



## HIGHLANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Highlands Messenger

March 2016

An open, welcoming, and affirming Body of Christ, intentionally following the life and teachings of Jesus, committed to hospitality and social justice.

### Ministry Events at Highlands

Wednesdays, 3/2—3/17, 6pm Brown Bag supper and Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30pm.

Sundays, 3/6 and 13th, 8:45am, Adult Forum will be exploring the Old and New Testament texts and their relationship to the Gospel reading.

Sunday, 3/6 at 11:15am, Community Birthday Fellowship with HCC

Monday, 3/7 at 6:15pm, HLC Council Meeting

Tuesday, 3/8 at 12:30pm, Elderberries meets for lunch and fun in the fellowship hall.

Sunday, 3/13 at 11:15am, New Member Orientation, part II.

Friday, 3/18 at 6:30pm, the Bookies Book Club

Saturday, 3/19 at 10am, the Moms' Group

#### Recurring Events:

Most Thursday's at 6:30pm, HLC Choir Rehearsal

Every Saturday at 6:30am, Highlands Hunters Men's Group



### Holy Week and Easter at Highlands

Palm Sunday Worship, Sunday, 3/20 at 10am,

Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday, 3/24 at 7pm

Good Friday Service, Friday, 3/25 at 7pm

Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, 3/27 at 7am

Continental Breakfast at 8:00am

Egg Hunt at 9:30am

Easter Celebration Worship at 10am

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An open, welcoming, and affirming Body of Christ, intentionally following the life and teachings of Jesus, committed to hospitality and social justice.



*Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly, you are doing the impossible.*

*St Francis*

## Worship Ministers for March 2016

### March 6

Usher Team 3: Lynn Cooper, Joe Milius, Martin Brotherton, Rick Wittkopp

Reader: Sue Wittkopp

Assisting Minister: Tyler Starkweather

Chancel Ministry: Sara Milius

Birthday Celebration: Vivian Anderson and Maren Markus

### March 13

Usher Team 4: Lorraine & Paul Rumpeltes, Jerry Haselgren, Erick Santiago

Reader: Wendy Haselgren

Assisting Minister: Ken Wiig

Chancel Ministry: Marilyn Criley

Coffee Hour Host: Robin Lockwood

### March 20—Palm Sunday

Usher Team 1: Lynn Cooper, Joe Milius, Martin Brotherton, Rick Wittkopp

Reader: Elizabeth Smith

Assisting Minister: Pam McClune

Chancel Ministry: Pam McClune

Coffee Hour Hosts: Ken Wiig

### March 27 — Easter Sunday 6:30am / 10am

Usher Team 2: Lorraine & Paul Rumpeltes, Jerry Haselgren, Erick Santiago

Reader: Tyler Starkweather and Erick Santiago / Andy Lubansky

Assisting Minister: Mary Williams / Robin Lockwood

Chancel Ministry: Sara Milius / Judy Sims

Continental Breakfast Host: Maren Markus

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### MARCH

2 Sandi Ackles  
7 Tom Hasher  
14 Aulby Bryan  
16 Christy Wallett  
17 Robin Lockwood  
17 Susan Pelikan  
22 Patricia Hanson  
25 Paul Smith  
31 Nichole Chavez  
Highlands Lutheran (1923)

### APRIL

2 Marsha Reynolds  
4 Nico Gustafson  
11 Betty Strauch  
11 Eric McConnell  
**16 Rick & Sue Wittkopp (1977)**  
21 Alice Maksim  
21 Wanda Brotherton  
22 Benjamin Flowers  
24 Bev Howe  
25 Erin Power  
Nathan Wittkopp  
27 Betty Rietz



*Immediately after worship on the first Sunday of every month, we have a community birthday celebration with our friends in Highlands Christian Church.*

# Highlands Messenger

## From the Pastor: Prayer Power — Love in Action

**John 16.33:** "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face troubles. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

Needless to say this is the hardest time in our lives. Little did Wolfgang or I know about, or expect to be confronted with a life-threatening situation, simply out of the blue.

All was well until all was not well... Have you ever dreaded that phone call where you hear bad news? Well, I received that phone call on a Tuesday, just after an afternoon of fun playing Bunko with the Elderberries. I left on Ash Wednesday for Germany to be with Wolfgang who suffered an aortic aneurysm and had emergency surgery. The shock of the first phone call turned into the shock of seeing Wolfgang's carotid artery filled with tens of little colorful tubes going into beeping machines dispensing his medications. And his oblivious, induced sleep that

lasted for days and nights. When my daughter Sidonia came to be with me and provide support, I suddenly realized that this was going to be my reality for quite some time. It will be a long time before Wolfgang recovers. I have surrendered to what is... trying to cope and stay strong... But in the midst of the shock, the scare, and the suffering there was suddenly a field of light that arose around me and around Wolfgang, the doctors, the entire situation. The loving energy coming our way was tangible, wrapping us with a blanket of comforting warmth. It is hard to describe this experience because words always fail to be able express God's ineffable presence in our lives. I became aware that we were not alone, that there were hundreds of people sending their loving thoughts in unceasing prayers! That God with us, Emmanuel, was present in all those prayers, thoughts, messages of support. Yes, prayers travel with the speed of Light and they

reached us instantaneously! They come to us in daily waves of energy. Held up on angels' wings is another image that came to me during this time... I have always been a believer in the power of prayer, a power that we experience, even if we can't fully understand. But it is in this hardest moment of our lives that I have felt the power of prayer as a tangible presence. We have been surrounded by the cloud of witnesses, by the love of hundreds of faithful prayer warriors who continue to send us their light, lit from the Light of Christ. Gratitude. Immense gratitude is my constant feeling - for you the saints of God at HLC and for all the many friends who take the time to send power prayer and surround us with unconditional love. It is love in action. It is the Kingdom of God. It is Christ in the world! Amen.

God bless you all.

Pastor Liliana



Pastor Wolfgang Stahlberg

*Fate is like a strange, unpopular restaurant filled with odd little waiters who bring you things you never asked for.*

## Reconciliation: our theme for Lent 2016 at HLC

For Christians, reconciliation is the ongoing work of Christ in our lives. As we recognize how out of balance we are in all four levels, internal, social, natural, and spiritual, we invite and welcome the work of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, that Jesus left with us to sweep through us, cleanse us and prepare us

for the hard work of personal and societal transformation, which leads to the restoration of harmony and balance in ourselves and the world around us.

We will explore the generous theme of reconciliation every Sunday and Wednesdays during Holden Evening Prayer.

What are the areas in your life that need reconciliation and restoration to harmony and balance? How do you open yourself to the power of the holy Spirit to change your patterns of thinking and of being?

*Our Lenten theme this year is RECONCILIATION: reconciliation with ourselves, with others, with creation and with God.*



# Highlands Messenger

## Outreach at Highlands

### Ken's Limping....

If you don't know, **Ken Wiig** fell last Saturday night and fractured his knee cap. Needless to say, he is in discomfort and has limited mobility. If you are able to offer help in any way (walking Leif, the dog; providing meals; just being present, please let him know. He will be out of commission for about 6 weeks! Ken's number is 303.870.1070.

### Beinvenidos

Thank you for your continued support of the Food Bank. **In March, we are collecting baking items, e.g. flour, sugar, baking soda/powder, mixes (cake, muffins, brownies). We are also asking for one personal care item, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, or bar of soap.** Food donations will be blessed at the end of the month and delivered to the Bienvenidos Food Bank for distribution to hundreds of families in our Northwest

### Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 11**, when congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will again have the opportunity to participate in **"God's work. Our hands."** Sunday and celebrate who we are as the ELCA – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Denver community. The donated personal items and additional items purchased with Thrivent Action Team funds will be assembled into hygiene kits for families new to the Food Bank.

### Ticket to Ride

Thank you to everyone who has supported, and continue to support, this project. We are attempting to provide about \$100 each month for the folks who need it to get to things like doctor appointments or job interviews. Remember that St. Francis will purchase the tickets at 1/2 price, your dollars will go twice as far! Please make checks out to Mary Williams if you are donating by check. There is a box on the narthex table if you are donating cash. Please attach one of the Post-It notes to your cash donation so that I am able to send you a donation receipt for tax purposes.

### Even if Christmas is over....

We often have phone calls or visitors who need a little help with groceries or personal care items. A **grocery gift card** can make a lot of difference! We would like to keep this effort going throughout the year, so please consider buying a gift card. You can put it in an envelope and add it to the offering plate. These cards will become part of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help those who come to our door.



*"God's work. Our hands." Sunday service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.*



# Highlands Messenger

## Good News!

### Single Mom Gives Lottery Winnings to Homeless Man

A [Massachusetts](#) woman who'd just won \$200 dollars on a lottery ticket gave it away after a chance meeting with a man in need who touched her heart. While temperatures were plummeting toward -8 that evening, Sofia Andrade met Glenn Williams, the single mom of three wrote on a [GoFundMe](#) page this week. "He was standing on the side of the road with a homeless please anything would help sign. I pulled over and asked to take him for coffee and something warm to eat," Andrade said.

That's when Andrade said she learned Williams had no place to stay despite arctic chills in the region. Then, as if by divine intervention, she was reminded of the money she'd won that day on a scratch-off ticket. "That's when i knew why God had blessed me with the winnings. I took him to Wareham where i took my winnings

and put him up for 3 nights at the Rosewood Motel," Andrade wrote. But Andrade didn't stop there. She decided there was even more she and others could do to help Williams, who told her he'd been without a home for three years. She created a [GoFundMe](#) page in an effort to raise money to give Williams some solid footing to help him restart his life.

### De-stressing Applicants

At least 85 of America's top [colleges](#) are now endorsing the idea of emphasizing community involvement over personal success in their admissions policies. A new Harvard report is basically saying the best way to succeed for students who are applying to college is to relax, and be nicer to your [family](#) and neighbors. The change is one of several reassessments of current admission policies — including de-emphasizing standardized test

scores and more attention to home life — contained in a new report from the Harvard Graduate School of Education called "Turning the Tide."

### Awesome Farmer and Shelter Dogs

Dogs in Australia are sniffing their way out the animal shelter and [into jobs on a truffle farm](#).

Jason Mesman is one of the owners of [The Truffle Farm](#), where he cultivates the fungi [prized by gourmet chefs](#) worldwide. Since truffles grow underground, attached to tree roots, truffle farmers and hunters have long enlisted the help of four-legged friends with better noses than humans to detect the scent of a ripe truffle.

In Mesman's case, those animals are dogs -- mostly Labrador retrievers -- that he's adopted from animal shelters.

### Deborah Slawson writes from Harkness Heights:

"I was looking out the window this morning and I saw a Dad and what I imagine was his two kids. One kid was in a double stroller with a big white bucket in the second seat. The other kids was picking up trash from our neighborhood and putting it in the bucket. What a sweet scene it was. To whomever that father was, thank you for making my morning and for cleaning up our world!"



*Did you know that an Act of Kindness can:*

**Decrease Stress**

**Boost Happiness**

**Lower Blood Pressure**

**Release Feel-Good Chemicals**

**Inspire More Kindness!**

## Welcome to the World, Azalia!

We Celebrated with prayers of thanksgiving and joy as Tara & Eric McConnell welcomed their daughter, Azalia Clara, to the world on Monday, February 22nd.



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## Stewardship — God Created it, We Steward It

Thank you to **Pam McClune and Kyle Kinsinger** from Thrivent Financial, for an enlightening and exciting Adult Forum on **Living Generously** last month. Here are more thoughts from the stewardship page on [elca.org](http://elca.org):

As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

*How do we respond to God's call to serve and love our neighbors? We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us. Although some think of stewardship as only a financial response to God's love, stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is about how we use all that God has entrusted to our care — our time, our talents and our treasures — to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church walls and our homes.*

*Stewardship, in its simplest form, is the practice of generosity. It is essential to the daily expression of our faith. As a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life, we know that understanding personal and household stewardship is crucial in responding to God's abundant grace.*

*Each of us has a unique story, and we are part of a larger story that makes up the ELCA. In the Road to Emmaus story, it is at the household table where Christ is revealed and recognized, where hearts are warmed for greater sharing and generosity. Recognizing God's story in our own story shapes our lives, identity and choices. When we join with other individuals and households in making daily decisions rooted in the stories of our loving and benevolent God, the result is our increased capacity to give generously and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world. Congregations have the opportunity to be a voice that teaches some very different ideas about*

*time, talent and treasure. The practice of generosity takes the support of an entire faith community, conversation between individuals in all generations and a focus on households. Living generously begins with the involvement of children and continues through every age and stage of life. The resources offered in [here](#) support congregations in equipping households and individuals in becoming faith-filled, lifelong stewards.*



## Thrivent Members Reminder

Eligible Thrivent Members have the power to recommend where to direct some of Thrivent's charitable funds. More than 25,000 organizations, including Highlands Lutheran, participate in Choice Dollars. Since 2010, members have directed \$300 million to churches and nonprofit organizations. If you are an eligible Thrivent member, **make sure**

**you designate your 2015 Choice Dollars March 31, 2016.**

There are two easy options to direct Choice Dollars: online at [www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or by phone at 800.847.4836 (say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt.) If you are a Thrivent member and

not sure if you are eligible to participate in Choice Dollars, you can contact Thrivent at the phone number above.



## Highlands Messenger

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### Happening at Highlands

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

*1 Cor. 12: 27*

#### Elderberries

The Elderberries will be meeting on **March 8th at 12:30**. All you need to bring is your wonderful selves! Soup, bread, salad and dessert will be provided. Your craft skills will also be needed! We will be doing a fun Lenten activity (is that an oxymoron?) following lunch! See you there.

#### Moms' Group

The Moms' group has reached its two year anniversary at HLC! Join us at Tenn Street Coffee (44th and Tennyson) to discuss next steps for the group. We will meet on **Saturday, March 19 at 10:00 am**. If possible, please leave the kiddos behind for this meeting so that we have a chance for a good discussion (small babies are welcome).

#### New Member Orientation

Have you been thinking about joining HLC? We are continuing the next new member information and orientation sessions right after worship **Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**. Nicole Jobin and Mary Williams will talk about who we are and what we believe at HLC. Questions on any subject from the participants will be welcomed!

#### The HLC Bookies

The Bookies will be meeting on **March 18th at 6:30**. Unless notified, we will be meeting at Ken Wiig's house. The book for this month is [If The Oceans Were Ink](#) by Carla Power. As usual, please come with food, drink and wonderful discussion!

#### SAFONIA and the Rocky Mountain Ringers

Safonia will be in Concert with the Rocky Mountain Ringers at **Highlands United Methodist Church** (32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue & Osceola Street) TODAY, Sunday, March 6 at 2:30 pm. See Ellen for **early bird tickets: Elderberries \$10**; tickets at the door are \$15.

### Prayers of the People

*Prayer fuels our ability to believe that things can be different.*

*Shane  
Claiborne*

Pastor and Wolfgang Stahlberg and family; Jerry and Wendy, Paul, Anita and Charley, Patty, Martin, Maren, Peter, Charlotte, Felicia and Marius, Deidre, Kevin, Roger, Trisha, Millie, Ryan, Gale, Tyler, Erick, Justin, Jim, Shirley, Kyzer, Ashley & Daniel, Donna & Mike, Michael, Carrie, Chris, Jaeger, Bev, Jay, Matthew, Sandy, Jim, Andy, Ashley, Drew, Melissa, Lucas, Annette, Trisha and Emma, Kathy, Katie and Becky, Joe, Sara, Mia, Eric, Amy, Chris, Betty, Carl, Grace, Cathy, Linda & Dave, Pam, Victoria, Tina, Jeff & Jane,

Gloria, Brandon, Loren & Patty, and all family members and friends serving in the military or in harm's way.

Would you like to be added to the Prayer Chain? Contact Maren Markus at [marenmarkus@gmail.com](mailto:marenmarkus@gmail.com)



# March 2016

## Worship at 10am

We're on the web:

<http://www.highlandslutheran.org/>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>6-9 Safonia</i>	2 <i>6 Brown Bag 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer</i>	3 <i>5:00 Worship &amp; Music</i>	4	5 <i>6:30 Highlands Hunters</i>
6 <i>8:45 Adult Forum 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Birthday Coffee</i>	7 <i>6:15 HLC Church Council</i>	8	9 <i>6 Brown Bag 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer</i>	10 <i>6:30 Choir</i>	11	12 <i>6:30 Highlands Hunters</i>
13 <i>8:45 Adult Forum 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Coffee Fellowship</i>	14	15	16 <i>6 Brown Bag 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer</i>	17 <i>6:30 Choir</i>	18 <i>6:30 The Bookies</i>	19 <i>6:30 Highlands Hunters 10:00 Moms' Group</i>
20 <i>Palm Sunday 10:00 Worship 11:15 Coffee Fellowship</i>	21	22 <i>6-9 Safonia</i>	23	24 <i>7:00 Maundy Thursday Service</i>	25 <i>7:00 Good Friday Service</i>	26 <i>6:30 Highlands Hunters</i>
27 EASTER <i>7:00 Sunrise Service 8:00 Breakfast 9:30 Egg Hunt 10:00 Worship</i>	28	29 <i>6-9 Safonia</i>	30	31		