

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*

August 2024	<i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i>	Vol. 30 No. 8
BERGY'S BABBLE: "BALANCING"		
<p>When I was a youngster, one of my important morning responsibilities was to carry ten gallons of kerosene into the house to fill two large stoves, each with a five-gallon tank. One stove heated the kitchen and an upstairs bedroom through a grate, and the other heated the living area and music room, and upstairs bedroom and office through the stairwell. I would stomp a path through the snow to a gas tank in the middle of the circle drive, and fill the five-gallon bucket with kerosene.</p> <p>Full of gas, it was heavy. Sometimes I would swing it between my legs with a two-handed grip on the handle. Other times, I'd wobble, holding the gas can with one hand, and sloshing my way to the porch. Two grueling trips. Dad noticed my struggle and suggested, "Why don't you use two five-gallon gas cans and carry one in each hand. It's easier. If that is too heavy, make a yoke out of a hedge-apple fencepost, for your shoulders and hang the buckets with short ropes. Let your legs do the lifting."</p> <p>"But Dad, one can full of gas weighs thirty five (35) pounds. I can't carry seventy (70) pounds of kerosene."</p> <p>"Sure, you can, Kid. Seventy (70) pounds is lighter than thirty five (35) pounds, if you balance the load." So much for garnering sympathy to get out of doing a hard job.</p> <p>I tried it. He was right. He showed me how to do what I thought was impossible, by doubling the load, cutting the steps and the time spent, in half, by simply balancing the load.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">... /// ...</p>		

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

Every symphony is birthed by silence. The conductor lifts his baton. An anticipatory, attentive silence hovers in the orchestra and the crowd. The symphony will be a delicate balance of silence and sound. "Da, da, da, dah.....(silence).....da, da, da, dah!" One unending tone is drone....unceasing noise. Tone noise, interrupted with silence is called 'melody.' Sweet, sweet melody!

After an important mission, the disciples report in to Jesus, for a balanced time of rest and re-creation. God works and then rests. Work and rest go together. God expects us to follow suit.

Sometimes we have a hard time visualizing this period of balancing. In many ways we are an either/or people. It's either light or dark, light or heavy, black or white, old or young, right or left, work or rest; They all work together. They commingle, existing at the same time and place.

The disciples are in a short period of time between two mission trips. This is not a deserved rest, but the complementary part of the mission. The work is one part of the whole. The rest part is empowerment. Work/Rest is re-balancing. There is no such thing as a coin with one side.

The watchful and working care of your health and strength is a primary spiritual duty of balancing. When we fail to take that care, we sin against God. We insult Him by not accepting his gift of sabbath, a break. He took a sabbath. It is foolish to try to be better than God.

Work and Rest are together the Holy Time of Balance. We snatch away from God's full use, our very selves, the instruments he needs to play his symphony, to perform his mission. Balance is a spiritual duty.

Work/Rest has been part of creation from the beginning. Humankind is created by God and immediately enters the balanced cycle of Work/Rest. God says, "Here is all Creation. Have responsibility over it. Till it and Keep It. Be fruitful and multiply." Tilling and keeping, is work. Work was created on the Sixth Day of the perfect Creation. Work is part of the perfect Creation.

... /// ...

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

Some Biblical commentators or popular pundits, will occasionally put forth the opinion that work is the punishment for Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden. NOT SO! It is a good idea to read the Bible carefully, before littering the 'truth' landscape with false, biased opinions. Check for yourself in Genesis 1:26 and 28, for the creation of 'work' on the Sixth Day. In Genesis 2:3, God created rest on the 7th Day, as the final section, the completing component in Creation. One might say, God worked a little overtime to provide rest for his Creation.

Not balancing work and rest, is going against God's creation. Balancing Work/Rest is health. A holy duty. A unit of righteous living. How often have we blamed God for our disobedience of his blueprint of balanced living. Allowing oneself to get rundown may be committing a crime against the Intelligent Design of a perfectly created immune system. We are not instructed by Jesus to take time off. We are invited by him to regain our balance with holy time. Work/Rest is all Holytime.

See you in worship..... BERGY



COUNCIL MEETING

Council Meeting will be Sunday,
August 25th, at 11:00 a.m. in the FLCA.

Church Council

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – June 9, 2024

This Church Council meeting (which takes the place of the traditional May 2024 meeting) was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 11:05 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Wendy Lambeth, Jay Byerly, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Leigh Rothharpt, Hans Sunder, Stephen Schulze and Stephanie Walton. Warren Schick did not attend the meeting.

The minutes from the April 2024 and special May 26, 2024, meeting were submitted by Council Secretary Julie Kilkenny and approved by Council. After hearing that there were changes to the March figures in the Treasurer's report, Ms. Kilkenny will revise that section of the minutes before submitting the final minutes for the website and Crossties.

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. He noted that there were some minor changes to his March figures, which were corrected in the revised report distributed at this meeting. April 2024 offerings were \$28,655, a decrease of \$510 from March. Expenses for the month of April were \$29,746, an increase of \$400 over March. The April deficit (of expenses over offerings) was \$1,091. The checking account balance at 4/30/24 was \$45,122, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad noted that he moved \$30,000 from the credit union savings account into the checking account. He added that memorial funds were used for campus landscape improvements, decreasing that balance by ~\$5,600. He provided a summary of investments for this month. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

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Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren remarked that it was a very busy month with storm recovery. He thanked everyone for their extra efforts. He updated Council on several members who are hospitalized. He noted the passing of HCLC member Cathy Doughty, whose memorial service will be on June 10th. His other activities include preparing for worship 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; and various church ministry meetings.

Committee Reports and Old Business:

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

- President Lambeth distributed a Building and Grounds Repair List of pressing projects from Alan Lambeth, and Council discussed renewing the search for a handyman to help with these projects. Ms. Lambeth noted that old water damage was discovered in the Annex hallway during the roof repair done after the derecho storm (5/16-5/17/24); this highlighted the need to have gutter guards for the sections of roof that still do not have them.
- The Memorial Fund Committee continued work on landscape projects, and Alan Lambeth helped with sprinkler system issues.

Food Pantry:

- President Lambeth reported that she and Pastor Berggren drafted and emailed a letter to the Food Pantry summarizing the HCLC Council position regarding the Pantry's **proposed expansion**. The letter noted Holy Cross's appreciation of the good work the Pantry is doing, and it stated that Council has approved the *original* request for the new building on the western edge of the Westview parking lot.

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(This proposal faced opposition from one of the Glourie neighbors at meetings of the Hilshire Village Council and Planning Committee.) At the time of this meeting, President Lambeth had not heard back from the Pantry.

There was a general discussion about other Pantry items such as the early arrival of Food Pantry clients (as early as 6:30 a.m. for 11 a.m. opening) and the safety of unsupervised children who sometimes play in the driveway. Ms. Lambeth observed that the summer heat can and has been a health issue for people waiting outside for long periods. She will discuss these concerns with Pantry representatives.

Air Conditioning:

In response to previous questions about where all the A/C units are located and which areas they service, President Lambeth distributed a map (prepared by Alan Lambeth) of all the A/C units, when they were installed/replaced, as well as how many filters each unit requires. This information will help Council members to better understand and anticipate future A/C expenditures.

Steve Schulze presented a detailed spreadsheet comparing the existing HCLC **Gym A/C units** to the 3 bids for replacement units, which varied significantly in price. He explained in detail the differences and pros/cons of each proposal. He noted that the new units in all of the proposals are more efficient than the existing 45-year-old units. There was a lengthy discussion of various aspects of this project, and there were a couple of questions left unanswered. Dr. Finstad and Mr. Schulze will contact the vendors tomorrow to get these questions answered, and President Lambeth will obtain a vote via email or text.

Treasurer Finstad requested that, especially as Holy Cross has recently faced several major expenditures, three bids be obtained for future large expenditures.

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Other:

- President Lambeth updated Council on the progress toward improving **security cameras** around the church campus.
- Stephanie Walton reported on **VBS** preparation (July 22nd). She was working through the organizational materials that were ordered. She was pleased with the response from student volunteers and members asking how they can help. Ms. Walton asked about the status of restoring the playground to a usable condition. Ms. Lambeth will check into that.
- Ms. Lambeth reported that the **FLC kitchen deep-clean** was going very well. She remarked on the significant effort by volunteers on this project: emptying all of the cabinets and closets; donating, selling or discarding unneeded items; washing all items before putting them back into newly organized spaces. The custodial staff did a deep-clean of all of the emptied storage areas, and a pest control company did a thorough extermination service, which included plugging holes and crevices in the kitchen.

Derecho Storm Recovery:

- President Lambeth remarked that she was touched at the response of members and friends of Holy Cross after the storm.
 - * Emergency tree work is complete. (Still pending is the removal of three (3) trees that could fall on the ELC/church office wing in the event of a future storm.)
 - * The Annex hallway and Westview courtyard repairs are complete.
 - * Work to repair damage on the playground is in progress.
 - * A storm recovery fund has been established and is already accepting donations via regular offering methods. Stephanie Walton has set up a PayPal storm recovery fund on Facebook.

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New Business:

- Council approved the Food Pantry’s **Building Use Request** for use of the Westview parking lot for Food Fairs on July 17th and August 17th. Council approved this request.
- Council discussed adding **signage** to the church campus: address signs at the driveway entrances on Westview and Wirt, as well as new signage to direct people to various buildings and locations once they are on campus. Pastor Berggren added that vendors and delivery personnel often have a hard time knowing where to leave their packages. Ms. Kilkenny will research this.
- Council unanimously approved a motion to add member, Barbara Neumann, as a **signatory** on the HCLC checking account at Chase Bank. President Lambeth explained that it was necessary to designate an additional signatory for the account, as health issues of other signatories have made it difficult to get the two signatures required for checks.
- Ms. Walton is evaluating platforms to implement a “text blast” system for Holy Cross.
- Ms. Lambeth asked Council to begin thinking about ideas for a **Time & Talent program** for September or October.

