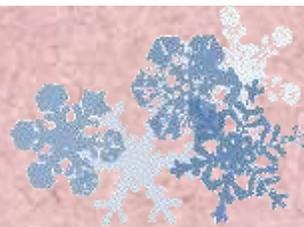


HAVEN MESSENGER

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 2022

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.



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

Dear Haven guests, friends and members,

After 22 months of a pandemic, I was jolted from a complacency that I hadn't realized was trying to take up residence in me. The "wake up" came from Haven's Council at its January ZOOM meeting. I was awed, humbled and jostled --- all of it good. As I processed our conversation, I was grateful and invigorated. With the Council's permission I share this true Spirit-sighting.

Is it fair to say that most folks are "just tired of it all" and just hoping to "weather the storm" of the COVID roller coaster? It can feel like we live in a cloud of resignation and weariness that generates passivity, depression, anger or striving for simple survival. So, when the Council began to talk about its annual retreat (usually held in the month after new Council members are elected) I anticipated that we would cancel it as we did last year. I thought we'd be talking about cancelling because of omicron corona virus worry and/or the difficulties of looking ahead in a pandemic that continues to surprise us. I was wrong.

First, there was discussion of *how* to have such a gathering safely. Limit it to three hours instead of six. Wear masks. Use the Gathering Room or Sunday School area where Council members could spread out. Wait until closer to the date to see if COVID conditions were more conducive to sharing breakfast or lunch food. There was no "if" but only "how."

Second, we spoke about the agenda for a Council retreat: Bible study and prayer; review the responsibilities of the Council and how that is done; visioning for the coming year. "Visioning?" I thought. How do we look and plan into a future that is so elusive and has these Covid limitations? But here is where I became the

student and not the teacher.

Council member after Council member said they thought it important (and maybe even more important than ever) to have a vision for the coming year. By vision they did not mean a grandiose plan but *some way forward*. Instead of backing away from the realities we are living in, they wanted to open themselves up to discern how is God calling us to "be church" for one another and the greater community in these circumstances. Instead of talking about mere "survival," they wanted to talk about how we could still *grow and thrive* in faith and ministry.

I was witness to the movement of the Holy Spirit among our Council that night. I'm not sure I realized it at the time, but I sure did as I replayed the discussion later that evening and the next day. God was present in a powerful way in the hearts and minds of the Council who were determined to seek and trust the Lord's guidance for the community and ministries of Haven Lutheran Church.

I hope hearing this sparks a bit of anticipation. I hope it helps you to confront the Covid clouds that may have come to overshadow, or even dominate, your life and living. I hope you will ask the Lord to help you "shake it off" to join the Council in wondering how we can do more than survive and take steps forward to grow and thrive, even in these times. I hope you have your own conversations and discussions about how we might inspire, unite and invite the Haven community into faith building and hope-filled celebrations. Do we chase a theme in the coming year? Are we meant to find new or re-tooled ways to encourage and uphold one another? Are there new possibilities in ministry and mission that are in our pathway? What is the Spirit calling Haven to in the blessing of a variety of guests who have already become part of the community? What is God up to in calling us all together at this time in this place?

These winter days can seem gray, and the hours of daylight still less than we like. Covid is still here and we're still learning how to live around and through it. AND that is not all there is. Walking with God and one another, there is more to come -- possibilities to discover, holy imagination to awaken, a community to flourish under the Spirit's tutelage, and God's goodness to be revealed in unexpected ways and persons.

I thank you, Council, for being ambassadors of hope and faith for the congregation, including your pastor.

Your pastor and partner in ministry,
Linda M. Alessandri

COUNCIL

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 27, 10:30 am (In-Person AND on ZOOM)

Once again, 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. Maybe something to make us smile and laugh, too. We are in the process of preparing the annual report for distribution. Complete copies will be made available in the church narthex, on the parsonage back porch and, when needed, by delivery or mailing.

PLEASE NOTE: We will start the Annual Meeting immediately after worship. IF worship runs long, we may be late starting the Zoom meeting. PLEASE stay in the "waiting room" and we will let you into the meeting as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience.) Join by computer at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85113150333?pwd=ZmZCMnZrWFRPaVVWTVEyQVp6aTkxZz09> Meeting ID: 851 1315 0333 Passcode: 399590

Join by phone: 1 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 851 1315 0333 Passcode: 399590



YEAR-END FINANCIAL NEWS – It is always a challenge for any church when it adds a loan to its financial picture. When folks are asked to make a "pledge of giving" to a project in addition to their usual offering, the tendency seems to be that many will decrease their regular offering to honor the "above and beyond" offering. That will then lead to be a deficit in the funds needed to "pay the regular bills." Here at Haven, we did see a dip in regular giving. The Council shared our concern with you. We were doing above and beyond expectations in our "roof loan," but for several months we were running almost \$5,000 behind in our regular giving. So how did we end the year? This is what Assisting Treasurer, Terry Trovinger wrote to the Council:

Church Offering just missed our budgeted amount for the year by 1.2% ending \$2,287.85 behind our year's budget of \$200,000. Overall, it was a good year. Helped by expenses being \$14,697.03 (7.4%) behind projections, net ordinary income was positive by \$10,899.50.

Translated --- Due to reduced spending in a pandemic year and strong end-of-year

giving, we came out “ahead” by \$10,899.50.

As we enter another year as God’s church at Haven, we thank you for all the support you offer in time, talents and treasure. Trusting in God’s goodness and reflecting God’s own generosity, may we each be faithful in our regular offerings and our Faith Building Together promises to the glory of God. Amen.

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY



Attention God Squad Explorers and Parents!

God Squad Explorers, Emma, Tanner, Charlie and Ethan participated in **Adventures in Light** on January 2nd.

Their journey began with Marge reading the story of the Wisemen and their quest to find the baby Jesus.

With wooden camel cutouts and a star to guide them the explorers traveled to the sanctuary and Pastor told them how Jesus was born to bring light to the world. Next, they engaged in a scavenger hunt to locate 10 flashlights inscribed with activities they can do to let the light of Jesus shine through them. The activities

included smile, share and pray. They saw that by shining all their flashlights together on the flat surface of a CD the light formed an array of rainbow colors signifying the spreading of Jesus’ love.

Robin, our craft leader, explained how lighthouses are used to guide travelers on the sea and how Jesus’ light guides each of us. The explorers enjoyed painting their wooden lighthouses during the craft session. At the close of the adventure Cindy helped the explorers

decorate cookies in the shape of stars. When they shared them, it would be shining the light of Jesus.

An exciting **Adventures in Jesus’ Love** is planned for our explorers on **Sunday, February 6th at 10:45 am**. 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 at **10 am** on **Thursday, February 24** in the Adult Sunday School Room for study and discussion of Scripture. We will be continuing our exploration of "the kingdom of God," an often-misunderstood theme in the Bible. The study is included in the January/February issue of "Gather" magazine. Copies are also available from Elaine Michael. All women are welcome to join us. Please wear a mask.



FAITH BUILDING TOGETHER

WOW! As of January 26, we have received **\$79,315.10** toward retiring our 7-year, \$100,000 loan!



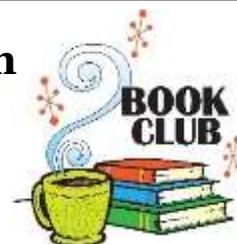
Because of such generosity and faithfulness, the Council approved a motion to pay an additional \$35,000 toward the principal of our loan.

As Finance Team member, Mike Manspeaker, explains, "That would move our **payoff to about July of 2023**, just a year and a half from now... It is amazing to think that one year ago we were telling the bank we plan to pay the loan off in five years, but we better take a seven-year loan just in case!!"

Thank you to all who have made their promised contributions and to all who made special ones toward this project.

PARISH LIFE

HAVEN'S BOOK CLUB – On Thursday, **February 17, 2:00 pm** we will meet to discuss a spellbinding psychological thriller, **SILENT PATIENT**, by Alex Michaelides. Plan now to read it and join us! Then in March we will be discussing **THE BOOK OF DELIGHTS** by Ross Gay. Always a variety of topics & lively discussion at Haven. Any questions, contact Joan Schupp, 301-797-7536.



WORSHIP

EPIPHANY SEASON

WORSHIP READINGS

- February 6** Isaiah 6:1-8, 9-13, Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11
February 13 Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26
February 20 Genesis 45:3-11, 15, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40,
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38
February 27 **Transfiguration Sunday** Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99,
2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2, Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

WORSHIP LEADERS & HELPERS SCHEDULE

	<u>Assist. Minister</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Feb. 6	Danny Kiblinger	Austin Suchy	Amy Mason, Marge Cunningham, Kathleen Kline
Feb. 13	Marge Cunningham	Ethan Rhodes	Will Seilhammer, Kim Pile, NEEDED
Feb. 20	Aura Neikirk	Danny Kiblinger	Bob Snyder, Elaine Michael, Susan Strobl
Feb. 27	Terry Trovinger	Piper Meredith	Kathy Wright, Kim Pile, Scott Rhodes

Securing the Building in February: Elaine Michael, Will Seilhamer

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS

Feb. 2: Team 1 – Ed Distad, Jan Merique, Judy Teeter, Becky Plavcan

Feb. 12: Team 2 – Sue Nelson, Pastor Alessandri, Marge Cunningham,
Kelly Bracken

PRAISE TEAM RETURNS on February 6th to provide musical leadership in worship. Under the stellar leadership of music director, Steve Pastena, the Praise Team will include vocalists, piano, guitar and now drums, too. Their calling is to help the congregation sing and praise our Lord in worship each first Sunday of the month.

FYI Steve is always looking for vocalists and musicians to add to our music ministry. Nancy Newkirk is eager to add ringers to the Bell Choir, too. If music is one of your gifts or passions, please consider sharing it with the congregation and give glory to our Lord.



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 \$113.00 donation to Holly Place. We truly appreciate your continued support! ...

Dear Members of Haven ELC: Thank you for your generous gift of \$172.33 for our Food Bank. Your commitment to helping needy individuals and families in our community is sincerely appreciated... St. Mark's Food Bank

Thank you! During a time like this we learn how much our family and friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

Friends from Haven,

Our sincere appreciation for the many cards, acts of kindness and words of comfort. Pat Pile and family

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

New address for Kathy Amos
124 Sunflower Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740
(phone number remained the same)



HAVEN BLESSING BOX



HAVEN'S BLESSING BOX – Donations are needed for our Blessings Box. Haven's Blessing Box is intended to function as a small neighborhood pantry, offering items to those who have a need. *Haven's Blessing Box is being used often* so we need your help to keep it replenished. Primarily, the box contains shelf-stable foods. Here are a few suggestions:

- Tuna or Chicken pouches
- Peanut Butter
- Rice/Pasta/Noodles
- Crackers/Granola
- Cereal/ Oatmeal/Powdered Milk
- Condiments/Oil/Salt & Pepper
- Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate/Drink Mixes
- Pancake/Baking Mix/Cake Mix and Icing
- Shelf Stable Microwave Meals
- Dried Fruit

While it is a blessing to donate food to those in need, it is not a blessing to donate unsafe food so **PLEASE: NO** Open, Torn Packages or Partially Used Foods, **NO** Rusty, Dented, Leaking Bulging, or Unlabeled Cans, **NO** Glass, **NO** Perishable Items, **NO** Out of Date Foods. **PLEASE REMEMBER** if you wouldn't eat it **DO NOT DONATE IT**. The turnover in Heaven's Blessings Box has been remarkable in recent months. Please consider donating to this small but vital ministry. Look for the donation box in the Narthex.

During colder months, please be mindful of containers that could freeze and burst.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHDAYS

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

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Ned Strange 02/05

If your special day is missing, please contact the church office to update our records. Thank you!

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP They are located on the table in the narthex. Please pickup your offering envelopes today, if you have not done so already. Could you deliver any of the remaining envelopes to help us save postage? OR you could ask that they be left on the parsonage back porch to pick up by calling or emailing the church office.

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UPS – Please sign up for altar flowers on the signup sheets located on the bulletin board (cost: \$39).



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Bring cans of soup or cash to “vote” for the team that you would like to see win the Super bowl. Can Haven predict the winner?

CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OFFICE HOURS – Mary Grabill is in the church office on **Monday's 9am-1pm, Thursday 12pm-4pm** and **Friday 9am-1pm**. Voicemail's will be checked regularly and email's (havenoffice@havenlc.org) are checked daily as the Administrator works remotely Tuesday and Wednesday.

Note from Pastor Alessandri: Haven has always been very respectful of my day off on Tuesday. Please also honor Mary's time and days off (evenings, weekends and when the office is closed.) Leave messages on the office computer or phone and she will get back to you. Thank you.

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		7pm Choir	10am Bible Study 6 ³⁰ pm Cub Scouts	5pm BBBS mtg. 6 ³⁰ pm CoDa	5 ³⁰ pm AFG	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Noisy/Hunger Offering 9 ³⁰ am Worship 10 ⁴⁵ am God Squad 11am Adult Sunday School 12pm NO Confirmation	6pm Bells 6 ³⁰ pm Boy Scouts 7pm Barbershop 7pm Property Team mtg.	7pm Choir	10am Bible Study 6 ³⁰ pm Cub Scouts	5pm BBBS Board mtg. 6 ³⁰ pm CoDa	5 ³⁰ pm AFG	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 ³⁰ am Worship 11am Adult Sunday School 12pm Confirmation Souper Bowl of Caring	6pm Bells 6 ³⁰ pm Boy Scouts 7pm Barbershop 7pm Worship Team mtg.	1pm AFG 7pm Choir	10am Bible Study 6 ³⁰ pm Cub Scouts	9:30 pm Ed. Ministry ZOOM mtg. 2pm Book Club 5pm BBBS mtg. 6 ³⁰ pm CoDa	5 ³⁰ pm AFG	

20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Holly Place Offering 9 ³⁰ am Worship 11am Adult Sunday School 12pm Confirmation	6pm Bells 6 ³⁰ pm Boy Scouts 7pm Barbershop 7:00 Council	1pm A.F.G. 7pm Choir	10am Bible Study 6 ³⁰ pm BBBS mtg. 6 ³⁰ pm Cub Scouts	10am Women's Bible Study 6 ³⁰ pm CoDa	5 ³⁰ pm AFG	
Transfiguration Sunday 27 9 ³⁰ am Worship Annual Congregation Mtg after worship 12pm Confirmation	28 6pm Bells 6 ³⁰ pm Boy Scouts 7pm Barbershop					

COMMUNITY NOTES

St. Mark's Food Bank
“Volunteer Appreciation & Training Luncheon”
is on Wednesday, February 2nd 11:00 am-12:45 pm.
(See flyer in Narthex for registration details)

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

Words of Wisdom

If God is your co-pilot, swap seats.

In the dark? Follow the Son.

If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.

If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns.

May the forces of evil become confused on the way to your house. (George Carlin)

Feed your faith and doubt will starve to death.

Don't go digging where God has buried your sins.

When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say,
"Jesus, could you please get that for me."

A clean conscience makes a soft pillow.

A family altar can alter a family.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord.

My ^{mouth} shall
speak wisdom:
the meditation
of my heart
shall be
understanding.
PSALM
49:3



Words of Wisdom
from Garden at
God's Little Acre

Resource website:

<http://godslittleacre.net/wordsofwisdom/>



Haven Messenger

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

