

Highview Christiania Lutheran Church

HI-LITES

Pastor's column-

February 2018

The Call to "I AM"

"Who do you say that I am?" Jesus asks Peter and the disciples. This week's Lenten series, based on the work of Dr. Karoline Lewis, explores Jesus' own answers to that question in the Gospel of John. Peter's answer is simple but profound: "You are the Messiah." Jesus, on the other hand, describes the multifaceted nature of his identity with a series of images.

"I am the bread of life": Jesus offers himself to us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. In that meal, he offers forgiveness, life and eternal salvation; but he also feeds us so that we may share life with others, here and now.

"I am the light of the world": Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness, the light that enlightens the man born blind, but he first declares that he is light of the world to his adversaries, to those whose hearts and minds are dark. How can we shine a light for those from whom we expect rejection?

"I am the door": the door, or gate, for the sheep provides safety and protection; but it is also a door that opens so that those in the fold may go out into the world, and so that others may come in. Are there ways in which we are shutting others out? How is God calling us to open the door and invite others in?

"I am the Good Shepherd": this is one of the most beloved images of Jesus and has inspired some beautiful hymns. One verse that comes to mind for me is, "Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, and yet in love he sought me; and on his shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me." This is an image of gentleness, love, grace, and protection; yet, Jesus is not a shepherd for me only, but also for others. How do we invite and offer belonging to our neighbors?

"I am the Resurrection and the Life": this is the image that will lead us up to Holy Week and Easter. This is the image that give us hope. Death is not the end: the one who raised Lazarus from the dead will himself be raised, and he will raise each of us from death, too; but he is the resurrection *and the life*. *Resurrection shapes how we live here and now*.

Once again this Lent, we will accompany God's word with hymns and with the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer; and of course, we will come to worship well-fed with food and fellowship from our soup suppers! I look forward gathering together as we enter into this blessed season.

In Christ,
Pastor Michael Mandsager

News-

Holy Communion Schedule for 2018: Upon further consideration, your church council has decided to return to our previous communion schedule. We will offer Holy Communion on first, third, and fifth Sundays, as well as on certain church holidays.

Did you know: you can find us on social media? Follow Highview Christiania on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Altar Flowers A sign up sheet is on the kiosk in Dyste Hall if you wish to bring flowers for a Sunday service in honor or in memory of a special person or occasion.

Please clean out your mailbox in the narthex!

During the month of February, or until a new Parish Administrator is in place), if you need to contact the church, please call Pastor Mandsager on his cell phone 507-581-3421. The church's answering machine will be checked frequently, but to get an immediate response, please call Pastor's cell.

Thank you for a fantastic reception given to me! It has been a privilege to help and serve Highview over the past years! This congregation has been such a caring and supportive church family to me for my whole life! Thank you! Kara

Music Notes

Choir practice is Sundays at 9:15 am. All are welcome!

Youth-

High school forum: All youth in grades 9-12 invited to join Pastor Mandsager in the Celebration Center 9:15-10:15 for high school forum. Our theme will be "This Changes Everything." See you there!

Youth Ski Trip to Welch Village Our youth ski trip is Saturday, March 3rd. . The participation cost is \$25.00 per youth, scholarships are available. We have a group rate of \$38/lift ticket, \$25/equipment rental, \$5/helmet. We will leave Highview at 8:00 a.m., and return by 5:00 p.m., if anyone would like to go with and get in on the group rate, please talk to Betsy Messner by February 23rd. All are invited from the congregation to go with. Watch for more details.

WAPO 2018-Registration begins for summer bible camp starting Jan 15th. Our weeks for Highview are WAPO youth June 17-22 and SEEDS June 22-24. You can register at campwapo.org Registration priority ends on March 15th. Scholarships are available. Please see Kara or Pastor Mandsager with scholarship requests or questions.

Thank you for all that joined us at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center, there were 28 adults and 17 kids who attended. We had a wonderful Mexican Buffett lunch, followed by a educational event where we broke into teams and we had to identify quotes from Martin Luther, Martin Luther King Jr., and Yoda. After that we broke into sledding, swimming, or socializing groups. All in all this event is successful because of the time we get to spend with our church family in a relaxed atmosphere. Board of Ed

Visit our Guatemalan sister church, La Santa Cruz de la Esperanza, October 17th - 24th, 2018! Highview is invited to join the St. Michael's delegation on a trip south with our friends from the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala (ILAG). You will have the opportunity to visit our sister church in the northern mountainous town of Cimiento, Guatemala AND participate in the ILAG's Women's Retreat taking place that weekend. This is a great chance to interact and worship with our long-time friends and partners in the village and with women from many different urban and rural congregations. Are you interested in representing Highview with our Guatemalan neighbors? A good candidate for this delegation is someone that is passionate about their faith, adventurous and not afraid to get dirty; someone that celebrates diversity and wants to know more about what it means to be Lutheran in another context. Are you that person? Would you like to get to know our Guatemalan brothers and sisters? To eat tortillas with them, play with their kids, and to kneel down and pray beside them? Individuals, families and youth age 16+ are welcomed to join in this spiritual expedition. Please contact Connie Mealman with your questions and interest in joining this Synod delegation.

Mission of the Month

Lutheran Social Services

Since 1865, Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota has responded to Minnesota's changing needs by being wholly committed to making life better for our most vulnerable citizens. Through the years, Minnesotans have continued to advocate for children, people with disabilities, and the elderly - to ensure they have the opportunity to live and work in community with safety, dignity and hope



From the Board of Worship- Looking for a way to participant during the church services at Highview? Sign up sheets are on the kiosk in Dyste Hall for assistant minister, ushers, and communion assistants for the next three months. If you have a child in confirmation and is an acolyte at a service, assistant minister or ushering would be a great opportunity.

If you have questions, please contact Barb Swenson or Dee Churchill-Hellendrung

Thank you for serving at Highview!

Date	Asst. Minister	Ushers	Communion Server
Feb 4th	8 _____ 10:30 Dan Siebenaler	The Tyler Family	Dee Churchill
Feb 11th	8 _____ 10:30 Annette Burmeister	Gene Dietz Virginia Windschitl	X X
Feb 18th	8 _____ 10:30 Connie Mealman	The Ouradnik Family	_____
Feb 25th	8 _____ 10:30 Sarah Brandel	Glen and Marlys Shirley	X X

The 8 a.m. assisting minister sets up the coffee and the 10:30 assisting minister cleans it up! Thank you!

**HIGHVIEW CHRISTIANA
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

26690 Highview Avenue

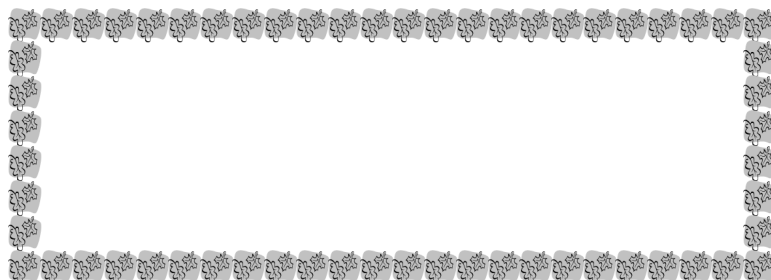
Farmington, MN 55024

Phone: (952) 469-2722

Fax: (952) 469-3212

Email: highview@highview-lutheran.org

Web address: highview-lutheran.org



February Newsletter



BUILDING HOURS

Building hours: Pastor Mandsager and the Board of Property will do their best to keep the building open during our normal hours until we hire a new parish administrator, but it is always a good idea to call ahead, especially if you are coming from some distance. You can reach Pastor Mandsager at 952-469-2722 or 507-581-3421. To request admittance to the building outside normal hours, call Loren Mohn at 507-301-2047.

MONDAY: 8:30 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.

TUESDAY: 8:30 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY: 12:30 - 4:30 P.M.

THURSDAY: 9 A.M. TO NOON

FRIDAY: CLOSED

SATURDAY: CLOSED

