

**THE MONTH OF
OCTOBER
2025**

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH NEDERLAND, TEXAS

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Message from Pastor

Where Is King Jesus When Violence Reigns? *(Portions of this article are adapted from Collin Hansen's book Where Is God in a World with So Much Evil?)*

It's bad enough no gruesome tragedy goes un-noticed by social media. But now we have to see the video of these attacks, almost in real-time. This is no movie. The screams, the fear, the blood- it's real.

I can't get the terrified look of Iryna Zarutskya out of my head. It's from her last moments before death, stabbed August 22 by a man who should have already been locked away for public safety and his own health. Then we saw the raw video of Charlie Kirk shot on September 10 at Utah Valley University. To these high-profile attacks we could add school shootings and war in Europe and the Middle East to the drug trafficking and gang retributions that don't register enough ongoing concern because of their common occurrence.

The cries of victims and their families ring loud in our ears. This world is groaning (Rom. 8:22). So where is God? Why don't we hear from him? Where is justice? Who will bear the sword to defend the law, to defend innocent life? (Rom. 13:4).

Dialogue in the Silence

If you believe Jesus is the Son of God and follow him with passion, the silence of God can be disorienting. The world isn't the way it should be. But as we see throughout the Bible, our heavenly Father wants us to cry out to him in this condition. He invites dialogue that emerges from trust in him. He expects lament.

He may not answer the questions we're asking about the violence today and its varied twisted motives. But if you believe in the Son, then God intends only good for you (Rom. 8:28). While our enemies may intend evil, God only works good (Gen. 50:20). He always has a purpose, for individuals and nations, though it may be hidden on this side of eternity.

When you can't hear God, look to the cross and you'll find him. There we receive assurance that justice will be done against all evil (Rom. 3:26), whatever its origins. Every unrepentant assassin and assailant will pay the ultimate penalty in eternity. No evil escapes God's justice.

Alternative to Revenge

But as we contemplate revenge, taking vengeance into our own hands, we've been warned, because "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). We're not justified because the other side welcomes worse sinners. We're justified when we repent of our own sins, big and small.

When we're suffering or lamenting the state of the world, God speaks in Habakkuk 3:17-19: *Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.*

It was a fig tree that Jesus cursed on his way to Jerusalem, where he would climb Calvary's hill (Mark 11:14). Jesus explained the lesson to his disciples in Mark 11:24: "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

That's the encouragement of Habakkuk. Though God may be silent, keep talking to him. Though this world may be red in tooth and claw, God extends his mercy: *Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool (Is. 1:18).*

Evil doesn't have the last word in eternity. Jesus has made sure of that, through his sacrifice on the cross. In the meantime, he tells us how to manage. We forgive. And when we forgive, we remember our own trespasses the Father has forgiven (Mark 11:25).

Nothing is more antithetical to our political climate today than forgiveness. Grievance births grievance. Enemies avenge enemies. Few listen for the voice of the crucified One who preached that the meek will inherit the earth, that peacemakers will be called God's sons (Matt. 5:5, 9).

And yet, Jesus lives. Resurrected and ascended, he speaks in his Word. Through us, he attests to his loving and patient authority over all things- when we protest injustice, when we bear the sword of justice, when we forgive rather than avenge.

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



Our LWML Ladies had a wonderful time at their Fall Rally at St. John's in Beaumont. There was a representative from the Orphan Grain Train Organization, and the attendees learned all about what the Orphan Grain Train does, the things it provides, and all the areas and people that they serve. Our church was able to donate 68 quilts, 110 backpacks filled with school supplies and 26 other bags filled with clothes.



"Spare Change Sunday"
on the **last Sunday** of each month to help fill our **Mite Boxes** for all the worthy **LWML 2025 Mission Grants**.

ECE NEWS

We are off to a great start and are enjoying getting to know our new students and catching up with our returning students.

Dates to remember:

- Wednesday, October 15th and Thursday, October 16th are **Fall Picture Days**
- Monday, October 27th **NO School**
- Wednesday, October 29th and Thursday, October 30th **Fall Class Parties**

God's Blessings,
Veronica Ochoa
and *ECE Staff*





Musical talent are invited to join the choir! **Band practices are Thursdays @ 7pm.** Call **Kay Brown** @ **409-728-8180** if interested.

Join us for a
Women's Bible Study
"10 Women of the Bible"

led by **Jeannie Heider**
Sundays @ **9:15am**
in Conf. Rm. B

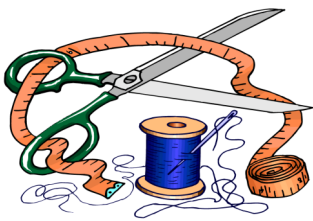


Quilting:

Join us on **Thursdays 9:30am-3pm**
for fun and fellowship.

If you know someone that needs a quilt call:
Rosemarie Herring @ **409-527-2372**.

Thank you to our Quilters who have provided lap quilts on the back pew.



