

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*

June 2024	<i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i>	Vol. 30 No. 6
BERGY'S BABBLE: "PENTECOST REPRISE"		
<p><i>"Many native traditions held clowns and tricksters as essential to any contact with the sacred. People could not pray until they had laughed, because laughter opens and frees from rigid preconception. Humans had to have tricksters within the most sacred ceremonies lest they forget the sacred comes through upset, reversal, surprise. The trickster in most native traditions is essential to creation, to birth." (Byrd Gibbons, University of Arkansas)</i></p> <p>You can tell who is serious about life. They are laughing. They are bemused, laughing at themselves. They are amused; laughing at the inexplicable twists, miracles and coincidences of life. They are mused; laughing with their Creator, celebrating the eternal moment in the joy of creation. You can't manufacture that. You can only receive it. It's grace.</p> <p>On the other hand, have you ever seen an activist protester laughing? Rioters and terrorists have an emotional range from 'grumpy' to 'rabid.' Usually, they are too busy promoting their favorite "ism" suffix, to notice life's laughs. It makes me wonder. Is their "ism" really about the altruistic cause, or does it have mostly to do with personal recognition? Virtue signaling is like bragging about personal humility. I scan the news looking for a laughing demonstrator. I have yet to see one. They're probably as rare as smiling triathletes at the end of the marathon leg.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">... /// ...</p>		

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

My first year of seminary, I was seriously worried. It was no laughing matter. It was the most difficult and stressful academic year of my life. There was Greek at the beginning and Hebrew at the end and all the specialized language of theological vocabulary in the middle, a totally foreign language to me. I came to the grim realization that this was going to be the first time I had to really seriously study since 7th grade.

One of the required courses with a huge reading list was Theological Methodology, taught by Dr. Carl Braaten. Boot camp for the brain. I read a lot, and understood nothing. Many words, but no clear pictures in my head. The grade for the course was determined by the quality of the final paper, which I knew for a fact was going to be the biggest pile of double-talk ever assembled on 20 sheets of 8-1/2 X 11. Even if I got lucky and got all the words in the right places grammatically, I still wouldn't know what I had said.

Late one evening, I was studying in my third floor apartment at the desk next to my water bed trying to read and understand Wolfhart Pannenberg. Something about history being the revelation, of the fact of the resurrection. He called it *Heilsgeschichte*, Salvation History. Suddenly the water bed started sloshing around. Impossible. I was losing it. Too much theology was breaking my brain. Was I hallucinating or witnessing poltergeist activity. Maybe the little invisible kids were bouncing on the waterbed. I took a walk to clear my head and then slept on the couch just in case Tiamat from the Babylonian Chaos waters of my normally docile bed, decided to arise and claim my soul.

What a revelation, what a relief, to read in the morning Trib, that the Chicago area experienced a few tremors from the New Madrid Faultline, the night before. Whew!!!

I had a good grasp of psychology, so I decided to write in the context of learning theory. I asserted that my method of theology was revelation, the 'ah-ha' experience; life's little 'eureka's'. , or hauntings, in the rebellion of waterbeds.

... /// ...

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

I was hoping that Dr. Braatan might recognize a few of Pannenberg's ideas there, as inspired by the morning revelation of tremors, versus the nighttime fears of derangement, or hauntings, in the rebellion of waterbeds. It was a bumbling first attempt at theology, but it was from the heart and I knew that I had half a chance. My curve of competition included a couple of geniuses, several students who would write what their preacher-daddy always said, several who would write what they thought the draft board wanted to hear, and a few, dumb as a box of rocks, who would buy trash term papers from a company in downtown Chicago.

Then I had a revelatory experience that would prove my paper's veracity. I was reading a Zap Comix, a strip by R. Crumb, featuring Mr. Natural. It was a loose Pentecost story about how people remembered a day when a skillion meatballs fell out of the sky. Everyone in the stadium got hit on the head with a meatball. But then the meatballs slacked off to where only once in a while somebody might get hit with a meatball, and finally the meatballs quit falling and everybody was watching and waiting and praying for meatballs that hadn't reappeared, yet.

Everyone wants a revelation from above, right? So, I copied the comic strip and added it as a large footnote at the end of the paper. Then I went to Mrs. Kirsons, the draconian refectory lady and begged three meatballs from her. I named them Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, gift wrapped them nicely with nametags, and put them into Dr. Braaten's mailbox. (3 Meatballs, 1 Substance)

As I envisioned this thing unfolding, first he would find a trinity of meatballs in his mail. He'd wonder about that. Might even develop some interesting ideation concerning it. Is it a gift? A prank? A personal statement? Friendly? Hostile? If he thinks about it at all, it will be theological thinking because that's what he does. I was curious to discover what his theological reaction might be. It would be revealed ... which was the point. History reveals the salvation that was there from the beginning!

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

Then on a date in the near future, while grading papers, he would read mine. He'd get to the last footnote and see this ridiculous comic strip and say, "What in *Heilsgeschichte* is going on h.....Ah Ha!! The Meatballs in my mailbox!!" And I would have proved my point by example. God, His Son, Jesus, and his trickster Helper, the Holy Spirit, work in history to reveal the Divine. Dr. Braaten would then see the methodology of revelation in my theology, through the mundanity of mysterious meatballs. Simple as that. Incarnational. Historical. Son of God and Son of Man! Beautiful Savior!

Several saner classmates had advised against this. It was too late. I had already mailed the meatballs. Oh, no! I began to doubt and not believe. This could be failure! Will Salvation History backfire on me? Did I put in motion my own demise as a seminarian? If this revelation boomerangs, I will have to go back into the Midwest Pioneers Roller Derby Team. The blister on my right instep had just healed, from the summer before, after skating counter-clockwise laps at the Chicago Amphitheater, on a banked track, until my cerebrum lay flat on my brain pan, panting. Time will tell. *Heilsgeschichte*. Suspension.

I passed with a low 'B', and a note from Carl saying, "Well written, but this paper does not reflect the assigned reading material." No kidding. He noticed that! "*Zap Comix*" was not on the reading list.

I don't know if Dr. Braaten ever laughed, or what his reaction was. He was a busy man. He might not have even connected the two events. Nevertheless, I considered his note, a gift of beautiful grace. I laughed with relief and joy. Saved by the meatball! I revel in the dubious distinction of being the only graduate student seminarian in history, who turned in meatballs for a term paper in theology and still managed by some miracle of God's will to not wash out like the other detritus of flotsam on the shores of Lake Michigan. Thank you, Lord!

See you in Worship *BERGY*

STORM RECOVERY UPDATE

On May 16, 2024, a storm came through the Spring Branch area. Holy Cross was in its direct path, receiving torrential rains and winds of over 100 miles per hour.

A tree fell in the Early Learning Center playground, roots and all, crushing the canopy, upending the toy shed, and crashing through the fence. Another nearby tree fell and blocked the back entrance from Wirt Road.

Two trees also fell in the north courtyard, one hitting the Annex hallway roof and the other hit the roof of the Media Room closet.

Trees also fell on the grounds in other areas, including one on the Telge Property that landed on the roof of the neighbor's house. Debris from large limbs fell all over the campus. These are just the major issues.

I would like to say thank you to a few people. Rene Romero's Tree Service was here first thing Saturday morning to begin clearing the trees. Rene had injured his leg the week before, but he was here -in a wheelchair- to help his crew as best he could.

Noe Ibarra, who has done work for the church in the past, was also here first thing Saturday morning, to cover the hole in the roof and to begin what turned out to be major water damage in the ceiling and wall below. He repaired the roofs, interior and exterior walls, gutters, and a large hole in the brick courtyard that was punctured by the fallen tree. He also repaired water damage from wind-blown rain in the Sanctuary aisle ceiling, and cleaned and sealed the outer wall and roof to help prevent future leaks.

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...///... Storm Recovery Update

I want to thank Pastor Jim who held worship here on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, with no electricity and with chain saws working in the background. It was a very nice reminder that church is still church and worship is still worship.

Thanks also to Rob Carty. There was a piano in the Atrium when I came in on Sunday morning. Rob played beautiful hymns for us during the worship service, with very little time to prepare. It did our souls good at a time of much uncertainty.

Finally, thank you to the members of the congregation who have come out to help with the clean-up. It's been a hot and messy job.

Things are getting back to normal. Power came back on May 22, internet came back on May 29, and phone service is expected to be back on by June 5.

Unfortunately, this recovery process will not be inexpensive. Insurance will not cover any of the damage. We are looking into the unlikely possibility of getting grants and other options to help defray the costs. Whatever extra donations you can share with us, no matter the amount, would help immensely. Please put a notation on your gift "Storm Recovery" so we know that's where you would like your money to go.

Thank you. God's Peace.

Wendy Lambeth
Council President



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
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

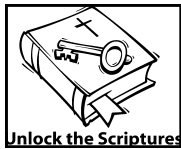
John Lambeth



COUNCIL MEETING

Council Meeting will be Sunday, **June 9th**, 2024
at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council



READINGS, PSALMS & GOSPEL

JUNE 2024

DATE	1 st READING	PSALM	2 nd READING	GOSPEL
06/02/2024	Deuteronomy 5:12-15	81:1-10	2 Corinthians 4:5-12	Mark 2:23—3:6
06/09/2024	Genesis 3:8-15	130	2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1	Mark 3:20-35
06/16/2024	Ezekiel 17:22-24	92:1-4, 12-15	2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17	Mark 4:-26-34
06/23/2024	Job 38:1-11	107:1-3, 23-32	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
06/30/2024	Lamentations 3:22-33	30	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43



ALTAR FLOWERS IN MAY

Altar Flowers were given by
Hans and Hanne-Lore Sunder in celebration
of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friendship Club will not meet in the month of June.
Next meeting will be Saturday, **July 20**, at 4pm in the Annex.

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

JUNE

2 Reader — Scott Wegner
P/E — John Stokes

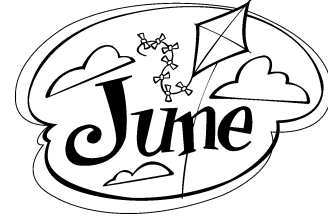
9 Reader — Mallory Hileman
P/E — Sharon Wagner

16 Reader — Ike Thompson
P/E — Stephen Schulze

23 Reader — Jay Byerly
P/E — Linda Cuzzort

30 Reader — Stephen Schulze
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist
Nancy Beamesderfer




JUNE 2024

Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

01 Jo Rita Kaltwasser	22 Fred Abrego
03 Hanne-Lore Sunder	25 Dorothy Preuss
08 Joyce Huey	26 Joseph Lambeth
16 Betty Larson	28 Christopher Fisher
Priscilla Anthony	Alice Braun
17 Mark Rose	29 Joshua Berggren
18 Bruce Jaster	Xavier Abrego
19 Gregory Smith	



*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														
<p>The homebound, disabled, long-term ill and prolonged recovering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> † Dolores Abrego † Barney Boeker † Louise McDonnold † Larry Polzin † Rosie Stork † Sandra Williams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antonio Benavides Elvin Bethea Pat Bethea Barney Boeker Bill Carty Vicki Carty Lorraine Chavez Patty Conberi David Dukleth Anna Gardner Nadine Jones Linda Kuhar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daniel Lara Kenneth Magrill Todd Miskel Jeremy Mitchell Geraine Moore Mike Payne Dorothy Preuss Rosie Stork Vern Terry Jaime Urbanski Bennie Valites David Watson 												
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><i>If you are not receiving HCLC Prayer Request emails and would like to, please contact:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Renee Allcorn <u>allcornr@gmail.com</u> or call at 713-254-8638</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Family & Friends of Cathy Doughty upon completion of her life's mission.</p>													
<p style="text-align: center;">CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</p> <p>Monday—Thursday: 9— 4 p.m. Friday 8:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TREASURER'S REPORT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you have any questions call Ricki Finstad at 713-465-5968</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>APRIL 2024</u></p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Receipts</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 28,655.⁰⁰</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>29,476.⁰⁰</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(\$ 821.⁴⁶)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Operational receipts</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Year-to-date received</td> <td style="text-align: right;">..... \$106,511.⁰⁰</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditures year to date</td> <td style="text-align: right;">... <u>117,070.⁰⁰</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(\$ 11,306.⁰⁰)</td> </tr> </table>		Receipts	\$ 28,655. ⁰⁰	Expenses	<u>29,476.⁰⁰</u>	Balance	(\$ 821. ⁴⁶)	Year-to-date received \$106,511. ⁰⁰	Expenditures year to date	... <u>117,070.⁰⁰</u>	Balance	(\$ 11,306. ⁰⁰)
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<p style="text-align: center;">You may sign up for ALTAR FLOWERS in the Narthex.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Suggested donation is \$65.⁰⁰</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AVERAGE ATTENDANCE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>APRIL SERVICES</u></p> <p>Saturday Informal Service : 12 Sunday Traditional Service : 49</p>													

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
in Spring Branch

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America (ELCA)

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Website: www.holycross.us

*“Holy Cross Lutheran Church is a community of Christians
gathered by God’s grace and reaching out through God’s love.”*

TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS		<u>CHURCH STAFF</u>	
100	Church Office	Rev. Jim Berggren — Senior Pastor Email: jlberggren@holycross.us	
101	Sussy Terry	Office Manager & Events Coordinator	Sussy Terry — Office Manager & Events C. Email: hclc@holycross.us
103	Rev. Jim Berggren	Senior Pastor	John Lambeth — Bookkeeper Email: finance@holycross.us
104	John Lambeth	Bookkeeper	Robert Carty — Musical Director / Organist Email: robcarty1@outlook.com
SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE Informal Service 6:00 p. m. —AT		<u>OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION</u>	
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE Traditional Service 9:30 a.m. —WC		Wendy Lambeth	President
<u>EARLY LEARNING CENTER</u>		Stephanie Walton	Vice-President
ELC (713) 461-5535		Julie Kilkenny	Secretary
email: holycrosselc4@gmail.com		Ricki Finstad	Treasurer
		