

# HAVEN MESSENGER



## HAVEN MISSION STATEMENT

*(adopted 2/26/06 by Haven Church)*

*"To honor God, to reach out with love to our members and the community and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ."*

## February 2021

## WORSHIP SERVICE IN-PERSON & FACEBOOK LIVE

### Sunday mornings at 9:30 am

Worship Service with Communion in person in the church sanctuary  
(social distancing and masks required)

Worship Service LIVE on the Haven Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/Haven-Lutheran-Church-134647913268366> or access by clicking the 'F' icon in the upper right corner of the Haven website [www.havenlc.org](http://www.havenlc.org))



Dear Haven Neighbors, Friends and Members,

As we ready this newsletter, we have just pinned down dates and times for congregational meetings and what would be faithful, meaningful practices for Ash Wednesday and Lent. There may be a pandemic but ministry, mission and worship continue at Haven Lutheran Church. Thanks be to God.

We will be sending out a letter soon to tell you about the church ROOF PROJECT. Yes, it is finally going to happen. We have a bid. Our Finance Team has looked at our current resources to see what could be committed to the cost and the amount for which we would need a loan. Again, we find we have been blessed. It appears that at least two-thirds of the cost can will be covered by a portion of our Special Gifts, investment and building funds. We can give thanks for the generosity of many and the wisdom of those who have overseen our finances in the last decades. We will **need a congregational meeting with a quorum on February 14th** to approve engaging the roof contractor and getting the needed loan (estimated to be about \$100,000.) The actual proposals are included in the COUNCIL portion of this newsletter.

Since we still are not able to meet together in one place at this point in COVID, we have set up two times for people to ask questions about the roof project and loan and share opinions on **Sunday, February 7th**. Persons attending worship in the sanctuary on February 7th may stay after worship to discuss the roof and loan and ask questions. Those worshipping at home are invited to a **February 7th ZOOM meeting at 12 noon** --- in plenty of time for you to make the Super Bowl kickoff later in the day. (The link will be emailed to those on our email list.) We are also researching how to include those faithful

members who don't "Zoom." We will use the weekly E-Message, special E-mails, this newsletter and a mailing (hoping the postal service cooperates) to communicate.

LENT comes upon us very early this year. Ash Wednesday is February 17. When the Worship Team met, we had a great deal to consider. In-person mid-week Lenten services are not an option. Using the latest CDC guidelines, there are not enough days between Sunday, Wednesday and the next Sunday to be assured possible coronavirus has died. Is there really any way to distribute ashes on Ash Wednesday that is safe? No, not unless I would change the glove on my hand after each person which is just not practical. But the gift and opportunities are NOT cancelled. You can read about what we *will* offer under Worship Team below.

I do miss seeing many of you. I do miss our worshipping together, able to respond and sing with gusto. I do miss visiting our homebound and those who are at the hospital. And what about the bountiful table of food and counter of desserts at the annual congregational meeting? Amid all that you and I miss, we still can give thanks for God's presence and work among and through us: Waking up to that beautiful dusting of snow on the trees and bushes; our children enjoying their God Squad Explorer mailings and activities; the offerings that you continue to send as witness of your trust in God and commitment to God's mission; working around COVID to provide lunches at Potomac Towers and Christmas food baskets. Keep awake, keep watch, Jesus tells us. Beyond COVID and its restrictions, beyond the challenges our nation faces, beyond our anxiety and fears is our God who IS faithful, life-giving and loving, walking beside and before us and who has given us one another.

Your pastor and partner in ministry,  
Linda M. Alessandri

## **COUNCIL**

### **SPECIAL INFORMATION MEETINGS FOR UPCOMING ROOF AND LOAN PROPOSALS**

**February 7, immediately after worship  
February 7, 12 noon ZOOM meeting**

This month we have an important decision to make as a congregation -- Do we go forward with the replacement of our church/narthex/parlor roof, refurbishing of the church steeple and replacement of the church AC unit? If the answer is "yes," we will need to take out a loan for approximately one-third of the cost (\$100,000). Thanks to the wonderful work of Finance Team member, Michael Manspeaker, and the cooperation of our bank, Middletown Valley Bank, a loan is available to us with a low interest rate (2.25% fixed.)

While there will be time on February 14<sup>th</sup> to ask questions and offer opinions on the day we vote on these proposals, we wanted to allow folks the opportunity to do so before the actual day of voting. In this way, you can have the information you need as you pray and discern your voting decision. **SO MARK FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> ON YOUR CALENDAR.** Stay after worship on February 7<sup>th</sup> OR join a 12:00 noon ZOOM meeting on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> to gather information and share a discussion about the church roof and loan proposals. We need your input, insights and interest to work together toward a wise decision that we can stand by and lift up for our Lord's blessing.

# TWO IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING THIS MONTH.

We need a Quorum of 50 to conduct our important business!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO VOTE ON ROOF AND LOAN PROPOSALS

Sunday, February 14, 10:30 am

In church sanctuary AND on ZOOM

The roof and loan proposal are printed below. We will be doing our best to communicate information about the proposals and the February 7<sup>th</sup> Special Congregational meeting as widely as possible --- e-mail, Haven's E-Messages, Haven Messenger, and a mailing. IF you have not received the e-mail notice or mailing by February 5<sup>th</sup>, please let us know and we will get a copy to you ASAP.

IMPORTANT  
Meeting



This is a serious financial commitment for our church community. When we engage a contractor for these needed projects, we are promising to pay them.

To pay them, we will use some of Haven's funds and get a loan that we also promise to repay. Together we CAN do this, but only together, each contributing as they are able!

We have been waiting a long time to finally get this work done to maintain Haven's worship space, a part of the mission outpost entrusted to us for our Lord's work. PLEASE make every effort to join this February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in the church building or on-line via Zoom. We pray that as a community we can make wise decisions that are pleasing to our Lord and faithful to God's mission here at Haven.

### Proposed Motions from Church Council for the Roof Replacement Project

#### Motion One:

To authorize Haven Lutheran Church to enter into a loan agreement with Middletown Valley Bank with the following condition/terms. The proceeds from this loan are to be used for the replace the roof over the Sanctuary, Parlor and Narthex, refurbish the steeple and to install a new air-conditioner for the Sanctuary.

LOAN AMOUNT:	\$100,000
INTEREST RATE:	2.25%, fixed
TERM:	7-year fully amortizing note
PAYMENT:	Monthly principal & interest payment of approximately \$1,292
COLLATERAL:	Assignment of account lien against Church's Money Market Account with Middletown Valley Bank
GUARANTOR:	N/A
FEES:	\$250 documentation fee
PREPAYMENT PENALTY:	None
OTHER:	1) Provide MVB with church meeting minutes approving loan request and authorized signer(s) for the loan. 2) Provide MVB with church financials annually. 3) Maintain primary business checking account with MVB for the life of the loan. 4) All third-party closing costs to be paid by borrower.

#### Motion Two:

To enter into the following contracts for the purpose of replacing the roof over the Sanctuary, Parlor and Narthex, refurbishing the steeple and to installing a new air-conditioner for the Sanctuary.

Heidler Roofing Services	\$320,721
Campbellsville Industries (steeple repair)	\$19,934
Shifler Electrical Associates, Inc.	\$30,965

In addition, to authorize the Council to spend, if necessary, an additional \$20,000 for unknown contingencies.

Funds for this work to come from various Special Gifts Funds, the General Fund as well as a \$100,000 loan from Middletown Valley Bank.



**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, February 28, 10:30 am**  
**In church sanctuary AND on ZOOM**



We'll miss the coffee and appetizers, sitting with one another for a meeting and for conversation, and, of course, that bounty of potluck side dishes and desserts. Yet, there is still "business" that needs our attention. Included in those necessities are the acceptance of the minutes from last year's annual meeting and the election of new Council members. We are in the process of preparing the annual report for distribution. It will be a bit slim but still full of our mission and ministries. Complete copies will be made available in the church narthex, website, on the parsonage back porch and, when needed, by delivery or mailing.

**PARISH EDUCATION**

**WEEKLY WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM**

Pastor Alessandri continues to lead a weekly study on of the readings for the upcoming Sunday. No Bible knowledge or experience needed. Masks and social distancing will be required. Use the door nearest the Big Brothers Big Sisters office & follow the signs. Come explore God's Word with fellow members & see how the Holy Spirit will fill us. We learn... we laugh... we support each other. ALL are welcome.



**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – We will meet for study of scripture & discussion on **Thursday, January 4 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Sunday School room off the main hallway. Please use the Big Brothers/Big Sisters entrance & follow the signs for Bible Study and remember to wear a mask.

This month we will continue our study of "Journey with Angels" called "Turnaround Angels." It can be found in the January/February issue of "Gather" magazine. Copies will also be available on the shelves inside the entrances to the church. If you would like a copy of the study delivered to your home, please contact Elaine Michael at 301-992-1191 or [emichaelteach@yahoo.com](mailto:emichaelteach@yahoo.com).

**GOD SQUAD EXPLORERS**



Our God Squad will continue to explore the life of Jesus and what he taught us. They will look at what Jesus tells us about helping others. They will also look at how God loves us and everyone. What a great adventure! Thank you for your prayers for our children, their families and our Parish Ed Team.

## Parish Life



**HAVEN'S BOOK CLUB** – We will meet in the Gathering Room on **Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**. **THIS TENDER LAND** by William Kent Krueger is our selection for February. We will discuss this unforgettable story of four orphans who travel the Mississippi River on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression. Bring your mask, we have hand sanitizer and wipes, and we practice social distancing. We look forward to seeing you – Joan Schupp

**BOOK CART HAS NEW BOOKS** – There were new books donated to the book cart so if you are looking for something to read, take a book and return it when you are finished with it. You can also loan it to someone else who might enjoy it as well.

## WORSHIP

### **LENT 2021**

Here is what I've been thinking about LENT this year. Many of us are feeling like we have been living in the somber and seriousness of the Lenten spirit for over a year. We have long stepped away from “the normal” and had to abstain from a great deal for almost 12 months. It seems to me, that we need light in this COVID living. Light that points us toward the joy and hope of being an Easter people.

So, I wonder ---- What might you or I do during Lent, that would bring God's light of joy, love or peace into our lives, homes and communities? One call or note a day to cheer someone? Pick up a craft, baking, a hobby that you

really enjoy and find ways to share it with others? Take a walk or sit at a window to marvel at God's creation? Send pastor cartoons, jokes, music suggestions or inspirational stories to include in the E-Message? What would make you smile and say, “Thank you, Lord!” What might you or I do to make someone else smile and say, “Thank you, Lord!”

How can we use this COVID season of Lent to give honor to our Lord, draws us closer to God and our neighbor and have some loving fun? We may not be able to see the light at the end of the COVID tunnel but we can claim and share some of God's light while we slowly move forward toward new life. I invite you to ponder the possibilities. Any past Lenten traditions are open for you to adapt or reimagine. Let's make this Lenten season a time of renewal. Like sunflowers that turn and lean toward the sun, let's turn toward the source of all LIGHT and be refreshed this Lent.



## LENTEN SUPPLY BAGS --- SUPPLIES FOR YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY

To help us prepare for a meaningful Lenten season, we will provide you with some supplies for the journey into the UNFOLDING LIGHT.

**For those who usually worship in the church on Sunday**, your bag will have a Lenten devotional, a copy of Holden Evening Prayer\* and a small bar of soap and a bulletin for Ash Wednesday worship. We will ask you to add 1) an Ash Wednesday bulletin and 2) one package of blessed communion sets for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday for each person in your household. It will be available in the narthex on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**For those worshipping with us at home**, you may pick up your Lenten supplies at the parsonage back porch after 2 pm on Friday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be bags that have a Lenten devotional, a copy of Holden Evening Prayer, \*and a small bar of soap and a bulletin for Ash Wednesday worship. We'd ask you to add 1) additional copies of the Ash Wednesday bulletin and Holden Evening Prayer for each member of your household and 2) packages of blessed communion sets, one for each member of your household. The bags of communion elements will include sets for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and each Sunday of Lent through Feb. 21.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PICK UP a Lenten supply bag, please contact Pastor Alessandri ([l.alessandri1035@gmail.com](mailto:l.alessandri1035@gmail.com)) or the church office (301-733-5056; [havenoffice@havenlc.org](mailto:havenoffice@havenlc.org)) We have volunteers willing to deliver the bags so everyone can participate.

*\*We ask that you please return Holden Evening Prayer after Easter so we can use them again in coming years. Thank you*

### ASH WEDNESDAY February 17, 7:00 p.m. \*Live stream

We will come together via live stream to mark the beginning of the Lenten season. To follow safety guidelines, we will not be able to receive ashes or have worship in the sanctuary. Still, we start our Lenten adventure of UNFOLDING LIGHT together. Ready the bulletin (s) and communion elements from your Lenten Supply Bag (see above) as you join in the live stream worship. Find out what the little bar of soap is all about.



### February 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24 7:00 p.m. Live stream Holden Evening Prayer

A theme for the midweek reflections is still to be selected. What we do know is that we will use the lovely, peace-filled Holden Evening Prayer liturgy.\* So you can follow and sing along, we will lend copies of Holden Evening Prayer through Lenten Worship Bags (see above) or upon request.

*\*liturgy = order of worship and musical setting*



## WORSHIP READINGS

### **February 7**

Isaiah 40:25-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, Mark 1:29-39

### **February 14**

#### **Transfiguration of Our Lord**

2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, Mark 9:2-9

### **February 21**

Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, Mark 1:9-15

### **February 28**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Mark 8:31-38

## SONG LEADER SCHEDULE

**February 7** – Charlotte, Loveless, Margaret McKee

**February 14** – Aura Wiles, Bill Clark

**February 17** (Ash Wednesday) Charlotte Loveless, Bill Clark

**February 21** – Aura Wiles, Margaret McKee

**February 28** Charlotte Loveless, Bill Clark

## WORSHIP LEADERS & HELPERS SCHEDULE

	<u>Assisting Minister</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
<b>Feb. 7</b>	Aura Wiles	Danny Kiblinger	Elaine Michael, Bob Snyder, Marge Cunningham
<b>Feb. 14</b>	Marge Cunningham	Austin Suchy	Doug Wright, Dave Resh, Susan Strobl
<b>Feb. 21</b>	Danny Kiblinger	Maddie Haupt	Marge Cunningham, Elaine Michael, Bob Snyder
<b>Feb. 28</b>	Terry Trovinger	Austin Suchy	Amy Mason, Dave Resh, Susan Strobl

## FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS

### February 2

#### **Team 1**

Amy Mason, Jan Merique, Judy Teeter, Becky Plavcan

### February 12

#### **Team 2**

Sue Nelson, Pastor Alessandri, Marge Cunningham

## HAVEN FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Even during a pandemic, we have 13 faithful volunteers at St. Marks Food Bank this year. A day at the Food Bank happens every other month and is only 2 hours of your time. All precautions are in place for your safety. We also need volunteers that can be called upon to substitute. Serving as a Food Bank Volunteer is a rewarding service opportunity. If you are interested, please call Pat Pile at 301-791-3470.



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

*Look who's celebrating special days this month!!!*

### BIRTHDAY'S THIS MONTH

Carolyn Brogunier	02/04
Laura Manspeaker	02/05
Melita Kaplan	02/09
Aaron Richards	02/11
Robert Snyder	02/11
Drew Pensis	02/14
Meghan Byers	02/15
Jane Bowen	02/18
Shaun Rollins	02/19
Richard Hess	02/20
Margaret Manspeaker	02/20
Terry Hill	02/22
Marissa McKenzie	02/24
John Richards	02/25



### NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks. I appreciate all calls, food, thoughts and prayers while I was recovering from COVID 19. Always remember to wear the mask. Thank you,  
Danny Kiblinger





# FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 1:00 AFG	3 10:00 Bible Study	4 10:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Coda	5 5:30 AFG	6
7 (Noisy/Hunger offering)  9:30 Worship In-person and Live on Facebook <b>Informational Mtgs after Worship and 12:00 ZOOM</b>	8	9 1:00 AFG	10 10:00 Bible Study	11 6:30 Coda	12 5:30 AFG	13
14  9:30 Worship In-person and Live on Facebook <b>Congregational Meeting 10:30 ROOF &amp; LOAN Proposals (in Nave &amp; Zoom)</b>	15 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Council Meeting	16 1:00 AFG	17 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 10:00 Bible Study  7:00 <b>Ash Wednesday Worship</b> Live stream on Facebook	18 2:00 Book Club 6:30 Coda	19 5:30 AFG	20
21 (Holly Place offering)  9:30 Worship In-person and Live on Facebook	22	23 1:00 AFG	24 10:00 Bible Study  7:00 pm Lenten <u>Holden Evening Prayer</u> Lenten Worship Live stream on Facebook	25 6:30 CoDa	26 5:30 AFG	27
28  9:30 Worship In-person and Live on Facebook <b>Congregational Meeting (10:30 am in-person &amp; Zoom)</b>						



# Haven Messenger

## February

**HAVEN**  
**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN**  
**CHURCH**  
1035 HAVEN ROAD  
HAGERSTOWN, MD  
21742

