



HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# The Quest Summer Edition

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



## July - August

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“From the rising of the sun to its  
going down the Lord’s name is to  
be praised.”  
Psalm 113:3



The deadline for inclusion in the September 2025 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, The Quest, is **Wednesday, August 20, 2025.** Articles are always gladly accepted earlier!

Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at: [Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org)

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

Thank you,  
Marie Nelson  
Sarah Schulmeyer  
Church Administrator

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170  
703-437-1883

### Find us online!



[www.HolyCrossHerndon.org](http://www.HolyCrossHerndon.org)



[facebook.com/HCLCHerndon](https://facebook.com/HCLCHerndon)



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA



[Instagram.com/HolyCrossELCA](https://Instagram.com/HolyCrossELCA)

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY



The Summer Gathering Choir is back! This is a great opportunity for anyone who can't commit to the schedule of choir year-round! All you have to do is show up on any or all of 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 dates on the schedule, just come as you can and enjoy the singing!

June 29  
July 20  
August 17  
August 31

Rehearsal at 9:20 AM  
Worship at 10:00 AM



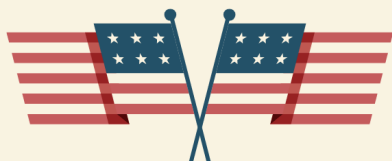
Contact Jeremy Shoop if you  
have any questions.  
[MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org)





# 4TH OF JULY

\*\*\* CELEBRATION \*\*\*



**Free Admission!!!**

**July 4: 6:00 - 9:30 PM**

**Lawn Games   Food Truck  
Live Music   Ice Cream**

**Town Fireworks  
(Best view in town!)**

**Food Truck:**

**American Fried Chicken**

**Chicken/Lamb/Falafel**

**Sandwiches/Wraps/Rice Bowls**

**Ice Cream Truck:**

**Capitol Chill Ice Cream**

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1090 STERLING ROAD, HERNDON, VA**

## COUNCIL



Well Holy Cross Fam,

If you think about it, Memorial Day was basically the end of the year... before we know it, we are approaching July 4th, Labor Day, Rally Day, Annual Meetings, Thanksgiving, and Christmas... in just 6 short events, it's 2026.

This month's Quest will cover the summer months, and the length of this note will likely prove the opposite of what I just inferred; less like a Radio Edit and closer to the 10 min version of Taylor's *All Too Well*, we still have several verses to share.



June was kicked off with the Washington DC ELCA Annual Synod meeting, where we elected a new Bishop, Rev. Phil Hirsch. I was fortunate to get to hear him speak on several questions posed by the Virginia conference, and his desire to serve has existed for quite some time. His commitment to family and the future of the church is evident in how he lives and encourages within his own family unit, and the self-awareness of his life stature, the gifts he has been provided, along with his desire to listen and act in a faithful and socially thoughtful and welcoming manner.

All are talking points that led to his short ordered majority vote. I also attended the stewardship workshops and we will soon be adopting one of the best practices shared to help underscore the large amount of online giving: adding green “I Give Online” markers in the pews. If you are an online tither, we encourage you to place this marker in the offering plate during offertory, allowing the plates to circulate the entire congregation.



July may be hot and humid, but evangelism, fellowship and Christian education will be heralded at Holy Cross. As we continue our annual July 4th celebrations, we can connect with our community and enjoy our freedoms with ice cream and fireworks.

Mid-month we will host an informational luncheon for anyone interested in joining our congregation, and affirm them as members the following week, should they so desire. The new member lunch is one of my favorite events, allowing for your council to share who they are, what they do as part of their ministries, and why they love Holy Cross. It's an inspiring meal and I encourage any members beyond council to join in and share as well.





Our multi-generation Vacation Bible School will round out the month, providing fun and faith-based learning for all ages. Family dinner is included, and if you wish to help support those meals please let Jeremy know! We certainly serve a lot of food in July, and we owe an advanced thanks for all the church volunteers who will spearhead these efforts and fill our bellies.

August might be viewed as a low for churches nationwide, with many traveling, long hot days, and minimal structured activities. Council usually takes the month off, Jeremy will use some of his well-deserved vacation time, and Pastor Pam might finally get a weekend or two away from us. Essentially the month is a long quiet bridge between two banger choruses, or the detour to a roadside diner on a road trip...but musical bridges and roadside diners can hold their own, and our Admins will be the ones keeping us engaged, present and on task. Business will still be happening, your call committee remains active, at least in our group chats :), and our ministries stay strong as we prepare for Rally Day.

The summer ahead seems jam packed and yet will be behind us so quickly. Our world is in a weird place right now, and by the time this article publishes, any statements I would or could make about current events will likely be irrelevant. Proof that things can change in an instant.







Our church family has experienced a painful loss, and in this time we need to think of all the wonderful life experiences we shared with Joe and all the fun and food filled experiences you can take advantage of to honor his memory and make some of your own.



Many weeks I have the privilege of inviting our congregation to prepare their hearts and minds for worship, and however you may choose to do this, I also invite you to prepare your hearts for what each day brings. Whether this summer proves to be a chorus or a verse, make each beat count. 2025 is still here and we still have much to celebrate and share.

In Peace,  
Cara Papenheim





Dear Holy Cross Family,

As we settle into the heart of summer, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued presence and commitment to our church. Even during the quieter months, the mission and ministry of Holy Cross continue — and so does our need for your support. Your financial gifts sustain our worship, outreach, and operations, and we are grateful for every contribution.

To make giving easier, we offer several options for recurring donations, including our online portal with Vanco, BillPay from your bank directly to Holy Cross, and more recently PayPal and Venmo. If you have any questions or run into issues with any of these giving methods please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

In the coming weeks, please keep an eye out for our *Time and Talents* survey. This will give you a chance to tell us more about your skills and interests while also learning about the various ways you can serve our community. We hope everyone will take a few minutes to complete it — your time and talents truly make Holy Cross what it is.



We are still seeking two dedicated individuals to fill open roles on the church council: **Personnel Chair** and **Stewardship Chair**. These are vital positions, and I ask that you prayerfully consider whether you might be called to serve in one of these roles.

Finally, I want to reflect on a remarkable blessing in our life together: **Jeremy's twenty years of service** to Holy Cross.



From Music Director to his current role as Director of Music and Liturgy, Jeremy has not only led our music ministry with incredible talent and heart, he has touched nearly every aspect of our community life. During this interim period without a pastor, Jeremy has been a steady rock and spiritual leader and administrator, guiding us with grace and faith.

While we celebrated him during Music Sunday in June, it was hardly enough time to truly honor the many ways Jeremy enriches our church and each of us personally. Many have found their home at Holy Cross because of the welcoming spirit and excellence Jeremy brings to worship and beyond. Watching him grow as a musician and leader over the last two decades has been an inspiration, and I look forward with joy to the years ahead.

With gratitude and peace,  
Mark Roe

## **FELLOWSHIP** **Generosity and Joy**

**Music Sunday, June 15th, 2025** – we had a beautiful service celebrating **Jeremy Shoop's** favorite music - who knew you could gallop through so many of his hymns in such a short period of time – AND celebrating his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary here at Holy Cross! Thank you, Jeremy, for creating such a wonderful service and for being the big constant at Holy Cross for 20 years!

After the service, there was a groaning board of delicious food awaiting people for The Jeremy-and-Music-Sunday luncheon. 76 people enjoyed good food and fellowship including Jeremy's parents, **Paul and Joan Shoop** who came down from New York to celebrate with Jeremy. Thank you to all who provided the food – it was delicious!

**Rob Coffman** provided the emcee duties roasting Jeremy very nicely and accurately. Jeremy then received several gifts: **Kathy Makowski** presented a thank-you gift from both choirs, **Cara Papenheim** presented a monetary gift from the congregation, **Denise Robinson** presented a beautiful quilt from the Quilting group (made from material donated by **Craig Reichow** from **Jill's** vast stash), and **Anne Geiger** presented an electronic picture frame from the congregation with 20 years of Holy Cross photos from many current / former church members and compiled by **Joe Makowski**.

Also, a big thank you to **Andrew Barden, Rick and Nancy Jones, Bryan Petersen, and Craig & Pat Swanson** for setting up the Fellowship Hall on Saturday.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup> Community Block Party** - Holy Cross's annual 4th of July Music, Ice Cream and Fireworks event is ON again from 6pm-10pm at Holy Cross. Come play games, listen to good music presented by **Jeremy Shoop**, and eat food from a **yet-to-be-named** food truck and **Capital Chill** ice cream truck!

Oh, and there are  **FIREWORKS** supplied by the Town of Herndon at 9pm.

- **NOTE:** I need 1-2 people to help with security since the event continues to grow each year 😊 – see Anne Geiger to learn more about this very, **VERY** this important job of getting everyone into and out of the property safely.

### **Two jokes for 2 months:**

#1: What do you call a snowman in July?  
A puddle.

#2: What do you call a lazy summer day after Labor Day?  
A memory.

**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



## **BIBLE RIDDLE**

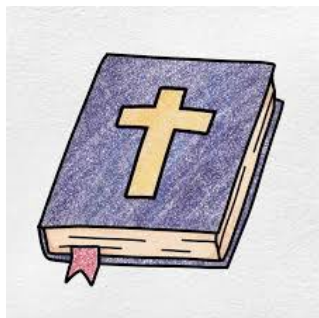
This riddle was sent to Gene Bain during his recovery by Anne Geiger. We thought it would be fun to include it here for everyone. Thanks, Anne!

### **Can You Find 16 Books of the Bible?**

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you, yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax, now for there are really sixteen names of books of the bible in this story.

(One preacher found 15 books in 20 minutes—but it took him 3 weeks to find the sixteenth one.)

Submitted by: Betty Quinn



## OUTREACH

On June 22, HCLC celebrated our Outreach Ministries by focusing the service on the wonderful ways members manifest “rooted in faith, growing in spirit.” Over the past year, every member contributed in some way to these ministries, and the Outreach Committee is thankful for all the gifts from our HCLC members.



**The Closet:** Rita Hacker for being the HCLC liaison; Anne Geiger, Jared Lem and others for volunteering at The Closet. Please call Rita directly if you would like to volunteer.

**English language learners (ELL):** Ellen Atwell, Chip Edwards, and Suzanne Baggett for the 2024-2025 school season education.

**Quilters:** Denise Robinson, Ann Geiger, Oliver Nelson, Evan Nelson, Kathy Makowski, and others who quilted, knotted, and donated fabric.

**Lunch for the Soul (LFTS):** Vivian Jefferson for providing the *Perfect Potluck* link for the meal sign up. Beverly Siecker for her weekly service and connection to the other LFTS houses of faith. Anne Geiger, Pam Mitcham, Jo Roe, Katy and Gene Bain, Ellen Atwell, Cheryl Smith, Jeremy Shoop, Sarah Schulmeyer, Marie Edwards Nelson, Carol Petersen, and Dick Smullen plus many others who donated food, set up, served, and cleaned up.



**LINK (Against Hunger):** Thanks to Joy Heuer for serving in several capacities for other organizations that connect HCLC to the local community. Joy's leadership at LINK has been a key factor in assuring that HCLC contributes to this important local food pantry. Additionally, Vivian Jefferson, Rachel Williams, and Joy regularly work at the food pantry. Gary Wolfe and Dick Krapf deliver food to LINK customers. Thank you to Jared Lem, Nancy LaFalce, Dick Krapf, the Gist family, Cathy Pfisterer, and Brian Virnelson for transporting the donated products to the LINK pantry. Embry Rucker is also an organization that is a benefactor of food donations and thanks to everyone for donations and transport to the shelter.

**Day of Service (MLK):** HCLC partnered with Herndon Women's Club to make donated products for several worthy organizations. A busy group gathered in Feb by Joy Heuer and Helen Wolfe along with the Herndon Women's Club members; HCLC members: Nan and Jared Lem; Cecilia Howard; Beverly Siecker; Anne Geiger; Vivian Jefferson; Lois Ireland; Lynn Russo made the donated crafts/kits. Many HCLC members donated towels, clippers, combs, soap, and toothbrushes that are the components of the personal care kits. Anne and Roy Geiger drove the 200 care kits to the Lutheran World Relief donation center in Maryland.

**Peace Awards:** Thanks to Vivian Jefferson for keeping HCLC connected to this important and inspirational program for youth. Thank you also for representing HCLC at the ceremony.

**Beer and Carols:** Thanks soooo much to Jeremy Shoop and Bryan Trayers for coordinating and performing during the Beer and Carols outreach night at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern. Sylvia Moran and Nan Lem are an amazing motivational ticket sales persons and engaged the crowd in the fun. Lots of HCLC members attended and added to the energy that raised money for the Synod Pastoral Fund.

## Looking ahead:

Volunteer sign up links accessed on the [www.holycrossherndon.org](http://www.holycrossherndon.org) home page/Current links

*Rooted in Faith, Growing in Service*

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

[Herndon, Virginia](#)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
stephen MINISTRY

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Current Links

*Join us on Sundays at 10:00 am*

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### Current Links

*Sign Up!*

#### Quick Links

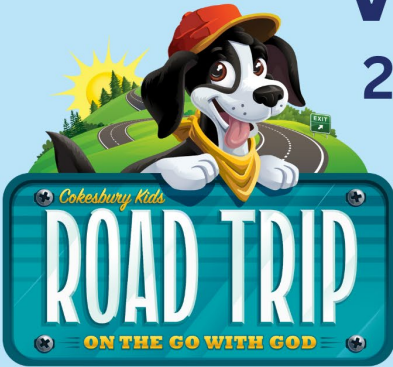
- [Lunch for the Soul](#)
- [New Members-Only Facebook Group](#)
- [Sanctuary Flowers](#)
- [Serving in Worship](#)
- [Music Program Links](#)
- [ELL](#)
- [Deliver HCLC Food Donations to LINK/Embry Rucker](#)

*More information below!*

In addition to ELL, LFTS, The Closet, and Quilters, below are the seasonal outreach initiatives. Details regarding each of these activities to follow in Quest newsletters, email blasts, and church announcements include:

- Aug: School Supply drive for Herndon Middle School
- Sept: Rally Day
- Nov: LINK Toy drive
- Dec. 16: Beer and Carols LFTS Christmas devotional service
- Dec 17: LFTS Christmas devotional service & ELL Christmas party.
- Jan 2026: MLK Day of service.

Submitted by Tonya Elliott



**VBS**  
**2025**



**INTERGENERATIONAL VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL**

**July 20-24 (Sun-Thu) from 6-8PM**

**FOR KIDS & ADULTS!!!**

**EAT, SING, PRAY & REJOICE!**

**EVERYONE enjoys a PROVIDED DINNER and  
EXPERIENCES OPENING!!**

**KIDS learn 5 Bible Stories, each with its own  
Crafts, Games, Science & Songs.  
ADULTS participate in a TBD Faith  
Presentation + Q & A.**



## **How does Holy Cross serve our community through English Classes? (ELL)**

Imagine, if you can, that you have left a home, your family, a country and a culture you have always known to start a new life.

Maybe you left for a better, safer life for your children.

Maybe you left because your country is embroiled in war.

Maybe you left because you wanted to escape the cycle of poverty and lack of opportunity that was all you could see in your family's future.

The United States offers that hope and opportunity to you but there's one giant stumbling block—your first language is Spanish, Farsi, or Arabic, French, or Russian, or Mandarin, or Vietnamese or any one of dozens of other languages of the world. **And if you have any hope of succeeding you have to learn English.**

In 2002, after Northern Virginia Family Services discontinued their English classes offered at Holy Cross, several church members decided to start our own program.

**In its twenty-three (23!) years, our English classes have served hundreds of students.**

They have improved their **job prospects**, some have **become citizens (over 30)**, some have been able **to move on to more education.**

But it is not just the students who benefit. Because their prospects have improved, their children benefit from their mothers and fathers improved opportunities. Because the family is more comfortable in their new world, they can be active participants in the children's schools and the larger community instead of isolated strangers.

Thank you for your continued support. With more resources and teaching tools, our teachers can expand the way students learn. We have accomplished much; with your help we can always do so much more.

Your Ell Team,  
Dayna, Suzanne, Chip and Ellen

## **STEPHEN MINISTRY**



The Stephen Ministry will begin it's second training, which will start Sunday, July 20, 2025!

It's hard to believe we have already been working with this ministry since 2022 when the idea was pursued to implement this caring ministry within Holy Cross. Our first training was offered in January, 2024 with 5 trained Stephen Ministers as the result! Since then we have met with three individuals who have desired to have this caring ministry as a support to enhance their lives each week. Additionally, upon certification, we continue to meet once a month for continued education and support.

As you may know, Joe Baggett, was one of our beloved Stephen Ministers. He was a joy to interact with, always challenging us to look at both (pro & con) sides of what we were studying or discussing, (the attorney in him) and causing us to laugh along the way. It was a journey of delight in knowing him, and I can say with absolute certainty that we will all miss him. His tenacity, dedication and kind caring will be remembered by us for eternity. It was an honor for us to work with him.

If you are interested in becoming a **Stephen Minister**, or 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](mailto:tallulah925@gmail.com) or (307) 399-6461 (call or text) or the church office: [admin@holycrossherndon.org](mailto:admin@holycrossherndon.org)

Sarah Schulmeyer,  
Coordinator

## STEWARDSHIP



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.

You can bring your offering with you to worship service at 10 am, or use one of our many alternative giving options:

### **Online/Mobile**

Set up a one-time or recurring donation through **Vanco**, our secure giving platform, through one of the following options:

- Go directly to [secure.myvanco.com/YH77](https://secure.myvanco.com/YH77) or click the "Donate" tab on our website
- Download the free Vanco app found on the App Store and Google Play. Within the app, search for "Holy Cross Herndon" or use invite code 24A7NT
- Scan the QR code to the right



Send a donation directly to our **PayPal** account through one of the following options:

- Go directly to [paypal.com/ncp/payment/ZV5VDVMH4NLR5](https://paypal.com/ncp/payment/ZV5VDVMH4NLR5)
- Scan the QR code to the right



### **Through your bank**

- Use **BillPay** with your bank or credit union to set up single or recurring check donations to the church

### **By Mail**

- Mail a check to the church at:  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
1090 Sterling Rd.  
Herndon, VA 20170