

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

*Transforming the world & ourselves,
together in community, fellowship, and faith.*



MAY

2017

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The deadline for inclusion in the June 2017 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, Quest, is Wednesday, May 17th.

Articles can be emailed to Eve Nealon at:
office@holycrosslutheranchurch.net.

The **deadline** for inclusion in the **weekly bulletin** is at noon on the Tuesday prior to the Sunday the bulletin will be released.

Thank you,
Eve Nealon,
Church Administrator

Find us online!
www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net
Facebook: Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon VA
Twitter: @HolyCrossELCA
Instagram: HolyCrossELCA

STAFF AND COUNCIL NEWS

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son...

John 3:16 is one of the most well known Bible passages in the world. During Holy Week we remember Jesus' love for the world, a love that took him to the cross. On Easter we celebrate his resurrection and ours. Through our baptism we die with Jesus and are born again to new life, to an eternal life with Jesus.

For God so loved the world... The Greek word used for world is *kosmos* from which our English word *cosmos* comes. *For God so loved the cosmos...*

For the most part, the church talks about redemption and salvation only with respect to human beings. Yet there is a strong Biblical tradition that relates Christ's work of redemption to all of creation.

The prophet Isaiah described a new heaven and a new earth, where "the wolf and the lamb shall feed together."

In Roman's chapter 8, Paul asserts that "the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God."

And at the very end of the Bible, John of Patmos, the author of *Revelation*, has a vision that echoes Isaiah's description of a new heaven and a new earth. John sees this new heaven and earth and then he hears a voice declaring:

See the home of God is among mortals

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples

and God himself will be with them...

For God so loved the world... For God so loved the cosmos

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus this Easter season I hope your appreciation of God's love and mercy is enriched and deepened by the promise that Jesus came to redeem, not just humanity, but all of creation.

*For God so loved the cosmos that he gave his
only son...*

Pastor Margrethe



A Night of Fundraising

To benefit the
Holy Cross Transition Team

A Dinner by Chef Shoop

Sunday, May 21st, 2017

6:00 PM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170

Tickets: \$20.00

Bring a friend or a neighbor!

A quilt will be auctioned and

Fundraising Bingo after dinner

Tickets available April 30th



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION—GUEST SPEAKERS FOR MAY 2017

Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 am

May 14 Sustainable Development as Spiritual Calling

On September 25, 2015, 193 members of the UN voted to support an ambitious agenda aimed at eliminating poverty and hunger, providing primary and secondary education and quality health care for all, promoting gender equality and addressing environmental concerns. How does this agenda relate to us as Christians?

On Sunday, May 14th, the Rev. Dr. Dick Hoehn and the Rev. Dr. Mike Kuchinsky will present a forum titled *The United Nation's Agenda for Sustainable Development as a Spiritual Calling*.

May 21 Fund for Leaders

Learn about the current state of affairs in the church vis-à-vis seminaries, theological education, and the need for raising up and supporting rostered ministers.

Our presenter this morning will be the Rev. Mark Olson. Pastor Olson currently serves as the Associate Director for the ELCA's Fund for Leaders. He has also served as the Director of Admissions of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg as well as the lead pastor at several congregations in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C.

May 28 ELCA Federal Chaplaincies

Although the settings may be very different, federal chaplains have many of the same responsibilities as any other ELCA pastor. They preach the gospel, lead worship, administer the sacraments, perform weddings, counsel, teach and bury the dead. Yet because of the unique settings, chaplains carry out their ministry immersed in the "Monday through Saturday" world of military

members, patients, families and staff at Veterans Affairs medical centers, and among the staff and inmates of federal prisons.

Learn about Federal Chaplaincies from Pastor Eric Wester, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop and Director, Federal Chaplaincies for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, based in Washington DC. He works directly for the presiding bishop of Lutherans in the United States. His pastoral work supports more than 200 chaplains and chaplain candidates in the military, Veterans Administration facilities, and federal prisons.

