

THE QUEST

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



January 2018

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

Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at:
<mailto: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

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www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net

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Twitter: @HolyCrossELCA

Instagram: HolyCrossELCA

STAFF AND COUNCIL NEWS

NEWS FROM THE PASTOR

Building on the Best

*According to the grace of God given to me,
like a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation,
and someone else is building on it.*

*Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.
For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has
been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

While on his second missionary journey, after preaching and teaching in the city of Athens, Paul goes to the city of Corinth.

Now, if Athens was impressive, Corinth was even more so. Athens was a small town of about 20,000. In contrast, the population of Corinth may have been close to 250,000. Corinth was booming. It was diverse and cosmopolitan. It was a wealthy city, a hub of shipping and trade.

And, it was full of impressive buildings. Corinth had been destroyed in 146 BCE and then, under Emperor Augustus, had been rebuilt. There were beautiful public buildings and new temples to Augustus, Aphrodite and Apollo, built on the foundation of previous structures.

With this in mind, hear what Paul wrote to the church in Corinth:

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

The members of the church in Corinth did not belong to the elites of the city. They probably did not live in or even frequent any of the great and grand buildings of Corinth. You can imagine how Paul's words about building must have touched them, especially when later in his letter he says to them, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

People of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

At the congregational meeting a year ago, in January 2018, your transition team presented the results of the appreciative inquiry interviews and called this work, "Building on the Best." It calls this congregation to build on what is beautiful and good and true in our life together as we move into the future. Let's make ***Building on the Best***, our theme for 2018.

Paul's words to the Corinthians remind us that our foundation is Jesus. There is no other foundation for our life together. Paul also reminds us that we must choose with care how we build. In 2018, let us carefully build on the best Holy Cross has to offer, our worship and music program, our caring for one another and for the wider community and our love of learning. Let us remember that we are church together and that the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

As this new year unfolds, as we worship and pray together, as we move into God's future, let us invoke the power of the Spirit and put our trust in Jesus, our foundation.

Let us pray,

Holy Spirit, move among us, move in us and move through us this afternoon. Inspire us to build on the best; what is beautiful and good and true in our life together. Open our hearts and minds to your leading and fill us with love and charity. Amen.

Pastor Kleiber

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

A Note from the Director of Music

We don't often get to celebrate the day of Epiphany. It is regularly tossed aside as we recover from numerous Advent and Christmas festivities. This year the day of Epiphany falls on a Saturday (1/6/18). One of my favorite hymns for Epiphany is "Brightest and Best of the Stars". It is both a great hymn from the Romantic period and a poetic expression on the season of Epiphany.

"Brightest and Best of the Stars" was written by Bishop Reginald Heber (1783-1826), one of the finest Romantic hymn writers. Heber's most famous hymn is "Holy, Holy, Holy" (*ELW 413*). Heber was born into a family of wealth and position. He was bright and a hardworking student of the Bible, even at a young age. Heber entered Oxford at 17 and soon won two prizes for poetry.

He took orders in the Anglican Church in 1807 and became a rector in his father's church. During his 16 years at this parish, he took on the task of improving hymn singing in the congregation. When he arrived, they were still singing only metrical psalms. He couldn't find the hymns he wanted, especially those that would fit the Anglican liturgy and the requirements of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Heber decided to prepare his own hymnal and invited other poets to contribute, including Sir Walter Scott and Henry Milman. Hymn singing was not firmly established in the Anglican Church at this time, and the bishop of London refused Heber's request to publish a hymnal. "Brightest and Best of the Stars" was thus first published in the *Christian Observer* in November 1811 before his wife Amelia Heber published it in 1827 as *Hymns Written and Adapted to the Weekly Service of the Church Year*.

Images of light, a dominant theme of the Epiphany season, pervade the hymn's first stanza: "brightest," "morning," "dawn," "star" and "horizon." The "Star of the East" that once guided the magi now guides us to "where our infant Redeemer is laid."

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.*

The second stanza is full of wonderful Romantic images:

*Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall:
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.*

The third stanza asks us what extravagant gifts we have to offer:

*Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom and offerings divine?
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?*

The fourth stanza reminds us that "the prayers of the poor" are far more highly favored than gifts offered by those simply wishing to "buy salvation".

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure,
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.*

The final stanza repeats the first exactly, providing bookends to one of the classic hymns of the Epiphany season.

I hope you have a blessed Epiphany season as we continue to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music Ministries



The new church council members will be installed at both, the 8:30 am and 11:00 am Sunday Worship Services on Jan. 14th.

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***.

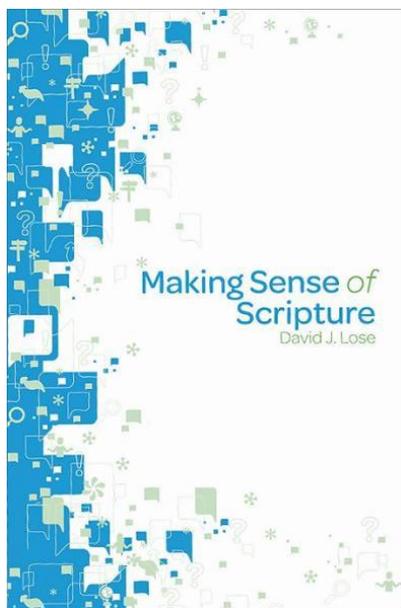
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

STARTING ON JANUARY 14!

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.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 14 | What is the Bible? |
| Jan. 21 | Is the Bible True? |
| Jan. 28 | How Is the Bible the Word of God? |
| 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? |

Sign up for books after Christmas. Join us beginning January 14th in room 202, 9:45 am, for ***Making Sense of the Scripture***.



KINGDOM KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL



This is a wonderful picture of most of our **Kingdom Kids** at our Happy Birthday Jesus Party, which Amy McNaughton on her birthday had to set up and run in my absence with wonderful help from Becky Morgan and Karen Faulkner. **God is Good.** In addition to tasty treats, kids and adults had fun coloring some very artistic Advent posters.

In the coming weeks, our **Kingdom Kids** will be learning about The DISCIPLES, the story of JESUS HEALING A MAN LOWERED THROUGH A ROOF, the PRODIGAL SON. Helping to reinforce the power of the Bible stories we read, will be videos we can watch on the amazing BIG SCREEN TV donated anonymously and professionally mounted by our very own Sam Carter. Whether animations or Lego® stop-action re-creations, these videos rivet the attention of our **Kingdom Kids**. (Not a movement of a peep during our 9-minute Lego® stop-action retelling of the story of Jesus' Birth! **God is Good!**)

Please contact **Suzanne Baggett** (703-864-5562 or sbaggett8826@gmail.com) for more details.

NOTE: There will be **no** KINGDOM KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL on January 31st.

OUTREACH



“This we can do together.”

Pastor Leila Ortiz

Hurricane Maria seems like a distant memory to us, but our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean Synod continue to live with the damage as they work to rebuild their churches. Many congregations lost worship materials and musical instruments. Pastors lost robes and stoles.



“The devastation is great. As a synod, let us join *Building Puentes* and help in relief

efforts that not only rebuild concrete structures, but can also rebuild the spirit of our neighbors, friends, and fellow citizens of the Caribbean,” proposes the Rev. Leila Ortiz, Assistant to the Bishop in the ELCA Metro D.C. Synod.

Building Puentes means building bridges. It is a joint ministry that transverses the “chasm that often divides fellow Lutherans on the mainland and on the islands,” describes Pr. Ortiz.

Holy Cross has ties to this Ministry through Pastor Ortiz and more importantly through our common ties to people who suffer. We will join the Synod effort by Participating in the synod-wide *Building Puentes* Offering on Epiphany Sunday, Jan 7th. Funds raised through the *Building Puentes* Offering will be used for provision of needs identified by the Caribbean Synod, for example, hymnals, pew bibles, musical instruments, sound systems, vestments, etc., or to address needs in the communities served by ELCA Caribbean Synod congregations, such as school supplies, backpacks, etc.

For more information check this website:

<https://metrocelca.org/2017/11/building-puentes-with-caribbean-islands/>

OUTREACH TEAM

Happy New Year! I can't think of a more appropriate way to start the New Year than by thanking all of you who have participated in the Outreach programs which were so successful this past year. Special thanks to the coordinators of the ESOL program, the deliverers of the twice a month food donations, the Embury Rucker Saturday lunches, the seasonal Outreach and all the other programs we tend to take for granted but support throughout the year.

I recently learned a Hebrew term "tikkun olam" (ok I read it in a Date Lab article in the 12/10/2017 Washington Post) that means repair of the world. The quote went on to say "The world is a gift to humanity from God, and we all have to pitch in and do our part to make it as best as we can." That pretty much sums up our Mission Statement for the Holy Cross Outreach Team.

There are many ways to be involved. I will announce a planning meeting for 2018 in the weekly bulletin. I welcome your input and communications. Please feel free to contact me, Susan Flegal at suzflegal@Verizon.net.

QUILTING



We have partnered with Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR's Mission Quilts will distribute the quilts to hospitals, orphanages, schools and homes for the elderly. HCLC's quilting group is starting another session this January. All are welcome to attend.

Bring your sewing machine, if you have one. If not; no worries, sewing skills are not required. There are tasks for everyone on any level. The quilts will be a blessing to everyone that receives one. Join us in the large classroom on Saturday, January 13th at 10:30 am - 3:00 pm.

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

THE NURSERY IS ACCEPTING Toy Donations!

(No stuffed animals due to cleaning difficulties)



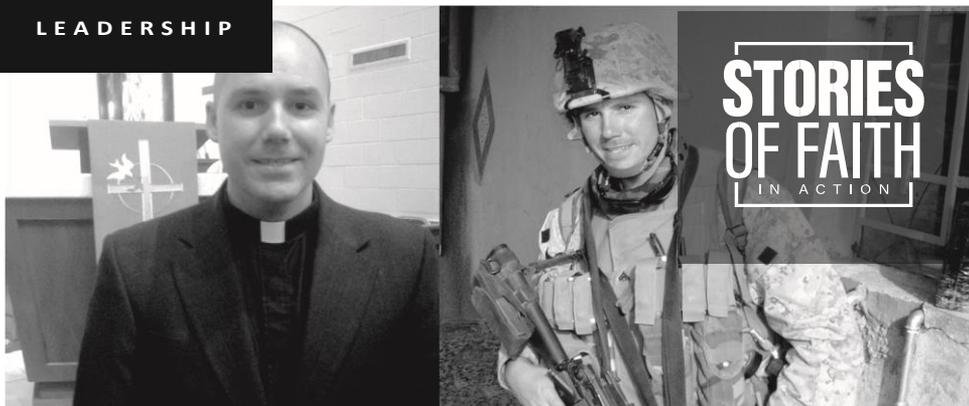
All toys may be dropped off by the nursery room #208 or given to nursery attendants Beatriz and Madeline.

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!

LEADERSHIP



CHAPLAIN AND FATHER INSPIRE MARINE TO PURSUE MINISTRY

While deployed as a Marine in Iraq in 2005, Nathan Huffman received a visit from a chaplain that would change his life.

“He came to me and he asked me how I was doing,” Huffman said. “[I gave him the] ‘I’m fine’ typical Marine response. But he knew I wasn’t.”

When the chaplain pushed for a real answer, Huffman said he hadn’t received communion in over a month due to combat readiness. So the chaplain brought out his communion kit and offered him the sacrament before Huffman started his nightly patrol.

“After receiving communion, I felt at peace with dying,” Huffman said. “It wasn’t because I was so brave; it was because I was confident in Christ.”

After returning from deployment, Huffman was a police officer in Richmond, Va., for several years before he and his wife began talking seriously about seminary and chaplaincy. The son of a retired ELCA pastor, Huffman was very involved in church growing up and was an active member of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Richmond.

Because others had helped him, Huffman said he felt called to help military personnel and veterans who were suffering. “My faith had been a large part of that,” he said.

In 2012, Huffman began his studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (Pa.), receiving generous support from his home congregation, Epiphany. As part of his journey to ordination, he applied to and was accepted in the chaplain candidate program.

Before candidates can enter a full-time specialized ministry like chaplaincy, they must have three years of pastoral experience. Huffman is currently associate pastor of St. Michael Lutheran Church in Virginia Beach, Va., where roughly half of the parishioners are former or current members of the military.

Huffman hopes his ministry can bring light to those facing challenges today. “No one needs a light in bright places, but in dark times everyone longs for light,” he said.

Your Mission Support dollars are used by the ELCA churchwide organization to support the ministry of chaplains across this church and to support the ELCA’s seven seminaries that train them.

To read more stories, visit ELCA.org/SOFIA
and download a copy of Stories of Faith in Action.



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

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Fellowship Committee: Looking to develop a Fellowship Committee! Brainstorm and share ideas to plan a year of together and fun here at Holy Cross Lutheran Church! Please let me (Pam Darby - darborator1@aol.com) know if you would be interested. First meeting planned for Sunday, January 14th between services at 9:45am.

Hope to see you there!

Join us for the First Annual Holy Cross Lutheran Church



All are welcome!

HCLC Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 27, 2018

4:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Watch and support your favorite team or participate.

Sign-up as an individual or a team.

Teams of 2 can consist of women, men, youth or co-ed.

There will be a variety of games to play. The church will provide the meat for dinner and will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. We ask that you bring a side dish, dessert or drink to share.

To sign-up you can either register in the narthex of the church or email Kathryn Clark, kathryn.joy.clark@gmail.com. It will be a fun Saturday night of friendly competition and fellowship!

More to come on social media and email.

Serving In Worship

Greeters

8:30

Jan. 7th Joseph/Suzanne Baggett
Jan. 14th Desirae Deitterrick
Jan. 21th Michael/Karen Faulkner
Jan. 28th Joy Heuer

11:00

John Pinckney
Betty Skelton
John/Tammy Breene
Earl/Fredna Belue

Readers

8:30

Jan. 7th Joseph Baggett
Jan. 14th Desirae Deitterrick
Jan. 21th Michael Faulkner
Jan. 28th Joy Heuer

11:00

John Pinckney
Betty Skelton
John Breene
Fredna Belue

Ushers

8:30

Jan. 7th Joe Baggett
Suzanne Baggett

Jan. 14th Sally Moser
Mark Roe

Jan. 21th Lynn Russo
Vince Russo

Jan. 28th Jane Pattison
Dennis Pattison

11:00

Mike Faulkner
Roy Geiger
Howard Miller
Diana Virgo

Joel Flegal
Suzanne Flegal
Gary Wolfe
Helen Wolfe

Joe Makowski
Kathy Makowski
Marge Nafey

Roy Geiger

Assisting Ministers

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
Jan. 7th	Becky Morgan	Kathy Makowski
Jan. 14th	Joy Heuer	Becky Morgan
Jan. 21th	Anne Geiger	Anne Geiger
Jan. 28th	Mike Faulkner	Mike Rose

Communion Assistants

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
Jan. 7th	Joel/Suzanne Flegal	John Pickney/Stanley M
Jan. 14th	Vivian J/Desirae D	Jonathan M/Clay Newcomb
Jan. 21th	Michael/Karen Faulkner	John/Tammy Breene
Jan. 28th	Rick/Pat Garverick	Gary/Helen Wolfe

Altar Guild

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

Acolyte

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
Jan. 7th	Sarah Moran	Erin Woods
Jan. 14th	Deb Reilly	Katelyn Hunter
Jan. 21th	Clay Newcomb	Joe Skelton
Jan. 28th	Thomas Newcomb	Briana Fautley

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