

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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



July 2020



Pastor

*A teacher, a mentor and shepherd with love,
sent by God from up above.
You've showed us Jesus. You've taught us the way.
By being an example of Christ's love each day.
You are a teacher in all that you do,
always pointing to Jesus through and through.
You are a mentor we look to in trials and
you send us to Jesus to walk the tough miles.
You know that He is the answer ALWAYS
and send us to Him to get through the haze.
You are a Shepherd by tending your sheep
some frightened, some worn, some tattered, some weak,
You always care and help us to find
contentment and joy in Jesus Divine.
When we wander away from the rest of the flock,
you seek to find and lead back to the Rock,
You've sought His will and carried your Cross,
by teaching His sheep, so there would be no lost.
One day in heaven, you'll hear Jesus say,
"WELL DONE MY SERVANT."
This humbly I pray.*

Author - Lisa S. Satcher

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Staff News	5
Council News	10
Worship and Music	12
Outreach	13
Christian Education	21
Stewardship	23

JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the August 2020 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Monday, July 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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Find us online!
www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net



Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon VA



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STAFF NEWS



FROM THE PASTOR

I'll share a little secret. Sometimes, when a pastor is up against a pending (or overdue) deadline for a newsletter article, she or he may be tempted to look through the archives to see what had been written for this month in some previous year. It happens.

Well, this year isn't like any other year in my experience. Were I to peruse July articles from years past, there wouldn't be anything there about a global pandemic, about church buildings empty during the week, or about the inability to gather for worship in person. I've never been here before. You've never been here before. We are all learning a new way to live and to be in the face of circumstances that can easily overwhelm us. We've never personally faced times when the most basic aspects of our society – school, work, buying food – have been impacted to such a degree. Most of us cannot remember a time when fear was such a component of our life together and it has been a very long time – possibly fifty plus years– that we've witnessed the breadth of unrest, division, violence, lament, and anger we have in our society at this particular moment. It can so easily feel hopeless.

We truly live in interesting times. Each day, we are living in this new reality and learning what it means to be people doing the best that we can. We don't have many road maps for this journey that we are on, so we must all the more affirm and rely upon the grace of Jesus Christ for us all.

It is, to me, very comforting that Jesus does not demand you or me to be perfect: to be strong at all times, to have all the answers,

or even to always be in a good mood. If anyone does, Jesus understands what it is like to be a human being in difficult times. The great news of the gospel is that Jesus promises to be there with us, especially in those times when we just can't see a way out on our own.

Perhaps, in the face of things we don't always understand, I can share some not-so-random thoughts, hopes, and prayers:

- Trusting in God's grace, may each of us, in our own way, remember what grounds us – the promise of Jesus to be with us in every circumstance.
- Claiming God's grace, may we remain gentle with ourselves, gentle with our friends and families, and gentle with those whose actions we may not always understand. We are all going through a lot these days.
- Enlightened through God's grace, may we, as a congregation, continue to be a place of hope and healing for us all.
- Empowered by God's grace, may we can find ways to connect, support, and assist those who need our help, both serving as the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbor and seeing Jesus in those we serve.

Thank you all, for all that you do. Thank you for your support, your strength and your endurance.

With you in service,

Pastor Martin



One of my favorite hymns to sing at healing services is *Healer of Our Every Ill*. As I was researching information about the hymn I started to find more and more information that made it not only appropriate for worship, but also appropriate for current events and everyday life.

The composer of this hymn, Marty Haugen, is a contemporary Lutheran composer. He has many hymns and liturgical settings being used in Lutheran churches across America. This hymn, in particular, has become rather popular with all sects of the Christian church.

Haugen originally composed this hymn, both text and tune, in 1986 after the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. The text was intended to help with healing of both individuals and the whole community. It gained even more exposure when NPR's *All Things Considered* played a recording of the hymn to end its show airing after the September 11 disaster. "I'm convinced that people need to have something to sing when the world is falling apart," Haugen said. He also told NPR that liturgical songs of sorrow and lament help people to process their emotions and connect with God and one another.

Haugen's words are definitely relevant in today's world. It seems that every time one turns on the news there is nothing but bad news being reported about the world in which we live. It is important to remember that God knows all our troubles and gave Jesus to us so that we may know His grace.

Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain

Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*

In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*

Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*

You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy

HCLC Response to COVID-19



In recognition of public health concerns even as some restrictions eased, and in consultation with the DC Metro Synod, **Holy Cross continues to provide worship services only in an online format.** The safety of our congregation and staff remains our top concern. Staff are still largely working from home.

Staff and Council continues to have conversations about reopening. We expect this to be gradual, with the possibility of worship taking place outdoors as an interim step. We appreciate your patience. Please contact the office at 703-437-1883 or Deb Reilly at 202-359-7450 with any questions or concerns.

COUNCIL NEWS

the *P*resident's *m*essage

Dear Friends ~

I hope that with the warmer weather you are finding respite from the Covid-19 restrictions and getting out to enjoy the sunshine. Our fox family seems to be enjoying the warm, sunny weather!

I find it hard to believe, but this month we celebrate Pastor Martin's arrival one year ago! If you have a moment, I'm sure he would love to hear from you. He has been such a blessing to our church already and I'm delighted to continue to discover his many talents and passions.

The Executive Team, supplemented with Kathy Makowski (Worship and Music) and Jeremy, met in early June to discuss re-opening options. While some churches are opening, we felt it was important to watch out for ALL of our members, and unanimously agreed to continue livestreamed worship. We agreed to try "drive through" communion on June 21, taking precautions to keep the elements virus-free and using only disposable cups and wafer wrapping. Based on our experience and feedback, we will offer communion this way every first and third Sunday.

I am amazed and delighted by the continued spiritual commitment of the Holy Cross community! Your compassion and generous support for our ongoing food drives, is truly heart-felt. I live across the street from a food distribution point and I can tell you the lines to collect food are heartbreakingly long. Thank you, for all you do to feed our neighbors and help alleviate food insecurity.

Council is trying to reach out to our members during the lock lockdown. We have about 70% of our members covered. If you are willing to call or email members, please let me know and we will provide you with a few names to contact. If you have not been contacted by a council member and would like to be, please let me know that too! We also have members who are willing to shop for people... please just ask! You can either contact the church office or email me at debreilly62@gmail.com.

I am excited about introducing a new HCLC logo! This will be part of our Evangelism effort to introduce a “visual identity” and begin making updates to the website, letterhead, bulletins and explore other Evangelism tools like T-shirts and bumper stickers!

Once again, I pray this finds you well and look forward to when we can come together again to worship.

Peace, friends!

Deb Reilly
Council President



COMMUNION

We have developed a plan to celebrate communion as a community. On June 21st we performed our first “drive-through” communion. Based on the results and your feedback, we will continue communion on the **1st and 3rd Sundays at 1:00 pm.**

When you arrive, please park in a parking space and do not get out of your car. Someone will be walking the parking lot to direct traffic. Following their direction, drive up to the church’s front doors where Pastor is standing.

Everyone in your car needs to wear a mask.

The elements have been prepared with an abundance of caution to avoid the spread of germs. The Assisting Minister (wearing gloves and a mask) will assemble an individual tray of elements for each car. Pastor Martin (wearing gloves and a mask) will bring the tray to your car. Someone from your car will take the elements off the tray and hand them to your passenger(s). (The tray will be sanitized before being used for another car.) After Pastor Martin steps back, you may remove your mask and consume the elements. Once your masks are back on, Pastor will step back up and administer a blessing/benediction for your car. You may then pull forward and exit the parking lot.

We ask that you please let the office know if you do not feel comfortable coming to church for parking lot communion. We have communion ministers set up to bring communion to those at risk. They will place the elements on your porch and step back while you come out to consume them.

OUTREACH

Our Food Drive will continue through the summer. Both the schools and LINK are so appreciative of the donations we are able to contribute. As you know the need has always been there, but during the quarantine it has grown immensely. Your response has been a shining light in these dark times.

I'd like to thank Deb Reilly and the church staff for their help with getting the food inside each day, and Cathy Pfisterer, Brian Virnelson and Dick Krapf for their help with deliveries. Thanks also to Ellen Atwell and the teachers for their continuing efforts with our ELL program; Rachel Williams for her work with The Closet and keeping us informed of what's going on there; and Barb Gouldey and Jo Roe for their work with the Embury Rucker Shelter Lunches.

Finally, Herndon Cares, which we also support, continues their support of local business by raising money to buy meals for the needy. From a recent update:

"Together, We Met Our Goal and Made a Difference!

Pumped Over \$64,000 into Herndon/Reston Restaurants

Provided 9,311 Dinners to Neighbors in Need

Helped Our Community through the Initial Stay-at-Home Order

Thank you to our partnering congregations, independent donors, community volunteers, and participating restaurants!"

Learn more about them and the work we support at
<https://herndoncares.org/>.

About The Embry Rucker Shelter



Holy Cross has been providing meals for The Embry Rucker Community Shelter for over 10 years. Our initial Outreach came when we partnered with AUGUST WORKS SUNDAY to provide one lunch for the Shelter. From there we decided to provide lunch once a month and we partnered with the Martin Luther King Congregation to provide the food and servers.

As technology progressed we were able to use the Perfect Potluck site to reach out to our own congregation and community members allowing us to streamline the process. Eventually, the MLK congregation and Holy Cross decided to split up the responsibilities and each do the second Saturday on alternate months. Thus, Holy Cross now provides the lunch and generally the servers, on the even numbered months (February, April, June, August, October and December). Once we get through the Covid-19 restrictions the Shelter may open again to in-person servers, but for now we can at least provide the food.

Just as background information, The Shelter is located next to the Reston Library on Bowman Towne Drive. It is a 70-bed residential center that provides emergency housing for individuals and families 365/24/7. They have 20 full time staff members including an employment specialist, nurse and housing broker to help clients transition to stable housing. Additionally, the Shelter offers drop-in access to hot meals, laundry machines and shower facilities for unsheltered homeless people as well. Please check out the Cornerstones website (www.cornerstonesva.org/services/food-financial-or-urgent-assistance/emergency-shelter/) for detailed information on their comprehensive services which provide more than just the

emergency shelter to include an array of services to those struggling in the community.

Although, it is a small contribution, Holy Cross helps provide some of the 400 volunteers needed to operate the Shelter. If interested in being on our distribution list for the Shelter meals please contact Barbara Gouldey (Barbara.gouldey@verizon.net) or the church office (Admin@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net.)



HCLC food collection for Embry Rucker



HCLC food delivery to Embry Rucker

News from The Closet

The Closet reopened for donations and shopping in early June. Donations have been streaming in as many took advantage



of being at home to clean house! You can drop off your donations (contact free if desired) Monday-Saturday 8 am -3 pm. Stop by and see the new rear addition where donations will be sorted.

As part of the re-opening process, The Closet has instituted new safety procedures. Highlights include requiring masks on everyone in the building, limiting the number of shoppers in the store, cleaning shopping baskets between each use and installing plexiglass barriers at the registers and jewelry counters. Dressing rooms have been closed (clothing may be returned within 72 hours for store credit). For a complete list of all measures taken, please visit their website, (theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/the-closet-response-to-coronavirus/).

In addition, The Closet has changed it's shopping hours to Monday - Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, with special hours for seniors and other at-risks customers on Mondays and Thursdays mornings from 8:30 – 10 am.

With the increased amount of donations, The Closet is in need of volunteers to: hang, tag and label clothes. If you feel you can help, please come in! These tasks are done in the donation/sorting room so there are no customers. It is possible to work socially distanced from others. The tagging and labelling can be done sitting down.

If you would like to know how many people are in that room or more details for your safety, please call The Closet (703-437-7652) and speak to Pat Rhoads, Manager.

A reminder that volunteers, like staff:

- *will have their temperature taken upon arrival.
- *are to wear a mask at all times in the building.

As an additional safety precaution, restrooms are closed to customers, but volunteers and staff may use one.

In addition, if you know of students who are looking to volunteer, encourage them to contact Pat at The Closet to get an assigned task.



Our Hardworking ELL Students at Holy Cross

By Dayna Sowd, ELL Teacher at Holy Cross

One night in our beginner English class, we were talking about routines and time. “What time do you get up? What time do you go to work? What time do you go to bed?” Our students get up in the wee hours of the morning and don’t go to sleep until very late. Many have children to get ready for school as well before working long hours at their jobs followed by two hours of English lessons twice a week. One student spends all day at school before joining us for more school! In the US, many of us struggle through our mandatory two years of foreign language instruction in high school and forget it immediately. Our students don’t have that option. Instead, they voluntarily commit to practicing their English language lessons even though it’s very hard, and they are busy and tired.

We rarely think about what challenges there are in learning English, that most of us grew up speaking it. Those who did not are uniquely positioned to really identify with our students, but for native speakers, explaining the complicated rules and exceptions of English to new learners can be eye opening. It isn’t just the idioms, of which English has many (*Hit the books? Time flies? On thin ice? Under the weather?*). Even the basics of English can be a major challenge.

We form the past tense by adding -ed to the end of a verb, right? *Talked, walked, jumped, played*? Except, of course, when we don't... *Forgot, taught, sped, ate*. When we make comparisons, we add -er to the end of the adjective and then -est for the superlative, right? *Tall, taller, tallest*. Or is it that we use "more" and "most"? *Intelligent, more intelligent, most intelligent*. What about *good, better, best*?

Some challenges come from the fact that other languages may not treat certain words the same way. Many of our students are native Spanish speakers, and in that language, there is one word that means both "in" and "on." There is a single word that means "do" and "make." How do we explain when you use one vs the other when as a native English speaker "you just know"?

I was lucky to attend schools where English grammar was well taught, and I even enjoyed it! I also studied foreign languages in school, giving me some experience with language acquisition. But I did these things as a full-time student – without the additional responsibilities of family and work or the pressures of being far from home. Our students have to overcome so much just to get to class.

As you know, our ESOL teachers are volunteers, and we prepare our own lessons for our classes. With your support, we are able to provide workbooks, dictionaries, classroom space, and meals to our students.

It's been months now since we've been able to gather together to teach and learn with our ESOL students. It's hard to predict when we'll be able resume any sense of "normalcy" or if we'll simply need to adapt our ESOL program to the new world. However, I do know that our students are eager, hardworking, and enthusiastic, and they will be ready to meet the challenges if we are here to help.

Thank you for your continued support of our ESOL program and our immigrant communities!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2020 HCLC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We have all been eagerly waiting for this year's **VBS** because it was so invigorating the past two years. VBS is scheduled for **August 9-13, 2020**.

However, due to the COVID-19 virus our lives have been altered to a large degree. As a result, there will be some changes to this year's VBS presentations. It is apparent that some changes in planning will need to be adjusted. We are still working out a few details and are looking forward to HCLC's 2020 VBS.



Thank you to all of the individuals that have been enabling us to keep in touch with our spirituality through virtual presentations. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated. This connection is so important as we are all feeling disconnected in our lives. Your efforts have enhanced our spiritual needs tremendously even though you are suffering the same separation that we are all feeling. This connection is so needed during this stressful time in all our lives. We are missing our spiritual and human contacts. (Even getting a haircut makes us feel like we have been gifted.)

Peace to each of you,

Betty Skelton

SAVE THE DATES: August 9-13
for
VIRTUAL (NO-ZOOM) KIDS VBS



- + This exciting new curriculum will be a **VBS at-home experience**, that can be enjoyed when it is convenient for your family.
- + **Anytime-accessible livestreams and videos** created by HCLC's crack VBS Team will include daily: Openings, Bible Stories, Music and Activities.
- + We hope to have an **in-person opening** at HCLC the first evening—probably 20 minutes in length—for VBS Kids and their Families.
- + **Everyone would be outside and socially distanced**—wearing masks and implementing all safety measures necessary.
- + **Family packs with everything you need** will be distributed contact-free.

STEWARDSHIP

WAYS TO GIVE

We must keep the Church alive. 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. Your generosity makes all things possible.



You can:

1. Drop a check in the mail.
2. Go to our website,
<http://www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net>,
Click "Donate" and
Fill out the safe and secure donation form.
3. 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

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