



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



November 2023

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the December 2023 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, Quest, is Monday, November 20th.

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
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www.holycrossherndon.org



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HolyCrossELCA



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

STAFF



Being Grateful

Some years ago, I was invited to give a talk at a Senior Center on the topic of an “Attitude of Gratitude.” Gratitude, that ability to be thankful, is certainly an important and healing component of who we are as God’s people, but it can also be a difficult thing to conjure up if we are overwhelmed by other things in our lives.

What we have come to know as “the holiday season” – roughly Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day-- can be a tough time for many people. It’s a time where we often hear a lot about being grateful, or thankful, or joyous. But it’s also a time when many of us may find it hard to really feel that way. In the northern latitudes, this time of year gets dark. It gets colder. Even in Virginia, we know and feel this all too well. Our bodies naturally react to the decreased light and heat by slowing down – literally depressing. We feel sluggish. We may feel sad. Being joyful or thankful does not seem like the natural thing we want to do right now. This time of year can also be very difficult for those who have experienced loss in their lives. The memories of family members who have passed, or of a family that once was whole, or of people who are far away, can all make this an emotionally dark time for us as well.

When you yourself are struggling with grief or depression or just feeling a bit overwhelmed by it all, it can be particularly hard when there is almost a *demand* in our society that you be upbeat and joyous. The reality is that a lot more of us are hurting than we think,

or dare to let on. While the society around us may *seem* to be happy, joyous, and full of gratitude, it is also a fact that reports of depression, feelings of loneliness, domestic violence, and even suicide all peak in the months of November, December and January. The holiday months can be tough.



So how can we can we remain grateful even in the midst of the darkness that may surround us? I suggest starting by taking stock of the gifts we have received and the people that are and have been in our lives. When people first come into a 12-step recovery program, they are often at the lowest point in their lives. One of the very first practices they are taught is to begin to write down, each day, something for which they are grateful. It seems counterintuitive to ask people who “have hit their bottom” to be grateful, but each day is a baby-step to healing.

We can also remember to allow ourselves to feel how we feel, and to remember that others we meet may also be going through a tough time. There is no need for guilt or shame. Our pain, our grief, our brokenness are real parts of who we are. But they are also not fully who we are, or what we may become. As people of faith, we also trust that the Light is greater than the darkness, and our dark places are not the only definition of who we are. In the dark, love remains.

At that Senior Center, I offered up a working definition of what an “Attitude of Gratitude” might look like:

*It is not the denial of the suffering, pain, and loss we have experienced,
but the personal decision to look through these events into a larger realization of:
 what we have been given,
 what we have been allowed to achieve, and
 the people we have loved and who have loved us,
all of which has made us who we are today.*

While by no means complete, I pray that this humble attempt may help us in a new way in which we can give thanks. May we be gentle with ourselves and with one another. May we be sensitive to the complexities that this time of year may bring to us and to others. And may we be truly grateful for all that we have received, even if it is one thing this day.

God’s blessings and love to us.

Pastor Martin



Director of Music and Liturgy

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and **VOICES**.



Every year at Thanksgiving most families sit down to dinner and start one by one stating something they are thankful for. During November the family of Holy Cross Lutheran Church will spend time giving thanks to God and certainly singing, “Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices!”

Today, I’d like to take time and focus on the “voices” part of that phrase. As Director of Music and Liturgy, it makes sense that I would want to write about how we use our voices to give thanks and praise to God. However, there is so much more to giving thanks and praise to God with our voices than simply singing. We are Lutherans. We have (in my humble opinion) the best hymnody out there. We are known for our confident four-part singing of bold Lutheran chorales. We have the singing part of using our voices down. We must also give thanks to God with our voices by evangelizing!

Many of you remember Pastor Johnson’s time at Holy Cross. In her first sermon she mentioned the typical Lutheran method of evangelism. Simply standing in a boat and shouting, “Here fishy, fishy!” Many of us are afraid of evangelism because we think that means beating someone over the head with your religious beliefs until they believe what you believe. It is understandable. That model of evangelism is seen in use all too often.

But at the heart of the word evangelism is the word *evangelion*. The Greek word for gospel, or “good news.” As evangelists we need to go out and share the good news. We need to tell others what God has done for us. We don’t need to worry about how many

people we convert, but how often we share with others the things we are grateful for.

Everyone has days when they are depressed and feel like nothing could possibly go their way. God never promised us a perfect life. God promised us God's self! Even in times of trouble we can always rest assured in the fact that we have God to lean on. That is certainly something we can give thanks to God for!

In addition to belting out all three stanzas of *Now Thank We All Our God* this November we also need to remember to use our voices as Christians in the community. Remember that you always have something to be thankful for and reminding someone else of that will more than likely cause them to think of more things they can give thanks and praise to God for.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop, Director and Liturgy



Now Thank We All Our God

*“Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran minister, was in Eilenburg, Saxony, during the Thirty Years' War. This walled city became home to many refugees due to the war. After the Swedish army surrounded the city, famine and plague began to run rampant. Hundreds of homes were destroyed, and people began to perish. Pastors, who were already stretched to their limits, performed dozens of funerals a day. Not too long into the tragedy, Rinkart was the only minister left in Eilenburg - performing more than fifty funerals a day (including his own wife). When the Swedes demanded a huge ransom, Rinkart lifted the safety of the walls and pled for mercy. The Swedish commander was impressed by his faith and courage and lowered his demands. Soon after this event the Thirty Years' War ended, Rinkart wrote the hymn *Now Thank We All Our God* for a grand celebration service. Rinkart was able to use his faith to lead him beyond his feelings of depression. He would often go to the Bible to find reasons to trust in God's presence. It is a testament to his faith that, after such misery, he was able to write a hymn of abiding trust and gratitude toward God.

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next!*

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
The Son and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God, whom earth and Heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

Thankful

As a child, I used to look forward to November, because I would be a year older and get to celebrate my birthday! It's still one of my favorite times of the year, but I must admit that the desire to be a year older has long since lost its luster. These days, the opportunity to gather with friends and family to celebrate Thanksgiving followed by our anniversary are the key attractions. It's also the month when we get to gather with our Holy Cross Family for our Annual Meeting, where we review the previous year's accomplishments and plan for the new year. I am so very thankful for our Holy Cross Family. This is a congenial group of caring individuals who work with each other to live out Christ's commandment to love one another. And that love extends beyond our church family! I continue to marvel at all the members do for our community, and the willingness to serve the needs of others. I'm proud to be a member of Holy Cross (but not too proud...we ARE Lutherans, after all!), and I hope you are, too! I'm thankful that Pastor Martin is recovering nicely and that we are on a path to have him back at "full strength" as we face the challenges of the new year together with the new Council members whom you will elect at this year's meeting. I'm thankful for our Director of Music and Liturgy who does so much more than that title suggests. I'm thankful for the music which Pastor and Jeremy provide to lift our spirits. I'm thankful we have safe facilities where we can worship, and which provide a base for our mission of "being the church" in our community. I'm thankful for our

professional staff who keep things operating behind the scenes. There's so much for which we can be grateful!

Please make plans to participate in our Annual Meeting on ***Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 12:30pm, after the 11 O'clock Service.*** The meeting will be conducted both in-person in the Sanctuary as well as online using Zoom. The link and instructions will be distributed in advance of the meeting. We will invite you to join the Zoom call starting at 12:15, so we can get everyone "registered". **If you cannot attend in person and wish to participate but do not have access to technology (computer, laptop, smart phone or tablet), please contact the church office at (703) 437-1883, and we will work with you to make arrangements.**

I'm looking forward to our fall activities with the entire Holy Cross Family! As we do so, please take some time before the hectic holiday period to celebrate our blessings and savor our fellowship.

Yours in Christ,

Sam



	<p>ANNUAL MEETING</p> <p>SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2023 12:30 IN THE SANCTUARY</p>
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Boy Scout Troop 12 Happenings!

The Scouts from Troop 12 have had quite the fall season so far!.

On September 10th, the Troop 12 scouts were at Manassas Airport where each scout got to fly as a passenger in a single engine plane thanks to Dallas of Flywyld, LLC. This trip was a highlight of their working on their aviation merit badge. During this visit, each scout had to record certain facts and observations as a part of the merit badge requirements.



On Sept. 22nd, one of the Troop 12 scouts, Ben, was on Good Morning America to show how a letterboard allows non-speakers to communicate. That's Ben in the front row with the glasses.



Then on October 6th thru 8th, Troop 12 camped at Bear Wallow Camp at the larger Shrine Mont Retreat Center in Orkney Springs, VA, an Episcopal Diocese of Virginia camp. This was cabin and tent camping, and the young men and their parents hiked, fished, worked on knots, and had a campfire. A good time was had by all!



Troop 12 is a special needs troop where the scout never ages out. Troop 12 meets at Holy Cross most Tuesday nights from 7pm-8pm in the Fellowship Hall where they work on various merit badges and rank advancements. Stop by to see love and scouting in action!

Anne Geiger
Chartered Organization Representative (COR)
Troop 12

FELLOWSHIP

BLOCK PARTIES CONTINUE

Holy Cross would like to have **monthly social events called Block Parties**. The idea is to have different members of the congregation sign-up to coordinate an event.

October's Block Party was an Organ and Voice Recital by Pastor Martin Eldred and Jeremy Shoop on Saturday, October 21st. The repertoire was classical music to spirituals to Broadway. Pastor Martin was accompanied by Luis Gonzales on piano. There was a reception afterwards hosted by Suzanne Baggett and Kathy Makowski.



Jeremy Shoop



Martin Eldred with accompanist Luis Gonzalez and page turner, Suzanne Baggett.

The November Joke of the Month:

What did Han Solo say to Luke Skywalker on Thanksgiving?

“May the forks be with you.”

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 and a LWR quilt to tie!). It's a terrific way to meet up with Holy Cross members and visitors.



Anne Geiger

Fellowship Chair, fellowshipchair@holycrosslutheranchurch.net





60th Anniversary Celebration!

November 5, 2023

Holy Cross is 60 years old this year!! We will have *one combined worship service at 10 am on All Saints Sunday, November 5th*, followed by a catered luncheon! 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.

If you have not yet RSVP'd, be sure to contact the church office ASAP to RSVP for your reservation for the luncheon--space is very limited at this point!

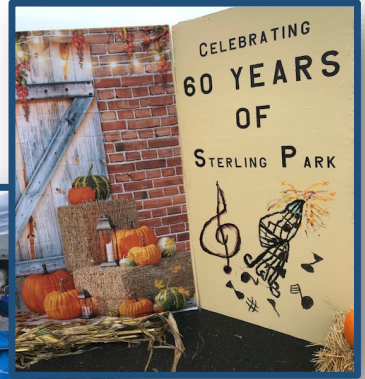
*If you would like to help with the celebration preparation the week before, set-up at 2pm on Saturday, Nov. 4th, or to help with set-up, serving and clean-up the day of the catered luncheon after the service, please let Anne Geiger know at fellowship@holycrosslutheranchurch.net
It will be a busy day!*

EVANGELISM

October was a busy month in our community!

SterlingFest was a great success! We met several folks—and a few showed up the next day at our Pet Blessing on Sunday Oct 8th! Mortimer was a huge hit with the visitors to our tent--young and old alike!

Our hospitality tent brought lots of smiles--despite the rain--for the **Herndon High School Homecoming Parade!** Such fun attending this hometown event!



Prospective New Members!

If you are interested in joining Holy Cross or just learning more about “What Holy Cross is All About,” we will be hosting a New Member Luncheon on Sunday, November 19 after the late service.



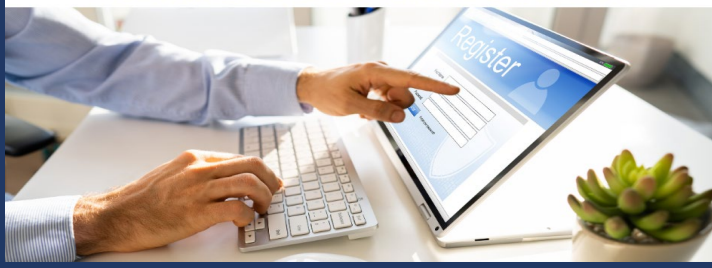
**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

For more information, contact Pastor Martin at pastormartin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net or the church office at admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net

***Check out our
NEW Holy Cross Website!***

HolyCrossHerndon.org

Please be patient, as some pages are still under construction as we make information more available and easily accessible...but we are excited about the new look! Check it out!



It's Time for *Trunk or Treat!*

WHEN: Sunday, October 29th
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

WHERE: Holy Cross
Parking Lot!

It's exciting to welcome the
children of the neighborhood
and share in the
Halloween fun!

*How are you decorating
your trunk?
Are you going to wear a
costume?*

*It's a Fun Time for All—
See You There!*

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Faulkner, Evangelism Chair



PROPERTY



Join us to complete projects
around the church property—
inside and outside!
We appreciate your help!
See you on Saturday Nov 18th!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWS

Change in LINK and Embry Rucker collections! The HCLC community continues to give generously to the LINK pantry and to the Embry Rucker homeless shelter. Thank you!

Beginning in January, we will switch the schedule:

- ***Donations on the first Sunday of the month will go to Embry Rucker Homeless Shelter***
- ***Donations to LINK will be collected on the third Sunday of the month.*** We will publicize LINK needs at the beginning of each month.



Advent Appeal - One of our traditions is to donate offerings from mid-week Advent and Lent services to a service organization. In keeping with Advent as the season of peace, the Advent offering will be donated to the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County

scholarship fund this year. The Student Peace Awards encourages high school students to promote peace and social justice for vulnerable people locally and worldwide. Holy Cross has been a proud sponsor of the scholarship program for many years. You can read more about the Student Peace Awards on their website: Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County .

Save the Date!
Martin Luther King Jr.
Day of Service, January 15!

Our partnership with the Herndon Women's Club to host a Day of Service went so well that we plan to do it again in 2024! More details about projects and opportunities to participate will be provided in the December Quest.





The Closet's Everything Christmas Sale!

When: Friday, Nov 10th 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. &
Saturday Nov 11th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Where: The Herndon Moose Lodge
779 Center St, Herndon, VA
Just 2 blocks from The Closet

What: Your First Stop for Christmas and Seasonal Items
for Holiday Décor, Gifts, Entertaining, and Toys.

Why: Tremendous selection for shopping for Christmas
and the holidays, and the proceeds are returned to the
community as grants and scholarships.

How to Help:

Volunteers needed Sunday, Nov 5th through Saturday,
Nov 11th.

Opportunity for adults and high school students.

Go to SignUpGenius for details:

<https://tinyurl.com/6cautau5>



We have a very successful 2023 ELL program at Holy Cross. We are blessed with many students from several different countries.

For our 2023 Spring, Summer and Fall semester we have a total of 113 students from 13 countries! It's interesting how our student population changes with each semester.

Spring Semester:

We taught 51 students from 11 countries. Most students in that semester were from El Salvador, Honduras and Peru.

Summer Semester:

We taught 21 students from 7 countries. Most students attending originally came from El Salvador and Peru.

Current Fall Semester:

We are teaching a total of 41 students right now who come from 8 countries. Most of our students come from Peru.

Overall, our students during this year come from 13 countries: Columbia, El Salvador, Egypt, Honduras, Guatemala, India, Iran, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Togo, Ukraine and Vietnam. We accept students any time and usually have one or more students start classes with us during a semester.

We are very grateful for Luisa Perez Birson, our ELL nursery attendant, who also helps us register students and translates for us.

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to our teachers at Holy Cross: Suzanne Baggett, Jeanne Maysonett, Chip Edwards, Kurt Birson and Cynthia Revera.

Ellen Atwell

ELL Coordinator Needed!

After many years, Ellen Atwell is stepping down as the coordinator of the HCLC ELL program. We are grateful for her leadership and dedication to helping immigrants improve their English skills.



If you have an interest in helping others and you enjoy organizing logistics, please consider taking on this role. Ellen is happy to train whoever will replace her!

DUTIES of the ELL Coordinator:

- ❖ Oversee ELL program
- ❖ Assist teachers
- ❖ Register students
- ❖ Coordinate and conduct assessment tests
- ❖ Keep attendance records
- ❖ Create English/Spanish flyers for each semester
- ❖ Take the flyers to different stores, also McDonalds and email the flyers to the Herndon Resource Center, which is now part of Cornerstone
- ❖ Support teachers, students and their families.



Contact Ellen Atwell for more information:

ellen.atwell@verizon.net



TEMPLE TALK AWARENESS

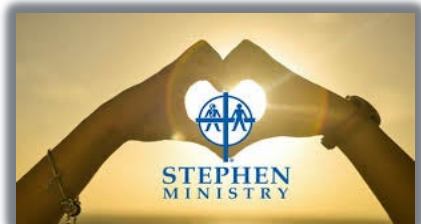
The Stephen Ministry was presented to our congregation during both the 8:30 and 11:00 am services on Sunday, September 24th. God produced several answers to prayer which included:

- **The disclosure by our Supply Pastor**, Mark Cole, that he is a Stephen Minister, stating “it is one of the most satisfying ministry’s he has been involved in, with a high standard of training.”
- Initiated many **positive** questions of interest from people in our congregation.
- Supplied us with **one additional Stephen Minister** to join us when we begin the training in January! There are now six congregational members who have made the decision to bring Christ’s love and care to people during a time of need by becoming Stephen Ministers.
- Initiated discussion from members of **their** need for a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministry Training:

Training for Stephen Ministers will begin in January 2024 and cover 25 modules which will include stimulating topics about:

- The Art of Listening
- Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief
- Distinctively Christian Caring
- Using Mental Health Professionals and Other Community Resources
- Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving
- Crisis Theory and Practice



How to Become Involved:

- **Invest Financially** - The Stephen Ministry has been able to move forward with implementation due to a generous monetary gift prior to being included in the 2024 budget with the inclusion that matching funds be raised. The initial investment has been \$3537, which does not include the cost of training materials for each Stephen Minister moving forward. Would you partner financially with us, so the Stephen Ministry will continue moving forward, especially with the cost of training Stephen Ministers?
- **Invest Time** – Becoming a Stephen Minister is a meaningful investment in yourself and others. Training will begin in January 2024.

For additional information on how to become a Stephen Minister or a receiver of Stephen Ministry caregiving, please contact:

Sarah Schulmeyer at tallulah925@gmail.com or the church office at: admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net

Sarah Schulmeyer, Program Coordinator



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 am. 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

