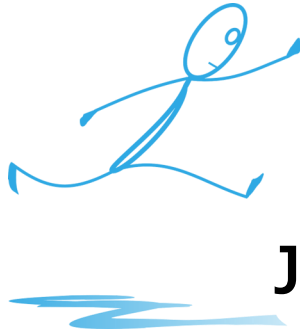


Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

October 2023



Good things happening before the month even starts. Don't miss out.

JUMP RIGHT INTO OCTOBER

OCTOBER BEGINS IN
SEPTEMBER WITH
OKTOBERFEST.

Join us for a fun evening of German food and beer, and togetherness. Come dressed in German attire and raise a stein to celebrate life. Bring your favorite dessert to share and possibly go home a winner of the dessert contest. Please let us know if you will be attending so we can plan appropriately.

YOUTH CAR WASH
OCTOBER 1ST

BLOOD DRIVE
OCTOBER 3RD

TRUCK OR TREAT
OCTOBER 24TH

Holy Spirit
Oktoberfest
Let's raise a glass and celebrate life
in an atmosphere of togetherness full of joy.

Saturday, Sept. 30 6pm

Everyone Welcome!

BRATWURST | SAUERKRAUT | POTATO SALAD | BEER
| GERMAN WINE | SOFT DRINKS

Dessert Contest: Surprise us with your all time favorite!
Prizes if you come dressed German style!
Selfie Treasure Hunt!

A Note from Our Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

For Lutherans, the month of October is always a special time, because at the end of the month we celebrate the reformation of the church with what we call Reformation Sunday. Although many protestant denominations recognize the historical event that took place on October 31st as the beginning of the reformation, the day when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the church to confront the practices of the Roman Catholic Church, no one celebrates this day like Lutherans do. And my hope is that we will continue to celebrate this special event in history, because it reminds us of how important it is to continue to be a reformation church, and that we need to continue to be reforming what we are about and what our mission is. And it reminds us, that just as Luther did, we need to be reformed, by turning to, and returning to, scripture as our source of inspiration and guidance.

A speaker I heard recently spoke of how we learn to recognize the voices of people who are important in our lives. As children we immediately are drawn to the voices of our parents, and as other people grow in significance in our lives we recognize their voices with the same clarity as well. In a room full of various noises and many voices talking, we can pick out the voice of a friend we haven't seen in many years, as if it were the only voice in the room.

One of the reasons we study scripture is to help us recognize God's voice in our daily lives. As we spend time in our Bibles, reading, hearing, receiving the Word of God, we are better able to recognize and hear God's voice in the world around us. As we spend time in prayer and Bible study we encounter a living God, a God that is truly present everywhere. God can speak to us through people who love the Lord and through people who haven't practiced their faith in years. By taking time to pray and study the Word of God we can learn to recognize God's voice, and discern what is of God and what is not.

Martin Luther learned that some of what was being practiced in the church of his day was not God's voice and so he challenged it, and he challenged the notion that only the Pope or a priest could interpret scripture. He believed that all could and should read the Bible and so he translated the Bible into the language of the people. Luther also claimed that everyone is a priest, that we are a priesthood of believers, and that just like a priest, we all represent Jesus to everyone we meet. Christ is present everywhere, he is present within each one of us. He has claimed us in the waters of baptism and made us part of his priesthood, his chosen ones, and whether we like it or not, we all represent Jesus to everyone we meet. The question is, "How well do we represent Jesus to others?"

Continued on page 3

Luther had confidence that we can do this well. He said, “All Christians have the authority, the command, and the obligation to preach, to come before God to pray for one another, and to offer themselves as a sacrifice to God.” As believers, Christ is with us, and we embody his presence to the world. So as we celebrate our Lutheran heritage this month, let’s all accept our role as priests, delve into scripture so we might better recognize God’s voice in the world, and share the love of Jesus with everyone we meet.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tim

Welcome

We welcome our new members to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

- Carol Bertrand
- Phil & Beth Brusius
- Mary Garbrecht & Logan
- Bryan Burseth, Kelley Gyllenhaal Burseth, Jack & Graham
- Tommy Rudd & Madelyn Kreegier
- Lance Smith



Pictured here are new members; Carol Bertrand, Phil and Beth Brusius, Mary Garbrecht & Logan

EVENTS



SPIRIT DAY & TAIL GATE

Spirit day couldn't have been better— great weather, great turn out, and great fun.



INSTALLATION OF TECHERS & LEADERS



LYFE IS BACK





Children's Ministry News

Jennifer Williams,
Children's Ministry Director
jennifer.williams@lchschildren@gmail.com

TUESDAY LYFE — 4:15-6:00 PM

All children in grades 2-6 can come for friendship, fun, lessons, activities, games and participation in our Youth Choir on Tuesday afternoons 4:15-6:00. Registration link:

www.jotform.com/assign/202533774008149/232195873854064

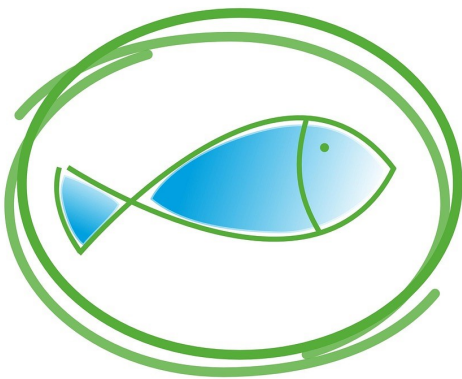
SUNDAY SCHOOL —

All children in preschool through grade 6 can enjoy breakout lessons and activities immediately following the children's message during our 9:30 services

WATCH PARTY —

Our first Watch Party will be Sunday, Oct 22. Join us in the youth room at 9:30 for breakfast and view the Sunday Service. Kids can collaborate on their needed sermon notes.

RSVP to Jennifer with your donut of choice for breakfast!



**Congratulations Adloff Family on the Holy
Baptism of**

Claire, Camden, and Cole Adloff

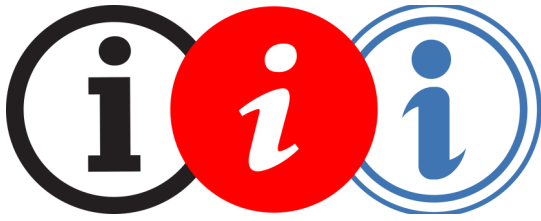




CAR WASH

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH
SUNDAY, OCT 1

Join us for this fun day of service. Breakfast treats will be served.



BLOOD DRIVE ON OCTOBER 3RD!



Mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 3rd! We will be hosting a blood drive from 2:30-

7:00. Share the information with your family, friends and neighbors to help save a life!

ADULT CHOIR VOICES NEEDED —

Rejoice!
Rejoice!
Rejoice,
give



thanks and sing! Come join the Adult Choir. No previous choir experience needed. Beginning Sept 6th rehearsals will be on Wednesdays 7:00—8:00pm and Sundays 8:30—9:15am. All you lovely singers hiding in the pews are invited to join this lively and fun group. Questions contact Karen M. Jirsa - call or text: 847-858-4755, email: kmjirsa@comcast.net

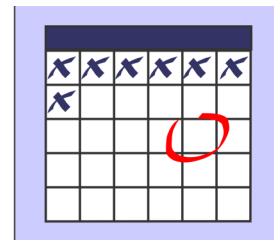
BELL CHOIR — Ringers needed! We are reviving Holy Spirits Bell Choir, but we need you! Bell Choir is open to High School age and up. No experience necessary however you must be able to count to four, preferably with your toes as your hands will be busy. If you are interested in being a ding-a-ling contact Karen M. Jirsa - call or text: 847-858-4755, email: kmjirsa@comcast.net

LIFE LINE SCREENING EVENT—

October 28th

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit on Saturday, October 28, 2023. A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered.

COME HELP OUT



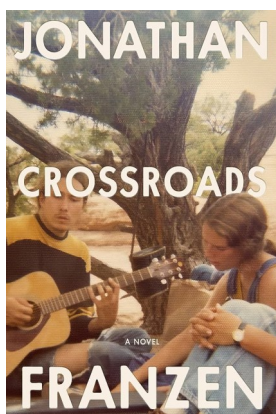
WORK DAY August 19th 8 am to 1 pm

Church Work Day

Our next work day at the church is scheduled for October 21 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. We appreciate your time and will put it to good use. This could be a great family service project! So, join us as we work to keep our facility and grounds in excellent condition.

BOOK CLUB — Book Club is moved to Friday

October 20th at 7:30



Crossroads by Jonathon Franzen

It's December 23, 1971, and heavy weather is forecast for Chicago. Russ Hildebrandt, the associate pastor of a liberal suburban church, is on the

brink of breaking free of a marriage he finds joyless - unless his wife, Marion, who has her own secret life, beats him to it. Their eldest child, Clem, is coming home from college on fire with moral absolutism, having taken an action that will shatter his father. Clem's sister, Becky, long the social queen of her high school class, has sharply veered into the counterculture, while their brilliant younger brother Perry, who's been selling drugs to seventh graders, has resolved to be a better person. Each of the Hildebrandts seeks a freedom that each of the others threatens to complicate.

Jonathan Franzen's novels are celebrated for their unforgettably vivid characters and for their keen-eyed take on contemporary America. Now, in *Crossroads*, Franzen ventures back into the past and explores the history of two generations. With characteristic humor and complexity, and with even greater warmth, he conjures a world that resonates powerfully with our own.

A tour de force of interwoven perspectives and sustained suspense, its action largely unfolding on a single winter day, *Crossroads* is the story of a Midwestern family at a pivotal moment of

moral crisis. Jonathan Franzen's gift for melding the small picture and the big picture has never been more dazzlingly evident.

TIME & TALENT SHEETS

There is never a shortage of tasks that would benefit from your time and talent. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to serve and volunteer at Holy Spirit. Fill out a form, they are available in the Gathering Area (Narthex).

PET BLESSING

Blessing of the Pets Service - October 7, 9:00 am Don't forget to RSVP to the church office if you're going to bring your special family member for our pet blessing. All in God's creation are blessed, join us as we celebrate and entrust our pets to God.

CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS



In October, we will pack "treat boxes" for our college students as they study hard. If you have a college student

in "need" of a treat box, please provide their address to the church office or lutheranholyspirit@gmail.com. A drop box will be in the narthex to receive donations of goodies (candy, small salty snacks, and gum). Monetary donations to offset the cost of shipping are also greatly appreciated!

Please contact Kari Davenport, karikdavenport@yahoo.com 773-844-7542 with any questions.

church council **MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly Church Council meeting was held on September 11th. **Treasurer's report** included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$23,592. (YTD total is \$266,433). Operating expenses were \$36,158 (YTD total is \$307,122).

As of the end August, we have a negative operating budget deficit of \$40,689. **Pastor's report** Pastor Tim reported that the building is alive with activity again. The Preschool is back in session and the Church's small groups are meeting again. We will be celebrating New Member Sunday on the 17th. **Christian Education** is up and running again. We are always looking for more Sunday School teachers. **Human Needs** collected \$475 for the backpacks for Fill a Heart 4 Kids. The clothing drive for PADS will end on September 17th. **Property** had a productive workday on August 19th due to a good turnout of enthusiastic volunteers. **Worship and Music** met to plan out the fall season of hymns and special music. **Long Range Planning** will have their first meeting for the New Visioning. **Old Business:** The Gathering Area has received some of the new furniture. They hope to have the rest of the furniture soon. Talks are underway with LCNS on their upcoming lease. **New Business:** Jen Prosk, Wayne Giampietro and Jan Schwanke are the Nominating Committee for 2024. Council is looking into options for a new pictorial directory. **Next council meeting is scheduled for October 9th, at 7:30 PM.** All council meetings are open to Holy Spirit members. Minutes and reports of the council are kept in a public notebook in the narthex.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP



Jan Schwanke—*President*

Nancy Fencil

Jennifer Prosk

Jeanne Nelson—*Vice President*

Kelly Wittich

Wayne Giampietro

Daaron Dohler—*Treasurer*

Joel Utterback

Andy Eastmond

Kari Davenport—*Secretary*

Allison Wyrwich

Jackie Murphy

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

It was good to see that we added some new members to the family at Holy Spirit. While we are just beginning to recover from summer vacations, and the like, it will soon be time to begin thinking about ordering envelopes and planning the budget for 2024. While we are not yet asking for anyone to submit a pledge for 2024, it is not too soon to begin thinking about that subject. We will be reaching out to the membership shortly to find out who will be requesting envelopes for 2024, which will precede our request for pledges for giving next year.

- Wayne B. Giampietro

Chair, Stewardship Committee

YOU are important to Holy Spirit! Please consider serving on our Church Council beginning in January. Nominees will be presented at our Annual Meeting after the service on January 21. If you would like more information about this important leadership role, please ask Jen Prosk, Wayne Giampietro, or Jan Schwanke. Pastor Tim or any member of the Council would also be happy to answer questions.

What Belongs To God?

Traditionally the latter part of the Pentecost season has been a time of stewardship emphasis in our congregations. On any given Sunday in October or November you might hear a message on stewardship in your congregation. I remember vividly the feeling of panic that came upon me when I was a young and newly ordained pastor and needed to come up with a stewardship message for my congregation on "Stewardship Sunday." So when a lay member of the congregation volunteered to present a program on tithing I was elated and gladly accepted his offer. For his presentation he set up two tables in the front of the sanctuary. Then he began to demonstrate how we have been richly blessed by God and how little God requires of us in return. The presenter did this by taking 10 apples putting 9 of them on one table and one apple on the other. He did the same with 10 bananas and 10 oranges and 10 shirts, etc. Soon the table with the 9 items of each kind was stacked high with all kinds of blessings. And the table with one of each kind was dramatically less

Continued on page 13



TRUNK or treat

Please join us for a
Halloween Celebration

October 24

Trick or treat in our
parking lot!

6:00-7:30

**WE NEED CAR
DECORATORS!
EMAIL: JENNIFER**

abundant. His point was that tithing was a small thing to do in comparison to all that we have received. God gives us abundantly and expects so little of us, that we can surely give that little tithe. Then came the clincher when pointing to the abundant table of blessings, and said, “God has given us all this to do whatever we want, so at least we can give a tithe back to God.”

Through the years I have come to understand how limited this concept of stewardship is. Sure, God does ask us to tithe. That is biblical. But the Bible doesn't stop with the tithe. Biblical stewardship has more to do with what we do with the 90% left after we tithe. These gifts are not just ours to do with as we please. All that God gives us is to be used according to God's will for us, our family, our community, our nation and all people. One of the Gospel stories we hear in congregations this time of year is the story of Jesus' encounter with the Pharisees. Trying to entrap him they asked, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” Jesus' answer was simple. He asked for a coin they used to pay the tax and then said, “Whose head and title is on this coin?” They answered, “The emperor's.” Jesus said, “Give therefore to the emperor that things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.” And what belongs to God? Everything belongs to God. All things come from God and all things return to God. And all that we have been given is on loan to us from God and is to be used

according to God's will. To be a “steward” is to be in charge of someone else's property, which is to be used according to the owner's wishes. That's the biblical concept of stewardship.

Therefore stewardship includes all that we do and say. It includes all our resources and how we use them for the good of others. It includes all of our money and how we spend it. It includes how we respond to the needs of our neighbor and our world. It includes issues of justice and welfare for all God's people. The tithe is a biblical concept that is meant just to be a beginning point for our stewardship. And it is a good beginning point, but it is only a beginning point. I encourage you to look beyond the tithe as you consider the stewardship of the resources God has given you. We often pray:

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OCTOBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Youth Car Wash	2	3 Blood Drive 2:30– 7 pm 4:15 LYFE 4:30 Confirmation	4 7pm Choir	5 9:30 am Prayer Group 10:15 am Bible Study	6	7 9:00 am Blessing of the pets
8 Stewardship Kickoff	9 7:30 pm Council Meeting	10 10:30 am ExPOS 4:15 LYFE 4:30 Confirmation	11 6pm Worship & Music Meeting 7pm Choir	12 9:30 am Prayer Group 10:15 am Bible Study	13 5 pm—9pm Confirmation Retreat	14
15 Packing College Care package	16	17 10 am Quilters 4:15 LYFE 4:30 Confirmation 7 pm Vision Task Force	18 7pm Choir	19 9:30 am Prayer Group 10:15 am Bible Study	20	21 8 —1pm Work Day
22 Youth Watch Party	23	24 4:15 LYFE 4:30 Confirmation Trunk or Treat 6-7:30pm	25 7pm Choir	26 9:30 am Prayer Group 10:15 am Bible Study	27	28 9—5 pm Life Line Screening
29 Reformation Sunday Family Activity	30					



1- Erin Hathaway	12- Tammy Cantagallo	22- Dorothy Stocks
3- Kristen Ahlschwede	Tim Tagge	27- Sammie Pink
Jack Tantillo	13- Scott Schwanke	28- Mary Giampietro
4- Kaitlyn Koblas	Don Thurman	Jayne Upadhyay
6- Ingeborg Hektor	14- Judy Shambrook	Paige Werner
8- Audrey Hathaway	15- Kelly Wittich	30- Ethan Cloonan
9- David Fencel	20- Marcie McIntyre	Lily Upadhyay

Quilters — The quilting ministry meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00. This month's date is October 24. No experience necessary to join them.

Prayer Group — Our prayer group meets at 9:30 AM every Thursday morning in the Sanctuary as we lift up those in need of prayer. Everyone is welcome to join us.

EXPOS — Our Senior's group, the Experienced People of Spirit, are planning a trip to the Chicago Botanical Gardens for our October event, on October 10th. Admission is free, but there will be a charge for parking. So, put it on your calendar and join us for an inspiring fall activity. More details will be coming!

Adult Choir — Adult choir rehearsal takes place on Sunday mornings from 8:45 to 9:15.

Thursday Bible Study — Meets weekly from 10:15 to 11:30. Besides delving into the Holy Scriptures, we also study contemporary theologians, our Lutheran roots, and current issues and their impact on our lives. Our next unit will be on "Five to Thrive as a Christian - principles for a faithful life." Join us for some spirit conversation! We always close our time together in prayer.

Prayer Concerns —

We freshen prayer concerns after 3 weeks, so the list remains current. Please remember to email Ciara in the church office at lutheranholyspirit@gmail.com when prayer concerns change or to update your request.



Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit is
a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

LIVE STREAM

WITH IMPROVED SOUND AND VIDEO QUALITY



The Holy Spirit YouTube channel is now where you will find live streaming of Sunday services. There you can also access saved recordings. Go to our YouTube channel or scan the QR CODE youtube.com/@churchinthewoods-holyspiri6256/streams

Please reach out to Daaron Dohler or Jeanne Nelson if you have any questions.

ON-LINE GIVING AND TEXT TO GIVE

We have several secure online giving options to make it more convenient for members and visitors



to donate. Giving is also as easy as sending a text with our new text-to-give feature. Send the amount you want to donate to 844-573-1379.

For example, if you want to donate \$100, then text the number 100 to 844-573-1379. You will receive a registration link to enter your contact and payment information. Tap "Process" to complete your donation. Please scan this QR code with your phone to donate using secure online giving page.

HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

More information may be found on our website: www.holyspirit-elca.org



Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069
Phone: 847-945-1550
Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom, Pastor

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED