



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Quest

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



January 2025

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The deadline for inclusion in the February 2025 edition of the Holy Cross Newsletter, The Quest, is **Wednesday, January 22, 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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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY

We Three Kings is probably one of the best-known Epiphany carols.



It is also one that is most often brought forward into the Christmas season for use at carol services. However, it is a straightforward dramatization of the story of the wise men's visit to Jesus after his birth on Christmas Day. This story is taken out of Matthew 2:7-11.

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The carol was first published in 1884 while its author, Rev. Dr. John Hopkins, was Rector of a parish in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He wrote it as part of a Christmas pageant for a seminary in New York City. Hopkins is the composer of both the text and music for this hymn. It is interesting to note that Hopkins was very specific to note that there was to be no slowing down on the "O..." that starts

each refrain, a request that has been clearly thrown out by modern culture. Hopkins has been criticized by Bible scholars that the first people to visit Christ from Eastern lands were no kings; nor were there three of them. Yet so many people who learn this carol at a young age carry this misconception into adult life. The Bible simply calls these men “magi.” It is believed that this term refers to a caste of Persian priests or sorcerers who were experts in astrology, divination, and the interpretation of dreams. While they could have been rulers of a sort because of their offices, there is no reason to believe they had great wealth.

What we do know is that these Gentiles traveled some distance, intent upon worshiping the newborn King of the Jews. With them they brought gifts of great worth - gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Hopkins explains in his carol that these gifts were to prophesy what the Christ child would be.



Gold prophesied his kingship. The frankincense spoke of his purity of life. Myrrh was a spice that embalmed the dead and predicted his coming death.

These gifts could also be interpreted as gifts that God desires from us still today. Gold to symbolize our most precious treasures, our hopes and dreams. Giving a gift of gold is giving from the heart. The frankincense denotes the pleasing fragrance that arises from a life of holiness and offering him our obedience. Myrrh is to proclaim the fact that we have died to self and now live in Christ, thus giving him our very life.

my greatest gift to God is...



This year celebrate Epiphany and sing We Three Kings on January 5. Throughout this service we worship as the true life of this Christ child is revealed. A life that the magi from We Three Kings came to worship while Jesus was still an infant.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy

COUNCIL



Holy Cross Family –

2025: ... 3,2,1 Ready or not, here I come!

Anyone else feeling the anxiety of the new year with that same feeling you had as a child who is just “not ready” in a game of hide and seek? Just me? Great. (For those of you who may have missed it, that’s meme style sarcasm). The standard communication style among my millennial generation is almost entirely with memes; we have whole text message chains without any actual words, just a series of pictures with captions already provided, and this time of year, there are a lot out there:

This is my year. No don’t say it!

New year, New you.

Good luck with your resolutions.

New Years: Expectation vs Reality.



Millennial editor’s note: If you feel left out here, just google any of these phrases followed by the word “meme.”

And, while “New Year, New You” used to be among the most popular inspiration on social media and in my personal text chains, I think many of us, myself included, are hoping for a year with little to no changes, opting instead for the “No don’t say it!” version of these viral pictographs. My original intention with my inaugural *The Quest* article as your newly appointed President was to announce that this year would be about not changing anything, but new year or not, change is not only inevitable, but unavoidably necessary and not always bad.

My goals and actions for this upcoming year don’t differ from those of your previous administration, but they do focus on growth and activation, and the entire church council will need your help. Prior to the annual meeting, I spoke with many of you as we were soliciting for a Vice President candidate, the most popular response I received was, “I can help with a specific project, I just don’t have the time to do everything the job requires.”



And so, my siblings in Christ, allow me to take you up on this. Think about the time and talents you have to offer and how they can align with increased fellowship, increased attendance, increased membership and increased giving. Have I mentioned we need a Stewardship chair? Can’t commit to council, how about joining the Audit team?

Want more people to hang out after Sunday worship, is there an activity you can share with us to encourage that? Are you intimidated by the idea of inviting a friend to church, how about Theology on Tap?

As your Vice President, the themes of action and effect, commitment and dedication and personal choice were often reflected in my monthly articles, and I do not intend for this to change as we enter 2025. And yes, you can continue to expect the occasional reference to my favorite female artist, despite the end of her Eras Tour. Holy Cross is and always has been a strong church, and we will continue to roll through the changes as they come. Don't let the anxiety of 2025 creep in too much, your church family and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit are here for us all.

Yours in Christ, Cara





A Message from the Vice President

As the new calendar year begins, we have so much to be excited about at Holy Cross! 2024 was certainly an interesting year for the church as we entered a period of uncertainty and transition early in the year, but have done what we have always done as a congregation - come together to become even stronger and united. We have been blessed in so many ways, including having Bishop Ortiz preside over our Easter and Christmas Eve services in her last year as Bishop, and being able to host the ordination service for our own Katy Moran.



As we enter 2025 we look forward to calling a new pastor, the start and completion of the bathroom renovation project and the continued growth of our congregation and ministries that do so much to serve the community.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
Hebrews 10:24-25

humility:

KNOWING, ACCEPTING, & BEING
who we are while demonstrating

MODESTY

about our accomplishments &

GIFTS

admitting mistakes & valuing

OTHERS

for who they are & for their input.

So many people contribute their time, talents and resources to the mission of Holy Cross and it is impossible to list them all. Some I would like to point out are:

- Pastor Pam for stepping in and serving as the pastor for so many worship services this year.
- Jeremy, for all of the extra

duties he has taken on to keep things running smoothly (and of course the amazing work he does with all of the music for the services)

- Pastor Mac serving as our interim pastor for much of the year
- Sam, for serving faithfully as our council president (at times without having a vice president) for these last few years
- Sylvia and the call committee for all of the work they are doing, as well as the transition team for the work that they did this past Summer into the Fall to lay the foundation for the call process
- Sarah, Marie and Virginia, thank you for all of the work done to keep things running smoothly (and putting up with all my requests and questions)
- Suzanne, who does so much with the children's ministries and our ELL program (along with Ellen)
The blessing of our caring Stephens Ministers
- Roy, for leading our usher team and serving as our greeter
- Cara, for taking on the role of President and having her faith in me to serve as her Vice President
- The rest of the church council for all of the incredible work they do throughout the year

There are so many others that serve in worship, volunteer for our ministries, assist with bible study and Sunday school, serve on altar guild, help out at events, etc. that we are so incredibly thankful for!

Having come back to Holy Cross (I was confirmed at Holy Cross long ago, but my parents moved us to a church closer to our house in Reston soon after) with my family in 1999 this is our third time going through the call process for a new pastor. There is always much uncertainty during the interim period between pastors in a church, but I know that our call committee is doing incredible and tireless work and with God's help we will find an amazing pastor that will lead Holy Cross for many years to come. Whenever Jo and I attend another church when travelling, for a funeral or with family we are always reminded just what a special place Holy Cross is thanks to the people that make up our congregation.

Personally, I am very excited to begin my role as Vice President, though I know I have very big shoes to fill from those that have come before me. I look forward to working with Cara, the church council, the staff and the new pastor as we begin this next phase in the evolution of Holy Cross.



One of the areas I will be focusing on is looking at ways we can utilize new tools to engage members, visitors, prospective members, volunteers and staff to make interacting in the digital world more seamless and effortless. There are many exciting tools and options available to simplify some of what we do. This would allow us to reach a wider audience as we look to

attract new members, and allow for more engagement with our existing members. Much of the work is also focused on getting things ready for the new pastor so he/she will be able to hit the ground running.

I would like to again express my deepest gratitude for the abundant time, talents, and resources you have so generously shared with our church family throughout the last year and the year ahead. . Your unwavering dedication and service are a testament to the love of Christ that dwells within each of you and is what makes Holy Cross the special place it is.

With heartfelt thanks and prayers for continued blessings in the year ahead,

Mark Roe,
Vice President



Wise
people still
seek Him.

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 joke of the month of January:

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Freeze.

Freeze who?

Freeze a jolly good fellow, freeze a jolly good fellow...

Happy New Year!

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.

