

*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*

January 2024	<i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i>	Vol. 31 No. 1
BERGY'S BABBLE ADVENT 2024, UNUSUAL PREPARATION....		
<p>John the Baptist was not politically correct. His call to repentance as a way to prepare for the Savior of Joy, was not likely to be heard except for it's unusual presentation by an unusual man, in an unusual way to an unusual crowd in the wilderness, an officially unclean place. Not the usual venue for holiness and royal inaugurations.</p> <p>Luke does a big buildup with a surprising twist at the end. Today it would sound something like this: "In the last year of the Biden administration, Abbot being Governor of Texas, and Whitmore being Mayor of Houston, in the time of Xi Jinping and Putin, Netanyahu and Trump, the word of God came to Billyjobob, son of Bubba in Pandale, TX, and he came to NRG Stadium to call people to personal accountability before God, and the joyful task of preparing the way for His Savior of Peace and Joy.</p> <p>This carries a load of irony. The ones who are laughing at its unlikely reality, are the ones who are nervous. What if that really happened? Here's what!!!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">... /// ...</p>		

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

What is wonderful about Christianity, is the fact that from the very beginning, with John the Baptist, our faith is carefully anchored in secular history, recorded by even those who were not believers.

Our faith tradition is firmly rooted in history, with recognizable people and with a series of events that happened in a definite time and place. This is not 'once upon a time in fantasyland.' While it certainly moves many deep mythological archetypes in our collective psyche, it is a true account of a real happening!!! Our Savior of Joy entered the world through actual flesh and blood at an identifiable historical time. I am laughing with relief and with resolve to share this joy by preparing the way.

John's baptism of repentance is not punishment, or self-flagellation or life denial. It is a call to a spiritual uplifting. It is a call to elevate our spirits, not dampen them. John is discounted and marginalized by those who say that he is weird because of the wilderness he lives in. They are either gloomy Guses, or afraid of the truth.

Advent, as a repentant season calls us to the joyful realization that we can be a part of chorus that prepares the way by singing, "Joyful, Joyful, we adore Thee." Of course, there is great distance between the Kingdom of God and the kingdoms of this world, but the power of God made flesh spans that distance. And we have our own small part as we joyfully prepare the way.

There were some real gems in that old TV show, "Kung Fu." Little parables.

... /// ...

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

The master talks to the young boy. "Would you rather be a stone-cutter or a king?" The boy says, "King." The master says, "Look, the king is miserable because of the heat of the sun." The boy says, "The sun is more powerful than the king. I would like to be the sun."

The master then points out a cloud, as it completely covers the sun. The boy decides that to be a cloud would be more powerful than being the sun. Just then the cloud crashes into the mountain and drops its rain and disappears, to once again make a sunny day. The boy says, "I see. It is best to be the mountain."

Then the master points to the lowly stone-cutter, singing and happily chipping away at the base of the mountain.

In preparing the way of the Lord we don't need to be the most high-power thing going. We can simply chip away at our manageable section of the garden that God has given us, by spreading joy and good will. Part of my prayer time involves disciplined plotting: What is the best strategy for shedding a little light; for the distracted, depressed, or dejected person that I encounter? I am trying to figure out ways to elicit a smile of relief. To change someone's mind from a context of worrying to a matrix of calmness and solace. Trying to lift someone's burden for just a moment. Showing hope, instead of preaching it. It is a worthwhile challenge. Those little joys, nobly prepare the way for God in our world. You make a difference!! Amen.

See you in worship Bergy



RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle meeting will be Thursday **January 9, 2025**,
at 1:00 p.m. in the Annex.

Nancy Beamesderfer

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will be meeting Saturday, **January 18, 2025**
at 3:00 pm in the Annex.

This will be a pot luck gathering so be sure to bring a favorite
dish to share along with ideas for future meetings.

You no longer need to be 55 in order to attend Friendship Club as
we are no longer able to secure the precinct buses for trips.

Nancy Beamesderfer

SAVE YOUR STAMPS

Please continue to save your cancelled stamps
for Lutheran World Relief.

These stamps are sold and help defer the cost of shipping of
World Relief Projects around the world.

These must be cancelled stamps, trimmed with a ¼ inch border
around the stamp. Trim them yourself or bring in the stamp
section of your envelope and we will trim them.

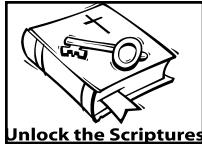
A collection box is available in the Family Life Center
for your stamps.

Thank you!

Next
COUNCIL MEETING

Council meeting will be Sunday, **January 19th**, 2025
at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council



READINGS, PSALMS & GOSPEL
JANUARY 2025

DATE	1st READING	PSALM	2nd READING	GOSPEL
01/05/2025	Jeremiah 31:7-14	147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:[1-9] 10-18
12/12/2025	Isaiah 43:1-7	29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
12/19/2025	Isaiah 62:1-5	36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
12/26/2025	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21

UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY



Hines, Norma
847 Deerhurst Lane
Magnolia, TX 77354

Kile, Bryan
Cell (832) 603-0516

McDonnold, Louise
Eagle's Trace
14703 Eagle Vista Dr. #1115
Building 601
Houston, TX 77077

Rothharpt, Leigh
Cell (832) 544-2907
500 West 41st Ave. # 317
Denver, CO 80216

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who purchased a Poinsettia for our Christmas Service. Our facilities and grounds looked so pretty.
Such a beautiful way to celebrate our Savior's birth.
Sharon Wagner

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.



JANUARY 2025

Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

03	Natieli Pazdra	20	Shawn Walton
05	Rose Mary Schwalm	22	Laura Neilsen
06	George Schwalm	23	Kris Drosche
08	Maureen Fredrickson		William Allcorn
	Chris Abrego		Fred Gardner III
09	Alexander Young	24	Megan Schomburg
14	Jan Walker	25	Jack Wolf
15	Bruce Elijah	26	Cathy Elijah
16	Susan Clark	30	Wayne Schaper, Sr.
18	Ellen Carter		



If your name is not listed or if this is incorrect information please contact the Church Office so that the list can be corrected.

USHERS

Month: January

Team # 03 Leader: Linda Cuzzort

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

JANUARY

- 5 Reader — Jay Fort
P/E — Julie Kilkenny
- 12 Reader — Mallory Hileman
P/E — Penny Schick
- 19 Reader — Charlotte Jaster
P/E — Sharon Wagner
- 26 Reader — Ike Thompson
P/E — John Stokes

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer



SAFEGUARDS SAFETY TRAINING
HOLYCROSS COUPON CODE FOR 15% DISCOUNT: HCLC2025

CLASS	DAY	DATE	TIME
Adult CPR *CPR only (\$79) *CPR + First Aid (\$92)	Sunday Sunday Sunday	1/19/2025 2/16/2025 3/16/2025	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	1/11/2025 2/08/2025 2/22/2025 3/08/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm 1 pm — 5:30 pm 1 pm — 5:30 pm 1 pm — 5:30 pm
Basic Life Support (for Healthcare Providers and Professional Rescuers) (\$89)	Friday Saturday Saturday Friday Saturday Friday Saturday Saturday	1/10/2025 1/18/2025 1/25/2025 2/07/2025 2/15/2025 3/07/2025 3/15/2025 3/22/2025	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 1 pm — 5:30 pm
CPR Instructor Course (\$299)	Saturday Friday Saturday Friday	1/04/2025 1/31/2025 3/01/2025 3/28/2025	9 am — 5:30 pm 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

TO ALL GROUP LEADERS

Crafty Ladies, Ruth Circle, Early Learning Center (ELC)
Free Guitar Class, Friendship Club, Food Pantry,
Hymn Selection, Lutheran World Relief (LWR), WELCA, etc.

2025 CALENDAR REQUEST FORMS

Once again, you are kindly reminded that
you must fill out a Calendar Request Form

to schedule your meetings/events in 2025
on the forms located on the table in the Atrium.

**Anything not written on the calendar
may lead to a conflict in scheduling.**

This applies to anyone and/or any group that meets and uses
the church facilities, and if any church related group or circle
meets somewhere else
and would like to be scheduled on the church calendar as well.

Your meetings/events will be announced in the Sunday News,
Crossties Calendar and on the Church website.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Sussy Terry
Office Manager & Events Coordinator



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

Alberto Basurto
Bill Carty
Vicki Carty
Linda Cuzzort
Maureen Fredrickson
Anna Gardner
Natalie Hansen
Loy Dell Kaltwasser
Nancy Lancaster
David Magrill

Kenneth Magrill
Louise McDonnold
Gloria McGarvey
Jeremy Mitchell
Geraine Moore
Dorothy Preuss
Tommy Roberts
Billy Sosa
Ann Taylor
Jaime Urbanski

Treasurer's Report



TREASURER'S REPORT

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

NOVEMBER 2024

Receipts	\$ 15,394. ⁰⁰
Expenses	<u>23,410.⁰⁸</u>
Balance	\$ 8,016. ⁰⁸

Operational receipts	
Year-to-date received	\$ 245,702. ⁴⁷
Expenditures year to date ...	<u>334,880.³⁹</u>
Balance	(\$ 89,177. ⁹²)



*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

NOVEMBER SERVICES

Saturday Informal Service : 9
Sunday Traditional Service : 52

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: jlberggren@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
		