

Canoeing the Mountains

by: The Rev. Chasity L. Wiener

Every once in a while, I see these wonderful pictures on Facebook and in email that shows a picture of an antiquated object that are no longer in use today—but was most certainly formative in a particular generation. The “game” invites the audience to identify this object. For example, the pictures are usually things like extinct S&H Green Stamps, an old washer press, an 8-Track tape, and a toy from a certain era, like a Ms. Beasley doll. What usually happens is that the younger generation cannot identify these items and the older generation berates the younger generation for being so unknowing (I have seen it happen countless times on Facebook). These wonderful artifacts are part of a history that once was, but is no longer. The wonderful artifacts become a “secret insider language” to only a few generations, leaving all the other generations scratching their heads...

...and, I would venture that we often do that in the (larger expression) of the Church.

It's why so many churches are dying. They are desperately holding onto something that doesn't exist anymore and then berating the proceeding generations for being so unknowing and inactive in the church. In those “glory days” of the church (which I would argue wasn't so glorious in the first place, as so many were excluded from the table), it was a “build it and they will come” mentality, where we—the church—never had to leave the comforts of our sanctuaries. But now, we are apostolic people in a changing climate where the church must arise from their pews, abandon their comforts, and bring church to where the people are.

Yes, it is scary. Yes, it is something that we are not accustomed to. But, no, it is not a new idea. In fact, we read in the New Testament who the early disciples of the church had to do the exact same thing, in a post-resurrection world. Christianity was a fringe religion with no glorious sanctuary. We barely had any liturgy—we had baptismal waters, the word, and a meal. Christianity had to be built, which meant that the disciples had to go to the people.

I mention this for two reasons: 1) I am reading a

fascinating book called, Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory by Tod Bolsinger.

The book uses the framework of the Lewis and Clark's expedition of the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase. This expedition was based on a false expectation: that the unexplored west was exactly the same geography as the familiar east. They readied their expeditions with canoes, and instead encountered the mountains. Reluctantly, they had to abandon their canoes and original expectations to accommodate the uncharted territory: this was mountain country. They needed horses. I have been reading this book, wondering how we—as the larger Church—have come to this uncharted territory of the church and are still trying to “canoe the mountains.” We have come to this new chartered territory of the Church, carrying our oars and spending a lot of emotional energy, money, and time screaming at the mountainous terrain before us, trying to make it work using antiquated and wrongly fit tools.

Secondly, our church just participated in the insightful, Ministry Affirmation Review (“MAR”). At my invitation, our Synod's MAR Team spent countless hours talking to ministry partners like the Fallston Animal Rescue Movement and the Sharing Table, as well as leaders in our church. They scoured the surrounding communities and learned about how residents of Harford County perceive our presence in Fallston (do they even know about us?). We looked, critically, at our missions and ministry. Overall, Church, we do great ministry together! We continue to be dynamic and balance well the changing nomenclature

Continued...



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of church and sacred traditions. That said, we do have some growing areas. One MAR team member said, “My goodness! You are doing so much good work in the community, but the community doesn’t even know about it!” And, I agree. We forget to share it. We forget to leverage our best asset: YOU. With over 450 people in our church, can you imagine how— if we might share our events, stories, and experiences more (and better!)—how the news will spread about the reckoning force of love at HCLC? And then, we will hit them with the Holy Spirit and they will be affirmed in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I am attaching the MAR’s Affirmations and Recommendations, for your thoughtful review. We will offer some “Coffee House discussions” in the coming weeks to build our vision (a recommendation of the MAR team). Grab your saddle and “saddle up.” It’s mountain country! Let’s BE the church in this changing terrain.

Affirmations & Recommendations

Affirmations: How we saw you doing Mission RIGHT!

- ☐ How folks from outside the congregation described HCLC
 - Caring, generous, giving & welcoming
 - Committed to serving
 - The “Do-Gooder” Church
 - The Church of Faith in Action o A place of refuge and confidentiality (Domestic Violence Example)
 - Creative outreach (Pet Blessing Example)
- ☐ Shared LOVE
 - The Pastor LOVES the Congregation and the community they serve
 - The Congregation LOVES her back
 - The Congregation LOVES each other and their community
- ☐ The Congregation finds their Pastor to be:
 - Engaging
 - Warm
 - Creative
 - Dynamic
 - Relatable
 - A Very Good Preacher
- ☐ The Congregation is supportive of their Pastor and respectful of boundaries
- ☐ The Congregation is very creative and dynamic
 - Pizza Box Sundays
 - Ashes to Go
 - Ash Wed/Valentines Dinner Worship
 - Outdoor Worship Area

- Video Streaming of Worship
- Format Change for “Wiggle Worship” o
- Creative Workshops (Estate Planning Example)

- ☐ The Congregation is engaged in the life of the church and each other
 - High Pledge Card Return
 - Active Youth Program (1) LYO (8) National Youth Gathering
 - Adult Bible Study on Sundays & Tuesdays
 - The formation of Virtual Bible Study
 - Thank you notes from the Church Council
 - Fellowship opportunities: ☐ Senior group ☐ Men’s group ☐ Side Walk Fellowship ☐ FUNraisers!
- ☐ The Congregation is engaged with the community they serve Strong Ecumenicalism and Ministerium
 - Community Events like Easter Egg Hunt, Free Car Wash, & Trunk or Treat
 - Fallston Animal Rescue Movement (FARM) involvement (HCLC reached out to FARM to help, not the other way around)
 - Sharing Table (The only church who gets a “reserved week”). (Famine Example)

Recommendations: Ways to play to your strengths

- ☐ Focused Biblical Literacy Development
- ☐ Visioning – Figuring out what God is calling us to do
- ☐ Long Range Planning – Plan how to do it
- ☐ Prioritize the plan
- ☐ De-Centralize leadership to execute Mission
 - Lay Leadership training
 - Equip the Saints for Ministry
- ☐ Evaluate Committee Structure
- ☐ Implement a focused Church Marketing Plan (Evangelism)
 - Social Media, Website, Print
 - Property (Temp Signage, Lighting Stained Glass)
- ☐ Expand on your creativity
 - Creative ideas for space utilization of building to include off site possibilities
 - Workshops (Opioid, active shooter, examples)
 - Creative worship (Outdoor, Pet Blessing, examples)
- ☐ Focused Stewardship including Electronic Payment
- ☐ Utilize Available Resources
 - Your Coach
 - Other Congregations
 - The Synod & ELCA Resources

Smoking

by: Barb Huber

Smoking is the “leading preventable cause of death and disease in the US.” Tobacco contains toxins; tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide. Smoking contributes to the development of cardiovascular disease (heart attack, strokes and peripheral vascular disease), cancer (lung, oral, bladder, esophagus, kidney and pancreas), and COPD (emphysema, chronic bronchitis). Individuals who smoke have higher incidences of high blood pressure, infertility, macular degeneration, and periodontal disease.

Smoking is addictive. Quitting is difficult and for many a process not a simple event. Nicotine is as addictive as heroin and cocaine. The nicotine in inhaled smoke creates a pleasant feeling (of wellness) and affects the smoker’s mood. The CDC reports that 21% of adults 18 years of age and older currently smoke.



The benefits to quitting include improved general health, enhanced sense of smell and taste, decreased heart strain and reduced risk of cardiovascular disease COPD, and cancer. Popular methods to support quitting include nicotine, medications Zyban, Chantix, and support groups. Make the decision to quit today; for more information see www.cdc.gov/tobacco or www.smokefree.gov.

With blessings,

Barb Huber RN, CSRN, FCHN

Celebrations of Jesus’ Life

by: Pastor Richard Kiesling

Throughout the Church Year there are celebrations of the great things that God has done to bring us the gift of salvation. Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost are the three great Feasts of the Church; but also specific moments in the life of Jesus.

These would include his Incarnation [March 25] – his naming [January 1] – his baptism [last Sunday of Epiphany] – his time of temptation in the wilderness [Lent] – the events of Holy Week [Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday] – and the closing of his public ministry: Ascension [the 40th day after Easter].

The details of the Ascension are written in the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles – how our Lord leads his disciples out of Jerusalem to a nearby hilltop and is visibly taken up into heaven. As the disciples are standing there staring up into the sky, two angels appear and announce that Jesus would one day return the same way his had gone. This promise of his return filled them with joy.

Even today 2000 years after the events recorded in the Scriptures, this same promise that our Lord will return is to fill us with joy, motivate us to be busy doing the will of God and sharing God divine love with all we meet thus sharing the good news of what God has done through Jesus Christ for our salvation.

Because Ascension Day is always on a Thursday it has become one of the “forgotten” days in the Church Calendar. For the past three years members of the Episcopal and ELCA Lutheran churches of Harford County have joined to observe this moment in the life of Jesus. The members of Holy Communion are invited and encouraged to attend this service. Come and join Pastor Chas and Pastor Dick as they with their colleagues gather together to give a joint witness to the joy of remembering Jesus.

Ascension Day – May 10th – 7:00 p.m.

Joint Ecumenical Worship of the Episcopal and ELCA Lutheran Churches of Harford County
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
303 North Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland

Sunday School News

by: Larry Phillips

I was browsing the internet looking for some inspiration for this month's newsletter article, and I came across an interesting fact. Easter is not a one day celebration! It is in fact a fifty day celebration. It begins with the Sunday of the Resurrection. For 2018, that was April 1st. The fortieth day of Easter, Thursday May 10th, is celebrated as Ascension Day. Easter then ends on Sunday, May 20th, which is Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit descends on the disciples of Jesus. Pentecost is also known as the beginning of the Christian Church. A total of seven Sundays for the Easter season.

Did you know that the disciples of Jesus, now eleven after the crucifixion Jesus, decided to replace the position of Judas Iscariot, with someone else, just before the day of Pentecost. Can you identify the name of this person?



The point of all this Christian trivia is to show the significance of Easter as a season of celebration, not just a day of celebration. Christmas is often viewed as the most important Christian holiday and it is the most commercialized in today's society. However, it is to be noted that without the death and resurrection of our Lord, Christmas would have no significance. Another fact about the Easter season, aka Eastertide, is that it is the longest of all the celebrated Church seasons.

I ask that you share this information with your children. Guide them in their understanding of Easter and what it really means. Christ's victory over death and the gift of everlasting life when we accept Christ as our Savior.

Christ has Risen, He has Risen Indeed!

Confirmation Celebration

We will celebrate the confirmation of Kaelyn Sullivan, Mason Pennington, and Matthew Schaffer on Sunday, May 20th. The youth will affirm their baptism and be confirmed during the second service. There will also be refreshments served between services.



Interfaith Walks

Please join us on one of our spring and summer Interfaith nature walks in Harford County. The walks will be co-hosted by Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake and various partners in the region. They will take place May 10th at 6:30PM at Anita C. Leight Center, and June 23rd at 10:00AM at the Susquehannock Wildlife Center. This will be an opportunity to enjoy nature, learn about what's happening in our local watershed, and explore actions that you and your congregation can take to protect Creation. Email bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org or call 443-779-0349 if you have any questions or need additional information.



Virtual Bible Study

by Pastor Chas

Virtual bible study will resume on **May 7 at 7pm**. This is perfect for those who struggle finding the time to study the Bible and yet have a desire to get better acquainted with sacred texts. Log in to a virtual classroom using Skype or Zoom and this link: <https://zoom.us/j/705412338>. You will be on your way to interacting and learning from the comforts of your home. Pastor Chas will lead a "live" class. This class is not your ordinary Bible Study!



Why Holy Communion?

by Pastor Bob Ridenour

Holy Communion is an enactment of the gospel, that God in Christ has come to us and redeemed our life. We talk about this Holy Communion dramatizes it. It is “the word made visible,” as Saint Augustine and John Calvin put it.

By eating and drinking we say that we wish Christ to dwell in our hearts by faith. We want Christ within us, and by this action God promises that God does.

Not only are we joined with Christ, but we are also united with fellow believers. We affirm that we are not just individuals before God, but we are a community united with God and with one another. It is in Holy Communion that the “community of saints” is most real. We join with “all the company of heaven.” We do not commune alone, but with all believers both past and present. Holy Communion also celebrates the significance of our everyday life. We bring bread and wine (God’s gift to us in the first place) the symbols of our earthly existence and get back Christ. God uses such common things as everyday food and drink as channels of divine revelation. It shows us that all life is sacred and holy.

Communion means many things to many people (* more on this next month), but for certain it means these things to us all.

Revised from an article by pastor and theologian Robert McAfee Brown

Traveling? Not Feeling Well? Can’t Come to Church? Holy Communion Comes to YOU!

People get sick. People travel. We understand that and try to find new ways that you can still remain connected with our community. While you are away, join any service by watching our webcam at webcam.HolyCommunionFallston.org

This is an innovative way to connect the gifts of technology to practical faith. However, this gift of technology comes with its own limitations, in that, this webcam can never fully create the sense of community that one is part by actually being in the pews. The webcam is on for all services and only shows the front portion of the sanctuary. The webcam works on most devices (smartphones, tablets, PCs, iPhones®, and iPads®). It does not work on Amazon Kindle Fire® tablets.

Let us know if you are watching our services.

Please send comments or issues relating to the broadcast to webcam@HolyCommunionFallston.org



Youth News

by Penny Sadler-Vocke, Youth Leader

Car wash and more!

The Houston bound youth will be holding a free car wash with pit beef, ham and turkey on Saturday, on May 19 from 10-2 pm. The rain date will be Sunday, May 20 from 12-2 pm. Please come out and support these youth, while enjoying a sandwich and clean car! Donations will be accepted and benefit our Houston youth!



Calling all Youth from 3rd grade through high school!

Youth Groups are back in full swing for 3rd grade, 4-6th grade, and our high school youth. These groups will meet as one group for a meal and opening prayer, then they will split up into age appropriate groups for a bible study and crafts. The monthly gatherings will be held one Sunday per month from 12:00-1:30 pm per the following schedule:

May 18th – End of Year Picnic

Hope to see you there!

Looking ahead to VBS

Save the Date!

July 15-18

Mark your calendars for **VBS 2018**, “Maker Fun Factory...Created by God, Built for a Purpose!” Registration is now open for participants and volunteers. You can access the sign-up page either via HCLC website, or this link: vbspro.events/p/c8f90a. This year’s program will be free of charge, and will include a dinner option. Please visit the webpage for details!



Think Tank

The Think tank will gather for their next meeting on Thursday, May 17 from 7-8 pm at Christine Krieger’s home. Come out and help brain storm and plan for our upcoming youth and family events.



Houston Bound

The Houston Youth are still working on their fundraising efforts to get to their goal for the national Youth Gathering in Houston Texas in June. As part of the preparation for the gathering, the youth are meeting each month for fellowship and a preparation bible study. Please feel free to approach them to ask them about this process.



Mutual Ministry Update

Hello and Happy Spring! We are sure you will agree that the weather this winter has been crazy. As our days grow longer and the sun warmer, it is the perfect time for each of us to renew our commitment to "Reach Out and Share God's Love." Pastor Chas has challenged us and now we challenge you to get out of your comfort zone. As Miss Emma Snyder taught those of us at the 2nd service, "there is no growth in the comfort zone and no comfort in the growth zone." What are we asking you to do? Simple...

1-When you see someone you do not know or do not recognize at church walk up to them with extended hand and introduce yourself. We are big enough that even if someone is not new to HCLC you may not have had the opportunity to cross paths before that day.

2-Invite someone you know to church on Sunday or to one of our many other faith filled activities.

Well, this does seem easy enough; however, for most of us it will be difficult because we will need to leave our comfort zones. We cannot grow and spread God's love if we remain in the comfort zone. It is time to step into the growth zone and renew our commitment to "Reach Out and Share God's Love!"

Respectfully,

The Mutual Ministry Committee

Thank You!

Thanks for the calls, cards & notes during my extended absence as I recover from a broken leg. The little gifts, music scores (so I could sing the cantata & Easter service) and the calls from Pastors Chas & Dick are greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Jim & Michelle Williams for driving us to church and Bob Kruelle. We feel so blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring church family!

Barbara Ridenour

*Thank
you!*

Member Spotlight

by Barbara Barbour

What brought you to HCLC?

"I was looking for a Lutheran church in my area and found Holy Communion. It was a brand new congregation having moved into the building shortly before I came. Everyone was friendly and welcoming. I had found my church family."

What do you see as your gifts to serve God, God's people, and the church?

"I always seem to be involved with food. Whether it is collecting it or serving it. I have good organizational skills which come in handy for both of those jobs."

Favorite ice cream flavor?

"My favorite ice cream is Ben & Jerry's Cherry Garcia."

What is something people may be surprised to know about you?

"That I am an avid knitter! And reader!"

What bible verse is meaningful to you?

"Trust in the Lord with all of your heart."

How do you serve at HCLC?

"I am a member of the Quilting Group; greeter; communion helper; Service Committee; and help with funeral luncheons."



Lovin' Life Seniors

by Nancy Campbell

LOVIN' LIFE SENIORS

Our goal is to offer friendship and support to one another through social events. Please join us! Invite your friends! Our 2018 schedule and sign- up sheets for upcoming events are posted on the senior's bulletin board in the hallway. Please read the Sunday bulletins and Bread and Wine for any changes to the schedule below. All activities take place on 2nd Tuesdays of the month unless otherwise noted.

2018 CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 8 at noon

Steel Fish Restaurant—Bel Air

Tuesday, June 12 at noon

Fisherman's Catch—Forest Hill Bowling Lanes

Tuesday, July 10 at noon

Madonna Seafood—Rte. 23

Tuesday, August 14 at noon

Friendly Farm—Upperco

Tuesday, September 11 at noon

Crab Feast at church

Tuesday, October 9 at noon

Wargo's Restaurant—Jarrettsville, Rte. 23

Tuesday, November 13 at noon

Silver Spring Mining Restaurant-Bel Air, Rte. 1

Tuesday, December 11 at noon

Union Hotel—Port Deposit or Manor Tavern--
Monkton

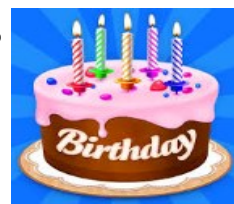
We welcome new ideas as well as new members. If interested contact: Nancy Campbell 410-836-7688; Frances Gosnell 410-893-4622; Jeanette Hastings 410-893-7590; Pat Kellermann 410-679-4624; Ellen Priebe 410-679-8655.

"Good Grief" Group

The Good Grief group will meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm. Their next meeting will be May 22st at the church.



May Birthdays



5/02—Alexandra Reed

5/03—Amy Shaver

5/05 — Sara Dorsey

5/06—Susan Ghassemieh

5/06—Barb Huber

5/07—Roger Griffin

5/07—Ashley Oxendine

5/07—Karen Smith

5/09—Richard Hall

5/10—Christopher Lottes

5/14—Donna Campbell

5/14—Carolyn Ruth

5/14—Christie Shindel

5/15—Kristen Eyer

5/15—Pat Hieber

5/15—Sophia Pellerin

5/16—Wes Jones

5/16—Gene Priebe

5/17—Jamie Swank

5/19—Denise Flohr

5/20—Bryan Schromsky

5/20—Sandy Skipper

5/21—Katie Airey

5/21—Mason Boeren

5/22—Tammy Airey

5/22—Arianna Goldsmith

5/23—Lily Phillips

5/24—James Appel

5/25—Cynthia Jenkins

5/27—Bud Ruth

5/28—Linda Boeren

5/29—Sharon Schromsky

5/30—Barbara Barbour

5/31—Stephanie Phillips

5/31—Ashley Smith

Happy Birthday

Do you have an **May** birthday but do not see your name printed here? That means we do not have your complete information on file. Please contact Hailea in the church office to update your information.

Men's group

The new Men's Group will hold their next meeting Monday, May 7th at 5:00pm . Please let Ron Mickley know if you plan to attend. His phone number is 301-498-1451.



HOLY COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Pastor —The Reverend Chasity L. Wiener



Council Member—Dave Frieman



Council Member - Arlene Hildebrandt - **President**



Council Member - Kelly Clavell - **Secretary**



Fred Hildebrandt - **Treasurer** (appointed)



Council Member - Jon Perkins



Council Member - Marcia Mickley

Council Member - Ron Mickley - **Vice-President**

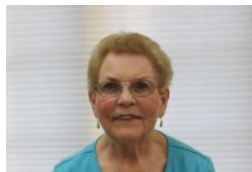
Be sure to check out our calendar for important dates, including the start of Sunday School and new opportunities to grow in faith.



Council Member - Debbie Mueller -



Council Member - Bruce Amrein



Council Member - Bertha Deck



Council Member - Doug Mueller



Council Member - Eric Thompson



NEWS from

Holy Communion Lutheran Church

May 2018

“REACHING OUT TO SHARE CHRIST’S LOVE”

Holy Communion Lutheran Church

Is a growing community
of faith that exists to provide
the Fallston Community with
a variety of opportunities
for special development in:

WORSHIP

REACHING OUT

LEARNING

WITNESS

Come and be part of our Christian worship!

Holy Communion Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 55
621 Old Fallston Road
Fallston, Maryland 21047-0055
443-299-6134
HolyCommunionLC@comcast.net
HolyCommunionFallston.org

Sign up to receive the synod e-letter.

Go to demdsynod.org and follow the links to the e-letter.

You learn about free concerts, trips, activities and job possibilities.

Worship Services

8:30am - Traditional Service

10:15am - Contemporary Service

10:15am - Sunday School

“REACHING OUT TO SHARE CHRIST’S LOVE!”