



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



December 2023

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JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

The deadline for inclusion in the January 2024 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, Quest, is Monday, December 18, 2023.

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.holycrossherndon.org



www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon



HolyCrossELCA



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

STAFF



An Advent Prayer

Come,
O Come,
please come, Emmanuel
and hear my prayer.

The inundation of life roars about me,
clinging,
clutching,
clamoring,
cutting off light
of hope
and peace
and joy
and love from
my heart.

Within and without,
storms rage.
Frenzied cacophony,
penetrating deep--
opening wounds,
buffeting confusion,
howling despair,
obstructing the light --
stealing to steal my sight
of you.

Emmanuel, Come, o Come

Come,
O Come, you Emmanuel --
 light-bringer,
 life-breather,
 love-enflesher --
come here, in this place,
 in anxious chaos,
 in noxious division,
and all that seeks to make waste
my soul.

Come,
please come,
O Emmanuel and bring light!
Warm a heart made cold by bewilderment,
illumine a mind opaque with grief.
Take on my flesh
with your saving embrace
of love.

Come,
O Come, dear Emmanuel,
come and bring your joy!
Restore in me, I pray,
true joy -
 your presence unvacated,
 your promise unabated
 but held dear in your love.
Spark within renewed fire
to flame anew,
transform dark caverns into cathedrals of praise and
thanks
to you.

Come,
O Come, holy Emmanuel, and help me rest in your gift
of grace.

Emmanuel, Lamb of God

Director of Music and Liturgy

Holy Cross Christmas Festival Choir!



Rehearsals:

Thursday, December 7th - 7:00 PM
Thursday, December 14th - 7:00 PM
Thursday, December 21st - 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve, December 24th 7:00 pm Worship Service

Beginning December 7th, the Holy Cross Festival Choir will be rehearsing for Christmas Eve services. To join the festival choir all you need to do is come to three rehearsals and sing with us on Christmas Eve.

This is a great opportunity for anyone who enjoys singing but cannot commit to the regular choir schedule. The festival choir is also a great way for anyone who is considering joining the choir and simply wants to see what it is like. We always have fun in rehearsals and any extra voices add a great depth to the choir sound. If you are interested in joining the festival choir or have any questions please contact me at MusicDir@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net or call the church office at 703-437-1883.



Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop, Director and Liturgy



Preparing in Christ's Presence

Advent
Dinner Church

Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM

11/29 - Do Less

12/6 - Experience Wonder

12/13 - Hold on to Hope

12/20 - ****Lunch for the Soul Celebration****



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.Facebook.com/HCLCHerndon
www.HolyCrossHerndon.org

Christmas Eve Worship

10:00 AM

Traditional Family Service

7:00 PM

Traditional Christmas Worship
with Candlelight

1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, Virginia



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH





*Holy Cross Lutheran Church
&
Jimmy's Old Town Tavern*



Present the 6th Annual

Beer and Carols!

Tuesday, December 12th
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Come to Jimmy's Old Town Tavern on December 12th for a fun evening of drinks and singing Christmas Carols. While you must be over 21 to drink alcohol, this event is for all ages. Beer, root beer, wine, eggnog, hot chocolate... whatever you would like to drink while you sing carols!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church's Director of Music and Liturgy will lead the singing and get us in the holiday spirit. We will sing any kind of Christmas Carol, sacred or secular. From Joy to the World to Jingle Bell Rock, if you hear it on the radio this time of year, we will sing it at Jimmy's!

Fabulous prizes will be raffled off!!!

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Armed Forces through the ELCA Chaplains Office.

**This event will be held at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern
697 Spring Street, Herndon, VA 20170**

Be sure to check out Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Facebook and let your friends know you are coming!
(www.Facebook.com/HCLCHerndon)

COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

Happy New (Church) Year!

December brings Advent and the beginning of a new church year. With all of the hustle and bustle of preparing for secular Christmas celebrations and festivities, observance of Advent provides an



opportunity for quiet contemplation and preparation for the fulfillment of God's promise in the birth of the Christ. Our weekly Advent services are an excellent way to help us focus on what is truly important and help drive away distractions that can overwhelm us. Pastor Martin has a thoughtful series of messages, along with soup and sandwiches which are provided each Wednesday starting November 29th. We look forward to sharing this meaningful time of year with you.

Thank you to all who made our Annual Meeting a success. As we discussed our accomplishments this year and approved a "faith" budget for next year, I hope you saw just how many moving parts there are that combine to form our joint ministry at Holy Cross. It

truly is amazing how so many people work together performing tasks large and small to ensure the success of Holy Cross. God intended each of us to do our part. "Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). If you haven't joined one of our ministry teams on some project, I hope you'll do so in the new year. It's a great way to form new and lasting friendships and lessen the load on everyone. If you are so moved, I hope you'll prayerfully consider coordinating our Community Outreach or Evangelism efforts and serving on Council in one of these ministries. If you have an interest and wish to learn more, please contact Vivian Jefferson (Community Outreach) or Karen Faulkner (Evangelism) to find out what the position entails. You can also contact Pastor Martin or me. God can do exciting things with your help!

Please make plans to participate in our annual Beer and Carols event at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern on December 12th. We have a great time and raise money for a very worthwhile cause! I hope you and all of those you hold dear have a wonderful holiday season, and Happy New (Church) Year!

Yours in Christ,

Sam



Glory to God
in the highest.
and on earth peace,
good will toward men.

Luke 2:14, KJV

Scout Sunday 2024!



The 12th principle of Scout Law: A Scout is reverent.

Sunday, February 11, 2024 is Scout Sunday at Holy Cross! The 2024 charter for BSA Troop 12 will be given to Pastor Martin by the Troop 12 Chartered Organization Representative Anne Geiger at the 11am service. The Troop 12 Scouts will also hand out the bulletins at the same service. Gold Award and Eagle Scouts will be recognized during each service.

Please let Anne Geiger know if you are/have been a Boy or Girl Scout and are willing to serve at the 8:30 and/or 11 am services as readers, acolytes, or assisting ministers.



FELLOWSHIP

We Celebrated 60 years on Sunday, November 5th!

Holy Cross celebrated its 60th anniversary in November!! With one combined 10am church service, over 160 souls celebrated the day and All Saints Sunday with a beautiful cloud of dove witnesses over the altar. **Pastor Ed Harper** was the preacher with



Seminarian Katy Moran and **Pastor Martin Eldred** assisting, **Bishop Leila Ortiz** was the celebrant, and **Pastor Stephanie Johnson** was the reader.



After the service, 120 people attended the delicious celebration luncheon catered by Mama Lucci's of Leesburg. **Rob Coffman** (seen left), the emcee for the day, walked attendees through a

history of the church, recognized the many people who have made the church "go" over the years from Sunday school teachers to worship servers, to music ministry players, singers and ringers, to pastors and admin staff, to council members, and to, very importantly, charter members! Charter - and still current - members **Ken and Mary Alice Carlson** (seen right) were there with many members of their family.





The buffet luncheon could not have gone as smoothly as it did without a lot of help! Many thanks go out to the following people who made the luncheon “go”, from cleaning and staging for several days prior to the event, setting up the day before the event, serving food and waiting tables on Sunday, cleaning up afterwards (which was done in record time!) and finally washing all those tablecloths. In no particular order: **Sharon Carter, Diana Virgo, Ellen Atwell, Carol Shaffer, Shelly Eldred, Sarah Schulmeyer, Virginia Muller, Nancy LaFalce, Denise Robinson, Joe Baggett, Dick Krapf, Kathy Makowski, Suzanne Baggett, Gary Wolfe, Helen Wolfe, Jeremy Shoop, Bob Thompson, Jo Roe, Nan Lem, Karen Faulkner, Nancy Jones, Rick Jones, Craig Swanson, Pat Swanson, Vivian Jefferson, Chip Edwards, Joy Heuer, Kathy McMahon, Jim McMahon, Pam Darby, and Barb Gouldey.**

I could not finish this article without a special shout out to dishwasher whisperer, Jeremy Shoop! He issued a stern warning to behave to the machine Sunday morning when he turned it on, and it worked perfectly for the clean-up! Thank you, Jeremy!

Dinner Church on Wednesdays in Advent

We will again be having soup & sandwich dinners with worship during Advent. The Advent Dinner Church will start on Nov 29th! Holy Cross families are being asked to provide the soup and desserts, and Fellowship will provide the sandwiches.

We are asking the congregation to provide the soup for three of the weekly meals. The 12/20 dinner will be a potluck – see more info below.

- **Wed., 11/29 meal:** Church council members **Joe Baggett**, **Vivian Jefferson** and **Anne Geiger** will be supplying the soups. **Bryan Trayers** is providing the dessert.
- **Wed., 12/6 & 12/13 meals:** Holy Cross families are being asked to provide soups and a dessert for each these 2 services – that's 3 soups and 1 dessert per meal. **Please contact Anne Geiger if you are willing to provide a soup or dessert of your choice**, and note for which Wednesday you'd like to provide it at fellowship@holycrosslutheranchurch.net
- **Wed., 12/20 meal & LIKELY TIME CHANGE:** Holy Cross is again inviting our Lunch For The Soul participants AND the partner congregations to join us for **worship and dinner**. What a wonderful opportunity to meet our Holy Cross neighbors and to break bread together! More details to come.

Block Parties Continue!

Wednesday, December 20, 2023: Come worship with our Lunch For The Soul families and have dinner with them afterwards.

January 2024: *YOUR NAME HERE!*

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024: Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner & Mardi Gras Celebration--more info to come!

March 2024: *YOUR NAME HERE!*

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, January 20, 2024: Inspiro Choir repeat concert featuring our own Jeremy Shoop!

Where? George Washington Masonic Temple, Alexandria

When? 7pm

If you missed it in October, **Inspiro Choir** again presents **Music of the Spheres**, a multimedia experience about space which features images from the Webb Telescope with Aleksandra Hamanowicz, from the Space Telescope Science Institute. This concert is a beautiful collaboration at the intersection of science and art. There will be carpooling! More detailed info in the January **Quest**.

Inspiro Choir
2023 Best of Loudoun
WINNER FOR BEST PERFORMING ARTS GROUP



The December Joke of the Month!

The Zoo Keeper (with a nod to Steve Pastis)

This is the tale of the Crist family who all worked at a zoo. Each year they claimed to be able to predict the overall mood of the year by watching the animals. In particular, the gnus which, if their ears were forward, predicted a successful, joyful year. But if their ears were laid back flat, they predicted a sorrowful, disastrous year. One year, it was young Mary's turn to "survey" the animals and come up

with the prediction. It was her first time solo, and in her excitement, she forgot to check on the gnus. Well, she botched it, predicting a bad year when in fact, it was quite good. At the next winter solstice, the local newspaper ran the flowing headline:

"Mary Crist misses an happy gnu's ear!"

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

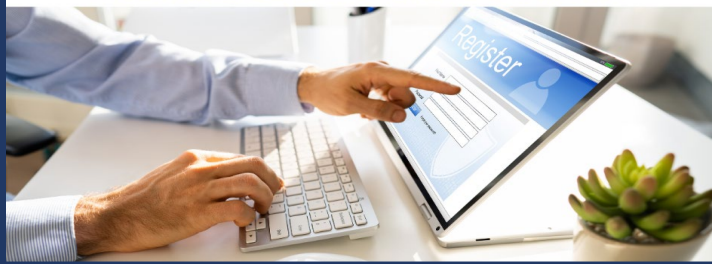
Fellowship Chair

fellowshipchair@holycrosslutheranchurch.net

***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!



EVANGELISM

Trunk or Treat Recap

Another big, successful year for this popular community event. Lots of candy, costumes and decorations for all. This year Anne Geiger invited Boy Scout Troop 12 who meets at our church to come out and join us. We had a large turnout of scouts and their families who set up their tent and enjoyed handing out candy and participating in the day's festivities. It was also good to have the Herndon Police Department stop by again this year to greet some of our Herndon friends and neighbors.



Sunday's New Member Luncheon

We had a large turnout for the Sunday, November 19th *New Member Luncheon* had a large turnout with several folks looking to join Holy Cross. Pastor Martin gave a beneficial overview of Lutheranism and our place in church history. We plan to set a formal date for taking in new members sometime next month.



*My
Church
Family*

Beer and Carols
December 12th, 6:30 to 8:00 pm

One of HCLCs all-time special events – a fun night of Beer and Carols at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern in downtown Herndon!. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors in a little merry-making as Jeremy leads us in a round of favorite carols and door prize winnings. If you'd like to donate something for our Door Prize Drawing this year, please let Jeremy know. All proceeds will benefit the ELCAs Chaplaincy Fund.



Card Brigade

A **HUGE** thanks to Jo Roe who has offered to cover the remaining months of November and December, along with serving as the 2024 Card Brigade Coordinator.



Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Faulkner, Evangelism Chair

COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWS

Advent Appeal

Advent Appeal

One of our traditions is to donate offering from mid-week Advent and Lent services to a service organization. In keeping with Advent as the season of peace, this year the Advent offering will be split between two organizations: **Student Peace**

Awards of Fairfax County Scholarship

Fund AND Lutheran World Relief. 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. Lutheran World Relief, founded in 1945, is an international non-governmental organization that focuses on sustainable development projects and disaster relief and recovery.



Lutheran World Relief Adult and Baby Care Kits

Mark your calendar now to attend the HCLC-Herndon Women's Club MLK Day of Service on January 15, 2024. There will be service projects for people of all ages to help our neighbors in the local community and throughout the world.

The HCLC project will be to put together personal care and baby care kits for Lutheran World Relief to send to people without easy access to hygiene supplies due to natural disaster, military conflict, or poverty. You can read more about the kits on the Lutheran World Relief website: <https://lwr.org/kits>

You can help in two ways: bring donations of items for the care kits to church on January 7 and/or join the packing event on January 15, 2024.

If you want to get a head start and shop some of the holiday bargains, here are the items we'll be collecting:

Personal Care Kits

- Light-weight bath size towel, dark colored preferred (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27")
- Bath size bars of soap, (2-3 per kit), in original packaging
- Adult size toothbrush in original packaging
- Sturdy comb
- Metal nail clippers



Baby Care Kits – sizes for babies 6-24 months

- Lightweight cotton t-shirts; **No Onesies** (2 per kit)
- Long or short sleeve gowns or sleepers **without feet** (2 per kit)
- Receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel (2 per kit) (between 36" and 56" square)
- Cloth diapers, flat fold preferred (4 per kit)
- Jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood or include a baby hat
- Socks (2 pair per kit)
- Hand towel, dark color recommended
- Bath-sized bars of gentle soap in original packaging (2-3 per kit)



Change in LINK and Embry Rucker Collections

The HCLC community continues to give generously to the LINK pantry and the Embry Rucker homeless shelter. *Thank you!* Beginning in January, we will switch the schedule so that donations on the first Sunday of the month will go to Embry Rucker and donations to LINK will be collected on the third Sunday of the month. We will publicize LINK needs at the beginning of each month.

Community Service Ideas Wanted!

Do you have an idea for a short-term or long-term community service project to share with the HCLC family? Contact Vivian Jefferson (vjefferson@gmail.com) to find out how you can get the project started.





Join the Festivities at Fellowship Square's 6th Annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Fundraiser!

Proceeds benefit **Fellowship Square**, improving the lives of 800+ older adults with very limited income and resources by providing affordable housing and supportive services.

Experience our festive holiday event complete with savory wines & craft beers, scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, exciting raffle prizes, live entertainment and the camaraderie of friends!

Link to purchase tickets:

<https://fellowship-square-foundation.ticketleap.com/winter-wonderland-fundraiser/details>

You can Make a Difference in YOUR community!



English Language Learners (ELL)

Our 2023 fall semester started September 14th and will continue through December 6th. We teach three classes at Holy Cross, Beginners, Basic and Intermediate English. We also started an online English class via Zoom. I would like to introduce you to Ms. Lounelly and Lourdes, who teach the Zoom class.

Hello, my name is Lounelly Rashed. I am a member of the Spanish District Allianz and Christian Church of Virginia. I was born in Puerto Rico and raised in New York City. I am currently a Security Specialist for the Federal Government and I am privileged to join the ELL team at Holy Cross and be able to teach the Zoom English class. It has been a blessing. I teach along with my mother, Lourdes Crespo, who is currently a high school biology teacher. Our students have been very engaging and patient as we all learn to navigate the zoom meeting system together. I feel like we have all been learning a lot from one another. I look forward to teaching many more students

We will have the ELL Christmas party on December 11 for our students and their families. We always play a game which ends with a small gift for each student.

Thank you for your continued support of our ELL program and our immigrant community.

A big Thank YOU to Suzanne, Jeanne, Chip, Kurt, Luisa, Cynthia, Lounelly and Lourdes. Thank you for your dedication and patience teaching our students at Holy Cross and via Zoom.

Your ELL Team

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





FIRST STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING -2024

The first Stephen Minister Training will begin Saturday, January 6th, which will meet once a month for 6 months to receive the professionally designed training by the Stephen Ministry. It is an engaging, energizing experience that features a mixture of presentation, video, group discussion, skill practice and spiritual growth activities. I am so thankful for those from our congregation, who have made this commitment to confidentially care and stand beside someone who may be experiencing a tough time in life.

As Project Coordinator for implementing this unique ministry at Holy Cross, I also went through a 12 week training course with 19 other people from all over the world! I was assigned to 2 different groups during this time, and over these 12 weeks, bonding together with people who have the same spiritual goals for their congregations was life changing! Several of the most powerful items beyond the professional teaching materials, was our team building on each other's insights and experiences, and the knitting together through prayer, worship and fellowship. I am praying God will bless those attending the training in January in this same way. Will you pray with me for each of those attending?

What Else Can You Do?

- ***Become a Stephen Minister!***

Training begins Saturday, January 6th, 2024. Becoming a ***Stephen Minister*** is a meaningful investment in yourself and others. Will you consider letting God use this ministry to change your life and the lives of others?

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

