



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



August 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's Thoughts	4
Insights from the Director of Music and Liturgy.....	7
Message from the Church Council President	10
Worship and Music.....	12
Fellowship	13
Outreach	20
Evangelism	21
Property	23
ELL Program.....	25
Stewardship.....	27



JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the September 2023 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, Quest, is Monday, August 21st.

Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at:
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



www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon



@HolyCrossELCA



HolyCrossELCA



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

STAFF



Dear Friends in Jesus,



Healing is in the forefront of my mind this month. My own walk with day-by-day sobriety is a journey of both healing and hope. The healing comes from my conscious connection with God and my willingness to let myself be molded by God's will and power and not my own. It is a daily reprieve from a progressive, fatal disease. There is healing and hope in this program, a freedom from addiction and a more holistic way of living my life in service to others. It is a path that sees joy in life, a path of wholeness.

Later this month, I will travel to spend some of my time with my mother. While that is always a precious gift, I will also be giving my younger sister and her family a period of respite, since they are the ones who provide full-time care for mom. My older sister and I will tag-team this time, giving our sister's family a full three weeks of vacation together. That is a gift of healing for them, and we are glad that we have the opportunity to be there for them as well as for our mom.

My mother is 91 and I am fully aware that there is not a physical healing from the reality of old age. She is likely closer to her death than most of us. But the time with her is a time of hope and healing. Time together is precious, no matter our age, and I anticipate that the days we are able to spend with her will be ones of making memories, sharing the stories she still remembers, and just being together again in the love we have for one another. That is healing, that is hope-filled, and that is holy time together.

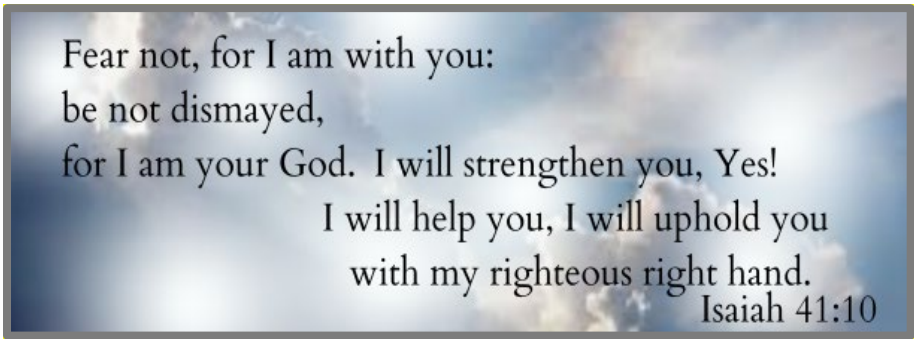
Of course, I am also thinking about my surgery, which is scheduled for August 31. It is brain surgery, so it is a major undertaking, so much so that the surgeon recommends weeks of time off to fully heal. To be honest, I have a lot of anxiety about the whole process. True, the hospital, Johns Hopkins, is one of the best in the land and my surgeon is the Dean

of Neurology there. The surgery she will perform is part of her specialty, one she has performed many times. Still, it is a big unknown, and we as humans are hotwired to be wary of unknown things that have the capacity to drastically change our health or mortality. It's hope that helps me face this uncertainty. It's that reminder that the result is out of my hands, that I am literally placing my body in the hands of a team of medical experts, and the assurance that the surgery and healing period will be one surrounded by the love and prayers of so many. Hope is also the promise that whatever the outcome, Jesus has promised to never leave me nor forsake me. His love endures.



In the First Letter to the Corinthians, The Apostle writes about the people of God as the Body of Christ and reminds us that as one member suffers, so do we all. Our common healing and hope are intertwined, and we support one another as we face the everyday challenges, or suffering, or disease, or conflict. In our walk through life, in our recovery from whatever afflicts us, God is there. As we face the end of this life, either for ourselves or those we love, God is there. As we confront the unknown challenges that rise before us, God is there. God is there in it all and for us all. In this way, we can see, through the eyes of hope, that healing is not only a physical removal of our distresses, but also an inner peace that comes from the hope that holds us in God's love.

Pastor Martin



Fear not, for I am with you:

be not dismayed,

for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes!

I will help you, I will uphold you
with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Director of Music and Liturgy



We Need You In The Choir!!! Due to the transient nature of the Metro DC area we have lost a number of choir members since I have been here. It is time to once again fill the choir seats!!!

As the summer ends and the school year begins, so do choir rehearsals. It is my goal to fill every seat in the choir area this year! In order to do that – ***We Need You In The Choir!!!***

We gather every Thursday from 7:00 – 8:00 pm and we sing at alternating services (8:30 and 11:00 am) throughout the year.

A lot of people think they can't sing or aren't good enough for the choir. If you can sing a hymn, you can join the choir! There are confident voices throughout the choir to sit next to and help you get acclimated.

So you may be thinking, "What exactly is the role of the choir in worship?" or, "Why is the choir so important that you need *me* to be a part of it?" The following passage is taken from the ELCA's statement on the role of choirs in worship:

"Obviously, the choir has a variety of responsibilities. Their primary role is to support and enhance the congregation in song. As such, the choir becomes an important leader in worship, guiding the gathered assembly in prayer and praise through song.

Do our choirs need to be filled with professional singers? Absolutely not! Any choir can sing well, provided the music is appropriate to their skill level and they are well-trained and rehearsed. Music that is simple and well taught provides choirs with a means to get beyond the mechanics and give heartfelt expression to the text. This music, in turn, can provide the whole assembly with a means truly to encounter God in its worship.



The choir may be called upon to act as teacher, to help the assembly learn new hymnody and musical settings of the liturgy; if the congregation is to learn new music quickly and accurately, the people must have enthusiastic and competent leadership. Above all, the well-rehearsed choir will breathe life into the text as it sings with clear understanding and insight into the words and their meaning. The texts can shape the faith of those who worship.”

If you have any questions about the choir, please do not hesitate to pull me aside on a Sunday morning or give me a call at the office. You can always talk to any of the current choir members. They would love to have you as much as I would! Some of them may be approaching you on Sunday mornings as well!

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to express your faith and offer your talents to HCLC.



In short - ***We Need You In The Choir!!!***

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy



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

***Join Us on August 20th
10:30 AM warm up (11:00 AM worship)***

All you have to do is show up on August 20th for rehearsal and sing with us in worship that same day. The total time commitment is less than two hours! Come and enjoy the singing!



Contact Jeremy Shoop if you have any questions.
MusicDir@holycrosslutheranchurch.net

COUNCIL



Our Home

Holy Cross Family –

I start these missives by addressing them to our “Holy Cross Family.” I use that term because we are all God’s children, and it denotes a deeper connection than mere “community,” although we are that as well. As family, we provide a “home.” In an idealized sense, a home is a place where we are always welcome and safe, where we gain nourishment and support, where we celebrate each other’s triumphs and share each other’s burdens. It’s a place where we are lifted up when we are down, and others can provide faith to see us through when we doubt.

This last point was driven home to me during a sermon at the Chautauqua Institution by the recently retired President of the Princeton Theological Seminary, the Reverend Dr. M. Craig Barnes. In the text of Chapter 2 of the Gospel of Mark, we hear the story about how Jesus was back home in the city of Capernaum. After word got out, many people gathered there so that a group of four men who were carrying a paralyzed man on a bed could not make it through the crowd. Undeterred, they went up on the roof and cut a hole through it and lowered the man’s bed down to Jesus. I’m sure you are familiar



with this story, as the big point in most sermons is about Jesus' healing on the sabbath and how the Scribes chastised him for blasphemy.

What Dr. Barnes emphasized, though, was verse 5, "When Jesus saw **their** faith, he said to the paralyzed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'" In other stories of Jesus healing people, it is their faith that is mentioned; in this case, it is the faith of the ones who carried the paralyzed man! Sometimes, we just need the help of those who care for us to provide the faith we may be missing when we are suffering.



Our Holy Cross family provides that still point in a turning world where we share our joys, troubles, doubts, and fears. It's where we share our faith with and for each other.

Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,

Sam



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Save
THE
date

HCIC Altar Guild
Bake Sale
Sunday, September 10th



Yum! Yum! Yum!

Whether you love to bake or love to
eat,
we need you!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 10th! The Altar Guild will have its Annual Bake Sale! Last year's bake sale was such a huge success that it will be an annual event. The proceeds go to supplying flowers on Sundays in the Sanctuary! We need bakers and buyers! All baked goods welcome. Whether it's savory or sweet--whether it's pies, cakes, cookies, or gluten free--we need *you* to make this event successful! To participate, please contact Carol Shafer at foxlady@aol.com.



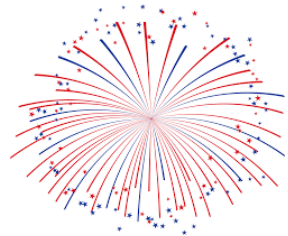
Carol Shafer, Worship & Music Chair

FELLOWSHIP

JULY 4TH EVENT AT HOLY CROSS

The July 4th Block Party was another unqualified success!! There were not as many cars on-site as last year, which was quite nice, but lots of new people who had not been to the event before. **There were no known incidences the entire evening - hallelujah!**

- **Attendance:** At the time of the fireworks, there were approximately 280 people on the property. About 25 people left after the music and before fireworks, so estimated attendance this year is over 300 people. Last year's total estimate was 230 people. It's a growing event!



- **Music:** Many thanks to Jeremy Shoop for his beautiful music and DJ-ing. He was ably assisted again this year by sound technician

Bob Thompson. Approximately 75 members and visitors sat and listened to over 2 hrs. of music. During his playing breaks and up to the fireworks, Jeremy had a playlist of patriotic American rock and country tunes that keep the energy going.

- **Ice Cream:** Many thanks to Pam Darby and her team for the homemade ice cream bar. **They served 257 bowls of ice cream** - we know that as we had plenty of small bowls this year and we counted. AND there is still some ice cream left over!



Many thanks to Kevin Darby, Pam Darby, Brad Jefferson, Vivian Jefferson, Kathy McMahon, and Jeremy Shoop for making 14 varieties of awesomely delicious ice cream! The most interesting flavor this year was smoked salmon with dill ice cream that Brad made – it was delicious!

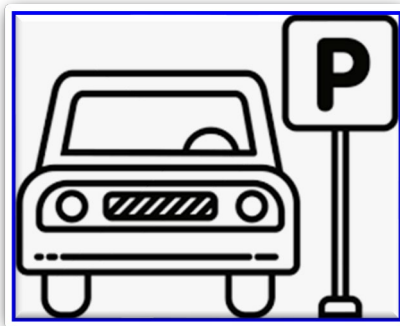
Thanks also to Suzanne Baggett, Pam Darby, Karen Faulkner, Vivian Jefferson, Brad Jefferson, Jared Lem, Nan Lem, Kathy McMahon, and Emily and her daughter Beth for setting up, providing the toppings and serving the hoards. Emily is from Harbor House and heard about the event thanks to event thanks to Tibbie Preston!



- **Games:** Many thanks to Chris, Evan, and Oliver Nelson for heading up the many lawn games that were enjoyed by many.



- **Security:** Many thanks to Roy Geiger for heading up the car wrangling / security / trash pick-up detail, ably assisted by Mike Faulkner and Anne Geiger. The team ensured that the 80+ cars let into the church parking lot had parking spaces to land in, the trash was picked up, and that everyone knew about the free ice cream and our new Church-Yard Habitat project.



- **Food “Truck”:** The **What The Heck BBQ** food trailer was a big hit. Kevin and his daughter Ace were comfortably busy from 6pm to about 9pm. All the food was pre-cooked / made so there were no wait times this year. They had delicious pulled pork, beef brisket, and halal chicken with beans, coleslaw, and cornbread.



***I Will
Take One of
Everything!***

Holy Cross is 60 years old this year!!

Planning for the Holy Cross 60th anniversary celebration is moving apace. Led by Deb Reilly, the 60th anniversary 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 at 10am with Seminarian Katie Moran and Pastor Martin assisting and Bishop Laila Ortiz as the celebrant. There will be a catered luncheon after the church service.

If you would like to help with the set-up, serving and clean-up for the catered luncheon after the service, please let me know at fellowship@holycrosslutheranchurch.net. It will be a busy day!



The Joke of the Month!



Why can't you find any lions after August?

Because the pride goeth before the fall!

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



EPHESIANS 2:22. ESV



60th Anniversary Celebration!

November 5, 2023

Mark your calendars now! Holy Cross is 60 years old this year!! Planning for the Holy Cross 60th Anniversary Celebration is in full swing! Led by Deb Reilly, the 60th 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 60th Anniversary Events was during the July 4th 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. It will be a busy day!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL for KIDS & ADULTS

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

*Dinner provided 1st 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!

We are currently collecting school supplies for Herndon Middle School students! The needs are great--almost two-thirds of students attending Herndon Middle are economically disadvantaged. Look for the large box in the narthex or have your donations sent directly to the church from Amazon using our wish list by August 13 at: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/37LDFSRHZU4ZT?ref_=wl_share

Join us on August 13th at noon in the Fellowship Hall to help organize the supplies for delivery.

The supplies will be delivered to the middle school on Aug 14th. Below is a list of suggested items. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our local neighbors!

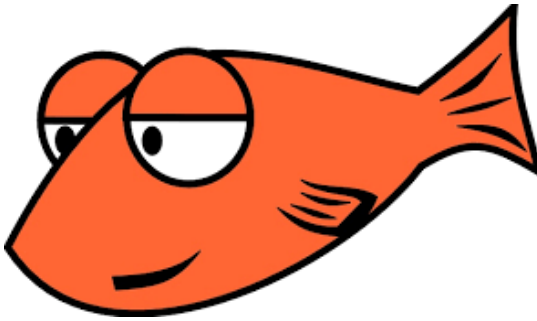
- ★ 1" binders
- ★ composition books
- ★ colored pencils
- ★ pens (blue and black)
- ★ erasers
- ★ rulers
- ★ loose leaf paper
- ★ pocket folders
- ★ pencils
- ★ highlighters
- ★ pencil sharpeners
- ★ backpacks (gender-neutral colors)
- ★ feminine hygiene supplies



EVANGELISM

July 4th Block Party

What a terrific 4th of July we hosted at Holy Cross this year! We had a great turnout with lots of folks stopping by from our surrounding neighborhood. Fun was had by all-- from the patriotic music and tasty barbecue to the fun-filled games and spectacular fireworks! Not to mention the 13 different flavors!



The taste sensation of the evening was Salmon & Dill flavor... A surprise hit for all who tried it! We can hardly wait to see what mystery flavor will be in store for us next year! Many thanks to Jeremy and Anne, along with many others who helped pull this event off!





Sterling Fest:

WHEN: Saturday, October 7th
11 am – 5 pm

WHERE: Sterling Community Center

Come and enjoy tons of exciting vendor booths (ours included), along with a wide variety of family activities! There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet in the Narthex after Labor Day to help out with this event.

Mark Your Calendars:

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



Respectfully Submitted, Karen Faulkner, Evangelism Chair



PROPERTY

Take a Look

@

Our Accomplishments!



Our Summer Property Work Days have been VERY successful—thanks to our volunteers! Our July Workday yielded significant progress by accomplishing:

- Trees and Brush removed from the back gate by the Educational Wing.
- Area cleaned up in front of the Educational Wing.
- Two Bulletin Boards installed in Fellowship Hall for the Boy Scout Troop.
- All Furnace Filters changed!



A BIG "Thank You" to our July Workers: Sam Carter, Joe & Kathy Makowski, Anne Geiger, and Lois Ireland & Pierre Huggins for their Hard Work!

A Special Thanks to Joe Makowski for fixing the Altar Railing!



Roofers Were Needed!

- Flashing in the front of the church was replaced.
 - One section over the Educational Wing was repaired by ASA Roofing.
-

CHURCH PROPERTY WORKDAYS!

2nd Tuesday of each Month
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Mark your Calendars:
August 8th
September 12th





We completed our summer semester on July 26th, which started June 14th, and was free of charge! We always have a smaller number of students in the summer, but we did have 20 students from seven countries this time, a successful semester, and we still got one or two new students almost every week.

We'll start our fall semester on September 13th and continue until December 6th. We teach Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm.

**THANK YOU,
TEACHERS!**



Students in our basic and intermediate classes work with two books, a student book and a matching workbook. Students in our beginner class use a picture book with daily activities to study English. The picture book helps our beginners to

understand words that convey meaning. Students learn to connect the pictures in the book with the words on the page. We create separate lesson plans teaching grammar, sentence structure, and American customs. We also have fun teaching students slang words, expressions and meanings, plus helping them understand idioms.



One of our intermediate students, Patricia, who was a dentist in her country is working as a dental hygienist with several dentists in Reston while studying to become a dentist in the US. She also attended our ELL class. She was accepted at the University of Chicago for the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program. She plans to move to Chicago by the end of July. We are very happy and proud of her accomplishments. Congratulations, Patricia!

ELL Team,
Ellen Atwell, Suzanne Baggett,
Jeanne Maysonett, Alejandra
Caceres and Chip Edwards



Gracias



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

