

THE QUEST

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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



May 2021

A Mother's Love

There are times when only a mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappoints
And calm all of our fears.

There are times when only a mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only a mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.

For a mother's heart and a mother's faith
And a mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the angels
And sent from God above.

--Author unknown

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the June 2021 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Wednesday, May 12.

Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at:
admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net.

The **deadline** for inclusion in the **Weekly Update** is noon on Tuesday.

Thank you,
Teresa Easterly
Church Administrator

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Find us online!
www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net



www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon



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HolyCrossELCA



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

What a wonderful Easter worship we were blessed to have! The weather held and we were able to have 89 people gather in person (with about another 30 attending via Facebook Live). After over a year of not being able to have a large number of people together for worship, it was such a joy to see almost all of us together again. It was also an emotional time for us all, and an encouragement of how, in the not-too-distant future, things might be getting back to normal. As we celebrated Jesus' resurrection and promise of new life, we can also begin to look forward to the beginning of renewed life as a congregation.

Having our vision renewed as to what may be, it is time to plan and prepare towards when it might be. To that end, I have asked President Sam to begin to gather a Task Force that can draft some perimeters as to when the science dictates the safest threshold to fully gather for inside worship (including singing, which seems to be the sticking point that would prevent much of the gatherings for worship) and a policy regarding how we proceed into that new normal. We hope to get some folks with some medical and scientific expertise, who can help us all navigate the

recommendations of the CDC and others regarding safe gatherings.

The Staff and Worship Committee are also exploring some options for the interim period, which will likely be some months. One thought is holding monthly or bi-monthly outdoor worship services such as we did for Easter. These services would likely be on one or both of our current Holy Communion Sundays. For now, we are planning to have Pentecost Sunday (May 23) as such an outdoor worship, but have yet to determine a plan beyond that. We hope to be coming out with a summer worship plan soon.

On a personal note, I continue to be blessed and encouraged by the people of Holy Cross. Your generous spirit, your dedication to mission and ministry, and your warm hospitality makes it such a joy to be among you (even as we are, for a time, mostly physically distant). The Spirit is alive and working among us here, forming and reforming us as God's people for this time and in this place. Thank you all for what you do to make Holy Cross a place of grace and love in Jesus' name!

Shalom,

Pastor Martin

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY



Amen

Why did we used to sing “Amen” at the end of hymns and no longer do?

The word “Amen” is used in literature as an assertive word, meaning “indeed.” In liturgy it is our answer that one makes to a phrase or statement that someone else has just said, meaning, “may it be so” or, “yes, I want to be a part of that.” Therefore, it is rightly used at the end of a prayer that the minister or assisting minister says for the congregation. “Amen” is also used frequently in evangelical traditions to express support of or agreement with certain ideas in a sermon. Strictly, there is no need for it after a prayer that is said by the entire congregation. It just adds an extra level of dedication to the prayer. As if to say, “Yes, I really meant the prayer I just said.”

Its use at the end of hymns began in a time when hymns were sung by monastic choirs and priests. At the end of the hymn the congregation would sing an “Amen.” They get to listen to the beautiful hymn and then say to God, “Yes, we agree with the praises just sung in your name.” The practice became even more widespread in the fourth century when there was a rise of anti-Trinitarian debate. Hymn writers began adding Trinitarian stanzas to the end of all their hymns and made sure there was an “Amen” for the congregation to sing, forcing everyone to assert their belief in the Trinity on a regular basis.

Now that hymns are sung by the entire congregation there is really no need to have an “Amen” at the end of every hymn. The inclusion of them makes the ending of all hymns the same and boring. Every time an “Amen” was sung at the end of a hymn it had the same note structure, it was always accompanied by the Plagal Cadence (a IV chord to a I chord). It was used so consistently that the Plagal Cadence quickly became known as the Amen Cadence.

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

COUNCIL

A Message from the **PRESIDENT**

Holy Cross Family –

I start these articles by addressing you all as “Holy Cross Family,” but, sitting in the open air with nearly 100 of you on Easter Sunday, I became somewhat teary-eyed contemplating just how much I’d missed being with my church family in person. It was a thrilling and uplifting experience. Our leadership team is working on how to have more of them while still being prudent and mindful of best health practices.

We are enlisting the support of members of the congregation in healthcare and related fields to craft a responsible strategy for increasing in-person experiences as the CDC and various state and local health agencies provide expanded guidance.

In a related topic, our shared reality of living during the pandemic has led us all to be more familiar with technology than many of us would’ve liked; still, it’s hard for us to imagine how we would’ve made it through this period without the tools technology has provided. Going forward we, along with businesses and other organizations are realizing that, like it or not, we are in the midst of a kind of digital transformation that to a certain extent, we must all embrace.

We continue to explore options available to us which will enhance our ministry and strengthen our faith, and we welcome those who

would like to join our “Tech Group.” Examples of places where you could become involved include:

- Developing a digital strategy,
- Evaluating potential solutions,
- Learning how to manage the network,
- Manage our security cameras,
- Create and add graphics and other content to our live-streaming devices and webpage, and
- Operating our video and cameras during services just as Bob Thompson does for our audio.

The digital world we thought would be temporary a year ago has become a part of our new reality, and the ad hoc manner in which we’ve supported it is not sustainable in the long term, e.g. Jeremy has become our de facto Live-Streaming manager, ensuring online services are available while fulfilling his “official duties” as Director of Music and Liturgy. We must be more purposeful in that support going forward. If you have an interest in joining with others in our congregation who are working on these exciting possibilities, please contact me at president@holycrosslutheranchurch.net.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank each and every one of you for continuing to “Be the Church” throughout the challenges we’ve faced. Donations of food and clothing for the community continue to amaze, and increased giving continues to support our operations. It’s easy to think that small increases in contributions of time and money are of little consequence, but our loaves and fish amount to so much! May the Holy Spirit continue to use us and guide us to become more like Jesus.

- Sam Carter

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



Pastor Martin will be on vacation from May 30th to June 23rd visiting Shelly. Since this is Shelly's last summer in Alaska (she expects to be moving here full-time next spring), Pastor and Shelly want to visit some friends and family, as well as some locations in the state that they have not seen.

Pastor Paul Opsahl, who is no stranger to Holy Cross will preach and preside on June 6th and June 20th. Our seminarian, Katy Moran is scheduled to preach on June 13th (providing her summer chaplaincy program schedule allows). Pastor Martin and Shelly will return to Virginia on Wednesday, June 23rd. Emergency Pastoral contacts for that period are still being scheduled and will be available in the June Quest.

OUTREACH

Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County



Holy Cross has been a sponsor of the Student Peace Awards for the last several years. The Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County began in 2006 to encourage everyone to think more about peace as both a means and an end, and to recognize young people who work as peacemakers. It honors junior and senior high school students who have made a positive contribution to their school or wider community by promoting mutual understanding and respect for all people. This year the awards ceremony was held virtually on March 14. You can watch it on this link, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLRii4-1LQg>, to meet some of our future leaders.

Aamirah “Molly” Malik, Herndon High School, as part of a group of students, she gave gifts through Heifer International, of a cow and chickens to a family in Africa in honor of their geography teacher.

Diana Ho, South Lakes High School, is a mental health advocate, working to get more services in FCPS. As a member of Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE), she spoke in support of VOICE’s budget proposal to Governor Ralph Northam for funding mental health services in schools. She and

other students founded the VOICE Teen Team and lobbied the Virginia General Assembly in 2019 about their proposals.

TJHSST Assistive Technology Club, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Students in TJ's Assistive Technology Club (ATC) use their technology skills to provide support for younger students with limited mobility, speech, or hearing abilities. Over more than 12 years, members of the ATC have designed books, enhanced instructional materials, developed games, and implemented specially designed software programs for use with the children's specialized communication devices. Club members meet weekly with the younger children via video conferencing, sharing colorful, educational online games and other materials they created to meet specific needs of the children.

Link Volunteer Needed



LINK, Inc., exists to provide emergency food and financial assistance to qualified people in need. Supported primarily by donations of food and funds. LINK is comprised of dedicated churches, organizations, and individuals serving the Herndon, Sterling, and Ashburn, Virginia communities. The all-volunteer staff at LINK believe in the power of selfless service and the importance of providing people in crisis with unconditional love. This love includes commitment, compassion, and the courage to serve the sick, abused, hurt, unloved, and powerless.

Holy Cross was one of the original churches that sponsored LINK. Some years ago, that stopped because we did not have a volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors. If this important work interests you and you'd like to get more involved, LINK would love to have a HCLC member help coordinate deliveries for a two-week period twice a year. This is all done remotely. You will need to be familiar with email and can spare about an hour a day during this timeframe. To learn more, go to www.linkagainsthunger.org/. If interested, contact Suzanne Flegal, suzflegal@verizon.net.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

It seems appropriate with the focus on immigrants and refugees in the news to highlight the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

This information is from ELCA's website, www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Immigration-and-Refugee-Services, where you can get more information.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

We are a church that does God's work in the world and in local communities pursuing justice, peace and human dignity for and with all people.

In partnership with Lutheran congregations and Lutheran social ministry organizations, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has welcomed more than 379,000 refugees to the United States since 1939. This ongoing partnership and work are driven by God's love for all people and a vision for congregations to be welcoming and generous centers for mission and ministry.

The work of the ELCA through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service includes responding to people caught in conflict and facing persecution, advocating for their needs and interests, helping people access resources for basic human needs, working with foster care programs for minors, legal assistance, developing new and innovative service programs and partnerships, and much more.

For 80 years, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has been a champion for refugees and migrants from around the globe. Our legacy of compassionate service has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who have found safety and hope in America's communities.



HVN Shreds It!

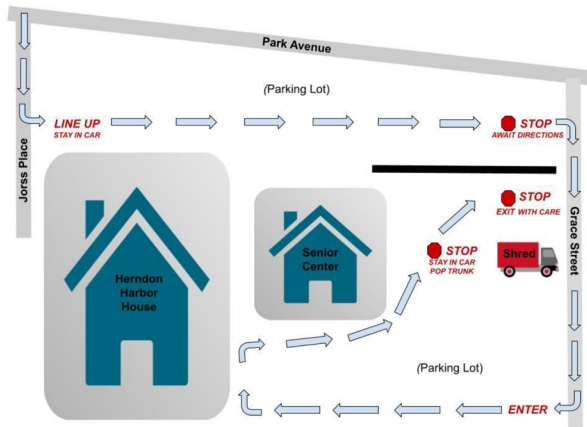
A Free Community Shred Event

Saturday, May 8th, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Herndon Senior Center
873 Grace Street, Herndon, VA

Get a jump on your spring cleaning!
Securely destroy old papers you no longer need.
Limit: Three standard paper boxes

INSTRUCTIONS

Put your boxes of papers into the trunk of your car and head to Park Ave. From Park Ave., take Jorss Pl. and then enter the Herndon Harbor House parking lot, where the line will begin. Follow the traffic flow on the adjacent map. When it's your turn, stay in your car and pop your trunk for someone to remove your boxes of papers for the shredder.



Courtesy of Herndon Village Network

In Partnership with the Herndon Senior Center and Herndon Harbor House
To learn more, visit herndonvillagenetwork.org.

SOCIAL

HCLC Monthly Hiking Series



Lake Fairfax Park

Have you been wishing for more opportunities to see your HCLC family and friends? Have you been looking for ways to spend more time outdoors? Great news - HCLC is starting a monthly hiking series to get outside and to get moving! During the 4th Sunday of the month, you are invited to come out for a hike in one of the area's parks and nature areas.

The May HCLC Hike will be held on Sunday, May 23rd at 3:00 p.m. at Lake Fairfax Park (1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA). We will be meeting at the Park's administration building and will take the approximately two-mile trail around the lake.

You're encouraged to wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothes. Please bring water and a mask. The group will practice social distancing while on the hike.

Should you have any questions about this hike or any of the upcoming hikes, please contact Chris Nelson at (202) 549-6192 or chrisdnelson@hotmail.com.

YOUTH



We would like to recognize the HCLC spring 2021 graduates. If you or your son or daughter will be graduating this spring, please let us know. We'd like to share the milestone in our June Quest Newsletter. Please email your graduate's name, graduating school/college/university, diploma/degree, honorable mentions, and future plans to Admin@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net, by Wednesday, May 12.

PROPERTY

HCLC's Steeple Bell



The steeple bells have been a special part of our life here at Holy Cross for many years and were added to the sanctuary through a dedicated memorial fund for Arlene Gibson. According to Joy Heuer, "Arlene had been Council President and had advocated for a bell tower/steeple on the church." Sadly, Arlene passed away from cancer at a fairly young age. The steeple and bells, however, continue to bless us through her dedication to this project.

Recently, however, we have discovered that the system is broken, and the bells cannot sound. The Verdin Company that maintains our system, is offering us \$990 off the original estimate of \$5,500 to repair the bells, making the new total \$4,510.

If you would like to make a special donation to help fix the bells, please send in your offering marked "Bell Donation" or go to our secure website, www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net and click, **"Donate"**. Donations can be of any amount. We are off to a great start. Through your generosity, currently we have collected \$875. Can you help us over the finish line?

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 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



Women from Mountain of God Evangelical International Church, Baltimore, dance and sing during worship.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

MANY LANGUAGES, ONE GROWING CHURCH

When God spoke to Jean Paul Kisuku, Kisuku knew he had to listen.

While living in the Congo, Kisuku spread the gospel through prayer groups with fellow Congolese and neighbors in nearby Uganda. After immigrating to the United States and settling in Maryland, he stepped away from ministry to focus on secular work to support his family.

God had other plans.

Asked about his return to ministry, Kisuku said, "God is moving you to do his work, and if you say 'yes' you will be OK."

Kisuku and his family were resettled by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and Christ Lutheran Church, Baltimore. Seeing how the congregation welcomed newcomers, Kisuku reached out to Christ's associate pastor, Amsalu Geleta, and volunteered to conduct a prayer service there in Swahili, the native language of Congo.

"He gathered five families for the first day in October 2016," said Geleta, who now serves as executive assistant to the bishop and director for evangelical mission in the Delaware-Maryland Synod. "He's a wonderful evangelist, and he reached out to many people who speak Swahili, French, Lingala — new arrivals, most of them."

That prayer service has evolved to become Mountain of God Evangelical International Church, a new congregation bolstered by grants from the ELCA churchwide

organization and the Delaware-Maryland Synod that were funded by Mission Support.

Mountain of God's membership now boasts over 150 people. Geleta believes the growth has been inspiring for the synod.

Much of that growth can be attributed to Kisuku's determination to bring God's word to as many African-descent people as possible. Many prospective members lacked transportation, so Kisuku began driving them to and from church.

"THE PARTICIPATION OF EVERYONE HELPS PLANT AND NURTURE IT TO MAKE IT GROW. AND THE SPIRIT OF EVANGELISM TO THE CHURCH REVIVES US ALL."

"How can one ministry be born or stand by itself?" Geleta said. "The participation of everyone helps plant and nurture it to make it grow. And the spirit of evangelism to the church revives us all."

To watch a video of this ministry, visit [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).

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](https://elca.org/SOFIA).



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