

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>April 2026</p>	<p><i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i></p>	<p>Vol. 32 No. 4</p>
<p>Bergy's Babble: "Lazarus Laughed"</p>		
<p>Eugene O'Neill wrote a play entitled, <i>Lazarus Laughed</i>. The first scene of the first act features a newly alive Lazarus being interrogated by authorities and simply laughing in response. Witnesses ask him, "What is Beyond?"</p> <p>Lazarus laughs and says, "Only life. I heard the heart of Jesus laughing in my heart. My heart, reborn to the love of life cried, 'Yes,' and I laughed in the laughter of God. There is only God. We are His laughter. Laugh, laugh, laugh! Death is dead!"</p> <p>It is a startling miracle---more so than healing---healing is incredible and amazing, but still sort of like fixing that which is broken. This Resurrection is better than improving a condition. It is better than perfecting a performance. It is better than enlightening the uninformed. This is a whole new level of Grace. Raising from death nothingness, to life?</p> <p>Jesus broke up every funeral he ever attended, or met on the roadside. Our Lord and Savior is ruining the comfortable predictability of death.</p> <p>Throughout the play, Lazarus laughs, despite the best efforts of friends, and even the Roman Empire personified in the characters of Caligula and Tiberias. In the last scene, Lazarus dies a second time, while laughing; killed by the heartless empire. His last words are, "Fear not Caligula! There is no death!"</p> <p>Caligula closes with a final rambling monologue. "...I laugh with you Lazarus....I will remember.....All the same, I killed him and I proved there is death! Forgive me Lazarus. Men forget." ... /// ...</p>		

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

We focus on fear; global pandemics, planetary catastrophes, and impossible-to-prove prognostications of ruin and death. For the last 40 years, the Earth was supposed to end just 10 years into the future. What has been forgotten or ignored is that the final arbiters of the conditions on Planet Earth are the Sun, and the tilt of the Earth's axis in relationship to it. The effects of the Sun and the Earth's movement, are far beyond our understanding or our human ability to effect change either through misdeeds or interventions.

Look carefully at the people who are making those predictions. They are convincing conmen, who are getting rich, profiting from their terroristic predictions. If they were really concerned, they wouldn't be buying more houses and airplanes to get to them. Every so often we are presented with a new entertaining episode in the soap opera that tantalizes us with titillating terror. People who are paying attention are laughing. Funny how we all pay for the channels that scare us the most....

Watch out. "We are going to be in World War 3, shortly!!!" "Oh Yeah, you are just figuring that out?" We've been in WW 3, in my study and memory, since the late 1800's. Does the name Karl Marx ring a bell? WW3 has been waged through many international conflicts with the 'weapons *du jour*'. WW3 is not a war of weapons. It is a war on Truth. Even Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" In 1949, George Orwell, published a book, entitled 1984. It was not prophetic. It was simply descriptive of a world losing the truth. His main character, "Winston" worked in the national Ministry of Truth. This department's slogans were, "War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength." Is that true?..... Winston's job in the Ministry of Truth is to rewrite history on a daily basis. At the same time, Aleksander Solzhenitsyn is writing of his crushing experiences in The Gulag Archipelago, an extensive prison industry stretching from Finland, across Russia, to the Bering Sea, which exterminated millions of so-called dissidents. Book 1, covers 1918 to 1956. Chapter Two is entitled, 'The History of Our Sewage Disposal System.' The 'sewage' is the lives of those who were flushed down history's drain, imprisoned, forgotten, and killed for crimes against "the Truth."

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

The biggest pandemic is the fear and the anxiety that we experience as we anticipate our fears and anxieties. At the devil's crossroads of confusion, someone is always capitalizing on the crisis: Offering alternate relative truths that are not "The Way, The Truth, and the Life." Jesus has lifted us up from the graveyard of sin and death, out of our baptism and into His Resurrection.

Maybe we will allow ourselves to be bound up and entombed. "Oh, my goodness," we fearfully fret, "we are victims in the middle of a terrifying death experience!!"

Or, ponder this: Jesus laughs and says, "NO. TODAY. NOW. BE UNBOUND! You are in the middle of a redeemed life experience. The future is open.....! Look at the view!

See you in worship..... *Bergy*



FELLOWSHIP CLUB

The Fellowship Club will be meeting at the church for a pot luck on Saturday, **April 18 at 4:00 p.m.**

Please bring your favorite dish to share (and maybe the recipe if it's not a family secret).

We will be eating at 5:00 p.m.

Sure hope everyone comes to enjoy some good fellowship and good food.

Nancy Beamesderfer

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – February 22, 2026

The February 2026 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Stephen Schulze on Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 11:02 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Stephen Schulze, Anita Cooper, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Wendy Lambeth, Russell Richter, Penny Schick and Hans Sunder. Tangie Cooper attended as a special guest. Council member Jay Byerly was not in attendance.

The **minutes** from the January 2026 meeting were submitted by Secretary Julie Kilkenny and approved by Council.

Nominating Committee: Chairperson Tangie Cooper presented the slate of candidates for Council and Committee positions to be elected at the Congregational Meeting Part II on March 22, 2026. [Members of the 2025 Nominating Committee are Tangie Cooper, John Cooper, Debbie Pruitt, Warren Schick and Council representative Wendy Lambeth.]

The candidates for 2026 positions are as follows:

- Council President (1-year term) : Stephen Schulze
- Secretary (1-year term): Julie Kilkenny
- Treasurer (1-year term): Ricki Finstad
- Council Members (2-year term): Jay Byerly, Bert Martin, Lucinda Moore, Penny Schick, Hans Sunder (*3 positions to fill*)
- Nominating Committee (1-year term): Alice Braun, Linda Cuzzort, Tillie Remmert, Ike Thompson
- Endowment Committee (2-year term): Pat Boessling, Sharon Wagner (*2 positions to fill*)

President Schulze thanked the Nominating Committee for its hard work. A motion to accept the Committee's slate of candidates was made, duly seconded and approved by Council.

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Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren updated Council on his activities for the month. He met with Rob Carty for the hymn selection for March-May 2026. He reported the passing of HCLC member Julie Yanta on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. He is working on Lenten preparations, including the Wednesday services, which will include historical context from the book "Killing Jesus" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard. He noted that Julie Richter, Shannon Martin and Wendy Lambeth will be presenting parts of this study, and he is hoping to hold a class to help parishioners interested in honing their preaching skills. He was happy with the congregational response for Ash Wednesday services. Other activities included making phone calls and visits to parishioners; providing counseling and ministering for prayer requests; outreach to the community; and various church ministry meetings.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. He remarked that January 2026 offerings were low -- \$16,228, which was \$12,746 less than December. January expenses were \$25,119, which was \$8,854 less than December. The January deficit (expenses > offerings) was \$8,891. January 2026 offerings were \$17,124 less than budget amounts. The checking account balance at 1/31/26 was \$61,589, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad gave a summary of investments and other items in his report. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Committee Reports and Old Business:

Buildings and Grounds/Maintenance:

- Ms. Lambeth reported that the problem with the FLC (Gym) heater was actually a switch that somehow got turned off; it has been fixed.

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... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — February 22, 2026

- She also reported that Alan Lambeth is in the process of repairing a “sink hole” near the square grate along the sidewalk from the School of the Woods carpool line to the Atrium.

WELCA: Penny Schick reported that upcoming WELCA activities include the Upcycled Crafty Ladies’ SpringFest on March 28th. The WELCA Annual Meeting has not been scheduled yet.

Food Pantry: President Schulze gave an update on the Pantry expansion. The Pantry’s plans were approved by Hilshire Village, and the new freezers have been ordered. The new freezers will be located behind the Pantry in the southwest corner of the church property. He said it is possible that CenterPoint could require a new utility pole, but that has not been determined.

Vacation Bible School (VBS): Council approved Ms. Lambeth’s request to set the date for VBS for the week of June 22-26, 2026, 9:00 am-12noon.

Building Use Request: President Schulze noted that the Pantry was scaling back its building use request for the cooking classes due to the upcoming expansion plans.

New Business:

- Council discussed ideas on establishing procedures to ensure pastoral continuity in the event Pastor Berggren is unavailable (due to illness, vacation, etc.) Members discussed how difficult it has been in the past to find a supply pastor when Pastor Berggren went on vacation. President Schulze said he would check with the Synod to get an updated list of supply pastors. He thought Pastor Berggren’s idea of the “speakers’ class” was also a good way to increase member volunteer opportunities, as well as identify friends of Holy Cross who may be retired pastors or lay leaders.

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... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — February 22, 2026

Ms. Kilkenny stressed the need to be intentional and involve others in the congregation for this, not just Council.

- President Schulze remarked on his intention to resume regular Outreach Committee meetings. Council members noted the importance of publicizing these meeting dates to the entire congregation.
- As she embarks on her new adventure of retirement, Council would like to thank Deacon Lisa Donahue for her service to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Her caring ministry to homebound HCLC members has been a blessing, and we are grateful.

The March Council Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

The Congregational Meeting Part II is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, 2026 after Worship (and also before the Saturday, March 21st service at 6:00 p.m.).

Upon motion to adjourn, the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kilkenny,
Secretary, Church Council



Council Meeting will be Sunday, **April 19**, 2026,
at 11:00 a.m. in the FLCA.

Church Council



We Celebrate the Election of the HCLC Officers in 2026

Council Officers *(1 year term)*

President: Stephen Schulze
Treasurer: Ricki Finstad
Secretary: Julie Kilkenny

Council Members *(2 year term)*

Jay Byerly, Bert Martin, Penny Schick
(Returning Council members with 1 year remaining):
Anita Cooper, Wendy Lambeth, Russell Richter

Nominating Committee *(1 year term)*

Alice Braun, Linda Cuzzort, Tillie Remmert, Ike Thompson

Endowment Committee *(2 year term)*

Pat Boessling, Sharon Wagner
(Returning Committee members with 1 year remaining) :
Ken Dinges, Marilyn Flick

Many thanks to all the candidates who ran for office, to outgoing members of Council: Hans Sunder, and Nominating Committee: John Cooper, Tangie Cooper, Debbie Pruitt, Warren Schick.

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, 2026



**Join us in the Celebration of
Holy Week and Easter Services in 2026**

Maundy Thursday and Stripping of the Altar —WC	April 2	6:00 p.m. —Gym
Good Friday	April 3	7:00 p.m. —WC
Saturday Informal Service	April 4	6:00 p.m. —AT
• Prayer Vigil		9:00—6 p.m.
Easter Day	April 5	
• Easter Sunrise service		7:00 a.m. —WC
• Easter Breakfast		8:00 a.m. —Gym
• Pre-service Organ Concert		9:00 a.m. —WC
• Easter Traditional Worship		9:30 a.m. — WC

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Installation of Holy Cross Officers will be Sunday, **April 19**,
during the service in the Worship Center.

Church Council

WOMEN'S MORNING STUDY GROUP

Ladies, join us for a new monthly study starting **Saturday, April 18!**

We will meet on the **3rd Saturday** of each month
from **9:00 am to 10:00 am** in the **Annex**.

Our first series will focus on the *Women of the Bible*
examining the lives of biblical women to discover spiritual lessons,
focusing on their faith, struggles, and roles in God's story.

Come enjoy coffee and a bite during our time of fellowship
and growth as we dive into God's Word together.

We hope to see you there! Invite a friend.

This is open to all women.

Contact Alma Byerly 713-870-1297 with questions.

