



HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# The Quest

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



## July 2023

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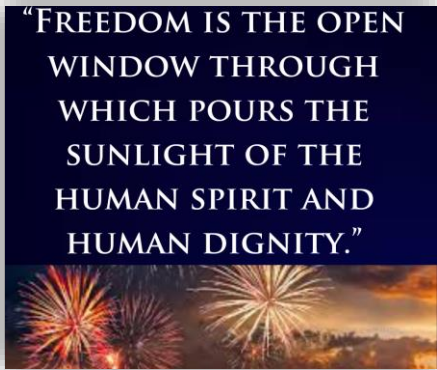
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# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the August 2023 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, Quest, is Monday, July 17<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 COB 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)



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Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

## STAFF



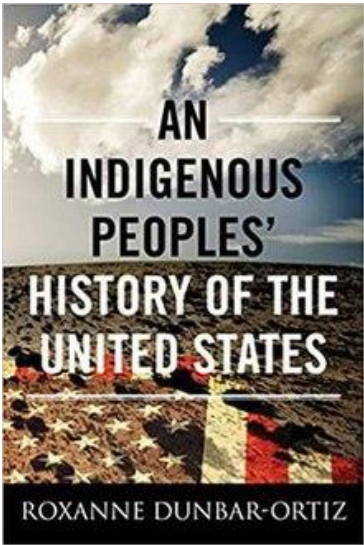
Dear Friends in Jesus,

Throughout the summer months, the ELCA is encouraging congregations and synods to select a book written by a Native American author and discuss it together. This seems like a good opportunity for us at Holy Cross to do some reading and conversation together and to listen to our common story from a different perspective. Over the years, I have found it invaluable to read the writings of people of non-dominant communities and to hear their experiences and the experiences of their people. It brings a directness and deepness that cannot always be captured in stories written by people outside their communities. It gives a new way to hear the narrative of the people who have lived on the land for over 10,000 years.

In my exploration, however, I found it difficult to locate Native authors specifically connected to the Virginia or Maryland area. There are plenty of books about Native people in our region, but none that I could find written by the Native people themselves. If you know of any such books, please let me know for future book discussions.

What I have chosen for our first book is An Indigenous People's History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Dr Dunbar-

Ortiz is one quarter Cherokee, was raised in Oklahoma, and has spent the majority of her career advocating for the right of Native people, both in the United States and in Central America. Her book is a broad overview of the Native experience of the last 500 years of history in North America from a Native perspective. It is not without a certain agenda, as are all books, but does provide a different way of telling the story than most of us ever heard in our history classes.



I invite you to read the book (readily available on Amazon in paperback, Kindle, and Audible formats) and join me after 11:00 worship over coffee and snacks on August 13<sup>th</sup>!

To learn more about the ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement, please look here:

<https://elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Ethnic-Specific-and-Multicultural-Ministries/Indigenous-Ministries-and-Tribal-Relations/Truth-and-Healing-Movement>

Pastor Martin



**The Metro D.C. Synod is  
making a more  
intentional commitment to prayer  
and invites you to engage in  
Traveling Prayer Nights this Summer!**

A group of leaders has been cultivating this Holy space over the past few months at various congregations around the synod. This opportunity is now open to all who yearn for dedicated time to pause on various Thursdays at 7:00 PM. See schedule below:



This unscripted time will center around individual meditative and communal prayer with music and a Biblical text on which to reflect. You are invited to spend this hour together and be open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as we pause and pray.

## Director of Music and Liturgy



A few weeks ago, Holy Cross celebrated Music Sunday. It was a wonderful service full of music and scripture about creating a world where peace and justice reign.

The Joyful Ringers played two favorites of mine. *I've Got Peace Like a River* is a song that I loved singing as a child in Sunday School. I still use the song today with our own Sunday School children. *When Peace Like a River* has been a favorite hymn of mine as an adult.

The Sanctuary Choir sang three wonderful anthems. *Beloved, God's Chosen* is a setting of one of my favorite scripture passages, Colossians 3:12-17. *Come, You That Are Blessed by God* is an anthem we've sung a few times and have always enjoyed. *Spiritual Jubilee* was a new anthem for us that required many rehearsals. It's combination of nine spirituals made it difficult to learn, but a lot of fun to sing!

Matthew Andersen's performance of the *Canticle of the Turning* on guitar and voice was a highlight of the service. It was wonderful to hear his arrangement of the folk tune.

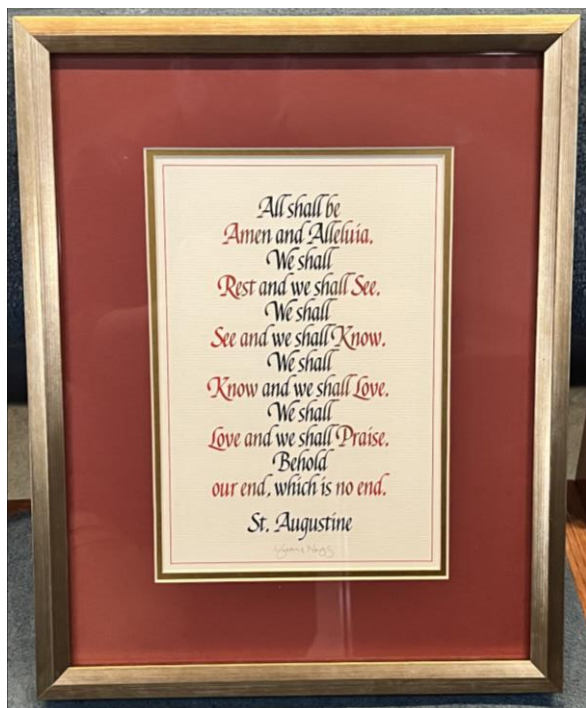
As always, I enjoyed finding a big organ piece to use as the postlude. *Amazing Grace* might not be the first hymn tune thought of for a postlude, but the toccata-like arrangement used full organ to truly portray the text of the hymn's final stanza, "When we've been there 10,000 years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."

I am also incredibly grateful for the gift given to me by the musicians at the end of the service. *All Shall Be Amen and Alleluia* is a favorite prayer of mine. I even had the first line tattooed on my arm while I was on sabbatical in early 2020. The framed artistic rendering of the text is beautiful and will have a special place in my office.

Many, many thanks to all the musicians who made this service special. This year marks my 18<sup>th</sup> year at Holy Cross. It continues to be a pleasure to work with the dedicated musicians of Holy Cross. Since my first month at Holy Cross, I have signed my newsletter articles with the phrase “Soli Deo Gloria!” It is the same phrase that Bach used to sign all his compositions, “To God be the Glory!” May we always strive to bring an excellence in music and may it always be to the glory of God.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy







**7/23 - 10:30 AM warm up (11:00 AM worship)**

**8/20 - 10:30 AM warm up (11:00 AM worship)**

***The Summer Gathering Choir  
is back at Holy Cross!***

**This is a great opportunity for anyone  
who can't commit to the schedule of choir year-round!**

All you have to do is show up on any or all of the Sunday's listed above for rehearsal and sing with us in worship that same day. The total time commitment is less than two hours! You do not need to come to both dates on the schedule, just come as you can and enjoy the singing!

Contact Jeremy Shoop if you have any questions.

[MusicDir@holycrosslutheranchurch.net](mailto:MusicDir@holycrosslutheranchurch.net)

## COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

### **Lay Leadership**

Looking upon a calm body of water, there's often little indication of the enormous amount of activity beneath the surface. I found that to be analogous to a smoothly operating church. Before I became actively involved, I used to think that the Pastor and professional staff "ran things" in the church and performed all needed functions or called in outside vendors for maintenance and services. One of the reasons Holy Cross is able to have such effective spiritual and musical offerings is because it has been blessed with highly effective and dedicated volunteers and lay leaders. The lovely musical offerings of our vocal and bell choirs that take just a few minutes on a Sunday require hours of practice and rehearsal. The candles that are used at each service require filling and their wicks require maintenance; the bread and wine do not

miraculously appear in the communion cups and on the communion plate; the paraments do not change themselves to match the prescribed liturgical colors for a given service. The food and beverages for Fellowship don't just appear out of thin air.

New people often show up and continue to worship with us because they were invited and felt





welcome. Food for the Soul and other community outreach is possible because of people quietly serving without notice. The building and grounds require constant attention that is only noticed when something goes wrong. Religious education and ELL require hours of quiet preparation. Managing our finances in a cost-effective manner and ensuring bills and personnel are paid are seldom noticed unless there's a major hiccup. I could go on and on, but I think you get the picture. Holy Cross relies heavily on its hardworking and devoted professional staff. As important as these contributions are, Holy Cross would not and could not continue to spread the good news and be a beacon of hope in our community without the dedicated service of so many unsung, but indispensable lay members and leaders.

By now you've probably figured that I was going somewhere with this discussion, and you would be correct. Holy Cross is blessed with very strong lay leaders, but it is time to rotate some new folks into these important roles as terms expire. Members of the Nominating Team will begin contacting members this month as we seek to fill those positions. We don't know the skills of all, especially our newest members, so please don't be bashful about tooting your own horns if you possess the skills needed. Please don't wait to be asked; rather, come forward and let us know where your skills and interest lie. Your leadership team is a very collegial group that enjoys working together. Council Meetings are once a month and are occasionally in-person but generally on Zoom and rarely last more than an hour. When someone approaches you

**Ways you can  
SERVE**

about serving, please prayerfully consider it. If the position being discussed is not one where you feel you could best serve, please offer suggestions as to alternative roles. If you cannot serve in a formal capacity, please join the efforts of one of the ministry teams on an ad hoc basis--for example, there's always room for people



to pop in and help with maintenance & technology items, staffing booths at community events, helping with setup and cleanup for fellowship events, etc. without making an ongoing commitment. You just may find that you enjoy the social contact and sense of meaning, purpose, and belonging from being around those with shared values and beliefs.

It will be exciting to see where and how the Holy Spirit leads us as we work together to share the unconditional love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Sam





## ***Meet Andrew Barden!***

*Andrew was born in Silver Spring, Maryland, but spent his first six years in Ithaca, New York. In 1989, his family moved to Fairfax, Virginia and he has resided there ever since!*



### ***Fun fact about Andrew:***

*He is a lover of independent cinema! His favorite genre is the Czech New Wave of the 1960s. Interesting!*

### ***What's your favorite thing about Holy Cross?***

*"What I love about Holy Cross is Pastor Martin's wisdom and compassion. I also really like the wonderful sense of community the church has and how everyone is friendly, welcoming, and down to earth."*

## FELLOWSHIP



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

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

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



The food truck this year is ***What the Heck Barbeque!*** Brisket, pulled pork, and pulled chicken are all on the menu! Yummy!

*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



**What's the most popular sport on July 4th?**

**Flag football!!**

### 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.

We will have one combined service on that day. Former HCLC Pastor Ed Harper will be the Preacher, and Bishop Leila Ortiz the Presiding Minister. Seminarian Katy Moran and Pastor Martin will serve as Assisting Ministers. 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!

*If you would like to help with the set-up, serving and clean-up for the catered luncheon after the service, please let Anne Geiger know at [fellowship@holycrosslutheranchurch.net](mailto:fellowship@holycrosslutheranchurch.net). It will be a busy day!*



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL for KIDS & ADULTS

Join us **AUGUST 6<sup>th</sup> thru August 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**(Sunday thru Thursday)**  
**6:00pm to 8:00pm**  
**5 nights or as many as you can attend!**

*Dinner provided 1<sup>st</sup> four nights and  
Potluck Dinner on the last night!*

**JUST EMAIL "YES!" (pls include names and ages)**  
**To: sbaggett8826@gmail.com**

**KIDS: SIGN UP FOR HERO HOTLINE**  
**ADULTS: SIGN UP FOR TBD BIBLE STUDY**

**INTRIGUING (TBD) BIBLE STUDY**  
**with Q & A**  
**LED BY PASTOR MARTIN**

**FEE (\$20 PER PERSON/FAMILY)**  
**CAN BE PAID WHEN YOU ARRIVE!**



## OUTREACH

### Herndon Middle School Supply Drive!

It seems like school just ended for the summer, but it's time to look ahead to our annual collection of school supplies for Herndon Middle School students beginning July 23! The needs are great--almost two-thirds of students attending Herndon Middle are economically disadvantaged.

We plan to deliver our donations the week of August 13<sup>th</sup>. Below is a list of suggested items. More information will be provided in the weekly e-blast throughout July. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our local neighbors!

- ★ 1" binders
- ★ composition books
- ★ colored pencils
- ★ pens (blue and black)
- ★ erasers
- ★ rulers
- ★ loose leaf paper
- ★ pocket folders
- ★ pencils
- ★ highlighters
- ★ pencil sharpeners
- ★ backpacks (gender-neutral colors)
- ★ feminine hygiene supplies



## EVANGELISM

What a great turnout we had at this year's Reston Pride Event at Lake Anne! Many thanks to Jeremy and Syl who took the lead in organizing our booth event! Between 15-20 volunteers participated in greeting folks who stopped by our booth and told them about our life at Holy Cross. Jeremy's pins and stickers were a big hit! Many Festival-goers commented how great it was to see Holy Cross and several other churches out at the festival sponsoring the LGBTQ+ community and lending our support.



**HCLC Card Brigade** - if you'd enjoy sending out cards for our members' milestone birthday and anniversary celebrations, we have a few volunteer slots remaining for this year. Please email Karen Faulkner at [kfaulkner464@aol.com](mailto:kfaulkner464@aol.com) for further details. We'd love to have you join our team!

### **Upcoming Events:**

- ★ SterlingFest  
Saturday, October 7
- ★ Pet Blessing Service -  
Tentatively Oct 7 / October 14
- ★ Herndon Homecoming Parade  
Saturday, October 14
- ★ Trunk or Treat  
Saturday, October 29 (tentative date)  
at HCLC



## PROPERTY

# Join us for our Summer Property Work Days!

**July 11, August 8 and September 12!**  
**from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**





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

