

# THE QUEST


**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

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



**November 2020**





*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give  
thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God  
in Christ Jesus for you.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16–18*

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# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the December 2020 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at:  
[admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net](mailto: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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Herndon, VA 20170  
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Find us online!

[www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net](http://www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net)



Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon VA

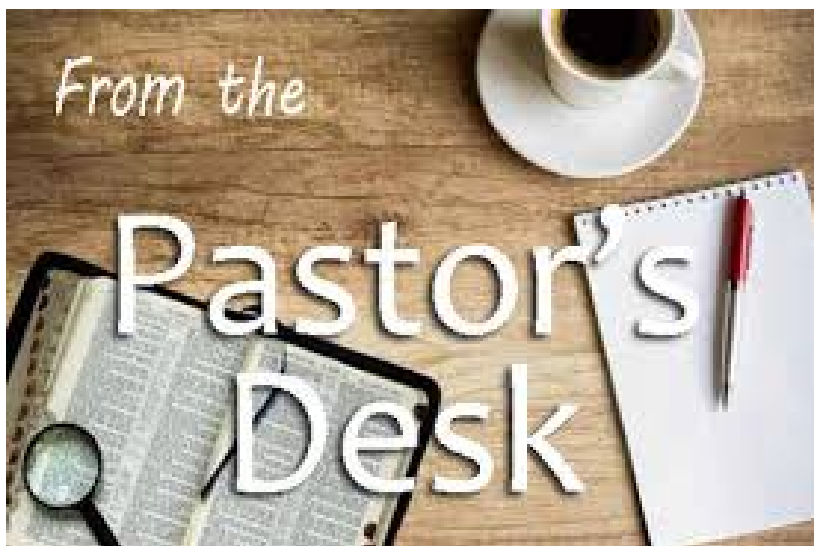


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## STAFF NEWS



### **Rejoice and Give Thanks**

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:4-7*

These words from Paul's letter to the Philippians have been a favorite for believers for centuries, inspiring Christians to remain focused on gratitude and joy. This passage is also often included in The Day of Thanksgiving worship service, which is perhaps why it came to my mind as I pondered what to write for our November *Quest*.

There are times, however, where these words may seem a bit off, even discordant with what we are experiencing in our lives. Certainly, in this year, it may be really hard to feel a lot of rejoicing or thankfulness. Stress and depression are at all-time highs in our society.

Rejoicing always? Do not worry about anything? Is Paul one of those Pollyanna, Ivory-Tower sort of Preachers who wants us to ignore the realities and brokenness of this world? Used incorrectly, or taken out of context, these words could sound as if God doesn't care about our pain and suffering, but I don't think that is Paul's aim here.

As he writes, Paul is literally chained in a prison, knowing that it is likely that he will not leave there alive. The Apostle had seen his share of triumphs and setbacks. He had been shipwrecked and almost drowned, beaten many times, jailed many times, survived assassination attempts, and personal betrayals. He had been maligned, rejected, and libeled. While he survived the jailing from which he writes to the Philippian congregation, he would eventually be executed for his faith. He knew pain, disappointment and suffering in a very intimate way.

It is through this darkness that he dares to rejoice, dares to give thanks. It is during these times that he relies on "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding." It is God's faithfulness and presence, in the midst of pain, from which we can draw hope and the courage to see grace.

Martin Luther called this faithfulness of God, "The Theology of the Cross." In Jesus, God is intimately acquainted with the wholeness of the human experience and identifies with our suffering in a personal, intimate way. Because God is a God who suffered, Luther taught, God does not abandon us while we suffer, or judge our doubts and struggles, but comes to us –

sometimes in hidden ways – to assure us of a love that cannot die.

This year, our Thanksgiving Day may be a bit more muted and have less people around the table. We will still have a Pandemic, still have societal strife and possibly still not know the results of the election. But we do have a Lord and Savior that understands, who loves, and who promises not to ever leave. For that, we can rejoice and give thanks.

Peace to you all,

Pastor Martin



## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY



The festival of All Saints occurs just as the landscape in the Northern Hemisphere heralds the dying of plants and the quiet of winter rest. In like manner, the readings and liturgy of this day call us to rejoice in all the saints: those who have died and now rest in Christ, those who live now, and those yet to come.

As the church year draws to a close, we hear warnings about the end of time, stories of crisis and judgment, and parables of loss and death. The Christian community speaks honestly about human frailty and mortality. At the same time, we confess our faith in the risen Lord, in the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. While both life and death may bring us fear and uncertainty, the liturgy calls us to hear the Lord's promise that he is with us in life and in death. Christ has claimed us in baptism and nourishes us in the communion of his body and blood. Christ leads us to the new Jerusalem. There we shall join all the saints in praise of God, who has turned our graves into the doorway to eternal life.

- Sundays and Seasons (On the gathering rite for All Saints Day)

Holy Cross held an All Saints Vigil from 10:00 AM on 10/31/20 through 10:00 AM on 11/1/20. The vigil culminated with a

celebration of All Saints Sunday worship where we named the saints important to each of us in our own lives.

Our goal was to have at least one person from Holy Cross keeping vigil for the entire 24 hours. The vigil was on Facebook Live. The Holy Cross Facebook page was live for the 24-hour period with an All Saints worship visual in the sanctuary. Each person who signed up was asked to open the Facebook Live feed at home on a device of their choosing to pray/read scripture to themselves for that time slot while using the live feed video as inspiration. Holy Cross provided a document to read full of prayers, prayer prompts, scriptures, and inspirational readings.

The prayer requests typed into the live feed were used as our prayers for the All Saints Day worship service at the end of the Vigil.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop

## HCLC COVID-19 UPDATE

*October 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.

As we move forward with our COVID response we are offering worship in the sanctuary on Wednesday evenings. The safety precautions being taken are: medical grade air filters in the HVAC system, two stand-alone air purifiers in the aisle, sanitization of the sanctuary Tuesday evenings, 100% mask wearing, greater than six feet social distancing, no singing, no sharing of the peace and anyone with COVID symptoms is not to enter the building.

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!

## COUNCIL



### ADAPTING IN 2020

With the cooler weather, we are adapting, once again, to 2020! In recent weeks we moved our ***Wednesday night worship*** into the sanctuary. This was done for two reasons – It is now dark by 7pm and it's getting much cooler out! We realize this option doesn't work for everyone, but the service is available online as well, so that all are welcome to participate.

The ***2020 Holy Cross Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on November 15, 2020.*** We are working on the logistics for the meeting. If you have not already received the letter inviting you to participate, it should arrive momentarily. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. If you do not have a computer and access to the internet, please contact the office so we can arrange an alternate approach for you. I look forward to seeing you then!

This year has brought many challenges for churches everywhere. At Holy Cross, ***we were fortunate to be able to respond quickly to the pandemic and shift our worship online.*** The sound and camera quality of our worship has been improving every week, largely courtesy of research by Sam Carter and Bob Thompson who purchased new equipment for the sanctuary. Thanks to research by Jeremy Shoop, we installed finer filters in the HVAC

system to try and reduce the spread of airborne particles. We purchased two air scrubbers for in the sanctuary to protect the people leading worship during the quarantine. Thanks to Dennis Pattison, we purchased a machine for disinfecting our building between uses. I admire how this church family comes together, especially in times of crisis, to make good things happen.

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

Peace,  
Deb

## EVANGELISM



### ***Our Month of THANKSGIVING -- November 2020***

*“Once again November is here and with it our season of thanksgiving and to give thanks. But here at Holy Cross, the time to give thanks is every day of every week. First, and most importantly, are our daily efforts to thank our generous God who gives us everything and tolerates us claiming everything as our own.”*

That’s how I began my article to you in last November’s *Quest*. Then along came 2020 and COVID-19 that has shaken, rattled and rolled us all in so many different ways. Much may have changed in our daily lives. But, if anything, our faith that God will get us through this – probably stronger and better than we were before – should not waiver.

I wish you a great month of thanksgivings — thanks for all that is good and wonderful in your life. I challenge you to be as active with Holy Cross opportunities as you can be – and as supportive as you can be! And I leave you with the words of this great hymn of thanksgiving that has inspired me all these many years:

*“Now thank we all our God! With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices!  
Who from our mother’s arms, Has blessed us on our way.  
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today!”*

Happy Thanksgiving Month Everyone! Be God’s heart, hands and voice every day!!

Roy Geiger and the Evangelism Team

## OUTREACH



This is the month that we pay special attention to giving thanks for what we have been given and the people in our lives who have been a blessing to us. And so, rather than asking for more I am simply going to reflect on how sharing what we have touches the people we serve.

I am the Outreach representative on Church Council, and I serve on the Stewardship Team as well. I think I have learned more about what stewardship really looks like since I have been heavily involved in Outreach than ever before—for starters, how closely the two Ministries are intertwined. In many ways Stewardship is the reason for Outreach and Outreach is Stewardship in action—especially this year. Some of you may be familiar with Judith Viorst’s children’s book, **Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**—among the many other things that happened --his bedtime bath was too hot, he got soap in his eyes, his marble went down the drain and he had to wear his railroad pajamas, and he HATES his railroad pajamas.


That sounds a lot like 2020’s--terrible, horrible, no good, very bad, day multiplied by 366. It is hard to find anything good in it. And yet in all the darkness, and fear and pain we find moments to serve God and be Christ’s representative to our community and so bring light and love. When we heard that families and school kids and the homeless needed food, we gave it. When we were asked



to provide tools to help children learn, we supplied what we could. When we could not invite our English Language Learners into our building, our teachers found ways to reach out to them and help them, virtually. In some ways the most vivid example of this is the local family who lost so much when their house was flooded with raw sewage. The Herndon Middle School Social Service Worker asked if we might be able to help them. We asked you and you responded most generously, living Christ's teaching "You shall love your neighbor as yourself". You gave money and things, but I will let the HMS family tell you what you really gave.

Their response to our church family:

*We want to thank everyone for all the generous gifts and donations provided to our family. This has been a very challenging time for us. We are forever humbled and grateful for the help and support from your family at Holy Cross, to our family. This has been an amazing and life changing experience, seeing the amount of love from you all. We are touched beyond words and thank God for every last one of you! You all did not have to help our family, but you all went above and beyond. We cannot thank you enough.*

*You all have no idea how much your help and support mean to us. It's because of all your generosity that we are able to start to rebuild our lives. Our hearts are smiling, and we would like to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts . We appreciate you all!*

There is nothing I can add to that except bless you for being good and faithful stewards.

Suzanne Flegal

# **English Language Learners (ELL)**

## **Zooming with Our Immigrant Students!**

Like teachers across America, our ELL teachers are teaching via Zoom. We are able to offer three levels: Beginners, Basic and Intermediate. We started three classes with our students on September 16, 2020. This is a milestone for the teachers! None of us have virtual teaching experience. Most students do not have laptops. The students use cellphones, which gives them a smaller Zoom picture, but the important thing is that they are learning English.

We, as teachers had to learn the Zoom application very quickly. Some of us had to learn or relearn Microsoft PowerPoint, Word, and Excel in order to create our lessons. We will also use YouTube for our lessons.

Dayna Sowd teaches our Beginner English students. The students know some English words and are working on building sentences, pronunciation and expanding their vocabulary! The class learns vocabulary around a specific topic and then practices using the words in activities like reading short stories and completing sentences. Some of the recent topics have included seasons, weather, and restaurants.

Chip Edwards teaches our Basic students. His students speak English but must learn grammar and sentence structures with lots of vocabulary. His students need much help understanding and speaking a sentence. Comprehension is very important in his class.

For the Intermediate level, we created two teaching teams. Suzanne-Jeanne and Ellen-Jeanne alternating teaching responsibilities bi-weekly. All of us collaborate on content which includes grammar, vocabulary and comprehension, which

Suzanne and Ellen now format on PowerPoint. (*Teachers around the globe, we salute you! Preparing to teach virtually is very time consuming.*) Our students understand English well, but need to increase their proficiency in grammar, vocabulary, and comprehension.

A very special thanks to each and every teacher for their dedicated work in our ELL program. Dayna, Chip, Suzanne, and Jeanne - you are essential to our successful program and we could not teach our immigrant community without you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We appreciate you, our congregation, for always supporting our ELL program at Holy Cross.

God Bless,


Ellen Atwell  
ELL Coordinator  
[ellen.atwell@verizon.net](mailto:ellen.atwell@verizon.net)  
703-201-2900



Intermediate Class with Suzanne, Jeanne, Ellen and some of their students.

**Date Vocabulary**



- Calendar - calendario
- Day - día
- Week - semana
- Weekday – día laborable
- Weekend – fin de semana
- Month - mes
- Year - año
- Decade - la década
- Century - siglo



- What day is it?  
• *It is Wednesday.*
- What is today's date?  
• *It is October 7<sup>th</sup>.*
- What is the date?  
• *It is October 7<sup>th</sup>.*

Instructor Dana's Beginner Class

**WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE ...**

a missing finger  OR an extra toe (5 + 1)? 

Intermediate Class

**Expressions of Time**

**Days**

Day before	Yesterday	Today	Tomorrow	Day after
Yesterday	ayer	Hoy	manana	El día después de manana
anteayer				

**Future and past periods**

Yesterday	Today	Tomorrow
Last week	This week	Next week
Last month	This month	Next month
Last year	This year	Next year

Lilian in the Beginner Class

ESL Class - Holy Cross Church - Shared screen with speaker view

Beginner English (ESL) - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

## Ordering at Annie's Restaurant

Annie's Restaurant	
<b>Appetizers</b>	<b>Dessert</b>
Chicken Wings \$9	Brownie sundae \$5
Chips & Salsa \$6	Apple Pie \$5
Garden Salad \$7	
<b>Entrees</b>	<b>Beverages</b>
All entrees served with fries	Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite \$2.50
Chicken tenders \$10	Iced Tea \$2.50
Hamburger \$10	Hot Tea \$2
Cheeseburger \$12	Coffee \$2
Grilled Cheese \$8	
<b>Side Dish</b>	
Garlic Bread \$3	
French Fries \$4	
Steamed Vegetables \$4	

0:37:28

Server: What can I get you?

Customer: I would like the chicken tenders.

Server: Did you want to start with an appetizer?

Customer: No, thank you.

Server: Do you want a drink?

Customer: Yes, please. I'll have a coke.

Chip's Basic Class

Ellen Atwell's Personal Meeting Room - Shared screen with speaker view

8:00 PM

Next slide

bulary pictures, continued

Click to add notes

Tita in the Intermediate Class

Ellen Atwell's Personal Meeting Room - Shared screen with speaker view

8:06 PM

Next slide

bulary, continued

the most delightful music.

neighbor was a mechanic who did gas and changed the oil in my car.

ring every weekend with our binoculars.

persons have different attitudes.

saw the saxophone player as irritating.

I people would be happy just to fix a hair head.

the millions who would complain that is the wrong color.

- delightful
- mechanic
- binoculars
- attitude
- irritating
- roof
- complain

Click to add notes

Intermediate Class with Gustav and Mr. D.

## **PROPERTY**

### **Fall Clean-up – Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**

I would like to invite everyone to a Fall Cleanup on Saturday, November 14, with a rain date of November 21. The start time will be 8:30 and the ending time will be around 2:00 unless you cannot stay that long. However, you can leave whenever you need to if you are not able to stay that long. There are many areas on the grounds that need to be worked and cleaned up and a few things inside the building like changing lights. There will be leaves to rake or blown, if you have a leaf blower, some bushes that need to be trimmed and cut down, and trees that are up against the buildings that need to be trimmed back or cut down. Please come and help make our church grounds to look beautiful, clean and well kept.

### **Church Shed Project**

The Boy Scout Troop 157, Eagle Project was to work with Dennis Pattison and Lori Newcomb to remove everything in the church's shed, clean it out, add shelving, organizational tools and then put everything needed back in.

The Eagle Scouts came in on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, along with a few Holy Cross folks. They did some tree/bush trimming and installed solar lighting in order to make access more safe and secure at night. They stayed on task, did everything they set out to accomplish and did an excellent job! They left HCLC with an organized shed that has safer access and a designated place for all items to be properly stored. They did their job, now Holy Cross, let's do our job and keep it organized.





**Before** - Brush overhanging the walkway, roof and covering back window preventing light from entering



**After** - Brush cleared from front entrance, the top of shed, rear window. Solar Lights added



**Before** - Decorations unprotected; walkway cluttered; ladder hooks not effective



**Before** - Tools scattered; wood remnants blocking walkways; windows covered



**After** - Shelving installed; storage bins filled with contents; items from inside church now storage in shed; custom shelving with wardrobe cover to accommodate candle storage safely





**After** – Used storage areas to keep “like items” and seasonal items together; contents labeled; ladders on strongest hooks available to ensure safe storage and walkways were cleared



**After** - Storage hooks for safely storing tools and solar light with pull cord inside each door to add light while working instead the shed

## STEWARDSHIP



### **Advent Appeal 2020**

Herndon Village Network (HVN) is a local nonprofit that provides free transportation to doctor's office visits, stores,

restaurants and more for Herndon's Senior Citizens who are 55 and older and live in the 20170-zip code. HVN began in 2014 and has continued to grow. Last year, 46 volunteers provided 908 rides to medical appointments. The need was so great, the volunteers began a program delivering grocery bags of shelf stable meals for older adults in the village. Herndon Village Network's motto is, **"Neighbors helping neighbors one ride at a time."**

Holy Cross has chosen the Herndon Village Network as this year's Advent Appeal recipient. The Advent Appeal donations will help HVN with costs associated with their program including insurance, background checks and fuel for some of their drivers. We ask that you please consider Herndon Village Network in your Advent giving this year. To learn more about HVN, visit their website, <https://herndonvillagenetwork.org>.

The Stewardship Team

## 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.



1. Drop a check in the mail or attend the Wednesday service and bring your offering with you.
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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