

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."



December 2021

WORSHIP SERVICE IN-PERSON & FACEBOOK LIVE

Sunday mornings at 9:30 am

Worship Service with Communion in person in the church sanctuary

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)



Dear Haven family, friends and guests,

For decades now, my family has exchanged Christmas lists. My Mom began the tradition when my sister and I were no longer living with my parents. She wanted to give us things we really needed or wanted rather than

trying to guess. The tradition has continued to include my brothers-in-law, my nephew, his wife and now their son. I like it for the same reason my Mom did --- you know you're giving something that will honestly and undoubtedly be appreciated.

The problem comes when I have to provide a list of my own. I look in my closets and drawers --- no clothing needed. I look around the house --- nothing else I need or want to add. I look in the basement at my Christmas decorations (*gasp*) --- I am already over-the-top with Christmas items. Even the cats' basket of toys is overflowing! 1039 is full and actually could do with some decluttering.

"What do you want for Christmas?" Can I tell the truth? Time and fun with family and friends... times of peace and quiet... donations to Haven's food baskets, Micah's backpack and ELCA Disaster Relief or World Hunger... getting to sit with one of you to listen to your family stories ...genuine hugs... catching up with those I haven't spoken with for a while... clothing for the

Afghanistan refugees (*more below*) ... prayers ... watching a laugh-out-loud movie with others...AND, remembering each morning and evening whose I am and how faithful and generous our Lord is.

It's been another unsettling and challenging year. Last Christmas, we grieved not being able to "have Christmas" like we always did. Here's a stunning idea – we have this great opportunity to decide what we will and what we won't keep in our holiday preparations and celebrations. What did you do without last year that you really don't need to pick up again or in the same way? What is truly important and life-giving that you want to keep or discover these Advent and Christmas seasons? Could it be that COVID has opened a door for us to do some decluttering --- the opportunity to sort through what is important and what is not to make our lives, church, Christmas, world less hectic and more meaningful?

I don't think I will get away with giving my family my true Christmas list. But my eyes have been opened. It's not just my closet and (*gasp*) basement that could use some clearing. How about letting go of some of the worry, fear, anxieties, items in an over-crowded schedule so there is room to rest and trust in the Lord's all-the-time-goodness... room to notice God's mercy, love and beauty at work in and around us. That is more than a wish on a list. It is a way of life with God in the center. It has to do with accepting the Lord's gift of love that is solid, perfect, forever and trustworthy. We'll see that love in the face of a baby in Bethlehem and receive it in the bread and wine of communion. Unwrap God's freely given gift of love this Advent and Christmas season. There is no better gift and it will keep on unfolding each and every day.

Your pastor and partner in ministry,
Linda M Alessandri

P.S. I will begin my drive to Atlanta after our Christmas Eve worship service to see my family. I will return on December 31. In my absence, please call Pastor Allen Reed (301-331-6368) for pastoral care.

A DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS PROJECT COMES TO HAVEN

WINTER CLOTHING URGENTLY NEEDED FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES



We have become aware through the Hagerstown Area Religious Council that Catholic Charities Immigration Refugees Services of Harrisburg is in dire need of **winter clothing** for Afghan refugees.

Background These are families of Afghans who were employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government or military U.S. whose lives were in grave danger when the U.S. withdrew from Afghanistan on August 30th and a new Afghan government came into power. They were promised future safety for themselves and their families in gratitude for their assistance. Honoring our promise, 65,000 Afghans have been granted refuge and arrived in the U.S. as of September 2021. The majority are still residing in seven military bases across the country. Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee services and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) are two of the organizations helping with the resettlement of these Afghan refugees. *(Interesting factoid: 90% of Afghan SIV (Special Immigrant Visas) holders are reported to have completed secondary education or higher and have strong English language skills.)*

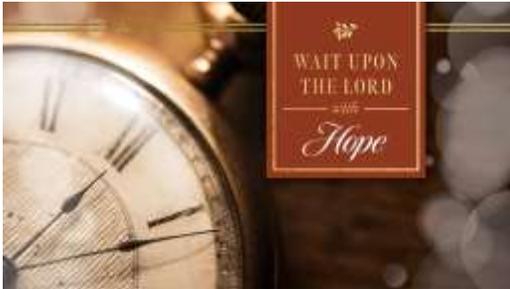
We have not received any requests yet from LIRS but we did through our local Hagerstown Area Religious Council. There is great need for **NEW or GENTLY USED (like new) coats, hats, gloves, scarves and socks of all sizes for men, women and children.** Collection dates are **November 28-December 19.** We will designate one of Haven's coatrooms for donations.

This collection is a partnership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, HARC, and Catholic Charities Immigration Refugees Services of Harrisburg. Thanks to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for coordinating the effort. As August 30th neared, I heard many, many stories of military personnel and veterans working frantically to help their Afghan allies get to safety. Helping these refugees honors those American armed forces personnel who served in Afghanistan *and* those Afghan allies they depended upon. Helping these refugees honors the Lord who reminded us that when we serve the least of these we serve Jesus himself. God's Work. Our Hands.

“WAIT UPON THE LORD” WELCOME TO ADVENT



Each church year begins with the season of **Advent**. It begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continues until we arrive at the Christmas season on Christmas Eve.



Traditionally, **Advent** is a season of preparation as we look toward the celebration of our Lord Jesus coming at Bethlehem and his promised return at the end of human time. **Advent** has also become a place to step out of the holiday busyness and rest in the Lord at worship and in daily devotional readings. It is amazing how much our spirits can be fed and soothed when we let the Lord into our days and lives, even if for a 5 – 10-minute devotional reading that percolates in our minds and hearts for the rest of the day.



This year's **Advent** theme at Haven is “Wait Upon the Lord,” a phrase found in the Psalms and Isaiah.



Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD! *Psalm 27:14*

Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD. *Psalm 31:24*

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; *Psalm 130:5*

but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their

strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. *Isaiah 40: 31*

In the four Sundays of **Advent**, we will explore and wonder about what it means to “Wait Upon the Lord” with faith (Nov. 28; guest preacher, seminarian Katy Moran), with hope (Dec, 5), with rejoicing (Dec. 12, guest preacher, Pastor Sherry Miller) and with gratitude (Dec.19). We hope you will come together with your community of faith each Sunday to rest and be nourished.

There are also **Advent** devotional booklets available for adults (regular and large print) and teens. Children will get their Advent materials “special delivery.”

It has been another unsettling and wild year. How we long for some Christmas cheer and for God’s gift of peace at a manger. Enjoy all your Christmas preparations and each moment you pause to “wait upon the Lord” in prayer, scripture and worship.



**MARK YOUR DECEMBER
CALENDARS!**
COME ENJOY WONDERFUL MUSIC
TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS
December 11th at 5:00 pm



with
HAVEN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Featuring: The St. James Brass & Haven Lutheran Church Senior Choir

COUNCIL

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING UPDATE

We thank all who attended the November 21st congregational meeting in-person or via Zoom. We were able to have a quorum and passed the proposed 2022 Financial Plan for Ministry (also known as “the budget.”)

As noted by our Treasurer, Jim Cannon, and Finance Team member, Mike Manspeaker, our 2022 Financial Plan is a conservative one. The increase in offering expectations is only .8 % higher than it was in 2021. They encouraged us all to continue to be faithful in our giving to the ministry of Haven AND to consider if we each could increase our giving. (*Maybe by 1% or .8%*)

We also learned that due to the stellar response to our Faith Building Together debt reduction campaign, we have not only been able to make our monthly payments but also a substantial payment toward the principal of the loan. If we continue to honor our pledges toward that debt reduction, we may be able to pay off the loan in 2 – 3 years AND perhaps replenish our building fund reserves.

Many thanks for your faithful generosity to God’s church and ministry here at Haven. Your sharing of your time, talents and treasure honors our Lord and builds our trust in God’s own great generosity.

 
“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for GOD loves a cheerful giver.”
2 C o r i n t h i a n s 9 : 7

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY



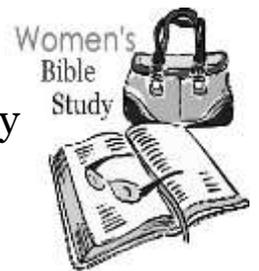
Our God Squad Explorers, Charlie, Tanner, Georgia and Daniel, enjoyed an Adventure in Thankfulness. They baked snickerdoodle cookies, boxed them and made a special Thank You card designed by Mike and Robin Schaefer to give to a special person in their life for whom they were thankful. We are anxious to find out who got their thank-filled treat. The Explorers also selected pictures of things they are thankful for and placed them on a display board as their Thanksgiving card to the congregation.

Attention God Squad Explorers and Parents!

On December 5th at 10:45 a.m. the God Squad Explorers will embark on an **Adventure into Christmas Around the World**. Preschool to fifth graders are invited! If you are able, bring some new socks for children in need. A request: We ask that a parent or grandparent attend with our preschoolers to help us make the most of our diverse-aged group of explorers. Thank you.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Women will meet for a special Advent Bible Study on **Monday, December 20** (note change in meeting day due to Christmas) at **10:00 a.m.** in the Adult Sunday School Room.

The study may be found in the November/December issue of "Gather" magazine. Copies will be available from Elaine Michael. All women are welcome!



FAITH BUILDING TOGETHER



As of November 21, we have received **\$64,093.30*** toward retiring our \$100,000 property project.
*(*Includes \$253.00 raised through the Advent log raffle.)*

Reminder. When sending in or dropping off your donations towards this project please use a separate envelope marked Roof/Steeple Project OR a separate check to help the money counters easily keep track of all Roof/Steeple contributions. **IF** you really prefer to use one check, PLEASE write on the memo line the amount that is offering and the amount that is for the roof project. You can also make an electronic donation towards the project directly from your checking account by contacting our Administrative Assistant, Mary to arrange it. Thank you for your prayer filled donations!

HUNGER TEAM

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS RETURN – Hooray for Haven Lutheran Church! We will once again give food baskets at Christmas. In doing so, we share God's love and concern for others. The Christmas tree and tags went up at the church on Sunday, November 14th. Food and money started being collected on Sunday, November 21st and will continue through Sunday, December 19th.



This year, we will sponsor **10 families** from Fountaindale Elementary School. During the collection period, volunteers will collect the food placed under the Christmas tree. Items will be housed in the kitchen and counted. On 12/19, we will complete a final count and determine what else is needed to fill the baskets. On 12/22, the team will shop (in the morning) to pick up the hams, eggs, bread, and apples. Families will be asked to pick up their boxes starting at 11 am. There will be no delivery of boxes, families must pick them up at an assigned time between 11am and 2pm.

The Hunger Team thanks the congregation for their donations and helping families in need during this Christmas season.

The Hunger Team would like to ask the congregation to pray for the families receiving the baskets. Also, give thanks for the staff at Fountaindale who care enough about their pupils to do the necessary paperwork to enable us to carry out this project. Thank you and blessings to everyone!!

PARISH LIFE



HAVEN'S BOOK CLUB – We meet on **Thursday, December 16 at 2 pm** to discuss *CHRISTMASTIME 1940: A LOVE STORY*, by Linda Mahkovec. Plan now to join us for warm fellowship and maybe some Christmas cheer! Any questions, contact Joan Schupp, 301-797-7536 or ed.schupp@myactv.net. Looking ahead to January 2022, our selection is *AMERICAN DIRT* by Jeanine Cummins.

PROPERTY

THANK YOU FOR ALL THOSE WHO HELPED CLEAN UP HAVEN!

WORSHIP

WORSHIP READINGS

December 5

Isaiah 40: 27-31; John 1: 1-5

December 12

I Samuel 2: 1-3; Luke 1: 39-45

December 19

Isaiah 51: 2-4; Luke 1:67-79

December 26

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17,
Luke 2:41-52

WORSHIP LEADERS & HELPERS SCHEDULE

Assisting Minister

Acolyte

Ushers

Dec. 5 Danny Kiblinger	Melita Kaplan	Kathy Wright, Kim Pile, Scott Rhodes
Dec. 12 Marge Cunningham	Ethan Rhodes	Amy Mason, Marge Cunningham, Kathleen Kline
Dec. 19 Aura Wiles	Danny Kiblinger	Bob Snyder, Elaine Michael, Susan Strobl
Dec. 24 Danny Kiblinger	Austin Suchy	Kathy Wright, Kim Pile, Will Seilhammer
Dec. 26 Synod Worship Online (No In-Person Worship Service)		
Securing the Building in December: Nancy Newkirk, Elaine Michael		



A Safe COVID-Defying, Merry Christmas Gathering
Sunday, December 19, 4:30 pm

Come as you are in your car to Haven's parking lot

We had so much fun last year, we wanted to do it again this year! We'll use our FM transmitter so you can participate in singing carols, sharing prayers and lifting up our Christmas spirits from the safety of your car. We'll distribute songbooks and a battery-powered votive light you can turn on when we finish with "Silent Night." Here's a safe way to be together as a congregation and be gifts to one another.

Dress is casual (pajamas acceptable). Bring extra battery-powered votive lights if you have them to add to your car's festive spirit. But, most of all, bring your love and all your best wishes for everyone to have a blessed Christmas and a much better new year!

CHRISTMAS EVE
SPECIAL MUSIC AND WORSHIP

December 24

Special Music begins at 6:30 p.m.

Worship at 7:00 p.m.

(In-person and on-line)

This year there will be **one** Christmas Eve worship service at Haven. We will bring together the sweetness of the earlier family service and the loveliness of the later traditional service to one service at 7:00 p.m. In addition,



our organist and music director, Steve Pastena, is pulling together congregational musical talents for special music to start at 6:30 p.m. It will be a wonderful Christmas celebration that will surely bless all.

The Worship Team has discussed the worship schedule for Christmas Eve since September. We were considering COVID and the attendance at each service in the last years. We even spoke to our parents with younger children to ask if a 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service would be too late for their families. *(They all said 7 p.m. would work for them.)*

We know it is not “the way we’ve always done it” but we hope you will agree that it will be a great celebration. One you can happily invite family and friends to attend with you.

First Sunday of Christmas Worship Service

December 26, 2021

9:30 am Online Worship Only

*Service of Christmas Carols and Lessons provided by the DE- MD Synod

You will be able to link to the service through a Haven Lutheran link (accessed via our website or a link sent by e-mail to those enrolled in Haven's Family and Friends e-mail list).

*The DE-MD Synod put this special service today to provide local worship leaders and musician a break and rest after the busy holiday season, allowing them to have time with their families in the Christmas season. When the Worship Team presented this on-line only option for December 26th to Haven’s Council, it was unanimously approved.)

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends of Holly Place,

On behalf of the residents, staff, and the Board of Directors of Senior Living Alternatives, Inc., I would like to thank you all for the very generous \$100.00 donation to Holly Place. We truly appreciate your continued support!

Because of you, we can continue to serve at risk seniors, and provide them a loving, safe, affordable place to call home... **Sincerely, Melanie J. Davis, Exec. Dir.**

(All notes in their entirety are posted on the bulletin board in the hall by the restrooms.)

