

The Quest

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



June 2022

Dad

*Blessed is
the man
who trusts
in the Lord
and who has
made the
LORD
his hope and
confidence*
Jeremiah 17:7

In your eyes
I've seen God's love
In your words
I've heard His wisdom
Through your life
I've found His grace

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the June 2022 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, Quest, is Monday, June 13.

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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 Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

STAFF



June should prove to be a busy and exciting month. On Saturday, June 4th, we will have a table and a presence of the Reston Pride Festival, giving us an outreach opportunity to our community as a welcoming and affirming congregation where all people are safe and welcomed among us in Jesus' name.

Pentecost Sunday is June 5th, a celebration of the “birthday of the church” when the Holy Spirit descended upon confused and leaderless disciples, transforming them into apostles and missionaries for the good news of Jesus. This is an early reminder to **wear red** on that Sunday to match the beautiful red paraments and other decorations we have in store.

On June 11 – 12, the Metro DC Synod will hold our annual Assembly, the first in-person Assembly since I have been here. Deb Reilly and I will represent Holy Cross along with the many lay and clergy members from across the synod. I know I am a bit of a “church-nerd,” but I always love seeing this part of the larger church at work, at fellowship, and at worship. It is generally an inspiring and uplifting event and if you are

interested in attending as an observer for any portion of the two days, let me know and I will share those details.

The day after Assembly, on Sunday, June 12, we will hold Holy Cross' annual "Music Sunday" (also the first since I've been here). Music is such an important part of the life and worship of our congregation, and it will be good to celebrate God's gift of music among us on that day.

The day after that, I get on a plane and fly to Anchorage to begin the process of Shelly's move to Virginia! The time apart turned out to be about a year longer than we thought at the beginning, but now we are close to being together full-time again! She and I will load up the few things she has left up there and begin our drive from Anchorage to Sterling/Herndon. We hope to stop to visit friends and family along the way but hope to be back here around the first part of July. Thank you, thank you to all of you who have prayed for us, supported us, and took care of me along the way. Personally, I am deeply grateful for the love and the support that I have received. We would love your prayers for us as we travel and are excited to be here together!

In Jesus' service with you,

Pastor Martin

Director of Music and Liturgy

Kyrie Eleison ~ Lord, Have Mercy



June 12 – 8:30 & 11:00 AM

The theme this year is *Kyrie Eleison – Lord, Have Mercy*. Our world has been through so much in the past two years. A global pandemic, war in Ukraine, mass shootings, racially motivated violence... the list goes on and on. When we can't think of what to pray, we often just say to God, "Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)." In addition to being a prayer in times of distress, *Kyrie Eleison* is a part of the liturgy that we sing and pray every week. It is indeed a prayer, which is why the assisting minister, who is responsible for praying on behalf of the assembly, sings it.

Throughout this service we will look at various musical settings of the *Kyrie*. Some are somber and show our distress, while some are upbeat and recognize God's presence that is with us, even before we pray, "Lord, have mercy."

Join us for a festival service full of scripture, hymns, and special music.

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

COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

“What’s next?”

Last month Pastor Martin wrote about the Council’s reading and studying Tod Bolsinger’s *Canoeing the Mountains*. This book talks about the necessity of adaptive changes that enable forward progress. At Holy Cross our experiences with the pandemic have accelerated the pace of change. Weekly worship attendance was already dropping off and the replenishment of members from the normal population ins and outs was not manifesting itself as in the past; however, things are improving as we look forward to welcoming new members who’ve expressed their desire to join us.

Our live streaming has enabled us to maintain fairly constant levels of participation and contributions. Gary Wolfe is expecting to complete improvements to inside and outside lighting through the Small Business Improvement Program of Dominion Energy which provides these upgrades at no or minimal cost. While we are increasingly dependent on an aging demographic for volunteers and financial support, our members continue to be active. We are especially appreciative of those who volunteer in so many capacities (e.g., staffing the office, property workdays, community food collections, etc.). We are truly blessed to who have such dedicated and caring members!

Tangentially, I just heard that the **Red, Hot and Blue** barbeque restaurant in Leesburg has closed. I liked their barbeque, but I really liked their potato salad and hushpuppies! I must admit that I didn't patronize them often, assuming they'd be there when I needed a "fix!" I wonder if Holy Cross is headed for a similar fate.

As Pastor Martin said last month, "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."

Pastor Martin asked us, "What's next?"

Please take time to consider and respond to his call to action, "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."

We no longer have the crutch of societal norms to rely upon to fill our churches. However, we have something much more powerful for meaningful discipleship. Like the early Christians, we have the Holy Spirit to help us build the church anew based on the commandment our Savior gave us, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Often the "next big thing" comes from seemingly small actions, so let's try things large and small. It can be as simple as calling a neighbor or fellow church member you haven't seen for a while and grabbing a cup of coffee with them or helping with our Wednesday Lunch for the Soul. Let's all try to add one activity that shares the Love of Christ.

I don't know where the Holy Spirit will lead us, but I know if our hearts and minds are open, we will be engaged in a future that will be more exciting and rewarding than anything we can imagine. It's not always pleasant, but it's good for us, our church, and the world for us to be

shaken out of our comfortable complacency. I'm looking forward to our journey of discovery and can think of no better group of people to make the trip with than the Holy Cross Family!

Let us put our heads together to come up with our best ideas to "be the church" and then go on our exciting journey together!

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 Time Every Sunday After Each Service

You are all invited to stop by Fellowship Hall (or maybe even outside when the weather is nice!) for some coffee, tea, juice, or water, and good food (there is always fruit). There will also usually be a quilt for Lutheran World Relief to tie if you so choose. It's a great way to meet Holy Cross members and visitors.

If you would like to donate goodies for the fellowship hour, please contact me at Fellowship@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net or 703-437-9413. This donation would be for one or two times per year (or more if you wish!).

Hope to see you on Sunday!

Anne Geiger
Fellowship Chair

PS: Put the evening of July 4th on your calendar for the Herndon fireworks, ice cream social, and a concert of American music by our own Jeremy Shoop! More info to come.

OUTREACH

Outreach activities at Holy Cross continue to provide opportunities for everyone at Holy Cross to support our brothers and sisters, both locally and around the world.

Lenten Appeal

This year's Lenten Appeal offered two ways to support others in need – Financial donations to the Eastern Europe Crisis (Ukraine) and supplies for the Lunch for the Soul Ministry.



Eastern Europe Crisis (Ukraine)

Through your extraordinary generosity, Holy Cross will send a check for nearly \$2000 to the Lutheran Disaster Response. Lutheran Disaster Response, a branch of the ELCA, is accompanying companion organizations in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water, and hygiene kits. Thank you for your generosity, love and prayers. May love and peace prevail.

Lunch for the Soul

Holy Cross members also responded generously with donations for the "Lunch for the Soul Ministry". "Lunch for the Soul" provides a hot meal, fellowship, and worship for our local day labor community. Thanks to all of you, we are set on paper products for

the rest of the year. We will continue to welcome donations of water bottles and snack/protein bars. Many thanks to all the helping hands who have shopped, cooked, and served at Lunch for the Soul in our first few months! We welcome any who wish to help shop, cook, or serve lunch to our neighbors!

Make Some Noise for SafeSpot

On Mother's Day, we collected a noisy offering for SafeSpot. SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax County provides a safe environment and support services for child abuse victims and their families as they navigate the investigation and aftermath of abuse. You can learn more about SafeSpot [here](#). Your offering totaled \$87! Thank you so much for providing valuable support to our most vulnerable neighbors, and special thanks to Suzanne Flegal for coordinating this year's SafeSpot activities.

LINK Request

Per Joy Heuer, our LINK Board Member, there is a shortage of the paper products at the LINK food pantry. Please consider donating paper towels, toilet paper, and diapers (size 4/5/6). Stay tuned for a special collection of these items later this summer!

Thanks to all our delivery drivers who drop off your food & paper product donations at LINK and Embry Rucker each month. Our current drivers include: Michael Faulkner, Dick Krapf, Jo & Mark Roe, Cathy Pfisterer & Brian Virnelson. Thank you!

With joy and gratitude for our amazing congregation,

Deb Reilly
Outreach Team

SITUATION REPORT: WAR IN UKRAINE

April 13, 2022 | No. 4

BY THE NUMBERS



4.6 Million+ fleeing to other countries

2.6 Million to Poland | 700,000 to Romania

415,000 to Moldova | 257,000 to Slovakia

430,000 to Hungary



6.5 Million+

Internally displaced persons

Sources: UNHCR April 12; UNICEF; OCHA April 11

CORUS INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

We have committed \$7 million to respond to this crisis, and we expect to increase this amount as we secure additional funding.

Our Humanitarian Action team is working with partners to implement programming based on short and long-term needs in Poland and in Ukraine. We have deployed additional technical staff to support our relief operations, including a program manager, a health advisor, and an advisor to lead our efforts to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in Ukraine and for Ukrainian refugees.

We are bringing together expertise from our Corus organizations IMA World Health, Lutheran World Relief and CGA Technologies.

Our response in Ukraine includes:

- **Medical supplies and equipment.** We are supporting health facilities in Ukraine in partnership with the Order of Malta by providing supplies, including surgical and wound care kits, gauze, IV kits, oxygen masks, defibrillators and stretchers.

- **Partnerships with networks throughout Ukraine to provide shelter.** We are partnering with networks in Ukraine to provide ongoing support to six facilities that are being used to shelter internally displaced persons. We're providing food and essential supplies and equipment, like folding beds, pillows, heaters, laundry detergent, toilet paper, and personal hygiene items. In all, we'll offer nearly 60,000 nights of shelter for people who need a place to stay.
- **Identifying key gaps in the availability of services.** We are designing an assessment process to identify key gaps in the availability of health services related to gender-based violence, mental health services and psychosocial services and communicable diseases. This work will be used to inform our response to support the Ministry of Health and other health care providers in Ukraine.

Our response in Poland includes:

- **Emergency cash and vouchers for Ukrainian refugees in Poland.** We've committed \$2 million to this effort in a combined program with Lutheran World Federation (LWF) that will support an initial caseload of more than 1,300 refugee families for the next three months.
- **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:** We're integrating a referral system at our cash distribution sites in Poland so refugee women and children can safely and easily access protection services. We are an active member of the Regional Gender Task Force for Ukraine response, which is co-chaired by UN Women and Care International.
- **Ongoing support for the Evangelical-Augsburg Church of St. Martin in Krakow, Poland, which has established a hostel for Ukrainian women and children.** We have provided essential supplies including milk, energy biscuits, personal hygiene products and room partition panels. We will continue to support the church to expand its relief operations in coordination with LWF.
- **Shipping and distributing LWR Quilts and Care Kits** in partnership with local organizations.

Corus International

Corus International is a humanitarian organization committed to overcoming poverty and suffering for those living in the world's toughest and most difficult circumstances. Corus unites an array of nonprofit organizations and businesses, each with specialized expertise — from health to technology to economic development to emergency response. Our approach brings together the comprehensive and multi-dimensional solutions needed to truly achieve lasting change.



IMA WORLD HEALTH | CORUS WORLD HEALTH
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF
CGA TECHNOLOGIES
GROUND UP INVESTING
FARMERS MARKET BRANDS

CORUSINTERNATIONAL.ORG



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EVANGELISM

Spring is off to a good start with several activities planned through the summer months.

Town of Herndon Easter Egg Hunt - We had a good turnout for our mini “make-a-quilt booth”, and we were blessed by a bright sun-filled morning. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers: Roy and Anne Geiger, John Pinckney, and Michael Faulkner who helped to make it all happen!

Here are a few pictures from our recent event at the Herndon Community Center.





Reston Pride Event June 4, 2022, - This year's event will take place at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston (www.restonpride.org). Pastor Martin and Jeremy have been busy planning for HCLC's participation and preparing our booth display. Stay tuned for additional details coming soon.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOU'RE INVITED!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 13 - AUG 4 (Sun. - Thu.)

6:00 - 8:00 pm

KIDS and ADULTS



YOUTH



Calling All Graduates!

Got a student who is completing their studies this year? Please drop us a note to let us know! Include their name, school, and program they are completing, any degrees, honors or special accolades, exciting plans, and a photo. We will share them in the Quest. Send your note to the office at: admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net, by June 13th.

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.

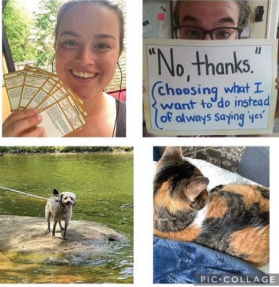
Together, we will ride out this storm. We are not afraid. We trust in God's grace and take peace and comfort in God's promise:

"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."

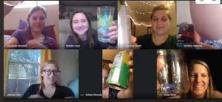
Deuteronomy 31:6

ELCA SYNOD NEWS

@heidig143's abide group making time to abide in rest last week!! Thanks for sharing!!



Cheers 🥂



@elcayoungadults #YAAAbide

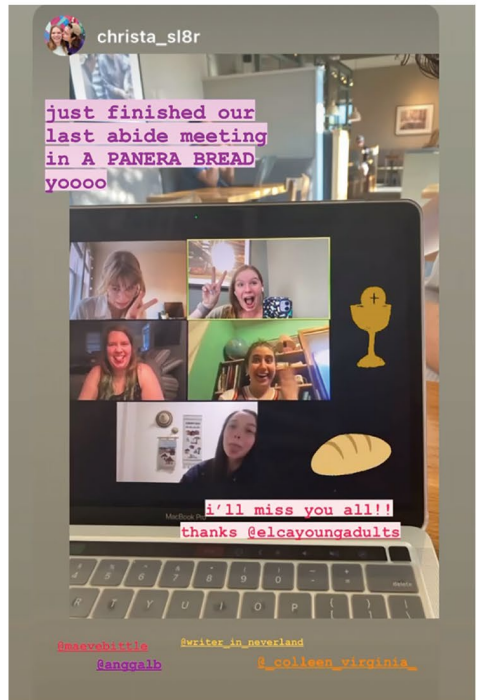
@mariel_cook2012
@victoria_anna8
@thehalfpenny
@lizzymoss
@courtneythet21
@mariel_cook



abiding in journey

@ELCAYOUNGADULTS

In the first Abide season, more than 400 participants met in over 50 virtual small groups for nine weeks.



Space to Abide

Leadership

Where are all the young adults in the ELCA?

Daniel Kirshbaum, program director for ELCA Young Adult Ministry, hears this question often. **"They're here," he said. "We just need to figure out a way to meet them where they're at."**

Meeting young adults where they're at is a goal of Abide, a small-group ministry for ELCA members between 18 and 35. The program started in early 2020, shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic began. Hoping to connect isolated young people from across the country, Kirshbaum, former Young Adult Ministry program director Savanna Sullivan, and ELCA young adult leaders decided to facilitate a series of weekly, virtual small groups.

In the first Abide season, more than 400 participants met in over 50 virtual small groups for nine weeks. In the following two seasons, over 500 more participants joined. There have been groups of teachers, nurses, Young Adults in Global Mission alums, LGBTQIA+ people, and people of color. Weekly video and discussion topics so far have included "Abide in Hope," "Abide in Grief" and "Abide in Failure." *Mission Support makes this program possible by funding Kirshbaum's leadership position.*

Claire Embril, social media coordinator for Abide, served as a group leader for the spring and fall seasons in 2020. "No matter what the topic was, I always left my group better than I

came into it," she said, adding that even though **her group members had different political** views, they were ready to listen to and support each other through challenging experiences.

One challenge in particular? "As a Black woman, watching the intense, violent racism [over the summer of 2020] was extremely **difficult**," Embril said. **"Having an Abide group to process that with was really important."**

"As a Black woman, watching the intense, violent racism [over the summer of 2020] was extremely difficult. Having an Abide group to process that with was really important."

This past summer, Abide partnered with Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp to organize a backpacking trip. Embril dreams of organizing a national Abide gathering. For now, she's glad that Abide is giving young adults the space to just be together. "Abide shows that young people really want to participate in the church," she said. "When space is made, they come."



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



1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 20170

