

# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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713-686-8254

Rev. Jim Berggren

June 14, 2026

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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## WORSHIP SERVICE

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING SONG

God Is Here!

ELW 526

### 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:** **God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

**June 14, 2026 – Pentecost 3A**

### **FIRST READING: Exodus 19:2-8a**

<sup>2</sup> After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

<sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup> ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

<sup>7</sup> So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. <sup>8</sup> The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.” So, Moses brought their answer back to the Lord.

*The word of the Lord.*

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

### **THE PSALM**

**Psalm 100**

**SECOND READING:      Romans 5:1-8**

**Peace and Hope**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*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: Matthew 10:9-14**

<sup>9</sup> “Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— <sup>10</sup> no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. <sup>11</sup> Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. <sup>12</sup> As you enter the home, give it your greeting. <sup>13</sup> If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**PR. JIM'S SERMON:**



## **PENTECOST 3A 6-14-26 Mt 10.9-14**

### **DUST**

250 years ago, a little republic on the edge of the wilderness suddenly produced Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, Abigail Adams, Thomas Paine, Ben Franklin, a host of brilliant political philosophers and founders of a new way to organize and serve a society, culture, and a nation. That is an amazing roster considering there were only about 3 million people in the 13 colonies. Today we have 330 million people. With a similar ratio of population to brilliant leadership, we should have 110 Jeffersons and Franklins, Washingtons and Adamses Hamiltons and Paines. In these contentious times, I am hopeful and confident that similar patriots will emerge to lead us into an even greater future.

On this Flag Day, let us pray:

Lord, you have lavished your creative might on our nation, giving us an abundance of natural beauty and resources. Help us to remember that it is your land and we are its caretakers.

You grace us with mercy, not condemnation, with love not hate, and with acceptance, not fear. Help us to remember that justice, married to mercy, fulfills the intent of your holy laws, the basis of the laws of our land.

You have filled our great nation with people from all races and cultures, blending us into a country blessed with diversity and strength. Remind us that patriotism, courage and love of country are qualities we are duty-bound to observe and share, as citizens and residents.

Lord of all we give you thanks and praise for your blessings of health, peace, safety and daily needs. We thank you for the brave men and women who have served under our flag and defended our freedom throughout our history. Help us to honor what you have given, and seek to share your blessings with those who are persecuted throughout the world. Guide us into the future and your will for us to serve, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Our Great Plains were settled in the mid-1800's.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1862, Congress approved the sales "To secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain". Andreas Berggren claimed the, "North East Quarter of section twenty-seven, in Township Eighteen South of Range three West in the district of lands subject to sale at Salina, Kansas containing one hundred and sixty acres." Signed by Rutherford B. Hayes. And so began my American story with my Great-Grandfather, Swedish immigrant.

The prairie soil was fertile and the wheat grew well. Our entry into World War 1, produced a great need for wheat. Farms were pushed to the limit. Powerful new gasoline tractors sped up the process so that in the 20's wheat production increased by 300%.

Then a drought hit the Mid-West, and dust storms raged. In 1934, one storm moved 350 million tons of silt from the Mid-West out into the Atlantic, past New York.

The ancient Hebrew caught the sense of what dust could do, very well. In Psalms and Job, there are several expressions for the Underworld, most notably, the land, the earth, the ground, the clay, the mud, the field, THE DUST. The Abode of the Dead was known as the dust of the dead. To be ill was to be reminded that we are on the way to being dust.

Anything that clung to a person was called dust. Common expressions were, "Dust of the evil tongue," and "Dust of unfair money-lending."

It was used as a verb also. A person could "Dust to idolatry," or "Dust to covetousness," in other words, we can cling to those things which weaken us and the people around us. Things that slow us down.

In Jesus' time, a Jew who had been in pagan territory would shake the dust from his feet so that he wouldn't make the holy land unclean. Everyone stops at the border and bangs their sandals against a rock and that's the religious decontamination procedure.

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.

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.

I watched my cat involved in an extended ritual that was 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 and 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 her nest in the tree.

What happened next was instructive. The cat paced around in a very agitated state, her entire body 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.

It was her ritual to reboot herself for the next encounter with the world. 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 got herself all fixed up with a 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 sharpened my claws this morning, and 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 would 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 5 times before he started making progress. Babe Ruth was the strike-out king, but 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? Keep on. 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, and then doctors discovered two aneurisms in his brain. He could not return to playing 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 and has won over 20 Grammys.

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

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 can choose the point where that happens. Jesus affirms for us that even in his experience, there is always 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 in trust that new opportunities lie ahead.

A rolling Christian gathers no dust! Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**In Christ Called to Baptize**

**ELW 575**

**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,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**



**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**THE LORD'S PEACE** (Please share the Peace with a neighbor)

## **THE OFFERING**

**THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* ELW Hymn 142

## **THE OFFERING PRAYER**

**All pray together:**

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

## **AGNUS DEI**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have, mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.

**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:**

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG**

**Rise Up, O Saints of God!**

ELW 669

**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.*



- ♣ Fred Abrego
- ♣ Pat Boessling
- ♣ Anita Cooper
- ♣ 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
- ♣ Patricia Steapp
- ♣ Jaime Urbanski
- ♣ Bennie Valites
- ♣ Susan Wiles
- ♣ Michael Williams

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**COUNCIL MEETING**

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

Church Council

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## **USHERS**

**Month:** June

**Team #** 04

**Leader:** Julie Kilkenny

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## **LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS**

### **JUNE**

7 Reader — Linda Cuzzort  
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer

14 Reader — Ike Thompson  
P/E — Penny Schick

21 Reader — Scott Wegner  
P/E — John Stokes

28 Reader — Charlotte Jaster  
P/E — Russell Richter

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer

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## **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.

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# 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

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## VBS

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 22—26, 2026**

(Mon—Fri 9:00 am — 12 noon)

**AGES 3 — Completed 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

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

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS**

Questions? Contact Wendy Lambeth 713-854-1573

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## MAM

**MAM is offering Basic Computer Skills Classes**

### **Basic Computer Skills for Seniors**

- **Schedule:** 4 Fridays, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM (no class Friday, July 3rd)
- **Dates:** Starting **June 26**
- **Location:** Christ the King (CTK) Presbyterian Church - 1201 Silber Rd.

This class is designed specifically for older adults who are new to computers or looking to build confidence with basic skills. (Enrollment is not limited by age -

but younger folks should know that the majority of the class will be older people.)  
If you have any questions, please contact Sussy in the Church Office or call at  
713-686-8254.

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## **CELEBRATING 51 years!**

What a **GREAT** celebration!

It was such an honor to be able to celebrate Pastor Jim's accomplishment!

A huge **thank you** to all who helped everything come together.

I am truly blessed to be a part of such a warm, caring congregation.

Nancy Beamesderfer

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### **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*

**11:00 a.m.** *Church Council meeting —FLCA*

### **THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS**

|               |                |               |                 |               |               |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>15 Mon</b> | <b>16 Tues</b> | <b>17 Wed</b> | <b>18 Thurs</b> | <b>19 Fri</b> | <b>20 Sat</b> |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|

|  |  |                                  |  |  |  |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
|  |  | <i>12 pm Bible Study<br/>-VR</i> |  |  | <i>9—10 am Women's<br/>Bible Study -FLCA</i><br><br><i>4 pm Fellowship Club<br/>potluck -FLCA</i><br><br><i>6 pm Saturday Informal<br/>service -AT</i> |
| <p>AT =Atrium, CL=Choir Loft, CR=Choir Room, ELC=Early Learning Center,<br/>         FLC= Family Life Center = <b>GYM</b>, FLCA=Annex, KiM= Kids in Motion, MR=Media Room,<br/>         VR=Volunteer Room, WC=Worship Center, YR=Youth Room,<br/>         SST=Safeguards Safety Training (CPR classes)</p> |  |                                  |  |  |  |