PREACHING IN MAY

While Pastor Kleiber is on vacation in Hawaii, attending her niece and nephews' graduations and celebrating her dad's ninety-first birthday, Holy Cross has the privilege of welcoming Pastor Mark Olson and Pastor Eric Wester to the pulpit.

Sunday, May 21 Pastor Mark Olson



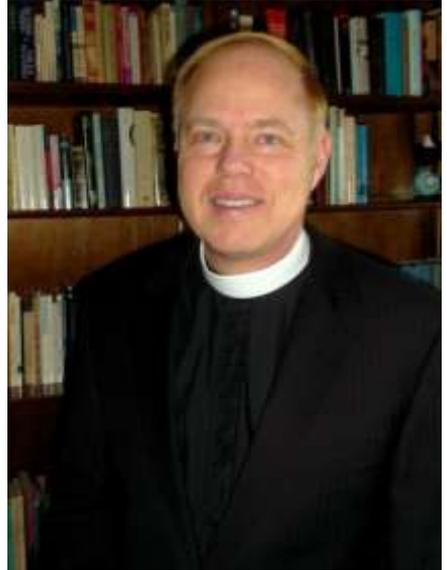
The Rev. Mark Olsen serves as the Associate Director for the ELCA's Fund for Leaders, an endowed scholarship program supporting women and men of tremendous promise studying at ELCA seminaries. By making seminary more affordable, the ELCA Fund for Leaders enables more students to go to seminary and helps them graduate with less debt, empowering those whom God calls into ministry to go and serve as the church

needs and as the Holy Spirit leads. In his previous calls, Pastor Mark served as the pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (Haymarket, VA), as Director of Admissions at the

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and as Senior Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church (Alexandria, VA).

Sunday, May 28 Pastor Eric Wester

Pastor Eric Wester is a retired Army colonel and a Lutheran clergyman. Pastor Wester currently serves as Assistant to the Presiding Bishop and Director, Federal Chaplaincies for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, based in Washington DC. He works directly for the presiding bishop of Lutherans in the United States. His pastoral work supports more than 200 chaplains and chaplain candidates in the military, Veterans Administration facilities, and federal prisons.



Chaplain Wester completed 32 years in Army chaplaincy in 2011 culminating as the Senior Military Fellow at National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington DC. At NDU he taught ethics, religion, and security for seven years, in uniform and as a guest lecturer. He also served as senior instructor for the Leader Development Education for Sustained Peace (LDESP), Naval Post-graduate School, Monterey, California. He continues teaching each year as an adjunct instructor at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS), Columbia, South Carolina.

His research interests are ethics and just war thinking as well as the spirituality of Soldiers. He has several published articles in peer-reviewed journals addressing these topics. In the Summer 2014 Rowman & Littlefield included his chapter “Military Chaplaincy: Religious Leadership and Character Development” in the book, ***Military Chaplaincy: Afghanistan, Iraq and Beyond***,

edited by Dr. Eric Patterson. In the Fall 2012, the Lejeune Leadership Institute at Marine Corps University, Quantico, Virginia, published his chapter about spirituality, ethics and resilience during combat in ***Aspects of Leadership: Ethics, Law and Spirituality***. He is working now as a co-editor on a new professional chaplaincy book series to be published by Wipf and Stock and sponsored by the Southern Seminary Chaplaincy program (LTSS).

He has three masters degrees from Trinity Lutheran Seminary (Master of Divinity), Columbus, Ohio, the New Brunswick Theological Seminary (Master of Theology), New Jersey, and the Army War College (Master of Strategic Studies), Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Herndon Ecumenical Choir Open Dress Rehearsal

There will be an open dress rehearsal for the Herndon Ecumenical Choir Sunday, April 30, at 3pm at Trinity Presbyterian Church. You can hear a selection of the music they will be singing in Spain.

