



NEW BEGINNINGS

— MAY QUEST —

We are thrilled to announce Rev. Eric Randolph has accepted our call to serve as our pastor. He will begin his ministry with us on June 29, 2026.



REV. ERIC RANDOLPH

Pastor

Rooted in faith, growing in service
holycrossherndon.org



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April Crossword Winner!

Congratulations
Craig Swanson

Craig won a \$25 Jimmy's gift card for being the first one to submit a correct crossword puzzle from the April Quest! Thank you for all the ways you've served Holy Cross—through your dedication to property clean-up days, your thoughtful work on the Call Committee, and your commitment to singing. Your time, energy, and heart for this community make a meaningful difference, and we are truly grateful!



Don't Miss the May Crossword
Puzzle for a \$50 Sprouts Gift Card

Sprouts has generously
donated our next
Crossword Puzzle
Gift Card of \$50
(See page 32)



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Calls New Pastor

Rooted in faith,
growing in service

Holy Cross Lutheran Church announces Rev. Eric Randolph has accepted the congregation's call to serve as their next pastor. He will begin his ministry with us on June 29, 2026.

The Reverend
ERIC RANDOLPH



holycrossherndon.org



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

***Why We Keep Singing the Same Songs
(and Why That Matters)***

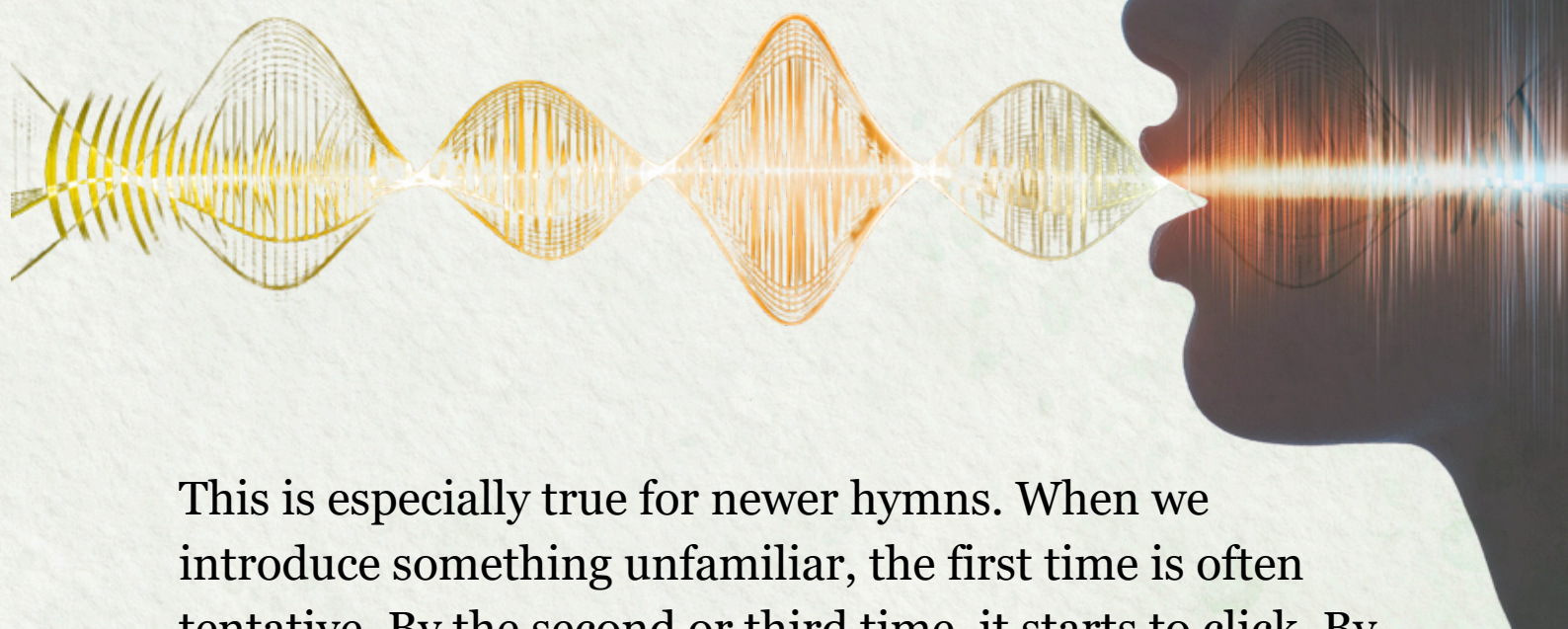
If you've ever caught yourself thinking, "Didn't we just sing this hymn a few weeks ago?"—the answer might be yes. And that's actually on purpose.



***In church music, repetition isn't
laziness—it's formation.***

Unlike a concert, where the goal is often novelty or performance, congregational song works differently. The best hymns are not just meant to be heard once; they're meant to be learned, internalized, and eventually sung without effort. When that happens, something shifts: instead of focusing on notes and rhythms, we begin to actually pray the text.

That's why you'll notice certain hymns returning throughout the Easter season—songs of resurrection, light, and new life. Each time they come back, we hear them a little differently. A stanza that didn't stand out before suddenly lands. A harmony feels more natural. The tune starts to live in your body instead of just on the page.



This is especially true for newer hymns. When we introduce something unfamiliar, the first time is often tentative. By the second or third time, it starts to click. By the fourth, it belongs to the congregation. That sense of ownership is the goal—not perfection, but participation.

There's also a practical side to all of this. Repetition builds confidence, and confident singing builds a stronger assembly. When more voices engage, the sound in the room changes—richer, fuller, more supportive. That's when congregational song becomes what it's meant to be: not a performance up front, but a shared act of worship.

So if something feels familiar this month, lean into it. Sing a little louder. Try the harmony. Notice how the text connects to the season in a new way.



Because in church music, the goal isn't just to sing something new—
it's to sing something well enough that it becomes part of who we are.

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 Family,

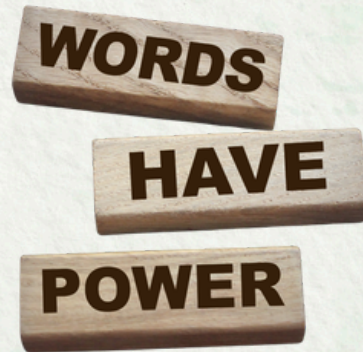
Something Has Shifted...

Something has shifted in
me over the past two years;

I've become more intentional in the words I choose
and the decisions I make.

Around the same time I stepped into the role of your
Council President, I also began a new position at the
hotel. In that role, I'm responsible for 450 union
employees. Every decision, every email, every
conversation with a union captain directly impacts my
future self in a major way. I've learned that intentional
language and thoughtful action aren't optional; they're
essential.

That same mindset shaped how I serve here: during
Sunday morning announcements, I intentionally welcome
each of you with the words that reflect who we are. As
Council President, I've worked to simplify how we report
and meet, so that serving feels more accessible and
meaningful. And this tax season I learned that
intentionally tracking your giving is required. 😊



Intention is great, but it only matters when it becomes action.

I intend to submit this Quest article on time each month but... intention alone doesn't always make that happen. Too often, it turns into a last-minute apology email instead. I don't intend to delay the process, but I question myself and then inaction sets in. On Call Sunday, Pastor Eric used the children's sermon to remind us that it's okay to be unsure about something and ask questions, and then, when those questions, prayers, or doubts are answered we should celebrate them and share the good news intentionally.

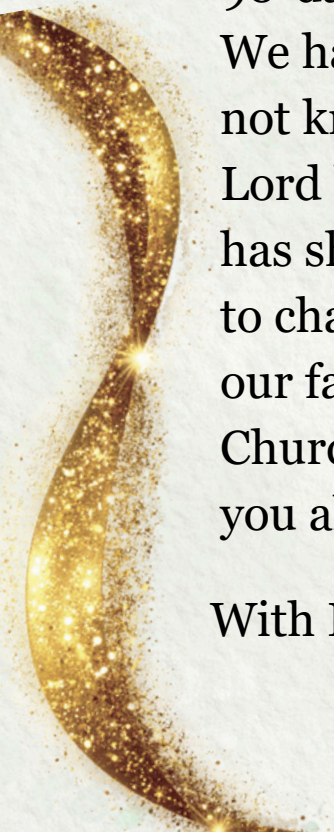


As we prepare to officially welcome Pastor Eric at the end of June, many of you heard during Call weekend that he is a planner. He brings with him a vision and a 90-day plan that he intends to roll out—with your help. We have been living in a season of intentional inaction, not knowing the next right step, questioning what the Lord has in store for us. With a new Shepherd, the Lord has shown us. It's now our duty to intentionally be open to change and take faithful steps forward, to celebrate our faith and a new plan for Holy Cross Lutheran Church. I look forward to intentionally acting alongside you all on this new journey.

With Faithful Intention,

Cara

Papenheim



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

Dear Holy Cross,

Spring is always a special time at Holy Cross. Holy Week draws our congregation together in worship, the church grounds come alive through the efforts of so many willing hands, and the warmer months ahead bring a full calendar of cherished traditions and community events such as Music Sunday, July 4th at Holy Cross, Vacation Bible School, Summer Choir and much more.

This Spring carries an added note of excitement as we look forward with great joy to the arrival of Pastor Eric and all that his installation will mean for our congregation. A new chapter is upon us, and the energy and anticipation within our community is palpable.



As we move into the heart of the year, I want to share a transparent picture of where we stand financially. Our approved budget for the year carries total projected expenses of just over \$498,000 against expected revenue of just under \$400,000. At our annual meeting, we discussed a number of ways to work toward closing that gap:

- Deferring the hiring of nursery attendants
- A period of months without a full-time pastor
- Increased facility rental income
- Fundraising opportunities
- Greater financial generosity from our congregation



I am pleased to report that the first quarter has gone well. Expenses are tracking in line with the reductions we anticipated, and rental income has been a bright spot — though we continue to explore ways to grow it further. Offering income has come in approximately 8% above budget through this point in the year, which is an encouraging sign of your generosity. That said, the budgeted figure itself was below what is truly needed to operate without a deficit, so we must continue to build on that momentum.

AT A GLANCE — PROJECTED YEAR-END

Projected expenses
~\$430,000

Current revenue projection
~\$400,000

Estimated gap to close
~\$30,000

Projected expenses reflect savings from deferred nursery staffing, nearly six months without a full-time pastor, and other budget efficiencies. Closing the remaining gap will require sustained and increased giving in the months ahead.

We are also actively exploring fundraising opportunities and look forward to working with Pastor Eric on ideas we have been developing. There is reason for optimism, but also a clear call to action.



I ask that you prayerfully consider whether you are able to increase your financial contribution for the remainder of the year. Every gift, of any size, moves us closer to the solid financial footing that allows Holy Cross to do the ministry we are called to do. We are deeply grateful for everything you already give, in dollars and in so much more.

I would also like to invite anyone that is interested in better understanding our church's finances to join the Finance Team. We meet about one hour every other month so it is not a great time commitment.

In Christ's Name,

Mark

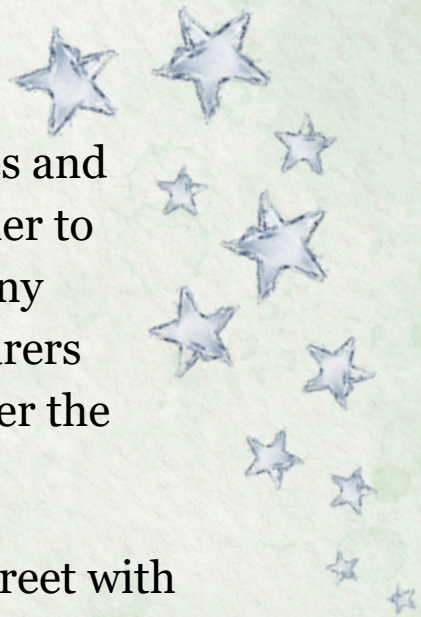


A Message from Fellowship
Beverly Siecker
FellowshipChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Spring has sprung! Allergy season is in high gear.



There was a full house on Easter Sunday with beautiful flowers and the potluck luncheon. The serving tables were overflowing with tasty dishes and delicious desserts. Over 60 people joined together to celebrate the occasion. It was good to see so many smiling faces. Many thanks to all the food preparers and to those who helped set up and clean up after the meal.



It was an exciting April, as we had a Meet and Greet with Pastor Eric on April 11, 2026. 57 members came to meet and get acquainted with him. There was also the chance to catch up with some members we hadn't seen in some time (all the while nibbling on the various trays of food and desserts!)

Call Sunday on April 12, 2026 was very well attended as we shared Pastor Eric's service. 74 people stayed for pizza and the congregational meeting to vote on our future Pastor. Cara gave a very joyful and exciting review of all his qualities and how he fits in with our needs and hopes for the future.

Many Thanks to the Wonderful Volunteers

Many thanks to all the wonderful volunteers that set up tables for Saturday, cleaned up and then reset everything for Sunday, which left more cleaning up to do. It was a game of musical tables and chairs, but didn't take long with so many helpers. I am always awed by the willingness of so many people to take time out of their busy schedules to pitch in when needed.

The HUGS group went to lunch at Silver Diner this month for a chance to socialize and relax with each other. We all need to get out more often. We meet the second Sunday of each month after the service and welcome anyone who would care to join us.

H.U.G.S.



Adam and Eve – The first people to not read the Apple Terms and Conditions.

For Your Calendar

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.

This has become a great community event, but it can't happen without more people helping to plan and participate in the event. Contact Jeremy Shoop, Tammy Breene, Beverly Siecker or Tonya Elliott if you would be willing to help make this grow.

Every Sunday before and after the 9AM Sunday school and the 10AM service we invite you to come into the Fellowship Hall for coffee, tea, juice, or water, along with fruit and snacks. Stop by to chat with friends and catch up . An LWR quilt is always available to work on and complete.

Beverly Siecker
Fellowship Chair

A Message from Outreach
Tonya Elliott
OutreachChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org



**Does saying
“thank you”
suffice?**

Fellowship House

Thank you to all who supported Fellowship House through our Lenten Appeal. These funds will help make a meaningful difference in the lives of those served.

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.

LINK Mobile Food Pantry

Thank you to all who volunteered for the LINK Mobile Food Pantries, which were highly successful. Through a longstanding partnership with LINK Against Hunger, volunteers helped coordinate and carry out food distribution efforts, serving families across the Herndon and Reston communities.

These mobile food distributions were so successful that we will proceed to have them on:

- July 24/25
- August 28/29
- September 18/19

Be on the lookout to be a blessing to others through this opportunity and sign up to volunteer for one of these!

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



Tonya

Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County

I attended the inspirational Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County on behalf of Holy Cross on March 1. Holy Cross Lutheran Church is one of 15 sponsors of the Student Peace Awards, a program that recognizes public high school students engaged in peace building activities. Students who are nominated by their school receive a monetary award and have the opportunity to select a nonprofit organization for an additional donation.

It always gives me a renewed sense of hope to hear how these young people are working to improve their communities and the world.



Some noteworthy projects included:

- Lessons for interpersonal communication strategies to reduce conflict and build trust between people with different views.
- A blog to support children of wounded and ill veterans.

- A robotic hand that converts speech to American Sign Language for deaf students.
- Proposed legislation to promote marine conservation.
- Production of a documentary about indigenous teens for PBS.
- Collection and delivery of supplies to areas such as Afghanistan, Gaza, and Sudan.
- An initiative to bring Vibrotextile harnesses to a high school so hearing impaired students could experience music.

The organization appreciates Holy Cross's continued support with our contribution of \$500 each year. More information is on the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County website. <https://fairfax.studentpeaceawards.org/>

Respectfully submitted,
Vivian Jefferson



Thank You...

to everyone at Holy Cross for your continued support of LINK! We have been awesome with our monthly food collections and have successfully held two food distributions at HCLC!

Holy Cross Food Collections

We continue to collect food for LINK on the First and Third Sunday services each month, as members take their bags to the altar during offering. Take a green bag from the bins at the front of the narthex, fill them with food and return on one or both Sundays. A shopping list of commonly needed items is attached to the bag.

Volunteers from the HCLC congregation take the food after service and deliver to the LINK Food Pantry.

Want to help with deliveries? See this [SignUp Genius](#) to select an open delivery slot.

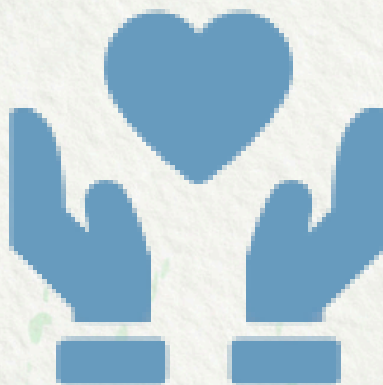
LINK Providing Monthly Herndon Food Distribution

LINK started a Herndon-based Food Distribution in Fall 2025 and Holy Cross is one of the locations for the distribution! We provided the site in January, February and March of 2026.

Unfortunately, the “Concrete Snow” in January kept us from distributing food then, but we served 225 families in February and 255 families in March.



Trinity Presbyterian, 651 Dranesville Road in Herndon, is the site for the Herndon Food Distribution in April, May and June of 2026. The distribution will return to Holy Cross in July, August and September. Sign up to help! Many hands are needed for these distributions. There are opportunities to bag and distribute food and assist with the traffic flow and operation. Here is the schedule for upcoming distributions. Please use LINK’s SignUp Genius below to let us know you are coming!



May

Trinity Presbyterian. Pack Friday 5/29, Distribute Saturday 5/30

Sign Up for May: <https://tinyurl.com/mwa5f82k>

June

Trinity Presbyterian. Pack Friday 6/26, Distribute Saturday 6/27

Sign Up for June: <https://tinyurl.com/yc7u3sx4>

July

Holy Cross Lutheran. Pack Friday 7/24, Distribute Saturday 7/25

Sign Up for July: <https://tinyurl.com/w8vymf6m>

August

Holy Cross Lutheran. Pack Friday 8/28, Distribute Saturday 8/29

Sign Up for August: <https://tinyurl.com/yc2sypz8>

September

Holy Cross Lutheran. Pack Friday 9/17, Distribute Saturday 9/18

Sign Up for September: <https://tinyurl.com/s98xz99c>

Feeding the Hungry: Other Ways to Help

LINK is exceptional at responding to the Gospel message to feed the hungry by distributing food to those in need. Volunteers are the heart of our organization.

We make it easy for people to get involved and to contribute. Our website lists volunteer opportunities as well as providing the ability to sign up to volunteer.

Link Website: <https://tinyurl.com/jtb3p3wh>

LINK primarily serves families through individual food deliveries. In 2025, LINK served over 2400 families with deliveries of canned and packaged goods, produce, bread, meats and dairy products, along with toiletries, paper goods and cleaning supplies. Volunteer drivers deliver the food. Packers and pantry volunteers help with this effort, and training is provided for these positions.

Other Opportunities to Help:

- Store Food Rescues program: picking up food from local stores and delivering it to the LINK pantry at Herndon United Methodist Church.
- A Simple Gesture: Six times a year, food is collected from the community and delivered to the LINK deep storage at Christ the Redeemer in Sterling. Volunteer to unpack and shelve the collection.
- Mobile Food Pantry: a monthly food distribution on the second Tuesday at Christ the Redeemer Church.
- Holiday Program: Help on two Saturdays in December to distribute food and toys to clients, and preparations in sorting and packing ahead of the event.

If you have any questions about the many volunteer opportunities with LINK, please contact Joy Heuer, Holy Cross' representative for LINK.

Joy

**A Message from Property
Craig Reichow
PropertyChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org**

Thank You!



**My sincere thanks
to all who
participated in our
Spring Property
Day Clean-Up
event!**

Property Day

Initially scheduled for the day before Palm Sunday, we had to slip the event to the day before Easter. Essentially, the weather was not conducive to clean up outdoors, and I had not ordered the mulch correctly so we had none to spread and beautify the church property. I also neglected to record who attended (my bad), so I could not give you a shout-out here. Sorry! Hopefully I can do better next Property Day.

I found I could fit 26 bags of mulch into my SUV, so it's a good thing I didn't buy more the first day. Unfortunately, I had to buy another 25 bags, but (the good news) Lowe's had the mulch on sale for half-price (\$2) both days when I bought the bags of mulch.

Narthex Light Outage



A Narthex light was out, so I tried to replace the bulb. I tried several bulbs, but it still didn't work.



Joe Makowski came to the rescue by figuring out that the light fixture had a heat sensor that was stuck open. Because HCLC no longer uses incandescent bulbs, this should not have happened. Joe ordered the inexpensive part and the light should be working by the time the Quest is published. Thanks, Joe!

Power Strips for the Fellowship Hall



HCLC's Fellowship Hall has a lot of brick wall, but not too many outlets since it was constructed many decades ago. Concern was voiced about our ability to support our Easter meal with just a few outlets along the wall nearest the kitchen.

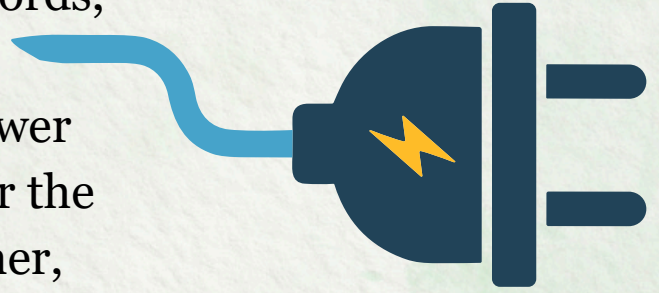


I initially proposed that we install very long power strips and mount them on the wall so they would not "walk away." Sam Carter pointed out that would instantly fail our annual fire inspection. Oops!



We looked at possibly linking outlets through the wall from the Property Room, but there was too much stuff in there to even find outlets on that wall.

Thanks to existing power cords, we figured out two ways to temporarily bring extra power into the Fellowship Hall for the few times we need it. Further, those temporary fixes also do not require crossing any walkways that might create a tripping hazard.



I love it when a plan comes together!



Shelf Under the Kitchen Sink



The shelf under the kitchen sink was sagging badly and needed to be replaced.



Beverly Siecker donated a leftover piece of Oriented Strand Board, (OSB) from her home and together we cut the wood to fit, and painted it. We also used some scrap from the HCLC shed to hold up the shelf so it too shouldn't sag over time.



Although this project was successful, it also revealed that our kitchen cabinets are aging (plus they were not great quality in the first place). Further, several drawer slides are wearing out. I shudder to say it, but HCLC may well have to consider replacing all kitchen cabinets sooner rather than later. We can only do band-aid fixes for so long.

Water in the Education Wing

Last January we experienced water on the floor in Rm 205 of the Education Wing. Since we recently had the membrane roof replaced on that wing, water on the floor is always a concern.



We have not ruled out that water may be getting in from the side wall. Kudos to Sarah Schulmeyer for checking that room routinely after rainfalls. Thanks, Sarah!



Have you seen something that needs fixing? Please let us know (i.e., Craig Reichow, Pierre Huggins, Gary Wolfe, Joe Makowski, Sam Carter). The Property Team recently fixed the toilet paper holder, moved tiles to the shed, fixed the wagon in the shed, and other minor chores BUT we always appreciate your inputs on how we can help sustain our church facility.

If you have some talents to help maintain our church, please let one of the Property Team know (same folks). We always need more core volunteers, but most of our needs are for hardly ever used tasks that confront the team. After all, our facility is aging.

Thanks for reading,

Craig Reichow
Property Chair

Council Spotlight

Bob Thompson, Council Treasurer

Treasurer@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Bob is not only Holy Cross's treasurer, he sings in the choir, plays bells and is our sound system extraordinaire!

My favorite thing about Holy Cross is...



Our Church Family!

“If I could be a chef, my favorite dish to make would be haggis.”



Editor's note: Haggis is a popular Scottish dish that is a type of pudding composed of animal innards (according to Britannica) and requires a dandy chef indeed!

“Should I write an autobiography, it would be titled, *You don't know what you need until you get it.*”



Enlighten Your World Did You Know?



Did you know that there are 2 churches that use our building to worship each week? They have been a blessing to us with building usage.



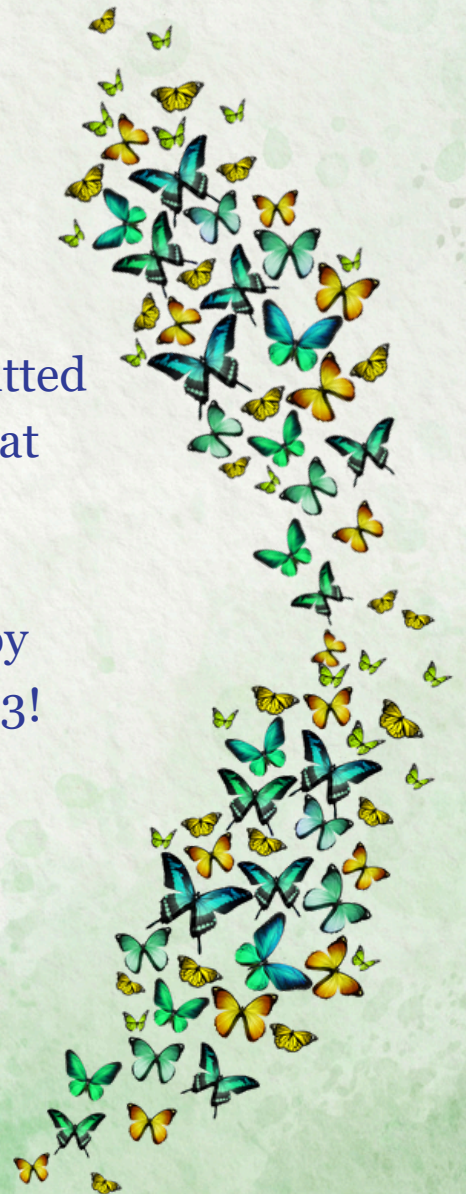
Did you know that that you can make a dedication to remember or honor someone through the flower link or QR code found in the Weekly Update or e-Blast?



Did you know that by volunteering at the Closet, you help share Christ's love through Holy Cross with those in need?



Did you know that Holy Cross is committed to maintaining our property in a way that supports wildlife and encourages pollinators? So much so, we became a Certified Churchyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation in 2023!



Plug In



“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:

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

FellowshipChair@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.

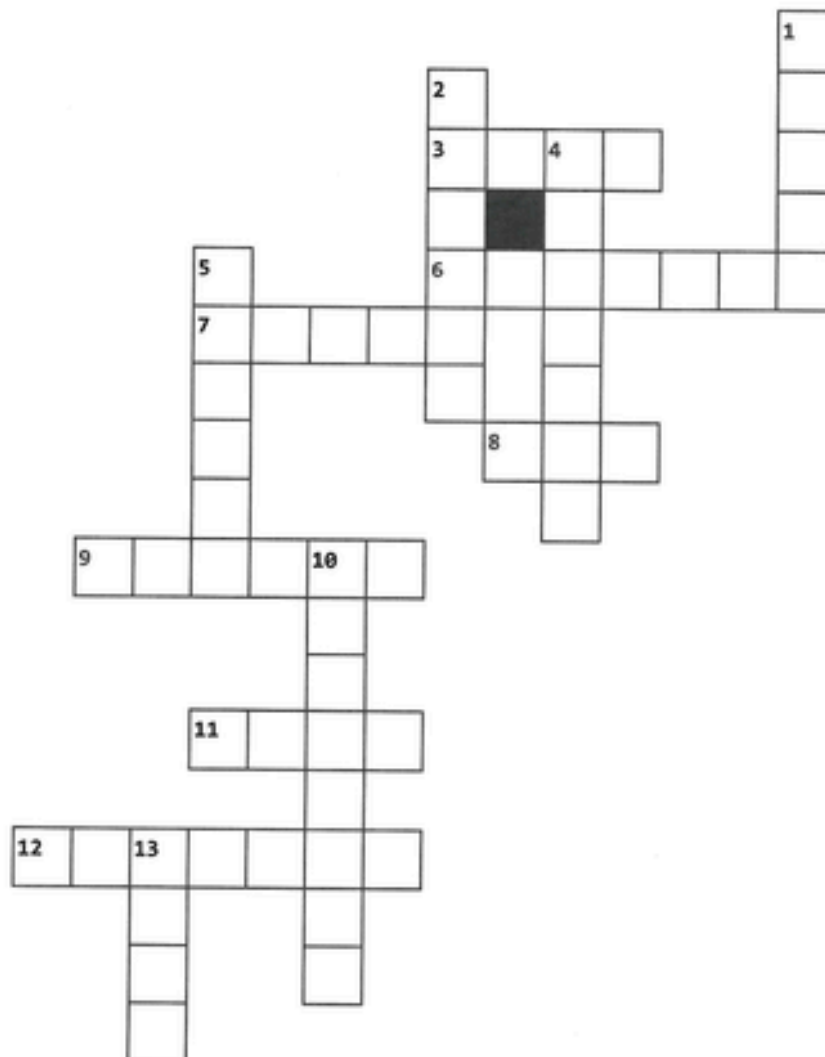


- Send a donation directly to our PayPal account. Scan code to access.



- 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

May Quest Crossword



Across

3. Organization we collect food for.
6. Organization of May's gift card.
7. These terms were not read by Adam and Eve.
8. The answer to whether we sang this hymn just a few weeks ago.
9. Pastor Eric is bringing this with him, along with a 90 day plan that he intends to roll out.
11. First name of new pastor.
12. This type of hand converts speech to American Sign Language for deaf students.

Down

1. God has given me these to serve and use.
2. where we can volunteer to help share Christ's love to those in need.
4. Light which needs to be fixed.
5. One of Bob Thompson's favorite foods.
10. There is a reason for this, along with a clear call to action.
13. Ministry that supports children of wounded and ill veterans.