

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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



January 2020

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the January 2020 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Monday, January 13th.

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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Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon VA



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STAFF NEWS



Time of Rest and Reflection

New year. New decade. New challenges. New opportunities. January often allows us the chance to assess, plan, and look forward and can be the same with congregations as with individuals. This new year also brings us a new twist at Holy Cross as Jeremy has begun his well-deserved sabbatical leave. It will seem strange not to have him present leading us in music, but we are thankful for the volunteer leadership of Marcia, Becky and Suzanne who will keep our spirits soaring with song!

Sabbaticals are a time of rest and reflection. Taking some time off to sort out, refresh and rethink is one major goal of a sabbatical. It is also an opportunity to stretch out, to try new things and exercise new “muscles”. Often, the change of routine and of action leads to a new vitality and new way of thinking about the time ahead.

While Jeremy is on a formal sabbatical leave, we at Holy Cross are going to be doing our own bit of rethinking and redoing as well as doing our best to fill in the gaps in Jeremy’s absence. This is how we will be utilizing “new muscles”, trying new things, seeing things differently and looking forward together.

In my experience, such a shake-up, even for a few weeks, often revitalizes a congregation. As we change up from the routine, it allows us to be reminded about what we love at Holy Cross. It allows us to have a hand at being part of our common mission in a different way. It also allows us to appreciate the gifts the Spirit has blessed us with – those we have come to know and love, and those that emerge in the new time.

During this new time of sabbatical, my prayer for us is that we be open to the Holy Spirit's promptings as we see and do church in different ways; that we remain patient with each other and with the different ways of worshiping together; and that we listen closely for the Spirit's whispers of promise as we are lead into dreaming, planning and doing new things in God's name in the years to come.

Pastor Martin



We Three Kings

We Three Kings is probably one of the best-known Epiphany carols. It is also one that is most often brought forward into the Christmas season for use at carol services. However, it is a straightforward dramatization of the story of the wise men's visit to Jesus after his birth on Christmas Day. This story is taken out of Matthew 2:7-11

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The carol was first published in 1884 while its author, Rev. Dr. John Hopkins, was Rector of a parish in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He wrote it as part of a Christmas pageant for a seminary in New York City. Hopkins is the composer of both the text and music for this hymn. It is interesting to note that Hopkins was very specific to note that there was to be no slowing down on the "O..." that starts each refrain, a request that has been clearly thrown out by modern culture. Hopkins has been criticized by Bible scholars that the first people to visit Christ from Eastern lands were not kings; nor were there three of them. Yet so many people who learn this carol at a young age carry this misconception into adult life. The Bible simply calls these men "magi." It is believed that this term refers to a caste of Persian priests or sorcerers who were experts in astrology, divination, and the interpretation of dreams. While they could have been rulers of a sort because of their offices, there is no reason to believe they had great wealth.

What we do know is that these Gentiles traveled some distance, intent upon worshiping the newborn King of the Jews. With them they brought gifts of great worth - gold, frankincense and myrrh. Hopkins explains in his carol that these gifts were to prophesy what the Christ child would be. Gold prophesied his kingship. The frankincense spoke of his purity of life. Myrrh was a spice that embalmed the dead and predicted his coming death.

These gifts could also be interpreted as gifts that God desires from us still today. Gold to symbolize our most precious treasures, our hopes and dreams. Giving a gift of gold is giving from the heart. The frankincense denotes the pleasing fragrance that arises from a life of holiness and offering him our obedience. Myrrh is to proclaim the fact that we have died to self and now live in Christ, thus giving him our very life.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy

COUNCIL NEWS



Happy New Year, Holy Cross Family! I hope everyone found time over the holidays to spend time with the people you love, creating wonderful new memories.

You may recall that I gave a temple talk in October, asking you to all consider committing to the “Building on the Best

Capital Campaign”. I am excited to announce that we are now at nearly \$195,000 in campaign commitments. THANK YOU SO MUCH for responding so graciously to this important campaign. In the coming weeks I will see if we can get the last \$5,000 committed to get us across the finish line!

We are also right on track for expected giving to the campaign as well. Again, I THANK YOU! Not only have you been very generous, but you also provided valuable input into which carpets we’ll likely use for the new flooring. Because of your generosity, we are able to move forward with the Fellowship Hall flooring replacement in Jan/Feb. Depending on the bids we receive, we may be able to replace the flooring in the office hallway and the offices as well!

Our third project of the campaign will focus on much needed renovations to the restrooms next to the Fellowship Hall. We will move forward with planning for the restroom project upon completion of the flooring replacement. Realistically, that project will likely take place in 2021.

The most important part the capital campaign is up to all of us. We aspire to welcome 48 new members during this three-year window (2019-2021). We welcomed six new members in 2019. Please

consider bringing a friend to worship, a service project or a fellowship event in 2020. Greet visitors warmly. Introduce yourself to a stranger. Forty-eight new members is an ambitious goal, but I'm confident that if we each invite at least four people to Holy Cross events this year, we will easily meet our goal.

