



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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

Let your roots grow
down into Him
Let your lives be built on Him.

Colossians 2:7



September 2025

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**Grow in the grace and
knowledge of our Lord
and Savior, Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory both
now and forever. Amen.**



The deadline for inclusion in the October 2025 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, The Quest, is **Wednesday, September 24, 2025.**
Articles are always gladly accepted earlier!

Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at:
Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org

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

Thank you,
Marie Nelson
Sarah Schulmeyer
Church Administrator

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703-437-1883

Find us online!



www.HolyCrossHerndon.org



facebook.com/HCLCHerndon



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA



Instagram.com/HolyCrossELCA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY

If you can sing a hymn, you can sing in the choir!

It is true! If you can sing a hymn, you can sing in the choir. We could use some more voices in the choir, and we would love to have **YOU!** There are plenty of empty chairs in the choir stall that can be filled.

Don't worry if you travel for work or are gone part of the year for other reasons, we'd still love to have you in the choir.



Don't worry if you don't read music, we'd still love to have you in the choir. There are current choir members who don't read music and thoroughly enjoy singing. The music is all taught in rehearsals and recordings are provided for those who want extra practice at home.

Don't worry if you aren't a member of Holy Cross, we'd still love to have you in the choir. Anyone is welcome to sing with us! Invite your friends and neighbors!

Don't worry if you have children, they can come to rehearsal with you! We've had current members bring their kids to rehearsals in the past. They can sit in the narthex and play or even can hang out in a pew and play games on an iPad. Just make sure you've saved some screen time for them that day. ;-)

Don't worry if you think you are tone deaf, you probably aren't, and we'd love to have you in the choir. Less than 4% of the population is *actually* tone deaf. People just think they are because they haven't learned how to "match pitch." There are plenty of current choir

members who can sit next to you and help you learn how to match their pitch.

If you enjoy singing but think for any reason that you can't sing in the choir, talk to me (MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org) because I'm sure that we can easily figure out a way to get you singing with us.

Singing gets easier the more you do it, so come join the choir!

We rehearse Thursday nights at 7:00 – 8:00 PM.

The choir is an integral part to leading worship. It would be wonderful to have some more voices as we continue our efforts to make worship meaningful. Please let me (or a current choir member) know if you have any questions.

All Shall Be Amen and Alleluia!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy

Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him!



Serving in Worship



The Signup Genius link has been updated to include Sundays in September and October. Please take a moment and sign up for a slot or two.

<https://tinyurl.com/37pyw6cf>

If you have never served in worship before (Assisting Minister, Acolyte, Greeter, or Reader), but are interested, feel free to sign up and contact Jeremy for instructions on how to serve in whatever position interests you.

MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org



“Give Me that Old-Time Religion”

Rally Day - September 7

Old-Time Religion

Join us for Rally Day as we kick off the program year with good old-fashioned “Old-Time Religion” worship and fellowship!

Worship: 10:00 AM

Cookout: 11:00 AM

Come sing beloved camp-meeting revival songs, hear favorite Bible stories, and enjoy fellowship and games at our cookout. The congregation is invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided.



Celebrate! Rejoice! Jubilate! Worship! Glorify!

Holy Cross Day!

September 14

Worship: 10:00 AM

On September 14 we rejoice in the cross of Christ—the sign of God’s victory over sin and death and the very name we bear as Holy Cross Lutheran Church

The most important symbol for Christianity is the cross of Christ. For centuries, Christians have dedicated September 14 as a day to honor the cross as a sign of our salvation. Come to worship, gather around the cross and praise God for its mercies.



Wear RED to celebrate
this festival!

COUNCIL



Holy Cross Fam,

As President, preparing my monthly Quest article is both one of my favorite and least favorite responsibilities. Each month, our amazing admin staff send the Council members reminders well in advance, reminders that I quickly review, put on my calendar, and then immediately forget about until the day before, often sending an "I'm sorry, this will be late again" message on the due date. The same story was true for this month. It's not that I don't want to do it, I absolutely love writing, always have, and feel like this is a space to let you all get to know me better (Swiftie references included). On the other hand, the pressure to keep it interesting, while not forgetting the important stuff, can be a challenge that I tend to procrastinate on, and the distractions of my own interests and work life can easily get in the way.

Have I mentioned Taylor announced a new album?! I know this readership is desperate for my monthly Taylor Swift updates (insert Millennial sarcasm here) so... instead...let's focus on the actual important stuff:





In August, we welcomed a new bookkeeper; Charlie retired after twelve years at Holy Cross and has passed the baton to Marie, who will continue as Admin by day and add Bookkeeper by night to her specialties. Not much changes for us as a congregation, except the name at the bottom of our bill pay ;). We are going to miss Charlie but certainly excited for the knowledge and expertise Marie continues to offer.

My ask, is that we all continue to respect the boundaries of these two positions, and allow Marie to maintain separate working hours.

We certainly need that Bookkeeper role, as we are spending some serious money these days! Our bathroom project will soon be marked complete, and our roof is getting reinforced (again) to protect all the beautiful work that has been done. The classrooms received a new HVAC system just as the hottest days of the year were hitting our area and we are more thankful than ever for all the hard work our property team is consistently providing to our aging building. All that being said, my next “ask” should come as no surprise: we need to refill both our Operating and I&D fund coffers, so please prayerfully consider your giving as you prepare your financial commitments for 2026.

Speaking of prayers, our support network is stronger than ever, and with our siblings in Christ needing that strength and support, we have a lot to offer and I ask that you check it out as a way to stay connected to God and our membership.



And finally, Old Time Religion is back at Holy Cross; celebrating Rally Day this year brings a newfound excitement and old school nostalgia.

The cereal boxes generated a lot of buzz with last year's events; the involvement of the youth was thrilling, and we hope to bring some of those valued camp songs and community around God to the coming Sunday School and Church year.

The YouTube video from last year generated over 1K views and likes and we can strive for even more distance, viewership and participation this year. A huge thank you in advance to our Outreach, Evangelism and Fellowship teams, and of course, Jeremy, for coming together and creating such an amazing event.



September will prove to be a short but busy month, so I will start working on the Quest for next month now, in hopes of finally meeting our churches communication deadlines... joking aside, I do so enjoy being your President and serving Holy Cross and as we look towards November, I ask that you consider your ability to serve in 2026 as well. More to come on this, as I may have just started my article now? In the meantime, live in the spirit of our Lord and enjoy all the blessings we have.

In Peace,
Cara Papenheim

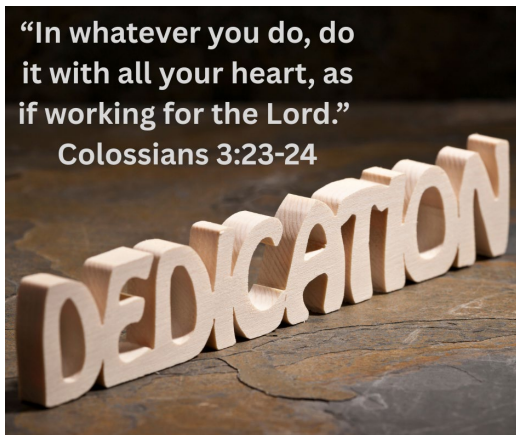


Dear Holy Cross Family,

I hope this message finds you well and that you've enjoyed a joyful and restful summer. While many of us have taken time for rest and travel, Holy Cross has continued to thrive throughout the Summer. We had a spirited July 4th celebration with amazing weather, Summer choir Sundays, a lively Vacation Bible School, multiple property cleanup days and the completion of our new bathroom construction project. It has been a season full of energy and blessings. Our ongoing ministries have remained strong as well, thanks to the dedication of so many in our congregation.

"In whatever you do, do it with all your heart, as if working for the Lord."

Colossians 3:23-24



As we now turn toward the Fall season, there's much to look forward to. Rally Day is just around the corner in early September, a time to reconnect, celebrate, and re-engage with all the life and mission of our church. We will also be entering our pledge drive season, leading up to our Annual Meeting in November.

Please take time to prayerfully consider your financial pledge for the coming year. Your generosity helps us maintain our facilities and staff salaries, support our ministries, and prepare for the arrival of a new pastor. The future of this church relies on the generosity of our members.

Looking ahead, we will also have several openings on our Church Council next year. If you feel called to serve in a leadership role, we invite you to step forward—we need faithful and committed individuals to help guide our mission.

Additionally, many of our ministries are in need of volunteers. In early September, we will be distributing a *Time and Talents Survey* to help match the needs of our church with the gifts, interests, and availability of our members. Please take some time to reflect on how you might share your time and talents in the coming year.

Holy Cross is strong because of the spirit, generosity, and faith of its people. Thank you for all the ways you contribute to our community. Let us move into this next season with prayerful hearts, open hands, and a renewed commitment to growing together in Christ.

With gratitude and blessings,
Mark Roe

FELLOWSHIP
Generosity and Joy

RALLY DAY - September 7, 2025

Come one, come all to the **Rally Day “OLD-TIME RELIGION” Church Service and “Kick-Off the New Church Year” Luncheon**

10:00 am: **CHURCH SERVICE**

11:00 am: **“KICK-OFF THE NEW CHURCH YEAR”
LUNCHEON:**

The congregation is invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and a vegan spread will be provided. Bring your appetite!



Don't forget your box of cereal for the challenge and LINK!



The joke of the month:

What did the pen tell the pencil on the first day of school?



On that note...

as always on Sunday, you are invited and encouraged to stop by the Fellowship Hall for some coffee (we have pumpkin spice!), 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

PROPERTY

When I took the garbage down to the dumpster one day, I hurled the bags in, and then heard a noise. At first I thought it was the Holy Spirit, but then I spied 3 scared young raccoons with no way to get out. I built them a bridge to get to the top of the dumpster. The first two were pretty quick but there was one that was really scared. I rearranged the bridge and he was able to climb out.



A huge **thank you** to everyone who came out and helped during our recent property **early morning** workdays and Saturdays at the church. Your time, effort, and dedication made a big difference, and we're so grateful for each of you. The church grounds look amazing because of your hard work! Your care and dedication invested in the upkeep of our church grounds reflect our commitment to stewardship, reverence, and service. Thank you!

Gary Wolfe,
Property Council Chair

OUTREACH



As the crisp air rolls through and the changing leaves usher in a new season, we're reminded that fall is more than just a change in weather—it's a time to come together. This season is a time of gathering to celebrate the joy of community, connection, and shared purpose.

This fall we are gathering supplies for those in need, food for the hungry, toys for children, and as congregants to embrace the Christmas spirit.

Here's What's Coming Up:

In August, in preparation for the 2025-26 school year, we held a school supply drive for Herndon Middle School. The students at HMS come from diverse backgrounds, and many from families that are challenged by the high cost of living in Northern VA. Pencils, pens, notebooks, folders, and other back pack boosters were dedicated on August 31. Thanks to everyone who donated supplies to ensure local students are set up for success.



In September, our Rally Day activities will include a cereal box drive, culminating in a fun domino presentation. From Captain Crunch to Special K, the boxes will be lined up and down the aisle and into the narthex—with a quick tip of the first box, the cascading boxes roll along shepherding congregants into the Fellowship Hall. It's a fun way to kick off the Rally Day activities, and the cereal will be donated to the LINK pantry. Thanks in advance to all for the cereal boxes and the joyful cheers during the domino presentation.



Joy Heuer shared a new way HCLC is collecting food donations for LINK: the green shopping bags. She has the details about how we will use these bags to facilitate the bi-monthly food donations. Grab a green bag!

October: Save The Date: October 26th - ***Trunk or Treat***

November is a time to prepare for Christmas but for many families, it is a humbling reminder that they may have to scale back on the gifts under the tree. **In December, LINK runs a Holiday Program to distribute toys and additional food to families in need. Last year, LINK distributed toys to over 800 area families.** HCLC will conduct a toy drive to support the LINK holiday program; details about the specifics will be provided in E-blasts in Oct/Nov.



December marks the Advent season: a time to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. This year, our Advent appeal will support Prison Fellowship International, an organization dedicated to sharing the redemptive power of the Holy Spirit within prisons around the world. Cecilia Howard, who is closely connected to PFI, has shared inspiring insights into their transformative work. We will hear more about PFI during December and collect donations—details to follow.

One of the liveliest ways HCLC connects with the community is at the **Beer and Carols** event at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern. Jeremy leads the carol sing-a-long and invites the entire JOTT restaurant to join in. HCLC members donate goods and services for a raffle with the proceeds going to "She Believes in Me." Tickets are sold during the singing then pulled to award the prizes. Last year, Silvia and Nan got the whole crowd engaged in the fun which made for a spirited evening. Mark your calendars for **December 16** and join us at Jimmy's.



English Language Learners have a Christmas celebration and invite the students and their families to participate in the festivities. The students are able to put their English skills to use by talking together and singing cherished Christmas carols. Ellen Atwood will provide details as the date draws near.

Lunch-for-the-Soul participating congregations host a Christmas supper and service at HCLC—this year it will be held **December 17**. The day workers and their families are invited to attend. Last year the church was filled with members from all 5 participating congregations, and the workers along with their families; 90 people in all. More to come on this wonderful event.

January 2026, MLK Day of Service, will be held in the Fellowship Hall on **January 19**. In addition to the service activities, we will host an Inova sponsored blood drive. It was postponed last year due to weather conditions but on the books for 2026. Stay tuned.

Submitted by Tonya Elliott

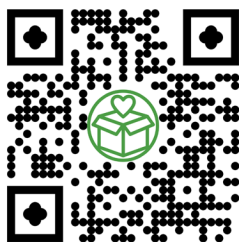
LINK: We're Changing our Food Donation Procedures

Starting on Rally Day (September 7th), new green cloth bags will be available for Holy Cross food donations. We are borrowing a successful process from other Herndon area congregations. Here's what you need to do and it's EASY!

- 1) Pick up a bag in the basket in the Narthex.
- 2) Shop for food and other items and fill the bag. There is a shopping list attached to each bag – so take the bag to the store when you go! Also watch for additional food needs in the Thursday e-blasts.
- 3) Bring the filled bag to church on 1st and 3rd Sundays and bring it up to the altar during the offering collection.
- 4) Pick up a new bag and REPEAT!



Our food donations will be on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month and all food will be delivered to LINK. We are temporarily suspending food collections for Embry Rucker – the Outreach Team is looking at new ways to support the work of Embry Rucker and Cornerstones.



Volunteers are always needed to deliver food to the LINK pantry after service on 1st and 3rd Sundays. The LINK Pantry is located behind Herndon United Methodist Church. Please use this [SignUp Genius](#) to volunteer (you can also scan the QR code to the left)!

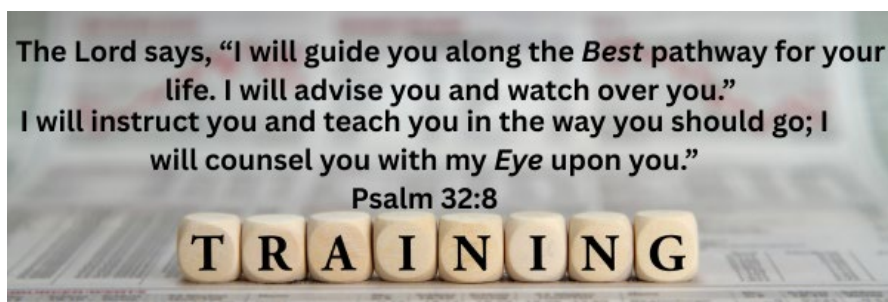
Volunteers will need to unload the bag and place food on the shelves in the LINK pantry, then return the empty bags to the basket in the Narthex.

Thanks for your support of the LINK programs. If you want to learn more about LINK, or look at volunteer opportunities, visit the LINK webpage at linkagainsthunger.org. If you have questions or suggestions, contact Joy Heuer at jheuer01@gmail.com.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

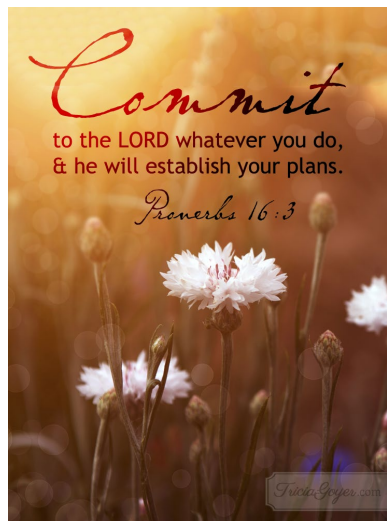
God is moving in incredible ways through the Stephen Ministry this year! More hearts are being touched, more hands are serving, and more lives are being transformed. What began as a small seed of faith implementing this caring ministry is now flourishing into a vibrant, committed group of caring people.



We have started our second 50 hour training for certification in the Stephen Ministry this year. By the time you read this, we will have completed 4 of the 18 modules required. Our caring ministry continues to grow in both reach and impact, reflecting God's love in practical ways. Over the past year, we've been able to walk alongside members of our congregation during times of illness, loss, and personal need, meeting people right where they are.

We're encouraged by the number of volunteers stepping forward to serve, and by the many testimonies of comfort and encouragement received. While the needs are real, so is the hope we see God planting in hearts through simple acts of care. As we look ahead, we remain committed to be the hands and feet of Christ—showing that no one in our church family has to walk through life's challenges alone.

We thank God for the way He works through His people in this congregation — for hearts that listen to His prompting, hands that serve with love, and voices that speak encouragement in the right moment. Each act of kindness and outreach is a reminder that God uses ordinary people to carry out His extraordinary grace. We are grateful for every prayer lifted, every visit made, every message of hope shared, and every unseen act of service that builds up the body of Christ.



May we continue to be vessels He can use for His glory, whether through the Stephen Ministry or wherever you may serve.

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 through one of the below means.

Thankful for all of you,

Sarah Schulmeyer, Coordinator

Church Office: admin@holycrossherndon.org

Office Phone: 703-437-1883

Cell Phone: 307-399-6461

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 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
- 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