The Quest

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

April
2026

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What's Happening at Holy Cross

Don't Miss in The April Issue

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- Instagram.com/HolyCrossELCA

Pastoral Call

Meet and Greet
Saturday, April 11, 200 - 4:00 pm

You are invited to meet our pastoral candidate at a "Meet and Greet" on Saturday, April 11th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. This will be an informal opportunity to say hello in advance of their call sermon and our congregational meeting on Sunday, April 12th.

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, April 12

You are invited, as we convene a Special Meeting of the Congregation of Holy Cross Lutheran Church to call a new pastor on Sunday, April 12th, 2026 following the 10:00 AM Service. At that meeting we will vote on two items: the candidate and the candidate's compensation package.

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

As we move into the great Fifty Days of Easter, our song takes on a new kind of energy: bright, bold, and full of life. Christ's resurrection has inspired some of the most beloved hymns in our tradition. Behind these triumphant tunes are stories. Stories of midnight worship, royal conversions, personal grief, and unexpected joy. Stories that make them even more meaningful when we sing them together.

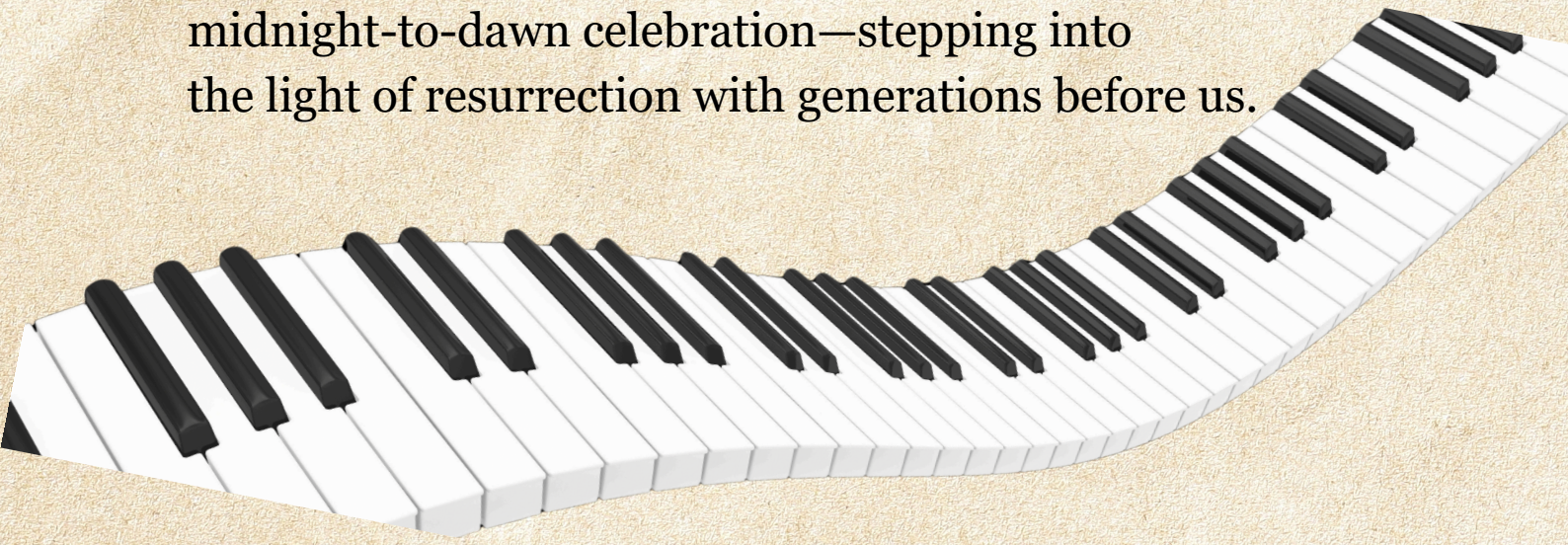
Here are a few familiar Easter hymns you'll hear this season, along with the stories that bring them to life:



Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Few hymns capture the sheer exuberance of Easter morning quite like Jesus Christ Is Risen Today. Its repeated "Alleluia!" feels almost unstoppable, and that's exactly the point. This hymn traces its roots back to a 14th-century Latin text, later shaped in English-speaking worship by Charles Wesley, who helped popularize the now-familiar cascades of Alleluias.

But the hymn also carries echoes of one of the oldest Christian practices: the Easter Vigil. In many early Christian communities, believers would gather late on Holy Saturday night, keeping watch in darkness until the first proclamation of the resurrection at dawn.The first "Alleluia" of Easter—after its absence throughout Lent—would ring out in that moment, marking the turning from death to life. Hymns like this one grew out of that liturgical explosion of joy. When we sing it on Easter morning, we are, in a sense, joining that same midnight-to-dawn celebration—stepping into the light of resurrection with generations before us.

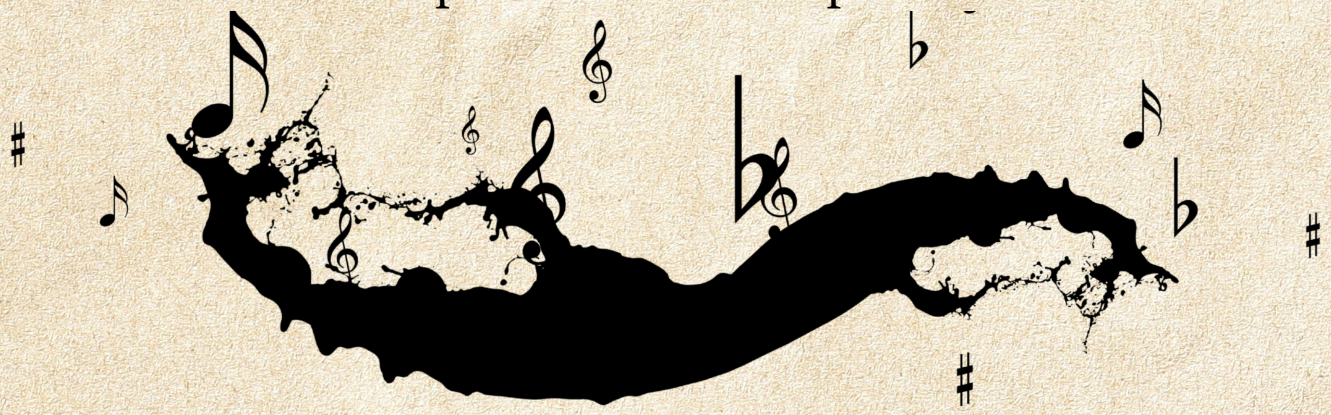


Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

If Easter had a royal anthem, it might be Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds. With its majestic tune and soaring text, it feels like a cosmic celebration. The text was translated by Paul Z. Strodach, based on a German hymn by Michael Weiße in the early 1500s. Weiße was part of a reforming movement that emphasized congregational singing, so this hymn was meant to be sung boldly by the whole assembly. Its repeated Alleluias connect all creation's praise with Christ's resurrection; heaven and earth rejoicing together.

Thine Is the Glory

The triumphant strains of Thine Is the Glory often bring congregations to their feet. The tune comes from an oratorio by George Frideric Handel, later paired with a text by Edmond Budry. The result is a hymn that feels both grand and deeply personal in its proclamation: “Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son.” Its popularity surged after World War I, when its message of victory over death resonated powerfully with communities seeking hope and restoration. Even now, it continues to carry that sense of resurrection triumph into our worship.



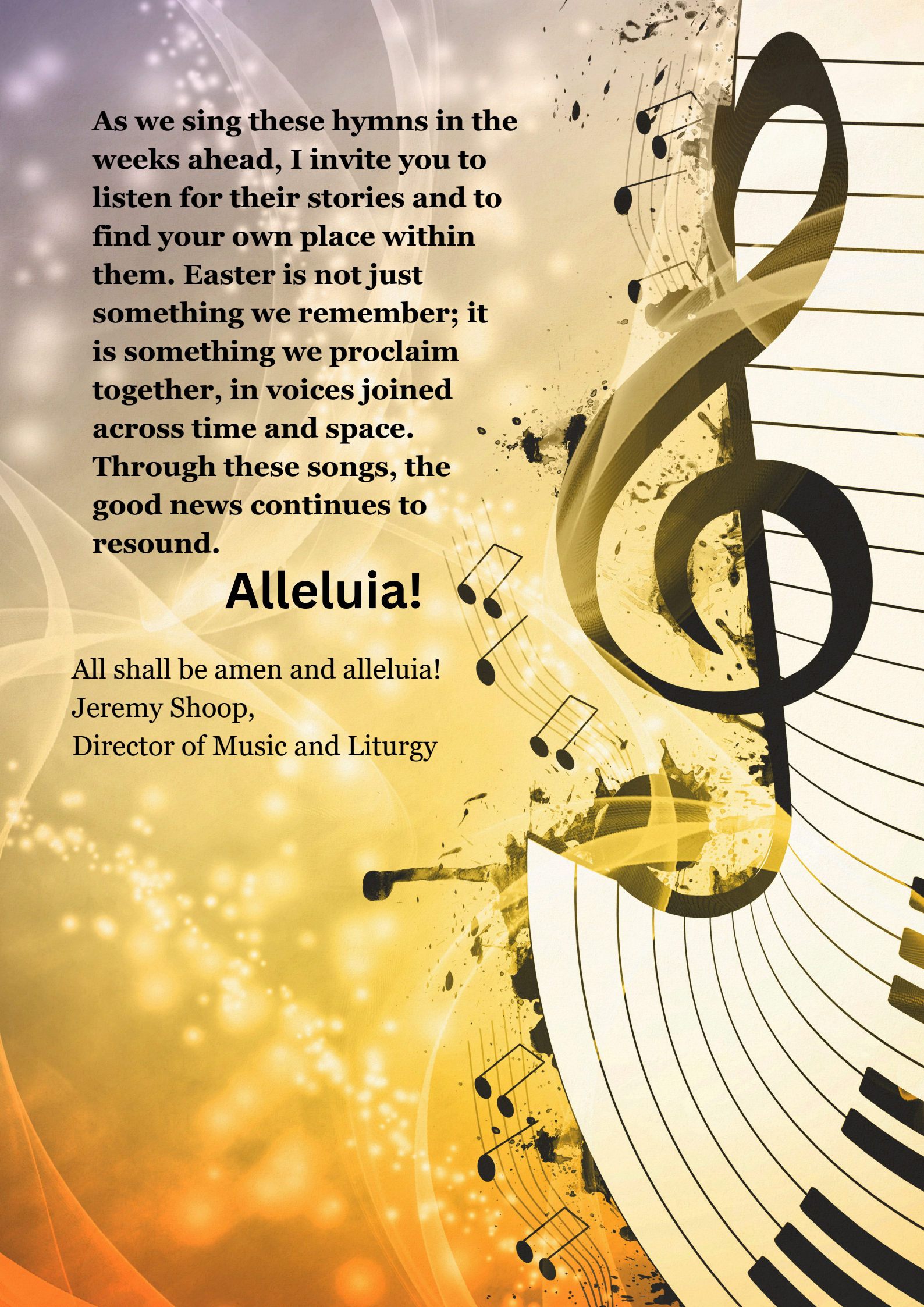
The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done

The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done brings a slightly different tone. Still joyful but shaped by the language of struggle and victory. Its roots lie in a 17th-century Latin text, later translated into English by Francis Pott. The imagery reflects the ancient understanding of Christ’s resurrection as a victory over the powers of sin and death. A kind of cosmic battle now brought to completion. And yet, like many great Easter hymns, it cannot help but return again and again to “Alleluia.” After the long silence of Lent, that word bursts forth not just as a refrain, but as a release. A song of triumph that refuses to be contained.

As we sing these hymns in the weeks ahead, I invite you to listen for their stories and to find your own place within them. Easter is not just something we remember; it is something we proclaim together, in voices joined across time and space. Through these songs, the good news continues to resound.

Alleluia!

All shall be amen and alleluia!
Jeremy Shoop,
Director of Music and Liturgy



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

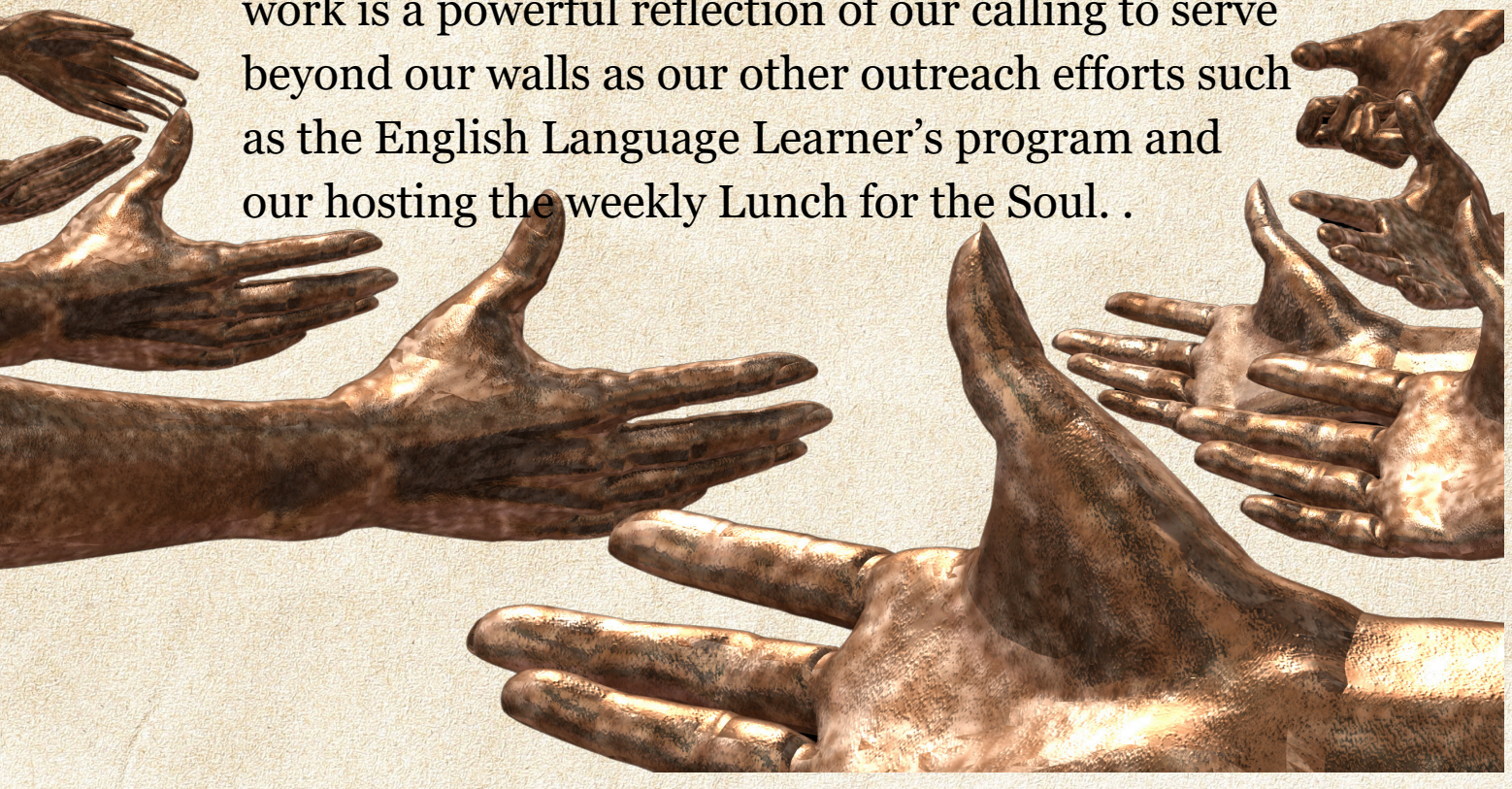
A Message from Council President to Follow at a Later Date.

A Message from
Council Vice President Mark Roe
VicePresident@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Dear Holy Cross,

As we enter the joyful season of Easter, we are reminded that this is a time of renewal, hope and new beginnings. There is a great deal of excitement about what lies ahead for our congregation. On the weekend following Easter we will have the long awaited Call Service and the opportunity that weekend to meet our potential new Pastor.

At the same time our mission continues to grow in both strength and reach. We are proud to now serve as a host site for LINK's food distribution, an important ministry that allows us to extend care and compassion to our neighbors in need. This work is a powerful reflection of our calling to serve beyond our walls as our other outreach efforts such as the English Language Learner's program and our hosting the weekly Lunch for the Soul. .

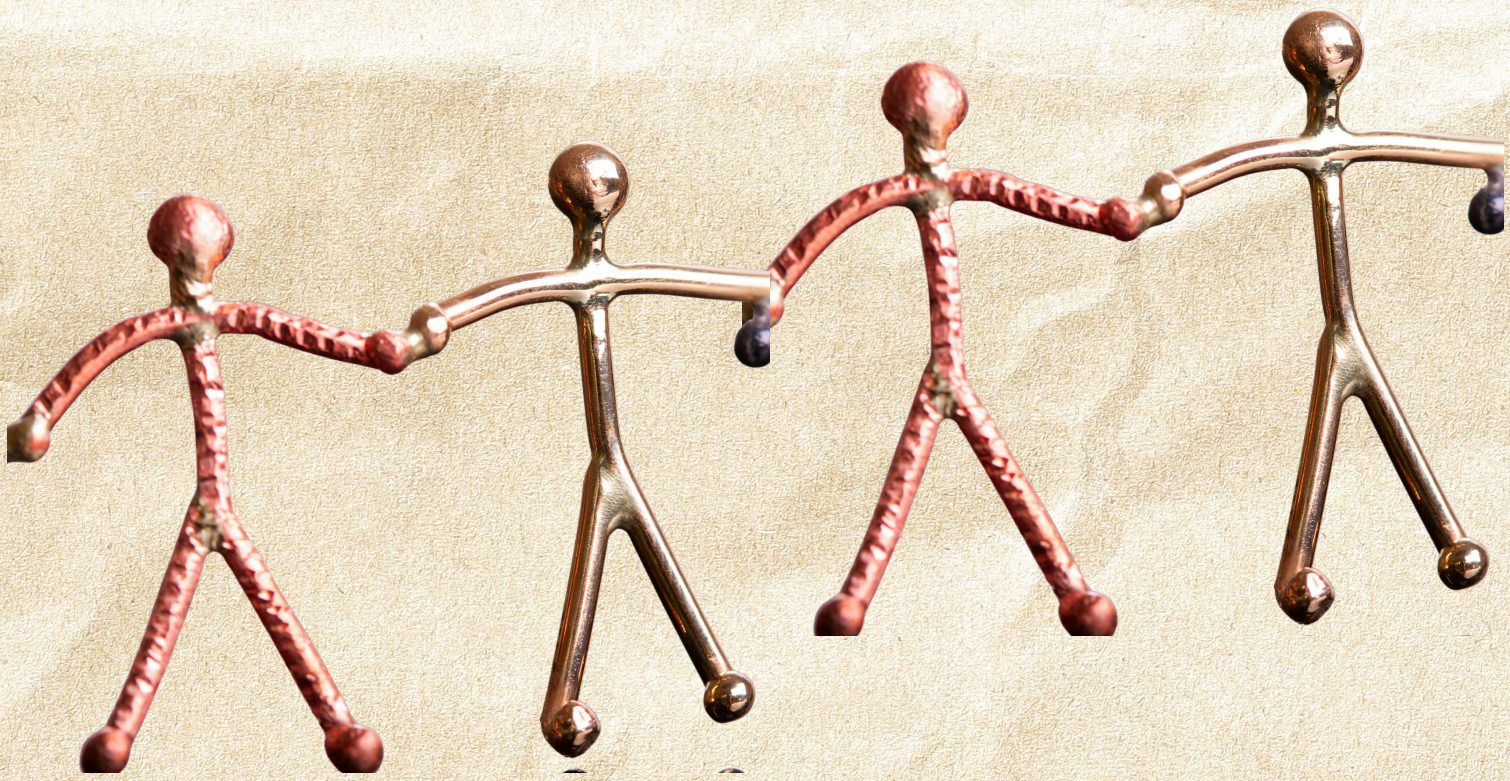


Gratitude

We also pause to give thanks for the many blessings that sustain our church community. Your continued financial support provides a strong foundation for all that we do. We are deeply appreciative of those who serve in worship, the leaders of our various ministries, our dedicated staff and all who generously offer their time and talents. We are especially thankful for Pastor Pam, whose faithful service as our long-term supply pastor has guided us during this important period of transition. In addition, the many donations of food, supplies, and other resources continue to strengthen our outreach efforts in meaningful ways.

Holy Cross continues to thrive because of the commitment, generosity, and faithfulness of so many of you. Each contribution, both seen and unseen, plays a vital role in shaping our community and advancing our mission.

A special note of gratitude goes to our Call Committee, led by Sylvia Moran, including Craig Swanson, Sarah Schulmeyer, Rob Coffman, Lauren Gist, and Helen Wolfe. Their dedication, time, and thoughtful discernment have been instrumental in bringing us to this important moment as we prepare for our Call Service. We are deeply grateful for their work and leadership.



As we move forward together in this season of resurrection and promise, we do so with thankful hearts and a shared sense of purpose. God's work is alive and active at Holy Cross and we look ahead with hope and anticipation for all that is to come.

Mark Roe,
Vice President

A Message from Fellowship
Beverly Siecker
FellowshipChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Fabulous Fun! Shrove Tuesday Update:



A great turnout marked the Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner on February 17, 2026. Including:

- Troop 12 members and family.
- 52 revelers enjoyed a pancake and sausage dinner with King cakes, including one sent from Louisiana. (thanks, Suzanne)
- The food was cooked by Nan and Jared Lem, Tammy Breen, Jeremy Shoop and Cecilia Howard.
- Council members Craig Reichow, Suzanne Baggett, Virginia Muller and Cara Papenheim were servers.

Good Times Had by All!



The Royal Flush shared Mardi Gras trivia and led a parade through Fellowship Hall to 'Oh, When the Saints Come Marching In,' with piano by Mona Cochran.
Prizes were awarded to:

- Oldest - Tibbie Preston
- Youngest - Remi Gist
- Attended most Mardi Gras parades - Suzanne Baggett
- Birthday closest to this year's Mardi Gras - Eric Caulfield (Troop 12)
- Tallest - Jared Lem
- Shortest - Remi Gist
- Best Mardi Gras spirit - Pamela Graham (Troop 12 mother)
- Best Costume - Randy Graham (Troop 12)
- Best dancer - Daniel Grinstead (Troop 12).





For Your Calendar

April

- Sunday, April 5, 2026 is the Easter Brunch Potluck following the service.
- Feel free to bring your favorite brunch food to share.
- Holy Cross will provide ham, a vegan option, and rolls for sandwiches.
- Join us as we celebrate Jesus' resurection!

June

- Sunday, June 14, 2026 Music Sunday Potluck
- Singing beautiful hymns may make you hungry!

July

- Saturday, July 4, 2026 - Patriotic music and fireworks viewing. Join with the neighborhood for the best place to see the fireworks. Better yet, volunteer to help make this event even better than last year, which had a great turnout.

Every Sunday, before and after the 9 am Sunday School and 10am church service, you can find coffee, tea, juice or water, along with fruit and snacks , in the Fellowship Hall. Stop by to chat with friends. An LWR quilt is always available to work on and help complete.

The HUGS group met in March and had a good meeting of sharing and fellowship. If you are interested, please join us. We meet the second Sunday of the month after the service.

H.U.G.S.

Helping Us Grow Stronger

The Lenten dinners started Wednesday, February 25th and continued each Wednesday through March 25th. Sandwiches and soup were on the menu. Thank you to everyone that made soup to share. It was a great way to try different kinds of soup (and even take some home). After a wonderful hour of fellowship, the service was held in the Sanctuary.

Something to Make You Laugh for March: A Church Sign



Beverly Siecker
Fellowship Chair

A Message from Outreach
Tonya Elliott
OutreachChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org

LINK MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

At Holy Cross Lutheran Church, the spirit of service and compassion continues to shine through our spring-time outreach efforts: support of LINK Against Hunger and this year's Lenten Appeal benefiting Fellowship Square Foundation at its Fellowship House at Hunters Woods location.

On the third weekend in February and March, members of Holy Cross once again put faith into action, generously contributing their time, resources and care to ensure neighbors in need are not forgotten.

Through the longstanding partnership with ***LINK Against Hunger***, volunteers helped coordinate and carry out food distribution efforts serving families acrosss the Herndon and Reston communities.



On distribution days, the church campus came alive with quiet efficiency and heartfelt purpose. Volunteers arrived early to sort and organize food, forming assembly lines that moved with both precision and warmth. In the familiar parking lot loop, cars lined up as neighbors received groceries—often accompanied by smiles, greetings, and words of encouragement. What might seem like a simple exchange of goods became something deeper: a moment of connection and reassurance that no one in the community stands alone.

These efforts not only addressed immediate food insecurity, but also strengthened relationships within the broader community.





Volunteers of all ages participated, from youth helping to pack bags to long-time members coordinating logistics, reflecting a shared commitment across generations to serve others.

Fellowship House

This season of Lent has brought an additional and deeply meaningful focus on outreach through the church's annual appeal, which this year supported Fellowship House at Hunters Woods. This senior living community, operated by the Fellowship Square Foundation, provides affordable housing and a vibrant support network for older adults, many of whom live on limited or fixed incomes.

For many within the congregation, this partnership is especially personal. Some members have volunteered at Fellowship House, while others have longstanding connections to its programs. This familiarity has made the Lenten Appeal not just a charitable effort, but a heartfelt response to the needs of our neighbors.

Supporting Fellowship House allows us to live out that calling — drawing near to those who have built the communities we now call home.

Contributions from the appeal will help sustain critical programs that make a daily difference in residents' lives. These include meal services that ensure access to nutritious food, wellness initiatives that support both physical and mental health, and social activities that foster community, reduce isolation, and bring joy to everyday life.



In a time when many seniors face increasing challenges, these programs provide stability, dignity, and a sense of belonging.



We will continue to inform our faith community of ongoing opportunities at Fellowship House such as, on the third Wednesday of the month, donated groceries are available for residents to pick up in the community room. The residents need assistance in carrying the bags back to their units as the weight of the cans can create a safety hazard. Please see the Fellowship House website for more information: Volunteers – Fellowship Square



Together, these outreach initiatives reflect Holy Cross Lutheran Church's ongoing commitment to living out its faith through action. Rooted in compassion and guided by a deep sense of community responsibility, the congregation continues to respond to both visible and unseen needs with generosity and grace.

Whether by feeding families through LINK or supporting seniors through the Lenten Appeal, Holy Cross embodies a simple but powerful belief: that caring for one another is at the very heart of community. As the church looks ahead, it remains dedicated to expanding its outreach efforts, deepening partnerships, and continuing to be a place where faith is not only proclaimed, but practiced in meaningful and transformative ways.

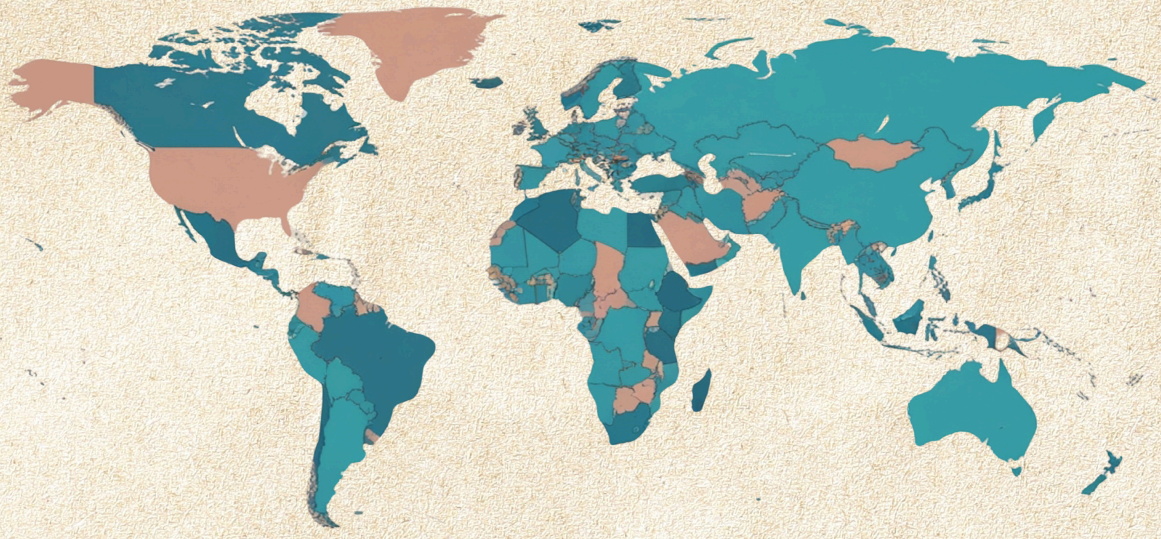
Respectfully Submitted,
Tonya Elliott
Outreach Chair



English Language Learners (ELL) Spring Semester 2026

We started our spring semester on January 14, 2026. Our last class is May 13th, which we always end with a pizza and bingo class.

Our students come from nine (9) countries and we have 18 students registered. This is fewer students than we usually have, but many are afraid to come to class, whether they are legal or not. We also miss many of our young women students because we don't have a nursery attendant.



We have three classes, beginners, basic, and intermediate English. Kristin teaches our beginners, Chip and Lauren teach our basic class, and Suzanne and I (Ellen) teach the intermediate class.

We have listened to several stories of our students losing loved ones. One of our student's best friends was taken by ICE recently while working legally at Andrews Air Force base in Maryland. Our student told me how his friend held out his papers to show he had legal work papers and the ICE officer would not look at them. He told my student's friend: "I don't care what you have, get in the truck!" My student still doesn't know where his friend is right now.



HELP WANTED

We are looking for more teachers since Dayna stopped teaching with us. If you love helping people, our English classes are for you.

- No experience necessary
- No fluency in other languages required
- Guidance, texts, lesson plans provided
- Classes are Wednesdays (7-8:30pm)

Thank you for always supporting our ELL program.

The ELL Team,

Ellen Atwell, Suzanne Baggett, Kristin Andersen, Lauren Weatherhead and Chip Edwards

Enlighten Your World

Did You Know?



Armed with dust cloths, picture hooks, and plenty of good spirit, our volunteers have been hard at work cleaning, organizing, hanging pictures, and tending to the many details that help make our building feel warm and welcoming.

Blessed Beyond Words for You!

You may notice a few special unfinished quilts around the building—just waiting for someone to stop by and pull a thread through… or perhaps a few more!

Be Part of It!

ELL (English Language Learners) have been holding English classes at Holy Cross for 24 years!

Jump In with US!

Where and how does our bread and wine/grape juice appear every week so we can celebrate Communion together? Altar Guild is a group of dedicated people who prepare those items each week so they are ready for us to have.

We are thankful for you!



Connect



"God has given each of us special spiritual gifts to use and serve one another. Do this with all the strength and energy God supplies. Then ***everything*** we do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ."
1 Peter 4:10-11

Fellowship:

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

- Easter Sunday Potluck - Sunday, April 5th
- Music Sunday Potluck - Sunday, June 14th
- July 4th Fireworks - Saturday, July 4th

FelowshipChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Property:

Connect with Craig Reichow, **Property Chair** to aid with Property Work Days :
Propertychair@holycrossherndon.org

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:

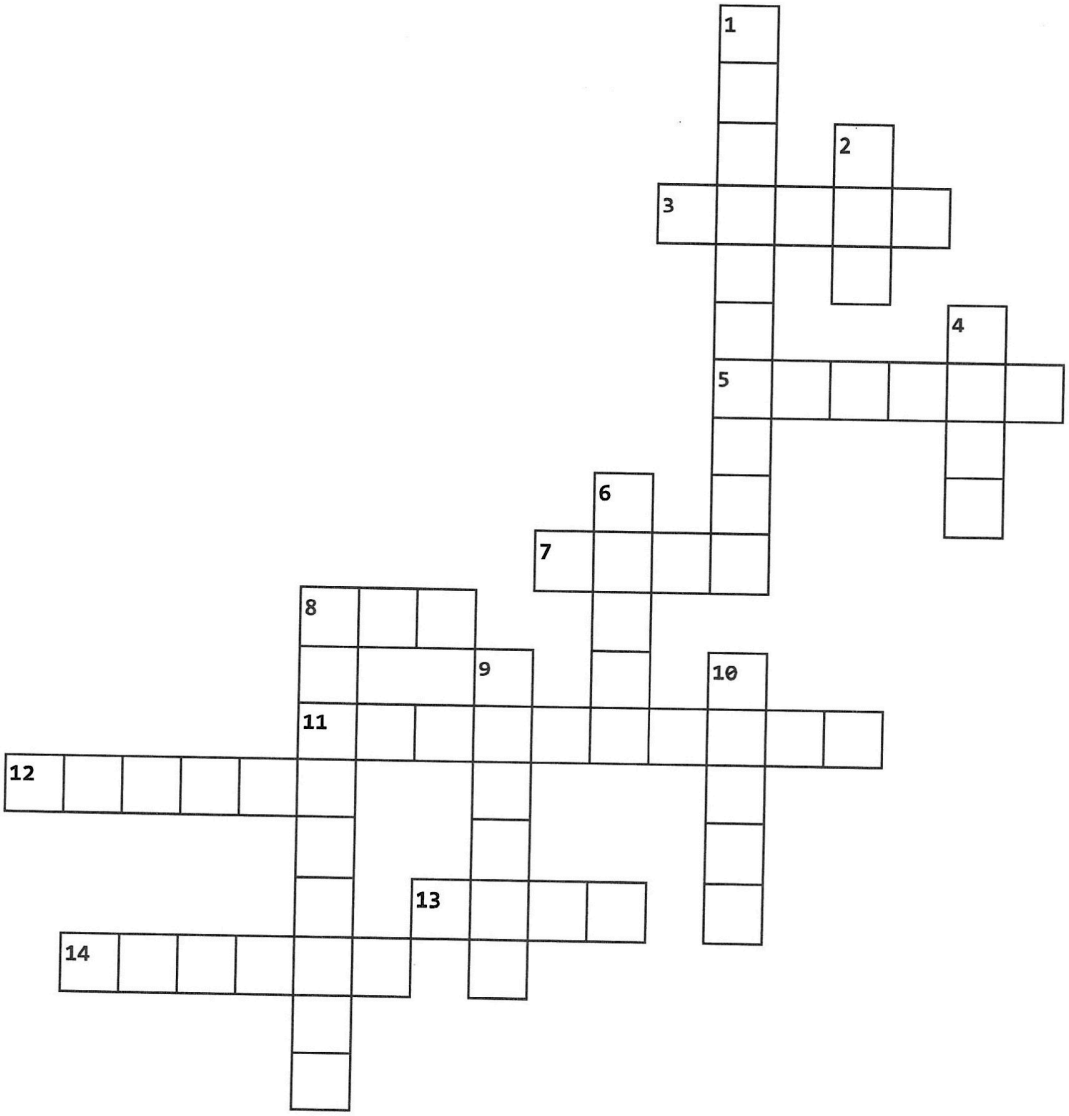
- Online/Mobile Set up a one-time or recurring donation through Vanco, our secure giving platform. Scan code to access.

- 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

April Quest Crossword Puzzle



Across

3. You can sew on this in the Fellowship Hall.

5. Joyful season we are entering into in April.

7. Group that meets on the 2nd Sunday following the service for support.

8. We are so thankful for this Pastor.

11. When we do this, we bring glory to God through Jesus Christ.

12. They gave a generous donation for our April crossword puzzle.

13. Holy Cross is the host site for this ministry.

14. This weekly offering went to Fellowship house.

Down

1. These people bless us beyond words.

2. This ministry is looking for more teachers. (Like me.)

4. Youngest person at Shrove Tuesday.

6. Name of this publication.

8. This Council's message will follow at a later date.

9. Game played during Shrove Tuesday.

10. Number of days in Easter.