Fit & Fun Fellowship
will meet **October 21st**
From **1-3:30pm**
In the **FLC foyer**.



Stay tuned for more action from the **PUPPET MINISTRY!**
If you are interested in joining in the fun—
Contact **Marla Kieschnick** @
#409-728-1363 with any questions.

SUNDAYS 9:30AM

Adult Bible Class

Pastor Josh, Conf. Rm. A
9:15am Jeannie Heider,
Conf. Rm. B

Children's Sunday School
Education Building



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.



*Deadline for
November Newsletter
is Monday, October 20th!*

OCTOBER

Birthdays

- 1—Lauri Ford
Norman Hempel
- 4—Ashley Lindsay
- 5—Tyler Dunlap
AnnMarie Landry
Kelly Meriwether
Makenzie Philen
- 6—Shele Bergeron
Kristal Spinks
Sharon Wright
- 7—Avery Kotz
- 8—Farrell Herring
- 10—Autumn Dahl
Brooks Van Noy
Ronnie Vize
- 11—Kim Barron
- 12—LuAnn Hansen
Lola Rice
- 14—Jim Lavespere
Kathy Pinnt
Donna Reue
Cain Shaw
- 15—Donna Thornton
- 16—Mickey Kieschnick
Kathleen Tate
- 17—Ken Ludwig
- 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—Ann Huebel
- 24—Stefanie Boudreaux
Hannah Torres
- 25—Lindsay Caswell
Jeff Louvier
- 26—Beau Blackwell
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
- 16—Marla & Wade
Kieschnick
- 20—Melody & Eddie Gack
Natalie & Ryan Terrell
- 21—Ashley & Wade Beagle
- 22—Lauri & Troy Ford
- 24—Reine & Brett Becker
- 31—Sheryl & Randy Vincent



UBM Needs You!

United Board of Missions

is in need of Volunteers
(stocking & organizing pantries).



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!



To: Memorial Fund
in honor of
Charlotte Metreyeon
Marty Gack
given by:
Ida Trojcak

To: Memorial Fund
in honor of
O.W. Withrow
given by:
Marla & Robert Eaton



Join us at
Holy Cross FLC
Saturday, Oct. 25th,
5-7pm for candy

Please sign clipboard sheet if you are interested
in decorating a table & providing candy.
Also, please sign if you are able to purchase and
donate candy for the ones who are participating.
Thanks in advance!

RECENT EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS!



Mary Helen Terrell our beloved Church Secretary of 60 plus years announced her retirement. She received recognition along with many gifts and a cross quilt presented by our Quilting Circle. We had a wonderful catered lunch from La Suprema one of her favorite restaurants. Below left is the team winners of our games including quizzes about the Mary Helen, Lutheran Religion, Nederland History, etc.



The Sanctuary filled with Quilts and backpacks with school supplies that was collected by LWML for Orphan Grain Train. Our youth had a pizza party and helped fill all the backpacks with the school supplies.



Our wonderful Puppet performance during Rally Day Service. Thank you Marla Kieschnick for reviving our **Puppet Ministry!**





Holy Cross Lutheran Church—Nederland, TX

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Elder: Art Richard 409-540-8478 Altar Guild: Babette Ford Marilyn Sanders	Lay Readers: 5—Lynne Holloman 12—Suzannah Smalley 19—Marla Kieschnick 26—Daryl Williams	Ushers: 5—Chad Ford 12—Pat Sturgis 19—Jim Lavespere 26—Ken Ludwig Mike Tucker Ronnie Vize	1 9:30am ECE Chapel 6pm Midweek, HS, Young Adult Classes, Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Volleyball for all	2 9:30am Quilting	3	4
5 9:15am Ladies B.S. 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship with Communion	6	7 9:30am ECE Chapel	8 9:30am ECE Chapel 6pm Midweek, HS, Young Adult Classes, Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Volleyball for all	9 9:30am Quilting	10	11
12 9:15am Ladies B.S. 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Blended Worship Voters Meeting After Worship	13 	14 9:30am ECE Chapel	15 9:30am ECE Chapel 6pm Midweek, HS, Young Adult Classes, Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Volleyball for all	16 9:30am Quilting	17	18
19 9:15am Ladies B.S. 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship with Communion	20	21 9:30am ECE Chapel 1-3:30pm Fit & Fun Fellowship	22 9:30am ECE Chapel 6pm Midweek, HS, Young Adult Classes, Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Volleyball for all	23 9:30am Quilting	24	25 
26 9:15am Ladies B.S. 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	27	28 9:30am ECE Chapel	29 9:30am ECE Chapel 6pm Midweek, HS, Young Adult Classes, Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Volleyball for all	30 9:30am Quilting		31 Acolytes: 5—Brooklyn Kiley Carrigan McCullough 12—Landon McCullough Brant McCullough 19—Rachel Shuford Greer Smalley 26—Hugh Smalley Bryson Molbert