

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
*Transforming the world & ourselves,
together in community, fellowship, and faith.*



February 2018

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The deadline for inclusion in the March 2018 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Monday, February 12th.

Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at:
admin@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,
Teresa Easterly,
Church Administrator

Find us online!

www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net

Facebook: Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon VA

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STAFF AND COUNCIL NEWS

NEWS FROM THE PASTOR

RESETTING OUR PREFERENCES (When We Default to Factory Settings)

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the
renewing of your minds...Romans 12:2
Repentance means more than being sorry.
It means being different.*

A New Kind of Christianity, Brian McLaren

When I get a new device or download the latest version of an operating system, I am often asked to set my preferences. For a period of time, life with my device goes smoothly. Then, inevitably something gets corrupted or there is a conflict or a bug. Forced to do a hard restore to resolve the issue, my device will revert back to factory settings.

I think about sinful behavior as a kind of default factory setting. Most of us want to be kind, loving, generous and gracious human beings. That is our preference for our lives. We want the same for our children. Yet, under stress, we revert to our factory defaults.

A thoughtless driver cuts us off and we automatically lay on the horn in self-righteous anger. We involuntarily roll our eyes when someone espouses a political opinion different from our own. We instantly criticize our co-workers because their ideas or organizational style does not conform to our way of doing things. And when our loved ones push our buttons, do we not immediately find ourselves mentally rehearsing their faults and failings and nursing our feelings of resentment?

Self-righteous, judgmental, critical and resentful thoughts arise by default when we are confronted with difficult situations. From there it is just a short step to harsh words and unkind deeds.

The point is not to blame or condemn but to recognize and accept the reality of our sinful nature—our default settings. Yet if we want to change, if we want to be different, if we want to widen our repertoire of responses to include patience, compassion, gentleness and forgiveness, we need help resetting our preferences. We need God’s grace.

The church in its wisdom set aside certain seasons of the church year for preparation and renewal. Lent is one of these seasons. It is a time for self-examination, the purpose of which is to bring to awareness the frequency with which we default to arrogant, self-righteous, judgmental, critical and resentful thinking. Such self-examination is difficult. It is even more difficult to accept that we can’t, try as we may, change the way we are hard-wired.

The purpose of Lent is to make us aware of our default settings so that God can transform us—resetting those preferences. St. Paul urges us, “Be transformed by the renewing of your minds.” Note that St. Paul uses the passive voice. He doesn’t say, “Transform yourself.” Rather, he encourages us to be open to the power of God to change us, to renew our minds, to reshape us in God’s own image. Paul reminds us elsewhere in scripture that it is not by our own strength and resolve that we change but that, “It is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” If we want to be different, widening our repertoire of responses to include patience, compassion, gentleness, and forgiveness, it will be God’s work, not ours.

As we begin our Lenten journey, both individually and as a community of faith, let us engage in the self-reflection and repentance that marks a radical reorientation toward God.

And may God renew our minds, refresh our spirits, and change our hearts.

Pastor Kleiber

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The season of Lent is often a time spent reflecting on one's life with Christ. People make an effort to spend more time in prayer during Lent and some even decide to give something up (a bad habit or something they enjoy) for the season to help focus their life on Christ's teachings.

To this end, the music ministry will be offering a miniature classical concert series on Sunday nights during the season of Lent. These concerts will be full of classical organ music that is not often heard in worship. During the recital there will also be a few short poems and readings to reflect upon while listening to the performance.

The goal of this series is twofold:

First, it is intended to help concertgoers center themselves for the week to come. Our lives are increasingly busy and our day to day activities can quickly get out of hand, leaving little to no time for reflection on your life with Christ. Whether or not you celebrate the season of Lent, this concert series will serve as a meditative time to center yourself and prioritize your thoughts for the week to come. With it being every Sunday during the season of Lent it will make a great weekly practice to build into your Sunday nights for five weeks.

Second, it is an effort to keep evangelism in front of the music ministry. It has been my goal for the past few months to devote at least six hours a week to the idea of evangelism.

Beer and Carols, which was more successful than I could have hoped for, was the first event I put this recent evangelism effort behind. Through this miniature classical concert series it is my hope that you will invite your neighbors and friends to church to hear a wonderful performance and center themselves for the week to come. Flyers are available in the narthex to take home and hand out as invitations. Remember, if you find it intimidating to invite someone to worship, this is just a concert. It is another way to get the community into our building and learning about the services we offer.

The concerts are every Sunday night from February 18 – March 18 at 7 PM. They are “miniature concerts” that only last 45 minutes, so they are not a huge time commitment. I hope you take time to attend a few and that you find them meditative and centering. Most importantly, I hope you invite a friend or two to come with you to at least one of the performances.

Soli Deo Gloria!
Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music Ministries



CONGREGATION COUNCIL VACANCY

Is God calling you to serve on the Congregation Council? We are looking for someone to serve as the Youth Ministry Team Lead. The seat is still open. If you're ready to make an impact, please contact Mike Berg, Council President or call the office at 703-437-1883.

WORSHIP

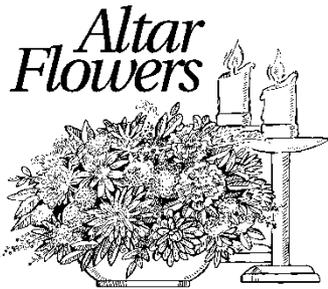
ALTAR GUILD HELP WANTED!

Altar Guild is looking for members to assist in preparing the altar and worship materials. If you have ever been curious about the duties involved in serving on altar guild, please call Lori Newcomb for the details at 571-437-5375.

USHER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Always wanted to serve as an USHER, but didn't know who to ask? Choice opportunities are now available! No training needed. "On the job training" will be provided by incredible seasoned veterans. Please contact Roy Geiger either at church, at gei2@verizon.net or call 703-401-3934. Thanks!

ALTAR FLOWERS SIGN-UPS AVAILABLE

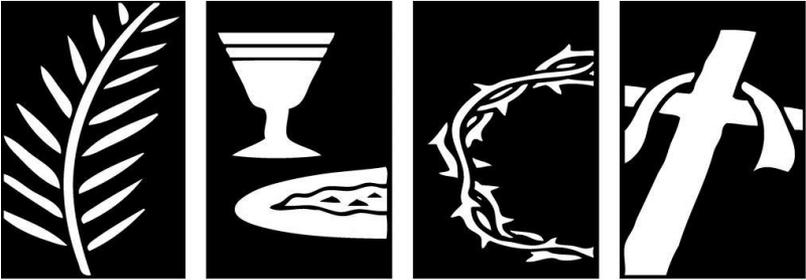


Is there a special event or anniversary coming up? Consider signing up to donate altar flowers. You can take the flowers home with you after the late service or swing by the church on Monday to pick them up. Please check the flower charts located in the back of the Narthex, on the wall opposite the

kitchen portal, for open dates. Flowers are \$40 per vase. When you write your check for altar flowers, please note in the memo line that the check is for payment of ***Altar Flowers***.

Ash Wednesday

February 14 - Noon & 7:00 PM
With Communion and Imposition of ashes



Lenten Mid-Week SCHEDULE

Making Change

Wednesdays in Lent

Dinner at 6 PM – Worship at 7 PM

Lent 1	Change of Season	Wed. Feb 21	7:00 pm
Lent 2	Change of Habit	Wed. Feb 28	7:00 pm
Lent 3	Change of Circumstances	Wed. Mar 7	7:00 pm
Lent 4	Change of Heart	Wed. Mar 14	7:00 pm
Lent 5	Change of Plans	Wed. Mar 21	7:00 pm

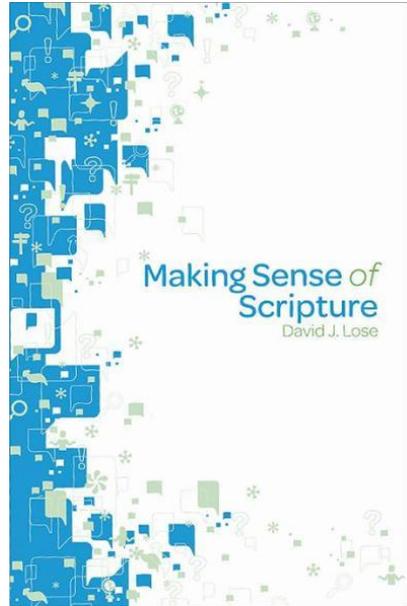
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

MAKING SENSE OF SCRIPTURE

Bring your questions about the Bible! In *Making Sense of Scripture*, we will engage in conversation, exploring the questions many of us have but fear asking.

- Feb. 4 Where Did the Bible Come From?
- Feb. 11 How Can I Read the Bible with Greater Understanding?
- Feb. 18 Is There a Center to Scripture?
- Feb. 25 What Kind of Authority Does the Bible Hold?

Join us in room 202, 9:45 AM, for ***Making Sense of the Scripture.***



EVANGELISM

“Making Holy Cross Known – Making Holy Cross Home”

If you’ve been around Holy Cross for more than a few years, these words may sound familiar to you. At one time, they were our “slogan” – our “call to arms” if you will. We had the phrase all over the place!

As we rekindle, reactivate and rejuvenate our Evangelism efforts here at Holy Cross with God’s help and guidance, we are also reactivating this “call to arms”. Will you join me?

I hope you will. If we are to **REALLY** reactivate our Evangelism efforts here at Holy Cross, it will take **ALL OF US** to say **YES** – I’m willing to welcome visitors I meet at church; **YES** – I’m willing to help more folks **know** about Holy Cross and how proud I am of all the God-inspired good things we do for our community both near and far; and **yes** – I’m willing to help folks feel at **home** here at Holy Cross – just like someone most likely did for you when you first joined Holy Cross. That’s probably why you’re still here and why you continue to be an active member of Holy Cross. It all starts just by saying “Hello” and introducing (and re-introducing and re-introducing) yourself to both fellow Holy Cross members and to visitors and newcomers alike. Will you join me?

I’m looking for some key volunteers to help me **make Holy Cross known** throughout the Herndon / Reston / Sterling area and beyond. I’m also looking for volunteers to help determine how we can best be a Christ-inspired and guided helper and neighbor to our neighbors around us. Finally, I’m looking for volunteers to help us better **make Holy Cross home** to our members, our newcomers and our visitors -- of all ages and needs. The pay will be nonexistent (welcome to volunteering!) but the personal and congregational benefits will be **AMAZING!**

Will you join me? Will you help? Will you say “Hello”? Will you say “**YES – I’ll help!**” If so, please contact me at 703-401-3934 and/or gei2@verizon.net. Better yet – come to church and talk with me there.

*Does this sound familiar? It should. I posted this call for help in the December Quest, two months ago, but only **one** person replied. So here’s my new challenge. If you read this article, **contact me and let me know that you read the article**. I’ll enter your name in a drawing for a fun gift card of your choosing, of a modest amount. **This opportunity closes at midnight, Wednesday, February 14th!** Good luck – and thanks for participating! -- Roy Geiger*

Tips for Sharing Faith in Your Daily Life

Any Time, Any Where

-  Wear a cross or religious symbol. If you notice someone else’s, ask them about it.
-  Pray before a meal, especially with family and friends, but also in public places.
-  Model Christian behavior when you coach or attend your child’s sporting events.
-  Speak up against injustices, evil verbal insults and bad jokes. Be clear that your perspective is informed by your faith and belief in a loving God.
-  Be courteous, helpful and positive when others are not.
-  Pray for people – whether you know them or not – whether they know it or not.

At Work or School

- ✚ Carry your faith over into your work by insisting on fair prices, good products, just treatment of customers and employees. Share what motivates you to stand up for these values.
- ✚ Invite a colleague to worship or to participate in a church-related activity.
- ✚ Remember birthdays, job transitions and special events with notes of blessing, encouragement and support.
- ✚ Turn times of tension and conflict into moments of blessing and peace.

In Times of Struggle and Pain

- ✚ Visit neighbors, friends and colleagues when they are sick or hospitalized. Share a devotional booklet or let them know you are praying for them.
- ✚ Notice when someone may need to talk and feel free just to listen. Not everyone needs or wants you to solve their problems.
- ✚ Deliver a meal or a baked good to people experiencing loss, tragedy or illness.

In the Neighborhood

- ✚ Host a New Neighbor gathering when someone moves into your neighborhood. Ask if people mind if you offer a prayer before the meal -- and then do it!
- ✚ Tell new neighbors where you go to church and offer to take them with you sometime.
- ✚ Plan activities for kids that foster friendships and encourage sharing about life and values.

At Home and with Your Family

- ✚ Take time to talk about what you experienced at worship and/or at Sunday school.
- ✚ Model your faith by taking time for devotions, bible study and prayer. Others will notice – even if you do it on your own.
- ✚ Model stewardship and hospitality by giving money and other resources in gratitude of God’s blessings in your life.

OUTREACH

The mission of the Outreach Team is to serve our community with donations of goods or money and by volunteering our time and talent to other organizations we work with. Each month I'd like to focus on one of the programs we support. This month the focus is the Embry Rucker Shelter, one of the programs run by Cornerstones, a nonprofit organization that promotes self-sufficiency by providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services.

The **Embry Rucker Community Shelter (ERCS)** is a 70-bed residential shelter that provides healthy, safe, emergency housing for families and single men and women. We are dedicated to helping our clients overcome the circumstances that led to their homelessness, and facilitate their transition to stable housing. We are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and employ 20 full-time staff members. We also have several part-time staff and more than 400 volunteers dedicated to helping our clients get back on their feet.



Our comprehensive services include child care, medical assistance, nutritious meals, a nurse on staff and financial counseling. In addition, our in-house employment specialist helps unemployed or underemployed residents expand their skills as they prepare to look for work. For children, we offer tutoring and mentoring assessments to help achieve developmental and academic milestones.

Holy Cross serves the shelter through food donations on the first Sunday of each month. Because those are used to

prepare meals for groups, we ask for the Costco or BJ's size containers if possible.

The second way we regularly serve Embury Rucker is by preparing and serving lunch on the second Saturday of every other month. Barbara Gouldey and Jo Roe are the coordinators of these lunches and advertise them through the weekly update with a Perfect Potluck link.

You can help by donating part of the meal and/or helping to serve. When I asked the coordinators why they do this—and have done it for so long—Jo Roe responded “In a nutshell, I participate because I'm a woman from humble beginnings and while that didn't include periods of being homeless or going without food, I know that anybody can be just one paycheck away from being so. It also gives me joy to help others and as a follower of Christ working to make sure I love my neighbors. This is a way for me to do that. “

For more information contact Suzanne Flegal, suzflegal@verizon.net or through the church office, admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net.

OUTREACH TEAM

We Share Because We Care



During Lent we will be doing a blood donation drive sponsored by Inova Blood Donor Services for those in our community who depend on others for help. Inova Blood Donor Services supplies lifesaving blood and blood products to 24 different hospitals in Northern Virginia and the Washington, DC, metro area.

A Blood Drive is scheduled for March 10th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Watch for more information on this and other ways to reach out in the near future.

YOUTH

HCLC Youth Fundraiser

*** Chili Challenge ***

Who makes the BEST chili at HCLC? It's time to find out! Cook up your best batch of chili and join us for a friendly Chili Cook Off at HCLC on February 4th. \$10 per person (\$20 per family) to attend after the 11:00 service. We will have all the fixings for a great chili supper (rice, cornbread, cheese, tortilla chips, and more). We will also be selling a limited supply of chili in pints and quarts to make your Super Bowl Sunday a success. Tickets are available on Sundays between and after the Services. If you are interested in being one of our judges, please contact Tammy Breene (tammy.breene@gmail.com).



Shrove Tuesday



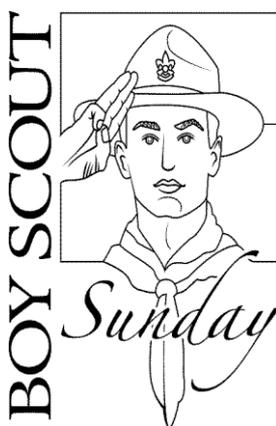
SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

The Youth of Holy Cross will hold their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at Holy Cross on Tuesday, February 13th. Tickets are \$5 for individuals, \$15 for families of three or more.

SCOUT SUNDAY 2018

Sunday, February 11, 2018 is Scout Sunday at Holy Cross. Scouts and Scouters: Please wear your uniforms to church on Scout Sunday as we celebrate 108 years of Scouting in America (108 years for Boy Scouts; 106 years of Girl Scouts; and 88 years for Cub Scouts).

Go to <http://www.scouting.org> for more information on the Boy Scouts of America and <http://www.girlscouts.org> for more information on the Girl Scouts of America.



STEWARDSHIP

ELECTRONIC GIVING

We appreciate your online giving. To give electronically:

1. Go to our website, <http://www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net>
2. Click “Donate”
3. Fill out the safe and secure donation form

OR

1. Download the **Give+** app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.
2. Search for Holy Cross Lutheran Church. (It will appear near the bottom of the list.)
3. Follow the prompts as desired

ADVENT APPEAL

Funds raised for this year's Advent Appeal will go to purchase copies of the *Prayer Book for the Armed Services*. These books will be distributed to women and men currently serving in the armed forces. We will also distribute prayer books to any Holy Cross members currently serving in the armed forces. We raised \$1,483 from the Beer and Carol's raffle tickets and your generous contributions, allowing us to purchase 185 books. This is a wonderful way to be involved in the ELCA's work with our military personnel. We are profoundly grateful for the ELCA's ministry to our service men and women.

THE NURSERY IS ACCEPTING Toy Donations!

(No stuffed animals due to cleaning difficulties)



All toys may be dropped off by the nursery room #208 or given to nursery attendants Beatriz and Madeline.

Items Needed for Toy Drive 2018:

- Coloring Books
- New Kids Books (Pre-K to 6th grade)
- Cars
- Dolls
- Balls
- Little People
- Puzzles
- Stacking Blocks
- Play Kitchen Utensils
- Plastic Play Food Set
- Musical Instruments
- Out Door Games
- And any other toys

We ask that all toys be in good condition, no broken toys and no stuffed animals, please. Thank you so much!

SYNOD AND CHURCH-WIDE NEWS

VITAL CONGREGATIONS



FINDING GOD IN A PARKING LOT

One Sunday every month, a small group of Lutherans congregates in the parking lot of the Home Depot in Passaic, N.J., before services start at St. John Lutheran Church. They're not there to buy home supplies—they're there to worship.

Four years ago when St. John was looking for a way to become more integrated in its community, the congregation came up with the idea of a breakfast ministry. Their first attempt at breakfast after church didn't bring any visitors. Then a member suggested taking food to the Home Depot parking lot, as there were always day laborers who waited there to be picked up for jobs, and they could use a good breakfast.

"Sure enough, they welcomed us," said Jay Unzaga, the congregation's former pastor. "From that Sunday on, St. John hasn't stopped going there in four years and feeds a hot breakfast to about 40 to 50 men every week."

In addition to sharing breakfast, the

community worships together once a month. "We do a holy service of word and sacrament in about 15 minutes right there in the parking lot," Unzaga said. They call the ministry *Misión Pan de la Vida* (Mission Bread of Life).

The worship services are led in Spanish, and Unzaga always invites the men to take part by reading a lesson or helping serve communion. "Imagine how hard it is to get a reader out of a parking lot when most of them didn't go past elementary school," he said. "But the Holy Spirit always provides and these men do it for the glory of God."

Holding worship in a parking lot brings an array of variables that can't be controlled—whether it be interruptions when a van approaches to pick up some workers or if store security asks the group to move.

"To go to a parking lot and claim that as the house of the Lord is powerful and beautiful, especially in the dead of winter," Unzaga said. "To share the cup of salvation with our immigrant neighbors in the snow is just a humbling and beautiful sight."

Your Mission Support dollars are used by the ELCA churchwide organization to fund new congregations like Misión Pan de la Vida.

To read more stories, visit [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA) and download a copy of Stories of Faith in Action.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Serving In Worship

Greeters

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
Feb. 4th	Chris Nelson	Stanley Medikonda
Feb. 11th	Harold Edwards	Craig Reichow Jill Reichow
Feb. 18th	Mike Berg	Beulah Mediknoda
Feb. 25th	Rick Garverick	Gary Wolfe Helen Wolfe

Readers

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
Feb. 4th	Chris Nelson	Stanley Medikonda
Feb. 11th	Harold Edwards	Craig Reichow
Feb. 18th	Mike Berg	Beulah Mediknoda
Feb. 25th	Rick Garverick	Gary/Helen Wolfe

Ushers

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
Feb. 4th	Joe Baggett Suzanne Baggett	Mike Faulkner Roy Geiger Howard Miller Diana Virgo
Feb. 11th	Sally Moser Mark Roe	Troop 12 Wayne Newcomb Lori Newcomb
Feb. 18th	Lynn Russo Vince Russo	Joe Makowski Kathy Makowski
Feb. 25th	Jane Pattison Dennis Pattison	Marge Nafey Roy Geiger

Assisting Ministers

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
Feb. 4th	Becky Morgan	Kathy Makowski
Feb. 11th	Joy Heuer	Clay Newcomb
Feb. 18th	Anne Geiger	Anne Geiger
Feb. 25th	Mike Faulkner	Mike Rose

Communion Assistants

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
Feb. 4th	Judy Keller Suzanne Flegal	Stanley Medikonda Samuel Contreras
Feb. 11th	Harold Edwards Andy Krueger	Thomas Newcomb
Feb. 18th	Mike Berg Joe Baggett	Beulah Medikonda Stanley Medikonda
Feb. 25th	Rick Garverick Pat Garverick	Gary Wolfe Helen Wolfe

Altar Guild

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
Feb. 4th	Lori Newcomb Alice Shaw Thomas Newcomb	Sharon Carter Nancy Jones
Feb. 11th	Pat Berg Denise Robinson	Pam Darby Claudia Woods Erin Woods
Feb. 18th	Lynn Russo Sally Moser	Brian Virnelson Cathy Pfisterer Hope Shearer
Feb. 25th	Jane Pattison Karen Faulkner	Carolyn Rose Carol Shaffer Beulah Medikonda

Acolyte

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
Feb. 4th	Sarah Moran	Daniel Contreras
Feb. 11th	Deb Reilly	Anne Geiger
Feb. 18th	Clay Newcomb	Joe Skelton
Feb. 25th	Thomas Newcomb	Katelyn Hunter

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