The July Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, July 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



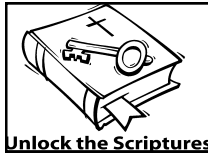
FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will be meeting Saturday, **August 17**,
at the church for a pot luck supper.

Charlotte Jaster is going to bring the main course, lasagna.
Please bring a dish that follows the Italian theme.
We will begin to gather at 4:00 p.m. and we will eat at 5:00 pm.

Please join us for some good food and good fellowship."

Nancy Beamesderfer



READINGS, PSALMS & GOSPEL

AUGUST 2024

DATE	1 st READING	PSALM	2 nd READING	GOSPEL
06/04/2024	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	78:23-29	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
06/11/2024	1 Kings 19:4-8	34:1-8	Ephesians 4:25—5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
06/18/2024	Proverbs 9:1-6	34:9-14	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
06/25/2024	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18	34:15-22	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69

USHERS

Month: August

Team # 06 Leader: John Wenger

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

AUGUST

- 4 Reader — Mallory Hileman
P/E — Linda Cuzzort
- 11 Reader — Ruby Schaper
P/E — John Stokes
- 18 Reader — Nancy Beamesderfer
P/E — Jay Byerly
- 25 Reader — Sharon Wagner
P/E — Wendy Lambeth

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist
Nancy Beamesderfer



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

CLASS	DAY	DATE	TIME
Adult CPR *CPR only (\$79) *CPR + First Aid (\$92)	Sunday	7/28/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Sunday	8/25/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Sunday	9/22/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm
Adult & Pediatric CPR *CPR only (\$85) *CPR + First Aid (\$99)	Saturday	7/6/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	7/20/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	8/17/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	8/31/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	9/14/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
Basic Life Support (for Healthcare Providers and Professional Rescuers) (\$89)	Friday	7/19/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	7/27/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	8/3/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Friday	8/16/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	8/24/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Friday	9/13/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	9/21/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	9/28/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm
CPR Instructor Course (\$299)	Saturday	7/13/2024	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Friday	8/9/2024	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	9/7/2024	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Friday	10/4/2024	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



AUGUST 2024

Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

01	Tommy Roberts	22	Donna Fisher
03	Samuel Flick	25	Marilyn Flick
04	Barbara Sledge	27	Carol Thielemann
11	Louise McDonnold		Gloria Guilfoyle
19	Anita Cooper	30	John Allcorn Jr.
20	Linda Cuzzort		

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

You may sign up for flower arrangements in the Narthex.

Suggested donation is \$65.⁰⁰

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9— 4 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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



- † Dolores Abrego
- † Candy Berggren
- † Elvin Bethea
- † Pat Bethea
- † Barney Boeker
- † David Dukleth
- † Louise McDonnold
- † Todd Miskel
- † Larry Polzin
- † Rosie Stork
- † Bennie Valites
- † Sandra Williams

Bill Carty
Vicki Carty
Maureen Fredrickson
Anna Gardner
Linda Kuhar
Bryan Kile
Mary Lemburg
David Magrill
Kenneth Magrill
Chuck McWilliams
Jeremy Mitchell

Geraine Moore
Dorothy Preuss
Billy Sosa
Vern Terry
Jaime Urbanski



Family & Friends of
Roland T. Vasquez
upon completion of
his life's mission.

Treasurer's Report



TREASURER'S REPORT

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

JUNE 2024

Receipts	\$ 18,535. ⁰⁰
Expenses	<u>30,306.⁸⁸</u>
Balance	(\$ 11,771. ⁸⁸)

Operational receipts	
Year-to-date received 140,253. ⁰⁰
Expenditures year to date	... <u>180,427.³⁹</u>
Balance	(\$ 40,174. ³⁹)



*Prayer Request emails are sent
out often. If you would like to
receive them please contact:*

Renee Allcorn
allcornr@gmail.com

or call at (713) 254-8638

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

JUNE SERVICES

Saturday Informal Service : 11
Sunday Traditional Service : 49

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
in Spring Branch

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

7901 Westview Dr.
Houston, Texas 77055
Tel. (713) 686-8253
Fax (713) 686-9095
E-mail: hclc@holycross.us
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			
100	Church Office		
101	Sussy Terry	Office Manager & Events Coordinator	
103	Rev. Jim Berggren	Senior Pastor	
104	John Lambeth	Bookkeeper	
<p>SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE Informal Service 6:00 p. m. —AT</p> <p>SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE Traditional Service 9:30 a.m. —WC</p>			
<p><u>EARLY LEARNING CENTER</u> ELC (713) 461-5535 email: holycrosselc4@gmail.com</p>			

<u>CHURCH STAFF</u>	
Rev. Jim Berggren — Senior Pastor Email: jlberggren@holycross.us	
Sussy Terry — Office Manager & Events C. Email: hclc@holycross.us	
John Lambeth — Bookkeeper Email: finance@holycross.us	
Robert Carty — Musical Director / Organist Email: robcarty1@outlook.com	
<u>OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION</u>	
Wendy Lambeth	President
Stephanie Walton	Vice-President
Julie Kilkenny	Secretary
Ricki Finstad	Treasurer
