Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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Rev. Jim Berggren November 3, 2024 All Saints Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG Soon and Very Soon ELW 439

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.
- P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: Amen.
- P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

 Most merciful God.
- C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of V Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
- C: Amen.

PASTORAL GREETING

THE KYRIE

CANTICLE OF PRAISE This is the Feast

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also, with you.
- P: Let us pray, together.
- C: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

November 3, 2024 – All Saints Sunday

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

The word of the Lord.

Congregational response following the reading: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM Psalm 24

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6a

The New Heaven and the New Earth

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; ³ and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away." ⁵ And he who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the fountain of the water of life without payment.

The word of the Lord.

Congregation response following the reading is: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 11:32-44

- ³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."
- ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked.
- "Come and see, Lord," they replied.
- ³⁵ Jesus wept.
- ³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

- ³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said.
- "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."
- ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"
- ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."
- ⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregational response: Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTUBE VIDEO - https://youtu.be/tlqTeaZg8xk

Sermon Rev. Jim Berggren ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 11-3-24

HAPPY VETERANS' DAY!!!! Of course I'm early.... for Veteran's Day USA. It is a holiday to honor men and women who have served and are serving, both in wartime and in peacetime, in the Armed Forces of the USA. It is celebrated on the anniversary of the end of World War One, Armistice Day, the documents signed on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month.

All Saints' Sunday is Christian Veterans' Day. We lift up the Communion of Saints to honor those who have served, those who do serve even now, and those who will serve in God's magnificent universe. All of that is happening at once. Many times, when we are involved in the sticky problems of day-to-day church administration and policy, economic survival, and the daily work of planning and

programming, we forget entirely our partnership, our connection with both the past and future: Our personal history here in this corner of Spring Branch for 70 years, our collective history with the people of God over thousands of years, our future history as we march into tomorrow with vigor and spirit. We are the Body of Christ, made up of the Communion of Saints.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's doctoral dissertation was written on the Communion of Saints. He asserted that the church as a sociological group is unique. It is not a vehicle for some other goal. It is an end in itself. The Church <u>IS</u> preaching and witness, the work of the Sacraments, the very gifts it promises. The grace of the cross, and the Resurrection of Jesus are present, yesterday, today and tomorrow to the whole community and each individual in it. Christ is always here now. Welcome to and enjoy the Communion of Saints. You <u>are</u> one, in that number, when the saints go marching around, everywhere, in all time.

In today's Gospel, Jesus does not arrive on time to heal his friend, Lazarus, at bedside. It is the $\frac{4^{th}}{4^{th}}$ day. Lazarus is certifiably, dead and gone from the world of sense. However, in God's Reality, he has been in the Resurrection from before his birth, he lived his whole life in his Resurrection, and nothing changes because it's the 4^{th} Day of the impossible hope and sorrow of his sisters and dear friends. He is still where he has always been, firmly in line with all the Saints in the Resurrection!

Lazarus is hands-on evidence of the Resurrection. He is definitely a guy that the Sadducees hitmen want to neutralize and disappear. The High Priests are planning to kill him, for good this time, "because on account of him, many of the Jews were going off and believing in Jesus." (John said that, in Chapter 12, verses 9-11). Lazarus is a past veteran. He lived a faithful life. He is a present veteran in his Resurrection on the 4th day. He is a future veteran; a blueprint, a model, an example for us, of our 4th day Resurrections.

Veterans are not perfect. They served. Believers are not perfect, but they serve. Congregations contain people who are both weak and strong, and some who are powerful in their powerlessness.

Luke with his report of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain is describing a state of the union message from Jesus. In this union, the Communion of Saints, you will find the following representatives: The poor and the rich, the hungry and the full, the crying and the laughing, the rejected and the accepted. All of them saved saints. It's like the old game of Fruit Basket Upset. At a signal every child gets up from their chair and mills around the room. At the next signal, every child grabs the nearest chair. In this eternal game, no chairs get taken away. Everyone ends up in a different place but they all get to play the game at the party. You just have to give up your old chair.

Poor to rich is an economic continuum. Hungry to full are biological conditions. Weeping to laughing describe an emotional see-saw, and rejection to acceptance are social placements. Everyone is somewhere on those scales and they are all temporary positions. Sometimes we get stuck, but we all live in constant process. Jesus calls us to marvel at this process of life. To dance on the hilltops, and in the valleys. Rejoice in all conditions as one of God's Resurrected Saints.

Sometimes we get a little mixed up about what a saint really is. Accumulated legends have contributed to a Saint's Hall of Fame, and lift up specialists in good works of particular varieties. Perhaps that's not the best idea. In venerating someone for one set of good deeds, we might miss out on the really important stuff they did.

Dr. Joseph Lister is known as the Father/Saint of Surgery. He made the knowledge available to <u>repair</u> broken bones instead of amputating limbs. He pioneered surgery within the body cavity. Can you imagine the courage it took to do that? Monumental achievements. Oh yes, and don't forget, he insisted on washing one's hands, before, during and after surgery; a simple procedure that has probably saved more lives than any other: The Saint of Handwashing.

Religious saints, the same diminishment to one activity. St. Blaise for throats. St Joseph buried upside-down in the front yard for selling your house. I don't understand why, but St. Christopher got demoted from being the Roadtrip Saint. St. Valentine got jurisdiction over epilepsy and falling in love, an interesting repertoire. And now Isidore of Seville is being lifted up as a possible saint of the Internet. He is credited with editing the world's first database, a 20-volume encyclopedia around 600 AD. The problem is, all that knowledge has changed. He should be the Saint of Periods, Commas, and Colons. His work helped standardize their use, making written communication much easier.

Too bad these people are not recognized for all the other back-breaking, sweaty work they did for the Lord and his world.

Thank God, there are millions of saints that the world has never heard of. Their names are in no calendars. Their graves are never visited or adored. Their lives to most may seem insignificant, but never in vain. Each coral crustacean, small as it is, has had a share in laying the foundation for continents. Each grain of sand on the beach does its part as a barrier against the raging sea.

Pink Floyd, a Progressive Rock group composed a great song, number 1 in both the US and the UK, in 1980, which I believe was meant to be understood as a Lamentation of the futility of it all, a rock music version of Ecclesiastes; or maybe it was a protest concerning public education in Great Britain in the 70's:

"We don't need no education.

We don't need no thought control.

No dark sarcasm in the classroom,

Teachers, leave those kids alone.

All in all, you're just another brick in the wall."

Catchy tune. A song describing the angst of troubled decades from the 60's until today.

But you know what, because of my baptism, I'm proud to be objectively pronounced as one of the Communion of Saints. That song gives me strength. I am proud to be just another brick in the wall. The wall stands or falls because of my stubborn solidity. Because of my simple brickness. I'll be around long after any other achievements have been forgotten. I am a happy brick!!

Saints according to the Bible are not just ancient martyred and heroic veterans. Nevertheless, we lift them up as important role models.

However, there are 62 mentions of saints in the New Testament. Most of them are in the writing of the Apostle Paul and he is referencing ACTIVE DUTY CHRISTIANS. Not sinless people and not necessarily miracle specialists, but instead solid bricks in the wall. All who identify as Believers, are saints on active duty. We experience all of life, as Luke describes it in his blessings and woes. We live a set-apart life. Jesus has set us apart with his lifting of our sin into his death on the cross. The Lamb sacrificed before all Creation, killed our sin!!

Who sent the tax collector and the Pharisee, both obvious sinners, home saved. Truth is.... Jesus did.

"Who me? I'm invited into the presence of God? I'm not dressed right. I'm a lost sheep. I'm an addict. I'm an angry leper with parts falling off. I'm embarrassingly behind on bills. I'm a sinner!"

Jesus says, "Yeah, you're right, and you could probably use a shower too, but you are needed at the Saint's party. You'll feel right at home. The thief next to me on Golgotha was a real thief, not a stunt man, sent over from the Coliseum. The woman at the well really did have 6 husbands, and she was looking at me kinda funny. The ten lepers really were in bad shape, and when the chips were down, Peter usually sank, or had dumb suggestions, or denied me. Compared to them, you are a saint. So there! You are needed at the party!"

A pregnant woman wrote Kurt Vonnegut. She wanted to know if it was a mistake to bring a child into a world as troubled and dangerous as this world is. He

wrote her back, "What made being alive worthwhile for me was the saints I met.... people who behaved decently and honorably in societies which were so often obscene. Our own society is very frequently obscene. Perhaps many of us, regardless of our ages or power or wealth, can be saints for her child to meet."

Life is full of blessings and woes, but no matter where you are in that range, the breath of God flows through you, and the grace of Christ welcomes you home and builds you up for new mission. Another precious gift to the world from the communion of saints. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Shall We Gather at the River

ELW 423

APOSTLES' CREED

- P: God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
- C: I believe in God the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven,

He is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PEACE (Please share the Peace with a neighbor)

THE OFFERING "O Christ the Same" J. Barnard

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful ELW Hymn 142

THE OFFERING PRAYER

All pray together: Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal, you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name. Amen.

AGNUS DEI

- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have, mercy upon us.
- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION Lamb of God ELW Pg. 146

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in Eternal Life.

POST COMMUNION SONG Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider: Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

THE BLESSING

SENDING SONG

For All Your Saints, O Lord

ELW 427

GO IN PEACE, IN SERVICE

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.



- * Rev. Jim Berggren
- ***** Ken Beamesderfer
- **♣** Bill Carty
- **♣** Vicki Carty
- **♣** Linda Cuzzort
- ***** Maureen Fredrickson
- **♣** Anna Gardner
- **&** Gloria Guilfoyle
- **4** Larry Harris
- **♣** Loy Dell Kaltwasser
- Linda Kuhar
- **&** Bryan Kile
- Nancy Lancaster
- David Magrill
- ***** Kenneth Magrill
- **♣** Louise McDonnold
- **♣** Gloria McGarvey
- **4** Jeremy Mitchell
- **&** Geraine Moore
- **A** Dorothy Preuss
- **♣** Billy Sosa
- **Ann Taylor**
- **❖** Vern Terry
- **4** Jaime Urbanski
- Sharon Wagner

Family & Friends of Larry Harris upon completion of his life's mission.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

In Remembrance

of those who have gone before us

ALL SAINTS DAY

2023—2024

† Philip Wayne Ninman	12/11/2023
† Joyce Ann (Simmank) Beaty	12/27/2023
† Harold Dean Braun	03/28/2024
† LaVerne Eberhardt Pivonka	04/16/2024
† Catherine Lee Doughty	05/24/2024

COUNCIL MEETING

Next Council meeting will be Sunday, **December 1**st, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING PART I

The Congregational Meeting Part I is scheduled for Sunday, **December 8**th, 2024, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service (and after the 6 p.m. service on Saturday, **December 7**th.

USHERS

Month: November Team # 05 Leader: Barbara Neumann

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

NOVEMBER

- 3 Reader Nancy Beamesderfer P/E Julie Kilkenny
- 10 Reader Charlotte Jaster P/E Nancy Beamesderfer
- 17 Reader Alice Braun P/E Sharon Wagner
- 24 Reader Jay Fort P/E Wendy Lambeth

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will NOT meet in November and December.

We will resume meeting

the third Saturday of each month in January, 2025.

Nancy Beamesderfer

THANKOFFERING

November 9, and 10, 2024

The idea of collecting in small offering boxes goes back to the very early 1800's when women formed "mite" or "cent" societies to raise money.

Lutheran women were given small Thankoffering boxes to place in a special location in their homes as a visible reminder of blessings received. Women would add coins to those boxes almost daily as particular blessings were noted. From their use came the idea of an annual church service(s) to celebrate their collection.

Thankoffering shows gratitude for God's blessings and gives the women an important and tangible way to express their gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joy-fully give thanks for what God has given us. Thankofferings have always been and still are our opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments.

Saturday, **November 9**, and Sunday **November 10**, will be Thankoffering days. The women of Holy Cross are encouraged to express their thankfulness by donating "coins" and/or items for the East Spring Branch Food Pantry during worship service. In addition to food items, the food pantry could also use personal care items such as toothbrushes, tooth paste, deodorant, shampoo and other hair products.

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, 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

STORM RECOVERY FINAL UPDATE

After many months and lots of hard work, we have finally completed all the repairs from this summer's severe weather.

I would like to thank our treasurer, Ricki Finstad and the Financial Review Committee for navigating us through some very difficult financial issues. Thank you to Noe Ibarra, who was here immediately after the storm to do repairs. Without that immediate attention, the damage could have been much worse.

Thanks to Rene's Tree Service, who also was here immediately after the storms to do clean up. Rene and his team have been here all summer, working hard to make sure our grounds are safe from all the tree damage that was done. Thank you to Penco Fence Company, who not only repaired our fence damage, but also improved our fence design to make it even safer.

Pride Construction and Roofing has finished repairs to the structural damage to the Atrium and also made the metal roof repairs on three different levels. Thank you to them for doing a wonderful job and finishing ahead of schedule.

I want to say a special thank you, with much appreciation to everyone who donated their time and financial support. It has been invaluable. Above all, I want to express my gratitude to our Lord, God, who makes all things possible.

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 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
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

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

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

"ALL SAINTS SUNDAY"

9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship service with preacher Bruce Mills –WC

Nursery is available for small children during the service – Crib Room

10:30 a.m. Coffee fellowship following the service –FLC

All Day Boy Scouts project / FLC kitchen

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

4 Mon	5 Tues	6 Wed	7 Thurs	8 Fri	9 Sat
11—12 pm ELC Chapel –WC 7—8 pm Boy Scouts	11—12 pm ELC Chapel –WC	9 am Men's Breakfast 10 am ELC KiM –FLC 11 am Choir Rehearsal –CL No Bible Study today	10 am ELC KiM –FLC 8 pm AA	1—5:30 pm SST BLS –MR/YR	All Day - Boy Scouts —FLC Kitchen
meeting- FLC room	OV. 1-30 FO	OOD PANTRY	Women mtg. –FLCA	KSGIVING STO	

NOV. 1-30 FOOD PANTRY – THANKSGIVING STORAGE - FLO

AT =Atrium, CL=Choir Loft, CR=Choir Room, FLC= Family Life Center, FLCA=Annex, KiA= Kids in Action, MR=Media Room, WC=Worship Center, YR=Youth Room BLS=Basic Life Support, SST=Safeguards Safety Training, UCL=Upcycled Crafty Ladies