

*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 2026	<i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i>	Vol. 32 No. 5
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Bergy's Babble:

"COURAGEOUS THOMAS AND THE FEARFUL DISCIPLES"

The disciples are afraid; not sure what to think or how to react to the new development of a missing Jesus. Mary Magdalene, Peter and probably John saw the empty tomb with the graveclothes left behind, neatly folded. Peter and John ran back to tell the others the latest development. Mary stayed behind and ran into someone in that garden. She thought he was the gardener. He says her name and then she recognizes Jesus's voice. He is probably wearing the gardener's clothes, since he left the shroud behind. They talk.

Here's the score so far. Two disciples saw the empty tomb and reported on it. Mary saw two angels AND Jesus and interacted with all of them.

She goes back to the disciples with the news, "I have seen the Lord!" Even in your wildest imagination that is not a likely event. You can explain empty tombs. Grave robbing. But interactions with divine beings, and your friend and Lord, who you just saw brutally murdered? Humor the lady.

Everybody's totally stressed and afraid. You can't blame the disciples for saying things like, "Poor Mary, bless her heart, she loved him so, and she is hysterical, delirious!"

... /// ...

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

“Meanwhile, we are afraid. They may decide to kill us next, or blame us for the empty tomb, so we are going on lockdown.” The disciples are paralyzed into inaction by fear. We gladly enter into lockdown conditions when we are afraid.

Thomas is courageous. He helps us step out, by following him. He does not go on lockdown. Maybe he is simply going on about his daily business. Maybe he can't afford to take a week off from work because he needs to feed his family. He does miss Jesus' first appearance to the group where Jesus gives them both peace and the Holy Spirit. But he is the guy who is always there verbalizing everyone else's questions. Jesus says, “I go to prepare a place for you and you know where and you know the way.” Thomas fearlessly says, “Wait a minute here, “We're not sure where, so we don't know the way.” To which Jesus clarifies, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” The other disciples are afraid to ask.

The disciples say, “We saw Jesus but we are still scared and on lockdown.” Thomas says, “Your reactions aren't convincing. If Jesus comes back and I see clear evidence of his death, then it's game on.” To the disciples and to us, Thomas would say, “Faith transcends fear. Faith is busy. Faith is strong. Faith is courageous. Faith doesn't do lockdown. And furthermore, gentle disciples, it is too bad for the Romans that they have us surrounded, because that means we can attack in any direction!”

Doubting disciples full of fear, need a brave and faithful Thomas who verifies for us, recognizes for us our resurrected Jesus. “My Lord and My God.” And Jesus says, “Follow Thomas. He has seen and believed for you and blessed you.” Jesus and Thomas coax us away from fear and out of our lockdowns. We are created anew in resurrection life, and brought into courageous community with each other and service to the world.

See you in worship.....BERGY





FELLOWSHIP CLUB

The Fellowship Club will be meeting Saturday, **May 16**,
at Hunan Chef (8404 Katy Fwy Ste 100) at **4:00 p.m.**

Be sure to come hungry as they have a huge buffet stocked
with Chinese and American foods!

If you prefer, you can order from a menu.

If you plan to attend, please contact Linda Cuzzort (513-477-1002).

Nancy Beamesderfer

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

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – March 15, 2026

The March 2026 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Stephen Schulze on Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

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

The **minutes** from the February 2026 meeting were submitted by Steve Schulze (Secretary Julie Kilkenny was absent) and approved by Council.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. He reported February 2026 offerings were \$20,920, which was \$4,692 greater than January. February expenses were \$29,554, which was \$4,434 greater than January. The February deficit (expenses > offerings) was \$8,634. February 2026 offerings were \$14,778 less than budget amounts. The checking account balance at 2/28/26 was \$58,144, 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 reported on Lenten activities and thanked those who are presenting lessons from the book "Killing Jesus" at the Wednesday services. He praised the efforts of HCLC group leaders to get their annual reports in on time for the upcoming Congregational Meeting on March 22nd. He noted the formation of a "forward-looking" Assets and Ideas congregational group and summarized its mission.

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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.

Committee Reports and Old Business:

Buildings and Grounds/Maintenance:

- Ms. Lambeth reported that a problem with the FLC (Gym) kitchen refrigerator was minor: the GFCI tripped. Several Council members proposed that it would be beneficial if a list of GFCI switch locations could be posted, so members could check this before calling a repair company.
- She noted that the “sink hole” near the square grate along the sidewalk to the south entrance of the Atrium has been fixed. Alan Lambeth is also coordinating with Selvin Young to improve the sprinkler coverage in that same area so the sod can be rejuvenated.

WELCA: Penny Schick reported that the Upcycled Crafty Ladies’ SpringFest is on March 28th.

Food Pantry: President Schulze gave an update on the Pantry expansion. The Pantry is waiting on approval for building permits from Hilshire Village. Mr. Schulze expects that CenterPoint will complete its utility pole work in early April and that the refrigerators will be delivered in May. He will also meet with Pantry representatives regarding final building plans.

Staff Vacation Policy: President Schulze presented his research to clear up questions into vacation policy for the HCLC office manager. He found the agreement from 2003 (when Ms. Terry, formerly Basurto was hired).

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Employees started with two weeks of paid vacation, then three weeks after 15 years, then four weeks after 20 years. President Schulze notified Ms. Terry that she has 4 weeks of paid vacation.

New Business:

- President Schulze reiterated his intention to resume **regular Growth/Outreach Committee meetings** after Easter. Discussion ensued, and the next meeting was scheduled for Sunday, April 26th after the Sunday service.
- Ms. Schick reminded Council about last month's discussion about forming a **pastoral continuity committee** to discuss procedures in the event Pastor Berggren is unavailable (due to illness, vacation, etc.) Pastor Berggren has not heard back from the Synod on obtaining an updated list of supply pastors. Ms. Schick and other Council members noted the previous discussion about involving others in the congregation in this, *not* just Council.
- Pastor Berggren reported that Shannon Martin has volunteered to help with **visitation** of homebound HCLC members and friends, taking on some of recently-retired Deaconess Donohue's duties.
- Council approved a request by Alma Byerly to begin a monthly **women's study group** (9 a.m. on the 3rd Saturday of each month).
- Russ Richter proposed adding spoken **announcements** at the beginning of the Sunday worship service, as it seems not all congregants are reading the written announcements in the bulletin or on the Power Point slides. Ms. Schick added that this would be a tool to reach those who stream the service and do not have access to the printed information.

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... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — March 15, 2026

- Council discussed comments about the electronic sign at the corner of Wirt and Westview.
- Pastor Berggren noted that the **Synod Convention** is May 12-13th at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Sugar Land. President Schulze and Nancy Beamesderfer will be attending for Holy Cross.

The April Council Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, April 19, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

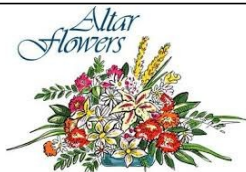
Julie Kilkenny,
Secretary, Church Council



COUNCIL MEETING

Council Meeting will be Sunday, **May 17, 2026**,
at 11:00 a.m. in the FLCA.

Church Council



ALTAR FLOWERS IN APRIL

Altar flowers were donated by Warren & Penny Schick
in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

We are looking for volunteers to support our Sunday School and Nursery!

To give our weekly teachers the opportunity to attend services,
we are building a rotation.

Whether you can help **once a month or even once a quarter**, we need you.

The role is simple:

supervise 2–4 children, bring them in for Bible Time, and
lead a small activity. It's a low-pressure way to serve our church family.

Please reach out to Wendy Lambeth or Julie Richter if you can help!

Julie Richter

READINGS and PSALMS

MAY 2026

DATE	1st READING	PSALM	2nd READING	GOSPEL
5/03/2026	Acts 7:55-60	31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
5/10/2026	Acts 17:22-31	66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
5/17/2026	Acts 1:6-14	68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
5/24/2026	Acts 2:1-21	104:24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23
5/31/2026	Genesis 1:1—2:4a	8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20

USHERS

Month: May Team # 03 Leader: Linda Cuzzort

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

5/03	R	Mallory Hileman
	P/E	John Stokes
5/10	R	Ruby Schaper
	P/E	Steve Schulze
5/17	R	Jay Byerly
	P/E	Alma Byerly
5/24	R	Julie Kilkenny
	P/E	Nancy Beamesderfer
5/31	R	Alice Braun
	P/E	Sharon Wagner

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 May:

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

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

UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY

HERNANDEZ, Genevieve Marie
713-315-7774
1541 Moritz Drive #401
Houston, TX 77055
geneher@sbcglobal.net





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
Bryan Kile
Nancy Lancaster
David Magrill
Jeremy Mitchell
Geraine Moore
Ed Peterman

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

MARCH 2026

Receipts	\$ 23,662. ⁰⁰
Expenses	<u>27,546.²²</u>
Balance	(\$ 3,844. ²²)

Operational receipts

Year-to-date received	\$ 60,809. ⁹⁶
Expenditures year to date ..	<u>82,219.⁰⁰</u>
Balance	(\$ 21,409. ⁰⁴)

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

MARCH SERVICES

Saturday Informal service	: 14
Sunday Traditional service	: 65
Wednesday Lenten services	: 21

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 style="width: 50%;">Steve Schulze</td> <td style="width: 50%;">President</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jay Byerly</td> <td>Vice-President</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Julie Kilkenny</td> <td>Secretary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ricki Finstad</td> <td>Treasurer</td> </tr> </table>	Steve Schulze	President	Jay Byerly	Vice-President	Julie Kilkenny	Secretary	Ricki Finstad	Treasurer
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