

Highview Christiania Lutheran Church

April 2021

Highview Christiania Lutheran Church
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Monthly Mission for April 2021

ELCA World Hunger is our Monthly Mission.

Highview Christiania supports the ELCA World Hunger project with contributions during the month of April. This organization addresses the root causes of hunger and poverty by providing a comprehensive and sustainable program that uses multiple strategies. These programs include relief, development, education, and advocacy.

Hunger facts

- 821 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives.
- According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population.
- At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from.
- 39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,094.

Pastor's Column

How We Worship

As we enter into Holy Week, I have been thinking about how we worship as a congregation. Since February, we have been using what you might call a hybrid model, with some of us worshipping at home and some in the sanctuary. With a few hiccups here and there, I think for the most part it has been working well. What we most lack, and what we all miss, is that we are not all together; so, I thought it might be good to give those of you worshipping online some idea of what is going on in the sanctuary, and those of you worshipping in the sanctuary some idea of what is going on online.

If you were to come to Highview on a Sunday morning, you would see people in the pews, six feet apart by household, wearing masks. If you have been at Highview for a while, you would see mostly familiar faces, with occasional visitors. For the sake of round numbers, I would say there would be up to 15 people at the 8 a.m. service, and up to 10 at the late service, though those numbers are beginning to tick upward lately, and as of this writing, about 20 people are signed up for each of the Easter Sunday services.

I don't know what happens at the homes of everyone worshipping online, but I can tell you what happens at our house: we have the service connected to the TV, so everyone can sit comfortably and see well, and we can adjust the volume. We pull up the bulletin Betsy sends out on one or more devices. We get out a hymnal or two, and follow along with the service. Sometimes my family watches the service live as it is happening. Sometimes they watch it later. Since Highview streams both services, people can and do worship any time from 8 a.m. on. One of our members told me he likes to attend "the 9:41a.m. service."

It's hard to say exactly how many people are participating online, but it's a lot. The Saint Paul Area Synod suggested a way to make a good faith estimate: after a service has been up for two weeks, take the number of views it has and multiply it by two, figuring that more than one person may be watching at a time. Typically lately, we have been getting about 50 views of each of our two Sunday morning services, which means there may be up to 200 people worshipping with us online. From Facebook comments, phone conversations, and correspondence, I know many of these folks are Highview members, some are former members who have moved away, and some are relatives of members; also, many are virtual visitors. Streaming worship has been a useful tool for introducing people to our church.

There is very good news about COVID-19 vaccinations out there, and I strongly urge everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible to help bring that day closer when we can all be together in person again. Meanwhile, however we worship, in person or online, we continue to be one congregation in spirit, holding each other in prayer.

Pastor Michael Mandsager

Director of Music Column

Greetings this Holy Week from your Director of Music

First of all, I would like to thank you for concern shown after my fall on Palm Sunday morning. I am doing fine but I have a goose egg on the back of my head and a very sore backside. Sometimes life just surprises a person in a bad way. I happened to find the one small section of ice going out the front door. I will be much more cautious from now on! (I'm glad it's going to be summer soon...)

With that all said, I want to extend to you a greeting for the Holy Week and Easter season. It is a glorious time when the grass is getting green and there are buds on the trees. I love the smell of spring and new life. I love the meaning of Easter and the Resurrection into new life. Our God is a great God who cared so much for us that he gave his only son to be crucified, buried and to rise again, in new life. We should find such comfort and such joy in this season. Christ is risen, he has risen indeed!

"Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." What do we owe for this wonderful gift? Honor, praise and thanksgiving through worship and through prayer. Hope to see you or hear from you this week, in person at worship or online, if that's what you're more comfortable with at this time.

To God be the glory,
Karla

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday- 7 pm
Good Friday- 7 pm
Easter Worship 8 & 10:30 am
Easter Breakfast Fundraiser 9:00-10:15 am

Announcements

Daily devotions on Facebook: Every day during Holy Week, Pastor Mandsager will post a reading from his favorite Lenten devotional, *God is on the Cross: Reflections on Lent and Easter* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer was a courageous and grace-filled Lutheran pastor and theologian who resisted the Nazis during World War II. Look for these devotions at [facebook.com/highviewfarmington](https://www.facebook.com/highviewfarmington) You can also find them on You Tube: just type “Michael Mandsager” into the YouTube search bar.

Zoom Sunday School will NOT meet Easter Sunday. We resume Sunday April 11th. All kids in grades K-5 are invited to get together for fun conversation, videos, and activities about stories from the Bible. Here is the invitation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84051031597>

Meeting ID: 840 5103 1597

Tuesday Night Zoom Bible Study is a time of informal conversation with Highview friends about the Bible readings for worship each week. Everyone is invited to attend on Zoom Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Here is the invitation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81839437193?pwd=TzNiU3QzYWpzd0Y0S3F0ZGExK3NHdz09>

Meeting ID: 818 3943 7193

Passcode: Bible

Thursday morning Zoom coffee is going on hiatus due to light attendance. It was a good opportunity to gather over the long, COVID winter, but it seems to have run its course.

ELCA College Scholarship Fund: Scholarships are available for Highview members who attend ELCA colleges. Simply apply to the church office by May 1st. Your application should include your name and contact information. Also let us know how you would like to keep in contact with Highview during the school year (email, social media, etc.) and share with us how you have been involved at Highview and in the greater community. Finally, include a short essay on your future plans. Students will receive scholarships in the amount of up to \$1000, depending on the number of applicants and availability of funds. Many ELCA colleges will match scholarships from congregations. Nearby ELCA colleges include great schools like Augsburg, Concordia-Moorhead, Gustavus, Luther, and St. Olaf. All 25 ELCA colleges and universities are listed at whygolutheran.org. The Highview ELCA scholarships are made possible through the generosity of Highview members. If you would like to contribute, please write a check to Highview with “ELCA scholarship” in the memo space.