



HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE QUEST

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

*July 4th  
Independence Day*



**July 2021**

# Independence Day!



The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. The Fourth of July 2021 is on Sunday, July 4, 2021; the federal holiday will be observed on Monday, July 5, 2021.

***Did you know?*** John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence, and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

[History.com](https://www.history.com)

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# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the July 2021 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Monday, July 12.

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 Tuesday.

Thank you,  
Teresa Easterly  
Church Administrator

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



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Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

## STAFF NEWS

# THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Thank you to all who welcomed us back from our time in Alaska. Shelly and I enjoyed our time visiting friends and family and experiencing the Beauties of Creation in both familiar and new locations.



Shelly is now here with me in Virginia and will be able to stay until the end of July before she heads back to begin her last year of working for the Anchorage School District. Next May, we will begin the process of moving her down here on a more permanent basis! Until then, thank you again for the many people who offer prayers and support during this time of necessary separation. It means so much to us both!

Pastor Martin

# Fortnightly Club



*"June 8, 2021*

*Dear Dr. Eldred,*

*We want to thank you for your church's generosity in letting our club hold our May and June meetings at Holy Cross Lutheran. Without your kindness we could not have met.*

*All the best to you, your staff, and parishioners,*

*The Herndon Fortnightly Club"*

# A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY



## ***It Is Well with My Soul***

For the past few months I have been talking about hymns that remind us of growing up and bring back fond memories of home. Throughout the summer I would like to take advantage of worshiping in person again and sing some of these songs in each service. One of my favorite things to do as the music director of Holy Cross is to play hymn songs. It is the best way for me to learn what hymns are personal favorites within the congregation. Please take a moment to send me a list of your favorite hymns that bring back fond memories. If you would also like to include a short description of what this hymn makes you think of, I would love to read it.

One of my favorite hymns from growing up is *It Is Well with My Soul*, also known as *When Peace Like a River*. The first time I remember hearing this hymn was at a church service with my parents while we lived in Dansville, NY, a town just south of Rochester. I would have been around eight at this time. I still remember listening to the beautiful melody and harmonies. The only text that I can remember picking up on was the refrain, "It is well, with my soul. It is well, it is well, with my soul."

At an older age I started picking up on the meaning of the rest of the words. I later read a story about why Horatio Spafford wrote this song. Horatio was heavily invested in real estate in Chicago, IL. During the fires of 1871 he lost his entire fortune. At the same time, he lost his son at the age of four. Horatio decided to pour himself into his work and began assisting the nearly 100,000 people who had been left homeless.

A few years later Horatio decided to take his family to England on a vacation. However, Horatio was held up in New York and decided to send his family on ahead. Horatio's wife and four daughters settled into a cabin aboard the French liner *Ville du Havre*. On its voyage to Europe it crashed into another ship and sank within two hours. The only survivor from Horatio's family was his wife. Horatio immediately began his way over to comfort his wife. On his journey he was able to sit in meditation and think about his life. He was so deep in his faith in the Lord that he said to himself, "It is well; the will of God be done." He later went on to write the rest of the hymn, *It Is Well with My Soul*.

It is hard to imagine that someone can have as strong a faith in God as Horatio did. He lost all his money in the fires of Chicago, his son shortly after, and his four daughters less than three years after that. *It Is Well with My Soul* has become so much more important to me in my faith after finding this story and rereading the hymns text.

*It Is Well with My Soul*

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;  
when sorrows, like sea billows, roll;  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.*



*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,  
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.*

*It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

*He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

*It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

*And Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul.*

*It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Soli Deo Gloria,

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy

## COUNCIL

### *A Message from the* **PRESIDENT**

Holy Cross Family –

Last month I expressed optimism that we would have a plan to responsibly re-open very soon; that optimism was well-founded, and we have resumed in-person worship – Hallelujah! During our long absence, we increased our worshipping community to include those who were not in close geographical proximity to our building in addition to offering a live worship opportunity for those whose circumstances preclude physical attendance.

Just as we learned “on-the-fly” how to livestream, we are now learning how to offer both in-person and online worship experiences that provide the best possible experience to both audiences while minimizing the intrusion of technology. I don’t think any of us want people strolling around with cameras, microphone booms, lighting arrays, etc. to interfere with worship. Consequently, volunteers are in the process of “permanently” installing the cables, wiring, cameras, etc. that were just out of camera range when our only option was livestreaming; please bear with us as we effect those changes.

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it’s that engagement and not mere physical attendance is a far more relevant measure of spiritual growth. As we move forward, we’re

seeing that we can retain the best aspects of our traditions while incorporating new ones.

We have received notification from our supplier that work on the Steeple Bells is being scheduled. We have confirmed to them that their required electrical supply connections are in place, and that seems to be our final hurdle. In related news, Jeremy had our pianos tuned, and the choir is rehearsing and sounds GREAT! It's wonderful to "get the band back together" as we enter our next chapter of "being the church!"

Once again, giving has remained strong, and pledges towards the Building on the Best capital campaign continue to be on track – THANK YOU for providing the resources that enable all that we do! And thank you for being a caring community of faith with your ongoing outpouring of food and clothing donations. Thank you for your continued generosity in so many areas!

Finally, I wasn't sure how some of my recent comments on social issues would be received, but my concerns were unfounded. Several of you spoke with me directly, and it seems many of us have had similar experiences.

Unsurprisingly, as we have grown older (and hopefully, wiser) we have come to the same conclusions about the silliness and hurtfulness of practices which needlessly divide us. We've discarded simplistic belief systems which demand answers and certainty rather than having faith and trusting in the LOVE of the one who created us. Your generosity of spirit is uplifting!

May the Holy Spirit continue to use and guide us as we attempt to follow Jesus.

- Sam Carter

# Hearing God's Call



Looking for a rewarding opportunity to volunteer your time and talents? We will have several vacancies this fall for Council positions. Please prayerfully consider whether you can give of yourself for this important work.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC



Join us at Holy Cross for a fun evening on the church lawn full of home-made ice cream, American music, and July 4th fireworks! The ice cream social will begin at 7:30 PM. Come to the church and make yourself a sundae while we visit and play games. (Bring a lawn game with you if you have a favorite!) Our Director of Music and Liturgy will perform a concert (outside on the lawn) consisting of American piano music starting at 8:00 PM.

Finally, the church lawn has a great view of the Town of Herndon Fireworks that will be set off at 9:30 PM. **Invite a friend/neighbor! All are welcome!**

## OUTREACH



### **Good News and Gratitude**

After more than a year of not seeing each other in person in church, we are back! That has made me realize that we never stopped being a church. That fact makes me want to start this article by simply saying, thank you! First to our staff, Pastor Martin, Jeremy, and Teresa, and all of you who have contributed to supporting LINK, Embry Rucker, Mobile Hope, and the schools. We received an abundance of food and other necessities. It's so easy to take for granted when you can afford them. Special thanks also to Ellen Atwell and the volunteer teachers who managed to keep our classes for English Language Learners going even when in-person classes were not possible. This generosity was a consistent light in what was often a very dark time for so many.

In other Outreach news, Joy Heuer has agreed to serve as a representative from Holy Cross on the Board of Directors of LINK. 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. Thanks to Joy, Holy Cross has returned to that list after many years of not having a representative on the Board. Thanks also to Rachel Williams for her continued work on the Executive Committee of The Closet of Herndon. Please give serious consideration to help both in their work by volunteering to support those organizations when asked.

Finally, the Noisy Offering held to support Safe Spot, Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax collected \$250.00 in change (with some folding money thrown in). If you want to learn more about the work they do, check their website, <https://www.safespotfairfax.org/services/childrens-advocacy-center/>.

And now that I've thanked you all for what you've done, watch the Weekly Updates and future Quests for opportunities to support our community! Your ideas and help are always appreciated.

Suzanne Flegal,  
Outreach Chair



*A faith-based volunteer-driven organization impacting lives through its nonprofit thrift shop.*

As a member congregation of The Closet, Holy Cross is responsible for providing volunteers to assist with the daily operations of The Closet. Whether helping customers on the sales floor, receiving donations, sorting and tagging donations, or putting priced donations out on the floor, volunteers are needed in all these jobs.

At this time, congregational volunteers are not assigned for specific days of service. Instead, volunteers are urged to use the recently simplified version of SignUpGenius. Accessible through The Closet's webpage, [theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/volunteer](http://theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/volunteer), SignUpGenius enables volunteers to commit to serve for specific blocks of time on specific days. Upon arrival at The Closet, volunteers will be assigned a job that they feel comfortable doing that needs to be done that day. Requests to work in a particular area will be honored, if possible.

When volunteering at The Closet, volunteers should sign in which will then allow Holy Cross to receive credit for your service that day. For staff and volunteers who are fully vaccinated, mask-wearing at The Closet is optional.

If you have questions about The Closet (volunteering, donating, requesting grants, etc.), please contact Rachel Williams via email, [carpwilliams@verizon.net](mailto:carpwilliams@verizon.net) or by phone, 703-307-8988.



**In-Person Fiber Arts Returns**  
**Tuesday, July 6 at 6:30 PM**



If you like to knit, crochet, rug hook, needlepoint, etc. please join us Tuesday, July 6 at 6:30 pm in room 202 (large classroom). If you are a beginner, we have members that would be able to help you with the various projects. If you have questions, please call Lynn Russo at 703-437-8507.

## Holy Cross' Quilting Group is Back!



HCLC's quilting group returns Saturday, July 17 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Our partner, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Mission Quilts will distribute the quilts to hospitals, orphanages, schools, and homes for the elderly. We invite you to join us. All are welcome to attend.

Bring your sewing machine if you have one. If not, no worries --sewing skills are not required. There are tasks for everyone on any level. The quilts will be a blessing to everyone that receives one.

Join us in classroom #202 **Saturday, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm:**

- July 17<sup>th</sup>
- August 21<sup>st</sup>
- September 18<sup>th</sup>
- October 16<sup>th</sup>

## English Language Learners (ELL) Classes



### Zooming with our Immigrant Students

We started our summer English classes June 9<sup>th</sup> and will continue teaching for 8 weeks until July 28<sup>th</sup>. So far, 12 students are attending. We usually have fewer students during the summer, and it looks like about the same as other years when we taught at church in our classrooms. Longer daylight hours keep our students working longer hours. They may also visit their home countries to see their families.

As a comparison, we had 47 registered students for our spring semester in 2020. We had 34 registered students for our spring semester in 2021. I'm sure giving our students donated computers helped tremendously and we are very grateful for the wonderful gift.

We like to review our previous lessons and mix them with something new during each summer session. Our students are as eager as ever to learn and speak English well. They enjoy learning grammar and vocabulary based on timely stories. They are also great participants in conversation based on the topic of the week.

In the Basic English class Chip's student, Elizabeth, told everyone about her son's graduation from elementary school. All the

students were happy to celebrate the good news with her. Many students have attended classes for a long time. Several have become friends; sometimes they are as close as family members with each other. They socialize and help each other when help is needed. Holy Cross' ELL classes are not just rewarding for the students, but also for our great team of teachers.

Congratulations Axel!



Elizabeth and her son Axel.

Ellen Atwell and the ELL Tam  
(Dayna, Chip, Suzanne, and Jeanne)

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.
2. Go to our website, [www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net](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*



## SYNOD AND CHURCH-WIDE NEWS

### STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2020-21



*Outlaw Ranch's Connecting Cultures at Camp program brought together longtime camp families with new camp families from Pueblo de Dios, an ELCA congregation in Sioux Falls, S.D.*



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

# CONNECTING CULTURES AT CAMP

When Matt Rusch, director of Outlaw Ranch, **first proposed a family camp connecting cultures**, he started from scratch. "We just jumped into this," he said. "[There was] no model. We [thought], 'We know God is in the mix, so somehow it will work out.'"

The idea was to make family camp look like the church in South Dakota, which is both multilingual and racially diverse, he said.

Outlaw Ranch partnered with Pueblo de Dios, a congregation in Sioux Falls, and invited Spanish-speaking families to join with English-speaking families for the camp's weeklong Connecting Cultures program. **Outlaw Ranch is a member of Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota, which receives funding from the ELCA South Dakota Synod made available because of Mission Support.**

In addition to enjoying faith-based programming, families in Connecting Cultures could hike, ride horses and take trips to nearby Mount Rushmore and travel to Custer High School for fireworks exhibitions. **That in itself was a blessing**, said Maria Cabello, pastor of Pueblo de Dios.

"[Our] people feel very happy and very joyful with Outlaw Ranch ... and [they] feel very happy with God. Hispanic people don't have a week vacation [often]," she said. "It [was] very exciting to renew our spirit and renew our souls at Outlaw Ranch."

Connecting Cultures also helped some gain confidence. **"Especially the kids," Cabello**

said. "[Some] speak only Spanish. They feel like a little fish in the ocean. But because others were speaking Spanish, they feel more included at camp."

Instead of being embarrassed to try to use the Spanish they learned in high school years earlier, English-speaking adults utilized bilingual counselors to converse freely with Latino families. And Spanish-speaking adults who had never gone camping learned the ropes from English-speaking veterans who'd been camping for decades.

**THE IDEA WAS TO MAKE FAMILY CAMP LOOK LIKE THE CHURCH IN SOUTH DAKOTA, WHICH IS BOTH MULTILINGUAL AND RACIALLY DIVERSE, RUSCH SAID.**

"Camp is a wonderful equalizer," Rusch said. "There's not one of the groups who's on unequal footing here, not anyone is not out of their element. ... We all study the same Bible; we worship the same God. We try to address those things instead of the differences at the beginning."

*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](http://ELCA.org/SOFIA).*



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