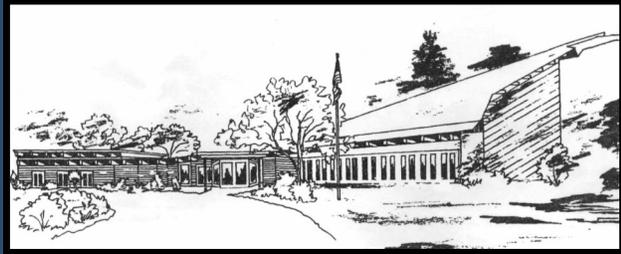




**Lutheran Church
of the Holy Spirit**
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



January 2023

ANNUAL MEETING



Please join us for our congregation's Annual Meeting on January 22nd after our 9:30 AM worship service. We'll be electing new council members, approving the budget and reviewing the reports of our ministries from the past year. We also want to cast a vision for a mission-oriented 2023, and we want your insight, so plan on attending this important gathering.



The Nominating Team on the Church Council is currently searching for new leaders to serve on the Church Council. We are particularly looking for someone to lead our Fellowship Team. Please prayerfully consider how you will serve your church and provide leadership in the coming year.

BUDGET PREVIEW MEETING - JANUARY 15 AT 10:30 AM

On Sunday, January 15th after our 9:30 worship service, we'll be reviewing the Annual Report ahead of our Annual Congregational Meeting, which is the following week. Please join us and bring your comments and questions as we review and look forward to the new year.

NEW YOUTUBE 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

[https://www.youtube.com/
@churchinthewoods-
holyspiri6256/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@churchinthewoods-holyspiri6256/streams)



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

A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

A New Year is upon us and many of us take the opportunity to look back over all that has unfolded in the past year and to also look forward to the opportunities that a new year brings. Now some make New Year's resolutions, but I've heard that because most don't follow through on them, that it's not worth doing. But I recently learned that maybe there's more to it. Apparently, 40-45% of American adults make one or more resolutions each year. As time goes on, 75% maintain their resolutions past the first week, 71% after the first two weeks, 64% after one month, and 46% after six months. Although a lot of people who make resolutions do break them, research shows that making resolutions is useful, and people who explicitly make resolutions are 10 times more likely to attain their goals than people who don't explicitly make resolutions.

I believe the Apostle Paul was one who encouraged people to make resolutions because he witnessed new converts to the Christian faith who were notoriously enthusiastic. There's nothing like the enthusiasm of a beginner, but whether one is a new convert to a new exercise program, vegetarianism, fly fishing, or a living faith with Jesus Christ; the rampant exuberance of a new love is hard to maintain for any length of time. The joy of exercise gradually becomes just another chore on your long list of "things to do." Old habits and tastes cry out to be satisfied with a Big Mac. Getting away to that perfect fishing hole never seems possible on your schedule, and Sunday morning services, Bibles Study, and volunteering seem to consume your week and you feel the need for some "time off".

Paul recognized the need for all Christians to periodically "rekindle the gift of God" that we have received in our lives, and he'd say it takes three things. The first would be the Power of the Holy Spirit. On our own, we are totally incapable of remaining faithful to anyone or anything – not even ourselves. The greatest gift each of us receives as new children in Christ is that special presence Christ sent to be among us the Holy Spirit. But like a fire needs to be fed by oxygen, we need to be fed by the continued presence of the Holy Spirit. If we ignore the presence of this "spirit of power", we cut ourselves off from the possibility of a living spirit within us.

It is not enough to simply fan the flames of faithfulness within ourselves. Until we open ourselves up to others and let the warmth of this fire spread through our family, our friends, our church, our community, it is bound to gradually die out. The gospels are filled with Jesus' counsel on how to live in this world as a disciple of his love. If we would nurture the flames of faithfulness within us, we must love the poor and outcast, we must be willing to turn the other cheek, to go the extra mile, to give the extra coat. Love is relational, it must be practiced, and acted out, in relationships with others. Contrary to what we may feel sometimes, it is our contact with others that fuels our faith. It is as though each person who touches us brings a log to throw on the fire. The more we reach out to others in love, the higher the flames of faith can climb.

But even those who acknowledge the power of the Holy Spirit and who encounter others with a loving attitude may gradually lose their spark. So, to avoid becoming "spiritually useless", we must all practice a self-disciplined lifestyle. Paul repeatedly testified to the comfort that daily prayer brought him. We need to regularly be fed by the Word of God, be

in the discipline of attending worship, and practice giving of our time, talents, and treasures. No flames no matter how well fueled, will continue to burn without a careful prod here and push there. We must be willing to work our fires if we wish to keep them burning brightly.

So, as we enter a New Year full of so much promise, let's resolve to rekindle the spark of our faith into a roaring fire of faith and faithfulness, for we have been called to shine like the Son, for ourselves, our families, our friends, church, and community. 2023 is going to be an incredible year! It's up to us to fan the flame!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tim

Quilters

The quilting ministry meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30. This month's date is January 20th. No experience necessary to join them.

Meet & Greet

We reserve the last Sunday of the month at 9:30 AM for a special time of fellowship as we gather as a family of faith to renew, sustain, and form new friendships.

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— January 10th at 11:30 AM

Our Seniors, our EXperienced People Of the Spirit, meet the second Tuesday of the month. Please join us on Tuesday, January 10th at 11:30 as we will be discussing events for the coming year. Bring your ideas and a bag lunch, and share in fellowship after the meeting.

Prayer Concerns

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

Adult Choir

Adult choir rehearsal takes place on Sunday mornings from 8:45 to 9:15; but we will not meet on January 1st.

Thursday Bible Study — Weekly 10:15-11:30 AM

We will be taking a break until January 12th, but then please join us on Thursday mornings from 10:15 to 11:30 for a time of Biblical reflection and spirited conversation! We are currently studying the book "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Philip Yancey. In this personal and focused reflection on Jesus, Jesus becomes powerfully present, expanding our too-narrow views of Jesus to an understanding of the full promises of the Bible. Yancey's flair for honest, vivid, well-informed, down-to-earthness gives piercing power to the gospel facts about Jesus, helping us see our Savior as he really was, and is. Your thoughts and opinions are valued as we learn from each other. We always close out time together in prayer.



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

Children's Ministry News

by Jennifer Williams, Children's Ministry Director - jennifer.williamslchschildren@gmail.com



MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Happy New Year!

As we ring in 2023 our children's programming will return with

Sunday School on January 8th.

LYFE on January 10th.

We are looking forward to seeing you then.

Cherub choir will be back during Sunday School! Mrs. Fencil will be leading the group and we are so excited.

Our **Confirmation** class will be participating in a retreat on **February 10.**

We will be planning our annual Youth Sunday on **February 12.**



Learning and having fun go well together.



Getting ready for Christmas Eve Service.

JANUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
— — — WINTER BREAK — — —						
8 8:45 Choir Practice	9 7:30pm Council Mtg.	10 10:30 EXPOS 4 pm LYFE 4:30pm Confirmation	11	12 9:30am Bible Study 10:15am Prayer Group	13	14
15 8:45 Choir Practice 10:30am Budget Preview Mtg	16	17 10:30 Quilters 4 pm LYFE 4:30pm Confirmation	18	19 9:30am Bible Study 10:15am Prayer Group	20	21
22 8:45 Choir Practice 10:30am Annual Congregation Mtg	23	24 4 pm LYFE	25	26 9:30am Bible Study 10:15am Prayer Group	27	28
29 8:45 Choir Practice	30	31 4 pm LYFE				



- | | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----|------------------|-----|-------------------|
| 3- | Hannah Werner | 11- | Anna Tantillo | 21- | Joseph Labellarte |
| 5- | Laura Sieland | 12- | Courtney Dick | | Jan Schwanke |
| 6- | Don Bally | | Lynn Kasche | | Madison Werner |
| 8- | James Lehtinen | 16- | Terri Becker | 23- | Olivia Brown |
| 9- | Katelyn Dohler | 20- | Wayne Giampietro | 28- | Jan Burke |
| 10- | Jess Brown | | Larry Mosner | 30- | Joanna Lynn |
| | Bryan Dick | | Allison Wittich | | Julie Utterback |

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



THE EVENING WAS COLD OUTSIDE BUT
IN THE CHURCH THE WARMTH OF
CHRISTMAS JOY FILLED OUR HEARTS.



