



HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# The Quest

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



April 2024

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The deadline for inclusion in the May 2024 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, The Quest, is Monday, April 22, 2024.

Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at:  
[admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net](mailto:admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net)

The deadline for inclusion in the Weekly Update  
is 4 pm on Tuesdays.

Thank you,  
Virginia Muller and Sarah Schultmeier  
Church Administrators

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
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## Find us online!

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



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



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA

## 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.

"...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."

1 John 3:8

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

## COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

### **Easter Season**

The Easter Season is the longest on the Liturgical Calendar, and the period between March 31 and May 22 promises to be a busy one for Holy Cross! Last month I wrote about moving forward together; that will be extremely important for us, because we've much to do!

Before I begin that discussion, I want to say how proud I was of the way Holy Cross members came together to say farewell to Pastor Martin and Shelly as he addresses the health issues which necessitated his stepping down from active ministry. It was heartening to see the supportive cards and generous monetary gifts to them; I'm sure they appreciated them all. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Due to the President's Day holiday, the February Council meeting was moved out a week to February 26<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Ortiz served as our Interim Pastor for that meeting, allowing us to conform to our By-Laws. The Council voted to appoint Kathy McMahon to fill the vacant Evangelism Chair/Council position and Tonya Elliott to fill the vacant Community Outreach Chair/Council position. Both will serve until January and will be eligible to run for up to two consecutive terms beginning with elections this fall. Since circumstances short-circuited our original plan for a much longer deliberative process concerning moving to a single service, it was decided to temporarily move to a single service on Sundays beginning with Easter. It was

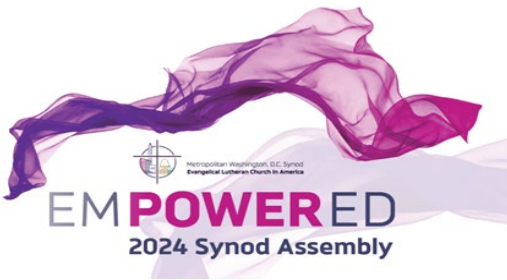
felt that this would bring greater unity for the congregation during this important time of transition. The question of continuing with a single service will be made by Rally Day.



Your Council met with Rev. Sarah Garrett Krey, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy and Mobility on Monday, March 18, 2024. She educated us on the next steps for bringing in both an Interim Pastor and a new regular Pastor. We were encouraged that the process need not be as lengthy as it's been in the past and that there is a larger pool of candidates available,

especially if we're willing to consider a first call pastor. We will need to move forward in a deliberate manner but with alacrity. Leadership will be meeting with the Synod's recommended Interim Pastor to work out details, and that person should be in place soon. Since we went through the call process relatively recently, we have the benefit of some familiarity. However, it turns out that there are more changes than might be expected. A key component of the process is creation of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Upon review, it became clear that we simply are not the same congregation we were when we commenced our previous search. In her article this month, our Vice President, Cara Swanson Papeheim, draws parallels to online dating, and it's amazing how many there are; please read her article. We will be forming a Transition Team to gather input from the Congregation and other sources. They will need to do their work quickly but completely. It is anticipated that this group should be able to complete their work in about a month. If you'd like to serve on this team, please let me know. Members of this team might also wish to volunteer to run for a position on the Call Committee which will be elected at a special Congregational meeting once the Transition Team's work is completed, but you are not expected nor obligated to do so. This really is a finite commitment! We are trying to move the process along as rapidly as possible while ensuring that we do it properly. It is not out of the

question that we could have a new Pastor prior to the end of the year, but the Holy Spirit may have other plans for us! I cannot stress enough how important it is that we have the widest possible participation from our members, so please don't be shy about offering your skills, talents, and opinions!



Synod Assembly will be a single day affair on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Lord of Life in Fairfax. Early Bird registration at a reduced rate goes through April 1<sup>st</sup>, so please volunteer to represent Holy Cross. Each congregation will have

an additional slot to encourage participation by a wider range of people, so please think about who we should send to represent us.

The Audit Committee has three members who serve for a 3-year term, with one member rotating off each year. This is an excellent way to serve Holy Cross, as it is an important function that requires a limited time commitment (usually 2-3 sessions on either a weekend or evenings). Please let our Vice President, Cara Swanson Papenheim, know if you can help out.

Finally, the Finance Committee is in need of new members. Under the leadership of the Vice President, their primary responsibility is to oversee the finances of the congregation. The finance committee monitors expenses in relation to income, presents recommendations to the Congregation Council regarding expenditures and investments, initiates the yearly audit, and examines giving and expense trends within the congregation. The Finance Committee makes sure all financial commitments and obligations are made in a timely manner. In addition, the Finance Committee is responsible for





designing and presenting to the Congregation Council a feasible financial working budget yearly. The Finance Committee also oversees the counting system for all offerings received within the congregation. If you have a background or interest in finance, this is an excellent way to contribute to the well-being of Holy Cross. Please let our Vice President, Cara Swanson Papenheim, know if you'd like to be a part of this essential ministry.

We've got a busy Easter Season ahead of us, but we are blessed with a loving and caring congregation. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will be an even more vibrant congregation living and sharing the love of our Savior!

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

Yours in Christ,

Sam





## *A Message from the Vice President*



April showers bring May flowers... and although these days, we never seem to know what the weather will do, we can always hope that the showers of our lives will lead to some beautiful results in the end. Similarly, we as Christians know that God always has a plan; as we enter a time of transition in the congregation, I have tasked myself to reflect on that fact. Like many of us, 2020 turned my life upside down- I was forced to slow down and focus on myself, I was unemployed, lonely and seeking a sense of purpose. That

same year, my extended family needed support in ways I would have never been able to provide without a global shutdown, I had time to connect with people like never before, and ultimately, I delved into the world of online dating and eventually met my husband. For all of those things, my life is better.

I'm not sure many people in this congregation can relate to the online dating world, so let me tell you from experience: it is terrible. You have to build a profile, and highlight everything: positives, negatives, dealbreakers and desires, then you have to find the "perfect" pictures to showcase who you are. It's exhausting, but those who have the most complete profiles are the most serious contenders for meeting someone. Next, get ready for a barrage of inquiries, most of which are not great, but maybe that one or two seems "okay." After exchanging an extreme amount of texts, both parties are forced to delve deeper and determine if the other person is "they are who they say they are," and if you are lucky enough find someone you want to meet in person, and even

luckier, see again, the results can be pretty great. You have to be patient and open minded to navigate the online dating world, and we as a congregation, will have to practice this together as we search for a new Pastor. We need to be thoughtful on both sides of this experience, our profile needs to be complete, honest and showcase all the things that make Holy Cross our best selves. I encourage us all to prayerfully consider our roles in this time of transition, know that God has a plan, and stay active in the activities of the church as we look to come out on the other side of the rain.

Yours in Christ,  
Cara Swanson Papenheim



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

One recent Sunday, our Kingdom Kids made 8 "loaves" of Communion Bread to be used on Easter Sunday!

Photos, (kindly supplied by Chris Nelson and Jeremy Shoop) show the Communion Bread baking activity! While waiting for loaves to be done, the youth practiced spinning marbles in straight sided bowls and shallow bowls, discovering quickly that the marbles stayed in the straight sided bowl much more securely! This marble activity correlated to our lesson on "why have rules"--like the 10 Commandments we've been learning--that help keep us on the right path!



***Alex,  
Maggie,  
Oliver and  
Logan  
making  
dough and  
shaping  
loaves!***





*Oliver highlighting his baking skills!      Baked Communion Bread!*



*The Marble Experiment!*



# FELLOWSHIP

## Upcoming Fellowship Gatherings:

- **March Fellowship Event on Easter:** March 31, 2024, 9am: **Easter Sunday Potluck Brunch** in the Fellowship Hall. **Bring your favorite brunch dish to share!** Then attend the 10am Easter church service as we lift our voices to celebrate Christ's resurrection!
- **April Fellowship Event:** Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 3pm: **Raleigh Ringers** at St. Matthew's UMC, Annandale, VA. Purchase your \$25 ticket (or \$20 if there are 5 or more attending from Holy Cross – talk with each other!) at [www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org) and look for April 6<sup>th</sup> event. Jeremy Shoop is coordinating carpooling.
- **May Fellowship Event:** Saturday, May 4, 2024, likely at 7pm: **Fiddler On The Roof**. Our own Jeremy Shoop will again be the Pit Orchestra Director for Herndon High School's 2023 Spring Musical. Add this date to your calendar! More info TBD.
- **June Fellowship Event: Music Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Potluck Lunch** after the 10am service. More info TBD.

## **The Joke of the Month (which could work for 4 months, don'tcha know):**

*June Asked Yoda, "Do you think April will march in the parade?"  
Yoda replied, "March April may, June."*

**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  
[Fellowshipchair@holycrosslutheranchurch.net](mailto:Fellowshipchair@holycrosslutheranchurch.net)



## EASTER SUNDAY POTLUCK BRUNCH

9 AM IN THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

# The Raleigh Ringers



*will be performing*  
**St. Matthews UMC, Annandale**  
**Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm**

Join us on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm, to see the performance of the renowned Raleigh Ringers! Get your tickets at [www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org).

## PROPERTY



***Join us for Property Work Day!***

***Date Change!!***

***NEW DATE is Saturday March 30th!***

Join us on our next Property Work Day—***Saturday, March 30th*** from 8 am to noon! All hands are welcome to help with the church cleanup—pulling weeds, cleaning the kitchen, painting, cleaning tables and chairs--you name it! There's a job for you!

See you there!





**April 2024**  
**STEPHEN MINISTER Training Classes**

By the end of April, we will be completing the 4 classes which focus on:

- **Crisis Theory:** This training will focus on how to determine when a crisis exists and how to relate to it.
- **Confidentiality:** This is a *crucial* part of Stephen Ministry. Everything shared with a Stephen Minister and even the identity of the receiver, remains *strictly confidential*. This helps build a safe environment of trust and acceptance that God can use to bring healing and hope.
- **Caregiving & Communications Technology:** The Stephen Ministry is strictly a face-to-face ministry, but there may be times to connect electronically and know how and when to use these resources.
- **Using Mental Health Professionals & other Community Resources:** This will prepare Stephen Ministers for situations when a care receiver needs a different kind of care than Stephen Ministers are equipped for. Stephen Ministers work to connect people with the right kind of care to meet their needs.

## NEXT STEPS IN THE STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers will finish their training in June, followed by a “commissioning” as they begin to serve within our congregation.

The Stephen Ministry is all about providing emotional and spiritual support and care for those who may be in crisis, and those who may be affected by someone they love going through a crisis. Crisis can affect more than the person directly experiencing one.

Some of the life difficulties listed below could benefit from meeting one-on-one with a Stephen Minister:

- Major Medical Crisis
- Job Related Crisis
- Broken Relationships
- End of Life Situations
- Grief
- Major Life Transitions



Through the years, over one-and-a-half million people have benefitted from the one-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 at [tallulah925@gmail.com](mailto:tallulah925@gmail.com) or (307) 399-6461 (call or text) or the church office: [admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net](mailto:admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net)

***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



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 10 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:



# Holy Week Schedule



## **March 28: Maundy Thursday ~ 7:00 PM**

*This Thursday is called "Maundy," which means "command," from the verse in John's gospel in which Jesus commands us to love another as he loved us. We hear about the Passover lamb, Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his death, and Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Finally we strip the chancel bare, to ready ourselves for Good Friday.*

## **March 29: Good Friday ~ 7:00 PM**

*Why do we call this day Good? In John's telling of Jesus' passion, Jesus is "I am," the God who reigns from the cross, the king who discusses theology with Pilate. Listen for the differences between John's passion and Mark's passion that we heard on Sunday. At this service we pray for everyone we can think of, and we confess that it is our sin that crucified Christ.*

## **March 31: Easter Sunday**

### **9:00 AM – Potluck Easter Brunch 10:00 AM – Worship**

*What does it mean to be Christian? Christians are those who share their faith in the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to transform themselves and the world. Each Sunday we gather to praise the resurrection, but Easter is our annual blow-out celebration. This year we hear the gospel from Mark, and we sing, and we sing, and we sing.*

*At 9:00 am, there will be a light Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.*