



NEW BEGINNINGS

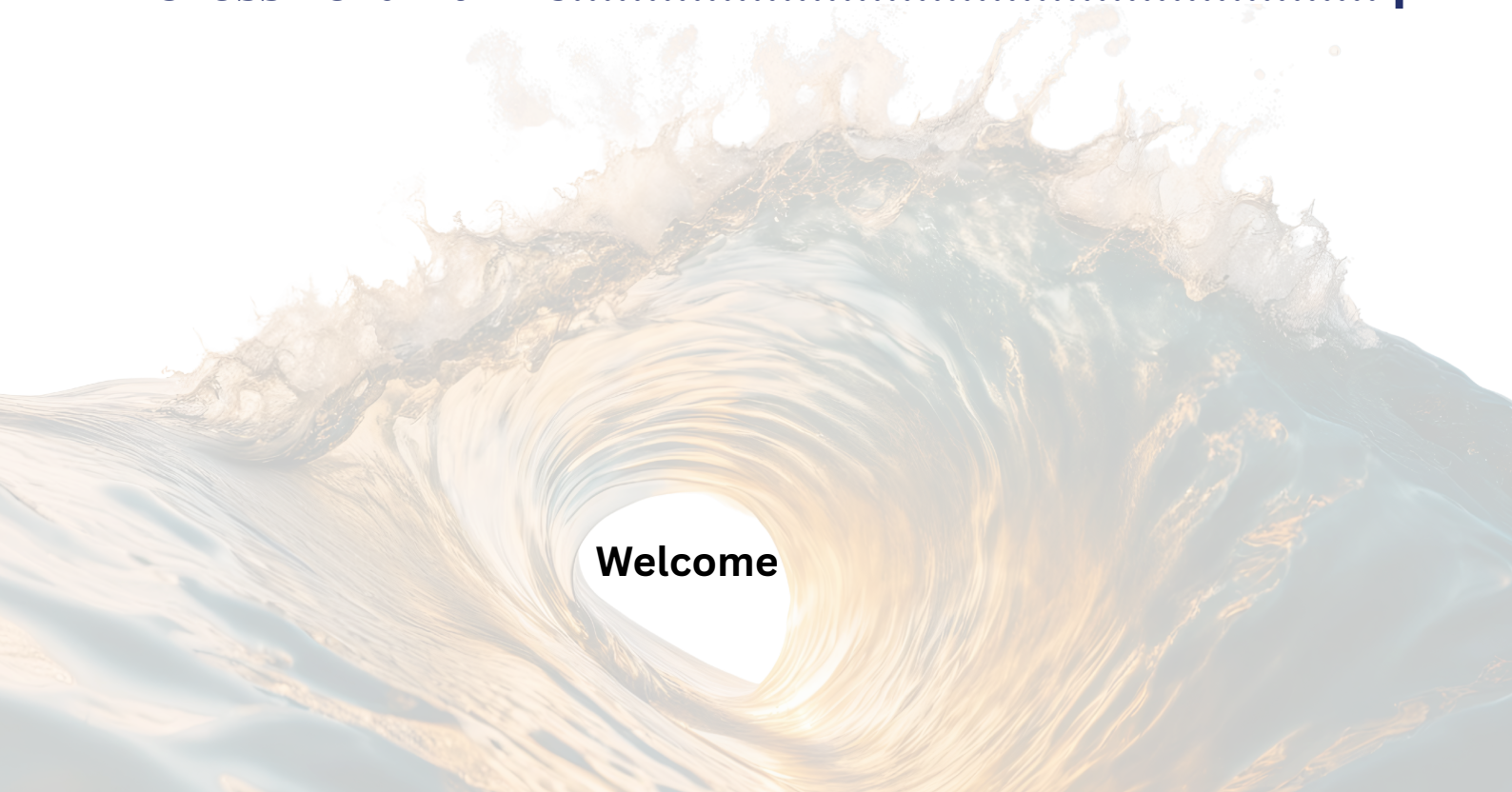
JULY THE QUEST

**Rooted in Faith,
Growing in
Service.**



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Welcome

*June
Crossword Winner!*
**Congratulations
Lauren Gist!**

We are so grateful for Lauren and her family! Lauren faithfully volunteers with our English Language Learners program every Wednesday evening and generously shares her talents by creating graphics and designs for many church projects. This spring, she was instrumental in helping organize and track our March Madness Hymns competition. Her willingness to serve in so many ways is a tremendous blessing to our congregation. And we can't forget **Devon** and **Remi**, who are wonderful supporters and valued members of our church family as well!

Thank you, Lauren, Devon, and Remi, for all you do for Holy Cross! 😊

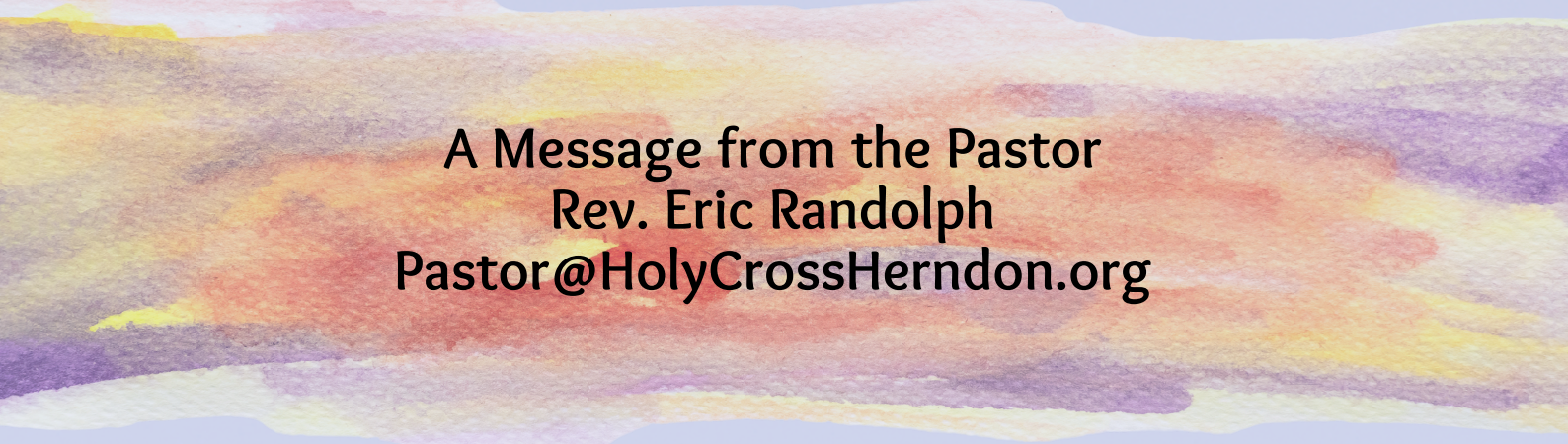
**Don't Miss the July Crossword Puzzle for
TWO Free Tickets to:**

The Escape Room

A special thank you to Omer Aru for your support!



Check It Out At:
<https://www.escaperoomherndon.com>



A Message from the Pastor
Rev. Eric Randolph
Pastor@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Living Boldly Between Two Kingdoms

As a pastor, I discover myself walking more with folks who are trying to make sense of their faith in our world that is both beautiful and broken. One of the wonderful gifts of our Lutheran tradition is the teaching known as the “Two Kingdoms” doctrine. It helps us see how God works in the church and the world and how we, as Jesus' followers, should live in both.

Martin Luther taught that God rules the world in two distinct but related ways. In the spiritual kingdom (sometimes called the “right hand”), God reigns through the Gospel, the Word, and the sacraments. These are the means of grace that bring forgiveness, faith, and new life.



**Gospel
Word
Sacraments**



**Order
Justice
Peace**

In the temporal kingdom (the “left hand”), God works through law, reason, and civil authority to maintain order, justice, and peace. Luther believed it was important to teach this doctrine, so people came to understand that one produces righteousness, while the other brings about peace and prevents disorder.

The Two Kingdoms doctrine was not unknown to our nation's founders; the doctrine influenced their understanding of the separation of church and state. The church is called to proclaim Christ and nurture faith, and the state is tasked with upholding justice and protecting the vulnerable. Each, then, has its own God-given role, and neither should try to do the other's job. Luther also saw that these two kingdoms remind us to ***obey God in all we do.***

Rise to the Challenge: Speaking Truth to Power when necessary.

Luther's own life exemplifies the tension of living between two kingdoms and the importance of all Christians rising to the challenge of speaking truth to power when necessary. That kind of boldness is in the DNA of our faith tradition. Luther did not shy away from challenging religious and political authorities when he thought the Gospel was at stake.

In 1517 he penned his 95 Theses, criticizing the church's sale of indulgences and raising awareness of the corruption within the church. Later, in 1521, he stood before Emperor Charles V and the princes of the Holy Roman Empire and was ordered to recant his teachings. In that moment, he risked his life for the sake of the Gospel by telling the left hand how the Gospel prevented him from recanting anything.

His courage is a reminder that faith sometimes means taking a stand, even when it is costly and inconvenient. Luther's courage was rooted in the example of Jesus. In the Gospels we see example after example of Jesus speaking truth to those in power—not with anger or violence but with clarity, compassion, and an enduring commitment to the kingdom of God. Perhaps the best-known example from the life of Jesus is when he entered the Temple courtyard and overturned the tables of the money changers, calling attention to their abuse of religious authority and their exploitation of the vulnerable. Another example, he called Herod “that fox” to highlight his cunning and the corruption of political leaders. But the boldest and most costly example was when he stood before Pontius Pilate and said, “My kingdom is not of this world!”

The call to speak truth to power did not end with Jesus or even Luther. It is a living challenge for all of us, not just bishops, pastors, or deacons. Every follower of Jesus Christ is called to speak out when the ways of leaders and governments run contrary to the Gospel's call for justice, mercy, and love. In those moments, we are called not to silence but to a bold, living witness.

This is not simple. It is uncomfortable and it comes with risks. It requires humility, prayer, and a deep trust in God. But it is also an invitation to be part of God's work of healing and hope in our beautiful and broken world.

We are called to Advocate for ~All People~

The ELCA strives to live out the Two Kingdoms doctrine by engaging faithfully in public life. We do not seek to impose a theocracy, nor do we believe the church should stay silent on matters of justice and the common good. Instead, we are called to advocate for justice, peace and the dignity of all people with humility and always with love.

Our social statements and public witness are grounded in the conviction that God cares deeply about the world and calls us to serve our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable. As a denomination, we advocate for the unheard, challenge injustice, and honor the humanity of all, regardless of political position.



**Dignity
with
Humility**

Living between two kingdoms is not about withdrawing from the world or seeking power for ourselves. It is about following Jesus! It's about Jesus who loved and served and spoke the truth, even when it was hard. It's about listening for God's call in our time and trusting that the Spirit will give us courage and wisdom for the journey. Therefore, like Luther, may we let our conscience be captive to the Word of God and, like Jesus, speak truth with love. At our core, Lutherans want to be a community of hope, justice, and compassion for all.

Gracious God,

you have called us to be your people in this world,
to love our neighbors and to be seekers of justice.

Grant us courage to speak truth in love,
wisdom to discern your will,
and humility to serve as Jesus served.

Strengthen us to be bold and gentle in our witness to
your Gospel,

trusting that your kingdom is coming,
on earth as it is in heaven.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

In the heart of Jesus,
Pastor Eric+

**A Message from Director
of Music and Liturgy, Jeremy Shoop
Musicdir@HolyCrossHerndon.org**

**On Sunday, July 5th,
as our country marks
the 250th
anniversary of the
United States, our
worship will include
prayers asking God's
blessing, guidance,
mercy, and peace for
our nation.**



Our worship will not be a celebration of country above God, but a faithful act of prayer: giving thanks for the blessings we have received, confessing the ways we still fall short of justice and peace, and asking God to shape us into people who love our neighbors, seek the common good, and work for a nation where all people may flourish. In that spirit, our hymns on July 5 will draw from the rich tradition of hymn singing in America. Hymn texts and tunes by American writers and composers and hymns that have become deeply woven into American public life.

“Blessed Assurance”

“Blessed Assurance” is one of the best-loved hymn texts by Fanny J. Crosby, one of America’s most prolific hymn writers. Crosby, who was blind from infancy, wrote thousands of hymns during her lifetime. The story goes that her friend,, Phoebe Knapp, played a new melody for her and asked, “What does this tune say?” Crosby answered almost immediately: “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!” That first line became the doorway into a hymn of confidence, joy, and testimony. The text and tune were quickly written and composed by Crosby and Knapp. Its refrain, “This is my story, this is my song,” reminds us that faith is not only something we believe privately, but something we sing together as a community.

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” comes from the American revival tradition of the late nineteenth century. Written by Will L. Thompson, it became one of the great invitation hymns of American Christianity. Thompson was both a composer and publisher, and when other publishers rejected some of his early songs, he started his own music company. The hymn’s gentle refrain, “Come home, come home,” has spoken to generations of people who needed to hear not a harsh command, but a tender call. On a weekend when our nation remembers its history, this hymn reminds us that God is always calling us home: home to mercy, home to compassion, home to the way of Christ.

“It is Well with My Soul”

“It Is Well with My Soul” carries one of the most powerful stories in hymnody. Horatio Spafford, a Chicago lawyer, suffered devastating losses. His family experienced financial ruin after the Great Chicago Fire, and not long after, his four daughters died when the ship carrying them across the Atlantic sank. As Spafford later traveled across the ocean near the place where his daughters had died, he wrote the words, “When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll...” This hymn does not pretend that faith makes grief disappear. Instead, it gives voice to a deeper peace that can hold us even when life is full of sorrow. It is a hymn for individuals, families, congregations, and nations that need courage to keep trusting God through pain.

“The Battle Hymn of the Republic”

“The Battle Hymn of the Republic” is one of the most recognizable hymns in American history. Julia Ward Howe wrote the text during the Civil War after hearing Union soldiers singing “John Brown’s Body.” Her new words were published in 1862 and quickly became associated with the Union cause and the struggle against slavery. The hymn’s imagery is dramatic, even fierce, and it must be sung thoughtfully. At its best, it calls us not to national pride for its own sake, but to moral accountability: the hope that truth, justice, and liberation will “go marching on.” As we mark 250 years as a country, this hymn reminds us that love of nation must never be separated from the pursuit of justice.

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save” is often called “The Navy Hymn.” Though written in England, it has become deeply beloved in the United States, especially in services connected with the Navy, Coast Guard, military service, and national remembrance. William Whiting wrote the text with the dangers of the sea in mind, drawing on the biblical image of God’s power over the waters. The tune, MELITA, was written by John Bacchus Dykes and takes its name from Malta, the island associated with Paul’s shipwreck in Acts. In American worship, this hymn has often been sung when the nation prays for those in danger, those who serve, and those who travel by land, sea, and air. Its repeated plea, “O hear us when we cry to thee,” is a fitting prayer for a nation always in need of God’s protection and peace.

“Shall We Gather at the River”

“Shall We Gather at the River” was written by American Baptist pastor and hymn writer Robert Lowry in 1864. Lowry was serving a congregation in Brooklyn during a miserably hot summer, physically exhausted and weighed down by the sorrows around him. As he rested, his imagination turned to the river of life described in Revelation, and he began to picture God’s people gathered on that beautiful, healing shore. Unlike hymns that imagine the river only as a boundary of death, this hymn looks toward the river of life, where God’s people are gathered in hope. It is a hymn of reunion, promise, and holy imagination.

Hymn singing has always been one of the great traditions of American public life. In moments of joy and sorrow, crisis and remembrance, Americans have often turned to hymns when ordinary speech was not enough. “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” has been sung at national memorial services and presidential funerals. “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” has been heard at services remembering presidents, sailors, and those who served in war. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, hymns and spiritual songs helped carry the grief of a wounded nation. In 2015, after the murder of nine worshipers at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, President Obama led mourners in singing “Amazing Grace,” and a grieving country heard again the power of faith sung aloud. On July 5, we add our voices to that long tradition. Not singing because our nation is perfect, but singing because God is faithful; not singing to avoid hard truths, but singing so that hope, mercy, justice, and peace may take deeper root among us.

All Shall be Amen and Alleluia!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy

**A Message from
Council President Cara Papenheim
President@HolyCrossHerndon.org**

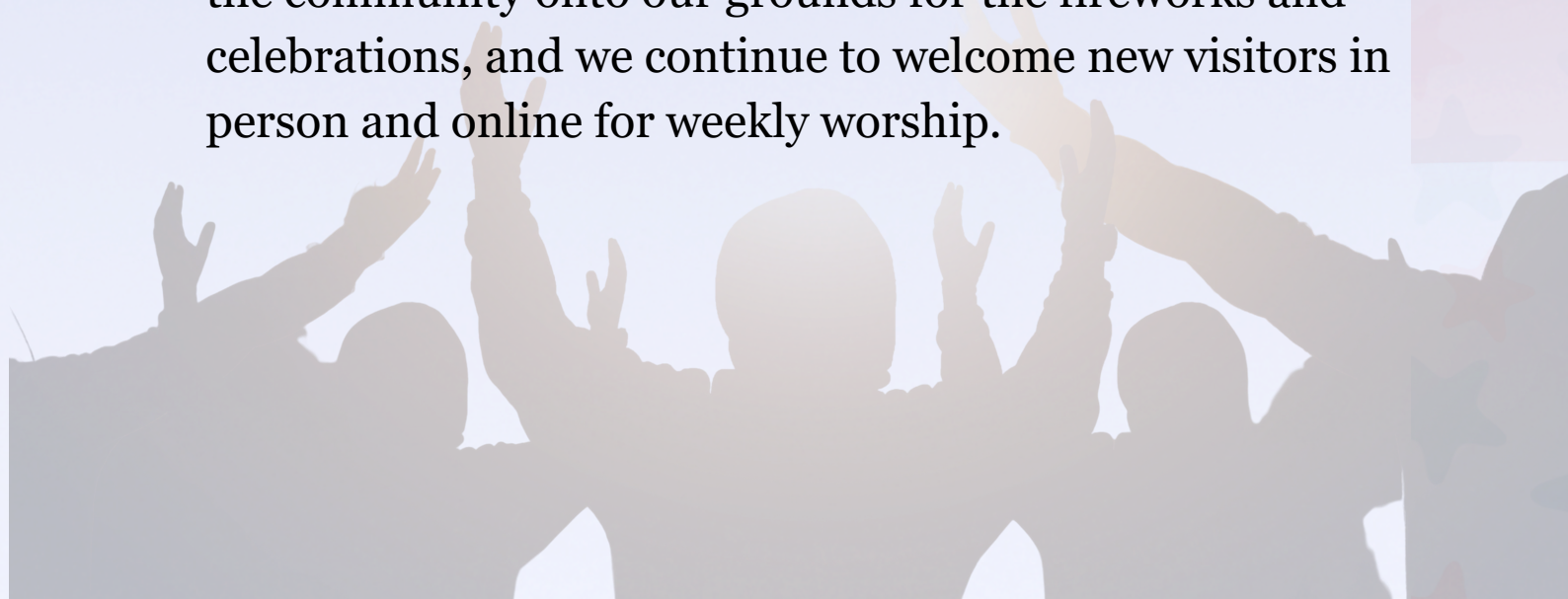
Dear Holy Cross Fam,

I think it's fair to begin this article with the disclaimer that I am fully aware of the irony of what I am about to say. I recently found myself in the unfortunate circumstance of attending funeral services at multiple places recently and it turns out, I've become a church snob. It's not just about the physical building; although our padded pews, massive pipe organ, vaulted sanctuary, newly appointed restrooms and functioning HVAC system are all very nice. In a lesser way it's about the liturgy, I mean, liturgy is liturgy, right? For me, in a large way it's about the music; utilizing a room and instrument to its fullest potential, understanding the pitch and speed a congregation can handle, knowing your audience. In my pettiest of ways, it's about the bulletin, does anyone realize how spoiled we really are? But in the most important way, it's about the message, not just the Pastor who delivers it, but the way the congregation lives it. Okay, here comes the irony: our welcome message is better than theirs.



Being that it's July, and America has a big birthday, and the World Cup is here, and without getting political, in some ways our entire country is living their own version of church snobbery: our welcome message has always been better than theirs. Or, at the very least, our country has a welcome message. In past years I've drawn parallels between the HCLC welcome message and the Declaration of Independence. This year however, I think it's important to recognize something even bigger (I mean, it is 250, right?). It can't just be about inclusivity and diversity through words, our country is based on these principles through action, and always has been. We have rights that our Lord and Savior did not; we can speak freely without fear of retribution. We can share information, beliefs and desires, and those who share (or don't) those things can equally join the movement, religion or protest. We can agree to disagree, and we have the freedom to be patriotic, pious and proffering all at the same time.

The first week of July will be a welcoming one, and an opportunity to show off how great HCLC really is. We welcome Pastor Eric as our new shepherd, we welcome the community onto our grounds for the fireworks and celebrations, and we continue to welcome new visitors in person and online for weekly worship.



I plan to indulge in my church snobbery, appreciate the freedoms we have, be open and excited about potential new faces in our building and maintain the faith and welcome we all share, and I encourage you all to do the same. Consider how you can continue to support all the amazing things our church has to offer and take action. Whoever you are, wherever you are, whatever your life circumstances or experiences, you are safe and you are welcome here.

With Peace and patriotism,
Cara Papenheim

A Message from Fellowship
Beverly Siecker
FellowshipChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org



Welcome to Lazy, Hazy Days of Summer.



**Things at Holy Cross
Lutheran Church are
heating up with
activity!**

Music Sunday on June 14, 2026 was a wonderful service full of joyful music. Sanctuary Choir, Joyful Ringers, Matthew Andersen and his guitar, with added piano and keyboard added to Jeremy's organ - what a collection of talent! Over 50 people stayed to continue the celebration in the Fellowship Hall with a potluck lunch. An abundance of dishes made sure no one could possibly go home hungry.

Many thanks to all who shared their favorite dish/dessert and to Anne Geiger for coordinating everything. Not to be forgotten - those who stayed to help clean up afterward. As always, the church volunteers are there when needed.

Father's Day on June 21, 2026 was a time to celebrate all the men at the service. Even if you aren't a father, at some point you have served as a father figure to someone (teacher, relative, neighbor) and all deserve to be appreciated.

During the Listening with Children's Ears session, Kathy Makowski had the children hand out pens to all the men. I kept my word - no ties! Pens are much more useful.



The HUGS group took the month off and will meet again Sunday July 12 2026 in the conference room after the service. Feel free to stop by and sit with us if you'd like to check out the group, or if you need a hug to help you through the day for whatever reason. Hugs are free!



July:

Saturday, July 4, 2026 -Our Community Block Party will once again be held with music, games, food, fellowship and the best view for the fireworks. Hope to see you there.

Sunday, July 5, 2026 - Following Pastor Eric's first service with us, please join everyone in the Fellowship Hall for some light fare, and get to chat with Pastor Eric and welcome him.

August

Saturday, August 22, 2026 - The Installation service for Pastor Eric will be followed by food and desserts in the Fellowship Hall. Definitely a day to celebrate.

September

Sunday, September 13, will be celebrated with a cook out and pot luck luncheon. Always a fun time.

Some Relevant Church Signs:



As always, every Sunday before and after the service, you are invited to come to Fellowship Hall for coffee, tea, juice, or water along with fruit and snacks. Take some time to chat with others. Feeling adventurous, a LWR quilt is available to work on and complete. No experience necessary.

Beverly Siecker
Fellowship Chair

A Message from Outreach
Tonya Elliot
FellowshipChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Summer Outreach Activities

July:

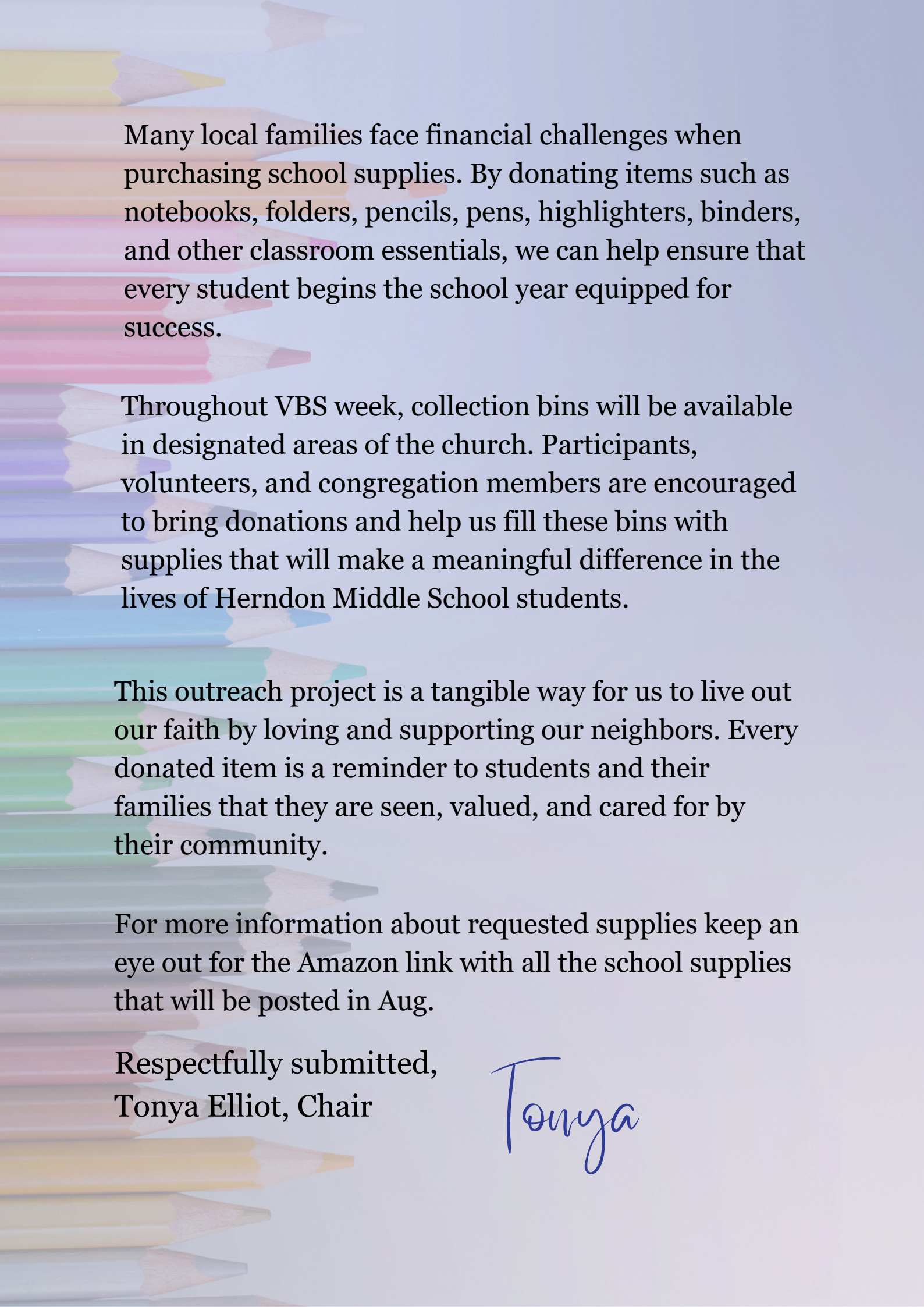
HCLC is hosting the monthly LINK food distribution on July 25. There are several volunteer opportunities on Friday, July 24 and Saturday, July 25 for sorting and loading the donations. Please visit the LINK against hunger website, select "volunteer" the "food distribution" and July 25.

Here is the short cut:



August:

This summer, our church is excited to partner with Herndon Middle School through a School Supply Drive taking place during Vacation Bible School (VBS) August 10 - 14. As families gather for a week of faith, fun, and fellowship, we also have a wonderful opportunity to serve students in our community who may need extra support as they prepare for the new school year.

A decorative background featuring a stack of sharpened colored pencils in various colors (yellow, orange, pink, purple, blue, green, grey) arranged diagonally from the top left towards the bottom right. The pencils are layered, with some tips pointing towards the viewer and others receding into the background.

Many local families face financial challenges when purchasing school supplies. By donating items such as notebooks, folders, pencils, pens, highlighters, binders, and other classroom essentials, we can help ensure that every student begins the school year equipped for success.

Throughout VBS week, collection bins will be available in designated areas of the church. Participants, volunteers, and congregation members are encouraged to bring donations and help us fill these bins with supplies that will make a meaningful difference in the lives of Herndon Middle School students.

This outreach project is a tangible way for us to live out our faith by loving and supporting our neighbors. Every donated item is a reminder to students and their families that they are seen, valued, and cared for by their community.

For more information about requested supplies keep an eye out for the Amazon link with all the school supplies that will be posted in Aug.

Respectfully submitted,
Tonya Elliot, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonya". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T' and a trailing flourish at the end.

Tonya

A Message from Property
Pierre Huggins
PropertyChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Greetings,

**Our efforts recently have been on
welcoming our new Pastor, Eric!**

The office was given a thorough cleaning and painting, by Mike and Virginia Muller. They also did some very handy work in hiding electrical cords in the narthex, and that included reworking drywall and painting. Such good work often goes unappreciated, since it ends up looking so neat and clean.

**“Wow, we are
blessed to get
such
contributions
to the
property!”**



We had several days where we worked on cleaning the exterior of the property. The roof was cleared of leaf debris, so there would be minimal standing water. Still, there are low spots. I would love to see a wanna-be roboticist come up with a machine to suck the last low spots of water and send it down the drain. We have the technology! Please pray for answers to this. These are some of the best ways to have prayers answered. (“I am thinking that the local universities could help.”)



Vision: Balancing Function, Safety & Beauty



Sharing a vision for renovating the rear portion of the church property.

Several years ago, we undertook a major cleanup and removed the trees growing between the stockade fence and the roof. While this improved the area, it also eliminated a natural barrier that helped divert water away from the building.

We have already experienced one instance of water entering the building due to water funneling into a low spot next to the wall, between a tree root and the window well. While we could reduce future risk by installing a sump system inside and drainage pipes outside the wall, I propose an alternative long-term solution: regrading the area after removing the fence so water can flow naturally away from the building.

Vision Balancing Function, Safety & Beauty



Renovation Addresses Function:

- Water management: the core issue—the removal of the trees also removed a natural barrier and absorption system, leaving water to collect near the building foundation. Regrading to direct water away from the wall sounds like a proactive long-term solution, rather than only treating symptoms with pumps or drains.
- Building protection: the funnel forming between the tree root and window well is important. Preventing future water intrusion protects not just the structure, but also avoids costly repairs.



It would:

- This is a vision - and a prayer - I wanted to share.**

Vision Project: Parking Lot



Feedback Needed:

Finally, I'd love to hear your thoughts about the parking lot.

It is in need of significant attention, including crack filling, resurfacing low spots, and repairing areas that have broken apart. We would want high-quality repairs at a fair price. I have looked into renting a crack-filling machine but haven't had any luck finding one available. If I could, I would be willing to handle the crack filling myself. Purchasing a machine is also a possibility, as they are not overly expensive (under \$5,000). Of course, some areas may require more substantial repairs.



I would appreciate your prayers and any ideas you may have for improving our parking lot. In my vision for the space, I would love to eventually finish it with modern acrylic murals that could last for years and add beauty to the property.



Thank you again, for taking time to review these visions for our property. Your support in enhancing our church property for lasting functionality, safety, and beauty is deeply valued.

A special thank you to all who participate in Property Days to help care for and improve the property God has entrusted to us.

Respectfully submitted,
Pierre Huggins



Loving Our Neighbors Through Lutheran World Relief

Several years ago, a mother fleeing violence arrived in Ecuador with her children and little more than the clothes they were wearing. Like so many parents around the world, she wasn't asking for wealth or comfort. She simply wanted her children to be safe, fed, and able to attend school. Through local partners, Lutheran World Relief was able to provide assistance that helped her family begin rebuilding their lives and finding hope for the future.

**Stories like hers
remind us why
Lutheran World
Relief exists.**



First, thank you. Through the years, your congregation has partnered with Lutheran World Relief in caring for neighbors both in the United States and around the world. Whether through quilts and kits, prayers, financial gifts, or simply sharing awareness of the needs facing our neighbors, you have been part of a ministry that reflects Christ's love in tangible ways.

Many people know Lutheran World Relief through quilts and kits. These gifts remain a vital part of our ministry. A quilt may seem simple, but for a family recovering from a disaster, living in a refugee camp, or starting over after losing everything, it is much more than fabric and thread. It is a reminder that someone cares. It says, "You are seen. You matter. You are not alone."

Yet quilts and kits are only one part of our work.



Today, Lutheran World Relief
focuses on three primary
areas of ministry:

Quilts and Kits

Churches across the United States create quilts and assemble school kits, personal care kits, baby care kits, and fabric kits that are distributed to people facing disasters and hardship. These gifts provide comfort, dignity, and hope during difficult times.

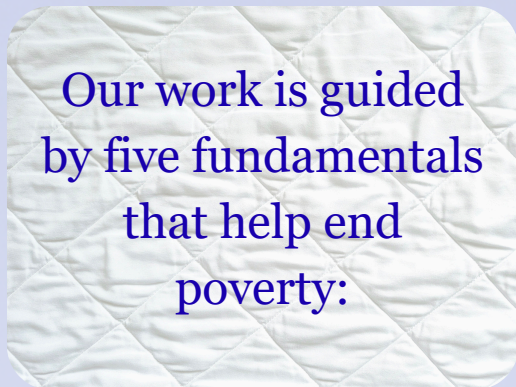
Emergency Humanitarian Response

When hurricanes, floods, wildfires, earthquakes, conflict, or displacement occur, Lutheran World Relief responds through trusted local partners. We provide emergency assistance including food, clean water, shelter, hygiene supplies, and support for recovery.

Our work extends both internationally and here in the United States. Following disasters, we help communities begin the long process of rebuilding and healing.

Sustainable Development

While emergency assistance is important, Lutheran World Relief also works to address the root causes of poverty. We believe lasting change happens when communities have the tools and opportunities they need to thrive.



- ♥ Place: Safe homes, clean water, and resilient communities.
- ♥ Nutrition: Access to healthy food and sustainable agriculture.
- ♥ Health: Healthcare, sanitation, and disease prevention.
- ♥ Knowledge: Education, training, and opportunity.
- ♥ Income: The ability to earn a living and support a family.

When these five fundamentals are strengthened together, communities move from simply surviving to thriving.

In East Africa, farmers are learning climate-smart agricultural practices that help them adapt to changing weather patterns and produce more food. In Sierra Leone, girls are staying in school through educational support, school meals, and programs that help families overcome barriers to education. These efforts create opportunities that can transform lives for generations.

Lutheran World Relief stays longer. Many organizations provide immediate assistance when disaster strikes, and that work is essential. Lutheran World Relief also remains long after the headlines fade, helping communities rebuild, recover, and create lasting opportunities for the future.



Today, one of our greatest concerns is the growing humanitarian crisis affecting children and families in Lebanon and Ecuador.

In Lebanon, conflict and instability have displaced families and disrupted the lives of countless children. Many are struggling to access food, healthcare, safe shelter, and education.

In Ecuador, families fleeing violence and instability are arriving with few resources and limited support networks. Children are especially vulnerable to hunger, interrupted education, and exploitation.

These are not simply statistics. These are parents wondering how they will feed their children tomorrow. These are children who have lost the safety and stability every child deserves.



Through our Children in Crisis Appeal, Lutheran World Relief is working with trusted local partners to provide emergency assistance while helping families regain stability and hope for the future.

At a time when many of us are witnessing uncertainty in our own communities, Lutheran World Relief reminds us that God's love extends beyond borders and circumstances. Together, we can care for neighbors both nearby and around the world.

As you consider the needs facing children and families in Lebanon and Ecuador, I invite your congregation to prayerfully consider a special gift of **\$2,500 to \$5,000** to Lutheran World Relief's Children in Crisis Appeal.

A gift of any size will make a meaningful difference, but a special gift in this range would help provide urgently needed support to families facing extraordinary challenges and help children access safety, care, education, and hope during a time of crisis.

The need is great, but
so is the compassion
and generosity of
God's people.

Thank you for your partnership
through the years and for the many
ways you continue to love your neighbors both near and far.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Cathry Daharsh
Senior Advisor, Congregational Engagement
Lutheran World Relief



Stephen Ministry



Think of Stephen Ministry training as discipleship in action—50 hours devoted to learning how to share God's love through listening, encouragement, prayer, and one-to-one care.

Just as a compass identifies which direction we need to go depending on whether it is north, south, east or west; so does the Stephen Ministry Compass direct us as we learn the process of compassionate caring in our Stephen Minister training.



Currently, we have three Stephen Ministers who have been serving our congregation since completing their 50 hours of training in 2024: **Chip Edwards, Nannette Lem, Bob Thompson, along with Joe Baggett** completed their training and were installed on Sunday, July 14, 2025.

We give thanks for their faithful care and compassionate presence, as they live out Jesus' love for those going through difficult times. We are deeply grateful for their willingness to walk alongside others with care, kindness, and support in moments when it is most needed.

This past year (2025–2026), **Jo Roe, Beverly Siecker, and Diana Virgo** have committed themselves to caring for people at Holy Cross who may be going through a difficult season, and would benefit from meeting one-on-one with a Stephen Minister. After completing 50 hours of Stephen Ministry training, they will be installed during the service on Sunday, July 12, 2026.

We recognize and congratulate Jo, Beverly, and Diana on this important accomplishment, and on their dedication to this ministry of care. **We give thanks for their willingness to serve, and pray God's blessings on them as they begin this next step in their Stephen Ministry journey.**

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 the church office: admin@holycrossherndon.org

God's peace and joy to you,
Sarah Schulmeyer, Stephen Ministry Coordinator



Enlighten Your World Did You Know?



Did you know you can help feed those without food who live in our vicinity? You can! Sign up to distribute food right outside Holy Cross on July 24 & 25, August 28 & 29 AND September 18 & 19. Help us spread the love! (and the food)



Did you know our ELL program is looking for teachers? You can make a meaningful difference by helping someone learn English. ELL is MORE than just a program—it's a ministry that builds connection, confidence, and community.



The Stephen Ministry has a presence in 30 countries and in 13,945 congregations worldwide!

Micah 6:8 - "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Plug In



For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

Got Questions?

Connect with Pastor Eric for answers and conversation.

Pastor@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Fellowship:

Connect with Beverly Siecker, ***Fellowship Chair*** to serve with:

- July 4th Fireworks - Saturday, July 4th

FellowshipChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Property:

Connect with Pierre Huggins, **Property**, to aid with Property Work Days :

pierre.I.huggins@gmail.com

Worship and Music

Connect with **Jeremy Shoop** to rejoice in Music and Liturgy: **Musicdir@HolyCrossHerndon.org**

Contributions & Offerings

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. Scan code to access.

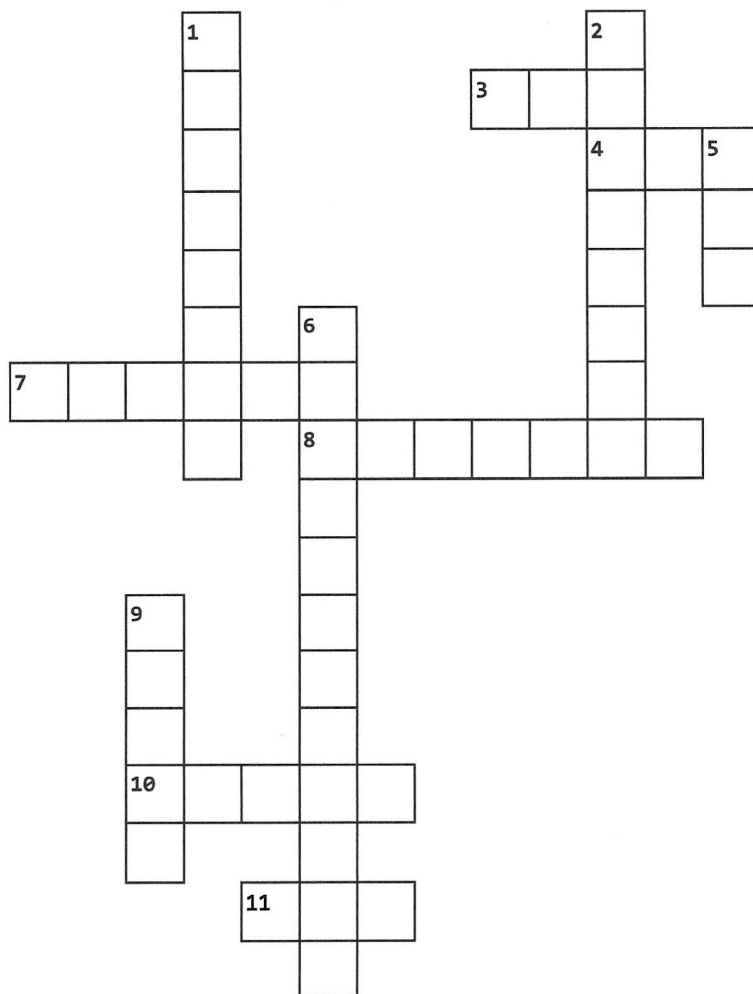


- Send a donation directly to our PayPal account. Scan code to access.



- Through your bank:
Use BillPay with your bank or credit union to set up a single or recurring donations.
- By Mail
Mail a check to the church at:
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1090 Sterling Rd.
Herndon, VA 20170

July Quest Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 3.** Who reigns through the Gospel, the Word and the sacraments.
- 4.** We will have a school supply drive during this summer event.
- 7.** June Crossword Puzzle winner.
- 8.** This type of minister will be installed on Sunday, July 12th
- 10.** what we should speak to power when necessary.
- 11.** The temperature where the person is going who stole the AC units at Calvin Hill Rd. Baptist church.

Down

- 1.** We welcome these in person and online for weekly worship.
- 2.** what we are called to do for all people.
- 5.** The number of hymns that have become deeply woven into American public life.
- 6.** We are doing this for Pastor Eric followed by food and desserts in the Fellowship Hall.
- 9.** sometimes means taking a stand, even when it is costly and inconvenient.