



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



February 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Director of Music and Liturgy Announcements.....4

Message from the Church Council President.....7

Message from Church Council Vice President.....9

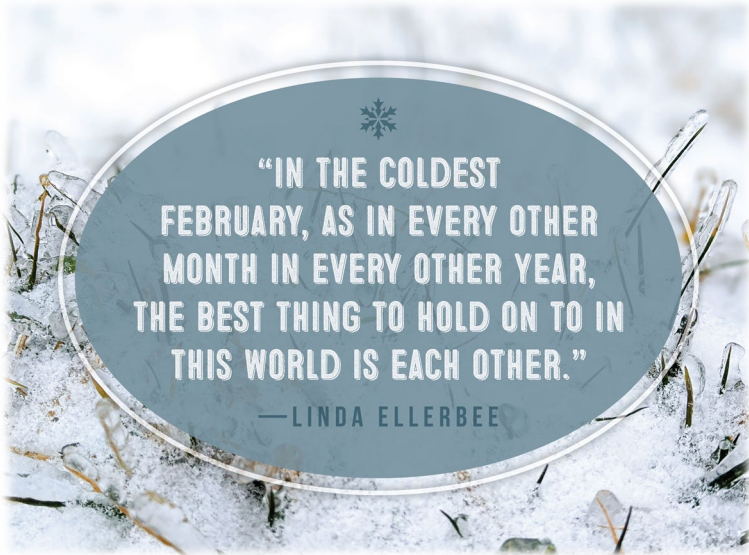
Fellowship.....11

Scout Sunday.....12

Outreach.....13

Stephen Ministry.....14

Stewardship.....16





The deadline for inclusion in the March 2025 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, The Quest, is **Wednesday, February 19, 2025**
Articles are always gladly accepted earlier!


Articles can be emailed to the Church Administrator at:
Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org

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


Thank you,
Marie Nelson
Sarah Schulmeyer
Church Administrator

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 www.HolyCrossHerndon.org

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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY

Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin (BWV 616) by J.S. Bach (With Peace and Joy I Depart)



Sunday, February 2nd is the day the church sets aside to celebrate the Presentation of Our Lord. As part of this celebration, I will be playing J. S. Bach's setting of the Song of Simeon.

The text of *Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin* (With Peace and Joy I Depart) was written by Martin Luther and is based on the Nunc Dimittis or Song of Simeon. In Luke 2:29-32 Simeon rejoices upon seeing the infant Jesus and proclaims his life has been fulfilled and he may now depart in peace. Bach is rather creative in how he treats this text.

Mit Fried is a softer piece played at a slower speed and when played at the perfect tempo can portray a mysterious and beautiful atmosphere. The intention of this atmosphere is to portray the adjectives found in the first stanza "sanft" and "stille" ("soft" and "still"). These adjectives obviously suggest a quiet registration and restrained elation.

Given the meditative atmosphere, it is impressive that Bach is still able to incorporate the joy motive into Simeon's words.

Joy Motive

(two sixteenth notes followed by an eighth note/two short notes followed by a longer note)



Simeon is clearly excited about finally meeting his Savior and expresses his “radiant joy” in his song. Bach even enhances the joy motive in *Mit Fried* to show how excited Simeon really is. This motive is found within the inner-voices and pedal line. As to not interrupt the atmosphere, Bach simplifies the joy motive in the pedal line.

Simeon’s willingness to depart after seeing Jesus is portrayed in the final measures of *Mit Fried*. As Bach ends his composition the harmonies get uncommonly dissonant for the *Orgelbüchlein* collection. As the ending gets more and more dissonant Bach provides a resolution to the last chord that immediately gives the listener a sigh of relaxation. The same sigh that Simeon most likely felt as he passed away.

In the pedal line Bach also uses a step-by-step motion, another of Bach’s signature motives. This is when the notes move from one note to its neighbor note. It portrays faith. In *Mit Fried* it symbolizes the faith Simeon had in God. He was told that he would meet his Savior before death. Throughout his entire life he remained faithful to his Lord and saw the baby Jesus at the end of his life.

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

THEOLOGY

on tap



Join us at Aslin Brewery for an evening of food, fellowship, and conversation about how the church is relevant to our lives today. Invite your friends!

Second Monday of the Month: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Aslin Brewery: 767 Elden Street, Herndon, VA



www.Facebook.com/HCLCHerndon

www.HolyCrossHerndon.org

Theology on Tap meets on the second Monday of each month, from 6:00 – 8:30 pm. You are invited to join Jeremy at Aslin Brewery (767 Elden Street, Herndon, VA) for an evening of food, fellowship, and some conversation about how the church is relevant in our lives today. Come by anytime during the evening, grab a beer or a soft drink, and get in on the fun! This is a great opportunity for evangelism. Invite a friend to join us and learn about how fun we are! We will meet at a set of tables in Izzi, the pizzeria part of Aslin. If you don't see us, just ask a server where the church group is.

COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

The last Sunday of every January is Reconciled in Christ Sunday, and 2025 is the first time we at Holy Cross have properly celebrated. This was a planned celebration and not a reaction to the Presidential Inauguration; this article, however, is a direct response to the Executive Orders that were signed on January 20th.

In my time of representing this congregation I have made a concerted effort to keep politics out of my writings (as best I could), referencing our liturgical calendar with a few lighthearted pop culture jokes, and keeping a tone of self-awareness in regard to my very millennial status. In my January article I referenced the need to evaluate change against the gravity of the situation, and even acknowledged that my tone may need to change from time to time, I just didn't know it would be so soon.

In the past, I have written about our welcome statement with admiration, celebration and as a reminder of intention. If you haven't re-read it lately, I strongly suggest you do. Siblings of Holy Cross, we have chosen as a congregation to act with intention and create a safe space for all. Many of our siblings are hurting: the LGBTQ+ community has been isolated and left without identity, our Lunch for the Soul and ELL attendees are fearful for their futures and families, and the basic social systems and jobs associated with



our government are at risk. It's time for us to put our intention into practice and *keep each other close*. As Luther once sermonized in 1531 and we again affirmed during RIC Sunday "we all receive the same Baptism, the same Sacrament, and the same God."

Whether we want to admit it or not, everyone knows someone who already has been or will be affected by some of the decisions that were ordered on January 20th. The only thing certain is everyone now has some semblance of uncertainty. **"You are safe here" needs to remain in our focus.** With the love and trust we have in our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, we will continue as a strong community, motivated by the joys of baptism that tie us all together.

As your President and the leader of our church council, I assure you that this governing body is committed to you; whoever you are, whatever your life experience, however you identify... You are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and you are welcome here. Stay strong siblings, stay together, stay faithful, we are here for you.

Yours in Christ, Cara





As we begin the new calendar year, I have great optimism about Holy Cross this year. We finished the year with an amazing Christmas Eve service led again by our wonderful Bishop Ortiz, and of course the incredible music program led by Jeremy and all of those who share their amazing talents with us. We have remained strong and united as a congregation throughout the year while we are in transition.



Our year-end financial position is solid due to the continued support and generosity of our congregation, and was greatly helped by not having the expense of a full-time pastor throughout the year.

We continue to see our ministries thrive thanks to the efforts of so many, including the incredible dedicated leaders that serve on our church council. Our worship services and church operations continue without missing a beat, thanks to the efforts of our church staff, Jeremy and of course Pastor Pam for leading our Sunday services for so long.

Our Call Committee is working tirelessly to conduct the pastoral search with our hopes of having a Pastor to call early in the year, but even if it takes some time we are well positioned to make sure we find the right candidate for Holy Cross. As with our previous pastoral searches we have formed a Transition Fund to cover the expenses related to the search as well as providing moving and other assistance to the Pastor that is hired. Our estimate is that we will need \$25,000 for this fund. The Transition Fund is an available option to donate to on our Online Giving page and we have already received donations to this fund. You can also donate to it via Bill Pay, by check and with an in person offering by making it clear that the donation is for the Transition Fund. We do need to make sure that the money we raise for this fund does not take away from the standard donations for the general giving to the church and its ministries.



We will be promoting a campaign for the Transition Fund during one of our upcoming Sunday

services to highlight the importance of this fund in our pastoral search. This will be a challenging goal to meet given that it equates to roughly 6% of annual donation total, but I have faith in our congregation that we can do it.

Thank you for your continued support in so many ways for Holy Cross and God's works.

Yours in Christ,
Mark

FELLOWSHIP Generosity and Joy

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

Tues., 3/4/25 Shrove Tuesday / Mardi Gras Pancake Supper: Your help is needed to plan and run the pancake supper and Mardi Gras celebration again this year. Please know that, IF there is a pancake supper in 2025, **The Royal Flush** has again agreed to appear!! Contact Anne Geiger at FellowshipChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org if you can help with this fun evening.

Wed., March 12, 19, & 26 and April 2 & 9 Lenten Dinners: We will again be having soup, sandwiches (but no dessert) dinners with worship during Lent.

Fri., July 4, 2025 – July 4th Patriotic Music and Fireworks: This event has grown bigger every year and more help is needed to plan it for 2025. Please contact Jeremy Shoop, Tammy Breene, or Anne Geiger if you are able to help with this wonderful neighborhood outreach.

The Lutheran joke of the month of February:

What month is best for coffee?

Feb-BREW-ary!

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

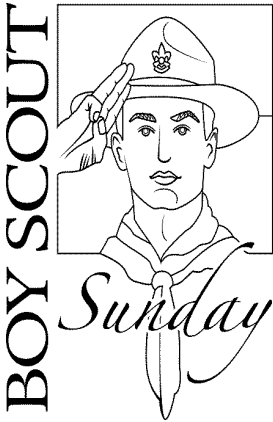


Scout Sunday 2025

A Scout is reverent.

Sunday, February 9, 2025 is Scout Sunday at Holy Cross! As Holy Cross is the chartered organization for BSA Troop 12, the 2025 charter for the troop will be given to President Cara Papenheim by Troop 12 Committee member Craig Reichow. The Troop 12 Scouts will be handing out the bulletins, and Gold Award and Eagle Scouts will be recognized during the service.

Please let Anne Geiger know if you are/have been a Boy or Girl Scout and are willing to serve as reader, acolyte, ushers, or assisting minister at gei2@verizon.net.



OUTREACH

Martin Luther King Day of Giving



The MLK Day of Service was rescheduled to Sunday, February 2nd after the service due to the severe weather on MLK Day. Many thanks to those who contributed and helped put the care kits together!

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our on-going outreach events below:

- ***Lunch for the Soul*** – meets each Wednesday from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm to provide a hot lunch for our day workers. Thank you to all who help with this ministry, whether it is serving and cleanup, or providing food items. Our turn to serve a meal is on the 1st Wednesday of each month.
- ***The Closet*** – Holy Cross provides volunteers several times a year. Our upcoming slots are Wednesday, February 19th, Thursday, March 13th and Friday, April 4th. To volunteer, go to : www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org.
- ***LINK for Hunger*** – Holy Cross food donations are collected every 3rd Sunday and are dropped off in the narthex area of the building.
LINK also needs volunteer drivers for delivering food to families and can view the signup at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EAEA623A13-53282905-deliver>
- Embry Rucker Shelter - food donations in bulk are collected at Holy Cross each 1st Sunday of the month.

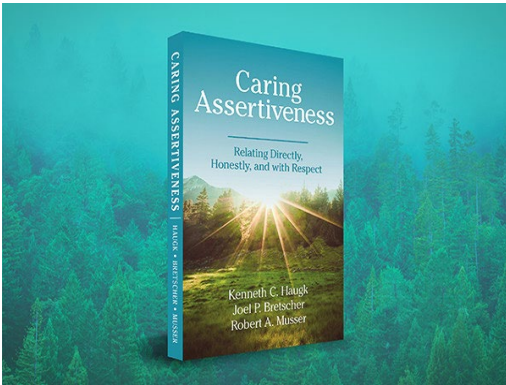
Tonya Elliott
Outreach Council Chair

STEPHEN MINISTRY



The Stephen Ministry is well under way at Holy Cross, and we are thankful for the Stephen Ministers and those they meet with!

Training to become a Stephen Minister will be announced for 2025 (hopefully to include the arrival of a new pastor) and covers 25 modules, including the new edition of “Caring Assertiveness.”



In March 2024, our class was tasked with piloting the new edition of the book and training module, “Caring Assertiveness,” which provides practical tools to better communicate and relate with confidence, and care in all situations and relationships.

Stephen Ministries has been teaching assertiveness skills for decades, and we enjoyed going through the pilot and providing feedback on this vital study.

If you are interested in becoming a **Stephen Minister**, or 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@holycrossherndon.org

Sarah Schulmeyer,
Coordinator

STEWARDSHIP



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:

