

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*

August 2026	<i>Holy Cross Lutheran Church</i>	Vol. 32 No. 8
Bergy's Babble: "Morning Prayer" Now You wake me up to play, In your cosmic fields this day. Lead me in your perfect way. Make me strong, the devil to slay. To You , my Lord, I always pray. A grateful heart, I shall display. Let my clay feet never stray. Guide my hopes and thoughts today. Thank you, God, for this perfect day, And your gift of joy, that I may Share it with others without delay. Protect us Lord, in your precious day! <i>James L Berggren, 6-12-26</i> <i>Can be sung to hymn tune, MERCY metered, 7777</i> See you in worship..... Bergy		



MAM

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church prides itself
on giving back to our community.**

To continue this mission, we have partnered with
Memorial Assistance Ministries to help children get new school
clothing through their **Back to School Program**.

We encourage our Holy Cross members and friends to join us in supporting
MAM's Back to School Program. Each \$50 donation means a child will
start the school year with new uniforms, ready to learn.

Please consider sponsoring a child today!

If you would like to donate, please make a check payable to:
Memorial Assistance Ministries.

Include in the memo: **Back to School Program.**

Please send or bring your check to the Church Office.

READINGS and PSALMS

AUGUST 2026

DATE	1st READING	PSALM	2nd READING	GOSPEL
8/02/2026	Isaiah 55:1-5	145:8-9, 14-21	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
8/09/2026	1 Kings 19:9-18	85:8-13	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
8/16/2026	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	67	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
8/23/2026	Isaiah 51:1-6	138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
8/30/2026	Jeremiah 15:15-21	26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28



**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – June 14, 2026**

The June Church Council meeting was called to order by President Stephen Schulze on Sunday, June 14, 2026 at 11:04 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

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

The **minutes** from the May 2026 meeting were submitted by Secretary Julie Kilkenny with a minor correction and approved by Council.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. He reported that May 2026 offerings were \$17,462, which was \$13,760 less than April. May expenses were \$25,976, which was \$4,224 less than April. May expenses were \$8,514 greater than offerings. Year to date expenses of \$138,396 have exceeded offerings by \$29,492, a deficit of \$5,898/month. The checking account balance at 5/31/26 was \$50,283, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad gave a summary of investments and other items in his report and noted that the annual insurance premium, normally over \$30,000, is due in June. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Berggren updated Council on his activities for the month. He thanked the everyone for the wonderful anniversary celebration of his 20 years at HCLC (and 51 years in the ministry). ... /// ...

... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — June 14, 2026

He asked for suggestions for a successor to Anita Cooper, HCLC representative on the Early Learning Center (ELC) Board of Directors, as her term is ending. Other activities included weekly Bible study, 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:

- Wendy Lambeth reported that Alan Lambeth continues his work to bridge the compatibility issues between the new air conditioning equipment and the old wiring in the Annex. He was able to fix a problem with the ELC A/C unit. She added that the courtyard fountain is working again (a faulty GFCI plug was the problem).
- There was further discussion about the intermittent issues with the “syncing” problems and the equipment for the Power Point presentations in the sanctuary.
- President Schulze expressed his interest in replacing the landscaping that was removed along the north wall of the sanctuary in the Westview lawn; Council discussed possible solutions. (The overgrown shrubs were removed earlier this year because of security concerns about people camping in them, but due to budgetary constraints no provision was made to replace them.)
- Russ Richter brought up the roof leak in the gym for discussion. A call was made during this meeting to Alan Lambeth for an update. Past evaluations by roofing and A/C contractors were not definitive about whether it was an A/C problem (which would be covered by the warranty). Mr. Lambeth noted there was water inside the A/C unit on the gym roof. Mr. Schulze will call the A/C company to have them recheck the unit and placement on the roof pad.

... /// ...

... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — June 14, 2026

Elevator Maintenance Contract: Mr. Schulze reported that HCLC has another year left on the current maintenance contract, so there is no action to be taken at this time.

Food Pantry: President Schulze remarked that he thought the Pantry expansion was almost finished, and several Council members commented on how nice the finished product looks. Ms. Lambeth added that one item left was the final testing of the emergency generator.

Vacation Bible School (VBS): Ms. Lambeth updated Council on preparations for VBS, which will be held June 22nd – 26th. She reported that 32 campers (ages 3-10) have signed up, volunteers have been lined up, and she provided details on activities for the week.

Assets and Ideas Committee (formerly Growth/Outreach Committee): The next A&I meeting will be June 28th.

New Business:

July 4th Celebration: President Schulze proposed that Holy Cross hold a 4th of July celebration for the 250th Anniversary of the nation. After a brief discussion Council decided a July 5th Potluck Lunch would be a good way to celebrate. Ms. Kilkenny will contact volunteers and make the arrangements.

Building Use Request: Council approved a request by the Bayou City Band to use the Gym on Sundays 2-4pm, September 2026—February 2027, *excluding November 2026*.

Home Visitation: Council discussed the redevelopment of the Home Visitation group. Pastor Berggren is talking with prospective volunteers and is working on a plan to involve a group of parishioners to support homebound members and friends of Holy Cross.

... /// ...

... /// ... Minutes for Council Meeting — June 14, 2026

The July Council Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, July 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

Next Council Meeting will be Sunday, **August 16**, 2026,
at 11:00 a.m. in the FLCA.

HCLC FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Invites you to a Summer

B*B*Q

Saturday, **August 15**, 2026 - 4:00 PM

Lyndon's Pit BBQ

5320 Hollister St - Houston, Texas 77040

Come One * Come All * Great Times

(buy your own meal)

Marsha Thompson



WELCA MEETING

WELCA will have a meeting **Sunday, August 2**, after service.

We will meet in the Annex.

The agenda is short so the meeting should not take long.

All ladies of the church are invited to attend. Hope to see you there.

Nancy Beamesderfer



BACK TO SCHOOL

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

We invite all Preschoolers through High Schoolers, Teachers, College Students, Grad Students, and Professors to bring those backpacks and schoolbags to Holy Cross during church service on **August 16th**.

Bring them empty or full.

Pastor Jim will bless the bags during the 9:30 a.m. service, to honor all the hopes, dreams, and fears that accompany the new school year, and to ask for God to strengthen, sustain, and encourage all our children as they learn and grow throughout the year.



To the Loyal Customers of Martin's Greenhouse,

It is with the deepest sorrow that we share the news of the passing of our father, Pablo Martin, who went home to God peacefully, his family present, on June 18, 2026.

Our father founded Martin's Greenhouse in the 1980's, and for over four decades he poured his heart, his hands, and his life into growing the finest poinsettias in Houston. Many of you have been with him from the very beginning; and that loyalty meant everything to him. He took great pride in the quality of what he grew, and even greater pride in the relationships he built along the way.

Without him, Martin's Greenhouse will not continue to operate. It is the end of something truly special but also the completion of a life's work done with integrity, dedication, and love for the craft.

On behalf of our mother, Generosa Martin, and the entire Martin Family, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for every purchase, every kind word, and every season you chose to be part of what our father built. You were not just customers. You were witnesses to his life's work, and we are grateful you were there.

He grew beautiful things. And so much of that beauty exists today because you gave him the opportunity to share it.

With deepest appreciation and warm regards,

Michael Martin

On behalf of Rose, Steve, Rex, and the entire Martin Family Martin's Greenhouse

USHERS

Month: August **Team #** 06 **Leader:** John Wenger

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

08/2	R	Shannon Martin
	P/E	Nancy Beamesderfer
8/9	R	Linda Cuzzort
	P/E	Steve Schulze
8/16	R	Alma Byerly
	P/E	John Stokes
8/23	R	Ruby Schaper
	P/E	Russell Richter
8/30	R	Alice Braun
	P/E	Wendy Lambeth

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

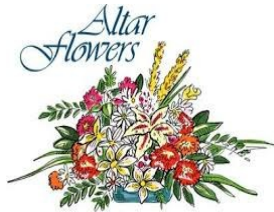
You may sign up for flower
arrangements in the Narthex.
Suggested donation is \$70.⁰⁰



Birthdays in the month of August:

01	Tommy Roberts	22	Donna Fisher
03	Samuel Flick	25	Marilyn Flick
04	Barbara Sledge	27	Carol Thielemann
07	William Walbridge		Gloria Guilfoyle
17	Clarence Clark	30	John Allcorn Jr.
19	Anita Cooper		Tangie Cooper
20	Linda Cuzzort		

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



Altar flowers were donated in June 7, by Shannon Martin
in loving memory of her grandmother Jean Lauderdale;
and celebration of Bert & Shannon's Wedding Anniversary.



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
Paul Houghton
Joyce Huey
Bryan Kile
Nancy Lancaster
Ernest Luker
David Magrill
Jeremy Mitchell
Geraine Moore
Ed Peterman
Dorothy Preuss
Lupe Romero

Wayne Schaper
Myrtle Slade
Scott Spates
Patricia Steapp
Ann Taylor
Becky Terry
Dave Trickett
Jaime Urbanski
Bennie Valites
Susan Wiles
Michael Williams

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

JUNE 2026

Receipts	\$ 18,638. ⁰⁰
Expenses	<u>31,000.⁰⁴</u>
Balance	(\$ 12,362. ⁰⁴)

Operational receipts

Year-to-date received	\$ 127,541. ⁹⁶
Expenditures year to date ..	<u>169,396.³⁴</u>
Balance	(\$ 41,854. ³⁸)

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

JUNE SERVICES

Saturday Informal service	: 11
Sunday Traditional service	: 58

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

SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Informal Service 6:00 p. m. —AT

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Traditional Service 9:30 a.m. —WC

EARLY LEARNING CENTER
ELC (713) 461-5535
email: holycrosselc4@gmail.com

<u>CHURCH STAFF</u>	
Rev. Jim Berggren — Senior Pastor email: jlberggren@holycross.us	
Sussy Terry — Office Manager & Events Coord. email: hclc@holycross.us	
John Lambeth — Bookkeeper email: finance@holycross.us	
Robert Carty — Musical Director / Organist email: robcarty1@outlook.com	
<u>OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION</u>	
Steve Schulze	President
Jay Byerly	Vice-President
Julie Kilkenny	Secretary
Ricki Finstad	Treasurer