Beautiful Poinsettias for Christmas



were given to the glory of God by the following people:

Curtis Lease in memory of Shirley & Harvey Lease.

Ann Plaza in memory of Armand Plaza.

The Leska family in memory of Rory Pektivitch.

Joe and Pam Labellarte in memory of Brenda and Ken Simonson (Pam's sister and brother).

Joanne Schwarcz in memory of Joanne's parents, Mr. & Mrs. William Tillman.

Barry and Jeanne Nelson in memory of John, Louise, and Thomas Gombar.

Jacqueline Murphy.

Daaron and Amy Dohler in honor of our daughters Katelyn and Lora.

Carolyn Raymond in honor of Jane Wiberg.

Gordon and Carol Duprey in honor of our family.

Katie and Don Bally in honor of Dr & Mrs. Arnold Moahs.

Katie and Don Bally in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Bally.

Chris Miller in memory of Jim Miller and Stan Ernst.

Lee Curtis and Family in honor of Gary Curtis.

Pastor Tim Linstrom and Maria Linstrom in memory of our parents,

Robert & Marcene Linstrom and Roberto & Carmen Hernandez.

Ruth Ann Grockis in honor of Charles & Nancy Kengott (parents).

Janet Schwanke.

Bill and Judy Shambrook in memory of our parents.



PADs Shelter Volunteer Opportunities

PADs has resumed limited rotating shelter operations, and St. Mark's Lutheran in Lindenhurst has reached out for volunteers on Fridays. More information and sign up is available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0545aaa728abfb6-friday> Messiah Lutheran no longer is hosting PADs; The Chapel is now hosting a site on the second weekend of the month, as well as other dates, with information available at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a49ada628a5fc1-pads2#/. First Presbyterian in Deerfield is hosting a Sunday PADs site, with more information available at [/https://www.firstpresdf.org/pads](https://www.firstpresdf.org/pads).

PADs January Donation Drive-Please Bring Items to the Annual Meeting on 1/22/23 (or drop off in the Narthex)

PADs maintains an Amazon Wish List to provide items to individuals and families in need this Winter:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/ZK4KVX8VAV3A?ref_=wl_share

Please consider donating to this Wish List.

We will be conducting a donation drive in January with a drop box in the Narthex, culminating at the Annual Meeting--please consider bringing items with you to the Annual Meeting. PADs currently needs **shelf-stable items in microwaveable** ready bowls:

- Easy Mac
- Chef Boyardee
- Dinty Moore meals
- Cup of Soup
- Ramen Cups



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY!**

The generosity of our church made the holidays at Lutheran Day Nursery a little brighter. We collected gifts for 36 children in the preschool and after school program while also providing Target gift cards to families in need.



HELP US TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

After worship this Sunday, January 8th, we'll be taking down all the Christmas decorations and storing them until next year. We can use all the help we can get to make this process go quick and easy. So don't forget to stick around this Sunday and help us out! Thank you!

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY— Meets 10:15-11:30 AM

Join us on Thursday mornings from 10:15 to 11:30 for a time of Biblical reflection and spirited conversation! We are currently studying the book "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Philip Yancey. In this personal and focused reflection on Jesus, Jesus becomes powerfully present, expanding our too-narrow views of Jesus to an understanding of the full promises of the Bible. Yancey's flair for honest, vivid, well-informed, down-to-earthness gives piercing power to the gospel facts about Jesus, helping us see our Savior as he really was, and is. Your thoughts and opinions are valued as we learn from each other. We always close out time together in prayer.

NEW ON-LINE GIVING AND TEXT TO GIVE

We are excited to announce that we have several new 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 code with your phone to donate using our secure online giving page.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please check to see if you have a 2023 box of envelopes to pick up, a few remain on the table by the coat rack.



THE CHERUB CHOIR

Cherub Choir will be starting during Sunday School beginning January 8th.

DID YOU KNOW?

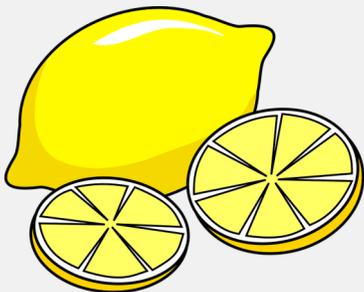
Highlights of our Church Council minutes appear in each monthly newsletter. But are you aware of how much work goes on behind the scenes to make Holy Spirit function? In addition to Pastor Tim, Jennifer Williams, Ciara Crews, Mike Duffy, and Bill Vaananen, we have a cadre of volunteers who give of their time and talent every month.

If you'd like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend a Church Council meeting. We meet in room 6 on the second Monday of each month at 7:30PM. You are always welcome!

2023 FLOWER CHART— We have some flower donation openings available for the coming weeks so please take a look and sign up.



The gift of flowers adds to the beauty of our sanctuary, especially in the cold months of winter. Each year the flower chart is posted and members remember special days or individuals with a gift of flowers to our worship service. The 2023 flower chart is posted in the narthex for you to sign up for a Sunday. Flowers are yours to take home following Sunday's worship service. Flowers currently cost \$35 per week. Sign up today to get the dates you want.



There once was a strongman at a circus sideshow who demonstrated his power before large audiences every night.

Toward the end of one performance, he squeezed the juice from a lemon between his hands. He said to the onlookers, "I will offer \$200 to anyone here who can squeeze another drop from this lemon."

A thin older lady hobbled up the stage. She picked up the lemon and clamped it between her two frail, boney hands. She squeezed. And out came a teaspoon of lemon juice.

The strongman was amazed. He paid the woman \$200 but privately asked her, "What is the secret of your strength?"

"Practice," the woman answered. "I have been treasurer of my church for forty-two years!"

church council MEETING

Highlights for December 2022

The monthly Church Council meeting was held on December 12th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$29,303 for November (YTD total is \$365,299 (including a transfer from the Building Fund for furnace repairs)). Operating expenses were \$26,275 in November (YTD total is \$420,303).

Pastor Tim reported on membership changes, including new members who have recently formally joined and others who are planning to formally join soon. The Korean Methodist Church which previously expressed interest in renting space has withdrawn its interest due to budget constraints. Worship service attendance is increasing. We had a great showing for Hanging of the Greens and Advent Wreath. Additional Communion Deacons and readers, as well as greeters, will be needed for Christmas Eve services. Refreshments will be available on Christmas Eve. Pastor Tim will be on vacation after Christmas, and Pastor Koth will be here on January 1 and January 8. Christian Education reported that the children's Christmas Program was fantastic; it is available for streaming, and the link will be sent out again. LYFE and Sunday School will meet one more time in 2022 and will resume the week of January 8. Cherub Choir will resume in January. CUFF requested that a fellowship event notebook is being prepared. Growth reported on another well-received round of Name Tags with Meet and Greet Sunday, and on kiosk, and church signage for Christmas Eve services. There will NOT be a Meet and Greet Sunday for Christmas Day Service. Having the QR code in the newsletter and church publications is very helpful, and we had a new family scan and share their info. Jen is creating more conversation with Ciara about cleaning up the systems that

internally share new people's info and is working on utilizing the Giving App's ability to capture new donor info. Jen will reach out to new attendees at holiday season services. Human Needs reported that Kari concluded another successful Angel Tree and gift card donation and that we will continue to support PADs with donations in January and will continue to provide information about and links to host sites. Personnel reported on office and staff holiday gifts. Property reported that LCNS asked to put up bulletin boards in the hallways. Joel continues to work with D-Wing to come out for repairs. The gutters have been cleaned, and Joel continues maintenance work and seasonal clean-up. Stewardship reported that Jan and Wayne followed up with members who pledged this year but had not yet submitted pledge cards for next year, with favorable responses. Technology reported that Daaron has gotten live streaming on YouTube up and running. Recordings are stored and available on the congregation's channel, and the link will be shared on Facebook. The company that operated the Simply Giving program and giving app now offers web-based giving with a QR code for instant donations, as well as a text-to-give option. The YouTube channel and live stream also will include giving options. Worship and Music reported on Christmas Orchestra is assembled. Volunteers are still needed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Old Business: The new Christmas Tree

Continued on page 13

Continued from page 12

and outdoor lights are up, thanks to the generosity of our members. Nominating Committee continues its work on a slate of candidates. The Council revisited the 2023 proposed budget. New Business: Council member annual reports are due to the Church Office by December 30. Next council meeting is currently scheduled for January 16, 2023, at 7:30 PM. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 22, 2023, after service. 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 COUNCIL MEETS are held on the SECOND MONDAY of the MONTH

Guests are welcome at all our church council meetings and we appreciate the input and feedback that comes from all our congregation members. Our next council meeting is Monday, January 9th at 7:30 pm, and meetings tend to last about 2 hours.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—January 22 , 10:30 AM Join us as we celebrate the past year and approve new council members and budget.

The annual meeting of Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit will be held following the 9:30 am worship service on Sunday, January 22nd, 2023. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect council members, review ministry priorities, and approve the operating budget for 2023. All baptized and confirmed members of the congregation are voting members of the congregation. It is important for all members to attend this meeting so we can have your input and to ensure we have a quorum. Join us as we celebrate the past year, elect new council members and approve the 2023 budget.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of December 29, approximately \$245,443 has been pledged. Thank you to those who have already turned in their "Estimate of Giving" pledge cards. If you have not turned yours in yet, please do so as soon as possible, and prayerfully consider how you can give of yourself financially, give in grace, and grow in sharing your gifts from the abundance of gifts God has given you.

BUDGET PREVIEW MEETING - JANUARY 15 AT 10:30 AM

On Sunday, January 15th at 10:30 following our worship service, we'll be reviewing the Annual report ahead of our Annual Congregational Meeting. Please join us and bring your questions and thoughts to share as we review the reports and look forward to the new year.



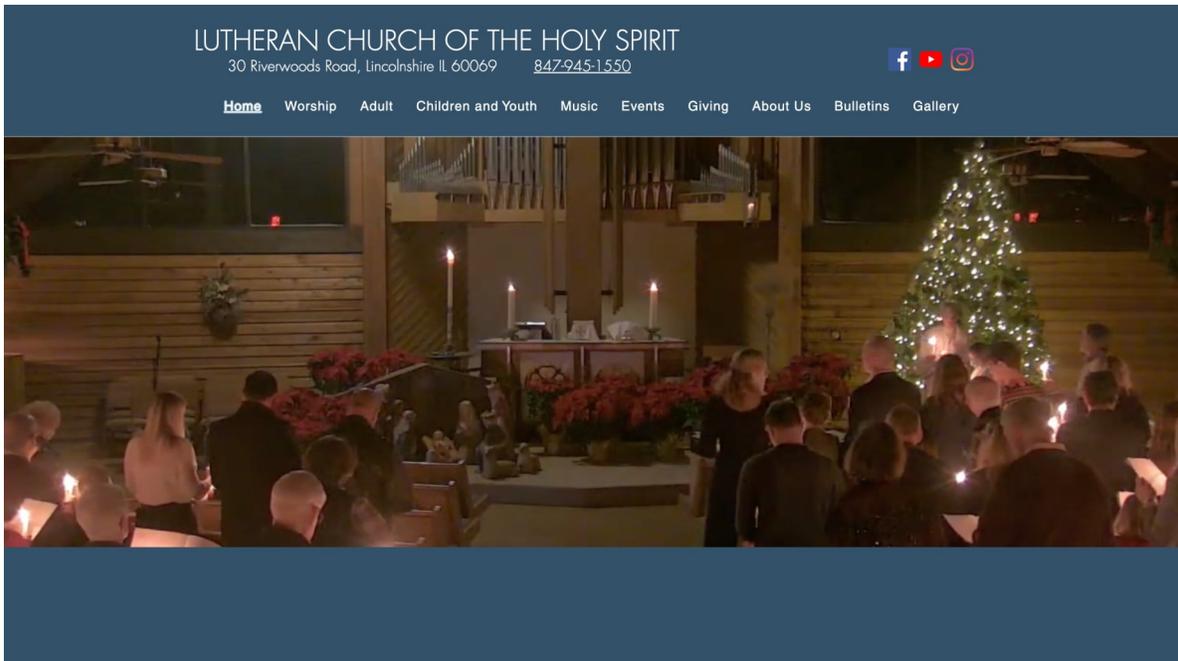
Happy
New
Year

May this New Year bring you—
joy, happiness, &
good health.



New Year – New Look

The new year will bring some new changes that I hope you will like. Please check out the continually evolving website. There you will find updates on activities and various church happenings.



HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

January 2023



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

Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom, Pastor

Phone: 847-945-1550

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED