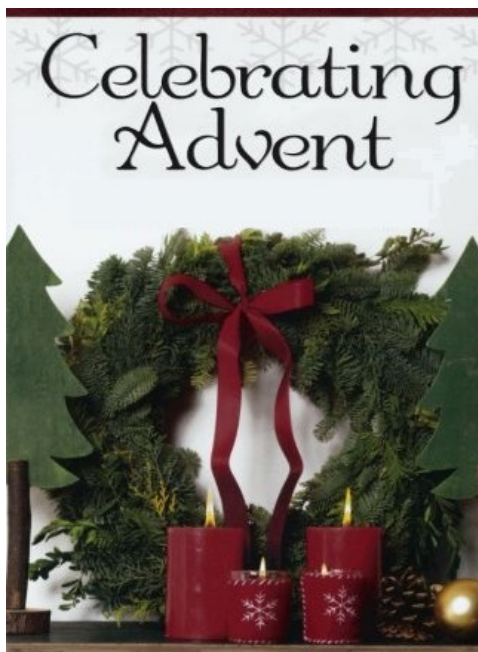




HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE QUEST

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



**December 2021**



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# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the January 2022 edition of the Holy Cross newsletter, *Quest*, is Monday, December 13.

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)



## STAFF NEWS



# *Pastor's Message*



## **An Advent Prayer**

Come,  
O Come, Emmanuel  
and hear my prayer.

The inundation of life roars about me,  
clinging, clutching,  
clamoring to cut off light  
of hope  
and peace  
and joy  
and love from  
my heart.

Tempests blast within and without,  
an unrelenting affliction of noise  
that strikes deep --  
opening wounds,  
buffeting confusion,  
howling despair,  
obstructing the light --  
stealing to steal my sight  
of you.

Come,  
O Come, you Emmanuel --  
light-bringer,  
life-breather,  
love-enflesher --  
come and be among us in this place,  
in anxious chaos,  
in noxious division,  
and all that seeks to make waste  
my soul.

Come,  
O Come, and bring your light!  
Warm a heart made cold by bewilderment,  
illumine a mind opaque with grief.  
Take on my flesh  
with your saving embrace  
of love.

Come,  
O Come, dear Emmanuel,  
come and bring your joy!  
Restore in me, I pray,  
the joy of a presence unvacated,  
a promise true and steadfast,  
and an embrace never slackened,  
but held dear in love.  
Spark within renewed light  
to flame anew,  
transforming dark caverns into cathedrals of praise  
to you.

Come,  
O Come, holy Emmanuel, and help me rest in your gift  
of grace.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY



*Once in Royal David's City* is often overlooked as one of the standard Christmas Carols sung on Christmas Eve. However, when given a chance one quickly realizes the beauty of both text and tune of this hymn.

Frances Alexander, wife of an Irish Anglican bishop, wrote this hymn in response to listening to her godchildren complaining about the boringness of the Catechism. She decided that if the children had a more poetic version of the Catechism, they would take its message to heart more willingly. *Once in Royal David's City* is based on the clause in the Creed, "who was conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary." In its original form *Once in Royal David's City* has six stanzas.

The first stanza of Alexander's hymn sets out in straightforward terms the circumstances of Christ's birth. Stanza two reminds us that Christ was sent to us from heaven not to live as a king with the rich and haughty, but to live a life of service with the poor and

lowly. Alexander takes advantage of a captive audience (her godchildren) in stanza three and reminds them how good Christian children need to be like Jesus and always obey their parents. Christ's human nature is portrayed in stanza four. She reminds the children that Jesus also experienced hardships throughout His life and he can always be there for them through prayer. The final stanzas of this hymn remind us of the end of the story of salvation. Christ is not here on earth waiting for us. He is in heaven surrounded by all who have gone before us waiting for his children to come home.

Alexander was successful in her attempts to teach her godchildren the teachings of the church this way. Part of her success was most certainly due to the beautiful tune to which her text was set. She went on and wrote other poems, not all set to music, to continue in her teachings.

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed;  
Mary was the mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all;  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood  
He would honor and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.



For he is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by  
We shall see him; but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high  
Where like stars, his children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

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



In celebration of Christ's birth, the church schedule is as follows:

- **Christmas Eve Friday, Dec. 24:**
  - **Children's Worship @ 4:00 PM**
  - **Traditional Christmas Eve Worship @ 7 & 9 PM**
- **Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup> – closed**
- **Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – closed**

From our family to yours, we wish you a very blessed and safe holiday season!

## **COUNCIL NEWS**



Holy Cross Family –

### **Joy to the World!**

As we look to the end of our calendar year, we mark the beginning of the church year. Advent is a season of expectant waiting and preparation, and that also describes us as we approach Christmas and the New Year. My favorite Advent hymn is Joy to the World, and I'm feeling a great sense of joy these days. We've just completed a successful Annual Meeting, and we have much for which we can be thankful. We just welcomed new members for the first time in two years, and we're returning to Jimmy's for Beer and Carols! The widespread availability of vaccines for children as well as boosters for adults give us hope that we will be able to more fully participate in activities together. I know we are all looking forward to the return of children and families to our midst.

I'd like to once again thank the outgoing members of Church Council who worked so tirelessly throughout the pandemic to ensure we continued to be the Church. I'd also like to thank the new members of Council for providing leadership as we continue to move forward through uncharted waters. Our continued progress is made possible by willing leaders and the continued support of ALL of our members. An integral part of that support is your continued

financial commitment. We didn't have a prolonged Pledge Drive this year, so we'd appreciate it if you would continue to send in your Pledge Cards. You can pick one up at church and drop it off in the offering plate or in the mail slot by the Church Office. You may also just simply write down your commitment in an email to [pledge@holycrosslutheranchurch.net](mailto:pledge@holycrosslutheranchurch.net), if you'd prefer.

Thank you all for the unanimous approval of our budget, the welcoming of two faith groups to continue to use our facilities, our new welcoming statement, and our application to become a Reconciling in Christ organization at our Annual Meeting. It is so heartening to see us embody our beliefs and values in our actions.

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 our prospects for the new church year with the help and guidance of our Lord. May the Holy Spirit continue to be with us as we attempt to follow Jesus.

Wishing you a blessed Advent!

- Sam Carter



## *2021 Congregation Annual Meeting Results*

Our ever hybrid (in-person and on-line) Congregational Meeting is done and in the books. Thanks, everyone for being there and being so flexible!

Thanks to President, Sam Carter, for a well-run meeting using an all-new format, as well as his service this past year. Thanks also to Rob Coffman, Bob Thompson, Betty Skelton, Roy Geiger, Pam Darby, Daniel Contreras, Dick Krapf, and Dennis Patterson for the work on Council. Congratulations to our 2022 Council:

- Vice President – Stanley Medikonda\*
- Secretary - Cheryl Smith\*\*
- Treasurer - Joe Baggett\*
- Christian Education - Chip Edwards
- Evangelism - Karen Faulkner
- Worship & Music - Carol Shaffer
- Fellowship - Anne Geiger
- Youth - Vacant
- Community Outreach – Deb Reilly\*
- Personnel - Gene Bain
- Property - Gary Wolfe
- Stewardship – Chris Nelson\*

\*Indicates 1-year term or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2-year term

\*\* Indicates second term



**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.*

*1 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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



# Santa Lucia Festival

December 12 ~ 1:30 PM

Fun and Games for ALL Ages!

**Santa Lucia Inspired  
Treats, Crafts, Music, and Fun!**

**Santa Lucia Scavenger Hunt!**

**Make Snow with Ms. Suzanne!**



**HOLY CROSS**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1090 STERLING ROAD  
HERNDON, VIRGINIA





## WORSHIP & MUSIC

# Advent Midweek Worship Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM Facebook Live

Midweek Advent worship will not have an in-person option this year.  
Please join use on our Facebook Live feed for a joyful service as we  
prepare for Christ's birth.



**HOLY CROSS**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Herndon, Virginia

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

Advent midweek worship will only be presented on Facebook live this year. We came to this conclusion after a discussion of current pandemic realities. A more joyful experience can be had by all in a service designed to be presented solely on Facebook. We invite you to join us on Facebook Live ([www.Facebook.com/HCLCHerndon](http://www.Facebook.com/HCLCHerndon)) on **Wednesdays at 7 pm**, in Advent for an uplifting service as we prepare for Christ's birth.

- **December 1**
- **December 8**
- **December 15**
- **December 22**



*Holy Cross Lutheran  
Church  
&  
Jimmy's Old Town Tavern*  
Present the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual



## **Beer and Carols!**

**Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**

Come to Jimmy's Old Town Tavern on December 14<sup>th</sup> for a fun evening of drinks and singing Christmas Carols. While you must be over 21 to drink alcohol, this event is for all ages. Beer, root beer, wine, eggnog, hot chocolate...whatever you would like to drink while you sing carols.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church's Director of Music and Liturgy will be playing the keyboard while we sing and get in the holiday spirit. We will sing any kind of Christmas Carol, sacred or secular. From Joy to the World to Jingle Bell Rock, if you hear it on the radio this time of year, we will sing it at Jimmy's!

**Fabulous prizes will be raffled off!!!**

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Armed Forces through the ELCA Chaplains Office.

**Jimmy's Old Town Tavern  
697 Spring Street, Herndon, VA 20170**

Be sure to check out Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Facebook and let your friends know you are coming!

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

## 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

*"Do your little bit of good where you are;  
it's those little bits of good put together  
that will overwhelm the world."*

*~ Desmond Tutu*

I would like to open this article by repeating what I said in my Annual Report in case you missed reading it there.

As I complete my final term on Church Council, there are some individuals I would like to thank for their Outreach support. While there are many who contribute to this Ministry in so many ways, I would like to name a few: Ellen Atwell for coordinating the ELL program; Barbara Gouldey for coordinating the bimonthly Second Saturday Lunch at the Embry Rucker Lunches; Rachel Williams for her service on the Board of Directors of The Closet; Joy Heuer for her volunteering to serve on the LINK Board; Deb Reilly for coordinating the new Community Conversations program, and Cathy Pfister, Brian Virnelson, and Dick Krapf for delivering food to LINK and the Embry Rucker Shelter. I would like to give special thanks to Pastor Martin Eldred, Jeremy Shoop, and our Church Administrator, Teresa Easterly for their constant help in supporting the efforts to serve our community.

It has truly been a delight to be part of this incredible service to our community, including all who have so generously supported the Outreach Ministry by the amazing donations to every cause we supported, including our latest coat drive for Afghan Refugees and Herndon Middle School students.

We are approaching our annual Christmas Appeal a bit differently this year. Watch for details in the Weekly Updates. Finally, may this Christmas bring blessings and peace abundantly to all.

- Suzanne Flegal

Coats collected for our recent coat drive.





We started our 19<sup>th</sup> year in September 2021, teaching English to our immigrant students online via Zoom. We teach every Wednesday from 7:00 – 8:30pm.

Our teachers are now experienced teaching virtual classes. I'm extremely grateful to Dayna Sowd, Chip Edwards, and Suzanne Baggett for teaching weekly online classes. Special thanks to Jeanne Maysonett, who assists Suzanne and me with our intermediate students. Preparing for class entails researching a subject for use in a future class, editing a story and creating vocabulary for students so they understand the meaning of words or phrases. We strive to involve our students in verbalizing their thoughts and feelings in class. Often, we create tables with questions like: 'Do you agree or disagree?' We enter student's answers and share thoughts about their answers.

It was a pleasure to disburse 24 laptops to our students, who gratefully accepted them. It made a big difference for our students to be able to use their laptops for class. Students are much more involved learning from a larger screen then when they use their cellphones for our class. Students participate in our weekly Zoom classes, plus we email them their weekly lessons with a link to review their Zoom class recording. This is an easy and simple way for our students to review their lessons. It also helps students that miss a class due to work or illness.

Several students and their families were sick with COVID-19. Some still experience symptoms. We plan to continue teaching ELL via Zoom since we cannot be sure all of our students are vaccinated. We have to avoid at all costs, any situations where someone can be infected with the coronavirus while in class.

We have a great diverse group of students in our classes. It is amazing how well our students communicate with each other. One of our students received an invitation to celebrate Thanksgiving with another student's family since he was going to be alone on Thanksgiving. This is truly the Thanksgiving spirit.

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

## ALTAR GUILD



We are collecting funds to use in decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. The funds will be used to purchase wreathes, garlands and poinsettias. Dedications may be made in either **Memory** or **Honor** of someone special. These dedications will appear in the Christmas Eve Bulletin. To make a dedication, please fill in the section below and put it, along with a check or cash, into an envelope labeled **"SPECIAL FLOWERS"**, and place in the offering plate.

\*\*\*\* To have your dedication included in the bulletin, **the completed form and your funds must be received in the church office no later than Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.** \*\*\*\*

### PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Your Name

---

As you would like it to appear in the bulletin

#### IN MEMORY OF

*Please Print*

---

---

---

#### IN HONOR OF

*Please Print*

---

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**NOTE:** Forms are available through the ushers or download the form, [www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-Christmas-Decoration-Flower-Form.pdf](http://www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-Christmas-Decoration-Flower-Form.pdf) and email to [Admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net](mailto:Admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net) or mail it to the church.



## 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:

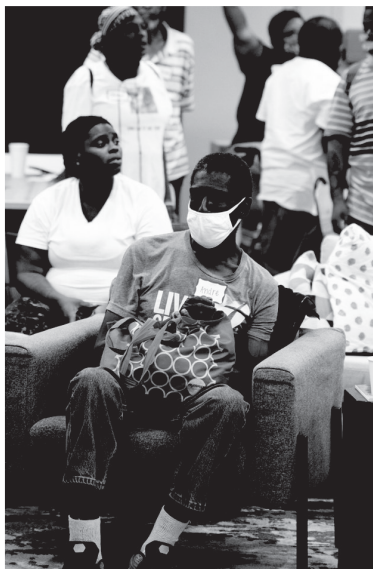
*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; who will never leave you or forsake you."*

*Deuteronomy 31:6*

## ELCA SYNOD NEWS



"Showers provide a sense of dignity and are therapeutic. I don't know a better way to remind people of their baptism."



# Where all May Dwell

Christian community

Emily Norris had been serving at Augsburg Lutheran Church's winter-overflow homeless shelter in Winston-Salem, N.C., for a few years when she heard the rumblings. Many of the guests opened up to her, told her stories. One need kept arising.

"I heard very loudly that there was a deep hunger for a faith community that looked like them," Norris said. They craved space where they could worship God and not feel judged for their housing status, their past or their appearance. Heeding their calls led Norris to Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, to become a pastor.

By 2020, Norris was ordained and serving as the mission developer for the Dwelling, an ELCA faith community designed for, but not exclusive to, people in Winston-Salem who are or have been homeless. *Funding comes from partnerships with Augsburg, the North Carolina Synod, the Moravian Church in America and the ELCA churchwide organization, which draws on Mission Support for the Dwelling's grant.*

Starting a church during a pandemic wasn't ideal. Safety restrictions made worship impossible, and the population Norris had hoped to reach became especially vulnerable. So she did what many ELCA leaders and congregations were forced to do: she pivoted.

After assessing community needs, Norris determined that free mobile showers would be the Dwelling's anchor ministry. Visitors could take showers and receive clean underwear, socks and T-shirts donated by nearby members of the Dwelling's synod.

"It was really a profound way to start," Norris said. "Showers provide a sense of dignity and are therapeutic. I don't know a better way to remind people of their baptism."

Eventually the showers became permanent, with participants volunteering to help the program. By Christmas Eve, area restrictions for gatherings had been relaxed, and Norris held **the Dwelling's first service. In January 2021, it began offering regular Sunday worship.**

With a living room for its sanctuary, couches **and chairs for its pews, and free-flowing food,** the Dwelling takes seriously its mission of hospitality. "It has a feather touch, where you can come in and get comfy," said member Cheryl Morrison. "It's OK to talk to the person **next to you, get up to get a cup of coffee, doughnut or muffin.**"

"This is a church for God's people — the homeless — and they are the foundation of what makes this church work, which in my eyes is extremely special."

"This is a church for God's people — the homeless — and they are the foundation of what makes this church work, which in my eyes is extremely special," added Ryan Sprinkle, a council member. "You have people right off the street with their backpacks."



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



1090 Sterling Road  
Herndon, VA 20170

Celebrating  
Advent

