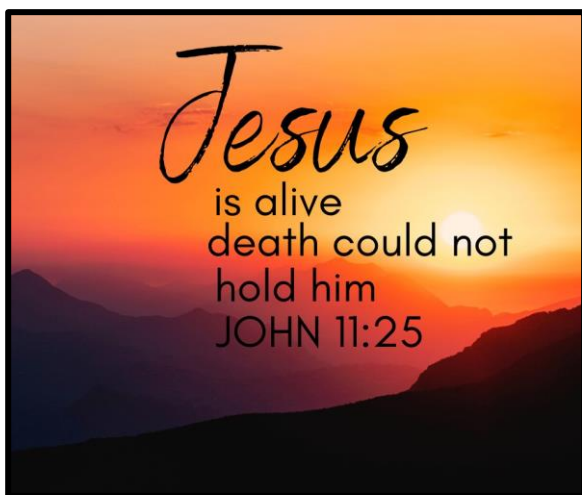




HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



May 2024

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Let us then approach God's throne of grace
with confidence, so that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help us in our time of need.
Hebrews 4:16





The deadline for inclusion in the June 2024 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, The Quest, is Monday, May 20, 2024.
Articles are always gladly accepted earlier!

Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at:
admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net

The deadline for inclusion in the Weekly Update
is 4 pm on Tuesdays.

Thank you,
Virginia Muller and Sarah Schulmeyer
Church Administrators

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Find us online!

www.HolyCrossHerndon.org



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Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

A Busy May

We're well into the Easter Season and working on the ambitious schedule we have before us.



First of all, we officially welcome Pastor Mark Cole as our Interim Pastor on May 1st. Frankly, he's already been our "go to guy" over the last few months whenever an urgent matter has arisen requiring pastoral care; he's been a great source of

comfort to those who've faced illness and despair, as well as to grieving families. He did this in addition to fulfilling his previous supply commitments to other congregations.

We also want to thank Pastor Pam Mitchem who has so ably led worship, presided over communion, and inspired us with her thoughtful sermons—so much for that quiet retirement, Pam!





Tonya Elliott will be completing a major international project at work and will begin her active participation on Council as our Outreach Chair; special thanks to Vivian Jefferson for extending her work on Outreach until Tonya could become available.

Sylvia Moran has agreed to chair the Transition Team, and Matthew Andersen, Tammy Breene, Nan Lem, Patrick McElveen, Craig Swanson, and Helen Wolfe have agreed to serve. There's still time to join this team; please talk to Sylvia, Pastor Cole, Cara Swanson Papeheim, or me if you feel led by the Holy Spirit to participate on this important team and would like to discuss it and gain more information. This Team will be engaging in activities with the congregation to more fully understand our needs, wants, and desires as we move forward together to fill our pastoral vacancy. Please participate promptly when they call upon you for your input. We have set ourselves an ambitious goal of completing this process before the holidays. Certainly, the Holy Spirit will lead us and our next pastor on a timetable not of our making, but we need to do all that we can to facilitate an accelerated, efficient, and complete process ensuring we are ready when the Holy Spirit wants and needs us to be.

I'd like to thank Diana Virgo for serving so ably on our Audit Team. As you may recall, that team has three members who serve staggered three-year terms so that one rotates off each year. This year Jeff Gordon will begin his three-year term; thank you, Jeff, for bringing your skills to this important function.

On June 1st, the Synod Assembly will take place at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfax, Va. We would ordinarily be allowed two voting members in addition to the Pastor; however, the synod is

seeking to encourage wider participation and has allowed us to name another voting member who is under 30. Accordingly, our representatives will be Pastor Cole, Bob Thompson, Nan Lem, and Emily Moran. Please pray for their discernment as they represent us in this important function on the life of the church.

I look forward to seeing where the Holy Spirit leads us as we seek to live and serve as Christ intended!

Yours in Christ,

Sam





It was only a matter of time before I was going to be talking about Taylor Swift. But seriously, how could I not? Like the Holy Spirit, she's everywhere, and for everyone. With so many articles these days about the *Taylor Swift Effect*, it's worth a conversation. If you don't know, the Taylor Swift Effect is actually pretty simple: when Tay Tay shows up, so does everyone else. Her loyal Swifties are basically her Disciples, following her through social media, watching football games she attends, vacations she takes, and paying thousands of dollars to see her perform an exhilarating 3 hour concert. Showing up and gaining followers: something popular religion has been doing since its existence, and utilizing music/sound to solidify cultural identity is not reserved for any one group of people or animals.



Taylor's music is meaningful across multiple generations that are often misunderstood to each other; I sometimes have a hard time relating to the perspective of my coworkers, bosses, other "boomer" members of this congregation, and even my own sister, but Taylor's music is all encompassing, and every one of her Swifties falls into some generational category and can likely name a song that has impact to them all its own. Music and community are powerful forces, and when combined can provide either big change or generational stability, and sometimes, both. Long before "Shake it off" ever existed, "Great is Thy Faithfulness" has always hit me to my core. One simple hymn sums up the entirety of the Lutheran



doctrine, with great faith comes great reward, and having heard this through many church services of significance in my life, as an adult I often tear up when it's played. Rallying around the music of a traditional church liturgy can evoke emotion and action and if

you haven't heard our incredible pipe organ in person recently, I encourage you to join us at our 10am service soon. Holy Cross is extremely fortunate to have a lot of talent and opportunity to connect and share gifts, we are our own force in the community and continue in the opportunity to create *The Effect*. As the summer months are upon us, we are approaching a historically slower time for our church family and active membership, we need to ask ourselves, *How will the Holy Spirit move me? How can I show up?* Keeping our social media active and inviting your friends to join our online presence (keep those likes and shares coming), introducing or re-introducing friends, neighbors or coworkers to the Lutheran doctrine in person (aka invite someone to church!), contributing generously to keep our weekly musical and evangelical efforts funded (consider increasing your weekly giving), donating food or servicing mid-week events like Lunch for the Soul, pulling weeds on church clean up days or refilling communion wine with the altar guild.

We spent the Lenten season talking about covenants, God showing up for his people, and now it's our turn to keep showing up for Holy Cross and each other, and consequently get some beautiful music in return (shout out to Jeremy). And so, as quoted from Taylor's Instagram (when she dropped an incredible new double album at midnight on Thursday) "And now the story isn't mine anymore... it's yours." I look forward to *seeing* you all soon.



Several Special Worship Services in May!

Sunday, May 5th

We will install our Interim Pastor, Pastor Mark Cole—Welcome Pastor Cole! We will also install the members of our Transition Team. Lastly, we will have a Farewell and Godspeed liturgy for the Faulkners, who have been such an important part of our congregation for many years.

Sunday, May 12th

We will celebrate Mother's Day!

Sunday, May 19th

We will celebrate Pentecost and Confirmation. Congrats to our Confirmands!

Sunday, May 26th

It's Holy Trinity Sunday! We will also acknowledge Memorial Day and commemorate those who have died in service to our country.

FELLOWSHIP

A Successful Easter Brunch!



Sunday, March 31, 2024 was EASTER with a potluck brunch at 9am before the new service time at 10am for the congregation and friends and family members. 21+ people provided a terrific food spread with Fellowship providing the hot cross buns.

Thank You to all who donated to the potluck!!

We estimate that at least 70 people stopped by for brunch and one person stayed to eat lunch after the service. The leftover food was used to supplement the food for the Wednesday, April 3rd Lunch for The Soul ministry.

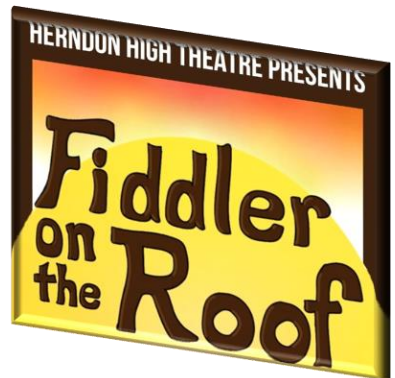
Thank You for donating your leftovers for that event, too!

May Fellowship Event!

Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 7pm:

Fiddler on the Roof! Our own ***Jeremy Shoop*** will again be the Pit Orchestra Director for Herndon High School's 2024 spring musical.

- Tickets are \$15 each for adults and \$10 each for students.
- Contact Anne Geiger no later than Sunday, April 28th for tickets.
- We will have reserved seating.





June Fellowship Event

Music Sunday, June 9th, 2024 – there will be a potluck lunch after the 10 am service. Stay tuned for more info.

Joke of the Month



What month of the year is the shortest?

May, because it only has 3 letters!

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



During the service on May 5th, The Holy Cross Lutheran Church Transition Team will be installed. The members of the team are: Sylvia Moran (chair), Matthew Anderson, Tammy Breene, Nannette Lem, Patrick McElveen, Craig Swanson and Helen Wolfe. The team will keep the congregation informed of progress in the Weekly Update, The Quest and in special announcements.

PROPERTY

Our Shining Accomplishments!

March saw the Property Committee do a number of projects inside and outside of the church. Thanks to the following who gave their time and talents to get these projects completed: Joe Baggett, Anne and Roy Geiger, Dick Krapf, Jared Lem, Joe Makowski, Mike and Virginia Muller, Craig Reichow, Mark Roe and Craig Swanson. Thanks to Jeremy/Virginia/Sarah for the e-blast announcement of the workday.



There was significant wall and ceiling damage in two of the classrooms in the Educational Wing as a result of leaks in the roof which required us to have ASA Roofing, Inc. in twice to patch different areas on the roof.

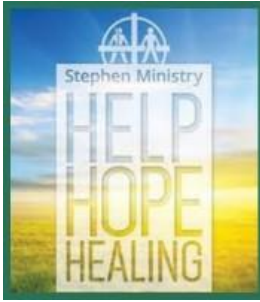
The first leak resulted in drywall damage to the walls and ceiling which Joe Makowski patched and painted to look like new. If you need roofing repairs in your home, we can highly recommend ASA Roofing, Inc.

The brackets holding the banners in the Chancel were in bad need of replacement and were barely holding the banners. Pierre Huggins climbed to the top of the large ladder and attached four new brackets to the wall so that the banners are now securely attached to the wall.



Projects that were completed during the **March Saturday Workday** included:

- **Anne Geiger** worked tirelessly to remove many bags of trash from the stream.
- **Pierre Huggins and Craig Swanson** repaired the benches in the Meditation Garden and removed many of the overgrown limbs and bushes.
- **Joe Baggett, Craig Reichow, Jared Lem, and Virginia Muller** raked leaves and trimmed the bushes on the side of the Educational Bldg.
- **Mark Roe, Dick Krapf, and Pierre Huggins** weeded and mulched the flower beds in the front and side of the church.
- **Joe Baggett** raked leaves and sticks in the grassy area in front of the office.
- **Pierre Huggins** is our new asphalt fixer. He removed the loose asphalt from one area and put down 6 bags of asphalt patch.
- One new parking lot sign was added, and repairs were made to two others.
- **Mike Muller** did a yeoman's job putting in two boxes of screws in the fence boards that had been neglected for many years.
- The hoses were returned to the front of the church in preparation for the summer.
- **Roy Geiger** did maintenance to improve the natural habitat. The roof was checked for leaves and clogged drains.



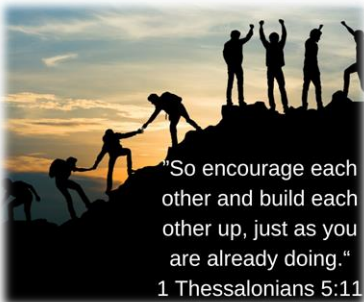
May 2024
STEPHEN MINISTER Training Classes

By the end of May, we will have completed 18 modules of training for this exciting ministry!

Stephen Ministers will finish their training in June, followed by a “commissioning” during a Sunday service as they begin to serve within our congregation.

The Stephen Ministry is all about providing emotional and spiritual support and care for those who may be in crisis, and those who may be affected by someone they love going through a crisis. Crisis can affect more than the person directly experiencing one.

Some of the life difficulties listed below could benefit from meeting one-on-one with a Stephen Minister:



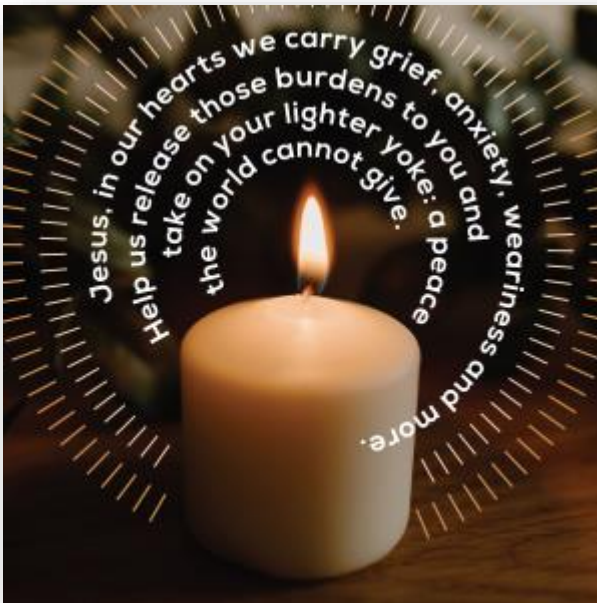
- Major Medical Crisis
- Job Related Crisis
- Broken Relationships
- End of Life Situations
- Grief
- Major Life Transitions

Through the years, over one-and-a-half million people have benefitted from the one-to-one Christ-centered care of a Stephen Minister. ***This care is completely confidential***—no one knows the identity of a care receiver except the coordinator and the pastor.

For additional information on how to become a ***Care Receiver***, by meeting with a Stephen Minister each week, please contact: Sarah Schulmeyer at tallulah925@gmail.com or (307) 399-6461 (call or text) or the church office: admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net

Please be praying for the success of this new ministry within our church family at Holy Cross, and for the people in our first Stephen Minister training class.

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 10 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:

