

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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



September 2019

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the October 2019 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Thursday, September 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

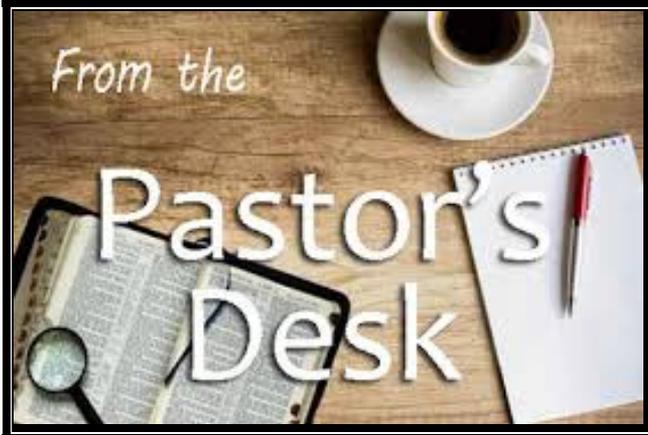


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STAFF NEWS



**“Everyone we know, or have ever known,
was once a stranger.”**

“How are you settling in?” I’ve heard that question many times in the month that I have been among you. Thank you, for your interest and concern during my transition from being an Alaskan to a Virginian. Thank you for inviting me for events or for meals. Your reaching out to me helps me feel part of the community and I greatly appreciate it. That really is the power of a community, especially a faith community – we look out for each other and we support one another along the way.

As I write this, we are coming to the end of a wonderful week of Vacation Bible school. With 17 young people and 34 adults, it has been a high energy week! It has been a great week and a great example of what teamwork is all about. So many leaders and helpers, bakers and chefs, parents and young people, have come together, worked together, and learned together to make this week a fantastic one. Thank you to everyone involved!

In my brief time here this far, what has really impressed me about Holy Cross is the strong sense of community that drives the mission and ministry of our congregation. There are so many people that are deeply involved in the workings and doing of our church, many of whom are those essential “behind the scenes” folks that set up, clean up, check in, and see to it that things are going okay. There are also those that help with worship, fellowship, outreach and our infrastructure. There are those too that pray diligently that the work of Jesus may flow in our community. All are important. All are part of what it means to be a vital, inclusive and welcoming community of Jesus Christ. I thank you all for what you do.

As we enter the fall season and our programs are up and running, I pray that we will continue to foster community and live out our common mission joy and thanksgiving. We are truly blessed. May we continue to be a blessing for others.

Pastor Martin

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & LITURGY



Earth and All Stars

As September begins, teachers and students are heading back to school. One of my favorite hymns to sing at back to school time is *Earth and All Stars*. On its

surface, *Earth and All Stars* is one of the stranger texts in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. With phrases like “Loud rushing planets!”, or “Loud boiling test tubes!” or even “Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers!” you may be asking why on earth are we singing this hymn. However, after a brief history lesson in hymnody one can see the beauty of these phrases and why we sing it in church.

Herbert Brokering’s text, “Earth and All Stars,” calls the universe to unite and “Sing to the Lord a new song.” In addition to addressing the natural universe that Psalm 148 catalogs (“mountains and hills,” “beasts and cattle,” “birds of the air,” etc.), “Earth and All Stars” also calls on music, industry, construction, education, sports and philosophy, the entire human enterprise, to join the song. Each image is bound together by the recurring phrase found in each stanza, “Sing to the Lord a new song!” He has done marvelous things. I too will praise him with a new song!”

Brokering, a Lutheran minister born in 1926, composed this text in 1964 on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of St. Olaf College. With phrases like “Classroom and labs!” and “Athlete and band!” it is easy to see the academic world references in stanzas four and

five. As our children and teachers return to school it is particularly appropriate to send us out singing this hymn.

*Classrooms and labs!
Loud boiling test tubes!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band!
Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song!*

*God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!*

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop,
Director of Music and Liturgy

COUNCIL NEWS



Welcome to Fall, Y'all!!

I hope you all found some time this summer to relax, recharge and spend time with some of

your favorite people; and now, it's back to real life!

We will kick off the fall with **Rally Day** on Sunday Sept 8th! In addition to getting those kiddos registered for Sunday School, I hope you will all take the opportunity to think about your own time and talents and think about where you can best serve Holy Cross.

Please take a walk through the fellowship hall and look at all the activities available. Are you "handy"? Property can always use a pair of hands to help out with maintenance activities around the church. Are you willing to participate in worship? Worship and Music welcomes all to serve as acolytes, readers, ushers, musicians and communion assistants. Do you want to share in your faith with others? Consider bringing home communion to shut ins. Can you cook? How about helping with the service meals or First Sunday Lunches? Are you financially-minded? The Finance Team, Audit Team and Capital Campaign would welcome your ideas. Are you willing to teach? We welcome new Sunday School and ESOL teachers. Are you able to pull a weed or pick up trash? The grounds could definitely use your support. Would you like to provide meaningful service in the community? Outreach would love to talk with you. How about playing a kazoo in the Herndon Homecoming Parade? There are **many** opportunities to serve. The one thing I've discovered in the last couple of years at Holy Cross... the more I serve, the better I feel about my place in the world.

