



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



“I am the
resurrection
and the
life.”

John 11:25

March 2024

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The deadline for inclusion in the April 2024 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, The Quest, is Monday, March 18, 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
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www.holycrossherndon.org



www.facebook.com/HCLCHerndon



HolyCrossELCA



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY

The Old Testament readings prescribed for Lent of Year B are among my favorite Lent readings. (For anyone unfamiliar with the Revised Common Lectionary, it is a three-year cycle of scripture readings that most major denominations use to determine what readings are used each Sunday. We are currently in Year B of the lectionary.) Each week these Old Testament readings teach us about a covenant God made with God's people.

- Lent I: God's covenant with Noah
- Lent II: God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah
- Lent III: God's covenant with Israel
- Lent IV: God's covenant with Moses
- Lent V: God's covenant with Jeremiah



We view these covenants today through the lens of baptismal waters where God made a covenant with us. When we were baptized God promised to give us a new life in Jesus Christ. Not only are we bonded to death like Jesus, but we are also bonded to a resurrection like Jesus.

Traditionally, Lent has been a time to prepare new Christians for baptism. The ancient church would spend these weeks teaching about baptism and what it means to be a Christian. In addition to baptismal candidates being enriched by this formation, those already within the community were strengthened in their faith along with them. Surely it is good for us today to examine these covenants and remember the promises God made with us when we were baptized.

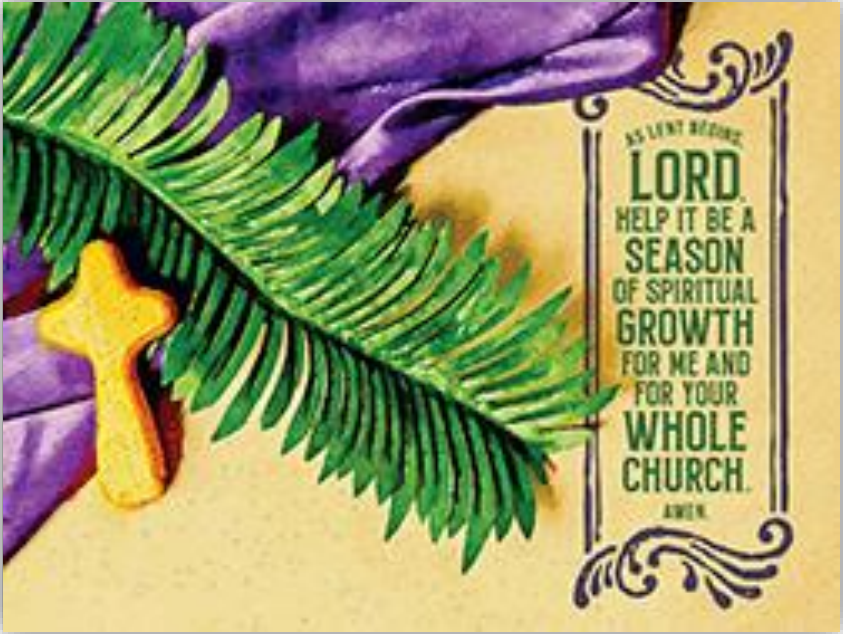
To emphasize these readings, we started the season off by burying the 'Alleluia!' in the baptismal font. As these alleluias 'marinate' with the baptismal waters, they are transforming the font. Each Sunday a symbol of that week's covenant is appearing on the font. Ms. Suzanne is taking time during the children sermon to explain each covenant to the children and make sure we all see that the font is changing. Just like death could not contain Jesus on Easter

morning, burying our ‘Alleluia!’ cannot stop praise and joy from coming out, even during this somber Lenten season.

Be sure to join us on Easter morning to see what happens when the ‘Alleluia!’ finally bursts out and shows us the full joy God’s baptismal covenant with us.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy



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 –

Moving Forward Together

As we begin the month of March, we find ourselves emersed in Lenten activities as well as trying to find quiet times for reflection and contemplation. We are not alone in this, as Ramadan also falls on the Islamic calendar this month, and our Jewish brothers and sisters fast in preparation for Purim.



During this period of reflection and sacrifice, we often try (and fail) to resist instant gratification by exercising self-discipline. We sometimes have more success focusing on others with acts of compassion and charity. However, more often than not we come up short when we try to rely on ourselves. Thus, it is a time of introspection leading to spiritual growth and connection with a higher purpose. We find that we must learn resilience, as we navigate challenges and setbacks on our journey towards personal and communal betterment.

I'm sure that you, like me, absorbed the news that Pastor Martin would be stepping down with a sense of sadness and loss. We are thankful for his service and what we were able to accomplish together, but we realize he must do what is best for his health and well-being, and we understand that the necessary actions he must

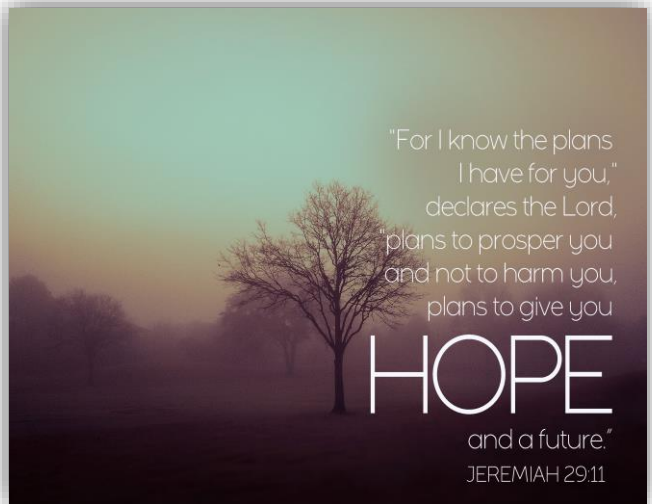
take would not be compatible with continuing to serve as our pastor. We will continue to pray for him and Shelly as he focuses fully on his recovery. We must remember in his farewell message to us he remarked that "...the people of this congregation have maintained the love and joy of Jesus in our midst. Jesus has great plans for you, just as he has for Shelly and me. In good times and in difficulty, the promise of grace and love we have been given sustains us all. May we continue to walk and serve in Jesus' name."

Our weekly Lenten Dinners are continuing; please avail yourselves of the opportunity for reflection and community which they bring each Wednesday evening. Also, please pray for discernment as we begin our search for a new pastor.

As I mentioned above, please continue to hold Pastor Martin and Shelly in your prayers. 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 are blessed with a loving and caring congregation; I am confident that we will be successful working with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to reach even greater heights!

I look forward to seeing what Christ has in mind for us as we move forward together!

Yours in Christ,
Sam





Did you know? March 8th is International Women’s Day, a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. International Women’s Day can be marked in American history beginning in 1909 in New York City, and Internationally, it was recognized by more than one million people and 6 countries in 1911. Through the next few decades, it gained traction around the world, and notably multiple communist countries. During the 20th Century, the date of celebration shifted between February 28th and March 8th until it was officially marked by the United Nations in 1977.



As a millennial female who holds the title of Director in a Major Hotel chain and Vice President of both this congregation and my neighborhood HOA, International Women’s Day gives me all the feels. The expansion of women in the workplace, political arena, pop culture, and even the Super Bowl (*yes, of course, Taylor, but also the flyover crew was all female*) continues to show the exponential growth our gender has both demanded and achieved. But... celebrating women is nothing new for Christians.

In the bible, we have long been taught of Jesus’s history with women, at times overtly, and others obviously (*who first bore witness to the resurrection?*). Throughout the New Testament, women play a key role in Jesus’s travels and teachings. Often referenced in Luke, they are included in Jesus’s list of disciples, reinforcing his message of inclusivity and equality, continually showing the value and dignity of women as people.

As Lutherans, we too have made great progress with women, recognizing the gifts and service that all genders have to offer. In 2020, the ELCA

celebrated the 50th anniversary of the United States Lutheran churches decision to ordain women, an anniversary that was acknowledged by none other than the presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton. Our own Synod Bishop, Reverend Leila Ortiz, is entering her fifth year in her prestigious position within the Metro DC area and also the world church. Although women still only make up about 25% of the worldwide clergy, having two powerful women watching out for the ELCA certainly deserves it's "come ups."

Being members of Holy Cross, we can all rejoice in our boastful history of supporting women in the clergy; having hosted the ordination of Bishop Ortiz in March of 2014, sponsoring our Seminarian, Katy Moran, on her pastoral journey and being blessed to regularly hear the preaching of Pastor Pam Mitcham.

Although we can always be in the business of improving, International Women's Day continues to be a celebration of both how far we have come and where we can continue to go. We should all be proud to be Lutheran with our supporting efforts to the women's movements, but our work is never done--we have a responsibility to share the good news of the Lord, always, but equally, we should share the good works through the Lord with our actions and support. *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 3:12

Respectfully,
Cara Swanson Papenheim



FELLOWSHIP

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Mardi Gras Celebration!

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Mardi Gras Celebration on February 13th was a well-attended success! The celebration was enjoyed by 44 people who ate and were merry on the day before Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent and period of reflection.



Council President **Sam Carter** gave the blessing for the meal, and everyone partook of regular buttermilk and gluten-free pancakes, chicken sausages, king cake from Great Harvest, and a gluten-free “king cake” coffee cake that tasted surprisingly like the real thing! The food was served by Council Members **Sam Carter, Chip Edwards, Cara Swanson Papenheim, and Pat Swanson.**

Chris Nelson and Evan Nelson decorated the Fellowship Hall prior to the event, as well as made pancakes with the young-at-heart **Chip Edwards, Deb Reilly, Pat Swanson, and Anne Geiger.** **Deb Reilly** followed the directions and made the best chicken sausages ever!



Deb Reilly also led the mask-making intergenerational event on February 11th, the Sunday before Shrove Tuesday. 18 people made 20 masks to use on Tuesday (**Evelyn Obering, Jo and Mark Roe's granddaughter**, made 2 additional masks for her mom and dad!) The masks definitely added a very festive touch on Tuesday.

Since we took over their meeting time and space for the dinner, the **Troop 12 Scouts** and their families were invited to be our guests, and they came out in force. 14 Scouts, parents and the troop's unit



commissioner and his wife were there in uniform-appropriate costumes – lots of beads and a crown that looked quite good with the “golden” tan, green and bits of purple of the BSA uniforms.



The evening ended with prizes and a very spirited Mardi Gras parade led by **The Royal Flush** (complete with plunger!), appointed Herndon stand-in for King Rex, around Fellowship Hall to the music of, “When The Saints Go Marching In”. Many thanks to **Jeremy Shoop** for providing the rousing recording of that music.



The winners of the prizes for the Mardi Gras evening, donated by **Thrivent** and **Roy Geiger**, were:

- Youngest attendee: **Evelyn Obering**
- Oldest attendee: the much-beaded **Tibbie Preston**
- Birthday closest to Mardi Gras THIS year: **Chip Edwards**
- Been to Mardi Gras in New Orleans most recently: **Cara Swanson Papenheim**
- Attended the most Mardi Gras events: **Joe Baggett** (over 20 since he marched in many parades with the Navy ROTC color guard back in the day!)
- Best Mask: **Maggie McElveen**
- Best Mardi Gras Dancer: **Sarah Moran**
- Most Mardi Gras Spirit: **Daniel G., Troop 12**
- Best stuffed animal mascot: **Jared Lem**

Like after all Mardi Gras parades, there was considerable clean-up to do after an event like this. A great BIG shout out goes to **Jo Roe** and **Pat Swanson** with help from **Sharon Carter, Jared Lem, Cara Swanson Papenheim**, and the **Troop 12 Scouts** for making the Fellowship Hall and the kitchen clean and ready for Lent.



Upcoming Fellowship Events through June 2024:

- **Lenten Dinner Church: 6:30 pm every Wednesdays during Lent:** 2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, and 3/20

Soup, sandwiches, good fellowship, and worship happen every Wednesday evening during Lent.
- **March Block Party:** Sunday, March 31, 2024 – **Easter Brunch** between services. This is a potluck brunch! Everyone is invited to bring your favorite brunch dish!
- **April Block Party:** Saturday, April 6th at 3 pm: **Raleigh Ringers** at St. Matthew's UMC, Annandale. Jeremy Shoop is coordinating this event.
- **June Block Party:** Music Sunday, June 9th, 2024 – **Sunday Brunch** between services. This is a potluck brunch! Everyone is invited to bring your favorite brunch dish!



The Joke of the Month:

*What falls during March, but never gets hurt?
Rain!*

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!). It's a terrific way to meet up with Holy Cross members and visitors.

Anne Geiger, Fellowship Chair

Fellowshipchair@holycrosslutheranchurch.net



Join us for our
Potluck Easter Brunch
Between Services!
Sunday, March 31st



The Raleigh Ringers



will be performing
St. Matthews UMC, Annandale
Saturday, April 6th at 3 pm

Join us on Saturday, April 6th at 3:00 pm, to see the performance of the renowned Raleigh Ringers! Get your tickets at www.rr.org. Contact Jeremy Shoop for info on carpooling.

Scout Sunday 2024!



Holy Cross celebrated Scout Sunday on February 11, 2024 with Boy and Girl Scouts serving at both services. At the 8:30am service, Eagle Scouts **Jim McMahon** and **Roy Geiger** handed out bulletins, Cubmaster **Chris Nelson** read the lessons, Cub Scout **Alex Fraley** and **Jim McMahon** ushered, and Troop 12 Chartered Organization Representative (COR) **Anne Geiger** was assisting minister.

At the 11 am service, our own **Troop 12** handed out bulletins, Boy Scout **Logan Esposito** and BSA District Committee member **Craig Reichow** ushered, Girl Scout Gold Awardee **Cara Swanson Papenheim** read the lessons, and **Anne Geiger** was again assisting minister.

Both Girl Scout Gold Awardees and BSA Eagle Scouts were recognized at each service. A big shout-out to **Pastor Pam Mitchum** for incorporating a reference to the Arrow of Light award and the BSA motto “Be Prepared” into her sermon!

Also at the 11 am service, Holy Cross received the 2024 charter from Troop 12. We have now sponsored this wonderful Troop for over 22 years! **Craig Reichow**, who has been with Troop 12 for all 22 years, gave a brief history of the Troop, Scoutmaster **Scott Smith** talked about how Troop 12 is like any other BSA Troop (but better!). Then Unit Commissioner **Roger Claff** presented the charter to COR **Anne Geiger**, who presented it to **Pastor Pam Mitchum** and Council President **Sam Carter**.

At the end of the charter presentation, Troop 12 Senior Scout
Nicolas G. read the following to the congregation:

“Praise the Lord. Good morning and thank you. You may be thinking that something is amiss here, and I assure you that I had every intention of being in full uniform today, but it seems I am in a “growing season” in more than just a spiritual sense.

I want to thank you all for supporting us in so many ways. Over the last year, we have achieved so much, and I would like to share with you some highlights if I may.

- *Tyler has achieved a leadership role in all of our hearts as the senior scout with the most merit badges earned (89 so far).*
- *Rusty has achieved a milestone with the Cycling Merit Badge, and perhaps a First among so-called “disabled” Scouts.*
- *I have personally coached many Typers like me to their first truly open communication with their families*
- *Caden has come out of his shell and always supported our mission to free every voice by trying to engage at every opportunity.*
- *Brien has loved each of us when we have needed a lift with his quick wit and caring demeanor.*
- *Daniel is a servant of God who embodies patience and love for all.*
- *Dave is a master of submission to God and is learning to spell out his thoughts on a letterboard.*
- *Brandon is a gentle giant who once said nothing at all during our meetings, but now we can’t stop him.*
- *Erik is also a God-fearing soul who seeks to encourage others at every turn.*
- *Ben is the greatest of us as he strives to overcome so many trials with an open heart and an open mind. He is surely the bravest man I know.*

The Scout merit badges are a reflection of personal growth, self-esteem, and God’s love for us all. Our achievements in Scouts are only made possible by your love in providing this space and the inclusion and respect you always show us.”

COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWS

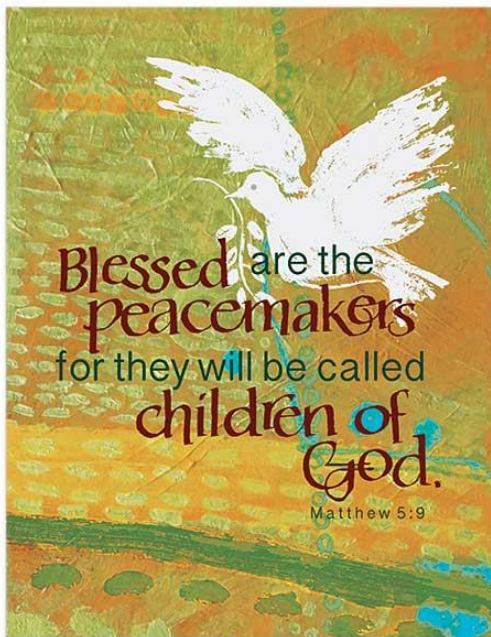
A Thank You Note from Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County

Dear Vivian and Members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

I received the \$400 check from Holy Cross Lutheran – sorry to be so slow to write you! It was really kind of you to increase the amount this year. That is very welcome, since the only reason we didn't have to decrease the award amount this year was because of an unexpected donation from an individual. This year, 27 schools again selected a recipient, which is a lot, but a very nice problem to have!

I hope you can come to the March 10 reception, and invite everyone at Holy Cross Lutheran.

Margaret Fisher (she/her)



Student Peace Awards
of Fairfax County



***You are invited to a reception to honor the recipients
of the 2024 Student Peace Awards for their achievements.***

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

We will start to gather at 3:30 pm. Ceremony at 4:15 pm.

Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030

RSVP to Margaret Fisher 1margaret.e.fisher@gmail.com 703.244.9174

2024 Student Peace Awards Recipients

*Annandale HS – Husna Basiri
Centreville HS – Level the Field
Chantilly HS – Ria Jakhete
Edison HS – Edison Minds Matter
Fairfax HS – Tranh Dinh
Falls Church HS – Hiena Hailemariam
Hayfield SS – Ajanae Elise Massenbourg
Herndon HS – Susy Hernandez-Reyes
Justice HS – Dalya Paka
King Abdullah Academy – Jenna Naffa
Lake Braddock SS – Mackenzie Craig
Langley HS – Lina Liakakos
Lewis HS – Daniel J. Gonzales
Madison HS – Sophie Massoudi
Marshall HS – Aynar Ahmed
McLean HS – Kaiya Amani Williams
Mount Vernon HS – Phillip Ha
Mountain View HS – Mountain View Mirror
Quander Road School – Jason Saenz-Hernandez
Robinson SS – Samantha Katz
South County SS – Eden Aklog
South Lakes HS – Virginia Banton
Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology –
Namaste
West Potomac HS – Eli Kopp
West Springfield HS – Roeen Zahid
Westfield HS – Westfield Student Ambassadors
Woodson HS – National Art Honor Society*

Sponsoring Organizations

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, Burke
Alexandria Friends Meeting
Alexandria South Rotary Club
Cornerstones, Reston
Daniels Run Peace Church, Fairfax
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Fairfax
George Mason University, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter
School for Peace and Conflict Resolution
Herndon Friends Meeting
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon
Langley Hill Friends Meeting, McLean
Mount Vernon Rotary Club, Alexandria
Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, Reston
Rotary Club of Herndon-Reston
St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Reston
St. Mark Catholic Church, Vienna

**Our keynote speaker will be Richard Rubenstein,
University Professor Emeritus at GMU's
Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution.**

www.fairfax.studentpeaceawards.org



February 2024

STEPHEN MINISTER FORUM

The **Stephen Minister Forum** was on Sunday, February 18th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. It was well attended with many thoughtful questions during the Q & A. Pastor Mark Cole, who officiated for us during our services, is also a Stephen Minister. During the forum, he shared numerous examples of his successful endeavors being involved with this caring ministry.

Those who are in the 2023 Stephen Minister training were also on hand to share their insights about this powerful ministry. We also viewed and listened from people across the nation who have benefitted from this ministry as we begin our search for care receivers once Stephen Ministers have finished training in May, and will be commissioned.

March 2024

STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING

We will have our 3rd Stephen Minister training class on Saturday, March 2. We will be critiquing the pilot book for a revision of **"Speaking the Truth in Love, How to be an Assertive Christian"** co-written by founder, Dr. Kenneth Haugk.





Just as a compass identifies which direction we need to go depending on whether it is north, south, east or west; so does the **Stephen Ministry Compass** direct us as we learn the process of compassionate caring in our Stephen Minister training. We are meeting all day, one Saturday a month until we finish the 18 modules of training. We should finish sometime in May.

Through the years, over one-and-a-half million people have benefitted from the on-to-one Christ-centered care of a Stephen Minister. ***This care is completely confidential***—no one knows the identity of a care receiver except the coordinator and the pastor.

For additional information on how to become a **Care Receiver**, by meeting with a Stephen Minister each week, please contact:

Sarah Schulmeyer

tallulah925@gmail.com

(307) 399-6461 (call or text)

or the church office:

admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net



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.

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:



Laugh, Love, Lent!



Why wouldn't Pharoah
let the Hebrews go?



He was in de-nile!



Why didn't Noah
go fishing?
He only had
2 worms!

