifts for Christmas. All of the instructions for what to do with the gift will be on the tag. Giving Trees will be located in the 2's building and also on a bulletin board outside the "Big Room".

Mrs. Maxwell's 4-5 yr. old class continues to grow through the TSR Grant. They are learning so much as are all of the children in our program. We enjoy seeing the changes in your children each day!

Holy Cross ECE is going to be joining in the Fund Raising Program call **Shoparoo**. This could be the easiest way ever to get points that will enable us to obtain new learning tools for our school. All you have to do is download the Shoparoo app, choose Holy Cross Lutheran Early Childhood in Nederland as your cause and snap photos of all your shopping receipts! That's it! For more info, please contact the office or go to www.shoparoo.com. We wish you all a very Blessed Christmas & Happy New Year!



January Newsletter Deadline:
Monday, December 18!

COME VISIT OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

located in the Educational Building.

"Check us out"—literally!

We have new books coming in!

Just sign the checkout card & leave it on the desk.

Questions: Contact

Lynne Hollomon,
Pam Vincent,
or Kathy Pinnt

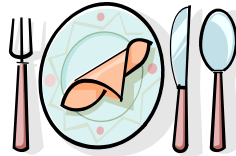


Middle School Youth T-Shirts

We have several extra available for purchase! Cost is **\$15** each. Stop by DCE Kristy's office to pick yours up today! *Make checks to:*

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Holy Cross is hosting a **light supper** for the children, teens, & adults who are attending or teaching the **Wednesday evening classes**. The meals are served in the **Family Life Center** from **5:30 - 6:00**. If a little late, participants may fix their plates and take them to their classes.



During December,

We will offer the following:

December 4 - hot dogs, fruit, chips, & dessert

December 11 - chicken nuggets, fruit, & dessert

December 18 - pizza, fruit, dessert

December 25 - NO meal—Christmas Day

Thrift Store

As part of our mission work, the Churches of **Circuit 34** help to support the Thrift Store at **Trinity Lutheran in Pt. Arthur**. **Pastor Casillas** meets people each Saturday who come to the Thrift Store & then visits with them to share the message about Jesus.

The Thrift Store sells any kind of items: clothing, furnishings, dishes, tools, etc.

Be sure that all your unwanted items go to the Thrift Store.

The Thrift Store needs help from each **congregation in Circuit 34**. Members at Trinity have been operating the Store, but because of some health issues they need help to operate the store.

Store hours are:

Tuesday, Friday, & Saturday 8-11:30 am

Call or email Trinity and let them know if you will work that week. Trinity is easy to reach—get on Hwy 69 & go straight into Port Arthur, turn right on Procter & go 4 blocks. ***Thanks for your help!***



JOIN US

On Wednesdays,
December 4 & 11
for an Adult Bible Study,

**"Joseph:
Carpenter of Steel"**

led by Cary Erickson
on Wednesdays at 6:00-7:00
in conference Room A.



LIFELIGHT Heaven & Hell

Study Begins Wednesday, JANUARY 8, 2014

Sign up NOW for LifeLight!! Open to all confirmed members of Holy Cross, their family and friends!

The nine-week session will be an in-depth study taken from the books of Selected Psalms or Luke Part 1

Several methods of study are used.

PERSONAL

Each participant receives a study sheet each week divided into five daily lessons to prepare at home with a time commitment of 20-30 minutes per lesson.

SMALL GROUP

On Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. small groups of 8 to 12 people share questions and answers in a non-threatening, friendly environment. The group leader adds additional facts not covered by the questions.

ENRICHMENT MAGAZINE Class members receive an Enrichment Magazine containing articles which give a deeper insight into the subject matter of the course.

LifeLight participants

- Do not have to be well versed in Scripture—this is a **LEARNING** experience.
- Do not have to read in the group if they desire not to—we want everyone to feel comfortable and at ease.
- Do not have to answer every question on the lessons if they are unable to find an answer—**no one is graded—we all learn together.**
- Need not have participated in previous studies—each study stands on its own.

Participants ARE committing to

- Being present on time at each group meeting if at all possible, informing the discussion leader ahead of time if they must be absent.
- Prayerfully and diligently completing the daily Bible study leaflet to the best of their ability at home with the attitude of a servant of God's Word.
- Seeking for balanced participation, allowing others to give a fair presentation of their opinions and insights without interruption.
- Promoting mutual trust by keeping things shared within the group in strict confidence unless permission is given to share them outside the group.

Registration form on back of this page

REGISTRATION FORM
LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY
Heaven & Hell
January 8 through March 5, 2014

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

I Need Transportation (*circle one*) Yes No

I need a Baby Sitter (*circle one*) Yes No How many children ____ Ages

I am willing to serve as a small-group leader. _____ (*please check*)

Call or contact Walter Perryman (727 7868 or E-Mail wbperryman@sbcglobal.net) or return the completed registration form to the church office **no later than Sunday, Dec. 29** so the number of classes can be determined and lessons can be distributed. Thanks!

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DECEMBER



To: High School Youth Fund

In memory of
Joan Canton

given by:
Jeannine Walther

To: Adult Choir

In memory of
Lucille Joyner

given by:
Carolyn Barras

To: Library Fund

In memory of
Joan Canton

given by:
Sharon & Doug Teinert

To: LWML

In memory of
Joan Canton

Lucille Joyner

given by:
Ruth & Walter Perryman

In memory of
Lucille Joyner

given by:
Pat Biar

To: ECE

In memory of
Joan Canton

given by:
Lori & Wayne Halbert

To: Memorial Fund

In memory of
Lucille Joyner

given by:
Jeannine Walther

To: Trinity Food Bank

In memory of
Lucille Joyner

Amelia Caldronia
given by:
Sharon & Doug Teinert



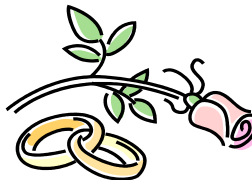
- 1—Britni Melancon
- 2—Troy Ford
Bryan McEachern
Holly Terrell
- 3—Darryl Carter
Ronald Gribnau
Jessica Redding
Laurie Stevenson
- 4—Brienne Caswell
Bruce Greer
- 5—Betty Davis
Stephanie Dirba
- 6—Ed Zizmont, Jr.
- 7—Monica Bresse
Kyle Cogswell
Greyson Elisar
Florine Green
Patrice Kihlken
Nathan Stansbury
Ryan Wolford
- 8—Chase Gordy
- 9—Erin Prioux
Calvin Rising
- 10—Dennis Dunlap
Nancy Longlet
David Tindel
- 11— Marlee Woodruff
- 12—Jeannie Ford
Heather Jones
- 13—Addi Barnes
Christopher Lovelace
Danielle Viator
- 14—Bonnie Albright
Clint Laird
Adam Longlet
Mia Woodruff

- 15—Raymond Rice
- 16—Vic Escobar
Victoria Wolfe
- 17—Holly Heisner
Carrigan McCullough
Hailey Zampini
- 18—Kyle Spinks
- 19—Andrew Bruney
Lynne Hollomon
- 20—Tom Canton
Whitney Elisar
Amy Pinnt
Radmon Rice
- 24—Sandy Crow
Rita Davis
Allison Mitcham
Klara Smits
- 25—Russell West
- 26—Leah Elisar
Phillip Parks
- 27—Betty Anderson
- 28—Chase Caswell
Jordan Rash
- 30—Elizabeth Peapenburg
Ryan Rice
Carlene Singleton
- 31—Chalen Armstong
Taryn Dunlap
Taylor Dunlap
Gene McCorkle



- 4—Misty & Jeffrey Bryant
- 5—Sharon & Doug Teinert
- 9—Shelly & Leo Benoit
Jeannie & John Ford
- 12—Brenda & Shawn Dunlap
- 17—Cheryl & Mike White
- 20—Elna & Ron Ermel
June & Bruce Greer
Leitha & Kevin Gunter
Anna & Todd Shuford
Sara & Andre' Wimer
- 21—Mary & Bruce Osani
- 23—Yolanda & Charles Schrader
- 28—Deborah & Glen Rose
- 29—Dot & Billy Cogswell
Pam & Steve Vincent
- 31—Brytni & Tony Borel
Nancy & Jon Longlet

Congratulations!



NEW - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8!

We will be offering THREE opportunities to Worship!!!

1. An additional Traditional Worship Service
@8:00am "Sunday Sunshine Service" (Sanctuary) on 2nd Sundays only
2. Second Celebration Contemporary Worship
@10:30am (Family Life Center) on 2nd Sundays only
3. Traditional Worship @10:30am (Sanctuary)



Sunday Morning Classes for all ages @9am
Donuts, kolaches, coffee and juice provided before classes.

We hope you will join us! Invite your friends!
For more details on upcoming events go to our website:
www.holycrosstexas.org



Attention STUDENTS (Middle School, High School & College) and PARENTS!

Wolfram|Alpha is a free online search engine that generates answers to questions in real time by doing computations on its own vast internal knowledge base. Simply type in a Math problem, Chemistry or Physics equation, a History question, a Geometry problem, Proper Sentence Structure, etc, and Wolfram|Alpha will give you the answer to the problem and step by step instructions on how to complete the problem correctly so the next time you can answer it correctly, without confidence. This is an app that I learned how to use at one of our Professional Church Worker's Conferences and I promise it will be an incredible help to all students and parents as they learn.

Do you struggle at home with your homework?

Do you struggle to help your child with his/her homework because you are unsure how to actually even answer the question?

If so, than this app is for you. Go to <http://www.wolframalpha.com> on your regular computer at home, or download the app to your cellphone and access it that way!

Homework can be fun when you know what you are doing!



If you are willing to help supervise **Rumble Ball** and pass out waters we would greatly appreciate your donation of time!

WE NEED YOU!

Contact DCE Kristy Witek
if you are able to serve-#722-1609

"The Very First Christmas"
Sunday, December 22 @ 10:30am
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Practices:

WEDNESDAYS, December 4, 11, & 18,
7pm-7:30pm in Education Big Room

SATURDAYS, December 6 & 14,
10am in Sanctuary

Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

SATURDAY, December 21,
10am in Sanctuary



Practice and prepare during Sunday School hour on
SUNDAY, December 22,
9am in Sanctuary

Questions call Christmas Program Director—**Kyra Day, 409-718-8256.**



Middle School Girl's Retreat

Saturday, January 11 through Sunday, January 12
Hopper Camp—Dogwood Estates at Toledo Bend
Specific times to be determined.

Cost: \$10 per person

All 5th-8th Grade GIRLS and friends are encouraged to join us for a two day, one night retreat in God's great outdoors! This event is for MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL'S ONLY! The theme for the weekend is "Sparkle," inspired by the verse *"Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly onto the Word of Life."* Philippines 2:15 Throughout the weekend we will worship and sing around the campfire, learn more about Jesus, talk about what it means to follow Him, love Him and SPARKLE for Him, eat delicious food, go on a nature/scavenger hunt, have a pajama dance party, eat S'mores, stay up late chatting, pray, and just SPARKLE doing lots of girl stuff!

Female Adult Sponsors/Drivers are needed!

We are in need of ladies, 22 years old or older to help as adult sponsors/drivers for this very special event! Please contact DCE Kristy Witek if you are interested!

What to bring?

Signed parental health release form,
 two sets of extra clothes (clothes you can get dirty),
 your favorite jammies, \$10, socks,
 sleeping bag and pillow,
 Friends!



**Mid-week/Kingdom Quest (K-4th) and
Confirmation (5th-8th) Classes**

Wednesdays @6-7:15pm!

**5:30pm – M&M Time (“Meal & Memory Work Time)
Family Life Center Foyer**



NEW THIS YEAR - “M&M Time.” Holy Cross is planning to serve a light supper for anyone who attends the Wednesday evening classes: kids in Weekday School and Confirmation Classes, young adults in the high school / college class, adults in the Life Light classes, and all teachers. The meal is served from 5:30 - 6:00, in the Family Life Center.

Even if parents are running late, the kids can take their plates to the classroom at 6:00.

Kingdom Quest is a fabulous program for Kindergarten through 4th Grade. The GOAL of Kingdom Quest is to provide active discipleship for Kids. One thing is almost certain - Children WILL NOT be bored. Children will begin their Wednesday evening in their very special small group. There are three separate small groups for our Kindergarten through 4th Grade students. Then after small group time, students will transition to a Large Group setting that creatively presents the Bible event. They will get to meet our puppet, Gerdy as well as many other amazing people from the Bible!!! After large group time is complete, they will again return to their small groups to be challenged to take their faith into every day situations. The content is very JESUS-centered and each lesson uses active learning methods utilizing their multiple senses. Our awesome small group leaders will focus on connecting kids relationally and helping them apply God's truth in their lives.

5th-7th Grade Confirmation classes will be taught by DCE Kristy Witek. We will be using the fabulous curriculum called Faith Inkubators, which we have used for the past 6 years. Faith Inkubators’ goal is Head to the Heart (H2H) - to reach kids and their families for Christ during the exciting, promising, challenging and sometimes rough and rocky teen years. Faith Inkubators’ founder Rev. Richard Melheim, spent more than a decade in parish ministry wondering why Bible camp and youth group worked and confirmation didn’t. He struggled with the traditional Christian education mod-els that graduated kids on confirmation day, three-fourths of them never to return. He wanted to do something about it. The suicides of two young men in his youth group provided him with a slap in the face and helped him create a pastoral care model that blurred the lines between youth group and youth education. Rich spent three years testing this “car load of kids” confirmation system and created something really special – Faith Inkubators!

We hope you will join us.

Pastor Schroeder will be leading our 8th Grade Confirmation class and he uses his own curriculum.

Mr. Michael Rose leads our Young Adult Class - 9th Grade through 21 years.

Adult LifeLight Classes will resume the following week on Wednesday, September 4!

More details about our Confirmation Classes, Memory Work and Class Schedules, please go to the following link:
[http://media1.razorplanet.com/share/511274-3189/
resources/305774_HOLYCROSSWEDNESDAYWEEKDAYSSCHOOLSYLLABUS.pdf](http://media1.razorplanet.com/share/511274-3189/resources/305774_HOLYCROSSWEDNESDAYWEEKDAYSSCHOOLSYLLABUS.pdf)

If you have any questions or would like to know more about our Midweek, Kingdom Quest and Confirmation Classes, please contact our Mid-week Superintendent, Laurie Mayfield at 409-719-2512 or our DCE Kristy Witek at 722-1609 ordcekristy@sbcglobal.net

**We can't wait to see you on Wednesdays @6pm!
BRING A FRIEND!**

5th-8th Grade CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Friday, February 21 through Saturday, February 22, 2014
Salem Lutheran Church—Tomball

The **5th and 8th Grade Confirmation students** will be attending EPICENTER together on **Friday, February 21 through Saturday, February 22** for the Confirmation Retreat. Epicenter is a two day, one night middle school youth gathering that features a house band, high quality presenters, inflatables, a crazy dress dance, video gaming, breakout sectionals and much, much more! The 5th-8th Grade Confirmation group will also be staying overnight at **Salem Lutheran Church—Tomball** as part of this year's retreat.

Questions? Contact DCE Kristy Witek @722-1609!



Travis Hartjen, Speaker

Cost: \$40 (NON-REFUNDABLE Registration Fee)

+ cost of 1 meal on Friday + souvenirs

**Registration Fee covers cost of event, travel, housing + 3 meals on Saturday*

DEADLINE DEADLINE DEADLINE

Registration form must be turned in to DCE Kristy Witek by
Sunday, December 15, 2013.

Fill out the REGISTRATION FORM BELOW and return to DCE Kristy Witek

5th-8th Grade Confirmation Retreat

RETREAT REGISTRATION

Friday, February 21 through Saturday, February 22, 2014
Salem Lutheran Church—Tomball

Youth's Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Confirmation Class: ___ 5th ___ 6th ___ 7th ___ 8th

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent's Home Phone #: _____ Work #/Cell #: _____

Email: _____



I hearby give my son/daughter permission to attend the 5th -8th Grade Confirmation Retreat at Salem in Tomball on Friday, February 21 through Saturday, February 22, 2014

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____



5th-8th Grade Confirmation Retreat
Friday, February 21 through Saturday, February 22, 2014
Salem Lutheran Church—Tomball

ADULT COUNSELOR APPLICATION
Adult Counselors Needed

If you are willing to be considered as an adult counselor for the 5th-8th Grade Confirmation Retreat at Epicenter in Salem Lutheran in Tomball on **Friday, February 21 through Saturday, February 22**, please fill out the following Adult Counselor Application and return to DCE Kristy Witek by Sun., Dec 15, 2013. The Board of Christian Education will review nominees and selection will take place at a later time. All Adult Counselors must be at least 21-years of age.

I _____ would like to be considered as an Adult Counselor for the (check one) _____
 5th-8th Grade Confirmation Retreat on **Friday, February 21 through Saturday, February 22**. I understand that I will be responsible for supervising our youth throughout the weekend. I also understand that I will be responsible for returning this form to DCE Kristy Witek by Sun., Dec 15, 2013, in order to be considered as an Adult Sponsor. There is no cost to adult counselors. A random drawing (of all interested adults) to decide who will be the “official” counselors.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

6th, 7th and 8th Grade
Summer Mission Trip



Registration will be open soon!

Date of Trip:
 Sunday, July 6 to
 Friday, July 11
 Austin, Texas
Cost: \$262
 (non-refundable)
 Registration Fee
Deadline to Register
will be Sunday,
February 22, 2014

Week of Hope is a great mission experience that our present 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students will never forget! Helping students explore their faith is one of the most important and fulfilling responsibilities we have as church leaders and parents. Research suggests that by the time they're 13, your kids' basic value systems are set for life. Teenagers will learn Christ-like empathy and compassion for others as they meet the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of disadvantaged children, youth, and adults. As students serve in the name of Jesus, they'll develop friendships with the people being served, with teenagers on other teams, with members of their own youth group, and, most importantly, with Jesus. Projects might include: Providing meals to the homeless, Tutoring poor or struggling children, Helping to lead a day camp for kids, Organizing a home or sprucing up a dilapidated home, Painting a room or deep-cleaning a home, Working with disabled children, Sharing stories with a lonely elderly person in an assisted-living facility. Your team's acts of kindness will mean the world to the people you serve. Each day, students will enjoy meaningful, thematic worship and devotion times, plus opportunities for devotions. They'll spend time together and connect more deeply in their Christian faith.

Adult Fellowship Christmas Party

WHO: Any adult 18 years old or older (members and friends)

WHAT: Bring a \$15 wrapped gift for the White Elephant/Chinese Auction Gift Exchange - Men bring a gift for men and women bring a gift for women (Optional - you do not have to bring a gift. It is, however, a very fun experience if you do, but just watching the gift exchange is always a joy, so if you are unable to bring a gift that is OK, just bring yourself!)

When: Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 5:00pm to 8:00pm

WHERE: Tequilas Mexican Bar and Grill (Banquet Room)

8550 Memorial Blvd, Port Arthur, TX 77640 *Tequilas buffet serves Mexican, BBQ, Baked and Fried foods, cajun, etc. Something for everyone.

WHY: For Fun, Fellowship and to Celebrate Jesus' birth!

Cost: \$11.95 for buffet—Pay when you arrive!

We WILL NOT be selling tickets. Please contact Erin Prioux at 409-728-5041 to RSVP or JUST SHOW UP and pay when you get there, or if you don't want to eat, just join us for the fun of it!!



The LITTLE LAMBS CHOIR will sing on the 4th Sunday of each month!

The Little Lambs Choir is for any and all children 0 years through the 4th grade. Practices will take place at 9:15am each Sunday morning.

Sunday Morning Schedule for 0 years to 4th Grade

9am-9:15am - Craft/Coloring Sheets and Fellowship Time
9:15am - Song Time for Little Lambs Choir
9:30am-10:00am - Sunday School Classes
10:00am - Dismiss Children



The Little Lambs Choir will be singing on the 4th Sunday of each month. If you would like a CD of the songs so you can practice at home, please stop by DCE Kristy Witek's office or contact her at dcekristy@sbcglobal.net

Little Lamb's Choir Schedule

Sunday, December 22 - Christmas Program

Away in a Manger, O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Children only 1st verse), Deck the Halls

Sunday, January 26 - Let the Praises Ring

Sunday, February 23

This is Lent Song, This Little Gospel Light of Mine

Sunday, March 23

Peter, James and John in a Sailboat

Sunday, April 13 -Palm Sunday

Hosanna Rock

Sunday, April 27- Easter Sunday - 10:30am Service

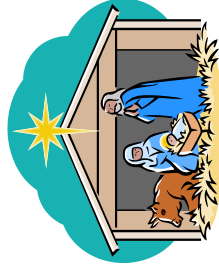
One, Two, Three

*Solos will be needed for "One, Two, Three" song. If you know anyone in Middle School or High School who would like to sing a solo/duet, please contact DCE Kristy Witek @722-1609 or dcekristy@sbcglobal.net, so we can schedule them to be at practices in February and March.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church—Nederland, TX

December 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Sunday classes 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	2 8:30am Pastors & DCE Meeting	3 3pm Rumble Ball 7pm Voters Mtg. (in FLC)	4 9:30am ECE Chapel 2pm Advent Service 6pm Midweek/HS Youth/Confirmation classes/ Adult Class 7pm Christmas Program Practice 7:30pm Advent Service	5 9:30am ECE Chapel DCE Kristy's day off 6pm Adult Choir 6:30pm Board of Missions & Assimilations Meeting 7pm Harmony Exporters	6 Pastor Francis' & Pastor Seth's day off	7
8 8am Sunshine Service 9am Sunday classes 10:30 Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 10:30 2nd Celebration Contemporary-FLC 5-8pm Adult Fellowship Christmas Party	9 8:30am Pastors & DCE Meeting 6:30pm MOAW Mtg.	10 Circuit Professionals at Redeemer in Bmt. 3pm Rumble Ball 6pm LWML Christmas Party	11 9:30am ECE Chapel 2pm Advent Service 6pm Midweek/HS Youth/Confirmation classes/ Adult Class 7pm Christmas Program Practice 7:30pm Advent Service	12 9:30am ECE Chapel DCE Kristy's day off 6pm Adult Choir 7pm Harmony Exporters	13 Pastor Francis' day off	14
15 9am Sunday classes 10:30 German/English Service w/ Holy Communion	16 8:30am Pastors & DCE Meeting	17 3pm Rumble Ball	18 9:30am ECE Christmas Program 2pm Advent Service 6pm Midweek/HS Youth/Confirmation classes 7pm Christmas Program Practice 7:30pm Advent Service	19 9:30am ECE Christmas Program DCE Kristy's day off 6pm Adult Choir 7pm Harmony Exporters	20 Pastor Francis' & Pastor Seth's day off	21
22 9am Sunday classes 10:30am Christmas Prog. "THE VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS" 11:30am Prog. Slagging Down 12-5pm FLC Rental 4pm Private Baptism	23 8:30am Pastors & DCE Meeting	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Serv. w/ comm. 11pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Serv. w/ comm.	25 10am Christmas Day Service w/ comm. HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS! Merry Christmas	26 DCE Kristy's day off 7pm Harmony Exporters	27 Pastor Francis & Pastor Seth's day off	28
29 No 9am Classes 10:30 Worship	30 8:30am Pastors & DCE Meeting	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 	Elders: Johnny Krautz Dannis McCullough Steven Swango	Altar Guild Monica Bresee Carolyn Barras Billie Yancey Marilyn Sanders	Ushers: 1-Donald Gribnau, Geoffrey Kret 8-Jim Duncan, Bob Schulze 15-Johnny Davis, Ken Ludwig 22-Kent Stahl, Pat Sturgis 24-5pm-bruce Osani, Pat Sturgis 11pm-Pat Sturgis 25-Pat Sturgis 29-Tom Cantlon, Steve Vincent	Acolytes: 1-Josh & Emily Osani 8-Chloe Cannon Jaycee Collins 15-Mackenzie Tindel, Cam Shaw 22-Maggie Hopper Holy Terrell 29-Alec Torres Mia Woodruff
<i>Pastor Schroeder Vacation</i>						

Please note that the Church Office will be closed on December 24 & 25

2711 Helena Avenue
Nederland TX 77627-6901

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Growing in Christ Jesus
and Making Him Known*

Mark Your Calendars

“Guys, Dolls and Spicy Meatballs”

*with your “Spirit of Southeast Texas” and “Harmony Exporters”
Men’s and Women’s Barbershop Choruses*

Saturday, February 15 @6pm Dinner @7pm Show

Tickets: \$12 (Dinner & Show Guests)

\$10 (Performers/Helpers)

Set-Up Times

Wednesday, February 12 @7pm—9pm

&

Saturday, February 15 @10am

This event will be a fundraiser for the 2016 National LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. Those who will be entering the 9th Grade through 21 years in the fall of 2016 may begin fundraising efforts for this event. Those families/youth who work this event will get a portion of the profits!

Please sign up for one or more of the set-up shifts!

Thanks!