

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

December 2024

Advent & Christmas

Hanging of the Greens — On Sunday, December 1st after our 9:30 worship service, we will be preparing the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons by putting up the Christmas tree and decorating the church. This will be a fun event for your whole family to enjoy and participate in.

Advent Wreaths — If you ordered an Advent Wreath they will be available for pick up on December 1st after the 9:30 service.

Mid-Week Advent Services — December 4, 11, & 18

In the midst of the rush of preparing for Christmas, we will have three Taize style worship services on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m. These short, half-hour contemplative worship services will bring peace and centeredness during this busy time of year as we focus on Christ, the light of the world, who brings healing, redemption, and peace.

Christmas Program and Sing-Along — Sunday, December 10 at 10:45 AM. This year's program is entitled, "A Walk With Santa Lucia". Don't miss the kids performing in this delightful annual program.

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule —
3:30 PM - Service of Candles and Communion with special music.

5:00 PM - Family worship with Candles and Communion; the Christmas Orchestra, Youth and Cherub Choirs.

Please note we are not having a third evening service this year.



A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter a new season of the church year, the season of Advent, we recognize that Advent has a distinctive place, for it calls us to prepare for the return of the Lord. It calls us to be looking to the “second coming” and the reign of God. Advent is about the future of the Risen One, who will judge all wickedness and prevail over every evil. It is the celebration of the promise that Christ will bring an end to everything that is opposing to the ways of God. Christ’s resurrection is the first sign of this destruction of the powers of death, and now wait in anticipation of what is yet to come. Advent’s pointing to the future, speaks to us right now.

And Christ’s presence at Christmas commemorates the appearing of that Eternal Word in our midst. Christmas is about God taking on flesh, and God’s divine participation in all that is painful, ugly, frustrating, and limited. God became like us that we might become like God, and God accepted death that the world might accept life. It’s almost unbelievable that God would participate in, with, and for us, in all that we are and do, and yet this is truly the spirit of Christmas, and the awesome, overwhelming power of grace. God sent Jesus into the world to die on the cross not to “make a difference in the world,” but to “make the world different.” God came to us in Jesus, the Word made flesh, not to make adjustments and accommodations in the existing order of things, but to throw out the existing order and replace it with another.

God sent Jesus to redeem the world!

As Jesus’ redeemed disciples, we too, are NOT sent out into the world, to just “make a difference in life,” but to “make life different.” And we can make life different! We can begin to make the world different by making ourselves different, by relying on God-provided insight and God-provided energy and courage to attempt the things that others say is impossible. If we truly want to be part of God’s mission to redeem the world, we must get off that “make-a difference” diet and start stuffing our souls with God-sized dreams, the kind of dreams that truly create change, the kind of dreams we hear of around Christmas, like “Peace on earth, and goodwill to all.”

So, as we enter into this busy season of Advent and Christmas, filled with all its commercialism and distractions, let us take the time this Advent season to slow down and reflect on how the coming of the Christ child changed the world, and how we can continue

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY —

Continued from page 2

his redeeming work. And don't forget to remember all those who may have experienced loss, who may find it difficult to experience the joy of this sacred season, and lift them up in prayer, visit them, listen to them, and encourage them with the hope only the Holy Spirit can bring. Allow this Advent season to be a break from all the busyness the world throws at us. Enter into the silence and hear the good news of the gospel. Let us direct our focus on the holy birth of the Christ child in Bethlehem, the promise of his coming again, and what we can do prepare the way of the Lord.

Have a Blessed Advent and a Joyful, Merry Christmas! And let's make the world different in the year to come!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tim



We are pleased to welcome our new members.

Pictured here are Terhi Tuominen & her son Finn Mole
Jonathon & Jennifer Gideon, Kay Meren, Janet & James Weith



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY LUNCH —



Thankyou to those who made
our annual Stewardship Sunday
Lunch so enjoyable.



A FELLOWSHIP EVENING AT —

Johnny's

KITCHEN & TAP

Holy Spirit enjoyed a fun evening out sharing a meal and enjoying the talents of Bill Vaananen and his daughter Mia Hart.





Children's Ministry News

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

LYFE

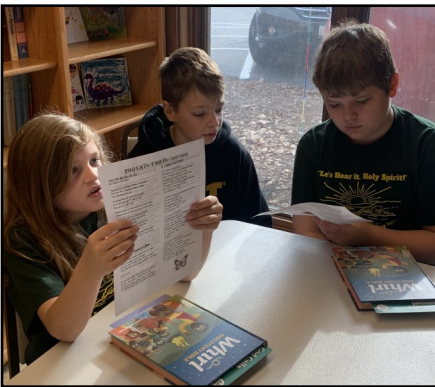
Youth Choir: Please join us for the annual Christmas Program on Sunday December 8. The kids will be performing immediately following the service.

Our Tuesday crew will be having some Christmas fun in December. We will focus on The Christmas Story with activities to follow.

Sunday School

We will be gathering in December to learn about Advent, hear the Christmas Story, and have some fun celebrating. Join us after the children's sermon each week.

Sunday School



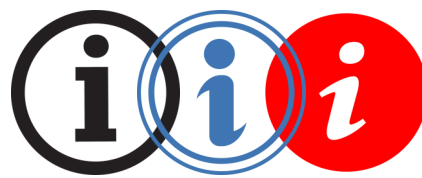
LCCHS Confirmation and Youth

Please join us for our Christmas "Watch Party" on December 15. Meet up in the YOUTH ROOM before the 9:30 service for breakfast and we'll watch the live stream together. RSVP to Jennifer so everyone has treats!

ADVENT WREATH ORDERS: Please pick up your kits in the gathering space on Sunday Dec 1. After the service. Thanks to all who ordered!

LYFE Choir





HANGING OF THE GREEN —

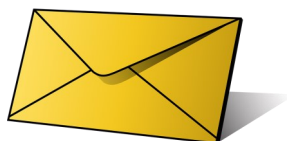
On Sunday, December 1st after our 9:30 worship service, we will be preparing the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons by putting up the Christmas tree and decorating the church. This will be a fun event for your whole family to enjoy and participate in. Last year we accomplished this feat in record time, as we needed to complete this task before the True Hope, Korean congregation began their worship service. Mark your calendar and join us as we all work together to make our worship space festive and beautiful for the holidays.

ADVENT WREATHS —

If you ordered an Advent Wreath they will be available for pick up on December 1st after the 9:30 service.

2025 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES —

Contribution envelopes will be made available in the gathering space beginning mid-December. If you would like to continue using envelopes or would like to start please let Ciara know and she will assign a new # and box of envelopes to you. We have plenty so if you decide later or do not see your name on a box just let us know.



2025 FLOWER CHART —

The flower chart for next year is in the gathering space. Please sign up and remember to write clearly. The contribution for flowers is \$35.00.

TAX TIME

COMETH —

While we are still many months away from April 2025, the end of the year is approaching rapidly. You may want to consider contributing some shares to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. As you look toward the end of the year and the special needs of our church budget, you might consider the timeliness of certain contributions now.

Stocks that you have held for a long time and that have very low basis cost may be especially attractive as charitable gifts. Stock gifts have double value because they often avoid capital gains tax and they result in an income tax deduction for charitable gifts.

Few people contribute to the church just for the tax advantages yet it is a consideration for when you might want to make a contribution.

Please be sure that if you make a transfer to the church, you notify our office so we can be sure all is completed in an orderly manner and proper credit is received.



ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER –

The annual meeting of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit will be held following the 9:30 worship service on Sunday, January 19, 2025. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect council members, review ministry priorities, and approve an operating budget for 2025. All baptized and confirmed members of the congregation are voting members of the congregation.

THE CHRISTMAS TRADITION OF SERVICE TO OTHERS –

There are so many wonderful traditions that we celebrate as we anticipate Christmas. We create nativity scenes, we have family reunions, we give gifts, we sing carols, and we have festive worship services. It is a joyful time, and for many it can be the most difficult time of year, as memories of loved ones that have died, and feelings about relationships that have been broken, can cause some to feel lost, alone, depressed. As we look forward to Christ's return and celebrate his coming in the birth of the Christ child, let's keep all those who need help getting through this Christmas season in our hearts and our prayers. Perhaps we can seek out the forgotten in our midst and share our concern and our joy, and share the true reason for the season. Let's create a new Christmas tradition, looking beyond those closest to us, to reach out to someone who may need one of the greatest gifts of all, a friend.



ANGEL TREE –

One of the most rewarding Christmas activities around Holy Spirit is the sharing of gifts with children in need. Each year, we receive the names of children from Lutheran Day Nursery/After School Program for whom we purchase gifts at Christmas. These children have come to be called our “angels”.

Sign Up: We are asking people to sign up for a child/children. A link to sign up can be found on the church website at www.holyspirit-elca.org/volunteer

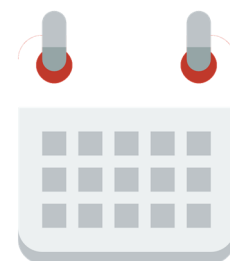
If you are unable to sign up online, you may contact Kari Davenport and she will assign you a child.

Drop Off: Wrapped gifts are due to the church by Sunday, December 15th. You can drop off during office hours or on Sundays during services. If you need help wrapping your gifts, please contact Kari.

Appropriate Items: We strive to provide each child with an age-appropriate toy, an article of warm clothing (like a shirt, pants, sweat-suit etc.) and a new or gently used book. However, if there is ever a time to spoil a child, this is one of those times that it's okay.



SAVE THE DATES
Trivia Bash — January 11th
Wine & Cheese Paring
— February 22nd



Labeling Gifts: Please be sure to properly label all your gifts with the child's name when you return them so that they are delivered to the right child.

If you have any questions, please contact
Kari Davenport 773-844-7542
karikdavenport@yahoo.com



THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS —

Thank you to all those who helped make this years thanksgiving special for a family in need. We supplied dinner to 52 local people in 10 families. We also provided each with a \$40 gift card to buy fresh food that is often difficult for them to access.

JAZZ SUNDAY —



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Stewardship Service at church occurred on Sunday, November 17, 2024, followed



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

by a luncheon at the church. At the Stewardship Service 45 pledges were received for 2025. The total amount pledged by those 43 members was \$289,680.

We will do a follow-up with those members who have not pledged in order to determine whether we can obtain any additional pledges. A follow-up report will be provided next month.

Wayne B. Giampietro
Stewardship Committee Chair

FELLOWSHIP UPDATE —

Holy Spirit enjoyed another fun evening out on Saturday, November 9 at Johnny's Kitchen and Tap in Glenview. Bill Vaananen and his daughter Mia Hart provided the wonderful entertainment. Our next Fellowship event will be Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 1. Please plan to stay after the service and decorate our beautiful church for Christmas. Many hands make light work!

Save the date for upcoming events: Saturday, January 11 will be our ever-popular Trivia Bash. Saturday, February 22 will be Wine and Cheese pairing with the British Wine Butler. You don't want to miss either event!

COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED —

Have you considered serving on our Church Council? If you would like to find out more, please contact a member of this year's nominating committee: Kari Davenport (karikdavenport@yahoo.com), Andrew Eastmond (aeastmon@yahoo.com), Nancy Fencel (nfencel@gmail.com) or Allison Wyrwicz (allison.wyrwicz@gmail.com). Any Council member would be happy to chat with you.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP



Allison Wyrwicz—President
Jeanne Nelson—Vice President
Daaron Dohler—Treasurer
Kari Davenport— Secretary

Nancy Fencel
Kelly Wittich
Jennifer Prosk
Andy Eastmond

Michael Pedersen
Wayne Giampietro
Jackie Murphy
Jan Schwanke
Ryan Hathaway



NOVEMBER 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly Church Council meeting was held on November 11th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$44,619 (YTD \$326,991). Operating expenses were \$39,810 (YTD \$362,370).

Pastor's Report We welcomed 8 new members into the church on New Member Sunday. Pastor also officiated a wedding and a baptism. Pastor Tim would like to explore ways to increase our presence on social media to help grow our church. We need all hands on deck on Sunday, December 1st for Hanging of the Greens.

Christian Education Thank you to everyone who decorated a car for Trunk or Treat. Mark your calendars for the Christmas Program on Sunday, December 8th.

Fellowship Enjoyed entertainment by Mr. V and his daughter, Mia at Johnny's Kitchen & Tap on November 9th. They raised \$500 for The Haven shelter.

Property The elevated flat roof repair is complete! We also replaced the hot water heater in the laundry room.

Human Needs Thank you to everyone who donated food or gift cards for the Thanksgiving Baskets for the Vernon Township Food Pantry. Mark your calendars for our next blood drive on Sunday, February 23rd from 8am-noon.

Worship and Music: Christmas Eve 5:30 service will be filled with music by the Christmas band, Tuesday LYFE, Brass, Bell and Adult choir.

New Business: Council is still working on the 2025 budget. Please turn in your pledges so we can prepare an accurate budget! Nominating committee is still looking for members to join the Church Council.

Next council meeting is scheduled for December 9th at 7PM. All council meetings are open to Holy Spirit members. Minutes and reports of the council are kept in a public notebook in the gathering place.

Do you still need to make a stewardship commitment? Help us reach our goal of \$300,000 total commitments for 2025. A link to submit your commitment online can be found on the church website or stewardship forms are available in the church gathering space.



Take One Step Up... for Christ and His Church

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and His church, we plan to
Take One Step Up in our giving.

THE CHRISTMAS ORCHESTRA

The Holy Spirit Christmas Orchestra is getting organized!

Reserve your chair NOW!
All Holy Spirit instrumentalists with at least 1 year of playing are invited to play on Christmas Eve at 5:15 before the 5:30 PM Christmas Eve service.

We will rehearse ONCE,
on Sunday, December 22 at 10:30 ish in the Choir room.
Please make this one rehearsal!
Music will be available in the gathering place after Thanksgiving-
Please practice before the rehearsal!!!

RSVP with your instrument to Nancy Fencil at
njflood@yahoo.com or text 847-507-0878



LCHS Presents

A NIGHT



**Saturday, January 11
7 PM
Lutheran Church of the
Holy Spirit
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire**

Sign up with friends and make your own team, or we will place you on a team.

\$15 per person.

Refreshments will be available.

Brain Bash Trivia

is a live interactive trivia game where the questions are fun for all ages about stuff you know and stuff you didn't realize you knew and maybe a few things you'll learn! The questions are fun and the host, **Jeremy Cahnmann**, has been quizzing people all over the country for over a decade and makes each event unique. Come out and exercise your mind!



Quilters — The quilting ministry meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. No experience necessary to join.

Adult Choir — Regular Adult choir rehearsal times are as follows: Wednesday evenings at 7:15 PM. Sunday mornings from 8:30.

Bell Choir — Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 6:15pm and alternating Sundays; Nov 10th and 24th at 10:45am.

Brass Choir — Rehearsals are on alternating Sundays; Nov 3rd and 24th at 10:45am.

Prayer Group — Our prayer group meets at 9:30 AM every Thursday morning in room 3 as we lift up those in need of prayer. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Prayer Concerns — We freshen prayer concerns regularly, 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.

Thursday Bible Study — This class meets every Thursday morning from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Over the course of the year we cover various books of the Bible, contemporary theologians, our Lutheran roots, and current issues as they impact our lives. Join us as we continue our study of "The Forgotten Luther: Reclaiming the Church's Public Witness". In this critical time in history, this book argues that what is urgently needed is a cogent, clear, biblically based and theologically grounded rationale for the manner in which the church speaks in the political arena. This book looks carefully at the public witness of Martin Luther and its meaning for preaching, teaching, and carrying out public ministry today. Join us for some spirited discernment and conversation! We always close our time together in prayer.



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

LIVE STREAM — Our services are live streamed and archived our Holy Spirit YouTube Channel. www.youtube.com/@churchinthewoods-holyspirit6256 or scan the QR code.



TEXT TO GIVE

Text the amount you want to donate to 844-573-1379.



ON-LINE GIVING

SECURE ONLINE GIVING through Simply Giving. Find a link on our website giving tab or scan the QR code





1- Eileen Hoffman	7- Mark McElhinny	23- Ashley Adkisson
Thomas Tagge	8- Judy Mosner	Gordon Duprey
3- Wendy Koblas	9- Todd Davenport	26- Kimberly Koblas
Pastor Tim Linstrom	Sue Rosko	27- Bill Shambrook
Inge Ohnona	10- Jacob Steinberger	28- Logan Garbrecht
4- Al Edwards	17- James Ahlschwede	Jacob Schroetter
Michelle Labellarte	18- Diane Neumann	James Pink
Amanda Spoehr	21- Barry Nelson	31- Melissa Brotz
6- Elisabeth Falato	22- Dennis Burke	
	Joan Roehl	

Poinsettias for Christmas



Help us decorate the altar for Christmas Eve services by donating poinsettias to the glory of God, in honor or memory of someone special. Cost is \$20.00 per plant. Checks may be made payable to *Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit*. Please complete the form below and return it along with your check to the church office by Dec. 10.



Name _____

Phone _____

Number of Poinsettias _____ @ \$20 each

Given to the Glory of God and in memory / honor of:

DECEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Hanging of the greens Advent Wreath Pick up	2	3 4:15 pm LYFE 4:30 pm Confirmation Class	4 6:15 pm Bells 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:30 pm Choir	5 9:30 AM Prayer Group 10:15 am Bible Study	6	7
8 Angel Tree 10:30 am Christmas Pro- gram & Sing Along	9 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	10 4:15 pm LYFE 4:30 pm Confirmation Class	11 6:15 pm Bells 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:30 pm Choir	12 9:30 AM Prayer Group 10:15 am Bible Study	13	14
15 9:3 am Youth Watch Party	16	17 4:15 pm LYFE 4:30 pm Confirmation Class	18 V6:15 pm Bells 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:30 pm Choir	19 9:30 AM Prayer Group 10:15 am Bible Study	20	21
22	23 WINTER BREAK	24 Christmas Eve Services 3:30 pm & 5:30pm WINTER BREAK Office Closed	25 Christmas Day WINTER BREAK Office Closed	26 WINTER BREAK	27 WINTER BREAK	28
29 Baptism	30 WINTER BREAK	31 New Years Eve WINTER BREAK Office Closed				

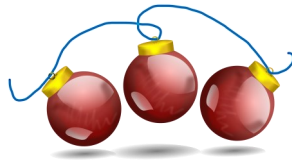
HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

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

Church office will be
closed on

December 25th, 26th

& January 1st



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED