



Highlands Happenings



Fourth Week of Advent

During this season of waiting in hopeful anticipation of Christmas, we light another candle on the Advent wreath each week as we await the coming of new life into our world, and within our own lives.

We have now lit three candles, for hope, for peace, and for joy. This coming Sunday we will light the fourth candle, the candle of

love.

Love sounds like an expectant mother's defiant song. It feels like a new life kicking within us. It's as inconvenient as giving birth in a stable. It's as unexpected as a baby cradled in a feeding trough. It demands our attention with the urgency of a newborn's cry.

We gather in awe of what God's love has borne.



Christmas Eve Worship - 4:30pm Dec 24th

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 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!



Lessons & Carols

Following the excitement and joy of Christmas, we will enjoy a worship service of Lessons & Carols on Sunday December 30th -

Come hear Bible readings of the Christmas story and sing all your favorite carols! It will also be a 5th Sunday and while it's typically our practice to have a children-focused worship service on 5th Sundays, we're going to stick with our annual service of Lessons & Carols this month. We'll keep one central element of our children's worship services though -- **THE NOISY OFFERING!**

So please do collect spare change in the coming weeks and bring it in on the 30th for the kids to collect.

Miss a Sermon?

Our website has a [new section where you can find recordings of all the sermons](#) from recent weeks. So if you ever need to miss worship on a Sunday, you can still access the sermon for the

week on your mobile phone or computer at your convenience.



The Bookies

The Bookies are a group of folks who gather once monthly on a Friday evening for a meal and some discussion on a book. Let Pastor Asher know if you're interested in joining and he can get you connected. Here are the upcoming dates and hosts:

Jan 4 - Ray Lejeune

Feb 8 - Lynn Cooper

Mar 8 - Pam McClune

April 12 - Erin Power

Stewardship of Time and Resources

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!

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.



Birthdays and Celebrations

Liz Smith - 12/21, Ray Salazar - 12/21, Ben Nielsen - 12/28

Ministering in Worship for 12/23/2018

**Usher TeamLynn Cooper, Martin Brotherton,
Rick Wittkopp and Joe Milius**

Reader:Ken Wiig

Assisting Minister:Dennis Lintvedt

Chancel Ministry:Nancy Lintvedt



Learning about Liturgy: The Original Christmas Carol

Mary's Magnificat will be one of the readings we'll hear from scripture and sing together on Sunday. It was the first ever Christmas carol. We call it the "Magnificat" because of the Latin translation of it's first line: *Magnificat anima mea Dominum (My soul magnifies the Lord)*.

These were extraordinary words for a poor unwed expectant Jewish mother to sing in the shadow of the Roman empire. She sings of a revolutionary God who "looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant", who "scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts", who "cast the mighty down from their thrones", who "filled the hungry with good things, and sent the

rich away empty". This is a song fierce defiance.

"The Magnificat is a revolutionary song of salvation whose political, economic, and social dimensions cannot be blunted. People in need in every society hear a blessing in this canticle. The battered woman, the single parent without resources, those without food on the table or without even a table, the homeless family, the young abandoned to their own devices, the old who are discarded: all are encompassed in the hope Mary proclaims." – Sister Elizabeth Johnson, 2012

This song has been considered so dangerously subversive that public recitation of it has been outlawed by oppressive regimes on at least 3 separate occasions in the past century. In India under British rule, the Magnificat was prohibited from being sung in churches. In Guatemala during the 1980s, it was banned from public recitation. And in Argentina, public display of the Magnificat was outlawed after the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo whose children had all been "disappeared" by the military government during the Dirty War, protested by putting up posters with words from Mary's song throughout the capital plaza. This song has echoed through the ages and filled those facing oppression with comfort, hope, and courage.

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." -Luke 1.45-55

Calendar

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



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Highlands Happenings

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Highlands Lutheran Church

Worship: Sundays 10am

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