


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 2010 *Holy Cross Lutheran Church* Vol. 16 No. 06



BERGY'S BABBLE: HELLO DOLLY, GOODBYE NICOLAUS

I was studying Genesis 11, the story of the Tower of Babel, the alternate Old Testament pericope text for Pentecost Sunday while marveling at the incredible human naivete that imagines that technological advances are the stairway to heaven. God and his universe are sweetly condescending when it comes to the much vaunted impact of human endeavor and pride. The Tower was supposed to reach God and He is pictured as leaning over his heavenly front porch with a telescope hooked up to binoculars that are tied to a microscope and saying to himself, "Now where is that cute little nub those humans are so proud of?" At least in this scriptural case, these technological advances of urbanization, architecture, and new building materials opened the doorway to chaos.

This text auspiciously occurs near the commemoration day of the death of Nicolaus Copernicus, May 24, 1543. All these things were buzzing in my head, when in my state of chronic sleep deprivation I dropped off, and dreamt that the late Milton H. Erickson, the world's foremost therapeutic hypnotist from Taos, New Mexico, progressed me into a future life and my clone.....finished all my sentences for me.

I couldn't tolerate my clone. He was of chronological necessity decades younger than me, and yet he looked close to the way I looked back then, scrawny and pale with coke-bottle-bottom glasses, poor guy. And there the resemblance ceased.

I shared, “Hey man, listen to this cool brain candy. It’s Hendrix’s cry-baby wah-wah on *“Electric Ladyland.”*”

He retorted in rejoinder, “Chill, gangsta-dank Bubbada and excavate: It’s a rhyming-dictionary-in-a-popcorn-popper-shoved-through-a-pitbull rap song, a veritable conjunction of intellect and melody.”

I tried to appreciate my clone’s musical taste and finally decided that Lil’ Twerp should be arrested for committing melody. After all he used two notes and four foul words for a whole song plus something about bustin’ a cap on someone’s hindquarters. I was confused; I busted a cap on a bagel the other day and had to go back to the dentist!

I woke up devastatingly disappointed with shattered clonal and tonal expectations caused by my recalcitrant replicant.

Isn’t what we want the most and what we fear the most, having someone around who could possibly know us totally, inside and out, our innermost thoughts, a strange merger of self with doppelganger-appliance-for-spare parts self? Fear not. It’ll never happen. But it’s good for a few thousand TV episodes during these millennial times of the X-filing of America, where anything’s possible, everything is non-reproducible pseudo-science, and it’s all sinister or at the least, conspiratorial. Lately, the media entertainment complex is obsessed with vampires, werewolves and zombies, and that’s just the political pundits on the news channels.

Into the midst of this messy Zeitgeist, (where we all have little wires running into our homes to let us know what we should believe, what we should buy and what we should fear), stepped Dolly the Scottish cloned sheep. Remember her? Feel sorry for the unwitting ungulate who steps into the cultural expectations of Dr. Frankenstein, and Dr. Moreau. It’s hard to scrape that off your hoof. The mad scientist archetype runs deep, contrary to the reality of the situation which requires that all future ‘mad’ scientists get decent grades in college and prove their theses with strict scientific method. This little bit of academic rigor and discipline usually weeds out most lazy psychopaths.

Anyway, I think a plaid sheep from Scotland would have been a much more unique genetic engineering experiment. In fact with simple selective breeding of roans, zebras and appaloosas here in America, I could envision an equine stars and stripes at the front of every 4th of July parade.

So now we are hearing the thunder of pundits, a stampede of bio-ethicists, an hypocrisy of fundamentalists and a gridlock of legislators overtaking the issues of biotechnology. With stem cells, nanotech, bio-mass-fuelled robotic combatants (kill the weak, eat the dead), genetically modified foods, and particle colliders, already in production and use, it's fair to say that global warming might have to go on the back burner, so to speak. Commissions and Czars are appointed to represent all our political, scientific, and moral diversity. Like I believe that! The goals of commissions are consensus so they consist of people who generally agree. Like for instance, never in history would we have seen a commission with Martin Luther and the Pope and Copernicus sitting on it.

In 1543, a 70-year-old man died with a “gotcha” smile on his face. He was a poor priest. As was common then much of his income supported a sequestered common-law spouse and children. He was canon of the cathedral at Frauenburg in Polish East Prussia. He studied and practiced both law and medicine, was an international diplomat and wrote excellent essays on finance and economy for King Sigismund I of Poland. He restructured the Prussian economy by reforming its currency and exchange values and averted a national financial disaster. All of this, running a parish, being a doctor and a lawyer and a national economic advisor left him little spare time to squeeze in his dabbling in astronomy.

1800 years before, in 250 B.C., Aristarchus of Samos opined that the earth rotated and revolved around the sun. The sun doesn't rise and set, the horizon does! It sets in the morning and rises at dusk. For those 1800 years the idea of heliocentricity didn't catch on because the math didn't work out with the assumption of perfectly circular orbits of the heavenly bodies. Nicolaus Copernicus worked out the math for elliptical orbits and everything made more sense.

Pope Leo X pretended to be open-minded about it, and asked for a demonstration of the thesis. Unfortunately, at this time, Leonardo Da Vinci would be dying in 4 more years with only blueprints for helicopters, not space shuttles, so our spotlighted friend, N. Copernicus could not literally oblige. Methinks the Pope was being tongue-in-cheek, like the Stanford Physics final exam question which reads: “Describe three ways to destroy the universe and demonstrate two of them.”

Anyway, Martin Luther caught wind of this ridiculous idea in 1530. He called Copernicus an upstart Roman fool who “wishes to reverse the entire scheme of astronomy....sacred scripture tells us that Joshua commanded the sun to stand still, not the earth.” John Calvin once again getting on the band wagon said, “Who will venture to place the authority of Copernicus above that of the Holy Spirit?”

Copernicus said, “Fine, I’m busy.”

But Lutheran mathematician Georg Rheticus would not let it go. He was professor at Wittenberg and before that, precocious Greek student of Philip Melanchthon. Melanchthon heard of Rheticus’ interests. Georg was ordered to cease and desist teaching the Copernican hypothesis at Wittenberg, and Phil called Nick a crazy Prussian astronomer who moves the earth and fixes the sun. “Verily, wise rulers should tame the unrestraint of men’s minds.” As Frank (Zappa, that is) would ask four-and-a-half centuries later, “Who are the brain police?” You never know.

Anyway, Georg talked Nick into publishing and Georg paid for it, and then hightailed it for a teaching post in Leipzig where he could exercise his intellectual freedom. After all, scientific inquiry was not the top issue of the Reformation. Georg left the completion of his task to his friend and Lutheran pastor and reformer, Andreas Osiander, who wrote the preface for Copernicus’s book but wisely didn’t sign it. The book came out in May of 1543. One of the first copies reached Nicolaus Copernicus on his deathbed on May 24. He read the title page, smiled and died. “Gotcha”.

The upshot of all this is that we have sailed a ship past Pluto, outside of our solar system and still haven't reached God yet. God is still squinting and grinning and thinking, "Those upstarts just don't quit, do they?"

As far out as we've gone, we've also explored the inner workings of humanity through the human genome project. Compared to what lies ahead in the near future in microbiology and nanotechnology, cloning is almost a non-issue anymore. After all a clone is simply an identical twin that's a lot younger, and raised in a different environment, which will essentially make him or her a totally different individual. If you put Michael Jordan's clone in a Suzuki music school, he's going to be flying over cello strings instead of basketball hoops.

Then there's the fear of mass cloning armies of Steven Segal organic robo-mercs to fight the battles of the world, and spending all that time in training and money only to have them all wiped out by an adventurous bacteria that specializes in those of identical genome. Oops.

Laws against cloning or any new technological advance aren't going to change the fact that it will happen. That's why God made offshore islands. On the other hand, experimental biotechnology could have some legal oversight, so that contracts and standards could be enforced and inept practitioners could be made liable for malpractice. Then we could listen to Channel 13 on Friday night and hear the hologram of Marvin Zindler crying out, "Let's hear it gang, *Slime in the Electron Microscope*."

Just by observing you can see the score. It's a dog race and the checkered flag is confusion. The scientists are in the lead, the lawyers are moving up fast on the outside, and the ethicists are hanging on like a flea on a bald man's pate in a West Texas windstorm. Meanwhile the Communion of Saints is in the stands yelling, "Come Holy Spirit!!!"

You can say that again, Xerox. Likewise. Copy that. Ditto.

See you in Worship.....Bergy

*“We have grasped the mystery of the atom and
rejected the Sermon on the Mount.
Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants.
We know more about war than we do about peace,
more about killing than we do about living.”*

—General Omar Bradley—



LET'S CELEBRATE

June 1st, marks the 35th Anniversary of Pastor Jim's Ordination. To show our appreciation for his many years of service, most of them in the Houston area, your Holy Cross Council has decided that a pot luck lunch be held on **June 6th**, following the service.

I hope that you will attend and help, show your support for Pastor Jim in this milestone event. At the recent Gulf Coast Synod Assembly he was recognized for these years of service.

CHANGE OF SERVICE TIME?

In response to several inquires your Holy Cross Church Council has been in discussion about changing the Sunday service time. Changing service times is never easy but your council is willing to listen to you each of you and see what the response might be. Your options will be to remain at 9:00 a.m. or move to 9:30 a.m.

With this in mind, for three Sundays in June, 6,13, 20, your bulletin will contain a ballot by which you may express the best service time for you. We ask that you vote only once, that you print your name on the ballot and we must have an overwhelming majority in order to make a change. Any unsigned ballots will be discarded.

Thank you for your response.



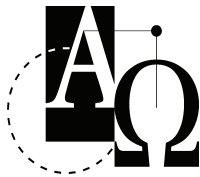
The Holy Cross Church Council took certain actions to improve our stewardship efforts in both volunteer time and congregational money.

- Your financial statements will be mailed only two times a year (following the second and fourth quarter).
- Only a very limited number of members are picking up copies of The Lutheran so the group subscription will be cancelled.
- We will no longer mail the Crossties to each home. Beginning with the **July 2010 Crossties**, you will be asked to access it on the church web site: **www.holycross.us**

It will also be available to be picked up in the Narthex, or mailed for those who sign up because of special circumstances.

WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS

Mark and save Saturday, **June 26**, on your calendar!!
Brown Bag Lunch — drinks provided — speaker



ALPHA & OMEGA Neighborhood Circle will meet on Sunday, **June 13**, at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Alma Laubenberg, 2941 Rosefield, (713) 996-7479.

Lucy Candler

EAST SPRING BRANCH FOOD PANTRY

All of the volunteers at the Food Pantry appreciate your constant support of the people who live in our community by providing them with food. Thank you again for your generous gifts.

Nancy Sartain — Secretary

YOUR COUNCIL

Five of the 7 Council Members, the Treasurer and all 3 of the Pastoral Staff met on Saturday, 08 May for an extended Meeting/Retreat.

President Bettye welcomed new member, Alma Laubenberg.

The Council unanimously approved

- Sharon Wagner as its Secretary – she will record/report future meetings
- Jim Peterson as VP
- Mike Appling to join fellow member Jim Peterson on the Mission Endowment Fund Committee
- Alma Laubenberg as the Council representative on the HCLC Nominating Committee
- James de Leon to fill the Council position vacated by Art Aleman
- In an effort to lower expenses –
 1. Statements of contributions from members to be reduced from quarterly to semi-annually (30 June and 31 December)
 2. **Crossties** to be distributed electronically (web-site and e-mail), pickup in Narthex or by hand/US mail to shut-ins and special situations
 3. HCLC group subscription to **The Lutheran** to be canceled/discontinued
- A request, from Wayne, to transfer \$5,000 (accumulated interest) from the Mission Endowment Fund to our HCLC Spanish-language ministry
- Extend our Call to Pastor Jhon Jairo through 30 September 2010
- A **written** congregational questionnaire – with signatures required – to move the Sunday morning schedule by plus (+) 30 minutes (both 900 AM and 1030 AM services, Sunday School, Adult Forum, etc) – any such change would require a Super-Majority of two-thirds (2/3) and would start 01 September 2010

... /// ...

... ///... **YOUR COUNCIL**

- A request from Pastor Jim for a written Policy Statement giving him, as Senior Pastor, editorial discretion relative to articles/comments submitted for publication in **Crossties**, Sunday News or other HCLC publications including material displayed/left for distribution in the HCLC Narthex, which relate specifically to **political** issues in the **civic** arena.

Other items of interest –

- A Benefit for Ed Cooper planned for 1100 AM to 0300 PM, Saturday 05 June – possibly combined with a SS Bake Sale to support Teacher Anita Cooper
- To recognize the 35th anniversary of Pastor Jim’s ordination, President Bettye is planning a Pot Luck lunch on Sunday, 06 June from about 1115 AM – following the first service. You’ll hear more from her
- A need to “clean-up” our HCLC Roll of Members
- Wayne shared examples of sponsor pew plates which, hopefully, will soon be available
- Julie Kilkenny, Wendy Lambeth – and others – planning/organizing a family (children and adults) VBS tentatively scheduled for 16 June and 14 July – more about this later
- A needed Time/Talent Survey.

The Pastors enthusiastically reported 31 young people scheduled for Confirmation on Reformation Sunday – and even before then, 14 youths should receive First Communion on Memorial Day Sunday!

The three (3) hour meeting ended on a positive note with the Lord’s Prayer.

Scribe Calvin

A NOTE OF

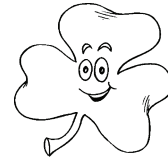


Dear Members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church:

Thank you so much for saving the Campbell's Soup Labels for us. The Campbell's labels are very beneficial to us. They not only provide work for our clients who sort, trim and count them, but with the points accumulated from this project, we are able to provide our clients with educational materials and computer equipment, CDs, DVDs, and equipment used in PE activities and other training settings in our workshop.

With your partnership, Mosaic provides a life of possibilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Your thoughtfulness and continued support of the mission and ministry of Mosaic makes it possible for us to assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in reaching their goals and provide opportunities for them to enjoy a full life.

Sincerely yours,
Connie Hatfield — MOSAIC



News from the

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

School ended May 21. It has been a great year for the school. We have seen a lot of growth in the children spiritually, socially, and academically. We ended our year with a live performance of "3 Little Pigs", a pizza lunch, and a review of our year together in chapel.

After a relaxing summer we will welcome students back to school on September 7, 2010. we have two 3 year old spots available for fall. Have a happy, safe summer!

Marilyn Thigpen

FROM THE PEW:

Have you ever wondered how to safely give to a special cause? We can reach out for World Hunger and the Food Pantry with our offering envelopes. What about helping with the Disaster Fund? HCLC families in need? Bible Camp funds to enable someone to experience this ministry? Krause Home for troubled teens? Santa Cruz? What about a monthly opportunity for a "PRAISE OFFERING"? Make it noisy, joyful and thankful for all that God provides for us and we can share with others. Billy Graham said "God has given us two hands - one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for boarding, we are channels made for sharing."
Nancy Becker



MANY THANKS

Recently in the Lutheran Deaconess Magazine there appeared an article written by our own Nancy Becker concerning the Hispanic ministry here at Holy Cross and in particular the call and installation of Pastor Jhon Arroyave. The article was accompanied by a picture of the Arroyave family taken by our resident photographer, Calvin Remmert. We appreciate the news coverage.



**Do unto others as you
would have them do unto you.**

A fund has been set up for Ed Cooper
to off-set some of his medical expenses.

If you wish to help, please make a check to Holy Cross Lutheran Church
— **Ed Cooper fund**. You will receive credit in your yearly statement.

Wayne F. Schaper — Treasurer

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



THE STEPHEN MINISTRY CONNECTION
CHRIST CARING THROUGH PEOPLE

Stephen Ministry multiply ministry by providing high-quality care to ...

- Those who are lonely or discouraged.
- Those with a chronic illness or disability and members of their families.
- Those who are separated or divorced.
- Countless other situations in which someone is experiencing a crisis or difficult time and could benefit from ongoing, one-to-one Christian care.
- Those facing major life transitions.



Stephen Ministry Intercessory Prayer Requests
(the blue forms) are located in the pew racks.



*Birthdays
of the Month*

June 2010

Happy Birthday!

Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 01 Jo Rita Kaltwasser | 19 Warren Larson |
| 02 Erwin Gross | Kylie Schaper |
| 04 Amparo Pérez | 20 Florentina Araiza |
| 05 Doris Pannell | 21 Pat Curran |
| 06 Norma Berg | 22 Fred Abrego |
| Charles Hess | 24 Juan Samano |
| 08 Rafael Alvarado | Ann Crick |
| 15 Wayne Schaper Jr. | 25 Hugh Keller |
| 16 Betty Larson | 26 Joseph Lambeth |
| Priscilla Anthony | 27 Edith Clarke |
| Flor Toledo | Karen Rose |
| 17 Juan Villegas | Noemy Maldonado |
| 18 Bruce Jaster | 29 Joshua Berggren |
| Daphne Stemple | Xavier Abrego |
| | 30 Jennifer Crick |



If your name is not listed or if this is incorrect information,
please let me know so that the list can be corrected.

Bettye

DID YOU KNOW

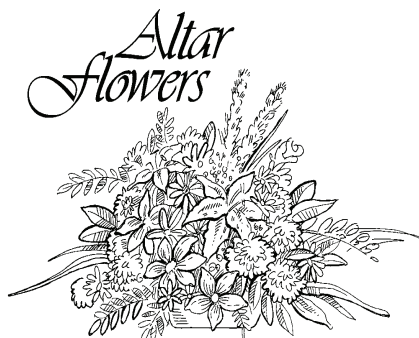
Congratulations to Sam Karns, son of Marcia and Tom Karns, who was named Spring Branch ISD Health Fitness Teacher of the Year. Sam teaches at Westwood Elementary School. He loves his job and feels that he has found a profession where he can make a difference in children's lives.

The morning of April 11th, 2010, Alma Laubenberg, Madelyn Price, Sheldon Urwitz & Betty Mooney left on a tour of Arkansas & Missouri. In Branson we enjoyed three great shows. We had wonderful weather and delicious food. We visited two beautiful gardens and two magnificent chapels built by the design firm founded by Frank Lloyd Wright.

On May 5th, 2010, Nature Cruise on the Neches River enjoyed by Bettie Baring, Alma Laubenberg, Betty Morris, Al & LaVerne Pivonka, Madelyn Price and Betty Mooney. Let us hear about your trips or any special events.



Betty Mooney
shelbet@houston.net
(713) 465-3235

Madelyn Price
(713) 462-3682



May Altar Flowers

- 02 The Lambeth family
- 09
- 16 Sharon Wagner
- 23 Alma Laubenberg
Verlene Furley
- 30 Loy Dell & Jo Rita Kaltwasser

SUNSHINE SAINTS		REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS															
Remember in prayer the homebound, disabled, long-term ill, and prolonged recovering.		Men and women who serve our country in the military and law enforcement.															
Ella Brezina Edith Clarke Ora Dell Dittmar Betty Dodson Doris Anne Drosche Sig Ellerman Harold Finstad	Nancy Mendel Doris Pannell Doris Polker Dorothy Storenski Sue Vogt Roselain Larson	Marty Houg Ed Cooper Carol Kirsch María Samano Karl Giesecke Patricia Basurto Elsie Schulze	Clarice Gross Betty Firth Eleanor Reinhart Dottie Taylor Harold Finstad 														
<p align="center">Prayer Chain Telephone and E-mail</p> <p>Prayer chain requests and anyone who would like to be added to the telephone or e-mail Prayer Chain can notify: Alma Laubenberg 713-996-7479 or <i>email</i>:</p> <p>albob1948@yahoo.com </p>		<p align="center"><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <p>If you have any questions call Wayne Schaper, Sr. at (713) 465-5206.</p> <p align="center"><u>APRIL</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>Receipts</td> <td>\$ 36,294.³⁸</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenses</td> <td><u>34,935.⁴⁸</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance</td> <td><u>\$ 1,358.⁹⁰</u></td> </tr> </table> <table> <tr> <td>Operational receipts</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>year to date received</td> <td>\$ 131,706.¹⁴</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditures year to date</td> <td><u>142,962.⁰⁸</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance</td> <td>< <u>\$ 11,255.⁹⁴</u> ></td> </tr> </table>		Receipts	\$ 36,294. ³⁸	Expenses	<u>34,935.⁴⁸</u>	Balance	<u>\$ 1,358.⁹⁰</u>	Operational receipts		year to date received	\$ 131,706. ¹⁴	Expenditures year to date	<u>142,962.⁰⁸</u>	Balance	< <u>\$ 11,255.⁹⁴</u> >
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<p align="center">CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</p> <p><u>Monday - Thursday</u> 8:30 am - 4:30 pm <u>Friday</u> 8:30 am - 2:30 pm</p>	<p align="center">Holy Cross Lutheran Church's E-MAIL address is: <u>hclc@holycross.us</u></p>	<p align="center">AVERAGE ATTENDANCE</p> <p align="center">SERVICES - APRIL 2010</p> <p align="center">English: 171 — Spanish: 185</p> <p>Maundy Service: English: 71</p> <p>Good Friday: English : 80 Spanish : 36</p>															
You may sign up for Altar Flowers in the Narthex. Suggested donation is \$40.00 and \$12.00 for a rose.																	

Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Spring Branch
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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“Holy Cross Lutheran Church is a community of Christians gathered by God’s grace and reaching out through God’s love.”

TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS		<u>YOUR CHURCH STAFF</u>	
100	Church Office	†	Rev. Jim Berggren — Senior Pastor email : jberggren@holycross.us
101	Sussy Basurto Office Manager & Events Coordinator	†	Jhon Jairo Arroyave — Hispanic Pastor email : jojave38@hotmail.com
103	Rev. Jim Berggren	Senior Pastor	† Karen Davidson — Associate In Ministry email : aimkd@sbcglobal.net
104	Rev. Jhon J. Arroyave	Hispanic Pastor	† Sussy Basurto — Office Manager email : hclc@holycross.us
105	Karen Davidson, AIM	Visitation Minister	† Christian Clark — Choir Director email : cctenor@pdq.net
107	Financial Office		
108	Stephen Ministry Office		
109	Family Life Center		
110	Nursery		
111	Volunteer Office		
<p>SATURDAY INFORMAL SERVICE 6:00 p.m. — Narthex</p> <p>SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES English Service : 9:00 a.m. Sunday School : 10:30—11:15 a.m. Spanish Service: 10:30 a.m. Estudio Bíblico y Escuela Dominical 11:30 a.m.—12:15 p.m.</p>		<p><u>WORSHIP MUSICIANS</u></p> <p>Jana Hodgson Organist Jo Ann Meeker Pianist Ann Crick Pianist</p> <p><u>EARLY LEARNING CENTER</u> (713) 461-5535</p> <p><u>OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION</u></p> <p>Bettye Raschke President Jim Peterson Vice President Sharon Wagner Secretary Wayne Schaper, Sr. Treasurer</p>	