



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE QUEST

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



September 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Staff News	4
Council News	8
Christian Education	13
Outreach	14
Youth	25
Stewardship	27

JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the October 2021 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Monday, September 13.

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

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

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www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net



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Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

STAFF NEWS

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Jesus,

A recent article¹ I read used a term that describes what many of us may feel right now: “emotional whiplash.” Not that long ago we were, individually and collectively, seeing a light at the end of a long COVID tunnel, only to have our hopes dashed as the variants run rampant. According to the article, health care providers are noticing huge upticks in reports of depression and anxiety, particularly among the vaccinated whose hopes for going back to normal have been crushed by the new resurgences. As I wrote last month, it is more than discouraging. Last May, I assumed that at our August meeting, the Council would vote on whether we felt safe to take masks off in worship. Instead, we voted on an updated policy on mask wearing.

¹ https://www.npr.org/2021/08/12/1027198541/how-to-deal-with-renewed-covid-anxiety?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_content=20210814&fbclid=IwAR0T_t38z7HNHGq17yMfBRnuJak2hBdqIBm_iI6FVIw9Rhjx7j1FuaPB7_8M

As we continue to move forward, I would list three suggestions that may be helpful for our overall health, both as individuals and as a congregation. First, it is okay to recognize and admit our frustrations, grief, and anxiety. These are not indicators of weakness or lack of faith. They are natural, God-given human responses to a situation that is chaotic and over which we perceive that we have little control. After 17 months of altering every aspect of our lives only to see it all start over again, we are tired, and we are afraid. Recognizing that we are certainly not “back to normal” is a starting point in giving ourselves and one another a little latitude when our minds and hearts feel overwhelmed at times.

Second, it is important to be aware of how this general anxiety marks us and our decision making. As the article states, we have been hypervigilant for some time – in prime “fight or flight” mode. That is natural. Where it begins to get unhealthy is when our anxiety feeds into our perception and decision making, pushing them farther from what is real. In other words, we may be prone to overreact. We also may find ourselves less willing or able to listen to someone else’s point of view, straining relationships, and hampering healthy planning processes.

Third, maintaining a sense of deep hope helps protect us from despair and degeneration. Drawing on his own experience in the Nazi concentration camps, the great neurologist and psychiatrist, Viktor Frankl, made the concept of hope a key component of his teaching, writing, “Those who have a ‘why’ for living can bear with almost any ‘how.’”² We are Resurrection people, a people claimed, called, and being continually reformed in the promise of a Jesus who has overcome the power that seek to separate us from God’s love and care. Jesus is our center. Jesus is our hope. Especially as a

² *Man’s Search for Meaning*, by Viktor Frankl (1946)

community of faith, we will need to seek ever more diligently to center that hope in our lives to maintain our focus in the days and weeks ahead. We go forward in hope. We go forward in mission. We go forward in love.

In Work with You,

Pastor Martin

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY



Plans have been finalized for our upcoming Italy 2022 Herndon Ecumenical Choir (HEC) trip! We'd love for you to join us. We know the world needs a lot of healing right now and a concert tour in May of 2022 will surely soothe your soul! Remember that you don't need to sing in the choir to join our tour. We love to have extra non-singers join our tour!

Please check out our tour brochure at this [link](#).

(Don't worry about the payment schedule. A \$300 deposit is required with your registration. Payments can be made as you are able between now and February 2022.)

Please email [Jeremy Shoop](mailto:JeremyShoop@holycrosslutheranchurch.net), musicdir@holycrosslutheranchurch.net if you have questions or are interested.

Forward this information to anyone who may be interested!

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

COUNCIL



Holy Cross Lutheran Church Policy of Mask Wearing in the Time of COVID

*Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.
Let all that you do be done in love. – I Corinthians 16: 13-14*

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC) observes the mandates regarding indoor gatherings, including the wearing of masks, set forth by our local government officials (The Commonwealth of Virginia, and the County of Fairfax). For the sake of further caution and safety and with love and compassion for our neighbors, we may also implement stricter policies for HCLC gatherings.

As of August 16, 2021, the following policies have been established by the Congregational Council of HCLC:

1. At all HCLC sponsored gatherings that are held indoor open to the public – worship, fellowship events, etc. - masks are required for all participants. The exception for worship being that the worship leaders may unmask only while they are in

the Chancel area since they are a safe distance away from the rest of the congregation.

2. Smaller HCLC meetings, such as committees, and other small gatherings (that are thereby not generally considered open to the overall public), may meet unmasked provided that all participants are vaccinated and agree to meet without masks. If one member is uncomfortable with being unmasked, all must be masked.
3. HCLC rents our facility to other groups that meet on a regular basis. Our agreement with them is that they abide by county and state mandates. Currently, they are free to gather within those mandates without masks.
4. If a rental group and a HCLC group happen to be in the building at the same time, masks should be worn in passing and physical distancing should be maintained.
5. This policy will be updated, changed, or dismissed as circumstances warrant.

New Welcome Statement Meeting September 14th



Back in June, we debuted the draft of a new welcome statement for Holy Cross Lutheran that is intentional in our affirmation of all our siblings in God including all expressions of race, relational status, sexual orientation, economic status, and gender. At that time, we also stated that the summer would be a time for people to think through their opinion and that in the fall, we would have a “town hall” style meeting to listen, ask questions, and raise any concerns.

The time for that meeting is **Tuesday, September 14 at 7:00 pm.** This will be a hybrid type meeting with masked people welcome to gather in the sanctuary and a Zoom link for others who would prefer to join from home. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor at pastormartin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net.

A Statement of Welcome

Holy Cross Lutheran Church joyfully affirms and celebrates that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all who are seeking God’s boundless love and sustaining grace into full community with us at Holy Cross. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down barriers and systems that

divide God's children and to building a community where all are recognized as part of Christ's new creation.

In that light:

We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or heritage;

Whatever your relationship status;

We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;

Whatever your socio-economic status;

We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your age and life circumstance;

Whatever your physical and mental ability.

You are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and you are welcome here.

HCLC Volunteer Opportunities



Looking for a rewarding opportunity to volunteer your time and talent? We have quite a few Council position vacancies to fill for the 2022 Council! The 2021 Nominating Team ([Pastor Martin](#), [Michael Faulkner](#), [Kate Flegal](#), [Deb Reilly](#), [Jo Roe](#), & [Hope Russell](#)), is seeking your help to fill these important positions in the church. The Nominating Committee hopes to have candidates identified for each position by the end of September. Elections will take place during the Annual Meeting in November.

Positions coming open for 2022 include:

- ✓ Treasurer (Executive Team) - [Bob Thompson](#)
- ✓ Christian Education - [Betty Skelton](#)
- ✓ Community Outreach - [Suzanne Flegal](#)
- ✓ Evangelism - [Roy Geiger](#)
- ✓ Fellowship - [Pam Darby](#)
- ✓ Property - Vacant
- ✓ Worship & Music - [Kathy Makowski](#)
- ✓ Youth - [Daniel Contreras](#)

Full descriptions of the roles can be found on [our website](#). Feel free to contact any member of the Nominating Committee or the incumbent for more information or to express interest in a role. Please prayerfully consider whether you can give of yourself for this important work!

[Deb Reilly](#) (202) 359-7450

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



This fall we will be offering Confirmation instruction. Confirmation is typically a two-year program of spiritual and faith development offered to Middle School members (7th and 8th grade, especially) that offers a deeper exploration into the basics of our Christian faith and our Lutheran heritage, expression, and worship. The first year introduces the learners to the Bible and highlights the key stories of God and God's people, especially the central saving event of Jesus Christ and his reconciling work for us all. Year two highlights the story of Martin Luther, a 16th century Augustinian monk who struggled to find peace with God. The story of his encounter with God's grace and unconditional love and the subsequent Reformation it began, is deeply woven into our theology and practice today. During this second year, we will use Luther's Small Catechism and his teachings on the basics of Christian faith.

If you have a young person who is ready for the journey of Confirmation instruction, please let Pastor Martin know. Details as to how we meet (virtual, in-person, or both) and when we meet will be worked out later.

OUTREACH

Community Conversations Understanding our Muslim Neighbors

Holy Cross is launching a new program called “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 7 PM. Our first Community Conversation will be with our Muslim

neighbors. We are honored to welcome Ms.

Hurunnessa Fariad, head of Outreach at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS Center).

Ms. Fariad serves as the Director of Outreach for Multi-Faith Neighbor’s Network. Ms. Fariad is the Secretary of the Board of Directors at Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Leadership Circle for One America

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

UNDERSTANDING OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS

TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28TH
7PM



HURUNNESSA FARIAD IS HEAD OF OUTREACH AT THE ALL DULLES AREA MUSLIM SOCIETY (ADAMS CENTER). MS. FARIAD IS ALSO THE DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH FOR MULTI-FAITH NEIGHBOR’S NETWORK. JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION CENTERED AROUND SHAME, STIGMA, RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES AND HOW OUR FAITHS ADDRESS THESE TOPICS.



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1090 STERLING RD, HERNDON

Movement, Member of the Fairfax County Faith and Equity Committee, and involved with many other faith-based organizations. She is also the founder & Music Director of America's first Mosque Youth Choir, The ADAMS BEAT Choir. Ms. Fariad is the founder and co-host of the Sister Act Podcast along with co-hosts Dr. Sabrina Dent and Rabbi Susan Shankman.

In our first conversation, we will explore common myths & stereotypes about Muslims. We will talk about injustice and bigotry they experience. And we will talk about stigma, rights, and social justice issues and how our faiths address these topics.

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.

We hope you will attend and invite your friends!

Haiti Earthquake Relief



The nation of Haiti was struck by a devastating 7.2 earthquake on August 7. Destruction is widespread in a nation that has not fully recovered from a similar earthquake in 2010. As of this writing, the death toll in Haiti is over 1,900 people and expected to climb much higher.

How can we help? Lutheran World Relief is an agency of the ELCA that has already been working in and among the people of Haiti for decades. They have been helping since the quake first struck. Since LWR's overhead costs are paid through the portion of your Tithes and Offerings that go to the ELCA, very close to 100 percent of what you give to this special appeal gets used to help real people in need.

Please pray for the people of Haiti and please help us respond immediately. DONATE: <http://ow.ly/WthX50FR6ei>.



(<https://www.lirs.org> and <https://lirsconnect.org>)

For over 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. Our history reflects American Lutherans' deep immigrant roots and passionate commitment to welcoming newcomers, especially those who are most in need.

Through the [Long Welcome](#), we help ensure that refugees and migrants are protected, embraced, and empowered in a world of just and welcoming communities.

We are calling for volunteers to support incoming Afghan Allies, Special Immigrant Visa holders, who are being evacuated to the United States. Afghan Allies are mostly arriving in a few specific regions; however, we want to be ready to welcome these families wherever they go!

When our Afghan allies and their families arrive as "walk-ins," they often have **no money, nowhere to stay, and nothing to eat**. Unfortunately, there is typically a 5–7-day gap between the families' arrivals and the services they are eligible to receive

through the United States resettlement program.

This is where you can help. Your gift to **Neighbors in Need: Afghan Allies** will provide food, housing assistance, clothing, and other basic needs for our Afghan friends as they await the official services available to them.

A Prayer of Christian Faith

Lord Jesus,

We know that you bless people with the gifts of life, family, and relationship.

Afghan allies that stood with the American military and their families are in danger. As America withdraws its troops from Afghanistan, the commitment we made to protect these allies and their families is being tested.

We are grateful for the safe return of our active military members, grateful for the service of all veterans of our country, and honor the memories of those who gave their lives to protect America's freedom.

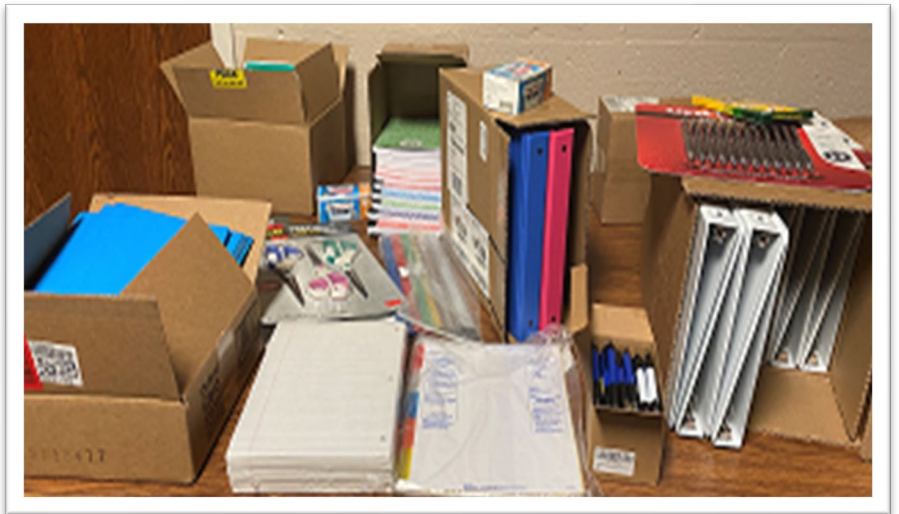
Lord, strengthen our country to be a faithful friend to the Afghan families that are in need of protection. Lord Jesus, these allies placed their lives and the lives of their families in danger because they believed in the American mission.

May we honor our commitment and aid their safe passage. May we seek peace as the mission for our families and communities. May we live as faithful friends in the world.

Amen.

Herndon Middle School Supplies

Thank you once again for your generosity in supporting our community. These pictures are just a small sample of the contributions we were able to deliver to the school.



Back to School



School days are almost here! Whatever you need for back-to-school, The Closet should be your first place to shop. Our great selection and our low prices make us a great choice for whatever you need. You may be looking for linens and lamps for your college student; clothes, shoes, or backpacks for your teen, pre-teen, and youngster; or specialty items such as flashcards and books. Come to The Closet to check out our wide selection and low prices.

The Closet Gives Back to the Community



The Closet is pleased to have recently provided grants to the following non-profit organizations. Remember, when you shop, donate, or volunteer at The Closet, you are helping these organizations (and others) as they support our local community. Please click on these organizations' logos to go to their websites and learn more about the work they do to improve the lives of local community members.

- All Ages Read Together - www.allagesreadtogether.org
- Britepaths – www.britepaths.org
- Cindy's Legacy - www.cindyslegacy.org
- Computer Core - www.computercore.org
- Family PASS – www.familypassfairfax.org
- Herndon-Reston Fish, Inc - www.herndonrestonfish.org
- Insight Memory Care Center - www.insightmcc.org
- Just Neighbors - www.justneighbors.org
- Literacy Council of Northern Virginia – www.lcnv.org
- Vecinos Unidos – www.vecinosunidos.org

Holy Cross' Saturday Quilting



HCLC's quilting group will meet the third Saturday of the next two months 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:**

- September 18th
- October 16th

English Language Learners (ELL) Classes via Zoom



We have completed our online summer semester. The summer semester was June 9 - July 28. We teach three classes: Beginners, Basics, and Intermediate English via Zoom, three times a year. Our 2020 fall semester was September 15 - December 16, and our 2021 winter semester was January 13 - April 28.

Every teacher now has virtual teaching experience. We always strive to make our classes interesting and keep the students engaged. During the spring and summer semesters our intermediate English class learned about endangered animals, which teaches students the English names of many animals and their environments. They also learned about the birth of the new panda bear at the National Zoo, and watching the baby panda in YouTube clips.

Students enjoyed learning about the emerging 17-year-old cicadas earlier this spring. This was a brand-new species for them, which generated a lot of questions. We had excellent student participation with our agree/disagree lessons. Students liked it so much that we continued with this lesson with multiple classes. Most importantly, they learned how to stop a discussion if it became uncomfortable and how to diplomatically ask for further explanations to understand a person's opinions. They shared their different experiences on the subject of 'happy/unhappy renters'. The

students were very interested in phrasal verbs. We plan to teach more of them during the upcoming fall semester.

Many times, we do not get to finish planned lessons because questions lead us into different areas and subjects. The teachers enjoy those types of discussions and try to answer all questions, or we'll research it and continue the topic in the next class. The students provided several suggestions when asked what they needed to help them speak and understand English better. We try to help them as much as possible even when topics like problems with internet connections come up that are not part of the curriculum.

We would love to return to in-person instructions, but during our teacher's meeting we have decided to wait awhile longer due to the Delta variant spreading rapidly. We look forward to our fall semester which starts Wednesday, September 15, 2021.

A very special thank you to our teachers for always being ready to teach each week. Dayna, Chip, Suzanne, and Jeanne, you are essential to our successful ELL program, and we appreciate you very much!

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

YOUTH



Logan Esposito Earns God and Church Lutheran Award

On Sunday, July 29, 2021, Boy Scout Logan Esposito received his God and Church Lutheran religious award from Holy Cross. Anne Geiger was his counselor and Pastor Martin administered the final exam. Logan is member of Troop 1970 in Herndon.

This is Logan's third religious award received through Holy Cross. Starting over six years ago, he earned the God and Me and God and Family Lutheran religious awards as a Cub Scout. The God and Church religious award is earned by middle school Boy Scouts.

At the beginning of this exciting journey, Logan stated that he wanted to earn all four of the awards the last of which is God and Country, the award for high school Boy Scouts. He is now $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way along and there is no doubt that he will meet this very worthy goal.

Congratulations, Logan!

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, by Monday, September 20th. 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. There are three ways to give when you're unable to attend in-person.



1. Bring your offering with you to worship service or 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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Herndon, VA 20170

