

Our mission statement:
*Celebrating God's love
by worshipping God,
caring for each other,
and serving in community.*



*"Sharing the
Ointment
for Jesus' Feet,
Giving God
our Very Best"
Cf. John 12:3*

**January
2014**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

**Vol. 20
No. 1**

BERGY'S BABBLE: EVERYDAY HOLY DAYS

As we approach Christmas, anticipating spectacular extravaganzas of pageants full of special and unusual effects, it always helps to remember that we are commemorating and celebrating what was usual and to some degree a kind of normal bad luck day for the original participants. We're talking taxes here, and no reservations so no place to stay, and no relatives to fall back on for help. Cold, tired, back pain, perhaps even the faintest nudging of dejection and the impulse to ask, "Why?", crowd out the joy we assume should be felt in carrying the Christ all the way to the birth process. Every pain is met with the unknown ambiguity....was that a cramp, or exhaustion from an uncomfortable road trip.....or labor beginning?

The story in Luke 1 where the angel announces her future to Mary is an amazing picture. The angel says, "The power of the Most High will overshadow you." You will be totally wrapped up in the cloud of the divine presence. It is a cloud, more dark and ominous than fluffy and wispy. Fluffy and wispy just don't envelope too well.

This is the same cloud as the guiding pillar of cloud during the Israelites' wilderness wanderings. This cloud was on Sinai when Moses rendezvoused with God. When the tabernacle was finally built in Numbers 9:15, the cloud covered it. And then when Solomon's temple was complete the cloud filled it. (I Kings 8).

...///...

The same overshadowing is used in Luke 9 during the transfiguration of Christ, and indicates that while the cloud looks bright and beautiful from the outside, it is darkening and fearful from the subjective view. The observer may comment on how beautiful and neat and easy it looks, but the experiencer is probably saying, "Oh, dear God, help!"

It seems that carrying the Christ is an extreme burden, but joyful; birthing the Christ a mortal risk, but beautiful.

Mary's allowing the cloud of Yahweh to rest on her makes her a symbol equal to the holy tabernacle, the temple of God, the sanctuary and the pure chamber of God's incarnation. In Christ's world, holiness and perfection shine through the common and daily. May all your Christmas moments be amazed revelations of the beauty of the Lord Christ with us and within us!!

See you in worship.....BERGY



Many thanks to all of you who joined in on the
Pot Luck Christmas Luncheon.
The food was delicious and the fellowship was so enjoyable.
The council appreciates the support congregation has shown
throughout the year and we look forward to the year ahead.

Thanks again!

Wendy Lambeth



HCLC COUNCIL MINUTES

DECEMBER 08, 2013

Present at the meeting were: Wayne Schaper, Wendy Lambeth, AIM Karen Davidson, Pastor Jim Berggren, Pastor Jhon J. Arroyave, Alvin Garza, Warren Schick, John Stokes, Nancy Beamesderfer & Fredda Yurk.

- * Laura Byerly will be greeting at Christmas in the Park on December 8, 2013.
- * Christmas Potluck December 15, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.
- * Confirmation and First Communion classes will start in January 2014.
- * Next Council meeting will be **January 12, 2014**.

Respectfully,

Suzan Cook

Meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Suzan Cook
Secretary



Church Council

*Here's to the blessing
of the year,
Here's to the friends
we hold so dear,
To peace on earth,
both far and near.*

COUNCIL MEETING

Please note next Council Meeting
will be Sunday, **January 12, 2014**
at 11:30 a.m. in the Annex.



CONFIRMATION

Starts Wednesday, **January 8, 2014**
from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
in the Youth Room

Pastor Jim Berggren

Confirmation Class



FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES IN 2014

Immediately following worship in Pastor's office
from 10:10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. the following dates:

January 05

January 12

January 19

January 26

First Communion will be celebrated Sunday, **February 2, 2014**
Presentation of Our Lord Sunday

Pastor Jim Berggren



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will be having a Pizza Party **January 18**. Volunteers to bring a green salad and Italian salad dressing will be needed. "Dues" for the party will be \$3.⁰⁰ per person. Please plan to attend. Hope to see you there!

Nancy Beamesderfer



WORKDAY

February 1, 2014, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Please see the bulletin board and pick out one job to help.

Thanks!

Stan Crick (713) 721-0008

Altar Flowers



DECEMBER - 2013

- 01 HCLC to the Glory of God
- 08 HCLC to the Glory of God
- 15 Charlotte & Bruce Jaster
- 22 HCLC congregation —poinsettias
- 29 HCLC congregation —poinsettias



STEPHEN MINISTRY

May I share an African saying that was given me some time ago. Just substitute “God” for “Those who love you.”

Those who love you
are not fooled by mistakes you have made
or dark images you hold about yourself.
They remember your beauty when you feel ugly;
your wholeness when you are broken;
your innocence when you feel guilty;
and your purpose when you are confused.

I have not been physically available to you for the past couple of months and for that I am supremely sorry. But all have been in my prayers.

Please know that your Stephen Ministers are present for you in your need. Simply call the church office or call me at 713-467-4757 and if I can't take your call at the moment I will be back to you asap.

In Christ's service,

Marge Carroll
Stephen Ministry Coordinator



COFFEE TABLES

Big thanks to Ernesto López, member of the Spanish language group, for the donation of stands for the coffee pots .

They are beautiful and very useful.
We all greatly appreciate his donation.

