



Highlands Happenings



Welcome to Advent

During this season of waiting in hopeful anticipation of Christmas, our worship setting will use music from Holden Evening Prayer. Each week we'll be lighting another candle on the Advent wreath as we await the coming of new life into our world, and within our own lives. You might notice that our little ones have a few new roles in worship during these weeks as they light the candles and lead us in procession at the beginning of worship! Join us during these next four Sundays to embrace all the meaning that this special season of the year has to offer.



Invitation to Pledge this Sunday Dec. 2nd

We value your faithfulness in joining us for worship, the time you dedicate to our HLC community and its missions, and your financial support that makes it all possible. Pledging your time to things like being usher, a driver who takes food to Bienvenidos, a church clean-up day worker, or a helper for the Mom's Group Kids Stuff Sale helps us to be present to one another and to live out our faith in our community. Financial pledges allow us to offer our kiddos Sunday School, keep the choir in music, and pay our pastor's salary not to mention being good stewards of our physical church home. We ask you to consider what God is calling you to offer of your time, talents, and financial support in 2018 and return both the Financial Pledge Card and your Pledge of Time and Talents to HLC **by the first Sunday in December**. Your presence, your voice, your energy, and talents matter! We are Church – Better Together!

Sincerely and with much love and blessings to our church family,

Nicole Jobin, HLC Council President and Your Church Council

Birthdays and Celebrations!

*Kyle Young - 11/30, Julian Gomez 12/1,
Lynn Cooper - 12/4*

Congratulations to the Bosses and the McKeys!

This past Sunday we celebrated the baptism of C.J. McKey and the week before that the baptism of Royce Bosse. We continue to surround the Bosses and McKeys with prayers of joyous thanksgiving at the baptism of their child. It is an honor and a joy to be the community of faith to nurture C.J. and Royce as they come to learn and grow in God's love.

Advent Adventure for Little Lutherans: Sat Dec 10th, 10am-1pm.

Please join us for our second annual Advent Adventure bonanza! We will be taking pictures for our Christmas program that will be shown during the Christmas Eve service. Pictures will be done from 10-11:30. After pictures we will move to fellowship hall for lunch, and crafting!

We will also be doing a toy drive to benefit the Gathering Place in Denver.

During this time (11:30-1) parents are welcome to stay, or take some time to run quick holiday errands. If you do chose to head out, please be sure your information is in our Sunday School

registration book!

Sanctuary Decorating: Sat Dec 8th, 10am.

We'd love your help in getting our sanctuary set up for Christmas! We will be decorating the Christmas tree, getting out ornaments and creches, setting up a manger, candle holders on the pews, etc. All are invited.

Christmas Eve Worship

Join us for Christmas Eve, 4:30pm Monday Dec. 24! There will be plenty of beautiful music as together we all sing some of the classics, listen to our choir, and enjoy a piece from our brand new bell choir. Worship will include a children's sermon featuring the long-awaited pageant slideshow of the kids acting out scenes from the Christmas story. Our worship will end with the candlelit singing of Silent Night. Don't miss out on it!

Thank you to Chris Stopps!!!

Chris Stopps has faithfully served as our treasurer over this past year. She has implemented a number of systems that have helped to streamline our financial processes. At the recommendation of her and Lynn Cooper who helps enter some

of transactions, we are currently looking for a bookkeeper to work for 1-2 hours a week and so that the role of treasurer will be more manageable. We'll keep you posted on when the bookkeeper is hired. And in the meantime, we give great thanks for all the hard work Chris has put in over this past year to set us up to transition gracefully to our next treasurer.

New Email Address

Our new email address is office@highlandslutheran.org

We've switched our email address over to this one which matches the domain name on our website. It was free for us to do this, and it should serve as a friendlier email address to try to remember. (Was it comcast.biz.net or comcastbiz.net???)

Our old email address has been set up to automatically forward all incoming emails to our new address. Since we will continue to receive all incoming mail that is sent to our old address, nothing will be lost in the shuffle.

If you use the church office computer, you may also notice that our email servicer has been switched over from Outlook to Gmail. This was free and will enable us to use all the GoogleSuite apps to collaborate as a staff. We will be working in the coming months on migrating a number of our church records and files to GoogleDrive so that they are backed up in case any of our computers fail and can be automatically accessed by authorized staff or volunteers from any WiFi enabled device.

Stewardship of Time and Resources

Thank you to all who generously donated to honor our Veterans with new household goods in cooperation with the Thrivent grant and the Volunteers of America.

Looking to step up your stewardship game? Consider getting active in our HLC Council! Council meetings are open to the congregation. Unless otherwise noted, Council meetings take place in the HLC church library at 6:00pm on the 2nd Monday of the month. We welcome your input!

Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS): HLC has an opportunity to use a \$2000 scholarship from the Rocky Mountain Synod to boost our stewardship efforts. To do so, we would have to raise an additional \$1575 to participate *and* have at least **five** HLC members committed to attending **seven** meetings between May 2019 - May 2020. We must express interest in participating by mid-December. If you are interested in being on the SAS Committee and/or contributing funds, please contact Carrie Olgeirson or Nicole Jobin.

ReconcilingWorks gift: As a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) partner, we have taken an extra step to affirm that when we say "All are welcome" we *really* mean **ALL**. This gives us yet another stewardship opportunity in supporting the ReconcilingWorks ministry as they expand across the country. Should you be moved to make a donation toward the mission of proclaiming God's unconditional love to all, know that your gift will be matched dollar for dollar (up to \$30,000) through a matching gift challenge by the ReconcilingWorks Board of Directors, until December 31st. You may send your gift directly to ReconcilingWorks at <http://www.reconcilingworks.org>... or place a check (clearly marked **For: Reconciling Works**) in the offering plate and HLC will forward it to ReconcilingWorks.

Learning about Liturgy: Where do our weekly Scripture readings come from?

This coming Sunday, the first Sunday in Advent, marks the beginning of a new church year. Last year our weekly scripture readings in worship focused on gospel texts from the book of Mark, this year we'll be focusing on Luke. We generally use what's called the Revised Common Lectionary which is a prescribed set of Scripture readings for each week that rotate through a three year cycle. For each Sunday, there are four readings from the Bible: one from the Hebrew Scriptures, one Psalm, one text from the Gospels (the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts that tell of Jesus' life and ministry), and one passage from the Epistles (the other books in the New Testament which were written as letters to early Christian communities or individuals). Using these prescribed readings is one of the ways that our worship reflects unity with other traditions within Christianity - Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists, and a number of other denominations all use these same readings. So you could talk with your Catholic neighbor about the readings from Sunday and you both will have heard a sermon on the same set of texts.

One of the other reasons we typically use this cycle of readings is that it helps us to live into the life of Christ. The gospel readings in particular are seasonally selected, and from season to season we live into each part of Christ's life and ministry - In Advent we look with anticipation to the fulfillment of God's promises in Christ. At Christmas we celebrate a God who put on flesh to dwell among us. During Epiphany we acknowledge a God confessed by foreigners who bring the gifts of a new perspective on faith. In Lent we follow Jesus on a path towards the Cross. During Holy Week we experience the steadfast faithfulness of God and the fickleness of public opinion as within the span of one week's time the crowds surround Jesus go from shouting "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" to "Crucify him!". During the Easter season we open our eyes to all the unexpected ways that God is causing new life to spring up around us. And then, during the Sundays after Pentecost we grow in discipleship as we learn about what life is all about alongside the original twelve disciples as they travel, work, and learn from Jesus during his ministry.

Calendar

[Here's a glimpse of what's going on this week!](#)



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Highlands Happenings

Highlands Lutheran Church

Worship: Sundays 10am

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