

HIGHLIGHTS

From the Pastor

The darkness has always been the enemy of mankind. Street lights, car headlights, secure lights outside our homes, all make us feel safe. Yet it's not our lightbulb and switches that keep us safe. It's God. And God's presence within us, in the personhood of Jesus Christ.

In the church service we were reminded that God's call comes to us no matter what our age or occupation. In Jesus' Baptism, his call is to the disciples and what it means to be his follower. "Come Follow me" Mark's gospel begins by saying: "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near, repent and believe in the good news." (Mark 1:15).

Perhaps you, like me, wonder how God's call continues to come to us. We wonder what good news is left in this world of darkness; whether it's the fires, flood, mud, hurricanes, tornadoes and even nuclear missile attacks. No longer are we safe even in our churches. Our security blanket has been ripped off us. The question then becomes: Can the light of Christ truly banish the darkness in this world?

We have been called by the light of Christ and Christ's birth comes with hope. Hope surprises and Christ longs to love us more deeply than we can even imagine.

Even we can only see darkness around us, Christ's light shines brightly. This light will not go away even if we want it.

Each time we worship together, we reinforce the light of Christ in our church, community and lives. See you in church. There is always room for more in Christ's living community.

Pastor James C. Taylor

FORMING A FAITHFUL FOUNDATION

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 236)

" Do you intent to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy Baptism:

To **live** among faithful people;

To **hear** the word of God and share in the Lords supper;

To **proclaim** the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed;

To **serve** all people following the example of Jesus;

and to **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth?"

RESPONSE: We do, and ask God to help and guide us

Pastor James C. Taylor
Highland Park Lutheran Church



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

February 14th, 12 Noon
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion,
followed by lunch

MEN IN MISSION SAUSAGE DINNER/SUPPER

The Annual Sausage Supper is
Wednesday, January 31st, serving
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and again serving
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 19th -- NOON**

96th ANNIVERSARY



Highland Park Lutheran Church will be celebrating its 96th Anniversary in February.

Plans are being made to have a lunch for our members following the worship service on February 25th. Tickets for the meal will be available for \$ 5.00 beginning February 4th. Deadline to purchase your ticket is February 18th.

Bits & Pieces \$

If you have not received your **2017 Contribution Statement** and would like one, please contact the church office, 210-533-9484.

MEDICAL LEAVE

Beginning January 29th, the church office will be on limited hours. Gail will be on medical leave for 3-6 weeks. The office phone will be directed to the Kluth home. Feel free to call the Pastor at his home, 210-494-2300, or call Leroy or Gail, at their home, 210-532-3446. If you plan to stop by the church office and need to see Gail, please call first.



The Altar Guild has the **2018 Flower Chart** up in the Narthex. If you would like to place flowers for this year, please check the chart and place your name on the designated Sunday, or contact Patsy Hasty, 333-8362.



The Altar Guild would like to express their sincere **thanks** for all your support you have given during 2017. Your generous help and support has made this a great year for us. Thanks to everyone who helped us by placing Easter lilies for Easter and placing of poinsettias for Christmas this year. Your giving truly makes it possible for the beautification of our sanctuary during these special times. We thank all of you for helping by placing flowers on the altar each week for worship throughout the year. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated members as yourselves, and we are sincerely grateful for all you do.

The Altar Guild

We would also like **to thank the Christian Social Club** for their donation of \$ 73.50 to the General Fund.

For God so loVed the world,



That he gAve

His onLy

BegottEn

SoN

That whosoever

Believeth **In** Him

Should **Not** perish,

but have **Everlasting** life.

John 3:16

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Bertha Bailey

Marguerite Hoermann

Doris Kordes

Malcolm Vogt

Elma Belz

Ivy Kenneally

Shirley Ruedrich

Wilbert Volkmann



STATISTICS

Amount Needed for Monthly Budget	\$ 14,110.35
Checking Account Balance 12/31/17	5,139.24
Total Income for December	13,780.94
Total Expenses for December	\$ 9,202.87

DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

OLD BUSINESS

- Office Floor – work is in progress
- Facility Insurance – still pending
- 2018 Church Directory – 90% complete

NEW BUSINESS

- Council Installation January 7th
- Pastor's Housing Allowance – it was moved, seconded and passed, to approve Pastor's request of \$ 2800/month for housing allowance.
- HPLC's 96th anniversary – It was moved, seconded and passed, to have a luncheon February 25th, following the worship service. Donation ticket cost set for \$ 5.00
- Annual Pest Control Inspection – Motion made, seconded and passed, to renew pest control.
- Palms – It was consensus not to order palms for Palm Sunday.
- Selling of Playground – Leroy is to contact realtor for information.
- Selling of Burial Lots – Leroy is to contact Archdiocese

THE VISTA

The SWT Synod newspaper, THE VISTA, will no longer be mailed to households. You may pick up a copy of the new "monthly" 1-page edition on the table in the narthex.

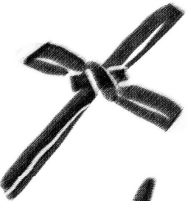
HIGHLAND PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 10200
San Antonio, Texas 78210

Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
Worship 10:00 A.M.

Office Phone 210-533-9484
hplc@highlandparklutheran.com

Rev. Dr. James Taylor, Pastor
Gail M. Kluth, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper
James Bordner, Organist
Amancia Porttovine, Custodian

Congregational Council
Charles Wilson, President
Bob Turner, Vice-President
Leroy Kluth, Secretary
Gail Kluth, Evangelism/Daily Life Ministry
Dusty Anderson, Parish Ed/Youth Ministry
Dan Rich, Property Ministry
Nicole Barefoot, Worship Ministry
James Taylor, Pastor

Ash 
Wednesday

Worship Service
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Imposition of Ashes and
Holy Communion
(followed by lite lunch)