Gloria McGarvey



January 2014



Holy Cross members celebrating birthdays this month:

05 Elsie Schulze	19 Melvin Morales
07 Helen Jacob	20 Julia Linn
Debra Moore	23 Kris Drosche
08 Maureen Fredrickson	William Allcorn
Chris Abrego	Fred Gardner
09 Francisco Araiza	24 Charles Pustejovsky, Sr.
12 Logan Crick	Clarice Gross
13 Brenda Duarte	Megan Schomburg
14 Jan Walker	26 Ernesto Moreno, Jr.
15 Jeri O'Neill	27 Blanca Duarte
16 Brent Baumann	28 Dorothy Byerly
Edwin Pineda	29 Jadher Abad
17 Hartman Caicedo	30 Wayne Schaper, Sr.
	Juan Araiza



GREETING CARDS

Please save front pages of greeting, birthday, etc. cards. They will be sent to St. Jude's Ranch for Children for their Recycles Card Program. I will place a box for them in the Family Life Center by West door.

Norma Berg



ENDING 2013

on a positive note, attendance at the monthly HCLC Men's Breakfast Meeting grew again – to 12 on 04 December. Continuing his “Faith” theme, John Wenger's excellent devotion sparked lively discussion as we happily welcomed back Sheldon and Betty.

We invite **all** Holy Crossers to join us – normally on the first Wednesday of each month – at 700 AM at Mytiburger on Kempwood and Blalock. **And** that includes the “Ladies' Auxiliary”.



BUT – please note:

as the first Wednesday of January is New Year's Day, our first meeting for 2014 has been rescheduled to **08 January**. See you then!

Calvin

READINGS, PSALMS & GOSPEL JANUARY 2014

DATE	1 st READING	PSALM	2 nd READING	GOSPEL
01/05/2013	Jeremiah 31:7-14	147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1: [1-9] 10-18
01/12/2013	Isaiah 42:1-9	29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
01/19/2013	Isaiah 49:1-7	40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
01/26/2013	Isaiah 9:1-4	27: 1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23

REMEMBER IN PRAYER		REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS																
Remember in prayer the homebound, disabled, long-term ill, and prolonged recovering.		 <div>Say a prayer for...</div>	Alma Laubenberg Penelope Louis John Massie Lois Massie Al Pivonka LaVerne Pivonka Elsie Schulze Sheldon Urwitz Chris Wignes															
Ora Dell Dittmar Betty Dodson Doris Anne Drosche Sig Ellerman Nancy Mendel	Doris Pannell Doris Polker Elsie Schulze Sue Vogt Roselain Larson	Bill Alexander Ronald Burns Marge Carroll Ed Cooper Chuck Fredrickson Carol Kirsch																
<div>PRAYER CHAIN</div> <div>If you are not receiving HCLC Prayer Request emails and would like to, please contact Renee Allcorn at allcornr@swbell.net or (713) 254-8638</div> <div>Note that Prayer Request emails are sent out daily, so if you are on the email list and did not receive any email, please contact Renee.</div>		<div>TREASURER'S REPORT</div> <div>If you have any questions call Wayne Schaper, Sr. at (713) 465-5206.</div> <div>NOVEMBER 2013</div> <table><tr><td>Receipts</td><td>\$ 59,503.⁰⁰</td></tr><tr><td>Expenses</td><td><u>38,839.⁷⁰</u></td></tr><tr><td>Balance</td><td>\$ <u>20,663.³⁰</u></td></tr></table> <div>Operational receipts</div> <table><tr><td>year to date received</td><td>.....</td><td>\$ 381,821.³⁶</td></tr><tr><td>Expenditures year to date</td><td>.....</td><td><u>404,264.⁹⁷</u></td></tr><tr><td>Balance</td><td>.....</td><td>< \$ <u>22,443.⁶¹</u> ></td></tr></table>		Receipts	\$ 59,503. ⁰⁰	Expenses	<u>38,839.⁷⁰</u>	Balance	\$ <u>20,663.³⁰</u>	year to date received	\$ 381,821. ³⁶	Expenditures year to date	<u>404,264.⁹⁷</u>	Balance	< \$ <u>22,443.⁶¹</u> >
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<div>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</div> <div>Monday - Thursday</div> <div>8:30 am - 4:30 pm</div> <div>Friday</div> <div>8:30 am - 2:30 pm</div>	Holy Cross Lutheran Church's E-MAIL address is: hclc@holycross.us	<div>AVERAGE ATTENDANCE</div> <div>NOVEMBER 2013</div> <div>English Services: 113</div> <div>Spanish Services: 123</div> 																
You may sign up for Altar Flowers in the Narthex. Suggested donation is \$45. ⁰⁰ and \$10. 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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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 Terry 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. — Atrium		
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.		

<u>YOUR CHURCH STAFF</u>	
†	Rev. Jim Berggren — Senior Pastor email : jberggren@holycross.us
†	Rev. Jhon Jairo Arroyave — Hispanic Pastor
†	Karen Davidson — Associate In Ministry email : aimked@gmail.com
†	Sussy Terry — Office Manager email : hclc@holycross.us
<u>WORSHIP MUSICIANS</u>	
Cathy Elijah	Organist
Jo Ann Meeker	Pianist
Ann Crick	Pianist
<u>EARLY LEARNING CENTER</u>	
ELC (713) 461-5535	
<u>OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION</u>	
Wendy Lambeth	President
Alvin Garza	Vice President
Suzan Cook	Secretary
Wayne Schaper, Sr.	Treasurer