Peace and God's grace be with you all,

Deb Reilly

FELLOWSHIP



"11/20/19

Dear Holy Cross Friends,

Thank you very much for all you did to help our family during the passing of our loved one, Sheri Gildea. The church was very responsive to our needs. We appreciate the Pastor at the hospital and at both services. Jeremy's guidance and talent in helping plan and run the service, the choir and Worship team support and the Fellowship team's delicious reception. We know it takes time and effort to make all these things happen and we felt God's love through all of you that day. Thank you!

Love,

Tom, Jud & Tammy"

OUTREACH

English Language Learners (ELL)

We started our 17th year in September 2019 teaching English to a very diverse group of immigrants from our community. We teach each Monday and Wednesday evening from 7:00-9:00 during the fall and spring semesters. We teach once a week free of charge during the summer session.

We completed our fall semester with our annual student and family Christmas party on December 9th. Suzanne Baggett started our party playing the piano for our Christmas caroling. Our students love singing Christmas carols in English and Spanish. We also enjoy good food and fellowship. It is always a treat for the teachers to meet our students' families.

We always play "Christmas With the Right Family" at our party. Our student's stand in a circle and each gets to hold a gift, but they are not allowed to open it yet. The game teaches our students to follow instructions by handing the gift to the right or left. Of course, this produces a lot of laughter and cheerfulness.

I'm very grateful to our wonderful teachers: Suzanne Baggett, Jeanne Maysonett, Dayna Sowd, Elizabeth Vargas, Chip Edwards and Daniel Contreras. We also welcomed Gary Gepford this year as a part-time teacher. The teachers work hard and spend a lot of time preparing lessons and we also help each other with lesson plans.

We thank our nursery staff, Beatriz Orellana and Erika Moreno, for watching our students' children each night. We couldn't have classes without you. Thank you, ladies!

Thanks to the congregation for supporting our ELL program.

God Bless,
Ellen Atwell, ELL Coordinator



Chip Edwards leading our Christmas game.



Students caroling.



Families from El Salvador.



Good food and fellowship. Students sharing food from their countries.



Justin, 4th from left, our youngest student (13) with his family from El Salvador.

Serving Our Neighbors

Full disclosure: I do not make New Year's resolutions. Over the years I discovered I generally followed through on them for about a month. Okay, two weeks. So, it is perhaps a bit hypocritical of me to suggest resolutions to others, but that won't stop me: resolve this year to share some of your time and talent to help our church reach out to our community.

The purpose of the Outreach Ministry at Holy Cross is to serve God through serving His people. We do this through our ministry to the homeless by serving lunch every other month at the Embury Rucker Shelter. We provide food and servers. For the servers it's two – three hours on a Saturday. It's not a lot of time, but it makes a big difference to those served. The lunches are coordinated by Barb Gouldey and Jo Roe and are advertised through Perfect Potluck links in the weekly updates.

Our ELL (English Language Learners) Program meets twice a week on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Because so many of our students come right from work, we provide food for them and childcare. There are many opportunities to serve in this ministry without it becoming an overwhelming commitment of time. Ellen Atwell is the contact person for ELL.

The Quilting Group is a combination of Fellowship and Outreach. The people involved in this combine fun with service. The quilts they make go to Lutheran Refugee Services to be delivered to refugees around the world. Denise Robinson coordinates this.

Holy Cross is a Member Congregation supporting The Closet of Herndon. Each Congregation is assigned volunteer days. If you would like to volunteer with our congregation, look on the calendar to see our next dates. In addition to Congregational dates, The Closet always needs volunteer help. You can stop by the store at any time

during our operating hours and volunteer. Here is the website to sign up online: <http://theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/>.

Your incredibly generous response to our requests for donations of food or other items of life's necessities is truly inspiring. We can always use help organizing, advertising and delivering these donations. Contact me, Suzanne Flegal, to become involved in this.

In 2019, we started to work with Herndon Middle School to support their students. The school is literally our neighbor, located about two blocks from us. In 2018-19 53% of HMS students received free or reduced-price meals. Twenty-eight percent were English Language Learners. We supported the students and their families through the summer food donations and the recent coat drive. There are opportunities for more hands-on involvement—mentoring, tutoring, after school drop-in activities, as well as continuing to support the practical needs. We will need help as we work on building this support and invite your ideas and planning help as well as your time and talent in implementing this.

We have heard this said in many ways, but this one from an old Gaelic poem has always moved me-- *Often, often, often, Goes the Christ in the stranger's guise. May we always see Christ in our neighbors and serve them as we would serve Him.*



Help the Closet Help the Community

Did you make a resolution to volunteer more in 2020? If you did, please consider volunteering at The Closet, a faith-based nonprofit thrift shop in Herndon that annually gives away nearly \$100,000 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, Shelter House 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.
- 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 talk with Rita Hacker or Rachel Williams about volunteering or contact The Closet directly, 703-437-7652 or TheClosetInc@verizon.net. High school students can

volunteer hours for school or other service 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 2020, please support The Closet by shopping and donating gently used items. See The Closet's website for shop and donation hours and what items are accepted - <http://theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/donate-goods/#howtodonate>.

Changes Coming at The Closet: In early 2020, a new addition will be built in the donation intake area to keep staff, volunteers and donations sheltered in inclement weather. Please check The Closet's website where we will post more details about the construction project as soon as we know and how it might affect volunteers, donors and customers.

Inclement Weather Policy Reminder: Snow and ice are coming! Be prepared! If in doubt regarding whether The Closet will be open on the day you plan on coming in, call the store, 703-437-7652. Volunteers and shoppers will hear a recorded message regarding the store's status.

Thank you for your support!

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

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

Your Help Always Needed and Appreciated

Got Interest in Helping Holy Cross Become Better Known?

We need your help to become better recognized in our community. We also need marketing expertise in organizational logos, messaging, etc. As we embark on this effort, we need your help and guidance. Volunteers and/or ideas and recommendations are all greatly appreciated!

As the “Building on the Best” Capital Campaign team develops new plans for renovations, the guidance of a professional interior designer or design team experienced in churches or commercial efforts would be greatly welcome!

If you or someone you know might be interested in any of these new and exciting events and projects at Holy Cross, please contact Roy Geiger (703-401-3934 or gei2@verizon.net). Stay tuned for more information coming your way!

Thanks!

Roy Geiger and the Evangelism Team

SYNOD AND CHURCH-WIDE NEWS



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

Just Love: Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering July 16-19, 2020

We've heard a lot from our youth about how inspirational they found the ELCA youth gathering to be. Do you know there is a similar opportunity for women to join together for service, study, and worship every three years?

The next Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering will be July 16-19, 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona. More information can be found on the conference webpage:

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

Early bird registration is \$325 until January 6. Contact Vivian Jefferson (vjefferson@gmail.com or 571-217-6627) if you're interested in coordinating schedules to go, together.

CONGREGATIONS

Satisfying spiritual hunger

The soothing strains of live music create a relaxed, meditative environment at the Open Space program, hosted by Church of the Apostles, a Seattle-based worshipping community of the ELCA and the Episcopal Church.

The monthly gathering is open to the public and regularly attracts 10 to 40 people. Attendees enter quietly, silencing their phones. They set up yoga mats, pillows or cushions to relax on as they take time to enjoy the present in a comfortable, candlelit space.

"A lot of people who go to [Open Space] have nothing to do with [our congregation]," said Ivar Hillesland, pastor of Church of the Apostles. "It answers a longing they have for safe spiritual experiences within community."

The Seattle area has many who aren't affiliated with a church, and who may be wary or distrustful of religion, he noted.

"We're hosting a communal, spiritual place without the programming involved," Hillesland said. "It is evangelism, but we're not trying to get [visitors] to join the church."

Alex Mrakovich, a regular attendee, enjoys the serenity of Open Space.

"It's a space where my questions and judgments and fears can slowly be suspended as I practice being present to both myself and the vibrations and sound around me," Mrakovich said.

Mission Support funding from the churchwide organization enables Church of the Apostles to provide this community program as well as other ministries.

"It is because of the freedom granted to us through this funding that we are able to serve God and our neighbors most fully," Hillesland said.

He believes Open Space is satisfying Seattleites' deepest cravings. "Some churches offer food pantries that respond to the physical need for food. We offer a spiritual, musical experience for people who are hungry for that. ... It is spiritual food for people."

To find a video story about Open Space, visit ELCA.org/SOFIA.



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

SERVING IN WORSHIP

January 5	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Dir. of Music & Lit	Jeremy Shoop	Jeremy Shoop
Worship Leaders	Sarah Moran Sylvia Moran Thomas Newcomb	Daniel Contreras Samuel Contreras LeRoy Wallin
Asst. Minister	Mike Faulkner	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

January 12	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Dir. of Music & Lit	Jeremy Shoop	Jeremy Shoop
Worship Leaders	Deb Reilly Chris Edwards Chris Nelson	Kyla Gordon Helen Wolfe Gary Wolfe
Asst. Minister	Joy Heuer	Kathy Makowski
Altar Guild	Denise Robinson	Pam Darby
Greeters/Readers	Chip Edwards	Helen Wolfe Gary Wolfe
Ushers	Sally Moser Mark Roe The Setlik Family	Joel Flegel Suzanne Flegel Gary Wolfe Helen Wolfe

January 19	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Dir. of Music & Lit	Jeremy Shoop	Jeremy Shoop
Worship Leaders	Mike Faulkner Chris Nelson Vivian Jefferson	Anne Geiger Betty Skelton 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	Betty Skelton
Ushers	Lynn Russo Vince Russo	Joe Makowski Kathy Makowski Marge Nafey

January 26	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Dir. of Music & Lit	Jeremy Shoop	Jeremy Shoop
Worship Leaders	Kathy Makowski Karen Faulkner Sylvia Moran	Thomas Newcomb Rick Garverick Lori Newcomb
Asst. Minister	Mike Faulkner	Len Owens
Altar Guild	Jane Pattison Karen Faulkner	Beulah Medikonda Carol Shaffer
Greeters/Readers	Vivian Jefferson	Lori Newcomb
Ushers	Jane Pattison Dennis Pattison	Roy Geiger

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