

*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>October 2024</b>	<i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i>	<b>Vol. 30 No. 10</b>
<b>BERGY'S BABBLE: "LEVITY IS NOT OPTIONAL"</b>		
<p>A critical component of Resurrection-faith is humor. The devil is a way-too-serious guy, unable to laugh at himself. He has no accountability. He has no fun. He's a proxy prude.</p> <p>"Jump off the building. It'll make you smart and you'll learn to fly."</p> <p>All Eve and Adam had to say was, "You go first. Show me."</p> <p>While the early Greek literature concerned itself with tragedy and the inevitability of evil as the condition of life to which we must adjust, the Gospels merrily portray Jesus as a humorist who spared no guffaws in tweaking the establishment. Imagine Lucille Ball with a log strapped to her eye-socket fussily peering into Desi's eye trying to find the speck of sawdust in it. Imagine Rodney Dangerfield frantically munching on a leg of camel, while trying to pick a flea out of the Camel Stew. Getting the point while reveling in a paroxysm of diaphragm-cramping laughter is a whole lot better than being bludgeoned by the Great Commission. Once in college I was invited to a Christian cult meeting. When I walked in the door a 275-pound mesomorph whacked me on the back and said, "Lemme tell you about our requirement here: Speaking In Tongues, brother." As I plucked my glasses up off the floor I mused, "I've just been assaulted by Mark 16:15-18." I don't need this! It's not funny.</p> <p>Call it a rule. If you can't find some humor in a religion, or an ideology, it is probably a cult unable to laugh at itself. The second wife of a formerly famous TV 'Evangelist', in divorce testimony reported that after</p> <p style="text-align: right;">... /// ...</p>		

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

he threw her down the stairs claiming that it was her twelve-step program, he said, "you don't understand, I am the Pope. I am the boss. Everyone does what I tell them. Obey." That is seriously, not funny!!

During these enchanting days of apocalyptic weirdness, it is appropriate to be highly discriminating about what constitutes the differences between serious cultic fools and joyful resurrection-faith believers.

Here are some tips for you, as you survey the current cultural scene to determine what might be a cult or a dangerous movement. These observations are from the book "Wild Tongues: A Handbook of Social Pathology," by Franklin H. Littell, 1969. If you spot several of these characteristics,

**PAY ATTENTION!!**

1. Anti-Semitism: Blasphemy against God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
2. Politics is religion: single issue focus in complex world.
3. Polarization: No compromise, dialogue or differences allowed.
4. Sacral society: True believer politics.
5. New history: Worship of mythical past, while waiting for a Golden Age. Rewrite history.
6. New anthropology: Superman. Taller, wiser, healthier, the now generation.
7. Elite true believers: Secret discipline and training. Rites of passage involving fear and/or violence.
8. Violence: Justified against those who disagree. Liquidate dissenters. Keep files on suspects.
9. Can't communicate: No lateral trust of others. Closed access to information. Mob action. No rule of law.
10. Police state: Constitutional government attacked.

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

11. Beautiful state: No doctrine of sin, accountability or personal guilt.  
New Eden—noble SAVAGE.
12. Monolithic state: Independent thought persecuted. No balance of power.
13. False consensus: Alternative views not allowed.
14. Oral tradition: Contempt for precedent and fact. Reliance on rumor.
15. Determinism: Not our fault. It happens. Fate is on our side.

Of course, it may be simple as looking carefully at the name of the movement. First Church of the Mean Nazarene, D.R.I. (Die Racist Infidel), Meshaneget Dyslexic Fellowship, Philophobes United, or Calvary Cellular Cathedral, (free activation and 100 free prayer minutes), are usually big tip-offs.

That's why 'Celebrate' and 'Joy' and 'Eucharist' and 'Resurrection' are all big words for me. There is a lightness in them that the devil just can't get. Boggled down in his brimstonely serious pursuits, he doesn't even know he missed the joke, the lifted up, ultimate, universal levity of Resurrection.

See you in worship.....BERGY



## **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

The Friendship Club will be meeting on **October 19,**  
at **Tia Maria's Mexican Restaurant**  
located at 4618 Dacoma St. - Houston, TX 77092.

We will begin to gather at 4:00 p.m. Hope to see y'all there.

Nancy Beamesderfer



**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)  
Minutes for Council Meeting – August 25, 2024**

The August 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, August 25, 2024 at 10:59 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Wendy Lambeth, Jay Byerly, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Leigh Rothharpt, Warren Schick, Stephen Schulze, Hans Sunder and Stephanie Walton. Also attending as special guests were John Stokes and Chip Charlton.

Chip Charlton (from Boy Scout Troop 952) presented Council with a proposal for his Eagle Scout project, renovations to the FLC (Gym) kitchen. His plans, if approved, would be to paint the kitchen and cabinets, replace cabinet hardware and under-cabinet lights, replace electrical outlets with GFCI outlets where appropriate, replace the first aid kit, and if possible, replace the existing commercial gas range with 2 electric ranges (as discussed in prior Council meetings). After a brief discussion Council approved this project, which will probably be finished by mid-November.

President Lambeth thanked John Stokes for representing the **Financial Review Committee** (FRC) at this meeting. She noted that she recently became aware that FRC members needed to be confirmed annually by Council. Currently the members on the committee are John Stokes (chairperson), Jay Fort, Warren Schick, Hans Sunder and John Wegner. After confirming that they wish to continue as members of the FRC, Council approved the motion which was made and seconded, that these members shall serve on the FRC until April 2025.

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... /// ... Council Minutes — August 25, 2024

Mr. Stokes distributed FRC reports and gave a brief history of the Committee’s activities since the sale of the Telge lots, noting that Telge funds are invested in several market index funds of various degrees of risk (and returns), as well as a money market fund, CD and treasury bonds. He added that at their last meeting the FRC voted to “stay the course” as regards percentages invested in each fund. Mr. Schick added that in its last meeting the FRC decided to closely monitor market conditions and make adjustments between the funds as appropriate; this can be done immediately via online transaction or by phone. It was noted that there were two schools of thought within the FRC on how to invest the funds, and Mr. Sunder asked Council to consider other investment strategies moving forward, given the current investment climate. A lengthy discussion about the allocation of investment funds ensued. Mr. Sunder introduced a motion (seconded by Mr. Schick) to move \$500,000 from the S&P 500 fund to a cash investment. This motion did not pass. Treasurer Finstad made a motion (seconded by Mr. Sunder) to instead move \$100,000 from the S&P 500 fund into a cash investment; Council approved this measure. Council then issued a *recommendation* that the FRC reevaluate the allocation of investment funds.

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

The **Treasurer’s report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. Council approved Dr. Finstad’s request to add President Lambeth as signatory for the HCLC checking account. July 2024 offerings were \$26,604, an increase of \$8,069 over June. Treasurer Finstad noted that average monthly offerings were \$9,400 less than budgeted amounts. Expenses for the month of July were \$49,240, an increase of \$18,933 over June. The July deficit (expenses vs. offerings) was \$22,636.

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Dr. Finstad asked for an infusion of funds to the checking account, as storm-related expenses have depleted the account. A motion was made, seconded and approved to transfer the requested funds into the checking account. Treasurer Finstad gave a summary of investments and other items in his report. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Berggren remarked about how much he enjoyed helping with VBS in July. Interacting with the kids was a nice change to his normal activities. He has been working to prepare for his time off in September. He and John Lambeth have been recording sermons ahead of time. In his absence, Deacon Lisa Donahue will preside at Sunday services, Scott Wegner will deliver the Sunday sermons, and arrangements are set for Saturday services, with George Schwalm coordinating music. In addition, Deacon Donahue and Debbie McGarvey Kendall will be providing pastoral care. It was a very busy month again with storm recovery and other repairs, and he thanked Council for the swift response on the installation of speed bumps along the south driveway. 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.

**Committee Reports and Old Business:**

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

- Work continues on the sprinkler system.
- A/C issues continue to plague HCLC. The unit in the gym that services the kitchen and restrooms (an old unit) squeaks and chirps. Alan Lambeth will troubleshoot as to parts availability and find the best solution.

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He is also working on issues with the Annex A/C, which has a thermostat system that outdated and problematic. Mr. Schulze has not heard back from the A/C company regarding a maintenance contract for the new gym units.

**Food Pantry:**

- President Lambeth updated Council on the **Food Pantry**. She and Warren Schick are meeting with Pantry representative to work on a **written agreement** between the two parties.
- She thanked the Pantry volunteers for their work to help things in the parking lot go smoother. The speed bumps seem to be working to slow traffic, and the flow of Pantry
- clients, church traffic and carpool drop-off is going better. Signs to delineate the church parking spaces along the south fence have been ordered.
- At meeting time President Lambeth did not know the status of the Pantry's **proposed expansion** talks with Hilshire Village.

**VBS:** Stephanie Walton reported on **VBS**, which began July 22<sup>nd</sup>. She was pleased with the day camp, materials and the volunteer response: there were teachers for all classes, as well as check-in and security volunteers, and eleven (11) Stratford HS students helped as “floaters”. Ms. Lambeth added that she received positive feedback from parents. Ms. Kilkenny thanked Ms. Walton for her hard work to make 2024 VBS a success.

**Storm Recovery:** President Lambeth reported that the **storm debris** from the Wirt lawn has been removed. The **roof** leaks have been temporarily repaired until the bids from roofing contractors for permanent repairs come in. Ms. Kilkenny reported that the **playground** fence repair is in progress and will be completed before the start of school. The trellis has been replaced, and damage to fix the planter box is underway.

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She has contacted the tree service contractors about stump grinding and trimming problematic limbs and trees. Storm recovery fund donations were still coming in.

**New Business:**

- Ms. Walton reported on an unexpected **outreach** opportunity. While working at an Extreme Home Makeover event, she was able to provide communion to participants. They had been unable to attend their own churches for 7 weeks due to the traveling schedule, so she took communion to them.
- Ms. Lambeth revisited the discussion of ideas for a **Time & Talent** program. Stephanie Walton agreed to coordinate this project, and she remarked that this would be a good time to work in a special volunteer recognition event.
- President Lambeth introduced the idea of a neighborhood Fall Block Party as an outreach opportunity. One Council member wondered if this might be need to wait until a different time, as the extra effort toward storm recovery and the upcoming preparation for Thanksgiving and the Advent/Christmas season might deplete the volunteer base.
- Ms. Walton noted that Faith & Blue weekend is October 11-14, 2024. This is an opportunity to show appreciation for law enforcement officers and to invite them to worship at HCLC.

Julie Richter would like to coordinate something for the congregation to show its support for law enforcement.

The September Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, September 22, 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







## COUNCIL MEETING

Council Meeting will be Sunday,  
**October 27<sup>th</sup>**, at 11:00 a.m. in the FLCA.

Church Council



**Unlock the Scriptures**

## READINGS, PSALMS & GOSPEL

**OCTOBER 2024**

DATE	1 <sup>st</sup> READING	PSALM	2 <sup>nd</sup> READING	GOSPEL
10/06/2024	Genesis 2:18-24	8	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
10/13/2024	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15	90:12-17	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
10/20/2024	Isaiah 53:4-12	91:9-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
10/27/2024	Jeremiah 31:31-34	46	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36

## **FAITH & BLUE**

### **Building Bridges to More Inclusive Communities**

**October 13, 2024, during the 9:30 a.m. service  
Casual Reception following service**

Holy Cross is excited to invite you to attend services and a casual reception honoring our Law Enforcement Officers.

*“This is our opportunity to thank you for the work you do protecting the community we both serve.”*

### **What is Faith & Blue**

Faith & Blue is based on the premise that strong communities are built through mutual respect and understanding.

Law enforcement and faith institutions are key pillars of each community, and when they work together, neighborhoods thrive.

## **CROSS WALL**

New crosses added to our Cross Wall

### **IN HONOR OF**

Children and Grandchildren

### **IN MEMORY OF**

Bill Rogge

Neighbors in Washington D.C. in 1954

Barbara Neumann

### **DONATED BY**

Bernice Rogge

### **DONATED BY**

Bill Rogge Family

Bernice Rogge



## **WELCA**

WELCA will be sponsoring a pot luck lunch after service  
on **October 27**.

Please bring your favorite dish to share.

The theme will be Halloween.

Nancy Beamesderfer

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY DISCUSSION**

We will be presenting a Health and Safety discussion on **November 10**, during Coffee Hour after church. John Lambeth will talk about the basics of CPR and choking, warning signs of strokes, and diabetic emergencies.

He'll show us how and when to use the AED that the church has, and he'll talk about the other monitors the church has.

A signup sheet will be posted in the atrium. There will be a space to request we cover certain specific topics if you have questions about them, or if there are topics you would like to see addressed, please email John at [jmlambeth@gmail.com](mailto:jmlambeth@gmail.com), and he will include them in his discussion. This is an important subject that can affect any of us at any time and we hope this time will be of benefit to all of us.

Wendy Lambeth

**USHERS**

**Month:** October

**Team # 04 Leader:** Julie Kilkenny

**LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS**

**OCTOBER**

- 6 Reader — Scott Wegner  
P/E — Linda Cuzzort
- 13 Reader — Mallory Hileman  
P/E — Penny Schick
- 20 Reader — Charlotte Jaster  
P/E — Steve Schulze
- 27 Reader — Ruby Schaper  
P/E — Jay Byerly

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer



<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 Sunday Sunday	10/20/2024 11/17/2024 12/22/2024	1 pm — 4:30 pm 1 pm — 4:30 pm 1 pm — 4:30 pm
Adult & Pediatric CPR *CPR only (\$85) *CPR + First Aid (\$99)	Saturday Saturday Saturday Saturday Saturday	10/12/2024 10/26/2024 11/9/2024 12/14/2024 12/28/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm 1 pm — 5:30 pm 1 pm — 5:30 pm 1 pm — 5:30 pm 1 pm — 5:30 pm
Basic Life Support (Healthcare Providers and Professional Rescuers) (\$89)	Friday Saturday Friday Saturday Saturday Friday Saturday	10/11/2024 10/19/2024 11/8/2024 11/16/2024 11/23/2024 12/13/2024 12/21/2024	1 pm — 5:30 pm 1 pm — 5:30 pm 1 pm — 5:30 pm 1 pm — 5:30 pm 1 pm — 5:30 pm 1 pm — 5:30 pm 1 pm — 5:30 pm
CPR Instructor Course (\$299)	Friday Saturday Friday	10/4/2024 11/2/2024 12/6/2024	9 am — 5:30 pm 9 am — 5:30 pm 9 am — 5:30 pm
<p>Classes are in the Youth Room, Media Room and in the Annex.            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.”            Or call 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> <p>John Lambeth</p>			



# OCTOBER 2024



Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

01	Richard Davidson	12	Renee Allcorn
	Wendy Lambeth		Karen Yoder
04	Laura Smith	13	Nathan Kelm
05	John Echols		Tillie Remmert
	Ike Thompson	15	Sandy Dobbs
06	Mallory Hileman	17	Julie Richter
08	Marilyn Collins	19	Shane Berggren
09	Tristan Walton		Jeffrey Smith
10	Stephen Schulze	26	John Allcorn
11	Candy Berggren	28	Barney Boeker
	Bryan Kile		Jennifer Roberts
	James Pharries	30	Clara Estes
	Rose Marie Stork		Barbara Neumann
	Dylan New		

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

### 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



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

**Renee Allcorn**  
**[allcornr@gmail.com](mailto:allcornr@gmail.com)**

*or call at (713) 254-8638*

Bill Carty  
Vicki Carty  
Maureen Fredrickson  
Anna Gardner  
Larry Harris  
Linda Kuhar  
Bryan Kile  
Nancy Lancaster  
David Magrill  
Kenneth Magrill

Louise McDonnold  
Gloria McGarvey  
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

#### AUGUST 2024

Receipts	\$ 15,939. <sup>10</sup>
Expenses	<u>33,018.<sup>25</sup></u>
Balance	(\$ 17,079. <sup>25</sup> )

Operational receipts	
Year-to-date received ....	\$ 212,874. <sup>10</sup>
Expenditures year to date ...	<u>262,685.<sup>78</sup></u>
Balance	(\$ 49,811. <sup>68</sup> )

### AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

#### AUGUST SERVICES

Saturday Informal Service : 8  
Sunday Traditional Service : 53