Luther the Lion will join them on their Spain trip the following week, so look for updates on social media.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Herndon Relay for Life to Benefit the American Cancer Society: June 10-11, Nysmith School for the Gifted

Holy Cross will once again have a team participating in the Herndon Relay for Life, a community-based event to raise money for cancer research, advocacy, and education. This year, the Relay will be held on June 10-11 at Nysmith School for the Gifted on McLearn Rd., across the road from Rachel Carson Middle School.

You can get involved by:

- Joining the Relay team and committing to walk for at least an hour or two (you don't need to be there for the whole 17 hours!)
- Donating to the Holy Cross team
- Dedicating a luminaria in honor or memory of someone affected by cancer
- Supporting the team fundraising activities
- Visiting the team on Relay day for a fun time!

May 14 – Noisy offering at both services. Save your coins for our collection!

For more information, contact Vivian Jefferson at vjefferson@gmail.com or visit our Relay for Life web page:

<https://tinyurl.com/hclc17>

Electronic Giving

We are happy to announce that Holy Cross now has the capacity to accept electronic donations!

Currently, there are two platforms for giving.

Via Our Website:

www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net. Click on the donate button at the top of the home page and give.



Mobile giving is available by downloading the Give+ app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. After downloading the app, search for Holy Cross Lutheran Church. (It will appear near the bottom of the list.) Follow the prompts as desired.

If you have questions or need additional assistance please contact our council president, Mike Berg.

Blood Drive Sign-up

We're planning a Blood Drive for September, exact date is to be determined, but we need a minimum of 40 donors committed before INOVA will confirm our date.



You can find a form on a clipboard in the Narthex where you can sign up to donate. We need your name and email address in order to confirm the date when it is chosen. You can also sign-up by calling or emailing the church office.

THE COOKIE BRIGADE MARCHES AGAIN

Are you a friendly soul and have a bit of time to spare every now and then? Or is baking cookies your hobby? The Cookie Brigade needs you! The HCLC Cookie Brigade drops off a goodie bag to folks who come to worship with us as guests. The members of the Brigade take the cookies to visitors who live in their neighborhood, say hi, thanks for visiting or if no one is home leave the bag. We store the cookies and have bags ready to put them in at church. Can you help? Contact Suzanne Flegal at suzflegal@verizon.net or the Church Administrator.



1st & 3rd Sunday

May 7th - to Embry Rucker Shelter.

May 21st - to LINK

If you would like to deliver the donations after the late service then please contact Mario Ceste at (703) 400-5526 or mceste@gmail.com.

June's Food Donation Sundays will be the 4th and the 18th.

Thank you!

ESOL - My Story - Elizabeth

My name is Elizabeth. I, along with my husband and my three children, arrived in the United States in September 2006, leaving behind so many things in the Dominican Republic: excellent jobs, a house, big dreams. But the most valuable thing we left was family and friends. With only two suitcases each, we came here with our hearts full of hope, as we were getting ready to start a new life.

As soon as we arrived, everything changed dramatically. Coming to this country as professionals, with bachelor's degrees, we found that here our degrees didn't matter. We faced new challenges every day; we didn't know the language; we didn't know the system; we didn't know anything. Even going to school was hard for my kids. They couldn't understand what they needed to do or what to say.

As I started to work, I couldn't understand the instructions given to me; it was hard, but my family and I knew very well that someone really important would never let us fall and would always be taking care of us all the time. That person is GOD.

Slowly we started a new life, learning everything step-by-step; difficult, but what could we have done? A few months later, someone told me about the English as a Second Language Program located in Herndon. I showed up that same night and guess what? It was at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Since then, my life has changed in so many ways. I got wonderful advice from Pastor Douglas Jones, support from teachers like Robin Drummond, who is my guardian angel, Ellen Atwell, Tula Toney, Jeanne Maysonett, and Suzanne Baggett. And of course I made new friends, who now are like family to me.

Being part of the ESOL classes has been a blessing to me and my family, we have received help from your outreach programs; for

example, receiving gifts for my children from the Tree of Joy project was a wonderful blessing. If you only had the chance to see their faces every year on Christmas Day opening all their presents, there were no words to explain their happiness.

In addition, I once lost my job and we were receiving food assistance. I don't know from whom, but I was sure that the food came from people with big and compassionate hearts who care about other's needs. Now, my family is all grown up, and we are trying to help the same way we were helped, which is by trying to give back a little bit of what we received when we were in need and desperate.

My oldest daughter is soon to be 24; she was a teacher's assistant at Holy Cross for three years and then became a full teacher for three more years in the ESOL program. My second daughter is now 21 and became a Certified Medical Assistant and is currently working at the nursery at Holy Cross as well. Both my son, who is now 18, and my husband, have also attended the ESOL program. At our church, my son is an Altar Server, my husband is an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist and I am volunteering as the General Coordinator of the Hispanic Community at Saint Joseph Church of Herndon, where it is a blessing to help Hispanic people get involved in the community, so God is leading us along the right path.

I am so thankful for feeling at home at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. You have positively changed my life.

Thank you and God bless.

500 x 500 Challenge

Helping Hands--Every person has a part to play in the upkeep of our church home.

Please take a moment to consider what you can contribute.

A Sign Up Genius has been set up with a list of tasks that need to be done around our church. Look for a link through the email blast.

Every time a task has been completed a helping hand with your name, the task, and the date completed will be placed on the board.

Help us make Holy Cross a Welcoming and Beautiful home!
Any Questions? Contact Joy Heuer at jheuer01@gmail.com



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Tuesday Evening Small Group: We are a group of several women who meet for fellowship and a Serendipity Bible lesson in the Small Conference Room Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM.

Fiber Arts Small Group: We invite you to visit and learn a new craft skill. Would you like to make your own prayer shawl? Or perhaps you'd like to join in the prayer shawl project for use by the congregation? We meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Conference Room. For more information on joining us please contact Anne Geiger: Gei2@verizon.net; (703) 437-9413.



Coffee and Donuts: Saturday, May 6 8:00 AM. Come and go for coffee and donuts and a time of informal fellowship with each other.

Serving In Worship

Greeters

May 7th	8:30 Craig Reichow Jill Reichow	11:00 Benjamin Breene John Breene
May 14th	Vivian Jefferson	Stanley Medikonda
May 21st	Suzanne Flegal	Frank Podczerviensky
May 28th	Joe Baggett	Brian Virnelson Cathy Pfisterer

Readers

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
May 7th	Craig Reichow	Benjamin Breene
May 14th	Vivian Jefferson	Stanley Medikonda
May 21st	Suzanne Flegal	Frank Podczerviensky
May 28th	Joe Baggett	Brian Virnelson

Ushers

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
May 7th	Joe Baggett Suzanne Baggett	Mike Faulkner Roy Geiger Howard Miller Diana Virgo
May 14th	Sally Moser Mark Roe	Gary Wolfe Joel Flegal Suzanne Flegal
May 21st	Lynn Russo Vince Russo Jane Pattison Dennis Pattison	Joe Makowski Kathy Makowski Marge Nafey
May 28th		Roy Geiger

Assisting Ministers

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
May 7th	Becky Morgan	Kathy Makowski
May 14th	Becky Morgan	Becky Morgan
May 21st	Anne Geiger	Anne Geiger
May 28th	Mike Faulkner	Mike Rose

Communion Assistants

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
May 7th	Sarah Moran	Len Owens
May 14th	Deb Reilly	Jon Morgan
May 21st		
May 28th		Frank Podczerviensky

Altar Guild

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
May 7th	Lori Newcomb Alice Shaw	Sharon Carter Nancy Jones
May 14th	Denise Robinson Pat Berg	Pam Darby Claudia Woods Erin Woods
May 21st	Lynn Russo Sally Moser	Brian Virnelson Cathy Pfisterer Hope Shearer
May 28th	Jane Pattison Karen Faulkner	Carolyn Rose Carol Shaffer Beulah Medikonda

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