

## ***Churchwide Assembly Review***

*by:* Pastor Chasity Wiener

As I write this newsletter article, I send you greetings from the faraway lands of Milwaukee, which—in the indigenous language—means “Gathering Place.” It continues to be a sacred, “gathering place” as over 900 voting members, interfaith partners, and international guests converge for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. This is my first Churchwide Assembly, and I am grateful to you, dear Church, as you realize that my call to you locally includes also my service globally. Just being in this holy gathering place has renewed me thousands of times and I have been (literally) moved to tears in the great appreciation of what our ELCA is and the hope of what it can be, that is to come. It is transformative to see what the power of churches—from across this great nation—all coming together looks like and what we, Holy Communion Lutheran Church, are a part of. So, thank you for allowing me to see this personally.

There are many highlights from this week’s convention and perhaps some of the news has already reached you. We did, after all, make national news, as well as local news, (yours truly appeared on the Wisconsin syndicate of ABC news, but I digress). Here are the “big three” highlights from this year’s assembly:

- *Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was reelected for a second, six-year term on the first ballot.*
- *A declaration of apology to our siblings of African descent, which was received by the African Descent Lutheran Association, with thanks and a call for accountability and living into the words shared.* This, dear church, was one of the most moving moments of the assembly. Here’s the hard truth: our ELCA congregation is the second whitest denomination, coming in nearly last in a lack of diversity amongst members. This is theologically problematic, because it means that expressions of this very church are “inclusive.” Then, the question becomes, “Are we, as a Church, intentionally or unintentionally contributing to the systemic realities of racism?” We must fight the knee-jerk reaction of, “Well, we welcome everyone!” For this question requires introspection, especially when Dylann Roof (an ELCA member who was raised in our very churches) pre-meditatively shot nine black church members of Mother Emanuel Church after they warmly welcomed him to Bible Study. It would be later learned that the white icons of Jesus that hang in

churches (spoiler alert: Jesus wasn’t white) and being surrounded by white congregation, enhanced his white supremacist ideology. I invite you to see this moving Declaration of Apology at the 2019 Churchwide by clicking here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QofnGzsZaas>

- *The ELCA Church declares itself to be a sanctuary Church. **What does this mean?*** Good question, because as a Church, we are left to discern what that means in our context. When I returned from Assembly worship, I had learned that Fox news aired a five-minute panel discussion on the Churchwide Assembly’s decision. As a voting member at the Assembly, I can attest that this panel was strewn with misinformation, citing that the ELCA is encouraging its members to break (or ignore) immigration laws. **This, however, is not the case and should be noted that, of the four Fox panelist, not one was from the ELCA,** which would have been helpful in squashing any untruths. Here’s what I can attest to: Right now in our culture, “sanctuary” is a word filled with politically charged rhetoric and—in those political circles—“shelter” word has come to mean specific things. As a voting member of the assembly, I can share with you that the assembly also debated extensively how “sanctuary” might be construed, both in legal and cultural contexts. In the end, however, the assembly reached consensus that by declaring the church body as “sanctuary” will mean that we intend to abide by the divine biblical mandate to care for the “foreigner among us,” in other words, the person who is not like us. God’s mandate is, as one of our assembly guest speakers—who was a rabbi—repeated 36 times in the Torah. 36, in the Jewish tradition, means life. That is no coincidence, as God is revealed in the

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richness of community, which includes “the other.” In the end, this means that we, as ELCA churches, can continue the work that so many among us already do, like extending hospitality to immigrants and immigrant communities, and press for the end of mass detentions and lift up immigrants’ voices. Citing Bishop Eaton, “Our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith. In our baptismal covenant we promise to strive for peace and justice in all the world. One of the ways we live out this vow is through our commitment to welcoming the stranger. With this declaration, we publicly state that walking alongside refugees and immigrants is a matter of faith.” To repeat: as a church, we are left to discern what “sanctuary” means in our context. There is wisdom there, especially since border churches might wish to take action differently than those in the Northeast, for example. Some other congregations might choose to designate special funds and collect supplies as to their capabilities, while others may not do anything beyond their current work on lifting up the oppressed.

Finally, some other very notable highlights include:

- *Approved support for the World Council of Church’s “Thursdays in Black,” an awareness movement for a world without rape and violence.*
- *Voted to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance, in honor and remembrance of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9.*
- *Approved a declaration for inter-religious commitment, reaffirming ecumenical and interfaith partnerships.*
- *Approved the recommendations from a strategic task force which has been studying how to work toward authentic diversity in our church.*
- *Adopted a new social statement, “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: a Lutheran Call to Action,” and its implementing resolutions. You can read the statement by visiting <https://www.elca.org/womenandjustice>*
- *Elected Deacon Sue Rothmeyer as Churchwide Secretary, a full-time position which acts as executive administrator and leader on all constitutional matters and interpretation.*
- *Constitutional change for Deacons (rostered ministers of word and service) to be “ordained,” from the previous practice of “consecration.”* Currently, there is language that divides clergy and deacons, when in fact, both tracks of ministry are called positions within the church. These constitutional change sought to lesson that divide.
- *Celebrated the milestones of 50 years of women’s ordination, 40 years since the first woman of color was ordained, and 10 years since full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ clergy.*

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American novelist, poet, and social activist, Alice Walker, once wrote: “Any God I ever felt in church, I brought in with me.” I think the same was said among the 900+ voting members, as they “brought God with” them in the sacred “Gathering Space” of Milwaukee. And, People of God, it was incredibly holy to see the work that our denomination can do with near 3.5 million members together. Be proud that our little church, Holy Communion, is part of that narrative in the work that we do together!

In Christ,

*Pastor Chas*

## **S’more Church**

Want s’more church, but your schedule is too busy? **Is it a struggle to get to church on Sundays?** Hold the date for Wednesday, September 11 at 6:30 for “S’mores Church” where we will gather around the firepit of the outdoor chapel for a new way of doing church! Centered around a Gospel reading, we will have an intergenerational activity that reinforces the scriptural theme. S’mores Church is completely interactive, since will be using the “Faith 5 method” of sharing our highs and lows of the day, reading Scripture together, talking about the weekly Bible verse and how the Holy Spirit might be connecting to our lives, praying with each other about our highs and lows, and blessing each other to give us strength to meet the next day. This is great for all ages and works best for busy people who are unable to worship on Sundays.



## Disciple Bible Study

Have you ever wanted to read the whole Bible? Ever wonder how it all came together and how it sticks together? Do you wish you understood it better and how to use it as a resource? Here's your chance! The churches of the Fallston Ministerium are jointly hosting Disciple Bible Study. It is a 34 week course that will change your life. Learn about the Bible and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Know what each book about and where to find what. The bible study will begin Tuesdays, beginning September 10 from 7-8:30pm. We will rotate location monthly among the three Fallston churches (Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Methodist). The class will cost \$39 for your workbook (if there is hardship, we've gotcha covered). Please call Hailea 443-299-6134 to RSVP.



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## Vision Planning Team

We've come a long way in our 35 years of ministry! What is the Holy Spirit calling us to in the near future? Our vision team is currently in the process of listening and discerning to what the Holy Spirit has in store for our church. This is known as mission planning and our vision team will present to you our 1, 2, and 3 year goals at the next congregational meeting (in January 2020). But, we need your input NOW to help frame these conversations!

1. What ministries do we need to improve or implement (e.g. what is missing from HCLC that would really help your faith life?)
2. What ministries do we do well at HCLC and therefore we want to continue?

Be specific. Pray. Listen. Discern. Then, let us know.

If you would to offer any insights over the next 10-12 weeks, please see Dave Frieman, Candiss Dominick, Larry and Sue Phillips, Phil and Haleigh Wiener, Jane Jackson, Leland Knight, Greg Hess, Heather Henderson, and Tanya and Amelia Svobota



## Items Requested for HCLC Blessing Box

### The Blessing Box Is Up and Running!

Thanks to the vision and hard work of Amelia Svoboda, and the hard work of Tom & Mel Sullens, the Blessing Box ready to serve our community!

Note: If possible, please donate items that have pop-top lids as opposed to ones that require can openers. Please do not donate anything that is in a glass or breakable container. We are trying to create balanced meals for the people who come to our blessing box, so please keep that in mind as you are shopping! Thank you!

- Canned meats
- Canned fish
- Canned vegetables
- Fruit (canned or dried)
- Granola bars
- Mini cereal boxes (one serving)
- Oatmeal
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Nuts/Peanut butter
- Pasta and low-sodium pasta sauce
- Mac n' cheese
- Rice
- Low-sodium soups
- Applesauce
- Powdered milk
- Diapers
- Diaper rash cream
- Baby food
- Powdered Formula
- Basic toiletries
- Feminine hygiene products



**\* Please help spread the word to neighbors in need!  
And, consider sharing the news on your social media**

# Youth News

## Youth Events: Coming Soon

What does it mean to explore? Exploration is traveling through an unfamiliar area to learn about it. That journey doesn't have to be linked to a place. It can be a spiritual journey to learn more about ourselves, God, our faith, the Bible and how we experience faith and God through our everyday lives. Our exploration will also encourage extending our journey into the community around us. Does this sound interesting? Join the youth for Friday night Faith on the third Friday of the month beginning in October. Our exploration will encourage *Think.Believe.Do (TBD)*

Monthly fellowship and fundraisers will be coming to various local restaurants such as Texas Road House on Tuesday, October 22, and Chick-fil-a.