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS

December 7 ~ Team 1 Ed Distad, Jan Merique, Judy Teter, Becky Plavcan

December 10 ~ Team 2 Sue Nelson, Pastor Alessandri, Marge Cunningham

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

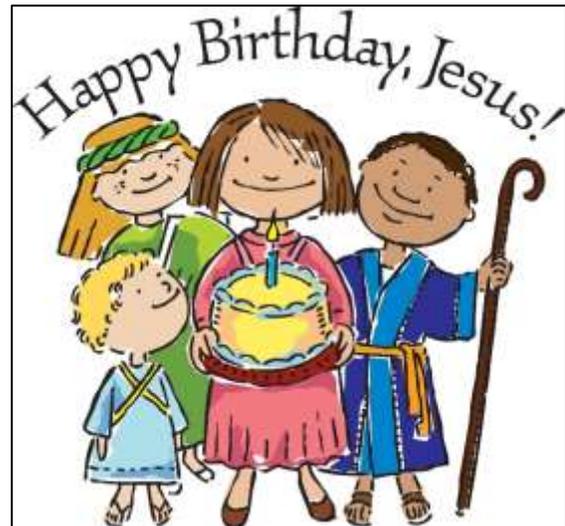
Look who's celebrating special days this month!!!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jack Dickinson	12/01
Joan Schupp	12/01
Jaclyn Muse	12/02
Lauren Harden	12/03
JoAnn Shankle	12/03
Benjamin Lightfoot	12/04
Dorothy Zinkand	12/04
Stephen Kauffman	12/06
JoyEllen Bergschneider	12/10
Kevin Pile	12/10
Kathy Amos	12/12
Lauren Huguenin	12/14
Michael Manspeaker	12/14
Margaret Cunningham	12/17
Sandy Powell	12/20
Jim Cannon	12/21
Rebecca Plavcan	12/22
Jensen Richards	12/22
Penny Hill	12/23
Jamie Cannon	12/28
Susan Strobl	12/30
Carol Shull	12/31



December
BIRTHDAYS



Baptism
ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Amy Mason	12/18
Ned & Millie Strange	12/29



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Melita Kaplan	12/01
Jon Bracken	12/04
Tanaya Richards	12/15
Julie Faith	12/20
Emily Butsch	12/25
Morgan Butsch	12/26

*If your birthday or anniversary is missing please contact the church office to update the information.
We want to celebrate all our members special days!*

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scout #103 7:00 Choir	2 5:00 BBBS Big/Little Activity Night 6:30 CoDa	3 5:30 AFG	4
5 Advent 2 <i>(Noisy/Hunger offering)</i> 9:30 Worship In-person and FB Live 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 God Squad Explorers Event 12:00 Confirmation	6 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Boy Scout #103 7:00 Barbershop 7:00 Property Mtg.	7 1:00 AFG 6:30 Friends in Service	8 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scout #103 7:00 Choir	9 5:00 BBBS Board Committee Meeting 6:30 CoDa	10 5:30 AFG	11 5 p.m. Haven's Community Christmas Concert
12 Advent 3 9:30 Worship In-person and FB Live 11:00 Sunday School 12:00 Confirmation	13 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Boy Scout #103 7:00 Barbershop 7:00 Worship Mtg.	14 1:00 AFG	15 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scout #103 7:00 Choir	16 9:30 Ed Team Zoom Meeting 2:00 Book Club 5:00 BBBS Big/Little Activity Night 6:30 CoDa	17 5:30 AFG	18

19 Advent 4 (Holly Place Offering) 9:00 S. S. Orchestra 9:30 Worship In-person/Live 11:00 Sunday School 12:00 NO confirmation 4:30 pm Drive-Up Caroling Party	20 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Boy Scout #103 7:00 Barbershop 7:00 Council	21 1:00 AFG	22 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scout #103 6:30 BBBS Board Meeting 7:00 Choir	23 10:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 CoDa	24 5:30 AFG 7:00 Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 Christmas Day
					OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS	

26 9:30 WORSHIP ON-LINE ONLY (No In-person Service today)	27 No Bells 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting (Haven West) 7:00 Barbershop	28 1:00 AFG	29 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scout #103 No Choir	30 6:30 CoDa	31 5:30 AFG	
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OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK DECEMBER 24 – JANUARY 2

Pastor Alessandri away December 25 – 31 please contact Pastor Allen Reed for pastoral care at (301-331-6368).

Pastor Linda Alessandri

Email: pastorlma@havenlc.org Phone: 301-733-5056 (ext. 2)

Mary Grabill, Administrative Assistant

Email: havenoffice@havenlc.org Phone: 301-733-5056 (ext. 1)

Haven Lutheran Church

1035 Haven Road * Hagerstown, Maryland 21742

Phone: 301-733-5056 Fax: 301-733-8725 Website: www.havenlc.org

Sharon's Christmas

She was five,

sure of the facts,
and recited them
with slow solemnity,
convinced every word
was revelation.

She said

they were so poor

they had only peanut butter

and jelly sandwiches to eat

and they went a long way from home
without getting lost. The lady rode
a donkey, the man walked, and the baby
was inside the lady.

They had to stay in a stable

with an ox and an ass (hee-hee)

but the Three Rich Men found them
because a star lit the roof.

Shepherds came and you could
pet the sheep but not feed them.

Then the baby was born.

And do you know who he was?

Her quarter eyes inflated
to silver dollars.

The baby was God.

And she jumped in the air,
whirled around, dove into the sofa,
and buried her head under the cushion
which is the only proper response
to the good news of the incarnation.



SAINT NICHOLAS AND THE LEGEND OF SANTA CLAUS

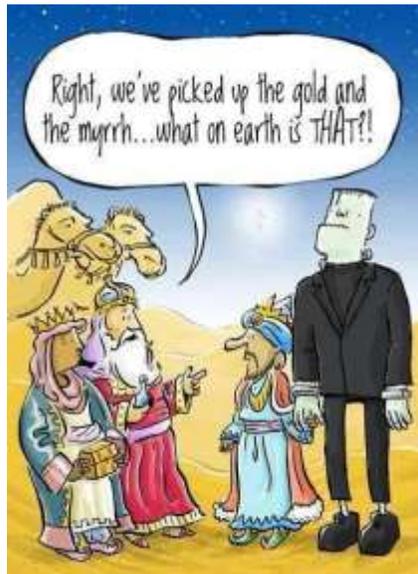
Saint Nicholas was a Christian bishop who provided for the poor and sick and is the basis for the popular character of Santa Claus. Saint Nicholas was a Christian bishop who helped the needy... One story tells how he helped three poor sisters (and their father). Three times, Saint Nicholas secretly went to their house at night and put a bag of money inside. On the third visit, the man (father) saw Saint Nicholas and thanked him for his kindness. He also reportedly saved three men who were falsely imprisoned... Legacy...He became known as the protector of children and sailors and was associated with gift-giving... The Dutch continued to celebrate the feast day of Saint Nicholas, December 6... Saint Nicholas went through many transformations in America... instead of giving gifts on December 6, he (Saint Nicholas) became a part of the Christmas holiday...

When we celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Find all the underline words in the Word Search below.

									C	W									
									H	E									
								U	R	S	X								
								Q	I	U	J								
							T	C	S	O	J	H							
							D	L	T	H	Y	Y							
S	Y	E	R	A	G	E	O	F	I	R	E	L	I	G	I	O	U	S	M
Q	G	L	H	N	V	P	V	D	A	U	M	A	U	H	E	L	P	E	D
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V	H	N	H													C	I	S	Y
T	P																	L	T

BECAUSE WE NEED TO LAUGH (Ho! Ho! Ho!)





DECEMBER 2021

HAVEN MESSENGER

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

