



The Quest

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 2022

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the September 2022 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, Quest, is Friday, August 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

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www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net

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 Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

STAFF



As the last of the fireworks echoed in the summer evening, the gathered crowd began to pack up lawn chairs, blankets, and backpacks to return to their cars and head home. Thus completed a tremendously successful Fourth of July Celebration in our Holy Cross parking lot and lawns. This year, bolstered by Jeremy's wonderful concert, the tasty fare from a local food truck, and a variety of our own home-made ice cream, we had one of the best gatherings in many years, with many of our members - and many more of our neighbors – enjoying the beautiful night together.

Coming out of the COVID shutdown, there is much that is exciting at Holy Cross right now. In June, we welcomed seven new members into our Holy Cross family. Most of these new members had watched our worship services via Facebook live before they came to visit in person, which gives us some insights as to how we might use technologies that we acquired during COVID to enhance our ministry together.

In partnership with three other congregations, we continue to reach out to the economically vulnerable in our community through the weekly ministry of Lunch for the Soul. During our presence at last month's Reston Pridefest, we heard from many people who were thankful for the churches that were represented there, sanctuaries of safety and affirmation for our LGBTQ+ neighbors.

As your pastor, I want to thank you for your faithful support that continues to make this all happen. Your gifts of time and service and your ongoing financial contributions are the ways we express the Kingdom of God in our community and in our congregation. These gifts are part of the ministry you do that is expressed in the Greek word, *liturgia* (work of the people), which is the people of God working together to spread Jesus' love and welcome in our world.

As we continue into the summer months, please remember your financial giving to the work at Holy Cross. Please continue to support and enable the exciting things that are going on here. As we work together in Jesus' name, we continue to live out his call to "make disciples" and to proclaim the good news to those we meet.

Thank you,

Pastor Martin

Director of Music and Liturgy



I recently had two wonderful experiences that pertain to the HCLC welcome statement and would like to share them with the congregation.

First, Pastor Shank (Assistant to the Bishop for Generosity) was the supply pastor at HCLC on June 19. In his sermon he mentioned

that he likes to read through a church's bulletin to see what they're about before he supplies there. (The way the bulletin is crafted, its content, and the announcement pages say a lot about a congregation.) He shared how impressed he was that HCLC makes clear what we are about as soon as you open the bulletin. Our welcome statement is the first thing you see when you open the bulletin. He said that it was wonderful to see this information so quickly and that it was beautifully written. The "What to Expect in Worship" section directly under the welcome statement also makes our worship services visitor friendly.

Second, I met with a music director colleague for coffee to talk about various ways the music programs at our churches could work together to provide services in the community. Before our meeting, she went to our website to learn more about our church. The first thing she saw was our welcome statement. She was in tears reading it and was very happy to know that HCLC is not only welcoming but affirming in full inclusion. She especially pointed out that we make clear HCLC is a safe space for everyone. As with Pastor Shank, she mentioned how beautifully it was written.

I emphatically agree with both of their comments that it is beautifully written and thanks to the members of HCLC's RIC team members who helped craft this welcome statement.

I am also proud that Pastor Shank specifically called out the inclusion of the statement in our bulletin. Using worship as an evangelism tool was one focus of my sabbatical in 2020. As we all know, the pandemic made it difficult to fully embrace the energy I had coming back from sabbatical, but it is nice to know that efforts made by Pastor Martin and myself regarding using worship as an evangelism tool are having a positive effect.

I think it is important to hold up these accolades to our congregation. They are not just about the work of Pastor Martin and me, but the work of everyone at HCLC. It can be easy to see when things are not going well and even easier to forget to rejoice when things are going well. It makes me smile every time I hear someone from the community talk about our welcome statement.

It is through last year's work of the RIC team and the continued support of the HCLC members that we can live out our welcome statement. I hope that we continue to find new ways to make this known in the community.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Jeremy Shoop
Director of Music and Liturgy

COUNCIL

A Message from the **PRESIDENT**

Holy Cross Family –

Summer in Full Swing!

Last month I invited you to live out the words of the chorus “Summertime, Summertime” by the Jamies. It ended with the admonition to “Come along and have a ball...A regular free-for-all!” We got started doing just that with our wonderful July 4th Celebration! What a turnout we had! Thanks to all who came early and stayed late to ensure a success! In particular, I’d like to recognize Anne and Roy Geiger along with Karen and Michael Faulkner for handling “game day” logistics, and Vivian and Brad Jefferson, and Pam and Kevin Darby for making and serving such delicious ice cream. Special thanks go to Jeremy Shoop for bringing the whole event together, entertaining us, and (not to leave any area untouched) making his fantastic ice cream! The event was made even more special by the return of Pastor Eldred and Shelly to both be “locals” now that she’s retired. As I write this, we are planning a proper welcome for Shelly on Sunday, July 17th; I hope you were able to participate!

If you've been by the church at night, you may have noticed the flood lights, the lights under the canopy, and the parking lot lights are all brighter, and the lights illuminating the parking near the office door are brighter and are no longer connected to what appeared to be a random number generator-controlled switch. Doug Brewer, the architect we are working with on the restroom project, suggested we explore a Dominion Power program which subsidizes replacement of energy-inefficient lighting. Our Property Chair, Gary Wolfe, followed up with Dominion and worked with their contractor, Zero Draft, to enable our participation in the program. As a result, all of our inefficient fixtures inside and outside the building have now been replaced. The net investment after the subsidy was paid for out of the Gouldman Fund and our Infrastructure and Development funds and is expected to have a payback period of 2.1 years.

A few Sundays ago, there was a smell of a gas leak which was traced to a malfunctioning control on one of our stoves by Washington Gas. In researching our options, Gary determined that it was not cost effective to repair the old stove. Gary arranged for a new stove to be delivered and installed, with most of the expense covered by special donations from several church members.

A reminder that we'll continue live-streaming services, but, as you've seen from the narrative above, expenses go on. Sadly, our collective giving dropped off significantly the last two months. Therefore, I need to ask you to add contributing to Holy Cross to what is probably an already too full "To Do" list. To make it easier, you can contribute using the Donation link on the church's website or through the Vanco Mobile app (download it and use our invite code, **24A7NT**, to ensure you are linked to the correct church).

It was wonderful to see so many of you in person once again on July 4th, so have a wonderful summer, but please come back from any trips refreshed and renewed and ready to resume participation in person even if you "got out of the habit" during lockdowns. Again,

your Holy Cross family can hardly wait for you to return and share your stories of your summer activities and get back involved in the life of your church.

One last thing, Suzanne Baggett and her team have been very busy planning our in-person multi-generational Vacation Bible School. It kicks off at 6:00 PM on July 31st and continues each evening from 6-8 pm through August 4th. Registration is \$20 per family, and dinner is included each evening Sunday - Wednesday; we will have a potluck on Thursday evening. Please put it on your calendars and don't forget to register:

<https://vbsmate.com/events/HOLYCROSSLUTHERANCHURCHHERNDONVA/24814>

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](#).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL for KIDS & ADULTS IS BACK!!!

JULY 31-AUG 4 (Sun-Thu)

6:00pm to 8:00pm

(Dinner provided first 4 Nights/Potluck the last night)

REGISTER ONLINE

ASAP at

vbsmate.com/HolyCrossLutheranChurchHerndonVA

(We need to know numbers for materials and food!)

KIDS: SIGN UP FOR

ADULTS: SIGN UP FOR



INTRIGUING

PRESENTATIONS

(AKA BIBLE STUDY)

followed by

Q&A with PASTOR MARTIN

Fee: \$20 per Individual/Family

(includes all provided meals + 1 T-Shirt per ENROLLED KID)

Three Ways to Pay: HCLC's website, Check (write VBS in memo line),
or In-person July 31.

WORSHIP & MUSIC



8/14 - 10:20 AM warm up (11:00 AM worship)

8/28 - 8:00 AM warm up (8:30 AM worship)

The Summer Gathering Choir is back at Holy Cross!

This is a great opportunity for anyone who can't commit to the schedule of choir year-round.

All you have to do is show up on any or all of the Sunday's listed above for rehearsal and sing with us in worship that same day. The total time commitment is less than two hours! You do not need to come to all four dates on the schedule, just come as you can and enjoy the singing.

Contact Jeremy Shoop, MusicDir@holycrosslutheranchurch.net if you have any questions.

FELLOWSHIP

The **July 4th Fireworks & Free Parking Event** was an unqualified success! Attendance estimates are a total of 230 attendees with 170 driving in / parking and 60 walk-ins.

- Many thanks to Jeremy Shoop who provided the glorious music for all to enjoy. He was ably assisted by sound technician Bob Thompson.
- Kudos to Pam Darby and her team for taking charge of the ice cream social. They served over 200 people - and there was still ice cream left over!
 - Many thanks to Kevin Darby, Brad Jefferson, and Jeremy Shoop for making over 10 varieties of awesomely delicious ice cream!
 - Thanks also to Pam Darby, Karen Faulkner, Joy Heuer, Vivian Jefferson, Brad Jefferson, Sylvia Moran, and Beatriz Orellana for providing the toppings and serving the hoards.
- Katy Moran headed up the lawn games that were enjoyed by many. The sound of the Jenga blocks' falling often could be heard across the property! Thanks, Katy! And thanks to all who loaned your lawn games!
- Many thanks to Roy Geiger for heading up the car wrangling / security / trash pick-up detail, ably assisted by Mike Faulkner and Anne Geiger. The team ensured that the cars let into the church parking lot had parking spaces to land in, the trash was picked up and that everyone knew about the ice cream. There

were no know incidences the entire evening which is a BIG win for Holy Cross.

- The Lady K's food truck was a hit. Fryer issues made delivery slower than anticipated, but the food was good.

The **“Welcome to the Other Holy Cross*, Shelly Eldred”** brunch was held July 17th between services. Over 45 people were there to welcome Shelly, and following good Lutheran tradition, to eat good food.

Many thanks to helpers and delicious food makers Suzanne Baggett, Gene Bain, Mary Alice Carlson, Sharon Carter, Pam Darby, Karen Faulkner, Nancy Jones, Sylvia Moran, Tibbie Preston, Deb Reilly, Jo Roe, Sarah Schulmeyer, Carol Shaffer, Jeremy Shoop, Cheryl Smith, and believe it or not, Shelly Eldred with the egg bites – you go, girl!

**“The Other Holy Cross” refers to Pastor Martin and Shelly’s son, Pastor Paul Eldred’s former church. He just finished serving as pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Bellevue, Washington and has recently been called to a new church in the Seattle area.*

...and more

As always on Sundays, you are all invited to stop by the Fellowship Hall 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 up with Holy Cross members and visitors.

Anne Geiger
Fellowship Chair

HCLC's July 4th Social



HCLC's Director of Music & Liturgy, Jeremy Shoop on piano, provided live entertainment.



Members and guests on the lawn enjoying the entertainment & games.



Lady K & Café local food truck provided food and drinks.

OUTREACH

Herndon Middle School Supply Drive

For the next several weeks, we will be collecting school supplies to assist our Herndon Middle School students. We plan to deliver the supplies to the school the week of August 15th. Supplies can be dropped off in the Narthex



or outside in the appropriately labeled containers. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our local neighbors!

- 1" binders
- composition books
- colored pencils
- pens (blue and black)
- erasers
- rulers
- headphones/earbuds with microphone
- loose leaf paper
- pocket folders
- pencils
- highlighters
- pencil sharpeners
- backpacks

Deb Reilly
Outreach Team

EVANGELISM

4th of July – What a great celebration we hosted at Holy Cross this year! The weather cooperated with a bright, sunny day. There were lots of volunteers who pitched in to make for a successful event. We greeted at least 7-8 new families and passed out some of our HCLC brochures. It was also good to see some of our long-standing members come back to spend the holiday with us. And how great was it to see a nice, full parking lot!!

Herndon Homecoming Parade & SterlingFest – Both of these upcoming events fall on the same day this year – **Saturday, October 8th**. We will be participating in both events and sharing resources to make sure Holy Cross is well represented. We will be recruiting volunteers to help that day (especially for SterlingFest, which is a full-day event.) Stay tuned for further details.



Respectfully submitted,
Karen Faulkner

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



Little did they know that they would become the ELCA's longest-serving active mission personnel, with 38 years of service.



Living Our Theology: & Demanding Justice

Leadership

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 20170



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL