

*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 2011

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Vol. 17 No. 06



BERGY'S BABBLE: ODDS AND ENDS

We must learn to realize that the love of God seeks us in every situation, and seeks our good. His inscrutable love seeks our awakening. Since this awakening implies a kind of death to our exterior self, we will dread His coming in proportion as we are identified with this exterior self and attached to it.

Don't place all your hopes and religious energies in just the feelings of assurance or spiritual comfort. Some days we may well have to get along without these things. Place no hope in the inspirational preachers of Christian sunshine, who are able to pick you up for a little while until the shadows begin to creep in again under the door. Self-confidence is a precious gift and a sign of health. But it is not the same thing as faith. Faith is deeper...deep enough to subsist when we are weak and sick and when our self-confidence is gone. It is not that faith only functions when we are in a state of collapse, but instead that true faith goes on when everything else is taken away.

Famous science fiction writer, Robert Heinlein in his book, *Time Enough For Love*, avers that ideally, "A human being should be able to change a diaper, plan an invasion, butcher a hog, design a building, conn a ship, write a sonnet, balance accounts, build a wall, set a bone, comfort the dying, take orders, give orders, cooperate, act alone, solve equations, analyze a new problem, pitch manure, program a computer, cook a tasty meal, fight efficiently and die gallantly.

Czechoslovakia's Vaclav Havel and his government ministers were political prisoners of the Communists before coming into their own power. Seeing how serious that the Communists were in their approach to government and rule over people, they determined to adopt the practice of taking a "laugh break" at work every day.

...///...

...///... **BERGY'S BABBLE: ODDS AND ENDS**

During laugh break time, they'd gather around the water cooler in the hallway and tell a few jokes and then say to each other in a liturgical fashion, "Hey, we're the government!", and then laugh hysterically before going back to their offices.

From the Obscure English Grammatical Department: What is a pangram? Following is an example of one: "This pangram tallies five a's, one b, two d's, twenty-eight e's, eight f's, six g's, eight h's, thirteen i's, one j, one k, three l's, two m's, eighteen n's, fifteen o's, two p's, one q, seven r's, twenty-five s's, twenty-two t's, four u's, four v's, nine w's, two x's, four y's, and one z."

One of our great follies is to think that this God-given moment can be other than what it is. Another great folly is to blame oneself for the moment being what it is, or take credit for it. Of course an even greater folly is to find someone else to blame for the moment being as it is. Actually these follies are just strange twists of language function, based on comparing what we can think about with what we actually encounter and endure.

We have now moved through the Lenten season and entered the season of Easter. The hard realities of the pain and sacrifice of the Cross bow down to the joys of the Resurrection. I am reminded of the movie *Lawrence of Arabia*. Peter O'Toole, playing Lawrence, lights a match before his military friends, and slowly moves his thumb and finger up the stick to the burning end, putting it out. Then his tough sergeant attempts to repeat the 'trick,' and screams in pain when the flame touches his skin. "OWWW, that hurts!!! What's the trick?" Lawrence says, "The trick is not minding that it hurts."

Mender of toys, Leader of boys, Changer of fuses, Kisser of bruises, Bless him, O Lord.

Wiper of noses, Pruner of roses, Singer of songs, Righter of wrongs, Guide him, O Lord.

...///...

...///... **BERGY'S BABBLE: ODDS AND ENDS**

Mover of couches, Soother of ouches, Pounder of nails, Teller of tales, Reward him, O Lord.

Hanger of screens, Counselor of teens, Fixer of bikes, Chastiser of tykes, Help him, O Lord.

Raker of leaves, Cleaner of eaves, Dryer of dishes, Fulfiller of wishes, Guard him, O Lord.

Changer of tires, Builder of fires, Buyer of cones, Reluctant user of phones, Bless him, O Lord.

Happy Father's Day, and see you in worship.....

Rev. Jim Berggren
Senior Pastor



CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY AT HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

The weather will be in the 90s, the humidity will be in the high 70s, gas will be approaching \$5, and the mosquitoes will be in full force! So, come to the cool and comfortable, bug free FLC on Saturday, **July 2**, from 4 to 8:30 pm for a celebration and parade! Games and crafts for children, games and fellowship for adults, a hot dog dinner, children's parade (and any brave adults!), a home-made ice cream contest (if enough enter) and patriotic sing along! It will be fun! Invite your neighbors and family and come join the celebration!! In the June church programs there will be sign up cards to let us know how much food to prepare and how many ice cream competitors - please sign up. Also, please thank the Friendship Club for helping to organize this!

HCLC Outreach

Happy Father's Day!

