



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE QUEST

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



November 2021

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*


The deadline for inclusion in the December 2021 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Friday, November 12.

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

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

Thank you,
Teresa Easterly
Church Administrator

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Herndon, VA 20170
703-437-1883

Find us online!
www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net
 www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon



STAFF NEWS

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

A Season of Thanksgiving

In November, we traditionally spend time being intentionally thankful, a pause and a celebration to remind us of the blessings we receive every day. While I enjoy Thanksgiving, I also know it helps me to have such reminders, both big and small, throughout the year. It may be the spontaneous smile of a baby at the grocery store, the fall sky as it is framed by the brilliant displays of trees in their autumnal glory, or a long and delightful phone conversation with a family member who is far away.

It is all too easy to walk through life looking down and looking inside, focusing on the problems I have rattling around in my mind or my heart, nursing the regrets or resentments I carry, or dwelling on all that I don't have. We all get to those places. During these times, perhaps *especially* during these times, I find the grace of God comes to wake me up in wild and unexpected ways -- sometimes subtle, sometimes profound -- calling me to look up and look past myself to the multitude of gifts with which I have been so richly blessed.

When describing why it is important to be regular in our worship, Martin Luther focused not on our obligation or duty to God (guilt), but on the gifts that await the believer there (blessing). We forget, Luther teaches, that God loves and saves us unconditionally. We hear it one Sunday and then go out into a world that is full of the din and rattle of messages and experiences that work to tell us that isn't so, that we are not beloved and that we are only as good as what we produce. Each Sabbath, we are invited to hear again the eternal love story God has with us and to rejoice.



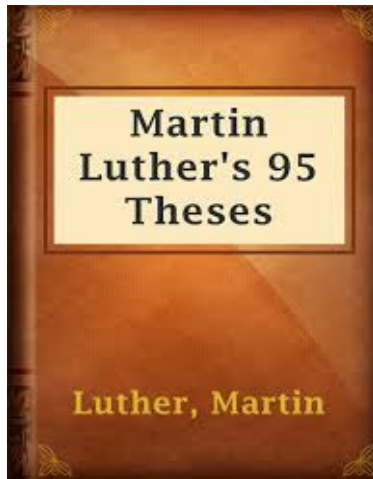
In closing, allow me to tell you how thankful I am to be you pastor and to be so embraced within this community. Your unexpected outpouring of cards and gifts for last month's "Pastor Appreciation Sunday" was one of those holy God-

moments that serve to remind me how truly blessed I am. Thank you.

I pray that each of us has a wonderful Thanksgiving and that the joy of that time spreads to the rest of the year as we journey together thankfully in Jesus' name.

Pastor Martin

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY



As I write this article, we are about to celebrate the 504th anniversary of Martin Luther posting his 95 theses. What better topic to talk about in this month's Quest than Martin Luther?

Did Martin Luther really use pub tunes in worship?

It has been asserted over and over that Martin Luther boldly took tunes sung in pubs and taverns and simply replaced the secular texts with sacred texts for use in worship. Is this really true? For the sake of historical accuracy and in the interest of what that means for today's worship and music this claim should be carefully examined. At worst, this statement is a complete misinterpretation of history and at best, it is simply an oversimplification of Martin Luther's intentions.

Merely comparing the musical situation of Luther's time and our time is like comparing apples to oranges. There are multiple outside influences from cultures that affect both sacred and secular music.

At the time of Luther, "The distinction between sacred and secular musical styles as we think of it today was for the most practical purposes nonexistent" (Carl Schalk). It is just not possible to think of secular music of the 1800's as we think of "pop music" today.

When it comes down to it, did Luther borrow melodies commonly sung in taverns? Yes. He in fact had four known sources for melodies.

One - More popular hymn tunes that were already in existence. There were many tunes that would not be sung in mass, but during pilgrimages and other devotions outside of the liturgy. Luther and other reformers took over these tunes to be used in the common liturgy. "O Lord, We Praise You" (ELW 499) is an example of this.

Two - The reformers would take chant lines sung by the choir in Latin and make them more accessible to the public by translating the text to German and rewriting the melodies to make them more easily sung. "Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord" (ELW 395) is one of these hymns.

Three - Hymn writers would often simply use creative inspiration to compose their own melody. "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is a fine example of this by Martin Luther himself.

Four - The use of popular non-liturgical songs was often implemented. The first stanza of "From Heav'n Above" (ELW 268), both text and tune, was based on the light-hearted love song "From Distant Land I Come to You." Over time the original tune for this hymn was replaced with what we now sing today. Scholars believe that this is in fact because of its secular connotations.

Does all this mean it is appropriate to use music with secular roots in worship simply by changing the text to a sacred one? Yes and no.

The music for cultural entertainment into Luther's day was intended for group singing. When singing people would often be gathered

around a lute or harpsichord at a table or bar. This is a radically different idea compared to today's popular music. Much of what we sing for entertainment today is intended for a soloist to sing and or a soloist with back-up singers. As a congregation we are to sing as a group. Singing today's pop songs lends to a group of people all trying to sing as soloists and not actively participating in a group effort.

Luther used the music at hand, but always transformed it into something new. A similar thing happened to the German language as he translated the Bible. There were not adequate words in the language to describe the scriptures and thus the scriptures molded the language. Similarly, as tunes were borrowed for use in mass, they were molded in something brand new.

When Luther began composing hymns it was because he felt the congregation needed to play an active role in worship. Before the Reformation, a choir or the worship leaders chanted most of the service. Thus, there were minimal hymn tunes for him to pick from to match up with his texts. Since it did take him time to compose new hymn tunes, he would use secular tunes from time to time. Luther has been quoted many times about the lack of "acceptable" tunes around for his new texts. This situation simply does not exist in today's culture.

As stated previously, the hymn "From Heav'n Above" had a change in tunes due to secular connotations. This has happened multiple times throughout history. This is not to say that we do not still have secular tunes in our hymnal today. "The Ash Grove" (ELW 547 & 881) is a Welsh folk tune; however, the tune carries few secular connotations for most Americans today. If a new sacred text was written to the tune for "Jingle Bells", the story would be completely different. One's mind would not be in a sacred place when singing that song in worship.

Popular music in Luther's day had to be passed down from generation to generation orally. It took too much time to record

song on paper for the public and very few could read music anyway. This meant that much of the popular music had been tested over time and was good music that the public truly liked and had lasted for generations. Nothing could be farther from the truth today. Currently, popular music changes as the wind blows. While there are songs in today's world that have stood up against the passing of time, it is much more difficult to predict what tunes will still be around in the future.

The challenge for us is to open our minds to the new ideas of today and discover ways to incorporate them successfully and appropriately into worship. However, we must not forget our past. We must always be looking back at ways to incorporate the treasures from our heritage. We must also never allow our congregations to become museums masquerading as worshipping communities by failing to challenge ourselves with new melodies. Music of all kinds holds potential for use in worship, but rarely is developing new hymnody as easy as merely substituting one set of words for another.

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

THANKSGIVING *Holiday Closings*

Office Closed: Thurs., Nov. 25 and Fri., Nov. 26



A Message from the **PRESIDENT**

The Implications of our Welcoming Statement

Every church likes to think it is welcoming; however, the reality is that all too often they are not. Members are caught up in their own thoughts and conversations with long-time friends and unintentionally ignore visitors. The result is that sometimes visitors feel decidedly unwelcome, and when those visitors are ones who've often been, at best, ignored, or, even worse, treated poorly in previous interactions with the Church, they may never muster up the courage to return. At first, I thought, "but we're different here," but, as we've begun this discussion with some members, I've received feedback that many did not feel welcome when they first visited Holy Cross.


Expanding on this topic further, if visitors who closely match the profile of our majority demographic did not feel welcome and had to muster up the courage to return, how much more unwelcome do you think our siblings in Christ who are black, brown, or identify as LGBTQIA+ might feel? Do they believe they are fully accepted and truly welcome in our family as fellow siblings in Christ? If not, what can we do?

The answer is pretty simple and honestly, past due. We can take deliberate and intentional steps to genuinely welcome into full fellowship those who've been excluded or even rejected in their previous interactions with the church.

We started talking about welcoming our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ in March 2018, during our pastoral search process. You may recall that we had conversations, surveyed the Congregation, and we later decided to allow our clergy to perform same sex marriages at Holy Cross. However, we did not take the next logical step of becoming a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation, which is a public way for Lutheran communities to demonstrate and ensure the welcome, inclusion, and celebration of ALL people.

The phrase "all are welcome" has frequently come with an asterisk. In far too many congregations, that phrase means, "sure, you are welcome if you are gay (or black, or poor, or intellectually disabled, or whatever else makes us feel uncomfortable), just don't make it obvious, because that might make other people uncomfortable." It's no wonder those who've been marginalized don't take such "welcome statements" at face value. It can take a special effort to communicate an authentic welcome to LGBTQIA+ people.

Those of us of a certain age remember the 1971 song, Signs, by The Five Man Electrical Band. When we were young and idealistic, we called out the hypocrisy of our elders; today perceived hypocrisy is still an impediment to attracting younger people to the church, and they look for evidence rather than mere words. This is why we have revised our welcome statement. As we place ourselves in the shoes of others and see Christ in them, we cannot fail to not only to welcome all of God's beloved children, but we must deliberately make efforts to embrace them and make our intentions known to all.

In our society, we use symbols and logos to quickly communicate trustworthiness and safety, such as: , UL®, FDA Approved, Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval, etc. and there's no doubt what a red octagonal sign means. Similarly, the Reconciling Works logo will quickly communicate to people or groups who seek a clear invitation to know that Holy Cross truly welcomes them.

Sadly, the Church has a long history of exclusion and poor treatment of many in our society based largely upon ignorance and fear. However, when we know better, we do better. So, there's no time like the present for us to embody our beliefs and values.

Once again, 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 of 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 14th, following the 11:00 am service in the sanctuary. More information will soon be available for those who are unable to attend in person.



**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.

Dear Holy Cross Family,

At our annual congregational meeting on November 14, we as the HCLC family can vote not only on our annual budget and some administrative edits to our constitution, but also to adopt our new Welcoming Statement as well as to agree to move forward with submitting an application to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation.

Our congregational demographics do not accurately represent the greater community where we live. HCLC is whiter, straighter, richer, and older than the neighborhoods surrounding our church. I would urge each of you – if you have not done so already – to check out the RIC website at www.reconcilingworks.org. We all have unconscious bias and becoming a RIC congregation, through prayer, training, and focused steps, we can together help to overcome our unconscious bias and stereotypes to truly be welcoming to all of God's people. This will not be a complete panacea to our roster numbers, but it is a step in the right direction and a tangible action to show our community that we love and support All children of God.

On another note, a sincere thank you to all the members who have assisted with church operations during the pandemic this year while our church administrator is working remotely. These dedicated members provide tremendous support in the operations of the church. Special kudos to: Ellen Atwell, Suzanne Baggett, Virginia Muller, Lynn Russo, Cheryl Smith, Cherie Weatherhead, and Rachel Williams. Apologies if I missed anyone.

On a personal note, I wanted to share with all that I submitted my resignation to the council last month and will end my service as your Vice President on October 31. This was a difficult decision and one that I did not take lightly, however, I felt that it was best decision for myself and those I love. My hope is that the leadership culture within HCLC continues to evolve and grow and practices full

transparency with an openness for questions, real progress, and forward movement.

I would like to thank the dedicated members of the Finance Committee for their focus and commitment. Those members are: Joe Baggett, Gene Bain, Joel Flegal, John Pinkney, and Vince Russo. Also, a shout to the members of the 2021 Audit Committee: Virginia Muller, Lisa Toney, and Mark Roe. Your time and focused attention on a not so exciting area of operations is not only needed and required but is greatly appreciated.

At your service,
Rob Coffman

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Everyone's Invited!

To Our 2nd Multi-Generational
Outdoor Santa Lucia Festival

Sunday, December 12th at 2pm



Watch Kingdom Kids Process In-Costume!
(Who Will Be This Year's Santa Lucia?)

Sing Sankta Lucia *(With Masks On)*
Enjoy Cider and Goodies *(Treat Bags for Kids)*
Make Christmas Crafts
Play Games!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



November 7th

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.

Voice & Organ Recital

**Saturday, November 13
7:00 PM**

**Martin Eldred
Bass-Baritone**

&

**Jeremy Shoop
Organ**

with

**Jen Quinones
Piano**

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 20170**

Free Admission

Pastor Martin and Jeremy Shoop will present a recital of voice and organ music on November 13 at 7:00 pm. You are invited to join us in-person (masks required) for an evening full of wonderful music. From Bach to Broadway, this recital will be full of well-known classical music and even some lesser-known pieces that will quickly become new favorites.

Admission is free! Everyone is invited to bring a winter coat with them to donate to the HCLC coat drive. There are more than 16,000 Afghan refugees in the DC area that need winter coats. Thank you for your generosity.

LIFE PASSAGES

We invite your friends and family to pray for those Holy Cross members and friends as they go through life passages.

Preparing for parenthood:

Devin and Lauren Gist, planning baby Gist's arrival February 2022.



OUTREACH

November is not only the month to celebrate Thanksgiving, but also the start of the special season of giving thanks by giving to others. Here is a start for several ways we can support our neighbors.

Winter Coat Drive



Winter can be both beautiful and fun, but not so much if you're cold and don't have a warm coat or gloves and a hat. This year we are doing a two-pronged coat drive. We will collect coats both for Herndon Middle School and for Afghan Refugees. For the Middle School, coats in small, medium, large and extra-large are needed, as well as a few XXL. The refugees will need coats in all sizes from little kids to adults.

Watch the Weekly Update for ways to donate. The bins outside church are available for drop off. We will need volunteers to help with sorting, and you can contact the church office or Suzanne Flegal at suzflegal@verizon.net if you'd like to help. Thank you in advance for your continuing generosity; it is indeed a light that drives out darkness.

Support LINK

Holiday Program

From LINK's Website

Thanks for the tremendous outpouring of generosity by so many, LINK's 2020 holiday program served over a record number of 1,176 families and individuals. We distributed over 55,000 pounds of food, 3000+ toys, and nearly \$67,000 in grocery gift cards. We thank the many volunteers who helped us collect, sort, and package food items, register clients, direct traffic, and load distributions onto vehicles. We are humbled by your compassion and generosity.

For 2021, we will hold our holiday program in similar ways to 2020. We will offer three different dates to choose for receiving the food - Nov. 20, Dec. 11, and Dec. 18, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Registration will be online and limited. You MUST be pre-registered in order to receive assistance. You cannot be on more than one organization's list.

Volunteers are needed - we will need volunteers to sort food, pack food boxes and help with the distribution dates. We will post a link to sign up soon!

Joy Heuer, our representative on the LINK Board will have more information to share in our Weekly Updates.



Everything Christmas!

The Closet's Annual Holiday Sale

*Your First Stop for Christmas and Seasonal Items for
Holiday Décor, Gifts, and Entertaining*

Proceeds returned to the community as grants and scholarships!

When: Friday Nov 5th 3-7pm & Saturday Nov 6th 8:30am-12:30pm

Where: The Herndon Moose Lodge, 779 Center St, Herndon, VA

Volunteers Needed at the Herndon Moose Lodge 779 Center Street

- Mon, Nov 1, 8 am - 10 am, to set up tables at the lodge and unload the truck;
- Mon-Thur, Nov 1-4, 10 am - 4 pm to price and display items for sale;
- Fri, Nov 5, 10 am - 1 pm to price and display items for sale;
- Fri, Nov 5, 2 pm - 7:30 pm to assist with the sale;
- Sat, Nov 6, 8 am - 12:30 pm to assist with the sale;
- Sat, Nov 6, 12:30 pm - 5 pm to help clean up and pack items.

To volunteer, please sign up at this SignUpGenius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45aba62ba6f4c61-theclosets>.

Please note that the times slots in SignUpGenius are not firm limits on when you can volunteer. If you can volunteer a reasonable portion of a SignUpGenius slot, or can volunteer times which span multiple slots, please sign up and note in the comments when you will be volunteering.

If you have questions, you may contact Laura G. (703-732-4297) or Holly H. (703-785-8797).

Parking (with no time limits) is available for volunteers and shoppers in the municipal parking lot across the street from the Herndon Moose Lodge.

PROPERTY

*A very special
Thank You!*

New Lights at Holy Cross!

Many thanks to James and Jon Morgan for their help changing out old light bulbs to new and brighter ones in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Both spaces are much more inviting and pleasant to be in!



Sanctuary



Fellowship Hall

Columns and Shed Doors Repairs

Joe Makowski and his son Kevin worked at the church repairing the columns and shed doors.

On the columns, they replaced two dry-rotted eight feet boards with PVC and applied new PVC moldings to about five or six columns. They used the recommended polyurethane caulk/sealant for the PVC and all locations where gaps were evident. They will return to apply the primer once the caulk cures. (Probably by the time you read this article).

Joe and Kevin didn't stop there. They went to trim both doors of the shed at the bottom allowing the doors to properly open and close without binding. In addition, the rotted base molding was removed and replaced, and the lower left hinge is now correctly re-attached.

They plan to finish by applying a little caulk, primer, and touchup paint, which will most likely be done by the time of this reading.

These were no small tasks. We appreciate Joe and Kevin for taking precious time out of their schedule to attend to some of the needs of our church. Many thanks to Joe and Kevin Makowski!



Columns – The white areas are the repaired areas that will later get painted.

Boots & Blue Jeans Sundays Are Back!



Please join us on **Sunday, November 7th** after each worship service **8:30 am and 11:00 am**, to do some much needed "yard work" around our church home! Dress casually and bring your favorite pruners. We'll have jobs big and small to outside. Rain date: do Sunday, November 21st.

WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED



With our recent return to 8:30 am AND 11 am services, we need worship leaders.

EVANGELISM

Ushers: Volunteers willing to serve as ushers are needed. No experience needed! A commitment of just one service per month would be a great help! If interested, please email Roy Geiger (gei2@verizon.net) or call 703-401-3934.

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild Team: A team of volunteers who would like to help set up and clean up for services, and a team to change banner colors, altar paraments, etc., and put things away. Training for both teams will be given. Please email Lori Newcomb (firegal12@aol.com) or call 571-437-5375, if interested.

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 1st and 3rd Sundays at 12:30 pm.
2. Go to our website, 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



Over 15 years, Jesús Escamilla has seen God provide for his congregation through faithful partners across the church and within his community.

Bolstered by Relationships

Jesús Escamilla knows the power of relationships. Over 15 years, he's seen God provide for his congregation through faithful partners across the church and within his community.

"What God wants, if you believe and trust in how he wants to do it, it will get done," said the pastor of San Gabriel Lutheran Church in Alvarado, Texas.

Escamilla came to San Gabriel in 2006, when future congregants were holding Bible studies weekly in worshipers' homes. To worship, they drove more than 30 miles north to San Miguel Lutheran Church in Fort Worth. He joined the Bible studies, then became the **faith community's official worship leader** a year later, ministering in homes for both Bible study and worship. In time, the growing faith community needed a building in Alvarado.

"What God wants, if you believe and trust in how he wants to do it, it will get done."

A deal with a local supporter allowed the congregation to begin renting a plot of land, where it worshiped outdoors and eventually built makeshift indoor worship space. "Everyone was dusty, but they didn't care because they had a place to worship — their own place," Escamilla said.

Over time, partnerships with local congregations allowed San Gabriel to build a permanent church. Gifts from Calvary Lutheran

Church in Richland Hills allowed San Gabriel to **put in flooring, and pews were donated by St. John Lutheran Church**, a closing congregation in nearby Grand Prairie. Later, St. John's council gifted funds that helped San Gabriel take ownership of its land.

Since then, the church has grown, adding a fellowship hall that serves as a community hub for the area's largely Mexican immigrant population. But like so many congregations, San Gabriel struggled to maintain a sense of community during the worst days of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

The church closed and pivoted to virtual worship on Zoom and Facebook, with Escamilla, lay leaders and a small contingent of choir members recording services in person at the church.

But with virtual worship, collecting offerings became a challenge. Some congregants sent money through the digital-payment network Zelle or even left their offerings in the church mailbox, but many couldn't contribute monetarily. So the church began hosting weekly food sales to raise needed funds and provide members with a way to give back.

Escamilla believes that San Gabriel has been built up by the generosity of others — church members, nearby ELCA congregations and, through Mission Support funds, the ELCA Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod.

"It's been a conjunction of [congregations] working together to help a community that was struggling," he said. "We have this wonderful community that is working together to work with what the Lord wants us to do."



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



1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 20170

