

*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*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                   |                  |
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| July<br>2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i> | Vol. 32<br>No. 7 |
| <p>Bergy's Babble: "DUST"</p> <p>Jesus' instructions to the disciples for the missionary trip are to streamline their travel, accept hospitality when offered, and if unwelcome, shake off the dust and go.</p> <p>Life is full of failures. Losses will happen. You are free to decide at what point you are losing ground. You may be rejected. It's not personal. Shake off the dust and move on. It is a sacrament, a ritual to deal with inevitable setbacks.</p> <p>I watched my cat involved in an extended ritual. She, a preacher's cat, was doing feline liturgy. She was stalking a mockingbird with the deliberation and focus of a Tai Chi master. She hunkered down, eyes wide open, ears straight up, face intensely beamed directly toward the bird, holding her breath, with hind legs pressing alternately into the ground like a sprinter in the starting blocks. Then she pounced. She missed. Too slow. Bird got away. The mockingbird was watching her, too: just out of range and drawing her away from the nest, full of eggs, in the tree.</p> <p>What happened next was liturgical. The cat paced around in a very agitated state, her entire body cathartically radiating frustration, tail twitching, whipping and lashing the air. After less than a minute, she calmed down, gave herself a thorough bath with raspy-tongued licking, and then contentedly curled up and fell asleep in the sun.</p> <p>It was her ritual to reboot herself for the next encounter with the world.</p> <p>... /// ...</p> |                                   |                  |

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

It was like her nervous system was now clear. The next time she went after a bird there would be no memory of an earlier "frustrating failure". She achieved atonement, with a simple feline liturgy of exercise, cleansing, and rest.

Now.....if that had been one of us without an instinctual, reflex liturgy of healing and re-engagement, we would probably feel bad and rationalize the results: Denial----"I was just practicing and not really hungry so it doesn't matter." Blame----"Who's scaring the food around here!" Self-recrimination----"I knew I should have warmed up and stretched before I tried that." Or guilt----"I've tried and tried and I don't know why I can't stay away from those mockingbirds!"

Jesus could point to his own failure to make a splash in his hometown, after standing-room only crowds in other places. Some days you are the bird and some days you are the statue. Dust your feet and move on.

Henry Ford went broke several times before he started making progress. Babe Ruth was the strike-out king, who said, "you can't hit pitches you don't swing at." Thomas Edison was urged to quit a project, and he refused. He said, "Why quit? We know at least a hundred things that won't work, now."

Quincy Jones was one of the best trumpet players in the world. He'd worked with Lionel Hampton, and was developing his own group. He was set for a stellar career as a solo artist. And then doctors discovered two aneurisms in his brain. He could not play the trumpet, ever again. To keep busy, he composed, directed and produced. He produced and conducted *We Are the World*. He wrote the score for *Roots*, and *The Color Purple*. He produced Michael Jackson's *Thriller* album. He won over 20 Grammys.

He got knocked down, he dusted off and started out again, in a new direction.

... /// ...

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

Dust happens. It's inconvenient. When you meet disappointment, don't let yourself get completely stopped. Close the chapter and start the next one. We are responsible for our efforts. Results are not guaranteed.

Foot dusting is free will. It is the "Sacrament of Accepted Failure." You are free to choose the point where that happens. Jesus affirms for us that even in his experience, there can be a point where external resources do not cooperate with the plan or simply fail. Try your best, and have a closure liturgy in your spiritual repertoire.

Many people have techniques for victory celebrations; complicated dances in the end zone, showering everyone with champagne, throwing a parade. Christians have techniques for defeat. Dust off and move forward. Trust God. New opportunities lie ahead.

A rolling Christian gathers no dust! Amen.



### **Altar Flowers given in the month of June**

In Honor and Celebration of  
Pr. Jim's 51 years of Ordination and  
20 years of Service at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

In honor of Bruce's birthday  
by Charlotte Jaster

In Honor of the 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of  
John and La Verna Wegner  
by Their Children and Grandchildren.

## FELLOWSHIP CLUB

The Fellowship Club will be meeting **Saturday, July 18,**  
at the church for a pot luck supper.

We will begin to gather at 4:00 pm and eat at 5:00 pm.  
Please bring your favorite dish to share. Hope to see you there!  
Nancy Beamesderfer



## COUNCIL MEETING

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

## READINGS and PSALMS JULY 2026

| DATE      | 1 <sup>st</sup> READING | PSALM           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> READING | GOSPEL                     |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7/05/2026 | Zechariah<br>9:9-12     | 145:8-14        | Romans<br>7:15-25a      | Matthew<br>11:16-19, 25-30 |
| 7/12/2026 | Isaiah<br>55:10-13      | 65:1-13         | Romans<br>8:1-11        | Matthew<br>13:1-9, 18-23   |
| 7/19/2026 | Isaiah<br>44:6-8        | 86:11-17        | Romans<br>8:12-25       | Matthew<br>13:24-30, 36-43 |
| 7/26/2026 | 1 Kings<br>3:5-12       | 119:<br>129-136 | Romans<br>8:26-39       | Matthew<br>13:31-33, 44-52 |



**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)**  
**Minutes for Council Meeting – May 17, 2026**

The May 2026 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Stephen Schulze on Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 11:05 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Stephen Schulze, Jay Byerly, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Wendy Lambeth, Bert Martin, Russell Richter, and Penny Schick. Anita Cooper was not in attendance. Alan Lambeth attended as a guest.

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

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. He reported that April 2026 offerings were \$30,382, which was \$7,560 greater than March. April expenses were \$30,201, which was \$2,654 greater than March. April offerings were \$1,021 greater than expenses. Year to date expenses of \$112,420 have exceeded offerings by \$20,388 (a deficit of \$5,097/month). The checking account balance at 4/30/26 was \$51,742, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad reported that the CDs for the Janus, Mission and Emergency funds have matured, and he asked Council to authorize moving these to a Schwab CD, which has a higher interest rate; Council approved this action unanimously. He then gave a summary of investments and other items in his report. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

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... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — May 17, 2026

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Berggren updated Council on his activities for the month. He gave a brief summary of the Synod Assembly and noted that his report was filed in the church office. He distributed some materials from the last Assets and Ideas Committee meeting. 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:**

- Alan Lambeth gave a presentation on the status of HVAC in the Annex. Two of four units that cool the annex (16 and 24 years old) are not cooling. Dye injection and leak inspection tests were run, which found multiple leaks. He and President Schulze recommended replacing the units, as opposed to trying to repair old units that use refrigerant which is no longer in use. Three bids to replace the units were obtained, and Council voted unanimously to accept the bid from Schiller Services, as recommended by Mr. Lambeth.
- Ms. Lambeth reported that the **broken sidewalk** from the west parking lot to the sanctuary in the Westview lawn has been repaired. She noted that donations of \$3,800 of the \$4,800 total cost have been raised.
- Ms. Lambeth remarked that HCLC donated the commercial gas stove from the Gym kitchen to St. James Lutheran Church. She wanted to recognize the efforts of HCLC member Natalie Pazdra, who found a church that needed this. (HCLC converted to an all-electric kitchen last year.)

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... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — May 17, 2026

**Vacation Bible School (VBS):** Ms. Lambeth updated Council on VBS preparation, which will be held June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. The curriculum is here, the banner for the Westview lawn has been ordered, registration information has been posted on the website and social media, and flyers were sent home with the Early Learning Center students. Progress is being made with volunteer recruitment, and several campers have already signed up.

**Food Pantry:** President Schulze reported he is hopeful that construction for the Pantry expansion would be finished in a week.

**Assets and Ideas Committee** (formerly Growth/Outreach Committee): Ms. Schick asked about the plans for the next committee meeting. President Schulze will check with other members, but he suggested June 28<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:**

- President Schulze presented a request from Warren Schick to address problems with the Power Point setup in the sanctuary. He has asked Council to authorize work by a licensed electrician to install on/off switches, which would control the WIFI receivers and projectors inside the sanctuary, facilitating the uninterrupted display during worship services. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by Council to install this work.

The June Council Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, June 14, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kilkenny, Church Council Secretary





## THANK YOU HOLY CROSS

Thank you so much for the wonderful party, and day of recognition of service that you hosted for me on June 7, 2026. I am profoundly grateful for our fellowship and your joy in service! Celebrating over 50 years of ordained ministry is a rare privilege that I cannot take for granted.

I cannot take credit for, or even view this time of service as a personal achievement. Very clearly, the call of God and his will have kept me on track. The calls of five congregations, two jail chaplaincies, a community college as instructor, and many informal encounters in the world and on the streets, directed, formed and encouraged me in the ministry. I hope and pray that I have been faithful to the trust you have placed in me.

May I never forget that it is through God's Grace that all wonderful things happen. God's power works through us for his glory. I celebrate our beautiful congregation, and I thank you from my heart for sharing your hopes and prayers and your joy in ministry.

Sharing in His service,

Pastor Jim Berggren



## USHERS

**Month:** July   **Team #** 05   **Leader:** Barbara Neumann

### LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

|      |     |                    |
|------|-----|--------------------|
| 07/5 | R   | Ruby Schaper       |
|      | P/E | Nancy Beamesderfer |
| 7/12 | R   | Charlotte Jaster   |
|      | P/E | Julie Kilkenny     |
| 7/19 | R   | Scott Wegner       |
|      | P/E | Wendy Lambeth      |
| 7/26 | R   | Jay Fort           |
|      | 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.<sup>00</sup>



**BIRTHDAYS**  
THIS MONTH



**Birthdays in the month of July:**

|    |                     |    |                 |
|----|---------------------|----|-----------------|
| 03 | Nancy Beamesderfer  | 15 | Anthony Hileman |
| 08 | Meredith Schomburg  | 16 | Gloria McGarvey |
|    | Christopher Lambeth | 28 | Julie Kilkenny  |
| 09 | Laura Ruthstrom     | 29 | Jonas Grinde    |
| 13 | Alexander Walbridge |    |                 |



**KEEP THE JULY 4<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION GOING!!**

**Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> Potluck Lunch**

at 11:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center (Gym)

We'll provide the hot dogs — RSVP so we'll know how many to get.

Please sign-up to bring fixin's. Sides and Desserts.

(Sign-Up Sheet in the Atrium)

Questions: Contact Julie Kilkenny



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*

Fred Abrego  
Pat Boessling  
Anita Cooper  
Jim Fritze  
Gloria Gerard  
Paul Houghton  
Joyce Huey  
Bryan Kile  
Nancy Lancaster  
Ernest Luker  
David Magrill  
Jeremy Mitchell

Geraine Moore  
Ed Peterman  
Dorothy Preuss  
Lupe Romero  
Wayne Schaper  
Myrtl Slade  
Scott Spates  
Patricia Steapp  
Jaime Urbanski  
Bennie Valites  
Susan Wiles  
Michael Williams

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

#### **MAY 2026**

|          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| Receipts | \$ 17,462. <sup>00</sup>    |
| Expenses | <u>25,976.<sup>42</sup></u> |
| Balance  | (\$ 8,514. <sup>42</sup> )  |

#### **Operational receipts**

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Year-to-date received ....   | \$ 108,903. <sup>96</sup>    |
| Expenditures year to date .. | <u>138,396.<sup>30</sup></u> |
| Balance                      | (\$ 29,492. <sup>34</sup> )  |

### **AVERAGE ATTENDANCE**

#### **MAY SERVICES**

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Saturday Informal service  | : 13 |
| Sunday Traditional service | : 61 |

