

# The Herald

## January 2026



### **EPIPHANY** **In-Person &** **Facebook LIVE** **Worship** **Schedule**

.....  
**Saturday Service**  
**5:00 PM**

**Sunday Services**  
**8:30 & 10:30 AM**

**Holy Communion**  
**is celebrated at**  
**all services.**

.....  
**Music Rehearsal**  
**The choir rehearses**  
**on Sunday mornings**  
**@ 9:40 am. All are**  
**welcome.**

### **PASTOR'S PAGE**

#### **Treasured by God – The 1<sup>st</sup> month of 2026 begins with the Celebration of The Epiphany**

A newborn baby often elicits “oohs” and “ahs” from its admirers and yet developmentally, may be doing nothing incredibly remarkable—only able to focus on objects only about 18 inches in front of its face and prone to stare at any shiny object. Nevertheless, a newborn is a miracle to behold, filled with wonder for the world around it and desiring nothing more than to be fed, held, rocked, nurtured, and loved.

The gifts of the magi direct us away from the cute, cuddly, cooing baby Jesus by pointing us to who Jesus really has come to be. The magi offer gold, a possession of kings; frankincense, used in ritual to indicate the presence of the deity; and myrrh, an oil used at the time of death as well as for anointing priests. By their gifts, the wise men reveal the identity of this child: the king before whom nations will bow, the anointed high priest of God, and the suffering servant who will die for the ones he has come to serve.

The “oohs” and “ahs” we offer as we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord are not simply for a cooing and cuddly baby Jesus but for a God who chooses to reveal God’s love and mercy by taking human form. On this day, we celebrate that God’s mercy is wider and deeper than we imagined and includes all people and all nations. All people—rich or poor, Gentile or Jew, straight or gay, male or female—are God’s treasure, the precious ones for whom God is willing to die. What do we bring to honor our Lord before whom we bow? We bring the treasure of our lives poured out in praise of God and in service to others.

#### **A New Way to Follow – by the end of January we are well into Ordinary Time ...**

Nations wage war, gangs battle each other, families quarrel, communities of faith divide. We hear others say and even hear ourselves saying, “There is no other way.”

In Jesus, the light of God’s kingdom draws near and a new way shines for us to follow.

In today’s gospel, Jesus first withdraws (Matt. 4:12). The word *anachoreo* (to withdraw) is used ten times in Matthew’s gospel—each time as Jesus’ response to violence or conflict. John the Baptist has been arrested, and tension is beginning to build. The way of God and the way of the world’s rulers are beginning to collide.

In Jesus, a new kingdom has drawn near, a kingdom of nonviolence and non-retaliation. Jesus’ withdrawal is not simply passivity but points to a vision of an alternate way of reigning as king. Jesus rules not with violence, abusive power, or through division but through voluntarily emptying himself of power, identifying with the oppressed and burdened, and healing that which is broken. Into this new reign, Jesus calls the disciples to follow him, a way that appears foolish and weak to those who cannot discern it. To those God calls, it is the wisdom and strength, the light and power of God.

To follow in the way of Jesus places one’s life at risk, for it eventually leads to the cross. To follow, though, implies someone is leading. The way God calls us to follow has already been filled with the loving kindness and mercy of Jesus who has gone before us and who leads us to the foot of the cross. There, in the shadow of the cross, God makes a way for unity in the midst of division, for healing in the midst of brokenness, for peace in the midst of violence, for forgiveness in the midst of betrayal. Around the table, the kingdom of God draws near; Jesus’ broken body announces forgiveness, healing, peace, and unity. Many bodies are nourished and formed into the one body of Christ, called and sent to follow in the way of Jesus, to be broken and shed for the sake of the world.

Happy New Year! Be blessed on the Journey into 2026!

*Pastor Andy*

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## January 2026

*Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> <b>11:00 Bible Study</b>  <b>Happy New Year!</b>	<b>2</b> <b>AA Meeting</b> <b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>3</b> <b>5:00 Worship</b>
<b>4</b> <b>8:30 Worship</b> <b>9:00 Coffee Hour/</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>9:40 Choir</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b>	<b>5</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>11:00 Bible Study</b> <b>7:00 Nature Club</b>	<b>9</b> <b>AA Meeting</b> <b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>10</b> <b>5:00 Worship</b>
<b>11</b> <b>8:30 Worship</b> <b>9:00 Sunday School</b> <b>9:40 Choir</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b> <b>1:00 Orchid Society</b>	<b>12</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>6:30 Council Meeting</b>	<b>15</b> <b>11:00 Bible Study</b> <b>7:30 Flute Ensemble</b>	<b>16</b> <b>AA Meeting</b> <b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>17</b> <b>5:00 Worship</b>
<b>18</b> <b>8:30 Worship</b> <b>9:00 Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b>	<b>19</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>11:00 Bible Study</b>	<b>23</b> <b>AA Meeting</b> <b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>24</b> <b>5:00 Worship</b>
<b>25</b> <b>8:30 Worship</b> <b>9:00 Sunday School</b> <b>9:40 Choir</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b> <b>11:30 Annual Meeting</b>	<b>26</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>11:00 Bible Study</b>	<b>30</b> <b>AA Meeting</b> <b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>31</b> <b>5:00 Worship</b> <b>Potluck following service</b>

Church Email: [hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com](mailto:hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com)

Church Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/HNLCWenonah/>

Pastor Andy Gordon Cell Phone: 609-206-7839

Church Office: 856-468-5760

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

# January 2026

## PRAYER LIST

Prayers for the victims of the shooting at Brown University and in Australia, Prayers for the residents in Washington state who have been evacuated due to flooding, Prayers for the two National Guardsmen who were shot in Washington, DC and their families, Holly & Duane, , Dawn Allen, The family of Anthony Assante as they mourn his passing, James Barth, Hal Battindorf, Nicholas Baud, Lorraine Brecht, Madelene Budd, Carol Carty, Sal Castelli, Jenn Causey and family, Tracey Causey, Lisa Clark, Josh Clarke, Sean Cleavenger, Baby Landyn and Kristen Compagoni, Sherwood Cotton, Bob Counbs, Craig (diagnosed with cancer), Rocco Cristinzio, Leslie Criston, Milton Cuevas, Sr., Milton Cuevas, Jr., The family of John Cusack as they grieve his passing, Nicholas Damiani, The family of Tony DelMonte as they mourn his passing, Alicia DiRienzo, Kathy Drew, Barbara Esposito, Barbara Facchine, Scott Fey, Bill Flynn, Francis, Bobby G., Jeannie Gapinski, Alma Garcia, Stephen Genovese, Gavin Gigliotti, Lauren Stott Gilbert, Marie Giliberti, Mark Gismondi, Terry Gismondi, Wilma Gismondi, Jay Goheen and family, Randi Gordon, Collet Grasso, Steve Harris, the Hatcher family, the Hogan family, Ed Jeffers, The friends and family of Tom Jones as they mourn his passing, Marilyn Kaiser, The family of Robert Keen as they mourn his passing, Corinne Klotz, Clara Kuter, The family and friends of Doris Lail as they mourn her passing, Grace Laphan, Pat Larkin, Joseph Lonia, The friends and family of Jessie MacGregor as they mourn her passing, The family of Doris Manogue as they mourn her passing, Joseph Mansfield, Rob and Nona McDonough & family, Caroline Miles, Jim Montisano, The friends and family of Mary Alice Morrison as they mourn her passing, George Muth, Bob and Sue Nevins, Janet Ostrowski, Lucas Otey, Otis, Donna Paone, Danielle Peters, The family of Lewis Richards as they mourn his passing, Dan Richardson, The friends and family of Carole Rund as they mourn her passing, The family of Charles Rust as they mourn his passing, The family of Scott Rust as they mourn his passing, Noreen Ruyuh, Dylan Sauer, Meleta Seher, Billy Shea, Sue Sheeley, Helen Simkunas & Family, Joyce and Arvin Skramsddad, Julia Stanz, Donna Testa, Frank Temean, Ed Tutka, Lynne Rasmussen Walker, Sharon Walker, Wayne Weaver, The family of Michelle Whiting as they mourn her passing, the Wilke family including Tim & Catherine, Jill Wilt, Sue Wise, Shirley Yancer.

(If you have someone that you would like on the prayer list, please fill out a form in the narthex and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office email: [hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com](mailto:hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com).)

***Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds!***

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Total received to date—\$120737.45. Amount needed to date--\$129896.00. (We are currently about \$9158.00 behind our spending plan goal. Please don't forget the church if you will be away.)

## "PAINT THE TOWER"

We are currently running a campaign to re-paint the church tower ("Paint the Tower" fund). The total cost of the project is \$4000 and we need to have half of this amount to schedule the work (\$2000). As of this past weekend, we received \$3270 so we will be able to schedule the work. We still need an additional \$730 to pay the final bill. Please mark your donations "Tower" so we can accurately track our progress. Thank you for your generosity in helping us to maintain our church property!

## SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES:

- Sunday, January 25—Annual Congregational Meeting (Directly after the 10:30 service. A Zoom connection will be provided for those unable to attend in person.)
- Tuesday, March 19, 2026-1-6 pm. Red Cross Blood Drive (Please note the date change.)
- Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> -1-6pm.

## JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Kenneth Brach, Denise DiRienzo, Sam Kincaid, Art Kollmeier

## COFFEE HOUR

The 8:30 service is hosting a coffee hour between services Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and the first Sunday of each month moving forward. Please join us for coffee and fellowship.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes for 2026 are available in the church Narthex.

## PLANET AID

There are two Planet Aid clothing bins in the parking lot. Clean items may be placed in the yellow bins: including clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, curtains, sleeping bags, socks, underwear, bras. They do not accept items that are tattered beyond repair, dirty, wet or moldy.

ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY PANTRY is here to help serve those facing food insecurity in Gloucester County. If you are having a difficult time buying food for yourself, or your family, please let us try to make a small difference for you. The Pantry is located behind St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 304 Kings Highway in Clarksboro. We are open every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month from 9 AM to 1 PM. Next distribution date: Saturday, December 20, 2025.



**Holy Nativity  
Lutheran Church**  
3 Lenape Trail  
Wenonah, NJ 08090

**Please Deliver This Copy of THE HERALD To:**

**In-Person and Facebook Live**  
**WORSHIP TIMES:**  
**SATURDAY — 5:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY — 8:30 & 10:30 AM**

**CHURCH OFFICE:**  
**PHONE: 856-468-5760**  
**[hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com](mailto:hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com)**