

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
*Transforming the world & ourselves,
together in community,
fellowship and faith.*



February 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Staff News	5
Council News	7
Christian Education	11
Outreach	15
Youth	20
Stewardship	22
Synod and Church-Wide News	24

JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the March 2021 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Friday, February 12.

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

 www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon

 @HolyCrossELCA

 HolyCrossELCA

 Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

STAFF NEWS



A Message from our Pastor

While we are all glad to have 2020 behind us, it is clear that this new year will continue to present us with challenges and opportunities that none of us could have imagined a year ago. It is very encouraging to see that the COVID-19 vaccine is developed, distributed and now being given to people throughout our area, the nation and the world, as a whole. The proverbial light at the end of a long, dark tunnel can now begin to be seen. It will still be many months, however, before we are back to normal life and activities as a congregation.

During this time, the leadership of our congregation will continue to be needed to help provide the structure and continuity of our community. Thank you to those who have been able to call and otherwise connect with other members during this time – this is an invaluable gift for keeping us together and helping all of us feel embraced during this time of separation.

As we have heard many of the last months have been for us a time of survival and adaption, as we have done our best to meet the situation of a global pandemic with grace and courage. It has often felt like trying to swim in a tsunami -- always struggling, always

working just to stay afloat. We have done well. Our leadership has done well. Our worship team has done well. And our members' support has been outstanding.

With caution, I would suggest that we have found a groove that seems to work all right. We are not overwhelmed by the tide as much and we are far less panicked. This is the time that we can once again begin to look into the future and see where we think God's calling is leading us. As I pray and think and listen, here are some ideas and questions that have come to me:

- How can we better connect with our families, especially those with young children?
- How can we better connect with one another as a community?
- Who is not at the table right now? Whose voice is not being heard?
- How can we better affirm, proclaim and advertise that ALL people are welcome here and that Holy Cross is a community of inclusion and affirmation; celebration and incorporation for all of our siblings in Christ?

These are some of the agenda items that I want to champion for the year ahead -- to move from survival to thriving, from reaction to proactive love in Jesus' name. It is my prayer and hope that we can also make this our common agenda and our common work together, so that our actions match our words and that we together can work to share this wonderfully beautiful love that has been so richly bestowed upon us in the Beloved.

Pastor Martín

COUNCIL

THE PRESIDENT



Holy Cross Family –

As the new year gets underway, we are greeted with the welcome news that both Fairfax and Loudoun Counties are moving forward with vaccination programs for essential workers and those older than 65. Pre-screening information/registration is available on their websites:

- Fairfax County - <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus/vaccine/registration>
- Loudoun County - <https://www.loudoun.gov/civicalerts.aspx?aid=6299>

If you are in an eligible group, please register and get your vaccinations as soon as they are made available to you so that we can begin the process of returning to our “normal” lives.

In a larger sense, we’ve been forced to confront what “normal” means. It’s obvious that COVID-19 has impacted all of us

personally as well as Holy Cross as a whole. It forced us to approach things differently and that has not been all bad. The first fundamental change was that we could no longer worship in person. Thanks to the “Quaranteam,” we have a livestreaming ministry of which we can be proud and a platform on which we can build for the future.

We’ve learned that our congregation continues to contribute wherever there is a need. While not buoyed by the level of contributions on Christmas Eve that we’ve experienced in prior years, giving was strong in December. Frankly, we’ve learned that we’d become too reliant on income from others. Giving in November and December was from “just us,” and if we maintain that practice throughout the year in 2021, it will be sufficient to ensure we can continue to pay our staff at 2020 levels. It now appears that we will not qualify for the second round of PPP funding, so it’s up to us!

The challenges of 2020 enabled us to strip away the unimportant things that we’ve allowed to creep into our lives. We have a clearer focus that it really is all about the new commandment Jesus gave us:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

Our Church family continues to embody that, and, with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will leverage what we’ve learned together to grow the Kingdom!

