



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



December 2022

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the January 2023 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, Quest, is Monday, December 12.

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

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

Thank you,
Virginia Muller and Sarah Schultmeier
Church Administrators

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

Find us online!

www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net



www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon



@HolyCrossELCA



HolyCrossELCA



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

STAFF



*Faith is trust in a promise,
The promise is a person,
And the person is Jesus Christ.*

My mentor in seminary, Rev. Dr. Duane Priebe, taught us those lines as an easy way to define what faith is. The lines build from the more abstract concept of faith to the specific, embodied relationship in Jesus Christ, which is important to remember as people of faith. What we believe in, and where we find our center, is much more than a set of theological dogma or denominational rituals. It is always and ever the person and the work of Jesus the Christ for us. Those last two words are especially important. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus was God's way to reach, embrace, and reconcile each one of us and all of us together. More than a philosophy, more than a set of

ideals, more than a way of good thoughts and deeds, our Christian faith is the trust we place in the relationship Jesus has with us.

Advent is upon us, and Christmas will soon be here. The season of Advent is a season of hope and preparation to mark and celebrate God's entrance into our existence as a human being – the person Jesus. It is easy to lose sight of all this in the explosion of lights, music, and scheduling that surrounds us and envelops us this time of year, so this is my annual plea for us to take some time to stop, breathe in, and remember the person who came and continues to fill us in Jesus.

Enjoy the season of hope and celebration,

Pastor Martin



Director of Music and Liturgy



“O Come”

Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation. A well-known hymn for the Advent season is *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*. The full version contains seven stanzas, each one coming from one of the seven *O Antiphons*. The *O Antiphons* refer to the seven antiphons (an antiphon is a short verse sung in response to part of the liturgy) that are chanted at Vespers services during a special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas. The Octave before Christmas is December 17-23, with December 24's Vespers service being the Christmas Vigil.

In their structure, each of the seven antiphons follows the same pattern, resembling a traditional liturgical prayer. Each *O antiphon* begins with an invocation of the expected Messiah, followed by praise of him under one of his particular titles. Each ends with a petition for God's people, relevant to the title by which he is addressed, and the cry for him to “Come.”

The *O Antiphons* have been around since the early Christian Church, however their exact origin is not known. Boethius (c. 480-524) made a slight reference to them, thereby suggesting their presence at that time. By the eighth century the *O Antiphons* were in use in the liturgical celebrations of Rome. It was at this time that the *O*

Antiphons began to be referred to as *The Great O Antiphons*. These antiphons have been described as “a unique work of art and a special ornament of the pre-Christmas liturgy, filled with the spirit of the Word of God.” They create a poetry that fills the liturgy with its splendor”, and their composer shows “a magnificent command of the Bible’s wealth of motifs.”

The importance of *O Antiphons* is twofold. Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: *O Sepientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of Nations), and *O Emmanuel*. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

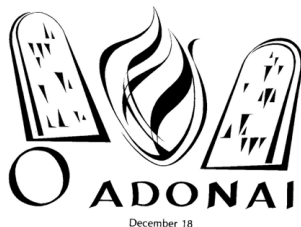


December 17

O Wisdom, who came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly. Come, and teach us the way of prudence.

The “all-seeing eye” is used to represent the all-knowing and ever-present God. The three flames were later added to represent the Trinity. Wisdom begins the antiphons because it is considered the foundation of fear of the Lord, of holiness and of right living. Isaiah had prophesied, “The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;” (Isaiah 11:2-3), and “This also comes from the LORD of hosts; he is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in wisdom.” (Isaiah 28:29)

O Lord and Ruler of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law of Sinai. Come, and redeem us with outstretched arm.



The symbol for this antiphon is two tablets and a burning bush. These symbols remind us not only of God giving his law to the Israelites but also the Israelites' deliverance from bondage under pharaoh - a foreshadowing of our own redemption from sin. Isaiah 11:4-5 says, "but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins."



O Root of Jesse, who stands for an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall keep silence and unto whom the Gentiles shall make supplication. Come to deliver us, and tarry not.

In this symbol the root of Jesse is shown with a flower growing out of it, another figure of Christ. Isaiah 11:1 & 10 prophesy the root of Jesse, "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious."

O Key of David, and Scepter of the House of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens. Come and deliver from the chains of prison those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.



The symbol for this antiphon is a key because the key is an emblem of authority and power. Christ is the Key of the House of David who

opens to us the full meaning of the scriptural prophecies, and reopens for all mankind the gate of Heaven. Isaiah 22:22 says, “I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open.”



O Rising Sun, Radiance of the Light, eternal and Sun of Justice: come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The title *Oriens* is translated into many phrases such as “Morning Star,” “Dayspring,” “Rising Sun,” “Radiant Dawn,” and “Orient.” All beautifully expressing the idea of light shattering darkness and with its brightness bringing healing and warmth to cold hearts. Thus inspiring a rising sun as the symbol for this Antiphon. Isaiah prophesied the Rising Sun in Isaiah 9:1. “But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.”

O King of all Nations and the desired of all, you are the cornerstone that brings two into one. Come, and save man whom you fashioned out of clay.



The crown is used as a symbol of this antiphon to signify Christ’s universal kingship. As this Antiphon is recited it reminds us that Christ is not only the King of the Jewish nation, but the “Desired One of all,” the cornerstone which unites both Jew and Gentile. Christ will come again to save everyone because we all belong to the creation that he made. Isaiah prophesied Christ’s kingdom in Isaiah 9:7. “His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.”



O Emmanuel, God with us, our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior. Come to save us, O Lord our God.

The cross in a bed of hay reminds us of the simplicity and poverty surrounding the birth of Jesus and is representative of his life of humility. In Isaiah 7:14 it is prophesied, “Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.” With this last antiphon our expectation finds joy now in the certainty of fulfillment. We call Jesus by one of the most personal and intimate of his titles, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

The order of the *O Antiphons* is not happenstance. If one takes the first letter of each Latin antiphon (SARCORE) and places them in reverse order they reveal the words “Ero Cras” which translates to “Tomorrow I come.” This acrostic is not completed until the final day of the Octave before Christmas, December 23. Thus, setting the stage for the Christmas Vigil on December 24. The day Christ descends upon the earth.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy



Holy Cross Christmas Festival Choir!

Rehearsals:

Thursday, December 8th - 7:00 PM

Thursday, December 15th - 7:00 PM

Thursday, December 22nd - 7:00 PM



Christmas Eve (December 24):

7:00 PM and 9:00 PM services

Beginning December 8th the Holy Cross Festival Choir will be rehearsing for Christmas Eve services. To join the festival choir all you need to do is come to three rehearsals and sing with us on Christmas Eve.

This is a great opportunity for anyone who enjoys singing but cannot commit to the regular choir schedule. The festival choir is also a great way for anyone who is considering joining the choir and simply wants to see what it is like. We always have fun in rehearsals and any extra voices add a great depth to the choir sound.

If you are interested in joining the festival choir or have any questions, please contact me at MusicDir@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net or call the church office at 703-437-1883.



COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

Happy New (Church) Year!

As I write this, Advent is almost here. We'll soon be trying to find time for quiet contemplation and preparation for the fulfillment of God's promise in the birth of the Christ. As we work through the events of our busy lives this time of year, please try to put weekly Advent services on your calendars. These services help us focus on what is truly important and help drive away distractions that can overwhelm us. Pastor Martin has a thoughtful series of messages, and soup and sandwiches are provided each Wednesday starting November 30th. We look forward to sharing this meaningful time of year with you.

Thank you to all who made our Annual Meeting a success. As we discussed our accomplishments this year, and approved the budget for next year, I hope you saw just how many moving parts there are that combine to form our joint ministry at Holy Cross. It truly is amazing how so many people work together, performing tasks large and small, to ensure the success of Holy Cross. God intended each of us to be a church volunteer. "Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). If you haven't joined one of our ministry teams on some project, I hope you'll do so in the new year. It's a great way to form new and lasting friendships and lessen the load on everyone. If you are so moved, I hope you'll prayerfully consider serving as the congregation's vice president with

an eye towards preparing to serve as the next president. Both of these jobs do represent significant commitments, but, with everyone at Holy Cross serving in so many roles, you can expect a manageable and fulfilling experience. If you have an interest and wish to learn more, please contact Pastor Martin or myself. God can do exciting things with your help!

Please make plans to participate in our annual Beer and Carols event at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern on December 13, 2022. We have a great time and raise money for a very worthwhile project!

I hope you and all of those you hold dear have a wonderful holiday season, and Happy New (Church) Year!

Yours in Christ,

Sam



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

JOIN US SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

for our annual Kingdom Kids

SANTA LUCIA PROCESSION

(during both services)

AND

INTERGENERATIONAL BREAKFAST &

ADVENT WORKSHOP

(between services in Fellowship Hall)



Santa Lucia and our Star Boys will serve:

Santa Lucia Crown Coffee Cake/Bread

Mulled Cider, Hot Chocolate

Pepparkakor, Strawberries

AFTER BREAKFAST, JOIN OUR WORKSHOP!



**We will make
Orange Slice & Star Anise
Ornaments!
Cute Necktie Angels!
Chrismons and more!**



***Kids will find SAINT NICHOLAS
has magically filled their shoes with candy,
while they were playing games, doing festive experiments,
making a CHRISMON and a gift.***

Adult Sunday Morning Class during Advent—Join Us!

FINDING HOPE UNTIL THE END:

A JOURNEY IN THE ADVENT PASSAGES FROM ISAIAH

NOVEMBER 27, DECEMBER 4, AND 18.

ROOM #202 FROM 9:45-10:45AM.

JOIN PASTOR MARTIN AS TOGETHER WE EXPLORE THESE
BEAUTIFUL, POWERFUL PASSAGES OF HOPE;
WHICH HAVE COMFORTED GENERATIONS OF GOD'S
PEOPLE AND SERVED AS INSPIRATION FOR SUCH
TIMELESS ART AS HANDEL'S MESSIAH.



FELLOWSHIP

Wednesdays in Advent: Advent soup & sandwich dinners with worship afterwards are restarting this year allowing us all to break bread together ahead of these services – YAY!! The dinners will be at 6pm, ahead of the 7pm Wednesday Advent services, starting on November 30, 2022. Fellowship will provide the sandwiches.

We are asking the congregation to provide the soup for three of the weekly meals. The 12/21 dinner will be a potluck – see more info below.



- **Wed, 11/30 meal:** Church council is supplying the soups – many thanks to Karen Faulkner, Jeremy Shoop, and Cheryl Smith for volunteering to provide the soups for the “reconstituted” dinners 😊.
- **Wed, 12/7 & 12/14 meals:** Holy Cross families are being asked to provide soups for each these 2 services – that’s 3 soups per meal. **Please contact Anne Geiger if you are willing to provide a soup of your choice**, and for which Wednesday you’d like to provide it at fellowship@holycrosslutheranchurch.net
- **Wed, 12/21 meal & TIME CHANGE:** This will be a potluck dinner. Holy Cross is inviting our Lunch For The Soul participants AND its partner congregations to join us for **worship at 6:30pm** and **dinner following at 7:15pm**. What a wonderful opportunity to meet our Holy Cross neighbors and to eat foods from around the world!

As always, on most Sundays, you are invited to stop by the Fellowship Hall for some coffee, tea, juice, or water and good food (there is always fruit). It’s a great way to meet up with Holy Cross members and visitors.

Anne Geiger, Fellowship Chair

EVANGELISM

Trunk or Treat Recap

Sunday, October 30, 2022

We had 18 cars who participated this year. A special thanks to HCLC members who decorated, dressed up, and handed out candy to our neighboring trunk or treaters. Also, a big thanks to the officer of Herndon's Police Department who joined us for the afternoon and was a big hit with the kids who stopped by. It was a glorious fall day! We look forward to getting more folks involved next year!

New Members Luncheon Recap

Sunday, November 20, 2022

We hosted a New Member Luncheon for all those wishing to learn more about being Lutheran and becoming a part of our congregation. We currently have 12-14 folks who have expressed a desire to learn more about our life together here at Holy Cross. A New Member service will be scheduled in December for all those planning to join.

Beer and Carols

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

6:30 – 8:00 pm, at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern

Always a fun-time event with Jeremy leading us in a festive round of your favorite carols! Don't forget to see Jeremy if you'd like to donate a door prize for the drawing. All proceeds will benefit the ELCA Chaplaincy Fund.

2023 Card Brigade

A new roster of Card Brigade volunteers has been set up for next year. We still have several more slots to fill! If you'd like to serve on our monthly card ministry, please let me know by emailing me at emaikfaulkner464@aol.com.

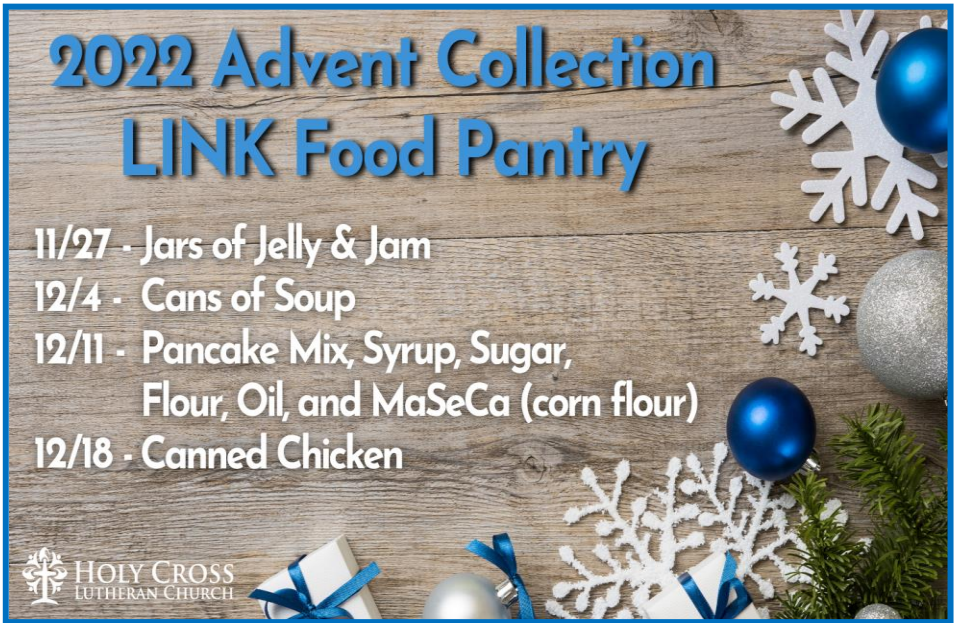
Respectfully submitted, Karen Faulkner

OUTREACH

What a joyful time of year! The twinkling holiday lights, glorious Christmas carols, luscious smell of fresh baked cookies... I love Christmas time!


This is also a great time of year to consider how blessed we are, and to offer support and love to those less fortunate. This year we have both an Advent Appeal and an Epiphany collection.

For our **Advent Appeal**, we will restock the LINK food pantry with their most needed items. Each week we will collect one type of item.



2022 Advent Collection
LINK Food Pantry

11/27 - Jars of Jelly & Jam
12/4 - Cans of Soup
12/11 - Pancake Mix, Syrup, Sugar,
Flour, Oil, and MaSeCa (corn flour)
12/18 - Canned Chicken

 HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

***This is the first activity as we enter our 60th year,
and we aspire to deliver at least 60 items each week!
Please join us!***

For **Epiphany**, we will collect items to make Personal Care Kits and Baby Kits for Lutheran World Relief to deliver wherever they are most needed around the globe. These kits provide very basic necessities for people in difficult and often dangerous situations. On Christmas Eve, you will receive an ornament with a list of items to collect during the 12 days of Christmas. If you want to get a head start, and shop some of the holiday bargains, here is the list of items we'll be collecting:

Personal Care Kits

- Light-weight bath size towel, dark colored preferred
- Bath size bars of soap, (2-3 per kit), in original packaging
- Adult size toothbrush in original packaging
- Sturdy comb
- Metal nail clipper



Baby Care Kits – sizes for babies 6-24 months

- Lightweight cotton t-shirts; No Onesies (2 per kit)
- Long or short sleeve gowns or sleepers without feet (2 per kit)
- Receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel (2 per kit)
- Cloth diapers, flat fold preferred (4 per kit)
- Jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood or include a baby hat
- Socks (2 pair per kit)
- Hand towel, dark color recommended
- Bath-sized bars of gentle soap in original packaging (2-3 per kit)

We ask that you bring those items with you to worship on Epiphany. We will assemble the kits on Monday, January 16th as part of the MLK Day of Service. All ages are welcome and encouraged to join us and help assemble the kits! We are again aspiring to assemble 60 kits to celebrate Holy Cross 60th anniversary. You can learn more about the kits and where they go on the [Lutheran World Relief website](#).

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone in the congregation for their joyful generosity this year. Whenever there is a need, you all step in and meet it. Our Community Outreach efforts make a difference every day to people here in our local community, as well as in our broader global community. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart! You all are amazing!!

With Love and Gratitude,
Deb Reilly



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Advent Midweek Worship

out of the

BLUE

Wednesday
Evenings in
Advent beginning
November 30

Dinner at 6:00 PM
Worship at 7:00 PM

*NOTE: On 12/21 worship will be at
6:30 PM and dinner at 7:15 PM.*



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170

Out of the blue, something new is arriving: transformation, wonder, justice, joy. From generation to generation, God has been dreaming of this moment. Inevitably, it catches us by surprise, just like it surprised our ancestors in faith: Sarah, Abraham, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Mary, Joseph. God's time is now. It's here to reorient our expectations and to sweep us into a future of hope and promise, even if we didn't expect it, even if it wasn't part of our plans.

This November and December, we invite you to join the flow of an Advent season that sweeps us off our feet, carries us forward, and invites us to join God in God's creative work. We'll trace God's plans for justice and peace with the genealogy of Jesus and the witness of

the saints who followed him. We'll be surprised by a thicket of new shoots from the stump of Jesse. We'll find God beguiling us by inviting us to imagine something new, regardless of what came before. And if we're worried about the future and afraid of letting go of the familiar outlines of our lives, God will meet us there too.

It's Advent, and change is coming out of the blue. What will God reveal to us this season?

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

4pm Children's Christmas Worship

7pm and 9pm Traditional Christmas Worship

Holy Communion and Candle Lighting at all Services





Holy Cross Lutheran Church
&
Jimmy's Old Town Tavern



Present the 4th Annual

Beer and Carols!

Tuesday, December 13th
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Come to Jimmy's Old Town Tavern on December 13th for a fun evening of drinks and singing Christmas Carols. While you must be over 21 to drink alcohol, this event is for all ages. Beer, root beer, wine, eggnog, hot chocolate...whatever you would like to drink while you sing carols.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church's Director of Music and Liturgy will be playing the keyboard while we sing and get in the holiday spirit. We will sing any kind of Christmas Carol, sacred or secular. From Joy to the World to Jingle Bell Rock, if you hear it on the radio this time of year, we will sing it at Jimmy's!

Fabulous prizes will be raffled off!!!

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Armed Forces through the ELCA Chaplains Office.

Jimmy's Old Town Tavern
697 Spring Street, Herndon, VA 20170

Be sure to check out Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Facebook and let your friends know you are coming!
(www.Facebook.com/HCLCHerndon)

An Important IRS Reminder!

Donations made to Holy Cross Lutheran Church are deductible for 2022, as long as, they are made prior to January 1, 2023.

The last opportunity to make a donation in 2022, at a church

service, will be at the 9:30 am service on December 25th, Christmas Day. Donations can also be hand-delivered to the church office, by noon, Friday, December 30th, 2022. Mailed checks can count for 2022, as long as, they are post-marked in 2022. And lastly, a donation charged to a credit card in 2022 is counted for 2022 even if the charge is not paid until 2023.



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 sustain us. Your generosity makes all things possible.

Bring your offering with you to worship service at 8:30 or 11:00 am or to drive-thru communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 12:30 pm.

There are three ways to give when you're not in the sanctuary:

1. To give online, simply go to our secure website and click **"Donate"** to set up an automatic donation plan.
2. 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 the our website's Donation page. If you do not have an account, you will be prompted to set one up.
3. You can also mail a check to the church (Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170) or bring a check to the drive-through communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 12:30 PM. An even easier method of sending a single or recurring check donation to the church is by using Bill Pay with your bank or credit union online account or mobile app. Those payments are guaranteed and are shown in your bank or credit union records. Also, there is no fee to you and to the church.

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">• 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



1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 20170

