

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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



December 2020



May this season remind you
of the hope, joy, love and peace
found in Christ.

ROMANS 15:13

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the January 2021 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Monday, December 14.

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
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Herndon, VA 20170
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Find us online!

www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net



Holy Cross Lutheran Church Herndon VA

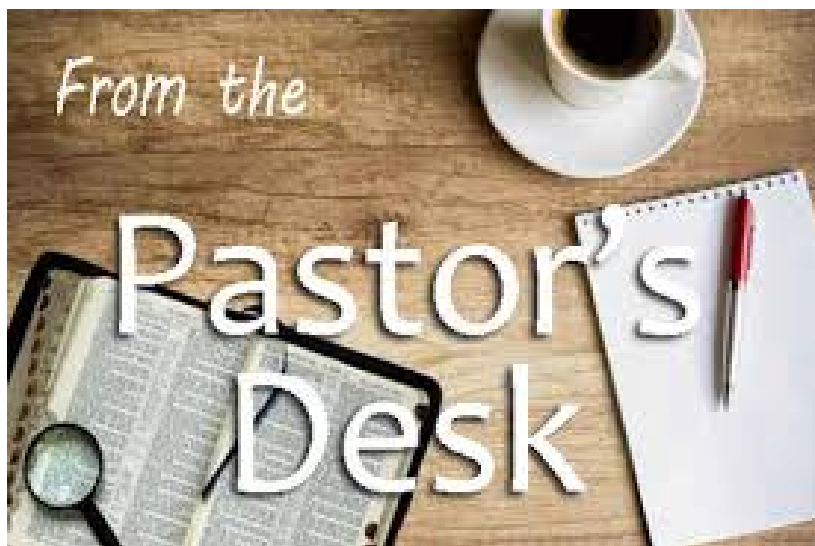


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STAFF NEWS



Reflections on Isaiah 40

*Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.*

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her

That she has served her term;

that her penalty is paid

That she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

How often we need comfort. When we were younger, a scraped knee or a broken heart often meant that we could rest and weep in the comfort of a parent's lap, in the warmth of their loving embrace. Now that we are older, who will comfort us? Who will hear our cries and wipe our tears?

This year in particular - with its pandemic and uncertainty, conflict and strife - we offer ourselves for God's arms of comfort. Our scrapes, our heartaches, and our tears: we wrap them all in the loving arms of the One who loves us.

A voice cries out:

*"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight highway for our God.*

*Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed
and all people will see it together."*

In the uneven places in our lives, in the dry and crooked paths we all too often find ourselves, come, Lord Jesus.

The mountains seem too great, where we travel the rough road is too difficult for us alone. Come, Lord Jesus.

Lift us up. Lift us up in your power and your peace. Hold us tight so that we may be refreshed. Set us free to run with hearts renewed in your love.

A Blessed Advent to us All,

Pastor Martin

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY



Learn from the Hymns – Christmas Carol Edition!

The theme for our hymn/bible study during December will be “Christmas Throughout the Ages.” We will be exploring the Advent and Christmas hymns from the Renaissance period through modern day carols.

Many people are surprised to find out that a number of Christmas tunes sung today came from the Renaissance period. Songs such as *Lo How a Rose E’re Blooming*, *Pat-a-pan*, *In Dulci Jubilo* (*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*), *Il est ne* (*He is born*), *The Holly and the Ivy*, and *Noel Nouvelet* (*Sing We Now of Christmas* - we also know the text *Now the Green Blade Rises*) were sung by madrigal choirs and played by wandering minstrels throughout Europe in town centers and royal courts.

The Baroque period brings us many French *Noels*, Bach’s Christmas Cantatas (such as *Sheep May Safely Graze*), *Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella*, and *Savior of the Nations Come*.

The *Messiah* is probably the most familiar (and most overdone) Christmas piece from the Classical period, and of course everyone knows *Joy to the World*.

By the Romantic period and 20th century, composers continued to write new tunes such as Mendelssohn's *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, but they were also taking many older tunes and writing large symphonic works on them. Ralph Vaughan Williams composed a beautiful piece for vocal soloist and orchestra based on the song *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*.

We will also look at how traditional folk tunes were used in various countries. *Away in a Manger* comes from North America, *Infant Holy*, *Infant Lowly* comes from Poland, *On Christmas Night all Christians Sing* is a traditional English tune, and *Angels We Have Heard on High* is a traditional French carol.

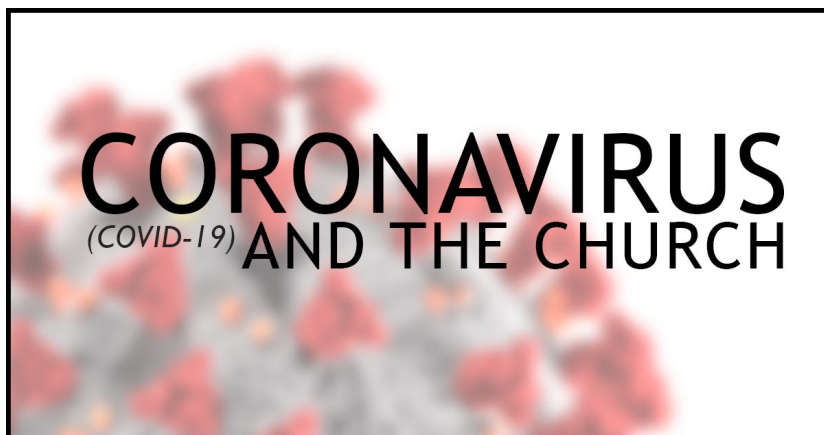
Classes are 12/8 and 12/15 at 7:00 PM. We meet on Zoom. I look forward to seeing you there!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop

HCLC COVID-19 UPDATE

November 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



Dear HCLC Family ~

Thank you to everyone who participated in the **November 15th Annual Congregational Meeting**. We exceeded our quorum (10% of confirmed members) and were able to successfully conduct the business of the Church via Zoom. We approved an austere budget for 2021, but authorized Council to vote to restore the budget (as proposed in the letter sent home to the Congregation) to more normal levels, including restoring staff salaries, should commitments and giving support doing so.

Congratulations to those elected to serve at last week's meeting! We had three Council positions to fill. These positions were all filled with unanimous support by those in attendance.

Council Positions – Two-year term, 2021-2022

- ✓ President - Sam Carter
- ✓ Vice-President - Rob Coffman
- ✓ Stewardship - Chris Nelson

Trustee – Five-year term 2021-2025

- ✓ Trustee - Glen Piersol

Nominating Team Positions (6) – One-year term 2021

- ✓ Michael Faulkner
- ✓ Jo Roe
- ✓ Deb Reilly
- ✓ Hope Russell
- ✓ Emily Moran

The nominating team consists of six members. As we only had three members on the ballot, we asked for volunteers during the Annual Meeting and received two - Hope Russell and Emily Moran. The Council subsequently met on November 16th and voted unanimously to approve their membership on the 2021 Nominating Team. If you are interested in serving on the nominating team for 2021, please let Sam Carter or me know. This is a great opportunity to make a very meaningful contribution to the work of Holy Cross, without a large time commitment.

A word about the **2021 Budget**. Sam and the Finance Team worked tirelessly to develop an appropriate, fiscally-responsible budget for next year. You'll recall that the proposed budget offers two scenarios - a worst-case, austere budget and a restored budget, in which a number of areas are made whole. For those who have already submitted pledges, thank you! To those who were able to increase their pledged giving for next year, thank you so much!! If you haven't yet submitted a pledge card for next year, please take a moment to do so. Your pledges make it possible for us to develop a meaningful plan. Without them, *our staff will all take a 10% cut in salary*. On the surface, 10% doesn't sound like much, but when I think about giving 10% more, I know it will make a huge difference for our staff. Please consider doing so, if you are able. Whether or not you are able to commit financially to Holy Cross in the coming year, please pray for our church.

On a more upbeat note, we are thrilled to be planning this year's **Christmas Eve Worship Services** outdoors. All CDC guidelines will be observed (social distancing, wearing masks, etc.) Keep watch for an opportunity to "reserve" your spot at one of our four services! If you have a knack for hanging Christmas lights, please join me on Sunday, December 13th after worship to help prepare the outdoor sanctuary!

And now, dear friends, it's time for me to turn over the responsibility of Council President to the new leadership team. I pray you will be as supportive and gracious to them as you have been to me. It's been an honor and deeply emotionally gratifying opportunity to serve as your VP & President the last four years. I am optimistic for the future of Holy Cross.

Merry Christmas! Prayers for God's grace and good health to you and yours.

Peace,
Deb

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



UPDATE

As we continue to be safely distant, Sunday School Lessons for this fall have been based on a wonderful curriculum from Illustrated Ministries – The Beatitudes. These lessons are presented as weekly videos with Mr. Joe and me leading the way. Supplementary materials have been provided electronically and by mail. **Though, we miss seeing and interacting** with our Kingdom Kids, this seems the safest way at this time.

In the new year, weekly video lessons will continue. However, first **Saturday Zoom Gatherings** will also be offered as a way for Kingdom Kids to catch up with each other and do something fun together.

Blessings to you all and prayers for goodness and light in the coming year.

Suzanne Baggett

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

Invite everyone to an
Outdoors & Socially-Distanced
Santa Lucia Procession ~ Advent Workshop Festival
Sunday, December 13th - 1:30 Pm



For Kids

St. Lucy's Day Procession (1:45pm)

St. Nicholas treat pick-up

Safe game with prizes

Everyone: Ages 3-103

View Procession

Crafts: To-go or to-make (at single-person tables)

Make dried-fruit garlands for HCLC's outdoor Christmas tree



Santa Lucia Buns & Pepperkakor (individually wrapped)



EVANGELISM



Special Messages to US this Christmas Season

I wrote most of this same message to you last December. With a few adjustments, it's just as applicable now as it was then.

Please read, consider, and DO – please!

This month of December and its seasons of Advent and Christmas provide us many opportunities to invite friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, etc. to experience God's gifts of Christmas miracles and joy in many ways: Advent Services, Mid-Week Advent Service, and of course, Christmas Eve Services – ***regardless if these opportunities are online and/or in-person.***

Our favorite seasonal hymns and songs even tell us how to invite folks to join us:

The Angels invited the shepherds and the star inspired the Magi to ***"come and see!"***

In the song *“Do You Hear What I Hear?”* . . .

The night wind asks the little lamb -- ***“Do you see what I see?”***

The little lamb asks the shepherd boy -- ***“Do you hear what I hear?”*** The shepherd boy asks the mighty King -- ***“Do you know what I know?”***

All **you** have to do is ask and invite folks **you** know to join **you** as **you** participate in our activities as we celebrate, once again, the coming of the Christ Child. **God will do the rest!**

Please **share** everything you receive from Holy Cross via our weekly e-Blasts, Facebook posts, etc. with **everyone** you know and with whom you are connected. Your sharing could make all the difference in their life this season! It's that easy, especially this “COVID Christmas Season”! Thanks!

***Merry Christmas to All and a Happy, Healthy 2021
filled with God's Peace!***

Roy Geiger and the Evangelism Team

OUTREACH



Advent Gift Drive

After discovering the significant number of homeless youth living in Loudoun County, Donna Fortier started Mobile Hope in 2011 as a special project at Inova Loudoun Hospital. Donna began distributing clothing, food and hygiene items to youth in need on the hospital's mobile bus.

Mobile Hope broke away from Inova and became an independent 501(c)3 organization in 2012, missioned to serve homeless and at-risk youth up to age 24. Mobile Hope provides services without restrictive policies and excessive red tape. They ensure their eligibility process is straightforward and does not serve as a barrier to services. They meet each kid where they are, regardless of barriers, issues and traumas.

They believe every youth has unrealized potential and are honored to stand with kids on their journey from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Mobile Hope provides a non-judgmental and non-discriminatory environment where youth develop a sense of purpose and

community. They provide intense and individualized case management to address the issues that led to homelessness. They believe in helping youth become leaders through providing volunteer opportunities in their bus outreach program, Listen for the Honk, organic peer to peer experiences as well as in their on-site thrift shop and retail training center, Threads of Hope. Here is a list of items to donate:

Hygiene Items: Diapers, chapsticks, shampoo, dry shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, brushes, combs, tissues and hand warmers.

Toys

For both boys and girls, infants to teens

Gift Cards

Uber, Lyft, Target and Walmart

For more information, visit their website,
<https://www.mobilehopeloudoun.org/>

As always, thank you for your amazing generosity.



English Language Learners (ELL)



Computers for our Students

I'm very happy to announce that we received a wonderful donation of 24 computers for our immigrant ELL students. With many, many thanks to **Ron and Rita Hacker and Allison Abraham**, founder of **The Newton School in Sterling**, www.thenewtonschool.org. Our students and teachers thank you very much!

Students participate in our weekly Zoom classes. In addition, we email them their weekly lessons with a link to review our Zoom class recordings. It's been difficult for students to do the reviews on their cell phones or borrowing their children's school laptop. They are now able to open their very own laptops anytime and check out the previous lesson, which prepares them for the following week's class.

It is a heart-warming experience to give the students their computer. Most of them think they have to pay for the computers or return them at some point. They are extremely happy to learn they are theirs to keep. One student came with a large bag to hold her new computer. She opened her backpack and removed a large soft shirt, covered her laptop with the shirt and put it in the

bag. It showed how precious the laptop is for each and every student.

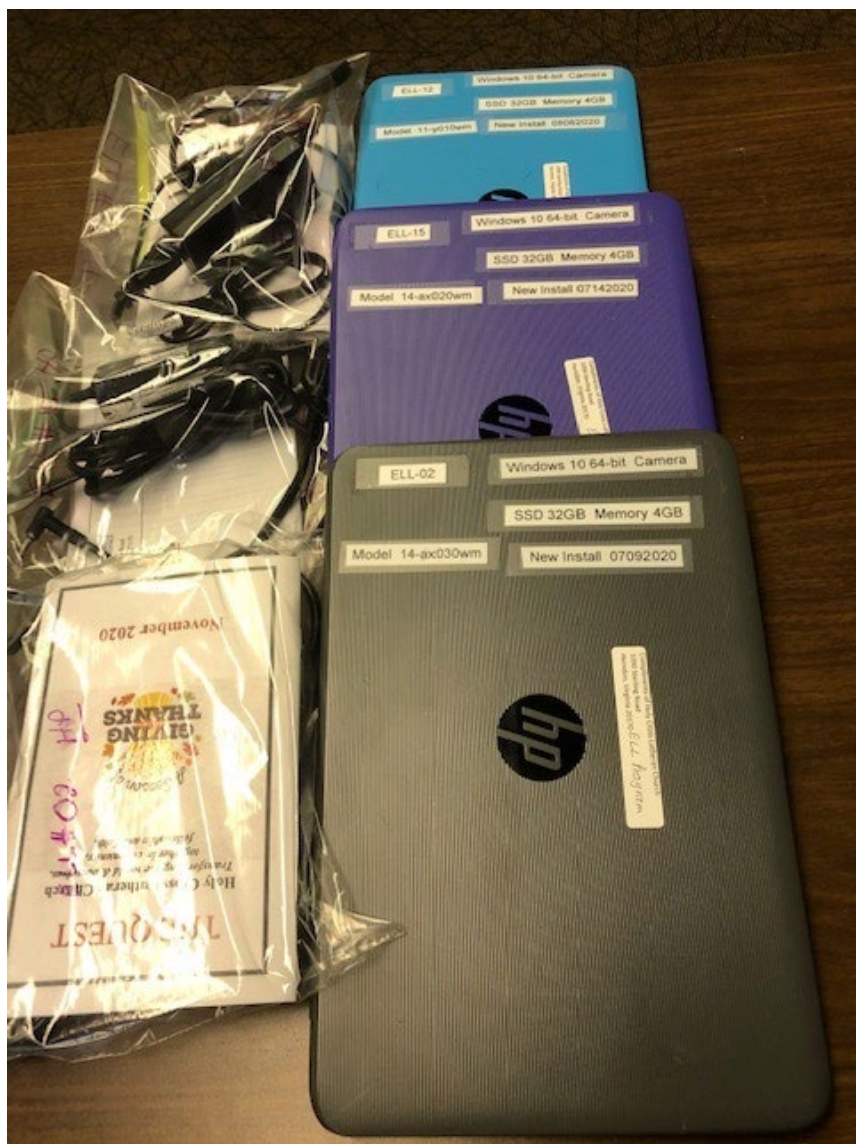
We enrolled two new students who before the pandemic used to drive our students to church. They are now students of our ELL classes. Our student population increased from 10 to 22 between September 16th and mid-November. More are planning to join us or when they work at night, they plan to use our class lessons and videos.

We have two students in our intermediate class who moved to other states. One lives in California, the other in Florida. Both students were delighted to join our Zoom class. The Florida student's wife also joined our class.

We had several students and their family members contract COVID-19. Most are doing well now, but a couple are still very weak and are not able to join our classes at this time. Hopefully, they can soon.

As always, thank you to our teachers, Suzanne, Dayna, Jeanne and Chip, who do an excellent job teaching our students and helping those that have problems using Zoom.

Ellen Atwell, ELL Coordinator and the ELL Team
ellen.atwell@verizon.net
703-201-2900



Each student received one of the HP, Lenovo or Toshiba laptops and the Quest.

Below are pictures of students that have received their computers. You can't see it, but they have big smiles on their faces.

In no particular order: Sandra, Blanca, Kamy, Rene, Marco, Ana, Jorge, Irma, Meylin, Maribel, Gustav, Nelly, Saul, Elizabeth, Darling and Pedro, Carlos, Edwin for Leonel and Fereja.





PROPERTY



Thanks to all who came out to help with the Fall Clean Up! We were able to take down some low hanging limbs, remove branches that were brushing against the church roof, chop down some of the brush around the property perimeter, cleaned up some of the perennial beds, and planted almost 200 spring bulbs! Special thanks to Dennis & Jane Pattison, Joe Makowski, Nancy Jones, Deb Reilly & Pastor Martin for their hard work.

We will need to do some leaf removal before Christmas Eve Worship. Please keep an eye out for the date and lend a hand (and a rake) if you are able!

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, 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

SYNOD AND CHURCH-WIDE NEWS

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2020-21



Diane Krauszer, ELCA pastor, leads a Generosity Project workshop at Epiphany Lutheran Episcopal Church, Valdez, Alaska.



A NEW LENS FOR GENEROSITY

Sharing God's gifts with one another through stewardship is an integral part of the Lutheran faith. But sometimes stewardship is misunderstood, equated simply with giving money rather than sharing time, spirit and love. **Linda Staats is trying to change that with the Generosity Project, a stewardship resource funded in part by Mission Support.**

Developed through a partnership between Staats, the Rocky Mountain Synod and the churchwide organization, the Generosity Project challenges Lutherans to rethink stewardship through innovative, intergenerational programming.

When Diane Krauszer, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Palmer, Alaska, introduced her congregation to the Generosity Project two years ago, it shifted perspectives.

"One [person] exclaimed, 'We never talked about any of this when I was a kid, and I wish we had,'" Krauszer said. Believing this resource **could benefit neighbors at Epiphany Lutheran Episcopal Church, Valdez, Alaska**, she took a cue from the project and shared it with them.

In 2019, Krauszer partnered with Kaitlin Pabo-Eulberg, Epiphany's pastor, to introduce the blended Lutheran-Episcopal congregation and a neighboring Catholic church to the Generosity Project.

"It [was] a very natural partnership to invite them," Pabo-Eulberg said of Epiphany's Catholic neighbors. "They were really excited to talk about giving from their perspective."

The event included participants ranging in age from 8 to 89, and Pabo-Eulberg recalled enthusiastic listening and understanding across the generations.

"WE NEVER TALKED ABOUT ANY OF THIS WHEN I WAS A KID, AND I WISH WE HAD."

Among them were Epiphany members Donna Newcomer, a baby boomer, and Steve Newcomer, of the Greatest Generation. "[Now] every time somebody comes to [our] house, when they leave, I say, 'Thank you for spending time with us,'" Donna said. "Because that's the greatest thing you can give somebody — they noticed you and spent time with you."

Staats said this new lens for generosity is the project's aim.

"The goal is not to increase giving by a percentage," she said. "The goal is to change the culture in a congregation [and in homes]. We're building a culture to bring all generations together ... and equipping the home as a place where generosity is practiced."

Thank you for your generous gifts of Mission Support, which made this story of faith in action possible. Mission Support is the portion of your offering your congregation shares with your synod, and your synod shares with the churchwide organization. To learn more, visit ELCA.org/SOFIA.



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