

*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*

September 2024	<i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i>	Vol. 30 No. 9
BERGY'S BABBLE: "SUMMERTIME SNIPPETS"		
<p>I used to annoy my Academic Advisor and philosophy professor, Dr. David Dumas. An ex-Presbyterian pastor, he would puff on his pipe with aromatic tobacco smoke curling around his head, and he'd say, "Today we will start a section on the epistemology of the Oriental philosophy of Taoism. The yin and the yang. There is no here without a there. There is no day without night, no right without wrong. We define our experience through contrast." So, I'd raise my hand. "Yes, Jim?" I'd say, "I understand, and yet I don't."</p> <p>In the interest of accurate language, I always flinch when I hear someone use the word, 'decimate', to mean a total wipe out, as in "The Sioux decimated Custer's troops." The word actually comes from the Latin and a military practice of the Roman legions. When someone in an occupied province defied the governor or killed a soldier, they would hold a lottery and kill every tenth person and so decimate the local population as an object lesson. The Jews in World War II Europe, weren't decimated. They should have been so lucky. They were wiped out. We're not being decimated by cancer. The odds are worse than that, like one in five or so. Actually, decimation is merciful when compared to current standards of our inhumanity to humankind.</p> <p>The 47th anniversary of the death of Elvis is coming in August. If he were alive, he would be 89 years of age. We were chatting about where we were when Elvis died. I was swimming that day in the river bend at Magnolia Gardens, a venue near Houston, where Elvis once performed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">... /// ...</p>		

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

In the process of the conversation, my rural upbringing kind of slipped out and I said, "I'd really like a velvet picture of Elvis, at the Last Supper, for our breakfast nook." A good Lutheran lady was there who indignantly retorted, "You can make fun of Jesus, but leave the King out of it."

A spot announcement here: Next month's meetings of The Clairvoyant's Society have been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

When they were in Elementary School, we went shopping with our boys. They wanted some Jurassic Park action figures since they couldn't get a real dinosaur. So naturally we went to the bookstore. I took them to the reference section. I told them, "This is exactly what you need," as I pointed out a very nice Thesaurus to them. "This is a tiny prehistoric creature, who often used flowery language to extricate himself from potentially life-threatening malignant situations." "Hey, you rancorous behemoth up there! Your Brobdingnagian incisors are vainglorious!!" Apparently, that wasn't exactly what they had in mind.

I think that we need a Dictionary of Euphemisms and over-used fad words. Some of them could be pretty creative, in the way that they smooth over the harsh realities of life. Having a list of them for certain events in life would be helpful. For instance, how else could we handle the nasty old 9-letter R-word, 'recession'? Well, it's "a great time to try 99 Cent store generic cola", "our little national problem", "a wonderful new lifestyle downscaling opportunity", and "a little something for you '30s nostalgia buffs." Is that substantive enough? I hope it is not too presumptive. Slavery of speech puts me in high dudgeon. As opposed to low dungeon. Anger is always preferable to depression.

Western societies have been on a decentralizing bender for 500 years, concluding that the earth is not the center of the galaxy, and human-kind are not the beloved of the Big Bang Universe, formerly known as God. We have moved ourselves out of favor toward the edge of a backwater galaxy on an infinitesimal mote of a planet, when a real primary fact is that the most richly organized material in the known universe, is the human

... /// ...

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

cerebral cortex, and the densest and richest experience in the universe is the experience that you are having right now. That's enough to prove to me that God loves us all and intelligently designed Creation is the most amazing gift ever.

The Green New Deal is an amazing money-maker for somebody. Global warming/cooling/climate change, and the ozone layer are center stage as a news topic, when there aren't disasters to drool over. I think that we fail to take into consideration the impact of the natural world on weather fluctuations and ozone layer variations. Termites and ants are the Apex Polluters on the planet with their combined gastric gases. We need more CO2, unless you want all the plants to die of starvation, and the most dangerous climate-heating greenhouse gas is atmospheric water vapor.

On 15 January, 2022, the volcano Hunga Tonga, in the South Pacific, erupted, mostly underwater. She broke some records: The largest atmospheric explosion ever recorded....The highest known eruption column reaching 36 miles into the Mesosphere.....The most profound pressure shock waves, circling the Earth 4 times before beginning to dissipate....Most lightning.....And 146 million tons of water vapor injected into the highest levels of the atmosphere, guaranteeing the warming of the Earth's surface for the next 5-10 years. All of the industrial pollution in history is not a pimple on an elephant's behind in global effects. But you won't hear about Hunga Tonga. She was free. She doesn't pay... No political or financial usefulness.

When Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines erupted it spewed out more than a 1000 times the amount of ozone-depleting chemicals in one eruption than all the fluorocarbons manufactured by all of the wicked, diabolical and insensitive corporations in history. Ejecting mostly sulfur dioxide, it cooled the atmosphere for a few years. What is neat is that volcanoes have been doing this dastardly stuff for over 4 billion years and we still have a fairly healthy ozone layer. It amazes me and makes me feel very privileged to know that God's cosmic repair system works just fine.

We are precisely as big as what we love, and precisely as small as what we allow to annoy us.

See you in worship..... BERGY



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

The July 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, July 21, 2024 at 11:07 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, Warren Schick and Stephanie Walton.

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

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. June 2024 offerings were \$18,535, an increase of \$3,250 over May offerings of \$15,285. Expenses for the month of June were \$30,307, a decrease from May expenses of \$32,304. The June deficit (of expenses over offerings) was \$11,772 (as compared to May's \$17,019 deficit). The checking account balance at 6/30/24 was \$16,477, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad discussed the impact of Hurricane Beryl and the derecho storm on HCLC finances, and President Lambeth commented on offerings designated for storm recovery. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren remarked that it was a very busy month again with storm recovery. He likened the frame of mind of many at Holy Cross to PTSD, and he tried to provide comfort to parishioners who were suffering from the effects of the storms. He thanked HCLC members and friends for their extra efforts. He updated Council on several members who are hospitalized. His other activities included preparing for worship each week; making phone calls and visits to parishioners; providing counseling and ministering for prayer requests [along with Deacon Donahue]; outreach to the community; weekly Wednesday Bible Study; and various church ministry meetings. ... /// ...

... /// ... Council Minutes — July 21, 2024

President Lambeth asked Pastor Berggren to think about the four (4) weeks of vacation he needs to take this year, so plans to get a supply pastor can get underway.

Committee Reports and Old Business:

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

- President Lambeth detailed some of the B&G projects for the month. Work had begun the Saturday before Hurricane Beryl hit to take down 3 trees in the playground that were leaning toward the Church Office/ELC wing; however, one of the trees was infested with bees, and work had to be halted for safety reasons. When Beryl hit that Monday, the trees fell against the building. The bees' nest had to be removed before any contractor would take down the trees. Ms. Walton added that there was damage to the parts of the Eagle Scout playground project. Ms. Lambeth was hopeful that the work would be finished and the fence repaired before school starts. They will also get bids to repair the roof damage. (*see also New Business: Storm Damage*)
- Pastor Berggren recognized the considerable work in getting the new **A/C units** for the gym up and running, and he thanked Steve Schulze and Alan Lambeth for their extra efforts. The A/C contractors also worked on issues with other units on campus.
- President Lambeth reported that the Gym kitchen deep clean project (including pest control) was complete.

Food Pantry:

President Lambeth updated Council on talks with the Pantry. They discussed coming up with a **written agreement** between the two parties, something that Hilshire Village also wanted to see during hearings regarding the proposed Pantry expansion. She distributed to Council members for review a revised draft of the agreement between HCLC and the Pantry outlining the relationship and responsibilities of each party.

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... /// ... Council Minutes — July 21, 2024

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept this version of the agreement.

- There was further discussion about safety items for the Pantry. Pastor Berggren suggested that rubber **speed bumps** could be placed along the south driveway to slow down traffic and offer some protection for clients (especially children) gathered outside the Pantry.
- Ms. Lambeth noted that the Pantry cancelled its building use requests for **Food Fairs** after July.
- President Lambeth updated Council on the Pantry's **proposed expansion** efforts. The Pantry has contacted a real estate attorney to help them in this process. He came up with a plan of action, and one of the suggestions was to clarify the ambiguity of a Glourie address on some records for part of the church property (including some of the parking lot). There was further discussion about some of the sticking points brought up in Hilshire Village meetings.

VBS:

- Stephanie Walton reported on VBS, which begins July 22nd. She was pleased with the volunteer response: there are teachers for all classes, check-in and security volunteers, and 10 Stratford HS students will be helping as “floaters”. Mission Days will be incorporated into the week, and campers are encouraged to bring supplies each day to share with the community: 1) books, 2) pet food, 3) mac ‘n cheese, 4) canned goods, 5) soap or toothpaste.

New Business:

- Ms. Lambeth reported that Chip Charlton would like to do his **Eagle Scout project** for Holy Cross. They discussed some possibilities, and she expects him to present his proposal at the next Council meeting.

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... /// ... Council Minutes — July 21, 2024

- There was a brief discussion of HCLC investment funds, and the suggestion was made that the Financial Review Committee reevaluate investment goals in the next few months. Mr. Schick provided a history of the Telge fund, the capital expenditures HCLC has faced, and the returns the fund has earned to date. Council agreed that vigilant attention to economic fluctuations is imperative.

Storm Recovery:

- President Lambeth asked for approval to pay to have contractors remove storm debris from the Wirt lawn. Additional trees will need to be trimmed or removed when things settle down after the storm. HCLC will need to get bids to repair damage to the Atrium roof and elevator roof. Other areas to address include: 1) a water (roof?) leak along the center aisle of the sanctuary; 2) a leak in the church office; 3) ELC to repair the canopy on playground; 4) the leak in the Annex kitchen already fixed by Alan Lambeth; 5) School of the Woods took care of the tree that fell across fence and south driveway. Storm recovery fund donations are still coming in.
- Ms. Lambeth deferred discussion of ideas for a **Time & Talent program** for the next meeting.

The August Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, August 25, 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

Will be meeting Saturday, **September 21**,
at Fuzzy's (823 Antoine Dr.) at 4:00 p.m.

If you plan to attend, please contact
Nancy Beamesderfer at (281) 814-4153 by September 17.

Nancy Beamesderfer



COUNCIL MEETING

Council Meeting will be Sunday,
September 22nd, at 11:00 a.m. in the FLCA.

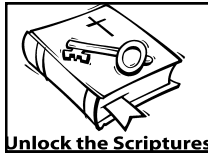
Church Council

Altar Flowers



ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar Flowers were given by
Nancy Beamesderfer
in loving memory of her parents
on August 25.



READINGS, PSALMS & GOSPEL

SEPTEMBER 2024

DATE	1 st READING	PSALM	2 nd READING	GOSPEL
09/01/2024	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9	15	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
09/08/2024	Isaiah 35:4-7a	146	James 2:1-10, 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
09/15/2024	Isaiah 50:4-9a	116:1-9	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
09/22/2024	Jeremiah 11:18-20	54	Ephesians 3:13—4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
09/29/2024	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	19:7-14	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50

Thank You!

THANK YOU

Holy Cross has been so blessed by the gifts of so many.

With Memorials from the Elaine Snell and Vernon Thielemann families we were able to polish and lacquer our Communion Trays.

With Memorials from Charles Pustejovsky and Milton Flick Families we purchased new Paraments.

With a gift of love from LaVerne Pivonka we have polished and lacquered the Altar Candlesticks.

Thank you to these families for enabling us to refurbish our Altar Adornments. The Altar is a beautiful testimony to the Glory of God.

Sharon Wagner

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you for all the wonderful birthday cards.

The cards were beautiful or funny (John stokes!), but more important were your precious comments in them. We have known many of you since 1983.

We have had an amazing life and we thank God for it. Now for my next adventures being ninety (90.)

With my love and appreciation,

Mona Fogt

UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY



HANSEN, Natalie

1414 Sandy Springs Rd. Apt. # 21

Houston, TX 77042

713-898-8591

STORM RECOVERY UPDATE

I want to sincerely thank the congregation of Holy Cross for the generous donations we have received to our Storm Recovery Fund. Current members, former members and families from the Early Learning Center have donated a total of almost \$35,000. I have been overwhelmed by this kindness, and appreciated more than words can express.

We have been able to make many of the repairs that our campus has required. Much has been done but there is still more work to be done. We have fencing that is still in need of repair along the east side of the playground, and a major expense is still required for repairs to the Atrium and Office roofs that were badly damaged by the fallen trees. We are in the process of getting bids to choose the right company for the job. Hopefully we will be able to begin repairs in the next few weeks.

I know Holy Cross is a wonderful place full of so many wonderful people who inspire me each and every day. I am truly blessed. Thank you all for your generosity.

Wendy Lambeth / Council President

USHERS

Month: September

Team # 03 Leader: Linda Cuzzort

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Reader — Charlotte Jaster
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer
- 8 Reader — Leigh Rothharpt
P/E — Julie Kilkenny
- 15 Reader — Jay Fort
P/E — Penny Schick
- 22 Reader — Jay Byerly
P/E — Wendy Lambeth
- 29 Reader — Alice Braun
Nancy Beamesderfer

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



SEPTEMBER 2024

Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

02	Selvin Jr. Young	23	Mitchell Walton
05	Kenneth Dinges	25	Norma Hines
06	Jim Berggren		Angie Eckermann
08	Glendeen Roemer		Lucinda Moore
12	Will Byerly	26	Susan Giesecke
15	Chris Hileman	27	Ken Polzin
18	Pat Boessling		Bill Tempel
	Jay Byerly	28	Sandra Williams
	Ricki Finstad	29	Michael Giesecke
	Pastor Ed Peterman		Evan Neumann
20	Sarah Allcorn		

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

Judy Bernett
Bill Carty
Vicki Carty
Joanne Christenson
Maureen Fredrickson
Anna Gardner
Larry Harris
Linda Kuhar
Bryan Kile
Nancy Lancaster
David Magrill

Kenneth Magrill
Gloria McGarvey
Chuck McWilliams
Jeremy Mitchell
Geraine Moore
Dorothy Preuss
Billy Sosa
Ann Taylor
Vern Terry
Jaime Urbanski

Treasurer's Report



TREASURER'S REPORT

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

JULY 2024

Receipts	\$ 26,604. ¹⁰
Expenses	<u>49,240.¹⁴</u>
Balance	(\$ 22,636. ⁰⁴)

Operational receipts	
Year-to-date received	\$ 196,935. ¹⁰
Expenditures year to date ...	<u>229,667.⁵³</u>
Balance	(\$ 32,732. ⁴³)



*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

JULY SERVICES

Saturday Informal Service : 12
Sunday Traditional Service : 51

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		<u>CHURCH STAFF</u>	
100	Church Office	Rev. Jim Berggren — Senior Pastor Email: jberggren@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
		