



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



June 2024

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The deadline for inclusion in the July 2024 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, The Quest, is Friday, June 21, 2024.
Articles are always gladly accepted earlier!

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

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

Thank you,
Virginia Muller and Sarah Schulmeyer
Church Administrators

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Find us online!

www.HolyCrossHerndon.org



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Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA



Dear Friends,

Eddie Rickenbacker, the great WWI American fighter pilot, ace, and leader of the 'Hat-in-the-Ring' squadron was shot down in the Pacific during the Second World War. Adrift in a life raft for a long time with several others, he survived extraordinary odds to return to his country, and to continue his service.

He wrote a book about surviving his deadly time adrift at sea, with no certainty of rescue and he titled his book, *We Thought We Heard the Angels Sing.*



I read it when I was boy, loved it, and never forgot it. It was story of real heroism and endurance in the face of a future of which, neither he nor his fellow survivors could be sure, but for which they could only hope. Not a story about battles, and fighting, and weapons, and glory, it simply showed how these men faced death, endured, and survived – together. And how vividly aware they were that they were facing eternity.

Your life and my life, and our life together may not mirror the dramatic struggle Rickenbacker faced. I suspect though, that we have faced, and may face situations that remind us that we are not all-powerful, and at the mercy of forces greater than ourselves.

We are not alone at times like these. We are together – with friends, in God’s church, and with God. Sometimes, all we have is endurance and the will to go on. Sometimes, all we can do is hope to be rescued. A lot of life is beyond our control. Our response, though, is within our control. Never give up. God will not give up on you.

Pastor Mark Cole
Interim Pastor





July 14 & 28
August 11 & 25

Rehearsal: 9:10 – 9:40 AM
Worship: 10:00 AM

The Summer Gathering Choir is back at Holy Cross! This is a great opportunity for anyone who loves to sing but can't commit to the schedule of choir year-round.

Simply show up on any or all the Sunday's listed above for rehearsal and sing with us in worship that same day. The total time commitment is less than two hours! You do not need to come to all four dates on the schedule, just come as you can and enjoy the singing.

Send me an email if you any questions.
MusicDir@HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net

Soli Deo Gloria!
Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy

Hymns of Praise Then Let Us Sing

Music Sunday

June 9

10:00 AM



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Join us for worship on June 9th as we celebrate the musicians of Holy Cross with a festival worship service! The title of this service, *Hymns of Praise Then Let Us Sing*, comes from a phrase in the 14th century hymn text, *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*.

Throughout this service we will look at how hymns of praise facilitate our worship in each season of the church year. One of the ways we praise God is by serving others. With this in mind, a special feature of the Music Sunday service will be a LWR quilt blessing. Many thanks to all who have made quilts throughout the year!

FEEDBACK *Request*

We want to hear from you!

On Sunday, June 2, there will be an informal meeting in the Fellowship Hall after worship regarding Holy Cross moving to one service on Sundays at 10 AM since Easter.

Please join the Worship and Music Team in the Fellowship Hall after worship on June 2 for discussion and conversation.



THE TRANSITION TEAM

June 1. The beginning of the summer months and the beginning of our process to understand the range of views that exist at Holy Cross at this time. That is the day the emails will be sent with the link to the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT). The email you receive will include a unique link that you will use to complete the assessment online. If you prefer to take it using a paper copy, please stop by the office and we will provide one for you, along with an addressed, stamped envelope. We encourage each adult member of our congregation to take the survey so that we have a complete understanding of the perceptions and experiences of all of our members.

If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Moran or our Church Administrators, Virginia Muller and Sarah Schulmeyer. Thank you.

COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

Summer Activities

There are so many things going on at Holy Cross right now, that it's sometimes a challenge to see how we'll fit everything in along with "normal" summer activities!



Sylvia Moran and the Transition Team have hit the ground running. As you will see elsewhere in this issue of *The Quest*, we will open up the "Holy Cow" Survey on June 1st. The Transition Team will be engaging the Congregation in several activities over the next several weeks, but the most important thing right now is for us all to promptly and thoughtfully respond to the Survey in a timely manner. We need responses from ALL members (not just one per household) to get an accurate reflection of your true feelings and expectations about our church. Once the responses are in, the Team and Council will meet virtually with the consultant to understand the results. Following that meeting, the Team (Sylvia Moran, Matthew Andersen, Tammy Breene, Nan Lem, Craig Swanson, Helen Wolfe, and Rob Coffman) will break up and meet in small groups to engage in Appreciative Inquiry with members of our Holy

Cross family. This exercise (along with the Team's research) will enable them to create our Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP is essentially our "resume" for the outside world, and, especially possible candidates to see if they think there's a good fit for them at Holy Cross. You may recall we went through this process during our last pastoral search, so the process is somewhat familiar to us this time around; however, there have been lots of changes here at Holy Cross, so we cannot take any shortcuts if we want the best possible outcome. As I mentioned last month, we have set ourselves an ambitious goal of completing this process before the holidays, so we'll need an "all hands on deck" response this summer. While the Holy Spirit will lead us and our next pastor on a timetable not of our making, we need to do all that we can to facilitate an accelerated, efficient, and complete process ensuring we are ready when the Holy Spirit wants and needs us to be.

One of the things we've noticed is that we need to "up our game" in social media. Anyone with skills/interest in this important area is encouraged to contact our VP, Cara Swanson Papenheim. If you just want to work on our technological infrastructure, please contact me.

Pastor Mark Cole is settling in as our Interim Pastor. It's refreshing to see our entire professional staff at full strength once again. The staff is bringing him up to speed quickly and educating him on our policies, practices, and special quirks! They are working well together.



We've had a recurring problem of some apparently homeless people camping in the woods adjacent to our church. Working with Pastor Luis, we've attempted to provide services and transportation to Embry Rucker. However, at least one individual has a history of becoming violent, and is no longer welcome at the shelter. It is a fine balance that we need to strike, because we want to tangibly demonstrate the love of Christ, but we don't want to endanger

either members or staff. Tonya Elliott and her Outreach Team will be preparing gift bags of toiletries, non-perishable foods, etc., along with bi-lingual directions on how to avail themselves of resources at Link. Herndon Police and social service professionals have advised us not to hand out money directly, so we request that members refrain from doing so. We hope to have the gift bags available soon so that we can respond with compassion without endangering anyone.

I look forward to seeing where the Holy Spirit leads us as we seek to live and serve as Christ intended!

Yours in Christ,

Sam





Last month's message was all about my girl Tay Tay and the amazing effects of committing to cause through music and emotion. As June is the most popular month of the year for weddings in the United States, I focus on a different kind of commitment. *(Disclaimer: I am not, nor claim to be, an expert on marriage, and fortunately, that is not what this is about).*

In real life, my official title is Director of Events, but what many of you may not know is my hotel hosts over 90 weddings each year. Real life Wedding Planning is a far cry from the JLo movie portrayal of sunshine and roses, it's about navigating a couple, their parents, thousands of Pinterest pages, and the realities of a budget through some of the most stressful decision making of their lives. Similarly, real life marriages and real life weddings are not the same thing. In



2023 there were just over a million real life marriage licenses issued in America, and mine was one of them. Being around weddings all the time should make being a bride/planner easy, it did not- in reality, professional planner or not, a wedding will take control of your life for the duration of the planning process. Marriage, however, *is* your life and takes both commitment and dedication.

Commitment and dedication are two things needed for any major life choice: buy a house or car, lose weight, change jobs etc, and as we are exiting the season of our Lord's Ascension, we are all reminded of the commitment and dedication that is required to receive the gifts of our faith. Fortunately for us Lutherans, this

dedication is relatively "easy" when compared to marriage: believe in Jesus and you will go to heaven.

Commitment and dedication are two things that have never been lacking at Holy Cross, and as we continue to find ways to improve the financial position of the church, more opportunities for new calls for commitments await. In April, we saw the first month without a big red number at the bottom of the balance sheet since the budget was



adopted in November last year, attendance at our single service is averaging just over 60 people weekly, and our confirmation candidates are actively serving during worship. In the coming months our transition team will ask you to dedicate your time to thoughtfully share your feedback via survey and the church council will make good on their commitments to have open discussion about the Sunday worship schedule. As the resident millennial of your church council, I am committed to expanding our reach of younger age groups and on social media platforms and we are seeking assistance and dedication from those who have an interest in such a way, if this is you, please reach out.

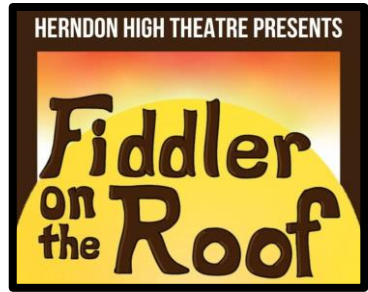
Our 2024 Eras Tour is half way through (that's a Taylor reference), and for many of us 2024 continues to bring new ways to commit, serve and dedicate our lives to Christ. I'd be remised if I didn't mention it at least once: congratulations Desirae and Hector as you embark on your own journey of commitment, faith and dedication, we look forward to celebrating with you as a congregation, and congratulations Holy Cross as you continue to commit to being *seen*.

Cara Swanson Papenheim
Vice President HCLC

FELLOWSHIP

Our May Fellowship Event was a Success!

Our own Jeremy Shoop was again the Pit Orchestra Director for Herndon High School's 2024 spring musical *Fiddler on The Roof*!



On May 4, 21 Holy Crossers, including Pastor Mark Cole and his wife, Kathie Rankin, attended two different performances of this outstanding musical presentation – attendees thought it was one of the best shows Herndon has ever put on.

The show has been nominated for eighteen (that's 18! WOW!) Cappie Awards, including the song "*Tradition*". If that song is chosen as one of the finalists, the entire cast will be invited to perform it at Kennedy Center on June 10th. Let's all keep our collective fingers crossed that "*Tradition*" is chosen to perform.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June Fellowship Event:

Music Sunday, June 9th – Join us for a Potluck Lunch after the 10 am worship service. Stay tuned for more info!





**July Fellowship Event:
Thursday, July 4th Block Party!**

Holy Cross’s annual 4th of July Music, Ice Cream and Fireworks event is ON again from 6 – 10 pm at Holy Cross. Come play games, listen to good music, eat food!



- Get a delicious dinner from **What the Schnitzel** food truck!
- An **Ice Cream** truck will be joining us!
- Town of Herndon will be providing **FIREWORKS!**

Note: I need 2-3 people to help with security this year since Mike Faulkner has moved ☹️ and since the event continues to grow each year—see Anne Geiger to learn more about this VERY important function--we would appreciate your help!



Joke of the Month:

Why did the pirates dislike June?

Because it didn’t have an Arrrr in 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
Fellowshipchair@holycrosslutheranchurch.net

OUTREACH

In 1913, a Polish peasant teenaged girl, Bronislava, was sent by her family to the US, hoping she would have a chance at a better life. She married soon after arriving in the US and they settled in a suburb of Buffalo, NY. The Idziak family grew, 14 of them lived in a tiny 6 room house. The local church was a source of support



especially during the depression. The family thrived, and the 12 children grew up and went on to live full lives having lots of kids of their own. This is part of my family's story. My 32 first cousins and I all benefited from the caring, compassionate, generosity of a little church in Buffalo, NY.

My family's journey was in the forefront of my mind as we served 25 men at Lunch for the Soul on May 1. I was humbled by the sincere gratitude each person expressed as we dished out a delicious meal. I thought about how hard it is not to speak the language (my grandmother did not speak one word of English) and have to work long hours to make ends meet. It filled me with joy to know that we helped 25 people see that they live in a caring community. The most exciting thing is that this is only one of the ministries that HCLC provides to the community, and I can't wait to learn more about each of these ministries.

Lunch for the Soul was my first official duty as the Chair of the Outreach Committee. I took over from Vivian Jefferson on May 1st, so you know I have big shoes to fill. With the help of the other Council Members, the countless volunteers who are plugged into several well-oiled ministries that serve our community, and the congregation, I know we can continue the mission of service to others.

Don't hesitate to chat on Sundays or give me a call,
Tonya Elliott



English Language Learners (ELL)

We completed our spring semester on May 8th at Holy Cross with our Pizza and Bingo Party. This was the first party since 2019!



We had fun playing Bingo with our students, some of whom have never played! The winner received a \$10 gift card and has to call out the next numbers in English.



Class Success!

We had a successful spring semester with 28 registered students from 10 different countries: Bolivia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Ivory Coast, Nicaragua, and Peru. We had 23 in-class students and 5 students via Zoom. **Thank you, Lounelly**, for teaching our student online.

We will not conduct summer classes this year, because we don't have enough teachers. Our **fall semester** starts on **Wednesday September 11, 2024**. We teach Beginners, Basic and Intermediate English. We need more teachers for our fall semester. Teaching our immigrants is very rewarding for us and our students. It's wonderful when a teacher sees the moment a student understands a word, sentence, or the context of a story after they work it out with help from us teachers.

Welcome Back!

Tayebeh and her son, Harry, surprised us by participating in our last ELL class. Tayebeh is a long-time student and just returned from Iran. We still fondly remember her husband, Jalal, who was an excellent student for many years, also.

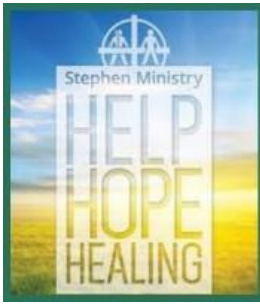


Tayebeh, Harry, Suzanne and I visited Jeanne Maysonett in rehab recently. Jeanne was Tayebeh's teacher for many years. It is always wonderful when prior students come back to class.



A big Thank YOU to Lounelly Rashed Torres, Suzanne Baggett, Dayna Sowd and Chip Edwards. Thank you for your dedication and patience teaching our immigrants at Holy Cross.

Your ELL Team
Ellen Atwell



June 2024
STEPHEN MINISTER Training Classes
✓ Finished!

As of June 15th, we will have finished 50 modules of training for the Stephen Ministry!

A commissioning of these diligent, steadfast care givers, who will be “certified” Stephen Ministers will occur during our worship service on Sunday, July 14th. It has been an honor to have worked with these folks.

Once commissioned, for an hour once a week, they will be meeting one-on-one, caring and supporting individuals for an hour that are going through a “tough time”.

Care Receiving – Think About It!

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.



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

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 or (307) 399-6461 (call or text) or the church office: admin@holycrosslutheranchurch.net

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:

