

# HIGHVIEW NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2025

## HIGHVIEW MEDIA UPDATE



## HIGHVIEW HISTORY



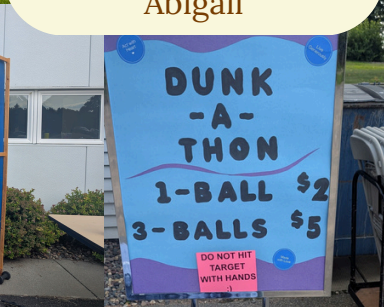
## THE THURSDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP



## ARTICLES AND REFLECTIONS BY

Rick  
Karla  
Glen  
Connie  
Pastor Amy  
Virginia  
Abigail

## WHY THE COLORS CHANGE: A PEEK BEHIND THE ALTAR



WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST NEWS? SUBSCRIBE TO THE HIGHVIEW HAPPENINGS!  
EMAIL [HIGHVIEWLUTHERAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HIGHVIEWLUTHERAN@GMAIL.COM) TO GET STARTED.

Want to write a piece for the next newsletter? email [highviewlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:highviewlutheran@gmail.com)





# COMMUNITY CORN FEED



Every year, Highview puts on its Community Corn Feed as a way to gather people around food and fun. The spotlight of the Corn Feed over the last couple of years has been the dunk tank, which not only serves as entertainment but also as a way to raise money for a local cause. In 2024, the dunk tank raised money for the Elko New Market Police Department. This year, money was raised for the Farmington Police Department's K9 Program. This year, the dunk tank raised \$1,000 for charity. Making it a splashing success!



The Corn Feed also helped us raise money to bring back to the church through the free will meal offering and the gift basket drawings. All of the food and gift baskets were donated by the wonderful people here in our Highview Community, and we couldn't be more grateful.

Of course, our Corn Feed wouldn't be possible without our army of volunteers who work to get the event set up and cleaned up. So to everyone who helped out, a HUGE Highview thank you!



It truly does take a village, and the Community Corn Feed is one way Highview demonstrates not only how great our village is, but also how we can all do our part in supporting our broader community.

# THE THURSDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

## BY RICK SCHMIDT

In 1997, after a conversation with a friend about his small church's effort to complete a basement remodel of their building with work donated by the members, I realized that we had many members with knowledge and experience that could be used on some things that could be done in our building, and also lighten the workload on our janitor. After discussion with a few members, I approached the church council with the idea to schedule a Thursday morning coffee time with plans to do some needed repairs and maintenance afterwards. When we scheduled the first Thursday morning coffee time, I was very pleased to welcome a group of 6-7 men who felt as I did, and our Thursday morning men's group was born! Since that time, we have completed a large amount of work and many projects that have contributed to a smooth-running building and large savings for the congregation. God has blessed us with many guys who are willing to contribute. I have recently tried to compile a list of projects that have been completed, and to my amazement, I filled 3 pages and am still adding to it! The work varies from changing a light bulb to completely remodeling the main entrance to the sanctuary, three new windows in the education building, removing trees around the sewer mound, and paving the path on the east side of the church. One of the great parts of this group is the fellowship and friendship that has developed throughout the years, what guy doesn't like a chance to get together with other guys and talk smart as we spend an hour or more in the morning once a week with coffee, goodies provided by our great wives, and the fun of visiting and getting to know each other. We sincerely invite any and all guys to join us, whether you are inclined to help with projects or not. Many of us are retired and flexible; it is not a requirement to join us in Dyste Hall right at 9:00 am. If you need to leave right after coffee, that works too!

God Bless, and see you on Thursday  
Rick Schmidt





# YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL AT WORK

The Congregation Council is a team of leaders who help guide the life and ministry of our church. Along with the pastor and officers, the council includes the chairpersons of our five main boards: Administration, Worship, Property, Education, and Mission & Service. Together, they listen, plan, and make decisions to support the mission we share as a congregation. Their work helps keep our worship, learning, service, and resources moving in the same direction, so that all we do points to Christ.

## **Board of Administration**

The Board of Administration oversees the financial, legal, and organizational matters of the congregation. This includes preparing the annual budget, supporting stewardship efforts, and caring for staff and personnel needs. Their work helps ensure that the behind-the-scenes details of our congregation are handled responsibly and with care.

## **Board of Worship**

The Board of Worship helps plan and guide the worship life of the congregation. Working with the pastor and director of music, this board supports music, liturgy, and special services, helping us to worship God in ways that are meaningful and life-giving.

## **Board of Property**

The Board of Property cares for our church building and grounds, making sure our facilities are safe, welcoming, and well-maintained. Their work provides the space for all our ministries to thrive.

## **Board of Education**

The Board of Education provides leadership for the congregation's learning ministries. This includes Sunday School, Bible studies, and other opportunities for people of all ages to grow in their faith and deepen their understanding of God's Word.

## **Board of Mission & Service**

The Board of Mission & Service leads the congregation in reaching out to our community and the wider world. This includes welcoming new people, supporting mission partners, and encouraging service projects that share God's love with others.

If you are interested in learning more or serving on one of these boards, please reach out to the Nominating Committee (Glen Shirley, Bethany Fischer, Lori Young, Pastor Amy Johnson) or sign up on the Opportunities for 2026 form in your stewardship packet. We would love for you to use your gifts in helping lead and strengthen the life of our congregation!



# FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR'S DESK

## KARIA MILLER

It is that time of year, once again, where activities abound at church. We've had a somewhat quiet summer and now we are in full gear. I thought it would be a fabulous time to share some information about our "Global Liturgy" season and how I go about preparing music for services that encompass different genres. We are, primarily a traditional, liturgical based congregation. This means that we follow a prescribed service format which is more formal in nature. It is designed to cover the bases of liturgical worship, which includes the gathering, word, meal and the sending sections. Within the Gathering time we have our Confession and Forgiveness or the Thanksgiving for Baptism followed by the Hymn, Kyrie and Canticle of Praise. During the Word section we include the scripture readings, Gospel Acclamation, Gospel, Sermon, Hymn of the Day, Creed, Prayers of Intercession and Peace. For the Meal we start with the Offering, then we set the Table, then the Great Thanksgiving; which includes the Holy, Holy, Holy, Words of Institution and the Lord's Prayer, followed by Communion. When we get to the Sending portion of the service we go with a Blessing, Sending Song and Dismissal to ask God to bless us and to go forth practicing our mission in the world. (God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.)

The Global Liturgy which we are currently using is meant to expose us to various cultures and experience music from different parts of our world. We sing the Kyrie first. This piece is from Russian Orthodox liturgy. We use the Latin words of Kyrie Eleison (Lord, have mercy) and Christe Eleison (Christ, have mercy). We sing through it a total of three times representing the Holy Trinity. This is followed by the Canticle of Praise, "You Are Holy." Though Per Harling is from Sweden he wrote this piece with a Brazilian Samba flair.

The next selection we sing is the Celtic Alleluia refrain to acclaim the reading of the Gospel lesson. It definitely has that Irish gig feeling.

At the time of Communion we sing the Holy, Holy, Holy; originating in Spain. (Santo, Santo, Santo in Spanish.) As our Communion hymn we sing "Lamb of God" from the Taize Community in France. Taize was a name of a village in Burgundy, France. This community was founded in 1949 after WWII. The style of worship which was practiced there was characterized by repetitive singing of these simple tunes. If we performed this in true fashion we would repeat it continuously throughout the communion distribution.

Lastly, we sing "Shalom, My Friends." This is a melody from the Jewish tradition. I thought about using the Hebrew words because they are so beautiful but the English words share the meaning just as well.

It is wonderful to have my friend, Michael Sanchez join us for five Sundays this fall. He brings joy and energy beyond measure to this liturgical format. Thank you for showing kindness and your appreciation to him.

Continuous blessings to all of you this fall!.

