

The Quest

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

February
2026

January Crossword Winner!

Nan Lem

Nan won a \$25 Panera gift card for being the first one to submit a correct crossword puzzle from the January Quest! She has been attending Holy Cross for three years and is involved in many church activities, including Stephen Ministry, serving as a reader during worship, and stewardship.

**Be the First!
to Win \$25**

**Jimmy's Old Town Tavern
has generously donated
our next Crossword Puzzle
Gift Card of \$25
(See page 23)**

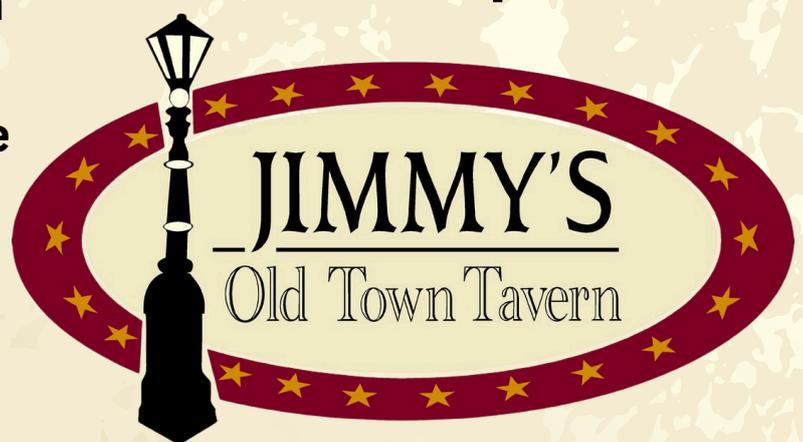


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Staff and Council are exempt from submitting the answers.

“I pray for you, That being rooted and
established in love,
may have power, with all the saints,
to grasp how long, and high and deep
is the love of Christ.

Ephesians 3:17,18

What's Happening at Holy Cross

Don't Miss in The February Issue

- Spotlight on Council Members
- Complete Crossword Puzzle –
- First Submission in -Wins a Jimmy's Old Town Tavern \$25 Gift Card!

A Few Notes

- The deadline for inclusion in the March 2026 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, The Quest, is Monday, February 16, 2026.
- The deadline for inclusion in the Weekly Update is 4 pm on Tuesdays.

Find Us Online!

- www.HolyCrossHerndon.org
- facebook.com/HCLCHerndon
- Instagram.com/HolyCrossELCA

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

Finding Our Voice in the Ordinary

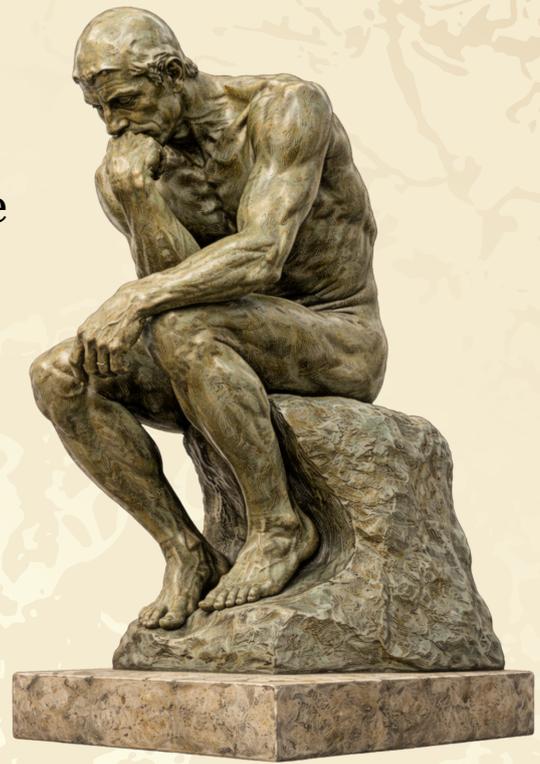


February often arrives quietly. After the glow of Christmas and the clarity of Epiphany, we find ourselves in a stretch of the church year that feels less flashy and more... **ordinary**. The Sundays after Epiphany (also referred to as “ordinary time”) invite us to pay attention to what faith looks like when life settles back into its normal rhythms.



In worship this month, scripture and song continue to reveal Christ at work not through spectacle, but through teaching, healing, and presence among everyday people. The music of this season reflects that same tone, less about fanfare and more about formation. These hymns and songs help us practice listening, responding, and following, even when God’s movement feels subtle.

February is also a hinge month. We are still rooted in Epiphany's themes of light and calling, while beginning to sense Lent on the horizon. Worship begins to gently ask deeper questions: How are we being shaped as disciples? What does it mean to live out our faith in love, justice, and mercy? Music gives us language for those questions before we ever try to answer them.



Showing up week after week and adding your voice to our shared song matters. Worship shapes us; teaching us to pray, to hope, and to trust, even when we don't have everything figured out. Whether your voice is loud, quiet, confident, or unsure, it belongs in the song of this community. As February unfolds, may the music we share help us listen more closely for God's voice and find courage to live it out beyond the walls of this building.

All Shall be Amen and Alleluia!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy

2026

HYMN MADNESS SZN IS UPON US!

Will **A Mighty Fortress** be the true King of Chorales? Is **How Great Thou Art** really that great? **Will Crown Him with Many Crowns** be crowned the best hymn? Fill out your 2026 HYMN Madness brackets to find out! Brackets will be available for completion on Sunday mornings: **February 15th** and **February 22nd**. The first round of voting starts on **March 1st!**

Each week we will vote on hymn match ups until we have crowned a ***Champion*** hymn on Easter Sunday, **April 5th**. Be sure to fill out your brackets before **March 1st** to be eligible to win our prize. If you get the most points, you will win the right to pick hymns on a Sunday this summer! You may have noticed that we are still working towards our **Transition Fund** goal. In order to help raise funds, we're adding a little fun to our tournament. For every **\$10 donated**, you get **an extra ballot vote** that week!

Need a refresher on hymns? **Listen to our "Hymn Madness" playlist** on Holy Cross Lutheran Church's YouTube page for a preview of the tournament hymns!

Stay tuned to the Bulletin and Weekly Updates for more details as we get closer!!!



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

Oh My, Holy Cross,

For me, writing this month's Quest must be like what a dog feels like when a squirrel runs by during a walk, completely distracted from the path and immediately fascinated by this fluffy tail in the distance. I've started the article no less than 5 times, each time abandoning whatever topic got me started in hopes for a better, brilliant viewpoint.

**Spoiler alert:
no brilliant viewpoint here.**

With so much already having happened in our 2026 politics, my "real job" life, and the weather, it's time to go back to basics: Church. More specifically, Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Our newly installed 2026 Council met for the first time, there was lots of excitement in the room and it gives me great confidence in a productive and exciting year. Your Evangelism, Outreach and Fellowship chairs continue to put their works together to plan and execute our traditional support and programming and some new and exciting events throughout this coming year. In February, we hope to see you for Shrove Tuesday! Our Christian Ed and Youth chairs have some awesome activities for kids and adults each week, you are encouraged to attend at 9:00 am before our weekly worship.

Our newly filled Stewardship chair is actively engaged in finding new fundraising strategies, and thanks to the help of some volunteers we have the return of Hymn Madness! As always, Property is getting more than they bargained for... we never know what issues they may encounter next, but we do know they are keeping this building up and costs down, something we can all be thankful for and handy participation is always welcomed.

And of course, Church wouldn't be Church without our Worship and Music Chair, Altar Guild and our Director of Music and Liturgy. Last year we were fortunate to celebrate January's "official" RIC Sunday, but this year, well, squirrel! So we are pleased to honor this important event during the February worship services, see you there!



For you avid Quest and Annual Report readers, 😊 many of you know that I ask your Council members the same question each month, "what do you need help with?" In this coming year the answer is simple: all of it!

In Christ,

Cara

**A Message from Fellowship
Beverly Seicker
FellowshipChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org**

Greetings from your new Fellowship Chair!

Many thanks to outgoing chair, Anne Geiger, for all her hard work the last four years. She's been more than kind in letting me follow her around like a hungry puppy while I learned as much as possible.

Upcoming Highlights

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday / Mardi Gras Pancake Supper will be returning again this year on Tuesday February 17. Our special guests will be Boy Scout Troop 12. They really enjoy seeing the Royal Flush and parading to "When the Saints Go Marching In". Join us for pancakes, sausage, King Cake and give-aways.

Lenten Dinners

Lenten dinners will start February 25, 2026 and continue each Wednesday, March 4, 11, 18, and 25. Soup and sandwiches (no dessert) will be on the menu. Let me know who can bring their favorite soup. There is always a vegan option.

Easter

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026 will be our Easter Brunch Potluck after the service. Ham and rolls will be provided.

Always Inspired By You!

“If you have any ideas for Fellowship events or want to sponsor something, please let me know. Bowling anyone?”

Stop by the Fellowship Hall after the Sunday service for coffee, tea, juice, or water, along with fruit and snacks. Take time to chat with people you may only see once a week and catch up on your daily lives. Or invite a guest to see how welcoming Holy Cross is. There is always a LWR quilt available to work on and help complete.

Something to Laugh About

**Sunday, February
Bulletin
Announcements**

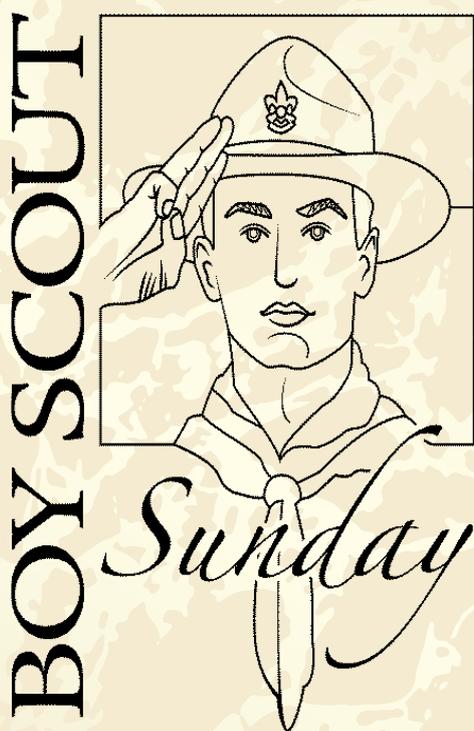
Join us for prayer &
medication,
Wednesday evening
@ 7:30 pm

Fellowship Chair,
Beverly Siecker

Scout Sunday 2026

Wear your Class "A" uniforms to the service.

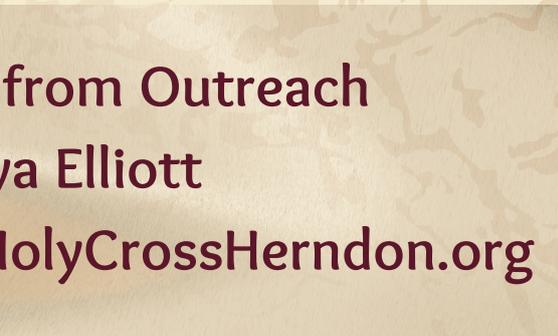
A Scout is Reverent.



Sunday, February 1, 2026, will be Scout Sunday at Holy Cross Lutheran Church during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. As Holy Cross is the chartered organization for BSA Troop 12, the 2025 troop charter will be formally presented to Vice President Mark Roe by Troop 12 Charter Organization Representative Anne Geiger.

Scouts from Troop 12 will assist with distributing bulletins, and Girl Scout Gold Award recipients and Boy Scout Eagle Scouts will be recognized during the service.





A Message from Outreach
Tonya Elliott
OutreachChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Greetings,

I am excited to share the success of our MLK day of service. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

Living Dr. King's Legacy Through Service

Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy came alive at HCLC on January 19 as our community embraced a generous spirit of service and fellowship. What began as a day of giving quickly became a vibrant celebration of collaboration, compassion, and shared purpose.

A total of 77 people filled HCLC that day, representing a wonderful partnership between HCLC, the Herndon Woman's Club (HWC), and Inova Blood Donor Services. Of those who participated, 25 signed in as HCLC members and friends, 45 as members of the Herndon Woman's Club (with several people belonging to both groups), and we were delighted to welcome 7 community members who came specifically to donate blood. Thanks to this collective effort, 28 units of blood were collected to help save lives.

Throughout the day, participants worked side by side on seven service projects benefiting local, national, and international organizations that touch lives around the world:

- Personal Care Kits were assembled for Lutheran World Relief and will be delivered to their Maryland center for global distribution. Thanks to the generosity of the HCLC family, 107 kits were completed—surpassing our goal of 100!
- Rice-filled socks were prepared to provide warmth for animals outdoors during the winter months. These will be distributed by The Animal Education Rescue Organization in Haymarket, VA.
- Split pea soup ingredients and beans were packaged for LINK, helping support neighbors in need.
- Donated crayons were sorted by color and packaged for The Crayon Initiative, which melts used crayons into safer triangular shapes for hospitalized children. Inova hospitals benefit from this program.
- Kindness Rocks were decorated with uplifting messages to be shared with local senior centers.
- Lanyards were assembled for care packages for active-duty military through Operation Gratitude.



Beyond the impressive numbers and meaningful projects, the spirit of the day was unforgettable. The parking lot was full, children were running and laughing together, and the Fellowship Hall buzzed with conversation and joy. The energy was palpable—a beautiful reminder of what happens when people come together to serve.

This MLK Day of Service truly reflected Dr. King's call to love and serve one another. Thank you to everyone who participated, collaborated, donated, and shared their hearts. Together, we made a difference.

Peace,

Tonya

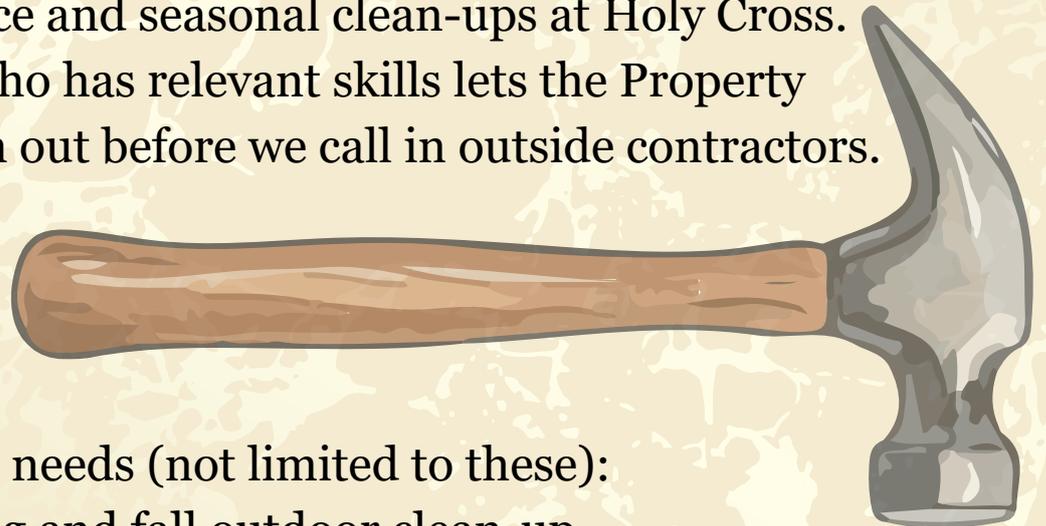


A Message from Property Chair
Craig Reichow
PropertyChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Help Wanted:

Congregation Talent Survey – Property Support

We're looking for skilled and amateur members of our congregation who can help with occasional maintenance and seasonal clean-ups at Holy Cross. Knowing who has relevant skills lets the Property Team reach out before we call in outside contractors.



Common needs (not limited to these):

- Spring and fall outdoor clean-up
- Plumbing, HVAC, and electrical/electronics
- Roofing, siding, drywall, painting
- Fencing, landscaping, water runoff, foundation repair
- Heavy equipment operators (e.g., backhoe)
- Architects, civil engineers, and other trades
- General “jack-of-all-trades” help and people comfortable with ladder work

To volunteer, please email Craig Reichow at:
propertychair@HolyCrossHerndon.org with:

- Your name
- Email address
- Preferred phone number
- Specialty areas and any relevant experience or certifications

This list will be kept within the Property Team and shared only with church council members if needed. Thank you for helping care for our facility.

This is simply a way for us to know who we can contact if a need arises—professionals and amateurs alike are welcome to join.

Yours in Property,

Craig
Reichow



A Message from Christian Education Chair
Suzanne Baggett
EducationChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Have You Seen?



I KNOW, I KNOW. The bathrooms have taken our breath away with their multiplicity, their spaciousness, and their elegance. BUT, did you know we now have a brand-new NURSERY (with its very own bathroom!) just off the far side of the Gathering Room? Everything's perfectly sized for little ones.

Currently, this light-filled space is the Sunday home of our Kingdom Angels (preschoolers) who have their Sunday School class. Their teacher, Cecilia Howard, has decorated it lovingly and invitingly with cheerful posters and a colorful hanging of Jesus sharing his love with little ones.



Little Lives Are Touched - All Because of YOU!

All this was made possible by all of YOU who were able to contribute to our Renovation Fund, by the planning team for the renovations and especially by Anne Geiger who led the way and saw to its completion.

Come and See!



In Gods grace,
Suzanne

Council Spotlight

Virginia Muller, Personnel Chair

PersonnelChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org



My favorite thing about the Holy Cross family is.....

The People! I grew up in this church (from the age of 10) and this church is my family. This church family has shaped me and influenced me as a child, as a teenager, as a young adult, and as a wife, mother, and friend.

What makes me laugh?

I'm a people watcher--people are so interesting to me--and I can easily be curious and amused when interacting with and observing people!

I especially love children, hence my entire career in education. Our teenaged youth are so very interesting and some of my fondest memories in my career were interacting with high school students and sharing a good laugh

I used to love to draw, color and paint as a kid, and even took three drawing classes in college as electives.

Hobbies?

Upon hearing this recently, a friend bought me a watercolor set and supplies for Christmas! I am excited to start drawing again and perhaps I will create a beautiful watercolor painting!

Get Connected

“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

February Features

Connect with *Fellowship* to help with:

- ***Shrove Tuesday*** events on February 17th
- ***Lenten Dinners*** on Wednesdays, beginning February 25th

Spring/Summer

Connect with *Fellowship* to help with:

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

FellowshipChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Contact Jeremy Shoop to connect with Music and Liturgy: **Musicdir@HolyCrossHerndon.org**

Contact Cara Papenheim to connect with Council opportunities: **President@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.

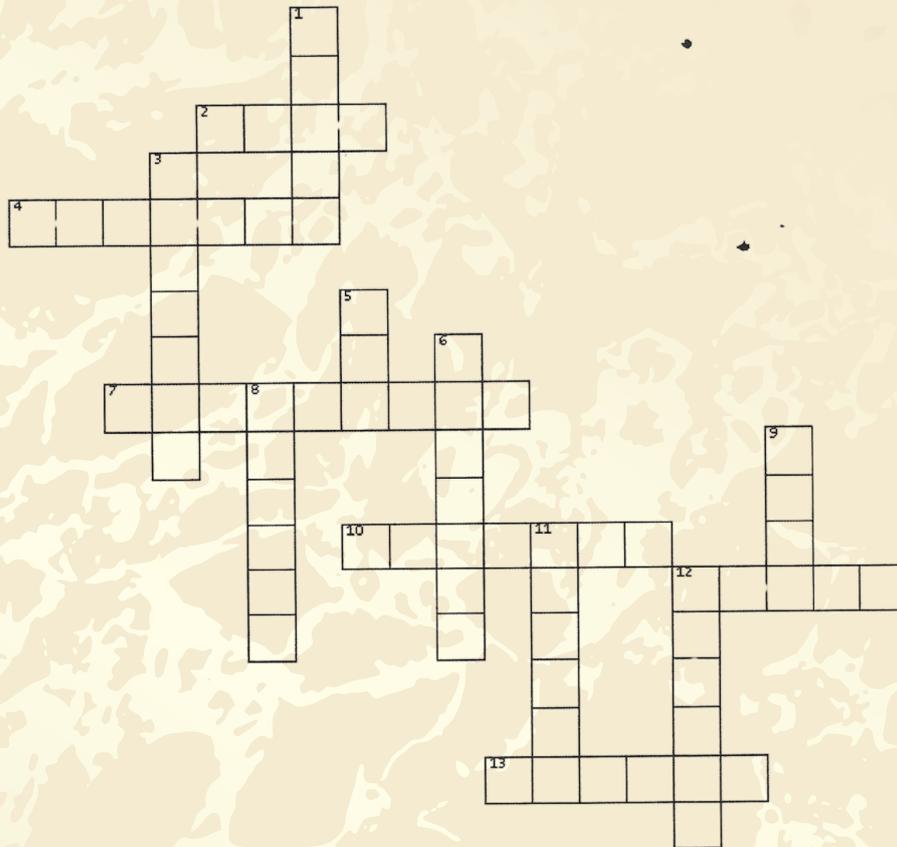


- Through your bank:
Use BillPay with your bank or credit union to set up a single or recurring donations.
- By Mail
Mail a check to the church at:
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1090 Sterling Rd.
Herndon, VA 20170

Crossword Puzzle Win \$25 Gift Card

***Staff & Council are exempt from answering February puzzle

February Quest Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. this occurs every Wednesday beginning February 25th
4. first name of the Christian Education Chair
7. Council Chair spot lighted this month
10. this shapes us, teaches us to pray, hope & trust
12. this Council Chair needs help
13. this will be available in the FH on April 5th

DOWN

1. February is this kind of month
3. this is where you find a printed copy of the Quest
5. last month's Quest gift card winner
6. our new Fellowship Chair
8. group honored on Sunday, February 1st
9. person to contact for council opportunities
11. work item pictured in Property's article
12. time that takes us back to basics

<https://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/criss-cross/result>