



Mission Bell



Reflections



Quarterly Newsletter of Holy Love Lutheran Church
Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA
www.holylovelutheran.org

Fall
2022

Holy Love's Mission Statement

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

Holy Love Staff and Contact Information

Church Information: Holy Love Lutheran Church
4210 S. Chambers Rd.,
Aurora, CO 80014
303-693-1162
www.holylovelutheran.org
www.facebook.com/holylovelutheran

Staff: Pastor Brittany Kooi
pastor@holylovelutheran.org

Lori Rieger (Media and Membership)
admin@holylovelutheran.org

Holy Love Pre/K: Holy Love Preschool & Kindergarten
303-693-8519
holyloveschool@holylovelutheran.org
Director: Mary Stephenson

Holy Love Church Council

Darryl Harvey, President
Eric Hermanson, Vice President
Greg Boynton, Secretary
Roger Collins, Treasurer
Lauren Kennedy
Jean Roenfeldt
Brian Last
Melissa Waples
Pastor Harry Laubach
Debbie Anderson

Contents

Page 3.....	Pastor's Post
Page 4 -5.....Reports
Page 6.....	Preschool News
Page 7.....	The Fruits of the Spirit
Page 8.....	Members to Remember
Page 8.....	Welcome to the Family
Page 8.....	Reaching Out
Page 9-11.....	Looking Back
Page 12.....	Coming Up



PASTOR'S Post

It has been a year! Fall has always signaled to me the start of a new year, whether it's because of how much I've ingrained the school calendar or because my birthday is in this season, I always feel a sense of renewal.

As a congregation, we've completed the first of a three year VRSM program with the Synod. We've worked hard to identify what our congregational core values are and are in the process of critically re-examining how church culture. "That's how we've always done it," is no longer a refrain I'm hearing! Instead, you all are digging deep, remembering to when or why something first began. This is a critical step towards renewal.

At our heart, we remain a community committed to caring. From meal trains for families recovering from hospital visits to deep discussions in Bible Studies; from volunteering day after day for Day Camp to singing in our volunteer-led choir; from changing the church paraments to match the season to traveling on a mission trip with a bunch of teenagers... these are the ways Holy Love cares.

You'll read more in this issue of the Mission Bell about how we've lived into our congregational core values. You'll also get some glimpses of what we're looking forward to as a community.

Holy Love is blessed with so many dedicated and creative people who continue to lead this congregation into the future God has planned for us. We are further blessed by each of you who call Holy Love their home.

There is much to be excited about! In another year, I predict we will look back and say with proud exhaustion, "It has been a year!"

~Pastor Brittany



First Communion

First Communion will take place Sunday, February 5 in service. Contact Pastor Brittany if your child is ready for First Communion classes, set to begin in January 2023.

Reports

Youth Update

Part of our congregation's core values includes Generational Stewardship. This means that we offer appropriate and effective faith formation opportunities across the lifespan. Our youth are an important and integral part of our worshipping community. We are looking to partner with All Saints Lutheran in hiring a combined staff person responsible for all youth events. In the meantime, Pastor Brittany and Pastor Chelsea will be co-sharing youth responsibilities for the two congregations. Additional questions on this fledging job description can be directed to Personnel Committee.

Sunday School began September 18. We're trying two classes this year, one for younger worshippers (3 year olds thru about kindergarten) and one for 1st grade and above. Thank you to Laura F. and Karen T. for your leadership!!!

Our Children's Sermons will be delivered by interested members of the congregation and Pastor Brittany. You can sign up to deliver a message on our Sign-Up Genius. Don't worry, you're given the scriptures and theme a week beforehand.

VRSM Update

We took the summer to critically think about how our congregation is living into its 6 core values across over 20 ministry areas, varying from our partnership with outside groups to our connection to the Synod. We are moving towards meeting about once a quarter, continuing to function in an advisory capacity.

We are one third of the way through our three-year commitment to exploring God's desire for our congregation as we move into the future. This involves practicing new mindsets, engaging in challenging conversations, partnering in new ways, and stepping into the future God has called each of us

Staff Update

At August's Council meeting, Lori's work hours were approved up to 25 hours per week. Her responsibilities now include coordinating, recording, and editing for the online service; compiling and sending weekly eNews; maintaining the website; updating Servant Keeper; overseeing church calendar and building use (with the exception of Halo/Kickstart events, due to conflict of interest; that's Exec Committee). Thank you, Lori, for picking up additional responsibilities!

Pastor Brittany is now responsible for youth groups & events, Confirmation, and each week's in-person bulletin. So you can direct bulletin concerns to her.

& More

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

Information from Worship & Music Committee

- ◆ **Christmas Carols, Cocoas, and Cookies: Wednesday, December 14. Family-friendly, Christmas fun!**
- ◆ **Longest Night: Wednesday, December 21. A service to recognize and honor our griefs at Christmastime**
- ◆ **Christmas Eve: 3:30 pm, family-friendly and interactive; 7:30 pm, traditional candlelight**
- ◆ **No in-person service on 12/25, recorded service available**

Faith Formation Opportunities This Fall:

- ◆ **PM Bible Studies meet most every Wednesday at 7 pm on Zoom. We're studying the Book of Joshua. Check your eNews for the link!**
- ◆ **AM Bible Studies resumed in September on a semi-regular basis. We're exploring Paul's Letter to the Ephesians and assessing our own individual spiritual gifts**
- ◆ **We'll have an Adult Ed hour on October 9 after service, led by Vicky Daub from Veterans Servant Corps. Join us to learn how we can partner with our area military vets!**

History Project & 50th Anniversary Party

Holy Love will celebrate 50 years of faithful Gospel ministry in Spring 2023! Bob A. and Jim L. are working together to create a living memory piece: re-purposing one of the cross-sections of the trees removed last March and marking it with critical dates in our congregation's history. Thank you, Bob and Jim, for spearheading this! We're looking forward to seeing the meaningful finished product!

We will celebrate with a 50th Anniversary Service and Dinner in late April 2023. If you are interested in being part of our party-planning team, please let Pastor Brittany know. She covets people who are good at throwing parties.

We are Connected into Community through our history!



September is moving right along. Our days are busy, children are happy and that makes staff happy, too! We celebrated worship with Pastor Brittany this month. The children and staff enjoyed the time, the message, and just being together in the sanctuary. Thank you Pastor Brittany and we look forward to your message next month.

Classes began learning a letter of the week and the children enjoy bringing in their collages to display. Some are really creative and personalized! Feel free to look in our hallways when you are here.

Color days have been celebrated in both the Preschool and Pre-K, M-W-F classes. The color for the month was yellow and there was a lot of bright colors in the rooms. Some classes do crafts around the color and even do their snack the color of the month---very creative ideas from the staff. Pre-K children have been practicing their own name each day and placing their name card in a feeling chart. This helps them better understand the word feelings.

Pre-K II/STEAM have been busy doing lots of fun science experiments each day, working hard on numbers and letters, and making new friends. They went to the Senac Creek Nature Center at the Aurora Reservoir on a field trip with staff and parents, learning all about animals in their natural habitat. The leader was very excited about the children wanting to learn and engage and how curious they were. Kudos to all!

The Jr K class is deep into letter learning and using their workbooks. It is a full class! I hope you noticed their handprint eagles in the hallway. This is an annual class project including a Bible verse from Isaiah 40:31 (KJV). They read the story about Elmer the Elephant and created their own Elmer's. They also did a crayon melting craft which will be displayed for them to enjoy.

Our Kindergarten children have been very busy since day #1 with learning letters, numbers, practicing all letter sounds and hearing special stories. They have had homework folders go home and the staff thanks the parents for making sure homework gets done and returned in a timely manner. The class enjoyed a field trip to the Littleton Museum, leaning about the workings of a farm and what life would be like living on one. Thank you to all families who went and participated. Did I mentioned they made butter in class? It was delicious.

All classes have been talking about fall and the change in the seasons. A few groups have done nature walks just around the church checking out the changes they see.

Our PTO kicked off the Butter Braid orders. All orders are due by October 6th and delivery will be either October 12th or 13th depending which class/day you attend school. Get your orders in soon! This is a very big fundraiser, and all monies will be designated to the playground. Unfortunately, when the large trees on the west side of the building were removed, the roots had no place to go but under the Astro turf. Needless, to say, the turf is being pulled up because of the roots and making the ground very bumpy and unsafe. We will be looking at repairing that very soon.

The seasons change, the weather is cooler in the mornings, and the colors are changing. Isn't it an amazing site to see what God has painted for us? Not one day offers the same beauty, but it is all His workings. We are so blessed to experience His gifts each and every day. Look around and enjoy!

Remember to look for your splash of joy in each new day!

Mary Stephenson
Director

The Fruits of the Spirit

It's been reported that this summer has been the hottest on record and we've been suffering from drought conditions for a long time. We've also been suffering from a spiritual drought brought on by political unrest, Covid and drifting away from our Christian roots. But I have witnessed, just over two days last week, seeds planted and fruit bursting with hope.

I had lunch with an old friend last Thursday, reconnecting after many years. When exchanging our current activities, she heard my involvement with Holy Love Preschool. She almost shouted in the restaurant (Le Peep), "I love that preschool. My son and grandchildren went there! My grandson is in college because of that preschool!" She went on to detail, the extraordinary measures our staff took to make his experience successful.

The following day, as I sat in the preschool entry, I observed our director Mary and our office manager, Terry, sitting with a young mother. She was enrolling her 3-year-old daughter and had qualms about separation anxiety for her daughter and herself. Our experienced duo gave loving insight and experience to this mom, along with introducing the teacher to her. The teacher also reinforced what they said and provided steps to take before the child entered the school. This is a scenario repeated frequently throughout the many years our preschool has been open.

The good Lord prepares our staff and the church with many intuitive actions and reactions that touches and instructs all those we encounter. I feel very blessed to have been shown how Holy Love Preschool and Kindergarten has provided spiritual building blocks to our past and current families. Droughts can bring renewal with careful nurturing - thank you Holy Love PS and K staff for your care!

*Most sincerely,
Kay Johnson, HLPS and K board member*



**Holy Love's
Preschool & Kindergarten
2022-2023 Staff**

In Loving Memory

Over the last several months, a couple of long time members passed into the arms of the Lord. Let us celebrate them and remember them fondly.



Verne Roenfeldt
March 13, 1935 -
July 1, 2022



Valerie Smith
July 22, 1955 -
August 24, 2022

Welcome to the Family!



New Member Sunday was August 21st. Three new families joined us. Welcome Connie, Charlene, Maggie, Kevin, Josie, & Macy.



Adeline Burton Ballenthin was welcomed into our family through Holy Baptism on June 19, 2022.

Her parents are Willie Ballenthin and Sarah Engle.

Reaching Out

Holy Love's outreach programming is growing.



The All Stars Club held it's first event on September 19th! Everyone had a blast!



KickStart kids say a prayer before each class. The next testing will be October 13th at 5 pm. All are welcome. This testing will be the program's first Black Belt testing.

Looking Back...

Day Camp

WOW! What a great time! Over 90 kids joined us for a week of fun, crafts, and learning about just how Boundless God's love really is. Thanks to our slew of volunteers who donated time, food, energy, and prayers to help make it so successful. We're looking forward to next year's. Great examples of Connected into Community, Intentional Discipleship, and Cultivating Inclusive Christians. Save the date for next summer: June 19-23, 2023



Confirmation Camp:

Three of our middle school youths and Pastor Brittany spent the week at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. For all but one camper, it was everyone's first time up there. We had a great time hiking, rafting, and playing. Our campers were responsible for planning and leading a Worship of the Cross, where they re-enacted over ten scenes from Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. It was a meaningful, moving worship experience for all at camp! Truly we are living into our Core Values of being Faithfully Curious, Intentional Discipleship, and Theologically Guided. Save the dates for this summer's Confirmation Camp: June 25-July 1, 2023

Looking Back...



Summer Landscaping:

Our West Entrance was beautifully re-landscaped thanks to Steve and friends just in time for our Preschool families to come back to school. Thanks to everyone who helped!

Christmas in July

Our annual Christmas in July food drive resumed this year. Thanks to you, we collected over 50 bags of contributions that went to a local food bank.

Thank you to our long time food pantry organizers, Bob & Peggy Apmann who are going to be handing the reins over to someone new this year. Over the years, Bob & Peggy have worked hard to make sure food is delivered to local food banks. Your service has been greatly appreciated.



Sky Ranch Mission Trip

In late July, six of our youth and two adult leaders joined other area youth groups on a mission trip to Omaha, NE and Tulsa, OK. The trip was intended to act as a service trip and to broaden their perspectives. While there, they helped out in a food pantry and did clean up work. They were also given an opportunity to learn about the racial violence that occurred in the areas and visit Black Wall Street. Thank you to all who supported this mission trip. It made a big impression on the lives of our young people.

Looking Back...

Sunday School is in Session



Laura Flynn and Karen Then are back at the helm of Holy Love's Sunday School. Classes started Sept 18 for ages 3 & up.

Holy Spirits on Tap



Holy Spirits on Tap continues to meet monthly. This summer we sampled BJ's Brewpub, Helga's German Restaurant, LuBo's Pizza, and Dry Dock. Check your Enews for the next date and location.

Congratulations, Amy!

While we are sad that Amy won't be working in the office of Holy Love anymore, we wish her all of the best in her new position as a Chaplain Resident at St. Anthony's hospital. Amy was honored during our service and fellowship hour on September 11th.



Thank you, Holy Love for the lovely sending and celebration! The cake was delicious, the prayer book already has been used well, and your encouragement and prayers continue to bless my new path of chaplaincy. With deep gratitude for all our shared ministry these four-ish years,

Amy Schmuck
Chaplain Resident
St. Anthony's Hospital
Lakewood, CO

"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday



Volunteers from Holy Love, All Saints, and Lord of the Hills Lutheran Churches came together on GWOH Sunday to put together hospitality baskets for Habitat for Humanity. Thank you all for your hard work.



Coming Up

- October 1** **Parking Lot Theater**
(East Parking Lot from 1-3 pm)
- October 12** **AM Bible Study**
(Youth Room from 9:30-11am)
- October 13** **KickStart Rank Testing**
(Fellowship Hall at 5 pm. Open to the public)
- October 17** **All Stars**
- October 22** **Fall Fest**
(Holy Love's Fall cleanup. Watch the E-News for details)
- October 29** **Trunk or Treat**
(East Parking Lot from 3-5pm)
- October 30** **Reformation Sunday**
- November 2** **AM Bible Study**
(Youth Room from 9:30-11am)
-



It's B-A-A-CK!

Holy Love's
3rd Annual Trunk or Treat.

Oct. 29 from 3-5 pm
Check your E-News for details