

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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

Lent
B E G I N S

March 2020

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the April 2020 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Thursday, March 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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Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon VA



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STAFF NEWS



My office is not quite settled yet. Actually, that is a gross understatement. The truth of the matter is that I sort of stopped unpacking about the beginning of December. The “rush of the holidays” became possibly a too convenient excuse to ignore the boxes of unshelved books (it also helps to have an adjacent sitting room with a door that closes). However, as I write this, it is uncomfortably apparent to me that Christmas was a full two months ago from today. So, that excuse has lost whatever dubious power it might have once had. If I am to be honest, it is well past time for some spring cleaning.

The English word Lent is a shortened form of the Old English word *lencten*, meaning "spring season". The advent of Spring ushers in a myriad of feelings and thoughts. It is also a time that has come to be associated with cleaning out. The concept of “spring cleaning” evolves from, I would guess, the experiences of our ancestors who, lacking the conveniences of dependable heated cars and a governmentally-maintained road system, were cabin-bound for most of the winter. As the warmth of the new season allowed them to open the windows and get out a bit, I can imagine them looking around at the wreckage that being cooped up for three months had on their homes and thinking, “That’s it. Everything

has to go out into the yard for a thorough cleaning!” Spring cleaning, therefore, became the time to take inventory, to purify, and to throw out the damaged stuff.

The liturgical season of Lent and the tradition of spring cleaning are related by more than just a common word. When used in its most healthy expression, this season has been a time for a spiritual spring cleaning. It is a time to take inventory of our spiritual lives, to push the bits and pieces of our inner person out into the light and fresh air, so to speak, and to clean house. It is a call to take stock of what we have, to remember what is important and if need be, to change course in our lives. I call it the “3 R’s” of our Lenten spiritual spring cleaning: Reflection. Remembrance. Repentance.

Reflection. From time to time, we all benefit from taking stock of our lives: our hopes, our actions, and our relationships. Lent gives us an intentional opportunity to examine the whole of our lives, things we are happy with and things we wish to change.

Remembrance. Even as we reflect upon our lives, we are reminded of God’s baptismal promise to each of us: “This is my daughter, this is my son, with whom I am well pleased.” No matter where we find ourselves, God’s promise and presence stays steadfast. We are God’s beloved children.

Repentance. The biblical word “repentance” comes from a Greek word *metanoia* that means, “turn around” or “return”. Where our actions or relationships are going in a direction that is unhealthy, or away from God’s promise, we are called to return to a healthy path the Bible calls “Shalom”, a Hebrew word that recalls peace and wholeness.

Sometimes Lent has been coupled with a call to fast, or to “give something up” for the forty days. While this may prove helpful to some people’s spiritual journey, my concern is that if it is not in

some way authentically connected to the movement of reflection, remembrance, and repentance, such a gesture or discipline runs the risk of becoming just another church thing that we are supposed to do. Instead of denying ourselves chocolate or (gasp) coffee for six weeks, for instance, I would urge us to a more wholistic, more inclusive journey – opening ourselves to the healing light of Jesus Christ in all of our lives.

The prospect of spring cleaning – whether in an office, a home, or our spiritual lives – can seem a daunting task. There is a grace, however, that reminds us that organized or not, we are loved. There is a mercy that urges us to purge and replace the damaged and old with things that are healthy and clean so that we function better and happier as beloved people. Finally, there is a holy presence and an embodied community that surrounds us, encourages us, and helps us along the way.

May our Lenten journey be one of wholeness, healing, and love together in Jesus' name.

Thanks,

Pastor Martin

COUNCIL NEWS



What an exciting time at Holy Cross! Spring is just around the corner and the world seems ready to burst into bloom. Even as we enter Lent with a thoughtful and penitent heart, I can't help but be energized by the great things going on.

In mid-February we held a "Prospective Members Luncheon" where Pastor and several Council members shared information about Holy Cross and answered questions. We were delighted to get to know several people and look forward to their formally joining us in the spring.

The Holy Cross Church Council met at the end of February for a 3-year planning exercise. It was a lot of fun and we are excited by our aspirational goals for Holy Cross! We're now documenting that plan and will share it with all of you soon. The team is full of great ideas on how best to move Holy Cross forward as a disciple of God's message and love in the Herndon community and beyond!

There will be a lot of "hubbub" at Holy Cross in the first ½ of March as we welcome Loudoun Flooring to oversee the asbestos remediation and replace the flooring in the Fellowship Hall, the admin wing hallway and offices. They will also put down some temporary linoleum in the restrooms.

While we have the furniture out of the way, we hope to take down wallpaper and paint the Pastor's office and study, and possibly paint a few other rooms as well. We'll be looking to all of you to help us pack up the weekend before the move... Please watch the weekly e-blast for that request for assistance. While we don't have to move furniture, we DO have to unload bookcases and cabinets. Thank you ALL for your generosity to the Capital Campaign for making the flooring replacement possible!

On a more personal level, I have set a broad goal to reach out to people in 2020. Each week I plan to:

- 1) Contact anyone who visited our church that weekend;
- 2) Reach out to at least two inactive members, check in on them, and share news of Holy Cross;
- 3) Introduce myself to anyone I don't know at church; and
- 4) Invite one friend or family member to visit us.

I encourage you to ask me about this (hold me accountable) and I challenge you to find your version of reaching out. Your version can be sending a note to someone you haven't seen in a while. Your version can be calling someone you see on the prayer list. Your version can be to invite a friend to a fellowship gathering at Holy Cross. Whatever your plan, let me know how I can support you.

Peace to you and yours,

Deb

WORSHIP

At the Name of Jesus Wednesdays in Lent

Dinner at 6 PM & Worship at 7 PM



This Lenten midweek service, based on the second reading for Passion Sunday, Philippians 2:5-11, points the assembly toward its annual celebration of the Sunday of the Passion and clarifies/reinforces the importance of reading the passion as the central proclamation for Passion Sunday. While it is not uncommon to be confused about Passion/Palm Sunday, these midweek reflections will point our worshiping community toward a deeper and richer celebration of

the passion of Christ on the first day of Holy Week and exploit the rich contrast between that Sunday's entrance rite shouts of "Hosanna!" over and against the passion reading's cries of "Crucify!" Both ends of the theological and emotional spectrum are significant touchstones for the coming celebration of the Three Days, and few passages give such clear voice to those contrasting touchstones as the Christ hymn in Philippians 2.

Lent 1	Christ emptied and humbled himself	Mar. 4
Lent 2	Christ became obedient	Mar. 11
Lent 3	At the name of Jesus all knees shall bow	Mar. 18
Lent 4	Every tongue confesses Jesus	Mar. 25
Lent 5	Let the same mind be in you	Apr. 1

OUTREACH



Herndon Middle School

HMS Volunteers Needed

Herndon Middle School (HMS) maintains a Clothes Closet for students in need. They have clothes to distribute, but they need to be sorted by size, etc. If you are available during the day to spend an hour or two (or maybe three), please contact Suzanne Flegal at suzflegal@verizon.net.

Volunteer Opportunities In Our Community

HMS is having a 'Career Day' event on April 16th where students will have the opportunity to learn about different careers and fields. They are seeking representatives from various career clusters to share about their job and professional journey. Participants will be required to attend from 12:15 - 2:15 pm. If you are interested, please complete the form found at <https://herndonms.fcps.edu/> and share this with others (community members, friends, colleagues, etc.) who may also be interested.

Please email Elyana Genovese (eagenovese1@fcps.edu or 703-904-4867) for more information or with any questions.

Embry Rucker Emergency Center Second Saturday Lunch

The **Embry Rucker Community Shelter (ERCS)** is a 70-bed residential shelter that provides healthy, safe, emergency housing for individuals and families. They are dedicated to helping their clients overcome the circumstances that led to their homelessness and facilitate their transition to stable housing.

Holy Cross provides lunch and lunch servers at the shelter every other month (Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., Dec.). The menu is simple and when the food donations are split among more than a few donors it's not too demanding to supply. The time commitment to serve is about two hours—11:00 am – 1:00 pm and it is a most rewarding experience. For more information, visit, <https://www.cornerstonesva.org/services/food-financial-or-urgent-assistance/emergency-shelter/>. Please watch your email for the Perfect Potluck invitation for donations and servers during the times HCLC hosts.





2019 Distributions. The Closet recently made grants to the following organizations: Family PASS, Helping Hungry Kids, Herndon-Reston FISH, Kids R First, Loudoun Literacy Council, Northern Virginia Dental Clinic, Second Story, and A Simple Gesture. During 2019 The Closet donated over \$113,000 to local charities, provided \$30,000 in college scholarships and provided over \$104,000 in free clothing and essential household goods to those in need. Thanks to our donors, shoppers, volunteers and employees for enabling The Closet to be able to give back to the local community!

Volunteers Needed. Spring is just around the corner! The Closet will begin moving spring merchandise to the sales floor as soon as the winter clothing inventory is reduced. The Closet needs additional volunteers throughout March from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday-Saturday and 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm on Mondays and Thursdays to transform the store during this “rolling seasonal changeover.” Your help will be much appreciated. Duties may include assisting in the store, restocking throughout the day, and the usual behind the scenes labeling, pricing, hanging, etc. Please check-in with Store Manager, Pat Rhoads when you arrive at The Closet. She can assign you to one of the tasks that needs to be accomplished for a successful “rolling changeover.” Thank you in advance for your support.

Construction Status. The Closet thanks everyone for their patience and understanding while the donation intake area construction is occurring. While we are sorry for any inconvenience that it may have caused, we expect the changes to be worth it. Please check The Closet's website, <http://theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/>, or Facebook page for status updates.

Donation Needs. The Closet is in need of gently used children's clothing and shoes. If you have any items that you no longer need, please consider donating them to The Closet. Donations can be dropped off:

Monday – Saturday
from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

845 Station Street
Herndon, VA

Thank you for your generosity.



CLASSES HAVE BEGUN

Our spring semester is off to a great start. We've registered 47 students so far from nine countries: El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Peru, Sudan and Togo. Most students are from El Salvador. They range in age from 14 to 53. We have multiple levels of English knowledge in each class. The classes are held each Monday and Wednesday evening from 7:00 - 9:00 for our fall and spring semesters. We teach once a week free of charge during the summer semester.

We lost one teacher, Miss Elizabeth, who had to stop teaching. She is missed by the fellow teachers and students, but we are very blessed to have three new teachers join us. We welcome Daniela Basciano, Keesha Caldwell and Allen Williams. We are thrilled to have them teaching with us. Daniela teaches the very beginner's class, Keesha will teach Mondays in Jeanne Maysonett's class. Allen is observing classes right now and will begin teaching soon.

Free babysitting is very important for our ELL program. Many students would not be able to attend classes if we didn't have our nursery attendants, Beatriz Orellana and Erika Moreno. Both are excellent at nurturing our student's children and keeping them busy with wonderful art projects. They decorate the nursery with

wonderful seasonal art. Each child went home with a goodie bag for Valentine's Day.



We appreciate our congregation, very much for the wonderful support of our ELL program at Holy Cross. A very special thanks to our teachers and assistants for their dedicated work. You are essential to our successful ELL program.

God Bless,
Ellen Atwell
ELL Coordinator

National Quilting Day



National Quilting Day is Sunday, March 21 – celebrate your quilt ministry! National Quilting Day is a day to celebrate all things quilting – and we have a lot to celebrate. For 75 years, Lutheran congregations have come together to put our faith into action and make quilts for people in need around the world. And not just a few quilts – hundreds of thousands of quilts every, single year.

That's why, in honor of National Quilting Day, we invite your congregation to celebrate and lift up your quilting ministry by hosting a National Quilting Day event in your community.

Our downloadable guide, https://lwr.org/nqd?utm_source=activecampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nqd_2020&utm_content=link, will help you get started and if you let us know what you're planning, the coffee is on us! While supplies last, your congregation can sign up to get a free bag of LWR Farmers Market Coffee to share at your National Quilting Day Event.

Your gifts of love make life brighter, softer and more comfortable for people around the world in some of their darkest times. Thank you for answering God's call to comfort our neighbors in need!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

PALM SUNDAY **Symbols of the Resurrection**

Multi-Gen Sunday School Event
April 5th ~ 9:40 to 10:50 am
For Children of God ~ ages 3 to 103



Tissue Mosaic Cross † Easter Story Stones † Egg Dyeing † Palm
Crosses & Roses † Nail Cross Necklace † He's Risen Finger Puzzle

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST



Coffee † Peep Fruit Kabobs † Peep Krispy Treats † Easter Kringle
Punch † Sausages in Blankets

YOUTH



The Youth and Fellowship Ministries collaborated on two events in February. For our First Sunday Lunch, we held a Super Bowl Party, complete with huge hoagie sandwiches, chicken wings and even a contest to pick the winners of Super Bowl 2020.

To kick off the Lenten season, we worked together for a "Shrove-Tuesday-On-A-Sunday Pancake Breakfast". During March we plan to have a multi-generational game night. Stay tuned for details on this fun event!

STEWARDSHIP

LENTEN APPEAL



For this year's Lenten Appeal, the Outreach and Stewardship Teams are combining forces to continue our support for Herndon Middle School, our neighbors a few blocks away. In 2018 – 19, 53% of the students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. The not so obvious implications of that are that if the kids need help with food, there's probably not enough money for the things that

most of us take for granted for our kids—clothes, field trip fees, year books and school supplies.

To do what we can as Holy Cross, the Outreach Team will be collecting clothes to fill the HMS Clothes Closet. There are some clothing needs on the school's Amazon Wish List. The Food Pantry is adequately supplied at the moment. Here's the link: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1GC0NATM8E2Y?&sort=default>, but we are also asking for donations of spring/summer clothes for middle school kids. As always, gently used clothes — that means your child would wear it—are welcome.

The Stewardship Team will use the funds from the Lenten Appeal to go to a designated account at the school to enable students whose families cannot afford the extra costs most of us supply without much thought.

As always, your generosity is most appreciated. These gifts truly will make a positive difference in the lives they touch.

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

PROPERTY



Boots and Blue Jeans Sunday

As we prepare for Loudoun Flooring to oversee the asbestos remediation and replace the flooring in the Fellowship Hall, the admin wing hallway and offices, now is the time to start spring cleaning. HCLC has collected many unused items over the years. Over the next few weeks, checkout the table in the Gathering Room for items that will be donated if left behind or unclaimed.

While we do not have to move furniture, we DO have to unload bookcases and cabinets. Your assistance is needed. There will be a couple of packing parties:

- ✓ **Saturday, March 7: 9:00 – noon**
- ✓ **Sunday, March 8: Between services & after 11:00 service**
Plan to wear your comfortable boots and blue jeans on Sunday.

Please help us keep our church as beautiful and welcoming as possible. We've had several coffee spills in the sanctuary in recent weeks. Coffee stains are HARD to get out! Please only bring water in resealable containers into the sanctuary.

Your support and efforts are always appreciated!

SYNOD AND CHURCH-WIDE NEWS

LEADERSHIP

Breaking bread, eradicating hate



uch can happen when we gather for a meal — new understandings, new commitments, new friendships.

In May 2018, several ELCA congregations and worshiping communities discovered this when they joined their Muslim neighbors for Interfaith iftars.

An iftar is the meal for which Muslims break their daily fast during the holy month of Ramadan.

Augustana Lutheran, Sioux Falls, S.D., and the mission congregation it shares building space with, *Pueblo de Dios*, hosted their first iftar. Almost 60 people attended, including members of Augustana Lutheran and *Pueblo de Dios* and Muslims from three mosques in town.

"There was a bit of discomfort on both sides — Christian and Muslim," said Amy Martinell, Augustana's pastor. But "when the food came out and we sat and ate together, the discomfort melted away and we became one community."

For two years the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) hosted regular iftars with a nearby Turkish community. Sara Trumm, interim director of A Center of Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice at LSTC, reported that 60 to 100 people attended. Trumm said they've found that sharing a meal helps people feel comfortable meeting others from different backgrounds.

"Right now, with Islamophobia as strong as it is, it's important for people to be informed about what



Islam is so they don't fall prey to some of the negative stereotyping and falsities being shared, especially with one of the Ten Commandments telling us to not bear false witness against our neighbors," she said.

To promote the interfaith iftars, Neighbors In Faith, a joint ministry of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA, the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia and Washington's Muslim community, worked with Shoulder-to-Shoulder, an interreligious campaign dedicated to ending anti-Muslim sentiment. *The ELCA is a founding member of Shoulder-to-Shoulder, which receives Mission Support funding.*

"What actually changes for people who are rooted in fear is to meet a Muslim and realize they're just human too," said Terry Kylo, an ELCA pastor and the director of Neighbors in Faith. "The iftars are a beautiful way to begin to understand the basics of Islam and how many similarities we have. And they help our Muslim neighbors to see that they aren't alone, that we want to learn from them and are willing to stand in solidarity with them."



Lutherans and Muslims broke bread together at interfaith iftars in May 2018. Your Mission Support dollars boost the ministry of Shoulder-to-Shoulder, an interreligious campaign to end anti-Muslim sentiment founded by the ELCA and other ministry partners.



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

SERVING IN WORSHIP

March 1	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	Daniel Contreras Samuel Contreras
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

March 8	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Dir. of Music & Lit	Jeremy Shoop	Jeremy Shoop
Worship Leaders	Deb Reilly Chris Nelson	Rick Garverick Brian Virnelson
Asst. Minister	Becky Morgan	
Altar Guild	Denise Robinson	Pam Darby
Greeters/Readers	Chris Nelson	Brian Virnelson
Ushers	Sally Moser Mark Roe The Setlik Family	Joel Flegal Suzanne Flegal Gary Wolfe Helen Wolfe

March 15	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Dir. of Music & Lit	Jeremy Shoop	Jeremy Shoop
Worship Leaders	Karen Faulkner Vivian Jefferson	Gary Wolfe Ellen Atwell
Asst. Minister	Anne Geiger	Andy Krueger
Altar Guild	Sally Moser Lynn Russo	Cathy Pfisterer Brian Virnelson Hope Russell
Greeters/Readers	Karen Faulkner	Ellen Atwell
Ushers	Lynn Russo Vince Russo	Joe Makowski Kathy Makowski Marge Nafey

March 22	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Dir. of Music & Lit	Jeremy Shoop	Jeremy Shoop
Worship Leaders	Andy Krueger Chip Edwards	Thomas Newcomb Rob Coffman
Asst. Minister	Mike Faulkner	Len Owens
Altar Guild	Jane Pattison Karen Faulkner	Beulah Medikonda Carol Shaffer
Greeters/Readers	Chip Edwards	Rob Coffman
Ushers	Jane Pattison Dennis Pattison	Roy Geiger

March 29	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Pastor	Martin Eldred	Martin Eldred
Dir. of Music & Lit	Jeremy Shoop	Jeremy Shoop
Worship Leaders	LeRoy Wallin Rick Garverick	Gary Wolfe Helen Wolfe
Asst. Minister	Mike Faulkner	Anne Geiger
Altar Guild	Jo Roe	
Greeters/Readers	Rick Garverick	Helen Wolfe
Ushers	Gene Bain Sally Moser	Roy Geiger

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Lent BEGINS