

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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



February 2020

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the March 2020 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Wednesday, February 12th.

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

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

Thank you,
Teresa Easterly
Church Administrator

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Find us online!

www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net



Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon VA



@HolyCrossELCA



HolyCrossELCA

STAFF NEWS



“As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.”

Matthew 4: 18-23

In many ways, it is not an easy time in our history to “be the church.” Sociologists and folks that study these things tell us that the demographic shifts in our culture are growing away from organized religion (actually, all organized groups in general). Many in our society distrust, even fear churches and the people that attend them. They often see us as judgmental and closed-minded, too quick to divide people into “the good” and “the bad.” Of course, we know that not all Christians operate in this way, but to

those on the outside, it's hard to tell the difference. People are far more likely to claim to be spiritual but not religious and they are certainly not attached to any particular denomination or congregation. According to some experts, church attendance across all denominational lines is at an all-time low in our country. It's easy to get discouraged and fearful for the way forward.

When Jesus called his first disciples, his request was pretty simple: "follow me." He did not say what that following would cost them, where it would bring them, or what troubles lay in store for them. He simply asked them to follow. It was not easy for them either, to follow Jesus. They gave up their families, their home, and their vocations for a new call. They followed into uncertainty, trusting in the One who called them.

The church is not dying, but we may be transforming into something new. The church will survive, because Jesus is in the midst of us. We are Jesus' Body here on earth and we have survived 2,000 years of change. God is the God of the present and the future, of resurrection and new life. While it is natural and tempting to focus on what is going wrong, Jesus calls to trust that, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news."

Some of the way ahead means emphasizing what we do best: Preaching the Word. Sharing the Sacraments. Being an open place that is safe and welcoming. Bringing food to the hungry. Being a sanctuary for those who hurt and a feeding station for those who need strength for the week ahead. Some of the way ahead will mean trying new things, being more open to the needs of our community and listening to their concerns.

We are in an ongoing process of reimagining and rethinking how we do things at Holy Cross. We are looking for new ways to be a part of our community, different avenues to be the presence of Jesus to our neighbor. We are exploring new connections with our

schools, especially the Middle School, seeking to hear how we can assist them in their mission. We are looking into ways that our congregation can be even more open, more welcoming, and more inclusive to all people. We are, especially through Jeremy's sabbatical, seeking to enhance our worship and music ministry, particularly with an eye to invite new people into our congregation.

Thank you. Thank you for being a congregation that is supportive, open, and willing to try new things. Thank you for being a community that welcomes others in our midst, that seeks to be a positive force in our area. Thank you for being a place where people find hope and healing in recovery groups, where new neighbors can learn English, where young men are mentored and trained to be men of integrity in Boy Scouts, and where people who are hurting can find Good News. Thank you for your generosity. You make this happen. Through your financial giving, through your dedication to the programs and the building, through your trust and your attitude of service. All of this is what it means to be a church. No matter what the future might bring, no matter what changes we may face, Jesus will continue to lead us and call to us, "Follow me."

Thanks,

Pastor Martin

OUTREACH



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Typically, the Outreach article focuses on our efforts to serve our local community. As the New Year unfolded with news of monumental natural disasters around the world, it seems like a good time to focus this month on what our wider church does to serve the community worldwide. Here is some brief information about three of the ELCA worldwide ministries. You can learn much more and give through the ELCA Website, <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development>.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

We recognize that every disaster is local. Because of this, we believe every response needs to be rooted in the community; we work to accompany that community from immediate relief through long-term recovery. In our international work we partner closely with companion churches and other Lutheran and ecumenical relief agencies to make sure local needs are being addressed and met. In the United States, we work through our extensive affiliate network and other partners to address these same concerns.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

We are a church that does God's work in the world and in local communities pursuing justice, peace and human dignity for and with all people.

The work of the ELCA through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service includes responding to people caught in conflict and facing persecution, advocating for their needs and interests, helping people access resources for basic human needs, working with foster care programs for minors, legal assistance, developing new and innovative service programs and partnerships, and much more. For more go to their website, <https://www.lirs.org>.

ELCA World Hunger

More than 820 million people - that's about 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry.

Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Teachers and Teacher Assistants Needed

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF HOLY CROSS. . .

If you love people and extraordinary rewarding experiences, you might be a potential teacher or teacher's assistant for our English Language Learners (ELL) program!

