

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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Rev. Jim Berggren

May 24, 2026

Day of Pentecost

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG **God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind**

ELW 400

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 Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthens 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: **O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

May 24, 2026 – Day of Pentecost

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both

Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The word of the Lord.

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

³ Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of

tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Unity and Diversity in the Body

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

The word of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

ELW Pg. 151

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Congregational response: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

PR. JIM’S SERMON:



PENTECOST A, 5-24-26

WILD SPIRIT

Hjalmer and Sigrid had a small river bottom farm on the flood plain of the Smoky Hill River which ran through Lindsborg, Kansas. Occasionally, I'd help Hjalmer load his alfalfa bales from the field to the hay loft, for 50 cents an hour. I loved wandering around his fields because they were full of arrowheads and spear points. In the 1870's his family homesteaded this fertile land, which, in the 15th to 17th centuries AD, were a large Native American settlement of up to 25,000 people, depending on the season.

It was a hub settlement, providing rest and supplies on the long pilgrimage trail from the Cahokia Mounds of Illinois, to the Missouri River, fed by the Kansas River which started at Junction City, Kansas, at the confluence of the Republican River to the north and the Smoky Hill River to the south. And then on, to the Mayan Mounds of Mexico. Central Kansas was populated by the Wichita and Kansa tribes of the Quivira Province. In 1541, Coronado made it as far as modern-day Lindsborg, and crossed the Smoky Hill River. His horses were likely the first horses the native population had seen. In acquiring them, their life-style and range were expanded. The Quivirans had a mixed economy of hunting and agriculture. They primarily grew "*The Three Sisters*,": Maize, beans and squash.

The soil that Hjalmer tilled was some of the deepest, blackest, richest soil I have seen. Many farmers, running out of time between wheat harvest and fall planting would burn their stubble to clear the field before disking the ground to prepare for planting the winter wheat. But Hjalmer always plowed the stubble under, mulching the soil and lifting the black loam into the sunlight. It was more work, but it paid off in the next summer, with higher bushels-per-acre yields in the wheat harvest.

Following the first rain, after he plowed, I would ask his permission to hunt for artifacts. The rain pounded the dirt away from arrowheads and spear points and potsherds that he had turned up with the plowing. Besides being polite, since I was asking to be on his land, it was just nice to let Sigrid and him know that I was there and not trespassing. Sigrid always had cookies and lemonade for her visitors.

They had an old dog, but he was too tired to bark when you came up the driveway. It didn't matter. They had watch geese instead. Ever vigilant, the geese would raise an alarm if you even slowed down on the River Road in front of their house. Hjalmer loved his Chinese weeder geese. They wandered through his cornfields and garden, eating all the weeds; and only the weeds, and generously fertilizing as well. They were great cultivators and more discriminating eaters than goats. They also laid large eggs which it was best to retrieve right away or they'd go broody on you and attack. It was worse than getting pecked by a settin' hen. They were extremely territorial unless you had been introduced.

Hjalmer let me feed them so they tolerated me. But if I had a choice, I'd rather face Hog Thompson's mean-old German Shepherd, than one of Hjalmer's geese. At least you can appeal

to an attack dog's better nature by praising him for a job well done while he's chasin' you, or help him to feel appreciated by throwing meat at him. You can't reason with a wound-up goose.

The late-summer ritual of an arrowhead hunt at Hjalmer's, eventually evolved into an initiation for friends that didn't know about the history of the land they were walking on, or those geese that protected it. It was kind of like Swedish Snipe Hunting in reverse. For one thing there were actual birds, and you didn't have to hold a bag to catch them. These goosey 'snipes' hunted you.

"Hey Johnny, it's your turn. You gotta meet these geese. They're cool!" "Run on up to Hjalmer's screen door and knock. Ask permission to hunt arrowheads in the field next to the river. He'll say 'yes', but it's polite to ask." By the time Johnny'd get halfway to the screen door a gaggle of crazed geese would attack like chickens on a Junebug, and he'd run hollerin' to the porch, chased by these big, wild, noisy, excited, protective birds flapping around him and hanging off the back of his baggy OshKosh B'Gosh overalls. It was funny. Hjalmer and Sigrid even enjoyed our visits. They'd be watching. Definitely entertaining: And it was an occasion when Johnny would get his Cool Guy status, plus maybe even a souvenir spear point and some arrowheads, in the artifact hunt.

It may sound strange to us, that in the Irish traditions of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was depicted as a wild goose. We are accustomed to the Holy Spirit pictured as a dove and we rarely notice that the dove is often depicted as being in a dive-bombing position. Doves flutter. Right?

The image of a wild goose descending upon you is a different matter altogether. It's big, it's fast, and it's persistent. A wild goose is one noisy, bothersome bird, jarring us out of our complacency.

The wild goose is properly the greylag goose or in its Latin designation, *anser ferus*. They are called wild because they are wild. You can't tame them, but if you raise them from hatchlings, they'll imprint on you with fierce affection. In Celtic Christianity, the wild goose symbolizes the untamed, unpredictable, sometimes unruly nature of God. Kinda like a sudden, indoor lightning storm at what was a normal, regular annual one-day Pentecost harvest festival worship where the people were simply saying thanks to God for the harvest, and God shows up.....with His Wild Holy Spirit, and things get really interesting!

A goose is vigilant and tuned in to its world. It can smell humans a mile away. While the dogs slept, it was the sacred wild geese of the Temple of Juno, that warned Rome of an attack by the French Gauls, in 390 BC, which was repelled. Wild geese disrupt, surprise and do totally unexpected things. What a great symbol of God!

And a wild goose chase? By any other measure that should be called a grand spiritual adventure. I don't know how you have envisioned a wild goose chase, but in its original intent, you aren't chasing anything. You are the one being chased. People say they found God. No, they were chased by God. They thought they finally caught Him. But He was never hiding. He wasn't missing. He is always right here nearby, probably bored with being overlooked, and whistling clues to give us a hint as to his whereabouts so we can "find" Him.

When I say the benediction at the end of the service, I would like to think that I am

releasing delightfully dangerous people back into their natural habitat, to wreak havoc on the devil and the forces of evil. To coin a phrase, to go out, and to serve and protect. At this first Christian Pentecost, the birthday of the church, the believers were accused of being drunk before nine in the morning. In Acts 17, in Thessalonica, Paul and Silas, were accused of turning the world upside down, and their host, Jason, was arrested for disorderly conduct. Having been chased by the wild goose of the Holy Spirit, we can become like that amazing creature, and be a blessing in our world. Jesus didn't die to keep us safe. He died to make us compassionately dangerous.

Pentecost is the time of praying for the Wild Goose of the Holy Spirit to fall on each of us and on our congregation so that we too, may be transformed and be a blessing to others.

For you see, everyone, no matter who, is in the middle of a theological experience. Everyone entertains big questions. Everyone always wonders, "Why am I here, why do things happen to me, who is running this show?" We are all in an encounter with God constantly. We are curious and we imagine questioning this Divine Otherness. It is how we engage the world and cope.

You see this guy on the roadside with a flat tire. It's raining. It's pouring down one of those Houston five-inches-in-an-hour showers. Traffic's bad. You don't know this man is also late for a job interview. He's sitting there in his car, getting up the nerve to jump out and get soaked and change his tire, and the thought is definitely on his mind. The question..... "Is the one who caused the flat in rush hour in a downpour on the way to a job interview.....for me, or against me? Does God, or the Universe, or Higher Powers, or Whatchamacallit Upstairs, love me or hate me? Should I curse my situation or find a way to understand and appreciate..... maybe someday celebrate it? For what it has taught me, I can never forget!

And how we treat that person, in trouble, in danger, on the side of the road, will make all the difference in the answer she gives herself.

So, may both the Wild Goose and the Dive-Bombing Dove of the Holy Spirit blow into and through your life and emerge from your lips, and hearts and hands..... God's Wild Spirit, through you to love God's World! Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Pentecost They Gathered

power point

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,**



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:

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus.

Congregation: Amen.

THE BLESSING

SENDING SONG

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

ELW 399

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.*



- ♣ **JR Abrego**
- ♣ **Pat Boessling**
- ♣ **Enrique Franco**
- ♣ **Jim Fritze**
- ♣ **Paul Houghton**
- ♣ **Joyce Huey**
- ♣ **Bryan Kile**
- ♣ **Nancy Lancaster**
- ♣ **David Magrill**
- ♣ **Geraine Moore**
- ♣ **Ed Peterman**
- ♣ **Dorothy Preuss**
- ♣ **Lupe Romero**
- ♣ **Wayne Schaper**
- ♣ **Myrtl Slade**
- ♣ **Scott Spates**
- ♣ **Jaime Urbanski**
- ♣ **Bennie Valites**
- ♣ **Susan Wiles**
- ♣ **Michael Williams**

Family and friends of Joyce Pavelka upon completion of her life's mission.

Next

COUNCIL MEETING

Council meeting will be Sunday, **June 14**, at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council

USHERS

Month: May

Team # 03

Leader: Linda Cuzzort

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

MAY

3 Reader — Mallory Hileman
P/E — John Stokes

10 Reader — Ruby Schaper
P/E — Steve Schulze

17 Reader — Jay Byerly
P/E — Alma Byerly

24 Reader — Julie Kilkenny
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer

31 Reader — Alice Braun
P/E — Sharon Wagner

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer

ATTENTION HOLY CROSS MEMBERS

Following the Church Safety Protocol, if you would like to make a reservation to use the church facilities for church or private events, please contact Sussy.

You must to fill out a Calendar Request Form or send an email.

Thank you.

Cheers to 50 years!

Rev. James Berggren – Sunday, June 7

Let's count his years by friends and supporters, not by years!
Holy Cross wishes him all the courage and confidence to shine in his own unique way for the next 50 years! And another 20 years at Holy Cross!
Please consider a donation to celebrate his outstanding accomplishments at Holy Cross and those of his vast career experiences. Donation envelopes and donation box will be next to our sign-in sheets in the Atrium. **No donation is too small.** Donations accepted through Sunday, May 31. Make checks payable to Marsha Thompson. Should you have any questions please contact Nancy Beamsderfer (281-814-4153) or Marsha Thompson (281-935-4988)

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

The Fellowship Club will be meeting Saturday, **June 20**, at 4:00 p.m.
We will be having a pot luck at the church so bring your favorite dish to share.
Hope to see you there!
Nancy Beamesderfer

CROSS WALL

Crosses have been donated:

IN MEMORY OF

Mim Wignes

Bettye Raschke

Marilyn Thigpen

DONATED BY

Donated by Barbara Neumann

Donated by Wendy Lambeth

Donated by Sharon Wagner

IN HONOR OF

Ernest Luker's 100th Birthday 2026

IN HONOR OF

Patti Portice

Donated by Prayer Pals

Upcycled Crafty Ladies

VBS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 22—26, 2026

(Mon—Fri 9:00 am — 12 noon)

AGES 3 — Completed 5th Grade

Lots of fun! Bible stories, music, crafts, science, service projects

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

Questions? Contact Wendy Lambeth 713-854-1573

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. *Traditional Worship service with Rev. Jim Berggren —WC*

*Sunday School / Nursery is available for small children during the service
— Crib Room*

10:30 a.m. *Coffee fellowship following the service —Gym*

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

25 Mon	26 Tues	27 Wed	28 Thurs	29 Fri	30 Sat
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<p>MEMORIAL DAY - Office closed -</p>		<p><i>10 am Roundtable Group –FLCA</i></p> <p><i>11 am Choir practice –CL</i></p> <p><i>12 pm Bible Study –VR</i></p>	<p><i>8 pm AA Women mtg. –FLCA</i></p>		<p><i>1—5:30 pm SST Basic Life Support training –MR/YR</i></p> <p><i>6 pm Saturday Informal service –AT</i></p>
<p>AT =Atrium, CL=Choir Loft, CR=Choir Room, ELC=Early Learning Center, FLC= Family Life Center = GYM, FLCA=Annex, KiM= Kids in Motion, MR=Media Room, VR=Volunteer Room, WC=Worship Center, YR=Youth Room, SST=Safeguards Safety Training (CPR classes)</p>					