



# THE QUEST

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



L E N T

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**March 2022**



A graphic with a dark purple background featuring a low-poly, geometric pattern. The word "Lenten" is written in a large, white, serif font, and the word "Reflections" is written below it in a white, cursive script font.

# Lenten *Reflections*

Just a Thought...

Lent calls us to strip away all that is keeping us from God. I often find that I spend far too much time taking care of my stuff, distracting me from my relationship with God.

Lent is a good time to physically remove some of the things that I don't need anymore. I'm embracing a special project this Lent - removing one bag of "stuff" from my home every day for 40 days. I wonder where removing 40 bags of excess clutter from my life will leave me? Will I make more room for God? Like so many other things in my life, it is a work in progress...

Deb Reilly

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# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the April 2022 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, Quest, is Monday, March 14.

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)



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

## STAFF



As I write, it is late February, and I am facing my usual post-deadline deadline to complete my portion of *The Quest* so Teresa can get it to print next week. This week, however, feels different. As I ponder what to write, the world around us seems even more chaotic as Russian forces invade Ukraine and global peace seems to be realistically at risk.

As I ponder, I am sitting at my sister's home in Wisconsin looking out the window where the bright sun, brisk air, and snow-covered woods create a peaceful, beautiful landscape. Somewhere nearby, the resident pileated woodpecker is ardently pounding away on one of the hardwood trees and, as dusk approaches, the deer will soon come out seeking something eat. It is a tranquil scene, and it would be tempting to retreat into the beauty of what I happen to see out my window and forget what our Ukrainian siblings are currently witnessing out of theirs.

You've probably heard me describe the liturgical season of Lent as a journey, and so it is on many levels. Most obviously, it is the observance of Jesus' journey to the Cross. But it is also our journey of repentance, reflection, and remembrance as Jesus calls his followers to take up the cruciform life in his name, continually re-evaluating and renewing our relationships with God, Creation, our neighbor, and ourselves. There is a teaching or catechetical layer. In the early years of the Church, Lent served as the journey of preparation for those taking on the Sacrament of Baptism, which was performed on Holy Saturday during the Easter Vigil. Finally,

there is also a broader journey at work as well, as the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus serves as God's gracious embrace upon the whole of humanity's journey on earth. Jesus identifies with all of who we are, all of what encounter, and all of what it means to be human.

The layers of the Lenten journey are deeply grounded in the human experience. It is not a journey that promises a departure from the realities of the world, but one that is precisely the opposite: a journey in and within a world that is sometimes fraught with peril. The Lenten journey is Jesus' call for us not to escape the world but to, surrounded by grace and held fast in faith, walk through the path with our heads held high knowing that the One who calls us is greater than the circumstances that surround us.

This year, our common Lenten journey will have as its focus The Apostles' Creed. Martin Luther set up his Small Catechism with a specific order in mind, flowing from the demands of the Law into the Promise of Grace. After the harsh requirements of the Ten Commandments in the first section, in the second the community responds not with despair but with a statement of belief (*credo*) in a just and gracious God expressed in The Creed. It is a confession and proclamation about a God who has created all things, who is compassionate and loving in making a saving way for us, and who remains connected to us in our daily life. It is a statement of faith about a God who understands the complexities and brokenness of our journey and promises to remain faithful with us along the way.

The violence in Ukraine is just beginning as I write these words and it may be something different by the time you read them. We are and will continue to be praying for the people of Ukraine, for the leaders of the worlds, and ultimately for peace. We will continue to profess a faith that calls us into the world and not out of it, to be the healers and the peace makers, the ones who feed and clothe, the ones who strive to forgive as we have been forgiven.

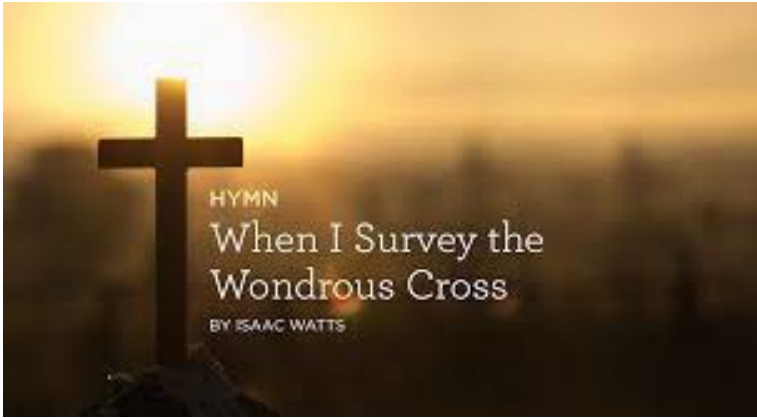
Our Lenten journey is a microcosm of our journey of faith throughout our lives. We are reminded of God's connection to us and all Creation, we are reminded of God's grace for all people in Jesus, and we are reminded and sustained by the Spirit's breath and presence in our lives along the way.

With you in the Journey,

*Pastor Martin*



## Director of Music and Liturgy



Adjectives are a powerful part of the English language. They can change one's image of an ordinary house to a grand mansion in the woods with a peaceful river flowing through the backyard. Many hymns' writers struggle to articulate a piece of our faith poetically. It is an art that began in the early church and still exists today. Isaac Watts, one of the church's greatest hymn writers, wrote the hymn *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* achieving new heights of passionate devotional poetry while using merely five adjectives. This does not include adjectival words used as predicates. The purely descriptive adjectives are: 'wondrous,' 'richest,' 'vain,' 'rich', and 'amazing'. Yet we must agree that this is one of the most penetrating hymns of the Lutheran hymnal. Each stanza is written with strong, clear, simple thoughts.

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, written originally for use in the Communion Service, was inspired by Paul's impassioned declaration in Galatians 6:14, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world." This statement is a climax to his argument that one does not have to become a Jew before he can become a Christian. From this profound statement Isaac Watts derives five stanzas of poetry to portray the Prince of Glory and his throne, the cross.

*When I survey the wondrous Cross,  
On which the prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

“Survey” suggests not only sight but also contemplation; the deliberate attempt on the part of the communicant to realize what Christ’s death meant to the world. The cross is “wondrous” because in this one instance a Roman instrument of torture and death has become God’s instrument for saving mankind. “Prince of Glory” suggests the highest exaltation. Watts believed that Christ had been a “Prince” in heaven before the world as created (Col 1:15-17).

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.*

Each person can make a list of his or her “vain things” that we boast in. Watts calls us in this stanza to sacrifice all earthly things for Christ and only boast in Christ’s death on a cross.

*See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

Stanza three is one of Watts’ most beautiful stanzas. The sorrow and love the flow mingled down from his head, hands, and feet is an allusion to the blood that flowed from his side after a soldier pierced him with a spear to prove that he was dead. Watts takes the word “mingled” and transforms a revolting physical death into a spiritual flow of sorrow and love. At the end of this stanza Watts declares the worth of Christ’s crown of thorns to be greater than any monarch’s crown of jewels.

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

In this stanza Watts' intent to assess the value of Christ's sacrifice reaches a personal climax. Although human sin through the ages amounts to more than the material worth of the entire universe, Christ's atonement is still more than adequate. Therefore, God needs no further payback. We are simply called to live our life for Christ and give him all that we are.

The thought and meditation that Isaac Watts put into the passion scripture produced stanzas of poetry that have stood the test of time. This hymn has been sung through the ages and continues to educate Christians throughout the world about Christ's love

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

## COUNCIL NEWS



Holy Cross Family –

### **“Our Faith Family”**

You may have noticed that I often open missives by addressing them to our “Holy Cross Family.” How are we doing as a family of faith? By most measures, we have weathered the storm brought on by the

pandemic fairly well. As a matter of fact, we’ve found the Holy Spirit has guided us to expand our view of what it means to “do church.”

We’ve pivoted to become a hybrid church where we intersperse physical and virtual participation almost seamlessly. We’ve found that many (most?) meetings formerly done in-person can be done just as effectively and with reduced time commitments by means of Zoom. We’ve also found that sharing our in-person worship with those who might not be able to attend can provide a rewarding and meaningful engagement for them. However, these virtual experiences owe much of their value to prior in-person shared events.

Many of our older members have years of church life to “fill the gaps,” but our younger members and their families do not have these deep reservoirs of church familiarity to rely upon. We are hopeful health trends will continue to improve even as mask mandates are lifted in schools. If that is the case, we look forward to families feeling comfortable to participate more fully once again in worship and fellowship activities in person.

I know all of you join me in hoping that there will be no setback due to the relaxations of mask mandates. Whatever happens, we continue to have the assurance of the love of our Savior and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as God watches over us.

I am thankful the Holy Spirit continues to guide us as we attempt to follow Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Sam Carter

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC**



**March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
7:00 PM**

**With Communion and Imposition of Ashes**

# Credo – I Believe

**8:30 & 11:00 AM**

**Sundays in Lent**

**March 6:** God the Father Almighty

**March 13:** Jesus Christ, Born of the Virgin Mary

**March 20:** Crucified, Died, and Buried

**March 27:** On the Third Day Risen!

**April 3:** The Holy Spirit

**April 10:** *Palm Sunday:* The Holy Catholic Church

**April 14:** *Maundy Thursday:* Forgiveness of Sins

**April 15:** *Good Friday:* Life Everlasting

Our Lenten journey on Sundays in Lent will focus on the Apostles' Creed. Scripture and a selection of poems by Susan Palo Cherwien, will focus our worship on statements we recite Sunday after Sunday in the Apostles' Creed. *Credo – I Believe* holds in front of us the ancient tradition of using Lent to prepare new Christians for baptism on Easter.

We are excited to pair this Sunday series with the midweek series that focuses on the covenants found in the baptismal liturgy.

# Midweek Lent Worship Schedule



## Continuing in the Covenant of Baptism

7:00 PM

Wednesdays in Lent

In-Person and Facebook Live

- March 9:** To live among God's faithful people
- March 16:** To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper
- March 23:** To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- March 30:** To serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- April 6:** To strive for justice and peace in all the earth

Our Lenten journey continues Wednesdays in Lent with a focus on the baptismal covenants. Join us in person or on Facebook Live for a meditative service that explores how these covenants pertain to our daily life.

We are excited to pair this midweek series with the Sunday morning series that focuses on preparing us for remembering our baptism on Easter morning.





As our church activities are beginning to get back to normal, we need more helpers. Please look through the list of volunteer opportunities below and see if there is something that you can do to contribute. Adults and young people (age 10 or older) are needed. Training is provided and the scheduling can be flexible. If you are interested in helping or want more information, please contact Carol Shaffer, [wandmchair@holycrosslutheranchurch.net](mailto:wandmchair@holycrosslutheranchurch.net).

### **Altar guild: (3 possible jobs)**

1. Assist with preparing the altar for worship for one service per month.
2. Assist with changing the paraments on the altar when the colors need to be changed – about nine times per year. This is often done immediately after the 11:00 AM service and it would be OK if you can only come a few of the times.
3. Assist with decorating (and decoration removal) the sanctuary for Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter.

**Usher:** Assisting one service per month by handing out bulletins, collecting the offering, and directing people as they walk up for communion.

**Assisting Minister:** Assisting at one service per month by being at the altar with Pastor Martin, singing or saying parts of the liturgy, and assisting with communion.

**Acolyte:** Assisting at one service per month by lighting and extinguishing the altar candles, carrying the cross during the processional and recessional, assisting with communion, and receiving the offering plates from the ushers.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## Orpheus Jazz Band



**Date:** Sunday, March 27, 2022

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** HCLC Fellowship Hall

**Admission:** Free

Spring is just around the corner! Let's get it started with a spring concert! Holy Cross's own Jim Houck (bassist), Band Leader of Orpheus Jazz Band, will perform at HCLC in Fellowship Hall. After dinner come out for fine entertainment with an evening of jazz music and complimentary beverages and desserts. Mark your calendars. We hope to see you there!

## OUTREACH

### Lunch for the Soul



¡Hola! In January, we shared our excitement in joining the “Lunch for the Soul” Ministry ~ a partnership with Trinity Presbyterian, Riverside Church, and Christian Missionary Alliance Church of Herndon. Lunch for the Soul serves as ministry for the men who work as day laborers in the area.

The goals of Lunch for the Soul are to build community among the men, to feed their bodies, and 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. Most of the gentlemen are from Central America and some share 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.

Early this winter, Holy Cross began 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 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, nearly all 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 we are touched by hearing them share about their lives.

In February, we provided and entered the rotation of churches to provide the meal. We prepared a delicious meal of pulled chicken, rice, beans, fruit, and dessert. The men were also provided snacks and soup for later, water, and gloves. Holy Cross will provide the food for lunch the first Wednesday of each month. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please let me know!

Peace,  
Deb Reilly



## English Language Learners (ELL)



English Language Learners (ELL) is online via Zoom for the spring semester. COVID-19 is keeping us online. The program leaders will assess again in May if we can safely teach our summer semester in person. We miss teaching our students in person at Holy Cross!

Dayna, our Beginners teacher, is not teaching with us any longer. Most of her students moved to Chip's class.

Our student count is down this semester, which is normal at the beginning of each semester. We had 11 students this past Wednesday for our two classes. We lose students due to work schedule changes, illness, bad internet, and other factors. We are confident more of our previous students will join us in future classes.

It is best for students to use laptops for our classes. We continue to give thanks for the 24 donated computers from Ron Hacker, which were distributed to students. The demand for laptops remains an issue. It's not easy to follow our lessons on a smart phone.

Teaching these classes remains a great joy and blessing to all who are involved. If you are interested in helping with ELL, please contact the ministry coordinator, Ellen Atwell at [ellen.atwell@verizon.net](mailto:ellen.atwell@verizon.net).

**Did you know?**

Hunger is closer than you think! Did you know that Holy Cross prepares a lunch to serve at the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston every other month? Want to help? Contact Barb Gouldsey at [Barbara.gouldsey@verizon.net](mailto:Barbara.gouldsey@verizon.net).

## EVANGELISM



Despite the morning's frosty cold temperatures, last week's 60+ degree weather gives us hope that spring can't be too far behind. May God's love continue to warm our hearts and remind us of His never-failing love for all of us.

We have been so blessed to recently welcome some new members. These folks are already getting involved and becoming a vital part of our Holy Cross family. That's how ministry happens – one new member at a time.

Plans are underway for Holy Cross to participate in this year's Town annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 16. The Town had to cancel the Easter Egg Hunt the past two years due to COVID restrictions. So, we're excited to be part of this family event again this year. More details to come . . . stay tuned!!

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



**WHO:** Kids (Pre-k - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**WHAT:** Sunday Kids Gatherings

**WHEN:** 10:00 am - 10:45 am Every Sunday (Rain or Shine)

**WHERE:** Outside on the Portico

**WHY:** To Learn About God and His Eternal Love

*Which of Jesus' miracles will we learn about in March?*



## What Will We Do?

- ✓ Openings with Mr. Jeremy
- ✓ Miracle stories - Bible & Video
- ✓ Science & crafts
- ✓ Share God's love with the world
- ✓ Play!



*But Jesus called the children to him and said,  
"Let the little children come to me." Luke*

## **LIFE PASSAGES**

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

### **Rejoicing Birth**

Devin and Lauren Gist welcomed baby Remington Jean Gist's (Remi) arrival on February 4, 2022.



### **Preparing For Marriage**

Kate Reilly & Ron Ashbaugh in April 2022



## 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](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



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

*Christian community*

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



LENT