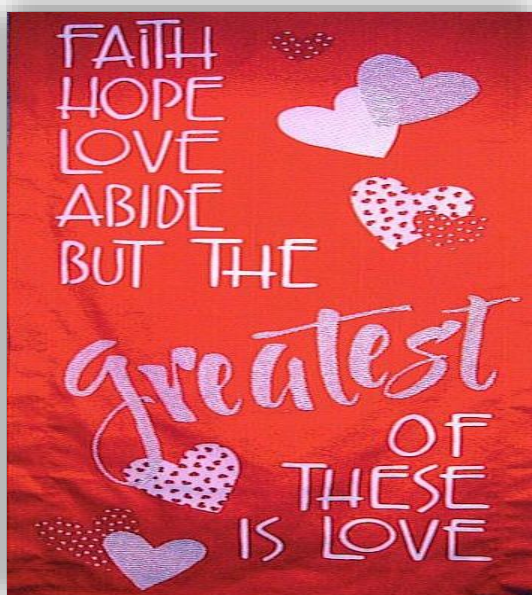




HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



February 2024

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The deadline for inclusion in the March 2024 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, The Quest, is Monday, February 16, 2024.

Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at:
admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net

The deadline for inclusion in the Weekly Update
is COB on Tuesdays.

Thank you,
Virginia Muller and Sarah Schulmeyer
Church Administrators

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

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www.holycrossherndon.org



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HolyCrossELCA



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY

WEDNESDAYS
DURING

Lent

This year's Midweek Lent theme is *Created for Community*. We will gather for Dinner Church on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM to explore ways we are in community with creation, the saints, our neighbors, those on the margins, and Christ. While the church usually focuses on individual acts of repentance, prayer, fasting, and sacrifice,

Lent is also a time to be in community with those around us. When we gather for worship, we gather "with the whole church." When we proclaim our faith, we proclaim "with the whole church." When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we pray "with the whole church."

It was common in the early church to use the weeks leading up to Easter as a time where catechumens were trained. This training would be done by the whole community. The faith of both the catechumens and the entire community working with them was enriched.

This midweek series explores the faith taught to catechumens as an extension of the Sunday liturgy. It will dive deeper into the previous Sunday's reading from the Mark's gospel and invite us to reflect on exactly what it means to be in community and how that impacts our faith.

Please consider joining us for a time of worship, prayer, fellowship, and food as we explore our communal relationships.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 14 – 7:00 PM

On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ashes, a sign of our death and of our sorrow for sin, but the ashes trace a cross on our forehead, where the baptismal water first marked us with God's grace.



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

CREATED FOR COMMUNITY

Midweek Lent Dinner Church
Worship Series



Wednesdays - 6:30 PM

- 2/21** In community with creation
- 2/28** In community with all the saints
- 3/6** In community with our neighbor
- 3/13** In community with those on the margins
- 3/20** In community with Christ



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

Time After Epiphany – Beginning of Lent

This is the time of the year when we briefly pause to take stock of where we are and prepare to move forward in the new year. After facing significant budget shortfalls throughout 2023, our Holy Cross family's contributions enabled us to finish the year only slightly below our budgeted giving; THANK YOU!!

Your new Council kicked off the year with a 50 minute long in-person meeting with unanimous attendance. We still need new Chairpersons for our Evangelism and Community Outreach ministries; there are active teams in place carrying these missions forward, but we need someone to chair each of them and represent them on Council. Please contact me if you feel led to serve but need more information. You may also want to talk to outgoing chairs, Karen Faulkner and/or Vivian Jefferson, about what they did when they served in these positions.

As the Altar Guild gets a little breather in changing the colors each week, that seems like the only thing that's slowing down. Due to the weather impact on our first attempt, we're finishing up the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Care Kit assembly from our MLK Jr Day of Service on Thursday, February 1st. Our next day to serve for our Lunch for the Soul ministry is Wednesday, February 7th. Scout Sunday is coming up on February 11th, and we'll also be making

Mardi Gras masks between services that day as well. We'll get to wear those masks two days later on February 13th for our parade as part of our Shrove Tuesday activities; be sure to come for the Pancake Supper that evening! Lent then begins the next day on Ash Wednesday, and we're only half way through February!

Our weekly Lenten Dinners will continue this year, so please avail yourselves of the opportunity for reflection and community which they bring each Wednesday evening beginning in the second half of the month.

Please continue to hold Pastor Martin and Shelly in your prayers as he continues to deal with ongoing health issues. Also, please pray for our Bishop, Leila Ortiz, your leadership team, our dedicated staff, and our entire church family. We know we will continue to face challenges, but we're confident that we'll get through them together with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I look forward to seeing what Christ has in mind for us as we move forward together!

Yours in Christ,
Sam



Scout Sunday 2024!



***The 12th principle of Scout Law:
A Scout is reverent.***

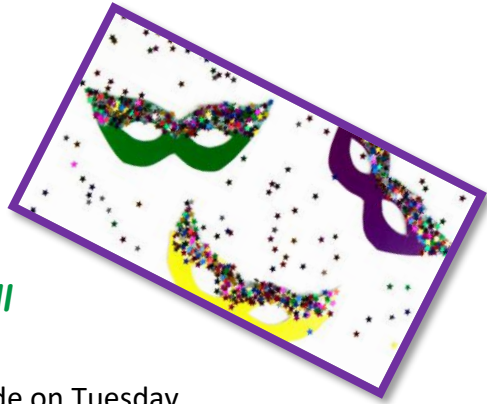
Sunday, February 11, 2024 is Scout Sunday at Holy Cross!
The 2024 charter for BSA Troop 12 will be given to President Sam Carter by the Troop 12 Chartered Organization Representative Anne Geiger at the 11 am service. The Troop 12 Scouts will also hand out the bulletins at the same service.

Scouts and Scouters, please wear your scout uniforms to church to celebrate the 2024 Scout Sunday! Gold Award and Eagle Scouts will be recognized at both services.



FELLOWSHIP

*Sunday, February 11th
Intergenerational Event:
Prepare for Mardi Gras!
10 am in the Fellowship Hall*



To prepare for our Mardi Gras Parade on Tuesday, February 13th, there will be an intergenerational event between services on Sunday, February 11th! Make your mask for the Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Parade! You can be as inventive as you wish!



*Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Dinner &
Mardi Gras Parade!
February 13th
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm*

On Tuesday, February 13th, come "in costume" and eat pancakes and sausage before participating in a Mardi Gras parade and eating King Cake! Our wonderful church council will be making and serving the pancake dinner – Yay Council! ***Wear the colors of the night--Purple, Gold and Green --but really, Anything Goes!***



Upcoming Fellowship Events

Wednesday Lenten Dinner Church and Services

Dates: February 21, February 28, March 6, March 13, March 20

If you would be willing to make soups (no desserts during Lent) for the dinners, please let Anne Geiger know for which date(s).

LWR National Quilting Day with Outreach Ministry! Saturday, March 16th from 10 am to 2 pm

Dust off that sewing machine, sharpen those scissors, and start gathering your unused quilting material to help the **Quilting Ministry** and **Kingdom Kids** have another blockbuster year! Will you help us surpass the highest number of quilts—65 last year--that the two groups have ever made in one year? We'll be meeting in the Fellowship Hall on this day so there is lots of room to work.





***Raleigh Ringers at
St. Matthews UMC, Annandale
Saturday, April 6th at 3 pm***

On Saturday, April 6th at 3:00 pm, the Raleigh Ringers will be at St. Matthews UMC! Get your tickets at www.rr.org. Contact Jeremy Shoop for info on carpooling.

The Joke of the Month!

It's Leap Year, so here goes:

- What is frog's favorite year? **Leap Year!**
- What happens to a baby wallaby on February 29th?
He grows by leaps and bounds!
- Where do frogs like to eat on Leap Day? **IHOP!**



We have a member of our congregation who was born on February 29th and is "18" years old this year. *Can you guess who that person is?*

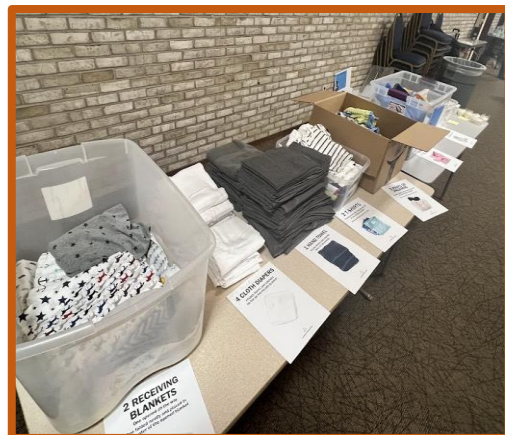
On that note...as always on Sunday, you are invited and encouraged to stop by the Fellowship Hall for some coffee, tea, juice, or water, good food (there is always fruit!), and a LWR quilt to tie. It's a terrific way to meet up with Holy Cross members and visitors. Hope to see you there!

Anne Geiger, Fellowship Chair
Fellowshipchair@holycrosslutheranchurch.net

COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWS

MLK Day of Service Was a Success!

Thank you to all who participated in the MLK Service and who donated the items for our care packages. In coordination with The Herndon Woman's Group, we completed many different projects that will help our local neighbors in need, and those across the world! We at Holy Cross met our goal of 30 Baby Care Kits and 30 Adult Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits are shipped to areas with the greatest need! To all involved—WELL DONE!



THANK YOU
Volunteers

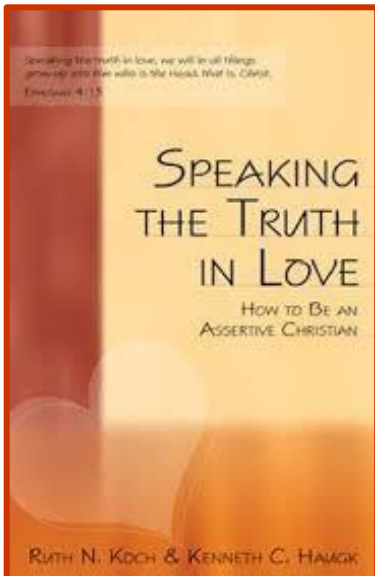




New Year - 2024 **STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING**

The first ***Stephen Minister Training*** class began Saturday, January 6th, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. There are 5 attendees, which I am told by Stephen Ministries, is an excellent class size. We will be meeting one Saturday a month for an all day class training, covering 3 class modules each time. Most classes are in larger congregations which meet once a week, covering one module at a time. Our class opted for the once a month option, which is great for our size.

We have begun to knit together in study and fellowship for this important ministry and training. I hope to offer this training once a year beginning in January.



At the beginning of January, the ***Stephen Ministry*** contacted us to see if Holy Cross would participate in a pilot study of the book, ***“Speaking the Truth in Love, how to be an Assertive Christian”***, co-written by founder, Dr. Kenneth Haugk, as they print a second edition. This second edition will be a training module we will cover in our March class. We will review it, evaluate it, and learn from it.

We are honored to be a part of this endeavor as we partner with the ***Stephen Ministry***.

What Else Can You Do?

Please be praying for the success of this new ministry within our church family at Holy Cross and for the people in our first Stephen Minister training class.

For additional information on how to become a **Stephen Minister** or a **receiver** of Stephen Ministry caregiving, please contact:
Sarah Schulmeyer at tallulah925@gmail.com (307) 399-6461 (call or text)
or the church office: admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net

Sarah Schulmeyer, Program Coordinator



3 WAYS TO GIVE

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.

Bring your offering with you to worship service at 8:30 or 11 am. You can also mail a check donation to the church (Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170)

There are three ways to give when you're not in the sanctuary:

1. To give online, simply go to our secure website and click "**Donate**" to set up an automatic donation plan.
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. An even easier method of sending a single or recurring check donation to the church is 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. Also, there is no fee to you or to the church.

3. Lastly, you can scan the QR code:





... do not be anxious
about anything,
but in everything
by prayer and
supplication with
thanksgiving let
your requests
be made
known to God.

Philippians 4:6