

## What Can't Wait?

by: Pastor Chasity Wiener

Don't blink. It will be Christmas before you know it. And, there is so much to do! Procure presents! Bake cookies! Decorate! When you think about it, it really is exhausting to create the "Christmas magic." In those days leading up to Christmas, we are in full-out preparatory mode.

And yet, 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 hopeful anticipation, cheerful preparation, and expectant waiting of Christ's in-breaking.

This anticipating, preparing, and waiting during Advent looks a little differently than what we do when we are anticipating, preparing, and waiting for that Christmas magic. In fact, Advent rubs right up against the baking, decorating, and procuring, and beckons with us to see the world *beyond* ourselves: to see those who are food insecure, to see those who lack basic necessities, to see those who are grieving, and to see those who put on a smile for show, only to weep in the secrecy of the shadows. Perhaps this is why we rather ignore Advent altogether, which is—quite literally—easy to do when we are swept up in the business (and busyness) of making Christmas magic.

But, Advent won't let us do what is easy. Advent says with urgency, "Some things can't wait because Christmas means that Christ is coming and if you want to keep **Christ** in **Christmas** feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, and love your enemies."

That is Advent's message of anticipating, preparing and waiting: doing the difficult **now**, because the impossible will take a little longer.

These next few weeks at our church will focus exactly on that. Our theme during worship is "What Can't Wait," where we will explore how *hope, peace, love, and joy can't wait*. But, we also know that this anticipating, preparing, and waiting go beyond Sunday, so we have set up several opportunities for you to ready yourselves for making way for Christmas. As a family, you can:

- **Take part in the "Reverse Advent Calendar"** (see graphic on page 2). Instead of counting down

the days to Christmas by *getting something* from your Advent calendar (like chocolates or small toys), try *giving something* to those who are hunger insecure. All food goes to our Blessing Box.

- **DO a small act of large kindness** by using the Advent "Action" Calendar (see following page). This is great for all ages, especially families with younger children.
- **Come and sing with us at local nursing homes.** So many of our elderly are lonely and a busy time of the year means less visitors. Meet us at the church on December 15 @ 3P to sing some Christmas carols. We are also taking the residents some small gifts and if you would like to help, see the "most desired gift list on page 4.
- **Invite and/or come to the Service of Light and Hope** which is holy time carved out of the busyness for those who find themselves grieving during this time of year. It's really difficult when the world around us sings, "Merry and Bright," but so many others find themselves in darkness. **December 12 @7P** (*in partnership with Fallston Presbyterian Church, right next door! Pastor Chas and Pastor Kimberly will host at Fallston Presbyterian*).
- **Circle back to Sunday and worship.** Prepare your hearts to receive the Christmas miracle that awaits us.
- **Sunday, December 22:** as we anticipate Jesus' birth, we sing Christmas hymns and listen to the story of Jesus' birth unfold through scripture.
- **Tuesday, December 24:** Candlelight Services at 6:30P (contemporary) and 10P (traditional; Prelude begins at 9:45P)

Hope, peace, love, and joy for all just can't wait,

*Pastor Chas*

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 .....and so much more!

We encourage you to place this poster on your refrigerator. Each day, move a magnet to the next place on the calendar and complete the daily prompt together as a family.

# ADVENT CALENDAR

2019

**HOPE CAN'T WAIT**

**1**

**SABBATH DAY!**

Read Isaiah 2:4-5. Light an Advent candle.

**2**

Gather canned goods to donate to your local food pantry.

**3**

Pray for those who are sick, hurting, or lonely.

**4**

Do an extra chore or help cook dinner!

Reuse some scrap paper to make a paper chain or snowflake.

**5**

**6**

Wrap or buy a Christmas present for someone else.

**7**

Do a random act of kindness!  
(Ex: Hold open the door, buy someone coffee, shovel someone's driveway, compliment your sibling, set the table).

**13**

Read a Christmas children's book.

**12**

Call your grandparents or someone you love who lives out of town.

**10**

Make a list of five things you are grateful for today.

Go on a walk outside. Listen for animal sounds.

**8**

**SABBATH DAY!**  
Read Isaiah 11:6-9. Light an Advent candle.

**PEACE CAN'T WAIT**

**14**

At bedtime, think about the best part of your day. Share about it with someone you love.

**11**

Try not to complain. Wear a hair tie on your wrist. Whenever you complain, switch wrists to help break the habit.

**9**

**JOY CAN'T WAIT**

**15**

**SABBATH DAY!**  
Read Isaiah 35:5-10. Light an Advent candle.

**16**

Have a picnic around the Christmas tree.

**18**

Drink hot chocolate or another yummy beverage.

**19**

Make a card or baked good for a teacher or neighbor.

Watch a Christmas movie.

**21**

Play a game as a family.

**17**

Have a Christmas music dance party! Play your music loudly. Let it fill the house.

**20**

**WHAT CAN'T WAIT**

**23**

Learn something about the people you love. Ask your parents to tell a story about Christmas when they were your age.

**25**

**CHRISTMAS DAY!**  
Light all of your Advent candles. Share one thing you love about each person present.

**24**

Christmas Eve! Take a family photo. Celebrate being together.

**22**

**SABBATH DAY!**  
Read Isaiah 9:2-7. Light an Advent candle.

**LOVE CAN'T WAIT**

## Advent Wreath Workshop

There will be an Advent wreath workshop taking place December 1 after second service. The cost is \$25, which covers the instruction and all the supplies. To ensure there are enough supplies, please sign up on the clip board located next to the TV in the narthex.

## Prescription Drugs in Your Home

Take a look in your medicine cabinet and other locations where you and your family store medications. Check the expiration date, how many are expired? Are any of the medications ones that you started to take and then stopped? Should you keep these medications? Absolutely not.

The number one drug problem on America's streets today is misuse of prescription drugs. People abuse prescription medications to get high, stay alert, because of an addiction and *because they are easy to get*. Drug enforcement officers report that prescription medications are taken from medicine cabinets by family members and visiting friends. Even an Open House is an opportunity to secure prescription drugs.



Prescription medications should only be taken as directed by the physician and by the patient the drug was prescribed for. Do not share your prescriptions. Always make sure your physician knows all medications that you are taking including over the counter and supplements. Only take the medication as it has been prescribed.

Okay what happens to the drugs you found in your home that are unused and/or expired? Safe disposal of your medications can protect the environment and keep them out of the hands of abusers or dealers. Do not flush and/or pour your medications down a drain or toilet. Dispose of your drugs at a locally sponsored drug return program or dispose of them in your household trash. Place drugs in a sealable plastic bag, crush and dissolve in water. Add drugs to sawdust, kitty litter or coffee grounds. Seal the bag and place in trash. Make sure you destroy personal information on prescription bottles before recycling or throwing them away.

For additional information check out the website [smarxtdisposal.net](http://smarxtdisposal.net)

With blessings, Barb Huber RN CSRN, FCHN

## Join us this holiday season as we celebrate with a "Reverse Advent Calendar"!

### REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - **diapers**
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

## Poinsettias

Time to order Poinsettias for Christmas! Poinsettias are \$8.00 each All poinsettias ordered will be RED. Orders must be in by Sunday, December 15. Please see the order forms inside the weekly bulletin. Make check payable to Holy Communion Lutheran Church, and please include Poinsettias in the memo line.



# Children's Christmas Play

## Save the Date!

Pre-Christmas Celebration, December 15, 2019

See the Christmas Play, get your gifts wrapped, have someone else bake your cookies and visit with Santa Claus. What are the words in that song? "It's the most wonderful time of the year." It is indeed a wonderful and wondrous time of the year! Listen and laugh as our youngest disciples present the story of Christmas's miracle that is the birth of Christ. The play will be presented during the 8:30 and 10:15 services.

Our older youth will be volunteering their time and talents from 11:30 – 2:30 to wrap your gifts and bake those cookies you might need for the cookie swap on your calendar. A Free Will offering will be collected to put toward their trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2021.

But wait, the excitement does not end here! HCLC has made special arrangements with Santa Claus. He has offered to join us on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM to have an early Birthday Party for Jesus! Everyone is welcome!



# 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. 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

## Service Times: Christmas Eve Worship

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

**Sunday, December 22:** as we anticipate Jesus' birth, we sing Christmas hymns and listen to the story of Jesus' birth unfold through scripture.

Tuesday, 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.



## Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars! The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2019, at 9:40AM (between services). Please plan to attend!



## Caroling

Would you like to help spread some holiday cheer to some of our Holy Communion family who are shut-in? We will meet at church on **December 15th at 3PM** and car pool to several of our members in assisted care facilities to sing some Christmas carols! Come join a few of our choir members to sing some favorite Christmastime songs and hymns. No experience needed! Just a desire to make a joyful noise to the Lord! We would also like to give gifts of some much needed items to the residents. Please see below for requested items, which need to be dropped off at HCLC no later than

10:30am Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> for assembly. Please call or e-mail Bob Hood if you have any questions regarding caroling (410-877-0574 or [hoodrm@comcast.net](mailto:hoodrm@comcast.net)), or Michelle Williams if you have any questions regarding gifts (410-688-5585 or [1mwilliams79@comcast.net](mailto:1mwilliams79@comcast.net))



## These great gifts can be found at the Dollar Store!

\*\*A Christmas Stocking to “wrap” below donations\*\*  
Shampoo (not travel size)  
Conditioner (not travel size)  
Deodorant (not travel size)  
Tissue packs for pockets maybe  
Jigsaw puzzles – 550 pieces or less  
Word search or fill in puzzles (larger font, if possible)  
Cute bracelets (maybe stretchy bead type)  
Small stuffed animals  
Warm socks/footies (maybe holiday ones)  
Holiday decorative item (for table, probably small)

## 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!



## Service of Light and Hope

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.” Pastor Chas and Pastor Kimberly from Fallston Presbyterian will host A Service of Light and Hope on Thursday, December 12 at 7:00pm at **Fallston Presbyterian Church**. If you are missing a loved one this Christmas, please bring a photo of your loved one to the service.



## Christmas Cards

Did you know that we have a Christmas card exchange box to save on your postage? If you would like to send a Christmas card to someone in the congregation, simply file it under their last name in either of the two decorated boxes on the credenza (located under the nativities). Then, give back by donating the money that you would have spent on postage to your favorite charity or organization.



## Church Decorating

We will be decorating the church for Christmas Sunday, December 8th immediately after the second service. Have you seen the Christmas beauty at HCLC? We rely on the many volunteers to decorate our church. We anticipate having an increased number of guests beginning December 15 for the Children’s Christmas play. Please help us roll out the spirit of hospitality to all our Christmas season guests.



# Youth News

## Youth Events: Coming Soon

Have you ever thought about how many questions we ask in a day? Some are simple such as what time are we leaving for school or where are we having dinner. Others can be a bit more complex. Why has God put me in this situation? It's important and OK to ask those questions. If we think about it, the Lutheran faith was founded on questions and a discussion surrounding those questions. The bible even gives guidance regarding our questions in Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." How do we find answers to our questions? Through discussions with others we trust. It can be a discussion with a friend or relative or perhaps a discussion with God through prayer.

Join us for Friday night faith, a spiritual journey to learn more about ourselves, God, our faith, the Bible and how we experience faith and God through our everyday lives for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We will be meeting on the third Friday of the month. Our exploration will encourage *Think.Believe.Do (TBD)*. Join us on Friday, December 20, 2019 from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

Join us for Advent Cookies, Cocoa, and Crafts on Sunday, December 1, 2019 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Let's kick off the season of advent with fellowship, faith, and fun! This is a great way for families of all ages to come together as a community and begin our preparation for the season.

Join us for First Sunday's (first Sunday of the month) from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades and 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM for high schoolers. Come, hang out, talk, play games, share faith, and get to know one another. We encourage you to bring friends!

Join us for Illumin8 on the first Sunday of each month during Sunday School for our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. By providing a foundation of knowledge, Illumin8 helps them understand what God has in store for them and the many ways that he is already working through them in their everyday lives. Illumin8 aspires to strengthen kids' faith as they participate in fun events, crafts, fellowship opportunities and even good service works within our community.

We look forward to seeing you!

Heather Henderson, Youth Leader

## Sunday School:

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

by: Carrie Dorsey

The air is getting colder but our hearts are warm as we move into the season of Advent and prepare for the coming of our Savior. We will be discussing ways that we can use our hands to show Christ's love to others through Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.



Our young disciples will be spreading joy on December 15<sup>th</sup> when they share the Christmas story for the sermon at both the 8:30 and 10:15 services. I am always amazed at what I learn from the kids. This is an event not to be missed. Plan to join us after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service this day to help celebrate Jesus' birthday with Santa Claus!

If you have not yet registered for Sunday school, 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>

For questions or to volunteer contact: [SundaySchool@HolyCommunionFallston.org](mailto:SundaySchool@HolyCommunionFallston.org)

## Member Spotlight

by: Heather Henderson

### What brought you to HCLC?

"I have been a member of HCLC since I was 7 years' old. So, my parents brought me to Holy Communion. However, I have continued to stay at HCLC because I feel at home, welcomed, and a valued member of the church family."

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

"My gifts to serve God, God's people, and the church are through listening, understanding, and guiding."

### Favorite ice cream flavor?

"Mint chocolate chip although Strawberry runs a close second."

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

"When I was in the 7th grade I was a member of a synchronized swimming team."

### What bible verse is meaningful to you?

"Hebrews 6:19 "This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary." NLT - New Living Translation"

### How do you serve at HCLC?

"I serve as the Youth Leader. "



## 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.



## Christmas: The Mystery of the Incarnation

by: Pastor Bob Ridenour

Advent and Christmas celebrate the "Incarnation," or "God in flesh."

What does this concept mean for us? It is a mystery.

Christians have claimed this as truth for over 2000 years, and also tried to understand it. And, each year we ask ourselves the question again. "Incarnation? What is it?"

The Nicene Creed, written in the early years of the faith, tries its best to define how the man Jesus and the Holy Eternal God are "related." According to this creed, "The Lord, Jesus Christ, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human."

Jesus is then both God and human, one in the same. Yet he is fully human. He is God and He is us.

Is this confusing? Yes! Is this impossible? Seemingly so, but not for God.

The mystery and the joy of Christianity is that somehow, God became just like us. The incarnation says that God is near to us—even in us. God is not just in some far-off heaven or near us after we die. In Jesus, God is in humanity; in us and in all creation. We live in God, and God lives in us. Even in our sin and sorrow, in our suffering and pain, in our joy, in our love, in our laughter, and in our tears. God feels what we feel. God loves us. God and we are one, in the flesh as well as in the spirit.

What else can we do with this, but rejoice in this good news and trust in and follow Christ?

This is what Christmas is all about! Yes, it is a mystery how it could be true (according to our human way of thinking), but true it is according to our faith.

Hymn #414, verse 4, and other hymns and prayers and scripture remind us that our calling as Christians is to, "adore and follow our God, while we own (accept) the mystery." This is faith and trust.

May our Advent and Christmas be blessed by the One who mysteriously comes, the One who knows us and loves us always, the One who is both human and divine.

# 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

Thursday, December 12 at noon

Union Hotel, Port Deposit

## 2020 CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 14

Basta Pasta Restaurant—Rte.152, Fallston

Tuesday, February 11

Mamie's Restaurant—Aberdeen Shopping Center

Tuesday, March 10

The Lodge Restaurant—Hickory

Tuesday, April 14

Greek Village—Rte. 1, Bel Air

Tuesday, May 12

Bayou Restaurant—Rte. 40, Havre de Grace

Tuesday, June 9

Conrad Restaurant, Abingdon

Tuesday, July 14

Fisherman's Catch—Bowling Lanes, Forest Hill

Tuesday, August 11

Friendly Farm, Upperco

Tuesday, September 15

Crab Feast—Church

Tuesday, October 13

Stonebridge Grille—Freeland, MD

Tuesday, November 10

Wargo's Restaurant—Forest Hill

Thursday, December 10

Union Hotel—Susquehanna River Road

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.

# December Birthdays



12/05 Beth Griffin  
12/05 Jane Plantholt  
12/05 Rachel Edsall  
12/06 Matthew Weaver  
12/06 Shelley Dix  
12/07 Theresa Perkins  
12/11 Sandra Ebsworth  
12/12 Eleanor Jacobs  
12/14 Jeff Boeren  
12/15 Bill Plantholt Jr.  
12/16 Ben Thompson  
12/17 Susan Hood  
12/18 Jon Perkins  
12/19 Brianna Billings

12/20 Emma Snyder  
12/24 Phil Wiener  
12/26 Howard Seeger  
12/28 Sharon Heimiller  
12/29 Christina Thanner  
12/30 Russell Brautigam

# Happy Birthday

Do you have a **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.

## **“Good Grief” Group**

The Service of Light and Hope will replace our December Good Grief meeting. The Service of Light and Hope will take place Thursday, December 12th at 7:00P at Fallston Presbyterian Church. If you are missing a loved one this Christmas, please bring a photo of your loved one to the service. For more information, please see page 5.





# Holy Communion Lutheran Church

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