If have any suggestions please contact Heather Henderson at [Youth@HolyCommunionFallston.org](mailto:Youth@HolyCommunionFallston.org). 50% of the proceeds will go towards the Youth Gathering and 50% will fund the HCLC Cares Fund (this fund is for emergency financial needs in the community).

If you are a Middle School Youth please mark your calendars for FreeRide (October 18-20) FreeRide is a weekend of service projects, faith-filled discussions, and relationship-building in small groups. FreeRide includes workshops and networking for adults, as well as opportunities to worship together. Come make new friends and renew friendships with attendees from throughout our synod!

beginning September 25th I will be having weekly church office hours from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM on Wednesday's

We hope to see you there!

## Confirmation Date

Calling all 7<sup>th</sup>& 8<sup>th</sup> grade students!

Confirmation will begin Sunday, September 15th from 11:40am -1:10pm. Parents are encouraged to attend a planning/expectations meeting on September 15th (even if you are a returning student).

# Confirmation

## Sunday School

by: Carrie Dorsey

### Come Join the Fun and Discover God's Love!

Get set to "Blast Off" and discover God's Love on Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>. After the Wiggle Worship, during the 10:15 service, the kids will make their way to the Fellowship Hall for songs, games and crafts. Following the service we invite everyone to join us for a welcome back picnic. We will provide the main course and drinks and ask you to bring a dish or dessert to share.

September the 8<sup>th</sup> is also "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday, the annual day of service across the ELCA which seeks to help us practice and celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. The Sunday school will be making no sew blankets for veterans this day.

Registration is open on the VBS Pro website. The link is in the weekly e-mail and on the HCLC website. If you need assistance registering please let us know by sending an e-mail to the below address or catching me at church. For the adults please consider volunteering to help teach one Sunday a month. No experience is necessary and the curriculum includes what to say and helpful hints and activities to help the kids understand the material. All you need to do is register on the VBS Pro website, same link and complete the background check.

See everyone September 8<sup>th</sup>!

For questions or to volunteer please e-mail me at [SundaySchool@HolyCommunionFallston.org](mailto:SundaySchool@HolyCommunionFallston.org).



## Savvy Social Security Planning Workshop

Are you maximizing your retirement income? We are hosting a free Savvy Social Security Planning workshop! Careful planning can help you get the most out of your Social Security benefits, and be good stewards (caretakers) of the gifts God has entrusted us with—our treasures and money!.

Savvy Social Security Planning is a free workshop from Thrivent that will help you determine the ideal time to apply and ways to maximize your Social Security benefits while minimizing taxes on those benefits.

Thursday, September 19  
5:30 PM or 7:00 PM

Holy Communion Lutheran Church  
621 Old Fallston Rd, Fallston, MD 21047

These sessions are hosted by Beth Tweed, CLTC © FIC, and Terri Meekins FIC, and feature Thrivent Financial guest speaker Mark Mueller, CFP®, ChFC®, RICP®.

Please call Stacey Fegley phone 301-515-3312 or email [stacey.fegley@thrivent.com](mailto:stacey.fegley@thrivent.com) to reserve a place for yourself and a guest. Refreshments will be served.



## 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!



## 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.

HCLC is hosting a Veteran Fleece Blanket Workshop! Please come to the fellowship hall either before you worship, after you worship, or both on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Thrivent has generously donated \$250 to purchase fleece for the Veterans Blanket Project, and we need your help putting them together! If you have any questions please contact Donna Campbell at 410-459-6321. If you can't make it to the workshop, but would like to donate fleece or money to the project, it would be much appreciated!



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.

# Member Spotlight

by: Pat Hieber

## What brought you to HCLC?

“My late husband and I felt forced to leave a feuding church because we could not worship in peace. Pastor Jim Weis and the members at HCLC made us feel at home.”

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

“I try to be friendly with others and have encouraged some to check us out. I also have served on the outreach committee in the past.”

## Favorite ice cream flavor?

“Mint chocolate chip”

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

“I was once a member of the Clowns of America with my late mother and husband. We visited nursing homes and participated in shows for charitable groups. My clown name was DUZZY!”



## What bible verse is meaningful to you?

“Ephesians 4:32—”Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”

I try to smile as I pass by others hoping to lift their spirits, and often find that they smile in return.

## How do you serve at HCLC?

“I serve as lector, greeter, and visit shut-ins with communion. I am also the church delegate for Augsburg Lutheran Home.”

## Blessing of the Backpacks/Workbags

Blessing of the Backpacks/Workbags will be held Sunday, September 1st! We are sending students, educators and school staff back to school with our prayerful support! Please join us September 1st during both services with your backpacks or workbags for a special blessing!



# The Priesthood of All Believers

by: Pastor Bob Ridenour

*“You are a Royal Priesthood.” 1 Peter 2:9*

Who are the priests here at Holy Communion ELCA?

As Protestants we say “Everyone is.”

Since the days of the days of the Reformation, Protestant Christians have embraced Luther’s (and the Bible’s) view of the priesthood as a calling given to all. (Some have even said that this is “Luther’s greatest contribution to the church.”)

By our baptism we have been made priests (I Peter 2:9) “Every Christian is someone else’s priest and we are all priests to one another.” (Luther again)

Each and every Christian can do the “job” of a priest to intercede before God for all people. Luther says, “We all can and will do this.”

The fact that we are all priests also shows us that we are not Christians as “lone persons.” We are all bound together, just as “one cake,” baked by God. We care for one another.

To be a priest then means not just to be able to preach or baptize or serve at the Lord’s table or to forgive sins, but to act lovingly toward one another and especially the poor, the weak, and the forgotten. All of us can do these things because of our priesthood, clergy and lay folks alike.

The clergy are called to do all of this on a regular basis, but so is everyone, if the situation requires it (as it VERY often does).

As priest of God in Christ we are not kings or queens or rulers or “special;” in any way. We are servant priests to all those around us.

The church is not a hierarchy. No one is above another. We are all “one cake.” We are priests of God, one and all.

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

## 2019 CALENDAR

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.

## **New Webcam**

We have upgraded! We have a new high definition webcam that will enhance the worship experience for those who join us virtually on Sundays. We were able to procure this camera from the generous donations given in memory of Dave Warren. This is a much needed upgrade, as we were having connectivity issues with our previous webcam. The picture and audio are also greatly improved (see the actual image below)!

Thanks to Bruce Amrein for all his hard work in researching and installing the new webcam.



# September Birthdays



09/01	Gordon Lefkowitz	09/18	Joan Cole
09/01	Larry Brant	09/18	Melissa Bowling
09/02	Emma (Mae) Corbin	09/20	Dave Hickson
09/02	Jennifer Lynn Bove	09/21	Heather Henderson
09/04	Julia Dominick	09/22	Jackie Henderson
09/06	Bryan Shipp	09/23	Camille Bove
09/06	Claire Beck	09/23	Geraldine Price
09/07	Erin Hoffmann	09/24	Makenzie Schneider
09/07	Zalia Plott Edwards	09/25	Caroline Schissler
09/08	Joann Theys	09/25	Frances Gosnell
09/09	Zulma Brant	09/26	Jason Schneider
09/11	Elaine McClean	09/26	Jeffrey McClean
09/12	Charles Miller	09/26	Shirley Smith
09/12	Madelyn Bagwell	09/26	Tom Griffin
09/12	Shannon Dominick	09/26	Tom Heimiller
09/15	Joan Giordano	09/27	Louise Anderson
09/15	Tracey Bagwell	09/29	Amanda Snyder
09/15	Bill Price	09/29	Kimberly Shaffer
09/16	Evelyn Schmidt	09/29	Ron Peterson
09/16	Bob Hood	09/30	Jean LaRosa
09/17	Bradley Knapp		

# Happy Birthday

Do you have a **September** 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.

## **“Good Grief” Group**

The Good Grief Group will meet Tuesday

## September 17

at

## 6:00pm

at the church.

Hope to see you there!



# Holy Communion Lutheran Church

## Council Members



Eric Thompson,  
*President*



Dave Frieman,  
*Vice-President*



Jon Perkins,  
*Secretary*



Joann Theys,  
*Treasurer*



Sue Phillips,  
*Council Member*



Ron Mickley,  
*Council Member*



Bertha Deck,  
*Council Member*



Candiss Dominick,  
*Council Member*



Arlene Weber  
*Council Member*



The Rev. Chasity L.  
Wiener,  
*Ex-Officio Member*