

***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>February 2025</b>	<i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i>	<b>Vol. 31 No. 2</b>
<b>BERGY'S BABBLE</b> <b>"MELTING POT VS. TOSSED SALAD"</b>		
<p>Every year, McPherson County celebrated Mayday. School was almost out for the summer. We children were thrilled. The first evening featured a talent show in McPherson's City Park at the bandshell. Winding the maypole concluded the evening. Then everyone went to the carnival for hot dogs, cotton candy and rides.</p> <p>The next day was the parade. Each small, one-or-two-room country school, had a float, based on the theme, American Unity. Our little school's float was "The Melting Pot." It was a round stock tank brightly painted with logs and flames, on a hayrack pulled by a tractor. My classmates and I, were to be in the tank, dressed in different costumes representing different cultural traditions in America. Some of the costumes were only a guess at a cultural tradition, because they were not designed, based on an actual people in the county. We were instructed to smile and wave.</p> <p>For some reason I was nervous about this. I kept thinking about the ancient legend of St. Nicholas resurrecting 3 boys who had been thrown into a brewer's vat. Of course, I understood the idea of unity, but I didn't relish the idea of being one lost ingredient in a stewpot. One mistake in proportions, one excess of an ingredient and it's inedible. You can't take out too much salt.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">... /// ...</p>		

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

I had hoped that we could be a tossed salad instead, where every ingredient was important and essential, and the balance of ingredients is 'Art'. A slumgullion stew you just dump stuff in and hope for the best ... But these were the days before salads were popular. So, to escape becoming a melted part of a fondue, I finagled joining the Lindsborg Junior High Marching Band. I preferred walking down Main Street, to being symbolically boiled.

Most of the children though didn't have much experience with salads. It's almost impossible to get all the ingredients to ripen at the same time in one garden. Nobody would consider the community, or the nation illustrated as a beautiful tossed salad. But it is Biblical. Paraphrasing 1 Corinthians 12:12 and following: Lettuce says, "I'm all you need for a salad." But one ingredient, by definition is not a salad. Onion says, "Salad, you are so boring, I'm all you need. Just chop an onion up and eat it. Tomato says, "Because I don't like a bath in Bleu Cheese, I don't belong in this salad." Carrot and cucumber are fighting over who is more important, and bacon is sizzling on the side, comfortable in its ancestry, knowing that only a pig can turn exotic salad ingredients, like apples and strawberries, into bacon, to make the perfect food, a bacon, bacon, and bacon salad.

Paul's tongue-in-cheek metaphor of the church community as a body, a very important body, the Body of Christ, works absolutely best when all the parts of the body, perform and enjoy their vital and important tasks. Each one of us is here for a reason. Each of us have a place and a function, and the whole body suffers if our purpose doesn't happen. In some ways, each of us are fulfilling God's Will, whether we realize that or not.

There are no first or second-class citizens in the Christian community. We are all important.

... /// ...

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

Singing, welcoming, teaching, praying, setting up and taking down, fixing broken stuff, planning: If you are concerned about something, you are probably looking square at your special mission. How can you address your concern? We all matter in this enterprise to which Christ has called us.

Any popular Broadway musical is a huge community effort. It takes both the lyricist and the composer, the poet and the musician, the director, the producer, the financial investors, the set designer, the carpenter, the costumer, the valet parker, the ticket-taker, the cymbal player and the janitor. It takes us all to keep the show going on. Don't just say, "This needs to get done." Of course, it does! The whole world needs to be saved! We can start where we see that it needs help. Each of us grows by doing something for Jesus' mission. It is a part of our constitution as Christians.

We are a covenant people, part of a holy nation, and a royal priesthood. We are the hands, and eyes and feet on a distinct body that the whole world needs, to work, to function righteously and compassionately. We have help. We have the Holy Spirit. We are the Body of Christ. It is a heady tossed salad of perfect nourishment. It is a strong body. All of us are important in it. There is something that each of us can do, and needs to do in his service. The tossed salad will not be the same without our artfully balanced contribution to the nourishment of our world. Amen.

See you in worship ..... Bergy



**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)**  
**Minutes for Council Meeting – December 1, 2024**

The November 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 11:00 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. Chip Charlton attended as a special guest.

Chip Charlton presented to Council the final report for his Eagle Scout project of refurbishing the FLC (Gym) kitchen. He noted that the project came in under budget, even with additional electrical costs. Phase I included the removal of the existing commercial gas stove and installation of 2 electric ranges. Then the kitchen walls and trim were prepped and painted. They also added undercabinet lighting and updated the existing outlets with GFCI technology. Council members thanked him and remarked about what a great job he did.

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

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. October 2024, offerings were \$24,559, an increase of \$1,734 over September. He noted that average monthly offerings are short of budget amounts by \$10,900/month. Expenses for the month of October were \$30,411, an increase of \$12,012 from September. October offerings were \$5,852 less than expenses; the 2024 average monthly deficit was \$8,116. The checking account balance at 10/31/24 was \$23,703, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad gave a summary of investments and other items in his report. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

... /// ...

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Berggren updated Council on his activities for the month. He thanked Holy Cross members and friends for stepping up while he was away for an unplanned medical procedure, and also for their prayers, visits and calls. He expressed his appreciation to Pastor Chris Rothharpt and Bruce Mills for stepping in to help with worship services while he was out. He noted that the Pantry's Thanksgiving project fed approximately 1,100 families this year. His other activities included preparing for Advent, as well as regular services 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:**

**Boy Scout Troop 852:** Stephanie Walton updated Council on activities for BSA Troop 852. Tristan Walton's Eagle Scout ceremony was on November 17<sup>th</sup>, and the troop is preparing for its Court of Honor ceremony on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Buildings and Grounds:** President Lambeth reported that things were relatively quiet for Buildings and Grounds. The thermal coupler in sanctuary heater was replaced, and there were small leaks in the gym roof that she hopes will be fixed before it rains. Ms. Kilkeny reported that two more trees were removed, and she is working out the details to replant some of the trees that were lost in this year's storms.

**Food Pantry:**

- Ms. Lambeth reported that the agreement between HCLC and the Pantry was completed, and that things were going pretty well.

... /// ...

She asked for Council members' opinions on how to handle conflicts when normal Pantry client days conflict with special HCLC or ELC events (ex: ELC Christmas program, Sip'n Shop, etc.)

- President Lambeth reported that she and Jim Hughes met to discuss the Pantry's ideas on expansion plans to better serve its clients. Mr. Hughes wanted to get an idea of whether Holy Cross *and* Hilshire Village are amenable to the Pantry's ideas *before* spending a lot of money on consultants and architects. The Pantry would pour a concrete pad the same size and in the same location as in the proposal originally presented to Hilshire Village. There would be refrigeration and freezer units on the pad, as well as noise suppression devices and a generator, and would be surrounded by a fence and foliage. The Pantry's hope is that this approach would be acceptable to HCLC, as it is similar in footprint (which was acceptable to HCLC), but much lower in height (which seemed to be a stumbling block for Hilshire Village). In addition, his recommendation would be for Holy Cross to present the new proposal to Hilshire Village. Ms. Lambeth urged that if Holy Cross presents the new proposal, Pantry representative(s) must be at the meeting to answer questions.
- Ms. Lambeth explained that the Pantry can only receive deliveries of donated food that requires refrigeration at given intervals. Their goal is to get a bigger refrigeration unit, so they can accept more and better food and accommodate more clients. A straw vote was taken, and Council members expressed support for this idea.

**Advent:**

Council briefly discussed plans for 2024 Advent. The Wednesday noon services will be in the Atrium, with a BYOL (bring your own) sack lunch after the service in the Annex classroom.

... /// ...

... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — December 1, 2024

Ms. Walton is working on compiling bound booklets for the Sing-Along after the Sunday service and Congregational Meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:**

At the previous meeting Mr. Schick suggested HCLC recognize **new members** of Holy Cross during a worship service. President Lambeth proposed a tentative date of January 26, 2025 and including a reception or potluck lunch.

President Lambeth recognized the diligent work of Barbara Neumann in helping Holy Cross to achieve the **Spring Branch ISD (SBISD) Class of 2024 Good Neighbor designation**. Ms. Neumann and Stephanie Walton have been instrumental in spearheading Holy Cross's involvement in this program over the past several years.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, January 19, 2025 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



## **CROSS WALL**

### **During the Holidays, the Cross Wall grew!!**

We had several church members donate crosses.  
It was decided to add those beautiful crosses  
to the pastoral wall for past Pastoral Staff.

#### **IN HONOR OF**

Pastor Otto Hesla	1954—1956
Pastor Louis Smith	1961—1967
Associate Pastor Rowland Chandler	1964—1966
Associate Pastor David Stuck	1966—1968
Associate Pastor Don Little	1970
Associate Pastor Victor Nelson	1976—1980
Pastor Richard Kling	1978—1980
Pastor Ed Bersagel	1980—1982
Deaconess Doreen Leptien Scheuermann	1994—1997
Pastor John Boldt	1998—2000
Pastor George Bement	2001—2004

#### **IN MEMORY OF**

LaVerne Pivonka

#### **DONATED BY**

Her family

Leigh Ann Rothharpt

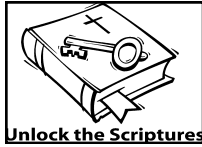
Blessings,  
Upcycled Crafty Ladies



*Next*  
**COUNCIL MEETING**

Council meeting will be Sunday, **February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, 2025  
at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council



**READINGS, PSALMS & GOSPEL**  
**FEBRUARY 2025**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> READING</b>	<b>PSALM</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> READING</b>	<b>GOSPEL</b>
2/02/2025	Jeremiah 1:4-10	71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
2/09/2025	Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]	138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
2/16/2025	Jeremiah 17:5-10	1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
2/23/2025	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	37:1-11, 39-40	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38

**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING PART II**

Congregational meeting will be Sunday, **March 9, 2025**  
following the service in the Worship Center.

Church Council

**UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY**



**Hines, Norma**

847 Deerhurst Lane  
Magnolia, TX 77354

**Kile, Bryan**

Cell (832) 603-0516

**McDonnold, Louise**

The Hampton at Meadows Place  
11919 W Airport Blvd. Apt. 155  
Meadows Place, 77477

**Rothharpt, Leigh**

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

**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.



## FEBRUARY 2025

Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

02 Gerri Cooper	14 Warren Schick
04 Mark Kilkenny	18 Ruby Schaper
05 Ceci Saavedra	23 Rilla Farley
11 Lauren Seveney	27 Debra Pruitt
12 David Dukleth	Natalie Hileman
Elizabeth Dukleth	

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



### CELEBRATION OF MEMBERSHIP

In appreciation for all of our faithful and hardworking congregation, and in special thanks to those who have most recently joined us in worship and service, we will gather in joy for a Celebration of Membership on Sunday, **February 16**.

There will be a reception after the service at the coffee hour in the Family Life Center.

Pr. Jim Berggren

**USHERS**

**Month:** February

**Team # 04 Leader:** Julie Kilkenny

**LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS**

**FEBRUARY**

- 2 Reader — Scott Wegner  
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer
- 9 Reader — Alma Byerly  
P/E — Jay Byerly
- 16 Reader — Linda Cuzzort  
P/E — Steve Schulze
- 23 Reader — Charlotte Jaster  
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer

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	1/19/2025	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Sunday	2/16/2025	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Sunday	3/16/2025	1 pm — 4:30 pm
Adult & Pediatric CPR *CPR only (\$85) *CPR + First Aid (\$99)	Saturday	1/11/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	2/08/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	2/22/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	3/08/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
Basic Life Support (for Healthcare Providers and Professional Rescuers) (\$89)	Friday	1/10/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	1/18/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	1/25/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Friday	2/07/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	2/15/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Friday	3/07/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	3/15/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	3/22/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
CPR Instructor Course (\$299)	Saturday	1/04/2025	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Friday	1/31/2025	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	3/01/2025	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Friday	3/28/2025	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](http://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

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

We thank the family of **Tommy Neuman** for the use of his memorial gifts to upgrade and beautify the Early Childhood Learning Center playground area. Tommy's grandson, Triston Walton, was able to complete his Eagle Scout Award while doing this project. Triston cleaned the grounds, painted the playground equipment, sensory paths, and a "Roadway". He created planter boxes, a little Library, planted a PreK Pizza Garden and painted a mural on an old fence. Several Street signs were added to the "Roadway" and additional interactive playground items were added to the existing playground equipment. Your gifts and Triston's hard work are greatly appreciated and gratefully received.

In memory of **Harold Braun**, we thank his family for the metal borders around all of the nursery beds planted this year to hold the soil and the labor to install it.

In memory of **Delta and Nelda Marburger** the memorial gifts were used to recently plant one of our new trees at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

We are so grateful for the gifts given in memory of your loved ones.

HCLC Memorial Fund Committee

Tillie Remmert, Chairman  
Penny Schick, Member  
John Lambeth, Member

A decorative graphic of the words "Thank You" written in a highly stylized, flowing cursive script. The letters are interconnected and have elegant, sweeping flourishes, particularly around the 'T' and 'Y'.

## 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	Tracy Makris
Bill Carty	Louise McDonnold
David Dukleth	Gloria McGarvey
Maureen Fredrickson	Jeremy Mitchell
Anna Gardner	Geraine Moore
Bryan Kile	Dorothy Preuss
Nancy Lancaster	Steve Schulze
Darnell Lucero	Tommy Roberts
David Magrill	Ann Taylor
Kenneth Magrill	Jaime Urbanski

Family and Friends of Vicky Carty  
upon completion of her life's mission.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

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

#### DECEMBER 2024

Receipts	\$ 42,803. <sup>79</sup>
Expenses	<u>34,586.<sup>24</sup></u>
Balance	\$ 8,217. <sup>55</sup>

Operational receipts	
Year-to-date received ....	\$ 288,506. <sup>26</sup>
Expenditures year to date ...	<u>369,466.<sup>63</sup></u>
Balance	(\$ 80,960. <sup>37</sup> )



*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

#### DECEMBER SERVICES

Saturday Informal service	: 9
Sunday Traditional service	: 51
Wednesday Advent services	: 19
Christmas Eve service	: 77

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
in Spring Branch

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America (ELCA)

7901 Westview Dr.  
Houston, Texas 77055  
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Fax (713) 686-9095  
E-mail: [hclc@holycross.us](mailto:hclc@holycross.us)  
Website: [www.holycross.us](http://www.holycross.us)

*“Holy Cross Lutheran Church is a community of Christians  
gathered by God’s grace and reaching out through God’s love.”*

<b>TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS</b>		<b><u>CHURCH STAFF</u></b>	
<b>100</b>	Church Office	Rev. Jim Berggren — Senior Pastor Email: <a href="mailto:jlberggren@holycross.us">jlberggren@holycross.us</a>	
<b>101</b>	Sussy Terry	Office Manager & Events Coordinator	Sussy Terry — Office Manager & Events C. Email: <a href="mailto:hclc@holycross.us">hclc@holycross.us</a>
<b>103</b>	Rev. Jim Berggren	Senior Pastor	John Lambeth — Bookkeeper Email: <a href="mailto:finance@holycross.us">finance@holycross.us</a>
<b>104</b>	John Lambeth	Bookkeeper	Robert Carty — Musical Director / Organist Email: <a href="mailto:robcarty1@outlook.com">robcarty1@outlook.com</a>
<b>SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE</b> Informal Service 6:00 p. m. —AT		<b><u>OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION</u></b>	
<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE</b> Traditional Service 9:30 a.m. —WC		Wendy Lambeth	President
<b><u>EARLY LEARNING CENTER</u></b>		Stephanie Walton	Vice-President
<b>ELC (713) 461-5535</b>		Julie Kilkenny	Secretary
email: <a href="mailto:holycrosselc4@gmail.com">holycrosselc4@gmail.com</a>		Ricki Finstad	Treasurer
		