

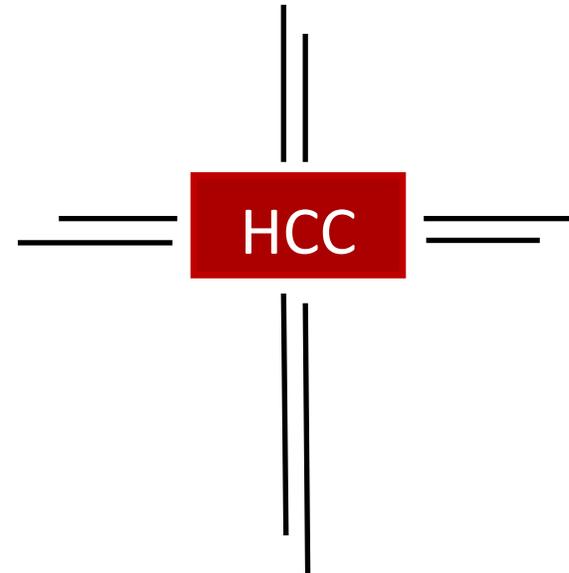
DOING CHURCH SIMPLY:

- ◆ Keep things from being too routine, e.g. service order; what are Covenant Church requirements; what are simply HCC traditions, or way it's always done?
- ◆ Compromise.
- ◆ Pick your battles.
- ◆ Let go of bulletin.
- ◆ Let go of communion (we don't do it often anyway); it seems like a waste of time. It is also easy for people to idolize the bread and grape juice/wine. Also, people will use the "blood of Christ" as an excuse to be an alcoholic.
- ◆ Let go of the traditional banners, pictures — be creative and hang more updated items on the walls (paintings done by people of the congregation; quilts, etc.)
- ◆ Replace banners with individual paintings & crafts; replace vintage Jesus picture behind pulpit. Look at the sanctuary through the perspective of a new church goer.
- ◆ Not passing judgment on others; make them feel welcome.
- ◆ Reducing pressure on attendees' participation in events, giving, service work, etc.
- ◆ No-pressure atmosphere; open arms; welcome.
- ◆ Earlier start-time for church service; even 10:00.
- ◆ "Where in Scripture does it say ...?" as guideline.
- ◆ Not so structured in service. More time in testimonies and prayer at the end. More time to respond. More Holy Spirit led. Altar call/response. Doxology (change? Let go?) Services for only worship; only testimonies; prayer for sick; corporate prayer times; laying on hands; prayer team to pray for those who have needs; prayer team to pray for service while worship team practices. More mission outreach and neighborhood outreach. Use sign for "How can we pray for you or minister to you? Please let us know."
- ◆ Honor God with all your mind, body and soul; honor your neighbor with all your mind, body and soul. In doing so, you honor God and neighbor, showing this church honors God and our neighbors.
- ◆ Don't think it's so complicated now (!)

"Loving God and Loving Others"

*"We are all entitled to our own opinion,
But we are not entitled to our own truth."*

— Erwin Lutzer



Winter Schedule:

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Coffee and Fellowship
10:30 am Worship

43680 Gates Avenue, P. O. Box 158
Harris, MN 55032
651-674-7565
Pastor Steve Weihsmann
Cell: 218-428-8010
Office hours: M, W, Th, 9-noon & by appointment
www.harriscovenant.org

March 3, 2019

8th Sunday after Epiphany

COMMUNION & COMPASSION SUNDAY

Scripture: I Timothy 5:3
Acts 6:1-6

Message: "SIMPLE CHURCH: Measuring
Progress"
Pastor Steve Weihsmann

Worship Leader: Pastor Steve Schmidt

Music Director: Sonda Jacobson

Organist: Jane Erickson

HCC HAPPENINGS

All are invited to share in our first-Sunday potluck/fellowship meal after church. If you did not bring a dish, there is always plenty of food; stay and get to know people as you eat together.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Saturday, April 13: 10 am: Women — Save the Date! More info to come.

Friday, April 19: Issachar Community's Passover Worship Se-der, 6:30 pm. Fully catered: tickets are \$20 for adults/teens, \$10 children 12 and under. For early reservations, call the Issachar Community Office @ 651-247-5350. See Jim & Donna Nieman if you would like them to share their previous experience at this event.

Friday, April 19: Union Good Friday Service — details to follow.

Today's serving team:
Ushers: Larry & Marilyn F.
Reader: Tracy Draper
Praise Team 2
Power Point: Jordan Axberg
Sound: John Mohr

Next week's team:
Ushers: Ruth Waldo & Robert
Reader: Jill Deming
Praise Team 1
Power Point: Jacob Goranson
Sound: John Mohr

GRATITUDE

"Thank you, Harris Covenant Church! This monetary gift is in appreciation for all of you who have helped me out in any way — especially following my stroke. God has truly blessed me with a caring and loving church family, and I am ever so grateful for everything you have done for me."
— With love, Gloria Tofte

LENT

Lent is a season in the Church Year lasting 40 days, as we approach Easter. "Lent" comes from an Old English word meaning "lengthen," as it occurs in the spring when the hours of daylight are lengthening. The 40 days remind us of the 40 days of temptation Jesus successfully negotiated before His public ministry began. The season begins with **Ash Wednesday** (March 6), a day on which we put ashes on our foreheads to symbolize repentance for sin; and also to remind us that we are mortal and will return to "dust and ashes." During Lent, we reflect on Jesus' sacrificial death which He paid for our sins.

People often "give something up for Lent" by way of fasting. Our Leadership Team recommends that, this year, we give up grumbling, remembering how the Israelites grumbled all through the book of Numbers (which is our Sunday evening Lenten reading series.) Included in Lent are **Palm Sunday** (Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem), **Maundy Thursday** (the night Jesus celebrated the Last Supper and gave His close friends a new commandment: to love one another) and **Good Friday** (on which Jesus was crucified.)

— Pastor Steve

PRAYER NEEDS

Sharon Niemela
Izzy (Joe & Vandy Nelson's granddaughter)
Marcia Ramberg
Gladys Falk
Jolena Axberg

IN A SIMPLE CHURCH, WE CONNECT, GROW AND SERVE.