



HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE QUEST

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

**BACK TO SCHOOL**



**August 2021**



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Staff News</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Council News</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Youth</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Synod and Church-Wide News</b>	<b>20</b>

# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the September 2021 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Thursday, August 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

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
1090 Sterling Road  
Herndon, VA 20170  
703-437-1883

Find us online!

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



[www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon](https://www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon)



[@HolyCrossELCA](https://twitter.com/HolyCrossELCA)



[HolyCrossELCA](https://www.instagram.com/HolyCrossELCA)



[Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA](https://www.youtube.com/HolyCrossLutheranChurch)

## STAFF NEWS

# THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Jesus,

The past two months have been an exciting time as we have re-gathered for in-person worship. Thanks to all those who have worked to make that transition as easy as possible. From the Altar Guild returning to assist with the preparation for worship, to Sam and Bob who have worked on improving and moving our technical equipment to more of a permanent location (Sam, in particular has spent many, many hours at the church doing the installation of new wiring and other upgrades), to the others that find volunteers and serve to help make worship possible. It has felt like we were entering a period of normalcy once again.

The news regarding the recent rise in cases of the Delta Variant of the COVID 19 Virus, however, is now putting yet another uncertainty into our plans just as we begin to prepare to resume our typical programmatic schedule. It would be tempting to say that everything will be fine as we move forward, but it's important to maintain policies that protect as much of our congregation as possible. And so, like so much of the past year or so, we will need to

await what comes next and be attentive to how we faithfully and safely respond.

All this is beyond frustrating, to be certain, and none of us have experience or training in facing a pandemic that wants to creep back into our lives. What we can do is be as patient as we can, forgiving with one another as we have been forgiven, flexible as we are able, and trusting as grace gives us the ability in the guidance of the Holy Spirit and good reason.

We are a resilient people. The past months have shown that we are strong, capable, and generous. Whatever the next few months bring to us, we will, with Christ as our center, journey forth on paths yet untrodden, knowing that we are not alone and that our hope remains in the love that God has given to us all in Jesus.

In Service with You,

Pastor Martin

# A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY



***We need you in the Choir!!!*** Due to the transient nature of the Metro DC area, we have lost a number of choir members since I have been here. It is time to once again, fill the choir seats!!!

As the summer ends and the school year begins so do choir rehearsals. It is my goal to fill every seat in the choir area this year! In order to do that – ***We Need You in the Choir!!!***

We gather every Thursday from 7:00 – 8:00 PM (starting in September) and we sing at the 8:30 AM service on first/third Sundays and at the 11:00 AM service on second/fourth Sundays.

A lot of people think they can't sing or aren't good enough for the choir. If you can sing a hymn, you can join the choir! There are confident voices throughout the choir to sit next to and help you get acclimated.

So, you may be thinking, "What exactly is the role of the choir in worship?" or, "Why is the choir so important that you need *me* to be a part of it?" The following passage is taken from the ELCA's statement on the role of choirs in worship:

“Obviously, the choir has a variety of responsibilities. Their primary role is to support and enhance the congregation in song. As such, the choir becomes an important leader in worship, guiding the gathered assembly in prayer and praise through song.

Do our choirs need to be filled with professional singers? Absolutely not! Any choir can sing well, provided the music is appropriate to their skill level and they are well-trained and rehearsed. Music that is simple and well taught provides choirs with a means to get beyond the mechanics and give heartfelt expression to the text. This music, in turn, can provide the whole assembly with a means truly to encounter God in its worship.

The choir may be called upon to act as teacher, to help the assembly learn new hymnody and musical settings of the liturgy; if the congregation is to learn new music quickly and accurately, the people must have enthusiastic and competent leadership. Above all, the well-rehearsed choir will breathe life into the text as it sings with clear understanding and insight into the words and their meaning. The texts can shape the faith of those who worship.”

If you have any questions about the choir, please do not hesitate to pull me aside on a Sunday morning or give me a call at the office. You can always talk to any of the current choir members. They would love to have you as much as I would!

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to express your faith and offer your talents to HCLC.

In short - ***We Need You in the Choir!!!***

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



## COUNCIL

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

Holy Cross Family –

There is a temptation for those of us who've spent the majority of their adult lives in the business world to view things from that perspective. For example, when one is evaluating the credit worthiness of a company, a determination as to whether or not it is a "going concern" (i.e., will it be able to meet its financial obligations for the foreseeable future?) is of paramount importance. When we refinanced the Church's mortgage, the lender was persuaded that we would continue to be a good credit risk based on our record of financial responsibility as well as current giving; little did we know that we would be tested with a pandemic within a year! I'm happy to report that the PPP Loan/grant, your faithful giving, and some distasteful austerity measures saw us through the worst of the storm, and it appears that we are poised to develop a budget for next year that is more in line with what we've come to expect. Thank YOU for your faithfulness!

When it comes to churches, there is another dimension of being a "going concern." Is the church's demographic profile consistent with long term viability? We are facing challenges in this area. The cost of living in our area is such that people who were in their peak earning (and giving) years often retire and move away. Our church assessment efforts a few years back identified the need to attract and retain new members, and that is more important than ever if we are to be a viable church. Sure, long term financial viability is a

concern, but, frankly, that is irrelevant if we are not spiritually viable and alive! Too many have seen the way many who call themselves “Christian” do the opposite of following Jesus and, consequently, want no part of it. We have the opportunity to counter the messages of hate and bigotry with the actual “Good News!” It is so impressive to see the active involvement of our church in the community. I also believe that a truly welcoming and inclusive church which celebrates the diversity of ALL of God’s children in living the Gospel cannot help but grow both spiritually and in numbers, and I’m glad we’re on that path. Actions are a far more persuasive witness to the love of Christ than any haranguing sermon shouted from a street corner! It is so refreshing and fulfilling to see and live with the ‘love in action” being manifested by our members; thanks be to God!

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.

## OUTREACH



Hello Holy Cross!

I am new to the position of representing Holy Cross on the LINK board and will be providing updates to you on the activities where Holy Cross members can provide support to people in need of food in the Herndon-Sterling-Ashburn areas served by LINK. Did you know - although Holy Cross was a founding member of LINK, we had to be reinstated in May to the organization as we did not have a board member. I plan to keep you all informed of LINK's needs and ask your support not only through donations but also through volunteering. I will keep you informed of these volunteering opportunities and ask that you sign up! I am learning more about the needs and will use the Thursday e-Blast and Sunday Weekly Update to share this information.

The two volunteer positions below are needed each week to continue the basic mission of providing food to families in need. Please consider volunteering for one of these. If you are only available on specific days or weeks, let me know and I will seek out an opportunity that fits your schedule!

Here are current needs:

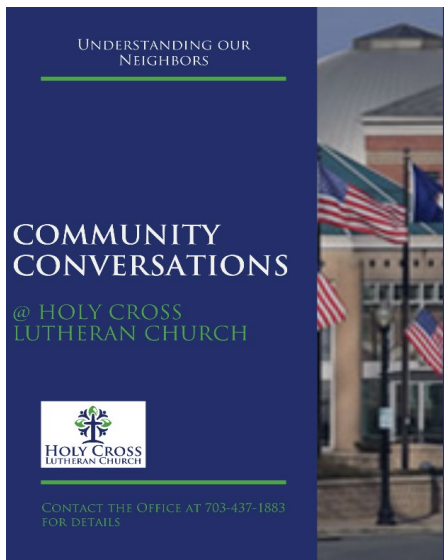
**Packing Volunteers** - pack food for outgoing home deliveries, both the afternoon/evening deliveries, and the morning of the deliveries. Time needed - two hours per packing session.

**LINK Delivery Volunteers** - deliver food to families in the Herndon, Sterling, and Ashburn area Tuesdays – Saturdays throughout the year. Time needed - 30 minutes to 1 1/2 hours.

Interested in these opportunities and others? Contact Joy Heuer, HCLC Representative to LINK, at [jheuer01@gmail.com](mailto:jheuer01@gmail.com) for more information. Thank you all for your prayers and support.

--Joy Heuer

## Coming Soon – Community Conversations!



When the Call Committee interviewed Pastor Martin in 2019, he shared his experience with a program he developed at Joy Lutheran Church. The program involved inviting people into the church to talk about community issues.

Holy Cross is building on that program to launch “Community Conversations – Understanding Our Neighbors”. The purpose of the Community Conversations program is to develop a deeper

understanding of our neighbors, with a focus on those who are frequently marginalized or misunderstood. We aspire to learn more about their journey, to openly discuss how they are marginalized or misunderstood, and work toward relationships that transcend our differences and celebrate God’s love for us all.

Holy Cross will host our first event on Tuesday, September 28th at 7pm. Our first Community Conversation will be with our Muslim neighbors. The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer period, then refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. The event will also be streamed for those who prefer to watch from home.

Potential future conversations will include: Understanding our Neighbors of Color; Understanding our Latinx Neighbors; Understanding our LGBTQ Neighbors; Understanding our Homeless & Hungry Neighbors; Understanding our Neighbors with Disabilities; Understanding our Neighbors with Mental Health or Addiction Challenges, and Understanding our Asian Neighbors.

Please mark your calendars for what promises to be a great event!

## Herndon Middle School Supplies – Grades 7 & 8



HCLC'S Outreach Ministry is collecting school supplies for Herndon Middle School. HMS will provide supplies to students who are unable to purchase supplies during the open house on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 3-5 pm. Students who can't make it to the open house, can pick up supplies on the first day of school, August 23<sup>rd</sup> in the main office.

Some of the supplies needed are:

- ✓ Headphones/earbuds with microphone (must be compatible with FCPS device)
- ✓ Binder with dividers
- ✓ Loose leaf paper
- ✓ Color pencils
- ✓ Composition books
- ✓ Spiral notebooks
- ✓ Folders
- ✓ Pencils
- ✓ Pens
- ✓ Highlighters
- ✓ Erasers
- ✓ Pencil sharpeners
- ✓ Rulers

If you would like to donate supplies, please bring your items to the church. They will be delivered to HMS. Thank you in advance for being a blessing to our neighborhood children.

## Holy Cross' Quilting Group is Back!



HCLC's quilting group will meet Saturday, August 21 from 11:00 am to 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 **Saturdays, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm:**

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



# Thank You from Safespot



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Denise Balzano  
Jim Burns  
Deborah Cochran  
Bryan Gibson  
Pat Harrison  
Kara Hourihan  
Bootsie Humenansky  
Annette Kerlin  
Michelle Kingsley  
Andy Klaff  
Lauren Kushin  
Michael Kushin  
Armen Manoogian  
Claudia Manoogian  
Ralph Masino  
Jacqui McVey  
Marge Odeen  
Phil Odeen  
Clishia Taylor  
Randall Turk  
Jamie Weber  
TJ Weber

## MANAGING DIRECTOR

Heather O'Malley

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michele Thames

July 1, 2021

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Attn: Suzanne Flegal, Community Outreach  
1090 Sterling Rd  
Herndon, VA 20170

Dear Suzanne,

On behalf of SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax, I want to thank you for your generous donation of **\$250** on **June 8, 2021**. Your donation demonstrates your commitment to improving the lives of children and families impacted by abuse, and we thank you!

As the only Children's Advocacy Center in Fairfax County, SafeSpot is crucial to ensuring there is a place where children who have been impacted by sexual abuse have a safe, therapeutic location to share their experience and begin the healing process. Each child and family served by SafeSpot receives trauma-focused, restorative services from a team of highly skilled practitioners, including a family advocate, forensic interview specialist, and mental health therapist. Beyond our walls, our team approach expands to include members of law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, and victim advocates, all coming together to ensure that each child and family we serve can benefit from a coordinated response that allows them to focus on what is most important: *healing*.

At SafeSpot, we are humbled and inspired by the power of giving. Thank you for helping us build a strong foundation from which we can support children and families!

With gratitude,

Heather O'Malley  
Managing Director

*Suzanne,  
We are so grateful  
for your generous  
support. If I can  
ever share more about  
our work, speak to  
your congregation  
or be an  
associate  
Please  
let me  
know!*

SafeSpot Children's Advocacy center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your donation is tax deductible up to the fullest extent allowed by law. EIN: 46-1358388



SafeSpotSafe  
Children



SafeSpot  
Fairfax



SafeSpot  
Fairfax

443-255-1364

# YOUTH

## College Care Packages



Back to school is just around the corner. HCLC's Youth Ministry would like to put care packages together for our college students. If you have a student that's heading to college, please send their name and address to the office email, [Admin@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net](mailto:Admin@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net), by Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. We also need helpers to assemble the packages. More information to come.

# 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. Bring your offering with you to worship service or 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.

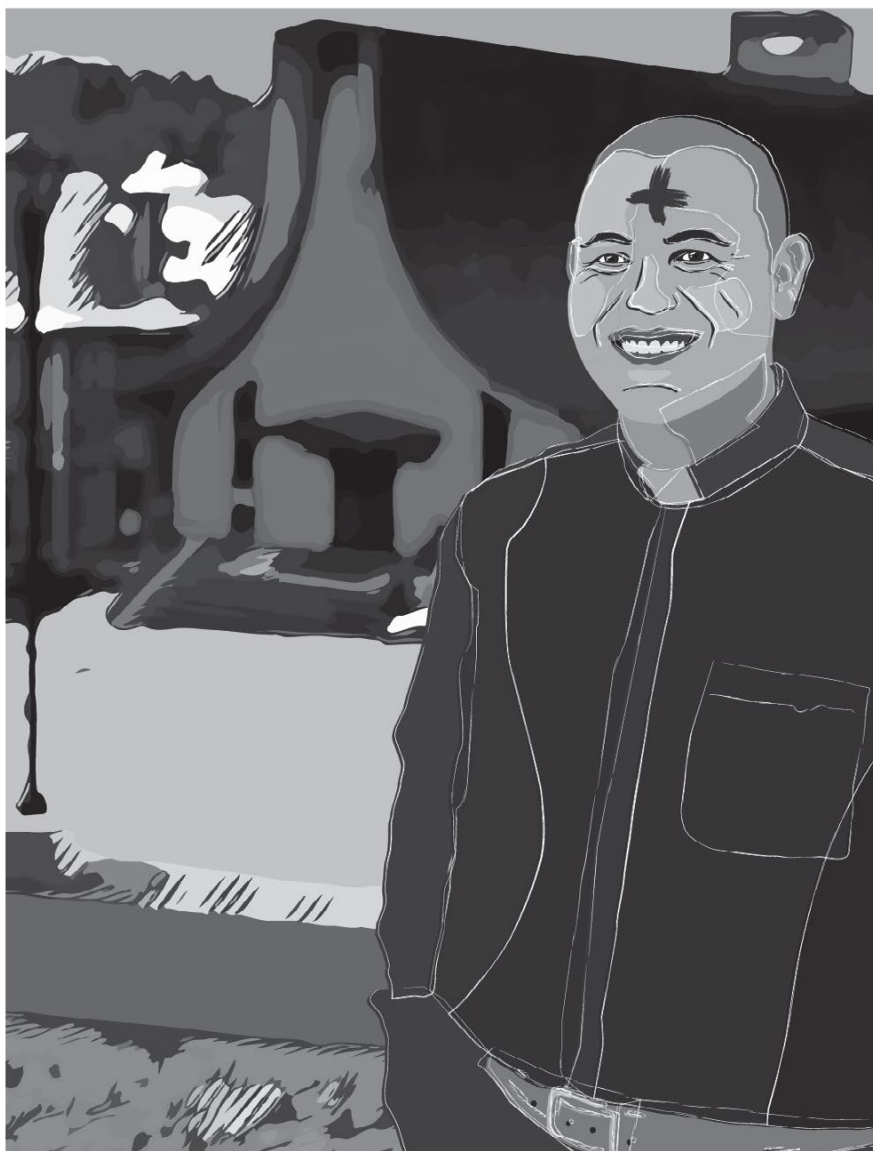
Together, we will ride out this storm. We are not afraid. We trust in God's grace and take peace and comfort in God's promise:

*"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



*Lutheran Campus Ministry at West Virginia University, Morgantown, Va., led by Tony Setley, campus pastor, offers students a spiritual home and space to explore vocation.*



# A SPIRITUAL HOME FOR FUTURE LEADERS

**Stuck in traffic at West Virginia University (WVU)**, when seemingly all of Morgantown's 28,000 students are trying to get to class, you'd **be hard-pressed not to notice the fire engine red Lutheran Campus Ministry Chapel** with its curved roof, just south of the main crosswalk.

"The building was very interesting; that was **probably my first impression**," sophomore Lilly Simmons said.

The architectural oddity might draw students for a brief chat with Tony Setley, campus pastor, but however they come, he said, "they are comfortable enough to ask questions, and that can always lead to something bigger."

**Graduate student Nathan Blake recalled his first visit.** "I was at a really rough place spiritually, and the time for normal Sunday services had already passed, and I was like, 'I need something, but I don't know what.' I remembered that 6 p.m. service time, and I wandered up the hill, snuck in the back [pew] and I just kept coming. It was exactly what I needed."

In and beyond worship, Setley encourages students to set the tone for campus ministry. Simmons said she's loved leading monthly social activities such as ax-throwing or miniature golf. The gatherings make a **difference**. "I can't overstate the importance of having a place where you can experience spirituality, but also having a group of people you can experience it with," Blake said.

In addition to serving as students' spiritual home, Lutheran Campus Ministry at WVU **plans this fall to offer a literal rent-free**

**THE ARCHITECTURAL ODDITY MIGHT DRAW STUDENTS FOR A BRIEF CHAT WITH TONY SETLEY, CAMPUS PASTOR, BUT HOWEVER THEY COME, HE SAID, "THEY ARE COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO ASK QUESTIONS, AND THAT CAN ALWAYS LEAD TO SOMETHING BIGGER."**

home for some people discerning calls to ministry. The student housing, called Luther House, is located behind the chapel in a building that was formerly the parsonage for St. Paul Lutheran Church of Morgantown. Luther House students will lead chapel and explore seminary through a partnership with Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. **Both the seminary and campus ministry are funded by Mission Support.**

"Hopefully out of that, students will have some **of the financial burden taken off**, but also to have that ability to discern and engage with their faith in a way that will give them more answers to the questions about what God is calling them to do in this world," Setley said.

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







1090 Sterling Road  
Herndon, VA 20170

