

*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*

May 2024

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Vol. 30
No. 5

BERGY'S BABBLE: "A SHEEPISH AFFAIR"

"Mardon me padam. I believe you are occupewing my pie. May I sew you to another sheet?" That is a famous spoonerism said by the Reverend William Archibald Spooner, a pastor of the Church of England, and a Warden of Oxford University in the late 1800's, through 1930. Sometimes he scrambled his words and syllables. At the conclusion of a wedding, he told the couple, "It is kisstomary to cuss the bride." Preaching on today's text, he piously intoned that, "the Lord is a shoving leopard."

Jesus, as a Loving Shepherd is one of the most cherished images of our Lord. Isn't it curious that we also image Jesus as the Lamb of God? He's one of us, too.

One year, Mr. Olson was our high school music student teacher in choir, band and orchestra. The day we met him, we were startled, when he, with difficulty, clattered his way to the podium with full leg braces and fancy crutches. It was like Robo-Teach. He smiled and said, Mr. Berggren, could you please pass these papers out to the group?" They were instructions explaining his battle with polio, and physical weakness, and how to follow his way of directing. He was great. You had to watch so carefully; not just waving arms but moving the muscles of his face, the John Belushi eyebrow lift, his eyes and pointing his nose, wagging his head and nodding. You had to be a smart sheep, extremely observant, to follow this shepherd. This shepherd drew you into his world, a strange and helpless place, and you became workers together for the same goal. Good music. Normally unruly and hormonal high school children were fascinated by his direction. What will this cool shepherd do next?

... /// ...

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

He was chosen to be the Master of Ceremonies for Stunt Night at Bethany College, an evening of fraternity and sorority skits with jokes, talent acts, and entertainment. He introduced each act with a joke, just like a vaudeville. As the program was concluding, he laboriously crutched to center stage, wearing a superman costume. He whipped a bottle marked 'geritol' out of his cape and chugged it down, and threw it and a crutch to one side. Teetering, he rummaged around and found another bottle of 'geritol' in his cape, chugged it and threw the other crutch to the ground. And he fell flat with a noisy clatter. The audience was shocked, silent, blown away. Nobody knew how to react. And he laid there, grinning at us from the floor.

Some people started clapping and laughing nervously. A muffled titter ran through the crowd. It grew into a loud cheer of relieved approval. Stage hands rushed out and braced him upright. They gave him a director's baton, and he directed the thundering applause, pointing to different sections of the auditorium, which responded with a roar. The north side of Presser Hall roared, and then the south side roared back antiphonally. It was high-decibel liturgy, led by a humble shepherd, a true leader. The most helpless guy in the room, controlled a packed auditorium of robust college kids who were getting a life lesson. Incredible. Those kids weren't stupid. They recognized true courage. They figured out, Mr. Olson knew the score. He was a great shepherd!

Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Moses and David were all shepherds, good successful shepherds. Their skills with their flocks directly transferred to their leadership qualities, which involved vigilance, kindness, teamwork, calmness, patience, a sense of direction, a lot of prayer, and benign control.

Sheep/sinners generally know their own propensity for straying. Strays aren't always bad. They are in danger. Their situation is often inadvertent, not deliberate rebellion. Not orneriness but instead, cluelessness. In grazing, one green clump of grass leads to another. Sheep/sinners are by nature, instinctually, busy grazers. They are busy to distraction, which leaves out situational awareness.

... /// ...

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

They will move toward the greener grass, and always move uphill, because they are rear-wheel drive organisms, with most of their weight on the back-side. They are happiest and the least worried when they congregate, grazing in a flock with many eyes looking out for danger, and a sheep dog, and a shepherd to watch them. They get along great with other species of very different abilities and intelligences. Even people have a hard time with that cooperative ecumenicity. Sheep exploit the added protection of other larger grazing livestock, like llamas, goats, cattle and donkeys, and will form a flerd, (flock/herd) with a variety of other larger herbivores. "Hey Ewe! I'm a Buffalo and I've got your back!" Whew!!!! That's reassuring!

It is just a matter of getting rid of that stigma of sheep being seen as stupid. Great associations of people and communities operate like a smart flock of sheep. Sheep/ sinners are smart. We help each other to safety and security. We watch out for each other. We move away from danger to a higher vantage point. We form productive alliances with other groups. Predatory people and situations are always there. When we are distracted with the basics of life, it is good to know that there are friendly sheep dogs to encourage and redirect the slow of heart, and the great Good Shepherd there for the most crucial issues.

The Lord is a loving shepherd. I love my Good Shepherd. With his guidance and protection, I pray that I can be a Good Sheep!

See You In Worship..... Bergy





**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – March 17, 2024**

The March 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, March 17, 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, Warren Schick and Stephanie Walton. Wayne Schaper was absent. Stephen Schulze attended as a special guest.

The minutes from the February 2024 meeting were submitted by Council Secretary Julie Kilkenny and approved by Council.

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. February 2024 offerings were \$17,478, a decrease of \$13,508 from January. Expenses for the month of February were \$33,026, a decrease of \$7,328 from January. However, the February deficit (of expenses over offerings) was \$15,548. The checking account balance at 02/29/24 was \$22,439, not including restricted funds. Dr. Finstad provided a summary of investments this month. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren gave a brief summary of his annual report to Gulf Coast Synod Bishop Rinehart. He elaborated about his response to a question about significant developments at Holy Cross during the past year: 1) livestreaming of weekly worship service, 2) weekly recording of sermon YouTube channel in advance of weekend services (for those who cannot attend in-person), 4) HCLC support of the ESB Food Pantry, which is a significant outreach ministry for Holy Cross and other area churches, serving 57,504 people last year.

... /// ...

He noted other community outreach in the form of sharing HCLC facilities with the Early Learning Center, a Boy Scout troop, a Girl Scout Daisy troop, youth basketball teams, classes in art, CPR and first aid. Pastor Berggren reached out to Officer Moore (Spring Valley Police) about a review of security protocols for HCLC; he will keep Council updated on developments, and he expects to meet in March or April. His regular activities include preparing for worship and Lenten 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 WELCA will sponsor a potluck meal after worship on May 15th and probably one in October. ThankOffering weekend will be on November 9th and 10th.

Congregational Meeting Update: President Lambeth remarked that the Congregational Meeting Part II went well. She noted feedback she received about the large amount of paper used in the packets distributed to parishioners at the meeting, specifically the committee and ministry reports. After some discussion, Council approved a plan to decrease the number of Committee reports provided at the Annual meeting; instead, committees can provide updates for the congregation during the year via Crosssties, Sunday News articles, etc.

The candidates elected for 2024 positions are as follows:

- **Council President** (1-year term) : Wendy Lambeth
- **Secretary** (1-year term): Julie Kilkenny
- **Treasurer** (1-year term): Ricki Finstad

- **Council Members** (2-year term): Jay Byerly, Stephen Schulze, Hans Sunder (1-year term): Leigh Rothharpt
[*Returning Council members (with 1 year remaining)*:
Warren Schick, Stephanie Walton]
- **Nominating Committee** (1-year term): Linda Cuzzort, Darnell Lucero, Tillie Remmert, Amy Schomburg
- **Endowment Committee** (2-year term): Pat Boessling, Sharon Wagner
[*Returning Committee members (with 1 year remaining)*:
Amy Schomburg, Wayne Schaper]

The proposed changes to the By-Laws were approved:

C12.01 VIII (regarding composition and voting status of Council)

C14.01 IX (regarding the Memorial Fund Committee)

Installation of new members was scheduled for April 7, 2024.

Youth:

- President Lambeth reported that **VBS** plans are underway. The camp will take place July 22-26, 2024.
- Ms. Walton reported that six **Boy Scouts** received Eagle Scout status this month. Ms. Lambeth remarked on the successful Scout Sunday service.

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

- Pastor Berggren commented on the improvements around the church grounds. The Memorial Fund Committee has been working on landscape projects in the Westview courtyard, the walkway to the south entrance to the Atrium, and restoring the plantings outside of the playground which were damaged by the drought last summer.

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An Eagle Scout project to add benches outside of the Pantry entrance not only provide a welcome amenity for Pantry clients, but enhance the HCLC campus as well. He praised HCLC member Tristan Walton's Eagle Scout project to upgrade the ELC playground.

- President Lambeth reported that Dr. Finstad is researching options for the FLC kitchen icemaker. He is looking into a smaller, self-cleaning icemaker. This would eliminate the cost of the current maintenance agreement. Council approved this measure.
- President Lambeth repeated her desire to address the challenges with the commercial stove in the FLC kitchen, i.e., the pilots for the burners blowing out and the accompanying odor, the commercial ventilation system and recurring inspection costs.

Lent and Easter: Pastor Berggren reported that things were on track for Easter. Council discussed plans for Holy Week.

Food Pantry: President Lambeth reported on developments for the proposed Food Pantry expansion. A resident in the neighborhood, who is not in favor of the expansion, has presented his opposition at several meetings of the Hilshire Village Council and Planning Committee. Council had a lengthy discussion about possible solutions/compromises for this problem.

New Business:

Ms. Lambeth was approached by Marilyn Flick about Holy Cross participation in a hospitality ministry program in the Medical Center. Currently she collects calendars and miscellaneous items from the congregation to distribute for patients' families who are temporarily staying in the Medical Center. She noted they need more calendars, note pads and bingo prizes; President Lambeth asked her to check on what items they are requesting, so it can be publicized. ... /// ...

... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — March 17, 2024

Treasurer Finstad asked whether Telge Lot 1 was still on the market, as he was approached by someone interested in the property. Council asked him to get more details on the serious-ness of the buyer and report back with any developments.

On behalf of the Council and congregation, Ms. Kilkenny expressed thanks to all outgoing Council and Committee members for their service to Holy Cross; and also, to all returning and newly elected members.

The April Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, April 21, 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



UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY

NEW MEMBER

YOUNG, Selvin Jr.

Cell 346-284-8571

8619 Greiner Dr.

Houston, TX 77080

selvinyoung0571@gmail.com



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will be meeting Saturday, **May the 18th**,
at the church for a pot luck supper.

We will begin to gather at 4:00 p.m
and supper will be served at 5:00 p.m.

Ike Thompson is planning to cook a brisket so bring any dish
you feel would go well - baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, etc.

Hope to see y'all there!

Nancy Beamesderfer

MEMORIAL GIFTS

On behalf of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, we thank the
Betty Firth family for using their Memorial gifts toward the
landscaping.

In addition, we thank the Merle Jensen, Stan Crick, Clarice
Gross, Madelyn Price, Bernice Rogge and Dorsey Mae
Alexander families for donating to the music/organ and audio/
visual funds.

HCLC Memorial Fund

Tillie Remmert, Chairman

Penny Schick, Member

John Lambeth, Member

A decorative graphic of the words "Thank You" written in a highly stylized, flowing cursive script. The letters are interconnected and have long, elegant flourishes.

SAFEGUARDS SAFETY TRAINING
HOLYCROSS COUPON CODE FOR 15% DISCOUNT: HCLC2024

CLASS	DAY	DATE	TIME
Adult CPR *CPR only (\$79) *CPR + First Aid (\$92)	Sunday	4/7/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Saturday	5/4/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Sunday	5/26/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Sunday	6/9/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm
Adult & Pediatric CPR *CPR only (\$85) *CPR + First Aid (\$99)	Saturday	4/6/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Friday	4/19/2024	9 am — 1:30 pm
	Saturday	5/18/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Friday	5/31/2024	9 am — 1:30 pm
	Saturday	6/15/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Sunday	6/30/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
Basic Life Support (for Healthcare Providers and Professional Rescuers) (\$89)	Saturday	4/13/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Friday	5/3/2024	9 am — 1:30 pm
	Friday	5/17/2024	9 am — 1:30 pm
	Saturday	5/23/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	6/8/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	6/27/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
CPR Instructor Course (\$325)	Saturday	4/20/2024	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Friday	5/10/2024	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	6/1/2024	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Friday	6/21/2024	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 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

John Lambeth



Memorial Assistance Ministries

1625 Blalock Rd. - Houston, Texas 77080

Memorial Resale Store

QUARTERLY HALF OFF SALE!

Friday May 17, and Saturday May 18, 2024

MAM will have almost everything 50% off at Blalock location.

(Excluding Boutique and new Jewelry)

Resale proceeds typically make up 20-30% of MAM's annual revenues, so any effort to increase sales directly supports ALL programs and services!

LOOKING FOR A NEW OR BETTER JOB?

MAM Employment Services

is opening a new vocational training class **May 30, thru June 29, 2024**, for Electrocardiography (EKG Technician) Interpretation Training.

See posted flyer for details! or you can log in to **www.mamhouston.org**
If someone you know is looking for a new or better job, this might be a fit.

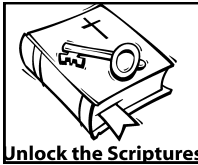
Healthcare professions generally pay well and are fairly recession resistant.



COUNCIL MEETING

Council Meeting will be Sunday, **May 19th**, 2024
at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council



Unlock the Scriptures

READINGS, PSALMS & GOSPEL

MAY 2024

DATE	1 st READING	PSALM	2 nd READING	GOSPEL
05/05/2024	Acts 10:44-48	98	1 John 5:1-16	John 15:9-17
05/12/2024	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
05/19/2024	Acts 2:1-21	104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
05/26/2024	Isaiah 6:1-8	29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17



ALTAR FLOWERS IN APRIL

Altar Flowers were given by Warren and Penny Schick in celebration of their Anniversary.

Anita Cooper in loving memory of
Edward Cooper.

A red rose was given by Barbara Sledge
in Thanksgiving celebration of her new great-grandson
Leon Miguel Sledge son of Zack and Maria Sledge.



LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

MAY

- 5 Reader — Charlotte Jaster
P/E — Alice Braun
- 12 Reader — Leigh Rothharpt
P/E — Wendy Lambeth
- 19 Reader — Julie Kilkenny
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer
- 26 Reader — Sharon Wagner
P/E — Penny Schick

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist
Nancy Beamesderfer



MAY 2024

Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Jackson Lambeth | 11 | David Neumann |
| | Rob Carty | 16 | LaVerna Wegner |
| 4 | Martin Pazdra | 17 | Bettie Baring |
| | Carol Prokofieff | 19 | Jo Ann Wood |
| 5 | Stephanie Walton | 23 | Sussy Terry |
| 7 | Dolores Abrego | | |



*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

Antonio Benavides
 Candy Berggren
 Elvin Bethea
 Pat Bethea
 Barney Boeker
 Bill Carty
 Vicki Carty
 Lorraine Chavez
 Patty Conberi
 Cathy Doughty
 David Dukleth
 Anna Gardner
 Nadine Jones

Linda Kuhar
 Daniel Lara
 Kenneth Magrill
 Todd Miskel
 Jeremy Mitchell
 Geraine Moore
 Mike Paine
 Dorothy Preuss
 Rosie Stork
 Vern Terry
 Jaime Urbanski
 Bennie Valites
 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

MARCH 2024

Receipts	\$ 27,301. ⁰⁰
Expenses	<u>29,346.⁴⁶</u>
Balance	(\$ 2,315. ⁴⁶)

Operational receipts

Year-to-date received \$ 75,492. ⁰⁰
Expenditures year to date <u>88,070.⁴⁸</u>
Balance	(\$12,578. ⁴⁸)

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

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

MARCH SERVICES

Saturday Informal Service : 10
 Sunday Traditional Service : 58
 Wednesday Lenten services: 21
 Maundy Thursday: 32 — Good Friday: 31
 Easter Sunrise Service: 21 —Breakfast: 40
 Traditional Easter Service: 85

