



HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# The Quest

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



**June 2023**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Pastor’s Thoughts.....4

Insights from the Director of Music and Liturgy .....6

Message from the Church Council President.....7

Fellowship.....11

Outreach .....13

Evangelism .....15

Property .....16

ELL Program .....17

Stewardship .....19



# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the July 2023 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, Quest, is Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

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](https://www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon)



@HolyCrossELCA

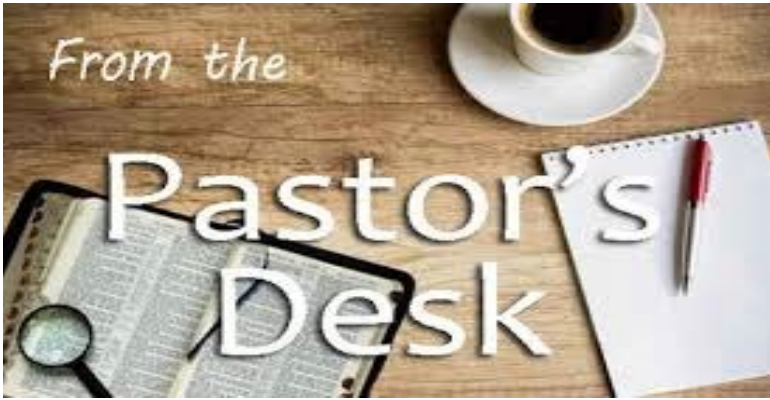


HolyCrossELCA



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

## STAFF



Dear Friends in Jesus,

In the calendar of the church, we are transitioning from the season of Easter into the season after Pentecost (sometimes called, “Ordinary Time”). Generally speaking, the first half of the liturgical year (Advent-Easter) focuses on the life of Jesus, while the second half (after Pentecost) emphasizes the life of the disciples of Jesus, or us as the church of Christ. While the first half of the year covers all the big events and holidays, such as the birth of Jesus at Christmas, the visit of the Magi at Epiphany and, the events of Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost, the rest of the year is markedly devoid of such big events. As such, it reflects the longer and more “every day” pace of the life of the believer and the community of faith. It also serves as a call to be the active witnesses of Jesus’ work, as we live it out in our daily lives.

It is in the ordinary times, in ordinary ways, as ordinary people that we live. Even within the context of large events that have so recently entered our lives – pandemic, wars, climate crisis – for the most part, you and I live in the here and now. This is where Jesus meets us, and this is where we do the work of the kingdom. Most of the stories Jesus tells are parables about families, workers, farmers, and homeowners. Jesus takes the ordinary to explain how God works. Most of us will not make headlines, or win large awards, but we will do the work of God where we are.

This is our calling. Martin Luther called it, “the priesthood of all believers” and it became one of the chief teaching points of the Reformation. Our lives and our vocations (from the Latin, *vocation* – “to call”) is precisely where the Holy Spirit uses us. Our gifts, however mundane we may think they are, are what we have been given to glorify God and to help others.

Not everyone can be an accountant, but we need them. Not everyone can be a teacher, but we depend on them. Not everyone has the gifts to be an auto mechanic, but I for one would be utterly lost if I couldn’t have someone that I could bring my car to when it needs repair. Whatever our gifts, this is where we serve our community, and this is where we praise God with our gifts.

We live in the ordinary time, as ordinary people. We remember that it is in and through the seemingly ordinary that God is able to do some extraordinary things, each and every day.

Thanks be to God,

Pastor Martin



## Director of Music and Liturgy



# My Heart Shall Sing: A Call for Justice and Peace

Music Sunday - 2023  
June 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am and 11:00 am

There are countless hymns and anthems that quote scripture calling for justice and peace to reign on earth. In the *Canticle of the Turning*, Rory Cooney's text quotes Mary's Magnificat and reminds us that God's justice will tear tyrants from their throne. Bernadette Farrell wrote both text and tune for *Christ, Be Our Light*, a hymn whose stanzas portray a dark world longing for justice and peace while its refrain calls for God's people to be the light of Christ for those in need. Mary Louise Bringle's text in *Light Dawns on a Weary World* has quickly become a favorite at Holy Cross. Bringle's hymn text holds up the fact that God's creation cannot flourish until the most vulnerable among us are cared for. Her refrain quotes Isaiah 55 as we sing about trees clapping their hands when justice and peace exist for everyone. *Let Streams of Living Justice* pairs a text from William Whitla quoting Amos 5:24 (But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.) with Gustav Holst's majestic THAXTED tune.

Join us on June 11<sup>th</sup> for a celebration of our music program as we explore how composers interpret the call for God's people to care for each other.

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.*

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music Ministries

## COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

### **Loneliness and Isolation**

A few weeks ago, United States Surgeon General Dr. Vivek sounded the alarm about the public health crisis of loneliness, isolation, and lack of connection in our country. You can read the full text at this link: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf> In about 70 pages, he outlines the significant negative health impact of social disconnection. He states, “The mortality impact of being socially disconnected is similar to that caused by smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day, and even greater than that associated with obesity and physical inactivity.”

He cites declining trends in community involvement as problematic. In particular, he singles out religious groups and states: “Religious or faith-based groups can be a source for regular social contact, serve as a community of support, provide meaning and purpose, create a sense of belonging around shared values and beliefs, and are associated with reduced risk-taking behaviors. As a consequence of this decline in participation, individuals’ health may



be undermined in different ways.” However, religious groups are not a panacea and must guard against behaviors such as manipulation and creating an “us” versus “them” mentality which can have negative consequences for individual and community well-being. Actions of far too many have led to the terms “Christian” and “Evangelical” to be viewed as pejoratives in our society. At times like this, it’s good to remind ourselves of our Mission Statement and Welcome Statement.

The **Holy Cross Mission Statement** as taken from the HCLC Constitution and Bylaws:

\*C4.05. This congregation shall adopt and periodically review a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.

C4.05.01. Holy Cross is the people of God, called by the Holy Spirit, committed to live with God, our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. We are a united family dedicated to reaching out and providing opportunity through worship, witness, education, and service. Come grow with us in faith, love, and commitment to God our Father and in loving service to all people.



The thing that impressed me the most when I first visited a Lutheran Church was that these were people who didn’t expect anyone to blindly follow; they didn’t have it all figured out, but they had brains and inquisitive minds and welcomed questions and invited others to join with them as they sought to grow in their faith. The second thing that impressed me was that

they genuinely cared about each other and enjoyed each other’s company. They fostered an informal atmosphere reminiscent of a



large family. Certainly, this has been our experience at Holy Cross, and I think it's a shame that we often cannot feel comfortable inviting others to join with us. As our Mission Statement says, "Come grow with us in faith, love, and commitment to God our Father and in loving service to all people." Now, how do we do that without sounding pious and preachy?!



The **Holy Cross Welcome Statement** as printed in the weekly church worship bulletin and also found in other publications:

Holy Cross Lutheran Church joyfully affirms and celebrates that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all who are seeking God's boundless love and sustaining grace into full community with us at Holy Cross. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down barriers and systems that divide God's children working to be a space committed to racial equality for God's people and to building a community where all are recognized as part of Christ's new creation.

We welcome you, and you are safe with us...  
Whatever your race, ethnicity, or heritage;  
Whatever your relationship status;  
We welcome you, and you are safe with us...  
Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;  
Whatever your socio-economic status;  
We welcome you, and you are safe with us...  
Whatever your age and life circumstance;  
Whatever your physical and mental ability,  
you are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and  
you are welcome here.

We have to admit that we haven't always been as welcoming as we should have, but I'm heartened by our efforts and the results we've seen thus far.

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us to guide and comfort us. I think that Spirit has led us and continues to lead us to share the Gospel through our efforts to "be the Church!" As so many in our community deal with loneliness and isolation, we can be a place of welcome and refuge. We share the unconditional love of Jesus Christ by following his example in caring for others and welcoming them into our "family."

We made it through the pandemic, now let's do all we can to ameliorate the effects of the epidemic of loneliness and isolation facing our nation and the world. Let's start by inviting someone to share our fellowship with us. I look forward to seeing where the Holy Spirit leads us as we attempt to follow Christ's commandment to love one another!

Yours in Christ,

Sam



## FELLOWSHIP



### July 4<sup>th</sup> Event at Holy Cross

Holy Cross's Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Music, Ice Cream and Fireworks Event is ON again from 6 pm to 10 pm at Holy Cross! Come play games on the lawn, listen

to good music, eat home-made ice cream, and watch the fireworks supplied by the Town of Herndon! A great time for all!



*If you are willing to make your favorite ice cream for the event, please contact Pam Darby at [darborator1@aol.com](mailto:darborator1@aol.com) with your flavor offering.*

### The Joke of the Month (and a riff on the April joke) 😊



**Knock, knock**

**Who's there?**

**Noah.**

**Noah who?**

**Noah a good joke about June?**

**If April showers bring May flowers,  
what do May flowers bring?  
June bugs!**



(Apparently, I don't know any good jokes about June 😊)

**And, On That Note...** 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!

Anne Geiger, Fellowship Chair



## **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!**

### **November 5, 2023**

**Mark your calendars now!** Holy Cross is 60 years old this year!! Planning for the Holy Cross 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is in full swing! Led by Deb Reilly, the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee has set the date for the main celebration for All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2023.

Pastor Ed Harper will be the preacher that day for one combined church service with Seminarian Katie Moran and Pastor Martin assisting. There will be a catered luncheon after the church service.

Kick-off for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events will be at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration at the church with many more details of other events associated with the celebration at that time!

## OUTREACH



*A Big Thank You to  
Holy Cross!*

*Tashakor!*

A big thank you  
from our Afghan family!  
“Tashakor” is thank you in Dari!

Mohammad and Homaira endured a long journey getting from Afghanistan to the United States. Seeking a life of dignity, freedom, and security is what brings them here. To imagine that just five months ago, they arrived here to Herndon, with virtually nothing, and not knowing anyone! As they become established in Herndon, and get to know the people of Holy Cross, their dreams of freedom and security are becoming a reality! Their story reminds us how blessed we are to have food, housing, safety, and basic education.

Because of your generosity, they were presented with a check for \$840.00! They were able to purchase a much needed sofa and laptop. When presented with the check to aid them in their endeavors, Mohammad humbly stated that he has never known people who have become so dear to his heart as you have at Holy Cross. He humbly and repeatedly thanked us for our generosity.



The Mother's Day Noisy Offering totaled \$310.00 which was used to purchase a Walmart gift card. They plan to use this card for necessary household and personal items for their children.

During their time here, they have worked to master their English, found a job, and found us! Additionally, a generous Holy Cross member donated a bike that Mohammed now uses to get to work! A special thanks to Bob Evans, who updated the bike for vigorous use!

Mussadir, (5) begins school in July to prepare him for kindergarten starting in August. A laptop will aid in many areas: school, language, neighborhood, and helpful for the multitude of paperwork which must be filled out for everyday living.



Hawa, (3) enjoys her neighborhood, especially with Bready Park closeby to meet other children and play!.



The family has met many of you here. Your acceptance, your kind words and your encouragement, will be a part of their lives as they move forward.



## EVANGELISM



Join us at our next community event!  
The Reston Pride Event! The festival  
will offer our community access to  
vendors, performances, speakers, fun,  
festivities and much more!

The Reston Pride Event will be at Lake  
Anne Plaza on Saturday, June 3rd from  
12:00 pm to 6 pm. We are excited to  
participate in this event again this year!  
Last year we were warmly welcomed by  
Reston's LGBTQ community! Stop by, find  
our booth and join the afternoon full of  
fun!





## PROPERTY



**Join us for our Summer Property Work Days  
on the second Tuesday of every month  
from May until September!  
We meet at the church  
from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.**

***Please join us on  
June 13, July 11, August 8 and September 12!***

**A VERY BIG THANK YOU to those who  
helped us in May as we:**

- ➔ Installed a new kitchen faucet
- ➔ Replaced broken EXIT signs
- ➔ Fixed doors to close properly
- ➔ Cleared out overgrown trees/bushes





## *The Opportunity of Helping Others at Holy Cross*

*By Alejandra Caceres  
ELL Teacher at Holy Cross*

I started volunteering as an ELL teacher at Holy Cross in the fall of 2022. This has been a positive and rewarding experience and I am very excited about continuing this activity in the future. Our ELL students have worked hard throughout the semester, and as a teacher, it makes me happy to see so many dedicated students

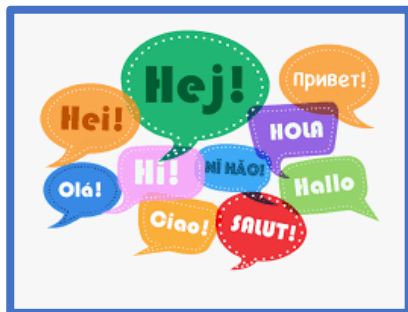


willing to go to class after long hours at work.

Most of my students come from different nationalities, and although I speak Spanish, it is a challenge to communicate with them when they speak another language other than English or

Spanish. However, I have enjoyed being their teacher because I keep learning ways to teach and communicate with students. It is a challenge, but we all try our best!

Many of my students have shared with me their frustration when they can't communicate properly in English. Most of them have jobs in which not knowing the language becomes a barrier. I was once in the same position. When I emigrated to the U.S. at the age of 14, everything was new to me. I left my family, country, and language.



The cultural differences were enormous and getting used to them was a struggle. For these reasons, I understand my students when they feel helpless and they struggle a lot with the language. I am currently doing some research to better help our students learn English. In the future, I hope to gain more skills to become a better teacher. My goal is to help our immigrant community and their families. Knowing English is essential to welcome more opportunities and have a better future in the U.S. I truly appreciate your support and concern for our students and community.

Alejandra Caceres  
ELL Teacher

Your ELL Team:  
Ellen Atwell, Suzanne Baggett, Jeanne Maysonett, Chip Edwards





We aspire to keep Holy Cross Lutheran Church a thriving, serving community of God's people. We 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. Lastly, you can scan the QR code:





1090 Sterling Road  
Herndon, VA 20170

