



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



August 2024

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The deadline for inclusion in the September 2024 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, The Quest, is Wednesday, August 21, 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,
Sarah Schulmeyer
Church Administrator

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
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Find us online!

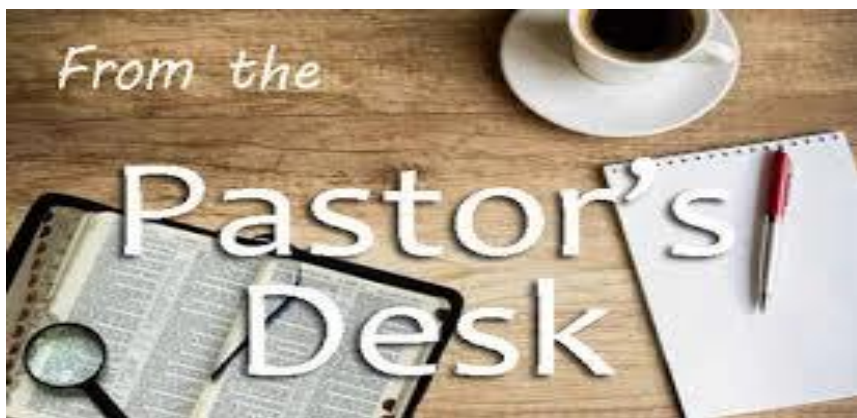
www.HolyCrossHerndon.org



www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA



Dear Friends,

Are you an artist? Do you have artists in your family? Ever have any friends who are artists?

My family is filled with artists.

One was deflected from a career in art by a scholarship to engineering school, but he created beautiful pictures, and woodwork throughout his ninety years. His inset wooden cross rests in the corner of my study, next to his office clock.

Another created beautiful needleworks – framed and treasured for generations by the family.

Another loved woodcarving and made impressive figures throughout his life. He was the one who tried to teach me to carve. “Just look at the block of wood,” he said. “And take away what shouldn’t be there.”



All that bypassed me. So, I learned to appreciate others’ art.

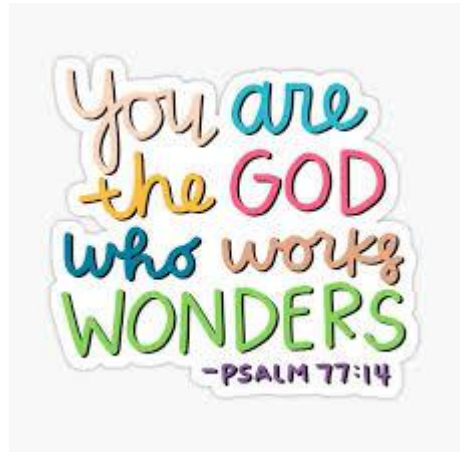
My mom used to look at one of her paintings and judge it with the words, “That works.,” or “That doesn’t work.”

It caught my attention then, when my Hebrew professor told me that God’s evaluation of the finished creation “It is good,” had more the connotation of “Yep, it works.”

We finish the month of July with a gospel selection that reminds us that despite of all the things that bedevil us, Jesus is in charge. He is here for us humans who cannot ‘make it work’ no matter how hard we try.

He is restoring the creation that God loves so much to the way it was when God said, “That works.”

He is recreating the world. It’s impossible for us to figure out, just as it was for the non-artist little boy who tried to create beauty. I think, though, that we can catch glimpses of his new creation in the kindnesses we receive and give, both in our daily lives and in our Holy Cross community, and in the myriad ways we sense something good peeking through the sometimes intimidating curtain of daily life.



During one of the Eucharistic prayers, we remind ourselves of that reality and that promise when we say simply, Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

That memory, that reality, and that promise encompass all time—then, now, and into the future God has for all humanity.

In Christ,
Pastor Cole

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 services 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



July 28th, August 11th & 25th

Rehearsal: 9:10 – 9:40 AM

Worship: 10:00 AM

The Summer Gathering Choir is back at Holy Cross! This is a great opportunity for anyone who loves to sing but can't commit to the schedule of choir year-round.

Simply show up on any or all 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 all of the dates on the schedule, just come as you can and enjoy the singing.

Send me an email if you any questions.
MusicDir@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net

Soli Deo Gloria!
Jeremy Shoop
Director of Music and Liturgy



COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

“Time Has Come Today”

By now you are probably painfully aware of my penchant for using lyrics from “oldies” as a theme in some of my missives. Other than its catchy tune and repetitive chorus, the lyrics of this ‘60’s hit by the psychedelic soul group the Chambers Brothers offered me no special insights. Still, I simply have not been able to get the phrase, “Time Has Come Today,” out of my mind. I think it’s attributable to two things:

1. The way that so many dedicated members give of themselves by devoting their time to sharing their talents as evidence of the Holy Spirit acting in their lives.
 - a. I marvel at how many things just “get done” around the church enabling us to share the Love of Christ. Of course, we all think of our impressive Community Outreach efforts so ably described by our new Outreach Chair, **Tonya Elliott**, and her adorable Temple Talk co-presenter.
 - b. I think of our Sunday School and Vacation Bible School led by the marvelous **Suzanne Baggett**, and her team. It’s all the more amazing that she finds time to substitute for Jeremy when he’s out!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

- c. I think about **Marcia Kratzke** and her lovely duets with Jeremy.
 - d. I think about how the **members of the Altar Guild** ensure the colors of the hangings and vestments are always in sync with the liturgical calendar and that Communion elements always magically appear!
 - e. We only notice our building when the roof leaks or the bathrooms aren't working, but our Property Chair, **Gary Wolfe**, and his team (esp. **Joe Makowski and Pierre Huggins**) notice everything and just "show up" to address our needs!
 - f. Similarly, **Roy Geiger** gets there early each Sunday to unlock the church and greet us all when we walk in, while his wife, **Anne**, leads our Fellowship efforts and makes the goodies appear on Sunday mornings and for other activities.
 - g. I could go on and mention the **elected leaders and other members of Council, Choir & Bell Ringers, Readers & Acolytes, Audit Team, Transition Team**, etc., but I think you get the picture that our church is dependent on the efforts of so many.
2. These examples were exquisitely reinforced by the common theme of service to others in the answers you gave to the CAT Survey Question, "In a few sentences, tell about an experience you had in the church where you walked away feeling, 'Now THAT'S what it means to be the church!'"
Putting others before self is truly the fabric of Holy Cross!

We all have different talents and interests. We also have varying amounts of time to commit. The message I want to convey is I think you will find unexpected rewards from whatever level of increased participation fits with where you are at this stage in your life.

Personally, I have formed strong friendships as I've worked alongside others in the Holy Cross family, and it has deepened my faith.

While I said that the lyrics of the Chambers Brothers' hit offered me little insight, that's not entirely true, because they have a recurring lament, "I have no home!" I hope you realize that YOU have a home with your Holy Cross Family!

Yours in Christ,

Sam





A Message from the Vice President



This month, I'm finding it difficult to put anything into words with meaning.

Perhaps it's the long days, excessive heat, or desire to take a vacation, but even basic efforts this month have proven exhausting. The realities of August are not always fun ones: the hottest days are still upon us, hurricanes begin to creep into

existence, school will soon be back in session and budgets begin to be reviewed for the impending new year. Since 2021, the prospect of budgeting is a challenge that has not been exclusive to Holy Cross; companies and individuals across the globe are still weary of the world we live in and with things like politics and personal freedoms hanging in the balance even educated guesses are a complete shot in the dark. There are a few things we can knowingly commit to: our personal time and effort.

For 2025 we have a good idea of the expenses it will take to run the building, but we don't know what the Holy Spirit has in store for our Pastoral search, we know it takes money to run the church (and you will hear about that plenty in the future), but it takes people to fulfill our ministry.

Part of what we learned from the CAT survey is that ministry remaining our primary focus is essential to our identity of ourselves as part of the Holy Cross family, and those we touch in the community, it's a huge part of why we do what we do. At the end of July, Tanya, our Outreach Chair, gave the first of what we hope to

be many Temple Talks highlighting our amazing Ministries. To close out the month, we will welcome new members into our Holy Cross family, and on the first day of August, we are hosting our “Calling All Parents” feedback session on Zoom-- there are still many projects, visions and opportunities to assist within our ministries, make new personal connections, or share some hidden time and talents within our building or community.



Normally, at this point I'd add in some solid Taylor lyrics, but for the time being, I'll put my musical references on hold and let Sam own that with his psychedelic soul. As we approach the last Quarter of the year and these tough decisions, consider your financial investment, but more importantly think about your ability to serve and what you may have to offer, what you may think to be a small contribution and “not matter” could make a huge impact on the operation, and maybe even brighten someone's day! After all, I'm sure I'm not alone in knowing how nice it is when my husband takes out the trash without being asked on a Monday night! But more importantly, our building always seems to need a plumber (**insert millennial wink face emoji**).

Cara Swanson Papenheim





Thank you to all of the members of our congregation who filled out the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT). A higher percentage of members participated this time than when we used the same tool in 2015--which is great--and we look forward to hearing the results and interpretation from Holy Cow Consulting.

The next step for the Transition Team is to schedule small group gatherings for appreciative inquiry conversations with members of our congregation. These are designed to pull out the best features of our church and describe what Holy Cross looks like when we are at our best. There will be scheduled times for small groups (Choir, families with confirmands, Stephen's Ministry members, etc.) as well as miscellaneous groups and make up groups. Look for more information in upcoming Weekly Updates and E-blasts. Once again it is important to hear as many voices of the congregation as possible. We look forward to hearing your views!

Transition Team members have been trained in the Appreciative Inquiry process. We completed the process as part of our training and our responses sparked some interesting and exciting discussion about the strengths of Holy Cross and our dreams for the future.



Now we are excited to hear what YOU have to say! A sample of the questions we will discuss is below.

- 1) Remembering your entire experience at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, at what time or times were you most alive, most motivated and excited about your involvement?
- 2) What are the most valuable aspects of our congregation's worship?
 - a. What are the most important contributions Holy Cross Lutheran Church has made to your faith formation/spiritual life? Conversely, what are the most valuable ways you contribute to our church personally – your perspectives, your skills, your activities, your character?
 - b. When you think about how our church has related to our community and to the world, what do you think has been most important?
- 3) What do you think is the most important, life-giving characteristic of our church?
- 4) Make three wishes for the future of Holy Cross.

Contact any member of the Transition Team if you have any questions about Appreciative Inquiry or the transition. The team members are: Sylvia Bain (chair), Matthew Andersen, Tammy Breene, Rob Coffman, Nan Lem, Craig Swanson, Helen Wolfe.



FELLOWSHIP

Successful July 4th Community Block Party!



Holy Cross's annual 4th of July Music, Ice Cream, and Fireworks event was another unqualified success. We estimate that about 300 people enjoyed some or all of the evening on the property. Jeremy Shoop played 3 sets of music this year, games were played by many and in ways the games were not really intended (let's hear it for young children's building imaginations!), food was provided by What The Schnitzel food truck (German food for Lutherans – what a delicious concept!) and, NEW THIS YEAR, the ice cream was provided by the Capital Chill ice cream truck!

Our ice cream-making superstars Pam and Kevin Darby, Vivian and Brad Jefferson, Kathy McMahon, and Jeremy Shoop, who have done a yeoman's job each year making homemade ice cream for the hoards, got a rest this year! We received a grant from Thrivent to help pay for an ice-cream food truck to provide discounted ice cream for the first 150 people who came to the event. From the continuous lines at both food trucks, it appears that food trucks are a good draw for this event.

Many thanks, too, to **Roy Geiger** as our greeter and hander-out of ice cream tickets, **Nannette Lem** who manned the evangelism table, **Gary Wolfe and Anne Geiger** who provided the security and litter patrol, and the Town of Herndon for the fantastic fireworks. And to the several people who made the clean-up go faster than usual--you know who you are--thank you all!



The August Joke of the Month!

What did the beach say to the tide when it came in?

Long time, no sea.



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.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Geiger, Fellowship Chair

OUTREACH

Herndon Middle School Supply Drive!



According to the Reston Connection newspaper and the Fairfax County Public School website, 44 schools in the county (out of about 300 schools) serve students that are at risk for food insecurities. These schools qualified for free meals under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) as implemented under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Herndon Middle School

made this list. Students at these schools need support so they are able to learn and maximize their potential.

In addition to full bellies, these students need full back packs. HCLC stepped up to provide school supplies for Herndon Middle School. In just over a month, members of our congregation donated supplies so Herndon Middle schoolers could show up to class every day prepared to learn. Thanks to everyone who took advantage of the easy Amazon link and had supplies delivered directly to HCLC and those who brought supplies to church.

College Care Packages

Another opportunity to show students that they are cared for is to help assemble packages for HCLC members who are away at college. This fall, you will hear details about care packages for our college students. If you have a college student in your family, please let me know so we can be sure to send some goodies to their dorm. If you have ideas about what college students like and would like to help, please reach out to me.



RALLY DAY IS COMING SEPT 8TH!

Rally Day is Sunday, September 8th and it will be a great opportunity to swap stories about our summer experiences and reconnect. HCLC has many fulfilling programs that bring us together as a congregation and serve the Herndon/Reston/Sterling communities.

From delivering food through our partnership with LINK to channeling your crafty skills with the Quilting group, we have lots going on. Please stop by the Outreach table and see all the wonderful programs we offer and ways you can participate into these ministries!

Blessed by grace,
Tonya Elliot

Reminder!

Backpack and Workbag Blessing!



Sunday, August 25th during worship!

PROPERTY



Now that weather has cooled down and many of the inside tasks such as installation of a new door frame and threshold in the Educational Wing by Joe Makowski and Pierre Huggins, and repair of several emergency lights, one HVAC system, a water valve and the men's urinal, it is time to start with several outside tasks to beautify and maintain the church grounds and exterior facility!

This includes yard work such as tree trimming, weed pulling, and door painting in addition to many other tasks! The dates (weather permitting) are:

Join Us on Wednesday Evenings!

**September 11th and September 25th
October 9th and October 23rd
from 6 pm to 8 pm**

See you there!

If you can attend one or more--even if just for part of the time--the Property Committee would appreciate your help!



Are You in Need of Care?

This compass emphasizes the core concepts of the Stephen Ministry and its Ministers:

- *Compassion*
- *Full of Faith*
- *Skilled*
- *Trustworthy*



If you are experiencing any kind of life challenge, and would like to experience the one-on-one care and encouragement of a Stephen Minister, please contact Sarah Schulmeyer, tallulah925@gmail.com or 307-399-6461.

This care is completely confidential—no one knows the identity of a care receiver except the coordinator and the pastor.

***“Bear one another’s burdens,
and in this way
you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
Galatians 6:2***

Sarah Schulmeyer, 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:

