

***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*

<b>March 2024</b>	<i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i>	<b>Vol. 30 No. 3</b>
<b>BERGY'S BABBLE: "TRANSFIGURATION"</b>		
<p>Four of the most challenging words that our children ever said were "Can we keep it?" <u>I</u>t could be anything. More species passed through our lives than I can recount: frogs, turtles, snakes, lizards, mice, ducks, geese, chickens, goats, dogs, bats, cats, possums, birds and dozens of fish species in burbling aquariums. Back then, Wal-Mart sold fish. That was the first stop for Shane and Josh on a shopping trip. We always knew where they were from the shrill words several aisles over, "Can we get it? Can we keep it?" <i>IT</i>, was two clownknife fish, flat fish with spots on their flanks, 2 inches long, delightfully active.</p> <p>We introduced them to a tank. They commenced to eating everything. The guppies and goldfish disappeared. Left behind were a feisty little cichlid who knew where to hide, and a honcho-mama parrotfish with a menacing glare that would make 'Jaws' think twice. Suddenly the clownknives are six inches long and eating five bucks' worth of feeder fish every day.</p> <p>The week before Transfiguration Sunday, the last week of Epiphany, we went to Moody Gardens. In the fresh water habitat of the Rain Forest Exhibit, the boys discovered a clownknife. They were ecstatic! It was three feet long! The information plaque said that this fish could grow to five feet in the Mekong River Delta. It would eat large animals and breathe air if necessary.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">... /// ...</p>		

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

I said, "That's it. We are not raising 3-foot fish in the living room! We can't release them into the bayou because they'll eat everything between here and Galveston Bay. We could eat them but they are Clown fish. They might taste funny. Let's feed them to the turtles, in our Turtle Slough City where we throw our rescued turtles, who were crossing FM 2234 during the drought."

Transfiguration Sunday, 2002, arrives, and Shane still wants to keep the fish. After worship, he is buried in the Want Ads of the Houston Chronicle looking for a cheap 500-gallon fish tank.? Strange behavior for a 10-year-old. Then I hear those dread words, "Can we get it, puh-lease?"

"Get what, son?"

(Maybe the glories of clownknives have been forgotten.)

"There's a GIRAFFE for sale, can we get it please?"

This has to be a joke. "OK, Kid, how much are they asking for it?"

"What's 35K mean, Daddy?"

"Son," I said. "It means, 'How much is a goat?'"

"I don't know," he said, "but a zebra is only \$6500." (An exotic animal dealer must be liquidating livestock.) Joshua chimes in with, "I want a bird. A real big parrot! That talks!"

About this time, a starving, black cat with scabby mange, patches of hair gone, one ear split into three sections, and a balefully empty eye-socket oozing infection, limped through the Garden Center door, and announced his presence with a wowl, that could make a hellhound tuck tail and race to the devil for comfort. The emaciated tomcat was headed for the community food bowl set out, for four-legged mammals. It is not every day that one sees an optic nerve. I have seen suffering, but before me stands the most poignant rationale for gentle euthanasia I have ever witnessed.

You know what the next few words are, don't you? "Mommy, Daddy, can we keep it?"

... /// ...

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

You want to holler, "NO WAY," but how can you veto a child's concern and pity and heart for life?

"He's beautiful. His name is Cyclops," Josh and Shane declare in unison, vouching for this bedraggled, forsaken creature, sick and hungry, he hit every branch falling out of the ugly tree. He is affectionately rubbing on our children, and purring like a chainsaw with bad gas, and he needs major medical rehabilitation. But all a couple of kids saw was a Glorious Creature of God.

Now, he has been claimed with a name. He is adopted into a New Kingdom. In that particular moment he is not any prettier, but he is Transfigured, shining with Joy. He wants to live, and feast, and be held, and he knows he will!

I'd be upset about the new cat, Cyclops, but I can't get past thinking about The Transfiguration, and I see Jesus, Transfigured, coming down from the divine Glory of the mountaintop, and standing in the middle of this broken world, and against all verifiable evidence, seeing the Transfigured Glory of God in the world, thinking that it is beautiful, and praying to his Father, "Daddy, can we keep it?"

See you in worship..... BERGY 2-28-24



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING PART II

Congregational Meeting will be **March 10**,  
following the service in the Worship Center.

Church Council



**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)  
Minutes for Council Meeting – January 21, 2024**

The January 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 11:00 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.

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

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. December 2023 offerings of \$30,728, which was an increase of \$16,382 over November; average monthly offerings, however, were still \$10,000 less than those projected in the budget. Expenses for the month of December were \$31,042, which was \$1,611 greater than November. The checking account balance at 12/31/23 was \$26,152, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad noted that although December offerings were up, the year-to-date deficit of expenses over offerings at 12/31/23 of just over \$84,000 would probably necessitate the transfer of some investment funds into the checking account. He also gave a quick summary of investments this month. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Berggren presented the letter for his 2024 parsonage allowance of \$38,000; this was approved by Council. He updated Council on his activities for the month.

... /// ...

He reported that he was working on his meditations for mid-week Lenten worship services, which will be based on Marcus Borg and John Crossan's book, "The Last Week". He had a busy month visiting parishioners in the hospital. President Lambeth reported that Woodlawn Funeral Home made a donation to Holy Cross in appreciation for Pastor Berggren's officiation of memorial services for people who didn't have a church home (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 reported that efforts to update the lighting in the church office would resume, now that the holidays are over.

**Youth:**

- Stephanie Walton reported that **Scout Sunday** is scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross.
- Members of Troop 852 will be assisting with the 9:30am service. She noted that Girl Scout Sunday is March 10<sup>th</sup>, and she asked Ms. Lambeth to see if the Daisy Scout troop would like to participate in worship that day.
- The **Children's Business Fair** will be on February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- She remarked that an **Eagle Scout project** to build six benches for the Pantry has been approved. Also coming up is an Eagle Scout ceremony on February 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The **Sports Sunday** service is scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Council elected to have a reception after the service instead of a potluck lunch. Ms. Walton emphasized the need to reach out to the basketball teams early, so they can plan to attend.

... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — January 21, 2024

- Ms. Walton and President Lambeth are looking at dates and beginning plans for **VBS**.

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

- President Lambeth remarked that it was a busy month for B&G. She expressed appreciation for those who for worked to prepare HCLC for the freeze. The church fared well through it. There was a leak in a sprinkler line by the fountain, which was fixed by the JBS lawn crew. There was also an issue with the heat in the ELC, which it turned out to need a minor thermostat adjustment.

**Congregational Meeting Part II:**

The congregational meeting is set for March 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Schick remarked that one item that should be included is revision of Section 8 of the Bylaws, which was not rewritten to include the addition of the Secretary and Treasurer as voting members of Council. He added that there should be a new section in the Bylaws to clarify how the Memorial Fund Committee functions. Mr. Schick volunteered to work up drafts for these items.

**Other:**

- Ms. Lambeth remarked how great the church looked over the holidays, and she wanted to say a “huge thank you” for everyone who helped with **Christmas decorating** *and* un-decorating the church for the holidays. She noted that most of the outdoor decorations are now stored in the recently refurbished Media Room closet/storage room.
- Ms. Walton remarked that the Sip ‘n Shop went very well last month.
- The Memorial Fund Committee has asked for suggestions for additional projects on the Holy Cross wish list. Mr. Schick suggested a special organ fund and an audiovisual fund, which was approved by Council.

... /// ...

**New Business:**

**Building Use Request:** The Pantry submitted requests for 1) its Thanksgiving food project November 1 – December 1, 2024 and 2) the parking lot December 7<sup>th</sup> (8 a.m.—12noon). Council discussed a potential conflict with the December Sip ‘n Shop. Ms. Lambeth will check with Upcycled Crafty Ladies and the Pantry to avoid any overlaps. Mr. Schick emphasized the importance of HCLC communication with the Pantry about events that could cause problems with facility usage, especially as regards the parking lot.

Council discussed the schedule for **Wednesday Lenten meals:**

- Feb. 21: Council
- Feb. 28: WELCA
- Mar. 6: Music (Choir & Hymn Selection)
- Mar. 13: Roundtable Group
- Mar. 21: Men’s Breakfast Group

**CenterPoint/FLC kitchen issue:**

President Lambeth relayed the course of events to Council, which began with a call to CenterPoint by a guest at the ELC Christmas party (12/19/23) that there was a strong smell of natural gas in the Family Life Center. CenterPoint came out and shut off the gas to that end of the church campus, which included the hot water heater and heat for the Annex. Several days later, after a separate evaluation by a plumber, it was determined that there was no leak. CenterPoint replaced the gas meter with an undersized meter, an issue Alan Lambeth is working to remedy.

The problem was not a gas leak, but a case of pilot lights going out on the burners of the stove. Ms. Lambeth remarked that this happens regularly and perhaps it is time to evaluate a new solution, as in this instance it was a costly and quite drawn-out process.

... /// ...

... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — January 21, 2024

One short-term solution would be to shut off the pilot lights for the burners and manually light the pilot before each use. There was further discussion; however, additional research is needed.

**Upcoming events:**

- Scout Sunday (February 4)
- Children's Business Fair (February 10)
- Ash Wednesday and Lenten midweek services (February 14, 21, 28 and March 6, 13, 21)
- Sports Sunday (March 3)
- Congregational Meeting Part II (March 10)
- Upcycled Crafty Ladies' Springfest (March 23)
- Easter Egg Hunt (TBA, possibly March 23)
- Holy Week services: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter

The February Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, February 18, 2024 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





**Minutes from Congregational Meeting, Part I  
December 3, 2023**

The December 2023 Congregational Meeting (Part I) was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened the meeting with a prayer.

The agenda, a copy of the budget, and ballots were distributed to those present. It was determined that a quorum was in attendance. The first item of business was to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2023, Congregational Meeting Part II. There was no discussion from the floor. A motion was duly made and seconded, and the minutes were approved by a show of hands.

The next item of business was the 2024 Budget. President Lambeth turned this portion of the meeting over to Treasurer Ricki Finstad, who discussed highlights of the report. He presented the 2024 total budget, which was approximately \$6,500 less than the 2023 budget. Treasurer Finstad noted that in 2023, Holy Cross ran an average monthly deficit of \$7,000-\$8,000, even with careful management of costs. He continues looking for ways to cut expenses, and proceeds from Telge investments help offset Holy Cross expenses. Dr. Finstad asked if there were any questions or comments about the budget.

A motion was made (and seconded) for the congregation to cast ballots to approve the budget as presented. The 2024 budget passed by an overwhelming majority of votes.

While the ballots were being counted members discussed several opportunities and challenges for Holy Cross, as well as the congregation's progress in several areas.

Upon motion to adjourn, the meeting was ended at 10:43 a.m. Pastor Berggren closed with the Lord's prayer, which the congregation prayed together.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kilkenny  
Church Council Secretary



## LENTEN SERVICES IN 2024

**Lenten services will be held on Wednesdays**  
at 12:00 noon in the Atrium the following dates:

**February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20**

*Join us for a light meal, following the service,  
in the Family Life Center.*

## LENTEN STUDY

### FOR WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICES

This year we will explore the book, *“The Last Week”*,  
by Marcus Borg and John Crossan.

Subtitle: **“What the Gospels Really Teach  
About Jesus’ Final Days in Jerusalem”**

- † **February 21:** Preface and Palm Sunday
- † **February 28:** Monday and Tuesday
- † **March 6:** Wednesday and Maundy Thursday
- † **March 13:** Good Friday
- † **March 20:** Saturday and Easter Sunday

Pastor Jim Berggren

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER**  
**SERVICES IN 2024**

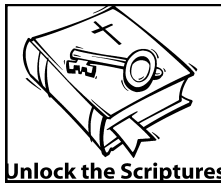


<b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>	<b>March 23</b>	11:00 a.m.
<b>Palm Sunday services</b>		
Saturday Informal service	<b>March 23</b>	6:00 p.m. —AT
Traditional worship	<b>March 24</b>	9:30 a.m. — WC
<b>Maundy Thursday (no dinner)</b>		
and Stripping of the Altar	<b>March 28</b>	7:00 p.m. — WC
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>March 29</b>	7:00 p.m. — WC
<b>Easter Saturday Service</b>	<b>March 30</b>	6:00 p.m. —AT
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>March 31</b>	
Easter Sunrise service		7:00 a.m. — WC
Easter Breakfast		8:00 a.m. —FLC
Pre-service Organ Concert		9:00 a.m. —WC
Traditional Worship		9:30 a.m. — WC

## COUNCIL MEETING

Council Meeting will be Sunday, **March 17<sup>th</sup>**, 2024  
at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council



## READINGS, PSALMS & GOSPEL MARCH 2024

DATE	1 <sup>st</sup> READING	PSALM	2 <sup>nd</sup> READING	GOSPEL
03/03/2024	Exodus 20:1-17	19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
03/10/2024	Numbers 21:4-9	107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
03/17/2024	Jeremiah 31:31-34	51:1-12	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
03/24/2024	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 15:21-39
03/31/2024	Isaiah 25:6-9	118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Mark 16:1-8



## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

Lenten Devotional Booklets are available  
in the Narthex and Atrium.

These meditations are based on the writings of Henri Nouwen.

The devotions are an excellent way to spend a few minutes  
everyday to prepare for the season of Lent and Easter.

There are Booklets available for children as well.

Sharon Wagner

## WELCA

Just a reminder that we have a general meeting of WELCA  
scheduled for **Saturday, March 2**, at 10:00 am.

Please make plans to attend. We will be discussing our plans to  
redo the lighting in the church office, the Craft Show that will be  
held March 23, and flowers for the altar.

If there is anything else anyone would like to discuss, let me  
know. The meeting should be very short but I would like to have  
as many participate as possible because every voice/opinion is  
valuable.

Nancy Beamesderfer



## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will be meeting at the church  
**Saturday, March 16**, for an Irish themed pot luck.

Marsha Thompson has volunteered to coordinate the food  
so please **call/text** her at **281-935-4988**  
to let her know what you are bringing.

Marsha will be making potato soup  
and Nancy will be bringing dessert.

Suggestions for other foods - salad, sandwiches, chips.

We will begin to gather at 3:00 pm  
and supper will be served at 4:00 pm.

Hope to see you there!

Nancy Beamesderfer





## **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

On behalf of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, we thank The Calvin Rimmert family for using their Memorial gifts toward the Landscaping.

In addition, we thank Lois and Russell Schulze, Ruth and Marvin Echols, and Fred Shealy families for donations to the music/organ and Audio/Visual funds.

Your gifts are greatly appreciated and gratefully received.

HCLC Memorial Fund Committee

Tillie Rimmert, Chairperson

Penny Schick, Member

John Lambeth, Member

## **UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY**

**TAYLOR, Dottie**

248-859-6562

41215 Fox Run Rd WT 223

Novi, MI 48377

**THIELEMANN, Carol**

Correct email address:

vncthielemann@att.net

<b>SAFEGUARDS SAFETY TRAINING</b>			
<b>HOLYCROSS COUPON CODE FOR 15% DISCOUNT: HCLC2024</b>			
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>
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	3/31/2024	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
<p>Classes are in the Youth Room, Media Room and in the Annex.</p> <p>You can sign up online for classes by going to  <a href="http://www.safeguards-safety.com">www.safeguards-safety.com</a> and choosing “Register for Classes.”</p> <p>Or call John Lambeth 713-854-8085 for more information</p> <p>Congregation members and their families will receive a discount of 15%  for any class by using the above-mentioned coupon code when signing up.</p>			





**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SPRINGFEST ARTS AND CRAFTS MARKET**

**March 23, 2024**

10 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Vendors welcome

For information contact Barbara Neumann (713) 468-2341

**LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS**

**MARCH**

3 Reader — Charlotte Jaster  
P/E — Sharon Wagner

10 Reader — Ruby Schaper  
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer

17 Reader — Julie Kilkenny  
P/E — Julie Kilkenny

24 Reader — Alice Braun  
P/E — Wendy Lambeth

31 Reader — Nancy Beamesderfer  
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist



## MARCH 2024

Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

01 Marie Drosche	15 Scott Schomburg
Harrison New	22 Bettye Raschke
Alex Saavedra	23 Caroline Irvin
02 Harold Braun	24 Jennifer Mendel
04 Peter Yoder	Mitchell Kilkenny
05 Scott Wegner	25 Charlotte Jaster
13 John Wenger	Robert Manning III
14 Amy Schomburg	28 Sharon Wagner

*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
- † Sandra Williams

Candy Berggren  
 Barney Boeker  
 Harold Braun  
 Susan Caradec  
 Bill Carty  
 Vicki Carty  
 Lorraine Chavez  
 Patty Conberi  
 Cathy Doughty  
 David Dukleth  
 Steve Forrester  
 Anna Gardner

Linda Kuhar  
 Kenneth Magrill  
 Todd Miskel  
 Jeremy Mitchell  
 Geraine Moore  
 Mike Paine  
 LaVerne Pivonka  
 Dorothy Preuss  
 Rosie Stork  
 Vern Terry  
 Jaime Urbanski  
 David Watson



*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.<sup>00</sup>**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**JANUARY 2024**

Receipts	\$ 30,983. <sup>00</sup>
Expenses	<u>25,697.<sup>77</sup></u>
Balance	<u>(\$ 5,285.<sup>23</sup>)</u>

Operational receipts	
Year-to-date received	..... \$ 30,983. <sup>31</sup>
Expenditures year to date	..... <u>25,697.<sup>77</sup></u>
Balance	<u>(\$ 5,285.<sup>23</sup>)</u>

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE**

**JANUARY SERVICES**

Saturday Informal Service : 9  
 Sunday Traditional Service : 47

