THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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

"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7



May 2020

Blessing of Those Who Provide Motherly Care



God of all creation, pour out your blessing on all who provide motherly care. You have made them in your image and given them children to love and care for in your name.

Bless them with a heart like your heart loving and kind, comforting and strong, nurturing and grace-filled. As they participate in your ongoing creativity, give them discernment to help their children discover their unique gifts.

As they teach their children, grant them wisdom to know what is truly valuable. As they strive to share your unconditional love, give them long-suffering patience and a lively sense of humor.

As they model your mercy, help them extend the forgiveness they themselves freely receive from you. In all circumstances fortify their faith, that they may love you above all.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Staff News	5
Council News	14
Worship and Music	15
Outreach	17
Christian Education	21
Evangelism	24
Stewardship	27



The deadline for inclusion in the June 2020 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Tuesday, May 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

Holy Cross Lutheran Church 1090 Sterling Road Herndon, VA 20170 703-437-1883

Find us online! www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net

- Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon VA
 - @HolyCrossELCA
 - HolyCrossELCA

STAFF NEWS



Scattered, Not Shattered

We have slogged through quite a month together (yet separate), right? This past week, I have been remembering my article in January, as we got ready for Jeremy's sabbatical. If I recall, I mentioned that we would be challenged to "use different muscles" as we adapted to that change. And we did. And it was a blessing and we came through it stronger.

As it turned out, however, we had only just begun! There is no doubt that this past month has been a challenge at the level that none of us could have predicted. Individually and as a society, we are facing a deadly virus that has changed almost all of our daily routines. We fear for our health and for the safety of those we love and to make matters worse, during this time of stress we are prevented from doing the very thing that seems the most natural: gathering, together. As a church, we are learning what it means to be the Body of Christ that has been separated by circumstances beyond our control. Talk about new muscles!

The word "congregation" literally means a gathering. Yet, as a community of faith, we have been prevented from coming together in what Luther called in his *Smalcald Articles*, "the mutual conversation and consolation of brothers and sisters." We have been scattered, but we have not been abandoned. In that same writing, Martin Luther reminds us that the gospel is the presence of the crucified and resurrected Christ in our community. When the Word is proclaimed, Christ is present. When the sacraments are administered, Christ is present. When the community is gathered, Christ is present. Here is the gracious

promise – when we are able to receive just one of these methods, we still receive the fulness of Christ in our midst. Holy Cross may not yet be able to gather, but the power and assurance of Jesus Christ remans and holds us together.

We are indeed exercising new spiritual muscles, learning new methods and models about being the church, and through you, the work and the message of the gospel continue to be a blessing.

- Thanks to you, we gathered \$1,370 for Herndon Middle School from our Lenten Appeal. As you know, those funds will assist their efforts to help many of their students whose families struggle to have the basics such as adequate food and clothing.
- Thanks to you, we have provided an enormous amount of food and difficult to find paper products to the various agencies that help people on our community.
- Thanks to you, our congregation's finances are stable and even though we are not gathering in person, your mailings and electronic giving are making a huge difference.
- Thanks to you, our music and worship life continues, and we are all learning a bit more than we expected about all sorts of technology and being "virtual".

We are a generous congregation. We are a congregation with strong lay leadership and many folks who are willing to pitch in and help. We are a congregation that truly loves each other, seeks to care for our neighbor and is resilient in the face of change. It is a blessing.

I am blessed to be your pastor, and I am inspired and nurtured by your work and your support. None of us know when we will get back to "normal" or what that might even look like, but I believe that with all the "using new muscles" that we have been doing together, I know we'll be in pretty good shape.

In Grace, Pastor Martin

DIRECTOR OR MUSIC AND LITURGY



A few years ago my father asked me to take part in a project called "52 Greatest Verses of hymnody." My father, two others, and I collected what (in our humble opinions) are the most important hymn stanzas to know. The completed project was a book filled with 52 hymn verses (one for each week of the year) paired with write-ups about why that verse is important and a history of the author/composer.

One of the sections I was in charge of was the Easter season. Since we just celebrated Easter, I thought I would take this opportunity to share with you what my thoughts were on Easter hymns for the seven weeks of Easter.

There are hundreds of hymns and verses to pick from, but after much consideration, here is what I view to be the seven essential verses in Easter Hymnody.

Easter Day: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today - Stanza 1 (ELW 365)

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia! Jesus Christ Is Risen Today is probably one of the most familiar Easter hymns to any congregation. The text dates all the way back to a 14th century Latin carol. It only makes sense to begin the Easter season with such a familiar hymn text to all Christians.

Second Sunday of Easter: Thine Is the Glory - Stanza 1 (ELW 376)

Thine is the glory,
risen conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where the body lay.

Thine is the glory, risen conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

I chose *Thine Is the Glory* for the second Sunday of Easter because it tells the part of the story where the stone is rolled away, and his clothes are left in the grave for Christ's disciples to find.

Third Sunday of Easter: Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia - Stanza 4 (ELW 364)

"Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.

He has arisen this world to save.

Jesus' redeeming labors are done.

Even the battle with sin is won."

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.

Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.

Our sin forgiving, alleluia!

Jesus is living, alleluia!

is the angels speaking to Mary and the dissiple.

This verse is the angels speaking to Mary and the disciples. It continues with the Easter story - our part, to "go spread the

news." It also brings some multiculturalism to the project - Tanzania.

Fourth Sunday of Easter: We Walk by Faith - Stanza 2 (ELW 635)

We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod; but in your promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"

While Evangelical Lutheran Worship does not include this hymn in the Easter section, I have chosen it for the fourth Sunday of Easter because it tells the part of the Easter story where Thomas insists on touching the risen Christ's wounds to believe. As soon as he did he cried, "My Lord and God!"

Fifth Sunday of Easter: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen - Stanza 5 (ELW 377)

City of God,
Easter forever,
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life,
saints and arch angels,
sing with creation to God the I Am!

Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! is set to the familiar tune EARTH AND ALL STARS. The verse I selected from this hymn describes the neverending Easter that can only be found in God's kingdom.

Sixth Sunday of Easter: Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! - Stanza 2 (ELW 382)

Christ is risen! All the sadness of our Lenten fast is o'er through the open gates of gladness he returns to life once more; death and hell before him bending see him rise, the victor now, angels on his steps attending, glory round his wounded brow.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead!

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! is one of my favorite Easter hymns! I very much enjoy the imagery of death and hell bending before Christ while the angels are worshiping him as he rises. The tune paired with this text, MORGENLIED, is one of the more triumphant Easter tunes. Its driving rhythm and melody only encourage the singer to give it their all!

Ascension of Our Lord: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing! - Stanza 4 (ELW 393)

"You see him now, ascending high up to the portals of the sky." Alleluia! Alleluia! "Hear-after Jesus you shall see returning in great majesty."

> Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The text for this hymn dates all the way back to the seventh century. It shares the same tune (LASST UNS ERFREUEN) as *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*, another popular Easter hymn.

I hope you enjoyed exploring some of the Lutheran church's essential Easter hymnody.

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

HCLC Response to COVID-19



With the current pandemic, Holy Cross has made a number of changes to the way we operate. We are practicing social distancing and making sure everyone stays safe and healthy.

Worship

According to Governor Northam's Executive Order #53, "Temporary Stay at Home Order Due To Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19)," we are not allowed to gather in groups of more than 10. In person worship has been canceled until the end of that order, currently June 10. A small group of worship leaders are gathering on Sunday mornings to stream worship live on Facebook. You do not need a Facebook account to watch the live feed. Go to https://www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon/ and search "Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon VA" to find our page. Everything we post is public and can be seen without an account.

Evening Devotions/Prayer/Music

To maintain a sense of community Pastor, Jeremy and Suzanne Baggett are going live on Facebook with a time of devotion, prayer and music.

- Mondays 7:30 PM Music with Jeremy
- Wednesdays 7:30 PM Evening Prayer with Pastor Martin
- Fridays 7:00 PM Bible stories for children with Suzanne Baggett

You can also find a series of videos called "Two Martins" on our Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon/, where Pastor Martin and Martin Luther discuss the commemorations (important people in the history of our faith) each day.

Jeremy has also been posting a collection of piano/organ duets he has recorded with Jennifer Quinones, Director of Music and Worship at Community Lutheran Church.

Member Assistance

If you are in need of anything, please contact the church office, (<u>Admin@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net</u>). We have a number of people willing and able to run errands and deliver items to your house.

Offering

We must support the Church. With the shutdown of most "in person" activities, we've seen a dramatic reduction in both rentals of our church property and offerings from our members and friends. If we aspire to keep Holy Cross Lutheran Church a thriving, serving community of God's people, we will each need to

make a determined effort to ensure that our offerings can sustain us through this time. There are several ways to do this. You can:

- 1. Drop a check in the mail each week.
- 2. Use online banking and automatically have a check sent to Holy Cross each week.
- Use online giving through our website, www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net and select "Donate".
- 4. Download the Give+ app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store, search for Holy Cross Lutheran Church. (It will appear near the bottom of the list) and follow the prompts as desired.

Together, we will ride out this storm.

We are not afraid. We trust in God's grace and take peace and comfort in God's promise:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; who will never leave you or forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6

COUNCIL NEWS



Hello beloved brothers and sisters in Christ. First and foremost, I hope this finds you healthy and safe.

I don't know how many of you know this, but we prepare articles for inclusion in the Quest by the 12th of the preceding month. So, as I re-read my April message (written March 10th), there were only three sentences acknowledging the COVID-19 pandemic. In the four weeks since I wrote that article, so much has changed. We are largely sheltering at home, only going to the store for essentials. All of our former "social" activities – concerts, sports events, gatherings with friends, and yes, even coming together for worship – have been cancelled or shifted to "online" experiences. We even find ourselves keeping a safe distance from the people we love. This is indeed a strange time.

I hope that you are okay. It is, as Pastor said, "Okay to not be okay." Personally, I struggle with feeling a combination of anxiety, fear and being overwhelmed by the numbers and stories of those who are sick or on the front lines. I crave interaction with family and friends! It is my sincere hope that you find some comfort and connection with Holy Cross through online worship. Please ask for help and support if you need it!

Most of you know me well enough by now to know that I am a hopeless optimist. So even in these dark days, I am finding HOPE in the love and support I see all around me. You demonstrate creativity in worship and devotions. You provide food to our church members and local community. You send positive energy and reassurance to friends in the form of notes, social media posts, emails and phone calls. You continue to give to the church, as you are able. You are loving one another, as Jesus commands us to do. Thank you!

Peace be with you all, Deb

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Serving in Worship

With a ban on public gatherings of more than 10 people, we will no longer be gathering in person for worship. Until further notice, worship will only be online. At 10:00 am, Pastor Martin, Jeremy Shoop, Music and Liturgy Director, an assisting minister and a videographer will meet to live stream a service on Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon.

Holy Cross on YouTube

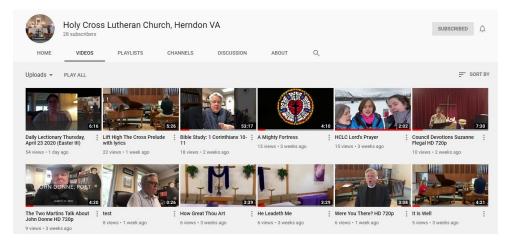


In an effort to increase our connectivity and our ability to share the message of Holy Cross, we now have a YouTube Channel, "Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA".

This gives us a place on the YouTube platform

where we can post and store the videos we make, highlighting life in our congregation. We hope this will continue to be a place where we can share with each other and our community, the variety of events, activities, messages, and other slices of life that make our Holy Cross such a beautiful place.

Currently, we have posted music duets with Jeremy and Jennifer Quinones, some of pastor's, "The Two Martins" series, devotions and more. We look forward to the opportunity of adding many more videos in the future. Please visit YouTube Channel, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA, and subscribe. The greater the number of subscribers, the greater our visibility to folks who visit YouTube.



OUTREACH

Since we have all been affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic, these have proven just how true these words are:

The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is a people.

As always as Lent began, we had an Outreach appeal, this year for Herndon Middle School both financially and with needed clothes and books. Things changed rapidly with the close of school and effects of all the closures on our community. While these have been times of fear and stress, they are also times that show us reasons for deep gratitude. The generosity we are witnessing proves we are not powerless, and if we cannot be together, we can still share love. Here are the ways Holy Cross has been and will continue to support our neighbors in their time of need.

