

# THE QUEST

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

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



**October 2020**



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# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the November 2020 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Monday, October 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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1090 Sterling Road  
Herndon, VA 20170  
703-437-1883

Find us online!

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



Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon VA



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## STAFF NEWS



### **TAKE CARE**

As I write this, it is mid-September and this morning I felt a chill in the air and wondered, “Should I wear a sweater vest today?” I guess this former-Alaskan is getting acclimated to Northern Virginia! The onset of autumn always brings changes, both happy and sad. The long days of summer and the warmth of the sun and beaches begin to come to a close. The resumption of school and church activities allows us to come back together in community.

Of course, this year the blessings of regathering has been delayed or dampened, giving us opportunities to discover new ways to keep connected with one another. Our Wednesday evening outdoor worship, “More Days for Praise” has been one wonderful way in which we have found a way to safely see, visit and worship with one another again. As the days grow colder, Jeremy and I are planning ways to move that experience inside. Since we have no singing, we are confident, given the materials we have researched on group gatherings, that we can maintain a safe place for worship. Stay tuned, as they say.

This autumn will also bring a very contentious election season, no doubt ramping up the levels of collective angst, division and anxiety with which we have as a nation have already been struggling. My caution for us all (myself very much included) is to

take care. Let us take with care the words that seek to divide and incite emotions. Both as we hear and read, as well as when we speak and write, let us together seek to find words of care, understanding and love. It is too easy to be brought down by all the din of anger or to get sucked into the maelstrom of endless debates. Let us, as followers of the Prince of Peace, be emboldened to be peacemakers and caregivers.

May we also find ways to take care of one another and our neighbor. In my little over a year with you, I have again and again been impressed by how much Holy Cross is a place of caring. It is more challenging now to share that love when we can no longer easily be in one another's company. We are missing those spontaneous moments of checking and saying hello that allow us to keep in touch with one another. Especially during this time, let us be intentional in our care for one another. I would encourage you to write, call or find a socially safe way to visit with someone else. Each month, both Shelly and I get a letter from one of our members. It's usually just a collection of jokes and funny stories and we revel in their humor and in the love with which they were sent. Simple acts often mean so much.

Finally, take care of yourself. It's okay to not be okay, especially since almost nobody is these days. We are all overwhelmed. We are all overcome with feelings of powerlessness and that worry that we are not doing enough. It would be strange if we weren't. Let us be patient with ourselves, forgiving to ourselves and care givers for ourselves. Jesus was a human being and although he was the Son of God, still needed down time, quiet time and even naps! As followers of Lord of Love, let us remember to love and care for ourselves.

Take Care,

Pastor Martin

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY

# Learn from the Hymns

A bible study based on popular hymns

Presented on Zoom – Tuesdays – 7:00 PM

There is still another week in our current *Learn from the Hymns* Bible Study. On October 6<sup>th</sup> we will look at a favorite hymn, *Come Thou Fount*. After October 6<sup>th</sup> we will start to look at favorite hymns that we sing often at HCLC. Send me an email ([MusicDir@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net](mailto:MusicDir@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net)) if you have a favorite hymn that you'd like to learn more about. *Feel free to share this information with your friends. ALL are welcome!*

### **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

## Some Changes in the Office



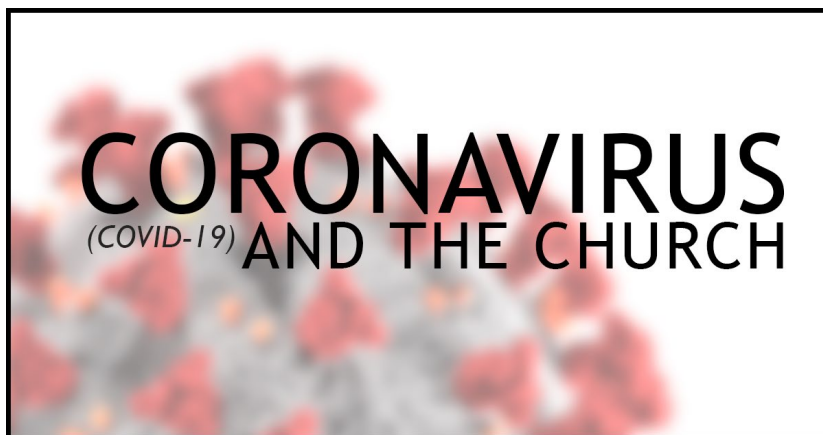
Sadly, for us our wonderful and talented Administrator, Teresa Easterly, has had to move back to Georgia for family reasons. She and the Council have agreed to have Teresa maintain her present position and work from her new location. Since the Pandemic shut us all down in March, Teresa has been essentially working from her home as it was, only coming into the office on Mondays. The Council felt, especially during this lock-down time, Teresa could just as easily work from Atlanta as Northern Virginia. The plan is to review the arrangement in January of 2021.

To assist in those tasks that need to be done in person, such as offering counting, printing bulletins and newsletters, distributing mail, etc., Teresa has trained a group of volunteers that take turns coming in on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Thanks to Ellen Atwell, Suzanne Baggett, Jane Pattison, Cheryl Smith and Rachel Williams for being there for us all!



## 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 began experimenting with an outdoor, mid-week worship series called "More Days for Praise!". Wednesday evening services are 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 is strictly enforced, and masks are required. There is 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

**Blessing of the Animals**  
**October 4<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 12:45 PM**



**SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR PET'S CALENDAR!** We will have a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 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

THE  IS NOW!

## ***Last Year This Month Versus This Year This Month***

I checked to be sure. Last year this month's *Quest* article from me was to encourage you to volunteer to help represent Holy Cross at **Sterling Fest** and at the **Herndon Homecoming Parade**. As for this year, COVID-19 has forced the postponement of Sterling Fest to May 2021. The Herndon Homecoming Parade is still tentatively set for Saturday, October 24 – but is unlikely to happen. Please check your weekly e-newsletters for updates.

So, this year let's remind and prepare ourselves to be the best **"Reformation Lutherans"** we can be! Let's start with this quote from Jim Palmer:

***"Telling people that God loves them is good theology.  
SHOWING people that you love them is what  
transforms the world."***

How you ask? Repeating what I wrote in last month's *Quest*...  
"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 and beyond. Even though we may not be able to join for services 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 and other necessities for 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!” Or maybe offer to help some of our senior members with leaf raking at their homes or run errands.
- ✓ Ask God how **YOU** can best help **Holy Cross** do what **He** wants us to be doing.

Up for the challenge?

Have a great “**Reformation October**”, everyone! Stay healthy and *“let your Light so shine among others...go with God’s peace”*

Roy Geiger and the Evangelism Team

# ***Outreach***

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## **Community Services**

The COVID-19 Pandemic may have made many things different, but it has not changed the giving spirit of the church. Our food drives continue to be amazingly fruitful (no pun intended) We received over \$1,000 worth of school supplies for Herndon Middle School. The Herndon Woman's Club also contributed to the effort.

As you will see in a separate article, we are now holding a special drive to help a Herndon Middle School family who suffered major losses in a flood containing raw sewage.

We will again provide the meal for lunch at the Embry Rucker Shelter on the second Saturday this month. Look for an email from Barbara Gouldey, the coordinator, with a link to sign up at The Perfect Potluck. Please consider contributing to this in support of the people who benefit so much.

The Closet is open for donations and sales—and can always use volunteers! Check their website, [theclosetofgreaterherndon.org](http://theclosetofgreaterherndon.org), for any information you might need.

As I was writing this article a song from the days of teaching Sunday School got stuck in my brain, *"The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people!"*

Amen!

Suzanne Flegal

## English Language Learners (ELL) Classes Update



Dayna, Suzanne B. and I had our first ELL Zoom classes. We will be joined by Jeanne Maysonett, who will also teach with us. Four students joined our first class, which was all about using Zoom and introducing ourselves. Other students attempted to join, but had issues getting on Zoom. We hope to see more students in the upcoming weeks and will try to help them individually in the next few days.

Dayna teaches our beginners who barely speak any English. Chip teaches basic English and will start his classes soon. Suzanne B, Jeanne and I put our classes together teaching intermediate English.

Both Dayna and Chip work full-time jobs and use Zoom or a similar platform daily. We are very blessed to have our teachers and it's a bonus that they love teaching our students.

God Bless,

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

# Help Replace Quilts and Kits Destroyed in Beirut Explosion



*Courtesy of Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod News*

Head to Mar-Lu-Ridge on October 20 or November 17 for a day of service in partnership with Lutheran World Relief. We will be assembling kits and making simple quilts to replace those lost in the explosion in Lebanon. **No sewing experience required.**

The registration fee of \$25 includes a box lunch. The registrations are limited to 10 people per session, so we have plenty of space to spread out. All distancing and face covering requirements will be observed. Register for one or all sessions.

For more information about how to support Lutheran World Relief with replacement items go to, <https://lwr.org/blog/2020/once-feared-destroyed-quilts-and-kits-found-near-site-beirut-blast>.

# URGENT APPEAL

## OUTREACH COMMUNITY EMERGENCY APPEAL

Holy Cross has been approached by Herndon Middle School to help a family who is in dire need of items to be replaced after their home was flooded with raw sewage. This is a list of clothes they need with sizes, as well as household furniture and goods. Our church family has been so generous in the past and we need your support again. Below is the family's response to the question of what they need:

*"We have lost a lot. I'm not sure what you are able to help with, but any help at all is very much appreciated.*

*Sizes for everyone*

*3 yr boy size 4t/5t clothing size 10 toddler (shoe size 5  
diapers and wipes we can really use if any)*

*5 yr girl size 8/10 girl's size 1 shoe*

*6 yr girl size 12/14 or Lg girl size 5 shoe*

*8 yr boy size 14 boys size 5 shoe*

*13 boy size Lg teen (prefer jogger/sweat pants or active  
wear) shoe size 9 1/2 mens*

*15 boy size Lg teen (prefer jogger/sweat pants or active  
wear) shoe size 10 mens*

*19 women size Large pants and shirts shoes 9 1/2 women's  
and 8 1/2 men's*

*Mom size Large. Shoes 9 1/2*

*Dad size Large shirts pants 36/34 shoes size 10*



*We also lost four of the children's bed sets all twin bed sets, headboards all 4 dressers, their tv and gaming systems, we lost a three piece sofa set, all sitting room furniture, tv, tables, lamps, the kids had a large collection of books, almost of their toys, all the kids play room furniture was damaged, kids tables and little rockers, 2 large area rugs, blankets, pillows, towels, wash clothes.*

*Note: [Amazon's Wish List](#).*

*So anything in that department at all that you would be able to accommodate with. We can also use any paper goods and toiletries.*

*If you prefer to provide cash, make checks payable to Holy Cross Lutheran Church with the notation Outreach Emergency Appeal.*

*Thank you for your generosity!"*

**Note:** Items can be purchased through the Amazon Wish List, [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/30XUJ7NHL3WAY?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/30XUJ7NHL3WAY?ref=wl_share) and safely delivered to the church at the address below.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
1090 Sterling Road  
Herndon, VA 20170

Donations can also made through Holy Cross' secure website, <https://www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net/> and click on "Donate", select "Special Community Outreach".

Our church family has been so generous in the past; we need your support again.

# 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.



1. Drop a check in the mail or at the Wednesday service. We know giving in person is important to many. We invite you to join our Wednesday service in the parking lot where an offering is collected.
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