In addition to Rally Day on the 8th, we'll come together in fellowship for a Sunday lunch, followed by **Pastor Martin's Installation** service. This is an important milestone in the life of Holy Cross and we are so thrilled to formally welcome Pastor Martin into our community. We **may** even get to visit with Shelly that day as well!

The **Capital Campaign** work will kick into high gear in the coming weeks as well. On the Evangelism side, we'll be a presence at the SterlingFest - October 12th and the Herndon Homecoming Parade - October 19th. These are great opportunities to make Holy Cross known to our local neighbors. We will also begin our next building project ~ replacing the flooring in the fellowship hall. We're looking for three-four people to help on a team to lead this project. Please let me know if you'd be willing to help!

As we close the summer, I would like to note two special efforts from the summer. First, I want to thank Suzanne Baggett for her extraordinary leadership, effort and commitment to making our **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** a huge success!! She had an army of helpers... too many to list here, for which we are all grateful! From the decorations, to the food, to the activities, many hands made this possible. Well done, Holy Cross! Thank you, Suzanne!

Secondly, I'd like to thank Suzanne Flegal for her passion and hard work to ensure that kids of Herndon were well fed this summer. Suzanne has been working with Herndon Middle School to develop a partnership where we serve the school students where the need is greatest. Once again, the generous people of Holy Cross provided food for many, all summer long. Thank you all for your generosity!

With joy and appreciation for our extraordinary family,

Deb

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Don't forget Rally Day
Sept. 8, 2019

Rally Day - The beginning of another Sunday School church year. Our project for Rally Day, along with the support of the Outreach Committee is to compile Lutheran World



Relief Personal Care Kits between the services on Rally Day - September 8th. Donations can be placed on the table in the Narthex. Instructions for donated items are displayed in the Narthex. The list of items needed for each kit are:

- ✓ One pair of nail clippers
- ✓ Two/Three bars of soap equaling 8 oz – 9 oz
- ✓ One sturdy comb - remove packaging
- ✓ One adult toothbrush - in package. If multi package, each toothbrush must be in a sealed business envelope.
- ✓ One lightweight bath towel (between 20"x40" or 52"x27") preferably a dark color



Rally Day is also the day to sign up for Sunday School - Kingdom Kids and Adults. Our number of participants has increased since 2017/2018. Hopefully, our participants will continue to increase. Signup will occur between the services in the Fellowship Hall.

You will also be able to visit stations and learn about the other church council ministries. It would be great if each member would consider signing up to help with one of the ministries. Working as part of a committee is a great experience and a way to get to know other members of the church and to serve. After all, our church is a family and it takes all family members to help make the church revolve.

Fellowship will be doing a potluck after the 11 am service on September 8th instead of the first Sunday. Please be on the lookout for more information about this.

Last, but not least. Thank you to the Vacation Bible School Committee and Assistants for a program well done. The theme was Miraculous Mission for the children and “Things you never learned in Sunday School” for the adults. There were 17 children and 30+ adults in attendance. For those individuals that chose not to participate this year, well, you missed out on something spectacular!

Betty Skelton and the Christian Education Team

OUTREACH



THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

From nearly running out of foods in the first week of Herndon Middle School's Open Pantry to now being well stocked, called for a lot of generosity from a lot of people, including our Holy Cross family. Thank you so much for contributing an amazing quantity of food each week—the back of our Cherokee was filled and overflowed to the front and back seats!

Needless to say, the staff at the Middle School is most grateful and 25 families had food they would not have had without help from the community. We will be exploring ways to work with the school in the near future.

NOW WE'RE ASKING FOR MORE HELP!

As you've seen in the Narthex we are partnering with the Christian Education Team to assemble Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. As they say on their website, "Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human." When families find their homes destroyed or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely

make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other places of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.

The kits include a bath towel, bath soap, toothbrush, comb and nail clippers. We will assemble the kits on Rally Day. As always, we ask that you please give generously and join in the fun of a group project on Rally Day.

EVEN MORE HELP!

There will be an Outreach Team meeting on September 22nd between services to plan and organize Outreach efforts for the coming year. We need many hands and minds to be effective in our service to our community. The time commitment can be as extensive or limited as you are able to give. Please join us. If you are interested but, cannot attend, contact me at suzflegal@verizon.net.

News from The Closet



Giving Back to the Community Through Grants

When you donate, volunteer and shop at The Closet, you help us help the local community. The Closet recently awarded over \$32,000 in grants to eight local non-profit organizations which support the members of the greater Herndon community. These organizations are All Ages Read Together, Family Pass, Herndon-Reston FISH, Herndon Senior Center, Herndon Village Network, Just Neighbors, Shelter House, and Stroke Comeback. The Closet commends these organizations for their service to the community, and we are glad to be able to support their work. Please remember, when you choose to donate, volunteer and shop at The Closet you are part of the support to the community

Grant requests for the third quarter are due by 9/30 - see our webpage for details.

Rita Hacker and Rachel Williams serve on the Board of the Closet. We are grateful for their service to the community. For more information about The Closet visit the website, <http://theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/>.

HOLY CROSS' QUILTS



700 Light Street
Baltimore, MD 21230 USA
lwr.org | 800.597.5972

August 9, 2019

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

Dear Friends at Holy Cross Lutheran Church Quilting Circle,

Thank you for your generous gift 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. 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		

Please note: this receipt may not reflect your full donation. Based on when the receipt data was pulled, some of your items may have yet to be processed, and you will receive additional receipts for those items as they are scanned into the system.

EVANGELISM



Make sure you save the date to participate and celebrate RALLY DAY with us at Holy Cross on **Sunday, September 8th**. Bring your friends and relatives and enjoy all the special events of the day! Watch for information.

Looking ahead to these upcoming fall events. . .

Please mark your calendars and save the dates. We need your help to make Holy Cross' participation successful in these upcoming events, so please sign-up and plan to participate:

- ✓ **SterlingFest 2019** – an all-day **Holy Cross exhibit** planned for **Saturday, October 12**
- ✓ **The Herndon Homecoming Parade, Saturday, October 19** – hopefully with repeat appearances of our **Hospitality Table** and a return of the Internationally Acclaimed and Crowd-Pleasing **Holy Cross Kazoo Marching Band!**

Stay tuned for more details coming your way!

Roy Geiger and the Evangelism Team

FELLOWSHIP



Opportunities to Serve

Fellowship will start planning our 2nd annual Lutherfest this month. Please let Pam Darby, darborator1@aol.com, know if you would be interested in helping to plan the event.

We will begin to plan our Advent Workshop and need your help. Although, the workshop is a few months away, December will be here before we know it. Let's plan together. Be sure to contact Pam Darby if interested.

STEWARDSHIP

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

Bishop Installation

Be part of The Rev. Leila Ortiz's Installation as Bishop of the Metro D.C. Synod on Saturday, October 12th. There are multiple ways for congregations and individuals to contribute to this event.

1. We are looking for a congregation to host a pre-service event on Friday evening. Contact Katharyn - kwheeler@metrodcelca.org, if you are interested.
2. Be part of the choir which will meet at 8am to rehearse the day of the service.
3. Sponsor the flowers, bulletins, or musicians with a monetary donation. Contact Katharyn - kwheeler@metrodcelca.org, if you are interested.
4. Be a greeter for the event. We are especially looking for people who have been part of one of our New Connections Welcoming Trainings. Contact Katharyn - kwheeler@metrodcelca.org, if you are interested.
5. Rostered Ministers are invited to vest and process. Please arrive by 9am. Indicate in your RSVP. The color of the day is **red**.
6. ATTEND! RSVP at <https://dcinstallation.app.rsvpify.com/>

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

September 1	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Paul Opsahl	Paul Opsahl
Worship Leaders	Sarah Moran Sylvia Moran Vivian Jefferson	Daniel Contreras Samuel Contreras Dick Krapf
Asst. Minister	Becky Morgan	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

September 8	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Worship Leaders	Deb Reilly Karen Faulkner Andy Krueger	Thomas Newcomb Clay Newcomb Lori Newcomb
Asst. Minister	Joy Heuer	Becky Morgan
Altar Guild	Denise Robinson	Pam Darby
Greeters/Readers	Karen Faulkner	Clay Newcomb
Ushers	Sally Moser Mark Roe The Setlik Family	Joel Flegal Suzanne Flegal Gary Wolfe Helen Wolfe

September 15	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Worship Leaders	Joe Baggett Joy Heuer Vivian Jefferson	Katelyn Hunter Betty Skelton Frank Podczerviensky
Asst. Minister	Anne Geiger	Andy Krueger
Altar Guild	Sally Moser Lynn Russo	Cathy Pfisterer Brian Virnelson Hope Russell
Greeters/Readers	Joy Heuer	Frank Podczerviensky
Ushers	Lynn Russo Vince Russo	Joe Makowski Kathy Makowski Marge Nafey

September 22	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Worship Leaders	Anne Geiger Joe Baggett Chip Edwards	Rick Gaverick Ellen Atwell LeRoy Wallin
Asst. Minister	Mike Faulkner	Len Owens
Altar Guild	Jane Pattison Karen Faulkner	Beulah Medikonda Carol Shaffer
Greeters/Readers	Joe Baggett	Ellen Atwell
Ushers	Jane Pattison Dennis Pattison	Roy Geiger

September 29	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Worship Leaders	Thomas Newcomb Lori Newcomb Chris Nelson	Kathy Makowski Brian Virnelson Cathy Pfisterer
Asst. Minister	Kathy Makowski	Becky Morgan
Altar Guild	Jo Roe	Hope Russell
Greeters/Readers	Lori Newcomb	Brian Virnelson Cathy Pfisterer
Ushers	Gene Bain Sally Moser	Roy Geiger

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