

**THE MONTH OF  
OCTOBER  
2023**

## **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

### **Message from Pastor**

#### **How Often Do YOU Think About the Roman Empire?**

Around the middle of last month, a certain meme began to rack up views on social media apps: women asking the men in their lives (husbands, boyfriends, fathers, etc.), "How often do you think about the Roman Empire?" The Internet was not prepared for the answer- many, perhaps most, responded with something between several times a day and weekly. The question became the subject of think pieces, web articles, and fodder for discussion on news and talk shows.

For my part, I think about the Roman Empire nearly every day, because the life of Jesus and the rest of the New Testament fall during this historical period. Beyond that, though, I think about the Roman Empire because it's an interesting thing to think about, as are many historical epochs. In visiting with some of my friends and classmates (many of whom are fellow lovers of history), our other most frequently considered historical blocs are (in no particular order) The Age of Exploration, The American Civil War, The Great War and World War II, The American West, The Founding Fathers, Shogun Japan, The Cold War/Space Race, and a number of others. History has much to teach us. The lessons are there if we have eyes to see them.

The Roman Empire period, though, is particularly instructive. Jesus' earthly ministry and the early church existed in the relative early stages of the Empire. Later, at the height of its power, Rome could be viewed as the last time Western Civilization had unity of politics, religion (Nicene Christianity), and land. There is much to admire and marvel over- aqueducts, roads and concrete, the Coliseum and the Parthenon (much of which still stands today). The Empire had longevity and legacy. Its priorities extended beyond the moment in which it existed- something we do not see much of in our day and time. Every would-be dominant state throughout history has been compared The Roman Empire. We observe its rise and we see the cautionary tale in its fall- Is this the path our culture is on right now?

One of Saint Augustine's most frequently quoted observations is "Bad times, hard times, this is what people keep saying: but let us live well, and times shall be good. We are the times: Such as we are, such are the times." To bring that idea forward: Are we better than the people of the time of the Roman Empire? Are we worse? And where are the answers to those questions going to take us?

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Studying history also reminds us of one clear, fundamental truth of the Christian faith: There is only one Kingdom (or empire) that will prevail. St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3, "If anyone among you thinks he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." Whether it is Rome or us, earthly wisdom and ingenuity pales in comparison to the Lord's divine architecture of heaven and earth. Is history interesting? It's fascinating. The Christian, though, studies history with an eye toward Zion. What can history teach me about God's divine plan and sovereignty over the affairs of men? If we humble ourselves, those at times random thoughts about The Roman Empire can call us to remember the Lord's ultimate desire for all of us us to live in his Kingdom in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

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

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*Thank  
You*

*Dear Pastor Knippa and Holy Cross family,*

*Heartfelt thanks for the many ways you showed love and compassion for Charles and me, during his struggles with Parkinson's; and this time of grief with his passing.*

*Thanks to the Bereavement Committee and helpers who provided the meal and opportunity for fellowship with family and friends.*

*The beautiful plant and lantern given in Charles' memory is a reminder of the kindness and thoughtfulness of a loving church family!*

*God bless you always,  
Mary Helen and family*

*P.S. I don't have a **green thumb**, but I know some people at Holy Cross who are Master Gardeners.  
I may be seeking your help!*



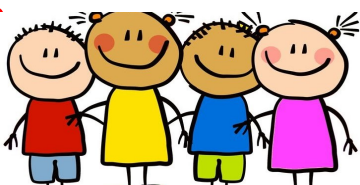
## ECE News

Tuition for October is due the first of the month and should be received by the 15th.

No school on Monday, October 2nd.

Get ready for fall pictures on October 10th and 11th. Look for order forms coming home this week,

Save the date! Fall class parties will be held on October 30th and 31st.



*Veronica Ochoa,  
Director,  
& the ECE Staff*



“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.



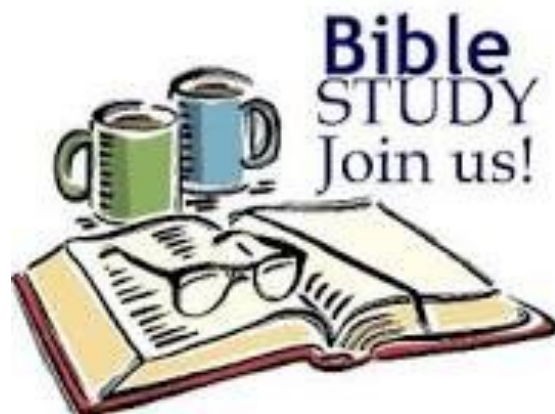
### Join us for **Fit & Fun Fellowship**

Tuesday, October 17  
@ 1-3:30pm FLC  
foyer for  
**food & fellowship.**



### **Prayer Card Ministry**

Tuesday, October 24th  
@ 10:30am  
in the Conference Rm.



