



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



May 2022

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

John 19:25-27 NIV

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the June 2022 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, Quest, is Thursday, May 12.

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

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

Thank you,
Teresa Easterly
Church Administrator

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 20170
703-437-1883

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STAFF



What's next?

The Council and I have just finished reading and discussing the book, *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger. The book is an invitation to rethink and reshape how we work as congregations, recognizing that the world and the culture have changed drastically over the past generation or so. Many of the ways we assumed things worked (and, consequently how we trained pastors and church leaders to lead) have become increasingly less effective. In the past, we operated around the accepted idea called "Christendom," a concept that recognized that Christianity was either a major or the prime factor in determining how the greater culture operated. In reality, that has not been the case for a long time.

So, what is next?

Bolsinger's book takes on the extended metaphor of the Corps of Discovery, led by Lewis and Clark. Sent out by President Jefferson

to explore the recent Louisiana Purchase and to travel to the Pacific Ocean, the Corps set out confident in the belief that they would be able to travel by water the entire way. No one told them about the Rocky Mountains, because no white people in the East had ever heard of them. The harsh reality became abundantly clear as the leaders stood at the crest of the Continental Divide in Lemhi Pass, Montana. Instead of the anticipated short portage to a new westward heading river, they saw miles and miles of mountains ahead. Their old information was not going to work to get them to the Pacific. They had two choices: go home or go forward. As we all know, they chose to keep moving and thus, helped to change the history of the United States. They also gave us a leadership paradigm for working together in unexpected situations, especially where what used to work isn't going to make it, but nobody really knows exactly what will. Bolsinger writes that the group didn't truly become the Corps of *Discovery* until they moved forward from Lemhi Pass.

In the past two years, we at Holy Cross have experienced many of the same adaptive changes that helped Lewis and Clark move forward. We've traveled together and learned new ways that none of us had ever done, and we thrived through it all, perhaps *because* of it all. While the Pandemic is not over fully, we are beginning to emerge from our quarantines and virtual-only worship experiences a changed people. Who will come back? What do we do next? What's our path?

Like Lewis and Clark, we move forward, confident that the core mission of the church remains the same as it has always been: to bear witness to Jesus Christ and his saving work for all; to gather and nurture people in a relationship with Jesus; and to be a welcoming, safe place for all people in Jesus' name. The Pandemic gave all churches an opportunity to pause and re-evaluate how they have been doing things, and to dream about what the future might look like. What has become abundantly clear even before the Pandemic, is that congregations need to adapt to the new

realities of how our world is today. The past was wonderful, perhaps, but it is not where we are called. Jesus calls us into the future, into the unknown, and where He will be.

What's next?

It's time to be creative, time to try different things, even if they don't work. This will take time. It will take courage. It will take faith. And it will take grace. In my heart, I believe that the best days for Holy Cross lie ahead of us. We will be people of faith, people of hope, and people of discovery – moving forward with Jesus as our guide and grace as we seek the best way to live out our calling as the people of God in his name. How we do this, and where we go next is where the Council and I will begin to spend much of creative energy.

If you have ideas and suggestions, perhaps things that you have seen in other places, please let me or other leaders know. We are all in this journey together!

Pastor Martin

Director of Music and Liturgy



Why do we ring bells in worship?

Last month my Quest article was about why we sing in worship. I thought I'd follow it up with an article I wrote a few years ago with why we ring bells in worship.

The historical foundation for handbell ringing can be traced back to the earliest Christian Church but the handbell of today bears little resemblance to its primitive counterpart and has developed into a sophisticated instrument with its own tonal color and vast range of techniques at the disposal of the musician.

Western civilization has for many centuries associated the sound of bells with the Christian church. They are mentioned in the bible in Exodus as part of Hebrew worship and are shown decorating the robes of priests. In Zechariah, bells are described as part of the war horses' equipment.

Psalm 150 says "Praise Him upon the loud cymbals, praise Him upon the well-tuned cymbals." When translated to English the

word “cymbals” is used in that verse, however the original Greek literally translates to mean cup and was used to describe both cymbals and bells. The “well-tuned cymbals” are the handbells.

In Britain the first missionaries who came to spread the Christian gospel were of the Celtic church. They brought with them their handbells to which they attached great importance. They were quite rough and resembled more of a cow bell than a handbell.

Hundreds of years later in the Middle Ages the handbell had changed into a form more like what we now know. Handbells quickly became one of the basic musical instruments of the church of the day. Pictures of them in use were included in many medieval illuminated manuscripts. In these days handbells would be used to accompany chanting alongside stringed and wind instruments and small organs, or they might be used to play the tenor line which carried the melody.

The development of the organ from the small portable affairs of the day to the enormous “King of Instruments” we now know was probably one of the reasons handbells and were largely relegated to cupboards and boxes at the end of the Middle Ages. But ringing continued to develop in the centuries that followed. By the end of last century there were numerous very large sets of handbells being used as serious musical instruments.

Today, when the move in churches is to involve people more, handbell ringing is a great instrument to use in church to promote the idea of corporate praise. Each ringer must bring their skill to the group and work together as one body to produce a song of praise to the Lord.

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

COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

“Normal-ish”

We began the Easter Season with a large in-person presence at both services. It was truly a joy to see so many friends and family. Attendance dropped off the following Sunday, as might be expected, but online worship attendance levels returned to our “new normal” levels. I was struck by how much this mirrors the rest of our lives as our society grapples with a pandemic that we’re sick and tired of but is not sick and tired of us! In a recent **Sally Forth** comic strip Ted and Sally are dealing with calls to return to their offices. Their exchange could be quoting us:

Ted: Just got an email from work – they want everyone back in the office. I guess with both of us now going back, things have sorta, kinda, not-quite-but-a -little returned to normal-ish?

Sally: I...I guess so?

Ted: Did we **want** to return to the ways things were?

Sally: We had two years to ask ourselves that very question, and every time we just answered with shrugs.

I think we know the answer is, “NO, we don’t want to return to the ways things were!” Of course, we want so many of the “normal” things to return, but we don’t want to settle back into complacency. Rather, our enhanced giving, sharing, and expressing of concern for others that the pandemic and conditions in Ukraine have taught and continue to teach us means that we can return to “normal-ish” but incorporate welcoming and sharing God’s unconditional **LOVE**, which is the essence of true discipleship.

Let us go forth boldly as we celebrate Easter in our lives and share the Good News with others!

Amen, thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,

Sam

Mask Guidance for HCLC



At the beginning of mask mandates, the Holy Cross Church Council voted to follow the guidance of the CDC and local health authorities. As circumstances have changed, the CDC has developed a new tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Both Loudoun and Fairfax Counties have been determined to have **Low COVID-19 Community Levels**. Accordingly, Council approved relaxing our mask requirement, and masks are now optional at Holy Cross. We will continue to monitor the situation, and we hope it will not be necessary to return to stricter policies. We are truly thankful!

What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

Community Burden Levels		
Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines ● Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines ● Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear a mask indoors in public Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines ● Get tested if you have symptoms ● Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

If you are immunocompromised, learn more about [how to protect yourself](#).

FELLOWSHIP



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Quilting Small Group

The next three dates/times for making Lutheran World Relief (LWR) quilts are:

- Saturday, May 21, 2021 - 11am-2pm in Room 202,
- Saturday, June 18, 2022 - 11am-2pm in Room 202, and
- Saturday, July 16, 2022 - 11am-2pm in Room 202.

If you do not know how to sew, no issues! There are parts of quilt making that do not require sewing; **or** if you have always wanted to learn to sew (to at least learn to sew straight lines), someone from the group can teach you!

Little Dresses for Africa

In addition to making LWR quilts and after a 3-year hiatus, Holy Cross will start making pillowcase dresses again during the summer months. The dresses are for Little Dresses for Africa, a non-profit 501c3 Christian organization, which provides relief to the children of Africa. Simple dresses are made from pillowcases, and distributed through the orphanages, churches, and schools in Africa to plant in the hearts of little girls that they are worthy!

Start looking for fun buttons and ribbons to add to the pillowcases, and watch this space, the weekly bulletin and Thursday eblasts for more information on dates and times.

Want more information about either one or both projects? Contact Denise Robinson at drobinson10@cox.net.

He is Risen; He is Risen Indeed – Alleluia!!



The church was full on Easter as we all knew it would be with church members, visiting family members, and many visitors, so the fellowship hour between services and after the late service needed to be much larger than usual. Many thanks to the food preparers **Mary Alice Carlson, David Geiger, Roy Geiger, Jill Reichow, Carol Shaffer, and Jeremy Shoop** who provided wonderfully delicious food to nourish the body. And many thanks to **Suzanne Baggett, Tammy Breene, Pam Darby, Karen Faulkner, Carol Shaffer, and Sarah Schulmeyer** who provided the colorful Easter decorations, set-up, and clean-up for the morning. Many hands make light work, and everyone's contributions are so very greatly appreciated!

With thanks,

Anne Geiger
Fellowship

OUTREACH

Make Some Noise!

Noisy Offering



Holy Cross is partnering with SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center, a safe, child-friendly location that provides direct services to child victims of sexual and physical abuse in Fairfax County. Throughout the month of April our "pinwheel garden" served as a whimsical symbol of the great childhood that each child deserves and as a means for raising awareness about the problem of child abuse in our community.

The pinwheels were provided by SafeSpot, their website is www.safespotfairfax.org. We will have a 'Noisy Collection' on Mother's Day, next Sunday, so don't forget to bring your change to make a joyful noise in the collection. Please note that 'quiet' money will be joyfully accepted.

Deb
Outreach Chair



English Language Learners (ELL) via Zoom



We continue to teach English to our immigrant students every Wednesday evening via Zoom from 7:00-8:30 pm. Our current semester will end on May 11th.

We are blessed and thankful for the Loudoun Literacy Council for their donation of English textbooks, **Ventures**. You may want to learn more about this wonderful organization. The Literacy Council offers ELL classes, GED, citizenship preparation, tutoring, plus several other great services – all **free of charge**!

From their website (<https://loudounliteracy.org/>):

Loudoun Literacy Council has been changing lives through reading and learning to promote personal growth and empowerment in Loudoun County since 1980.

We plan to use the textbooks when we return to in person classes at Holy Cross, hopefully in the fall semester on Mondays and Wednesdays. In-person will depend on each teacher's availability and comfort level. More information will be available as soon as possible.

We have our first Ukrainian student, Natalia from Lviv, who recently arrived here to stay with her daughter. Natalia is happy to be safe, but looks forward to returning to her homeland where her oldest daughter remains. She has a civil engineering degree and anticipates a lot of work when she returns to Ukraine due to the ongoing destruction. She was able to participate comfortably with our intermediate level class. Our teachers are happy for the opportunity to help in this small way.

We are looking for another teacher who speaks some Spanish for our beginner's class; however, it is not a requirement. In our beginner's class we use a picture textbook and slowly graduate to more challenging tools. Prepared lessons are available. If you know anyone interested, please contact the church office, Administrator@holycrosslutheranchurch.net.

The ELL Team,

(Ellen Atwell, Suzanne Baggett, Jeanne Massenet, and Chip Edwards)



Change in The Closet's Voucher Hours



“Due to staffing and volunteer shortages, The Closet has been forced to make the difficult decision to reduce our hours for accepting vouchers and allowing voucher customers to shop. Beginning on Monday, April 25, our voucher hours will be 10am to 2pm Monday through Thursday and will continue our current hours (10am-4pm) on Fridays and Saturdays. To clarify, 2pm and 4pm are the latest times at which a voucher customer may check in before shopping, They must check out no later than 2:30pm (Monday-Thursday) and 4:30pm (Friday-Saturday).

We are working to resolve these limitations, and will notify you if/when we are able to resume the 10am-4pm hours every day of the week. In the meantime, please advise your clients of this change, as well as passing this information to others in your organization who may be submitting voucher referrals.

*Gene Wiley, President
The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc.”*

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 Marriage

Dale Lichtblau and Beatriz Runkle on
Saturday, May 21st.



EVANGELISM

Evangelism is getting ready to kick off its busy time of year. There are lots of opportunities to get involved!!

Herndon “Carnival” Festival – June 2-5, Northwest Federal Credit Union. Many of you may have heard, this year Herndon Festival will focus more on the rides, amusement, and food vendors. There are only a limited number of booth sponsors available. Even though we opted not to participate this year, it gives us a good opportunity to put some names and faces together to find more ways for Town staff and Holy Cross to support partners together.



**Sterling Fest
Saturday, October 8th**

Blessings,

Karen Faulkner
Evangelism Chair

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



2022 METRO D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY
JUNE 10-11, 2022

One of the special things in the church is getting to be part of the larger events that help us experience things beyond just our own congregation. Synod Assembly is one of those opportunities. We need one man and one woman who, along with Pastor Martin, will represent Holy Cross at the upcoming Holy Cross Metro D.C. Synod Assembly, June 10-11. It will be held at the College Park Marriott in Hyattsville, MD. Overnight accommodations will be covered by the congregation. Please contact Pastor Martin, (pastormartin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net) or President, Sam Carter, (president@holycrosslutheranchurch.net), as soon as possible if you would like to attend. You are welcome to visit, www.metrodcelca.org/2022assembly for more details.



"Despite this COVID-19, as a problem, Malawi has not stopped evangelizing. [We simply used] a different approach."



Evangelism Is Alive in Malawi

Service and Justice

In spite of COVID-19, ministry continues.

Those are words from Evance Mphalasa, a pastor and acting general secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM), words that have energized him and a team of evangelists as they spread the gospel despite the setbacks of the pandemic.

Strict government measures issued in early 2020 closed some of the churches in Malawi and restricted gatherings to 100 people, said Feston Phiri, pastor, ELCM director for training and secretary for mission and evangelism. Churches that remained open had to provide congregants with masks, sanitizer and water buckets, unbudgeted expenses that proved **financially devastating.**

Additionally, the printing of Sunday school and evangelism materials — particularly those in the Tumbuka language — stopped **completely because most offices were closed**, Phiri said. Malawian evangelists were not deterred.

2020 was “a very hard time indeed in regard with evangelism in Malawi, but I think the whole world [was challenged],” he said. “Despite this COVID-19, as a problem, Malawi has not stopped evangelizing. [We simply used] **a different approach.**”

Pastors hosted two, three, even four services each Sunday to accommodate the small-gathering restrictions. To further share the gospel, Phiri said, evangelists organized a van equipped with loudspeakers so they could preach and sing to people in their homes.

“We used this van and this singing group, which is a praise team, evangelizing, going

around to different areas, reaching out to different people with this kind of way,” he said. “This exercise was done during [the evenings] ... when people are in their houses, so it was very easy to reach them.”

Many first-world countries turned to social media to continue faith conversations and stay connected to parishioners, but Malawians lacked that luxury.

“Bishop never slept; he was always helping to get us the latest information about COVID-19, always sending messages through the forums for pastors.”

ELCM Bishop Joseph Bvumbwe created a virtual forum for Malawi pastors, providing daily updates so the pastors could stay at the forefront of helping their parishes.

“Bishop never slept; he was always helping to get us the latest information about COVID-19, always sending messages through the forums for pastors,” said Mphalasa. “Then, the pastors disseminated the information.”

This outreach — part of which was funded through ELCA Mission Support — has encouraged and increased the growth of the church, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Without your help, we wouldn’t be talking about expanding the church,” Phiri said. “The church is growing so fast and so rapidly. This is very important.”



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



1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 20170

