



HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# The Quest

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



## April 2025

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The deadline for inclusion in the May 2025 edition of  
the Holy Cross Newsletter, The Quest,  
is **Wednesday, April 23, 2025**  
Articles are always gladly accepted earlier!

Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at:  
[Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto: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

### Find us online!



[www.HolyCrossHerndon.org](http://www.HolyCrossHerndon.org)



[facebook.com/HCLCHerndon](https://facebook.com/HCLCHerndon)



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA



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## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY

One of my favorite hymns to sing on Easter Sunday is *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*. The text of this hymn is a translation by Francis Pott of the Latin original *Finita iam sunt praelia*.



Imagery of Christ taking human form and battling death permeates this hymn. Looking at Christ's saving work as doing battle with the devil, rather than paying ransom for the sins of men or showing never-ending love, was common in the early Middle Ages and somewhat revived again by Martin Luther.

In present times, hymn texts are more likely to lean in the direction of Christ's love rather than Christ's battle over death. Phrases such as, "but the pains which he endured, our salvation have procured," or, "The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet from his garden tomb." are more likely to be seen from hymn writers today. However, Pott uses language like, "The strife is o'er, the battle done," or, "The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Jesus their legions has dispersed." Equally powerful, language about the love of Christ and the power of Christ both have their place in our hymnody.



After not singing the word “Alleluia” for 40 days Francis Pott adds three bold “Alleluias” to start and end this hymn. An “Alleluia” can also be found at the end of each stanza. In combination with a fanfare like hymn tune (composed by one of the greatest medieval composers, Giovanni Palestrina) these “Alleluias” are a powerful addition to any Easter service.

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***The strife is o’er, the battle done;  
now is the victor’s triumph won!  
Now be the song of praise begun.  
Alleluia!***



***The pow’rs of death have done their worst;  
Jesus their legions has dispersed.  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.  
Alleluia!***

***The three sad days have quickly sped,  
Christ rises glorious from the dead.  
All glory to our risen head!  
Alleluia!***

***Christ closed the yawning gates of hell;  
the bars from heav’ns high portals fell.  
Let hymns of praise his triumph tell.  
Alleluia!***

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

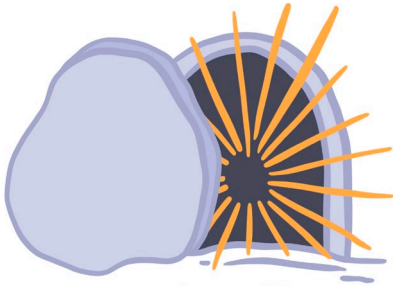




## COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –



### Hope is Alive

Happy Easter, Holy Cross! After forty days of thoughtful reflection we can finally rejoice, sing hallelujah, and enjoy a season of rebirth.

March truly was a lion for us, and while it feels like April's lamb is yet to be seen, my personal feelings of faith are stronger than ever. However it may

feel, we truly are in the season of rebirth: Christ will soon be risen, the trees and flowers around us will continue to emerge from the winter and bloom, and the joys of outdoor living will become more and more frequently available as the weather continues to warm.

Despite the doldrums of winter, Holy Cross continues to be vibrant in its ministries. Our Lunch for the Soul and ELL attendance remain strong. We enjoyed many fellowship and evangelism opportunities after church services and are hoping to host a new members Sunday soon. Lenten services were reflective and nourishing for both body and spirit. Regardless of experiencing some tough news around our Call process, the congregation came together and offered grace and strength to the Call committee and Church council.





The sun is rising brighter and warmer each day, and with Summer approaching, where will your faith journey take you? Are you ready to give your church life a rebirth? I can tell you first hand that taking on church responsibility may seem daunting, and I would be lying to you if I told you it required minimal time and effort. It's a

choice that may seem easy **not** to make, but I will also tell you that the experience of being on Church Council, the camaraderie of your volunteer leaders, and the genuine appreciation from our members and staff for your time will bring you great strength. Stewardship and Personnel chairs currently need to be filled, and if your faith journey is even hinting that this may be where your rebirth is found, please reach out to any of your council members to discuss, as we will not leave you alone in the desert.



Yes, siblings in Christ, Easter is upon us – hallelujah – and the work of our church and the movements of the Holy Spirit never stop. Continue to love, pray and support each other as we look for the paschal lamb to arrive again.

In peace,  
Cara Papenheim





Dear Holy Cross Family,

As we continue to grow together in faith and community, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who have volunteered your time and talents to support the work of our church. From the smallest gestures to the most dedicated efforts, your contributions are what keep Holy Cross vibrant, welcoming and capable of fulfilling our mission in the world. Whether you've served in the altar guild, participated in worship services, worked with our youth, displayed your musical talents, shared your skills in our ministries, or simply offered your prayers and support, know that your involvement makes a difference. We are deeply grateful for the time, energy and love you invest in our church family. You are what makes Holy Cross the amazing place it is.



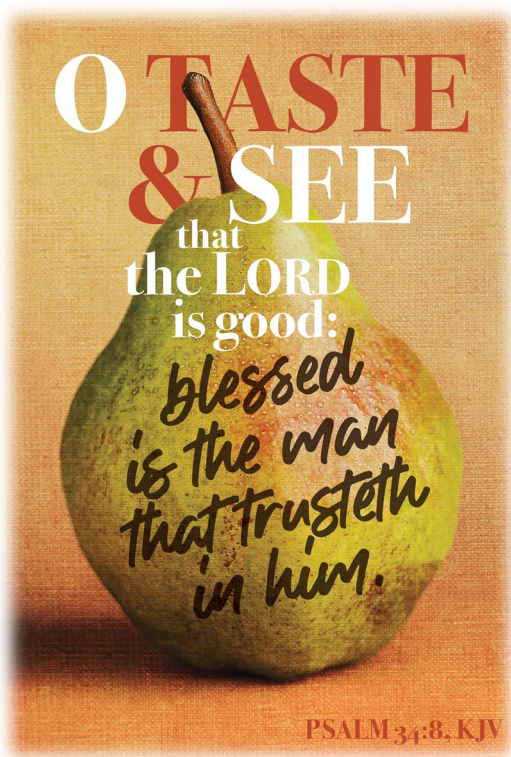
In the spirit of continuing to grow and serve, we will soon be sending out a *Time and Talents* survey to help us better understand the gifts, skills, and interests within our congregation. This will allow us to match opportunities for service with those of you who wish to contribute in new or expanded ways. Please keep an eye out for the survey. We encourage everyone to participate so we can continue to build a strong, thriving church community together.



As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen our leadership, we need someone to fill the important role of *Stewardship Chair* on the Church Council. This position involves overseeing our stewardship initiatives, encouraging financial and volunteer support and fostering a culture of generosity within our congregation. If you feel called to serve in this capacity or have any questions please connect with me at church or contact me at [VicePresident@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:VicePresident@HolyCrossHerndon.org) or 202-615-8595.

Thank you again for all that you do. Your efforts to support our mission here at Holy Cross are vital to the mission of our church. We are so blessed to have each of you as part of our church family.

In His Service,  
Mark Roe



## FELLOWSHIP

### Generosity and Joy – Happy Spring!



#### *Shrove Tuesday*

#### *Mardi Gras Pancake Supper:*

Including **Troop 12**, 35 revelers enjoyed a pancake and sausage supper and Mardi Gras celebration (with King Cakes) on Mardi Gras night, March 4th.

#### *Thanks To:*

##### *The Chefs:*

- **Justin Beatty, Connor McElveen, and Felix Reges**, along with helpers **Nancy LaFalce, Patrick McElveen, Violet Reges, and Beverly Siecker**.

##### *The Servers:*

- Church Council members **Jo Roe, Mark Roe, and Cara Papenheim** served it.
- **Gary Wolfe** tried to serve food, but there was no room for him. Thank you all!

**The Royal Flush** was again in attendance regaling everyone with the names and backgrounds of the various Mardi Gras Krewes (**The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale** or the **Krewe of Red Beans** anyone?).



A BIG thank you to **Suzanne Baggett** for researching all the krewes.

A Mardi Gras parade lead by **The Royal Flush** around the Fellowship Hall to “Oh, When the Saints Come Marching In” helped set up the prizes for the evening.



- **Nick from Troop 12:** Most Mardi Gras Spirit
- **Ben from Troop 12:** Best Dancer
- **Suzanne Baggett:** Attended most Mardi Gras parades
- **Celia Brown:** Most recently attended Mardi Gras (in 2022)
- **Ron Voight from Troop 12:** Birthday Closest to this Year’s Mardi Gras
- **Jared Lem:** Tallest
- **Beverly Siecker:** Shortest
- Tie between **Tibbie Preston** and **Diane Stanley** (Cheryl Smith’s friend): Oldest
- **Connor McElveen:** Youngest
- **Dave McDonald, Asst. Scoutmaster of Troop 12:** Best Costume (New this year)

A good time was had by all!





APRIL

MAY

JULY

**Wed., April 2 & 9 - Lenten Dinners:** We are again be having soup, sandwiches (but no dessert) dinners prior to worship during Lent. Please volunteer to make some soup for these two dinners.

**Sat., April 12 - Inspiro Choir Concert:** time and place TBD. Our own Jeremy Shoop is a part of this group. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

**Sun., April 20 - 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., May 3 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



***The joke of the month  
for April is:***

**Why is the letter A like a  
flower?**

**Because a B comes after it!**

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

## PROPERTY



Thank you to everyone who has helped with our property cleanup! Cleanup was ***tree-mendous!***

- Mounds of trash were cleared out of the stream.
- Kitchen hardware was fixed.
- Weeds picked, and grounds cleared of debris.
- Mulch, mulch & more mulch distributed.

Many thanks to Anne Geiger, Pierre Huggins, Jared Lem, Joe and Kathy Makowski, Craig Reichow, Mark Roe, and Craig Swanson for their hard work during the March 15 Clean-Up Day.

If you missed the March Clean-Up, there is another opportunity to help! We have decided to keep the Work Day on April 12 to complete several additional tasks before Easter. Join us on April 12 from 9 am to 12 pm. No experience required. Help make Holy Cross beautiful!



## OUTREACH



### Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County

Holy Cross Lutheran Church is one of 15 sponsors of the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County, a program that recognizes high school students engaged in social justice activities. Students who are nominated by their school receive an award of \$250 and have the opportunity to direct an additional \$250 to a nonprofit organization that represents their focus area.



I attended the awards ceremony as a representative of HCLC on March 2. Every year, I am amazed at the drive and motivation of young people who balance homework, family obligations, and other extra-curricular activities and still find time to organize service projects.



Many of the school projects this year were designed to promote intercultural understanding from the perspective of Muslim and Jewish students.

Other programs addressed the needs of immigrants, people who have disabilities, or students who are experiencing food insecurity. The awardees provided advocacy, tutoring services, as well as emotional support.

At a time when many adults are feeling hopeless and helpless about conflicts throughout the world, these students are taking action at the grassroots level to do what they can to directly help other people. They can provide an example for all of us!

You can view a recording of the entire ceremony by going to YouTube and searching Student Peace Awards 2025.

Respectfully,  
Vivian Jefferson



## **STEPHEN MINISTRY**



### **How Long, O Lord?**

When life gets difficult, you may wonder like me, “How long can this go on?”

David asks this exact question in Psalm 13. He has probably been asking this question for a long time when he continues, “Will you forget me forever? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long?”

Even through his dilemma, David knows he can honestly express his deepest feelings, trusting that God will listen and care.

The Stephen Ministry was designed to help with these kinds of “How long” times through a consistent, compassionate presence, reflecting Christ’s light into dark places connecting people to the hope of God’s unfailing love.

Throughout every person’s life, difficulties can arise.

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](mailto:tallulah925@gmail.com) or (307) 399-6461 (call or text) or the church office: [admin@holycrossherndon.org](mailto:admin@holycrossherndon.org)

Sarah Schulmeyer,  
Coordinator

## 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 mail a check donation to the church (Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170)

### **There are several ways to give when you're not in the sanctuary:**

1. Go to our secure website and click **"Donate"** to set up a one-time or recurring donation through Vanco.
2. Download the free **Vanco Mobile** app. Once it's downloaded, you can use our Invite code, **24A7NT** to ensure you are linked to the correct church, and login with your current Vanco credentials (whether from the GivePlus app or our website's Donation page. If you do not have an account, you will be prompted to set one up.
3. You can also make a single or recurring check donation to the church by using Bill Pay with your bank or credit union online account or mobile app. Those payments are guaranteed and are shown in your bank or credit union records.
4. Lastly, you can scan the QR code:

