

**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*

<p><b>November 2024</b></p>	<p><i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i></p>	<p><b>Vol. 30 No. 11</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>BERGY'S BABBLE:  "DON'T TAKE APART WHAT GOD CONNECTS"</b></p>		
<p>I'd like to introduce you to a term that is useful, at least in seminary, but rarely encountered in the world outside of ivory towers: "<u>HERMENEUTIC</u>." Hermeneutics has to do with how we interpret things. Our understanding of events, history, scriptures, literature, politics, and science, is different in different arenas, and different times, with different rules for different specialties. Your interpretation, your hermeneutic, your way of understanding, is filtered through your experience, your education, your environment. Through those tools, you explore and decide what is more important or less, what comprises a universal overview and what describes details that are subject to change over time. While most people probably don't want to even try to spell the word, we all do hermeneutics all of the time. It is how we understand the world.</p> <p>For instance, Martin Luther most certainly thought that the whole Bible was the most important library in the world, the cradle of the Word of God: But he had preferences for certain books over others. In his situation, fighting indulgences and the idea of that one could work one's way into heaven by doing good deeds, he was not inclined to go to the book of James, who wrote, "Faith without works is dead." (James 2:26) Even New Testament Bible guys like Paul were careful to point out that the Love of Jesus is more important than your diet. You are free to eat what was once viewed by real experts, as unclean. On the other hand, you are responsible. You should not flaunt your pork chop at a kosher vegetarian potluck. (1 Corinthians 8:8-13) God's love is always more important than flaunting human freedom. It's bad manners to abuse the gift of freedom. ... /// ...</p>		

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

The ladies of the Kansas State Industrial Farm for Women, the Lansing Penitentiary, were prisoners and poor. Once a month they might get a bag of Bugler tobacco, but no papers to roll it up. But the Gideons gave out free Bibles. The paper was thin. Perfect to roll cigarettes. These hardened women watched over me, while my Grandma worked and did her job of counseling and prison administration.

Young Pharisee that I was, I naturally protested over the practice of rolling up the Bible and smoking it. That was shocking to my New Gottland Lutheran sensibilities! Ernestine, my keeper, convicted of murder, patiently explained to me that they would never think of smoking Genesis, or the Psalms, or Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They would start with Leviticus and Deuteronomy, and they would never smoke their way through those long legal books.

The Law was a problem for them. Obviously. They are in prison. Their choice of rolling papers was a hermeneutical position. In those circumstances, it made sense. You have to figure out how to play the hand you're dealt. So, my first experience of hermeneutical interpretation of the scriptures was not at seminary. It was at the feet of the lady who didn't have the option of divorce, because she would have never lived through it. She solved that problem by eliminating her husband before he killed her. It was self-defense by any reasonable hermeneutic. At least now, she was safe from deadly relational brutality.

Jesus changed the whole hermeneutic of his encounter with the Pharisees, through bypassing current legal issues and taking it all the way back to his creation of the universe, and it's covenant of love from God to his people.... hopefully reciprocated. Life is not only about legal relationships between people. It is about the reality that through our baptism we are all married as the church, to Christ himself, the Bridegroom. We are all connected by blood in the family of faith, to each other and God. We are the Body of Christ.

... /// ...

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

Chief Seattle, in 1854, said, "All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life. He is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web he does to himself." Sounds like Jesus saying, "What God joins together, let no one take apart." We are here together, because that is where God has placed us, gifts to each other. God has joined us in reality and grace; not loopholes. There are laws and guidelines for temporal details, but in His Kingdom, we are absolutely free, responsible, and accountable in all relationships.

In that context, Mark shows Jesus addressing a variety of power structures that are hung up with distracting details, which will over time, adapt and change. Through his debate with Herodians and Pharisees he addresses, not only the power structures of the secular world, but also the structures in place in sacred law. Through his lifting up of little children, he puts to rest the social conventions of excluding the smallest, least appreciated, and often the most difficult of social relationships. We "little ones" and Christ belong together. We especially need his love!! Woe accrues to those who unravel that relationship; who work to set themselves apart. We are family, in God's Image. What God has connected we don't take apart! Amen.



## COUNCIL MEETING

Council Meeting will be Sunday,  
**December 1<sup>st</sup>**, at 11:00 a.m. in the FLCA.

Church Council



## Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)

### Minutes for Council Meeting – September 22, 2024

The September 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, September 22, 2024 at 11:03 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.

The minutes from the August 2024 meeting were submitted by Council Secretary Julie Kilkenny. Mr. Schick requested that more detail be included regarding the Financial Review Committee discussion. After discussing the proposed revisions, Council approved the minutes subject to those changes.

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. August 2024 offerings were low, \$15,989, a decrease of \$10,612 from July. Treasurer Finstad noted that average monthly offerings fell short of budget amounts by \$10,400/month. Expenses for the month of August were \$33,018, a decrease of \$16,222 from July. August expenses were \$17,029 greater than offerings. The checking account balance at 8/30/24 was \$21,755, not including restricted funds (this was after the infusion of cash from the Main Street investment funds, as discussed in the August meeting). Treasurer Finstad gave a summary of investments and other items in his report. Mr. Schick asked for clarification on the history of the HCLC Emergency Fund, and Council discussed the returns and liquidity of different investments. Council approved a motion by Steve Schulze (2<sup>nd</sup> by Hans Sunder) to liquidate the Weatherford stock and put the proceeds into a money market fund. Council also approved the motion by Mr. Schulze (2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Schick) to take the \$100,000 Emergency Fund CD, which is maturing, and place the proceeds into a separate money market fund. Council approved the Treasurer's Report. ... /// ...

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Berggren reported that he was happy to be back after his time out of the office. He noted the benefit of being able to touch base with parishioners who were ill or underwent procedures during that time. He extended special thanks to Scott Wegner and Deacon Lisa Donahue for leading Sunday worship in his absence, and expressed to Warren Schick how nice it was to be able to watch the services live. (Deacon Donahue also provided pastoral care while he was out.) He noted a generous donation to the ELC for storm recovery from the Houston Hermann Sons Home Association. He updated Council on several members who are hospitalized or homebound. Pastor Berggren's 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):**

- President Lambeth reported that the work on the sprinkler system has been completed. She called attention to the work by Selvin Young, Tillie Remmert and Alan Lambeth to keep the grounds looking nice.
- A/C issues continued at HCLC. Mr. Lambeth rewired the problematic thermostat system upstairs in the Annex, so that new wall thermostats can be installed in the Youth Room and the Annex classroom. The A/C problem in the Gym classrooms and bathrooms also required some rewiring, and an adjustment to a belt stopped the squeaking in the old unit.

**Food Pantry:**

- President Lambeth reported on the progress on finalizing a **written agreement** between the Pantry and HCLC. Ms. Lambeth, Mr. Schick, and parishioner Ted Flick met with Pantry representative Jim Hughes to discuss the agreement. Mr. Schick expressed his frustration that this process has been so drawn out. ... /// ...

- Ms. Lambeth concurred, but remarked that she felt the two parties were close to finalizing. Council discussed a point of debate about insurance issues in the preliminary draft of the agreement. Mr. Schick emphasized that Mr. Hughes would be happy to talk directly to HCLC’s insurance company to settle the issue.
- Ms. Lambeth updated Council on the improved flow of Pantry clients, ELC carpool and church traffic in the parking lot.

**Storm Recovery:**

- President Lambeth reported that a roofing company evaluating the job for storm damage to the roof determined there is also structural damage (in addition to the roof damage) to the Atrium near the elevator. This will increase the scope and likely the cost of the job.
- Mr. Sunder questioned whether HCLC buildings were vulnerable to additional tree damage. Ms. Kilkenny detailed the “urgent” tree work that was done and explained the future tree work to be done when the weather cools off.
- Mr. Schick asked about the status of storm recovery funds (SRF), in particular whether the Telge funds had been reimbursed with excess SRF donations. Treasurer Finstad replied that all the SRF funds received had been spent for repairs. Mr. Schick asked for an accounting for the storm recovery funds at the next Council meeting.

**Advent:** Ms. Lambeth asked Council to think about ideas for 2024 Advent, which begins Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. She would like to have plans in place within the next month, emphasizing the importance of publicizing Advent activities on the website, social media and Cross-ties.

Advent Sundays: 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22

Advent Wednesdays: 12/4, 12/11, 12/18

... /// ...

Pastor Berggren suggested having a Bring Your Own Sack Lunch theme for those who want to stay after the Wednesday services and perhaps incorporating a small activity during lunch (ex. signing cards, etc.). *(Note: Christmas Eve 2024 is on a Tuesday, Christmas Day is Wednesday)*

**Other Old Business:**

- **Faith & Blue Sunday** (October 13<sup>th</sup>) plans are underway. Julie and Russell Richter designed posters and a flyer for the HCLC Facebook page and website and invited law enforcement officers from the area. Stephanie Walton volunteered to make a special announcement at the beginning of the service, as well as provide decorations for the informal celebration during coffee hour.
- President Lambeth suggested having **Stewardship Sunday** on November 24, 2024, perhaps incorporating a potluck lunch and celebration of the newly refurbished FLC kitchen (Eagle Scout project).

**New Business:**

**Health & Safety class:** President Lambeth became aware of several people who recently had health episodes, and she noted that it would be helpful for HCLC to have a general refresher (*not* certification) class, so people can familiarize themselves with the AED device, blood pressure monitor, and oximeter located in the Atrium. John Lambeth offered to hold this class and answer questions during coffee after worship on November 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign-up sheet and a form to request topics to be addressed next to the attendance sheets in the Atrium.

**Nominating Committee:** Ms. Lambeth reported that, in preparation for Nominating Committee work, Tillie Remmert requested the name of the Council representative for the Committee. Mr. Warren Schick explained the requirements for the Council representative, and Ms. Lambeth asked eligible members to think it over for action at the October meeting.

... /// ...

... /// ... Council Minutes — September 22, 2024

The October Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, October 27, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. This was later moved to October 20, 2024, due to a scheduling conflict.

Upon motion to adjourn, the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kilkenny,

Secretary, Church Council



## **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.

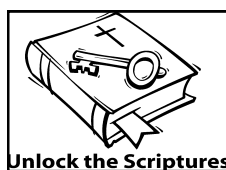
Wendy Lambeth, Council President



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
PART I**

The Congregational Meeting Part I is scheduled for Sunday,  
**December 8<sup>th</sup>**, 2024, immediately following the 9:30 a.m.  
service and after the 6:00 p.m. service  
on Saturday, **December 7<sup>th</sup>**.

Church Council



**READINGS, PSALMS & GOSPEL  
NOVEMBER 2024**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> READING</b>	<b>PSALM</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> READING</b>	<b>GOSPEL</b>
11/03/2024	Isaiah 25:6-9	24	Revelation 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44
11/10/2024	1 Kings 17:8-16	146	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
11/17/2024	Daniel 12:1-3	16	Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25	Mark 13:1-8
11/24/2024	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	93	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37



## WELCA

WELCA is placing Christmas Cards in the atrium for the members of our congregation who are not able to attend service.

Please sign each card.

The cards will be collected and mailed **December 15**.

Nancy Beamesderfer

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

On behalf of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, we thank the family of Edward Cooper for the following memorial gifts: two Guava Pineapple trees planted in the Memory Garden on each side of the cross, remedial work after the recent storms including removal of trees, root grinding, soil and labor for the holes in the church property and the replacement of five sage plants.

Your gifts are greatly appreciated and gratefully received.

HCLC Memorial Fund Committee

Tillie Remmert, Chairperson

Penny Schick, Member, John Lambeth, Member



## **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

The Friendship Club will NOT meet  
in November and December.

We will resume meeting the 3rd Saturday of each month  
in January, 2025.

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:** 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



<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 style="text-align: center;">John Lambeth</p>			

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Celebration of Special Services in 2024*



## ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesdays at 12 noon  
in the Atrium (AT)

- † December 04
- † December 11
- † December 18



# A d v e n t

*A Joyous and  
Peaceful Season*



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24

6:00 p.m. —Worship Center

## CHRISTMAS EVE ORGAN CONCERT

Join us on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m.

Rob Carty



# NOVEMBER 2024

Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 02 Dolores Fojt    | 23 Karen Davidson     |
| 04 Kay Vaccaro     | Penny Schick          |
| 05 Kim Rose        | 25 Marsha Thompson    |
| 11 Lynn Ballard    | 28 Cassie Walker Case |
| 13 Fred Gardner IV | 29 John Wegner        |
| 16 Jean Seveny     | John Stokes           |
| 18 Alan Lambeth    | 30 John Lambeth       |
| 21 Natalie Hansen  | Andrea Hernandez      |

*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*

Rev. Jim Berggren Ken Beamesderfer Bill Carty Vicki Carty Linda Cuzzort Maureen Fredrickson Anna Gardner Larry Harris Loy Dell Kaltwasser 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 Sharon Wagner
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Family & Friends of Larry Harris  
upon completion of his life's mission.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

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

#### SEPTEMBER 2024

Receipts	\$ 22,825. <sup>37</sup>
Expenses	<u>18,398.<sup>99</sup></u>
Balance	\$ 4,426. <sup>38</sup>

Operational receipts	
Year-to-date received ....	\$ 205,749. <sup>47</sup>
Expenditures year to date ...	<u>281,084.<sup>77</sup></u>
Balance	(\$ 75,335. <sup>30</sup> )

### AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

#### SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Saturday Informal Service : 9  
Sunday Traditional Service : 54

Treasurer's Rep





