

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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



THE SEASON
of Lent

March 2021

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

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


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 Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

STAFF NEWS



A SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

How do you measure generosity? What does it mean to be a generous people? In church, we are used to hearing and talking about giving and usually in terms of percentage – how much of a percentage of my income do I or should I set aside for the work of the Lord?

That giving is important. It is most important to us faithful givers because it is a *spiritual* discipline that helps us think beyond just our own needs. It is important to the life of a congregation because it literally allows the lights to stay on, the staff to be paid and the ministries of a faith community to flourish. While that is important, even necessary for all concerned, generosity is something different.

Most of the definitions I have seen of the word generosity point to an inner essence, almost a spiritual quality. More than action alone, generosity is something inside a person or a community that informs every action. Even the word's origin points to a sense of being: Latin *generositas* "nobility, excellence, magnanimity." Generosity, therefore, is not so much what we do as it is how we define ourselves.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be a generous people or to put it in another way, are called to live out who we already are in Jesus Christ. By his life, death and resurrection we have been reborn, refashioned and as The Apostle says, made part of a “new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Martin Luther calls this the “happy exchange” where Jesus takes our broken, incomplete, sinful nature and replaces it with one that is redeemed and made whole by him. We are the people of “nobility, excellence, magnanimity” because Jesus makes us so.

So, my original question is (intentionally) flawed. Generosity is not really something you can measure; it is just something you are. My second question is more to the point. What does it mean to be a generous people? From my experience, a generous congregation is one that, first and foremost, claims and celebrates the grace of Jesus that has been freely given to them and all people. We serve a most generous God! Second, it is a people that find joy in that first point, a joy that enables them to see the world as God sees it: broken but beautiful. Third, it is a community that celebrates the nobility God has given them by giving freely, joyfully and thankfully, to others – no questions, no strings, no judgment. Fourth, it is a recognition that it is not about money. It becomes a way of life, a path of discipleship.

I see that generosity here among us at Holy Cross. I feel the joy and the gratitude. I experience your nobility of spirit and your true love for others. In this contemplative season of Lent, let us together celebrate that holy generosity among us and pray for a refilling, a renewal, of that Spirit in this place.

Amen,
Pastor Martín

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY

During the coming season of Lent, we will sing the hymn *Healer of Our Every Ill* in worship. As I was researching information about the hymn, I started to find more and more information that made it not only appropriate for worship, because of a healing theme within the readings, but also appropriate for current events and everyday life.

The composer of this hymn, Marty Haugen, is a contemporary Lutheran composer. He has many hymns and liturgical settings being used in Lutheran churches across America. This hymn in particular, has become rather popular with all sects of the Christian church.

Haugen originally composed this hymn, both text and tune, in 1986 after the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. The text was intended to help with healing of both individuals and the whole community. It gained even more exposure when NPR's *All Things Considered* played a recording of the hymn to end its show airing after the September 11 disaster. "I'm convinced that people need to have something to sing when the world is falling apart," Haugen said. He also told NPR that liturgical songs of sorrow and lament help people to process their emotions and connect with God and one another.

Haugen's words are definitely relevant in today's world. It seems that every time I turn on the news there is so much troublesome news about the pandemic. As we travel our Lenten journey it is important to remember that God knows all our troubles and gave God's only son to us so that we may know God's grace.



Refrain

Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*

In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*

Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*

You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

Soli Deo Gloria,
Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy

COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

As I write this article, we are entering the season of Lent. It is a time of reflection, sacrifice, preparation and indeed, hope as we head towards Holy Week and Easter. In many ways, this past year has felt like one long Lenten Season. We are often asked, “what are you going to give up for Lent?” This time last year, none of us thought that a year later we’d still be “giving up” going out to eat, attending public events, etc. We have had an opportunity to extend our normal period of reflection.

This year seems different; we can almost envision a “normal” Lenten Season where we can emerge with a fuller appreciation of all of God’s blessings that are embedded in the “little things” of life that we have far too often taken for granted, and we realize that these “little things” aren’t things at all!

Last month I marveled at how our congregation continues to contribute wherever and whenever there is a need. Our continued strong financial support was upstaged by an outpouring of donations of food and clothing when calls went out for both. Thank you to all who continue to amaze!

Our “Quaranteam,” led by the indefatigable efforts of Pastor Martin and Jeremy, has gotten into a “groove swing” and continues to deliver a livestreaming ministry we could hardly have imagined a year ago. However, we met with a couple of focus groups of younger members and families with young children and found that these efforts are simply not reaching hardly anyone younger than 50! We have been evaluating a Holy Cross app that would reside on your smartphone or tablet. It would have a look and feel that would be consistent with the church’s web page, so that members could engage on any platform of their choice. They would not be required to use any social media platforms (such as Facebook, etc.) and church services would not be required to be “appointment TV.” It would also enable members to engage with each other in an ad hoc manner. We think we have found a solution, but we need someone to be trained on using its “drag and drop” tools to update information on a regular basis. If anyone is interested and can make time to fulfill that role, please contact me directly, President@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net.

It is heartening to see how the Holy Spirit continues to work in us, as imperfect as we are. As we continue in our quest to be more like Jesus, I am blessed to have a wonderful group of his followers with me on that quest!

- Sam Carter

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



(Information taken from History.Com Editors)

St. Patrick lived during the fifth century. He is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. He was born in Roman Britain, kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people. Since around the ninth or 10th century, people in Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick's on March 17.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in America. Records show that a St. Patrick's Day parade was held on March 17, 1601 in a Spanish colony in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. More than a century later homesick Irish soldiers serving in the English Military marched in NYC in 1772, to honor the patron saint. Celebrations continued to expand across America to what it has become today. St. Patrick's Day is also celebrated around the world in locations like Japan, Singapore, and Russia.

St. Patrick's Day is a global celebration of Irish Culture that takes place each year on March 17th, the anniversary of the death of the patron Saint St. Patrick. The Irish have observed the 17th of March

as a religious holiday for over 1000 years. On St Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would eat, dance and feast on the traditional foods of Irish Bacon.

(By the way: Leprechauns have their own holiday on May 13th.)

Respectfully,

Betty Skelton
Christian Education Chairperson

SAVE THE DATE

Road to Resurrection

OUTDOOR PALM SUNDAY FESTIVAL
MARCH 28 - 1:30 PM

Family friendly and fun for ALL ages!

Palm Sunday/Easter Crafts
Take home treat bag for kids!
Enjoy Seasonal Goodies
Dye Easter Eggs

1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA

Masks and Social Distancing Required



Outreach

Community Services

March 21st National Quilting Day

Holy Cross celebrates National Quilting Day by highlighting the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) quilting ministry (<https://lwr.org/>).



From LWR:

Imagine the comfort and care you feel when you snuggle under a comforter or wear a piece of clothing made or worn by a loved one. That's the feeling you'll share through a Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Mission Quilt. Useful for shielding against the cold and rain, and for warm bedding, quilts can also be purposed as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother's back. In a simple combination of fabric and thread, you reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope – you are not alone.

In 2020 and despite the pandemic, Holy Cross's quilting ministry made and donated 54 quilts to LWR! The quilting ministry members are always looking for donations of cloth suitable for piecing quilt fronts, larger pieces for quilt backings, thread of any color, lightweight batting, and working sewing machines you no longer want – all to make more quilts for LWR. If you have any of these needed items at your home and are willing to donate them, either drop them by the church when you come for communion or contact the church office for pick-up. One of the quilting ministry members will contact you to coordinate a safe pick-up.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, contact Denise Robinson, drobinson10@cox.net or Anne Geiger, Gei2@verizon.net. The quilt ministry members are making quilts from home for now, but we really look forward to when we can ALL meet safely at church for worship, quilt making and good fellowship.

Be the Church-- Reach Out during Lent

It has been almost a year since we were able to gather together in our church building and it is so hard not to be able to see each other, worship together and just chat before and after the service. I think we all just want to get back to normal. But maybe 'normal' wasn't good enough to really be the church. Maybe this time of crisis was an awakening to see what we are called to do to serve our neighbors as Christ would have us do. The response to our appeals for food and clothes and support for a family struggling were --and continue to be--nothing short of amazing.

For Lent, perhaps it would be good to consider another challenge to service by sharing our time and talents with our community. We can start by contacting Council members to ask what we can do to serve our church. You can share ideas of how to serve outside of church. Send them to me, suzflegal@verizon.net and I'll share them in the Weekly Update. Some examples:

- Write or call folks from church to say, "Hi."
- Have your child send a picture, especially to some older folks you know.
- Send a thank you note to someone who's touched your life.
- Check in with a neighbor to see how they're doing.
- If you knit or crochet, make hats and mittens for Embry Rucker Homeless Shelter.

Volunteer-- here's a list that just scratches the surface: The Closet, LINK, Mobile Hope, LAWS, Shelter House, Herndon Village Network, Cornerstones, Food for Neighbors, as COVID restrictions permit.

And of course, keep the food coming!

The Closet

of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc.

is proud to announce the recipients of its 2020 Grants.

We were pleased to support these organizations with over \$63,000.



In 2020, The Closet also helped families referred by local social services organizations by providing more than \$51,000 worth of clothing, shoes and household necessities at no cost.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Upcoming Events...

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 28 - 10:00 AM
FACEBOOK LIVE

Oftentimes, to grasp the fullness of something significant, we have to look at both sides. So it is that to approach the meaning of Christ, we have to say two things: Jesus and Christ; human and divine; dead and alive; bread and body. This Sunday celebrates these two sides: we begin by praising Christ with "Hosanna," and we go on to shout "Crucify him!" Come to join us as we fit both truths into one service.



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MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 1 - 7:00 PM

FACEBOOK LIVE

This Thursday is called “Maundy,” which means “command,” from the verse in John’s gospel in which Jesus commands us to love another as he loved us. We hear about the Passover lamb, Jesus’ last meal with his disciples before his death, and Jesus washing his disciples’ feet. Finally we strip the chancel bare, to ready ourselves for Good Friday.



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GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 2 - 7:00 PM

FACEBOOK LIVE

Why do we call this day Good? In John's telling of Jesus' passion, Jesus is "I am," the God who reigns from the cross, the king who discusses theology with Pilate. Listen for the differences between John's passion and Mark's passion that we heard on Sunday. At this service we pray for everyone we can think of, and we confess that it is our sin that crucified Christ.



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EASTER

APRIL 4 - 10:00 AM

FACEBOOK LIVE

What does it mean to be Christian? Christians are those who share their faith in the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to transform themselves and the world. Each Sunday we gather to praise the resurrection, but Easter is our annual blow-out celebration. This year we hear the gospel from Mark, and we sing, and we sing, and we sing.



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STEWARDSHIP

Spring 2021 - Capital Campaign Update

If you had asked me in April of 2020, “With everything going on in the world, do you really think that Capital Campaign is going to work out?” I would have answered, “No way”. There was just no way... In the midst of a global pandemic, when our family and friends were worried about their health and livelihood... there was no way we were going to be able to keep our Capital Campaign going.

Yet, here we are, in 2021. ***You have again overwhelmed us with your optimism, resilience, and generosity.*** The Capital Campaign continued working towards our goals throughout 2020 and the pandemic and we are well poised for the remaining work.

While it may feel like progress is slow to some, here are some of the things the people of Holy Cross through the support of the Campaign have achieved:

- ✓ Replaced the roof on the Administrative Wing (Winter ‘19 & ‘21)
- ✓ Sent lay leaders & staff to ELCA training (‘19 & ‘20)
- ✓ Welcomed seven new members (‘19); Held prospective member luncheon (Spring ‘20)
- ✓ Provided fun activities for kids at Herndon’s Easter Egg Hunt, HUMC Trunk or Treat and Herndon Festival (‘19)
- ✓ Supported the food pantry program at HMS (‘19) and ongoing need for food in the community during the Pandemic (‘20/‘21)
- ✓ Introduced “Card Brigade” and member calls/emails (‘20/‘21)
- ✓ Partner with Fairfax Health Department & Cornerstones for COVID Testing (‘20)
- ✓ Grew & sustained our Vacation Bible School to 17 children (Summer ‘19 & ‘20)
- ✓ Established sponsorship for Herndon MS PTA (‘19 & ‘20)

- ✓ Voted on and implemented a new church logo ('20)
- ✓ Installed new flooring in Fellowship Hall & the offices; painted staff offices and installed new cabinets ('20)
- ✓ Began planning of restroom renovations ('20/'21)

Capital Campaign by the numbers:

Total Contributions to Date:	\$139,305
Spend to Date:	\$ 88,250
Of which	
- Roofing	\$ 32,580
- Flooring, Cabinets & Painting	\$ 39,544
- Synod New Connections	\$ 8,265
- Evangelism & Tech upgrades for virtual worship	\$ 7,495

There's still time to be part of this exciting program. Please contact the Church Office (admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net) or Deb Reilly (debreilly62@gmail.com) if you would like to help with the Restroom Renovation project, Evangelism work or to make a donation.

Peace,

Deb Reilly
Building on the Best Capital Campaign Chair

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



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