Julie Richter

READINGS and PSALMS

APRIL 2026

DATE	1 st READING	PSALM	2 nd READING	GOSPEL
4/05/2026	Jeremiah 31:1-6	118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-10
4/12/2026	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
4/19/2026	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
4/26/2026	Acts 2:42-47	23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10



USHERS

Month: April **Team #** 06 **Leader:** John Wenger

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

4/05	R	Scott Wenger
	P/E	Nancy Beamesderfer
4/12	R	Jay Fort
	P/E	Wendy Lambeth
4/19	R	Russell Richter
	P/E	Julie Kilkenny
4/26	R	Alice Braun
	P/E	Linda Cuzzort

R = Reader P/E = Prayer and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer

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 \$70.⁰⁰



Holy Cross members celebrating Birthdays
in the month of April:

06	Jeanette Dukleth	19	Ernest Luker
11	Richard Daze	21	Nova Grinde
13	Hans Sunder	22	Mark Wegner
	Linda Herrmann		Patrick Kilkenny
15	David Farley		Lindsay Doler
	Mary Elena Sosa	25	Mim Wignes
	Robert Spates	29	Betty Boeker
16	George Zemanek		Ethan Fisher
18	Eli Gonzales	30	Tommy Roberts

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

PRAYER VIGIL

This Lenten Season we would like to take time to reflect on the gifts we have received and the sacrifices that have been made in Christ's name.

On Saturday, **April 4th**, there will be a Prayer Vigil to do just that.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Atrium; we would like to have people sign up for a given time slot between 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

You can come to church and pray in the Chapel
or you can commit to pray in your own home.

Hopefully we can have continuous prayers throughout the day!

Wendy Lambeth



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

- † Dolores Abrego
- † Alberto Basurto
- † Candy Berggren
- † Elvin Bethea
- † Pat Bethea
- † Barney Boeker
- † David Dukleth
- † Gloria McGarvey
- † 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

or call at (713) 254-8638

Pat Boessling
Jim Fritze
Paul Houghton
Joyce Huey
Bruce Jaster
Charlotte Jaster
Bryan Kile
Nancy Lancaster
David Magrill
Jeremy Mitchell
Geraine Moore
Ed Peterman

Dorothy Preuss
Tillie Remmert
Lupe Romero
Wayne Schaper
Steve Schulze
Scott Spates
Marilyn Thigpen
Jaime Urbanski
Bennie Valites
Susan Wiles
Michael Williams

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

FEBRUARY 2026

Receipts	\$ 20,920. ⁰⁰
Expenses	<u>29,553.⁵²</u>
Balance	(\$ 8,633. ⁵²)

Operational receipts

Year-to-date received	\$ 37,141. ⁹⁶
Expenditures year to date ..	<u>54,672.⁷⁸</u>
Balance	(\$ 17,530. ⁸²)

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

FEBRUARY SERVICES

Saturday Informal service	: 16
Sunday Traditional service	: 54
Ash Wednesday 12 & 7 pm	: 84

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
E-mail: hclc@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
<p>SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE Informal Service 6:00 p. m. —AT</p> <p>SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE Traditional Service 9:30 a.m. —WC</p>		
<p><u>EARLY LEARNING CENTER</u> ELC (713) 461-5535 email: holycrosselc4@gmail.com</p>		

<u>CHURCH STAFF</u>								
<p>Rev. Jim Berggren — Senior Pastor email: jlberggren@holycross.us</p> <p>Sussy Terry — Office Manager & Events Coord. email: hclc@holycross.us</p> <p>John Lambeth — Bookkeeper email: finance@holycross.us</p> <p>Robert Carty — Musical Director / Organist email: robcarty1@outlook.com</p>								
<u>OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION</u>								
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Steve Schulze</td> <td style="text-align: right;">President</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jay Byerly</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Vice-President</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Julie Kilkenny</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Secretary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ricki Finstad</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Treasurer</td> </tr> </table>	Steve Schulze	President	Jay Byerly	Vice-President	Julie Kilkenny	Secretary	Ricki Finstad	Treasurer
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