

THE MONTH OF  
APRIL  
2026

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH NEDERLAND, TEXAS

## Staff:

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

**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

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## Message from Pastor

### **Finishing the School Year Well**

Good Friday and Easter are the most important days of the church year. There is another practical matter that we consider with these holidays (holy days): the school year is winding down. As our eyes turn toward April and May, many of us are counting the days until summer. The backpacks are heavier, the homework piles higher, and the temptation to “just get through it” is very real. But before we coast across the finish line, I want to encourage every student and every parent to finish this school year **well**.

The Bible has a lot to say about how we finish things. In Galatians 6:9, Paul writes, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Finishing well is not about being perfect. It’s about faithfulness in the final stretch. It’s about honoring Jesus with the time, energy, and opportunities He has given us.

Why does this matter? First, it builds character. The habits we form in these last few weeks often carry over into the next season. Second, it is a powerful witness. When we push through fatigue with integrity and diligence, parents, classmates and teachers notice. And most importantly, it is an act of worship. Colossians 3:23 tells us, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

So how do we finish the school year well? Here are four practical encouragements:

1. **Finish what you started.** Complete every assignment, study for every exam, and turn everything in on time. Even the small things matter. Scripture says “A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest- and poverty will come on you like a thief” (Proverbs 6:10-11). The same principle applies to schoolwork.
2. **Keep steady rhythms.** Protect bedtime, limit last-minute screen time, and maintain family meals and devotions. Fatigue makes everything harder. Steady habits and rhythms protect both grades and hearts.
3. **Encourage one another.** Parents, speak life into your children instead of adding pressure. Students, cheer on your siblings and classmates. A kind word in these final weeks can make a big difference.
4. **Rest in grace.** Some of you are exhausted. Some of you feel behind. Remember that your worth is not in your GPA or your child’s report card. Your worth is in Jesus. Do your best, but don’t carry the burden of perfection. Jesus

## SUNDAYS 9:30AM

### Adult Bible Class

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

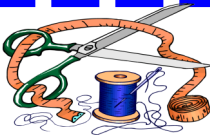
Children's Sunday  
School  
Education Building



Join us for a  
**Women's Bible Study**  
*"10 Women of the Bible"*  
led by **Jeannie Heider**  
Sundays @ **9:15am**  
in Conference Rm. B

## QUILTING CIRCLE

Thank you to the congregation  
for always supporting  
everything the Holy Cross Quilters do.  
Call Rosemarie if you know someone who  
needs a quilt @ 409-543-3928. If you would like  
to join us we meet **Thursdays@**  
**9:30am-3pm** in the **Conf. Rms.**



SAVE THE DATE FOR  
**RAINFOREST FALLS**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
MONDAY, JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> –  
THURSDAY, JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>

**Fit & Fun Fellowship**  
will meet April 21st

from 1-3:30pm  
In the FLC foyer.



To: Memorial Fund  
in memory of  
**Mary Helen Terrell**

given by:

*Helga Champagne*

*Joel Jones*

*Ida Trojcak*

*LuAnn & Tom Hansen*

*Sandra & Cary Erickson*

*Life Church, Orange*

*Eileen & Arnold Schafer*

*Debbie & Bruce Powell*

*TriOak Financial Group*

*Marcella & Gary Franzetti*

*Sharon & Doug Teinert*

*Louis Ann & Clinton Rippy*

*Glynis & John Gothia*

*Martha Ann Murphy*

*Staci & Glen Duff*

In memory of

**Russ DeVillier**

given by:

*LuAnn & Tom Hansen*

*Sandra & Cary Erickson*

In memory of

**Betty Bass**

*(Sarah Kieschnick's Sister)*

given by:

*LuAnn & Tom Hansen*



**Deadline for**  
**May Newsletter**  
**is Monday, April 20th!**

# APRIL

## Birthdays

- 2—Mary Adix  
Luke Day  
Zackery Odom
- 3—Amanda McLaughlin
- 5—Kristen Stewart
- 6—Debbie Cook  
Moni Hopper
- 7—Eric Ronning  
Cadence McCullough
- 8—Chris Wolfe
- 10—Keaston Benoit  
Braeden Caywood  
Jaysa Fortune
- 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
- 30—Luna Hogge  
Bryson Molbert



## 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
- 26—Ashley & Tim Terrell
- 30—Sandra & Cary  
Erickson



## 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

Also, see additional flyers on our bulletin  
Board in the Narthex of different opportuni-  
ties & services that UBM provides. Our  
church has several representatives that are  
members & also on the Board.



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.



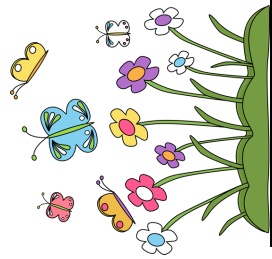
Find us on Facebook  
to keep up with our  
activities, announcements  
& information

## ECE NEWS

We hope everyone had a great spring  
break and are looking forward to our  
Easter Party's on Wednesday, April 1  
and Thursday, April 2. **NO** school on  
Monday, April 6. Happy Easter—He  
is Risen!

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





# April 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Elder:</b> Benny Elisar 409-504-5802</p> <p><b>Altar Guild:</b> Christie LeJune Kath Pinn</p>	<p><b>Lay Reader:</b> 5—Ronnie Vize 12—Lynne Hollomon 19—Suzannah Smalley 26—Maria Kieschnick</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6pm Church Council</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>No Midweek</p>	<p>2 9:30am Quilting 2 &amp; 7pm Holy Thursday Services 6pm Stuff Eggs</p>	<p>3</p> <p>2 &amp; 7pm Good Friday Services</p>	<p>4 10am Easter Egg Hunt &amp; Party</p> 
<p>5 7am Sunrise Serv. 10:30am Worship &amp; Communion</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>ECE Off Office Closed</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>4-7pm Blood Drive</p> <p>6pm Midweek &amp; Adult Bible Classes 7pm ECE Board Mtg.</p>	<p>9 9:30am Quilting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 9:15am Ladies Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 9:30am Quilting</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9:15am Ladies Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship with Communion</p> <p><b>Voters Meeting after Worship</b></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1-3:30pm Fit and Fun Fellowship</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6pm Midweek &amp; Adult Bible Classes</p>	<p>23 9:30am Quilting</p> <p>6pm Board of Education Meeting</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9:15am Ladies Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>Riverfest Faith &amp; Family Night</b></p> <p>6pm Midweek &amp; Adult Bible Classes</p>	<p>30 9:30am Quilting</p>	<p><b>Ushers:</b> 5—Ken L., Mike T. 12—Chad, Charlie S, 19—Todd K., Ronnie V. 26—Thad K., Ken L.</p>	<p><b>Acolytes:</b> 5—Bryson M. Jackson K. 12—Brooklyn R. Carrigan M. 19—Landon M. Brant M. 26—Rachel S. Greer S.</p>