Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

7901 Westview Dr. Houston, TX 77055 Tel. 713-686-8253

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Rev. Jim Berggren **November 1, 2026** **All Saints Day**

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG **Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Song** ELW 847

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: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

November 1, 2026 – All Saints Day

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

The Great Multitude in White Robes

9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could
count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the
throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding
palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 All the
angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living
creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped
God, 12 saying:

"Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

13 Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and
where did they come from?”

14 I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.16 ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat.

17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd;
‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

The word of the Lord.
Congregation response following the reading is: ***Thanks be to God!***

<u>THE PSALM</u> **Psalm 34:1-10, 22**

<u>SECOND READING:</u> 1 John 3:1-3

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The word of the Lord.
Congregation response following the reading is: ***Thanks be to God!***

<u>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION</u>:

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

<u>THE HOLY GOSPEL</u>: Matthew 5:1-12

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.
His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
7 Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
8 Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
9 Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. **12** Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Congregational response: ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

CHILDREN'S SERMON

YOUTUBE VIDEO – 

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY C 11-1-26 LK6.20-31

CHRISTIAN VETERANS' DAY

Veterans' Day, USA is a holiday to honor men and women who have served and are serving, both in wartime and peacetime, in the Armed Forces of the USA. It is celebrated on the anniversary of the end of World War One, Armistice Day, the documents signed on the llth hour of the llth day of the llth month.

All Saints' Sunday is Christian Veterans' Day. We lift up the Communion of Saints to honor those who have served, those who still serve even now, and those who will serve in God's magnificent future. All of that is happening at once. Remember, in the Eternal Now, everything is contemporaneous with everything else. Many times, when we are involved in the sticky problems of day-to-day church administration and policy, economic survival, and the daily work of planning and programming, we forget entirely our partnership, our connection with both the past and future: Our personal history here in this corner of Spring Branch for over 70 years, our collective history with the people of God over thousands of years, our future history as we march into tomorrow with vigor and spirit. We are the Body of Christ, made up of the Communion of Saints.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's doctoral dissertation was written on the Communion of Saints. He asserted that the church as a sociological group is unique. It is not a vehicle for some other goal. It is an end in itself. The Church IS preaching and witness. The Church is, the work of the Sacraments, the very gifts it promises. The grace of the cross, and the Resurrection of Jesus are present; yesterday, today and tomorrow to the whole community and each individual in it. Christ is always here now. Welcome to and enjoy the Communion of Saints. You are one, in that number, when the saints go marching around, everywhere, in all time.

In the Gospel of John's 11th Chapter, Jesus does not arrive 'on time' to heal his friend, Lazarus, at bedside. It is the 4th day. Lazarus is certifiably, dead and gone from the world of sense. However, in God's Reality, he has been in the Resurrection from before his birth, he lived his whole life in his Resurrection, and nothing changes because it's the 4th Day of the impossible hope and sorrow of his sisters and dear friends. He is still where he has always been, firmly stationed with all the Saints in the Resurrection!

Lazarus is hands-on evidence of the Resurrection. He is definitely a guy that the Sadducees hitmen want to neutralize and disappear. The High Priests are planning to kill him, for good this time, "because on account of him, many of the Jews were going off and believing in Jesus." (John said so in Chapter 12, verses 9-11). Lazarus is a past veteran. He lived a faithful life. He is a present veteran in his Resurrection on the 4th day. He is a future veteran; a blueprint,

a model, an example of our 4th day Resurrections.

Veterans are not perfect. They served. Christians are not perfect, but they serve. Congregations contain people who are both weak and strong, who are powerful in their powerlessness.

Luke with his report of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain is describing a state of the union message from Jesus. In this union, the Communion of Saints, you will find the following representatives: The poor and the rich, the hungry and the full, the crying and the laughing, the rejected and the accepted. All of them saved saints. It's like the old game of Fruit Basket Upset. At a signal every child gets up from their chair and mills around the room, while one chair is removed. At the next signal, every child grabs the nearest chair; and one person has no place to sit and is out of the game. In the eternal game, no chairs get taken away. Everyone ends up in a different place but they all get to play the game at the party.

Poor to rich is an economic continuum. Hungry to full are biological conditions. Weeping to laughing describe an emotional see-saw, and rejection to acceptance are social placements. Everyone is somewhere on those scales and they are all temporary positions. Sometimes we get stuck, but we all live in constant process. Jesus calls us to marvel at this process of life. To dance on the hilltops, and in the valleys. Rejoice in <u>all</u> conditions as one of God's Resurrected Saints.

Sometimes we get a little mixed up about what a saint really is. Accumulated legends have contributed to a Saint's Hall of Fame, and lift up specialists in good works of particular varieties. Perhaps that's not the best idea. In venerating someone for a set of good deeds, we might miss out on the really important stuff they did.

Dr. Joseph Lister is known as the Father/Saint of Surgery. He made the knowledge available to repair broken bones instead of amputating limbs. He pioneered surgery within the body cavity. Can you imagine the courage it took to do that? To cut someone open in order to save their life! Monumental achievements. Oh yes, and don't forget, Dr. Lister insisted on handwashing, before, during and after surgery; a simple procedure that has probably saved more lives than any other. The Unofficial Saint of Handwashing.

Religious saints, also experience the same diminishment to one activity. St. Blaise for throats, but he also cared for animals, just like St. Francis, who also cared for people. St Joseph buried upside-down in the front yard for selling your house. I don't understand why, but St. Christopher got demoted from being the roadtrip saint. St. Valentine got jurisdiction over epilepsy and falling in love, an interesting repertoire. And now Isidore of Seville is being lifted up as a possible saint of the Internet. He is credited with editing the world's first database, a 20-volume encyclopedia around 600 AD. The problem is, all that knowledge has changed. He should be the Saint of Periods, Commas, Question Marks, and Colons. His work helped standardize the use of punctuation, making written communication much easier.

Too bad for these people that they are not recognized for all the other back-breaking, sweaty work they did for the Lord and his world.

Thank God, there are millions of saints that the world has never heard of. Their names are in no calendars. Their graves are never visited or adored. Their lives to most may seem

insignificant, but never in vain. Each coral crustacean, small as it is, has had a share in laying the foundation for a continent. Each grain of sand on the beach does its part as a barrier against the raging sea.

Pink Floyd, a Rock group composed a great song, number 1 in both the US and the UK, in 1980. I think it was meant to be understood as a Lamentation of the futility of it all, a rock music version of Ecclesiastes; or maybe it was a protest concerning public education in Great Britain in the 70's:

"We don't need no education.

We don't need no thought control.

No dark sarcasm in the classroom,

Teachers, leave those kids alone.

All in all, you're just a-nother brick in the wall."

Catchy tune. A song describing the angst of troubled decades from the 60's until today.

But you know what, because of my baptism, I'm proud to be objectively pronounced as one of the Communion of Saints. That song gives me strength. I am proud to be just another brick in the wall. The wall stands or falls because of my stubborn solidity. Because of my simple brickiness. I'll be around after any other achievements have been forgotten. I am a happy brick, holding a place in the wall!!

Saints according to the Bible are not just ancient martyred and heroic veterans. Nevertheless, we lift them up as important role models.

There are 62 mentions of saints in the New Testament. Most of them are in the writing of the Apostle Paul and he is referencing ACTIVE DUTY CHRISTIANS. Not sinless people and not necessarily miracle specialists, but instead solid bricks in the wall. All who identify as Believers, are saints on active duty. We experience all of life, as Luke describes it in his blessings and woes. We live a set-apart life. Jesus has set us apart with his lifting of our sin into his death on the cross.

Who sent the tax collector and the Pharisee, both obvious sinners, home, saved. Truth is…..Jesus did.

"Who me? I'm invited into the presence of God? I'm not dressed right. I'm a lost sheep. I'm an addict. I'm an angry leper with parts falling off. I'm embarrassingly behind on bills. I'm a sinner!"

Jesus says, "Yeah, you're right, and you could probably use a shower too, but you are needed at the Saint's party. You'll feel right at home. The thief next to me on Golgotha was a real thief, not a stunt man, sent over from the Coliseum. The woman at the well…..she really did have 6 husbands, and she was looking at me kinda funny. The ten lepers really were in bad shape, and when the chips were down, Peter usually sank, or had dumb suggestions, or denied me. Compared to them, you are a saint. So there! I need you at the party!"

A pregnant woman wrote Kurt Vonnegut. She wanted to know if it was a mistake to bring a child into a world as troubled and dangerous as this world is. He wrote her back, "What made being alive worthwhile for me was the saints I met….people who behaved decently and honorably in societies which were so often obscene. Our own society is very frequently obscene. Perhaps many of us, regardless of our ages or power or wealth, can be saints for your child to meet." We are set apart as saints to serve the world.

Life is full of blessings and woes, but no matter where you are in that range, the breath of God flows through you, and the grace of Christ welcomes you home and builds you up for new mission. Another precious gift to the world from the communion of saints. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY **For All the Saints** ELW 422

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*

THE OFFERING PRAYER

All pray together:

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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:

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

THE BLESSING

SENDING SONG **For All Your Saints, O Lord** ELW 427

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
- ♣ Susan Caradec
- ♣ Jessica Coleman
- ♣ Eli Gonzalez
- ♣ Jack Griffin
- ♣ Audrey Holtan
- ♣ Paul Houghton
- ♣ Joyce Huey
- ♣ Bryan Kile
- ♣ Ernest Luker
- ♣ David Magrill
- ♣ Stuffy Martinez
- ♣ Jeremy Mitchell

- ♣ Geraine Moore
- ♣ Ed Peterman
- ♣ Dorothy Preuss
- ♣ Scott Spates
- ♣ Patricia Steapp
- ♣ Gary Sundberg
- ♣ Bill Tempel
- ♣ Dave Trickett
- ♣ Jaime Urbanski
- ♣ Bennie Valites
- ♣ Michael Williams

COUNCIL MEETING

Council meeting will be Sunday, **November 29th**, at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council

USHERS

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

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

NOVEMBER

1 Reader — JR Abrego
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer

8 Reader — Ruby Schaper
P/E — Julie Kilkenny

15 Reader — Bert Martin
P/E — Penny Schick

22 Reader — Linda Cuzzort
P/E — Sharon Wagner

29 Reader — Scott Wegner
P/E — Alma Byerly

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.

YOUTH GROUP

Come together in faith and friendship to our new Youth Group meetings.

We meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday

from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

Additional information will be available

on the church website: **holycross.us** and **Facebook.**

Pr. Jim Berggren

MAM

Mark your calendar!

➢ Fri. & Sat. **November 6 & 7** -Resale Half-Off Sale (Blalock location)

Resale store - Need volunteers for Restock Days at Blalock,

Scheduled for November 8, 1—4 p.m. Interested please contact Sussy.

The Store is always in need of plastic shopping bags so please consider recycling and donating those bags, especially in preparation for the Half—Off sale in November.

THANKOFFERING

Saturday, November 21, and **Sunday, November 22**

The idea of collecting in small offering boxes goes back to the very early 1800's when women formed "mite" or "cent" societies to raise money. Lutheran women were given small Thankoffering boxes to place in a special location in their homes as a visible reminder of blessings received.

Women would add coins to those boxes almost daily as particular blessings were noted. From their use came the idea of an annual church service to celebrate their collection.

Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. Thankofferings have always been and still are, our opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments.

The women of Holy Cross are encouraged to express their thankfulness by donating "coins" and/or items for the East Spring Branch Food Pantry.

Nancy Beamesderfer

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Fellowship Club will have a potluck Mexican Food Feast
Saturday, **November 21st,** 3:00 pm here at the church!

It's gonna be a good one!

Bring your favorite Mexican dish to share!

Nancy Beamesderfer

BABY CARE KITS
FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

With the birth of our daughter Laura's first child coming in January, I have felt the leading to help with making more Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

I just can't imagine as an expecting mother not having the resources to keep my baby warm, clean and dry. I am asking for your help either donating money or items from the list below.

Sizes should be between 6 to 24 months.

Please contact me at (713) 870-1297 for any questions. I will also put up poster in the Family Life Center. Thank you so much for your love and support!

Alma Byerly

ALL SAINTS DAY

In Remembrance of those who have gone before us.

November 2025 – November 2026

† Daniel Ernest Lyons	1/10/26
† Julia Anne Yanta	2/18/26
† Betty Jean Larson	4/17/26

† Marilyn Finer-Collins	8/03/26
† Fredda Collette Yurk	8/08/26
† Doreen Fowler	9/01/26
† William Brent Southerland II	10/18/26
† Larry Polzin	10/21/26

CROSS WALL

In Memory of	Donated by
Fredda Yurk	Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Fredda Yurk	Barbara Neumann
Marilyn Finer Collins	Her Family

Upcycled Crafty Ladies

TRUNK N TREAT

Thank you everyone who came out to help make

Trunk N Treat a wonderful event.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and the kids received lots of candy.

Julie Richter

Safeguards Safety Training

Holy Cross Lutheran Church - 7901 Westview Drive, Houston, TX 77055

Call John Lambeth @ 713-854-8085 to register, or register online:

https://events.humanitix.com/host/634c6d6ed7a0c9053d9f6f58

Class		Price	Day	Date	Time
Adult & Pediatric CPR					
	CPR Only	$98	Saturday	14-Nov	1:00 pm - 5:30 pm

	CPR + First Aid	$108	Sunday	22-Nov	1:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Basic Life Support		$94	Friday	13-Nov	1:00 pm - 5:30 pm
			Saturday	21-Nov	1:00 pm - 5:30 pm
			Saturday	19-Dec	1:00 pm - 5:30 pm
CPR Instructor Course		$299	Friday	6-Nov	9:00 am - 5:30 pm
			Friday	11-Dec	9:00 am - 5:30 pm
RCP para adulto, niño y bebé			Friday	4-Dec	1:00 pm - 5:30 pm
	RCP solo	$49			
	RCP + primeros auxilios	$59			

Holy Cross Congregation Members receive a 15% discount.

Use coupon code: HCLC2026

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

ALL SAINTS DAY

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

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

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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

2 Mon	3 Tues	4 Wed	5 Thurs	6 Fri	7 Sat
11—12 *ELC Chapel –WC*	***11—12*** *ELC Chapel –WC*	***9 am*** *Men's Breakfast* ***11 am*** *Choir Rehearsal –CL* ***12 pm*** *Bible Study –VR*	***8 pm*** *AA Women mtg. —Annex*	***9 —5:30 pm*** *SST CPR Instructor Course MR/YR*	***6 pm*** *Saturday Informal service –AT*

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)