

*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>March 2025</p>	<p><i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i></p>	<p>Vol. 31 No. 3</p>
<p align="center">BERGY'S BABBLE "TOSSED SALAD"</p>		
<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 or based on actual people that we knew. We were instructed to smile and wave.</p> <p>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. I understood unity, but I didn't relish the idea of being a melted ingredient in a stewpot.</p> <p 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 an art. A slumgullion stew you just dump stuff in and hope for the best. These were the days before salads were popular.

Most of the children didn't have much experience with salads. It's almost impossible in one climate zone to get all the ingredients to ripen at the same time in one garden. Nobody would consider the community, the nation or the world 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. That's only a 'College Salad.' You're hungry and late to class so you eat a wedge of lettuce over the sink, splashing a little Thousand Island Dressing on each bite.

Onion says, "Salad, you are so boring, I'm all you need. Just chop up an onion and eat it. Tomato says, "Because I don't like to bathe 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 individual and important tasks. Each one of us is here for a reason. Each of us has a place and a function, and the whole body suffers if our purpose doesn't happen. We are all important. Singing, welcoming, teaching, praying, setting up, taking down, fixing broken stuff, and planning.

... /// ...

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

If you are concerned about something, you are probably looking square at your special mission.

Don't just say, "This needs to get done." Of course, it does! The whole world needs to be saved! And we can start where we notice that it needs help. Each of us thrives by doing something for God's mission.

It is a heady tossed salad of perfect nourishment.

We are his body. It is a strong body. Each of us is important in it. 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



Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given as follows:

February 16

† Charlotte & Bruce Jaster

February 23

† Barbara Sledge

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – January 19, 2025

The January 2025 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. (There was no Council meeting for December 2024.) Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Wendy Lambeth, Jay Byerly, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Warren Schick, Stephen Schulze and Hans Sunder. Leigh Rothharpt and Stephanie Walton did not attend.

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

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. December 2024 offerings were \$42,804, (*November offerings were \$15,394*), as compared to \$24,559 in October. Year-to-date 2024 offerings were slightly higher than 2023 (\$1,105); he noted that average monthly offerings for 2024 were short of budget amounts by \$9,200/month. Expenses for the month of December were \$34,586, (*November expenses were \$23,410*), as compared to \$30,411 in October. Year-to-date 2024 expenses exceeded offerings by \$80,960, for an average monthly deficit of \$6,746. Treasurer Finstad pointed out that 2024 expenses were actually \$30,000 less than budgeted amounts. President Lambeth noted specific efforts by those within the congregation to be mindful of costs, and Council briefly discussed various expenses. The checking account balance at 12/31/24 was \$18,667, not including restricted funds. Council approved Treasurer Finstad's request to transfer funds from the Maine Street stock dividends to replenish the checking account.

... /// ...

He gave a summary of investments and other items in his report. President Lambeth remarked that she would ask the Financial Review Committee to meet to revisit the allocation of Telge funds between the different investment funds, as discussed in the fall. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Berggren presented Council a draft of the annual letter for the IRS regarding his 2025 parsonage allowance. A motion was made and seconded to accept the letter, and the motion was approved. He gave an update on his activities for the month. He remarked that the Christmas season at Holy Cross "was amazing", and he thanked everyone in the congregation for their participation and extra preparations. Pastor Berggren will participate in a focus group of religious leaders at Rice University on January 23rd. He is beginning plans for Lent. He noted that Ash Wednesday is on March 5th, with the traditional imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary at noon and six p.m. Wednesday Lenten services will be at noon on 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2 and 4/9, followed by a light lunch. He is considering a study of the book "Jesus Before Christianity" by Albert Nolan for the Wednesday Lenten services, and he is hopeful that with the refurbishment of the FLC kitchen, Holy Cross can hold the Maundy Thursday service and meal on April 17th. His other activities this month included preparing for 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.

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Committee Reports and Old Business:

Buildings and Grounds:

- President Lambeth reported on the status of the **gym roof**, which has been leaking. A bid obtained from the roofing company that worked on the Atrium roof after the 2024 storm damage came in at \$9,700, which was higher than expected. She commented that the exact scope of work needed would not be apparent until the workers ripped off the existing roof section to survey the problem; therefore, the decision was made that, at this time, HCLC would continue patching the problem areas with tar.
- Ms. Lambeth reported on the issues with the **boiler** for the sanctuary. Alan Lambeth has contacted three companies to get estimates for a new boiler had and related upgrades, but he had not gotten any figures back from them at meeting time. It is not a simple replacement, as it is the original boiler and probably dates back to the 1960's.
- Ms. Kilkenny reported on recent **tree work** on the church grounds. Ten (10) trees (Loblolly pines and Mexican red oaks) donated by Twinwood Farms in Simonton, Texas, and three (3) trees donated by an ELC family were planted at the beginning of January; these replaced trees recently lost to storms and disease. She acknowledged these generous donations, as well as funds donated by various individuals and groups in the HCLC family to plant the trees. Ms. Lambeth emphasized that this project did not impact the budget; everything was accomplished with special donations.

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Other Old Business:

- President Lambeth noted that she received a thank you card from Adult Protective Services in appreciation for HCLC volunteers who pack grocery bags twice a month with pantry items for their clients.
- Ms. Lambeth suggested the day to recognize new members of the congregation be changed to February 16, 2025 to accommodate the schedules of several participants, and Pastor Berggren recommended it be a Celebration of Membership Sunday. He will include special prayers of appreciation during worship for all members of the congregation, and a new member appreciation reception will follow the service.

