

Our mission statement:
*Celebrating God's love
 by worshipping God,
 caring for each other,
 and serving in community.*

Crossties

*"Sharing the
 Ointment for Jesus'
 Feet, Giving God
 our Very Best"
 Cf. John 12:3*

<p>January 2024</p>	<p><i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i></p>	<p>Vol. 30 No. 1</p>
<p>BERGY'S BABBLE: "APOCALYPSE YAY"</p>		
<p>It's Advent!! <u>Happy New Year!</u> Christians are so lucky. We get extra occasions to celebrate beginnings and make resolutions: New Year's resolutions in December for the beginning of the Advent of our Lord, New Year's resolutions for the beginning of the Western calendar year in January, and New Spiritual resolutions in February to mark the beginning of Lent. This year Advent starts with the Apocalypse of Mark 13. HEADS UP!! There is a big difference between "The End of the World and an apocalypse. The ideas are confused. An apocalypse is a revelation. It is a disclosure of knowledge. It is a lifting of the veil. It is a <u>beginning</u>. Jesus says that in a time of revelation it is good to be alert.</p> <p>One of the best things about The End of the World is that even though it has been calculated endlessly in an infinite variety of ways, all of the predictions have been 100% wrong. One of the big problems is that nobody knows what time it really is. Settling on a future date and time is real squishy. Which calendar and which method of measuring time is the only correct way? With all the myriad of different cultural calendars and ways of marking time, it seems exclusive, xenophobic to pick one and get all in a huff over it. For us this year is 2023. For Baha'ists it is only 180. The Buddhists call it at 2566. The Hebrew calendar says 5783. Islam says it's only 1444. Unix time is up around 1,704,075,408 or year 53. The answer to the question that doctors use to test patients for lucidity, (what year is it?) is kind of tricky. After all that is said, The End of the World and Apocalypse are two very different events. The first is an ending and the second is a beginning.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">... /// ...</p>		

... /// ... Bergy's Babble

Nobody would ever say that the POTATO, was the End of the World. Consider the Apocalyptic Potato, a good thing, a new beginning, a wonderful stimulus to civilization imported to the world, and changing the world, thanks to the indigenous Native Americans, who cultivated it, and Columbian shipping and commerce across the Atlantic. Potatoes eased starvation, raised birth rates, promoted unanticipated population growth, enhanced craft specialization, and invention, expanded the marketplace, and fueled an Industrial Revolution. That's a lot of global impact for a lowly spud. Next time you eat a French Fry, ponder how it changed the world. What do you think? It wasn't the end of the world. It was an apocalypse, the beginning of a whole new world!

"We are stardust, we are golden...And we've got to get ourselves back to the Garden..." (Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young).

They were special, this enlightened generation. Their new vision would sweep away the rigid old order of their fathers with a 20th Century renaissance promising hope and progress for future generations. When their mantle of responsibility was assumed, a new world would be born. New thought spawned a youth culture embracing vegetarianism, herbal healing, communal living, sexual libertinism, and occultism. They cared about the environment and banned DDT, which was the equivalent of 3rd World Genocide. The unintended consequence? Death-rate score: DDT---zero, Unchecked malarial mosquito---millions. They emphasized health foods, promoted Earthdays, institutionalized child care, practiced pre-natal population control and euthanasia. They nationalized health care, and instituted innumerable welfare programs, the federal takeover of education, and massive deficit spending. Those were the days....the 1930's in Germany.

What Every Ism offers, is a fear of The End, the idea of a prodigious and heroic struggle against a demonized enemy, and then world-changing victory, followed by the golden age in the garden of Eden. It is an old and devilish formula:

... /// ...

... /// ... Bergy's Babble

Promote the fear of the End of the World, mistakenly call it an apocalypse, successfully survive a terrifying non-event, and take the next bus to Utopia with a new bunch of opportunists in charge. And you get to pay for the ticket.

Gullible and uninformed folks who consider themselves "woke," would probably be shocked to think of themselves as exhibiting exterminatory drool, but you can't help but notice that the politically correct often have rather violent ideas about what should happen to people who don't agree with them. "Isn't that special?"

The word "apocalypse" means that which is disclosed or revealed. But nowadays when people use it they invariably mean something like a scary end of the world, and that often boils down to one thing: the removal of all imperfect human beings. Good Luck. Here's a better way. Trust God to lead the way to the Festival of His Future. Then apocalypse---the next step will be revealed. It is discovery! What are you afraid of? You know what time it is.

The End of the World? That happens to me every night when I fall asleep.

APOCALYPSE? That happens to me every morning when I wake up. The new world is revealed.

See you in worship..... BERGY





**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – November 19, 2023**

The November 2023, Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, November 19, 2023, at 11:10 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Wendy Lambeth, Nancy Beamesderfer, Linda Cuzzort, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Wayne Schaper, Warren Schick, and Stephanie Walton. Reed Franklin and Tristan Walton attended as special guests.

The minutes from the October 2023 meeting were submitted by Council Secretary Julie Kilkenny and were approved by Council.

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. October 2023 offerings of \$36,744, an increase of \$22,663 over September (this does include reimbursements and contributions for A/C unit and church office painting). He noted that actual 2023 offerings are running approximately \$9,600/month less than budgeted amounts. Expenses for the month of October were \$33,708, a \$12,896 increase over September (this included A/C and painting expenses). The checking account balance at 10/31/23 was \$37,702, not including restricted funds. Dr. Finstad provided details on several line items. He noted that there were dedicated funds in the Barnyard Animals account that need to be disbursed; Council discussed how to allocate these funds, and Dr. Finstad will process the check. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

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Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren gave his report on activities for the month. He remarked that he had a busy month in the pastoral care area, as several parishioners had significant health events. He updated Council on several members on the prayer list. He noted that the Reformation Sunday Potluck lunch and WELCA ThankOffering went well, and he appreciated the work done for Stewardship Sunday. He noted that he distributed directories to several new members. Pastor Berggren's other activities included preparing for worship services each week; making phone calls and visits to parishioners; providing counseling and ministering for prayer requests (coordinating with Deacon Donahue); outreach to the community; weekly Wednesday Bible Study; attending choir practice and various church ministry meetings.

Committee Reports and Old Business:

WELCA: Nancy Beamesderfer gave a brief update on WELCA. She noted the nice response for ThankOffering Sunday and for the Reformation Potluck lunch. They are waiting to hear about the results from Fratelli's Days fundraiser. Upcoming WELCA events include a Potluck lunch and Christmas Sing-Along on December 10th.

Improvements to Campus / Building and Grounds (B&G):

Ms. Lambeth reported on projects around the campus:

- Issues with the A/C units continued, and another unit had to be replaced. She noted the contribution from the ELC toward this expense.
- Council discussed the damage to and subsequent removal of the porte cochere at the ELC entrance along the south driveway. A volunteer from one of the other churches supporting the Pantry hit a column, which collapsed the structure.

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Alan Lambeth was working with the Eagle Scouts on campus that day and was able to work with the maintenance person from that church to take the structure down, making it safe for the ELC students and parents. Discussions continue on the best way to replace the porte cochere, the timing of which will depend on ELC class schedules.

- Due to the increased expenditure for the A/C unit, President Lambeth elected to have only the church office and hallway painted earlier this month, and not the other offices at this time. She expressed her appreciation that, because of contributions from Crafty Ladies and several congregation members, this project did not affect the HCLC budget. Council discussed modifications for lighting in the church office.
- Moon Valley Nurseries will do the installation of plants for the Westview courtyard garden on December 1st, which will be paid for with memorial funds.

President Lambeth gave a recap of **Stewardship Sunday**. She praised John Stokes for his temple talk at worship and for composing the stewardship letter to the congregation. She expressed thanks to Stephanie Walton for making stewardship cards to go with the crosses crocheted by Ms. Lambeth, to Julie Kilkenny for the book-marks and pledge cards, and to Pastor Berggren for his letters and articles. She emphasized her desire that Stewardship Sunday also be an opportunity to thank all parishioners for their contributions at Holy Cross.

Other:

Ms. Lambeth stated that the **copier** lease expires in December 8th. Treasurer Finstad has been working to find the best solution for Holy Cross; he expects to make a final recommendation to Council before the deadline.

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- There was a brief discussion of the wording for the plaque in memory of Ed Cooper. Ms. Kilkenny will order the plaque.
- President Lambeth remarked that the vacant Council position had not been filled.

New Business:

Boy Scouts:

- Reed Franklin presented his final report on his **Eagle Scout project** for Holy Cross (rebuilding the **wood fence around the A/C unit adjacent to the west parking lot**). He detailed his process for Council: raising funds, getting the required permit, coordinating the work for the thirteen (13) Scouts who helped him with the project. Ms. Walton explained that as a requirement for an Eagle Scout project to be approved by the Boy Scouts, in this case, HCLC Church Council would need to agree that Reed accomplished the goal as stated in his original proposal and that Council was satisfied with the results. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved (with a round of applause) that Reed Franklin's Eagle Scout project exceeded Council expectations.
- Tristan Walton presented a proposal for his Eagle Scout project, a **refurbishment project for the playground**. He presented his ideas to freshen up this first impression of the HCLC campus from the Wirt driveway, including 1) replacing the planters along the ELC classrooms with attention to the drainage issues in that area and installing trellises behind them, 2) refreshing peeling paint around the playground and on the play structure, 3) replacing a sticking gate hinge, 4) perhaps painting a mural on the side of the storage shed that could serve as a "photo op" background for student pictures, 5) changing out the existing trash can, and 6) refreshing the wooden ELC sign at the entrance.

- He would coordinate with ELC staff to ensure that their objectives were taken into consideration. He asked if HCLC memorial funds donated in honor of Tommy Neumann could be used toward this project, and Tristan would raise the remainder. Council approved this action. His goal is to have the project finished by spring break. Ms. Beamesderfer remarked on his achievement of the Order of the Arrow, noting what an accomplishment this is.

Building use Request:

- Council approved a request by Spring Branch ISD to use HCLC Youth Room for **early voting** April 22-30, 2023.
- Pastor Berggren noted that Sussy Terry has been working hard on the administration and schedule for the youth basketball teams. There was a brief discussion on some of the details. Ms. Walton recommended that Ms. Terry get a team photo from each team at the beginning of the season, so it can be displayed in the gym. She also suggested HCLC get an early start in planning a Sports Sunday. Council chose March 3, 2024.
- Mr. Schick proposed Council revisit building use fees after the first of the year.

President Lambeth noted that the Nominating Committee needs a Council representative on the committee. Council discussed who was eligible for this position, and this was deferred until the next meeting.

The December Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Upon motion to adjourn, the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kilkenny
Secretary, Church Council





COUNCIL MEETING

Next Council Meeting will be Sunday, **January 21ST**,
at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

JANUARY

- 7 Reader – Mallory Hileman
P/E – Julie Kilkenny
- 14 Reader – Ruby Schaper
P/E – John Stokes
- 21 Reader – Jay Fort
P/E – Sharon Wagner
- 28 Reader – Charlotte Jaster
P/E – Alice Braun

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Holy Cross Lutheran Church acknowledges the following families who have recently given memorial gifts to the church.

The Family of Milton Flick
funded the purchase of two (2) communion veils.

The families of Elaine & Gordon Tinker,
Joyce Peden, and Helen Jacob,
funded replanting the courtyard on Westview.

Holy Cross thank you for your generosity!

The Memorial Fund Committee

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Please save your cancelled stamps and bring to the Church.

Lutheran World Relief uses the proceeds from the stamps to help defer the expense of shipping World Relief projects around the world.

Requirements include:

- Must be cancelled stamps (non-profit stamps not accepted)
- Must have a ¼ inch border around the stamp.

If you prefer, just bring the stamped portion of your envelope and we will trim the stamps.

There is a collection box in the Family Life Center for your stamps.

Thank you! Sharon Wagner



2024 CALENDAR REQUEST FORMS

Once again, you are kindly reminded that
you must fill out a Calendar Request Form

to schedule your meetings/events in 2024
on the forms located on the table in the Atrium.

**Anything not written on the calendar
may lead to a conflict in scheduling.**

This applies to anyone and/or any group that meets and uses
the church facilities, and if any church related group or circle
meets at homes and
would like to be scheduled on the church calendar as well.

Your meetings/events will be announced
in the Sunday News, Crossties Calendar
and on the Church website.

In advance, I thank you and wish you a Happy New Year!

Sussy Terry
Office Manager & Events Coordinator

SAFEGUARDS SAFETY TRAINING

HOLYCROSS COUPON CODE FOR 15% DISCOUNT: HCLC2024

CLASS	DAY	DATE	TIME
Adult CPR *CPR only (\$79) *CPR + First Aid (\$92)	Sunday	1/14/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Saturday	1/27/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Sunday	2/11/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Saturday	3/3/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Sunday	3/9/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Sunday	3/31/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm
Adult & Pediatric CPR *CPR only (\$85) *CPR + First Aid (\$99)	Friday	1/5/2024	9 am — 1:30 pm
	Saturday	1/20/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Thursday	2/1/2024	9 am — 1:30 pm
	Saturday	2/17/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Friday	2/23/2024	9 am — 1:30 pm
	Saturday	3/9/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
Basic Life Support (for Healthcare Providers and Professional Rescuers) (\$89)	Saturday	1/13/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Friday	1/26/2024	9 am — 1:30 pm
	Saturday	2/10/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	3/2/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Friday	3/15/2024	9 am — 1:30 pm
	Saturday	3/30/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
CPR Instructor Course (\$325)	Saturday	1/6/2024	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Friday	2/2/2024	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	2/24/2024	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Friday	3/22/2024	9 am — 5:30 pm

Classes are in the Youth Room, Media Room and in the Annex.

You can sign up online for classes by going to
www.safeguards-safety.com and choosing “Register for Classes.”

Or call John Lambeth 713-854-8085 for more information

Congregation members and their families will receive a discount of 15%
 for any class by using the above-mentioned coupon code when signing up.



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will be meeting on Saturday, **January 20**.

More details to follow.

Nancy Beamesderfer



Unlock the Scriptures

READINGS, PSALMS & GOSPEL

JANUARY 2024

DATE	1 st READING	PSALM	2 nd READING	GOSPEL
01/07/2024	Genesis 1:1-5	29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
01/14/2024	1 Samuel 3:1-10	139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
01/21/2024	Jonah 3:1-5,10	62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
01/28/2024	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28



JANUARY 2024

Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

03 Natieli Pazdra	22 Laura Neilsen
08 Maureen Fredrickson	23 Kris Drosche
Chris Abrego	William Allcorn
14 Jan Walker	Fred Gardner III
15 Bruce Elijah	24 Megan Schomburg
16 Susan Clark	25 Jack Wolf
18 Ellen Carter	26 Cathy Elijah
20 Julia Linn	30 Wayne Schaper, Sr.
21 Shawn Walton	

*If your name is not listed or if this is incorrect information
please contact the Church Office
so that the list can be corrected.*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

The homebound, disabled, long-term ill and prolonged recovering.

- † Dolores Abrego
- † Barney Boeker
- † Louise McDonnold
- † Larry Polzin
- † Rosie Stork

Alberto Basurto
 Faith Beamesderfer
 Candy Berggren
 Harold Braun
 Bill Carty
 Vicki Carty
 Lorraine Chavez
 Keisha Chile
 Marilyn Collins
 Cathy Doughty
 David Dukleth
 Karen Estes
 Anna Gardner
 Kipe Hinze

Linda Kuhar
 Kenneth Magrill
 Louise McDonnold
 Todd Miskel
 Jeremy Mitchell
 Geraine Moore
 LaVerne Pivonka
 Dorothy Preuss
 Barbara Sledge
 Jaime Urbanski
 Uzo Uzo
 David Watson
 Sandra Williams



If you are not receiving HCLC Prayer Request emails and would like to, please contact:

Renee Allcorn
allcornr@gmail.com

or call at 713-254-8638

Note that Prayer Request emails are sent out daily. If you are on the email list and did not receive any email, please contact Renee.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9— 4 p.m.
 Friday 8:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.

You may sign up for
ALTAR FLOWERS
 in the Narthex.

Suggested donation is \$65.⁰⁰

TREASURER'S REPORT

If you have any questions call Ricki Finstad at 713-465-5968.

NOVEMBER 2023

Receipts	\$ 14,346. ⁰⁰
Expenses	<u>29,431.⁴¹</u>
Balance	(\$ <u>15,085.⁴¹</u>)

Operational receipts	
Year-to-date received	\$ 256,575. ³¹
Expenditures year to date	<u>340,566.⁴¹</u>
Balance	(\$ <u>83,991.¹⁰</u>)

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

NOVEMBER SERVICES

Sunday Traditional Service : 47
 Saturday Informal Service : 10

