

**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*

May 2025	<i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i>	Vol. 31 No. 5
<b>BERGY'S BABBLE: "GOD HAS FUN!"</b>		
<p>God has fun. Sometimes that is baffling. We don't realize until we can look back in retrospect, the fun and meaningful things that God is doing. We don't even see Him coming. We look back and realize, "That was fun!"</p> <p>First of all, he is not kingly enough. I mean, if we want to hire a professional to save our souls, we want him to look like a Pro. People got real nervous when the newly elected congressman showed up to work in crocs, cut-offs and a tie-dye hoodie. Nobody told him about the uniform. Wasn't that fun?</p> <p>We are impatient in prayer! The word, 'HOSANNA,' means "save now". That sentiment could be perceived as a pushy petition. Maybe God has a plan for future fun. One would think I should know better; the ignorant child who started praying for a Harley at age 12. Fortunately, I was finally blessed with one at age 25. God gave me the gift of 13 years to wreck a bunch of cars and get a whole lot of stupid out of my system. Apparently, he had some future fun in mind for us that wouldn't have happened on two wheels.</p> <p>SAVE NOW? He's already saved. He'll always be saving. Salvation is built-in original equipment in the Creation. We look for rosy futures and miss perfect presents. We pray, "Save me for tomorrow." God answers, "I saved you yesterday for today!" Change the title of that song. "You <u>CAN</u> always <u>WANT</u> what you get!"</p> <p style="text-align: right;">... /// ...</p>		

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

Sadly, we don't always factor future fun into God's plans. For many, if not most, religion and fun are not synonyms. Look at that frivolous parade. He got a donkey *uber*, for a one-liner, and since the animal wasn't broken, I'll bet the first five minutes of that ride were some rodeo fun. Only God could last 8 seconds on that one!

About that donkey. A donkey, a mule, is the hybrid offspring of a jack, *equus asinus* and a female horse, a mare. It is a hybrid animal, not *Kosher*. A donkey big enough to ride and not yet broken, indicates a first-born mule. Normally, any first-born male animal is supposed to be given back to God in sacrifice. But there is a problem. Hybridization. The donkey is by Mosaic law, unclean, and cannot be presented as a sacrifice, and furthermore cannot be butchered and eaten. So, he must be redeemed, and until that happens, he can't be ridden or used as a pack animal.

Clean or unclean, he is the smartest and most valuable animal in your stable. He could be a pack animal or pull a plough. Wild in the field, he is already working, by his very nature guarding other more vulnerable herds from predators, with his large teeth, and his slashing hooves and preternatural intelligence. Wolves know better than to challenge a donkey. But he can't be useful until he is redeemed by something of equal value. Most rabbis would accept a fine sheep as the substitute. So, it becomes clear. **This donkey will be redeemed by the finest sheep of all, the Perfect Lamb of God.** It is a deep metaphor, requiring a life jack-et for buoyancy!

Jesus led a beautiful parade of the wonderful affirmation of the best humanity has to offer. Most parades these days have the strong element of Pilate's Parade, which came into Jerusalem from the west. "Look at Me! I'm powerful! You dare not disagree or voice opposition! If you do you will be cancelled."

... /// ...

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

The Counter-Parade of Jesus had a different element: Look to God. He is merciful. Celebrate his world and humanity. Join the party. You can include yourself in the fun!

The Pharisees in the Gospel ask Jesus to tell the disciples to be quiet. "Police your ranks, rabbi! Let's not have a problem this Passover! Pilate's temper is shorter than a rattlesnake's inseam, so ease up on the 'local-boy-makes-good-on-the-trail-ride' stuff."

God doesn't take that request. Jesus answers with glee, that he could tell the crowds to be quiet, but if they did, then the rocks along the roadside would burst into praise. Everyone is worried about a revolution and Jesus is joking about a rock concert. Silly. Or maybe he was saying that Nature is more faithful than we are.

I watched in worried prayer as the stranded SpaceX crew were finally rescued. They were weakened from 8 months of zero gravity, and exposure to cosmic radiation, during solar flare activity. Re-entry and splash down would be a challenge, technologically, biologically, psychologically, and oddly enough politically, too. I was astounded, when before any human contact arrived at the bobbing capsule, it was surrounded by a representative committee of one of the oldest living intelligent species on planet Earth, *Tursiops truncatus*. At 5 million years, the Bottlenose Dolphin presence on Earth has been ten times longer than *homo sapiens*, at only 500,000 years.

They sent a representative committee to greet and congratulate our representative committee of explorers in deep alien environments, much like they did to their own explorers from land to sea, eons before. They welcomed us home in an aqueous parade, with playful, dancing joy!! Hosanna!!! Creational Celebration! Cosmic fun!!!

... /// ...

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

But the biggest surprise of Passion Week was yet to come. In all the world's triumphal religious fantasies, no one ever imagined that a Savior could die, in disgrace. That's not the way the story is supposed to go. It is unthinkable, to have a Divine Ruler and Savior who both creates the universe and then redeems it through suffering, and what always looks like the ultimate failure, death.

Look at Jesus riding into Jerusalem that day. It was fun.

It was a parade of mixed emotions! Joyful, and yet foreshadowing. Unassuming and yet statelier than the most noble king. It was above all, fun. God does save; here, always, everywhere! God saves NOW!!! Amen.

See you in worship ..... Bergy



**Church  
Council  
Meeting**

*Next*

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Council meeting will be Sunday, **May 25<sup>th</sup>**, 2025  
at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council



**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)**  
**Minutes for Council Meeting – March 23, 2025**

The March 2025 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, March 23, 2025 at 11:04 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

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

The minutes from the February 2025 meeting were submitted by Secretary Julie Kilkenny and were approved by Council.

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. February 2025 offerings were \$13,499, which was \$5,257 less than January. He noted that February actual offerings were short of budget amounts by \$2,629. Expenses for the month of February were \$31,311, which was \$150 less than January. February 2025 expenses exceeded offerings by \$17,812. The checking account balance at 2/28/25 was 34,266, not including restricted funds. (Treasurer Finstad noted that in February he transferred \$35,000 from the Maine Street stock dividends to replenish the checking account.) He gave a summary of investments and other items in his report. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

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**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Berggren gave a quick update on his activities for the month. He attended a synod meeting at Zion Lutheran Church to discuss various points and procedures regarding the election of a new bishop at the Synod Assembly (May 15-17 in New Orleans). He is busy preparing for Lent and Easter; the theme for his Wednesday meditations is "Words from the Cross". 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.

**Committee Reports and Old Business:**

**Buildings and Grounds:** President Lambeth reported on the progress on the sanctuary **furnace** issues. The age of the current system (c. 1965) and wiring makes for a complicated solution, and HCLC is still waiting on final bids for a new boiler and related upgrades.

**Youth:**

- Stephanie Walton reported that the **LoveBugs Children's Business Fair** (March 22<sup>nd</sup>) was held March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Holy Cross, with participants ranging from 1<sup>st</sup> grade – high school. Ms. Lambeth added that the kids were totally responsible for their booths (making their products, explaining and answering questions, etc.), and she remarked that the gym and parking lot were bustling with activity. President Lambeth thanked Ms. Walton for her hard work to make this event such a success, and Pastor Berggren recognized Mitchell Walton for his extra work to setup and take down the booths.
- Ms. Walton noted that Boy Scout Troop 852 will have an Eagle Scout ceremony later today.

... /// ...

**Other Old Business:**

Ms. Lambeth reported that the **Lenten Wednesday services** are going well, and she noted that she has received positive feedback about the potluck lunch fellow-ship after the services. She added that there were still time slots available for the **Prayer Vigil** on Holy Saturday.

**New Business:**

**Election Results** from March 9, 2025, Congregational Meeting Part II:

- Council President (1-year term): Stephen Schulze
- Secretary (1-year term): Julie Kilkenny
- Treasurer (1-year term): Ricki Finstad
- Council Members (2-year term): Anita Cooper, Wendy Lambeth, Russell Richter (*Returning Council members with 1 year remaining: Jay Byerly, Hans Sunder*)

Council Member (1-year term): President Lambeth noted that, as Mr. Schulze was elected President, Council will need to appoint someone to finish the remainder of his Council term.

- Nominating Committee (1-year term): John Cooper, Tangie Cooper, Debbie Pruitt, Warren Schick
- Endowment Committee (2-year term): Kenneth Dinges, Marilyn Flick (*Returning members with 1 year remaining: Pat Boessling, Sharon Wagner*)

President Lambeth added her appreciation to outgoing Council members (Warren Schick and Stephanie Walton) and Nominating Committee members (Tillie Remmert, Linda Cuzzort, Darnell Lucero, and Amy Schomburg) for their service to the congregation.

... /// ...

... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — March 23, 2025

**Telge Lot 1:** President Lambeth reported that Heidi Wehring, the real estate agent who represented Holy Cross in the sale of the Telge lots, reached out to her about someone interested in purchasing Lot 1. Ms. Wehring asked if Lot 1 was still on the market. President Lambeth wanted to get Council consensus, as this topic has not been discussed recently. After some discussion about comps in the area and economic expectations, Council agreed that Lot 1 is not on the market at this time.

**Vacation Bible School (VBS):** Ms. Walton briefed Council on potential curriculum ideas for VBS. She suggested “Road Trip VBS 2025” by Cokesbury, which is based on Joshua 1:9. As in 2024, Holy Cross would order the starter kit and supplies. She noted how well the camp went last year with the Stratford student volunteers helping out. Council discussed scheduling options, and Ms. Lambeth determined that July 28<sup>th</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup> would be a good week for the camp at HCLC.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, April 27, 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







Each week after Sunday service  
there is a Coffee Hour in the FLC.  
Coffee, tea and even hot chocolate are provided.  
Please sign up to bring goodies (cookies, coffee cake, etc.) to  
snack on. The sign-up sheet is in the FLC. Thank you.



## READINGS and PSALMS MAY 2025



DATE	1 <sup>st</sup> READING	PSALM	2 <sup>nd</sup> READING	GOSPEL
5/04/2025	Acts 9:1-9	30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
5/11/2025	Acts 9:36-43	23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
5/18/2025	Acts 11:1-18	148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
5/25/2025	Acts 16:9-15	67	Revelation 21:10, 22:1-5	John 5:1-9

## **We Celebrate the Election of the HCLC Officers — 2025**

### **Council Officers**

(1 year term)

President: Stephen Schulze

Treasurer: Ricki Finstad

Secretary: Julie Kilkenny

### **Council Members**

(2 year term) Anita Cooper, Wendy Lambeth, Russell Richter

(1 year term) Penny Schick (appointed by 2025 Council to fill remaining term of Stephen Schulze)

(returning Council members -with 1 year remaining)

Jay Byerly, Hans Sunder

### **Nominating Committee**

(1 year term) John Cooper, Tangie Cooper, Debbie Pruitt, Warren Schick

### **Endowment Committee**

(2 year term) Ken Dinges, Marilyn Flick

(returning Committee members -with 1 year remaining)

Pat Boessling, Sharon Wagner

Many thanks to all the candidates who ran for office, to outgoing members of Council: Leigh Rothharpt, Warren Schick, Stephanie Walton; and Nominating Committee: Linda Cuzzort, Darnell Lucero, Tillie Remmert, Amy Schomburg.

And of course, thanks to all who serve in so many other capacities, often behind the scenes. Your dedicated service enriches life at Holy Cross!

*New officers' terms effective April 1, 2025*

## **UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY**

**Herrmann, Linda (Eiesland)**

Cell (713) 410-6709

10031 Kemp Forest Dr.

Houston, TX 77080



**Altar  
Flowers**

### **ALTAR FLOWERS IN APRIL**

Altar flowers were donated by

Warren & Penny Schick

in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary.



*A Thank You note from the **GIRL SCOUTS**:*

*Our troop wanted to give thanks to Holy Cross Church for giving us a safe place to meet.*

*We left cookies for you all to enjoy and a Thank You note in the Family Life Center.*

*Monique Partida*

*4/9/2025*

### **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.<sup>00</sup>



Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

1	Jackson Lambeth	11	David Neumann
	Rob Carty	16	LaVerna Wegner
4	Martin Pazdra	17	Bettie Baring
	Carol Prokofieff	19	Jo Ann Wood
5	Stephanie Walton	23	Sussy Terry
7	Dolores Abrego		



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

<b>SAFEGUARDS SAFETY TRAINING</b> <b>HOLYCROSS COUPON CODE FOR 15% DISCOUNT: HCLC2025</b>			
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Adult CPR *CPR only (\$79) *CPR + First Aid (\$92)	Sunday Sunday Sunday	4/13/2025 5/18/2025 6/15/2025	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	4/5/2025 5/10/2025 6/7/2025 6/21/2025	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 Friday Saturday Saturday Friday Saturday	4/4/2025 4/12/2025 5/9/2025 5/17/2025 5/24/2025 6/6/2025 6/14/2025	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
CPR Instructor Course (\$299)	Saturday Friday Saturday	5/3/2025 5/30/2025 6/28/2025	9 am — 5:30 pm 9 am — 5:30 pm 9 am — 5:30 pm
<p>Classes are in the Youth Room, Media Room and in the Annex.  You can sign up online for classes by going to  <a href="http://www.safeguards-safety.com">www.safeguards-safety.com</a> and choosing “Register for Classes.”  Or call 713-854-8085 for more information</p> <p>Congregation members and their families will receive a discount of 15%  for any class by using the above-mentioned coupon code when signing up</p> <p>John Lambeth</p>			



## **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

Our next meeting will be Saturday, **May 17.**

We will have pot luck at the church.

Nancy Beamesderfer

## **USHERS**

**Month:** May   **Team #** 03   **Leader:** Linda Cuzzort

## **LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS**

05/04	R	Mallory Hileman
	P/E	Julie Kilkenny
05/11	R	Ike Thompson
	P/E	Nancy Beamesderfer
05/18	R	Alice Braun
	P/E	Sharon Wagner
05/25	R	Russell Richter
	P/E	Nancy Beamesderfer

**R = Reader   P/E = Prayer and Eucharist**

## 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



*Prayer Request emails are  
sent out often.  
If you would like to receive  
them please contact:*

**Renee Allcorn**  
**[allcornr@gmail.com](mailto:allcornr@gmail.com)**

*or call at (713) 254-8638*

Lynn Ballard  
Alberto Basurto  
Bill Carty  
Glenda Chavez  
David Dukleth  
Darlene Fournier  
Maureen Fredrickson  
Anna Gardner  
Fred Gardner  
Eliseo Gonzales  
Mike Hodges  
Wendy Lambeth

Nancy Lancaster  
David Magrill  
Kenneth Magrill  
Gloria McGarvey  
Jeremy Mitchell  
Geraine Moore  
Dorothy Preuss  
Wayne Schaper  
Steve Schulze  
George Schwalm  
Jaime Urbanski

## TREASURER'S REPORT

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

### MARCH 2025

Receipts	\$ 20,103. <sup>00</sup>
Expenses	<u>33,372.<sup>13</sup></u>
Balance	(\$ 13,269. <sup>13</sup> )

### Operational receipts

Year-to-date received ....	\$ 52,358. <sup>00</sup>
Expenditures year to date ..	<u>96,164.<sup>01</sup></u>
Balance	(\$ 43,806. <sup>01</sup> )

## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

### MARCH SERVICES

Saturday Informal service : 11  
Sunday Traditional service : 53



## 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](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."*

TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS		
100	Church Office	
101	Sussy Terry	Office Manager & Events Coordinator
103	Rev. Jim Berggren	Senior Pastor
104	John Lambeth	Bookkeeper
<b>SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE</b> Informal Service 6:00 p. m. —AT <b>SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE</b> Traditional Service 9:30 a.m. —WC		
<b><u>EARLY LEARNING CENTER</u></b> ELC (713) 461-5535 email: <a href="mailto:holycrosselc4@gmail.com">holycrosselc4@gmail.com</a>		

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Jim Berggren — Senior Pastor  
Email: [jberggren@holycross.us](mailto:jberggren@holycross.us)

Sussy Terry — Office Manager & Events C.  
Email: [hclc@holycross.us](mailto:hclc@holycross.us)

John Lambeth — Bookkeeper  
Email: [finance@holycross.us](mailto:finance@holycross.us)

Robert Carty — Musical Director / Organist  
Email: [robarty1@outlook.com](mailto:robarty1@outlook.com)

### **OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

Steve Schulze	President
Julie Kilkenny	Secretary
Ricki Finstad	Treasurer

