



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



March 2025

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The deadline for inclusion in the April 2025 edition of
the Holy Cross Newsletter, The Quest,
is **Wednesday, March 19, 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

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

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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY

Adjectives are a powerful part of the English language. They can change one's image of an ordinary house to a grand mansion in the woods with a peaceful river flowing through the backyard. Many hymn writers struggle to articulate a piece of our faith poetically. It is an art that began in the early church and still exists today. Isaac Watts, one of the church's greatest hymn writers, wrote the hymn *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, achieving new heights of passionate devotional poetry while using merely five adjectives. This does not include adjectival words used as predicates. The purely descriptive adjectives are: 'wondrous,' 'richest,' 'vain,' 'rich,' and 'amazing' – yet it must be agreed that this is one of the most penetrating hymns of the Lutheran hymnal. Each stanza is written with strong, clear, simple thoughts.



When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, written originally for use in the Communion Service, was inspired by Paul's impassioned declaration in Galatians 6:14, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world." This statement is a climax to his argument that one does not have to become a Jew before he can become a Christian. From this profound statement Isaac Watts derives five stanzas of poetry to portray the Prince of Glory and his throne, the cross.

*When I survey the wondrous Cross,
On which the prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

"Survey" suggests not only sight but also contemplation: the deliberate attempt on the part of the communicant to realize what Christ's death meant to the world. The cross is "wondrous" because in this one instance a Roman instrument of torture and

death has become God's instrument for saving mankind. "Prince of Glory" suggests the highest exaltation. Watts believed that Christ had been a "Prince" in heaven before the world was created (Col 1:15-17).

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.*



*He himself is before all
things, and in him all
things hold together.*

COLOSSIANS 1:17, NRSV

Each person can make a list of his or her "vain things" that we boast in. Watts calls us in this stanza to sacrifice all earthly things for Christ and only boast in Christ's death on a cross.

*See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

Stanza three is one of Watts' most beautiful stanzas. The sorrow and love the flow mingled down from his head, hands, and feet is an allusion to the blood that flowed from his side after a soldier pierced him with a spear to prove that he was dead. Watts takes

the word “mingled” and transforms a revolting physical death into a spiritual flow of sorrow and love. At the end of this stanza Watts declares the worth of Christ’s crown of thorns to be greater than any monarch’s crown of jewels.

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

In this stanza Watts’ intent to assess the value of Christ’s sacrifice reaches a personal climax. Although human sin through the ages amounts to more than the material worth of the entire universe, Christ’s atonement is still more than adequate. Therefore God needs no further payback. We are simply called to live our life for Christ and give him all that we are.

The thought and meditation that Isaac Watts put into the Passion scripture produced stanzas of poetry that have stood the test of time. This hymn has been sung through the ages and continues to educate Christians throughout the world about Christ’s love.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy



COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

In addition to my deep faith, I wholly subscribe to the idea of being a quintessential Gemini, often able to identify with the traits associated with the duality of June babies. People often ask me how I can be so astrologically focused but also religious. Well, there's a pretty deep connection between the two...



For example: We've all heard (and probably used) the phrase: March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb, often associated with a relationship to the winter weather transitioning to spring, this phrase actually holds its roots in the skies and our constellations and Greek mythology. As the Leo constellation begins in the forefront of the March skies, the Aries ram

ushers in the "quieter" spring skies and sets an astrological tone of peace. Now here's where it gets weird: the Aries mythology is not peaceful, in fact, the Ram saved one of our mythological nymphs from a situation of trickery, divorce and murder, and as a result is honored by Zeus being placed in the darkest part of the night sky to provide hope for those who suffer, sound familiar?

Holy Cross' March is roaring with business as usual. I recently received the comment that our church is operating so well you would never know we don't have a stable pastor. We are fortunate to have Pastor Pam as a steady supply providing amazing Sunday sermons and continuity in our Adult Sunday school, we have a staff

that is holding us together day to day, often doing way more than would normally be expected of them. Our Council is constantly surveying the pride and keeping focus on everyone's safety and comfort in these turbulent times. With all this support we continue to operate some great programming: A Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner in the first week of March, engaging with our youth and Troop 12, and a new member lunch to close the month, where we



have the opportunity to share the amazing stories that make us Holy Cross with the potential many visitors we have seen in the recent weeks. As if we didn't need more, we will continue to support the Lenten Wednesday services we have all come to rely on to get our hearts and minds aligned for the Easter season.

We all know
Easter is the

story of the sacrificial lamb ascending to heaven and saving us from a life of sin, and this year, being in April seems very Lion to Lamb appropriate. As we weather through this March, let's focus on the beauty of our church family and all we have to offer each other, after all, lions are the only big cats that live as a unit, so honoring the Leo season isn't entirely something to dread. We have an unbreakable bond with each other, Jesus, and God, enjoy life in the pride.



In peace,

Cara Papenheim

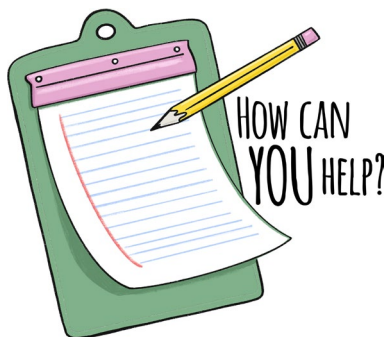


As we are already two months into the new calendar year the church remains incredibly active with all of our ministries, the work our Call Committee is doing and of course our church and the Synod's responses to the turmoil going on nationally and locally that impacts us all. It is at times like these when we are reminded just what an incredibly special place Holy Cross is and how important it is to have the community that we do to support one another and provide support for those struggling in our community.

As we continue to move forward in the call process to find a new pastor we have begun our Transition Fund campaign that was announced in a series of emails and a temple talk on February 16th. Our goal for the campaign is to raise \$20,000 for the fund that will cover the various expenses incurred during the call process. Less than three weeks into the campaign we are already approaching the halfway point in terms of funds raised, which does not surprise me at all given how generous our congregation is and always has been. I am confident we will reach the overall goal in plenty of time and want to thank everyone in advance for your support for this important campaign.



One of the council's goals this year is to engage more members in our various volunteer opportunities. We have so many people that do so much already and others that I know are willing to help, but may not always know all the opportunities that exist. We will be initiating a Time and Talents survey process in the near future that



will provide us a better opportunity to match volunteers with their areas of interest and their skills as well as highlight for our members areas of need we have for help. We have also created a new **Current Links** section on our website to highlight some of our primary initiatives and how you can sign up to help or learn more about them. My

goal for the congregation is to increase our volunteer engagement with the congregation so that everyone is able to do their part in one way or another. There is a volunteer role for everyone and the more we have that are willing to help the more we can do to serve God and our community.

Thank you to all of you again for your support for the Transition Fund campaign, your ongoing financial support for Holy Cross and for all the time and talents that you share throughout the year to make Holy Cross the incredible community that it is.

Thank you,
Mark Roe



You will be enriched
in every way to be
generous in every way,
which through us will
produce thanksgiving
to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

FELLOWSHIP

Generosity and Joy

For your calendar:

Tues., 3/4/25 Shrove Tuesday / Mardi

Gras Pancake Supper - 6:30-8pm: You

are invited to the pancake supper (including gluten-free pancakes) and Mardi Gras celebration (with gluten and gluten-free King Cakes). Our youth will make the pancakes / sausages and your Church Council will be serving the food.

Please know that **The Royal Flush** will again be in attendance. A Mardi Gras parade around the Fellowship Hall to “Oh, When the Saints Come Marching In” will end the evening.



Contact Anne Geiger at FellowshipChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org if you have any questions about this fun and free evening.

Wed., March 12, 19, & 26 and April 2 & 9 Lenten Dinners: We will again be having soup, sandwiches (but no dessert) dinners prior to worship during Lent. Please volunteer to make some soup for these dinners.

Sometime in April and somewhere nearby: Inspiro Choir concert. Our own Jeremy Shoop is a part of this group. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Sun., 4/20/25 Easter Brunch Potluck at 11:15am: Bring your favorite brunch food to share. Holy Cross will provide the ham, a vegan offering, and rolls for sandwiches.

Sat., 5/3/25 at 7pm: Footloose – Holy Cross night at Herndon High School. Our own Jeremy Shoop is the music Director for this fun and energetic musical.

Fri., July 4, 2025 – July 4th Patriotic Music and Fireworks: This event has grown bigger every year and more help is needed to plan it for 2025. Please contact Jeremy Shoop, Tammy Breene, or Anne Geiger if you are able to help with this wonderful neighborhood outreach. Their contact information is as follows:

Jeremy Shoop – MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Tammy Breene – EvangelismChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Anne Geiger – FellowshipChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org

The joke of the month for March:

Why is everyone so tired on April 1st?

Because they have just finished a long 31-day March.

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

OUTREACH



Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County

Holy Cross is one of 15 regional organizations that sponsor the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County. This award program started in 2006 at Herndon High School with one sponsor, Herndon Friends meeting and has grown ever since. The mission of the initiative is to recognize students who focus on peace and justice through philanthropic work at their school, their community, and even internationally. On March 2, Vivian Jefferson represented HCLC at the ceremony. Vivian offered to attend because she told me she is inspired by the stories the students tell of their work to bring peace to others. As we reflect on world events, it is reassuring to know that students want to make a difference and that HCLC can play a part in their journey.



The wintery weather on January 20 made travel to the church treacherous, so the decision was made to delay the MLK Day event. The MLK Day of Service activities were moved to February 2 immediately after the church service in the Fellowship hall. The Herndon Woman's Club (HWC) partnered with HCLC members to assemble 4 service projects:

- Paracord Lanyards were braided for first responders to donate to ***Operation Gratitude***.
- Rice Sock Compresses for ***local wildlife rescue groups*** – These socks can be microwaved and placed near wildlife nests to provide warmth during winter months.
- Blankets for ***Project Linus*** – This organization gives blankets to children who have experienced trauma as a way to provide comfort.
- Personal Care Kits for ***Lutheran World Relief*** – These kits are taken to refugee camps or remote villages as a source of care. We assembled 118 kits and have provisions to make more kits soon.

My favorite part of the day was talking with everyone as we assembled these projects. Helen Wolfe and Joy Heuer are actively involved in the HWC (Helen is the President!) and fostered lots of positive interactions with all the volunteers. Thanks to everyone who attended.

Tonya Elliott
Outreach Council Chair



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

Spring Semester 2025

We started our spring semester English classes one week late due to bad weather in January. We again had to cancel class on February 12th due to another snow storm. I hope this is the last time for our students to miss class. I always email and text students if we have no school. Our students expect a weekly email to remind them of their class. I also text the students that don't have emails available.

We are teaching until May every Wednesday from 7:00-8:30 pm. Most of our students come by word of mouth or through both public library systems' publications and also find us on our church website. Some students find us through Google.

We have 21 registrations, which is less students than we normally have. Students are afraid to come to class due to the ongoing ICE raids. It doesn't matter whether they have legal issues or not, students are too scared to come to class.

We already handed out "Red Cards," which tells our immigrants their rights. The Red Cards come from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC). All people in the United States, regardless of immigration status, have certain rights and protections under the U.S. Constitution. ILRC's Red Cards help people assert their rights and defend themselves in many situations, such as when ICE agents go to a home. Their website can be found here:
<https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas>

We have three classes: beginners, basic, and intermediate English. Dayna teaches our beginners, Chip teaches our basic class, and Suzanne and I teach the intermediate class. I'm looking to buy new textbooks for our basic and intermediate students, as our current donated textbooks are out of print.

Thank you for always supporting our ELL program.

The ELL Team,
Ellen Atwell, Suzanne Baggett, Dayna Sowd and Chip Edwards



STEPHEN MINISTRY



Did You Know?

- Stephen Ministers meet once a month for additional training and support.
- Has a presence in 30 locations in D.C and 406 locations in Virginia.
- Is named after the apostle Stephen from Acts 6.
- Has a presence in 30 countries and in 13,945 congregations worldwide!

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 or (307) 399-6461 (call or text) or the church office: admin@holycrossherndon.org

Sarah Schulmeyer,
Coordinator

STEWARDSHIP

As we prepare to call a new pastor to serve our congregation, we are excited to announce the launch of the **Transition Fund Campaign**. This fund will help cover the various expenses related to the call process including travel expenses for in-person interviews, moving costs, and other related expenses that fall outside of our annual budget.



We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can support this important initiative. Your generous gifts will help ensure a smooth transition as we welcome our new pastor into the Holy Cross community.

Gifts to the Transition Fund can be made through March 30. We are deeply grateful for your continued commitment to the mission and ministry of our church. Gifts to the Transition Fund can be made through our online giving portal here:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YH77/campaign/C-154RM>, via BillPay through your bank's website, or via physical check. If making an online gift please select the Transition Fund tile. For BillPay or checks, please indicate your gift is to support the Transition Fund.



To ensure we stay on track, we ask that donations be made over the next month. It is important to note that this is a **separate fund** from our general operating budget, and we kindly request that contributions to this fund be made in addition to, not instead of, your regular offerings.

Thank you for your prayerful support during this time of transition. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Mark Roe at VicePresident@HolyCrossHerndon.org or 202-615-8495. As we move forward, we trust in God's guidance and your continued support for the work and mission of Holy Cross as we enter this exciting new chapter in the life of our church.

Changes *in* Store

