



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



May 2023

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the June 2023 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, Quest, is Monday, May 22nd.

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

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Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

STAFF



Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

It was such a blessing for us all to see the sanctuary so full at Easter! Many people whom we had not seen for a while were there as well as many new people that came on both Palm Sunday and Easter. We are getting a good number of first-time worshippers joining us, which is wonderful. Karen Faulkner and I have been regularly reaching out to those who sign the guest registry in the narthex and our congregation has a number of individuals who make a point of intentionally engaging with people they don't recognize. The latter is especially important, because it gives the impression of a welcoming, friendly congregation-- one that is truly glad to see new people join us!



All the many worship and fellowship events we have had this past month would not have been possible without the many, many people who regularly step in and make it happen. The recent Memorial Service for Pat and Rick Garverick is a great example of the body of Christ coming together to make certain that the family and friends of the Garvericks felt a place of hospitality and care as they came to

grieve and to remember. Thanks to Anne Geiger, Carol Shaffer, and all the folks who made both worship and fellowship such a place of grace.

The drama of the administration side bathrooms continues, even on the day of a big memorial service! Gary Wolfe and others have put in a lot of time and headaches to address those issues (and others), for which we are very thankful. The same can be said for those working with the eventual renovation of the same bathrooms. We are thankful for Deb Reilly and the Building on the Best committee that is getting so close to seeing this project finally begin.

Chris Nelson has started a Stewardship focus on gratitude this month, using Temple Talks to help remind us for the many things in our life for which we may be thankful. Phillip Isaiah is working with the Audit Committee and beginning to reassemble the Financial Committee; Vivian Jefferson continues the work of



**Thanks
for Your
Support!**

Outreach in our community; Chip Edwards oversees the work of Christian education, and Suzanne Baggett makes much of that education happen. Gene Bain faithfully and accurately keeps the important records and the system for personnel running. Overall, the Executive Committee (Joe Baggett, Cheryl Smith, Philip Isaiah, and Sam Carter) oversees and gives counsel to both the congregation and Council. Sam Carter, in particular, works extra duty and carries an extra load of responsibility as our President.

Finally, I must again acknowledge my ongoing thankfulness for the pleasure it is to work alongside a companion and colleague such as our Director for Music and Liturgy, Jeremy Shoop. The strength, beauty, and spirituality of our worship and music is a wonderful testimony to the gifts he shares among us.



If I sound grateful, I am. So many hands. So many gifts. So many people working together--many working unseen and somewhat anonymously—to help us do, together, this organism called “a congregation.” God’s work. Our hands.

I am thankful to live and work alongside such a community that is Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Thank you.

Pastor Martin



Director of Music and Liturgy

My Heart Shall Sing: A Call for Justice and Peace

Music Sunday - 2023

June 11th, 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 11th 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 –

Love One Another

Perhaps the biggest factor in our decision to join Holy Cross was the pervasive welcoming attitude of so many of its members. We were a little “gun-shy” about getting involved because we had been hurt and discouraged by some of our experiences, and we took a rather cautious approach for fear of being hurt again. As we became more involved, we found that the people of Holy Cross did a pretty good job of “being the church!” We’ve repeatedly seen that in the way members respond to the needs of the community.

Sometimes we forget that those closest to us often put on a brave face even as they confront difficulties in their lives. We only hear about a few situations, usually because some dramatic event forces awareness. At our recent Council Retreat (we “retreated” to the Fellowship Hall!) your leaders explored ideas of how we might better follow Christ’s great commandment to Love One Another. The idea of starting a Stephen Ministry was suggested. For those who may not be familiar with this ministry, it’s been around since the 1970’s and offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and



supervise a team of congregation members—called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. This formal program requires a dedicated coordinator and funding for training and materials. Since it was not in the 2023 budget, the Council decided to task someone to explore it and gather information on financial commitments for our 2024 budget planning.

Sarah Schulmeyer accepted responsibility to do the research and reported back this week. It turns out the financial commitment is ~\$4,000, so that amount is what we thought we'd need to ask the Finance Committee to consider for the 2024 Budget. Sarah offered to serve as the coordinator and to begin educating the Committee and members of the Congregation on the program. However, this week a donor (who wishes to remain anonymous) spoke highly of the ministry based on personal experience and offered to match all donations up to \$4,000 to accelerate the implementation of the Stephen Ministry. Therefore, we decided to extend that offer to the Congregation.

If you would like to know more about the program, contact Sarah in the office on weekday afternoons. If you'd like to contribute or pledge, please send an email to:
pledge@holycrosslutheranchurch.net.

I'm heartened by all we continue to do as we strive to be the church. 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

He Is Risen; He Is Risen Indeed – Alleluia!!

Easter Fellowship Brunch was a success! The church was full on Easter as we all knew it would be with church members, visiting family members, and many visitors. So, the fellowship hour between services and after the late service needed to be much larger than usual to provide brunch for all.



Fellowship provided the ham and rolls, but the other food was provided by our wonderful church member bakers & chefs. Many

thanks to the food preparers **Suzanne**

Baggett, Katie Bain, Mary Alice Carlson, Martin Eldred, Shelly Eldred, Karen Faulkner, Roy Geiger, Barb Gouldey, Nancy Jones, Dick Krapf, Nan Lem, Jo Roe, Lynn Russo, Carol Shaffer, and whoever provided the egg salad wraps and fresh berries in yogurt sauce. These people provided wonderfully delicious food to nourish the body and to encourage fellowship as people ate and visited. And many thanks to **Pam Darby, Nancy Jones, and Rick Jones** who provided much help for the set up and clean-up for the morning. Many hands make light work, and everyone's contributions are so very greatly appreciated.

The May Joke of the Month!

A visitor got lost looking for the May Day Fair in a rural part of the state and asked a local resident, "Will this road take me to the May Day Fair?"

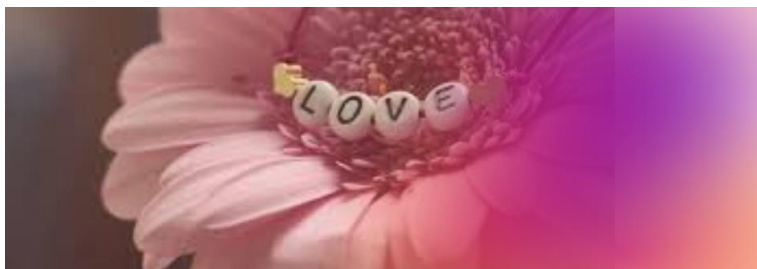
"Oh no", said the resident. "You'll have to go by yourself."



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

Happy Mother's Day!
On Sunday, May 14th,
we will have a
Special "Noisy" Offering!



Make Some Noise!

The Sunday May 14th Noisy Offering will help support the mother and children of the family from Afghanistan which Holy Cross has been aiding to become established in Herndon, Virginia. The family is thankful to be here and for Holy Cross!

Bring your stash of coins to welcome them with noise!

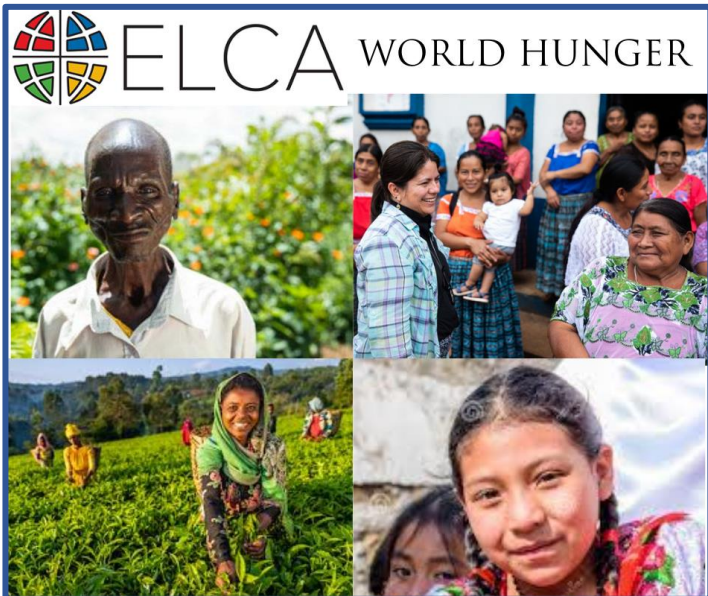
A Walmart Gift Card will be purchased for them with this offering.

OUTREACH



ELCA World Hunger Donation Total

Thanks to the generosity of the HCLC community, we collected a total of \$1,214 dollars for ELCA World Hunger from special offerings during Lent! A check is on its way to the organization. Well done!



EVANGELISM

Holy Cross helped to sponsor the Town of Herndon Easter Egg Hunt! Despite a cool morning, over 300 kids and families gathered for the Town's Annual "Hoppity" Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8th. Three separate age groups competed for special prizes! Approximately 110 folks stopped by our HCLC tent to participate in our mini-quilt activity. Thanks again to Roy Geiger and Thrivent's Action Team grant for covering our \$250 registration fee.



HCLC Easter Egg Hunt was held on Easter Sunday on the church's front lawn. Around 10-12 kids gathered with their baskets to collect their Easter goodies! Lots of fun and Easter joy all around!!

Our next community event will be the **Reston Pride Event**. This event will be at Lake Anne Plaza on Saturday, June 3rd from 12:00 pm to 6 pm. Jeremy has received the application renewal packet for us to participate again this year. We are reviewing appropriate sponsorship options for non-profit organizations. Last year we were warmly welcomed by Reston's LGBTQ community! We are looking forward to participating in this event again in June!



We had lots of new visitors with us on Easter Sunday! We had 6 folks who signed our Guest Registry. Follow-up emails were sent thanking them for joining us, and asking if there's anything we can do for them. So next time you spot an unfamiliar face, take time to introduce yourself and welcome them to Holy Cross . . . they just may become a future Holy Cross member!

Respectfully submitted, Karen Faulkner

PROPERTY



A BIG THANKS to the following members who came out to work on our Spring Property Work Day in April! Members included Jeremy Shoop, Deb Reilly, Dick Krapf, Joe Baggett, Jared Lem, Mike Muller, Virginia Muller, Anne Geiger, Roy Geiger, Shelly Eldred, Sarah Schulmeyer and Nancy Jones. Your hard work is much appreciated!

We still have a lot more work to do! We can't simply wait for our Fall Property Work Day!

We are now scheduling Property Work Days on the second Tuesday of every month from May until September! We will meet at the church from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Please come and volunteer your time to simply "spruce up" an area, or use your talents in a variety of ways such as painting or pruning! No time commitment is too small—come when you can, help when you can! We need you!

Please help us on

May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8 and September 12!

See you then!



Holy Cross Recognized as a National Wildlife Federation “Certified Wildlife Habitat”

At this year’s retreat, the Church Council discussed how we take care of God’s creation. We recognized that our amazing property provides not only a wonderful house of worship, but also a sanctuary for local wildlife. The Council voted to pursue seeking National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Wildlife Habitat Certification for our property as an opportunity to remind us to take care of God’s creation.

What does it take to be an NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat?

There are 5 key requirements:

- **Food** – Native plants provide food for eaten by a variety of wildlife.
- **Water** - All animals need water to survive, and some need it for bathing or breeding.
- **Cover** - Wildlife need places to take shelter from bad weather and places to hide from predators.
- **Places to Raise Young** - Wildlife need resources to reproduce, and to protect and nourish their young.
- **Sustainable Practices** - Maintain the property in natural ways to ensure soil, air, and water stay healthy and clean, avoiding pesticides, herbicides and other harmful chemicals. Use mulch to help reduce water usage.



*With many thanks to
Roy Geiger for taking the lead, we
are delighted to share that Holy
Cross met these requirements and
is officially an
NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat!!*

We are excited about this, and hope to build on where we are, including:

1. exploring adding more pollinator plants to attract, bees, birds and butterflies;
2. working with Scouts to add some shelters for wildlife;
3. explore building roosting boxes;
4. continue to focus on sustainable practices, including an addition of a compost bin.

Interested in helping out with future plans?

Please contact Roy Geiger at church, by email at gei2@verizon.net or 703-401-3934.



*Celebrating our Church Property
as a
NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat!*

*Wildlife who've found their home
on our church property!*





We are finishing our spring semester on May 10th at Holy Cross. We have had a successful spring semester with almost 50 student registrations from 9 different countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Nicaragua, Peru, Togo, Vietnam and Ukraine. We get one or two new students almost every week! Students also stop coming to class due to longer work hours or for family reasons.

We start our summer semester on June 14th and it runs until July 26th on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm. Our summer semester is free of charge! Students in our Basic and Intermediate classes work with two books, one student book and a matching workbook. Our Beginner students use one picture book to study English. Teachers also create separate lessons to enhance their book learning.

A big Thank YOU to Suzanne Baggett, Jeanne Maysonett, Alejandra Caceres and Chip Edwards. Thank you for your dedication and patience teaching our immigrants at Holy Cross.

Your ELL Team,
Ellen Atwell,
Suzanne Baggett,
Jeanne Maysonett,
and 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
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