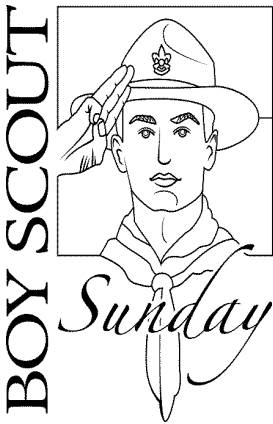


Anne Geiger, Fellowship Council Chair

Scout Sunday 2025

A Scout is reverent. Sunday, February 9, 2024 is Scout Sunday at Holy Cross at the 10am service. 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 the 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



HCLC will be offering several activities to provide members with opportunities to contribute to local and international organizations in remembrance of Martin Luther King.

The Health and Wellness Community Service Program Committee of the Herndon Women's Club will be partnering with HCLC to facilitate these worthy activities. Please join me in expressing gratitude to their group!

There will be two ways for you to mobilize your time and talents on MLK Day, ***Monday, January 20, 2025***

1. Inova Blood Drive mobile is reserved for HCLC

The blood mobile will be on site from 9 am – 1 pm and a QR code link to reserve a slot will be provided by Inova right after Christmas

Please send me an email if you are interested in donating at outreachchair@holycrossherndon.org. So far I have 4 confirmed donors.

NATIONAL
BLOOD
DONOR
MONTH



2. Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

Lutheran World Relief knows the “recipe for success” when it comes to the content and assembly of care kits. The instructions from their website provide guidance on the specific contents of the Personal Care kits and how to assemble the items into a package.

- The HCLC Amazon account has a list with the specific items needed so you can use that method to order items. These items will come directly to the church. Should you wish to purchase these items individually, please bring them to church starting Sunday, January 5, 2025. The list can be found here: <https://a.co/9LiTMvT>
- Keep your eyes out for a Sign Up Genius Link in the e-blasts so you can join in the fun at the MLK day of giving and help assemble these items into the kits.



x1

One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"×40" & 52"×27"), dark color recommended



x2

Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping



x1

One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*



x1

One sturdy comb, remove packaging



x1

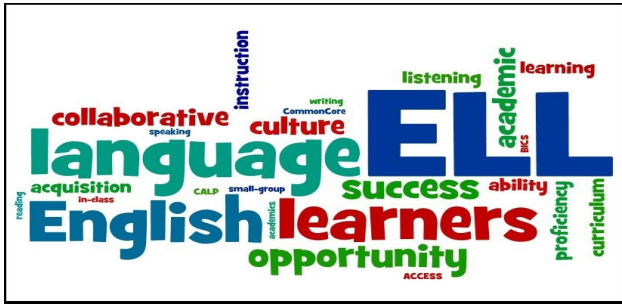
One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

For more details, go here: <https://lwr.org/kits/personal-care-kits/instructions>

Tonya Elliott
Outreach Council Chair



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

Our 2024 fall semester started September 11th and continued through December 4th. We taught three classes at Holy Cross: Beginners, Basic, and Intermediate English. We taught 42 students from 11 countries, Afghanistan, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Sudan, Togo and Vietnam.



I think it's interesting to know that our students' age ranged from 24 to 70. We have several students in the 50–60-year-old range.

Imagine starting over in another country at a later age and you have to learn another language! It can't be easy. I only hope all our students have family or friends to help them along to assimilate to our country and customs. I know from personal experience how

confusing and intimidating it is.



Our ELL Christmas class was on December 4th for our students only. We held the Christmas class in our big classroom. It went very well, especially our Christmas carols sing-a-long led by Suzanne Baggett. Our students really enjoy singing carols and then, of course, our game of Mr. Right/Left led

with lots of laughter by Chip Edwards. The game always ends with a gift for each student.



Thank you for your continued support of our ELL program and our immigrant community.

A big Thank YOU! to Suzanne, Dayna and Chip. Rosa Simon helped us in our beginner's class and we hope to start a fourth class for the true beginners with Rosa.

We were very happy that Pastor Luis joined us for our Christmas class. Thank you, Pastor Luis for always supporting our students and talking with them after classes.

Thank you, teachers, for your dedication and patience teaching our students at Holy Cross.

Your ELL Team
Ellen Atwell



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 for additional Stephen Ministers will begin in 2025 and cover 25 modules which will include stimulating topics about:

- The Art of Listening
- Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief
- Distinctively Christian Caring
- Using Mental Health Professionals and Other Community Resources
- Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving
- Crisis Theory and Practice

If you are interested in being 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:

