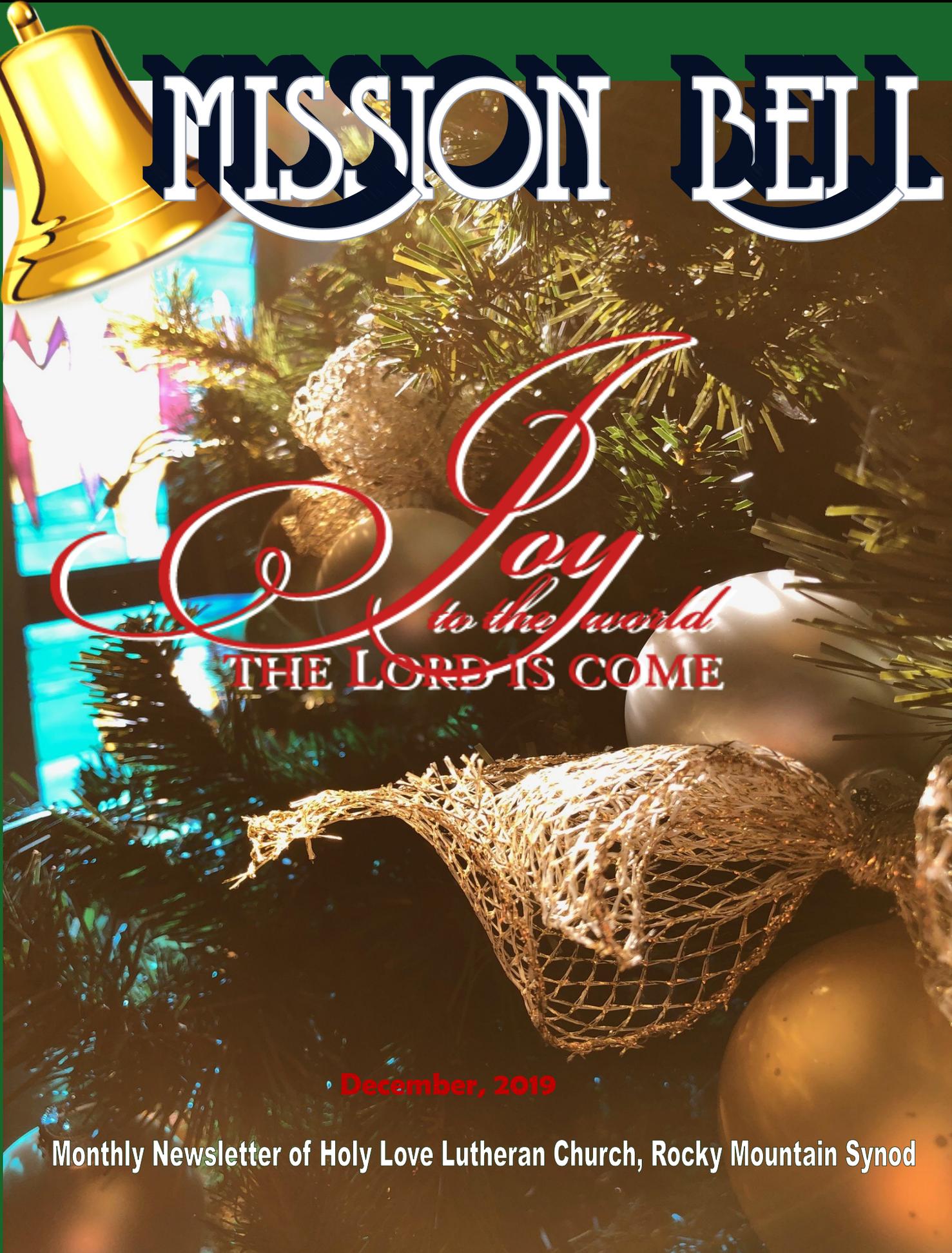




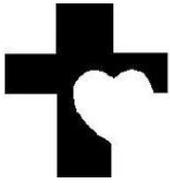
MISSION BELL



Joy
to the world
THE LORD IS COME

December, 2019

Monthly Newsletter of Holy Love Lutheran Church, Rocky Mountain Synod



Holy Love Lutheran Church

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The Mission Bell deadline is the third Wednesday of the month. E-News and bulletin deadlines are Tuesday afternoon. Please submit to @holylovelutheran.org



Holy Love Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs:
9 am - 2 pm

Holy Love Contact Information

Church Office Phone 303-693-1162

www.holylovelutheran.org

www.facebook.com/holylovelutheran

Staff Contact Information

Pr. Matthew

email -

pastor@holylovelutheran.org

cell phone (call or text)

720-301-9411

facebook message -

[facebook.com/hikerrev](https://www.facebook.com/hikerrev)

Amy Schmuck -

Interim Faith Formation Director

email -

youth@holylovelutheran.org

cell phone (call or text)

720-682-4768

Lori Rieger

Office Manager

email -

office@holylovelutheran.org

Do You Get Holy Love's Weekly Email?

If not, you can easily sign up right now!

Text

HOLYLOVE

to **22828** to get started.

Message and data rates may apply.



Mission Statement

Holy Love Evangelical Lutheran Church is committed to proclaiming and living the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ as we gather for worship and study and scatter for witness and service to our neighbors.

Check Us Out at www.holylovelutheran.org



Holy Love December Worship Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	
Dec. 4	6 pm	Mid-Week Advent Service
Dec. 8	8:30 & 11 am	Worship Service
	10 am	Casa De Paz Card Party
Dec. 11	6 pm	Mid-Week Advent Service
Dec. 15	9:30 am	One service only - Children's Program
Dec. 18	6 pm	Mid-Week Advent Service
Dec. 22	9:30 am	One service only - Choir Lessons & Carols
Dec. 24	3:30pm 5:30 pm 7:30 pm 10pm	Christmas Eve Services
Dec. 29	9:30 am	One service only



In Our Prayers

If you know of someone in need of our prayers, please let us know. To add or remove names from the prayer list, please:

1. Fill out a prayer request card and either place it in the offering plate or in Lori's in-box in the office. Please make sure to include information regarding who they are related to in our congregation and how, if possible.

2. Email Lori at office@holylovelutheran.org.
(Please note that in order to be included in the E-News and Sunday Bulletin, prayer requests need to be in by Tuesday at noon. For the Prayer Chain, requests need to be in by Thursday at noon.)

If you would like to be included in the Prayer Chain which goes out via email on Friday's, simply send Lori an email at the address above.

Our thoughts and prayers are with:



John Harman, Aubrey Hall, Family and friends of Helene Schmuck (Alan Schmuck's mother), Cal Hosman, Pastor Jim Engel, Bill Stephenson (Mary Stephenson's husband) Rita Hinze (Dorothea Madry's mother), Jean Roenfeldt, Jim Cobb (friend of Vicki & Cal Hosman), Ron Sadecky (Cindy Hermanson's step father), Dale Puckett (future son-in-law of Phyllis Runia), Tony Ester (friend of Karen Then), Joe Fjell (Beth Whitney's brother), Christa Stone (Katherine Allen's mother), Ryan Rickard (Laverne Rickard's son), Dale Fjell (cousin of Beth Whitney), Maggie Condie, Brittney (Steve Knuth's niece), Jim

Wood, Milly (Terri Altman's mother), Johnna Tavera (Shane Allen's sister), Sue Last, Gary Mindt (Lori Rieger's uncle), Paulette Traver (Hal & Sherry Traver's sister-in-law), Vicki Hosman, Miguel Martinez, Rick Thorstad, Agnes Spino, Liam Sinclair, Butch Abbott, Jon Zimmer, Phyllis Mueller, Shirley Kutowy, Julie Christianson, Brenda Allen, Jenny L. Staggs, Dewy Hertz

Pray for our Military:

Jason Voss, Ryan Winter, (Eric & Cindy Hermanson's Son in-Law), Joshua Specht & Jeremiah Specht (Steve & Leanne Alfrey's Sons), Shayne Braunlich (former student of Beth Whitney), Aaron Clabaugh (Diana Stigleman's nephew), Stephen Terrell, Heath Terrell, Trevor Toft, Jason Anderson, Chase Pofahl, Tyler Pofahl, Lara Pitt, Alicia Phelps, Trevor Koch, Josh Moyer, Jesse Newell, Shirley Kidroy

Pastor's Page

Check out
Pastor Matthew's blog!
Available at www.holylovlutheran.org

People of God at Holy Love,

It's getting to be that time of year again. Obviously it's Advent, and Christmas is coming soon. But that's only sort of, but not exactly, what I mean.

The thing I'm thinking about is what often happens when the calendar turns over to a new year. No, not the crazy parties. I'm thinking more about looking back and remembering the past year ... and as part of looking back at the past, also looking around and taking stock of the present. I'm not such a big fan of new year's resolutions ... but I suppose dreaming about how to improve one's reality is part of this whole process, too.

But back to the looking back. This time of year, it doesn't take much looking to find lots of top ten lists. All it takes is an internet search. Type in "2019 top ten" and see what comes up. Or if you don't want to do that, listen to almost any radio station and you'll hear what songs they think are the best to have come out in the past year. Books, movies, wines, NFL players ... you can find plenty of top 10 lists floating around.

Individual people often do the same thing. We might not create top 10 lists of our lives for the past year, but many of us certainly look around to see how life has been for the past year.

Most of you probably realize that when I remember my life in 2019, I would likely find that it's been pretty eventful. I started out the year dreaming about the new family which my (at the time) fiancée and I were melding. We made wedding plans and found a house where we could live. We talked with the children and our families, and started sharing the news with our friends and on social media.

Then, not even three months into the year, I went sliding down a ski slope the wrong way ... which led to a stint of over six weeks of hospitalization, plus a lot of physical rehabilitation both in and out of the hospitals. In the midst of all that, we got married and we moved into a new house, and I gradually started moving more fluidly.

And through the entire process, I've continued holding out hope that my physical condition would keep on improving. The doctors told me from the very beginning (and they had to tell me quite a few times, because my brain wasn't working very well back then) that there were no guarantees when it came to how much improvement I would experience. They promised to work with me as much as possible, but there was no way to know with any certainty how much mobility I would regain.

All I had was hope. Which isn't a very reliable planning strategy, really. But which, as I'm reminded every year at Advent, can be life-giving.

The thing, though, is that the Hope we know from God is so much bigger than simple physicality or health. The Hope that comes from God is a Hope that carries the promise of fullness of life for all of God's beautiful creation.

Only some of what I've experienced this year would make a top-ten list. And that's ok. I pray that your past year has a long best-of list. And I pray that even in those rough patches, you were able to know the presence of God.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Gospel work we're called to do together

Pastor Matthew's schedule is changing. Because of family considerations, Pr. Matthew has started taking Fridays (instead of Mondays) as his day off from work. What this means is that he will be more easily available on Mondays, and more difficult to track down on Fridays ... you likely won't get a response to electronic messages (text, email, etc.) that you send on a Friday until at least the next day. You are always free to contact him by calling his cell phone – if he doesn't answer, leave a voicemail and he'll get back to you as soon as he can.

Words to Ponder...

This month I have the honor of printing out the Advent Devotionals. We have some very talented people here at Holy Love and I am so impressed with their ability to put pen to paper and share insights that are deep and meaningful (Copies, by the way, are available in the Narthex on the Welcome stand as well as on our website on the Home Page.). Perhaps unfortunately, for you, I ended up with an empty space in this month's Mission Bell because, inspired by those who were so willing to share of themselves, I have room to try my own hand at a little insightful meandering. 'Tis the season after all! ~ Your Church Secretary

I grew up in a very small town, it's population never exceeded 500 and today it sits at a whopping 80ish. There are still 4 operating churches in that town and a school. Life revolved around family and the church. The church was not only a place where we went to worship. It was a social outlet, it was stability, and it was security.

Many of my memories of the season leading up to Christmas day as a child, tend to be cast in Norman Rockwell color - idyllic and whimsical. I'm pretty sure it didn't feel that way at the time, but there was something wholesome and simple about it. With all of the commercialization of the season, our kids will likely never know how precious simple gifts really are. Families in the US will spend an average of \$400/child this Christmas. I also wish I could be confident that our children will somehow fully realize the gifts that the church (and by that, I do not just mean the building and worship service) provides that are not something you can see or touch.

Gifts like the gift of fellowship that I remember fondly in the form of a chaotic after party of the children's program that included a brown paper sack full of mostly peanuts for each performer. Fellowship in Christmas walks that brought us to worship in each of those 4 churches. Finally, Fellowship in Luther League sledding parties with hot chocolate and frozen noses.

Gifts in the form of knowledge and tradition as we had to sing O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum every year - directed by the local Avon lady (a first generation immigrant) to insure our German accuracy (Fun Fact: Rosie was the oldest Avon lady in history and appeared on both the Johnny Carson and Jay Leno version of the Tonight Show - so kind of our local celebrity.).

Gifts of reverence in the form of a candlelight service where only two small evergreens with tiny blue bulbs and a church full of candles lit up the Sanctuary to the sound of Silent Night (Still one of my favorite parts of the season) - a soulful reminder of the ultimate gift.

All of those memories are cherished, but there is one gift the church gave me that stands out above all else. My tiny town was in the heart of North Dakota with weather that can reach -40 before the wind chill factor. On nights where I had to stay in town, I would have to walk to my Grandma's house which was the polar opposite end of town from the school. Even in a small town it was far enough away to be brutal. The church, although not exactly in the middle, was never locked and was a welcoming shelter. I relished that time, a simple 10 - 15 minute break from the cold. I had been raised with a healthy respect for the church - but also a feeling of being at home there. In the silence and warmth of the Sanctuary, sitting quietly in a pew, I discovered how to pray and how to listen. This was a Gift that I perhaps did not fully appreciate at 9 years old but I treasure it now.

We have an opportunity every day to both give and receive. We give by serving and participating. We receive by showing up and opening up - to the word of our Lord and to one another in fellowship. So please, this season, grab a copy of the Devotionals, attend Midweek Services and stay for a cookie, introduce yourself to a visitor, cheer on our Sunday School at their program, drink in the sounds of our choir at their annual concert and let the beauty of candlelight service bring a tear to your eye. Receive these simple gifts and in turn, pass them on in the form of compassion and commitment.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." - James 1:17

In the Spotlight

Name: Beth, Dave and Lori Newsom

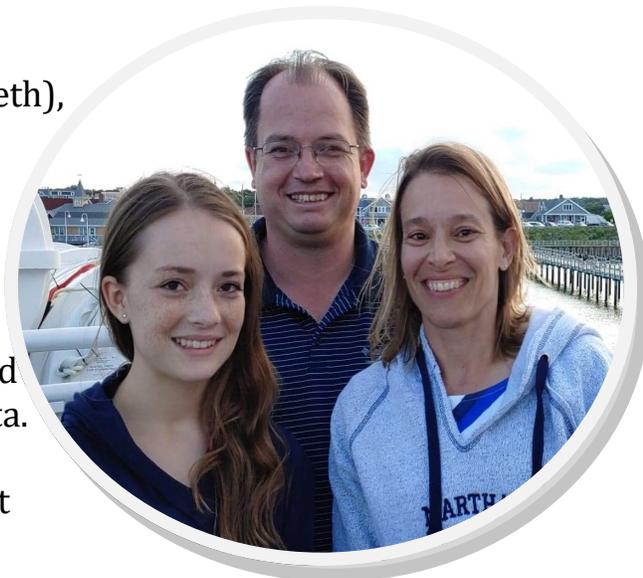
Member Since: 2003

Hometown: Ft. Collins aka Ft. Fun (Beth),
LA and Aurora (Dave),
Denver (Lori)

Occupation: Beth: Data Governance
Lead at Kaiser
Permanente - liaison
between the business and
IT for information on data.

Dave: Business Analyst at
Nelnet - student loans.

Children: Lori - 16



Hobbies: Beth likes to spend as much time outside as possible and also loves music. Dave enjoys bowling and also likes to be outside. We also enjoy going to musicals, plays, and athletic events.

Favorite part of being a member of HL: sense of community

Anything else to share about family: As Lori has grown up, she has done a lot and has found her passion lies in musical theater (voice, dance, acting, ...) and we have loved watching her grow into the person she is. As she moves into her senior year of high school, she wants to move to NYC and go to undergraduate school in musical theater. She has done a few professional shows now, spent part of last summer out east at a musical theatre intensive with 27 other teenagers, and loves her life. As her parents, we love going to as many of her performances as we can and supporting her in what she loves. So stay tuned to what happens in the next year because we're going to be very busy as she auditions for undergraduate programs to follow what she loves.

Favorite recipe: Beth really likes it when other people cook. Dave is a great cook but doesn't use recipes. We also enjoy supporting restaurants since Lori's schedule has limited our time in

From the ELCA - Rocky Mountain Synod

The following is an excerpt from an article printed in the Journal of Lutheran Ethics written by Jennifer Hockenbery Dragseth. For the full article go to :<https://elca.org/jle/articles/1285>

In an age of conflict and division between political parties and within political parties, between churches and within churches, American Christians often mourn disagreement, regret the diversity of opinion, and sigh for unity. This issue looks into the reality of disagreement in our nation and in our churches without rebuke. Disagreement, even radical and even uncivil disagreement, is a part of human social life, including church life. Thus, this issue is dedicated to answering the following question both theologically and practically: How do we have dialogue and debate on social and political issues with our neighbors?

This question has been a major focus of my own personal and academic thinking. Like most philosophers trained in the West, I began my philosophical study by reading Plato, whose works suggest that dialogue is the best way to search for truth because truth is larger and more vibrant than any one person's shadowy opinion. Only through the process of dialogue, through the wrestling match of debate, can human beings hope to learn and grow beyond their own biases.

I clung to this view as an undergraduate in philosophy and still introduce my students to the importance of dialogue in every class. But when I was in graduate school, I had a professor of Plato who denied that dialogue was a path to truth. He was certain that Plato's point was in demonstrating the *fruitlessness* of dialogue. My professor believed that Plato must have known what we all learn at family dinners and cocktail parties: people who agree create an echo chamber; people who disagree angrily shout until someone leaves.

I was crushed by this interpretation of Plato's dialogues and this view of human relationships. There had to be more to conversation than confirmation bias or despair. While I had certainly experienced both those effects in conversation, I had also experienced conversations where mutual understanding grew, where recognition of each other and each other's ideas occurred. While my professor's view of dialogue is common today, I find it inadequate to explaining my own human experiences of good conversations.

Luckily, I took more classes in graduate school than just his. By reading Irenaeus, Augustine of Hippo, Hildegard of Bingen, Martin Luther, Edith Stein, and Marcia Colish, I discovered that Christian theology about the incarnation of the Word provided a rich philosophy of language which justified the possibility of learning truth through dialogue. In short, these authors explained how God's Word, in becoming flesh, redeems our words. Christians need not fear conversation.

The possibility of fruitful dialogue is demonstrated everyday in conversations between people who learn from each other. These everyday experiences can inspire our hope in the Word that redeems our broken words and renew our faith in the Spirit that dwells between every speaker and listener, even those who markedly disagree with each other.

I see this passionate hope in fruitful dialogue growing among teachers, pastors, and community leaders. Centers for dialogue are opening across the United States, seminars for teaching constructive dialogue are well-funded, and theologians and philosophers around the world are participating and leading seminars that explain not only the theology but also the mechanics of productive listening and speaking.

This issue of JLE is dedicated to dialogue and debate. Professors Amy Carr and Christine Helmer in "Theological Touchstones for Disagreeing in the Body of Christ" explain why Christian communities can and must hold disagreement between members. Beginning with a story familiar to many readers who have worked to move a congregation towards social action, they articulate how the heavy burden of disagreement which can feel like "an ecclesial *drag* on proclaiming a prophetic Word is the weight of the body of Christ itself." Their essay provides an important perspective from the heart of Lutheran theology: Christ is not found in easy agreement among members who are convinced they are right but in the depths of difficult conversations that tear at Christ's body. There in the broken conversations and debates of the Beloved Community, Christ reveals himself.

Articles published in the journal reflect the perspectives and thoughts of their authors and not necessarily the theological, ethical, or social stances of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

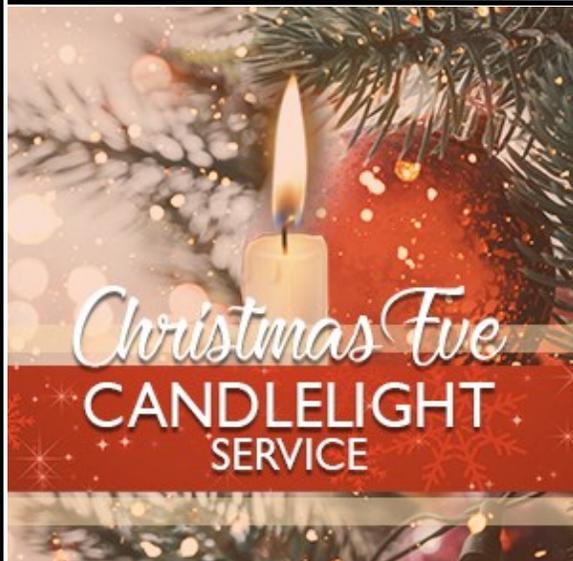
HOLY LOVE EVENTS

Midweek Advent Services

Dec. 4, 11 & 18

At 6 pm

We are in need of cookies for fellowship after Midweek Advent services. If you are able to provide a dozen cookies, please sign up on the kiosk in the Narthex.



December 24th

**3:30 pm, 5:30 pm,
7:30 pm & 10 pm**

Worship Assistants for Christmas Eve Service (as well as other services) are needed. Please sign up on our website at www.holylovelutheran.org/volunteer.



The 13th NOEL

Holy Love will present an intergenerational Christmas play titled "The 13th Noel" as our Children's Program this year. Set in the year 12 AD, Mary is hosting a birthday party for Jesus. Please join us December 15th at 9:30 am for this celebration of the season as part of the Sunday morning service.

Rehearsals: Mandatory rehearsals will be held December 8th at 10 am and December 15th at 8:30 am (Parent Volunteers requested for assistance with costumes before and after the performances).



This year, the Chancel Choir will present the traditional service of Lessons & Carols as part of the Sunday morning Service at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, December 22.

Please come and share in this festive service

HOLY LOVE EVENTS

ANGEL TREE

All gifts need to be returned by Sunday, Dec. 8th.

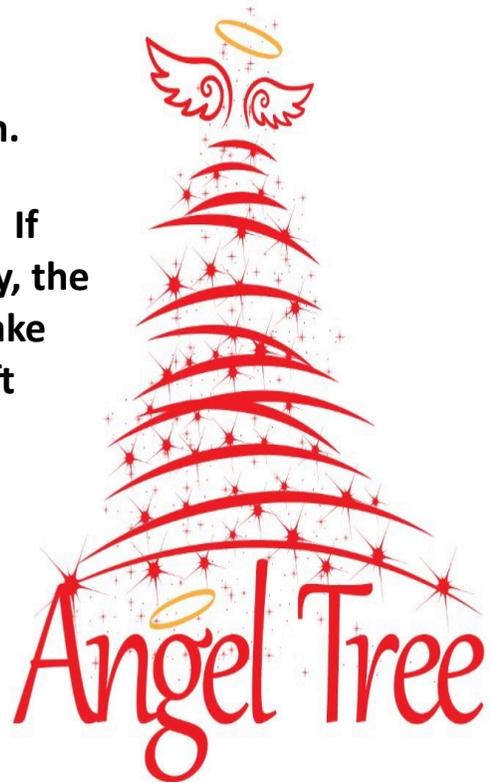
There are still 13 gifts that need to be returned. If you cannot get your gift to the church by Sunday, the 8th, please contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements to drop off the gift or have the gift picked up.

Thank you!

Marie Christianson

303-699-4890

mxchri3@hotmail.com



Casa de Paz 

Holy Love is hosting a Christmas card making party for Casa de Paz at 10 am on December 8th. Casa de Paz will be delivering the cards and a candy bar to the detainees at the GEO ICE Aurora facility.

- All card making materials will be supplied, but feel free to bring your favorite art supplies, if you would like.
- We would love to accompany each card with a candy bar. As the candy can only be purchased at the detention facility, Casa de Paz will purchase the actual candy. If you would like to support this effort, donations to Casa de Paz for the purchase of the candy bars, as well as all of our work, may be made here: <https://www.casadepazcolorado.org/donate>

HOLY LOVE EVENTS



What: Congregational Information Meeting

When: Sunday, December 15th, after the Children's Christmas Program

Topics for discussion:

- Proposed budget for the 2020 church year
- Status of the Y3 coordinator position

Childcare provided!



Theology Pub meets the third Thursday of each month at LuBo's Pizza in Aurora. Please join us.

Next Theology Pub:

When: December 19
from 6pm-7:30 pm

Where: 15352 E. Ida Dr. Unit H
Centennial, CO 80015

Topic: Theology of Family

Cariño Coffee

coffee culture, latin flavor

Social Networking

When: December 14
from 10-11:30 am

Where: Carino Coffee
20971 E. Smoky Hill Rd,
Centennial CO 80015

December Youth Events

- Dec. 8:** Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal @ 10 am
Confirmation Class @ 12pm
- Dec. 15:** Christmas Program Practice @ 8:30 am
9:30 am Christmas Program
- Dec. 22** Y3 Youth Meeting at LOTH @ 7pm
No Sunday School 12/22-29
- Dec. 28** Y3 Lock-in @ Holy Love @ 6pm

Y3 Lock-In

We are seeking caring chaperones for a Mid-break Lock-in we are planning to host at Holy Love on December 28th - 29th.

If you are willing to help or would like more information about the Lock-in, please contact Amy at youth@holylovelutheran.org.

HOLY LOVE EVENTS

Women's Bible Study

Women of Holy Love are invited to join our bible study. We will meet in the youth room from 9:15-11:00 am and enjoy fellowship, treats, and lessons from the bible. Studies are found in the ELCA Gather Magazine. Extra copies will be provided.

We are a friendly informal group. Please consider attending all the gatherings or come whenever you can. We take turns leading the study and providing treats.

Upcoming study date:

December 4

January 8 & 22

February 12 & 26

March 11 & 25

New study dates have been added for 2020.

Please check our full calendar at

www.holylovelutheran.org/happenings



*If you have questions, please contact
Peggy Apmann at 303-693-1802 or
rgammg@yahoo.com*

Coming Up in 2020



Join us January 11 from
5:30 - 8 pm for a family
game night and potluck.
Great food! Great Fun!



James Hersch will join us
again for his annual visit
to Holy Love.

Concert and Soup Supper
is February 1st starting at
6 pm.



**Save The Date : Friday, April 24th
7am - 12noon**

Both Medical and Non-Medical Volunteers are needed to make this community event a success. This year, we are also in need of a Medical Coordinator and Lab Supervisor. If you, or anyone you know, has some medical experience and would be interested in being a part of the planning team - we could you! We meet monthly starting in January through the fair. Outside of this, all of the planning can be done from your home on your own time. If you are interested, please send an email to keely9healthfair@gmail.com



Christmas Poinsettias

It's time to order our Christmas Poinsettias. Please complete this form and place it along with your check marked "**Flowers**" in the offering plate. Last date to order will be on Sunday, December 15th.

<u>Size</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
6 1/2"	_____	\$ 11.00 each	\$ _____

Name: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Special Event: _____

Flowers may be taken home following the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.



December 2019

Worship at 8:30 & 11 am on Dec. 1 & 8
Worship at 9:30 am on Dec. 15, 22, & 29

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 am Worship 11 am Worhsip	2 5:30 pm Praze Song 6:30 pm NA	3 7 pm Christian Ed 7 pm Property	4 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Midweek Advent services 6 pm NA	5 7 pm NMRA 7 pm Holy Knit Wits	6 7 am Men's Breakfast at Village Inn 6 pm NA	7
8 8:30 am Worship 11 am Worhsip	9 5:30 pm Praze Song 6:30 pm NA	10 4 pm Finance Team	11 6 pm Midweek Advent services 6 pm NA 7 pm Chancel Choir	12 7 pm Holy Knit Wits	13 7 am Men's Breakfast at Village Inn 6 pm NA	14 10 am Social Networking 10 am Young Adults Breakfast
15 9:30 am Children's Program/Worship	16 5:30 pm Praze Song 6:30 pm NA	17 7 pm Church Council	18 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Midweek Advent services	19 6pm Theology Pub 7 pm Holy Knit Wits	20 7 am Men's Breakfast at Village Inn 6 pm NA	21
22 9:30 am Choir Concert/Worship 7 pm Y3 at LOTH	23 5:30 pm Praze Song 6:30 pm NA	24 Christmas Eve Service 3:30 pm 5:30 pm 7:30 pm	25 Joy to The World	26 7 pm Holy Knit Wits	27 7 am Men's Breakfast at Village Inn 6 pm NA	28 6 pm Y3 Lock -in
29 9:30 am Worship	30 5:30 pm Praze Song	31				

Serving at Holy Love



Worship Assistants

We are in need of worship assistants. If you can help, please sign up at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/>

If you can't access the website but want to sign up let Debbie Anderson know and she will add your name. You can either email her at debbie_and_charlie_a@centurylink.net or call/text at 303-503-8475. Thank you all for your willingness to serve.

Flower Sign Up

The flower charts for 2020 are posted in the Narthex. Please consider providing 1 or 2 bouquets for a Sunday morning. Add your name and possibly a short note about why you are providing flowers, place a check made out to Holy Love Lutheran Church for \$35 per bouquet and "flowers for (date)" on the memo line, in the offering plate or on the desk in the church office. Bring the bouquet (s) home after church that Sunday or deliver to a shut-in, etc.

Outreach Now



Aurora Warms the Night is seeking volunteers to help on Shower Trailer nights (Monday and Friday evenings at 1544 Elmira St. parking lot in Aurora, Wednesday evenings at St. Mark's at 111 E Del Mar Cir, Aurora, CO 80011). Help is needed from 5:45 to 8:45 pm. Meals are needed for Monday evenings as well.

They are also running short on certain hygiene supplies such as men's and women's new underwear, men's deodorant, and bras.

Our Food Pantry Always Needs Donations

We alternate delivering accumulated donations once a month to food distribution points at either Aurora Interfaith or Peace with Christ Lutheran Church. Therefore, the pantry can be full one day and empty the next. Let's keep it filled so those in need can have a meal.

When shopping or donating, please consider protein rich foods such as canned tuna, salmon, chicken and beef, peanut or almond butter and nuts. Other excellent items to donate include canned fruits and vegetables, beans, cereal, oatmeal, pasta and sauces. Thanks!



Lutheran Family Services

The refugee program has had a good start to the year, and we hope to welcome even more refugees this coming year with your help! We are low on bath towels, pillows, twin-sized bedding (sheet sets and comforters), and cookware (pots and pans). Can you help give a warm welcome to a new refugee family by donating new or gently used items?

If so, contact Jaime at jaime.blanchard@lfsrm.org or 303-217-5181.



“Fully Known”

RTLCL Sr. High Retreat

By Amy Schmuck

Our Y3 collaboration continues to thrive in the faith lives of the youth served by partnering congregations in the Aurora/ Denver area! Two Holy Love kids, eight Lord of the Hills kids, three Epiphany kids, and two Epiphany dads joined Amy on the Sr. High Retreat “Fully Known” at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. Even though no All Saints kids signed up this time, the church generously offered us the use of their large van to get everyone up the mountain with plenty of room for all that we needed. Pr. Margot Wright of Lord of the Hills was an amazing presenter for our weekend. She gave us so much to ponder about knowing ourselves only in limited ways, but that God knows us inside and out, gifts and human frailties. He fully knows us, AND he calls us “Beloved”. We interacted with 150 other youth, adults and staff throughout the weekend, reconnected with friends from other churches in our Rocky Mountain Synod, and reunited with the beloved camp dogs. Activities included hiking Balman Rd. up to “Million Dollar Curve” for a breathtaking view, sledding, painting, and an escape room activity.



If you are interested in supporting the continued ministry, we are always seeking male and female adult chaperones to accompany our young people on these weekend retreats, youth gatherings, and more. Sure, it’s a time commitment, but I promise you the opportunity to grow in your faith alongside these incredible young people is so rewarding!

Another way to support this ministry is to donate funding to the scholarship or “campership” fund. We have had some students utilizing that fund more lately, and it could use some replenishment from interested members. Talk to members of our finance committee (Roger Collins and Jean Roefeldt) with any questions about this fund. Thanks, church for valuing the ministry to youth, and helping foster leadership development in this way.

Peace,
Amy



Because of You

By Roger Collins, Treasurer

Sometimes people are tempted to cry out in frustration, *“What do you want from me, God?”* Or other times we may think that our church is crying out, *“What can you give to our church?”* Or, *“What can you give to those in need?”* How often do you think or say those statements to yourself? I wish to share some thoughts from our latest stewardship program.

It is easy to adopt the attitude that we, rather than God, own the things we possess. We may believe that our cars, our houses, our computers, and our money belong to us. After all, didn't our hard work and sweat make it possible for us to acquire all we have? Only through God's gift of faith are we able to understand the words of Deuteronomy 8:18: *“But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth...”* All we own and all we accomplish are gifts of God's grace.



God, who continues to give us his love, grace, and mercy, also wants to fill us with his wisdom. *“For the Lord gives wisdom and from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding.”* (Proverbs 20) Even with God's wisdom, money issues will cause life to be challenging and confusing. Because we live in a fallen world, God's wisdom will not eliminate setbacks, problems, and disappointments with our money, but we know that he is in control and provides for us. He will help us make proper choices and decisions with our money. With his wisdom, we see things more clearly,

for he promises: *“I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.”* (Proverbs 4:11) We see a greater purpose for our lives and money. No wonder Solomon wrote in Proverbs 3:13-14, *“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for wisdom is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.”*

It has been said, *“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”* This statement communicates the blessedness of giving. In the words of Billy Graham, *“God has given us two hands... one to receive with and the other to give with.”* As nice as it is to receive gifts, it is more meaningful to give them. When we give, we quickly discover the true joy in giving. We have all experienced the excitement and thrill of giving someone a special birthday, Christmas, or anniversary gift. We can't measure the joy of watching the happiness that our gifts bring to others.

In Acts 20:35 Jesus says, *“It is more blessed to give than receive.”* Jesus knew that the act of giving returns more to us than what we give. God only wants the best for us when he asks us to give.

It would seem that lasting happiness and contentment comes from employing our lives and possessions in service to God and others. You are important and Holy Love needs you!

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR HOLY LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH THROUGH OCTOBER, 2019

OCTOBER CONTRIBUTIONS:	\$23,972	OCTOBER EXPENSES :	\$19,108
Budgeted Contributions:	\$25,020	Budgeted Expenses:	\$25,020
Year to Date Contributions:	\$236,603	Year to Date Expenses:	\$208,983
Budgeted YTD Contributions	\$250,188	Budgeted YTD Expenses:	\$250,188

“Serve whole heartedly as if you were serving the Lord, not men.” Ephesians 6:7
THANK YOU HOLY LOVE FAMILY!

Holy Love Happenings



Lefse Making Fun!



Holy Hammers



AICS Gala



Sr High Retreat



Special Music





Oh me, oh my is it really the end of the year? Well it is the end of November and soon we will experience the very last month of 2019. How time flies!

November may have only 30 days in it but not one day at Holy Love Preschool and Kindergarten went by without some kind of activity be it learning, arts and crafts, a new story to hear or just plain having fun. Every day was filled to the limit.



November School News

By Mary Stephenson, Director

Something very exciting happened this month—worship with Pastor Matthew! This was the first time he could be with us prior to his serious accident in March. He showed the children a variety of tools people need to help keep our balance—wheelchair, cane, arm crutches. It doesn't matter how much help we need from different aids to help us walk because we are all loved by God and He takes care of us. Thank you for sharing your story and time with us, Pastor Matthew. We are excited to have you back with us and look forward to next month.

Our Preschool children celebrated Brown Day by sharing show and tell, enjoying a snack of brownies and chocolate milk. Of course, they learned a letter each week and practiced new songs. We can't forget how important being on the playground is, either. When the weather allows, they have such fun running and playing with their friends.

The M-W-F Pre-Kindergarten class also worked on learning a new letter each week, working out of their workbooks. They practiced both numbers 2, 3 and 4 as well. The children also celebrated Brown Day. Their snack was "bears in muddy puddles" made with Nutella and Teddy Grahams. The children really enjoyed them to the point they were licking off the plates! The class celebrated a special Native American Day in their room by making different objects of their choice: basket weaving, canoes, sand art, teepees or dream catcher. Their snack was raisins, popcorn and pumpkin bread. It proved to be a very busy but fun-filled day.

Due to the snow days in October the class couldn't experience their planned in-house presentation from Tagawas. The Morrison Nature Center was able to come into present a program on Colorado animals preparing for winter. It was a great interactive program, and the children learned a lot of valuable information.

The Pre-KII/STEAM class focused on Thanksgiving and sharing as well. They had a special day of Stone Soup, where each child brought in a favorite vegetable or item to add to the soup pot and enjoyed a wonderful snack together. Learning a letter and working on math also continues throughout each month. They are working on number recognition and writing, sorting, patterning and sequencing. As they learn a letter each child is encouraged to bring in a special show and tell item to match that letter. In science, they continue to do experiments with liquids, solids and mixing colors. They also talked about how animals and trees prepare for winter.

Jr. Kindergarten children had an interactive family activity called the "Family Turkey Project". Each child took home a plain turkey picture and created their very own design as a

MISSION BELL

family. If you missed seeing them on their bulletin board, I am sorry as a lot of love went into each individual picture. The class participated in the Holy Love Lutheran Church's canned food drive. They also celebrated Stone Soup Feast with each other, sharing in vegetables, bread and dessert. Parent/Teacher Conferences were held prior to the end of the month.

The Kindergarten class is never without busy days. They talked about animals getting ready for winter, turkeys, and pilgrims and even celebrated a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving feast. This consisted of jelly beans, toast, and popcorn after watching the movie. Each child made a special hat to wear during their party. Parents who attended were welcomed and had just as much fun as the children. They also had Parent/Teacher conferences prior to the end of the month.

Our annual Native American Days with Holy Love's very own Roger Collins was held right before Thanksgiving break. He does such a fabulous job with sharing his passion with our children and interacting with them. This year he once again brought in fabulous world champion dancers to perform. The Bearheart family performs world-wide. What a gift to share with all of us. We are so thankful Roger can take time to do this each year. Watching the faces of the children is priceless. We always welcome parents to attend as well and thank you to those who did come. Thank you Roger so much for your continued sharing of your passion.

Each of us enjoyed the Thanksgiving break celebrating with family and friends and remembering the gratitude of gifts from God. On behalf of all the staff we extend a warm and grateful Thanksgiving to all.

As we move into December, we will focus on the greatest story of all—the birth of Jesus! Watch for lots of exciting things coming up.

NOVEMBER BLESSINGS AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



December Birthdays

Beth Newsom	12/3	Payton Gaer	12/15
Dennis Rice	12/3	Christian Rechlitz	12/16
Helen Johns	12/6	Jeb Dickey	12/22
Shirley Kutowy	12/6	Jennifer Boynton	12/23
Greg Watson	12/7	Chad Hare	12/23
John Markovich	12/9	Tom Teynor	12/24
Bridget Patrick	12/10	Doris Frankfather	12/25
Skyla Marie Willert	12/10	Steve Knuth	12/26
Melissa Waples	12/12	Robert Riggs	12/26
Ian Condie	12/14	Milt Hallett	12/27
Kay Johnson	12/14	Adisyn Kirkwood	12/31
Ellen McGee	12/14	Brenda Pease	12/31
Emily Yoder	12/14		

HOLY LOVE CHURCH COUNCIL

Beth Whitney	President	Jean Roenfeldt	Finance
Mark Johnson	Vice President/Personnel	Brian Last	Property
Mary Unrein	Secretary	Leigh Brazee	Preschool
Roger Collins	Treasurer	Melissa Waples	Social Action Ministry
Jean Roenfeldt	Financial Secretary	Donita Harvey	Stewardship
Laura Flynn	Christian Education	Cal Hosman	Youth Ministry
Alan Schmuck	Evangelism		
Rich Newman	Worship & Music		

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Weber

Pastor's Email: pastor@holylovelutheran.org

Office Manager: Lori Rieger

Church Email: office@holylovelutheran.org

Phone: 303-693-1162

Faith Formation Director: Amy Schmuck

Email: youth@holylovelutheran.org

Cell: 720-682-4768

Holy Love Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten

Preschool Director: Mary Stephenson

Preschool Phone: 303-693-8519

Preschool Email: holyloveschool@holylovelutheran.org

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www.holylovelutheran.org