**Pastor Haas' Adult Bible Study,  
“The Story” on Wednesdays,  
Meet in the  
Conference Rooms!**

### Quilting:

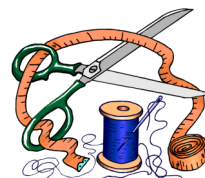
Thursdays 9:30am-3pm.

Join us on a Thursday for fun & fellowship & help us decide where to go for lunch. If you know someone that needs a quilt.

Congratulation to Karen Barclay winner of the Exploding Hearts Quilt. Thank you to everyone that purchased tickets.

Call *Rosemarie Herring*  
@ #(409) 201-5710

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



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



*Deadline for  
November Newsletter  
is Monday,  
October 23rd!*



# OCTOBER

## Birthdays

1—Lauri Ford  
Norman Hempel

4—Ashley Lindsay

5—Tyler Dunlap  
AnnMarie Landry  
Kelly Meriwether  
Makenzie Philen

6—Shele Bergeron  
Kristal Spinks

7—Avery Kotz

8—Farrell Herring

10—Autumn Dahl  
Ronnie Vize

11—Kim Barron

12—LuAnn Hansen  
Lola Rice

14—Jim Lavespere  
Kathy Pinnt  
Donna Reue  
Cain Shaw

15—Marilyn Hopper  
Donna Thornton

16—Dolores Hussey  
Mickey Kieschnick  
Kathleen Tate

17—Ken Ludwig  
Ryan Schulze  
Dan Wingate

18—Becky Neeb  
Trace Trahan  
Pam Williams

19—Slade Hicks  
Kyler Terrell  
Trina West

20—Josie Gunter  
Kyler Spinks  
Aiden Trevino  
Pam Wolfe

21—Susan Cassill  
Amanda Seale

22—Chelsey Gallagher  
Adam Richard  
Kelsea VanBrocklin

23—Jenny Brown  
Ann Huebel

24—Stefanie Boudreaux  
Colin Londenberg  
Hannah Torres

25—Lindsay Caswell  
Jeff Louvier

26—Beau Blackwell  
Tom Fritsche  
Tatum Miller  
Jo Ann Vize

27—Daryl Williams

29—Steve Vincent

30—Laynie DeSerrano  
Saige Kieschnick

31—Will James

## Anniversaries

5—Elise & Nicholas Bogucki

8—Melanie & Kris Halbert

10—Jeannie & Rick Heider

12—Tricia & David Trevino

14—Sharon & Michael Koller  
Pam & O.W. Withrow

16—Marla & Wade  
Kieschnick

20—Natalie & Ryan Terrell

21—Ashley & Wade Beagle

22—Lauri & Troy Ford

24—Reine & Brett Becker

29—Jessica & Jamie Lavespere

31—Sheryl & Randy Vincent



## *Memorial Gifts*

### To: Quilting Fund

in memory of  
**Timothy Shane Hall**  
(Joann Ermel's grandson)  
given by:  
*Ruth Anne & Walter  
Perryman*

### To: Memorial Fund

in memory of  
**Charles Terrell  
Troy Halbert**  
given by:  
*Pam & Steve  
Vincent*

### *Memorial's Cont'd*

To: Roof Fund  
in memory of  
**Charles Terrell**

given by:  
*Mary Helen Terrell  
Martha Ann Murphy  
Staci & Glen Duff  
Gary W. Franzetti  
Brandy Kotz, R.C.  
Gunter Jr., and  
Monica Bresee  
Barbara & Walter  
Erickson  
Luann & Tom Hansen  
Helga Champagne  
Trioak Financial  
Group  
Joyce Marks  
The Jordan Family  
Nellie Jones  
Joel Jones  
Sandra & Cary  
Erickson  
Hilda & Leonce  
Castagnos  
Sharon & Doug  
Teinert*

## Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, October 17 at 6pm  
Board of Education Meeting

## 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!





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

**Choir practices are Thursdays at 5:30pm!**

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

**Join us to Trick or Treat!  
Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>  
from 5-8pm Inside the FLC!**

Please sign the clipboard sheet if you are willing to decorate a table & provide candy.

Also, please sign if you just wish to donate candy. You can drop it to the church office any time before the event! Our youth will also be having a link sale, a Halloween quilt raffle & Chicken Bingo fundraiser!



**Halloween Quilt** to be raffled by our HS Youth. \$5 per ticket! Two Gift Cards will also be drawn if you do not win the quilt.



The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of Lutheran Women's Missionary League Sunday.

Come celebrate with us on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our theme this year is "The King is Coming", Psalm 24:7-10, *Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?*

*The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!*

*Lift up your heads, O gates! And Lift them up, O ancient doors that the King of glory may come in.*

*Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!*



October 2023

Calendar table with columns: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat. Rows include dates 1-30 with church activities like ECE Chapel, National Night Out, and Trunk or Treat.