New Business:

Building Use Requests:

- Council approved the request for use of the Youth Room by Spring Branch ISD for early voting.
- Also approved was the request by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to hold their encampment meeting on May 10, 2025.
- The Norwegian Seamen's Mission has asked to look at HCLC facilities, as they are looking for a new place to meet in the Spring Branch area.

Synod Assembly: President Lambeth reminded Council that the 2025 Synod Assembly, which includes the election of a new bishop, will be held in New Orleans this year (May 15-17), and reservations need to be made for the HCLC representatives attending.

... /// ...

... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — January 19, 2025

Council members discussed who would attend from Holy Cross. They also noted that, in anticipation of the Assembly, it would be a good time to take a fresh look at the HCLC and Synod constitutions.

The **Congregational Meeting Part II**, which will include the election of officers, was scheduled for March 9, 2025.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 23, 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



UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY

FRIENDS OF HOLY CROSS

VACCARO, Michael & Kay

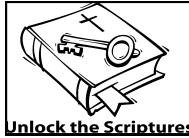
N167W21 Scot Court

Jackson, Wisconsin 53037--9317

Next
COUNCIL MEETING

Council meeting will be Sunday, **March 23rd**, 2025
at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council



Unlock the Scriptures

READINGS, PSALMS & GOSPEL

MARCH 2025

DATE	1st READING	PSALM	2nd READING	GOSPEL
3/02/2025	Exodus 34:29-35	99	2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2	Luke 9:28-43a
3/09/2025	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	91:1-2, 9-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
3/16/2025	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	27	Philippians 3:17—4:1	Luke 3:31-35
3/23/2025	Isaiah 55:1-9	63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
3/30/2025	Joshua 5:9-12	32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
PART II**

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

Church Council

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will be meeting Saturday, **March 15,**
at Don Jose Mexican Restaurant
located at 5305 Antoine Houston, Texas 77091.
(corner of Antoine and Pinemont Dr.)

Because we will be on Daylight Saving Time,
we will begin to gather at 4:00 pm.

Hope everyone can make it!"

Nancy Beamesderfer

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

The Lenten season is here and the daily devotion booklet

"The Way, the Truth, and the Life"
is available in the Narthex and Atrium.

The daily messages are based on writings from Henri Nouwen.

They are short but very meaningful and such a lovely way
to prepare for the season. Please pick up a copy. Thank you.

Sharon Wagner



MARCH 2025

Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 01 Marie Drosche | 22 Bettye Raschke |
| Alex Saavedra | 23 Caroline Irvin |
| 04 Peter Yoder | 24 Mitchell Kilkenny |
| 05 Scott Wegner | 25 Charlotte Jaster |
| 10 Micah Richter | Robert Manning III |
| 13 John Wenger | 28 Sharon Wagner |
| 14 Amy Schomburg | 29 Shannon Martin |
| 15 Scott Schomburg | 31 Russell Richter |

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9— 4 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.

ALTAR FLOWERS

You may sign up for flower arrangements in the Narthex.
Suggested donation is \$65.⁰⁰

USHERS

Month: March

Team # 05 Leader: Barbara Neumann

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

MARCH

- 2 Reader — Jay Fort
P/E — Julie Kilkenny
- 9 Reader — Steve Schulze
P/E — Penny Schick
- 16 Reader — Ike Thompson
P/E — Sharon Wagner
- 23 Reader — Russell Ritcher
P/E — Alice Braun
- 30 Reader — Linda Cuzzort
P/E — Wendy Lambeth

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 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

LENTEN SERVICES IN 2025

Ash Wednesday services: March 5th,
12:00 noon and 6:00 pm in the Worship Center

Lenten services will be held on Wednesdays
at 12:00 noon in the Atrium the following dates:

March 12, 19, 26, 30 and April 2, 9.
followed by a light meal after the services.

LENTEN STUDY **FOR WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICES**

This year we will explore the Lenten study series
Words from the Cross written by Pastor Jim Berggren.

Ash Wednesday

March 5: “Father, forgive them; for they do not know
what they are doing.” *Luke 23:34a*

Lent 1

March 12: “Today you will be with me in Paradise.” *Luke 23:43*

Lent 2

March 19: “Woman, here is your son.” *John 19:26-27a*
Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.”
“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
Matthew 27:46b

Lent 3

March 26: “I am thirsty.” *John 19:28b*

Lent 4

April 2: “It is finished.” *John 19:30a*

Lent 5

April 9: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” *Luke 23:46*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

The homebound, disabled,
long-term ill and
prolonged recovering.



- † Dolores Abrego
- † Alberto Basurto
- † Candy Berggren
- † Elvin Bethea
- † Pat Bethea
- † Barney Boeker
- † David Dukleth
- † Todd Miskel
- † Larry Polzin
- † Rosie Stork
- † Bennie Valites
- † Sandra Williams

Lynn Ballard
Alberto Basurto
Bill Carty
David Dukleth
Maureen Fredrickson
Anna Gardner
Bryan Kile
Nancy Lancaster
Darnell Lucero
David Magrill

Kenneth Magrill
Tracy Makris
Gloria McGarvey
Jeremy Mitchell
Geraine Moore
Dorothy Preuss
Steve Schulze
George Schwalm
Ann Taylor
Jaime Urbanski

Treasurer's Report



TREASURER'S REPORT

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

JANUARY 2025

Receipts	\$ 18,756. ⁰⁰
Expenses	<u>31,461.¹⁶</u>
Balance	(\$ 12,705. ¹⁶)

Operational receipts

Year-to-date received	\$ 18,756. ⁰⁰
Expenditures year to date ...	<u>31,461.¹⁶</u>
Balance	(\$ 12,705. ¹⁶)



*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

JANUARY SERVICES

Saturday Informal service : 10
Sunday Traditional service : 45

