

“Spiritual” but not Religious

by: The Rev. Chasity L. Wiener

A frequent, reoccurring conversation I have with folks out in the community after I invite them to our church, is this: “Oh, pastor. Thanks, but no thanks. I am spiritual; not religious.” *I am spiritual, but not religious.* What does that even mean, anyway? Is it even possible to be “spiritual, but not religious?”

When I probe a little more, the conversation usually lends itself to how the person doesn’t need to be part of an organized religion in order to be spiritual. That, because God is in all things, God can easily be worshipped in creation, like in the sunsets, or in the forest, or holy conversations on the sofa on Sunday morning instead of Sunday morning worship. And, yes: God is the God of sunsets and creation and intimate sofa conversations...

...but we also know that God put on flesh and appeared to humanity as Jesus; not as a sunset or a breeze in the wind, but as this person. And, in turn, we, Christians, claim that this same fleshy figure, in Jesus, is the very head of the church.

...so to claim God in the sunsets—or to be spiritual, but not religious—is, to me, severely lopsided because it dismisses how God truly works in the world: through the fleshy bodies of you and me—and, through this beautifully imperfect place that we call church. We usually don’t encounter God through the burning bush or pillar of clouds—we encounter God through imperfect people who God called us together (not through sheer happenstance, but through divine will)—people who we might not have otherwise encountered if it was left to our own design—and then, called us, “church.” People who will challenge you, affirm you; people who will let you down, but also will lift you up and heal you. And, yes, even the pastor too: the very first thing I tell my new members is that I WILL disappoint you. One day, I WILL say the wrong thing or I WILL not meet all your expectations. I am not going to preach my best sermon each and every week. It is bound to happen. But, I hope that they stay around to see how God comes among his people, fills in those broken cracks with grace, love, and mercy...

...in spite and despite me...and you.

You just don’t get that in sunsets, in nature, or in private conversations in solitude.

And, God accomplishes this—in spite and despite us—by equipping all God’s people with spiritual gifts to use, specifically in community with one another. I think we really miss the mark when “spirituality” becomes something so nebulous and private that it can only be seen as a comforting and comfortable force field, that never challenges us (or that spirituality is something that WE tap into instead of IT tapping into us).

If you can, **read 1 Corinthians 12.1-11 right now.** This text ties “spirituality” down to very concrete things: the gift of the Holy Spirit, and our relationship with God and—specifically—to the church, because God never intended for spirituality to be private.

Paul wrote the church at Corinth because there was an issue of how they perceive spirituality. The Christian congregation in Corinth is often lifted up as a prime example of the remarkable diversity that could be found in the early church. Worshipping together were Greeks and Jews, slaves and free, rich and poor, united only by their shared confession that Jesus—who had come to earth in fleshy form, who lived, ministered, taught and then suffered, died, buried and resurrected—was indeed the God Immanuel, that is, “God with us,” the savior. They shared the confession that this Jesus, changed everything! A new way, that God had not done through nature like burning bushes or pillars of clouds.

But alas, human sin always creeps and seeks to contaminate what God has deemed good. They boasted at their gifts and—over time—had forgotten that they were only

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benefactors of their spiritual gifts and not the creators (or cause) of them. And, when the dust had cleared, there was animosity, there was hurt, there were serious cases of inferiority complexes and superiority complexes. Sadly, some folks at the church of Corinth even shrunk back, thinking that their smaller gifts were insignificant or unneeded.

Spirituality is indeed messy. And so is religion. Because being in community with people who you did not chose, is never easy. It is always easier to be a spiritual recluse, because if you worship the God in sunsets, the sun always rises to the occasion of each morning so faithfully, and not all people are as faithful.

...but there is beauty in these cracks of imperfection, for every person who we encounter is either a blessing or a lesson or sometimes both. Being “spiritual but not religious” is a slightly problematic, because, we are of course, embodied creatures who are divinely hard-wired for community...a community (church!) that provides the very place for people to BE spiritual. *Religion*, by the very nature of the word itself, comes from the Latin *re-ligare* which means to re-link or re-ligament (from which we get our English word *ligament*). That is, religion is what gives our spirituality flesh and sinews and what affixes spirituality to muscles in order to move, grow, and serve.

It's as if this life of faith is a big mosaic and each of us have a piece but the only way to see the fullness of God is to bring those pieces God has entrusted to each of us together and then to stand with one another looking at the beauty of it and say, *The gifts of God, for the people of God.*

Pastor Chas

Donations of Glasses

If you have any old, un-needed glasses laying around, we would love to have them! There is a box located above the coat rack where they can be placed. The glasses will be refurbished and distributed to those who cannot afford glasses. Thank you for your support of this wonderful ministry!



Noisy Change

We are collecting NOISY CHANGE! At last year's Synod Assembly, the Synod's churches raised over \$15,000 that went directly to the ELCA's hunger ministries, including the Synod's Hunger Task Force, that supports and encourages local food ministries in our area.

In preparation for this year's Assembly (May 30 thru June 1), HCLC is once again bringing a NOISY CHANGE offering before our congregation. Every Sunday in May, we will be passing our NOISY CHANGE bucket and asking you to please bring in and donate your available change. Please help us help those who are hungry and thank you for your support!



Turnkey Shed Donations

While you are working on your spring cleaning, don't forget to bring your unwanted clothes, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes, and stuffed toys (please no rags, fabric scraps, or household goods) to donate in our Turnkey Shed. Our church actually receives a check based on the amount (pounds) of items donated. So, you will be helping our church while simultaneously helping those in need! Please help keep your donation dry and clean by placing your donations in a closed plastic bag. Thank you for your generous support of this wonderful ministry!



The Junior Apprenticeship

The Junior Apprenticeship is geared toward building leadership skills and work experience for students ages 14-16, especially at a time in their lives when they are too young to get a job and are often too old for summer camps. This experience would enhance team building skills, while gaining work experience in a safe and supportive setting that gives grace!

Expectations:

- Students would be expected to dedicate one day a week in the church office, preferably Mondays, from 9A-2P.
- Students are expected to dress for a business office setting and pack their lunch.
- Students will work in the front office while also being mentored by other members of the congregation, while reporting to the pastor.
- Each student will be expected to lead a project, of their own design and choosing, that will better our church community. The student will need to submit their ideas for approval, gain appropriate committee permissions (if applicable), and assemble a team within our church community to complete the project before August 19. It is expected that the student will be the Project Team Lead and will have all authority in the planning and executing process. It would, however, serve the student well to seek the input from their assembled team, as this is the overall objective of team building.
- While it is expected that the students hold weekly office hours, we also expect that students should be flexible to work on their project—at their own flexibility and planning—during the week to facilitate meetings, follow up on phone conversations, etc. We expect the total office time commitment to be 8-10 hours weekly, including five hours of office hours.
- Students will need to submit to a formal application process. A select committee will help to oversee this process.
- The first day will be Monday, June 24 and the last office day will be August 12, with their project completion by August 19.

At the end of the program, each student will be recognized for their work, which also includes a “launch” congregational party celebrating their accomplishments. Additionally, each student will receive, upon request, a letter of recommendation highlighting their skills strengths and growing areas.

Please see the attached application!



All completed applications should be turned into Pastor Chas, or the church office.

Rain Barrel Mini-Grant

by: Arlene Weber

We just received a \$5000 minigrant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for a Rain Barrel Project!!!!

This grant includes a rain barrel workshop led by a water conservation expert along with provision of rain barrels to all workshop participants. This project continues to build upon our congregation being faithful stewards of our environment and rain barrels are a great way that you can be a better steward of water conservation at home. Use rain barrels to collect rain water to water your plants and gardens.



Please consider participating in this workshop and bring a family member or friend.

