



# The Quest

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



## October 2022

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# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the November 2022 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, Quest, is Monday, October 10.

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 Tuesdays.

Thank you,  
Virginia Muller and Sarah Schulmeyer  
Church Administrators

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



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Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

## STAFF



In the fall, it has become a sort of tradition in congregations to begin talking about stewardship. That conversation usually focuses on money, budgets, and giving. While that is certainly a reality of congregational life and a big part of our stewardship as Christians, it does leave out the fact that for us as a follower of Jesus, the concept of stewardship embraces a lot more than just one season of the year and a lot more than our finances.

Someone has said, “Stewardship is everything we do after we say, “I believe.” In other words, when we talk about Stewardship, we are not only talking about money and finances, but the fullness of our discipleship, faith, and ministry. How we use these gifts is our “spiritual form of worship.” (Romans 12:1)

- As we take care of our bodies, our schedule, our talents and abilities – we are being stewards of the gifts of God.

- As we work or study in our given vocations in life – we are being ministers of God, through the healthy use of our industry, our relationships, and our giving back to our community.
- As we care for the earth, for creation, and for all that God has made – we are helping to fulfill God’s original mandate to Adam and Eve to care for the things God has made; both to honor the Creator that made them, and so that future generations may be blessed by their benefits.
- As we share a regular, proportional gift of the financial resources we have – we are giving in thanksgiving for the great and gracious love of God in our lives, we are supporting the ministry of not only our congregation, and our community but the work and ministry among people we may never know.

As Christians, we acknowledge in faith that everything belongs to God the Creator. We have been entrusted with taking care and using wisely those gifts we have been given. In all we do, in all we share, in all we give back, we are making **a faith statement:**

“Trusting in God’s abundant mercy and supply, we travel in faith and courage, sharing and loving as has first been given to us, so that all may be blessed in Jesus’ name.”

As a people of faith at this congregation, we do prepare a budget that enables our mission and ministry in Jesus’ name here at Holy Cross. That budget is also a faith statement – it is our collective vision of where we think God is leading us forward in the year to come. It is a faith statement that also needs a collective funding, with all of us contributing in an amount that we feel God is leading us to share.

How is the best way in which to support the mission of Holy Cross with our finances? I suggest the following:

- **Make it prayerful.** This is part of acting your faith in God and your support of God’s work. Take time to pray about how much you want to give.

- **Make it proportional.** One of the best ways to give to the congregation is to make a personal commitment to give a certain percentage of your income for the year. The Bible holds up a *tithe* or 10% as a model, but many of us may feel that we are not yet able to give that amount. So, set your own percentage, something that fits with your financial reality, and then faithfully commit to giving that throughout the year. If this is a new practice for you, you may want to start with a much lower percentage – 3, 4, or 5% and each succeeding year, see if you can increase that bit by bit.
- **Make it periodic.** Find a regular pattern for your giving such as: weekly, monthly or quarterly. This helps to establish a faithful practice of giving in faith.

Our faith in Jesus and our membership in our congregation are certainly more than money and budgets. But the reality is that our money works to make the church go and our giving is a necessary faith practice that reminds us that, as the Psalmist says, “The earth is the LORD’s and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.” (Psalm 24:1)

It is a privilege to walk and work alongside you in Jesus’ name.

Pastor Martin

## ***Confirmation is Back!***

**Note From Pastor:** I LOVE

Confirmation! It's one of the most fun and rewarding things I do as a pastor! Last year I had hoped to begin a new Confirmation class, but the complexities of COVID variants and trying to get our congregation's worship and programs up and running again simply overwhelmed those ambitions. This fall, we are in a very different place, and I want to offer this important opportunity to our young people and their families. I am hoping we can do this in an in-person classroom setting, but I also realize that we will likely need to have a hybrid option. The great news is that we have the experience and capabilities to do both!



This fall we will be offering Confirmation instruction. Confirmation is typically a two-year program of spiritual and faith development offered to Middle School members (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, especially, although we can go younger or older, if needed) that offers a deeper exploration into the basics of Christian faith and our Lutheran heritage, expression, and worship.

The first year introduces the learners to the Bible and highlights the key stories of God and God's people, especially the central saving event of Jesus the Christ and his reconciling work for us all. Year two highlights the story of Martin Luther, a 16<sup>th</sup> century Augustinian monk who struggled to find peace with God. The story of his encounter with God's grace and unconditional love and the subsequent Reformation it began, is deeply woven into our theology and practice today. During this second year, we will use Luther's Small Catechism and his teachings on the basics of Christian faith.

If you have a young person who is ready for the journey of Confirmation instruction, please let Pastor Martin know. Details as to how we meet (virtual, in-person, or both) and when will be worked out later.

## Director of Music and Liturgy



### ***Did Martin Luther really use pub tunes in worship?***

It has been asserted over and over that Martin Luther boldly took tunes sung in pubs and taverns and simply replaced the secular texts with sacred texts for use in worship. Is this really true? At worst this statement is a complete misinterpretation of history and at best it is simply an oversimplification of Martin Luther's intentions.

Merely comparing the musical situation of Luther's time and our time is like comparing apples to oranges. There are multiple outside influences from cultures that affect both sacred and secular music. At the time of Luther, "The distinction between sacred and secular musical styles as we think of it today was for the most practical purposes nonexistent" (Carl Schalk). It is just not possible to think of secular music of the 1800's as we think of "pop music" today.

When it comes down to it, did Luther borrow melodies commonly sung in taverns? Yes. He in fact had four known sources for melodies.

**One** - More popular hymn tunes that were already in existence. There were many tunes that would not be sung in mass, but during

pilgrimages and other devotions outside of the liturgy. Luther and other reformers took over these tunes to be used in the common liturgy. “O Lord, We Praise You” (ELW 499) is an example of this.

**Two** - The reformers would take chant lines sung by the choir in Latin and make them more accessible to the public by translating the text to German and rewriting the melodies to make them more easily sung. “Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord” (ELW 395) is one of these hymns.

**Three** - Hymn writers would often simply use creative inspiration to compose their own melody. “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” is a fine example of this by Martin Luther himself.

**Four** - The use of popular non-liturgical songs was often implemented. The first stanza of “From Heav’n Above” (ELW 268), both text and tune, was based on the light-hearted love song “From Distant Land I Come to You.” Over time the original tune for this hymn was replaced with what we now sing today. Scholars believe that this is in fact because of its secular connotations.

Does all this mean that is appropriate to use music with secular roots in worship simply by changing the text to a sacred one? Yes and no.

The music for cultural entertainment in Luther’s day was intended for group singing. When singing people would often be gathered around a lute or harpsichord at a table or bar. This is a radically different idea compared to today’s popular music. Much of what we sing for



entertainment today is intended

for a soloist to sing and or a soloist with back-up singers. As a congregation we are to sing as a group. Singing today's pop songs lends to a group of people all trying to sing as soloists and not actively participating in a group effort.

Luther used the music at hand, but always transformed it into something new. A similar thing happened to the German language as he translated the Bible. There were not adequate words in the language to describe the scriptures and thus the scriptures molded the language. Similarly, as tunes were borrowed for use in mass, they were molded in something brand new.



When Luther began composing hymns it was because he felt the congregation needed to play an active role in worship. Before the Reformation, a choir or the worship leaders chanted most of the service. Thus, there were minimal hymn tunes for him to pick from to match up with his texts. Since it did take him time to compose new hymn tunes, he would use secular tunes from time to time. Luther has been quoted many times about the lack of “acceptable” tunes around for his new texts. This situation simply does not exist in today's culture.

As I stated above, the hymn “From Heav’n Above” had a change in tunes due to secular connotations. This has happened multiple times throughout history. This is not to say that we do not still have secular tunes in our hymnal today. “The Ash Grove” (ELW 547 & 881) is a Welsh folk tune, however the tune carries few secular connotations for most Americans today. If a new sacred text was written to the tune for “Jingle Bells” the story would be completely different. One's mind would not be in a sacred place when singing that song in worship.

Popular music in Luther's day had to be passed down from generation to generation orally. It took too much time to record song on paper for the public and very few could read music anyway. This meant that much of the popular music had been tested over time and was good music that the public truly liked for generations. Nothing could be further from the truth today. Currently popular music changes as the wind blows. While there are songs in today's world that have stood up against the passing of time it is much more difficult to predict what tunes will still be around in the future.

The challenge for us is to open our minds to the new ideas of today and discover ways to incorporate them successfully and appropriately into worship. However, we must not forget our past. We must always be looking back at ways to incorporate the treasures from our heritage. We must also never allow our congregations to become museums masquerading as worshiping communities by failing to challenge ourselves with new melodies. Music of all kinds holds potential for use in worship, but rarely is developing new hymnody as easy as merely substituting one set of words for another.

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



"Next to the Word of God,  
the noble *art of music* is the  
greatest treasure in the  
world."

Martin Luther

## COUNCIL



**Holy Cross Family –**

### **Returning to Normal...Almost!**

**Fall is upon us** – As I write this article, we're about a week away from the official start of autumn. You can tell because we see fall festivals, apple cider doughnuts, and pumpkin spiced lattes advertised in our secular world, and we've just had successful Rally Day in our church. Things really are returning to normal; giving has picked up, folks are starting to fill in the pews each week, budget preparations have begun in earnest, and our Annual Meeting is right around the corner (November 13, 2022). We've welcomed new members, and we're hoping that more families will soon return with their children.

**Work on storage shed** – We owe a special thanks to Joe Makowski and his son, Kevin, for their work on our storage shed. They replaced about 13 feet of rot-damaged 2x4's along the base, including nearly 28 feet of external sheathing. They also replaced door and jamb trim with PVC and will have repainted the shed by the time you read this. We are so fortunate to have such skilled members who freely give of their time and expertise to help us defray our costs.

**New Church Administrators** - Our new Administrators, Virginia Muller and Sarah Schulmeyer have settled into their new roles, and operations are running smoothly. It's so nice to have the office open full-time once again! Thank you, Virginia and Sarah!

**Church Finances** – Thank you for your response to our appeals. While we're not fully recovered from the summer "slump," we're on a good trajectory once again. While we appreciate the strong and dependable givers who carry much of the burden, it's important to remember that we need all of us to do our part. You may think that \$10 or \$20 a week is not important, but if every member who currently doesn't give regularly were to set up a recurring contribution in Vanco Mobile of even a small amount weekly, these dips in our income could be avoided. (A reminder that you can contribute using the Donation link on the church's website or through the Vanco Mobile app – if you download it, use our invite code, **24A7NT**, during setup to ensure you are linked to the correct church). Another easy way to set up recurring payments is through the Bill Pay service with your own bank or credit union for which there is no charge to you or to the Church. Please feel free to call me (703-431-7457) if you have any questions about any of these processes.)

**Weekly Fresh Flowers** – Special thanks to our Worship and Music Chair, Carol Shaffer, for organizing the bake sale on Rally Day, Karen Faulkner for running the sale, and the entire Altar Guild and the volunteers they recruited to bake so many treats. Like many of you, I felt it was my duty to purchase and consume some yummy goodies (the sacrifices we make!). The bake sale was a success, and it drew attention to the situation. While the Flower Fund has not been fully replenished, it appears we have commitments for at least one vase on most Sundays for the rest of the year. I am so grateful for a congregation that responds!

I'm looking forward to our fall activities with the entire Holy Cross Family!

Yours in Christ,

Sam

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



## **Adult Sunday Class**

Do you know that there are five books in the Bible that have only one chapter?

Did you also know that some of the smallest books in the Hebrew Bible served as a deep foundation for Jesus' preaching, teaching, and ministry?

While often overlooked and understudied, these smaller biblical writings have some big impacts. Based on that, we could title the next series of adult education in so many ways: "Majoring in Minors"; "Big Things in Small Packages"; or even, "Judge Me My Size, Do You?" In any case, working on a suggestion from one of our members, we are going to look through some of these lesser known, smaller books in the Bible. We will begin with the so-called "Minor Prophets" of the Hebrew Bible, then move on to the lesser-known books of the New Testament.

Adult Sunday Class meets on Sundays between services from 9:45 to 10:45 in Room 202. This room gives us both an ample area for distancing and the ability to incorporate a Zoom option for those unable to attend in person. *Everybody* is invited to these classes, no matter how much or how little you know about the Bible. Even if you don't have a Bible of your own, we have plenty to go around! Grab a snack, some coffee or tea and join us as we explore together!

# Pet Blessing

SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR PET'S CALENDAR!  
BRING YOUR FURRY, FUZZY AND FEATHERED  
FRIENDS FOR A SIMPLE SERVICE OF BLESSING!

**Sunday, October 9 – 1:00 PM**



**HOLY CROSS**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**1090 Sterling Road  
Herndon, VA 20170**



## FELLOWSHIP

The Worship and Music Ministry wants to again begin the 2022 Wednesday Advent Services with soup and sandwich dinners - it has been 2 long years since we have broken bread together ahead of these services. We will be asking you to provide your favorite soup for all to share with Holy Cross providing the sandwiches – please say yes! The dinners are another positive “reboot” we can all look forward to enjoying.

As always on Sundays, you are 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



### ***Save the Date! Opportunity for Fellowship and Outreach!***

On Wednesday, December 21st, we will invite our Lunch for the Soul participants and partner congregations to join us for a special Advent worship and meal. Worship is planned for 6pm, with dinner following at 7pm. Please plan to join us!

## **EVANGELISM**

### **2022 Herndon Homecoming Parade**

**Saturday, October 8 at 8:30 am, Parade starts 9:30 am**

Like past years, Holy Cross will be participating in Herndon's



Homecoming parade! We'll set up a hospitality table at the start of the parade route across from Herndon Middle School. We will provide bottled water and breakfast treats to parade participants and their families. It's a great way to meet our neighbors

and tell them about the great things happening at Holy Cross. A sign-up sheet for this fun event is in the Narthex for those who'd like to volunteer or donate items, such as water and breakfast goodies.

### **2022 SterlingFest**

**Saturday, October 8, 11 am to 5 pm, Sterling Community Center**

Yes, both events are on the same day!

Holy Cross will be an official sponsor for Sterling's annual big block party where organizers are predicting more than 5,000 in attendance! We will be using our popular mini-quilt project as our outreach activity. There will be

lots of vendors, food booths, family activities, local artisans and plenty of opportunities to engage with our surrounding Sterling friends and neighbors. A sign-up sheet for this fun event is in the Narthex for those who'd like to volunteer.





**JOIN THE FUN!!**

# **TRUNK OR TREAT**

**JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF DECORATED  
CARS, CANDY, AND SPOOKY FUN!**

**OCT. 30 @ 3:00 - 5:00 PM**  
**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1090 STERLING ROAD**  
**HERNDON, VA 20170**



**HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## OUTREACH

The year has flown by, but the many busy hands of Holy Cross continue to serve our community. Thank you, for your continued support of our neighbors through your generous donations of food and paper products. These are life-giving gifts!!

In addition to the many opportunities to give, we'd like to highlight 3 opportunities to serve this month:

- In September, we resumed having Lunch for the Soul meet in our Fellowship Hall. The men are always so appreciative of the fellowship, message, and meal. If you haven't had a chance to help out yet, please watch for the sign-up! We'd love to have extra hands join us!
- On November 6th we will have a "Helping Hands" Sunday to help our congregations' seniors age in place. If you are over 80, and would like some help with small projects, fall yard clean up, or installation of grab bars to make your home safer, please reach out to the office and we will get you on the list! Have a few hours to give on the afternoon of November 6th? We will welcome hands of all ages and experience levels!
- Have a couple of hours a week to tutor elementary school children? Consider volunteering with **Vecinos Unidos!** Details on the next page.



## Community Outreach Opportunity!

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**Vecinos Unidos (VU)**, is a volunteer-driven non-profit community organization in Herndon that provides academic help to children from families that do not speak English as their primary language, and consequently, don't receive sufficient academic support from home. The mission is to help improve students' literacy and math skills, so they can become successful in school and beyond. There is a waitlist of children who need help, and VU is urgently looking for more volunteers. Volunteers help in-person, one evening a week (Mon - Thu) from 4:30-6:00 pm at the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center. Each volunteer is paired with a child and provides help with reading, writing, and math. For more information about VU, please visit the website: <http://vecinosunidos.org/>. *Anyone interested in volunteering may submit a volunteer application online.*

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## English Language Learners (ELL) Fall Classes via Zoom



Our fall semester classes are up and running! Currently, we have two classes, Basic and Intermediate English via Zoom. The fall semester started on September 14<sup>th</sup> and ends on December 7, 2022. We hope to return to in-person classes for our spring semester, and also to include a Beginner's class.

Ongoing thanks to Suzanne, Chip, and Jeanne--thank you very much for your continued support of our immigrant students.

Ellen Atwell, ELL Coordinator



## **PROPERTY**

Please mark your calendars for Saturday November 12 from 8 am to noon for the fall clean-up day. There will be outdoor (raking leaves and pruning bushes) and indoor jobs (cleaning closets, painting, changing light bulbs) to maintain the church grounds and facility or just come to socialize with other members. Contact Gary Wolfe ([propertychair@holycrosslutheranchurch.net](mailto:propertychair@holycrosslutheranchurch.net)) with your interest. Thanks for your consideration.



## **HCLC Shed Renovation!**

The shed has served Holy Cross for many years, but it has experienced wear and tear and had some rotten wood from roof leaks (See attached photos). Thanks to Joe and Kevin Makowski, the shed has been given a new foundation and a major facelift and will serve the Church for many more years to come!

*Thanks again to Joe and Kevin Makowski!  
Great work!*



## 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*



Save  
the  
Date

*Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Annual Meeting!*

*Sunday, November 13, 2022*

# Mask Guidance for HCLC



At the beginning of mask mandates, the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Council voted to follow the guidance of the CDC and local health authorities. Both Loudoun and Fairfax Counties have been determined to have **Low COVID-19 Community Levels** according to CDC guidelines. Accordingly, Council approved relaxing our mask requirement, and masks are now optional at Holy Cross. 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](#).

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



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