- Sam Carter

THE VICE PRESIDENT



As I write this, our country is continuing to react and respond to the incident on January 6, at the Capitol Building and preparing for the Inauguration of our 46th president. Today - January 15 - is the day two people out of a small circle that I admire the most were born - my Mom and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

One of my favorite themes from many of MLK Jr.'s speeches was the **Power of One**. The power of one country, one movement, one organization, one person. As we, the body of HCLC, look back on 2020 and look forward into 2021 we have much to be thankful for and proud of. The power and impact of HCLC is strong - and the need in our community continues to be even stronger. I would ask everyone to think about **ONE** action; **ONE** increase in financial giving; **ONE** new opening of your heart to see a new perspective; **ONE** new volunteering effort... heck, **ONE** additional smile to someone at the grocery store or DMV (once we can be mask-less) is a great first step!

Our HCLC financial team is wrapping up the financial numbers for 2020 and updating our forecast for 2021, which appears to be substantially better than the projections that were shared at our Annual Meeting back in November. More to share in the near future! If anyone is interested in joining the Finance Committee, please let me know at vice.president@holycrosslutheranchurch.net. We can all always use **ONE** new perspective, or insight, or offer of assistance.

Never, ever, underestimate the power of **ONE**.

At your service,

Rob Coffman
Vice President

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

December 10, 2020, we celebrated Santa Lucia Day. The afternoon was beautiful. We appreciate the Kingdom Kids that were able to participate outside by joining a presentation about Santa Lucia. A multigenerational activity was fun for all. We made garlands of dried fruit, cranberries and popcorn to put on the Christmas tree. The decorated Christmas tree could be seen virtually, on Christmas Eve. Thank you to Fellowship for helping plan the activity and to everyone that helped dry the many slices of oranges and lemons that made so many beautiful garlands. I am sure the birds enjoyed their Christmas treat.

Kingdom Kids: Sunday School Video Lessons have resumed and weekly postings are available on HCLC's YouTube Channel each Saturday morning. On Saturday, February 6th, monthly Saturday Zoom gatherings will begin. They will occur on the first Saturday of the month and will be in addition to weekly video lessons. Thank you, Mr. Joe and Mrs. Suzanne for their very creative and innovative ideas.

We welcome anyone that would like to help on this committee. I'm sure there are a lot of terrific ideas that could be implemented.

Respectfully,

Betty Skelton
Chairperson

Santa Lucia Day at HCLC



Santa Lucia Lineup



Mary Foley as this year's Santa Lucia



Foleys at Saint Lucia Festival



Avery & Amy McNaughton's busy at work.



Pastor & Shelley with Avery & Amy McNaughton and Devin & Desirae Deitterick in the background.



Santa Lucia Buns and Pepparkakor cookies

Outreach

Community Services

One thing that COVID has not shut down is the generosity of our church family and friends. We have continued to deliver food several times each week to LINK and the Embury Rucker Homeless Shelter. Pastor Martin also made a second delivery of winter coats donated for the Day Workers who gather at the 7-11 and need appropriate cold weather gear.

Our Advent Outreach Appeal for Mobile Hope was very successful. We delivered winter coats for kids and adults, snow pants, gloves, socks, shoes and jeans. There were books and puzzles and toys, and a large variety of personal hygiene necessities. When you consider that all of this is in addition to the regular food donations and your financial support, it indeed proves that “the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it”.

In the coming events, the Herndon Woman’s Club is planning to sponsor a Blood Drive at Holy Cross. We will share the details as they become available. We are grateful for their support of our community.

Herndon Cares is revamping with some exciting ideas for helping to support Herndon businesses while serving the community! When they started last spring, 13 Faith Communities joined to work together in Herndon. They used funds they collected to purchase meals from local restaurants and distribute to struggling families. As I write this, plans are just in the beginning stage. Holy Cross will continue to be involved and we will keep you informed of ways to become involved.

In another 'watch for more news', our Outreach Lenten Appeal is going to look a little different this year. We will continue to ask for your ongoing food donations, but we are also going to ask you to give of your time and talents.

And finally, thanks to all of you who are so generous in serving God through serving our community, whether through our church efforts or your private outreach efforts.

MOBILE HOPE

of Loudoun

Donna Fortier
• CEO & Founder

Board of Directors 2019-2020

Sharon Ackerman

• Retired, Loudoun County
Public Schools

Joseph Balac, Jr., JD, ARM

• Legal & Operations Executive

Ramone Colon

• Client Representative

Bud Elliott

• Retired

Wendall Fisher

• Retired, Loudoun County
Public Schools

Mike Frick

• Assistant Pastor, Cornerstone
Chapel Church

Colleen Grayson

• Advertising Consultant,
Inside NoVA

Dave Herlity

• Retired, Target

Lisa Jones

• Artist, Advocate

Rhonda Lough

• Parent Liaison at the Douglass
Alternative School for Loudoun
County Public Schools

Easton McDonald

• Lieutenant, Loudoun County
Sheriff's Office

Chad Runfola

• Assistant Principal,
Broad Run High School

Donna Torrace

• Division of Planning, Loudoun
County Public Schools

Mobile Hope Staff

KC LeBlanc, RN

• Director of Client Support Services

Allyson Ruscitella, MSW

• Director of Marketing &
Community Engagement

Wanda Moloney

• Program Support Assistant

Jessica Flores

• Administrative Assistant

Chris Butts

• Store Manager



PO Box 4135
Ashburn, VA 20148
P (703) 771-1400

E getinvolved@mobilehopeloudoun.org

www.mobilehopeloudoun.org

Mobile Hope is a non-profit 501(c)(3)
organization. Our Tax ID #46-3053144.



UWNCA 9209 CFC 65969 CVC 8810

December 22, 2020

Happy Holidays!

A financial gift was given to our organization in dedication of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA by Roy Geiger.

"As part of Holy Cross' 2020 Advent Appeal contributions to Mobile Hope Loudoun County."

Here is some information about our organization so you may understand the impact of this gift:

Each day, young adults walk through the doors of Mobile Hope—broken, powerless, discouraged and afraid. Many have been abused, trafficked, rejected or cast aside. Mobile Hope—**powered by you, our hero of hope**—is their last resort. We will help these young people move from a place of darkness to a place of hope.

Your financial donation ensures our teens and young adults are provided emergency shelter, clean clothes, and hot meals. It ensures they have a place to go and people to talk to when progress isn't a straight line. It means they have a place where they are accepted and seen as worthy—simply because they are human. Where they are accepted and loved even if they aren't perfect and have made mistakes along the way. Where their value as people is not impacted by the mistakes they have made. Where they are treated with respect and dignity, regardless of IQ, skin color, ability or religion. Where we expect from them because we believe in them. Where we are real, and they can be, too. **Where we believe—deeply—their future can be better than their past.**

Your gift will help us serve every young person who walks through our door and needs a safe place for the night—or the week—until we can help them find a place to call home.

When our kids have a safe place to lay their head and put the day to rest— change begins to happen. Old patterns give way to new. Family patterns are broken. Lives are restored. Healing happens.

We would like to invite you on a personal tour of our Leesburg facility so you may see the impact of your donation. Also, follow us on social media to see how your donation helps our clients rise out of homelessness and into the lives they deserve.

We are committed to ending youth homelessness in Loudoun County, and with your help, we are a step closer to this vision. Mobile Hope's growth is fueled by you, and we are honored and deeply appreciative of your financial support. You make our life-changing work possible.

Sincerely,

Donna Fortier
Founder & CEO

Allyson Ruscitella
Director of Marketing & Comm. Engagement

English Language Learners (ELL) Spring Semester Has Started via Zoom



On Wednesday, January 13th, we started teaching our students online. Our spring semester ends May 5, 2021. I hope and pray that we will be far more advanced by then, vaccinating everyone in the country and hopefully, teaching students in our classrooms at Holy Cross again. A total of 18 students joined us for our first classes. Students from our area, Florida, California and Colombia. Yes, Colombia. Katherine, our Columbian student learned English with us at Holy Cross while on a limited student Visa. We are happy to have her in our Zoom class.

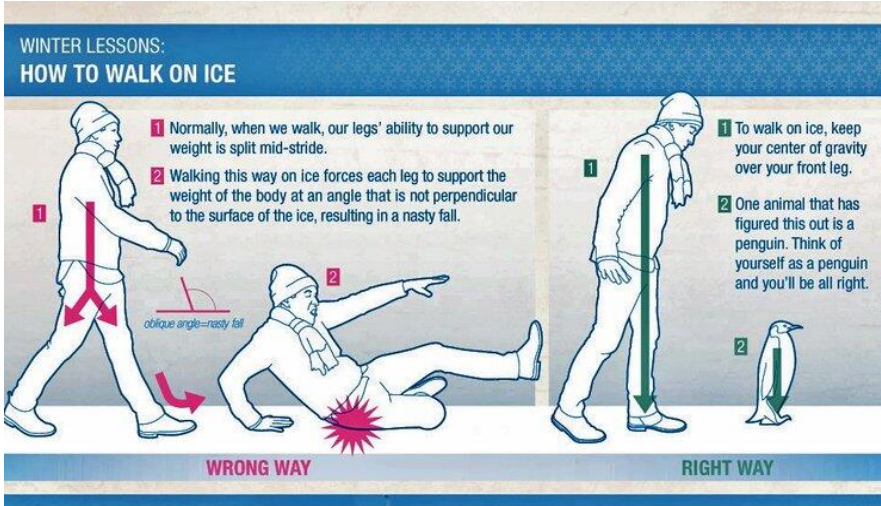
Besides reading, writing and grammar, we teach our students functional survival English, such as how to shop for groceries, make doctor appointments, greet friends, neighbors and colleagues, as well as language necessary for everyday interactions and success in the workplace. In addition, we teach safe driving on the road and how to handle severe weather and natural disasters. Of course, students have many questions about American customs and are always happy to adopt them.

Below are some examples we teach of walking or driving in icy weather. Thank you to everyone in our congregation for supporting our ELL program.

Ellen Atwell and The ELL Team –
Suzanne, Jeanne, Dayna and Chip

Walking and Driving in Icy Weather:

Beware Ice on Roads and Sidewalks. Be safe when it's icy in the mornings! If you must be out on icy days, walk with care and caution! **Walk like a penguin!** In addition, the roads will also have icy spots! If you must drive in icy weather, make sure to check conditions on your normal route. Also leave extra time to get where you are going. When on the road, make sure you slow down and keep extra distance between you and other vehicles! Do not use cruise control! Also, do not brake quickly or make sharp turns. Be safe.



YOUTH

BSA Troop 12 Update

I am happy to report that Troop 12 successfully completed its recharter December 2020. Holy Cross will continue as its chartered organization for 2021.

The Troop 12 Committee chair, Roger Claff, said, *“Please convey to the Church Council our appreciation for Holy Cross’s sponsorship of Troop 12. The church has been wonderful, and I want them to know we never take that for granted.”*

Troop 12 is a special needs troop serving young men from the entire Northern Virginia area. From a chance discussion between Dave Adams (Troop 12’s founder) and Craig Reichow over 18 years ago, Holy Cross has been the chartered organization of this very unique troop.

Yours in Scouting,

Anne Geiger,
Chartered Organization Representative

Scout Sunday 2021

A Scout is reverent. Sunday, February 14, 2021 is Scout Sunday at Holy Cross. The BSA Troop 12 charter for 2021 will be given to Pastor Martin by the Troop 12 Chartered Organization Representative Anne Geiger at the 10:00 am service.

Scouts and Scouters, please wear your scout uniforms at home to celebrate the 2021 Scout Sunday.



STEWARDSHIP

Advent Appeal

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 continues to grow. Last year, 46 volunteers provided 908 rides to medical appointments. Herndon Village Network's motto is, **"Neighbors helping neighbors one ride at a time."**



Holy Cross choose HVN as our 2020 Advent Appeal recipient. On behalf of the Stewardship Team and the Holy Cross Council, we wish to thank the congregation for your Advent Appeal donations of \$485.00! Your contributions are greatly appreciated and will help with costs associated with HVN's program including insurance, background checks and fuel for some of their drivers. Once again, thank you for your support of this worthy organization.

To find out more and how you can continue to support HVN, please 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 bring your offering with you to communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.
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.



1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 20170

