

# THE QUEST

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

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



**May 2019**



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# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the June 2019 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Monday, May 13th.

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



*For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven:  
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Dear Friends,

This season of interim time with you has been a blessing for me. You welcomed me with great warmth and acceptance. With humor and grace, you have forgiven me my quirks, foibles and failings.

Most important, you worked hard to clarify your sense of who you are and where God is leading you, first with the transition team, then with the call committee. *You are ready to call your next pastor and move into the God's future.*

During this interim season, we celebrated 55 years of ministry at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. We have shared times of joy as we welcomed children into God's family through the sacrament of baptism. We have shared times of grief as we honored loved ones at funerals and memorial services. We've worked together, played together, laughed together and cried together.

Holy Cross is an amazing congregation. During this time of uncertainty, you kept moving forward. You launched new initiatives, including our *Building on the Best Campaign*, which will provide resources for Holy Cross as it continues to emphasize connecting with new people in the Herndon/Reston area. I am hopeful about your future.

A few of you have asked about what is next for me. As you may recall, Tony and I anticipated a transfer overseas. That did not materialize. So, we are now planning for a couple more years of domestic service.

Given this reality, I've been talking with the synod about other congregations in transitions. I am currently in conversation with the leadership of Augustana Lutheran Church in Washington D.C. If all goes well, I'll be able to start at Augustana in July. It will be a new season of transition for me.

I will, however, never forget the season I spent with you. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your pastor. Holy Cross Lutheran Church will always hold a special place in my heart.

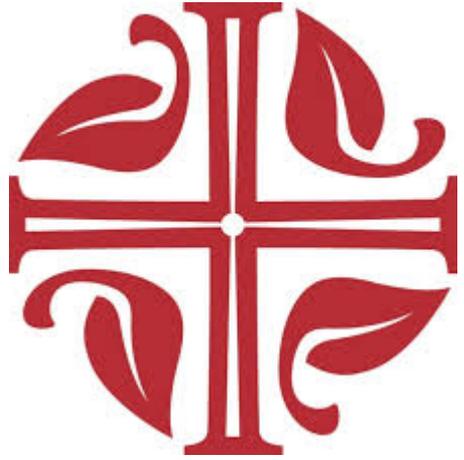
Please pray for me as I accompany Augustana Lutheran Church on their interim journey. I will continue to keep all of you in my prayers.

May God richly bless and keep you!

Blessings,  
*Pastor Kleiber*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

This May marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year with our Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnals. Over the past 10 years we have learned five new liturgical settings while still going back to the familiar ones frequently. Many new hymns have been used in worship, some with new texts to old tunes and some with both new text and tune.



I took time this week to go back and look at the bulletin for our dedication service for these new hymnals. The excitement and energy level of this service made it one of my favorite services and a definite fond memory! The director of music at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bethesda, MD received a copy of our service and enjoyed it so much that he asked if they could model their service after ours! I thought I'd share the text from the actual dedication of the new hymnals. This text reminds us, through scripture, the many reasons why we sing.

The people of God have sung songs from the beginning of time. We sing in times of ceremony: **"David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals."** (2 Samuel 6:5)

We sing because our God is so great and so good: **"Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts."** (Psalm 33:2-3)

We sing in times of celebration: **"Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob. Raise a song, sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp. Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our festal day."** (*Psalm 81:1-3*)

We sing because it pleases God: **"Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. . . . For the Lord takes pleasure in his people."** (*Psalm 149:1,4a*)

We sing as an expression of our joy and thanksgiving: **"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy."** (*Psalm 92:1-4*)

We sing in times of uncertainty and distress: **"I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."** (*Matthew 26:29-30*)

And we sing because it is part of our new life in Christ: **"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."** (*Colossians 3:16*)

We present these hymnals to the glory of God and for service in the life of this congregation. We dedicate them to the glory of God and in honor and loving memory of family, friends and others for whom we now offer thanks.

Let us pray. Eternal and loving God, we thank you for music and the gift of song through which we offer our praise and thanksgiving, our confessions and petitions, and our sorrows and

laments. We give thanks to you for all those who have contributed to this hymnal: the authors, composers, arrangers, and translators who give us the words and music to express the thoughts and emotions that may otherwise have remained silent. We give thanks for the lives and the witness of those in whose honor and memory these hymnals have been given. We pray that these hymnals may be used in worship, in education, in outreach, in evangelism, in nurture, in fellowship, and in faithfulness. We consecrate them, and our lives, to your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

During the month of May we continue celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the bringing of a new life to our Christian lives. I am very happy that our ELW worship books have been able to bring new life to our worship and pray that they will continue to be a useful tool for lifting up our Lord's name in musical praise!

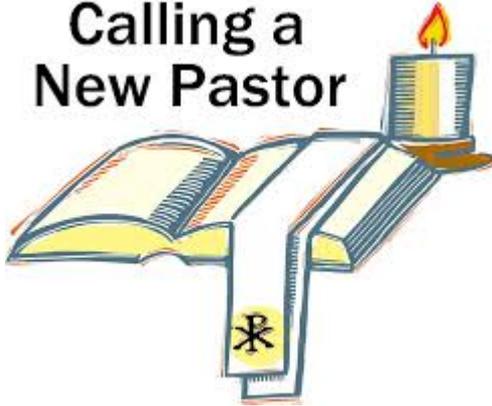
Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop

Director of Music Ministries

## COUNCIL NEWS

### Calling a New Pastor



### **PASTORAL CANDIDATE MEET AND GREET**

We invite you to meet our pastoral candidate and his wife at a "Meet and Greet" on **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall**. This will be an informal opportunity to say hello in advance of his call sermon and our congregational meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

You are also invited, as we *convene a Special Meeting of the Congregation of Holy Cross Lutheran Church to call a new pastor on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019* following the 11:00 AM Service. At that meeting we will vote on two items: the candidate and the candidate's compensation package.

# WORSHIP

## Communion Practices Over The Ages

During our *Animate: Practices* class last month, a couple of participants asked about how communion practices changed over time. This is a great question! Over the centuries, communion practices have changed, sometimes quite dramatically.

During the middle ages, the laity was excluded from taking wine at communion. Martin Luther and other reformers challenged this practice, insisting that both bread and cup be offered to all.



In more recent memory, it was the practice in many Lutheran congregations that young people receive communion only after they had been confirmed. That was my experience growing up. My brothers and I sat in the pew when my mother went up for communion. Children did not go up for a blessing. Communion was only for adults. Moreover, only the pastor served communion. People knelt at the rail and opened their mouths. Then, the pastor placed the wafer on the tongue of each communicant. Then, he offered each communicant a sip of wine from a common cup.

At seminary, communion was by station. Generally, Hawaiian Sweet Bread was used because it broke easily. Communicants could sip the wine or they could dip the bread. After worship, the communion bread and wine was set out with the coffee, tea and other foods set out for fellowship.

In my first congregation after seminary, communion practices had changed significantly. We stood in a circle around the octagonal table. The assisting ministers served the bread (usually pita bread) and the pastors followed with the cup (wine only) and communicants were allowed to drink from the cup or to dip the bread in the cup. Children were allowed to come forward for a blessing. Then, at age seven, the congregation provided first communion instruction.

Today, communion practices continue to differ from congregation to congregation, even among ELCA congregations. Because many congregations offer communion to very young children, it is often difficult for assisting ministers or pastors to know whether or parents want their children to receive communion or simply receive a blessing. The guidance offered by the church is that the age of first communion is determined through mutual conversation “that includes the pastor, the child, and the parents or sponsors involved, within the accepted practices of the congregation.”<sup>1</sup> Hence, this is a matter of pastoral care: care for the child, for the family, and for the congregation.

One concern that is frequently raised about communing young children is that they don't understand communion. Growing up, I was told that I needed to understand communion, before I could take it. Therefore, I needed to wait until I was confirmed. Later, I was told that ages 6 to 7 were considered the age of reason.

With respect to this concern, it must be pointed out that the sacrament of Holy Communion, like Holy Baptism, is a means of grace. Lutherans hold that grace is the gift of God. It is unmerited, undeserved, and freely given to those who receive it through faith. Therefore, it is the word and promise of God that makes the sacraments holy or valid, not our understanding or knowledge of

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<sup>1</sup> *The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament*, adopted for use by the Fifth Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August 19, 1997, p. 38.

the sacrament. We baptize infants, who do not understand what is happening to them, because we come with believing hearts, trusting in God's word and promise. If God promises to bind God's self to the child through Holy Baptism, who are we to question the promise of God?

The same is true of Holy Communion. The grace that is offered through Holy Communion is not contingent on our level of cognitive development or the depth of our theological training. Who among us can truthfully say they understand the mechanics of how Christ is truly present in, with and under the bread and wine? What matters is that we trust the promise of God, "given for you" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." As Luther puts it in the Small Catechism, "These words, accompanied by the physical eating and drinking are the essential thing in the sacrament, and whoever believes these very words has what they declare and state, namely forgiveness of sins."

Children, like adults, can eat and drink. Likewise, children know



how to trust and receive what is freely given. Is this not what grace is all about? That we come before God as beggars (Luther's words not mine) and are the recipients of grace?

There is much more that could be said

about the practice of Holy Communion in our congregations. I hope this sparks further thought and conversation and hopefully deeper appreciation of God's love and grace as it is extended to us at the Lord's Table.

Pastor Kleiber

## ASSISTING MINISTER: what, why, how

Holy Cross and the Worship team are seeking to expand the ministry of “assisting minister.” The worship team wants to share with the congregation what this role is, why it exists, and how one does it. When we know this together as a whole community, we can share the responsibility for raising up leaders for this role and receive and support their leadership as they assist in worship.



The assisting minister role has deep roots in Christian history. The early church commissioned deacons to take extra food from the offering at Holy Communion to those in need. In this role they came to serve as assisting ministers in worship: praying for the needs of the world, receiving and giving thanks for the offering, setting the table with bread and wine, assisting the presiding minister at the table, serving the people, and sending the people forth to love and serve their neighbor.

The role requires an understanding of all the parts of worship and how they work together. The assisting minister role gets its particular shape from its dual responsibility in assisting the gathered community in its worship and at the same time assisting the presiding minister in her or his leadership. This ancient role has its own dignity and centrality within worship and, along with the presiding minister, offers continuity of leadership throughout the worship service.

We hope this abbreviated description of the role of assisting minister will encourage you to suggest people who might be good

candidates for this important position—maybe yourself! We invite you to consider becoming an assisting minister. Training will be provided and have the opportunity for further discernment. Participants may decide to continue or not after training is completed.

Please let us know if you would consider becoming an assisting minister.

Kathy Makowski  
Worship and Music Ministry

From *Leading Worship Matters: A Sourcebook for Preparing Worship Leaders*.  
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### **Pastor Paul Opsahl**

Pastor Paul Opsahl, who is no stranger to Holy Cross, has graciously offered to provide emergency pastoral care during the gap between the departure of Pastor Kleiber and our next pastor. Pastor Opsahl will also preach and preside at worship on **May 26, June 2, June 9, and June 16.**



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
1090 Sterling Rd  
Herndon, VA 20170-3805

March 16, 2019

Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your care and concern to pastors who are called to Federal chaplaincy positions and the people with whom they serve in our nation and church. Your generosity to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Federal Chaplaincy Fund for Leaders Endowment by donating \$900.00 received on January 23, 2019, will go a long way toward providing trained and experienced chaplains for our Armed Forces, Veteran Administration Hospitals, US Department of Defense and Federal Prisons.

Your gift will be used to continue establishing scholarships that assist seminary students interested in becoming ELCA Federal Chaplains. This generosity helps to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to critical places and people within our population and government.

The drawdown of forces overseas does not end the challenge for **Armed Forces** service personnel. In fact, Chaplains are needed more than ever as the legacy of our longest war continues to impact our nation through lives that bear the deep and direct costs of conflict. ELCA chaplains have an outstanding reputation as they serve all people in all circumstances with a maturity of faith and learning that comes from the high standards and superb preparation for pastoral ministry within the ELCA. Your help maintains that level of service through eager men and women wanting to share the Gospel in challenging circumstances.

Your gift expands this care through the support of **Veteran Administration Hospital** chaplains. Often these hospital chaplains continue the pastoral care after the ministry of our military chaplains. These women and men of God will continue to bring God's love to ailing service personnel for their entire lives. Your donation supports this ministry, too.

Your generosity also extends to chaplains serving **Federal Prisons** and in the **US Department of Defense**. These chaplains are frequently forgotten servants who work in very challenging conditions and in much needed situations in need of faithful pastoral care. They bring the saving story of grace and peace in Jesus Christ in meaningful and powerful ways in these two very different and much needed situations.

On behalf of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Federal chaplains, we offer our personal thanks for your gift in these critical times. A great challenge that burdens seminary students today is the crushing debt they incur while answering the call of God to bring the Good News to all people in any circumstance and place. Know that your gift helps relieve that burden from our Federal Chaplains. May God bless you for this act of kindness.

In Christ's Service,

*Thank you! We are very grateful!!*

The Rev. Murray D. Finck, on behalf of the

ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministries Scholarship Development Team:

The Revs. Chaplains Paul Baker, Timothy Brady Eggleston, Timothy Eichler, Leif Espeland, Scottie Lloyd, Howard Stendahl, Eric Wester, Carol Yeager

## FELLOWSHIP



**OUR NEXT FIRST COMMUNION MINI-RETREAT** will be held on **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **12:30 pm** with a pizza lunch and concluding at 4:30 pm. The class is designed for children ages 6 to 9 and will be held in the Fellowship Hall and kitchen. We will be baking communion bread to be used on **First Communion Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**.

Please contact the church office to register. Any child, even if they are already taking communion, is welcome to join us for an afternoon filled with both fun and learning.

## EVANGELISM

***It's Herndon Festival Time & Your Help is Needed!!***



The Annual HERNDON FESTIVAL comes to life – May 30 - June 2. Holy Cross will be participating again this year and **YOUR VOLUNTEER HELP IS NEEDED**, so we can have another very successful event!

New this year – a new location for the Festival at the intersection of Spring Street and the Herndon Parkway! In an effort to better CONNECT with neighborhood families with young children, Holy Cross will again sponsor a table in the Kid's Arts and Crafts area that will be open throughout the Festival. We will also host a Holy Cross Exhibit all day Saturday, June 1. ***VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED*** both to help staff our exhibit and/or to provide volunteer help to Festival coordinators. Volunteering to help the Festival's coordinators is incredibly important to us because it allows Holy Cross to have our exhibit space free of charge!

Many thanks to Thrivent Financial for their \$250 Action Team Grant and to the Dulles Group of Thrivent for their very generous \$100 donation to Holy Cross to help us successfully participate in this year's upcoming Festival.

Please help us CONNECT with thousands of our Festival – attending neighbors! Help us share with them info about all the

GREAT Christ-inspired efforts that we here at Holy Cross share with our community neighbors. For more details about the Festival, please see <http://www.herndonfestival.net/> and for more details about Holy Cross' participation and to VOLUNTEER, please contact Roy Geiger @ 703-401-3934 or [gei2@verizon.net](mailto:gei2@verizon.net).

Thanks!

*Roy Geiger and the Evangelism Team*

## **A Thank You from Herndon Parks & Rec**

On Saturday morning, April 20, Holy Cross participated for the first time ever in the Town of Herndon's Easter Egg Hunt. We connected with over 200 kids and their families! Below is the Thank You note we received from John Walsh, coordinator of the event. My personal thanks to Karen Faulkner, Suzanne Flegal, Deb Reilly, Anne Geiger, Jo Roe and her mom and Teresa Easterly whose help made this an incredibly successful effort!

*"I just wanted to say thank you to the Holy Cross Lutheran Church for sponsoring this event. This is such a fun event for the members of this community and Holy Cross really helped make this year special. These events are nothing without the partnerships that we have, and we are so grateful for your support.*

*Taking on quilt craft and handing out eggs really helped bring a great element to this event. Holy Cross really went above and beyond, and I fully believe the event would not have been the success that it was without you all. This year we had 480 participants and something like 1,600 people attend the event,*

*everyone left with eggs and a smile on their face. Thank you again and I look forward to working with you all again in the future.*

*With Regards,*

*John H. Walsh  
Recreation Services Supervisor II  
814 Ferndale Ave  
Herndon, VA 20170”*





# OUTREACH

## Noisy Offering



Pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, oh my! As the culmination of our observance of Child Abuse Awareness month in April, we will have a noisy offering on **Mother's Day, Sunday May 12**. So, what's a noisy offering? The children will collect your loose change during the regular Offertory. The money we collect will support SafeSpot, an organization serving victims of child abuse and their families.

SafeSpot's History from their website, <https://www.safespotfairfax.org> - In 2010 Fairfax County Child Protective Services (CPS) investigated and assessed almost 3,000 cases of child abuse and neglect and did not have a center where child victims could feel safe to disclose their trauma and receive assistance and therapy from the team members to heal themselves and their families.

Up until April 2014, child victims in Fairfax were being interviewed in various locations. A temporary interview room had been created at the Police Annex, but it was a sterile, unwelcoming environment for children and their families. Unfortunately, families waited uncomfortably in a public lobby rather than in a private, family-friendly space.

SafeSpot provides child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse a safe, child-friendly environment where the child is interviewed by a trained forensic interviewer. In addition, non-



**SAFESPOT**

Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax County

offending family members receive support and advocacy from the time of the very first intervention. SafeSpot also provides no cost therapy services to children and families to assist them on their journey of hope and healing.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to get rid of all those coins or paper money if you prefer. Paper money just makes a quieter noise. The children and families who benefit from this will be most grateful!

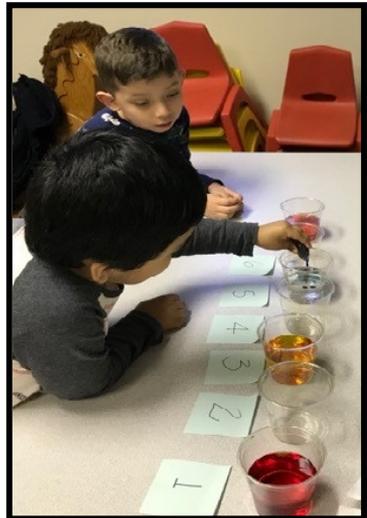
## ESOL - English Speakers of Other Languages at Holy Cross



We are happy to announce two more new American citizens from our ESOL classes. Jalal became a citizen in March and his wife Tayebah, in April. Both students are originally from Iran. Congratulations to both!

This has been a very busy spring semester. Although, almost 60 students registered, we average 30 - 35 students most classes, because many students work later hours as a result of the Daylight Savings Time change.

We have very interesting classes. For example, last week we practiced spelling words for our upcoming spelling test. This led into homonyms, e.g., eight and ate; to vowels; to hard-to-pronounce letters for Spanish speaking students. At another student's request, Jalal gave a short lesson on the Persian alphabet. He also shared his trick of counting letters for each word to know if he has the correct spelling.



Jeremy Shoop, Holy Cross Music Director, gave our students an excellent presentation about our church organ. Students looked inside the organ, admired its many different pipes and individual

sounds, and were fascinated watching Jeremy play. Jeremy answered many questions and even played several favorite hymns. It was wonderful experience for everyone. Thank you, Jeremy.

We welcome Erika Moreno, our newest nursery attendant. She and Beatriz Contreras are doing an excellent job nurturing our student's children, and they redecorated our nursery. Stop by sometime and take a look.



We always finish our spring semester with a Bingo and pizza night. We have a lot of fun and, since some students are new to Bingo, it's a great learning experience for everyone.

A big thank you to every ESOL teacher, assistant and our congregation for supporting our ESOL program at Holy Cross.

God Bless,  
Ellen



March 1, 2019

Holy Cross Lutheran  
1090 Sterling Rd  
Herndon, VA 20170

Dear Friends at Holy Cross Lutheran,

Thank you for your generous donation of Quilts and Kits for LWR's distribution overseas. These gifts of your hearts and hands are beautiful expressions of God's grace and love to people all around the world.

Because of your support, LWR is able to share the tangible love of Christ with thousands of people through your quilts and kits. Last year, LWR and partners Children's Gift Ministry (CGM) and OLAM were busy distributing School Kits in Honduras, to children whose families are vulnerable due to lack of access to the most basic necessities. Parents often have to choose between feeding their children and sending them to school. School Kits were distributed to more than 28,000 Honduran children to help them get back to or stay in school, increasing their chances of breaking the chains of chronic poverty and avoiding the very real risk of gang involvement. In addition to being practical, these kits provide a source of comfort, security and hope to those who receive them.

Your Quilts and Kits provide important necessities to our neighbors around the world, and serve as reminders that they are not alone or forgotten. In 2018, we shipped quilts and kits to 25 countries, including Angola, Greece, India, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, and Zambia. On behalf of our neighbors in villages, schools, hospitals and refugee camps around the world, I extend deepest thanks for your contribution, and pray God's richest blessings on your life and work!

In Christ,

Melanie W. Gibbons  
Quilt & Kit Ministry Manager

**DONATION RECEIPT**

37	Mission Quilts		Baby Care Kits
	Blankets		Fabric Kits
	Personal Care Kits		Soap
	School Kits		

**Herndon Fortnightly Club  
Announces  
Deadline for Scholarship Opportunity**



The Herndon Fortnightly Club as part of its continuous policy of giving back to the community is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for one-year scholarships to individuals living in the greater Herndon area. Past recipients of Fortnightly scholarships are not eligible for further consideration.

Candidates should be accepted for entrance or enrolled in an educational institution before applying for a scholarship. Qualifying coursework includes under graduate college level, post graduate, continuing education and coursework required for reentering the workforce.

Candidates should write a one-page letter, without attachments, to The Herndon Fortnightly Club explaining why the scholarship is needed, what career goals are being pursued and what academic institution has or will provide acceptance. Also included should be comments relating to activities, community service and academic standing.

The letter with your name, address and phone number should be sent to Scholarships, c/o The Herndon Fortnightly Club, P.O. Box 55, Herndon, VA 20172-0055. **Application letters must be received by May 17, 2019.** Applicants must reside in the Greater Herndon Area. Only letters received in their P .O. Box by the due date will be considered. No exception!

## STEWARDSHIP



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

### **BSA Troop 12 at Holy Cross: Its History - Part 2**

In last month's Quest, you read Part 1 of how Troop 12 came to hold its meetings at Holy Cross. Here is Part 2 and how Holy Cross came to sponsor Troop 12.



As Holy Cross member Craig Reichow continues to recount, "In late 2010, David Adams passed away and his company continued to sponsor "the 12s", although the Varsity Team and Venturing Crew phased out shortly after Dave's death. After a few years, though, Dave's wife decided to discontinue Dave's old business, so sponsorship of the 12s had to transition. Fortunately, the Holy Cross church council agreed to take over sponsorship and continue the mission of the 12s. The pack eventually transitioned into the troop, so only Troop 12 remains today.

Dave Adams was a remarkable asset to our community and he enlightened me to the needs of these special youth. Dave also recruited Herndon resident Roger Claff, who was Cubmaster for about 15 years -- without a special needs child of his own. Dave Adams did not have a special needs child either, but I marvel that God sent him on a mission to enlighten others...and he did.

In talking to Roger Claff in April at College of Commissioner Sciences, two of the Troop 12 youth are already 40 years old. Because of their special needs, the Boy Scouts of America allows them to continue as youth members. Across all of National Capital Area Council, few special needs troops exist. Therefore,

we can be especially proud that Troop 12 is a **regional** asset as it serves young men from both Fairfax and Loudoun Counties.

I couldn't be prouder to be a part of the formation of Troop 12. I remain a supporter of the mission of the 12s. The special needs community have few choices in potential activities, so I feel it is fantastic that Holy Cross is supporting Troop 12.”

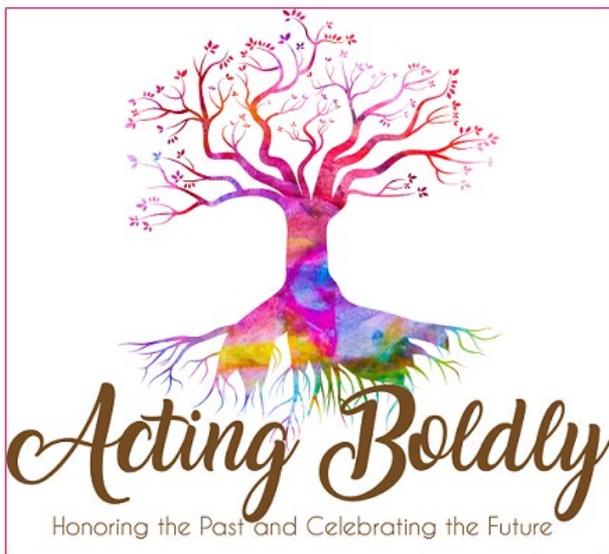
Next month: more Troop 12 history.

*by Troop 12 COR Anne Geiger*

# SYNOD AND CHURCH-WIDE NEWS

## Metro DC Synodical Women's Organization

"SINCE, THEN, WE HAVE SUCH A HOPE, WE ACT WITH  
**GREAT BOLDNESS**.....2 CORINTHIANS 3:12A



**MAY 4, 2019**

## **WOMEN'S CONVENTION**

**Bold Women** have acted throughout history to change the world. Join women in the Synod for a day of *Acting Boldly!*

**Workshops** will enable you to:

- Speak boldly and generously with people of differing views
- Discern ways to grow in service and faith
- Experience God's abundant love in a Chocolate Bible Study

Hosted by: Metro D.C. Synodical Women's Organization

**WE ARE EXPECTING YOU!**



**Honor the Past:**

**Hear from  
Pr. Elizabeth Platz**

**Bring pictures**

---

**Celebrate the  
Future:**

**Participate in  
God's Unfolding**

---

**Enjoy a brand new  
church!**

---

**Join in Bible  
study, worship,  
and more!**

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847-224-2819  
Donna Nelson

LEADERSHIP

# A camp-call connection

The summer before Nate Berkas started high school, he went on a camping trip that would change his life. Berkas said his faith journey began in earnest on a five-night visit to the Boundary Waters with Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry, an ELCA camp in Cook, Minn.

“It was the first opportunity for me to feel and see and experience God in a really tangible way,” Berkas said.

He went on several more trips to the area throughout high school before becoming a camp counselor in college, when he spent four successive summers working with youth at camp. “I realized through that experience that I was really passionate about outdoor ministry and really interested in pursuing that as a profession,” Berkas said.

**The next step in his journey came through acceptance into the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program, which is funded in part by Mission Support.** Berkas, who grew up in Madagascar while his parents served as missionaries there, applied for YAGM because “it was my own opportunity to see God at work in various ways around the world and to be formed and transformed by our companions.”

A highlight of Berkas’ YAGM year serving alongside companions from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa was a weeklong camp in Cape Town. The experience affirmed in Berkas the importance of “outdoor ministry and creating space for young people to come that’s outside of their normal context ... and to send them back renewed and refocused.”

After returning home, Berkas served for five years at the ELCA churchwide organization, stewarding the relationships between ELCA missionaries and their sponsoring congregations. His experience with the many facets of nonprofit management would later be an asset when he accepted his current position. “While I loved so much of what I was doing [to support churchwide global ministries], where I feel most called is going back to that canoe trip after eighth grade and thinking about how formative that was for my life,” he said.

Today, Berkas is site director at Wilderness Canoe Base—another ELCA camp in the Boundary Waters—where he gets to give young people the same experience he had as a camper. “I feel a deep call to this type of ministry,” he said. “I’m grateful for the way that all of this has worked together to shape where I am.”



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

May 5	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
<b>Pastor</b>		
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	Sarah Moran Rick Garverick Sylvia Moran	Daniel Contreras Samuel Contreras Ellen Atwell
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	Anne Geiger	Kathy Makowski
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Lori Newcomb Thomas Newcomb	Sharon Carter Nancy Jones
<b>Greeters/Readers</b>	Rick Garverick Pat Garverick	Ellen Atwell
<b>Ushers</b>	Jo Roe	Karen Faulkner

May 12	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
<b>Pastor</b>	Margrethe Kleiber	Margrethe Kleiber
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	Deb Reilly Joe Baggett Chip Edwards	Brianna Fautley Samuel Contreras Daniel Contreras
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	Joy Heuer	Becky Morgan
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Denise Robinson	Pam Darby
<b>Greeters/Readers</b>	Chip Edwards	Samuel Contreras
<b>Ushers</b>	Sally Moser Mark Roe The Setlik Family	Joel Flegal Suzanne Flegal Gary Wolfe Helen Wolfe

<b>May 19</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<b>Pastor</b>	Margrethe Kleiber	Margrethe Kleiber
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	Sarah Moran Vivian Jefferson Sylvia Moran	Katelyn Hunter Betty Skelton Frank Podczewiensky
<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>	Vivian Jefferson	Frank Podczewiensky
<b>Ushers</b>	Lynn Russo Vince Russo	Joe Makowski Kathy Makowski Marge Nafey

<b>May 26</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<b>Pastor</b>	Paul Opsahl	Paul Opsahl
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	Thomas Newcomb Chris Nelson Lori Newcomb	Kristina Gordon John Breene Tammy Breene
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	Mike Faulkner	Len Owens
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jane Pattison Karen Faulkner	Beulah Medikonda Carol Shaffer
<b>Greeters/Readers</b>	Chris Nelson	Glen Piersol Kathy Piersol
<b>Ushers</b>	Jane Pattison Dennis Pattison	Roy Geiger



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