

THE MONTH OF
July
2026

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH NEDERLAND, TEXAS

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Message from Pastor

Faithful Citizenship Begins with Faithfulness to Jesus

As July arrives, many of us pause to celebrate the blessings of our nation. We gather with family and friends, fly the American flag, enjoy fireworks, and remember the courage and sacrifice of those who secured our freedoms. It is fitting for Christians to give thanks to God for the many blessings we enjoy in this country. Yet, as we celebrate our citizenship on earth, we must never lose sight of our greater citizenship in heaven.

St. Paul reminds us, "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20). Before we are Americans, Texans, or citizens of any earthly nation, we are baptized children of God. Through faith in Jesus, we belong to His eternal kingdom- a kingdom that will never be shaken or pass away.

This heavenly citizenship shapes how we live as citizens here on earth. Christians are called to be faithful members of their communities because we are first faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

The Scriptures teach us to respect and pray for those whom God has placed in authority. Paul writes, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God" (Romans 13:1). While governments are imperfect because they are led by sinful people, civil authority remains one of God's gifts for preserving order and promoting justice. Christians therefore seek to be law-abiding citizens, praying regularly for our leaders regardless of political party or personal preference.

The prophet Jeremiah gave similar instruction to God's people while they lived as exiles in Babylon: "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (Jeremiah 29:7).

Even when living under a government far from ideal, God's people were called to contribute to the good of their neighbors. We likewise serve our communities through honest work, kindness, generosity, and faithful prayer.

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.At the same time, our love for our country must never become greater than our love for Christ. Patriotism is a good gift when rightly ordered, but it must never become an idol. Nations rise and fall throughout history, but Christ's kingdom is everlasting. Political victories and defeats come and go, yet the Gospel remains the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. Our ultimate hope is not found in elections, legislation, or earthly rulers, but in our crucified and risen Lord.

One of America's founders, John Adams, observed, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." While Christians may differ in how they understand every aspect of that statement, Adams recognized an enduring truth: a free society depends upon virtuous citizens.

As Christians, we know that true righteousness cannot be manufactured by laws alone. It flows from hearts transformed by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Lasting change begins not merely in legislatures but in repentance and faith.

Faithful citizenship therefore begins in places that may seem ordinary: in Sunday worship, in hearing God's Word, in receiving His gifts through the Sacraments, in daily prayer, and in loving our neighbors. Christian husbands and wives who honor their marriage vows, parents who teach their children the faith, workers who perform their jobs honestly, students who act with integrity, and church members who serve joyfully are quietly strengthening both the Church and society.

As we celebrate Independence Day this month, let us thank God for the freedoms we enjoy and remember those who have sacrificed to preserve them. Let us pray for our nation's leaders, for our military, first responders, teachers, and all who serve our communities. Most importantly, let us remain steadfast in Christ, for only He gives the forgiveness of sins, the peace that surpasses understanding, and the hope of everlasting life.

May God continue to bless our nation. But above all, may He keep us faithful citizens of His heavenly kingdom, living as His people until the day our Savior returns in glory.

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



SUNDAYS 9:30AM

Adult Bible Class

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

Children's Sunday
School
Education Building



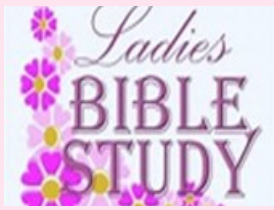
To: **Memorial Fund**
in memory of
Pat Biar

given by:
Kathy Camacho
Mary Graeber

To: **Quilting Circle**
in memory of
Shelby Luke

given by
Marla & Wade Kieschnick
Clarice Luke

In memory of
Mary Helen Terrell
Pat Biar
Charlene Allen
(Pam Withrow's Sister)
given by:
The Quilting Circle



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



Prospective New Members, New
Members, & any Members want-
ing a review, please join us for
Adult Instruction Class on
Wednesdays, beginning July 8th
at 6pm through August in the
conference rooms.
Led by **Pastor 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 & all
quilt funds raised will go to that project.
Drawing for the quilt is **Sunday, July 5th**.
So, get your dollars ready for quilt tickets!
This is a Thrivent Action Team Activity.

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

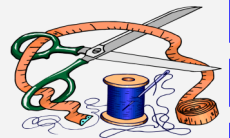


QUILTING CIRCLE

Thank you to the congregation for always sup-
porting 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.**



Fit & Fun Fellowship

will meet July 21st
from 1-3:30pm in the FLC
foyer. Bring a snack.



Deadline for
August Newsletter
is Monday, July 20th.

JULY

Birthdays

- 1—Pam Vincent
Teresa Wolfe
- 3—Bryson Borel
Brad Perryman
- 7—Morgan Barron
Lyndsey Hartman
- 8—Pat Barrington
Robin Barrington
- 9—Babette Ford
Aiden Fortune
- 10—Annabeth Slagle
Suzannah Smalley
- 11—Alec Bruney
- 12—Cooper Hollomon
- 13—Todd Kieschnick
Pastor Josh
Steven Swango
- 16—Gail Landry
- 22—Wade Kieschnick
- 23—Kassie Riley
- 26—Blake Neeb
- 28—Aubry LeJune
- 31—Devin Landry

Anniversaries

- 9—Melanie & Blake Ford
- 14—Teresa & Peter Wolfe
- 15—Sharla & Troy Scroggs
- 24—Mary & James Furby
- 25—Mickey & Thad
Kieschnick
- 28—Jodi & Stuart Kieschnick



Find us on Facebook
to keep up with our
activities, announce-
ments & information



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.
Cash donations are also accepted.

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



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.

ECE NEWS

Thank you for sharing your children with us.
We enjoyed having them this school year .

We look forward to seeing many of
them return next school year.

Fall Registration continues this summer.
Have a wonderful and safe summer!

God's Blessings,
Veronica Ochoa
& ECE Staff





Holy Cross Lutheran Church—Nederland, TX

USA

JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Elders: Jon Longlet 409-728-5205 Mike Tucker 979-324-3633</p> <p>Altar Guild: Leah Elisar</p>	<p>Lay Readers 5—Kathy Pinnt 12—Ron Gribnau 19—Babette Ford 26—TBA</p>	<p>Ushers: 5—Ronnie Vize Daryl Williams 12—Jim Lavespere David Smalley 19—Thad Kieschnick Ken Ludwig 26—Chad Ford Charles Schrader</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2 9:30am Quilting</p>	<p>3 Office Closed</p>	<p>4 happy 4th of JULY!</p>
<p>5 9:15am Ladies Class 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>Voters' Meeting after Worship</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 6pm Adult Instruction Class</p>	<p>9 9:30am Quilting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 9:15am Ladies Class 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 6pm Adult Instruction Class</p>	<p>16 9:30am Quilting</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
Camp Lone Star						
<p>19 9:15am Ladies Class 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service with Communion.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 1-3:30pm Fit & Fun Fellowship</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 9:30am Quilting</p>	<p>24 11:59pm Midnight Madness Garage Sale</p>	<p>25 Garage Sale Final sale & Clean-up</p>
Pastor at LCMS Convention in Phoenix, AZ						
<p>26 9:15am Ladies Class 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 9:30am Quilting</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Acolytes: 5—Brooklyn Riley Carrigan McCullough 12—Abel Trevino Landon McCullough 19—Rachel Shuford Brant McCullough 26—Bryson Molbert Jackson Kotz</p>