

## Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?

*by:* Pastor Chasity Wiener

Have you ever noticed that when you see paintings depicting Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, they always have belly buttons? *Think about that for a moment.* As the first humans created by God (in not the conventional way that we know humans are created), why would they *need* belly buttons in the first place?

...or how about these ponderings?

- Why did God *tempt* Adam and Eve with the divine commandment not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?
- If God created the universe, who created God?
- If Adam and Eve were the first humans, how could their children possibly procreate? Wouldn't that be incest?

These are all *great* questions...I am just not sure we are asking the *right* questions when approaching the creation story.

Let's start from this framework: When you walk into a library, you will find two larger categories of books—fiction and non-fiction. From these two categories, sub-subsections (or genres) are further parsed out. In the non-fiction section you will find aisles of autobiographies, science texts, cook books, and Do-It-Yourself books. When you head to the fictional section, you will find mystery novels, sci-fi, poetry, and romance stories. **What you may not be aware of is that you bring expectations to each genre-type you are seeking—**you wouldn't expect a biography of George Washington to include stories of aliens from outer space, because it violates those boundaries of what is expected from a biography.

The Bible is similar—it is not “a” book, but a collection of books (66 to be exact). The Bible, itself, is a library that mixes genres: there are historical books that fit non-fictional timelines of early humanity; there are also legends, fables, and letters, too. So, to read any book in the bible is to first understand what genre it is so we know (and can put into “check”) the expectations.

It is the same concept with the creation story in Genesis. It is legend. It is poetry. It is intended to evoke emotions to

move us to poems of praise for a God that can accomplish such a masterful feat. Every faith has its own creation story: and in the two creation stories we have in the Bible (Yes! Two: Genesis 1:1-2:3 and Genesis 2:4-25), these legends were told long ago, under the starry sky in the soft glows of a campfire. It was recited by one generation to another for centuries before it was written down.

It is in these great legends that we hear humanity's birth story and begin to understand our purpose: we are the crown jewel of God's creation, set in God's own image, to carry out the divine goodness in our world. We also learn a lot about us, in the book of Genesis, too: humans have a disposition to rebel. From the beginning, we have tried to break out of divine boundaries, in order to selfishly be independent from God. We learn a lot about God's character and how God responds to each time when we humans screw things up: God responds with love and grace (even in the floods; even when evicting Adam and Eve from the garden; even in the destruction of great cities, and even when sin takes its hold on us).

The Jews, who have lived with Genesis for a long time, are amazed that Christians want to literalize Genesis' poetry. The creation story will also invite more questions than it intends to answer. To ask about belly buttons or incestuous procreation from the offspring of Adam and Eve is to miss the essential point. Even to interpret the days as certain geological time frames, is to turn a faith statement into scientific text...and then we violate the boundaries of genre expectations.

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The creation stories are poems, not historical accounts. Therefore, the symbol of God creating the world in seven days is actual a faith statement: it implies progressive creativity and careful order. More so, seven days are poetic symbols to remind us to order our lives as God has ordered the universe and that God CAN make order in the messy chaos of our own voids of darkness.

Here's a fun activity: Read another creation legend/poem called *Skywoman* to remove yourself from the familiarity of the creation stories that we already know. This story—and versions of this story—have been told by indigenous people. When you have read *Skywoman's* creation story, what feelings did it evoke? What were some of the key points about how the world was created? What does this story tell us about sacrificial love and our interconnectedness with the world? After you have read it, then, realize that this story, too, was not intended to scientifically “prove” how humans came into being, but rather the beauty that surrounds our relationship with the divine and our world and the sacrificial love from creating **this** world. You can read the story here: <http://www.yesscholars.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Kimmerer-Skywoman-Falling.pdf>

Be swept away in the poetic beauty of the creation story.

Happy Reading,

*Pastor Chas*

## Trunk-Or-Treat

We are gearing up for a very busy October! Our annual Reformation Trunk or Treat will be held after second service on October 27. We are currently taking volunteers who would like to decorate their trunks. We will also have a box for candy donations so those decorating their trunks can focus on making them as fun as possible. We hope to see everyone there! Invite your friends as well!



## Vaccines Aren't Just For Kids

Vaccines are recommended at every age. The vaccines you need are determined by your age, lifestyle, travel and health history. Vaccines protect you and the individuals around you from serious illness and hospitalizations. The following is a list of vaccines for adults.

Influenza (flu) - This immunization is recommended each year for everyone 6 months and older. This reduces the risk of the flu and potential serious complications. There are few complications from the vaccine and you cannot catch the flu from it.

Individuals with egg allergies, who are immune compromised and have a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome should avoid the vaccine.



Shingles – The newest vaccine only around since 2006 protects individuals from the Herpes Zoster virus, the same virus responsible for chicken pox. The vaccine has reduced shingles cases the United States by 51%. Adults 60 years and older need the vaccine even if they have already had the shingles. Individuals allergic to gelatin, neomycin, pregnant, or with weakened immune system should avoid the vaccine.

Pneumococcal – individuals 65 years and older should have this vaccine. There are two vaccines PCV13 and PPSV23. The CDC recommends one dose of PCV13 first with PPSV23 at least one year later. Infections with this bacteria can lead to pneumonia, sepsis, meningitis and death.

Tetanus – a vaccine that is given once every 10 years. In 2006 the Tdap vaccine was introduced and provides protection for both tetanus and whooping cough infections. The CDC recommends all adults receive one dose of Tdap followed by Td every 10 years. In recent years there have been outbreaks of whooping cough in the United States.

MMR – anyone born later than 1958 should have their immunity assessed with a blood test and/or receive a MMR vaccine. This vaccine protects from measles, mumps and rubella. The number of reported Measles cases in United States is on the rise because children are not being immunized.

Hepatitis A & B – two viruses that infect the liver. The vaccine provides protection for a least 25 years. Hepatitis A vaccine is two injections given six months apart. Hepatitis B vaccine is three injections. Consult with your physician to see if you should have these vaccines.

A recommendation for immunizations may be found at [www.cdc.gov/vaccine/schedules](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccine/schedules). Blessings for continued health!

Barb Huber, RN, FCHN

## Update from the Vision Team

We have been prayerfully listening to the Holy Spirit for directions and ideas that may guide our ministry in 2020, 2021, and 2022. We have, in truth and love, looked at the variety of ministries/outreach that we do and have scrutinized to see what we can do better together and how we can maximize our efforts in those ministries that we do well. We have also been listening to you, too, because the Holy Spirit has inspired her work through you and your lips have brought forth that work.

**And, we are excited by the possibilities!** We have identified some vision goals surrounding our core values: faith, fellowship and discipleship. We would like to propose to you some new ventures concerning service, youth, mission trips, outreach, and staff changes (which includes the possibility of having another vicar—you might remember that Pastor Chas was our very first vicar and this could be another way that we can participate in God's mission by being a much-needed internship site for future pastors). We even hope to schedule a trip to "Lutherland" (AKA Germany) in 2021 to gain a greater appreciation of our Lutheran origin-story.

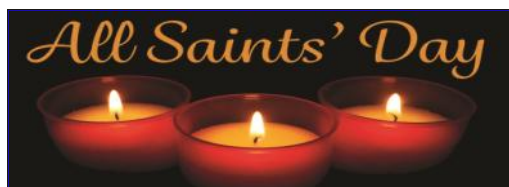
We want your input, as whatever we do may affect our budget (which is created from your offering). This is an opportunity for you to personally shape our vision and get excited at the possibilities that allow us to continue "Reaching Out and Sharing Christ's Love!"

Please sign up to attend one of the following "round tables" discussion events:

- October 13 at 9:45A (after the first service)
- October 20 at 11:40A (after the second service)
- October 22 from 4P-7P during the Texas Roadhouse dinners (come by our "Vision Team" Table or stop a Vision Team Member for further discussion—we will have name tags!)
- Monday, November 4 at 6:45P

## "All Saints" Sunday

All Saints Day is November 3! We will be commemorating all the saints of the church at both services. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day, we remember all who have died in the faith, and now serve God around the heavenly throne. Please bring a memento or picture of your loved one with you on November 3rd to place at the altar and create a physical space of remembrance.



## Items Requested for HCLC Blessing Box

**Good news! Our Blessing Box** has seen an increase in demand! That means that we have identified a real need in the community, and are blessing those around us...but we have run out of supplies! We are especially in need of spaghetti sauce, canned meats, sanitary pads/tampons, diapers and wipes, canned veggies and fruit, and toiletries. For a complete list of requested items please see our web site. Thank you, Church, for your continued support and dedication!

- 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 feed! \***

# Youth News

## Youth Events: Coming Soon

Have you ever made a decision that you questioned was right? Or had an extremely bad day and needed some guidance and direction? Prayer is a great way to thank God for your blessings but also an opportunity to ask for some help. Maybe it's courage or strength you need some help with. Recently, I've been in a place where I needed some strength and guidance, and I have asked through prayer. Answers can sometimes come in the most unexpected ways. The other day, I was driving and thinking when I was stopped at a red light. The car in the next lane over had a license plate that said "GodKares". It was a great reminder that even through the most difficult of times we always have someone on our side.

Join us for Friday Night Faith—a ministry for 4th-6th graders! It is a spiritual journey to learn more about ourselves, God, our faith, the Bible and how we experience faith and God through our everyday lives. We will be meeting on the third Friday of the month beginning October 18th. Our exploration will encourage *Think.Believe.Do.*

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!



During FreeRide, participants will be assembling school kits for Lutheran World Relief to send to refugee camps all over the world. Here is the complete list of items needed:

- \* 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper. No loose leaf, please
- \* 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- \* pencil sharpener
- \* pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- \* unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- \* black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)

We hope to see you there!  
Heather Henderson, Youth Leader

## Sunday School:

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

by: Carrie Dorsey

We had a great launch to the Sunday school year on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The kids tied two no-sew blankets for the Veterans' Blanket project as part of "God's Work. Our Hands" day. They had blast catching up with each other and making prayer books which we will be adding to throughout the year.

If you have not yet registered please take a minute or two and use the following link to sign-up your child or yourself as a volunteer. <https://vbspro.events/p/events/594eb7>

On September 15<sup>th</sup> we learned about the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin by doing some fun activities like making Sheep S'mores and Sheep Puppets to remember that God loves us all regardless.

The fun will continue in October with a special musical presentation on October 6<sup>th</sup> and our annual Reformation Celebration at the end of October.

Remember to practice the Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments and the Books of the Bible. Everyone who recites these receives a special pin of recognition.

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



## “Thanksgiving” Worship

The Thanksgiving worship service and dinner will be held at Fallston United Methodist Church (1509 Fallston Road) on Sunday, November 24th. Potluck meal begins at 5:30, and worship begins at 6:30. A Christmas tree lighting will follow the service at 7:30.



## Blessing of the Pets

Grab Fido, Kitty, or any other furry, feathery, or scaly family member for a special Blessing of the Pets! The blessing will be held at St. Mark Catholic Church on Sunday, October 6th at 1:00pm.

For animals who may be aggressive, or may not do well with crowds, feel free to bring a picture of your pet. Also, we will have a special pet memorial for those who have lost their pet.



## Texas Roadhouse

Join us at Texas Roadhouse on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 from 4:00pm to 9:00pm for monthly fellowship. You will need the flyer from the weekly bulletin in order for Holy Communion to receive credit. We will also need assistance with the bake table. A sign-up sheet will be in church

beginning this Sunday. 50% of the proceeds from the evening will fund the HCLC Cares Fund (this fund is for emergency financial needs in the community) and 50% will be for the youth.



## 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.

## Bus Tour

Our church is going to be featured in a bus tour, sponsored by the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake! Why? Because our church is a model to others churches and community organizations for stewardship! We planted 91 trees a few years ago and—just this year—was a community learning site for rain barrels and water conservation education. This inspiration bus tour is October 6 at 3P-5P and allows participants to see eco-helping ideas that they can do on their own properties. The bus tour begins in our church parking lot and makes a round trip to Harford

Community College. If you are interested in joining us, please visit [www.interfaithchesapeake.org](http://www.interfaithchesapeake.org) and click on “Harford Bus Tour” under Programs.



## Hurricane Relief Offering

Thank you for generously donating \$384.52 to Hurricane Dorian relief efforts. Our church will use our benevolence funds and add to the total, so that we can send \$500 to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR has a reputation for being the first on the scene and last to leave. We appreciate their partnership, as they venture into these places of devastation. If you would like to contribute, please visit <https://lwr.org/>



## 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!



## The Sharing Table

It is our turn to host for The Sharing Table, a local soup kitchen for Harford County residents. On November 9, we will serve anywhere from 75 to 125 people or more (approximate), and volunteers are needed to cook and serve (one or both) at The Sharing Table in Edgewood. The Sharing Table takes place at Prince of Peace Catholic Church on Willoughby Beach Road. As you might remember, or for the edification our new members, we all cook the same recipe (this is NOT a potluck) to serve. We make the recipe, fully cooked, in advance of November 9.



You can also deliver the fully cooked recipe to our church refrigerator the week of November 5 if you are only able to volunteer to cook (call Hailea Cole for availability). If you are helping to serve, then just report directly with the food to the Sharing Table at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Edgewood (Willoughby Road). We warm all casseroles on site.

### SHARING TABLE FUSILLI

- 11lb Fusilli (Little spindles, cork screw, spirals) cooked
- 2 Medium sized (28 oz) cans of tomatoes
- 2 Green peppers – chopped fine
- 3 Onions – chopped
- 2 Teaspoons of dry mustard
- 2 Teaspoons Worcestershire Sauce
- 1-1/2 lbs Grated Sharp Cheddar Cheese (Reserve some to sprinkle on top)
- 2 lbs Hamburger – COOKED

Mix all ingredients in a large pot, divide among two medium aluminum baking pans. Sprinkle remaining cheese on top. Casseroles will be warmed on site the day of service. If you are unable to serve, but would like to provide a casserole, please cook in advance and make arrangements to drop off at church and place in the church refrigerator (Hailea is in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Thursdays). Thank you for your help.

# Member Spotlight

by: Tom Heimiller

## What brought you to HCLC?

“I was disenchanted with the church I was attending and decided to look closer to home. I found HCLC via the web. Then when I visited the church members were very welcoming and sincere in sharing Christ's love with others.”

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

“I have been told I have a gift for listening and supporting others.”

## Favorite ice cream flavor?

“My favorite is butter pecan ice cream, but I will not turn down a DQ twist cone.”

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

“I suppose at 66 years old people might be surprised to learn I am still interested in "toy" soldiers.”

## What bible verse is meaningful to you?

“Ecclesiastes 12:1-7—Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come, and the years draw near when you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; <sup>2</sup>before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return with the rain; <sup>3</sup>in the day when the guards of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the women who grind cease working because they are few, and those who look through the windows see dimly; <sup>4</sup>when the doors on the street are shut, and the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low; <sup>5</sup>when one is afraid of heights, and terrors are in the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along and desire fails; because all must go to their eternal home, and the mourners will go about the streets; <sup>6</sup>before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the wheel broken at the cistern, <sup>7</sup>and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath returns to God who gave it.”



## How do you serve at HCLC?

“I serve the church by faithful attendance and supporting the church's missions, especially the blessing box.”

# Offering and Trust

by: Pastor Bob Ridenour

*“We give thee but thine own, whate're the gift may be. All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee.”  
A Christian hymn, #686*

Often I have heard people say, “Why do we have an offering? All the church wants is my money. The heck with that.”

Why do we have an offering? We have offerings, of course, to pay the bills. But, this is hardly the only reason. As the hymn quoted above tells us that we offer gifts to God primarily to give God thanks and praise for all God's gifts and mercies to us.

We give for at least these three reasons:

- At Holy Communion, we offer back to God the gifts of food and drink (bread and wine) which we have received from God's love and mercy: an offering of thanksgiving laid at God's glorious feet.
- We offer in order to pay the bills. Utilities, salaries, insurance, etc are not paid out of denominational funds or from others. They are paid for by us—out of the bounty that is ours from God.
- We offer not only money, but our very selves, our hearts and our souls. We bring these gifts to God. We give to God the offering of our prayers, our work, our very selves toward the ends of peace and fulfillment for all; for an end to hate and poverty and oppression and hunger and pollution and harm to others and to the earth itself. We have promised to do these things in the name and the Spirit of Christ, and God trusts us to do them.

We give ourselves as gifts to God and to a suffering, broken world.

Offering is both thanksgiving and promise. Radical generosity is our calling as followers of the Christ, who gives so much to us.

# 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, October 8 at noon

Enotria in Forest Hill

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.



# October Birthdays



- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10/01 Beth Caughey      | 10/15 Jim Lane          |
| 10/01 Ken Sanner        | 10/16 Ethan Boeren      |
| 10/02 David Oberender   | 10/16 Rachel Boeren     |
| 10/03 Kyleigh Weaver    | 10/18 Shirley Edmonston |
| 10/04 Michelle Williams | 10/20 Joanne Cross      |
| 10/06 Charles Cole      | 10/20 Katelyn Rudolph   |
| 10/06 Grace Pennington  | 10/20 Madeline Zechmann |
| 10/06 Jack Svoboda      | 10/21 Hannah Eyler      |
| 10/06 Lars Lefkowitz    | 10/21 Sam Smith         |
| 10/06 Luke Krieger      | 10/23 Katelyn Shipp     |
| 10/07 Alexander Hafner  | 10/24 Elliot Otten      |
| 10/08 Lynne Strausser   | 10/24 Raymond Edsall    |
| 10/11 Cass Brown        | 10/27 Owen Bowling      |
| 10/11 Kim Hafner        | 10/29 Judy Reed         |
| 10/11 Kyle Smith        | 10/30 Janet Blackwell   |
| 10/11 Richard Sherrill  | 10/31 Carrie Dorsey     |
| 10/12 Betty Seeger      |                         |
| 10/12 Morgan Tacka      |                         |
| 10/14 Breanna Vocke     |                         |
| 10/15 Ashley Lins       |                         |



Do you have a **October** 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

**October 15**  
at  
**6:00pm**

at the church.  
Hope to see you there!





# Holy Communion Lutheran Church

## Council Members



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*Vice-President*



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The Rev. Chasity L.  
Wiener,  
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