

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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



**HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

September 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Staff News	5
Council News	11
Worship and Music	14
Evangelism	15
Christian Education	17
Outreach	22
Stewardship	27

JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the October 2020 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Friday, September 11th.

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



For as long as I can remember, September in church life meant the intentional coming back together as a church community after a long and hopefully abundant summer. Most of us remember Rally Day Sundays, which marked the official beginning of a congregation's programmatic year. Obviously, things will be different this year. We won't be physically gathering together for some time. We are not closed, however. We still are the church. We are still the Body of Christ and the Body of Christ is always open.

We will be doing things differently this year and we are finding new ways to keep connected with God, with one another, and with our community at large. In this issue of the Quest, you will see a number of opportunities for worship, fellowship and service. We are exploring new ways to celebrate and refresh our community of faith until we are able to truly "rally back" and gather together in person again.

During this very complicated and difficult time in our world, we need the strength and comfort of a God who is greater than our problems and who has promised that nothing in all of Creation can separate us from God's love. We need each other as well. So much of our current situation forces us into separateness and isolation and it is far too easy to feel alone and overwhelmed by everything that is going on. Keeping the connections between members of our congregation will continue to be a top priority for our leadership team and we are actively looking for more and

more ways to make that happen. We are all in this together, and if you have ideas on how we can support one another, please let me or someone of Council know.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Martin

Visit Time with Pastor

Thank you to everyone who was able to meet with Pastor and Shelly last month. They gathered on porches, decks, lawns and garages and were able to meet up with 25 members while still observing distancing protocols. It was a great way to reconnect during this time of separation.

Pastor would love to continue this practice during the fall months. If you would like him to stop by your home or meet up in some neutral place, please feel free to contact him at:

pastormartin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net or via his phone: 907-223-0519.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY

Learn from the Hymns

A bible study based on popular hymns

Presented on Zoom – Tuesdays – 7:00 PM
(Starting September 1)

As Holy Cross' program year begins during a pandemic, it holds directly in front of us that we still cannot gather in person to sing. Instead of choir and bell choir rehearsals this fall I will be holding a weekly Zoom bible study based on hymns and other sacred music. The link you need for Zoom will be emailed out weekly prior to the bible study. Please make sure you are on the church's email list. There is a participant guide that will be emailed out as well.

Feel free to share this information with your friends. ALL are welcome!

September 1: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, Holy, Holy has been sung in Christian churches since the 1800's. Our mouths have probably formed the words of this hymn so frequently that we no longer pay attention to them. This study will examine the background and meaning of this classic hymn.

What exactly does "holy" mean? Why is "holy" repeated three times? Can the study of this hymn affect our view of God and our life on Earth?

Scripture: Exodus 33:12-23
 Matthew 3:12-17
 Revelation 4:1-11

September 8: *Amazing Grace*

Amazing Grace is one of the most popular and well-known hymns of all time. Written by an “old converted sea captain” who truly appreciated the mercy God extended to him, it helps us to value God’s grace. Grace changes lives, empowering us to live beyond our fears and troubles.

Why is grace amazing? How is fear changed by grace? Does grace continue its work even after we have become Christians?

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-14
 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
 Ephesians 2:1-10

September 15: *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

Written by a discouraged missionary, *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* has become an abiding prayer of yielding to the Lord. Her words teach us that we are clay in the Master Potter’s hands. Although it may be challenging, when we submit to the Potter’s touch, we experience the joy of God’s perfect will.

Why is God depicted as a potter? What is the first step in surrendering to the Lord? What results will we see because of our trust and submission?

Scripture: Psalm 51:1–19
 Isaiah 45:5–12
 2 Corinthians 4:7–12

September 22: *It Is Well with My Soul*

Most of us have sung the beautiful hymn *It Is Well with My Soul* for years without realizing that it was written by a man who experienced great personal loss. Even in the midst of his tragedy, he was able to exult in God’s goodness. This great hymn encourages our souls to praise our gracious God whatever our circumstances.

Scripture: Psalm 42:1–11
Psalm 103:1–22
Romans 8:31–39

September 29: *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

Written by a man who penned thousands of hymns, *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* is one of the most beloved texts of hymnody. Its stirring words speak of a personal and intimate relationship with Christ. It reveals Jesus as Lover, Protector, and Provider.

Do you have an intimate knowledge of Jesus' love?
Are you aware of his protection? Do you rely on Christ's provision?

Scripture: Psalm 18:1–36
Psalm 23:1–6
Luke 15:11–32

October 6: *Come, Thou Fount*

Come, Thou Fount was written by a man who experienced a dramatic conversion from gang member to preacher. The hymn acknowledges God as the giver of every blessing. It praises the God who seeks us out when we are straying and asks him to unite our hearts with God's so that we never wander away again.

Who receives praise for the blessings we are given? How can we commemorate God's actions on our behalf? How can we avoid wandering away from our Savior?

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:6–20
1 Samuel 7:2–13
Ephesians 1:3–10

I hope you are able to join us on Zoom for this time of fellowship, bible study, and prayer. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop,
Director of Music and Liturgy

COUNCIL NEWS

the *P*resident's *m*essage

Dear Friends ~

I hope that as the summer is winding down, you are all staying well and safe. I hope you were able to take some time, even if it wasn't a formal "vacation" to rest and recharge. Finally, I hope you have been able to keep the Holy Spirit active in your life!

New HCLC Logo - The logo vote is complete and our new logo released! I'm very excited to have this new visual brand for Holy



Cross. You will begin seeing it on everything from our emails, to websites, surveys, letterhead, tote bags, etc. Thank you to those who submitted ideas and to those who voted!

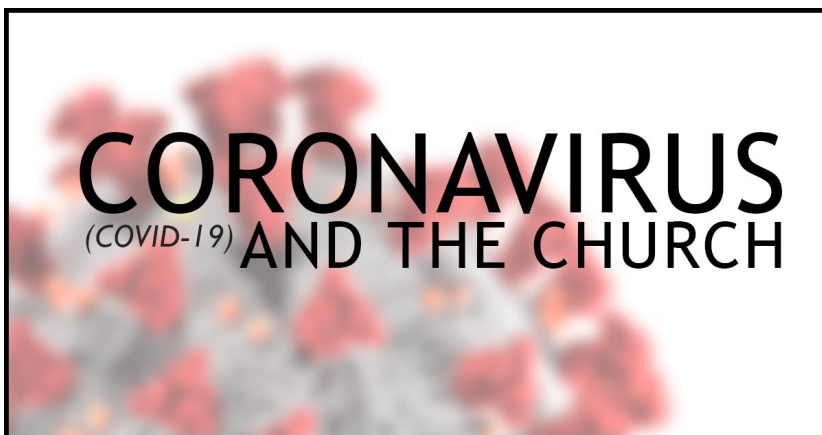
Capital Campaign - I cannot thank you all enough for your ongoing support and commitment to the Capital Campaign! July marked the mid-point of our 3-year "Building on the Best" Capital Campaign. Keep an eye out for a letter in the mail, describing where we are in the program, what has been accomplished and what we hope to do next. For anyone who has not yet had the opportunity to participate in the campaign, ***there's still time!*** The letter will include a commitment card to revise or start a campaign commitment.

Annual Meeting - The 2020 Holy Cross Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting will be scheduled for November 15, 2020. We are working with the Synod to figure out how best to conduct a meeting in the current environment. We anticipate it will need to be virtual. Stay tuned for details of how that will work!

Thank You! While our normal activities have been suppressed, I am so grateful for the work of our generous congregation for all your efforts to sustain our worship and community. The **Quaranteam** continues to provide ***energetic and engaging worship***. Under the excellent leadership of **Suzanne Baggett** and her awesome team, HCLC was able to offer a ***Vacation Bible School*** with a focus on Compassion. What an excellent message for us all, especially now. The **Outreach Team, with generous donations from all of you** continue to ***stock our local food pantry and schools***. Thanks to **Sam Carter, Bob Thompson, Pastor Martin and Jeremy Shoop** for their continued efforts to improve the technical ***quality of our weekly worship***. We have invested in some new equipment to improve both the sound and camera management. We were also **so blessed to have Seminarian Katy Moran** with us this summer. In addition to preaching several times, Katy provided support to weekly worship, sang with us, participated in staff meetings, and offered lots of great ideas.

Thank you, friends, for your continued commitment to the life and mission of Holy Cross, and for your unwavering care and compassion for each other. We are truly blessed, through each of you.

Peace,
Deb Reilly



HCLC COVID-19 UPDATE – *Aug. 2020*

While restrictions on worship have eased, the guidance from the Virginia Governor's office is that members are still safer at home. With that in mind, Holy Cross will continue to provide Sunday morning worship services in an online format.

In September we will begin experimenting with an outdoor, mid-week worship series called "More Days for Praise!". Wednesday evening services will be held outdoors, where worshippers can participate from within their car (via an FM radio signal), or in lawn chairs outside. For people gathering on the lawn, social distancing will be strictly enforced, and masks are required. There will be no singing to help mitigate against the spread of COVID-19.

We appreciate your continued love, support, prayers and patience as we try to find ways to flourish in the current environment. If you have suggestions or questions, please feel free to contact the office or Deb Reilly at 202-359-7450!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Backpack/Work Bag Blessing September 6th 12:00 – 12:45 PM

We will have a Blessing of the Backpacks and Work Bags on Sunday, September 6th from 12:00 – 12:45 PM in the church parking lot. This will be a “drive through” style blessing, similar to how we do communion. Students and workers of every age are invited to bring their bags, books, notebooks, pens and pencils for a blessing. We also have special tags you can attach to your bags to remind you it has been blessed.



Blessing of the Animals October 4th 12:00 – 12:45 PM



**BLESSING OF
THE ANIMALS**

SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR PET'S CALENDAR! We will have a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 4th from 12:00 – 12:45 PM in the church parking lot. This will be a “drive through” style blessing, similar to how we do

communion. Anyone with two legs should be wearing a mask. Four legged or winged animals can be mask free! Creatures with no legs or six (or more) legs and birds need to be in a cage!

Bring your furry, fuzzy, and feathered friends for a blessing!

EVANGELISM



RALLY DAY SUNDAY – AND SEPTEMBER COVID – 19 STYLE

Traditionally, in this September **Quest** article, the Evangelism Team and I would be joining forces with other Holy Cross Ministry Teams to be encouraging you to participate in **RALLY DAY SUNDAY** – the first Sunday after the Labor Day Weekend. Bring your family to church; sign everyone (kids and adults) up for Sunday School classes; sign up to help a ministry (or ministries!) of Holy Cross; stay and enjoy a church luncheon and/or picnic lunch; make time to connect with new folks and/or reconnect with folks you haven't seen for a while. That's what Rally Day Sunday has been at Holy Cross for years!

This year, Rally Day Sunday, September 13, 2020 – hmm? Thanks, COVID -19! But, why surrender Rally Day – **and the most important aspects of Rally Day** -- to COVID-19? Come on Holy Cross folks, **we are Easter people!** We have learned by now to work with this COVID virus and with God's help and Christ's guidance, we do everything we can – and more – led by the Holy Spirit to be God's hands here in our community. Even though we

may not be able to join for services and other social activities yet, we can and need to:

- ❖ Participate in our online services, communion “drive-throughs” and other gatherings,
- ❖ Participate in “Sunday School”, Bible studies, etc. whenever offered,
- ❖ Continue to faithfully support offerings and financial donations so that Holy Cross can continue / increase its mission work here in our community and beyond,
- ❖ Help to provide food, goods and other needs of our neighbors,
- ❖ Commit to help with at least one ministry effort here at Holy Cross,
- ❖ Connect with others of our Holy Cross family. Just a call or email to say “Hi!” and
- ❖ Ask God how **you** can best help **Holy Cross** do what **He** wants us to be doing.

Up for the challenge? Now, more than ever, we need to make this year not just a **Rally Day Sunday** but a **RALLY SEPTEMBER** and be the **HOLY CROSS PEOPLE** we know we can be – if we try!!

Stay healthy – and *“let your Light so shine among others. Go with God’s Peace”*

Roy Geiger and the Evangelism Team

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hello everyone!

We have finished a spectacular on-line VBS. The Committee under the leadership of Suzanne Baggett, Pastor and Jeremy Shoop produced a fantastic experience for all the young people that signed up for Compassion VBS. This was a whole new experience for this program in the virtual format because of this “crazy” virus that doesn’t want to just disappear.

In the near future, you will receive a Time and Talent Survey via email through Monkey Survey. Please complete the form once you receive the survey. We are doing this in place of our usual Rally Day activities, typically held between services, since we aren’t having in-house church worship, yet.

Some of the items on the survey are short term activities and take very little time. It would really be great if each of you could sign up for something when doing the survey. We are a church community and it takes a church family to work together to make Holy Cross a well-run COMMUNITY. Any service you provide will be greatly appreciated no matter how small or how little time that you can give.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Skelton

Compassion Camp At-Home Vacation Bible School Joy

It began with a Drive-Through CARnival on Sunday August 9th. For the families who were able to drive through and the VBS volunteers there, this 20-minute interaction felt like a family reunion. *(Go to HCLC's Facebook page and search for the Facebook live drive-thru video to see how it went.)*



Thanks to a cadre of wonderful volunteers, our at-home VBS had an inspired Starry Night campsite for our video presenters: Hope Russell (Storytime), Anne Geiger (Bible Story), Amy McNaughton on snares, I mean cool Crafts/Activities, who also supplied craft supplies for totes, and Pastor (Openings and Closings) with Jeremy leading the (Songs).



Hope Russell
on set.



Amy
McNaughton
Chalk Art.



Huge thanks to Jeremy for directing the set creation, scheduling and filming the videos . . . AND teaching the all-new songs to our VBS families as well as to HCLC friends Deb Reilly, Bob Thompson, Sylvia Moran, Katy Moran, Hope Russell, Pastor, Robby, Farrah, Wolfy and Mortimer who sing them in the sanctuary!

A big thank you to Becky Morgan for helping create the set, making the popcorn and for the amazing VBS selfies.

Finally, **thank you, thank you** to Betty Skelton, our fearless Christian Ed leader, who ensures we move forward as a team with Council approval for all we do. And can we get an AMEN for our participants – all 21 of them at-home or visiting relatives from Alaska, Illinois and Pennsylvania as well as those here in the Herndon, Reston, Loudoun area!

Adult Sunday Bible Class Resumes September 13th 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Bible Study



Pastor's Bible Class resumes on Sunday, September 13th at noon. With our worship schedule as it is, Bible Class will be held on **non-communion Sundays only** during the same basic time-slot as we host our Drive-Through Communion. We will once again be using Zoom for our connecting format.

We were beginning our year by exploring the book of **Galatians** together. As some will remember from our study of I and II Corinthians last spring, there is a strong connection between the themes and issues encountered in the Corinthian correspondence and the situation in the churches in Galatia.

The book of Galatians was a favorite of Martin Luther and the Reformers, due to its bold and clear proclamation of God's grace given to all people through Jesus Christ. Paul's words remain dear and near to many Christians today, reminding us that God's love surpasses our own shortcomings, guilt or shame.

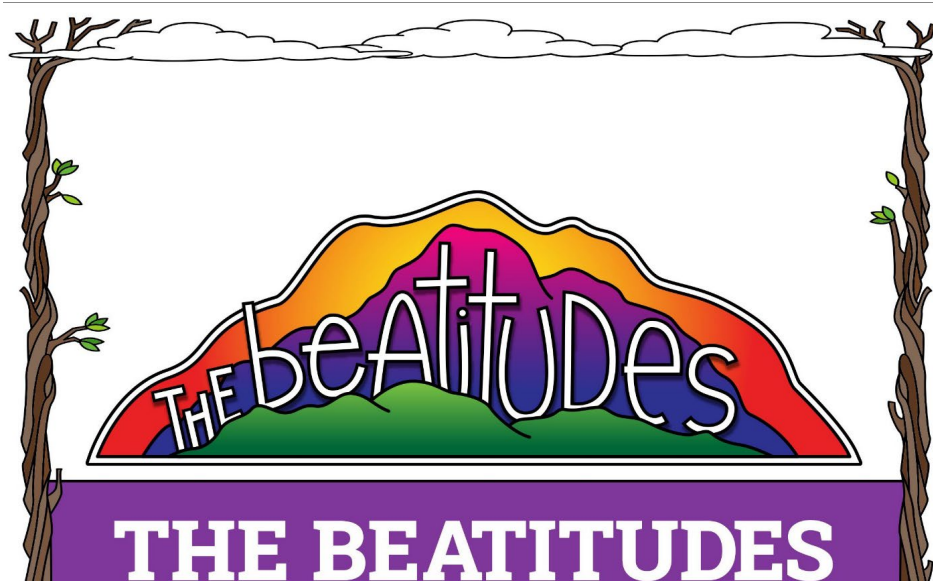
Like we did last spring, a Zoom link will be sent out with the Weekly Update for that week.

Kingdom Kids **At-Home** Sunday School Starts September 20th!

Lesson Materials will be sent to each child's home.

Lesson Videos will premiere each Sunday,
but will be available anytime.

A link to the registration form will be posted in e-Blast.



This thoughtful and engaging curriculum is from Illustrated Ministries, the same source as for our Compassion Camp VBS.

OUTREACH

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

We are happy to announce that our annual Back to School Drive is on. Please help us support Herndon Middle School--our neighbors, by donating items from the students 'Back to School List.' You may drop off donations in the yellow and black bins in front of the church. If you're not able to drop off supplies at the church, order online and have it delivered to the church. You can support the schools through online donations to The Fairfax County Foundation for Kids, <https://fcpsfoundation.org/impact/kids-in-need/>. Cornerstones is also conducting its Back to School asking for online donations. Their website is <https://www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/back-to-school/>.

**DROP OFF DONATIONS IN THE
BIN BY HCLC FRONT DOORS.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

School Supplies Needed

HMS School Supply List Grades 7 & 8

- Headphones/Earbuds with Microphone
(must be compatible with FCPS Device)
- Spiral Notebooks
- Binder with dividers and loose leaf paper
- Colored Pencils
- Composition Books - Folders
- Pencils - Pens - Highlighters
- Eraser - Pencil Sharpener - Ruler
- Packs of Note Cards

**HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170
www.HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net

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 sources of joy and certainty in a time of pain and confusion.

Special thanks also to Barb Gouldey for coordinating the August Second Saturday Lunch for the Embry Rucker clients. Please watch for Perfect Potluck emails announcing these lunches. They occur on the second Saturday of every other month. The next one will be in October.

I'd like to close this with a quote from a sermon Pastor Paul Upsahl preached in July of 2019 comparing humanity with a giant spider web, where, when one thread is touched the whole web vibrates:

As we move around in our world and act with kindness, the life that we touch for good will touch another life, and that in turn another – until who knows where the trembling will stop. And the peace of God, which passes all human understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus, to life everlasting. Amen.

English Language Learners (ELL)



No Classroom Teaching During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Just a short note to let you know we continue to keep in contact with our ELL students by emailing them online lessons every 2 – 3 weeks. We are in the process of finding students who will join in online classes with us. Not every student has a computer, but most have a cellphone. We also call our students to make sure that they are doing well. Many lost their jobs or work reduced hours.

Here are our latest online lessons. The following lesson teaches our students when giving advice how to use the word 'Should' and to help when someone is in a hospital.

<https://www.engvid.com/advice-english-should-hospital-tips/>

The second lesson teaches our students when NOT to pronounce the silent letters 'B' 'D' and 'L' in English.

<https://www.engvid.com/silent-letters-when-not-to-pronounce-b-d-and-l-in-english/>

Last month, our students received information about the free food drive on August 21st by the Adams Center (All Dulles Area Muslim Society) in Sterling and additional COVID-19 information and website links explaining the new Virginia app COVIDWise in English and Spanish.

App Contact Tracing English.

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covidwise/>

App Contact Tracing en Española:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0R6Ph5x8rsg&feature=emb_title

I hope to have further news when we start teaching online classes. I'm contacting our ELL teachers and hope everyone is planning to continue teaching our students online.

God Bless,

Ellen Atwell

HCLC ELL Coordinator

ellen.atwell@verizon.net

703-201-2900

\$624,000 in Humanitarian Aid Destroyed in Beirut Explosion

Courtesy of Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod News



[Lutheran World Relief](#) recently learned that three 40-foot shipping containers filled with thousands of handmade mission quilts and school, personal and baby care kits were destroyed in the devastating August 4 explosions at the port of Beirut, Lebanon.

The shipment was destined for refugees living in Lebanon, principally from Syria and the Palestinian territories. The containers were part of a shipment to be distributed by [Anera](#), an NGO and longtime Lutheran World Relief partner that serves refugees and other vulnerable communities in the Middle East. The total value of the lost shipments was approximately \$624,000.

The loss of more than 47,000 quilts, sewn by individuals and members of Lutheran congregations across the U.S., could mean a more bitter winter for thousands of refugees. [Help replace the kits and quilts by learning more here.](#) To donate, visit <https://lwr.org/beirut>

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



1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 20170