

THE MONTH OF
MAY
2026

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH NEDERLAND, TEXAS

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Message from Pastor

How to Have a Spiritually Fruitful Summer

Summer is almost here! For many of us, that means vacations, backyard cookouts, kids and grandkids out of school, and a slower pace of life. While these are wonderful gifts from the Lord, summer can also become a dangerous time for our souls. Without intentionality, our walk with Jesus can quietly drift. The same sun that warms our bodies can lull our hearts to sleep.

The Bible warns us about this very thing. In Galatians 6:9, the Apostle 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.”*

A spiritually fruitful summer doesn’t happen by accident. It happens when we deliberately pursue Jesus in the midst of rest and relaxation. Here are four biblical ways we can make this a summer that draws us closer to Him.

1. Protect Time in God’s Word

Jesus said in John 15:5, *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”* Don’t let your Bible gather dust on the nightstand. Set a simple goal- reading one chapter from the Gospels each morning or working through the book of Psalms, one or two a day. Even fifteen consistent minutes in the Word will bear fruit all summer long.

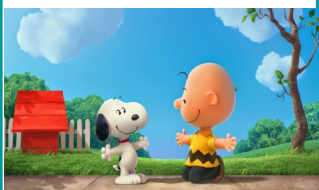
2. Prioritize Gathering with God’s People

Summer schedules can pull us in many directions, but Hebrews 10:24-25 gives us this clear command: *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing.”*

Make Sunday worship a non-negotiable priority. If you are traveling out of town, you can use locator.lcms.org to find a faithful church nearby. The local church is one of God’s greatest gifts for our spiritual health, and the dearest place on earth.

3. Practice Hospitality and Gospel Intentionality

Summer is one of the best times to open your home. Romans 12:13 says, *“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”* Invite neighbors for dinner, host a backyard Bible story time for children, or organize a cookout. Use these relaxed moments to build relationships and share the hope of Jesus. Some of the best gospel conversations happen around the grill or over a glass of sweet tea.



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4. Rest Without Drifting

Rest is biblical. Even Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray (Luke 5:16). Idle drifting is dangerous. Use your vacation or slower schedule to read good Christian books, listen to solid sermons while traveling, or have meaningful conversations with your children or grandchildren about the Lord. Colossians 3:23 reminds us, *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.”*

Summer doesn't have to be a spiritual desert. By God's grace, it can be a season of growth, joy, and renewed passion for Christ. Let's purpose out hearts to finish this year strong and enter the summer months walking closely with our Savior.

God's Peace and all the Best,
Pastor Joshua Knippa



Beautiful “Plus Quilt”

Holy Cross Quilters are offering a beautiful quilt for donations. \$1 will get a chance to take it home, \$5 gives you 6 chances. LWML is collecting for Health Kits and all quilt funds raised will go to that project. The drawing for the quilt will be **Sunday, July 5th**.

So, get your dollars ready for quilt tickets!

This is a Thrivent Action Team Activity.

Call **Rosemarie Herring** for tickets at **409-543-3928**.



LWML will be collecting items for **Hygiene Kits** for **Orphan Grain Train** during **May & June**.

There's a box in the Narthex for the donations.

Requested items are: 1 bath towel, 1 wash cloth, 1 bath-size bar of soap, 1 comb, 1 nail clipper, 1 individual packaged toothbrush, 6 band-aids, 1 small package of facial tissues. There are flyers in the Narthex and a check off page with items listed. Our LWML ladies will assemble the kits.

Our next **“SPARE CHANGE SUNDAY”** is **Sunday, June 31st**, that will also benefit the **OGT**.



NOTHING BUNDT CAKE FUNDRAISER

Youth will be selling individual size cakes for **Mother's Day!** Order forms are on the clipboards. Please place orders by **Thursday, May 7, 2026!** Pick up will be **Sunday, May 10**, after worship in the Education Big Room.

Free-will donations will be accepted for cakes to support youth in going to **Camp Lone Star** this summer.



Our Easter Party was a huge success—with over 300 adults and children in attendance. It was the biggest crowd yet! Thank you to all that helped or donated.



SUNDAYS 9:30AM

Adult Bible Class

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

Children's Sunday School

Education Building



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

given by:
Ruth Ann & Walter Perryman
Joyce Marks

In memory of
Russ DeVillier
given by:
Ruth Ann & Walter Perryman

In memory of
Russell Melancon
given by
Ruth Ann & Walter Perryman
Sandra & Cary Erickson

In memory of
Charline Allen
(Pam Withrow's Sister)
given by:
Sandra & Cary Erickson

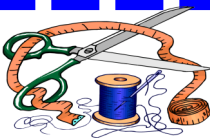
In memory of
Pat Biar
given by:
Sandra & Cary Erickson
Cynthia & Mark Hempel



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 22ND –
THURSDAY, JUNE 25TH
REGISTER TODAY AT:
holycrossnederland.com

Fit & Fun Fellowship
will meet June 16th

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



Deadline for
July Newsletter
is Monday, June 22nd!

MAY

Birthdays

- 2—Shawn Dunlap
- 3—Ashley Beagle
Brennyn Denn
Sarah McCall
- 5—Keegan Day
Rowdy Finley
Greer Smalley
- 6—Jack Matthews
- 7—Lydia Gillard
Brooklyn Riley
- 8—Christopher Rose
Dylan Spinks
- 10—Connie Davis
Zechariah Herring
- 11—Lyndell Shults
- 12—Cade Ford
Darrell Hardy
Tricia Trevino
Alvin Wolfe
Nicholas Wolfe
- 13—Mack Schulze
- 14—Scott DeSerrano
- 15—Lora Laird
- 17—Addison Gillard
- 18—Kaylee Tate
- 19—Lori Halbert
Stuart Kieschnick
Shelby Luke
- 20—Brandon
VanBrocklin
- 21—Mike Tucker
DeeDee Wukasch
- 22—Ashley Graeter
Olivia Harms
- 23—Charli Collins
- 24—Griffin Kieschnick

- 25—Mitchell Baber
Lucas Riley
Ryan Terrell
- 27—Josh Matthews
Raj Robison
- 28—Justin Mayfield
Joel Pinnt
Chuck Schulze
- 29—Craig Dutschmann
Pam Evers
Phillip Jones
- 30—John McCall
- 31—Ashtyn McKay
Alan Rising, Jr.



Anniversaries

- 5—Melissa & Jim
Lavespere
- 8—Dedie & Johnny Orta
- 12—Brielle & Slade Hicks
- 16—Marilyn & Larry Sanders
Erica & Jeremy Toole
- 17—Valerie & Ryan
Graeter
- 27—Pat & James Self
- 28—Abbey & Ben Faith
Hayley & Cade Ford
Kathy & Joel Pinnt
- 29—Lola & Raymond Rice
- 31—Tanya & Richard Lewis



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.



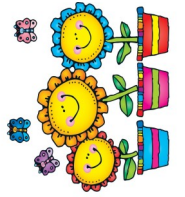
Find us on Facebook
to keep up with our
activities, announcements
& information

ECE NEWS

We are having our **Pre-K 4 Graduation** on
Thursday, May 7th at 1pm. **Fundraiser
Pizza parties** on Wednesday, May 13th and
Thursday, May 14th. **Last day of school** is
Thursday, May 14th. We have enjoyed
having your children this school year and
look forward to seeing many of them
return next school year. Have a wonderful
and safe summer!

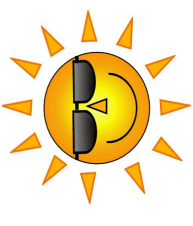
God's Blessings,
Veronica Ochoa
& **ECE Staff**





Holy Cross Lutheran Church—Nederland, TX

May 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Elders: David Smalley 254-913-4205</p>		<p>Lay Readers: 3—Daryl Williams 10—Babette Ford 17—Leah Elisar 24—Dannis McCullough 31—Kathy Pinnit</p>		<p>Altar Guild: Babette Ford Marilyn Sanders</p>	1	2
<p>3 9:15am Ladies Bible Class 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/ comm. Lunch @ Noon in FLC 80 + Birthday party Welcome New Members</p>	4	<p>5 9:30am ECE Chapel</p>	<p>6 9:30am ECE Chapel 6pm Young Adults</p>	<p>7 9:30am Quilting 1pm ECE Graduation</p> 	8	9
<p>10 9:15am Ladies Bible Class 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service</p> 	11	<p>12 9:30am ECE Chapel</p>	<p>13 9:30am ECE Chapel 6pm Young Adults</p>	<p>14 9:30am Quilting Last Day for ECE</p>	15	16
<p>17 9:15am Ladies Bible Class 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/ comm.</p>	18	<p>19 1-3:30pm Fit and Fun Fellowship</p>	<p>20 6pm Young Adults</p>	<p>21 9:30am Quilting Last Day NISD</p>	22	23
<p>24 9:15am Ladies Bible Class 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service</p>	<p>25 Office Closed Happy MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 6pm Young Adults</p>	<p>28 9:30am Quilting</p>	29	30
<p>31 9:15am Ladies Bible Class 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service</p>		<p>3—Charles Schrader, Daryl Williams 10—Jim Lavespere, Mike Tucker 17—Stuart Kieschnick, David Smalley 24—Charles Schrader, Daryl Williams 31—Thad Kieschnick, Ken Ludwig</p>	 <p>Have an awesome Summer!</p>	<p>Acolytes: 3—Hugh Smalley, Bryson Moibert 10—Brooklyn Riley, Jackson Katz 17—Carrigan McCullough, Landon McCullough 24—Brant McCullough, Rachel Shuford 31—Greer Smalley, Hugh Smalley</p>		

