



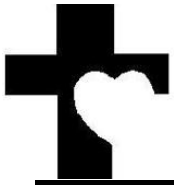
# MISSION BELL

*"Therefore, if anyone  
is in Christ, the new  
creation has come: The  
old has gone, the new  
is here!"*

*- 2 Corinthians 5:17*



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-Fri:  
9 am - 1 pm**

### **Holy Love Contact Information**

**Church Office Phone 303-693-1162**

**[www.holylovelutheran.org](http://www.holylovelutheran.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/holylovelutheran](https://www.facebook.com/holylovelutheran)**

### Staff Contact Information

#### **Pr. Matthew**

email -

[pastor@holylovelutheran.org](mailto: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](mailto:youth@holylovelutheran.org)

cell phone (call or text)

720-682-4768

#### **Lori Rieger**

**Office Manager**

email -

[office@holylovelutheran.org](mailto: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](http://www.holylovelutheran.org)**

# January Worship Schedule



***We will resume our regular  
worship services and Sunday  
School schedule on January 5th.***

Sunday Services  
8:30 & 11 am

Fellowship  
9:30am

Sunday School  
10 am



## **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](mailto: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:***



Sydney and Zach Brinkmann (Earl and Sue Weihe's niece and nephew), Daisy Walsh, Lynda White (daughter of Jim & Colleen Wood), John Harman, Cal Hosman, 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), 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), 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, Shirley Kutowy, Julie Christianson, Brenda Allen, Jenny L. Staggs, Dewy Hertz

### ***Pray for our Military:***

Jason Voss (Lorie Eby's nephew), 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 Kidoroy

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# Pastor's Page

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Check out  
Pastor Matthew's blog!  
Available at [www.holylovlutheran.org](http://www.holylovlutheran.org)

People of God at Holy Love,

It always feels like a whirlwind, like there's never enough time or space or energy or freedom to get everything done during December. It always feels like there's so much left undone; and some that's done, but not the way I'd want it to be; and some that's done well, but the list of the well done stuff isn't nearly long enough.

And when it's time for church to start (or for the party, or for Santa to show up), I almost always feel a little frantic - like I need an extra few minutes (or an extra hour, or an extra day) to make sure everything is the way it should be.

But then, after the frantic whirlwind of stuff left undone and not quite up to par ... after all that comes the calm. One of my favorite feelings comes when it's all done, when everything settles down. The anticipation, preparation, and planning give way to a certain kind of peace that would have felt foreign and inappropriate before. The feeling that things have been taken care of, that everything is the way it should be, and that I can relax for a while is really life-giving.

As a pastor, I feel that freedom to relax most significantly at about 11:30 on Christmas Eve (after the 10:00 pm service is done), and on Easter Sunday at about 12:30 (when all three services are done). It's about then that I feel myself melt into my office chair, and then into a couch when I get home. It's a beautiful thing to feel like everything is done, and that I'm not in charge any more.

The thing is, though, that it would be great if I felt that way all the time. Because that life-giving feeling I get "that things have been taken care of, that everything is the way it should be, and that I can relax for a while ..." ought to be my normal state of being. Because that's the truth that we proclaim as Christians - namely that Jesus has things taken care of, and I should relax and not worry about being in charge of the universe.

Of course, things in the world aren't the way they should be. But the promise embodied for us at Christmas by the Christ Child is the same as the promise pointed to in Revelation 21 - that God is creating a renewed place for us to enjoy the fullness of new life.

Most of the time when I feel that peace that happens for me after Christmas, I remember that all of the work I've been doing has been important to making sure the Christmas story is told well. But that even if I didn't do that work, the story of God's salvation of the world would still be complete. Because it's God who's in charge of the universe, and not me.

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

~ pr. m

# *From the ELCA - Rocky Mountain Synod*

## **Building on the Spirit's work among us**

Naming what we get to do together as Christ's Church here in the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod is what our strategic planning process is all about. In 2016, your Synod Council approved our first three year plan, with four major areas of emphasis and numerous goals and objectives related to each. In the Strategic Plan 2.0 Summary, you'll see a sampling of the ministry and witness we have accomplished together during this period of time. It's exciting to see how the Spirit has been at work among us!

Our Strategic Plan 2.0 will continue the momentum of our shared ministry as the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod by expanding our focus to five key areas for the next three years. Claiming Our Gifts - Teach, proclaim and share the significance of our ELCA way of being part of Christ's Church with a clear and contagious vision from abundance.

- **Connecting in Ministry and Witness** - Foster a Spirit of active collaboration and intentional connection across our Synod
- **Equipping All Leaders** - Build healthy and vibrant faith communities by equipping lay leaders, pastors, and deacons for excellence in leadership
- **Accompanying One another into God's Future** - Seek and promote new ways of being Christ's Church together in the world
- **Growing in Generosity** - Strengthen our financial capacity for ministry and witness relying on a spirituality of generosity and abundance

Our commitment to Claiming Our Gifts has intentionally been moved to the center, recognizing that our ELCA identity within Christ's Church is foundational, informing and connecting everything else we do together. Living from our distinctive gifts, we then seek to proclaim and embody God's unconditional love for the sake of the world.

Yours in Faith,  
Bishop Jim Gonia  
Vice President Earline Bohling

## **Pre-Register Now for Colorado Lutheran Day at the Legislature 2020**

Join together with advocates and community leaders in learning, listening and taking action. Discover how you as a person of faith can be mobilized for prophetic public policy advocacy, get the latest updates on our work together at the State Capitol, and be at the forefront of building relationships with your elected officials. Even (or especially) if you've *never* set foot in our State Capitol, we want you to join us! The event will include Lobbying 101 training, an issues briefing, and remarks from Bishop Jim Gonia and a Colorado legislator (TBD). Registration fee includes hot breakfast and all materials. Discounted rate and scholarships are available - inquiries may be sent by e-mail to pseverson at rmselca.org, or call 303-777-6700.

A note about parking downtown: there are paid parking lots around the Capitol, and metered street parking is available as well. Carpooling and/or public transit are encouraged!

**What:** Colorado Lutheran Day at the Legislature

**When:** Thursday, February 27, 2020

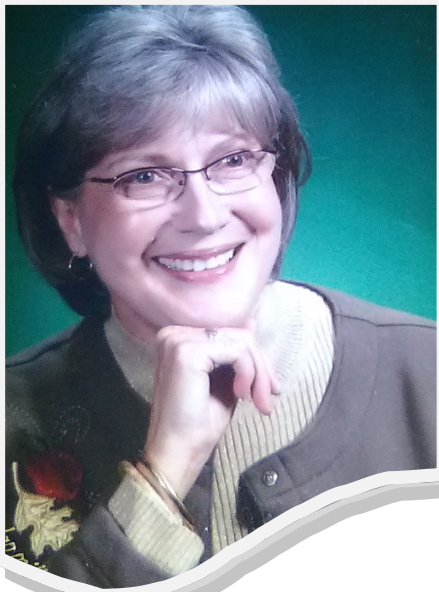
**Where:** Venue TBD (will be within easy walking distance from the State Capitol)

**Time:** 7:30 am - 12:00 pm (program begins 8am)

**Fee:** \$15 regular, \$5 student/low-income rate

Register at [https://www.rmselca.org/legislature\\_day\\_2020](https://www.rmselca.org/legislature_day_2020)

# In the Spotlight



## Ruth Roehrman

I joined Holy Love last January, transferring from Parkview Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC). Forest Park, Illinois (a southwest suburb of Chicago).

I graduated from Concordia Teachers College (now University) in 1965, and received a "call" to Lutheran High School here in Denver. I taught English and Girls' Physical Education for 4 years and then moved to Boulder to complete a Masters Degree.

I married Larry in 1970 and continued teaching until 1973 when our son, Ryan, was born. We divorced in 1979, and I returned to work, teaching Adult ESL classes through the Aurora Public School System.

I entered Civil Service in 1981 at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service on Lowry Air Force Base and spent the next 20 years there...holding several positions. My favorite was a Specialist in the Learning Center. I retired in 2001.

My son Ryan recently turned 45. He lives in Parish NY and works at the Exelon Nuclear Plant on Lake Ontario. I have 3 "furry" grandchildren: Buster, the Bengal; Morris, the Tom; and Charlie, the lovable Labradoodle!!

I joined Holy Love (after visiting other ELCA churches) because I wanted to return to my "Lutheran" roots. I really enjoy the Worship, especially the Liturgy.

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A Favorite Recipe:

### SOUTH CAROLINA SKILLET SHRIMP

1lb Shrimp in Shells (2 Servings)  
Melted Butter  
Lemon Wedges

Place the shrimp in a large nonstick skillet  
Cover (no matter what the shrimp size)  
Cook in their own juice on medium to medium-high heat for 2 minutes  
Remove the lid  
Stir and cook an additional 2 minutes or until the shells turn pink  
Put on ice or serve hot

Cover the table with newspaper, get a roll of paper towels and serve the Shrimp with the melted butter and lemon wedges.

Enjoy with cold beer or chardonnay!!

# HOLY LOVE EVENTS

*The Holy Love Christmas Tree will be taken down January 5th following the 11am Worship Service.*

*We could use a hand so please plan to stay and help out. ~ Thank you.*



## Social Networking

When: January 8th  
from 6:30-8:00 am

Where: Three Little Griddles  
6040 S Gun Club Rd,  
Aurora, CO, 80016,



## Women's Bible Study

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.

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

### Upcoming study date:

January 8 & 22  
February 12 & 26  
March 11 & 25



**Join us January 11 from 5:30 - 8 pm for a family game night and potluck.**

**Great food! Great Fun!**

**This event isn't just for kids! All are welcome! Invite a Friend!**

# HOLY LOVE EVENTS



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

**Next Theology Pub:**

When: January 16 from 6pm-7:30 pm

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

Topic: The Theology of Retreating



***The Holy Love Lutheran  
Annual Meeting will be held  
January, 26th from 12 - 2pm .***

***Please Mark Your Calendars***

## **Youth Calendar**

Jan. 5                      Sunday School Resumes  
10 am

Jan. 11                     Family Game Night  
5:30 pm

Jan. 12                     Confirmation Class  
12 pm

Jan. 18-20                RMS Youth Gathering in  
Estes Park

Jan. 26                     Confirmation Class  
12pm

Jan 26                      Y3 @ All Saints  
7 pm

Feb. 1                      James Hersch  
Soup Supper & Concert  
6pm



# HOLY LOVE EVENTS



James Hersch will join us again for his annual visit to Holy Love on February 1st. A Soup Supper will start the evening at 6 pm with the concert to follow.

James has several other appearances scheduled while he is here. On January 31st, he is scheduled to perform at Holy Love Preschool & Kindergarten at 1 pm for our PreK students. On February 1st, he is also slated to perform at Children's Hospital at 1 pm. Finally on February 2nd, we will be honored to have him provide special music for us between services.

For more information, see Greg Watson or check out our website at: [www.holylove.lutheran.org/happenings](http://www.holylove.lutheran.org/happenings)



## HOLY HAMMERS – We Have A Work Date!

Our congregation is a member of a coalition called the Holy Hammers. There are 10+ churches from around the metro area in this coalition. These churches work together to raise money and recruit volunteers to build houses for Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver. The coalition has a goal of raising \$55,000 each year. \$50k goes to Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver directly and \$5k goes to Habitat's global missions as a tithe.

Holy Hammers is currently working with Habitat at the College View build site, 2770 W. College Ave, Denver.

**Holy Love has an available work day on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** No experience is required. They have great training and jobs for all skill comforts. To sign up for a day of fun and fantastic work, go to <http://vhub.at/holyloveluth>.

If you have questions, please contact Melissa Waples at 303-519-1339.

# HOLY LOVE EVENTS



**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](mailto:keely9healthfair@gmail.com)*

## Outreach Now



**AURORA  
warms  
THE NIGHT**

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](mailto:jaime.blanchard@lfsrm.org) or 303-217-5181.

# 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](mailto:debbie_and_charlie_a@centurylink.net)

## 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.

## 7 New Year's Resolutions for Developing Christian Habits

*(Excerpt from <https://allsaintspalatine.org/7-new-years-resolutions-for-developing-christian-habits>)*

**Attend Church Regularly** - Attending church regularly is a resolution that many people make, and with good reason. No matter your church-going background, it's a worthy goal. Worship services are opportunities for learning and reflection. They can provide periods of stability and rejuvenation in a hectic world—and provide a powerful community network.

**Commit to reading the Bible...all of it** - Regular reading of the Bible helps us better understand ourselves, our world, and our relationship to God and others. While the concept of reading the entire Bible might seem daunting, it can be done.

**Memorize scripture** - Memorization is a way to engage with scripture on a deep level. Choose verses that have special meaning to you, or relate to areas where you are striving for self-improvement.

**Join a Bible Study**- Encountering scripture with others in a mutual quest for meaning can expand your understanding with new viewpoints and illuminating discussion. Quite often a Bible study turns into deeper relationships with one another which is helpful when life happens.

**Keep a Prayer Journal** -A prayer journal requires you to sharpen your thoughts, desires, and feelings, to look for God's actions in the world around you, and to honestly evaluate your own actions—as you do, you'll be able to see your faith developing and deepening over time

**Volunteer Locally** - Christians are called to work toward building a better world in the here and now. Choose a local cause that's important to you and get involved! (Your church is a great place to start.)

**Go on a Mission Trip** -Mission trips, be they far or near, are powerful ways to see the world with new eyes, and to see God in action.

## *Thank You Notes!*

A Special *Thank You* to all who participated in the LFS Angel Tree project this year. Your time and generosity are greatly appreciated.

*~Thank you,  
Marie Christianson*

A Heartfelt "Thank You" to the Members of Holy Love and the Church Council for your generosity and thoughtfulness this Christmas. We feel very blessed to be a part of this congregation.

*~ Thank You  
Amy Schmuck & Lori Rieger*

Thank you so much...

...to those of you who put up the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary and Narthex (and who will help to take it down Sunday, January 5th after 11:00 worship).

...to the following families who read the Advent litany and lit the Advent candles during worship: Rich Newman, Kerry Beebe; Mark and Kay Johnson and Logan; Lori and Haley Rieger; Lynna, Ava, Aidan and Liam Sampsel; Greg and Deb Watson; Greg, Jennifer, Diana, Dustin and Mirabelle Boynton; Connor Schmuck; Steve and Leanne Alfrey; and Elvi Bjorkquist.

...to so many of you who helped the children tell the Christmas story during their Sunday School program, "The 13th Noel" and to Director Laura Flynn who wrote the script.

...to the Chancel Choir and conductor Nathan Jones who presented "Good News" during their Sunday morning program.

...to Pastor Matthew for his guidance throughout the season. We were all blessed to have him back with us especially during this special time of the year.

What a wonderful Advent and Christmas Season!

*~ Nancy Collins  
Worship & Music Committee*

# JANUARY 2020

| Sun                                                                                                                   | Mon                                        | Tue                                                        | Wed                                                                                                                       | Thu                                                    | Fri                                                                                               | Sat                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5</b><br>8:30 am: Worship<br>9:30 am: Fellowship<br>10 am: Sunday School<br>11 am: Worship                         | <b>6</b><br>5:30 pm Praze Song<br>6:30 NA  | <b>7</b><br>7pm: Christian Ed<br>7pm: Property Committee   | <b>8</b><br>6:30 am Social Networking<br>9:15 am Women's Bible Study<br>6 pm: NA Meeting & Support<br>7 pm: Chancel Choir | <b>9</b><br>7 pm: Holy Knit Wits                       | <b>10</b><br>7 am: Men's Breakfast at Village Inn<br>6 pm: NA                                     | <b>11</b><br>10 am Young Adults Breakfast<br>5:30 pm Family Game Night    |
| <b>12</b><br>8:30 am: Worship<br>9:30 am: Fellowship<br>10 am: Sunday School<br>11 am: Worship<br>12 pm: Confirmation | <b>13</b><br>5:30 pm Praze Song<br>6:30 NA | <b>14</b><br>4 pm: Finance Team<br>7 pm: Worship & Music   | <b>15</b><br>6 pm: NA Meeting & Support<br>7 pm: Chancel Choir                                                            | <b>16</b><br>6pm: Theology Pub<br>7 pm: Holy Knit Wits | <b>17</b><br>7 am: Men's Breakfast at Village Inn<br>6 pm: NA                                     | <b>18</b><br><b>RMS Youth Gathering MS &amp; HS @ YMCA of the Rockies</b> |
| <b>19</b><br>8:30 am: Worship<br>9:30 am: Fellowship<br>10 am: Sunday School<br>11 am: Worship                        | <b>20</b><br>5:30 pm Praze Song<br>6:30 NA | <b>21</b><br>7 pm: Church Council                          | <b>22</b><br>9:15 am Women's Bible Study<br>6 pm: NA Meeting & Support<br>7 pm: Chancel Choir                             | <b>23</b><br>7 pm: Holy Knit Wits                      | <b>24</b><br>7 am: Men's Breakfast at Village Inn<br>6 pm: NA                                     | <b>25</b><br>8 am: Easter Seals                                           |
| <b>RMS Youth Gathering MS &amp; HS @ YMCA of the Rockies</b>                                                          | <b>27</b><br>5:30 pm Praze Song<br>6:30 NA | <b>28</b><br>5:30 pm: Preschool Board<br>6 pm: Stewardship | <b>29</b><br>6 pm: NA Meeting & Support<br>7 pm: Chancel Choir                                                            | <b>30</b><br>7 pm: Holy Knit Wits                      | <b>31</b><br>7 am: Men's Breakfast at Village Inn<br>1 pm: James Hersch at Preschool.<br>6 pm: NA |                                                                           |

**Sunday Worship  
8:30 & 11 am**

**Sunday School 10 am  
Fellowship Between Services**

## BECAUSE OF YOU

by Roger Collins, Treasurer

Holy Love has joyfully been in operation for well over 45 years as we look forward to celebrating the next 45 years. Your light of giving time, talent and treasures has shone a greater meaning to our Christian faith by having emphasized the importance of you and our church. We could not have nor can we continue to celebrate the next 45 years without you. **THANK YOU** for your kind involvement and dedication to our church-Holy Love.

As I sat in our last “congregational church meeting”, I couldn’t help think of the following song, “**Wake Me Up,**” not because I was tired, but because I realized the importance of understanding what is important for our future. Here are the similar words of the song sung by Tim Bergling.



*“Feeling my way through the darkness, guided by a beating heart, I can’t tell where the journey will end, but I know where to start. They tell me I’m too old to understand, they say I’m caught up in a dream. Well, life will continue to pass me by if I don’t open up my eyes.*

*So wake me up when it’s all over, when I’m more wiser and still older. All this time I was finding myself, and I didn’t know I was lost.*

*I tried carrying the weight of the world, but I only have two hands. Hope I get the chance to travel the world, but I don’t have any plans. Wish that I could stay forever, not afraid to close my eyes. Life’s a game made for everyone and love is a prize.*

*So wake me up when it’s all over, when I’m wiser and still older. All this time I was finding myself, and I didn’t know I was lost.”*

We try to understand who we are, but sometimes feel that maybe we are lost. We try to do everything, plan everything, and do what we may feel is right, which I believe is similar to our faith. But sometimes we must realize what we want in life and what will help guide us. We must remember, God will help us by guiding us through our church and life’s journey, keeping us by allowing us from going blind in the sometimes darkness. He helps us by letting us do what we want and need to do, while still keeping us going in the right directions. Remember, being a part of our church can let us be the best we can be if we allow it, and allow us to continue following the way of the Lord.

In the upcoming years we have some wonderful opportunities and challenges to continue our strength and sharing the love of our faith as we continue to support Holy Love. In every way possible, we should spend the time telling a full and truthful experience of our faith in God by inspiring and sharing with others and ourselves the importance of **OUR** church-Holy Love.

| FINANCIAL REPORT FOR HOLY LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH THROUGH |                  |                               |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| NOVEMBER 2019                                          |                  |                               |                  |
| <b>NOVEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>                         | <b>\$22,597</b>  | <b>NOVEMBER EXPENSES :</b>    | <b>\$21,814</b>  |
| Budgeted Contributions:                                | \$25,020         | Budgeted Expenses:            | \$25,020         |
| <b>Year to Date Contributions:</b>                     | <b>\$259,200</b> | <b>Year to Date Expenses:</b> | <b>\$230,898</b> |
| Budgeted Year to Date Contributions                    | \$275,218        | Budgeted YTD Expenses:        | \$275,218        |

*Nourish us now with the life that really is life,  
revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen*

## What are the 12 days of Christmas?

By [Cory Driver](#) December 27, 2019 - Living Lutheran

Christmas, according to the liturgical calendar, isn't just a day, but a season. Many Christians know the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" or recall that Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* is about the last night of Christmas. But what defines the Christmas season?

The 12 days of Christmas are a reversal of the season of [Advent](#). Traditionally, Christians have fasted during Advent as we await the celebration of the birth of our Savior. The period from Christmas Day to the day before Epiphany (the celebration of the magi visiting Jesus, the baptism of Jesus and the beginning of his earthly ministry) is a period of daily feasting. This is surprising, given the reason for celebrating several of the days.

The first day of Christmas, the Feast of the Nativity, is obvious enough as a reason to celebrate. The Messiah has been born into the world! The next day, however, is the feast of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, who was killed under the authority of Saul of Tarsus/Paul (Acts 8:1). The emotional whiplash of celebrating the birth of the Savior and then the next day celebrating the life and martyrdom of the first person to die for Christ is stunning. However, tradition calls for a joyful feast to celebrate the faithfulness of Stephen, even unto death.

*These 12 days help Christians remember that the life of faith is full of challenges and hardships but also contains plenty of reasons to celebrate as we remember the heroes and heroines of the church, and most importantly, our Lord and Savior.*

The next day, the third of the 12, celebrates the life of St. John the Apostle. He was, traditionally, the only disciple who wasn't martyred. Tradition holds that John took care of Mary, the mother of Jesus, made disciples, grew old and finally died a natural death in Ephesus.

The fourth day of Christmas is the most shocking. The Feast of the Holy Innocents commemorates the death of all boys in Bethlehem, aged 2 and under, at the hands of Herod the Great's soldiers (Matthew 2:16-18). Again, we feel the emotional rollercoaster, as we're reminded that the Christian life isn't simply one of sweetness and joy, but also of pain, hardship and injustice. Nevertheless, the fourth day of Christmas is the *Feast* of the Holy Innocents, rather than a fast, because we celebrate the One who has conquered sin and death and doesn't surrender these precious little ones, or any others, to the grave forever.

The following days celebrate Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Becket's resistance to injustice; the holy family; Pope Sylvester, who resisted the Donatist and Arian controversies (in many Germanic-speaking countries, New Year's Eve is still called "Sylvester"); the circumcision of Jesus; St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, who defended the doctrine of the Trinity; Jesus' presentation and naming in the Jerusalem temple; the hermitage of St. Simon on the pillar; and even two American saints: Elizabeth Ann Seton and John Neumann.

These 12 days help Christians remember that the life of faith is full of challenges and hardships but also contains plenty of reasons to celebrate as we remember the heroes and heroines of the church, and most importantly, our Lord and Savior.

### [Cory Driver](#)

Cory Driver is a minister of word and service, and the director of the Transformational Leadership Academy in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. He earned his doctorate in Jewish religious cultures from Emory University, Atlanta. Cory lives with his family in Indianapolis.

## MISSION BELL



Well, it has happened...we have finished yet another full decade and jumping right into another. Whew! A lot of things have happened here over the course of these past 10 years; however, let's focus on the past month.

So every class has been busy learning new letters, practicing numbers, making special Christmas gifts and cards, and of course preparing for the annual Christmas Worship Programs.

Our annual PTO Santa Shop was yet another HUGE success this year. We were so blessed to have such a response from parents who helped make it so much fun for the children. From set-up on Tuesday afternoon to packing up Friday



## Preschool News

### December School News

By Mary Stephenson, Director

morning, everything went totally smooth each day. Thank you to our families for all the monetary donations, wrapping supplies, and the variety of gifts all donated. Kudos to everyone for such a great time for our children!

You know we can't just have fun every day here because there has to be that part called learning—you know, workbooks involving numbers, letters and of course some homework. The children have enjoyed hearing stories all about Jesus' birth, singing special songs, and of course making fun Christmas crafts.

We celebrated worship with Pastor Matthew again and heard another great story. When he walked into the sanctuary, he acted a bit confused because there were children's chairs set up for program practices and a Christmas tree in the corner of the church. He finally got the message we were preparing for the programs! Then he told the story about his most favorite Christmas present he got as a child—a new bicycle! He found it hidden behind the tree. Pastor Matthew reminded us all the best gift ever is the birth of Jesus, God's special gift to us. Thank you Pastor Matthew for your message, enthusiasm, and time with us.

Did you notice all the red and green decorations all around the school and in the classrooms? The bulletin board Christmas decorations all were different but filled with the Christmas message and joy.

Every class held their own Christmas party and each room was filled with lots of excitement and happiness (including noise!) Many, many thanks to all those parents who helped with the individual parties and to all who donated requested items.





## MISSION BELL

And then we held our annual Christmas Worship Programs—four of them in all. I want to send a very BIG thank you to Pam Engel for playing the piano, Pastor Matthew for prayer and music accompaniment, and to Mrs. Meacham for playing the flute during caroling time. The month was full of learning new songs and many days of practices. The day of programs went smoothly, and the children were excited to perform. It may be the same program every year, but each year some little something is different. What better way to celebrate the Christmas season but through the voices of children singing praises to God. And of course we had a Christmas celebration reception following each program. Thank you to all who brought goodies for the receptions.

The staff enjoyed a delicious lunch from PTO and parents on our workday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for always thinking of us with goodies and meals. You are all greatly appreciated!

Looking ahead to January will find our Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten staff preparing for Parent Conferences to be held the end of the month. Check with your child's Teacher to see if help is needed during the assessment time.

Word was received very quickly that Lord of the Hills Preschool was closing effective December 19<sup>th</sup>. We have had numerous calls regarding space availability and have been able to place many of their children with us at Holy Love Preschool. We look forward to welcoming not only LOH children in January, but also several who are scheduled to start at the same time. We are excited to be adding new children and welcoming new families.

Can you believe we are entering a brand new decade? God gives us 365 days every year to celebrate and share with others. I hope as this year ends and the new one begins, you take time to reflect, rejoice and renew the old and the new.

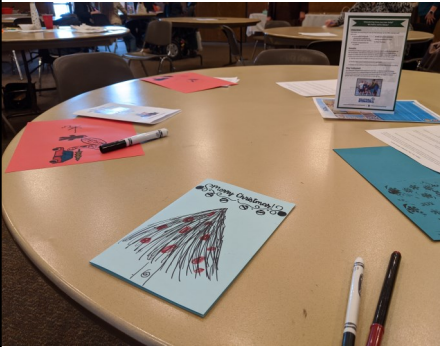
## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!



# Holy Love Happenings

## Casa de Paz

Holy Love members joined together to make Christmas cards for detainees at the Aurora ICE facility. The cards were delivered by Casa de Paz, a local charity, along with a candy bar.



The Holy Love Chancel Choir presented Lessons and Carols on Dec. 22nd. The reviews are in - It was amazing, as usual!



Holy Love Members took in *The Twelfth Night* at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and Theatre Talk Backs with the Cast and Pastor Dan Bollman



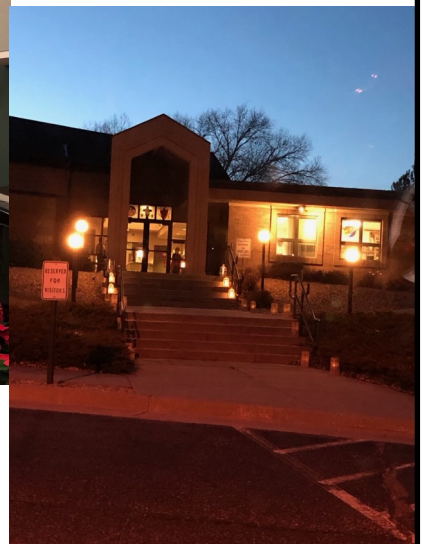
Pastor Matthew, Melissa Meacham & Pam Engel provided accompaniment for the HLPK Christmas programs.

# The 13th Noel



From practice to wardrobe to performance, members of Holy Love put on a spectacular Christmas Program on December 15th. The 13th Noel, was an original play written and directed by Laura Flynn.

The play was set in the year 12 AD and was centered on a birthday party that Mary was hosting for Jesus. The cast played to a full house and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the production.



Holy Love hosted 4 beautiful Candlelight Services on Christmas Eve. We hope you were able to attend.

# January Birthdays



|                   |      |                   |       |
|-------------------|------|-------------------|-------|
| Jacob Kennedy     | 1/1  | Tyler Traver      | 1/12  |
| Kerry Then        | 1/2  | Elizabeth Wheeler | 1/13  |
| Kirsti Fonseca    | 1/2  | Tom Hare          | 1/14  |
| Emily Kneipper    | 1/4  | Kevin Waples      | 1/15  |
| Brent Traver      | 1/4  | Dustin Boynton    | 1/18  |
| Michelle Zimmer   | 1/4  | Alan Schmuck      | 1/18  |
| Anna Herbrand     | 1/5  | Vicki Hosman      | 1/20  |
| Kristen Markovich | 1/5  | Mark Bentz        | 1/21  |
| Maggie Condie     | 1/8  | Dave Ebert        | 1/224 |
| Dylan Riggs       | 1/9  | Bruce Seymore     | 1/27  |
| Alyssa Brazee     | 1/10 |                   |       |
| Kim Herbrand      | 1/11 |                   |       |
| Arturo Fonseca    | 1/12 |                   |       |

## 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          |                |                        |

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