

The Spirit

Holy Ghost Lutheran Church December 2023 Being & Making Disciples



"MERRYXMAS = CHRISTMAS!"

On occasion we may see Christmas abbreviated as XMAS. It appears written in the foam spray-can snow on the windowpanes of Main Street stores. We find it in newspaper advertisements and on restaurant billboards. There are Christmas cards and even balloons which display it in this fashion. It tends to be quite a popular shortened version for the original "Christmas."

For some, XMAS may be interpreted as secular, disrespectful, irreligious, and even offensive to not fully spell out the name of our Savior. This used to be my opinion—until I discovered three eye-opening revelations that point to XMAS being a very purposeful and true expression for the season of Christmas!

First, as I was exposed to the original New Testament Greek language during my Biblical studies at seminary, I learned that "X" in the Greek alphabet is pronounced "Ch" which are the first two letters of Christ's name and Christmas. Second, the "X" gives the clear appearance of a side view of the initial bed in which the holy family placed the baby Jesus—the manger. And, third and most importantly, the "X," if turned just a few degrees to either side, forms the instrument of the cross—the purpose for which Jesus was born in the first place! Yes, when viewed through these lenses, XMAS is a legitimate religious and even clever way to point to the reason for the holy season!

Linking the manger to the cross must always be kept in mind as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, for if we observe Christmas without looking down the road to Good Friday and Easter, His birth is empty of God's ultimate purpose for His Son. I so appreciate the various carols that point this out as we sing:

"Nails, spears shall pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you!" &

"Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!"

"He has opened heaven's door, and we're blest forevermore!"

"Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die!"

"Born to raise each child from earth; born to give us second birth!"

"Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this!"

All these and more are familiar holiday songs leaning into the "why" of Jesus' glorious entry into this world and give foundation to the use of XMAS as a faithful expression for Christmas (and in my mind it sure beats the dickens out of the politically correct "Season's Greetings" that is so popular these days)!

So let it be something to possibly share with your children, grandchildren, family and friends as we journey through these weeks and beyond—that Christ is the "X," and the symbol points to His name, His birth, and His ultimate death so that we sinners can celebrate forgiveness of sins, new life now, and eternal life to come!

Merry Xmas! +Pastor Bobby Vitek

<u>NOTE</u>: With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, there will be five services that day! The two morning services at 8:00 and 10:30 are known as Advent 4 and will include plenty of Christmas carols & theme but are not the candlelight services. The evening services at 3pm, 5pm, and 7pm will be the traditional Christmas Eve worships with candlelight and the Christmas story. Y'all come and worship the newborn King!







The Spirit December 2023



<u>A Season for Giving!</u> Here are ideas for giving the perfect gift to the perfect someone who has everything, or you just can't figure out what to get them for Christmas! Special gifts may be given to the:

- ~ Endowment Fund which gives a percentage of its interest & dividends to benevolent ministries!
- ~<u>Kindernest Fund</u> which helps provide a Montessori-hybrid educational start to children!
- ~High Tech Fund which keeps the church up with technologies for reaching out in a modern world!
- ~<u>Capital Campaign Fund</u> which supports the building program phase one endeavor!

The BUILDING PROGRAM!

Hammers are flying, shovels are digging, sheetrock is being installed, and headway is being made as we get closer and closer to a time when we'll return to the sanctuary and also have access to the Creek Street two-story facility. In the meantime, God has provided abundantly for us with the fellowship hall. (What would we do without it?) While we wait and anticipate, please keep your prayers, pledges, donations, and end-of-the-year special gifts coming in support of the project!

A Word about a Special TAX SAVINGS Opportunity to Give:

Required Minimum Distribution

The dreaded RMD is the requirement from the IRS that once we reach the age of 73, we must take distributions from our IRA, SEP, Simple, or retirement account. In most cases, this results in taxable income to add to the tax return in the year of the distribution. But wait! There is an exception! The IRS allows you to make a tax-free transfer to a charity of your choice from your retirement account. You don't need to itemize deductions to get the tax benefit. Making a tax-free transfer also keeps the money out of your gross income. That could help you avoid the Medicare high-income surcharge in certain tax brackets. Keeping money out of your adjusted gross income could also make less of your Social Security benefits taxable. Do you have an RMD this year? Talk to your accountant and your broker to see if you can designate some of the required amount paid to the charity of your choice.

<u>December 5, 2023 marks the 175th anniversary</u> of the military post near Fredericksburg that we know as Fort Martin Scott. Documents reveal what units were here, the names of the commanders, and descriptions of the buildings. Penninger's book, "*The First 50 Years*," has a handful of tales mentioning the soldiers.

Eric Hammersen is trying to gather additional information based on historical accounts. If you have family stories or letters that mention the soldiers at the fort, please contact him at 703-477-4131 or email: hammersen@hotmail.com.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Dec. 10 Sunday School Christmas Program Sunday, 10:30am

- Dec. 14 Church to Church Walk Thursday, 6pm
- Dec. 23 Christmas Eve Service Saturday, 6pm
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Morning Services Sunday, 8am & 10:30am
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Sunday, 3pm, 5pm & 7pm
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service Monday, 10:30am
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day Dinner Monday, following the service



SIGN UP to Serve &/or Eat at the Christmas Day

<u>Dinner</u> which will follow the 10:30am service on Monday, Dec. 25 in the Fellowship Hall. This homecooked meal is for anyone who would like to attend and is free just like the gift of Jesus. It is especially for those who may find themselves without family for the holidays!

PLEASE RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE by Friday, Dec. 18th.



POINSETTIAS to be used in decorating the Fellowship Hall for the Christmas season are now available for purchase through the church office.

Cost for poinsettias: \$12.00 (Deadline is December 12th)

Given in honor of

Given in memory of

Poinsettias may be picked up after the 10:30am worship on Christmas Day, after the weekend services, or at the office the following week. In lieu of actually buying a poinsettia, you may donate the price of a poinsettia as a gift to the Capital Campaign Fund in honor or memory of someone.

(Contact the church office at 830-997-2288.)

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The Spirit December 2023



WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

"Come, let us worship the Lord!"

DECEMBER WORSHIP THEMES

Messages in December: The sermon series for the next couple of months is titled "Children of God" as we anticipate the coming of the "Holy Child." Various children's stories from the Bible will be explored during December with Christmas focusing on the Christ Child!

<u>Sat. & Sun., Dec. 2 & 3</u>: We kick off a new sermon series for the Advent and Christmas seasons, "Children of God" as we move toward focusing on the One who is The Child of God. We start with Baby Moses, who was called to deliver the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, and his connections to the Christ Child.

<u>Sat. & Sun., Dec. 9 & 10</u>: "Children of God: Receive the Kingdom Like a Child!" In the midst of our opinions and expectations of how the Kingdom of God should unfold in this world, Jesus turns our expectations upside down and explains the true nature of the Kingdom. Our message for the weekend is based on 1st John 3:1-2 and Luke 18:15-17. Holy Communion is served.

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 16 & 17: "Children of Israel"—the chosen children—are the children of the week as we continue to explore the sermon series "Children of God" in the Bible. To be chosen is to be set apart as were God's people in the Bible, as so are we. 1 Peter 2:9-10 is the passage as we talk not about those in the past but us today. What does it mean to be "set apart?"

<u>Sat. & Sun., Dec. 23 & 24 (Morning):</u> Early names of the Christ child will be the focus in terms of how these names will be a foreshadow of His future. Jesus, Christ, and Immanuel are some of the names He was called and the names which He fulfilled and continues to fulfill. Holy Communion is served.

<u>Evening Candlelight Christmas Eve, Sun., Dec. 24:</u> "Children of God: Infant Jesus!" Why would the Lord God Almighty come to earth as an infant? Come and hear the angel's proclamation, the shepherds' welcome, and the unfolding of the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ! Our Scripture for Christmas Eve is Luke 2:1-20.

<u>Christmas Day, Mon., Dec. 25</u>: Isaiah 11 speaks of the power and peace that the Christ child will bring. He talks about how the child shall play over the adder's hole (snake). What a foreshadow of the resurrection whereby the One born in Bethlehem will be the One who is victorious over the grave and champion of forgiveness of our sins! Holy Communion is served on this holy of holy days!

<u>Sat. & Sun., Dec. 30 & 31</u>: The Bible story is boy Jesus in the temple where the scribes, priests, and church leaders are amazed at His wisdom and understanding. Yes, the baby Jesus grows in faith, love, and obedience to the Father. Our call is the same as we seek to mature in faith. On this brink of a new year, where might each of us need to grow spiritually?

New Year's Eve Service, Sun., Dec. 31, 6pm: "Our Hope: The Return of the King!" In this new year, may we take to heart and be encouraged by Jesus' proclamation to us: "Yes, I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20) and His reminder that He is the King who will judge the earth in righteousness (Matthew 25:31-34). Finally, as we face whatever this new year may bring to us and to the world, we can rest in God's promise that "every knee shall bow in heaven and earth" to the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:9-11). Holy Communion is served.

The sermon series for the next couple of months is titled "Children of God" as we anticipate the coming of the "Holy Child." Various children's stories from the Bible will be explored during December with Christmas focusing on the Christ Child!

There will be no Praise Services in December.

Holy Communion in December:

Holy Communion in December will be on the weekends of the 9th & 10th and 23rd & 24th. It will also be served on Monday, December 25th, and December 31st, 6:00pm.



New Year's Eve Service: End and begin the new year in worship as we gather on the evening of Sunday, December 31 at 6pm. Holy Communion is served as we anticipate the new year!

HGLC Radio Broadcast

Listen in to the Word!
Church service can be heard either on KNAF 107.9FM or AM910 on Sun. at 10am.



The December Special Offering is designated for Lutheran World Relief World Hunger & Mexico Missions. Offerings will be evenly divided. Your offerings go for food, clean water, medications, and other basic human needs in third world countries via LWR World Hunger as well as for a special offering for the village that will be visited and buckets delivered by our youth with Pastor Clint's leading. Use the small brown pew envelopes, or mark the memo line on your check for: Mexico. And please, contribute above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings to the church programs.

<u>ALL worship services</u> including the midweek services are posted on the HGLC Facebook and YouTube sites. You DO NOT have to be on Facebook to watch the services.

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COUNCIL NOTES November 27, 2023

- 1. Pastor David opened the meeting with a devotional acronvm about Advent.
- Mandy Herber, chairperson of the Salary and Benefits Task Force, was in attendance to present the recommendations
- 3. Hiram Lucius, congregational treasurer, provided an overview of the 2024 budget of \$1.131M (an 8% increase over 2023) which the council voted to recommend at the bi-annual meeting.
- 4. Approved the bi-annual agenda for December 10 following the 10:30am worship.
- 5. Kristy Knaupp-Beyer (2nd term) and Amanda Stevens were approved as Investment Team members with Lester Frantzen's two terms ending.
- Discussed council coverage of worship services in December as there will be twenty services in thirty-one days!
- 7. Celebrate that Kindernest was voted the BEST PRESCHOOL in Fredericksburg for 2024.
- 8. Discussed the seminary scholarship fund.
- 9. Will implement an annual check list of the three church owned parsonages.
- 10. Pastor Steve closed the meeting at 8:10pm praying for the joys and concerns uplifted.

The 2023 Church Council Includes

Craig Sander, Cheryl Sione, Teresa Ganis, Nick Thompson, Bruce Christian, Laurie Bristol, Ron Rickerhauser, Nancy Lochte, Todd Weiss, Jeff Boyd, Hiram Lucius, and Polly Zenner.

Church Staff Salary Review: Part of the congregational meeting involves voting to accept, amend, or not accept the 2024 ministry budget. Among the line items in the budget are utilities, specific ministries, team allocations, benevolence, operations, missions, lay education, youth programming, outreach, staff salaries, etc. Like many larger congregations do, for the past 3 years staff salaries have been grouped together in categories such as program staff, support staff, and clergy. In doing so, discretion is exercised with personal information by not being distributed to 1400 members plus whoever else in town may have access to the report. The compensation process involves sixteen persons from the Church Council and Salary & Benefits Committee who oversee this work. For anyone who desires to review the salaries, a detailed report of all staff wages is available at the church office for viewing while at the church office. This allows opportunity for full transparency to the congregation while maintaining the privacy of individuals.

The Congregational Bi-Annual Meeting

will be held on Sun., Dec. 10 at 11:30am. Congregational business will include election of 2024 church council leaders, the adoption of a 2024 ministry budget, a building project report, and other ministry business. All are invited to attend and be part of the decisions of the church.

PASTOR ALAN WILLIAMS IS RETIRING!!

A reception in honor of Pastor Alan Williams' retirement will be held during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, December 17th. All are welcome to come and celebrate the ministry of our beloved Pastor Williams and his wife, Linda!

The Lighted Christmas Parade is Friday, December 1^{st} with the appearance of the HGLC nativity float.

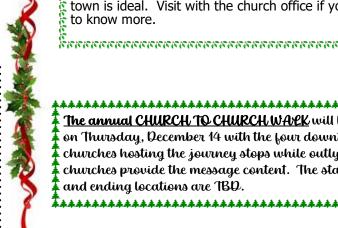
Float Space Needed!!

With space around campus being tight, a search is on to possibly find a garage, shed, or covered area for the church float. A location in town or not far from town is ideal. ' to know more. town is ideal. Visit with the church office if you'd like

The annual CHURCH TO CHURCH WALK will be held on Thursday, December 14 with the four downtown churches hosting the journey stops while outlying churches provide the message content. The starting and ending locations are TBD.

NATIVITY SCENES DISPLAY UPDATE:

The annual festive sharing of creches will not be seen again until 2024 due to the building program at the church and the need for the fellowship hall to be used as worship space. We thank the "Fishers for Christ" Team for their years of service in offering this display, and we are already looking forward to it next season!



December $202\overline{3}$ The Spirit



HOLY GHOST LUTHERAN WOMEN OF FAITH

We have been fortunate to have Gloria Kammlah join our Lutheran World Relief quilting group. She is willing to do anything that is on the agenda for that day. Her knowledge about quilting is of

great use. We are also lucky to be on the receiving end when she • cleans her closet and there is fabric that she no longer needs. The group is happy to have Gloria join our team!

LWR COLLECTION DAY: We are fortunate to have such a • giving congregation. We had a lot of help loading the truck with the LWR items. Holy Ghost items loaded were 463 quilts, 143 personal care kits, 30 baby layettes, and \$200.00 for shipping. We had twelve churches bring their items to Holy Ghost to load and transfer to Marian. Total items loaded were 1,559 quilts, 219 school care kits, 101 baby layettes, 16 fabric care kits, and \$2,004.65 for shipping. Those helping with loading were Kenneth and Barbara Sagebiel, Danny Jacoby, Jerry Prochnow, Kim Terry, Ellis Tritch, Jim Parker, Pastor Steve, Larry Taylor, Sue Gustin, Ola Mae Pehl, and Carol Feuge. The Holy Ghost LWR team has additional quilts that will be delivered to Grace Center. We thank everyone for their assistance!!!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Kenneth and Barbara Sagebiel for furninshing the U-Haul as well as driving it to make the delivery of the LWR items to Marian, TX.

• A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT to the Kindernest students for donating soap for the Soap Drive. Thank you for your assistance!!

EPIPHANY TEA - The Epiphany Tea will not be held in January due to construction. Instead, we are looking to have a Spring Fling Tea in April. See the information on this page.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 14 All circles will enjoy a Christmas meal together 11:00am



April 20, 2024: Southwest Texas NALC WOF Gathering at Three Rivers. More info to follow.

The "Spring Fling Tea" will be held on April 14th. This will replace the Epiphany Tea/Cowboy Breakfast. Contact Sue Gustin if you have any questions. 830-456-5934







THE SUNDAY MORNING **BREAKFAST BAR**

The Breakfast Bar is open to all and is a wonderful way to begin the first day of the week being fed with fine, nutritious food, fellowship, and faith!

There will not be a breakfast bar on Dec. 24 or 31.

Honoring Those Who Have Served in the Military!

HGLC remembered Veterans on the weekend of November 11-12 with a special bulletin insert naming those whose contact information had been received. Names and branches of service are still being collected and added to the list of women and men who served from the congregation.

Information of **ACTIVE MILITARY** persons is also being collected so that we as a family of faith might remember and pray for those who are enlisted.

Please contact Rick Ristau at 512-695-3419 or the church office to provide information regarding those in our congregation who have served or are currently serving.

> The Holy Ghost Lutheran Church office will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Christian Radio Station

Tune into FM 88.1—KLOVE to hear some great Christian lyrics and music. It's a great way to start your day in the morning or have it playing in the background all day long.

> **Prayer Requests may be sent** anytime via text to the church cell phone at 830-383-0249.

Please note that this number is for texting prayer requests only.
Calls are not answered at this number. For phone requests, please call the church office at 830-997-2288.

Holy Ghost Church	Ilfor	š P	Mod	Ē	ā	Dec 2023 (Central Time - Chicago)
56	27	28	59	30		2
Leeding John	9am - LWR Quilters	Print Newsletter	Newsletter: Assemble/Man/Email/Post to	I	Light the Night Christmas Parade	WOF: Sell Giff Baskets
8am - Worship/Comm	1pm - HG Quilters	9am - LWR Quilters	8:30am - Comm. Child Care Mtg.	T		6pm - Worship
8:30am - Breakfast Bar	4pm - Youth Choir	9:55am - KNEST Devo.	12pm - Ladies Lunch Study	8pm - AA		
9:15am - Sunday School	6pm - Allan Williams Small Group	1pm - HG Quilters	4pm - After School Club			
10am - Worship: KNAF 910am/107.9FM	6pm - Church Council	5:30pm - Christmas Day Dinner Mtg.	5:45pm - Grace Notes			
10:30am - Worship/Comm	6:30pm - AA	8	7pm - Sanctuary Choir			
2pm - Loss of a Child Balloon Release:			8pm- WYWP			
6	4	ro.	9	7	8	6
WOF: Self Gift Baskets	9am - LWR Quilters	Newsletter News Due	4pm - After School Club	7am - Men's Community Bible Study		10am - SS Christmas Program Practice
8am - Worship	1pm - HG Quilters	9am - LWR Quilters	5:45pm - Grace Notes	6pm-AA		4pm - Wedding: Loth - BV-offsite
8:30am - Breakfast Bar	4pm - Youth Cholr	9:55am - KNEST Devo.	7pm - Sanctuary Choir	6pm - Game Night		6pm - Worship/Comm
9:15am - Sunday School	6:30pm - AA	1pm - HG Quilters	8pm-WYWP	8pm-AA		
10am - Worship: KNAF 910am/107.9FM	7pm - Suicide Memorial @ St. Barnabas	4:30pm - Praise Group Mtg.	SQ.			
10:30am - Worship						
10	11	12	13	14	51	16
8am - Worshlo/Comm	9am - LWR Quilters	9am - LWR Quilters	6:30am - Men's Breakfast	7am - Men's Community Bible Study	6:30pm - Family Gingerbread House	Pastor Williams Hetirement Heceb.
8:30am - Breakfast Bar	1pm - HG Quilters	9:55am - KNEST Devo.	4pm - After School Club	11am - Lydia & Katherine Luther Circle		6pm - Worship
						•
9:15am - Sunday School	4pm - Youm Choir	1pm - HG Quiters	5:30pm - Cancer Group Mtg. Alpha Hm	opm: AA		
10am - Worship: KNAF 910am/107.9FM	6pm - Evening Guild		5:30pm - Widow's Might	6pm - Church-To-Church Walk		
10:30am - Worship/Comm/SS Christmas	6:30pm - AA		5:45pm - Grace Notes	8pm-AA		
11:30am - Bi-Annual Cong. Mtg.			7pm - Sanctuary Choir			
21	18	[19	50	21	22	RZ
Pastor Williams Retirement Recep.	9am - LWR Quilters	Prim Newsletter	Newsletter: Assemble/Mali/Email/Post to	7am - Men's Community Bible Study		6pm - Worshlp/Comm
Christmas Extravaganza	1pm - HG Quilters	9am - LWR Quilters	4pm - After School Club	6pm-AA		
Feeding John	4pm - Youth Choir	9:55am - KNEST Devo.	5:30pm - God Squad Small Group	8pm-AA		
MX MISSION GITS UNE	6pm - Church Council	1pm - HG Oullters	5:30pm - Widow's Might	8		
Ones Wasship	Comment of the last of the las		Section County of the County o			
oam - worsing	noission - medo		o Hopim - Grade Notes			
8:30am - Breakfast Bar	6:30pm - AA		7pm - Sanctuary Choir			
9:15am - Sunday School			8pm - WYWP			
24	25	26	27	28	53	30
8am - Worship/Comm	Christmas Day Dinner	9am - LWR Quilters	Mexico Mission I np			
9:15am - Sunday School	10:30am - Christmas Day Worship/Comm	1pm - HG Quilters	5:30pm - Widow's Might: Christmas	7am - Men's Community Bible Study		6pm - Worship
10am - Worship: KNAF 910am/107.9FM	6:30pm - AA			6pm-AA		
10:30am - Worship/Comm				8pm-AA		
3pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight						
5pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight						
7pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight						
31		2	8	4	9	9
8am - Worship	9am - LWR Quilters	9am - LWR Quilters	Gillespie Country Stock Show			
8:30am - Breakfast Bar	1pm - HG Quilters	1pm - HG Quilters	5:30pm - Widow's Might	7am - Men's Community Bible Study		6pm - Worship
9:15am - Adult Sunday School	6:30pm - AA		5:45pm - Grace Notes	6pm-AA		
10am - Worship: KNAF 910am/107.9FM			7pm - Sanctuary Choir	8pm - AA		
10:30am - Worship			8pm - WYWP			
6om - New Year's Eve Worship						

DECEMBER MINISTRY

	i							
Date	ıme	Members	Disciple Leams	Keaders	Communion Assistants	Video lecus	Radio Broadcast	Sound Board Volunteers
Dec. 2	6:00pm	Polly Nancy	Pastor Jan & Paul Unger	Karrie Klier		Johnna Alberthal	7	
Dec. 3	8:00am	Nancy Craig	Mark Moellering Mandy Herber, Kay Pressler	Pastor		Luke Moellering	Ronnie Ersch	
Dec. 3	10:30am	Hiram Jeff	Brenda Beaty Walter & Julia Standish	Chris Ayala		Paul Seidensticker		
Dec. 9	e:00pm	Polly Nancy	Paul Unger, Corrine Jung Laverne Boos	Lois Weidenfeller	Self-serve	Kimberly Bauer		
Dec. 10	8:00am	Nancy Craig	Mark Moellering Mandy Herber, Kay Pressler	Mandy Herber	Self-serve	Megan Blizzard	Chris Bauer	
Dec. 10	10:30am	Hiram Jeff	Brenda Beaty, Tudy & Ellis Tritch Chris & Karen Nevins	Program	Self-serve	Paul Seidensticker		
Dec. 16	md00:9	Polly Nancy	Steven & Mary Bauer Karen Immel	Pastor		Johnna Alberthal		
Dec. 17	8:00am	Nancy Craig	Mark Moellering Kathy Paige, Lisa Kaman	Pastor		Megan Blizzard	Carey Bonn	
Dec. 17	10:30am	Hiram Jeff	Brenda Beaty Kay Pressler	Marci Kramer		Linda Adams		
Dec. 23	e:00pm	Polly Nancy	Pastor Jan & Paul Unger Patti Feller	Pastor Jan Unger	Self-serve	Kimberly Bauer	Paul Unger	
Dec. 24	8:00am	Nancy Craig	Gerald Shanks Juday Vordenbaum	Nan Hengst	Self-serve	Linda Adams		
Dec. 24	10:30pm	Hiram Jeff	David & Lisa Bullion	Pastor	Self-serve	Linda Adams		
Dec. 24	3:00pm		Stephen & Mary Beth Bauer Kathy Boos	Pastor		Linda Adams		
Dec. 24	2:00pm		Paul Unger, Kathy Paige Sherry Durst, Janie Guynes	Valerie Bonn		Linda Adams		
Dec. 24	7:00pm		Walter & Julia Standish Corrine Jung, Laverne Boos	Rhonda Eckert		Kimberly Bauer		
CHRIST	CHRISTMAS DAY - Monday	onday						
Dec. 25	10:30am			Pastor		Linda Adams		
Dec. 30	6:00pm	Polly Nancy	Mandy Herber Pastor Jan & Paul Unger	Johnna Alberthal	Self-serve	Linda Adams		
Dec. 31	8:00am	Nancy Craig	Mark Moellering, Gerald Shanks Juday Vordenbaum	Pastor	Self-serve	Megan Blizzard	Sidney Ellebracht	
Dec. 31	10:30pm	Hiram Jeff	Brenda Beaty Jerry & Marjorie Otte	Pastor	Self-serve	Paul Seidensticker		
Dec, 31	e:00pm	Polly Nancy	Susan West Patti Feller	Pastor		Linda Adams		

Acolytes:

Saturday 6:00pm - Collin Ottmers, Landon Denton Sunday 8:00pm - Collin Ottmers, Landon Denton Sunday 10:30am - Pavis Lochte, Jackson Blizzard, Karsyn Klaerner Sunday 10:30am - Rayann Sagebiel, Kael Watson, Meredith Stevens Christmas Eve 3pm - Nikolaus Robertson Christmas Eve 5:00pm - Rayann Sagebiel, Kael Watson Christmas Eve 7:00pm - Meredith Stevens

ALTAR GUILD:

December: Cheryl Sione Kristen Crenwelge

Virginia Feuge Laura Lundquist

Valerie Bonn

Robes: Karen Grona

January: Lisa Olfers Sandra Poole Lisa Bullion Judy Nardini

Sherry Durst

Robes: Karen Grona

WOMEN OF FAITH STUDY LEADERS:

<u>Circles</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>
Evening Guild	Christmas Party	Pastor
Lydia Circle	Christmas Party Luncheon	Pastor
Katherine Luther	Christmas Party Luncheon	Pastor

NURSING HOME COMMUNION: DEC - HGLC

First	Wednesdays	
ııısı	VVCulicoudys	

12/14/2023

12/06/2023	Knopp Assisted Living	9:30 am
12/06/2023	Knopp #2	10:30 am
First Thursda	<u>ıys</u>	
12/07/2023	Heritage Place	9:30 am
12/07/2023	Windcrest	10:30 am
Second Wed	<u>nesdays</u>	
12/13/2023	Villages of Windcrest	9:45 am
12/13/2023	Fredericksburg NH	10:45 am
Second Thur	<u>sdays</u>	
12/14/2023	Knopp Retirement Center	9:30 am



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

No 90+ December birthdays on record

Knopp #1

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

12/15/1962	Fred & Judy Nardini
12/20/1969	Dennis & Línda Ellebracht
12/21/1698	Marshall & Debbie Akin
12/30/1955	James & Ruth Welgehausen

If we missed your 90+ birthday or 50+ anniversary, please call the church office so that we can update our records, 830-997-2288.

NOVEMBER PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals

Cora Grona 10.27.23 Earl "Butch" Knopp 11.10.23 **Estella Feuge** 11.10.23 Rudolph "Rudy" Olfers 11.23.23

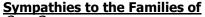
In our prayers, "We rejoice with those who rejoice, and we mourn with those who mourn." (Romans 12:15)

Hospitalizations:

Patsy Hahne Margo Stahl Sandra Theis Richard Traugott Florence Eckert Craig Steinbring Victor Sultmeier

Hospice List: Stanley Feller

Lynette Kramer Darlene St. Clair



Cora Grona Earl "Butch" Knopp Estella Louise Feuge Rudy Olfers

DOLLAR S&CENTS

HOLY GHOST FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund Balance - Oct 1, 2023			\$50,722.53
Receipts			\$88,066.48
Expenses			-\$61.826.69
General Fund Balance			\$77,012.32
SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR MONTH			
Kindernest			\$375.00
Operation Christmas Child			\$915.00
FINANCIAL BAROMETER	Income	Expenses	plus/mins
Monthly	\$88,066.48	\$61,826.69	\$26,239.79
Year-To-Date	\$796,649.58	-\$754,637.26	\$42,012.32
Capital Campaign Fund-General Fund			
Dedicated Fund Balance October 1, 2023	826,926.03		
Receipts this month	23,393.00		
Expenses	-\$445,612.26		
Balance - Oct 31, 2023	\$404,706.77		
Offerings General Fund Oct 2023	\$85,415.66		



<u>Contact the Church Office</u> when you or a family member are in the hospital. Due to current HIPPA laws, non-family members no longer have access of hospital records to know who is an inpatient. So please call the church office if a visit by one of the pastors is desired.

10:30 am

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP: "Don't Go It Alone!"

Find social and emotional support with our group. We offer encouragement, support, devotions, discussions, prayers, and fellowship for cancer survivors and thrivers as well as their caregivers and family. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our next gathering will be December 13th for a potluck Christmas party. This group is open to the community and surrounding areas. For more information please contact:

> Iris Burrer at 830-456-5711 or Karen Dolezal at 512-517-3180

Widow's Might

Widows who want to connect with other women and seek hope for this season in their lives are invited to attend this group that typically meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 5:30 pm in the parsonage next door to the church. (The former Priem residence.) We are currently reading *Seamless* by Angie Smith.

This month our regular meeting will be December 13th. We will also have a social gathering on Wednesday, December 27th. For more information, please contact Rhonda Eckert Simpson at 830-456-4617.

Band of Brothers

Band of Brothers will NOT meet in December. Watch for updates in the bulletin and January newsletter as we look forward to meeting again in the new year. At some point, we will begin moving things back into the sanctuary. Merry Christmas to all the brothers!



Ladies' Lunch Study



We will meet at noon on Wednesday, December 13th for an off-site Christmas lunch. All ladies are welcome, even if you've never attended before! Contact Kim Gibbs at 830-456-7299 for more information.

SMALL GROUPS CORNER

The War Room is now available for you! Our six-week study has concluded, and we praise God for the 26 participants and a group of volunteers who organized and prepared meals each week! All 26 met together for a meal and conversation and then broke into four small groups for approximately an hour and 15 minutes of conversation and prayer. The materials are excellent, including the War Room movie and the study guide. We have supplemental materials for your small group available along with several copies of the movie and movie clip DVDs. We hope you'll decide to use these powerful materials in your own small group study. Please contact the church office or Pastor Steve if you are interested in this wonderful, disciple-making small group study.

Happy December, Church!

If your family is anything like mine, we think about Christmas A LOT even when it doesn't necessarily make sense for us to think about the Christmas season. "How fun! Choral arrangements of Christmas music were just released; let me just take a listen on this hot July



day." "Christmas Decor 75% off at
Hobby Lobby, YES!" "Ok, family, we have to coordinate
our schedules right now in August so we can all see each
other at Christmas this year." "Ooooo, the perfect
Christmas gift for Grandma; let me just buy that real
quick on this fine April morning." "You know, maybe next year we hang the bubble light strand here instead of here." On and on, all year round! All that to say, we often find ourselves looking forward to the Advent and Christmas season. It is also not lost on me that the majority of what I listed does not remotely point back to the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - but stay with me!

God created a complex emotion in anticipation, and I certainly don't think that it is bad or wrong to look forward to things. It is fun to be excited about what is on the horizon, and indeed that is a part of what Advent is all about - preparing with joy for the birth of Jesus. I suppose my Christmas prayer for you (and for myself) is that we anticipate the season joyfully AND thoughtfully - placing as much thought and care into "the reason for the season" as we do for the season itself - in December and indeed all year round.

"Star of Promise, Light of Glory"

What a great piece! I am a huge fan of folk music and "Star of Promise, Light of Glory" uses the great Sacred Harp tune "Warrenton" in such a catchy way. If you listen closely you'll notice some more familiar tunes and lyrics as the piece progresses. I'm excited for you all to hear the beautiful women's ensemble section as well as the fun, bouncy accompaniment. It is sure to be a delightful addition to the Advent and Christmas season. I hope you enjoy!

"All on a Silent Night"

I was inspired to choose an arrangement of "Silent Night" for the youth choir because our Beatitude theme for December focuses on themes of meekness. The imagery and lyrics of "Silent Night" describe a quiet, peaceful scene with a "tender and mild" newborn baby Jesus: the very definition of a meek beginning that starts the rescue plan for all the Earth. Merry Christmas!

In Christ's Love, ~ Katie

The HolyMark Cardmakers

We are taking off the month of December. All the cards we need for the time-being are finished!

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 19th. We'll eat together at Campo Azul at 11:30am and gather for card-making in the Fellowship Hall at about 12:30pm.

For questions, call Pastor Jan Unger at 512-760-0093.

From the R Team - Read your Bible daily!

What better time of year to pay some extra attention to Scripture than now, for we have been saved, through grace, by the arrival of a tiny baby! Wishing you a blessed Christmas!

Ephesians 2:8 Romans 6:23 Titus 2:11 Acts 22:16 John 6:28-29 Mark 16:16 Hebrews 11:7 1 Peter 5:10 2 Timothy 1:9 Galatians 3:27 2 Corinthians 9:8 Acts 16:31

1 Corinthians 15:10



Women's Evening Bible Study

The Women's Evening Bible Study will not meet in December. We will begin a new book on Tuesday, January 9. We will study Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent by Beth Moore. Study guides are available at Amazon or your favorite online Christian bookstore. Meeting dates are January 9 & 23, February 6 & 20, March 5 & 19, and April 2 at 6:00pm in the Holy Ghost youth room. Contact Karen Nevins 830-992-9424 for more information.

NEW FOR 2024

A study of the **Apostles' Creed!** Dive into a five-week course with Pastor Steve on Wednesdays at noon (January 10th through Feb. 7th).

The cost for the Crossways materials is \$10.00 and can be paid for (and picked up) on the first day of our course. Please sign up by Wednesday, December 27th so we can order books.

AA: Alcoholics Anonymous

Three support groups meet at Holy Ghost Lutheran Church: one on Mondays at 5:30pm and the others on Thursdays at 6pm & 8pm in the Quilt House by the church. HGLC supports those in recovery!

As Pastor Alan Williams retires from providing pastoral care and services to our homebound and residential care members, a new team is being trained to help provide Holy Communion to those he has been visiting. If interested, please visit with Pastor Steve Qualben.



The FBG Food Pantry is in need of the following basics:

sugar, flour, peanut butter, canned meat, soup, cereal, canned fruit, and canned vegetables

You may take your donations directly to the pantry at 701 Mustang St., drop it off at the church office, or leave it on the table in the Fellowship Hall worship space!



Adult Class Opportunities

G.R.A.C.E.D!

The "C" means "Connect in a Study or

Small Group!"

Sunday Morning Opportunities

Adult Sunday School choices!
Join in at 9:15-10:15am! The coffee is on us!

Adult SS Choices include "Pastor's Class" which is a Bible study looking at various Bible readings (meeting in the Fellowship Hall) and "Old Testament Truths of God, "led by Norm Nevins and Jim Paige (meeting in parsonage #1).

Studying God's Word together is where we grow with others in our faith.

Holy Ghost Family and Adult Bible Class

Holy Ghost Family, thank you for your patience and flexibility surrounding our worship environment and the adult Bible class offerings. We are planning and preparing meaningful classes throughout the year.

The following are some choices and opportunities for you to look forward to and select for your edification and spiritual growth. Please encourage one another to pursue Jesus and His Word through your participation in one of these class offerings. Bring a friend too!

We look forward to seeing you soon in an adult Bible class!



November 5 - December 17 SEVEN DAYS THAT DIVIDE THE WORLD - Gil Becker OLD TESTAMENT TRUTHS OF GOD - Norm Nevins and Jim Paige

BIBLE DISCUSSIONS - Nick Thompson

January 14 - March 3

CULTURE SHOCK - Bruce Christian and Pastor Bobby PASTOR'S CLASS - Pastor Steve

April 7 - May 19 BIBLE DISCUSSIONS - Nick Thompson FORENSIC EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION -Gil Becker

THE SAGE CLASS - Norm Nevins

Game Night is scheduled for Thur., December 7th at 6:00 pm.



Feeding John

Feeding John this month will be on Sunday, December 17th.



The Spirit December 2023

The Spirit is the official news publication of Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, Texas, which is wholly responsible for its content.

The Ministers, the Congregation Bobby Vitek, Pastor David Priem, Pastor Steve Qualben, Pastor

Clint Pluenneke, Pastor of Youth & Family Ministries Daniel Hofmann, Minister of Children & Young Families

Shanese Lochte, Office Manager
Blake Neffendorf, Office Assistant
Kandice Wadsworth, Office Assistant
Myrna Olivarez, Office Assistant
June Woerner, Finance Secretary
Stephanie Marschall, Back-up Finance Secretary
Pastor Alan Williams, Visitation Minister
Pastor Jan Unger, Visitation Minister
Marti Jennings, Ministry Facilitator
Annisa Alonzo, Kindernest Preschool Director
Karen Henricksen, Kindernest Finance Secretary
Jim Parker, Maintenance Technician
Carol Brinkmann, Fellowship Hall Supervisor
Daniel Hofmann, Wedding Director

Church Office Hours & Contact Info:

Monday through Thursday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Friday: Office Closed

Telephone: 830-997-2288 / Fax: 830-997-7869 Address: 109 East San Antonio Street, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624 Email: holyghost@holyghostfbg.onmicrosoft.com Website: www.holyghostfbg.org

Bobby Vitek - pastorbv@holyghostfbg.onmicrosoft.com David Priem - pastordp@holyghostfbg.onmicrosoft.com Clint Pluenneke - clintp@holyghostfbg.onmicrosoft.com Steve Qualben - pastorsq@holyghostfbg.onmicrosoft.com Daniel Hofmann - danielh@holyghostfbg.onmicrosoft.com

> Kindernest Montessori Preschool 113 East San Antonio Street Fredericksburg, Texas 78624 Telephone: 830-997-8939





Please keep us informed

There are many times when your phone call to the church office is the only way we may discover that someone is in the hospital, ill, or in need of a pastoral visit. Please let us know if you have special needs outside the regular office hours.



MINISTRY TEAMS:

Barnabas Team	Yvonne Fox	830-998-4600
Building Committee	David Bullion	830-998-1889
"C" Team Contact	Laverne Boos	830-739-4263
"C" Team Contact	Sharon Johnson	512-755-1801
Cancer Support Group	Iris Burrer	830-456-5711
Cancer Support Group	Karen Dolezal	512-517-3180
Cemetery Team	Alan Saenger	830-992-8564
Cemetery Team	Susan Stroeher	830-456-3143
Christmas Day Dinner	Denise Usener	830-456-1742
Feeding John	Sandy Birdlebough	830-998-4504
Float Team	Bob Jennings	830-992-7049
Fishers for Christ	Debbie Klaehn	830-456-1650
Global Leadership Summit	Amy Montgomery	210-844-1987
Health Care Team	Vacant	
Holy Ghost Quilters	Helen Usener	830-992-9473
Holy Ghost Quilters	Sharon Kott	406-580-5129
Hospitality Team	Kat Jacoby	210-391-4407
Investment Team	Allen Ersch	830-889-2471
Kindernest Team	Donna Rees	210-355-6971
Kindernest Team	Shayna Thompson	830-992-1673
Kitchen Team	Laverne Boos	830-739-4263
Kitchen Team	Judy Nardini	361-774-3219
LWR Quilters	Roslee Lochte	830-992-8820
NH Comm. Coord.	Yvonne Fox	830-998-4600
NH Devotions	Irene Crutcher	830-997-7072
"P" Team	Donald Pressler	830-329-3603
Passion of Christ	(currently vacant)	
Property Team	Seth Moellering	830-456-1304
Praise Team Task Force	Karen Nevins	830-992-9424
Prayer Team	Laverne Cuddy	830-456-0782
"R" Team	Mary Beth Bauer	830-329-0344
Resource Management	Janie Trantham	830- 990-9675
Small Group Vol.	Kim Gibbs	830-456-7299
Stewardship Team	Kathy Boos	830456-7218
Tele–Buddy Ministry	Marti Jennings	830-992-7049
Worship Decorating	Rhonda Simpson	830-456-4617

WORSHIP TEAMS:

TO THE TENTEST		
Altar Guild Coord.	Virginia Fuege	830-998-7857
Altar Guild Coord.	Donna Rees	210-355-6971
Communion Servers	Corrine Jung	830-889-8640
Disciple Team Leader	Glenna Hartman	361-739-5637
Disciple Team Leader	Marjorie Otte	830-992-0418
Disciple Team Leader	Polly Zenner	830-889-5701
Organist/Pianist Coord.	Bernice Basse	512-569-1643
Readers Coord.	Joyce Thiele	830-456-1617
Sound Coord.	Jacob Harrington	512-827-1564
Sound Coord.	Nicole Robertson	830-307-4757
Video Tech Coord.	Linda Adams	830-889-3250

CHOIRS:

Bell Choir	Joyce Priem	830-456-1226
Sanctuary Choir	Katie Hofmann	830-383-4668
Youth Choir	Katie Hofmann	830-383-4668

GROUPS:

Church Council Pres.	Ron Rickerhauser	830-992-9597
Men in Mission	Harvey Hengst	830-456-7663
Sunday School Supt.	Carrie Roemer	830-456-4461
Band of Brothers	Doyle Moellering	830-456-1349
Women of Faith	Carol Feuge	830-285-1301
Women of Faith	Polly Zenner	830-889-5701
Youth Group	Reid Nevins	830-997-2288

CONTACT INFO NOTE

If your address, email, or cell phone information changes, please let the church office know, 830-997-2288.



FOLY GROSC KIDS CORDER

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'" - Matthew 19:14

contact

Daniel Hofmann
Minister to Children & Young
Families
830-997-2288
danielh@holyghostfbg.
onmicrosoft.com

as always

We offer Sunday School for all ages! Join us in the Kindernest building for Opening at 9:15!

upcoming

- Last day of school: Dec 22
- School starts again: Jan 8

for families this month

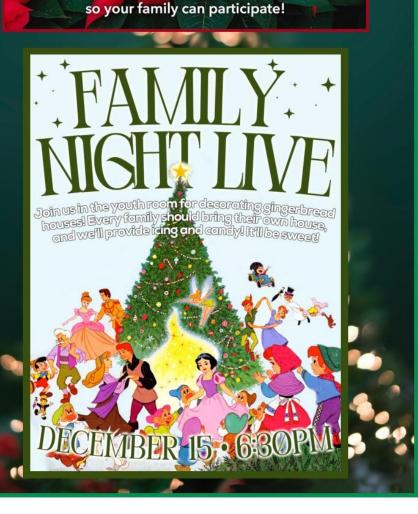
names of Jesus!

- Can you name some things the Bible calls Jesus?
- Look up these verses and see if you can find the special names for Jesus:
 - Isaiah 4:2
 - John 6:32
 - John 1:29
 - Revelation 1:8
- What do think these names mean?
- Make an ornament of your favorite one!

Sundays Gool Christmas Program
"LIVE FROM BETHLEHEM"
Sunday, December 10 @ 10:30 am

Everyone is invited to join in this annual traditionthere will be parts for all ages and abilities!

Put this date on your calendars along with our
Rehearsal: December 9 @ 10 am



Lord, hear our prayer

The things on our prayer board right now:

GENEROSITY

It's the season of giving, and we thank God for the Spirit that inspires us to share our blessings!

• REASON FOR THE SEASON

We thank God for the gift of His Son, Jesus!

WEATHER

We love the cooler temps and give thanks for the recent rain!

OUR FRIENDS + FAMILY

We all know people facing hard roads to recovery, and we lift them up to the Lord!

Christmas Extravaganza Sunday, December 17, 9:15am

Gather in the Youth room to make ornaments and decorate cookies! Kids of all ages are invited to decorate and eat!

HGLC YOUTH CHOIR

LEARNING THE BEATITUDES
THROUGH MUSIC

Matthew 5.5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth"

Read more! Luke 2: 11-12



Sing with us! #65 "Silent Night"

FIRST COMMUNION 2023

Brooks Bonn Clara Cook Henry Cornett Jaron Ellebracht Lyla McCollum Zayne Schneider Perry Tait

Congratulations on your next step in your faith journey!

& Family Matters

December 2023

+HOLY GHOST LUTHERAN CHURCH+

Christmas Mexico Mission Adopt-a-Family Angel Tree THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!!

Praise God because during our Thanksgiving Eve and last weekend of November worship services, members of our congregation "adopted" ALL of the 125 people from La Union, Mexico, for our Christmas mission trip. Plastic bins were passed out for the presents to be packed in, and we are asking that these plastic bins full of the gifts be

dropped off at the fellowship hall or office by <u>Sunday</u>, <u>December 17</u>. Also, if need be, more plastic bins are available. Most importantly please keep our mission group in your prayers during their trip as we strive "to be and make disciples in Jesus' name!" **THANK YOU!**









Feliz Navidad



Christmas Mexico Mission Bins!

Christmas Break Mexico Mission

Mision de Candelilla Trip to La Union Three Nights + December 27-30 Register Online www.mdcmexico.org/ Deposit Due ASAP (\$100) Passports required.

Confirmation Schedule

Dec 3 Ten Commandments Semester Test

Dec 10 Sunday School Christmas Play

Dec 17 Christmas Cookie Decorating & Caroling

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Group Sunday School



Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp (RTLC) Summer 2024

ONLINE Registration July 21-27

Only parents can register campers online. Sr High: Current 8th-11th Grades

Registration for Colorado residents opens Nov 1st. Registration for Texas residents opens Jan 1st, however don't wait! Register online NOW to go on waiting list because spots are very limited!

http://www.rainbowtrail.org/

Sunday School Christmas Play: Practice Saturday, Dec 9th @ 10 am Sunday, Dec 10TH @ 10:30 am





Thanks to everyone who supported Operation Christmas Child this year!



Please pray for our Christmas Mission!



HOLY GHOST LUTHERAN CHURCH 109 EAST SAN ANTONIO STREET FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 78624-

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Attendance at a Glance



JANUARY 2023 In Person: 2023 On-line Views: +++++++++++++ 2022 In Person: 2022 On-line Views:	361 211 277 211	APRIL 2023 In Person: 2023 On-line Views: +++++++++++++ 2022 In Person: 2022 On-line Views:	421 199 253 187
FEBRUARY 2023 In Person: 2023 On-line Views: +++++++++++++++ 2022 In Person: 2022 On-line Views:	326 163 335 189	MAY 2023 In Person: 2023 On-line Views: ++++++++++++++ 2022 In Person: 2022 On-line Views:	337 214 320 155
MARCH 2023 In Person: 2023 On-line Views: +++++++++++++ 2022 In Person: 2022 On-line Views:	335 143 326 50	JUNE 2023 In Person: 2023 On-line Views: +++++++++++++++ 2022 In Person: 2022 On-line Views:	293 164 300 201
JULY 2023 In Person: 2023 On-line Views: ++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++	293 182 323 209	OCTOBER 2023 In Person: 2023 On-line Views: +++++++++++++ 2022 In Person: 2022 On-line Views:	293 157 331 244
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