

THE QUEST

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



February 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 Monday, February 14.

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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www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net

 www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

STAFF



March 2 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time in the liturgical calendar when we are invited to be more reflective, taking stock of our relationship with God, with others, and with ourselves. This also fits in with a common Lenten practice of focusing on catechetical or teaching themes, reminding us of what grounds us in our faith.

For worship this Lent, we are taking up this catechetical track and will be using the theme of, “Credo – I Believe” focusing on the gift of The Apostles’ Creed for our journey as people of God. Each week, we will take of a portion of the Creed as our emphasis for both our Wednesday and Sunday gatherings. I invite us to use this time and these themes to reflect on the words we say each Sunday, to ponder how they have shaped us, and envision how they may continue to challenge and guide us along the way in our living faith. We will also provide some copies of Luther’s Small Catechism, so we can use his explanations as another aid in our reflection.

Here are the themes and the scriptures for the Sundays:

March 6

1st Sunday in Lent

“God the Father Almighty”

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 13

2nd Sunday in Lent

“Jesus Christ, Born of the Virgin Mary”

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17--4:1; Luke 13:31-35

March 20
3rd Sunday in Lent

“Crucified, Died, and Buried”
Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians
10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 27
4th Sunday in Lent

“On the Third Day Risen
Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians
5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

April 3
5th Sunday in Lent

“The Holy Spirit”
Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians
3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

April 10
Palm Sunday

“The Holy Catholic Church”
Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm
31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11

April 14
Maundy Thursday

“The Forgiveness of Sins”
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14; Psalm 116:1-
2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 15
Good Friday

“The Life Everlasting”
Isaiah 52:13--53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews
4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1--19:42

With you on the journey,

Pastor Martin

Pastor's Whereabouts



Pastor Martin will be attending the, "Ignite the Church" conference in Orlando, February 8-10. From February 14 - March 1, he will be visiting his mom in Wisconsin, while his sister and her family take a vacation to...Orlando!

Pastor Paul Opsahl will be covering worship on February 20th and 27th and Pastor Annabelle Markley at Community Lutheran (703-938-

2119) will be on call for any pastoral emergencies. While Pastor Martin is away, he will be working most days and will be available for phone calls and emails.



Director of Music and Liturgy

HCLC's Hybrid Organ

I have been spending some time with our organ tuners to come up with a 10-year maintenance plan for the HCLC organ. The organ has been at HCLC for 16 years and

is nearly 48 years old in total. The hybrid portion of the organ is almost five years old.

After worship a few weeks ago, I was giving a tour of the inside of the organ to a few young members of the church and answering questions from adults about the organ. I always enjoy explaining how our hybrid organ works and thought it would be a good time to talk about the upgrades we did five years ago.

Q: Where are all the new pipes? A: There aren't any! All the upgrades done in 2017 were digital. We turned our existing pipe organ into a hybrid organ. This means there is a combination of pipes and speakers in one instrument. Things like space available and costs of new pipes can be prohibitive when expanding an organ. Upgrading to a hybrid organ is a perfect solution to these problems. The cost is lower, and the space needed is minimal.

We installed eight speakers inside the pipe chambers (four on each side) and one subwoofer under the icon on the lectern side of the sanctuary.

Great care was taken to make sure both parts of the organ (pipe and digital) sound together as one instrument. After installation we spent about 16 hours voicing the organ. "Voicing" an organ is a process in which the sounds created are manipulated to create a harmonious

sound. There are two computers inside the pipe chamber that control both the pipes and the speakers. We ran a wire from the pipe chamber to a laptop on the organ bench to voice the digital stops. There are 38 things they can do to each individual note that won't affect the other notes and there are 132 different things they can do to each rank as a whole. Things like adjusting the pitch, volume, speed of attack, resonance, color, and a lot of other things I don't entirely understand. I learned that there is a doppler effect on the organ. Similar to how the sound of a train changes pitch as it approaches and goes by you. When I open and close the swell shades, the sound waves on one side of each shade go sharp and the sound waves on the other side of each shade go flat. Since none of the speakers are inside the swell chamber, they needed to recreate digitally what happens physically. It is amazing how exactly they can match this effect. I also learned that when one plays a note on the upper part of the keyboard and plays chords on the lower part, the upper note would sag in pitch because of the way the wind is blowing through the chest. They again needed to recreate this physical effect digitally. These are the types of things we did while voicing the instrument. Each effect had to be done on each note of each rank.

Another aspect of making sure the whole organ sounds as one instrument is the intonation. We have our organ tuned twice a year. Within a month or so after tuning the pipes will start to go out of tune (sharp or flat). This is due to humidity, temperature, and atmospheric pressure. The digital ranks are not subject to this effect. Therefore, three sensors are installed on each pipe chamber that measures temperature, humidity, and atmospheric pressure. The sensors also listen to the pipe's sound waves. As the pipes go out of tune, a signal goes to the computer to have the digital ranks go out of tune as well. This way everything stays in tune with itself. The digital ranks would be useless for 10 out of 12 months of the year otherwise.

Our existing pipe organ was 29 ranks (a rank is a set of pipes that create a specific sound). We added eight digital ranks to make a 37

rank hybrid organ. It is not a virtual pipe organ. That is something different and a subject for another article. The ranks we added are:

Pedal	Swell	Great
32' Untersatz	4' Triangle Flute	8' Dulciana
8' Trumpet	8' Festival Trumpet	8' Unda Maris
		2' Wald Flute
		Chimes

Not all of these are large show stopping ranks. Many are more subtle ranks that can be used in combination with other ranks to create various solo colors. The organ truly has a breath of new life in it (a digital breath anyway!). I have never heard it sound so alive and the character is so much more playful than it had been. I continue to enjoy enhancing our worship services with all the new combinations of sound.

The 32' Untersatz is a string rank (Viola to be specific) that has a wonderful purr to it. It adds a solid foundation to the organ that will match a variety of registrations on the manuals. The new 8' Festival Trumpet on the swell puts our existing 8' Trompette on the great to shame. It is the biggest reed I have ever heard! It can be accompanied with full organ and still shine out above everything. Both the 4' Triangle Flute and 2' Wald Flute are lovely ranks with a playful character. They will serve as nice contrast to our existing flutes. The 8' Dulciana and 8' Unda Maris are string ranks. They have a darker quality to them as compared to our existing strings but are still quite rich and lush in sound. The strings make a wonderful accompaniment for our new set of digital chimes. From time to time, you will hear the use of orchestral chimes in our worship and swear there is a set of chimes in the room somewhere.

The organ at Holy Cross continues to be a highlight of my job. It is a lot of fun to play and a wonderful instrument to listen to.

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

COUNCIL NEWS



“Flexibility”

Holy Cross Family –

If we’ve learned anything from dealing with the challenges we’ve faced in the last two years, it’s that we have to be willing to adapt and change. In the early stages of the pandemic, we took “baby steps” as we learned how to live-

stream and relied upon our “Quaranteam” to provide services. We were fortunate that these dedicated individuals were willing to make personal sacrifices to enable us to continue live services each week. We improved our technology, and the widespread availability of vaccines for adults enabled us to return to in-person services for a wider group of people, so that their shared worship experience with our live-stream audience provided an opportunity for all to participate in a more familiar setting. We were hoping the availability of the vaccinations for children would enable more families to worship in person and a return to hosting indoor youth activities, but the continuing pandemic curtailed those plans.

We considered limiting in-person services once again; however, we realized the approach we’d taken earlier wouldn’t really work due to the possible impact a far more contagious variant could have on a fixed number of “Quaranteam” members. The limited numbers of fully vaccinated, boosted, and mask wearing in-person worshippers and two services provided ample social distancing, and the upgraded HVAC filters and air cleaners in the Sanctuary along with providing KN95 masks enable us to have a de facto new set of “Quaranteam” members. Accordingly, at this time the Executive Committee has

decided to continue with individual members making the decision each week between the live-stream and in-person options.

We have purchased Rapid Tests, and Pastor and Jeremy will be taking those to improve our confidence that we can provide a safe environment. However, we have learned that many things are out of our control (and they may have changed again by the time you read this!), so we will continue to be flexible as we move forward in faith!

We are thankful that so many of you have been able to transition to the “new normal” and that giving has been consistent to enable us to carry on, since our expenses are relatively constant regardless of the number of people in the building. We’ve already spent more on snow removal this year than last, and other expenses have increased, so thank you for your continued faithfulness.

Deb Reilly and her Outreach Team have picked up where Suzanne Flegal and her team left off as we continue to “be the Church” in our community. Our other new Council members have picked up the batons from their predecessors as well, and your Council hit the ground running with its first meeting of the new year. I know all of you join me in hoping that what appears to be a winding down of the Omicron variant will signal the final stages of the pandemic and not just a precursor to the next stage. Whatever happens, we have the assurance of the love of our Savior and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as God watches over us.

Because of you, I’m optimistic about our future, and I’m excited to see how the Holy Spirit continues to guide us as we attempt to follow Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

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

“On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...” Christmas may be in the rearview mirror, but YOUR generosity is top of mind!

On Christmas Eve we asked the Holy Cross community to collect items to restock the LINK food pantry. We collected your donations the week of Epiphany. Your response was AMAZING! We took three vans of gifts to LINK!! Here's what you gave:

Rice – 29 lbs.
Dried Beans – 34 bags
Potato Mixes – 22
Paper Towels – 16 rolls
Toilet Paper – 126 rolls
Diapers – 598
Cereal – 27 boxes
Oatmeal – 21 packages
Canned Vegetables – 32 cans
Canned Tomatoes – 40 cans
Jelly – 18 bottles
Soups – 68 cans



Plus: Toiletries, hand sanitizer, tissues, juice, canned meats, pasta & sauce, peanut butter, water bottles, sweet treats, chips, and more!



Thank you all for your compassionate, generous donations. By feeding our hungry neighbors, you are truly living your faith.

Did you know LINK Sponsors a Holiday Program?

In addition to regular food deliveries to families in need, individuals and families can sign up for the Holiday Program. Participants receive an additional box of food, gift cards for local grocery stores, and toys for children through teens. Families picked up food boxes on three dates in November and December at Christ the Redeemer Church and toys were available at Herndon United Methodist Church in December. Recipients drove to the designated locations, and food and toys were placed in their vehicles, to minimize contact and keep people safe.

LINK was able to provide food, gift cards, and toys to over 1,000 families comprising 5,200 individuals this year. Volunteers sorted, purchased and boxed the food, sorted toys, fielded phone calls, picked up donations, managed volunteers, distributed food, toys, and gift cards, managed the flow of traffic, and much more to share the holiday season with these families.

Lisa Lombardozzi, President of LINK, reminds us that Mother Teresa said, *"We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something."* We were placed on this earth not for ourselves, but for each other. By giving of ourselves to others, we are able to be the hands and feet of Jesus – to show others that God's love is powerful.

~ Joy Heuer, Holy Cross LINK Board Member

“Building on the Best” Capital Campaign Update

THANK YOU!!! On behalf of the entire “Building on the Best” Capital Campaign team, thank you for your continued generosity and support of the campaign. We’ve just passed an important milestone – the program officially wrapped up on Dec. 31, 2021! It seems like a great time to catch up on the campaign’s progress.

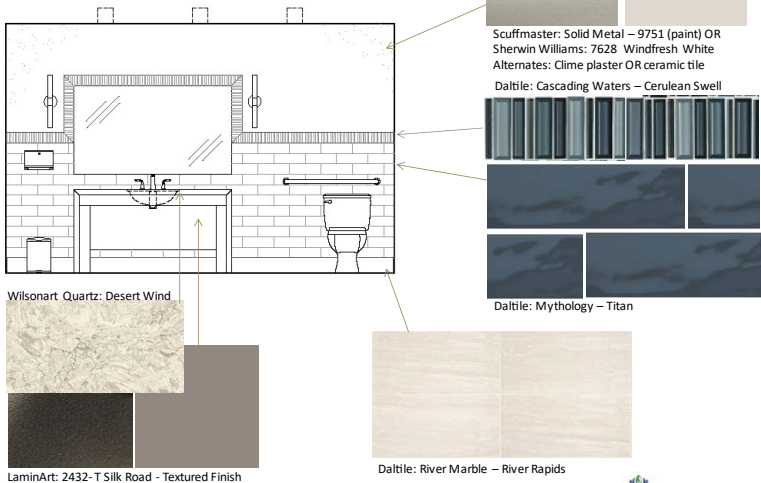
Through your generosity, we are fully committed to meet our \$200K goal. As of the end of 2021, we have commitments for \$201K. To date, we have received more than \$170K of the program commitments. Your gifts have kept the program moving forward.

Together, we continue to make great progress. Over the last three years, we completed several capital projects in the building, including replacing portions of our roof, installing new carpeting in the Fellowship Hall, painting the offices, and installing new cabinetry in the office and copy room. We have both supported and benefited from the Synod’s New Connections Campaign, participating in seminars for both our staff and lay leaders. We leveraged program funds to experiment with new Evangelism activities, including the Trunk or Treat event, adding technology to support remote worship, and welcoming new members in November 2021.

The restroom renovation plans are firming up. In the coming weeks, the Campaign team will be coming back to the Congregation with a proposal to move forward on the restroom renovation. Our architects provided some great ideas to add new restrooms in the Education Wing, add a child friendly restroom to the Nursery, and modify our Conference Room, as well as renovate the Admin Wing restrooms. Not surprisingly, their overall proposal substantially exceeds our estimates for the restroom renovation. We are exploring options but anticipate recommending a scaled-down version of their plan. Because of the costs involved, we want to ensure all our members have the opportunity to weigh in on the approach and agree to a path

forward. For your information, here are some samples of the proposed finishes for the updated restrooms.

FINISH SCHEME 1:
FAMILY RESTROOM

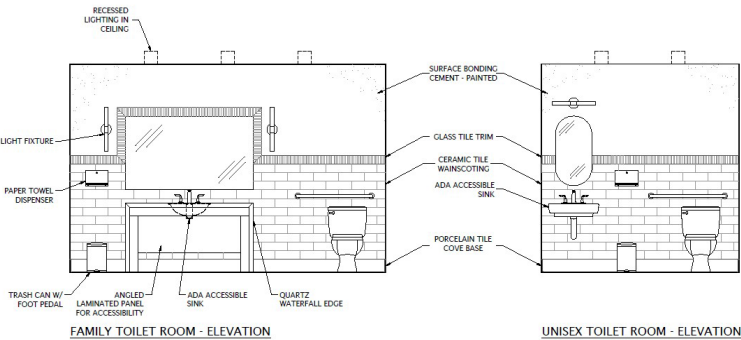


Note: All renderings are approximations and do not show the exact scale, color or patterns. Please refer to the product samples.



NEW UNISEX & FAMILY RESTROOMS

(FINISH SCHEME 1)



Thank you, again, for your generous support. None of us could have predicted what 2020/21 would hold. For those facing financial hardship, please know that we understand and will pray for you. For those who are feeling gratitude for your blessings, we rejoice with you. As we are in the final days of the program, we need your help to know what to expect to realistically plan for the best use of the funds that will be available. If you need to reduce your commitment, please send a note to Deb Reilly - debreilly62@gmail.com or to the office - admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net. If you were unable to give previously, and now find yourself able to join the campaign, please make a contribution, specifying it is for the Capital Campaign. The Capital Campaign Team asks that you continue to pray for the program and for the important work of Holy Cross.

Prayers for peace, grace, and good health.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Reilly

Some Quotes from the Christmas Tree of Gratitude

I am thankful for...

- *Good Health*
- *My Divisis are the funnest thing ever*
- *My family and the ability to care for them*
- *For 2 loving sons and my grandsons as well as the Holy Cross family*
- *For my good friends and lots of laughs*
- *Family, Good health, God's discernment, Pets, Science, Medicine, Music, & Friends*
- *My Holy Cross family*
- *For the love of a woman I trust*
- *Family*
- *For scientists fighting Covid and other diseases*
- *For my family's love*
- *For art, my cat, my dog, my mom, grandma and my grandpa*
- *For HCLC and family and friends*
- *For cats, books, coffee and that I have a family that loves me and I love them*
- *School*
- *For family and friends and that I found this church to join*
- *My husband, my son and daughter, my Mom and Dad and sisters*
- *Aunt Natalie*
- *A loving family and good health to my family*

- *And one last one----marry cristmas!*

YOUTH

2022 Scout Sunday

A Scout is reverent. Sunday, February 13, 2022, is Scout Sunday at Holy Cross. The BSA Troop 12 charter for 2022 will be given to Pastor Martin by the Troop 12 Chartered Organization Representative, Anne Geiger at the 11:00 AM service.

Scouts and Scouters, please wear your scout uniforms at home to celebrate the 2022 Scout Sunday.



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, you can mail a check to Holy Cross, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170.

Bring your offering with you to worship service at 8:30 or 11:00 am or communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 12:30 pm.

Go to our website, 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



"The church becomes a family only with the recognition of women as equal partners in God's vineyard."



Equal in God's Kingdom

Cholita Narzary made history in November 2020 as the second woman ordained into ministry by the Bodo Evangelical Lutheran Church (BELC) in Assam, India. She joined the roster 22 **years after the denomination ordained its first woman**, the late Kunanjaw Basumatary, who served as BELC bishop in the past.

"Since the first woman's ordination there were many silent years," said Ichahak Muchahary, BELC bishop. "The church becomes a family only with the recognition of women as equal partners in God's vineyard."

Muchahary credits the ELCA-organized 2019 South East Asia Conference on Gender Justice in Hyderabad, India, for pushing him and other leaders to advocate for and implement gender justice shifts within the church. *The ELCA has accompanied the BELC for two years, funding some of its ministries through Mission Support.* Since entering a formal companion relationship with the BELC in 2018, the ELCA has accompanied the church with mutual encouragement and leadership training events and funded community development, disaster response and academic scholarships (including for International Women Leaders).

Said Narzary of her ordination, "I knew the call of God from my childhood, but due to my parents and others, I could not go for further biblical studies. It took me long years, and it was really challenging for a girl like me to [acknowledge] my true [vocation]."

Prior to 2020, Narzary served as an evangelist and Sunday school teacher within the BELC and received training at the Karnataka Theological College in Mangalore (India).

She currently works as women's coordinator for the BELC, manages its Silk Research and Development Centre and leads a local parish.

"I strongly believe that men and women are equal in God's kingdom, both bearing the image of God. Now, after experiencing the work that women are also capable [of], the church will open the door for other women too."

Muchahary said Narzary's ordination has paved the way for the BELC to ordain more women. Currently six are pursuing theological **studies in different seminaries in India**, and in 2021 the BELC General Council adopted a resolution to implement 41% gender representation in all its governing bodies, in compliance with the Lutheran World Federation's gender justice policy.

With those amendments, Narzary hopes that **many qualified and ordained women will take leadership positions in the BELC.** "Women have always been in the forefront of Jesus' ministry," she said. "I strongly believe that men and women are equal in God's kingdom, both bearing the image of God. Now, after experiencing the work that women are also capable [of], the church will open the door for other women too."



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



1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 20170