Date & Time will be announced shortly with a sign-up sheet to follow.



Holy Communion Lutheran Church

Summer Apprenticeship Application 2019

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____ Date: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit #

_____ *City State ZIP Code*

Phone: _____ Email _____

Education

Please rank your top three (3) areas that you would like to serve in. If you have an idea of a focus for an apprenticeship that is not on the list, that's great! Please write it in the "Other" section!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry and Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Ministry & Visitations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Ministry (VBS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Speaking & Teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication (Design) | <input type="checkbox"/> Storytelling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication (Photography) | <input type="checkbox"/> Theology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication (Social Media) | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts (creating holy spaces in worship) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication (Video) | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship Arts (Dance, Music) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship Arts (Tech & Visuals) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment & Landscaping | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interior and Space Design | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach (Community Involvement) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach (Social Justice) | |

Do you have a laptop (preferred) or tablet that you could use for your apprenticeship? Yes No Maybe?

References

Please list three professional references.

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Strengths and Faith

What do you think some of your strongest gifts are? How have those gifts grown or been strengthened lately?

What has God been doing in your life lately? How have you been seeking God?

Expectations

What are you hoping to get out of this apprenticeship?

Do you have any questions about apprenticeships?

Declaration of Intent & Signature

For these apprenticeships, Mondays will be the main work days. We will have a special meeting on Monday that will be part small group, part leadership training and part staff meeting. Since apprentices will be making a real, lasting difference at Holy Communion, we are asking for a commitment from our apprentices. We understand that you probably have vacations and trips planned. The apprenticeships begin June 24 and end August 12. That's 8 weeks. We realize that plans can change but by putting in this application, you are confirming that you can commit to at least 6 weeks of apprenticeship.

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and have read and understand the Junior Apprenticeship Expectations.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Next Service Project for all ages: No-Sew Blankets for Vets

Help us say **THANK YOU** to our veterans, while providing a little comfort to them during their hospital visits and nursing home stays.

This project is for anyone...from 3—99! If you can tie a knot, you can bring warmth to someone!

We are partnering with Fallston United Methodist Church to provide personal blankets for veterans by Veteran's Day (11/11/19). Our community goal is to create 1111 blankets!

So, start watching for sales on patriotic fleece fabric!

Directions on how to create these blankets are as follows...



Tie-Knot No Sew Blanket Directions

- Start with 2 fleece fabrics (2 yards of each color) in patriotic colors
- Line up the two fabrics, right side OUT. Anti-pill solids are FUZZY on the right side.
- Trim the two pieces so that they are the same size.
- Using a piece of cardboard, trace and cut a 5 inch square from each of the four corners.
- Lay a yardstick across the fabric, 5 inches from the edge so that you know how far in to make your cuts or pin your fabrics together and cut to your pins.
- Cut fringe on all four sides of the blanket. Cut through both layers of fabric at the same time. Fringe pieces should be a little wider than the width of your finger. Cut in from the edge 5 inches. Leave your blanket laying flat on the surface, with all fringes lined up.
- Work from left to right around the blanket, tying in the same way you would a shoelace or a balloon, depending on the look you like best.

Yard Safety

by: Barb Huber

With the arrival of spring out comes the mowers, trimmers, shovels and rakes. Safety is important around the yard.

Remember to dress for the job. Wear supportive closed toe shoes. Long sleeves and long pants are best. Find a pair of properly fitting gloves and don't forget hearing and eye protection. Use sunscreen every day, even when it is cloudy. Bug spray can help keep flying pests away. Always shower after using bug spray to remove chemicals from skin.

Gardening, pruning, mowing is hard work and stretching is recommended before beginning any job.

Know your tools. Read your owner's manuals.

Are they working properly? Do blades need to be replaced and/or sharpened? Are the cords on tools damaged? Tools and chemicals should always be properly stored and secured away from children and pets.



Do not operate your mower with small children and pets in the area. Never leave your mower unattended while running. Exercise caution when mowing hills and ditches. Weed whackers should be used for areas around gardens, sidewalks and trees. Always wear the right clothing and wear eye protection.

A day in the yard needs hydration. Every 30 minutes take a break with water.

Happy gardening and enjoy the beautiful season of new beginnings, spring.

Church App

Did you know you can listen to sermons and access calendars, events, an electronic Bible, and the newsletter on our church app for your smartphone? Here's

how: Download the **Church app (Tithe.ly)** in the Google Play or Apple Store and then select **Holy Communion Lutheran Church** as your **default church**. You can read our facebook posts and see pictures posted on Instagram even if you do not subscribe to Facebook or Instagram.

There is also space for you to write prayer requests on our prayer wall. Take us wherever you go!



Member Spotlight

by: Leland Knight

What brought you to HCLC?

"I was ready to seek another Christian church after over a decade at a conservative Presbyterian church in Parkville. I began to question the heart of the congregation after witnessing more than a few troubling exchanges of intolerance and arrogant (to me) judgmental decisions, condemning others and citing justification for it because "that is what Jesus would do." When I became a subject of scrutiny in my capacity as one of the church elders, I decided it was time to leave.

I had passed by HC every day for over twenty years; I came to service once about five years ago during the summer and was impressed with the warmth of the individuals who greeted me that morning. That stuck with me, and became the directing light for me when I finally decided to search a new community."



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

"I can lift my voice in loud song. I am a teacher, so over twenty years I struggle to lower my voice in a room. And then when the Spirit moves me to sing, I know I can be overbearing. I hope that those who sit around me sing louder to drown me out, giving God all the greater glory. As a former elder, I bring some knowledge as to budget items have to be prioritized, and how vital information is best conveyed to all church members. I have had experience in managing Christian Education programs, including Vacation Bible School, and inspiring educators to work together to complete a project."

Favorite ice cream flavor?

"Pistachio."

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

- I was born at home.
- Although left-handed, I can do most things adequately with both hands.
- I won a dance contest when I was in my 30s.
- I am the only German teacher currently teaching in a Baltimore County Public School.
- I am fluent in German and Spanish.

What bible verse is meaningful to you?

"Luke 10:38-42 Martha, Martha, Mary has chosen the greater part, and she is not to be denied.

1 John 3: 1-3 Now we are children of God. When Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

How do you serve at HCLC?

"Usher, and I attending Tuesday Bible study."

Justice and Revenge

by: Pastor Bob Ridenour

Though selfish, mean, and base we be, thy justice is unbounded. So large, it naught but love requires.

And, judging, pardons, frees, inspires.

-from a German hymn

We use the word "justice" often in our prayers and hymns. What does it mean?

Many people confuse "justice" and revenge. "I want justice" for many really means "I want revenge."

This is not the Biblical meaning. Revenge is not our calling. As the prophet Micah shows us, our calling is to "do justice, love, and mercy and walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8). Even our U.S. Declaration of Independence speaks of "liberty and justice for all."

So, "justice" is not revenge. It is not getting back at someone, or "an eye for an eye." Rather justice is "to forgive one another." It is to pray for and to do good even to those who hate us, or whom we hate or fear. This is truly justice.

"Justice" for the Christian is to follow Christ and to share God's beneficent love. The justice for which we pray and act is God's gift of love and hope and mercy to us and to all God's children. Justice is that power which makes us, and the whole earth, new. It is the very opposite of revenge.

I know some say, "Revenge is sweet." Ultimately though it is justice that is sweet and holy, while revenge is a diabolical poison.

We are called to be justice-doers for our own, as well as the world's sake.

Youth News

From the Youth Director

by: Heather Henderson

Churches often refer to youth as the leaders of tomorrow. However, we can offer so much more to the youth of HCLC. Have you ever noticed that God would use young people to do great things? Perhaps, it is because they have such unwavering faith. Church is a rich environment for kids and teens to develop meaningful connections and build relationships. It's an opportunity to provide guidance and knowledge while teaching great decision-making skills. And, how to recover from a bad decision. It's a place to find a voice and show meaningful work in the community. We call on the great

people of HCLC to show support and grace as our youth grow and flourish in our church.

If you have any questions, or would like to provide feedback please feel free to contact me at Youth@HolyCommunionFallston.org



Sunday School

by: Carrie Dorsey

WOW! What a wonderful time of the year. We made our way through Lent and celebrated the glorious Resurrection of our Lord! The days are getting longer and warmer. The gardens are growing and the baby animals are appearing in our yards to play. As we all start into the final push of the school year, spring sports, scouting events and the other things that distract us, don't forget to make time for family, friends and the Church. Sometimes we let ourselves get pulled into the hustle and we forget that God is there to give us peace, strength and love. We have many fun activities planned for our last few weeks of Sunday school and hope to see lots of our friends as we continue to celebrate the Resurrection!

For our youngest disciples, as we move into summer I encourage you slow down and take the time to live fully and renew your relationship with God, Jesus and his creation. Enjoy the sun, moon, rain, grass, trees

and the water. Listen to the birds, catch fireflies and skip stones across a pond. Enjoy all that God provides to us, be thankful and share his love with others. This goes for all of the adults as well!



VBS Is On the Horizon

Join us at Holy Communion Lutheran Church for Vacation Bible School Monday June 24th – Thursday June 27th 2019 from 5:45pm to 8:00 pm! There will be an optional dinner available for kids starting before class at 5:15pm.



Open to ages PK4

through Grade 5

Please invite your friends

Volunteers and Students register online at:

vbspro.events/p/2d0e27

This year's event is **free of charge** and is sponsored by HCLC's Youth and Family Ministries. If you wish to make a donation, please make checks payable to Holy Communion Lutheran Church, and make sure to include VBS 2019 in the memo line.

While we are taking time to build our relationship with God, I ask that we all think about ways we can "Reach Out and Share Christ's Love," what talents we have to give back to the church and how we can contribute to the education of our children as they move through their faith journey. Perhaps you may be ready to give a Sunday or two a month to the Sunday school program. Teaching Sunday school has been a very fulfilling endeavor for myself personally and I would love for others to experience the joy. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please let me know. I and the other Sunday school teachers are happy to answer your questions.

For questions or to volunteer please e-mail me at SundaySchool@HolyCommunionFallston.org

Lovin' Life Seniors

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 2nd Tuesdays of the month unless otherwise noted.

2019 CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, October 8 at noon

TBD

Tuesday, November 12 at noon

TBD

Tuesday, December 10 at noon

TBD

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 will meet

May 21st

at Plaza Mexico in Fallston. Hope to see you there!



May Birthdays



05/02 Alexandra Reed

05/02 Amy Shaver

05/05 Sara Dorsey

05/06 Barb Huber

05/06 Susan Ghassemieh

05/07 Karen Smith

05/07 Ashley Oxendine

05/07 Roger Griffin

05/10 Christopher Lottes

05/14 Carolyn Ruth

05/14 Donna Campbell

05/15 Patricia Hieber

05/15 Sophia Pellerin

05/16 Gene Priebe

05/16 Wes Jones

05/19 Denise Flohr

05/20 Bryan Schromsky

05/21 Katelyn Airey

05/21 Mason Boeren

05/22 Tammy Airey

05/23 Lily Phillips

05/24 James Appel

05/27 Bud Ruth

05/28 Linda Boeren

05/29 Sharon Schromsky

05/29 Ed Davis

05/30 Barbara Barbour

05/31 Ashley Smith

05/31 Stephanie Phillips

Happy Birthday

Do you have a **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

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

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

Holy Communion Lutheran Church

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