

# Bread & Wine

News from Holy Communion Lutheran Church

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## It's the Holidays! Company is Coming!

by: The Rev. Chasity L. Wiener

Pop Quiz: *It's the holidays. Company is coming.*  
When you anticipate guests coming over your home, do you:

- A) excitedly plan a menu because hospitality is your thing!
- B) freak out and then frantically clean because you are afraid for others to see how you really live
- C) hate having a messy house...not enough to actually clean it, but enough to give it a disgusted stare from the seat of your couch.
- D) do nothing special that you wouldn't do any other days.

*It's the holidays. Company is coming.*

I confess that I am a "sorta" on the "B" spectrum. I love how we "really live," but I still frantically clean to create the smoke and mirrors illusion that we live in an immaculate space where children always find the hamper for their dirty clothes, husbands know the difference between a dish towel and a hand towel, and our kitchen sink is free from dirty dishes.

But, the truth is, whether I am frantically scrubbing toilets or vacuuming under that part of the sofa that does not see the light of day, I go into some kind of preparation mode in anticipation of guests.

That is what the season of Advent is all about.

There is an entire season within in the church calendar that falls between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is called Advent and begins four Sundays before December 25. If **Christmas** is **Christ** entering into our world, then Advent is all about **the expectant waiting, hopeful anticipation, and cheerful preparation** of Christ's in-breaking.

Advent is **not** stressing about Christmas, rushing to complete our Christmas shopping, or breathlessly racing toward the December 25 finishing line. Rather, Advent is a cozier time of intention to getting your home ready to welcome a special guest: Jesus, the one who we are waiting for. Jesus, the one who in the chaos of our lives promises peace, hope, joy, and love.

We mark the days in this anticipation by lighting the advent wreath, which has four candles—three blue (or purple) and one pink. While there are many traditions in the larger church as to what each of these candles mean, the pink candle is known as Gaudete, which means "Rejoice! Don't Lose Heart! The time is so close you can taste it!" **This season of Advent, we will explore each candle on the Advent wreath as "Peace," "Hope," "Joy," and "Love."** These four themes are hefty and loaded concepts within the Bible that inform our understanding of God's in-breaking in our lives and how we live in this faith.



I often hear the frustrated lament of folks who desire less commercialism in Christmas and more "Christ" in Christmas. If we want to keep "Christ" in "Christmas," than we should feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, and love our enemies. Perhaps these are the tasks of anticipation and cheerful preparation that we "busy" ourselves this Advent, instead of frantically cleaning our homes like it seems no one is actually living in them? We will begin this holy time of Advent in worship on December 2 by being intentional of these tasks. Each worship during Advent, we will:

- *Pray.* After you receive communion, there will be a healing minister to pray with and for you, if you choose. Additionally, all the prayers of the church will center on the weekly theme of "Peace," "Hope," "Joy," and "Love."
- *Act.* We will hear the story about "The Giving Manager," a new tradition to our family this year.

*Continued on page 2*

### In this Issue



*Member Spotlight, page 3*

*Youth News, page 6*

*...and so much more!*

Continued from the Pastor's article:

Essentially, with every act of keeping "Christ" in Christmas (through acts of kindness), the manager is filled with a single piece of straw/hay. These acts are the cushion to receive the Christ child. For more information on this story, please visit:

<https://www.thegivingmanger.com/>

- *Discern.* After each theme of "Peace," "Hope," "Joy," and "Love," there will be an interactive prayer station for you to further explore how this Holy Expectant One is the Joy to the World.

Let us expect, anticipate, and prepare together.

*Pastor Chas*

## Christmas Toy Drive

**Katelyn Rudolph, age 9, is leading a project to collect toys for children in the hospital this Christmas.**

Katelyn's project idea came from her experience of being in the hospital on Christmas day several years ago. Please consider buying an item from the attached toy list and bring it unwrapped to church by December 9. Katelyn will deliver the toys to the University of Maryland Medical System's Children's Hospital..

Donations of **unfilled stockings and stocking stuffers** are also much appreciated. they set up a stocking stuffer station where parents/caregivers appreciate the joy of "stuffing" their child's stocking personally. Stocking stuffer ideas include party packs of playdoh, bubbles, yoyo's, crayons/markers, coloring books, activity books, decks of cards, chapstick, nail polish, koosh balls, small puzzles, rattles, small bottles of lotion, small mirrors, hair accessories and Matchbox cars. Additional gift ideas by age are as follows...



### Infant/Toddler

Wrist and foot "jingles"

Onesies

Recordable storybooks

Pajama

Baby spoons and sippy cups

Bath time toys and plastic books

Sensory blocks by Fisher Price

Stuffed animals (brand new)

Crib Aquariums (Fisher Price)

Cause and effect toys

Books (cardboard and cloth)

Stacking toys (ring stack, cups,  
nesting animals)

Play gyms

Snap beads

Baby socks

Blankets

Baby brushes

Crib mobiles

Infant mirrors

Little Tikes

Piano

### Toddler/Preschool

Puzzles (24 pieces or less,  
wooden w/ pegs)

Books – board, talking, pop-up

I Spy/Seek and Find books

animals (brand new)

Crayons & coloring books (toddler  
size crayons)

Fisher Price/Playskool toys

Soft balls

Color Wonder kits

Duplo sets

Toy kitchen Stuffed

Tea sets

Toy phones

Shape sorters

Baby dolls

### School Age

Baseball gloves

Bionicles

Barbies

Bubbles

Craft kits

Crayons/markers

Coloring/activity books

Action figures

\$10 Gift cards

Deck of cards/card games

I Spy/Seek and Find books

Fuzzy posters and markers

Hotwheels cars & sets

Model kits (snap)

Model Magic

Lego sets

Nail polish

Paint sets

Play Doh

Puzzles (24-70  
pieces)

UNO

Silly putty

Slime & slime kits

Slipper socks with  
characters

### Teenagers

Art supplies

Mad Libs

Bath & Body Shop items

Blank journals/sketch books  
& pencils

Board games

Movie passes

Plain scrapbooks

Headphones/earbuds

Newer release DVD's

(G,PG, & PG-13)

Lounge pants

Card games

Model kits (snap  
and glue)

Sports apparel

Travel toiletry bags

Nail polish

Craft kits

Teen magazines

## Service Times: Christmas Eve Worship

Joy to the World! The Lord has Come! Celebrate with us on:

**Sunday, December 23:** as we anticipate Jesus' birth, we sing Christmas hymns and listen to the story of Jesus' birth unfold through scripture.

**Monday, December 24: Candlelight Services at 6:30P** (contemporary) and **10P** (traditional; Prelude begins at 9:45P). Invite a friend who needs to hear about God's relentless love for us, made tangible through Jesus Christ.



## Service of Light and Hope

Pastor Chas and Pastor Kimberly will host A Service of Light and Hope on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00. Do you know someone who has recently lost a loved or is going through a particularly difficult time of transition in life? If so, the holidays can be emotionally tough and they may need a little extra "TLC." If you are missing a loved one this Christmas, please bring a photo of your loved one to the service.



## Children's Christmas Play

Please be sure to catch "A New Star," this year's children's Christmas play at both services on **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**! Witness the power of the Christmas message as told by our youngest disciples. See the Youth Page for the complete rehearsal schedule.



## Community Christmas Tree Lighting Tree

There will be a Community Christmas Tree Lighting held Sunday, December 2 at 6:00. The tree lighting will take place at Fallston United Methodist Church, 1509 Fallston Rd, Fallston, MD . Please bring cookies to share and enjoy hot cocoa and caroling!



## Church Decorating

God sent his Son, he was called Jesus. His birth fulfilled the promise He made to Isaiah and the prophets. Now, the season is upon us to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Immanuel.

Won't you join us after the **second service on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** as we decorate our church to honor God's promise kept!





# Member Spotlight

by: Carl Henderson

## What brought you to HCLC?

"A knock on the door. HCLC's first Pastor, Gus Weber, was going door-to-door letting everyone know that he was starting a new Lutheran congregation in Fallston. As charter members, my family and I have been with the church ever since thanks to his evangelism."

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

"A willingness to help and serve when called upon. The ability to work with others and a strong penchant for prayer."

## Favorite ice cream flavor?

"Without a doubt mint chocolate chip."

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

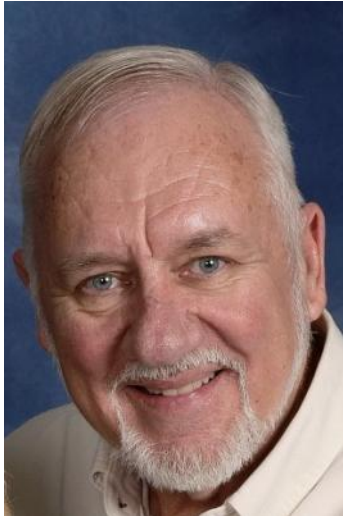
"47 years ago, I was one of the first, if not the first, male to teach first grade in the Baltimore County School system. The following September I was a college professor, and I discovered that there's really no difference between a six year old and an eighteen year old (Lol)."

## What bible verse is meaningful to you?

"1 Thessalonians Chapter 5 Verses 16-18: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

## How do you serve at HCLC?

"Currently, I am a reader at the first service and I volunteer to clean the church. I have also served on Church Council and served as Council President. I have also served on numerous committees over the years."



# Toddler & Child Safety

by: Barb Huber

The newborn is almost a year old now and into everything. Toddlers and young children need continued safety at home and in their world. Toddlers by nature are very curious; take a minute and get down on the floor, how does the world look from this angle? Below is a list of safety musts for every home with children.

## Fire and Burn prevention:

- Install and maintain smoke detectors on every level of your home.
- Doors and windows should be free from heavy objects.
- Keep matches, lighters and flammables locked away.
- Plan and practice a fire escape plan with the family including the child.
- Keep portable heaters out of reach.
- Set water heater to no more than 120 degrees.
- Make the stove a kid's free zone. Do not leave your child in the kitchen unsupervised.
- Cook with pots and pans on back burners with handles turned away from the front.
- Cover all electrical outlets.



## Choking and Suffocation:

- Keep small objects out of reach (buttons, coins, marbles etc.). Hint if the object is small enough to fit through a toilet paper roll it presents a choking hazard.
- Do not allow young children to eat hard, small or round foods. Children should sit and eat quietly, chewing food completely.
- Make sure toys are age appropriate; no small pieces or removable parts.
- Do not allow child to play in poorly ventilated spaces (car trunks, dryers).
- Avoid clothing with drawstrings; do not dress with scarves, necklaces, etc.
- Do not allow small children to sleep on soft surfaces.

## Fall prevention:

- Place all furniture away from stairs and windows.
- Install safety gates at all stairs.
- Keep play toys down low in easy to reach places.
- Install safety guards on windows and keep locked if closed.
- Any child riding on wheels should have a helmet on at ALL times.
- Supervise children playing on playground equipment. Play surface should be covered with a material such as mulch or rubber materials.

*Continued on page 5*

*Continued...*

### **Poison Prevention:**

- Lock up all medications; up high and out of sight.
- Keep all cleaning and other products in their original containers and stored out of reach.
- Read labels on all chemicals and use correctly; Use products when child is not around.
- Use child resistant packages.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors.
- Never run or warm up a car in an attached garage.
- Install cabinets lock when necessary.

### **Drowning prevention:**

- Keep toilet lid shut and use lock.
- Best practice is to keep bathroom doors shut at all times.
- Never leave a child in the bathtub attended; a child can drown in one inch of water.
- Empty all bathtubs, buckets, containers etc. immediately after use.
- Install safety fencing around all pools and keep locked.
- Supervise all children when swimming; use life preservers for all water activities.

This list is by no means complete. For more information see: [www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org), [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org) and/or [www.whattoexpect.com](http://www.whattoexpect.com).

## **Sunday School**

*by:* Carrie Dorsey

Please join us on Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> at either, or both, services to hear the Christmas message from our youngest members. The children have been practicing and rehearsing to bring the story of Jesus' birth to all.

This is a great opportunity to invite friends and families to join you at Church. When they see the fun the children are having and the joy on everyone's face and in our hearts, they might just decide to come back the next week.

### **Christmas Play Rehearsal Schedule:**

Sun Dec 2nd--9:15 - 10:15-- All speaking parts-- run through

Sun Dec 9th--11:45 - 1:30-- All cast and crew-- movement, props and run through (\*\*Lunch will be provided\*\*)

Sat Dec 15th-- 2:00- 4:00-- All cast and crew-- run through and dress rehearsal (\*\*Holiday snack provided\*\*)

Volunteers Needed!! Substitute teachers and youth helpers!! Please let me know if you are able to give some of your time for a Sunday a month or a Sunday a quarter. For questions or to volunteer please e-mail me at

[SundaySchool@HolyCommunionFallston.org](mailto:SundaySchool@HolyCommunionFallston.org).



## **Meals Needed**

Making a hot meal for someone won't change the world, but it will change one person's world. Charlotte Butler begins intensive physical therapy outside her home next week after undergoing knee replacement surgery, and could use some help with meals. If you are able, please visit [www.TakeThemAMeal.com/EXCL5790](http://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/EXCL5790) and sign

up to deliver a meal, and help Charlotte focus on her healing process. Additional information can be found at the site.



## **Shop Amazon, Help HCLC**

Do you know you can help HCLC earn money just by shopping on Amazon? Holy Communion Lutheran Church is now a valid charity on Smile.Amazon.com. Use the link below to find out more about this program: Simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) Make sure you have logged into your account on this page. Then on the top left hand of the page where it is says "amazon smile" find the word "Supporting" and use the drop-down arrow to select a charity. Search for "Holy Communion Lutheran Church". Then select the one for Fallston, MD. When you make purchases, you must use smile.amazon.com in order for your order to qualify for a donation. Happy shopping!



## **Service Project**

We need service project ideas for our church to be involved in! With a tagline of "Reaching Out to Share Christ's Love," service becomes the most visible mission of our church. But, we need service project ideas (even more so, we also need some passionate, service-minded folks to help keep such service opportunities before us throughout the year)! We would love to hear from you and how God might be using you to share new ideas with us. Please contact Pastor Chasity with any ideas or suggestions!



# ***Worship in Advent***

*by Pastor Bob Ridenour*

Advent is a season of hope and anticipation. For four weeks before Christmas we await the coming again of our Lord Christ. As he came into Bethlehem long ago, so he comes again this very day (as he always had and always will). The word “advent” is a Latin for “coming.” Advent is a time of hopeful waiting, a time of prayer and preparation, of hoping and dreaming.

The seasonal color for advent is the color blue. This is also the traditional color of Mary, the mother of the Lord. This reminds us to hold ourselves close to her faith and trust and hope...so that, like her, we will have the Lord live in us (see Romans 8:11-17). We remember and celebrate the fact that Christ continually comes to us, as he redeems us and all people and the entire creation as he promised (Luke 1:68-79). In advent we learn to wait in hopeful anticipation. Our worship, therefore, is subdued yet quietly hopeful.

The Advent wreath signifies this mood. The acts of lighting it is a simple one. As one candle after the other is lit the light grows brighter and brighter, just as does our hope. By the time Christmas arrives the whole wreath shines with glorious light, the darkness is overcome, and our hope is fulfilled. Christ is born anew! Salvation is come!

Advent is a wonderful season of anticipation and hope! Advent is a glorious season of joy!

## ***Our Story to Tell...***

*by You, the people of HCLC*

It all started with a simple request: to make a king-sized quilt that matches the current décor of the bedroom. This request came from our beloved, recently deceased member, Dave Warren. He wanted Jan to be wrapped in warmth and love, even after his passing. Our quilters, *The Holy Stitchers*, were happy to oblige. Jan helped design the quilt, but it was the creative insights that made this beautiful quilt come together.

Evoking the Holy Spirit, we consecrated the quilt at the second service. Everyone who was present—young and old—touched this beautiful quilt, imparting their own blessing on every stitch. The most beautiful part of this is that there was no formal plan to do so—the quilt arrived finished and it caused a wonderful “buzz” because people just had to know its story...and the Holy Spirit ordained that it should be so.

This quilt, and the witness to send it off to Jan with a blessing, honored Dave’s legacy and how God called so many people together in support of Jan. And, on that day—through the work of the quilt—we also gave thanks to another dearly departed member, Gladys Merrifield, who was the first to start our quilting group in our church and set this ministry into motion!



God works through you...what is the Spirit whispering to you?



# 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 2019 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of the month unless otherwise noted.

### 2018 CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 11 at noon  
510 Johnny's—Bel Air

### 2019 CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 8 at noon

Basta Pasta—Rte.152

Tuesday, February 12 at noon

Mamie's Restaurant—Aberdeen

Tuesday, March 12 at noon

Fisherman's Catch—Forest Hill Bowling Lanes

Tuesday, April 9 at noon

Sunshine Grille—Fork Road

Tuesday, May 14 at noon

Della Rose's Restaurant—Fountain Green and Churchville Roads

Tuesday, June 11 at noon

Bayou Restaurant—Rte.40 Havre de Grace

Tuesday, July 9 at noon

Baldwin's Crab House—Rte.40 Joppa

Tuesday, August 13 at noon

Friendly Farm—Upperco

Tuesday, September 10 at noon

Crab Feast at church

We welcome new ideas as well as new members.

Contact Ellen Priebe 410-679-8655; Frances Gosnell

410-893-4622; Nancy Campbell 410-836-7688.

## "Good Grief" Group

The Good Grief group meets, on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm.

However, because of the Service of Light and Hope, there will be no December meeting outside of this special service.



# December Birthdays



Bess Reed, 12/03

Rachel Edsall, 12/05

Beth Griffin, 12/05

Jane Plantholt, 12/05

Shelley Dix, 12/06

Matthew Weaver, 12/06

Raelynn Kisner, 12/07

Theresa Perkins, 12/07

Sandra Ebsworth, 12/11

Jeff Boeren, 12/14

Bill Plantholt, 12/15

Ben Thompson, 12/16

Susan Hood, 12/17

Jon Perkins, 12/18

Stephen Caughey, 12/19

Marianne Otten, 12/19

Lawrence Simmons, 12/19

Ed Walton, 12/19

Emma Snyder, 12/20

Phil Wiener, 12/24

Howard Seeger, 12/26

Tara Giordano, 12/28

Christina Thanner, 12/29

Russell Brautigan, 12/30

Happy Birthday

Do you have an **December** 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.

## Church Webcam

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](http://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](mailto:webcam@HolyCommunionFallston.org)

# Holy Communion Lutheran Church

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