

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*

June 2026	<i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i>	Vol. 32 No. 6
Bergy's Babble: HOLY SPACE!!!! Between six and eight congregations of different denominations worshipped in the same space at the Interfaith Chapel in Vail, Colorado, and at the Beaver Creek Chapel in Beaver Creek, Colorado. The scheduling was complex. I was one of at least ten religious leaders on site. The rule of board meetings was "No Doctrinal Debates"! The sole purpose of the board was to keep a holy space operational and scheduled out at peak occupancy. Little unspoken consensuses would tend to pop up every once in a while, that to me, made no sense. Unwritten rules, like no religious activities could take place on the mountain unless it was in a place already previously used for worship. Like, no weddings on Kicker Ramp Deadfall. "Nobody ever worshipped there before." It was a fifty-foot big air drop onto a fifty-degree slope, so if you didn't stick your landing it wouldn't hurt too bad. You'd just slide a hundred yards. But at least you wouldn't experience terminal friction, as in Splat! Unless of course you hit a boulder or a tree. "You're correct, nobody worshipped there before, but I never saw anyone fly off that ridge that wasn't praying that they'd live through the landing." "That's different. Anyone can pray anywhere." "Bingo. My point exactly!" ... /// ...		

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

So, who does the first worship in a place to make it legal for subsequent worship ceremonies? You got it! I'm your man! I took it upon myself to create new worship areas. One couple wanted to get married on a craggy promontory with steep and deep drop-offs on either side. I knew that it wasn't yet an official worship area because you couldn't get more than five people at a time out on that narrow edge in space. So, one day, I skied up there with a backpack full of the Communion of Saints. We prayed and worshipped there and holified the place really good, even dancing for the Great Spirit and throwing corn at the four winds to honor what had to have been an obvious magnificent promontory for Indigenous American worship. The Medicine Man, the Shaman stood here, and prayed for his tribe, at the center point of 359 degrees of a sphere of open space. Holy Space.

The day of that wedding was blustery and frigid with a whiteout blizzard blowing in. We skied to the spot, set up the video camera and shiveringly said the ceremonial words. It's funny how eternity opened up right there, and the cosmos was blessed by a marriage that would support humanity, civilization and Creation. For all that, the recording camera only said 8 minutes. The Eternal Now in Eternal Space.

The winter of '88 hit early and the new construction of the Beaver Creek Chapel halted at the foundation and two walls. Meanwhile, I was worried. Had that location been worshipped in, adequately enough for a whole chapel to be built there with an immersion pool and a trickling indoor fountain to accommodate both kinds of baptisms? Was the groundbreaking service enough?

Louie and Mary from Buda, Texas, decided that they wanted to be married in the Beaver Creek Chapel on January 20. I told'em, "Sorry, it's not there, yet."

They said, "No problem. Find out where the altar's gonna be. We'll do it there." So, I got out the blueprints and sighted off the aspen grove, west, the mountain stream, south, and the logging road, north, to triangulate the altar's future position. "Wholesale worship might break out anywhere on the mountain if we're not careful."

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

We waded to the spot through waist deep snow for the wedding ceremony; a perfect white wedding!! It was pristine powder snow so crystalline soft and dry, that it would take four feet of snowmelt, to make one inch of water. Perfect for powder skiing in the White Room. We made snow angels for extra bridesmaids and groomsmen. The children and dogs frolicked at our hay bale altar. Afterward for anyone who was concerned, I would crow, "It's safe to have a chapel there now. We worshipped in that very place! The first wedding in Beaver Creek Chapel!"

A few years ago, at the Synod Assembly, a resolution passed to form a mental health committee to care for mental health problems and burnout in pastors and rostered church leaders. The next annual assembly was looming in the very near future, when a quick survey was sent out at the last minute, to assess mental health needs, so that a report could be made on committee progress. (It's interesting how institutional procrastination signals neurotic resistance.) There's a mental hygiene issue, right there!

Actually, I procrastinated also, until the second of three notices came, asking me to please fill out the mental health assessment form. Apparently, everybody else was pleading the Fifth. Nobody wants to confess to being crazy. That's like calling in the artillery on your own position. It's like being asked if you suffer from mental illness. If you answer, "No," that's denial. Call the shrinks. If you say yes, it's a cry for help, call the shrinks. The only good answer is, "I don't suffer from mental illness. I enjoy it." Still, I thought, "This'll be fun."

One of the questions was, "Where do you daily find God?"

My answer was, "Everywhere! Where don't, you find God? Just curious." Never heard back.

Jesus prepares a place and it is in Him. He is raised up and we are brought along for the most wonderful ride in Creation. It's heavenly!

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

Christ demonstrates for us boldly that even in the face of crucifixion and death, things are not collapsing. He has prepared us a safe place! Heaven can't wait for our faithful witness to say, "Even in the worst, He is here, holding us in His Eternal Holy Space and Time." Amen.

See you in worship.....BERGY



COUNCIL MEETING

Next Council Meeting will be Sunday, **June 14**, 2026,
at 11:00 a.m. in the FLCA.

READINGS and PSALMS

JUNE 2026

DATE	1 st READING	PSALM	2 nd READING	GOSPEL
6/07/2026	Hosea 5:15—6:6	50:7-15	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
6/14/2026	Exodus 19:2-8a	100	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35—10:8
6/21/2026	Jeremiah 20:7-13	69:7-10 16-18	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
6/28/2026	Jeremiah 28:5-9	89:1-4, 15-18	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42



**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – April 19, 2026**

The April 2026 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Stephen Schulze on Sunday, April 19, 2026 at 11:08 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Stephen Schulze, Jay Byerly, Anita Cooper, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Wendy Lambeth, Bert Martin, Russell Richter, and Penny Schick.

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

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. He reported that March 2026 offerings were \$23,662, which was \$2,742 greater than February. March expenses were \$27,546, which was \$2,007 less than February. The March deficit (expenses > offerings) was \$3,884, an improvement from the previous month. The checking account balance at 03/31/2026 was \$63,130, 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 gave a summary of Lenten and Easter activities and events, thanking everyone in the congregation for their efforts to make it a meaningful season. He noted the passing of HCLC member Betty Larson and of Marilyn Thigpen, long-time teacher at the Early Learning Center. Ms. Lambeth added that Patti Portice, the ELC Pre-K teacher, is retiring at the end of the school year.

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Pastor Berggren reported that the Synod Assembly will be held May 15th-16th* at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Sugar Land. President Schulze and Nancy Beamesderfer will also attend the Assembly. 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 donations have been obtained to fund the **removal of overgrown shrubs** along the Westview side of sanctuary; Council approved a motion to tear out and haul away these bushes. She noted also that a large limb fell on the Westview lawn and also one on Telge lot 1, which need to be cut up and hauled away.
- Ms. Lambeth presented Alan Lambeth's plan to repair the **broken sidewalk** from the west parking lot to the sanctuary in the Westview lawn. This was in response to members' concerns about safety and tripping hazards caused by tree roots over time. The estimated cost of the project is \$4,800. She reported that there was already \$2,500 pledged by members and HCLC groups, and she planned to set up a display in the Atrium to seek additional donations. Council approved the motion to proceed with this project.

* *The dates of the Synod Assembly were reported incorrectly in the March minutes.*

Food Pantry: President Schulze reported that construction is underway for the Pantry expansion. The utility pole has been moved, the concrete slab poured, and the refrigerator and freezer units are being set in place.

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The south driveway (adjacent to School of the Woods) will be closed for a few days during construction while work is done on the gas meter. He expects the project to be completed in three weeks.

Assets and Ideas Committee (formerly Growth/Outreach Committee): The name of this committee was changed to better reflect current needs. The next meeting will be May 3rd.

New Business:

- A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to elect Jay Byerly as Vice President of the Council.
- President Schulze presented a summary of HCLC's current elevator maintenance contract, and brought up a proposed change in providers at a lower fee. Council authorized him to begin the process of changing companies.
- Council discussed administrative changes regarding HCLC's Vanguard investment accounts. It has been quite difficult for John Stokes (Financial Review Committee) to get information to effect these changes. President Schulze reported that Mr. Stokes wants Council to approve an action to allow the authorized signers on the account to execute the document to make the change to the new investment account platform. Council approved this action. Mr. Schulze will continue working to get this resolved.
- Ms. Lambeth asked for Council approval to convert the Library in the FLC into a gift shop. The room has not been used as a library in years. The quilters' groups and Upcycled Crafty Ladies would like to use the room to display merchandise, and perhaps decrease the number of craft shows they participate in (and reduce hauling heavy items around).

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... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — April 19, 2026

- She and Barbara Neumann would clean out the room and repurpose it into a HCLC Gift Shop. Russ Richter suggested adding an online gift shop. Council approved this item.
- 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, 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]*

The May Council Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 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





USHERS

Month: June **Team #** 04 **Leader:** Julie Kilkenny

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

06/7	R	Linda Cuzzort
	P/E	Nancy Beamesderfer
6/14	R	Ike Thompson
	P/E	Penny Schick
6/21	R	Scott Wegner
	P/E	John Stokes
6/28	R	Charlotte Jaster
	P/E	Russell Richter

R = Reader P/E = Prayer and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

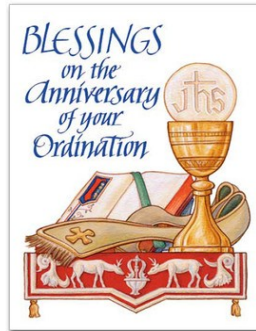
Monday—Thursday: 9— 4 p.m.

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



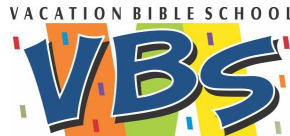
CHEERS TO 50 YEARS!

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!

Join us following the service in the Gym.



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



FELLOWSHIP CLUB

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

Nancy Beamesderfer



CROSS WALL

Crosses have been donated to:

IN MEMORY OF DONATED BY

Mim Wignes

Donated by Barbara Neumann

Bettye Raschke

Donated by Wendy Lambeth

Marilyn Thigpen

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



Holy Cross members celebrating Birthdays
in the month of June:

01 Jo Rita Kaltwasser	22 Fred Abrego
01 Levi Grinde	25 Dorothy Preuss
03 Hanne-Lore Sunder	26 Joseph Lambeth
08 Joyce Huey	28 Christopher Fisher
16 Priscilla Anthony	Alice Braun
17 Mark Rose	Sarah Richter
18 Bruce Jaster	29 Joshua Berggren
19 Gregory Smith	Xavier 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.*



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

JR Abrego
Pat Boessling
Enrique Franco
Jim Fritze
Gloria Gerard
Paul Houghton
Joyce Huey
Bryan Kile
Nancy Lancaster
David Magrill
Jeremy Mitchell

Geraine Moore
Ed Peterman
Dorothy Preuss
Lupe Romero
Wayne Schaper
Myrtl Slade
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

APRIL 2026

Receipts	\$ 31,222. ⁰⁰
Expenses	<u>30,200.⁸⁸</u>
Balance	(\$ 1,021. ¹²)

Operational receipts

Year-to-date received	\$ 92,031. ⁹⁶
Expenditures year to date ..	<u>112,419.⁸⁸</u>
Balance	(\$ 20,387. ⁹²)

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

APRIL SERVICES

Saturday Informal service	: 16
Sunday Traditional service	: 61
Maundy Thursday service	: 32
Good Friday service	: 39
Easter Sunrise :11 Easter Sunday	: 89

