

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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



August 2020

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the September 2020 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Wednesday, August 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



A year ago, I began the journey. It was Monday, July 15, 2019 that I entered the doors of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the first time as your pastor. It has been a wonderful, eventful year and through it all, I have been surrounded by your love and support. Thank you.

Through all the complexities of settling in, of adjusting to the reality of a new state, to the reality of living apart from Shelly and my family most of the year, you have been there. In the various events of the year -- weddings, deaths, births, a sabbatical, and even a pandemic -- we have journeyed together.

It has been quite a year, but I am so happy that I have been here with you along the way. It has been and remains an honor, privilege, and blessing to be called to be among you as your pastor! Holy Cross is a congregation that is alive with Jesus' love and acceptance for all people, a place that takes seriously and joyously Jesus' call to all those who seek a safe, grace-based community in which to find peace. We are travelers on a great journey, welcoming others to join us along the way.

One thing the experiences of this first half of 2020 has taught us is a clear reminder that we do not know what the future holds. It is clear that things will not be "normal" for some time. As I have written before, we all are learning in new ways about community, unity, and ways to care for one another. Together, we are God's people for this time, in this place. Using a reference from the book

of Esther, Bishop Ortiz often reminds the pastors of our synod, “You have been called to a time such as this.” That is where we are as God’s people in the world today: seeking to be faithful in the face of uncertainty.

There is a prayer that I love, taken from both the Morning and Evening Prayer services, that seems to sum up where we are today and, more importantly, *whose* we are in all things:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Whatever the path, I am grateful to be traveling with you and pray that our mutual care and ministry continue to honor the One who calls us all, embraces all, and strengthen us in all things along the way.

Pastor Martin

P.S. Sunday, July 19. Thank you for the wonderful celebration of our one-year anniversary together! The prayers, cards, well-wishes and the ROCKS! What a beautiful day surrounded by your love. I so am blessed to be your pastor!



Favorite Hymn Requests

Have I told you lately how much I hate that we can't gather for worship and have to do it over Facebook Live? If you didn't already know, know that I miss you all every Sunday.

The leadership at Holy Cross has spent many hours coming up with ways we can build community during this pandemic time when we cannot gather in person. I would like to introduce a new way that might help us build community. We would like everyone to submit a request to sing their favorite hymn(s). Each Sunday one of our hymns will be selected by you!

It would be great if you could write a few sentences about why it is your favorite hymn. Maybe your mother always sang it to you as a child. Maybe it was sung at your parent's funeral and it still brings you comfort. Maybe the text resonates with your life right now. Maybe the tune is just fun to sing and it makes you happy!

We will use a requested hymn each week and print the explanation in the margin of the bulletin. Please send your

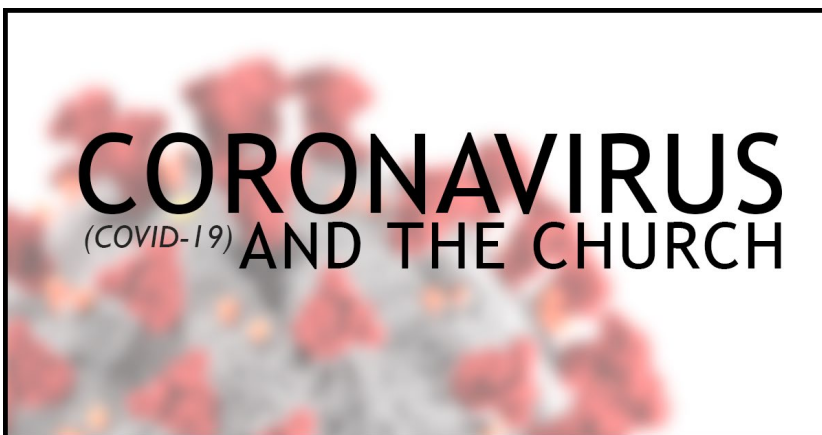
request to Jeremy Shoop,
(MusicDir@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net). Feel free to submit a
few if you just can't pick!

I continue to look forward to the day we can gather to worship in
person together again.

...Joy comes in the morning. (Psalm 30:5b)

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy



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.

EVANGELISM



And Along Came COVID – 19: The August '20 Edition

Happy August! I hope you and your family are well and surviving COVID as well as you can.

By now you may have received (maybe already voted on) some new Holy Cross logo options. If you have, thanks! If not, please give us your thoughts when invited. Thanks!

As for information on traditional upcoming late summer / autumn Holy Cross activities, we have more questions than details. Rally Day Sunday in September?? Herndon Homecoming Parade, etc.?? Sterling Fest is currently scheduled for Saturday, October 10. Please save the date to help and/or to attend. More details are forthcoming as we receive them.

I looked back at what I wrote you in the May *Quest* and determined some of it was worth saying again. Here you go – “THANK YOU, Pastor Martin, Jeremy and others for keeping our worship life alive and well for all of us these past weeks!” “...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! Do you have 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 livestreaming on Facebook! If they have questions, either give the answers your best shot or have them email or contact the church. 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! I look forward to worshipping with you in person as soon as safely possible!

God’s Peace and Love to you all!

Roy Geiger and the Evangelism Team

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Plans are well underway for Compassion Camp VBS beginning August 9, 2020, thanks to Suzanne Baggett and her committee. This year VBS will be different than in previous years. However, it was felt that some sort of VBS needed to be done even if it is semi-virtual. We realize most of our young children are “Zoomed” out at this point.

Our next exciting plans are for Rally Day in September. However, there is still a lot of uncertainty how to plan for Rally Day and the upcoming Sunday School year. Please stay alert for messages coming out regarding these activities.



We would like to have more volunteers on our various committees. Perhaps the time is right to circulate Time and Talent Forms again. Everyone in our congregation has a talent that they can provide to help our ministries even for a one-time occurrence. Age is not a restriction for giving of your time.

Peace to each of you,

Betty Skelton

VIRTUAL (NO-ZOOM) BIBLE SCHOOL
NO FEES – ALL FREE!!
REGISTER BY AUGUST 7TH



Aug. 9 at 5 PM: Drive-Thru/Contactless/In-car Car-nival to:

- drop off **food** for community needs,
- take a **car selfie**,
- play a **toss game** from your car window,
- receive **hotdogs, popcorn and treats** and
- pickup **Family Pak Totes**.

Aug. 10-14 (or ANYTIME): VBS At-Home

- Lessons & supplies provided!
- Individual Totes (one per child) will include
 - 5 anytime lessons and activities and
 - All needed supplies

Price - Free!

- Enjoy VBS from home at your family's convenience
- Anytime-accessible live streams and videos (**No Zoom**)
- All supplies Includes: openings & songs, bible stories, imaging and coloring, movement crafts/activities and closing

Please use the link below to register no later than Aug. 7th,
<https://forms.gle/FTdD8N7sK5shQYxM6>.

OUTREACH

Normally this month's Quest article would announce our annual "Back to School Drive". But right now, the big question is, what is the "normal" of which you speak? We will be doing something for sure, but details are to be determined. Please watch for details in the Weekly Updates and on our Facebook page.

One thing that is always normal is the need to say, "thank you" for your generosity in supporting our ongoing food drive. Every week, generally several times a week, we have been able to make food deliveries to LINK and the schools for families and children who would otherwise be hungry. Your generosity remains one of the sources of joy and certainty in a time of pain and confusion.

LINK is an all-volunteer Christian food pantry that delivers food to families in the community. Since the pandemic, LINK had an increase of almost 1000%. Typically, LINK delivers food to 20 families a week. During late April, LINK delivered food to 193 families in one week. The donations brought in from Holy Cross helped fill the shelves in the pantry. It seemed that as quickly as we received donations they were quickly put into bags and put in cars to be delivered. Knowing that Holy Cross was collecting food helped immensely and eased the fears running out of food. LINK really appreciates HCLC's generosity!

Some of LINK's current needs are:

- Jelly
- Hearty soups
- Pasta sauce
- Boxed or canned potatoes
- Size 4, 5 and 6 diapers
- Diaper wipes
- Toiletries

Holy Cross' Partner -- Herndon Cares



Holy Cross has been a partner in the Herndon Cares efforts. Here is their update.

Hello Herndon Cares Faith Partners,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to reach out and update you on the latest with Herndon Cares.

We initially decided to transition to a monthly Herndon Cares model. This way, our local restaurants will get an extra boost as they continue transitioning to full service and our neighbors in need will have lovely meals to enjoy.

As of tomorrow evening, we will have distributed 10,478 meals and funneled just short of \$67,000 back into the community, with the help of 150 volunteers, 15 faith communities and many, many financial donors.

What an incredible effort. How wonderful it is to have seen Herndon come together and show up for the community. I am

eager to see how our community continues to show up in many other ways.

At this point, we have decided that tomorrow's distribution will be our last. We have had some shifts within our leadership team and are no longer able to continue this work.

Now, restaurants are in various stages of transitioning to full service and based on feedback from our sister organizations, the demand for food assistance has decreased. While our work as a short-term, emergency assistance program is done, there's so much more to do. Though many of you already do these things, we would be remiss not to name them. We are inviting people to:

- Please continue to support our local restaurants with your business.*
- Please remember our partnering faith communities as they continue to make a difference here in Herndon/Reston and around the world. Many have special programs that provide direct support to our neighbors in need.*
- Please give of your time and resources to the many local, long-term nonprofits that tirelessly work year-round to assist our community. Among others, these include Cornerstones, LINK, Food For Neighbors, She Believes in Me, Herndon-Reston FIS, and Herndon Village Network.*

Lastly, thank you so much. Thank you for standing with us and for your consistent help, encouragement, thought partnership and care in this process. We could not have done it without you.

I give thanks.

*Warmly,
K Scarry*

Closet News



The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc. recently awarded \$45,000 in college scholarships to 22 deserving high school graduates at five local high schools.

Closet Board President Gene Wiley stated, "We are so proud of these youth and their families and are happy to continue supporting this important educational need in our community." The 2020 scholarship recipients are:

Herndon High School: Lucilla Antwie, Karen Ayala-Bonilla, Caleb Calderwood, Sean Frias, Maryum Khan, Judith Velasquez

Mountain View High School: Doris Alvarado, Abonesh Tadese, Tenzin Tsering

Oakton High School: Olohi Anteyi, Monica Alexandra Castellanos, Maria S. Rivera

Park View High School: Ebanneh Atabe, Charlotte Edwards, Kimberly Fuentes-Galvez, Kimberly Molina Rivas, Kaitlyn Smith, Melana Washington

South Lakes High School: Rhema Ebna Konadu, Nicol Katherin Salinas Perez, Daniel Mebratu Tolessa, Nia Jordan Winston

Since 1974, The Closet has awarded more than \$500,000 in college scholarships to over 500 students. In this same 45-year period, The Closet has distributed nearly \$3 million in direct cash grants to local service groups, of which the scholarship program is an important part.

The Closet is a non-profit thrift shop founded and operated by a multiplicity of faith-based congregations. With a small dedicated staff and a very active volunteer cadre, The Closet provides

shoppers low-cost, high quality used clothing, shoes, books and other household items. Donations of clothing and small household items are always needed, graciously accepted, and may be dropped off at the store Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Retail store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The Closet welcomes new volunteers. Please contact the store manager, Patricia Rhoads at 703-437-7652 for additional information. The Closet also welcomes student volunteers fulfilling their community service requirements for school or who just want to serve their community. Go to <http://www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org> for further information about The Closet. The Closet is located at 845 Station Street in Herndon.



Rachel Williams presenting the check to Deb Peirce (College & Career Center Specialist and College Partnership Program Advocate) at Herndon High School.

Global and Local Needs

If you are looking for global and local ways to reach those in need, here are a few ideas. This list is definitely incomplete. If you have more recommendations, please contact Suzanne Flegal, suzflegal@verizon.net.

Lutheran World Relief - <https://lwr.org/>

Lutheran Social Services - <https://lssnca.org/>

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services - <https://www.lirs.org/>

Doctors Without Borders - <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>

Locally

Food for Neighbors - <https://www.foodforneighbors.org/>

Herndon Village Network - <https://herndonvillagenetwork.org/>

LAWS (Loudoun Abused Women's Services) - <https://www.lcsi.org/>

Safe Spot, Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax County - <https://www.safespotfairfax.org/>

The Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools - <https://fcpsfoundation.org/>

Loudoun Education Foundation
<https://loudouneeducationfoundation.org/>

English Language Learners Update



I wish I could tell you that we completed another successful year this past May teaching English to our immigrants at Holy Cross. Unfortunately, the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) prevented us from completing our spring semester. We held our last classes on March 18th and expected to meet again the following Monday but were forced to cancel the rest of our classes.

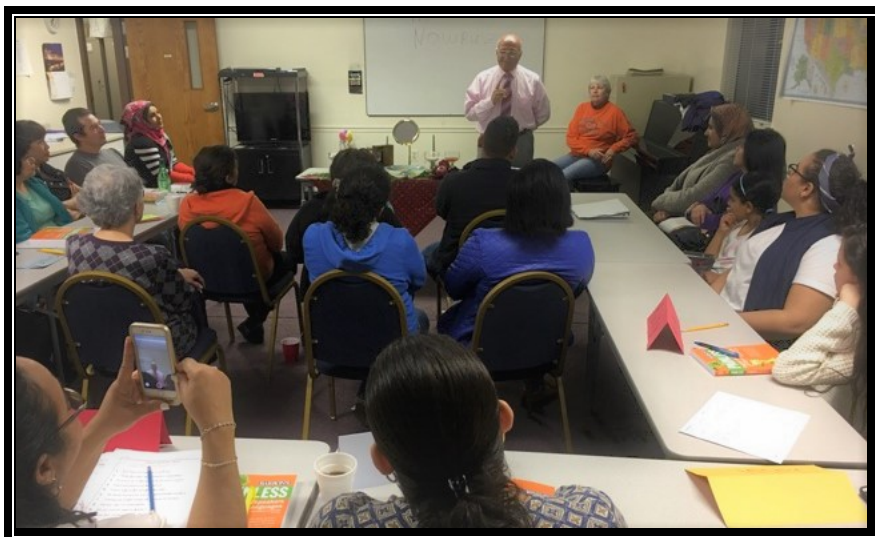
Every ELL teacher at Holy Cross has expressed how much they miss teaching our students. Our students are in dire need of learning English but, like everyone else, they are sidelined by this nasty virus.

We had a total of 53 students from nine different countries this last semester. We remain in touch with our students by emailing online lessons and information about the coronavirus. Not every student owns a computer, but most of them have smart phones. We call or text students often to keep a close personal relationship with them. I am in the process of determining how many students can join us via Zoom for online learning.

Below are some pictures from our past classes and celebration. We celebrate Christmas every year with caroling and wonderful food and we play Bingo with our students at the end of our spring

semester. Everyone learned about Noruz Mobarak (Happy New Year in Persian) from our Iranian student, Jalal.

God Bless,
Ellen Atwell, ELL Coordinator
Ellen.Atwell@Verizon.net
703 201 2900



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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