- ❖ **No experience necessary**
- ❖ **No fluency in other languages required**
- ❖ **Training, texts and lesson plans are all provided**
- ❖ **Space is available for Mondays and/or Wednesdays
7-9 pm**

For more information, please contact Ellen Atwell (Ellen.Atwell@Verizon.net or 703-201-2900) or Suzanne Baggett, (SuzanneBaggett@Verizon.net or 703-864-5562).

NOTE: The classes follow the schedules of Fairfax County (<https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/19-20-standard-school-year-calendar.pdf>) and Loudoun County (<https://www.lcps.org/Page/2#calendar69227/20200126/month>) Public Schools. Contact HCLC at 703-437-1883 for more details.



Giving Back to the Community: When you donate, volunteer and shop at The Closet, you help us help the local community. In 2019 The Closet provided almost \$105,000 in clothing, shoes and essential household goods at no cost to the needy, donated over \$114,000 to local charities and provided \$30,000 in scholarships to students at five local high schools. The Closet also delivers its excess goods to communities in the Shenandoah Valley, where they are distributed free of charge to those who need a helping hand. So, remember when you donate, volunteer and shop at The Closet **you** are part of the support to the community.

Rear Addition Construction: To improve your Closet experience, we are building a rear addition and making the store's rear entrance handicap accessible. Construction is expected to begin in early February. When construction begins, the construction will affect the parking lot and rear building entrances. Please see the web site, (<http://theclosetofgreaterherndon.org>) for specific details on construction as we know them.

Potential impacts include:

- The parking lot will be closed to all shoppers and volunteers.

- Parking on the street or in municipal lots. Find municipal parking lot locations, using tools such as <https://www.parkopedia.com>.
- Both rear entrances (to the store and to the work areas) will be closed. Please use the front (Station Street) entrance.
- The Closet will continue to accept donations at a different location. Details are still being worked out and will be put on the website when they are final.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We have begun the second half of our Sunday School Program for the current church year.

Currently, Kingdom Kids are learning about Jesus with the help of science experiments! In Children's Church, the lessons will be lectionary based, syncing up with the lessons, gospel and sermon for that Sunday.

Adult Bible study with Pastor Eldred continues with an exploration of First Corinthians. Everyone is welcome as we study a book that covers many issues contemporary to our time today. Bibles are provided, if needed.

A reminder to all of you. We can use some fresh ideas and assistance on this committee. As parents and members of this congregation, we know each of you try to assist in your own way. However, volunteering to assist on this committee would be so greatly appreciated. We don't have many meetings but do need help to initiate and help execute our planned activities. Your support will be welcomed. Just ask - what can I/we do to help?

Respectfully,
Betty Skelton and Suzanne Baggett

YOUTH

Scout Sunday 2020 – For your calendar!

A Scout is reverent. Sunday, February 9, 2020 is Scout Sunday at Holy Cross. Please let Anne Geiger (703-437-9413 or Gei2@verizon.net) know if you are a Boy or Girl Scout or Adult Scouter who would be willing to serve in uniform at either the 8:30 am and 11:00 am service that day - we need greeters, readers, ushers, acolytes, assisting ministers and communion assistants.



EVANGELISM

Taking Care of Each Other

Most of the time when we think and talk about Evangelism, we commonly think about sharing the messages of God's love with folks not yet familiar with Holy Cross and our many Christ-inspired efforts. But there is also the "internal Evangelism" we are called to do – to take care of each other – our Holy Cross brothers and sisters as Christ has taught us to do.



Many of us already do this. We meet with others every Sunday and catch up with each other. We note who we see and who is missing. We share our concerns about congregational members we haven't seen for a while. Folks volunteer to reach out via phone, email, text and/or personal visits to check up on folks to see if they are ok or if they need to hear from the Pastor or other congregational members.

So, how about we all set a goal for the month of February and all the way to Easter and beyond, to reach out to everyone we see and don't see Sunday after Sunday. Check in with those you see. Check in with those you don't see. Let them know you miss them and how they are missed by all of us at Holy Cross. It's just being friendly and caring. We need to reach out to our members as well new folks. WE can do this! And you can be a very BIG PART of this effort!!

Thanks!

Roy Geiger and the Evangelism Team

STEWARDSHIP

Online Giving

We appreciate your online giving. There are two ways 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

SYNOD AND CHURCH-WIDE NEWS

GLOBAL CHURCH

Companions in Christ

STORIES
OF FAITH
IN ACTION
2019 - 2020



he global church is a reality, not just an abstract concept, for the thousands of Lutherans engaged in ELCA companion-synod relationships.

“Companion synods nurture a church that is global, not only the parochial enclave of being together,” said Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of ELCA Global Mission.

Sixty-four ELCA synods have at least one

global-church companion. Because many synods relate to multiple companion churches, more than 120 companion-synod relationships exist. Most participating churches, including the ELCA, are members of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). *Mission Support funding enhances the ministry of the LWF and the companion-synod program.*

For Martin Malley of Ralston, Neb., participating in the Nebraska Synod’s relationship with the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania “enlarges my worldview and lets me see outside my box.”

Visiting Tanzania during a synod trip was Malley’s first peek beyond his “box.” “By the end of the weekend, I was so taken with the people and the beauty of the place that I was on fire!” he said.

Now Malley serves as the synod’s volunteer coordinator of Tanzania ministries, weaving myriad Nebraska-Tanzania connections into the fabric of the synod and diocese. Scores, if not hundreds, of Lutherans have traveled between Nebraska and

Tanzania and built long-standing personal relationships over time, said Brian Maas, bishop of the Nebraska Synod.

Nebraskans and Tanzanians swap pulpits, visit each other’s schools and congregations, and keep in touch via Facebook. Nebraskans have donated generously to the Northern Diocese, funding scholarships, purchasing textbooks, equipping evangelists with motorcycles and more. But “this is not about us doing projects,” Malley said. “It’s about us having Christian friends on the other side of the world.”

In companion-synod relationships, care and support flow both ways. Visitors from the Nkuu Kati Lutheran parish took note when Malley and other members of Messiah Lutheran in Ralston showed how they were retrofitting the church’s bathrooms to accommodate people of all abilities. “Three months later [Nkuu Kati] sent a check for \$300 to support our project,” Malley said. “We knew then that this was a partnership.”



“This is not about us doing projects,” said ELCA member Martin Malley of the ELCA Nebraska Synod’s relationship with the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. “It’s about us having Christian friends on the other side of the world.” Your Mission Support gifts enhance the ELCA companion-synod program.



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

SERVING IN WORSHIP

February 2	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Music & Liturgy	Marcia Kratzke Suzanne Baggett Becky Morgan	Marcia Kratzke Suzanne Baggett Becky Morgan
Worship Leaders	Sarah Moran Sylvia Moran Karen Faulkner	Daniel Contreras Samuel Contreras Ellen Atwell
Asst. Minister	Joy Heuer	Kathy Makowski
Altar Guild	Lori Newcomb Thomas Newcomb	Sharon Carter Nancy Jones
Greeters/Readers	Sylvia Moran	Samuel Contreras
Ushers	Joe Baggett Suzanne Baggett	Mike Faulkner Roy Geiger Howard Miller

February 9	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Music & Liturgy	Marcia Kratzke Suzanne Baggett Becky Morgan	Marcia Kratzke Suzanne Baggett Becky Morgan
Worship Leaders	Joe Baggett Vivian Jefferson Chris Nelson	Thomas Newcomb Lori Newcomb Wayne Newcomb
Asst. Minister	Anne Geiger	Clay Newcomb
Altar Guild	Denise Robinson	Pam Darby
Greeters/Readers	Chris Nelson	Craig Reichow
Ushers	Sally Moser Mark Roe The Setlik Family	Joel Flegal Suzanne Flegal Gary Wolfe Helen Wolfe

February 16	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Music & Liturgy	Marcia Kratzke Suzanne Baggett Becky Morgan	Marcia Kratzke Suzanne Baggett Becky Morgan
Worship Leaders	Mike Faulkner Chris Nelson Vivian Jefferson	Anne Geiger Chip Edwards John Pinckney
Asst. Minister	Anne Geiger	Andy Krueger
Altar Guild	Sally Moser Lynn Russo	Cathy Pfisterer Brian Virnelson Hope Russell
Greeters/Readers	Joel Flegal Suzanne Flegal	Chip Edwards
Ushers	Lynn Russo Vince Russo	Joe Makowski Kathy Makowski Marge Nafey

February 23	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Music & Liturgy	Marcia Kratzke Suzanne Baggett Becky Morgan	Marcia Kratzke Suzanne Baggett Becky Morgan
Worship Leaders	Kathy Makowski Joe Baggett Thomas Newcomb	Rick Garverick Betty Skelton Frank Podczerviensky
Asst. Minister	Mike Faulkner	Len Owens
Altar Guild	Jane Pattison Karen Faulkner	Beulah Medikonda Carol Shaffer
Greeters/Readers	Joe Baggett	Frank Podczerviensky
Ushers	Jane Pattison Dennis Pattison	Roy Geiger

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