

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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Rev. Jim Berggren

November 17, 2024

26th Sunday after Pentecost

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG

We Praise You, O God

ELW 870

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, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

November 17, 2024 – Pentecost 26

FIRST READING: Daniel 12:1-3

“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

The word of the Lord.

*Congregational response following the reading: **Thanks be to God!***

THE PSALM

Psalm 16

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

¹¹ And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” ¹³ and since

then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.”
¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

¹⁹ Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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 Mark 13:1-8

¹As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Congregational response: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

YOUTUBE VIDEO – <https://youtu.be/QQCszcm1efA?si=DqmJc5hF49II-NGf>

Sermon Rev. Jim Berggren

PENTECOST 26B 11-17-24 Mark 13.1-8,32.

“NEW BEGINNINGS”

The Apocalypse is not the end of the world!!! There is a big difference between “The End of the World As We Know It, and an apocalypse. The ideas are confused. An apocalypse is a revelation. It is an unveiling. It is removing the cataracts from your eyes. It is scraping the dark tint off your windows. It is no longer It is a disclosure of knowledge. It is a lifting of the veil. As the Apostle Paul would describe it, it is no longer seeing in a mirror dimly but now face to face. Our passage from Mark is called an apocalypse. It signals a beginning! A beginning of a new world. But people get more excited about scary stuff than they do revelation. By the way, the Greek word for revelation is apocalypse.

Here comes Mark again, with two questions: The disciples are impressed by the city sights. Jesus asks, “Do you see these big buildings? They are temporary. No big deal. The disciples ask, “So then, what is the sign that the new kingdom will start tearing them down?

The signal for the beginning of a revolution is important. It kicks off the first important battle which is a must-win encounter. Just tell us Jesus and we will train our militia and learn the new bugle tunes for “charge”. Jesus, tongue-in-cheek, says, “Don’t believe in posers, or wars, or earthquakes, or famines.” They’ve always been around, just a beginning. And don’t waste time trying to figure out exact timing. Jesus is quoted a couple of times, saying, “Only God knows when the revealing apocalypse will be.” (Mark 13:32, and Matthew 24:36.)

One of the nicest things about ‘The End of the World As We Know It,’ is that even though it has been calculated endlessly in an infinite variety of ways, all of the exact time predictions to date have been 100% wrong. It would seem that every meteorological, geological, international or social crisis triggers a new tsunami of speculation. Many wannabes delight in leading people astray, or gaining fame or capitalizing on dire predictions.

Dr. Martin Rees, is Britain’s honorary Astronomer Royal Emeritus. He predicts that there is a 50/50 chance that a world-ending disaster could happen in the near future. Nothing specific on his radar. He is writing in 2003, in a book

entitled, “Our Final Hour.” If you collect end of the world scenarios, this is the book for you: Super-volcanos, asteroids, nuclear winter from nuclear terrorism, nano-tech run amok, and oh, yes, engineered viruses. He goes way out on a limb to say that a case of bio-terror, or bio-error will kill a million people by 2020. Covid allegedly has overshot that prediction with 5 million deaths.

But wait a minute here.

The World Health Organization measures diseases on a scale of Disability Adjusted Life Years, (DALYs). One DALY is equal to one lost year of healthy life. Covid is only number 17 on a list that starts with heart disease, cancer, and diarrhea. Just a little perspective here. We are seven and a half times more likely to suffer from heart problems, and about 5 times more likely to suffer from cancer or diarrhea than from Covid. The disciples of doom are devilishly distracted. The War on Drugs which we are losing is three times more likely to disable our healthy lives than Covid. Every year we are losing 100,000 people from overdosing. That’s more than the entire American death toll in all ten years of the Vietnam War.

False prophets plague the world with predictions. The problem has to do with fearing the wrong things and focusing on the end instead of the beginning. Mark writes to offer clear leadership, when the world and the church are whispering, “Do you think we are in the last days?”

Mark shouts out, “NO, this is not the end. The mission is still before us, but we are being persecuted and we better wake up!” It is much more motivating, and challenging, and encouraging to know that GOD is near than to waste time wondering if the end is near.

Jesus is clear. Don’t ignore obvious dangers, and don’t stamp every crazy leader, every tragic war, and every natural disaster as the end of the world. They are not.

Those who study this stuff, tend to agree that apocalyptic worries are a common response to disorienting change. We’ve got that. Frightening predictions of the future abounded in Persia as its ancient pastoral society gave way to a brutal warfare state. In the Middle Ages, the fall of feudalism and the rise of urban populations made everyone nervously anticipate the worst world ending scenarios.

Even wonderful new innovations with unforeseen circumstances cause nervousness and fear about the future.

Consider the Apocalyptic Potato, a good thing, a wonderful stimulus to civilization imported to the world, and changing the world, thanks to the Peruvians, who cultivated it, 8000 years ago and the subsequent Columbian shipping and commerce from the Americas to the European Continent. Potatoes eased

starvation, raised birth rates, promoted unanticipated health and population growth, enhanced craft specialization, and invention, expanded the marketplace, and fueled an Industrial Revolution. That's a lot of global impact for a lowly spud. I wonder if a microchip or a new virus or a new nano-particle made of graphene oxide for vaccine delivery, would change anything? What do you think? Well, it's not the end of the world. Sounds like the beginning of something instead!

“We are stardust, we are golden...And we've got to get ourselves back to the Garden...” (Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young). Yes, they were special, this enlightened generation. Their new vision would sweep away the rigid old order of their fathers with a 20th Century renaissance promising hope and progress for future generations. When their mantle of responsibility was assumed, a new world would be born.

New thought spawned a youth culture embracing vegetarianism, herbal healing, communal living, sexual libertinism, enforced equity, multicultural folklore, and occultism. They cared about the environment and banned DDT, which had mixed results. There are always downrange unintended consequences. The death-rate score is: DDT---zero, Unchecked malarial mosquitos still killed millions. The new generation emphasized organic health foods, promoted Earthdays, institutionalized child care, practiced pre-natal population control, abortion, sterilization and euthanasia. They nationalized health care, and instituted innumerable welfare programs, the federal takeover of education, no school prayer or religious celebrations, and massive deficit spending. Those were the days...the 1930's in Germany.

What Every Ism offers, is fear of The End, the idea of a prodigious and heroic struggle against a demonized enemy, and then world-changing victory, followed by the golden age in the garden of Eden. It is an old and devilish formula: Promote the fear of the end of the world, successfully survive a terrifying non-event, and take the next bus to Erehwon or Utopia. End of the world paranoia is not confined to wealthy preppers, crazed survivalists, medieval peasants or totalitarian movements. It is a great tool to control populations. The comfortable middle-class who are “woke,” would probably be shocked to think of themselves as exhibiting exterminatory drool, but you can't help but notice that the politically correct often have rather violent ideas about what should happen to people who don't agree with them. “Isn't that special?”

The word “apocalypse” means that which is disclosed or revealed. But nowadays when people use it they invariably mean something like a scary end of the world, and that often boils down to one thing: the removal of imperfect human beings. The perfect human beings are the ones who get to decide. If you are not

driving when the so-called rapture comes, its curtains for you, anyway. So, here's a strategy; get behind the wheel and wake up. Trust God to lead the way to the party of His Future. Our job is to be alert and awake to the joys and the grace of living in Christ in the present, which is just the beginning.

The end of the world is not a predictable event to come. Weather and geology don't constitute signs of the end. The earliest pagan religions were about controlling the world and its weather through sacrifice. Remember when we all quit paper bags because they were killing too many trees. Now we are all going back because plastic is the newest terror. Now I'm really confused when you get a paper straw in a plastic wrapper. Whatever, somebody is making money on the confusion.

On the other hand, someone like Mother Theresa is a wonderful sign of the revealing apocalypse. It is an event of psychological transformation, an influx of joy in the midst of anything that may happen. Jesus calls us to a grander overarching perspective about the scary dramas of this world.

The last days are the days I let go and let Christ begin.

So simply be alert and ready for living without worrying. Have fun. Learn how to do things from the Stone Age to the Space Age. If you live simply, try a little hi-tech. It's fun. That evil handheld device can be very educational and helpful. If you're a techie, go milk a cow, start a fire, and catch and skin a catfish for supper. Learn what you can, stay loose and rely on God. Then apocalypse---the next step will be revealed. It is discovery! What are you afraid of? Alertly, look forward to God's Party!

Instead of fearing the end, we Christians watch for it. Knowing that it is the fulfillment of all things in Christ Jesus, the goal, the aim of Creation. It is a beautiful beginning. God's Will be done!

The End of the World as I Know It? That happens to me every night when I fall asleep: The old world is complete.

Apocalypse? That happens to me every morning when I wake up. A new world in Christ is revealed. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Lord What a Morning

ELW 438

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

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

Arr. M. W. Burnett

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

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW 632

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.*



- ♣ **Alberto Basurto**
- ♣ **Ken Beamesderfer**
- ♣ **Bill Carty**
- ♣ **Vicki Carty**
- ♣ **Linda Cuzzort**
- ♣ **Maureen Fredrickson**
- ♣ **Anna Gardner**
- ♣ **Gloria Guilfoyle**
- ♣ **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**
- ♣ **Jaime Urbanski**
- ♣ **Sharon Wagner**



COUNCIL MEETING

Next Council meeting will be Sunday, **December 1st**, 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 8th**, 2024, immediately following the 9:30 a.m.
service and after the 6:00 p.m. service on Saturday, **December 7th**.

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

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

CHRISTMAS

*Join us in the
Celebration of Special Services in 2024*

ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesdays at 12:00 noon in the Atrium

December 4, December 11, December 18

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, **December 24** 6:00 p.m. –WC

CHRISTMAS EVE ORGAN CONCERT

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

Rob Carty

**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 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

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

9:30 a.m. *Traditional Worship service with Rev. Jim Berggren –WC*
 Nursery is available for small children during the service – Crib Room

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

1—4:30 p.m. *SST Adult CPR – MR/YR*

All Day *Boy Scouts project / FLC kitchen*

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

18 Mon	19 Tues	20 Wed	21 Thurs	22 Fri	23 Sat
<p><u>CROSSTIES DEADLINE</u></p> <p>11—12 pm <i>ELC Chapel –WC</i></p> <p>7—8 pm <i>Boy Scouts mtg. –FLC room</i></p>	<p>10—12 pm <i>Deborah Circle -FLCA</i></p> <p>11—12 pm <i>ELC Chapel –WC</i></p>	<p>10—12 pm <i>ELC Thanksgiving Feast –FLCA</i></p> <p>10 am <i>Roundtable Group –VR</i></p> <p>11 am <i>Choir Rehearsal –CL</i></p> <p>12 pm <i>Bible Study –AT</i></p>	<p>10—12 pm <i>ELC Thanksgiving Feast –FLCA</i></p> <p>8 pm <i>AA Women meeting –FLCA</i></p>		<p><i>All Day - Boy Scouts project –FLC Kitchen</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p>1—5:30 pm <i>SST BLS –MR/YR</i></p> <p>4:30 pm <i>Guitar class –CR</i></p> <p>6:00 pm <i>Saturday Informal Service –AT</i></p>
NOV. 1-30 FOOD PANTRY – THANKSGIVING FOOD STORAGE - FLC					

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