# HIGHVIEW HISTORY

## BY GLEN SHIRLEY

Why is our church located at 267<sup>th</sup> and Highview Ave? A good share of you readers have not seen a copy of "The Church They Called The Free" written by Pastor A Gerald Dyste. Here is a vignette from the book that explains the location.

### CHAPTER I

#### Vignette

Young Ole Olson stood by the dock in Hastings in Minnesota Territory and looked around. He had decided to part company with his companions here after traveling up the Mississippi River with them. There was little doubt that this was a growing town; all around him new buildings were under construction. On the hill overlooking the river work was progressing on several large brick mansions. The streets of the busy little town were jammed with wagons and teams of horses or oxen. Farming in this new frontier would not be like it was in Norway, he thought. There the farmers had no good ways to get their produce to the markets; here were rivers, railroads, canals, and roads in abundance. Thinking again of the great responsibility his parents had given him, he shouldered his pack and set off to find the mouth of the Vermillion River. What a challenge he faced, only eighteen years old and told to explore this wilderness and find a place for his family to settle!

After days of walking and looking, Ole arrived at a little lake that he was sure must be the headwaters of the river he had been following. A rough road had recently been cut through the trees along the shore, running from the northeast to the southwest. He had been told about this new road of Captain Dodd's while he was in Hastings. On the west side of the lake there was only forest. To the south a beautiful range of low hills attracted his eyes. How like Norway this region seemed! Ole began to walk toward the hills, hoping to find a site along the edge of the hills where he could claim both some wooded hill land and some grassy prairie land. At nightfall he discovered another little lake, nestled in the hills. Here was an ideal spot, he thought, just like his home in Hallingdal, Norway. He decided to set up a camp on the northwest shore of the lake.

Several mornings later Ole awoke with a desire to explore the hills to the south of his camp. He had built himself a rough little shelter to live in through the winter; now he wanted to get a better idea of the lay of the land. He walked southwest looking for the highest point of the hill, and soon arrived at a little clearing where it seemed that the ground sloped downward in every direction. He climbed a large maple tree near the center of the clearing to see if he could get a view of the surrounding landscape. From near the top of the tree he saw a view that made him catch his breath. To the north he could see miles and miles of rolling land dotted with oak and maple trees beginning to turn to their fall colors. Off to the northeast he felt sure that he could see nearly as far as Hastings. Looking to the south, the hills dropped off even more sharply and he looked across miles of lush prairie dotted with hills. As he climbed down the tree he thought to himself that this clearing would make an ideal spot for a church. He was anxious to get back to Koshkonong, Wisconsin, to tell his family about the place he had found for their new home, maybe it was not a "Hallingdalen" (Halling valley), but it was a beautiful "Hallinghauge" (Halling hill).<sup>1</sup>





# HIGHVIEW HISTORY

## PARAMENTS

INFORMATION FROM THE ARTICLE  
SHARING THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE  
BY REV. CHRIS BECKMAN



Highview has, is, and will continue to be a welcoming community. They invite people in to worship, to share a meal, and to share their stories. This is shown in our ministry with our partners around the world. In 2008, Highview was a partner with the Southeast Asian Ministry (SeAM). We hosted an annual concert to benefit SeAM and their missions, but it also led to a sharing of cultures. During the fundraiser sale at the SeAM concert, there was a table runner which incorporated crosses into a traditional Hmong design. It was this inspiration, the fading ordinary time paraments, and a memorial gift in honor of Mylon Ash that led Highview to work with Staci Xiong to commission a new set of green paraments for the lectern, pulpit, altar, and pastoral stole. Staci's mother and grandmother carefully hand-stitched each parament with beautiful and intricate patterns that combined crosses with traditional Hmong design. These pieces were dedicated and are still used in Highview's worship today, reminding us each time they're used of the global connections found through faith.

### WHY THE COLORS CHANGE: A PEEK BEHIND THE ALTAR

If you have ever noticed the altar and pulpit coverings change throughout the year, you have seen the church's paraments at work. These cloths, along with the white linens used for communion, are part of the worship life of the congregation and are cared for by the Altar Guild. The Altar Guild quietly works behind the scenes to prepare the sanctuary for worship, setting out the communion elements, maintaining linens, changing paraments, and caring for the Lord's table.

The colors themselves tell the story of our life with Christ:

**Green** – You'll see this more than any other color. Green is for growth, symbolizing our everyday walk with the Lord. We use it during the long "Ordinary Time" after Pentecost. Think of it as the steady, faithful season of the church.

**Purple** (or sometimes Blue in Advent) – These are the colors of waiting and preparation. Purple reminds us of repentance and humility during Lent. Blue, used in Advent, represents hope and expectation as we wait for the birth of Jesus.

**White** – This is the color of celebration and purity. You'll see it at Christmas, Easter, weddings, baptisms, and even funerals, for it proclaims Christ's victory and resurrection.

**Red** – Red is the color of the Holy Spirit and of the apostles. We use it on Pentecost, for Reformation Sunday, and sometimes for ordinations or confirmation. It's a fiery, bold color!

And then there are the linens—the white cloths that cover the altar, the chalice, and the paten (the little plate for communion bread). They might look plain, but they carry deep meaning, too, reminding us of reverence, purity, and care for the Lord's table.

Together, the colors and linens quietly tell the story of the church year. They remind us of waiting, repentance, growth, celebration, and the movement of the Holy Spirit. In their own way, they point us toward the rhythm of the Christian life and the presence of Christ in every season.



## St. Paul Area Synod's delegation from Augustana Lutheran Church

July 31st to August 10th 2025

Connie Mealman

I had the opportunity to join the delegation from Augustana Lutheran Church on their accompaniment visit to ILAG (Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala). There were seven of us, and we had a very full schedule and a gratifying visit!

Our first three days were at the Lutheran Center in Guatemala City. We led a Sunday School Teachers Retreat which included 14 women & men representing 8 of the 18 congregations. The goal was to find ways to start or improve Sunday School programs to make learning fun for the children and to encourage participation. We shared ideas, activities, and laughter. Augustana provided supplies for the teachers to take back to their churches for their Sunday School programs. The enthusiasm and creativity of these rural church leaders was a delight.



We led a Bible Study with the 20 young ladies who are part of the Lutheran Center's MILAGRO Women's Education Center. In addition to finishing their academic courses, they develop self-confidence and are empowered to become independent decision makers, wage earners, and leaders. We enjoyed our interaction with these young ladies as they provided help in the kitchen, cleaning of the facility, and beautiful music in the worship services as part of their tuition.

Visiting the ILAG-supported Colegio Luterano Agustino de Guatemala (CLAG) school in Guatemala City was delightful. We told the Bible story of Lydia by performing a short skit, played a game representing weaving that had everyone joining in and eliciting much laughter, and then distributed school supplies provided by Augustana.





We then headed to their partner church, San Agustín Lutheran in La Esmeralda, Dolores, Petén. We were greeted with smiles and fireworks! This is the first church from the Saint Paul Area Synod that ILAG partnered with, 23 years ago. They have strong leadership, a beautiful church, and a lovely community of parishioners. We were privileged to attend their church council meeting update, worship services, activities with the children, help make tortillas in the kitchen with the women, eat delicious food together, and distribute school supplies to the school children. We spent three days with their community and appreciated the opportunity to share our Lutheran connectedness.



After that, we headed to the Mayan ruins site of Tikal, and spent a day relaxing in the lovely town of Flores.

I am SO impressed with the ministering impact ILAG is having on the people living in the margins of Guatemalan society, particularly the indigenous poor. They have implemented programs that support the people who are in the 18 different Lutheran churches located throughout Guatemala.

Leadership: Church councils and pastors are very engaged in serving their congregations. As several churches have lost all or most of the men due to migration, the ILAG staff lifts women into leadership roles, and most congregations continue to flourish.

SEED: Agriculture participants are improving the structure of heavy clay and compacted soil by adding sulfur and calcium. New types of produce are growing that contribute to better nutrition. The SEED program grew out of a request from women to help them grow vegetables and learn how to improve the soil with compost. We had the opportunity to visit a garden that has significant diversity and healthy plants due to the SEED program. (This couple was actually not from San Agustín, which is another selling point of the SEED program-- you don't have to belong to the church.)

Scholarships are available for young women to attend the Milagro Center. There was initial hesitation for parishioners to send their daughters to Guatemala City to participate in this program. The program is flourishing, and there is a list of 26 young women who wish to attend next year.

ILAG supports not only the spiritual needs of its companion church members but also addresses equality, justice, and dignity for all. The ILAG congregations are healthier because of water filtration units, safe cooking stoves, and composting toilets. ILAG members and community members are more financially stable through the new SEED sustainable agriculture programs.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to join the fantastic people who made up the Augustana delegation and return to ILAG for my fourth time.

I hope that Highview continues to support the amazing programs of ILAG.

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

## **Summer Highlights**

This summer at Highview was a pleasant and refreshing one. Compared to past years, the slower pace allowed for rest and renewal, which I found both life-giving and grounding.

I also reached an important milestone: completing my first full three years here at Highview and officially concluding my time in the First Call Theological Education program through the St. Paul Area Synod. In many ways, it feels like a graduation, moving from the learning-and-transition phase of first call into the next season of ministry with you.

On a wider church level, there has been a significant leadership transition. The ELCA elected a new Presiding Bishop this summer, Bishop Yehiel Curry, during the Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix at the end of July. This was my first opportunity to follow a Churchwide Assembly, and it was meaningful to see our wider church at work. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton had faithfully served in this role for the past 12 years, and I encourage you to visit the ELCA website to learn more about this transition and what it means for our church.

Here at Highview, one of the highlights of the summer was spending time with our kids during Vacation Bible School. Their joy, energy, and curiosity are always a reminder of why we do what we do, sharing the love of Jesus with the next generation. Another highlight was our annual Community Corn Feed, which was once again a great success! I am deeply thankful for all the hands that came together to make it possible, and for the many neighbors and friends who joined us for an evening of good food, fun, and fellowship. I also enjoyed Lutheran Night with the Twins at Target Field. It was such a fun outing to celebrate baseball, fellowship, and the wider Lutheran presence in our community.

## **Fall Kickoff**

As summer gave way to fall, our ministry life continued with joy and energy. We stepped into the season with God's Work Our Hands Sunday. Together, we gathered donations and packed care kits and goodie bags for Crescent Cove and the Lewis House. Following worship on September 7, we joined churches across the ELCA in this day of service. It was a gift to see all ages come together for this project, living out how God's hands are truly at work in our community.

Just a few days later, on September 10, we celebrated Rally Wednesday with food, fun, our annual bouncy house, and face painting to kick off the new education year. I am especially excited to have our youth back in the classrooms, filling our building with energy, laughter, and the love of Jesus. We have a wonderful group of children in each classroom and a full room of confirmation students. I am blessed to be teaching alongside Vickie this year, and I look forward to walking with our students as they grow in faith.

This fall has already been a season of joy and growth. So far, we've welcomed more than 40 people each week to our Wednesday community meals—such a sign of life and connection! None of this would be possible without the dedication of our many volunteers who give their time and energy to teaching, cooking, and serving. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in our mission together. If you feel called to help with meals or teaching, I invite you to reach out to a member of the Board of Education or to me directly.



### **Welcome Acacia**

I am also delighted to introduce our new Office Administrator, Acacia Pollock. Acacia began her ministry with us on September 23 and is learning all the ins and outs of our congregation. She has already been a wonderful presence in the office, and I know you will enjoy getting to know her. If you haven't had the chance to meet her yet, please stop by the office or give her a call to extend a warm Highview welcome.

### **Looking Ahead**

October also brings opportunities for me to grow through continuing education events. I will be away at continuing education events, including a communications retreat at Mt. Olivet, the Bishop's Theological Conference, and a workshop with the Board of Worship at Prince of Peace in Burnsville on The Word in an Inviting Church. These times away help renew my ministry so that I can better serve you and strengthen our shared mission at Highview.

### **Thanksgiving Eve**

This year, Highview has the joy of hosting the shared Thanksgiving Eve service with Christiania at 7:00 p.m. It will be a special time to gather in worship, give thanks for God's abundant blessings, and lift our voices together in gratitude. Following the service, we will share in fellowship with refreshments. We hope you will join us for this meaningful evening of worship and community!

Friends, it has been a full and joyful beginning to the fall season, filled with learning, laughter, service, and the presence of God among us. Thank you for your love, your generosity, and your faithfulness.

May God bless you in the months ahead, and may we continue to grow together in Christ's mission.

In Christ,  
Pastor Amy Johnson



## News from the Bev Best Media Center, Highview Christiania Lutheran Church

Virginia Windschitl, editor

### Editor's Note

This is the first newsletter since the pandemic!

What took me so long???

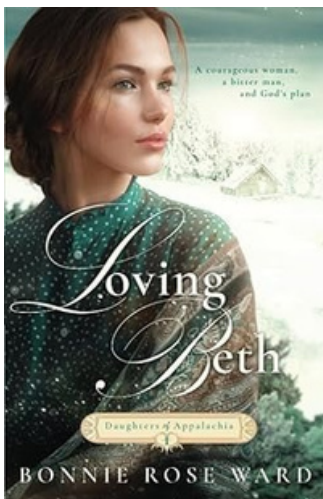
*Virginia Windschitl*

## New Books

### Loving Beth, by Bonnie Rose Ward

This is a relative of Maydelle Rose and we also have her two memoirs about life in Alaska. This is her fiction debut

Beth McCullough struggles to keep her West Virginia farm and care for two abandoned children, but the bank is threatening foreclosure, someone is threatening her life, and the man she's falling for has closed his heart to love. But God works in mysterious ways.



Last year, I attended a Twin Cities Area Church Library Association and heard a talk by Nancy Koester. She is the author of ***We will be free; the life and faith of Sojourner Truth***



From the publisher's website:

***Christianity Today*** Book Award of Merit in History/Biography (2024)

**Sojourner Truth's powerful voice calls to us through this evocative narrative of faith in action—and her words are more relevant than ever.**

Though born into slavery, Sojourner Truth would defy the limits placed upon her as a Black woman to become one of the nineteenth century's most renowned female preachers and civil rights advocates. In *We Will Be Free*, Nancy Koester chronicles her spiritual journey as an enslaved woman, a working mother, and an itinerant preacher and activist.

On Pentecost in 1827, the course of Sojourner Truth's life was changed forever when she had a vision of Jesus calling her to preach. Though women could not be trained as ministers at the time, her persuasive speaking, powerful singing, and quick wit converted many to her social causes. During the Civil War, Truth campaigned for the Union to abolish slavery throughout the



United States, and she personally recruited Black troops for the effort. Her activism carried her to Washington, DC, where she met Abraham Lincoln and ministered to refugees of Southern slavery. Truth's faith-driven action continued throughout Reconstruction, as she aided freed people, campaigned for reparations, advocated for women's rights, and defied segregation on public transportation.

Sojourner Truth's powerful voice once echoed in the streets of Washington and New York. Her passion rings out again in Nancy Koester's vivid writing. As the legacy of slavery and segregation still looms over the United States today, students of American history, Christians, and all interested readers will find inspiration and illumination in Truth's story.

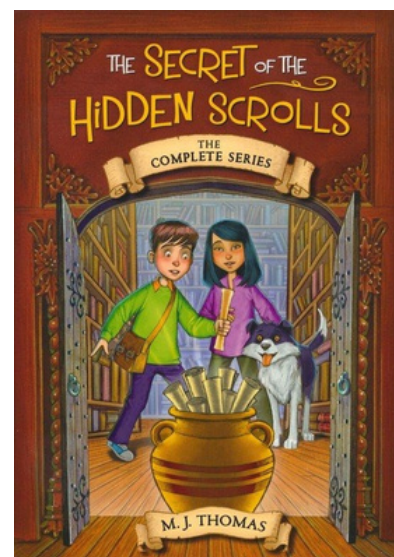
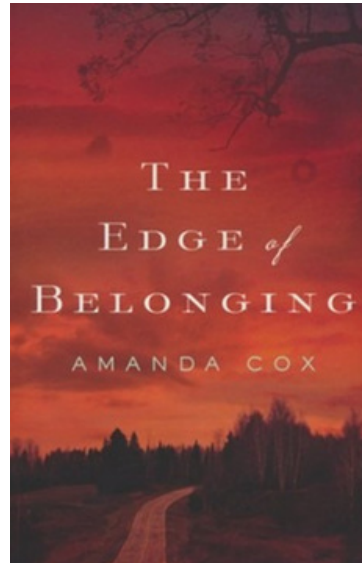
***The Edge of Belonging, by Amanda Cox***

**2021 Christy Award Winner for First Novel and Book of the Year!**

**From the publisher:**

When Ivy Rose returns to her hometown to oversee her late grandmother's estate sale, she soon discovers that the woman left behind more than trinkets and photo frames--she provided a path to the truth behind Ivy's adoption. Shocked, Ivy seeks clues to her past, but a key piece to the mystery is missing.

Twenty-four years earlier, Harvey James finds an abandoned newborn who gives him a sense of human connection for the first time in his life. His desire to care for the baby runs up against the stark fact that he is homeless. When he becomes entwined with two people seeking to help him find his way, Harvey knows he must keep the baby a secret or risk losing the only person he's ever loved. In this dual-timeline story from debut novelist Amanda Cox, the truth--both the search for it and the desire to keep it from others--takes center stage as Ivy and Harvey grapple with love, loss, and letting go.



The Secret of the Hidden Scrolls: The Complete Series by M.J. Thomas, follows the adventures of siblings Peter and Mary and their dog, Hank as they discover ancient scrolls that transport them back to biblical times. Join them as they search for clues to solve the secrets found in the scrolls, or they'll be stuck in time forever. Nine titles in the complete series. Ages 6-9

## **These are only a few of our new titles.**

### **New Children's Easy Books**

My first read and learn Bible (BoardBook)

The voyageur's paddle, by Kathy-joWargin

A porcupine named Fluffy, by HelenLester

### **New Juvenile Fiction Books**

Max's story : a dog's purpose puppytale,  
by W. Bruce Cameron

Awkward, Svetlana Chmakova  
(Graphic Novel)

Be prepared, by Vera Brosgol  
(Graphic Novel)

### **New Juvenile Non-Fiction Books**

Seven Simeons, by Boris Artzybasheff  
(Donated by the Ouradnik family)

### **New Adult Fiction Books**

Cape Refuge Series (Book 1-2-3)  
by Terri Blackstock

Victoria, by Daisy Goodwin  
(Donated by Mary Anne Deitz)

### **New Adult Non-Fiction Books**

A long way gone : memoirs of a boy soldier  
by Ishmael Beah

Great Group Games, by Susan Ragsdale

Shadow Divers : the true adventure of two  
Americans who risked everything to solve one  
of the last mysteries of World War II  
by Robert Kurson

Game used : my life in stitches with the  
Minnesota Twins, by Dick Bremer (Donated by  
Rick Schmidt.)

## **Online Catalog**

You can access our online catalog from the  
Highview Christiania website. On the Home  
Page, click on Resources and go to the bottom  
of the page where there is a link you can click  
on to get to our Library database.

We recently signed up to use Tiny Cat for an easy  
way to search our library by author, title or subject.

<https://www.librarycat.org/lib/highview-luth>

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## **Upcoming TCACLA Meeting**

The Twin Cities Area Church Library  
Association meeting will be on Saturday,  
October 4, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.  
The keynote speaker that morning is Shari  
Seifert, author of Ashes to Action: Finding  
Myself at the Intersection of the Minneapolis  
Uprising. Her book recounts her personal  
experience and her church's ministry in their  
community following the death of George  
Floyd. The church in Minneapolis is just south  
of Lake Street so was very involved with  
recovery after the unrest in that area.

Pre-registration is necessary.



# A NOTE FROM ABIGAIL

ABIGAIL NACHREINER

*"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."*

Hebrews 12:1

As I depart from Highview, I wanted to write one last message from behind the desk I have called mine for the last year. When I first started at Highview, I was unsure of how a Catholic girl who was meandering through her own faith journey would fit in at a little country church. I learned very quickly that Highview is a community that will embrace anyone who walks through its doors. I was quickly invited to coffee by the Thursday Quilters, which just as quickly became a weekly ritual. I was entrusted to look after Connie's gardens while she went away, a task I was both honored and nervous about undertaking. I was not only involved in planning events but encouraged to attend them as well, with many people stopping through my office to ask if I was going to the Community Corn Feed, Twins Game, the Winter Retreat, a Wednesday Meal, or Easter Brunch.

I have been entrusted not only to do the administrative work of the church but also to get to know you and your families. I have gotten to know your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren through stories, photos, and occasional visitors. I have been embraced with kind words, prayers, and hugs when I or my family needs them. I can honestly say I have felt the warmth of the Highview community, and I will truly miss you all.

So, as I look forward on the race marked out for me, I will not forget the small country church that I never expected to travel through, but I was embraced every second I was here.

Best wishes,  
Abigail Nachreiner



# QUARTERLY ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Every Sunday, Highview Ushers keep track of service attendance. This helps staff determine how many bulletins to print, helps inform communion preparations and supply orders, as well as determining our average weekly attendance, which goes into the annual report.

Month/ Date	Attendance
July 6	57
July 13	49
July 20	46
July 27	53
August 3	55
Aug 10	53
August 17	47
August 24	47
Aug 31	35
September 7	60
September 14	60
September 21	48
September 28	63

## GIVING

You can stay up to date on giving information by clicking the *Meeting Minutes and Financials* button at the bottom of the *Highview Happenings*!

	GENERAL COLLECTIONS	
	2024	2025
June	\$27,892.62	\$11,165.96
July	\$8,808.87	\$13,738.06
August	\$8,235.62	\$11,525.66

Ways to Donate:

- Personal Check
- Cash in an envelope marked with your name or envelope number
- Vanco Mobile App (scan QR code)



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



### October

Clara Christensen 10/4  
Sara Hart 10/4  
Bethany Behrendt 10/6  
Joseph Evans 10/11  
Keith Koentopf 10/23  
John Fredrickson 10/24  
Sharon Edmunds 10/25  
Ken Olstad 10/25  
Wally Franklund 10/26  
Cory Behrendt 10/26  
Evelyn Brandel 10/26  
Nichole Fredrickson 10/27  
Elias Knutsen 10/27  
William Martin 10/31

### November

Roger Bass 11/3  
Bret Oeltjen 11/4  
Judy Tupy 11/9  
JoAnn Bass 11/11  
Mason Ohmann 11/12  
Joshua Malwitz 11/13  
Shirley Bohm 11/16  
Donald Swenson 11/18  
Mary Anne Dietz 11/22  
Simon Tyler 11/23  
Marilyn Mitlyng 11/24  
David Orser 11/24  
Dan Siebenaler 11/25

### December

Randy Knutson 12/1  
Savannah Devera 12/3  
Lynn Mosher 12/7  
Lou Ann Weflen 12/17  
Sandy Knutson 12/19  
Addison Mealman 12/20  
Norma Getting 12/21  
Julie Peterson 12/27  
Bruce Olander 12/29

Happy Birthday to all who celebrate! "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

May God bless you with joy, peace, and hope in the year ahead.

If we missed your birthday, please contact the Highview office so we can add you to our list.