*A father is someone that holds your hand at the fair
makes sure you do what your mother says
holds back your hair when you are sick
brushes that hair when it is tangled because mother is too busy
lets you eat ice cream for breakfast
but only when mother is away
he walks you down the aisle
and tells you everything is gonna be ok
~unknown*

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE EVENTS AT HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

More information to follow on each as the dates near!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

1. **MOTHER'S DAY** : celebrated last Sunday, May 8, 2011
2. **NEW MEMBERS' DEDICATION** : June 4 and 5, 2011
3. **FATHER'S DAY** : June 19, 2011
4. **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** : in June, 2011
5. **4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL & PARADE**: Sat. July 2, 2011 *NEW DATE
6. **BELIEFS OF LUTHERANS**: October 16, 2011
7. **THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE WORLD**: October 23, 2011
8. **REFORMATION SUNDAY WITH ORIGINAL DRAMA** followed by
FORUM ON HCLC IN OUR COMMUNITY,
and a **POT-LUCK LUNCH**: October 30, 2011
9. **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE FOR ALL SAINTS**: November 6, 2011
10. **BELL TOWER CARILLON CONCERT, THEN FOLLOW SANTA TO
HCLC FOR CAROLS AND REFRESHMENTS**: December 18, 2011

Thank You

A special thank you for all the ongoing work done by our volunteer landscape artists: Dorsey Mae Alexander, Norma Berg, Clara Estes, Dolores Fojt, Ann Larson and Tillie Remmert!

These are the ladies who make the flowers bloom,
the shrubs grow and the plants live!

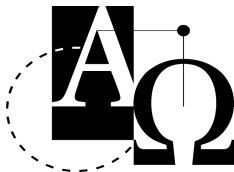
Thank you so much!

Holy Cross Council



ATTENTION USHERS

Effective **June 01**, 2011, some of the team numbers have been renumbered. Please check your Sunday News and the June Crossties Calendar and/or check with Gloria McGarvey (713)686-5232.



ALPHA & OMEGA

The Alpha & Omega Neighborhood Circle will meet at Don José Mexican Restaurant on **June 5**, 2011, 5305 Antoine at 4:30 p.m.

For information call Lucy Candler (713) 460-2023.

NEIGHBORHOOD CIRCLE #4

The Neighborhood Circle # 4 plans to meet on Sunday, **June 12**, at the home of Wendy & Alan Lambeth, 6317 Buffalo Speedway or call Stan Crick (713) 213-5582 for more information.

Stan Crick



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 1, 2011

Those present were; President Calvin Remmert, Treasurer Wayne Schaper, Pastor Jim Berggren, Pastor Jhon Arroyave, John Stokes, Sharon Wagner, Sandra Williams and observer James de Leon.

Pastor Jim reported that his Wednesday Bible Study Class has completed the Old Testament and will begin a study of the New Testament.

Pastor Jhon reported that 10 children will receive first Communion on May 29. The Confirmation Students will have a summer service project and another car wash will be held soon

Calvin Remmert is meeting with Eric Behmer from Olen Mills for a new pictorial directory.

Mike Appling and Raymond Aronoff will serve on the Financial Review Committee.

Council acknowledged and thanked the volunteers that faithfully tend to the plants on our campus.

Two large pine trees were removed from the park and repair work has been done on the women's restroom in the office wing and in the sacristy.

School of the Woods and Memorial Hall High School will hold Graduation Ceremonies at HCLC.

Sharon Wagner
Secretary





Our purpose is to get to know one another better through fellowship, and to bond as the senior group that we are. This group was organized in the mid-to-late 50's as the "Couple's Club," soon after the organization of HCLC ... Has continued through the years with a few changes, one being the changing of the name to the "Friendship Club" so that single seniors would feel welcome as well as more comfortable.

We meet in our Family Life Center (Gym) the third Saturday of each month at 4:00 p.m. for games, with a Pot Luck meal being served at 6:30, exception being December, when we meet at 5:00 p.m. for our Festive Christmas Gathering.

We play table games (generally dominoes or cards), fix and eat good foods, take occasional trips (have to be 50+ to ride the county bus), eat out occasionally, and at times have special entertainment. We welcome new members at any time! For more information, you are invited to call, or feel free to speak with anyone in our group. Would be great to see some new faces among us —so give it some thought.

Hosts for **June 18, 2011**

La Verna & John Wegner 713-681-4139

Carol & Vernon Thielemann 713-781-4069

Carolyn Rothschild 713-776-3221

Steven Anderson

Betty Mooney & Sheldon Urwitz 713-456-3235

HOLY CROSS — TODAY AND TOMORROW

Holy Cross is more than our facilities at 7901 Westview. It is more than Pastors Jim and Jhon Jairo and AIM Karen. It is more than your elected Lay-Leaders and the Ministry Teams. Holy Cross is **all** of us, united as **one** to worship our Lord - and to share the Good News of His forgiveness and salvation with our families and friends, our neighbors, our Spring Branch Community and beyond.

Holy Cross has been – and **is** - a caring and sharing Congregation. You have demonstrated those qualities in many ways over the years. Just a small sampling of your support and participation includes the following –

- Financially, Holy Cross has “its head above water” – not true for many other Christian Congregations in 2011
- Our Early Learning Center which, for four decades, has proven so successful that some parents line up for many hours to enroll their children
- The Food Pantry, rooted in Holy Cross, but today a more ecumenical and community effort.
- The very successful, annual WELCA Rummage Sale which requires many hours of organization – and lots of hard work
- An efficient and effective Prayer Chain
- Nursing Home and Home Bound Ministries
- Our Spanish-language Ministry, possibly the largest in our Gulf Coast Synod
- A growing awareness of visitors and with a warm, friendly welcome.

But – on to a challenge. We recognize the feelings of many long-serving members who may think “I’ve done all that before!” However, let’s also be realistic. Within a few years, some Holy Crossers will have passed away. Others may no longer be physically able to volunteer for “active duty”.

For Holy Cross to survive, we must populate our pews with new and younger families. We will need to increase and nurture our Spanish-language membership – and their transition to our Lutheran traditions. All of this will require extra, pro-active effort. Not doing so, not accepting the need for additional volunteer assignments today – will surely lessen our ability to attract and keep prospects seeking a Church Home in our area.

...///...

... /// ... **HOLY CROSS — TODAY AND TOMORROW**

Personally energized by the enthusiasm of your current Council and working hand-in-hand with your Pastoral Staff, I am honored to serve with them. I ask that you respond to their dedication and join them in pledging “Yes, I can – and I will use more of my time and God-given abilities to better serve Holy Cross – and my Lord and Savior!” We will need the participation of each of you.

May God continue to bless you and Holy Cross!

Calvin



VIA DE CRISTO WEEKEND
JULY 2011



Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo will hold a coed weekend **July 21 to July 24**, 2011, at a camp retreat center (Cathedral Oaks) near Weimar, about 90 miles west on I-10. It will be for both men and women – individuals as well as couples. **YOU** are invited to attend!

The Via de Cristo weekend is a spiritual enrichment experience that has been extremely valuable and beneficial to many of us who have attended. The weekend focuses on Grace in our lives and our personal relationship to God. It is a very Lutheran experience. This is done by daily worship services, daily talks by lay and clergy and small group discussions. And, in between, a lot of fun is had.

The small group discussions are segregated into men's and women's groups (as well as the sleeping quarters). It begins on Thursday evening at 7:00 pm and goes through Sunday afternoon at 4:00 pm. All meals and sleeping facilities are provided.

YOU are invited to attend. Will you attend? See John Stokes (713-667-6287) for any questions and for names of others who have attended such a weekend. It is a truly enjoyable, joyful experience.

John Stokes

THE STEPHEN MINISTRY CONNECTION

CHRIST CARING THROUGH PEOPLE



In most parts of the country, the month of June represents the beginning of summer, which winds down at the end of August. Three months! Can you imagine!!? Here on the beautiful Gulf Coast we're already experiencing the warmth (spell that **H-E-A-T**) of summer, and don't expect that to abate until October—or later. Aren't we lucky!

We are lucky. No, change that word to blessed. We are blessed to be in the care of our loving Lord. Whether the weather's hot or cold, rainy or dry, windy or still, God's love is constant. We experience that love through one another. And as we realize our blessings, we are bound to pass them along.

Stephen Ministry is one of the ways we have to pass on God's compassionate love. Stephen Ministry is the means for those in any manner of need to receive God's compassionate love and consolation. Let's work together to complete the cycle of care. Call us – either the Pastor, AIM Karen, or myself. We're here for you.

Marge Carroll

Stephen Ministry Coordinator
713-467-4757



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



Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01 Jo Rita Kaltwasser | 20 Florentina Araiza |
| 02 Erwin Gross | 21 Pat Curran |
| 04 Amparo Pérez | 22 Fred Abrego |
| 05 Doris Pannell | 24 Juan Samano |
| 06 Norma Berg | Ann Crick |
| Charles Hess | 25 Hugh Keller |
| 08 Rafael Alvarado | 26 Joseph Lambeth |
| 15 Wayne Schaper Jr. | 27 Karen Rose |
| 16 Betty Larson | Noemí Maldonado |
| Priscilla Anthony | 28 Christopher Fisher |
| Flor Toledo | 29 Joshua Berggren |
| 17 Juan Villegas | Xavier Abrego |
| 18 Bruce Jaster | 30 Jennifer Crick |
| Daphne Stemple | |
| 19 Warren Larson | |
| Kylie Schaper | |

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RECORDS:

Sue Vogt (281)826-6616

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

Bettye Raschke

News from
EARLY LEARNING CENTER

School ended this year on May 20. It has been a great year of growth and fun for the children and staff. All the staff will be returning next year, with the exception of Mrs. Marilyn Thigpen, who is retiring. We are excited to welcome Mrs. Lindsay Ellis as the new Director.

We have two openings in the toddler class (16-23 mo.) for the 2011-2012 school year.

Thank you for your support of the school for another great year. Have a happy, safe summer.



RECEPTION AFTER WORSHIP



Please come for a **RETIREMENT CELEBRATION AND RECEPTION** for Marilyn and Arnold Thigpen on **June 5** in the Family Life Center following the 9:00 a.m. service! The reception honors Marilyn and Arnold for the over 38 years of service they have so faithfully given to the Early Learning Center!

Sandra Williams



May Altar Flowers

- 01 Lambeth Family
- 08 Sandra Williams
- 15 Sharon Wagner
- 22 Alma Laubenberg
Al & Bettye Raschke
- 29 Verlene Furley
Loy Dell & 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 Ora Dell Dittmar Betty Dodson Doris Anne Drosche Sig Ellerman Nancy Mendel	Doris Pannell Doris Polker Dorothy Storenski Sue Vogt Roselain Larson	 Ed Cooper Carol Kirsch Emilie Oevermann Laura Ruthstrom Guadalupe Villarreal Kirk Estes	 Glenn Schwartz Deborah Jo Majzoub Darcey Alexander Eleanor Reinhardt Richard Collins Lisa Bosse Doris Pharries Fred Gardner Ryan Boyd														
<p align="center">Prayer Chain <u>Telephone and E-mail</u></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>: albob1948@yahoo.com</p> <p align="center"><i>In Our Thoughts & Prayers</i> </p>		<p align="center">TREASURER'S REPORT</p> <p align="center">If you have any questions call Wayne Schaper, Sr. at (713) 465-5206.</p> <p align="center"><u>APRIL 2011</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>Receipts</td> <td>\$ 34,692.⁹⁹</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenses</td> <td><u>34,860.²²</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance</td> <td>< \$ <u>167.²³</u> ></td> </tr> </table> <table> <tr> <td>Operational receipts</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>year to date received</td> <td>..... \$ 147,860.³⁸</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditures year to date</td> <td>..... <u>147,871.¹⁵</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance</td> <td>..... < \$ <u>10.⁷⁷</u> ></td> </tr> </table>		Receipts	\$ 34,692. ⁹⁹	Expenses	<u>34,860.²²</u>	Balance	< \$ <u>167.²³</u> >	Operational receipts		year to date received \$ 147,860. ³⁸	Expenditures year to date <u>147,871.¹⁵</u>	Balance < \$ <u>10.⁷⁷</u> >
Receipts	\$ 34,692. ⁹⁹																
Expenses	<u>34,860.²²</u>																
Balance	< \$ <u>167.²³</u> >																
Operational receipts																	
year to date received \$ 147,860. ³⁸																
Expenditures year to date <u>147,871.¹⁵</u>																
Balance < \$ <u>10.⁷⁷</u> >																
<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: hclc@holycross.us</p>	<p align="center">AVERAGE ATTENDANCE</p> <p>English Service in April : 160 Maundy Thursday : 58 Good Friday : 73 Easter 7:00am: 39 — 9:00am: 181</p> <p>Spanish Service in April: 148 Good Friday: 55</p>															
You may sign up for Altar Flowers in the Narthex. Suggested donation is \$40. ⁰⁰ and \$9. ⁰⁰ for a rose.																	

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
<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.</p> <p>Spanish Service: 10:30 a.m. Estudio Bíblico y Escuela Dominical 11:30 a.m.—12:15 p.m.</p>	

<u>YOUR CHURCH STAFF</u>	
†	Rev. Jim Berggren — Senior Pastor email : jberggren@holycross.us
†	Jhon Jairo Arroyave — Hispanic Pastor email : jjave38@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
<u>WORSHIP MUSICIANS</u>	
Jana Hodgson	Organist
Jo Ann Meeker	Pianist
Ann Crick	Pianist
<u>EARLY LEARNING CENTER</u> (713) 461-5535	
<u>OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION</u>	
Calvin Remmert	President
Mike Appling	Vice President
Sharon Wagner	Secretary
Wayne Schaper, Sr.	Treasurer