

# THE QUEST

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



**January 2019**



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# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the February 2019 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Friday, January 11th.

Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at:  
[admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net](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

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
1090 Sterling Road  
Herndon, VA 20170  
703-437-1883

Find us online!

[www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net](http://www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net)



Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon VA



@HolyCrossELCA



HolyCrossELCA

## STAFF NEWS



### **A SEASON OF DISCOVERY**

*When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.*

*When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.*

Matthew 2:9-11

Matthew's gospel tells us that when the Magi see that the star has stopped, they are filled with joy. They have finally found the newborn king of the Jews. They kneel down and worship him. Then they return home. That is all we know.

Matthew leaves so many questions unanswered. How did the Magi put the pieces together after they saw the child? They had expected to find the future king of the Jews in the capital city of Jerusalem. Instead, the star led them to Bethlehem. They had expected a princeling in a palace. Instead, they discovered a peasant child in a simple house.

We don't know how they reconciled their expectations with the reality they experienced. All we know is that they discovered God in the unlikelyst of places and found themselves blessed with great joy.

The word *epiphany* means “an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure.”<sup>1</sup> Throughout this season of Epiphany we will hear stories of how people discover in Jesus the fullness of God. These discoveries happen in unexpected places and at surprising moments. The story of the Magi is followed by the story of Jesus’ baptism and how he is revealed to be God’s Son, the Beloved. At a wedding in Cana, Jesus reveals himself as both guest and host when he turns water into wine. Later, Simon Peter discovers God’s call to “fish for people” after Jesus provides him with a miraculous catch of fish. Time after time, God reveals Godself in surprising and unexpected ways.

The life of a disciple is a life of discovery—discovering God in unexpected places and at surprising moments. Perhaps that is why the church dedicates a whole season to *epiphany*, to discovering God in the events of ordinary life. It is a season of seeking and a season of surprising rewards. In her poem, “The Church Year,” Ann Weems describes the season this way.

*The church is Epiphany.*

*We are the Magi, searching,  
resplendent in this world’s accouterments  
of knowledge and wealth and achievement.*

*But we search for something more.*

*And—of all unlikely places—  
in a stable  
the Deity appears.*

*The birthing of our Lord  
bursts in upon our ordinary lives  
like fireworks in the snow.*

*Only God would send a little baby King,  
and we are on our knees,  
where we are within reach of our full personhood.<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Definition of epiphany, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/epiphany>

<sup>2</sup> Ann Weems, excerpt from *Kneeling in Bethlehem: Poetry for Advent and Christmas*. © 1993 Ann Barr Weems. Used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved.

She suggests that we are like the Magi. Our lives may be full and satisfying yet, we know there is something more. That something more is God—a God we discover in the most unlikely of places at the most unexpected moments. While in conversation with a friend you may gain a new insight as to how God is working in your life. Perhaps an unexpected glimpse of the full moon as you drive home grounds you anew in the beauty of God’s creation. Even failure can provide an unexpected lesson in the unconditional love of God: the discovery that we are more than we do, that grace abounds and that it is only when we are on our knees that we discover the glory of what it means to human.

Yes, the church is Epiphany. May you be blessed by many epiphanies this season! May you discover Jesus in unexpected places and at surprising moments! Amen.

*Pastor Kleiber*

## **PASTOR KLEIBER GOES TO THAILAND**



Pastor Kleiber will be out of the office for four weeks in January. You may wonder, “Where did she go?”

Here is the backstory: In August 2017, at the ELCA Rostered Leader gathering, Pastor Kleiber agreed to be one of the keynote

speakers at the January 2019, Asian Lutheran International Conference, in Udon Thani, Thailand. In 2017, she was fairly optimistic that Holy Cross would have a pastor well before the conference date.

Since life doesn't always unfold the way we anticipate, she will need to take time off in January to prepare her keynote address and to travel to Thailand for the conference. The theme of the conference is *Singing the Lord's Song: Ministry and Migration*. It begins on January 23 and concludes on January 30, 2019.

Pastor Kleiber will take leave from January 7<sup>th</sup> to February 3<sup>rd</sup>. She will be back in the office on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Paul Opsahl has graciously agreed to lead worship and to provide emergency pastoral care during the month of January.

## 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 Sunday (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

## COUNCIL NEWS



### **I LOVE THOSE WORDS!!**

They fill me with a sense of newness and that all things are possible. And with this new year, I begin a two-year term as your council president. I am excited for this new journey together! Please feel free to reach out to me with questions and ideas at any time. I'd love to hear from you.

We have an exciting path ahead. The Council has committed to a three-year program to "Building on the Best" of who we are. Through this campaign, we aspire to attract and retain 48 new people at Holy Cross. We will reach more deeply into our local community and engage with youth. We will support both Holy Cross and the broader church to grow the ELCA. And we will make some much needed improvements to our facilities.

Our call team continues to work diligently toward identifying and retaining an exceptional pastor. Yes, the process has taken longer than we hoped, but I remain optimistic that God is working to get us just the right person, at just the right time. Each council ministry has plans to continue to both deepen our faith and broaden our reach. We are so blessed by them and their teams. And, of course, we are extraordinarily grateful for our exceptional staff and past president Mike Berg. Their dedication and effort consistently exceeds all expectation.

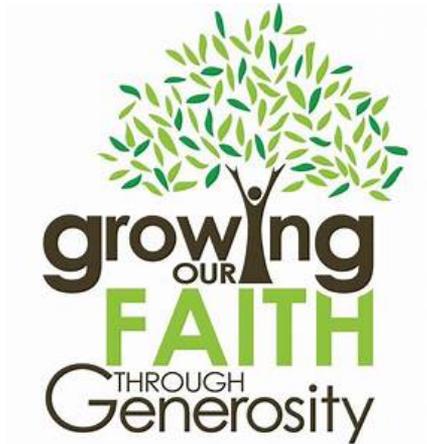
Each year I select a word or phrase that guides my year. In past years, expressions like “Be Bold”, “Do Good Things”, or “Share Peace” have shaped my year. For 2019, I’ve selected simply the word “Joy” as my guiding word. In that spirit, I wish you all Joy and a wonderful new year!

Deb Reilly

C: 202-359-7450

Email: [debreilly62@gmail.com](mailto:debreilly62@gmail.com)

# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN — BUILDING ON THE BEST



## **‘Building On The Best’: Extending and revitalizing Holy Cross**

- We aspire to grow our congregation: develop 48 New Connections over the next three years
- We aspire to attract families and youth, and strengthen relationships among our members
- We aspire to enhance our commitment to serve the larger family of God

## **Our commitments, prayer and funds will be apportioned as follows:**

### **\$35,000 - Building On Our Evangelical Mission:**

- Strengthen community connections, through awareness: Herndon Festival, Sterlingfest
- Foster fun community activities, to spread our message, such as ‘Beer & Carols’ events
- Support Community Youth by Partnership with Herndon Middle School & Neighborhood Resource Center

- Create Service Opportunities for children & youth, in worship and the community

### **\$14,000 - Building the Broader Church:**

- Joining with congregations of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so that others may know the fullness of life in Jesus Christ
- Contributing to the Synod New Connections campaign, applying resources for developing, training, coaching, with the goal of 3000 new members over three years
- Applying New Connections ideas and resources to build connections with 48 new people / members at Holy Cross

### **\$151,000 – Building on our Facilities:**

- Update our facilities to be welcoming and inviting for families and community members
- Renovating the antiquated restrooms adjacent to the Fellowship Hall
- Replacing the roof in the administrative wing
- Installing new flooring in the Fellowship Hall
- Upgrading Technology for the offices, Fellowship Hall and classroom spaces

Join us on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, in worship as we launch this campaign and dedicate our efforts to *Building on the Best!* Look for more information to follow via e-blast and in the mail.



## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

In order to reach our Capital Campaign goal, gifts of all sizes are needed, from the largest leadership gifts to coins from our children.

The chart below shows how many gifts we need of each amount to fulfill the dream of upgrading our ministry facility and reaching out in our community.

Please prayerfully consider how you and your family is called to respond to this opportunity, given your own financial blessings. Regardless of your ability to give, all are welcomed and valued at Holy Cross. The campaigns commitment period is 3 years/156 weeks. A pledge of support is not a legally binding contract, but a statement of intent.

### Giving Opportunities

#### Pledges needed for Success

1 gift of	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
2 gifts of	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
4 gifts of	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
8 gifts of	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
10 gifts of	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
10 gifts of	\$ 1,000.00	\$10,000.00

## WORSHIP

# Epiphany Worship Service

Sunday,  
January 6<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 AM &  
11:00 AM

THEY SAW *The Child*  
WITH HIS MOTHER MARY,  
AND *They Bowed Down*  
AND *Worshiped Him.*  
MATTHEW 2:11, NIV



Epiphany is a favorite celebration by many people, but it rarely falls on a Sunday. This year it is on Sunday! Join us for worship on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM or 11:00 AM for a festival Epiphany worship service.

It is a great way to end the Christmas season and look forward to the Sundays when we hear about Jesus' miracles and the calling of the disciples.

And, who doesn't love to sing *We Three Kings* on the same day it is meant to be sung?!?



# KEEP SEEKING HIM



## **From Pastor Ed Harper**

Hello Pastor Margrethe and members of Holy Cross Church,

How can I ever thank you enough for the wonderful outpouring of love which you have shown to me in these past few months? First, was your invitation for me to come and preach at the 55th Anniversary of Holy Cross Church -- a day which I will forever remember.

It was such a joy to be back "home" -- back to the place that will always have a warm and special place in my heart. It was wonderful to see so many people whom I have had the privilege of serving as their pastor ---some of the dearest people I have ever known.

Next, after Faye and I arrived home it wasn't but a few days that the doorbell rang and we were gratefully surprised to receive the beautiful flower arrangement from Holy Cross...oh, how thoughtful of you. You just cannot image how such a gesture touches the very depth of our hearts. You have always been such kind and gracious people.

Today, another surprise came to our home. Faye wanted to know what I ordered from Augsburg-Fortress and I told her that I had not ordered anything. Yet, when the box was opened there was another surprise --beautiful worship binders in the colors of the

church year. What a blessing! They will certainly serve me well.

So, again, thank you, thank you!

As I shared when I was with you last month, Holy Cross will forever be a "special" place for me. It was such a joy to have served the people of that congregation. Honestly, I have missed you during the years, but I am grateful that I can look back with so many fond memories.

It is my hope and prayer that our gracious Lord will continue to bless you and the ministry you provide in the Herndon area and elsewhere. May the Holy Spirit strengthen you in your ministry and always bind you together in peace, unity and love.

God bless you always and I will forever remain grateful for you.

In love and appreciation,

Pastor Ed Harper

## **From Pastor Ivette Salgado**

Blessings Pastor.

Sorry for the delay in sending you the evidence of the delivery of the donation that the Holy Cross Church sent us for the children. I was a bit concerned with the work of the Church and I had not been able to sit down to do this.

I sent you the photos of the children who received the contribution of \$50.00 each. We reached 16 participants from the Church and the community. The families are very grateful!

I decided with the Bethel Bible School Director to take \$400 for a project that we will carry out next year with children between six and 12 years old.

We will help the children to work with their emotions after a hurricane with eight workshops and in the end we will be given a backpack with essential items to each participant. We will use that money to buy the backpacks.

We are extremely grateful for your support and for choosing our Church and our community to bless us as you have done.

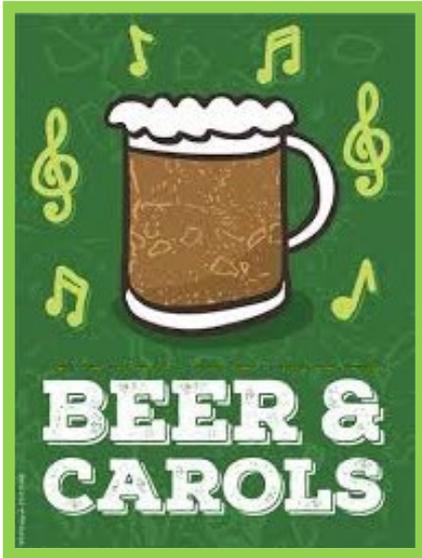
May the Lord continue to bless your ministry.

A big hug from Puerto Rico and Bethel.

Pastor Ivette Salgado

## FELLOWSHIP

# Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who supported our second annual Beer and Carols event at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern! Thank you to those who donated prizes to be raffled off, those who helped set up and staff the event, the staff at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern for letting us invade their restaurant and sing carols as we drank beer, and most of all, to all of you who bought raffle tickets and sang your hearts out. Such a joyful event in the community is a lovely way to show everyone

how much fun we have at Holy Cross.

Our THIRD ANNUAL Beer and Carols event will be next December! Stay tuned for more information.

## BLUE GRASS CONCERT



### **East of Monroe January 26, 2019**

East of Monroe is an Americana/bluegrass group based in Virginia and Maryland. Their music is mostly original tunes along with tasteful covers of diverse songs. The band members all have different influences and backgrounds and that accounts for the many different styles of music the group plays. It all comes together in a unique, entertaining way.

East of Monroe is excited to return to the Weekend Bluegrass Concert Series at Holy Cross! For more information visit — [www.EastofMonroe.com](http://www.EastofMonroe.com).

**Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm**  
**Doors open at 6:30 pm**  
**Tickets: Ages 13+ - \$15, Ages 12 and younger - Free**

# EVANGELISM



## **Happy New Year's from your Evangelism Team!**

Happy First Month of our New Connections Capital Campaign! I hope that you have prayerfully determined and made your pledge of your time, talents and resources to this exciting effort!

We're working very hard at developing our plans for how best to utilize the funds that you are generously contributing to all facets of this Campaign – especially the \$35,000 targeted to help us grow our Evangelism efforts over the next three years. We have a goal to bring at least 48 new folks into our Holy Cross family over the next three years. But, how best to do that? We have some ideas. See me or contact me (703-401-3934 or [gei2@verizon.net](mailto:gei2@verizon.net)) for more details. However, I really want to hear ideas and recommendations that YOU might have to offer! While you ponder your ideas, here are some thoughts to consider.

Evangelism's goal for the next three years and more:

***Make Holy Cross known, make Holy Cross home.***

When asked, "Why are you a christian?" You can always answer by saying,

***"As a christian, I know that I am loved and that I am not alone."***

*Glenna Geiger*

Finally, one last thought for your New Year and beyond.

***"Telling people that God loves them is good theology. Showing people that you love them is what transforms the world!"***

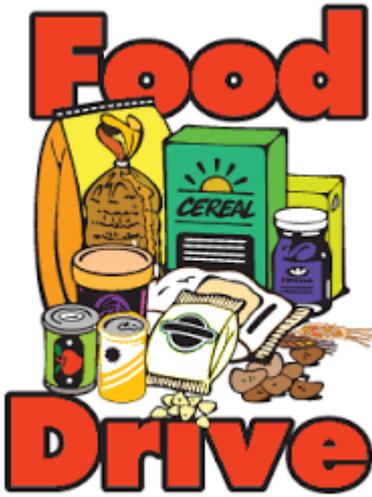
*Jim Palmer*

Come volunteer to join us as we continue "Building on the Best" and sharing Christ's message with New Connections throughout 2019 and beyond!

Thanks and again, Happy New Year!

Roy Geiger

## OUTREACH



### SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTIONS

Each month, as part of our offering, Holy Cross collects food. On the First Sunday, the food goes to the Embry Rucker Shelter. On the Third Sunday, the collection goes to the LINK Food Bank.

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. Our comprehensive services include child care, medical assistance, nutritious meals, a nurse on staff and financial counseling.

Because they are serving a large number of clients, the First Sunday food requests are for large size food such as is available from Costco, BJ's and many 'regular' grocery stores.

### **LINK Food Program**

Supplying emergency food to people within the Herndon, Sterling, and Ashburn, Virginia communities is the primary mission of LINK. LINK provides food to approximately 75 families per month. Those requesting emergency food call the LINK phone line and a coordinator calls back. For those who are qualified, a delivery is scheduled Tuesday-Saturday and each family is given about five day's supply of non-perishable food and a certificate to

purchase perishable food per each request. LINK is unique in delivering food to the homes of clients.

**Top Food Needs** – Here is a list of our top food needs – soup, canned chicken, boxed rice/pasta side dishes, canned fruit, boxed potatoes, and cereal, as well as paper products and toiletries.

Suggested non-perishable food items regularly needed include:

- ✓ Canned Meats and Tuna
- ✓ Spaghetti Sauce
- ✓ Spaghetti, macaroni and other pastas
- ✓ Canned Fruits
- ✓ Peanut Butter and Jelly
- ✓ Cereal
- ✓ Rice
- ✓ Canned Vegetables (corn, potatoes, carrots)
- ✓ Canned Juices
- ✓ Canned or Powdered Milk
- ✓ Soups

Additionally, toilet paper and personal hygiene products such as toothpaste and soap are always needed.

## **HCLC'S Quilting Impacts Sweden**

In the world of quilting it's a small world! At HCLC's booth at the Sterling Fest, we used a Quilting activity for the kids who stopped by. One of our visitors, Dagny Swurd-Khullar a woman from Sweden who is also a quilter. She admired the sample quilts we displayed and took examples of the kid's activity home. Recently, we received the letter below from Dagny.

Dagny Swärd - Khullar  
Färnebogatan 62, 7 TR  
S-123 42 Farsta.

SWEDEN.

Stockholm, November 21, 2018.

Dear Sueane Flegel;

Do you remember me? We met at Sterling Festival in September, we talked about quilting and you were nice and gave me a bunch of small pieces of fabric and some copies of a pattern.

My son lives in Sterling. He works for United Airlines since over 20 years. I visit him twice a year, four weeks every time. This year I was there from September 5 to October.

In 1988 there was an exhibition of old quilts in Stockholm. After that, an organization, "RIKSTÄCKET", was founded. It has now 1896 members. There are many local groups. I belong to the group in Farsta (a close suburb to Stockholm) We started about 25 years ago. We are about 10 members (I am the oldest one with 93 years). We meet about four times in the Fall and the same in the Spring.

I am sending you some pictures of things I made. Sometimes we make a "group project". We have a theme, "X-mas" or "Cats". Every one makes a square in ten copies. Then we have one little square from each member. We sew them together the way we want. "The four seasons", which I also send you here, belongs to such a project.

Now I finish this letter <sup>with</sup> ~~with~~ the best wishes to you and your quiltgroup! Sincerely,

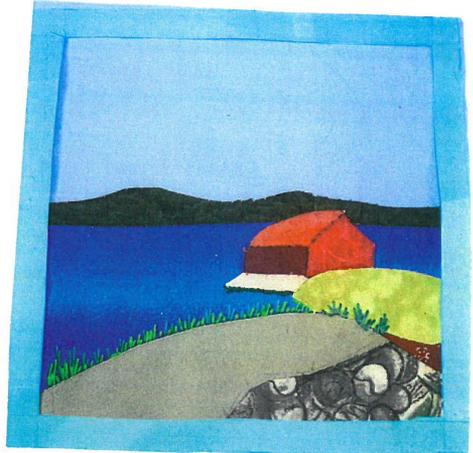
Dagny Swärd - Khullar.



*Our first exhibition -  
25 years ago!*



*Spring.*



*Summer.*

*Quilts by Dang's quilting group in Sweden.*

Join HCLC's quilting session in classroom 202 at 10:30 am.

- ✓ January 5
- ✓ January 26

All are welcome to attend! No experience required.

## FAITH-BASED NONPROFIT



Did you make a resolution to volunteer more in 2019? If you did, please consider volunteering at The Closet, a faith-based nonprofit thrift shop in Herndon that annually gives away nearly \$50,000 in clothing and necessities to social service agency-referred clients. In addition, The Closet has donated more than \$3 million to the community in the form of grants and scholarships since its founding in 1974. Donations to local organizations included Cornerstones, Herndon-Reston FISH, Helping Hungry Kids, LINK, and Holy Cross just to name a few. A few hours of your time will help a lot of people.

Here are just a few reasons why volunteers say they enjoy giving their time to The Closet:

- ✓ I love meeting ALL the members of our community.
- ✓ It's an opportunity to represent my church, give back to my community, and meet new friends. It is a wonderful place to volunteer.
- ✓ There is a sense of family among staff, volunteers and clients.
- ✓ Great quality and bargains.
- ✓ It's fun!

Won't you join the fun? Please contact Rita Hacker or Rachel Williams (Holy Cross's representatives for The Closet) or contact

The Closet directly (703-437-7652 or [TheClosetInc@verizon.net](mailto:TheClosetInc@verizon.net)). **Volunteer opportunities are not limited to your congregation's assigned dates.** In addition, high school students can receive volunteer hours for school or other extracurricular credit. Since The Closet is open Monday and Thursday evenings, there are volunteer opportunities for them in addition to Saturday.

If you don't have the time to volunteer in 2019, please support The Closet by shopping and donating gently used items. See The Closet's website for shop and donation hours and what items we accept - <http://theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/donate-goods/#howtodonate>. Thank you for your support.

We hope to see you there!

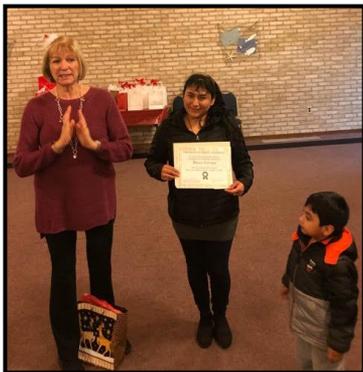


## ESOL – Another Successful Semester



We ended the ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) fall semester with our annual student Christmas party on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Jeremy started the party by leading the group in caroling. Our students love singing Christmas songs in English and Spanish.

Then, we played games and enjoyed good food and fellowship. It is always a treat for the teachers to meet our students' families. One student brought his son, daughter-in-law and his two grandchildren. Others brought their mother and father, even an uncle and aunt.



Everyone congratulated our two newest American citizens, Marcia from Bolivia and Merfat from Egypt.

We awarded a certificate of perfect attendance to Blanca, from Peru. Blanca is a single mother who never studied English until she joined our ESOL program. She is in our beginner's class and is much

improved. Blanca, who cleans houses, told me that she studies English to get a better job. This is a big accomplishment for Blanca and we are very proud of her.

We could not have had such a successful semester without our wonderful teachers: Suzanne Baggett, Jeanne Masonett, Dayna Sowd, Elizabeth Vargas and Chip Edwards. Thank you, for working so diligently with the students! We thank Karen Faulkner for helping us every Monday and to our nursery staff, Madeline Vargas and Beatriz Orellana, for working with our students' children every Monday and Wednesday.



Our spring semester starts on **Monday January 14, 2019**. Again, many thanks to everyone in our congregation for supporting our ESOL program. We are looking forward to another successful year in 2019!

Ellen Atwell  
ESOL Coordinator



*Game time: Playing Christmas with the Right Family*



*Christmas Caroling*



*Good food and fellowship!*



*Everyone loved the Thrivent t-shirts!*



# STEWARDSHIP

## 2018 Advent Appeal



We are pleased to announce this year's Advent Appeal will be supporting Holy Cross' ESOL (English for Speakers of other Languages) program. Our ESOL program classes have been a long-standing outreach ministry of our congregation. Holy Cross has operated the ESOL program for sixteen years and has served hundreds of student during that time.

Our Advent Appeal proceeds will provide funds for added resources on this program. Please consider this appeal in your Advent giving.

### ELECTRONIC GIVING

**online**  
**GIVING**  
easy. fast. effective.

We appreciate your online giving. To give electronically:

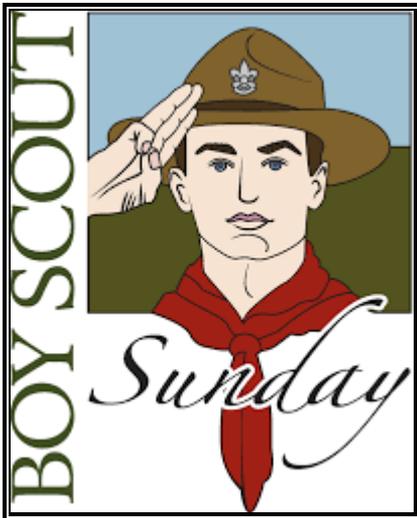
1. Go to our website, <http://www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net>
2. Click "Donate"
3. Fill out the safe and secure donation form

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

## YOUTH

A Scout is reverent. Sunday, February 10, 2019, is Scout Sunday at Holy Cross. Please let Anne Geiger know at 703-437-9413 or [Gei2@verizon.net](mailto:Gei2@verizon.net), if you are a Boy or Girl Scout or Adult Scouter who is willing to serve in uniform at either the 8:30 am and 11:00 am service on the 10<sup>th</sup>. We need greeters, readers, ushers, acolytes, assisting ministers and communion assistants.



### LEADERSHIP

# “Nurturing the song of the church”

ELCA Deacon Ryan Hostler sees his life's calling as one that involves equipping others with the tools they need to sing and worship God.

As minister of word and service for music and worship at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Vero Beach, Fla., Hostler oversees the church's music program, plans services and serves as cantor. As a leader in the church, he draws on his music training and educational experience, particularly those gained at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

**Trinity is one of the ELCA's seven seminaries; each receive annual Mission Support grants to sustain their work in training leaders like Hostler for service in the church.** For Hostler, seminary “provided a solid foundation for future growth and learning.”

Moreover, Hostler counts the experience as one of the best decisions of his life. “[It] allowed me to grow immensely in my theological depth and understanding,” he said.

After seminary, Hostler began working in the ELCA under the title associate in ministry and became a deacon when the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly brought together the roles of associate in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess under the umbrella of deacon. “I’m thrilled [the church] put us all on equal footing,” he said.

Hostler said being a deacon means opportunities to bring his unique talents to the church. “It’s wonderful because I’m able to focus on worship and what that means to our congregation. “Every deacon brings something different to the table based on their skills. “You have deacons that deal with finances and deacons that deal with worship and deacons that deal with social justice,” he explained.

STORIES  
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“We’re able to let those gifts that we bring grow and broaden the church.”

God’s call to become a deacon took hold within Hostler when he “fell in love with the idea of serving with the gifts that God gave to me.”

As he uses his gifts to lead music and worship at Our Savior, Hostler keeps this mission statement close to his heart: “My simple but profound calling is nurturing the song of the church.”



To read more stories, visit [ELCA.org/SOFIA](http://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

January 6	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
<b>Pastor</b>	Margrethe Kleiber	Margrethe Kleiber
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	Sarah Moran Rick Garverick Pat Garverick	Daniel Contreras Samuel Contreras Frank Podczerviensky
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	Becky Morgan	Kathy Makowski
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Lori Newcomb Thomas Newcomb Alice Shaw	Sharon Carter Nancy Jones
<b>Greeters/Readers</b>	Rick Garverick Pat Garverick	Frank Podczerviensky
<b>Ushers</b>	Joe Baggett Suzanne Baggett	Mike Faulkner Howard Miller Roy Geiger Diana Virgo

January 13	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
<b>Pastor</b>	Paul Opsahl	Paul Opsahl
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	Deb Reilly Karen Faulkner Mike Faulkner	Jon Morgan Betty Skelton Diana Virgo
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	Joy Heuer	Becky Morgan
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pat Berg Denise Robinson	Pam Darby
<b>Greeters/Readers</b>	Karen Faulkner Mike Faulkner	Betty Skelton
<b>Ushers</b>	Sally Moser Mark Roe April Setlik Brian Setlik	Joel Flegal Suzanne Flegal Gary Wolfe Helen Wolfe

<b>January 20</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<b>Pastor</b>	Paul Opsahl	Paul Opsahl
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	Mike Faulkner Chris Nelson Sylvia Moran	Katelyn Hunter Helen Wolfe Gary Wolfe
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	Anne Geiger	Andy Krueger
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Sally Moser Lynn Russo	Cathy Pfisterer Brian Virnelson Hope Russell
<b>Greeters/Readers</b>	Suzanne Flegal Joel Flegal	Helen Wolfe Gary Wolfe
<b>Ushers</b>	Lynn Russo Vince Russo	Joe Makowski Kathy Makowski Marge Nafey

<b>January 27</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<b>Pastor</b>	Paul Opsahl	Paul Opsahl
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	Sarah Moran Vivian Jefferson Joe Baggett	Thomas Newcomb John Pinckney Ellen Atwell
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	Mike Faulkner	Len Owens
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jane Pattison Karen Faulkner	Beulah Medikonda Carol Shaffer
<b>Greeters/Readers</b>	Vivian Jefferson	John Pinckney
<b>Ushers</b>	Jane Pattison Dennis Pattison	Roy Geiger



Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
1090 Sterling Road  
Herndon, VA 20170  
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