



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



February 2023

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the March 2023 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, Quest, is Monday, February 13.

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 Schulmeyer
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



The Grace to Ask

We began the Epiphany season with a question, followed by another question, followed by a cryptic answer: “What are you looking for?” (Jesus); “Where are you staying?” (Two would-be disciples); “Come and see” (Jesus). Questions are an important, even an essential part of the journey of faith. Questions are ultimately relationships. Within those relationships, especially ones based in safety and love, we can also find space to grow in understanding as we ask questions. As an example, think of the toddler who discovers her world in such a large part through the myriad of “Whys” she is allowed to ask. Each query and each patient answer (even if it is for the umpteenth time) gives her safe space to wonder, to ponder, to understand a little bit more.

The Bible is full of questions. Throughout the whole of Scripture, there is an explicit understanding that our relationship with God will involve questions, a lot of them. The Psalms are filled of many, “Why?” questions, mostly directed to God. There are plus or minus 980 questions in the Greek New Testament alone,

mostly in the gospels where people meet and talk with Jesus.¹ As I mentioned in a recent sermon, the gospel of John in particular seems to revel in the prospect of questions. The great scholar, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel declared, “We are closer to God when we are asking questions than when we think we have the answers.”²

The season of Lent invites us to abide with questions. This year the Lectionary provides us with many questions, some from God, some from the Devil, and some from Jesus or the people with whom he interacts. Lots and lots of questions this Lent - questions that invite us, like that ever curious toddler to explore, ponder, and experience our faith in new ways.

We will center our Lenten worship around the theme of, “Ask.” Both on Sunday and Wednesday worship, we will center on a theme of questions to ask:

Ash Wednesday	Unspoken Questions
1 st Week in Lent	Questions that Divide, Questions that Bond
2 nd Week in Lent	Simple Questions
3 rd Week in Lent	Questions for the Curious
4 th Week in Lent	Questions That Change You
5 th Sunday in Lent	Limit Questions

We invite you to, “Come and See” and explore together the freedom we have in Jesus to question. It’s all part of the journey we have together in Jesus’ grace.

Pastor Martin

¹ Douglas Estes, *Questions of Jesus in John: Logic, Rhetoric, and Persuasive Discourse* (Boston: Brill, 2013), 14.

² Quoted in Rabbi P.J. Schwartz, “How the Sacred of Questioning Can Lead Us to Freedom,” *Reform Judaism* website, April 6, 2017.
<https://reformjudaism.org/blog/how-sacred-art-questioning-can-lead-us-freedom>.

The Season of Epiphany

Continuing in the current season of Epiphany, we hope that you have enjoyed the sermon series, and have read these Scriptures during the week before, and prayerfully reflected on how they connect to your own journey of faith.

Seasonal Theme: What Are You Looking For?

January 15: Come and See.

John 1:29-42

January 22: A Light to See By.

Isaiah 9:1-4; Matthew 4:12-23

January 29: So, Where's the Justice?

Micah 6:1-8; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Life can be complicated and seem so out of balance that we are tempted to ask, "Where's the justice in the world?" As people of faith, we are called and reminded that God's justice is based on God's inclusive and affirming grace, and we are called to be the ones who live it out in Jesus' name. The justice of grace.

February 5: A Salt of the Earth Kind of Life.

Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

We all know people who are "salt of the earth" folks – practical, unpretentious people who genuinely care for others. That is precisely the calling we have been given in Jesus' name – to be the ones who love as we have been loved. Jesus came down to earth to show us how to be down-to-earth believers.

February 12: A Faith That Makes a Difference.

Deut. 30:15-20; Matthew 5:21-37

Our faith and our life should not be all ceremony and fancy words, but a lived out relationship with God and God's people. Jesus challenges us all to examine our own temptation to think that we are the ones who are always in the right, and to begin to see our neighbors as he sees us all – imperfect people who desperately need his unconditional love. Love that makes a real difference.



Director of Music and Liturgy

Choir Positions Open!

Positions in soprano, alto, tenor, and bass!

No others need apply!

PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS: *Must be able to carry light musical notes part way across the sanctuary. Must have sufficient vision to see the director.*

EXPERIENCE: *No applications will be accepted from persons who have not sung, hummed, or whistled in the bathtub or shower at some time.*

BEGINNING WAGE: *Increased satisfaction and joy in service of God.*

FRINGE BENEFITS: *Social Security. We promise you the security of social fellowship with other choir members.*

HOURS: *Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 PM and Sunday mornings. There is occasional opportunity for overtime.*

RETIREMENT: *Generally determined by the printed notes getting too small, the hymnal too heavy, notes too high, the sanctuary too hot or too cold, or the organist unable to play the notes you sing.*

We are an equal opportunity employer!

If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact me at 703-437-1883 or MusicDir@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net

Soli Deo Gloria! Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music & Liturgy

Ask

Sundays and Wednesdays in Lent

February 22 - March 26

Sundays: 8:30 & 11:00 AM Worship

Wednesdays: 6:00 PM - Dinner & 7:00 PM - Worship

Ash Wednesday - Wed, 2/22

Unspoken Questions

Week I - Sun, 2/26 & Wed 3/1

Questions That Divide, Questions That Bond

Week II - Sun, 3/5 & Wed 3/8

Simple Questions

Week III - Sun, 3/12 & Wed 3/15

Questions for the Curious

Week IV - Sun, 3/19 & Wed 3/22

Questions That Change You

Week V - Sun, 3/26 & Wed 3/29

Limit Questions



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COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

Time After Epiphany

As I write this article, we are well into one of the two parts of the liturgical year known as Ordinary Time. The first of these two parts is known as the “Time After Epiphany” and Sundays are named after their ordinal position relative to Epiphany. With green liturgical colors, we tend to think of these weeks of Ordinary Time as “ordinary” in our secular sense of the word rather than an ecclesiastical one. It is in these periods when there is no major liturgical event on the calendar when we can pause and take stock of where we are and attend to the more mundane needs of the church.

One of the items high on our agenda is the process of finalizing the financial reports for 2022. We all breathed a sigh of relief when our Treasurer, Joe Baggett, reported that it appears we essentially broke even. This was no small feat considering the effects of unexpected one-time personnel expenses along with a decline in regular giving during much of the year. Thank you to everyone for helping us to finish strong in 2022!

At our Annual Meeting, Deb Reilly, Chair of our Building on the Best campaign, reported that we had accomplished most of the campaign’s goals with only the bathroom renovations remaining. This project has been delayed largely due to two adverse impacts of the

pandemic: 1.) some contributions fell short of intended giving, and 2.) the cost of materials had skyrocketed. Frankly, we were having to consider how much we could pare back our objectives and still improve our facilities to make them welcoming and accessible to all. By now, you've probably seen the notice that Holy Cross was the recipient of a Rebuild VA Grant in the amount of \$54,281. This was due to Deb Reilly's herculean efforts and sheer tenacity in working the process and overcoming obstacles. At its last meeting, Council approved allocating approximately \$3,300 of the Grant funds for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and associated expenditures and the remainder of the Grant (~\$51,000) to the Bathroom renovation project. This addition to the remaining Building on the Best funds gets us in the ballpark of preliminary estimates. This is exciting news! The next time you see Deb Reilly, please give her a hearty "Well Done!" along with your thanks!

Last month I wrote "...we can be open to seeing the miracles God works in our daily lives and in the lives of those around us." I don't know if receiving a \$54,281 grant technically qualifies as a miracle, but it sure feels like it. Combining this welcome news with the positive results of 2022, we can start 2023 with essentially a zero balance in our current expense vs. revenue, which means we should be able to meet our 2023 needs by maintaining regular giving while embarking on implementation of the 'bathroom project' which we've identified as essential to welcoming ALL of our sisters and brothers!

I look forward to seeing what else Christ has in mind for us as we share his love!

Yours in Christ,

Sam



FELLOWSHIP

In February, we celebrate Valentine's Day. I love corny jokes, so I offer the following:



What did the paper clip say to the magnet?

"I find you very attractive!"



What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?

"I'm stuck on you!"



What is Cupid's favorite band?

"Kiss!"

Speaking of "Kiss", our own Jeremy Shoop will be the musical director for Herndon High School's 2023 spring musical, Kiss Me, Kate. Brush up on your Shakespeare and put this date on your calendar: Holy Cross Night at the Play, Saturday, April 22, 2023. Time, cost, and more details to come later.

The leftover kitchen utensils were donated to The Closet. If you think one of them was yours, and you really want it, you can buy it back from The Closet!



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

Regards,
Anne Geiger, Fellowship Chair

Sunday, February 12th is Scout Sunday at Holy Cross!



*Wear your Scout uniform to church
on February 12th!*

Let's honor and celebrate scouting! On Scout Sunday, the 2023 charter for BSA Troop 12 will be given to Pastor Martin by the Troop 12 Chartered Organization Representative, Anne Geiger, at the 11am service. The Troop 12 Scouts will also hand out the bulletins at the same service.

Scouts and Scouters,
please wear your scout uniforms
to church
to celebrate Scout Sunday 2023!



OUTREACH

MLK Day of Service Project

Martin Luther King Jr once said: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

This year, [Holy Cross Lutheran Church](#) partnered with the [Herndon Woman's Club](#) for our 2023 MLK Day of Service project. Our organizations got together to help with several projects. The HCLC project was to assemble Personal Care Kits and Baby Care Kits for [Lutheran World Relief](#) that will be sent wherever the need is greatest, likely Ukraine and Ethiopia. Our goal was to collect the necessary items and assemble 60 kits. We are thrilled to say that we were able to assemble 83 kits!!!! Thank you to everyone for your generosity! We would also like to thank [Thrivent](#) for their support with our care kit service project.



We also had a great time helping the Herndon Woman's club with their projects of assembling food packages for LINK, sorting recycled crayons that will be melted and made into new crayons for hospitalized children, assembling kits for AERO (Animal Education and Rescue Organization), and assembling rice and bean meal kits that will be given to families in need.



Thank you to everyone who made these service projects a HUGE success! It was wonderful to see so many people come together in service to our neighbors in need, both near and far!

With Love and Gratitude, Deb Reilly





Many
Hands
Serving
Our
Community!




Upcoming HCLC Lenten Appeal

828 million people were affected by hunger in 2021.

The United Nations report, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, estimated that 828 million people were at risk for not having enough to eat to support healthy development. That's a staggering number: 2.5 times the population of the United States! The problem seems overwhelming.

What actions are we called to take to alleviate hunger throughout the world?



ELCA World Hunger works to address hunger in more than 60 countries by listening and learning from our neighbors in need. From water wells to animal husbandry, gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions designed to target the root causes of hunger.

During the season of Lent, Holy Cross Lutheran Church will be organizing monetary donations for ELCA World Hunger. Offerings collected during the mid-week services will be forwarded to the organization. Watch the weekly email and bulletin inserts for more information about the variety of ways that World Hunger has helped people in need.



ELCA World Hunger

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

EVANGELISM

Card Brigade Ministry

We are looking for several additional monthly volunteers to assist with our card ministry. The Card Brigade sends cards to members for a variety of reasons—a note of cheer, a message of care, or to celebrate milestone birthdays and Anniversaries. For more details and to sign up, Contact Karen Faulkner at kfaulkner464@aol.com



A Big Welcome to Our New Members!

On Sunday, January 8th, we welcomed new members! As you look at the list below, you may recognize a few names—and to those we say, Welcome Back! How blessed and excited we are to have our new members join us as part of our ministry here at Holy Cross.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Faulkner



*Harrison Drier
Kristen Drier
Jackson Drier
Madison Drier*

*Glenn Reges
Ina Laemmerzahl
Violet Reges
Jasper Reges
Felix Reges
Ruby Reges*



We are teaching
in our classrooms
again! Every

teacher is very happy to be back at Holy Cross. Our spring semester is off to a great start. We registered 26 students from 8 different countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Nicaragua, Peru, Togo and Vietnam. Most students are from Honduras and Peru. We have multiple levels of English knowledge in each class.

We teach every Wednesday from 7:00-8:30 in the evening. We decided to teach without a food break since it has always disrupted the class and our students' attention diminishes the later the hour. We plan to always have water and a small snack for students when they come to class. Teaching for an hour and thirty minutes works very well for the students and teachers. We plan to teach twice a week again soon, depending on each teacher's schedule.

We don't have any nursery attendants for our ELL classes at this time. Free babysitting is very important for our ELL program. Luckily, we don't have many children right now, and they are old enough to sit quietly in the classroom with their parent. We may have to turn some students away if we can't offer childcare.

We plan to teach online and in class very soon. We have a donation of TVs for each classroom and Sam Carter with Chip Edwards are planning to mount the TVs and complete the setup. Thank you both, Sam and Chip!

A special Thank You, to Anne Geiger, for your dedicated support to our students and ELL program.

Many thanks to our teachers for their dedicated work to educate our students. You are essential to our successful ELL program.

Thank you to The ELL Team!
Ellen, Suzanne, Jeanne, Chip, Alejandra and Marcia



Basic Class



Beginner Class



Intermediate Class



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. You can also mail a check donation to the church (Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170)

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 our website's Donation page. If you do not have an account, you will be prompted to set one up. 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 or to the church.
3. Your generosity makes all things possible. We offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. To give electronically, scan the QR code below.



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



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