Ongoing Food Collection

We are having an on-going food drive that has received immense support from our church family and our neighbors with donations dropped off in the bins outside the church. The Herndon Woman's Club donated a total of 25 cases of single size foods to add to many already donated by individuals for the children in our local schools. We have made deliveries of food to LINK several times each week--generally full carloads. We have also made deliveries to the Embry Rucker Shelter and offered our members the opportunity to make financial donations to them.

Herndon Cares

We have joined Herndon Cares, spearheaded by the First Baptist Church of Herndon, in supporting local restaurants and feeding hungry families. This is another way to support our community. Their mission--

"We feed the hungry and help local businesses

To help address heightened food insecurity, employment stability concerns, and small business viability at the local level, the First Baptist Church of Herndon, in concert with other Herndon/Reston congregations, is leading a campaign to order weekly takeout dinners from your favorite local restaurants and to provide these to community members who are feeling financial strain during these difficult days. Your donation can provide one takeout dinner for someone in need and, at the same time, it can help a neighbor to remain employed and a business to be successful.

There are other needs besides funds: volunteer drivers, translators, especially English to Spanish and organizational support. Here is the link to learn more or sign up https://herndoncares.org."

Fair Trade Winds

You may recall the fun of shopping at the Fair Trade Winds ministores previously held at Holy Cross, several times. While we can't host a physical store at this time, online orders at www.fairtradewinds.net will enable them to continue to support the work of artisans around the world. Holy Cross is participating in an online benefit sale with Fair Trade Winds during this time of "sheltering in place." They have created a special code, "holycross", for us. When online orders are made by those using the "holycross" code, Holy Cross will receive 10% of the online sale.

Thank you all for your continued support.

ELL Spring Semester



What a difference a month makes! We had our last classes on March 18 and expected to meet again the following Monday. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our classes until further notice due to COVID-19. We hope to resume classes sometime this year, but we have to be patient and observe the shelter-in-place order for the safety of our students and teachers.

We are staying in touch with our students by emailing online lessons and information about the coronavirus. We also emailed our students information on how to complete the 2020 Census. We text students without emails. Not every student owns a computer, but all of them have smart phones.

Our spring ELL semester started successfully. We have a total of 53 students, from nine different countries. They speak Spanish, Pashto (Pakistan), Arabic, French (Togo) and Amharic (Ethiopia).

Our students from Afghanistan speak Pashto, Dari and Farsi. These three languages are prevalent in Southern and Central Asian countries. Dari and Farsi are two accents of the same language. Dari may be called Farsi in Afghanistan. Farsi is also called Persian in the English language. Our three Pakistani

students speak Arabic in addition to their native languages.

Kodjo, one of our students from Togo, speaks four languages and is highly educated. He speaks French, which is the official language of Togo. Only he and Kamy, another of our four students from Togo, can communicate in one of their native tribal languages. We learned from our students that Togo has 30 tribal languages and not all of them are documented. Overall Togo is a multilingual country, which according to one count has 44 spoken languages! Kodjo lived for 12 years in Italy and is fluent in Italian. He also lived two years in Germany and also speaks German.

As you can see, we have very smart and interesting students, no matter how much or little their education. Most of our students speak multiple languages and of course, are in the process of learning English. We have the utmost respect for our students for learning our language and customs.

A very special thanks to each and every teacher for their dedicated work in our ELL program. You are essential to our successful program and we could not help our immigrant community without you. Thank you!

We appreciate you, our congregation, very much for your support of our ELL program at Holy Cross.

God Bless, Ellen Atwell ELL Coordinator

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Zoom Adult Bible Study

We know there is nothing like face-to-face interaction in a Bible Study Group. In response to COVID-19, Pastor Martin will lead the Adult Bible Class on a new platform, Zoom, on Sundays at 11:30 AM following the 10:00 AM virtual worship service. The information you need to join is below.

Zoom Meeting:

(https://zoom.us/j/96974564698?pwd=cWNSYIVKZmZtN0M4NXJ6 T1FFMTIZUT09)

Meeting ID: 969 7456 4698

Password: 951594

There is an instructional video for first-time Zoom users on Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon/. If you haven't used the app before, https://www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon/. If you haven't used the app before, please-take-a moment to watch it before the Sunday Bible Study starts. It explains how to get it started, download the free app and, join a meeting.

2020 HCLC VBS

The past three years of VBS have been joyful; a great learning experience and very well attended. Last year's VBS was the largest attended one since starting VBS three years ago. It is great to see this growth in attendance.



Vacation Bible School plans are in progress. Currently, the dates for this year's VBS is August 9 -13. Mark, your calendars and check Holy Cross newsletters and social media for updates as we deal with these uncertain times.

Kingdom Kids *Bi-Weekly Saturday* **Zoom Gatherings**



Kingdom Kids, Kingdom Kid Siblings and Kingdom Kid First
Timers are all invited to bi-weekly Saturday Zoom Gatherings,
beginning May 2nd at 9:00 AM. Kids will catch up with each other,
sing a fav Sunday School song, do a craft or activity and hopefully
plan for our next Kingdom Kids Act of Kindness project.

Safety First, for each Zoom Gathering, Suzanne Baggett will use a new meeting ID, generate a separate password and enable the waiting room. If you are not on the Kingdom Kids email list, please email sbaggett8826@gmail.com, the name(s) of your child/children and the best email address to send the invitation. Hoping to see you there.

EVANGELISM



And Along Came COVID - 19

What a difference a month makes! I'm writing this note to you on April 13, 2020 and I just glanced at my note I wrote for you around March 11 – back in the "pre-COVID" times. Had COVID not come into our lives and vocabulary, this note would have been all about thanking everyone who helped make our Easter efforts this past weekend so wonderful and to ask you to volunteer to help us have a great presence at the Herndon Festival coming up late in May.

Not so this year. Everything of traditional Lent, Holy Week and Easter was replaced with new traditions of online services. **Thank you,** Pastor Martin, Jeremy and others for making this happen for all of us these past weeks! And no, there is no Herndon Festival 2020 to plan for.

But we are "EASTER PEOPLE"!! Christ has Risen! He has Risen indeed!

Thanks to our new (or at least strengthened) COVID - era technologies, Holy Cross Evangelism has never been simpler! Got

friends, colleagues, school mates, neighbors and/or relatives interested in the activities and efforts of Holy Cross or maybe even looking for a new church home? Just share with them our weekly e-newsletter and any other emails from the church. Encourage them to tune in to the services and devotions that Holy Cross is now live streaming on Facebook! If they have questions, either give the answers your best shot or have them email (Admin@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net) or contact the church at (703-437-1883). All questions will be answered.

We can do this HOLY CROSS PEOPLE! Together – with God's help and the love of Jesus – we can do this and be the stronger for it!

God's Peace & Love to you all!

Roy Geiger and the Evangelism Team

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Logo Contest

Bored with the current Stay-At-Home Orders? Put your creative genius to work! Holy Cross is using our COVID-19 stay-at-home time as an opportunity to get creative and make progress on one of our 2020 goals.

You are invited to design a logo for Holy Cross Lutheran Church, which you believe expresses who HCLC is. We're looking for a strong, simple image that will represent HCLC to our members, neighbors and visitors near and far.

The winning logo will be used as the official visual identity of HCLC and will appear on our website, letterhead, advertising, t-shirts, etc. Please express your questions and/or submit your ideas to Roy Geiger, gei2@verizon.net or call 703-401-3934. Include a black and white and color version of your graphic design, along with a description of why you think this design reflects the best of HCLC. We will accept designs through May 31, 2020. In June, we will put all those great ideas out for a vote by the congregation!

We're looking forward to your creative ideas!

STEWARDSHIP

Lenten Appeal Herndon Middle School



HCLC's Stewardship and Outreach teams joined forces for this year's Lenten Appeal to provide resources to the Herndon Middle School. The Outreach Appeal collected clothes to help fill Herndon Middle School's much needed Clothes Closet.

The Stewardship Appeal raised \$1,370. Donations raised will aid HMS in supplying students with resources like field trip fees, year books, physical education uniforms and basic supplies that they may not

otherwise have access to. Both teams thank you for your support and generosity.

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Holy Cross Lutheran Church	
1090 Sterling Road	
Herndon, VA 20170	