

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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Rev. Jim Berggren

February 9, 2025

5th Sunday after Epiphany

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG

Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult

ELW 696

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: ***Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen***

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

February 9, 2025 – 5th Sunday After Epiphany

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

A Vision of God in the Temple

In the year that King Uzzi'ah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶ Then flew one of the seraphim to me, having in his hand a burning coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven.” ⁸ And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

The word of the Lord.

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 138

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The Resurrection of Christ

Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand,² by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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 Luke 5:1-11

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

While the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennes'aret. ² And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught

the people from the boat. ⁴ And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵ And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, ⁷ they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” ⁹ For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zeb’edee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men.” ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregational response: Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTUBE VIDEO – https://youtu.be/IKU50ctckK0?si=ksi-iZhxA_qp8Lva

Sermon Rev. Jim Berggren

EPIPHANY 5C, LUKE 5:1-11, 2-9-25

DON’T QUIT RIGHT BEFORE THE MIRACLE HAPPENS

DON’T RUN RIGHT AFTER THE MIRACLE HAPPENS

It is Annual Report Time. Congregational reports concerning statistics, financials, membership demographic details and goals are due very soon now.

It was in the late 70’s when a question was asked in the annual report: “What would you like to do for the synod this year?” At the time, Houston had a strong group of pastors who met weekly at Christ the King, hosted by our Dean, Pastor Peterman, who had gathered the Houston area congregations into a vibrant coalition. He formed the Houston Synodical Area Ministries, HSAM. (That was MASH backwards.)

We were astounded at the silliness of the question, “What would you like to do blah, blah, blah.....?” As a group, in our individual reports, we said essentially the same thing, “It doesn’t matter what we would like to do. Give us an assignment that the synod needs done.” That offer was never answered and the question never appeared on another annual report form. A miracle could’ve happened but someone quit. A miracle was in the process of happening, but leaders were afraid of changes. They got scared.

If anyone had a bunch of good reasons to quit, it was Simon Peter. His circumstances were fishy. Things weren't going swimmingly for him. He was in a net of despair. Hooked by circumstances. Sink or swim.

First off, it seems that Peter and his wife are living at his mother-in-law's house, on her dime. And to top it off, she was sick. Jesus healed her. During the illness Peter's wife would have been the person in charge of the household. The acting matriarch. Nothing wrong with any of that except in the honor-status conscious man's world of that day, living with your mother-in-law, while your wife runs things, is not exactly a success story.

It also looks like Simon Peter might be a secondary figure in the Zebedee and Sons Fishing Company. He has a boat, but he is not at all a majority stakeholder in the partnership. Out-voted at least 3-1, he is taking orders, not giving them. And then he really strikes out by not catching a single fish in a whole night of hard labor. Empty nets, empty purses, empty bellies. It has not been a good week for Simon Peter, demeaning and discouraging. And Jesus says, "Let's go back out and catch some fish." "Seriously, Jesus, there are no fish out there. We've established that; with a night of failure and now we're calling it a day." Here is where we discover that there is big difference between what we expect and what God delivers! DON'T QUIT BEFORE THE MIRACLE HAPPENS!

Peter, exhausted, with sullen obedience says, "If you say so, we'll go back out and throw the nets out, even if it is only an opportunity to win an argument by saying, 'I told you so!'" Keep in mind that Jesus is out there with Peter, casting the nets out and dragging them back in, to check for fish. The lake has been overfished, due to the export industry of sardines to Rome, regulated by Herod Antipas. Local fishermen needed the fish for their main food source. And the fish were disappearing into the gullets of rich Roman Senators.

Simon Peter is like, "Show me the fish! Show me the fish! We are hungry. Our business is tanking!" Peter's focus is on failure. And Jesus is about to perform a miracle of comedic irony. "Oh, it is fish you want! Here....have a zillion. You'll be so sick of fish; you'll never want to see another fish again. You catch'em, you gotta clean'em, and ship'em off to Rome. You'll want to retire and fish for people instead!" As we will see, that's a revolutionary proposition!

I know the feeling. I was broken and hungry, a Kansas farm boy, alone in a big city. Then I got a temp job at a meat processing plant in South Philly. It was a hot, humid summer. My first step into the work area, I was met with two miracles. The room was 40 degrees. It felt so good. And in the middle of it, on the floor was a pyramid of ground hamburger, 15 feet tall. It looked, felt, and smelled like heaven. As I went back to my basement that evening, after that first shift, I was seriously considering being a vegetarian on the equator.

Somedays life is a painful struggle. You just can't see any way forward. And you can't see it because the miracle is just around the corner, and you might be looking in the wrong place. If it is fish you are after, you might get more fish than you can handle. The miracle will change your life.

For Peter, James, and John this was a turning point. This may be the richest they'll ever be with two boat loads of a fortune, in flopping fish. Success, comfort, status and wealth: how could you possibly abandon that. It is a frightening prospect. They left "everything." That is more than turning your nose up at a cash cow, or cash mackerel or whatever. They broke with their

social network, biological family, friends, neighbors and patrons. They dissolved a business. This would have been considered deviant behavior, far beyond the prodigal son's and would have been a death to many things for them.

Herod Antipas controlled the fishing industry of the Sea of Galilee. It used to be one of the best places in the world to fish for local consumption. No more, with several levels of taxes, processing factories, and transportation of goods to the whole Roman Empire. The evil empire was exploiting and destroying communities.

Traditionally, we have understood 'fishing-for- people,' as the vocation of saving souls and multiplying believers; capturing people and dragging them into church. In the prophetic traditions, fishing for people describes a divine judgment for God's enemies, and finally justice for his people.

Speaking to a disintegrating culture and an unbelieving people, Amos 4:2, cries out, "Adonai Elohim has sworn by his holiness that your time is surely coming. You will be dragged away with hooks, the last of you with fishhooks." Ezekiel in the 29th chapter, prophesies, "Adonai Elohim says, 'I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, you big crocodile. You say, "My Nile is MINE; I made it for MYSELF." I will put hooks in your jaws and make YOUR Nile fish, stick to your scales. I will bring you up from YOUR Nile with all YOUR fish, and leave you in the desert, you and all YOUR Nile fish. You will know that I am the Lord. Because you said "The Nile is MINE; I made it," I am against you."

Peter, Andrew, James, and John knew all of these prophesies from Sabbath School in the Synagogue. It is not a big leap for them to understand where this is going, when Herod is saying, The Sea of Galilee is MINE. I made it! It's my Lake. My fish." "Ok Herod, we're on strike: Catch your own fish!! On your Lake!! That you made!!

Jesus reminds them and invites them to join the movement to infiltrate Rome's injustice and replace it with God's kingdom. Fishing for the unjust is a call to accountability. It puts the disciples in a adversarial position against Rome and Herod's power. Both of the miracles, 1, of the amazing catch and 2, of the disciple's eager response to Jesus' of joining the movement against empire are huge and daunting commitments. Antipas thinks he is in control of the Lake. But Jesus is in control of the world.

We started with a silly question, "What would you like to do for the synod this year?" In *The Purpose Driven Church*, Rick Warren notes that sometimes we ask the wrong questions: Like "What can we do to make our church grow?" He suggests asking, "What is keeping our church from growing?" Living things grow. Give your children good nutrition, accurate education, heartfelt prayers, and a safe environment and they will naturally grow. He says, "It is natural for the church to grow if it is healthy. The church is a body. Not a business. It is an organism, not an organization. It is alive."

The real miracle is that Peter, James, and John didn't run away in fear after the fish miracle happened. They went forward, facing life changes and world changes, fearful but finally faithful. The miracle is Resurrection, and that can be threatening. After all, it involves death first. We exert a lot of energy, afraid and trying not to die. Even though the central precept of our faith is that out of worst, comes the best. The butterfly never considers going back to be a better caterpillar.

There are many evangelism hints in this text. We have to work together. One person can't fish with a big net. Keep throwing the net out there. Go where the fish are. Don't try to herd them

to where the nets are. Ask for help. And humbly remember how much God can do with our puny efforts. There is a big difference between what we expect and what God delivers. I'm sure you can think of other things.

Just don't quit, right before the miracle happens and don't run away right after the miracle happens.

It is challenging to risk the deep waters of our culture. But the risk is joyous for we have been caught by our Lord in the deep waters of our baptism, drowned and raised to new life. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Here I Am, Lord

ELW 574

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

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

ELW Hymn 142

THE OFFERING PRAYER

All pray together: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. 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

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: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ, we pray.

Congregation: Amen.

THE BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

ELW 414

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



Next
COUNCIL MEETING

Council meeting will be Sunday, **February 23rd**, 2024
at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council

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 — Russell Richter
- 23 Reader — Charlotte Jaster
 P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer

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

WELCA

WELCA will be having a General Meeting Saturday, **March 1**.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Nancy Beamesderfer

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING PART II

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

Church Council

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 (BLS) (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

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*

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

10 Mon	11 Tues	12 Wed	13 Thurs	14 Fri	15 Sat
<p>11—12 pm ELC Chapel —YR</p> <p>7—8 pm Boy Scouts mtg /FLC room</p>	<p>11—12 pm ELC Chapel —YR</p> <p>5—6 pm Basketball Team Travis —FLC</p>	<p>10 am Roundtable group —AT</p> <p>11 am Choir practice —CL</p> <p>12 pm Bible Study —AT</p> <p>7—8:30 pm Basketball Team Jay & Michael-FLC</p>	<p>1 pm Ruth Circle —FLCA</p> <p>6:30—8 pm Basketball Team Seth —FLC</p> <p>8 pm AA Women mtg. —FLCA</p>	<p>Happy Valentine's Day!</p>	<p>1—5:30 pm SST Adult & Pediatric CPR —MR/YR</p> <p>3 pm Friendship Club —FLCA</p> <p>6:00 pm Saturday Informal Service —AT</p>

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