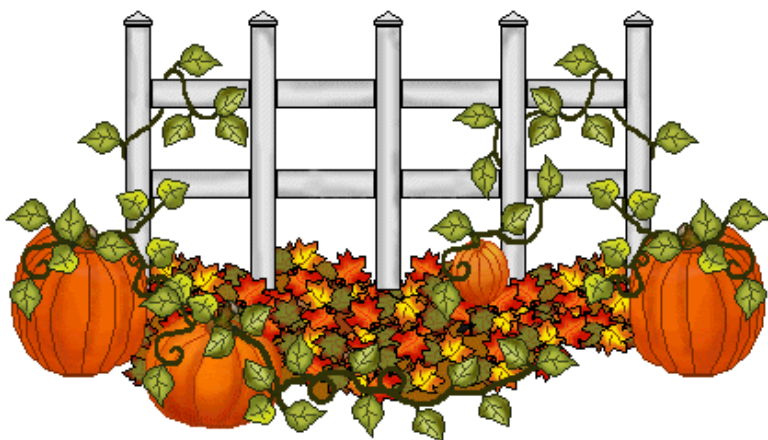




HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE QUEST

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



October 2021

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# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the November 2021 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Tuesday, October 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



HolyCrossELCA



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

# THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

## **A Community of Intentional Welcome**

Not too long ago, I happened to attend worship at another ELCA congregation. After worship, as we began to empty out of the sanctuary, I noticed some of the members of the congregation speaking to two other people. They were visitors that day and appeared to me to be a mother and her teen-aged daughter. While I wasn't able to catch all of their conversation, I was able to hear this statement from the mother: "When we saw the rainbow flag, we said, 'This looks like a place that would be safe for us.'"

It was June, Pride month, and the congregation had hung a home-made Pride flag on their fence nearest the street in support of their LGBTQ neighbors. But for these two people, that was signal enough that this would be a congregation where they would be safe that day.

Since then, I have wondered a lot about the back story of those two visitors and what brought them to that particular congregation on that Sunday, but I've come to the conclusion that no matter

their situation, they were two of my siblings in Christ looking for refuge, grace, and sanctuary in the face of an overall religious context that is often just the opposite. On that day, because of that congregation's intentional sign of welcome, they found a safe place where they knew they were welcomed and embraced.

This example helps to illustrate why I feel that we at Holy Cross should move forward with an intentional welcome to our LGBTQ siblings:

To be intentionally welcoming and affirming, and to be sensitive to the fear and caution many LGBTQ people and their families have regarding entering a church building.

As a congregation, we have been examining a proposed welcome statement, one that intentionally welcomes all people, particularly those who have all too often found that congregations' "all are welcome" does not, in fact, include them.

Adopting such a welcome statement would also allow us to apply to be a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, something that I think we should pursue. "Reconciling in Christ" is a designation that indicates that a congregation is *intentionally* welcoming and affirming to people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, or Queer (LGBTQ) as well as being committed to engaging in education and dialogue that furthers racial understanding.

Being an RIC congregation allows them to be put on a searchable database, so that people seeking a church can see which Lutheran congregations in their area have gone through the process of being designated "Reconciling in Christ." It helps many to know that this is a *safe* place for them. It also allows LGBTQ allies to find congregations that share their intentional values of welcome and safety. Furthermore, it says to us as a congregation and to our local

community, as a whole, that we are a faith community that is seeking to end racial discrimination.

There is a *justice* element to this move, in that it speaks intentionally to ourselves, and to our wider community that we believe Jesus' love embraces and affirms all people, that all forms of discrimination are not part of who we are at HCLC, and that we are ready to act on that. There is also a strong *evangelistic* element aspect, proclaiming to ourselves and our neighbors (many of whom have given up on church and organized religion) that we are a community of faith that values all people and that we are serious about being intentional in that welcome. Sociologists and other people who study contemporary culture inform us that especially among people born after 1981, church is often seen as overly restrictive, judgmental, homophobic, and indifferent to creation. They are often turned off from church before they even come in. So, they don't. They've moved on.

Being a church that is designated Reconciling in Christ signals that we are different from the congregations that many people have experienced. It is a sign that they are safe. Like the mother and daughter I saw in June, many people would love to connect with a congregation that shares their values and openly affirms all people in love.

As we move to adopt the welcome statement at our annual meeting in November, I would urge us to vote to move forward in being officially designated a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

As always, it is my honor to serve with and among you.

In Christ,

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:Jeremy.Shoop@holycrosslutheranchurch.net), [musicdir@holycrosslutheranchurch.net](mailto: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 NEWS

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

### **10 Minutes of Your Time**

With all of the demands on our time, most of us are afraid to volunteer for anything that will increase our commitments. Based on lifetimes of experiences, we fear the potential the old adage of “give them an inch, and they’ll take a mile” will apply whenever we volunteer and are reluctant to come forward. This fear is reinforced when we see the several church members who seem to be working non-stop at the church; however, that does not need to be the case.

If you come forward to volunteer, you should not feel badly about placing limits on the time you can make available. In 10 minutes, you can turn on and zoom the livestreaming cameras before the 8:30 service so that Jeremy doesn’t have that distraction as he prepares for worship. In 10 minutes, you can assist “vertically challenged” members of the Altar Guild with the changing of the colors after the last service on those Sundays when there is a color change scheduled for the upcoming week. In 10 minutes, you can replace a burned-out light. In 10 minutes, you can assist those who are setting out or cleaning up refreshments. Frankly, there are many “10-minute jobs” around the church.



If you are willing to expand that time to an average of an hour a week, you could serve on Council or a committee or assist with technical needs (we will train you!). Please come forward with the gift of your time; you might just find that you enjoy getting to know your fellow members on a deeper level and gaining new skills. We will gladly take any small increment of time you can give and promise not to pressure you for more!

Thank you to all who are already giving so much of themselves and their resources to Holy Cross! Because of you, we are able to make a difference by sharing the Good News of Jesus by our actions. I'm excited about turning the words our new welcoming statement into action, and I ask the Lord to help and guide us. May the Holy Spirit continue to be with us as we attempt to follow Jesus.

- Sam Carter



**Sunday, November 14, 2021**  
**Following the 11:00 AM Service**

## 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 Flegel](#), [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 Flegel](#)
- ✓ 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



**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.

## WORSHIP



With the concerns so many of us have regarding the resurgence in COVID infections, we are committed to maintaining Drive-Up Communion for as long as people need it. Now that we have gone back to two services again, we do need to make some changes to the format.

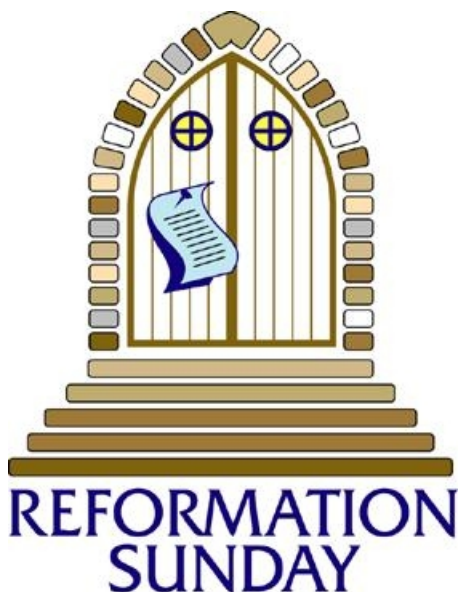
We will continue to offer Drive-thru Communion on the first and third Sundays of each month, but we are moving the time to **12:30 pm**. Instead of having a large span of time, we invite all who wish to commune in this way to gather at 12:30, so we can communion all at once. As always, if you have questions, please email [PastorMartin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net](mailto:PastorMartin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net) or call 907-223-0519.

Thank you!



**October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1 PM**

Save the date on your pet's calendar! We will have a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:00 pm at the entryway to the church. Bring your furry, fuzzy and feathered friends for a simple service of blessing!



**October 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**8:30 & 11:00 AM**

Join us for worship on October 31<sup>st</sup> for a celebration of the Reformation started by Martin Luther in 1517 and continued by us today. **Wear red for this festival service!**

**November 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30 & 11:00 AM**

As we celebrate the saints who have gone before us, we look to how we can stand on their faith and continue reforming God's church. During worship this morning we will have a special time of prayer where names of loved ones who have passed will be read and remembered.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Kids Outdoor **Halloween** and **Reformation** Event!



Calling all kids for a fun outdoor gathering to celebrate **Halloween** and **The Reformation**!

We will 'gather' **outside on Sunday, October 31 at 10 am**—with everyone wearing masks. Here's what we will do:

- ✚ Watch a Lego video about the **REFORMATION**
- ✚ Discover that Halloween began as a religious holiday (*Do kids know Halloween began as a religious holiday?*)
- ✚ Watch (*maybe individually and distantly participate in*) Halloween-themed science experiments, including:
  1. Exploding Pumpkin
  2. BOO Bubbles  
(*Kids can handle with gloves when made*)
- ✚ Play games while safely distanced
- ✚ Take home healthy BOO treat bags

**Costumes Encouraged but Not Required!**



## EVANGELISM

***Volunteers are needed for these upcoming fall events. . .***

Please mark your calendars and save the dates to help Holy Cross successfully participate in some exciting upcoming events!

- **SterlingFest 2021 Saturday, October 9** – An all-day **Holy Cross exhibit is planned!** Join us and help tell fest-goers about Holy Cross!



- **Herndon Homecoming Parade Saturday, October 16** – This year's theme Herndon Goes Hollywood! The parade begins at 9:30 am. We plan a repeat appearance of our **Hospitality Table!** We're not yet sure if we will field a parade "walking unit". Come join us for the fun for either or BOTH opportunities!



- **Ushers Needed** – With our recent return to 8:30 am *AND* 11 am services, we need volunteers willing to serve as **ushers**. Never ushered before? No problem! You'll be linked with a seasoned veteran on our ushering team and trained as you go. A commitment of just one service per month would be a great help.

Stay tuned for more details coming your way. **If interested in volunteering**, please email [Roy Geiger](mailto:Roy.Geiger@verizon.net) ([gei2@verizon.net](mailto:gei2@verizon.net)) or call 703-401-3934.

**Thanks!**

Roy Geiger and the Evangelism Team

## OUTREACH



This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cornerstones, originally known as Reston Interfaith. Holy Cross has been supporting them for a lot of those years. We have contributed to Back to School and other drives and regularly support the Embury Rucker Shelter with monthly food collection and providing and serving lunch on the second Saturday of even numbered months. Barbara Gouldey coordinates these and sends out Perfect Potluck invitations so you can sign up to participate. It is a powerful way to support our neighbors as Christ instructed us.

Here is more information about Cornerstones from their website. If you would like to be involved with helping to carry out their mission, check the many volunteer opportunities.  
<https://www.cornerstonesva.org>

### **Who We Are and What We Do?**

For nearly 50 years, Cornerstones has been helping neighbors in need overcome tough economic times in an already high cost-of-living region. The service area of Cornerstones has grown to include most of northwestern Fairfax County. Each of us can become a Cornerstone and continue our history of helping people build more stable lives by connecting them to vital resources that solve their needs for housing, childcare, food, or financial assistance.

## **Our Mission and Vision**

Cornerstones is a nonprofit organization that promotes self-sufficiency by providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services.

We envision a community that values all people and shares resources and services to empower those in need to make positive life changes.

## **Holy Cross' Saturday Quilting**

Our last quilting session for the year is just around the corner, Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to join us. Our partner, Lutheran



World Relief (LWR) Mission Quilts will distribute the quilts we make to hospitals, orphanages, schools, and homes for the elderly.

All are welcome! 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 **Sat., Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>**, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

## English Language Learners (ELL) Classes via Zoom



Our 2021 fall semester started September 15<sup>th</sup> and will continue until December 8<sup>th</sup>. We decided to continue teaching online via Zoom. Unfortunately, we cannot trust that every student is vaccinated. Our teachers would love to teach in our classrooms again, but it's too risky with the Delta variant.

We have a few new students in class. I offered English classes to a couple of lifeguards at my pool who are from Columbia. They are very eager to speak and read better English. We also have three new students from El Salvador, two of whom are cousins of one of our students in our Basic class. We looked forward to seeing most of our students return to class. They are hardworking and very determined to learn and understand English and are always interested to learn more about our customs so they can assimilate in to our culture.

We taught a total of 34 students during our 2021 spring semester. There are always fewer students during the summer and this year was no exception with only 20 students. Students typically, work longer hours due to extended daylight hours. Some like to take breaks from class, while others visit their families in their home countries.

Thank you for your continued support of our ELL program and our immigrant communities.

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

# YOUTH

## Student Care Packages



We are still accepting donations for 15-20 care packages, please browse the list below for suggestions. The items can be dropped off in the church Narthex on the designated table.

- Pens
- Pencils
- Post it notes
- Index cards
- Gum
- Candy/Twizzlers
- Nuts
- Granola bars
- Individual soup packets
- Individually packaged snacks such as fruit
- Individual coffee/tea/hot chocolate drinks to mix
- Small bags of chips, etc.

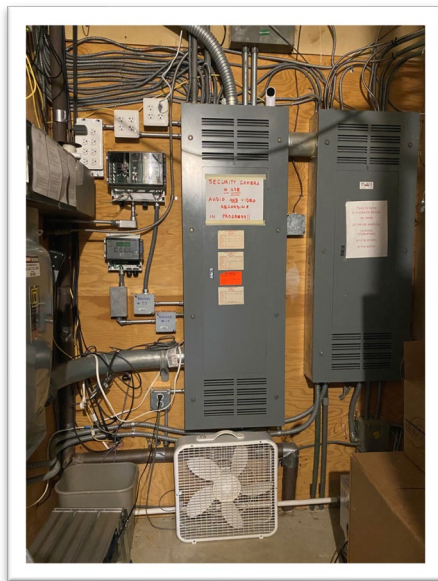
Helpers are needed to assemble the packages. If you are able to help or have questions, please contact [Daniel Contreras](#).

## FACILITIES

### **Steeple Bell Repairs/New Equipment Installation Completed!**



**Wiring Closet-Before**



**Wiring Closet-After**

As you know, the system controlling the steeple bells and the striking mechanism reached their end of life and became non-functional while we were dealing with all of the challenges (financial and otherwise) facing us as the reality of COVID became clear. In April, Verdin Company offered us a substantial discount on the repairs and required new equipment. Even though the steeple bells have been a special part of our life here at Holy Cross for many years, there simply wasn't money in the budget to cover this expense. We decided to hold a special appeal to raise the funds to take advantage of the offer. Once again, members of Holy Cross came through, and we were able to place the order as summer began.

Delays in manufacturing moved the delivery out into August, and we were informed that their technician wouldn't be able to make it to Holy Cross until well into September. We verified the necessary electrical circuits were in place, and, after some back and forth, we were assured the installation would take place in time for our special September 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Service.

Late in the morning on the Tuesday after Labor Day, we were informed that the Verdin technician would only handle the replacement of the striker and interconnection of Verdin controls; physical installation of the Verdin Bell Controller and Controller interface units and all 120V and 208V electrical connections were the responsibility of Holy Cross and must be completed prior to the arrival of the technician. They apologized for not telling us of these requirements and asked if we needed to reschedule our Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> appointment. After some phone calls with their technical department, we assured them we'd have things in place before Thursday, since it was their only available date before September 11<sup>th</sup>. After lots of work and a few trips to Dulles Electric on Tuesday and Wednesday, the Verdin equipment was physically installed and hardwired into our electrical panel.

On Thursday, we worked with the Verdin technician to complete the installation, including a remote capability. Thursday afternoon saw us annoying our neighbors testing the range of the remote; we completed the installation and set up the livestreaming equipment in time for it all to be tested Thursday evening!



## STEWARDSHIP



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 at 8:30 or 11 or communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 12:30 pm.
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 free **Vanco Mobile** app. Once it's downloaded, you can use our Invite code, **24A7NT** to ensure you are linked to the correct church, and login with your current Vanco credentials (whether from the GivePlus app or our website's Donation page. If you do not have an account, you will be prompted to set one up.

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*

## ELCA SYNOD NEWS



Little did they know that they would become the ELCA's longest-serving active mission personnel, with 38 years of service.



# "A Life of Accompaniment"

Service and Justice

In 1982, a month after their wedding, Mark and Linda Jacobson moved to Kenya. Three years later they accepted a call with the Lutheran Church in America, a predecessor church of the ELCA, to serve as community health workers with the Arusha Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). Little did they know that they would become the ELCA's longest-serving active mission personnel, with 38 years of service.

"Mark and Linda Jacobson are the embodiment of a faithful servant of Christ," said Rafael Malpica Padilla, ELCA executive director for Service and Justice. "Their whole life has been a life of accompaniment." *Mission Support, which funds ELCA mission personnel, makes the Jacobsons' work possible.*

In the beginning, Mark, a doctor, supported Maasai community health workers in six small primary-care clinics. He quickly concluded that "prevention could only prevent a certain amount of disease; people still needed a place to go when they were acutely ill." So, with the ELCT, he developed one of the clinics into Selian Lutheran Hospital, which now provides care in **orthopedics, fistula, hospice and other areas.**

Then he and his team opened the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre, creating training programs for medical officers and nurses and opening a rehabilitation center for children recovering from surgery. Mark said he's proud of the work he and his colleagues have done together and loves seeing his colleagues' skillful leadership of the medical center since he stepped down from his leadership role there.

**After working briefly in one of the clinics** and then in hospital labs, Linda focused on **coordinating volunteers, offering hospitality** and arranging housing for visiting medical students and interns. But her most substantial accomplishment may be the support group Widow's Might, launched to counter Tanzania's practice of disinheriting widows. When a Tanzanian woman's husband dies, their property goes not to her but to her in-laws. Not every widow's in-laws claim the inheritance, but Evelyn (last name withheld) and her children stood to lose their house. **"I'm not going to fight my family,"** Linda remembers her saying. "I'm just going to work. God will help me." Together, Evelyn and Linda launched Widow's Might, whose members support their families by weaving, sewing, embroidering and beading.

"I'm not going to fight my family, I'm just going to work. God will help me."

Remembering her life in Tanzania, Linda is most struck by her neighbors' faith. "If things get really bad [here], we pray," she said. "My neighbors start by asking us what God wants to do. ... [] am learning from this tremendous faith."



To learn more about the Jacobsons, visit [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA) for a link to the video documentary *Kuambatana (Accompaniment): The Ministry of Mark and Linda Jacobson*.



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



1090 Sterling Road  
Herndon, VA 20170

