



# THE QUEST

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



**January 2022**



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# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the February 2022 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, *Quest*, is Wednesday, January 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

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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)



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA



## **WHY I ALMOST NEVER SAY THE CREED IN WORSHIP (AND WHY IT'S THE MOST SACRED POINT IN THE SERVICE FOR ME)**

I don't really know when it started, but I almost never say the Creed during worship. The amazing part is that this moment has now become for me one of the most sacred moments in worship.

The original reason I stopped was to be certain, more prosaic than intentional: the pause gave me a break. The Liturgy of the Word takes up the first half of worship - Confession and Absolution up to the Sermon – after which I am often a bit spent, both physically and emotionally. Thankfully, just at that point the assisting minister takes over, leading the congregation in the Confession and of the Creed and the Intercession of the Prayers. So, it became a convenient time to rest, giving me a bit of time to catch my breath and prepare for the next great apex of the worship, the liturgy of the Table.

Somewhere, somehow, however, it began to evolve for me. I began to listen. *Really listen*. Being quiet allowed me to hear more deeply what was happening around me and what I heard was the voices of the congregation. Voices, so many of which I could distinguish and recognize. Voices of people with whom I had walked alongside in both darkness and in light, in conflict and in reconciliation. Voices. The voices of this particular people in this particular place, but also more than that – they are and are the voices of the whole Body of Christ. In that moment, those voices became something more. They became for me an embodiment of grace *for me*.

Pastors are trained to give. We are called to be present within a community of faith as, in The Apostle's words, "ambassadors for Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:20) We give care, we lead worship, we are

the “theologians-in-residence,” we build relationships within our faith community and the community at large. We are not trained very well, however, how to receive. For example, we are typically busy with leading worship, and so we often find it difficult for us to actually worship ourselves. We give sermons, but rarely hear them. Unless we are blessed with a multi-preacher staff, or attend the occasional big church event, we don’t often *hear* the gospel *for us*, especially from the physical presence of another Christian, something Dietrich Bonhoeffer called, “a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer.” (*Life Together*, pg. 29) It is an ongoing and essential vocational challenge, therefore, to find those ways in which you as pastor can also be gifted and fed.

That is what the listening to the Creed has become for me. As the congregation recites the Creed, I bathe in the proclamation of a faith that washes over me. It is a faith that is larger me, but one that now embraces me intimately in the voices of those I know, the ones that know me, and the echoes of the “great cloud of witnesses” of unknown siblings – past, present, and future -- in the Body of Christ. We together - with all our foibles and idiosyncrasies, vanities, and humilities - are the presence of Jesus for and with one another. The congregation assures me of that each time I hear the Creed spoken. It is an affirmation that the One who holds us fast is greater than the sum of all the problems we face, problems that we aren’t meant to face alone, but within just such a community of grace. It reminds me too that once in a while it is important, not, *essential* to stop and *listen* to God’s voice spoken by those you know, and who know you, all of us bound together by the love in Jesus that knows us and keeps us in that grace.

Thank you for being the living voices of God for me.

Pastor Martin

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY



*We Three Kings* is probably one of the best-known Epiphany carols. It is also one that is most often brought forward into the Christmas season for use at carol services. However, it is a straightforward dramatization of the story of the wise men's visit to Jesus after his birth on Christmas Day. This story is taken out of Matthew 2:7-11

*<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

The carol was first published in 1884 while its author, Rev. Dr. John Hopkins, was Rector of a parish in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He wrote it as part of a Christmas pageant for a seminary in New York City. Hopkins is the composer of both the text and music for this hymn. It is interesting to note that Hopkins was very specific to note

that there was to be no slowing down on the “O...” that starts each refrain, a request that has been clearly thrown out by modern culture. Hopkins has been criticized by Bible scholars that the first people to visit Christ from Eastern lands were no kings; nor were there three of them. Yet so many people who learn this carol at a young age carry this misconception into adult life. The Bible simply calls these men “magi.” It is believed that this term refers to a caste of Persian priests or sorcerers who were experts in astrology, divination, and the interpretation of dreams. While they could have been rulers of a sort because of their offices, there is no reason to believe they had great wealth.

What we do know is that these Gentiles traveled some distance, intent upon worshiping the newborn King of the Jews. With them they brought gifts of great worth - gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Hopkins explains in his carol that these gifts were to prophesy what the Christ child would be. Gold prophesied his kingship. The frankincense spoke of his purity of life. Myrrh was a spice that embalmed the dead and predicted his coming death.

These gifts could also be interpreted as gifts that God desires from us still today. Gold to symbolize our most precious treasures, our hopes and dreams. Giving a gift of gold is giving from the heart. The frankincense denotes the pleasing fragrance that arises from a life of holiness and offering him our obedience. Myrrh is to proclaim the fact that we have died to self and now live in Christ, thus giving him our very life.

This year celebrate Epiphany and sing *We Three Kings* on January 9. Throughout this service we worship as the true life of this Christ child is revealed. A life that the magi from *We Three Kings* came to worship while Jesus was still an infant.

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



## COUNCIL NEWS



Holy Cross Family –

### **“Changing of the Guard”**

We are fast approaching the beginning of the new calendar year, and at Holy Cross, it means new officers and Council members take office on January 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a time of change, and I know all of us

would welcome a change that includes ridding ourselves of seemingly infinite mutations of COVID! As challenging as it has been, Holy Cross has been fortunate to have dedicated and talented people in leadership positions during this time. Before we let them go, I want to thank those leaving their positions for their commitment to Holy Cross and their personal friendship.

Betty Skelton and her team ensured our education efforts continued while they constantly adjusted their strategies as circumstances rapidly changed. Suzanne Flegal and her team led efforts to demonstrate that we ARE the church, and she continually provided sound counsel to a new president learning the ropes! It’s hard to match the enthusiasm and “do quotient” of Mr. Dependability, Roy Geiger. Pam Darby continued to find ways to keep fellowship alive despite a challenging work schedule. Dick Krapf administered our personnel and compensation policies effectively without fanfare. Kathy Makowski and her team ensured our worship and music experience thrived and continued to provide inspiration, comfort, and solace. Daniel Contreras brought new perspectives and insights into our Youth programs. Dennis Pattison saw to it that our property was maintained and worked up to the day before their move to North Carolina. Robert Coffman provided wise counsel during his

time as VP. Chris Nelson did such a good job that we're thankful his term continues and are excited to see where he leads us. Cheryl Smith has been such a wonderful and effective secretary with an infectious positive outlook that you probably heard my sigh of relief throughout Herndon when she agreed to serve another term. Finally, Bob Thompson has served his maximum of two consecutive terms as Treasurer, and it's hard to imagine how we would've made it through the financial challenges we've faced without his expertise, guidance, and institutional memory. I am thankful for all he's done and that he's agreed to take on a special project to evaluate the feasibility of consolidating our financial management software.

To the new officers and members of Council: thank you for your commitment to Holy Cross. Thank you to Stanley Medikonda, Joe Baggett, Chip Edwards, Deb Reilly, Karen Faulkner, Anne Geiger, Gene Bain, Gary Wolfe, and Carol Shaffer for assuming more formal roles of leadership than the ones you demonstrate continually. I think you'll find your time to be rewarding, fulfilling, and fun. For those who haven't served before or at Holy Cross recently, perhaps the best kept secret is that we actually have fun and enjoy each other's company. The level of comradery we have is unlike any similar group and serving on Council is a great way to make genuine friends.

In other news, we submitted our application along with our new welcoming statement (with a small "tweak") to the Reconciling in Christ organization, and we have been approved for membership. It is so heartening to see tangible evidence of our faith in action! Because of you, we are able to make a difference in so many ways by "being the Church" in our community. I'm excited to see how the Holy Spirit continues to guide us as we attempt to follow Jesus.

Wishing you a blessed New Year!

Sam Carter



### **Executive Team:**

- ❖ President – Sam Carter
- ❖ Vice President – Stanley Medikonda
- ❖ Secretary – Cheryl Smith
- ❖ Treasurer – Joe Baggett

### **Council Members:**

- ❖ Christian Education – Chip Edwards
- ❖ Community Outreach – Deb Reilly
- ❖ Evangelism – Karen Faulkner
- ❖ Fellowship – Anne Geiger
- ❖ Personnel – Gene Bain
- ❖ Property – Gary Wolfe
- ❖ Stewardship – Chris Nelson
- ❖ Worship & Music – Carol Shaffer
- ❖ Youth – Vacant



**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:

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.

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.

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.

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.

This policy will be updated, changed, or dismissed as circumstances warrant.

## **LIFE PASSAGES**

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

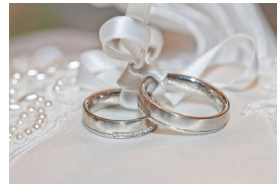
### **Preparing for parenthood**

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



### **Preparing For Marriage**

Kate Reilly & Ron Ashbaugh in April 2022



## OUTREACH

As we start a new year filled with optimism, I want to thank all of you for your continued generosity to our neediest neighbors. Your continued outpouring of love, demonstrated through your generosity, is a huge blessing to our community.

This month we celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas by providing 12 of the most needed items to LINK (our neighborhood food pantry). We will collect these items on Epiphany Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Have fun collecting!

1. Bag of rice (1 or 2 lb)
2. Dried Beans (1 lb bag)
3. Boxed potato mix
4. Paper Towels
5. Toilet Paper
6. Diapers (Size 4, 5, & 6 most needed)
7. Cereal
8. Oatmeal (canister or packets)
9. Canned Vegetables (mixed, carrots, beets, peas)
10. Canned tomato products (diced, crushed, whole)
11. Jelly
12. Soups

While these are the 12 most needed items, toiletries are always welcome (shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste) or feel free to add a sweet treat like, jello!

My name is Deb Reilly. I will be serving on Council as the Outreach ministry lead for 2022. If you have any suggestions of where our time, talent, and resources can best be used, please feel free to reach out to me at [debreilly62@gmail.com](mailto:debreilly62@gmail.com) or 202-359-7450. In February, watch out for our "Have a Heart Blood Drive"!

In His Love,  
Deb Reilly







*"Hi Suzanne,*

*Our HMS Cocoa & Coat event on 12/3 was a resounding success thanks to the generosity of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church congregation! Thank you so much for your donation of coats, gloves and hats. Our community was grateful to receive your donations and we are so thankful for our partnership. There were about 50 families that attended and all the coats were distributed. Please see photos from the event below. We look forward to our continued collaboration.*

*Thank you and we appreciate your support.*

*All the best,  
Colene Luczak*

*Colene Luczak (she, her, hers)  
School Counselor 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Last Names L-Z  
Herndon Middle School  
Phone: 703-904-4912  
[Visit Our Website](#)"*

Below are just a few pictures of Herndon Middle School's successful coat drive.







Holy Cross will begin its 20<sup>th</sup> year of teaching English to our immigrant community this January. Wow 20 years, what a journey!

Our spring semester will begin January 19 and will run through May 11. We will have two classes, Basic and Intermediate English, online via Zoom.

We are very thankful to have had Dayna Sowd teaching with us for several years. She instilled the confidence in her students to speak, read, and write English. We wish her all the best in the future endeavors and hope she will be able to teach with us again. Thank you, Chip, for adding Dayna's students in your class. We appreciate your dedication as you continue to work full time and teach our students.

Suzanne and Jeanne, thank you for teaching our intermediate students. Suzanne creates excellent lessons each week and always strives for our students to learn and speak better English. Jeanne joins our classes every week and is a big impact on our students' success.

A big **thank you** from the bottom of my heart!

Ellen Atwell  
ELL Coordinator

## Lunch for the Soul

¡Hola! I am excited to share with you a new and rewarding ministry going on here at Holy Cross.

Holy Cross is beginning a new outreach ministry by joining with Trinity Presbyterian, Riverside Church, and Christian Missionary



Alliance Church of Herndon, in a program called, “Lunch for the Soul.” Lunch for the Soul has been going on for a few years now as a ministry with the men who work as dayworkers here in Herndon. This fall, Holy Cross was invited to partner in the program, and we are now providing the location for the weekly lunch and fellowship ministry.

Each Wednesday, gentlemen are invited to come together at Lunch for the Soul, and about 20 or so accept the invitation and travel to our Fellowship Hall. There is a meal, generally provided by the people of Riverside Church, combined with lively conversation around the tables. After the meal, one of the Spanish-speaking pastors leads an informal Bible Study. While the study is not compulsory, almost all of the men stay for the study and the discussion that follows. Often, they are asked to share what blessings they are thankful for in the past week, and each week I have been touched by hearing them share about their lives.





The goals of Lunch for the Soul are to build community among the men, to feed their bodies, and then to nourish their souls. Almost all of them are separated from their families by thousands of miles and the work they are able to do allows them to send desperately

needed money home. The majority of the gentlemen I have met are from Central America and already I have heard some horrific stories of life and death in their homelands. Giving them a place to gather with fellow Christians for a meal, conversation, and discipleship is a high point in their week for many I have spoken to.

If you would like to be part of this ministry, please talk to our new Council Community Outreach coordinator, Deb Reilly, or me.

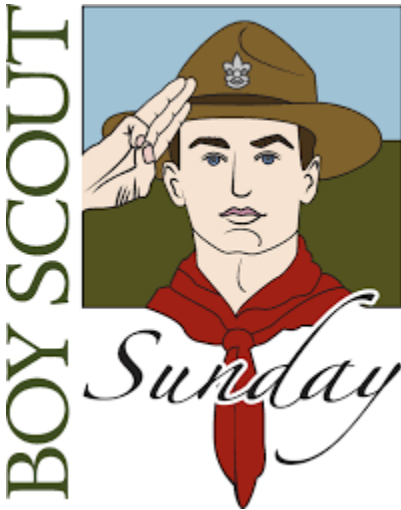
Thanks,  
Pastor Martin

## YOUTH

### 2022 Scout Sunday

A Scout is reverent. Sunday, February 13, 2022, is Scout Sunday at Holy Cross. Please let Anne Geiger know at 703-437-9413 or [Gei2@verizon.net](mailto:Gei2@verizon.net), if you are a Boy or Girl Scout or Adult Scouter who would be willing to serve in uniform at either the 8:30 am or 11:00 am service on February 13<sup>th</sup>. We need greeters, readers, ushers, acolytes, assisting ministers, and communion assistants.

Thank you!



## 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.

1. When you're unable to attend in-person, you can mail a check to Holy Cross, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170.
2. Bring your offering with you to worship service at 8:30 or 11:00 am or communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 12:30 pm.
3. Go to our website, [www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net](http://www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net), Click "Donate" and fill out the safe and secure donation form. 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



Holy Trinity served as a first aid station and a food distribution center in the days after George Floyd's murder.



# Living Our Theology: Demanding Justice

The first time Angela !Khabeb attended an ELCA church service, she and a friend, prepared for an “evangelical” experience, brought their tambourines and Bibles. “We didn’t use either, and before we knew it, we were done with church!” !Khabeb recalled.

Curious to learn more, she visited ELCA.org and found social statements explaining the church’s commitment to diversity, gender equality and racial equity. *ELCA social statements, developed through the ELCA churchwide office and funded by Mission Support, are a frequent starting point for potential members in learning how Lutheran theology applies to pressing issues.*

After years of searching for a place in Pentecostal congregations that limited her leadership because of her gender, !Khabeb hoped the ELCA was where she belonged.

She continued her faith journey as an ELCA missionary serving the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia and a seminary student at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. After calls in Ohio and Wisconsin, she became pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis in 2018.

Holy Trinity’s building is located less than three blocks from the Minneapolis Police Department’s Third Precinct, where Officer Derek Chauvin worked. After Chauvin murdered George Floyd on May 25, 2020, protests broke out in the precinct. Holy Trinity served as a first aid station and a

food distribution center during the uprising. !Khabeb preached in the streets and later appeared on ABC’s *Good Morning America* to discuss faith and racial justice.

The simultaneous reckoning with racial inequity and the COVID-19 pandemic forced Holy Trinity to grow in its vocation, she said. “We’ve made strides in our congregation, moving from the toxic theology of scarcity to the breadth and joy of abundance.” The response also amplified her voice.

“A lot of times we look to [pastors and deacons] to do the things that all of us are called to do as baptized members of the body of Christ.”

!Khabeb thinks the ELCA needs strong leadership if it wants to practice the same theology it espouses in social statements. “A lot of times we look to [pastors and deacons] to do the things that all of us are called to do as baptized members of the body of Christ,” she said. “If we see violence and division in our society, we find it also in our pews. Lay leaders are key to reminding the church of what we said we would do. God is like a mirror. Just keep holding it up and asking ourselves, ‘Are we there yet?’”



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





1090 Sterling Road  
Herndon, VA 20170

