

*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*

January
2011

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Vol. 17 No. 01



BERGY'S BABBLE: WORDS AND WORD

Yay!! Whoopee!! Let the celebrations begin!! We repeat and relive the words of the Mass of Christ, the Word. You gotta admit, humans are indeed the strangest and most wonderful of creatures; the privileged and grace-filled portions of the universe that are self-reflective. We are the only part of all of God's Creation that can look at itself; that can hypothetically stand outside of creation and inspect it. That's kind of a godlike presumption now isn't it? The miracle of our communication by words and our ability to abstract is both a blessing and a curse. Words create and confuse. Words can be subjectively self-deceiving, and then can be objectively self-revealing.

I was watching the cat stalk 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 and the mockingbird got away.

What happened next was instructive. She paced around in a very agitated state, her whole body radiating frustration, tail twitching, whipping and lashing the air. After less than a minute, she calmed down, gave herself a thorough bath with 10 minutes of raspy-tongued licking, and then contentedly curled up and fell asleep.

I've watched that happen before and I realized that it is her ritual to reboot herself for the next encounter with the world. It was like her nervous system was now clear, and 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 isometric exercise, cleansing, and rest.

Now if that had been one of us without an instinctual, reflex liturgy of healing and re-engagement with the world, we would have probably used some words and the results would have no doubt looked quite different: Denial----“I was just practicing and not really hungry so it didn’t matter.” Blame----“Someone’s been scaring the food around here!” Self-recrimination----“I knew I should have sharpened my claws this morning, and warmed up and stretched out before I tried that, besides which I am too fat, old, and ugly!” Or guilt----“I’ve tried and tried and I don’t understand why I can’t stay away from those mockingbirds!”

Sometimes the words of life interfere with the Word of Life.

This word stuff is really fun to think about. Normally, I believe that we think of words as stable structures of language with universally-agreed-upon meanings that accurately describe real reality for everyone. Hah! Every word has a different meaning for everyone that uses it.

Take “rock” for instance. I know it’s not gneiss, but you can’t take the word “rock” for granite. Everyone has different pictures in their head that flash by when the word “rock” is used. Biblically, it could mean pillar, foundation of the Church, cornerstone, stumbling block, weapon for use in capital punishment, or hard thing in your field that broke your plow and is heavy to lift. But it could also mean back and forth motion, love and reassurance from a parent, the thing that fell off a cliff and mashed part of your car, or all the feelings and emotions of every high-spirited and rebellious musical combo since Bill Halley and the Comets. How, when, and where you learned the word makes all the difference in the world you perceive.

Once I figured that out I thought, “Now I am really aware and I can understand the world as it really is.” Hah! Again! The deepest single reality is that God’s Word creates all reality, and that is unfathomable and inexpressible; like the 3 umpires relaxing and comparing notes. One umpire says, “I calls’em as I sees’em.” The next one says, “I calls’em as they really are.” The third umpire says, “They ain’t nothin’ until I calls’em!” The Word creates the world. We are called to be followers of the Word made flesh, the Christchild. Maybe we ain’t nothin’ until we are called that way.

When God entered into the world and history through Jesus Christ, the Word, that event changed the universe for all time. This season when we celebrate the Mass of Christ is a holy and sacred time. The spell of time is broken as God announces and inaugurates a new time.

The secular time of the world is *kronos*. It is wristwatch, chronometer, digital, uniform-discrete-segments of dispassionate movement on a line from the past to the future, ticking away without a care until you die. Sacred time is *kairos*. It is the time of the Lord when every moment is a timeless, eternal event in which we experience love, passionate living, and reunion with God, creation, neighbor and self.

Ultimately, *kronos*, is waiting-to-die time. *Kairos* is eternal-now time, alarm clock time, the present moment filled with holiness and freighted with destiny.

There was a coal mine disaster in Germany in which a small group of miners were trapped and they realized that they only had a limited number of hours before all their oxygen was gone. One of the group had a watch so he was appointed timekeeper, while they anxiously awaited rescue. To keep everyone's hope up, he called out one hour every time that two hours passed. They were rescued in six days and all were alive with the exception of the man who had the watch. He could fool the others into breaking their agreement about what constituted real time, but tragically he could not fool himself.

Thank God for these holydays and sacred time. Christmass is the moment that God has chosen to fool us all into eternal life. The sacraments of Christianity, baptism and communion are our supreme expression of belief in incarnation. God, the Word, became flesh. God penetrated and infiltrated the 'material' universe. Through the Christ, the Word of God, the world is created, redeemed and sanctified, even now, and not yet.

See you in worship!

Rev. Jim Berggren





Congregational Meeting

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 5, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Bettye Raschke. Pastor Jim opened with prayer. Wayne Schaper announced that a quorum was present.

The Minutes of the previous Congregational Meeting of March 7, 2010 were approved.

Treasurer Wayne Schaper presented the proposed Budget for 2011 and made the motion to accept the Budget. The Budget was accepted by a show of hands.

Calvin Remmert presented proposed changes to the Constitution relating to the position of Secretary of the Council and the wording of “majority” to “simple majority.” He made a motion that we accept these proposed changes. After a short discussion, the motion passed with a show of hands. These proposals will now be addressed and voted on at the next Congregational Meeting.

Sharon Wagner,
Secretary



Church Council



**FURTHER to the
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — DECEMBER 2010**

The following should correct my verbal responses/statements during our HCLC Congregational Meeting on 05 December 2010.

Relative to the proposed Amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws –

- There would be only **one** Secretary of the Congregation – just as we have **one** Treasurer of HCLC.
- The **one** Secretary of the Congregation would be named as a candidate by the Nominating Committee – just as the Treasurer.
- Neither Treasurer or Secretary are/would be Voting Members of the Council – **unless** they are **also** nominated and elected as Members of the Council.

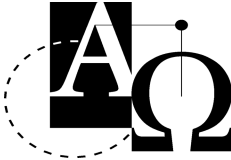
Hopefully, this will clarify the intent of the proposed Amendments.

Please note that, subsequent to a majority by “show of hands”, the final vote re the preceding must be a written ballot at the next (March 2011) Congregational Meeting for which a two-thirds majority will be required.

Please forgive the confusion.

Calvin R. Remmert

January 2011



Alpha & Omega Circle will meet Sunday, **January 9**, 2011 at the home of Bettie Baring, 2914 Gessner Drive (713) 895-9961. Alma Laubenberg will co-host (713) 996-7479.

REMINDER!

Food and drink are **not** to be taken into the Sanctuary. The clean-up crew has found crumbs, snack wrappers, and new stains on the pew cushions.

Please remember that this is the house of the Lord and it should be treated with respect.

Thank you, the Church Council



BRUNCH BUNCH

Please mark these dates and places:

- * January 16 - Piattos on Westheimer, a few blocks west of Cantina Laredo
- * February 20 - Brennans...a belated valentine's gift to us!

IF YOU DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW

That person whom you often hear but seldom see is **Jana Hodgson**, our HCLC organist for the past 7 years. She has played for both traditional and contemporary services for Church of the Brethren, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian congregations. She has also played for organ dedications at Canyon Lake Presbyterian and Texas Lutheran University. Jana was baptized and confirmed at Emmanuel Lutheran in Inez TX where her Mom was the Organist/Choir Director for over 20 years. Jana has a Master's Degree in Music Composition from Texas State University in San Marcos.

When **Betty Nichols** was a youngster, her mother played the piano and Betty wanted to do so too. After beginning lessons at age 9, her first "gigs" were playing hymns for Sunday School. Years and many lessons later, she began playing the organ. She loved the role of accompanist – particularly after meeting John Nichols who needed one for his Bellaire Choral Club. Their partnership led to marriage, two children and a musical team at Holy Cross – John as Choir Director and Betty as Accompanist. Betty has stated "Playing for John was the greatest joy of my musical life". She has continued to play the organ at Holy Cross as "back-up".

Rose Marie Stork began her career as an organist with lessons at age 11. By age 13, she was the organist at her Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church. Encouraged by her pastor, she majored in Pipe Organ in college, earning a BFA in Pipe Organ/Sacred Music. She then served as Organist and Choir Director at Park Place Lutheran for 11 years before beginning a 32 year career in the Music Department of HISD.

We hope to share bits about other musicians, many nurses – and an actress – in **Crossties** in the coming months.

Calvin

THE STEPHEN MINISTRY CONNECTION

CHRIST CARING THROUGH PEOPLE



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Let's look at the phenomenon of the "New Year."

January 1 is just another day—not unlike the day before it, except that this day is in a new year. And somehow we want to invest this new day, this new year, with some kind of special properties—a chance to reexamine our lives and resolve to do better than we have in the previous 365 days. But wait just a minute. Isn't every day a "new" day? Scripture tells us in Psalm 118, "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!" Not "This is the new year that the Lord has made . . ." Why do we practice this self-improvement on only this one particular "new" day?

This is, of course, an exaggeration to make a point. The New Year is one of many special times on our calendars. On this New Year, let us resolve to be more aware of our neighbors and their needs, our families and their needs, and yes, ourselves and our needs. Are we, indeed, the neighbor who needs loving care and understanding?

Please make that resolution, too, to be open to receiving the support and compassionate care that's available through your Stephen Ministers. Feel free to contact Pastor Jim, AIM Karen, or myself. We're here for you.

God's blessing,

Marge Carroll
Stephen Ministry Coordinator



January 2011



Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 05 Elsie Schulze | 19 Melvin Morales |
| 06 Emma Keller | 20 Julia Linn |
| 07 Helen Jacob | 23 Jean Baxter |
| Debra Moore | Kris Drosche |
| 08 Maureen Fredrickson | William Allcorn |
| Chris Abrego | 24 Charles Pustejovsky, Sr. |
| 09 Hiroko Lamont | Clarice Gross |
| Francisco Araiza | Megan Schomburg |
| 13 Brenda Duarte | 26 Ernesto Moreno, Jr. |
| 14 Jan Walker | 27 Betty Nichols |
| Jerry O'Neill | Blanca Duarte |
| 16 Brent Baumann | 28 Dorothy Byerly |
| 17 Kelley Keller | 29 Jadher Abad |
| Hartman Caicedo | 30 Wayne Schaper, Sr. |
| 18 Frankie Bentancur | Juan Araiza |

Please make the following corrections in your church directory:

BERGGREN, Jim
735 International # 87
Houston, Texas 77024

BUAAS, Leonard
2266 Triway
Houston, Texas 77043

COOK, Suzan
11111 Pleasant Colony Dr. # 408
Houston, Texas 77065
(281)701-8681

FREDERICKSON, Charles & Maureen
735 Dulles Ave. # 307
Stafford, Texas 77477

GIESECKE, Michael
14906 Woodthorpe
Houston, Texas 77079

Before : **WEIR, Kathleen**
Now: **BURGESS, Kathleen**
304 West 31st St.
Houston, Texas 77018

SHICK, Warren & Penny
Correct spelling:
SCHICK, Warren & Penny

MCDONNOLD, Louise
Correct email address:
lsm1107@sbcglobal.net



CALENDAR REQUEST FORMS

May I kindly remind you to fill out Calendar Request Forms for all church activities, circle meetings, etc., for the entire year in order to be scheduled **on time**.

We want to please everyone. Help us to avoid conflicts in our church calendar by making sure to fill out all the information requested in the form such as: event date & time, reason, location, etc.

If you need to add additional information, i.e., tables & chairs set-up, talk to Pastor Jhon Jairo and make a copy of your Calendar Request Form for his records.

You can find the forms (pink) on the table in the Atrium and return them to me or leave them on the office door.

Thanks!! Sussy — Church Office



December

Altar Flowers

- 05 Sandra Williams
- 12 Bill & Bernice Rogge

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
Ora Dell Dittmar
Betty Dodson
Doris Anne Drosche
Sig Ellerman
Harold Finstad

Nancy Mendel
Doris Pannell
Doris Polker
Dorothy Storenski
Sue Vogt
Roselain Larson

Ed Cooper	Laura Ruthstrom
Carol Kirsch	Warren Larson
María Samano	Betty Herzog
Harold Finstad	Kathy Johnson
Roberta Hall	Melissa Storenski
Emilie Oevermann	Barbara Jenkins
Russell Schulze	Susa Neitzel
Lucy Candler	Helen Beamesderfer
Jim Peterson	

Prayer Chain
Telephone and E-mail

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 *email*:
albob1948@yahoo.com

In Our Thoughts & Prayers  

Treasurer's Report



If you have any questions call Wayne Schaper, Sr. at (713) 465-5206.

NOVEMBER 2010

Receipts	\$ 44,120. ³⁹
Expenses	<u>44,766.¹³</u>
Balance	< \$ 645. ⁷⁴ >

Operational receipts	
year to date received \$ 391,890. ⁴¹
Expenditures year to date <u>394,279.⁵²</u>
Balance < \$ 2,389. ¹¹ >

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Friday
8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Holy Cross
Lutheran Church's
E-MAIL address is:
[**hclc@holycross.us**](mailto:hclc@holycross.us)

You may sign up for Altar Flowers in the Narthex. Suggested donation is \$40.⁰⁰ and \$8.⁰⁰ for a rose.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

HCLC SERVICES - NOVEMBER 2010

English: 135 — Spanish: 139

English Thanksgiving Service : 26

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 Fax (713) 686-9095

E-mail : hclc@holycross.us

Web Site: www.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 Basurto Office Manager & Events Coordinator	
103	Rev. Jim Berggren	Senior Pastor
104	Rev. Jhon J. Arroyave	Hispanic Pastor
105	Karen Davidson	Associate In Ministry
107	Financial Office	
108	Stephen Ministry Office	
109	Family Life Center	
110	Nursery	
111	Volunteer Office	

SATURDAY INFORMAL SERVICE

6:00 p.m. — Narthex

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.

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

- † Rev. Jim Berggren — Senior Pastor
email : jberggren@holycross.us
- † Jhon Jairo Arroyave — Hispanic Pastor
email : jojave38@hotmail.com
- † Karen Davidson — Associate In Ministry
email : kdavidson@holycross.us
- † Sussy Basurto — Office Manager
email : hclc@holycross.us
- † Christian Clark — Choir Director
email : cctenor@pdq.net

WORSHIP MUSICIANS

Jana Hodgson	Organist
Jo Ann Meeker	Pianist
Ann Crick	Pianist

EARLY LEARNING CENTER (713) 461-5535

OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Bettye Raschke	President
Jim Peterson	Vice President
Sharon Wagner	Secretary
Wayne Schaper, Sr.	Treasurer