

The Messenger

Newsletter of Helderberg Reformed Church

Worshipping God since 1767! Come join us Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

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Our Church

Sunday Worship

9:30 am with Lord's Supper on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Make Contact

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MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Rev. Lindsey De Kruif

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ellen Root

ORGANIST

Agnes Armstrong

CONTACT THE MESSENGER

HRCMESSENGER@GMAIL.COM

From the Pastor's Desk

Who is My Neighbor?

Each year, the denomination asks the consistory to complete a report on the *Life and Spiritual Health of the Congregation*. Primarily these questions are intended to help the classis know how the ministry of the congregation is going from year to year. However, there is also one question from the RCA Commission on Race and Ethnicity:



“How does your congregation reflect the racial and cultural context in which you conduct your ministry? What are you doing to build bridges that develop mutual ministry that is multiracial and multicultural?”

This question struck the ears of the consistory, and made us wonder about what does our community really look like and how we might better get to know our community. It can be easy to assume that our community looks just like us, but as we engaged more with this question we realized it is not true that everyone in our communities in which we worship, live, and work do look like us. We live in a community that has cultural and religious diversity even though people who share a similar cultural background may be the majority.

We believe that the good news of Jesus Christ calls us to love our neighbors and to welcome those who are strangers among us. This question about diversity made us curious in particular

To America

James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

How would you have us, as we are?
Or sinking 'neath the load we bear?
Our eyes fixed forward on a star?
Or gazing empty at despair?

Rising or falling? Men or things?
With dragon pace or footsteps fleet?
Strong, willing sinews in your wings?
Or tightening chains about your feet?

Born on June 17, 1871, in Jacksonville, Florida, James Weldon Johnson was encouraged by his mother to study English literature and the European musical tradition. In 1900, he wrote the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing" on the occasion of Lincoln's birthday; the song was immensely popular in the black community, and became known as the "Negro National Anthem." With his talent for persuading people of differing ideologies to work together for a common goal, Johnson became the national organizer for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1920. He edited *The Book of American Negro Poetry* (Harcourt Brace, 1922), a major contribution to the history of African-American literature. His book of poetry *God's Trombones* (Viking Press, 1927) was influenced by his impressions of the rural South, drawn from a trip he took to Georgia while a freshman in college. It was this trip that ignited his interest in the African American folk tradition.

James Weldon Johnson died on June 26, 1938.



about our Muslim neighbors, and the suggestion was made that perhaps this could be the topic of a study during the coming year.

Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota has put together a 7-week study called *My Neighbor is Muslim: Exploring the Muslim Faith*. This study is intended for churches who want to have a better understanding of the Muslim faith from a Christian perspective. I would like to invite you to join me in this study beginning on Sunday, February 23 through Sunday, April 5 following worship. You can download the study from Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota and print it yourself from this webpage: <https://www.lssmn.org/get-involved/church-partnerships/resources/studies/my-neighbor-is-muslim>.

If you need assistance in accessing the study and you would like to join our group, please let me know and a copy of the study can be printed for you in the office.

I am looking forward to learning alongside of you, working towards building bridges in our community, and becoming a better neighbor to all.

In Christ,

Pastor Lindsey

Events and Notes

Church Volunteers Wanted

Volunteers are needed to undertake a variety of projects at the parsonage on February 15th at 9:00 am. If you have electrical, plumbing, carpentry experience or can assist, **we need your help.** There is a signup list in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Property Committee. Thank you!

The Property Committee

Church Volunteers



Thank You!

Members of the Helderberg Reformed Church,

Thank you to all the shoppers, wrappers, organizers and donators. Your hearts are full of love and kindness to all. The Guilderland family you supported has expressed their gratitude for all you have done and asked that I pass it on to you.

I have worked with this program for 18 years. Your parish has been with me every step of the way.

Thank you for all you do.

Dawn and Lisa.

The Guilderland High School Adopt-A-Family program would like to extend our gratitude for your assistance with the 2019 holiday season. With your help and partnership, many families are able to truly celebrate the season. Your support is genuinely a gift.

Sincerely,

The Adopt-A-Family Committee



HRC Brooks BBQ

Come to Helderberg Reformed Church on Friday, March 6 from 2pm to 5pm for Brooks BBQ! Delicious dinners include chicken, baked potato, and more!

RCW Garage Sale

The RCW will be having a garage sale on Saturday, May 2, 2020, the same day as Altamont. When you start your spring cleaning, please save any items you think might sell at the garage sale. Please put a price tag on the items before you bring them. After the sale, remember to take home any of your things that didn't sell. All proceeds go to the RCW. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Colino. Thank you.

Lenten Study

Pastor Lindsey will be running *My Neighbor is Muslim*, a 7-week study beginning February 23 following worship. See the Pastor's Report above for more info and a link to the free materials.

Guilderland Food Pantry

GFP is looking for a new Executive Director

JOB OPENING: Executive Director of the Guilderland Food Pantry Part time position. Responsibilities include overseeing the operations of the pantry, training all staff, fund raising and communications. If you are interested email: guildfoodpantry79@gmail.com

Consistory Minutes

Full Consistory Minutes will now be available here in The Messenger. They begin on the next page!

Helderberg Reformed Church
Regular Consistory Meeting
January 14, 2020

A regular meeting of the Consistory of the Helderberg Reformed Church was called to order on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. by Pastor Lindsey for Orientation and a discussion of Values from Consistory Guidelines, followed by a reading from Philippians 2:1-5 and a prayer. A quorum was met with 8 members present.

Pastor Lindsey

Sue Brooks

Pam Colino

Kevin Root

Joan Healey

Frank Scully

Daniel Putnam

Nancy Lawton

Linda Schlutow

MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2019 meeting was made, seconded and carried.

AGENDA

Motion to accept the agenda was made, seconded and carried.

MINISTER'S REPORT

Pastor Lindsey reported on the meeting of the Regional Synod Executive Committee Summit and the Vision 2020 task force. The Advent morning prayer service went well. The children did a good job with the Children's Christmas service. Pastor Lindsey will be at Camp Fowler January 26-29 for the Beginnings and Beyond and Faithwalking Retreat as the Coordinator of First Call. An elder will be on call for Pastoral care. Pastor Lindsey is considering holding a book study reading group in March and April. The Ash Wednesday service will be at St. John's Lutheran at 7:30 p.m. on February 26, 2020. A reading of the Passion story is being considered for Palm Sunday. There will be a Maundy Thursday Potluck and Worship on April 9 at 6 p.m. The Good Friday service will be at Altamont Reformed on April 10 at 1:00 p.m. The Easter service is on April 12 at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Lindsey will be on vacation April 13-20. Pulpit supply is needed for Sunday, April 19. The parsonage landline will be disconnected as it is not being used. The Consistory meetings will now be on the third Tuesday of each month. Pastoral care is being provided as needed.

CORRESPONDENCE

A thank-you note was received from the Guilderland Adopt A Family committee at the Guilderland High School. A letter was received from the Regional Synod and a note was received from Gary and Ollie French.

NEW BUSINESS

The election of Consistory officers was held and approved. Vice President of Consistory – Joan Healey, Clerk of Consistory – Linda Schlutow, Senior Elder – Pam Colino, Clerk of Elders – Linda Schlutow,

Senior Deacon – Kevin Root, Deacons' Treasurer – Susan Brooks, Clerk of Deacons – Linda Livingston, Church Treasurer – Nancy Lawton.

The following were nominated and approved as Committee Chairs or Committee Liaisons:

Property Committee Liaison – Daniel Putnam, Worship Committee – Pam Colino/Frank Scully, Christian Ed Committee Liaison – Kevin Root. A liaison is still needed for the Pre School committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**FINANCE**

1) The December monthly report was presented. Motion made to accept, seconded, and carried.

	Checkbook
Church 12/31/19	\$ 8464.39
Pre-School 12/31/19	\$ 8884.10
Schedule of Bills Summary	
Bills already paid	\$18760.36
Bills to be paid	<u>0.00</u>
Total Bills for Approval	\$ 18760.36

Regular Consistory Meeting
January 14, 2020

2) The 2019 full year report was presented. Motion made to accept, seconded and carried.

3) The annual housing allowance of \$4000 was requested. Motion was made, seconded, and carried.

PROPERTY

1) The Property Committee report was discussed. A request to discontinue the water and heat sensors

service was made. Motion made to accept, seconded and carried.

2) It was suggested an electrician be brought in to check the lights in the Narthex and Sanctuary. Motion

made to accept, seconded and carried.

3) Parsonage repairs and improvements were discussed. A motion to approve \$400 for kitchen flooring was

made, seconded and carried. A motion to approve a maximum of \$300 to purchase 2 bathroom cabinets

was made, seconded and carried. A motion to reimburse Pastor Lindsey for a new dining room light and

approval of a maximum of \$100 to purchase some repair items, (tub stopper, door stop, screening, etc)

was made, seconded and carried.

PRE SCHOOL

The matching gift for a new playground has been received. A meeting will be held with the teachers to discuss the equipment.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1) January 19 is the deadline for the February 2020 issue of The Helderberg Messenger.
- 2) The next Consistory meeting is February 18, 2020.
- 3) RCW will be holding a Garage Sale on May 2.
- 4) The Souper Bowl soup collection will be held. More info will be posted in the bulletin.
- 5) Another fundraiser at Recovery Grill was discussed. Sue Brooks will contact the restaurant.
- 6) The Consistory minutes will be posted in the Messenger.

ROUND TABLE OF THANKS

Thank yous were extended to: the new Consistory members, the Sunday school teachers, to the coffee hour donors, servers and clean- up crew, and to Jackie and Bob Marr for lighting the candles for the Christmas Eve service.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. was made, seconded and carried. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer, led by Pastor Lindsey.

Respectfully submitted: Ellen Root, Recording Secretary of Consistory



Installation of Elders and Deacons. Photo by Carol Relyea

**Have pictures, news or poems
to submit to The Messenger?**

Send them to:

hrcmessenger@gmail.com

**Submissions to The Messenger should
be sent by the last Sunday of the month
to appear the first Sunday of the next
month. Please include photo credits.**

-Ed.

hrcchurch.org

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