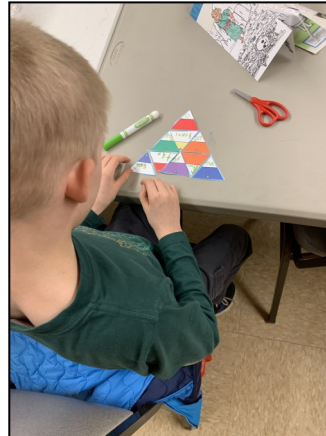


Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

February 2025

Christian Education — Sunday School Activity



EXPOS — Chili Lunch

Thank you Al and all of those who helped make the afternoon together so enjoyable. Great Chili, great deserts, and always great conversation.



A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ:

The devastating fires in California and the reports from so many who have lost their homes, and their entire communities has drawn my empathy and prayers. I try to imagine what it must be like for these survivors and how I might handle such circumstances if I were faced with such devastation.

We all have moments in our life when things may not have turned out the way we had planned, moments when we pause and contemplate, moments when we stop and simply ask, "What the heck is going on?!" We may not have all the answers when we experience times like these, and it can be difficult to know where to turn. But that's when it's wise to learn from others. The author of a number of books that have helped many through those uncertain times, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, described a situation in her own life when she had such an experience, she wrote:

"Over the years, I have learned that every life circumstance, even a crisis, can nourish your soul. Recently, the farm and home that I have loved so much for so many years burned down

in a horrible fire. Everything that I owned, without exception, was lost. There was even speculation that foul play was involved.

At moments like this, we stand at a fork in the road. If we take the fork most commonly traveled, we collapse, we give up, feeling hopeless and defeated. We focus on the negatives, losing ourselves in the "problem." We point to our unhappy circumstances to rationalize our negative feelings. This is the easy way out. It takes, after all, very little effort to feel victimized.

We can, however, take the other fork. We can view the unhappy experience as an opportunity for a new beginning. We can keep our perspective, look for the growth opportunities, and find an inner reservoir of strength."

And that inner reservoir of strength comes from our creator, who never abandons us, who see us through all our challenges. In the words of Holy Scripture we hear countless believers witnessing to it.

Isaiah writes: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

Continued on page 3



See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:18-19)

Paul writes: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old is gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Peter writes: “Praise be to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (Peter 1:3)

And again from Isaiah: “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)

We all have moments in our life when things may not have turned out as we planned, and we stand at a fork in the road. In those moments, draw strength from God, for God is committed to making all things new. You see our God is a God of resurrection and new life, and God wants us to soar and not grow weary. So place your trust in the one who loves you more than you could ever even love yourself, and let God be your guide. One day we’ll look back and see the how the hand of God was at work in the midst of everything.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tim



Children's Ministry News

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

Sunday School:

Sunday school is back in session. The group size has been growing! We have begun stories of the New Testament. If anyone would like to share their time and talent and join the teaching team, please let me know. We could use a boost.

LYFE:

Our Tuesday Crew is also back in session. We are wrapping up our lessons in the Old Testament. We just finished Ezekiel; Daniel and Jonah are next. If any child in upcoming grades 2-6 would like to give Tuesday LYFE a try, we are hosting a "Bring a friend" day on Feb. 25. We meet from 4:15-6:00. An advance RSVP is required to attend. Please email Jennifer.

Confirmation and above:

A "Watch Party" has been added! All confirmation kids and high schoolers are welcome to join us in the Youth Room on Feb 2. We'll watch the live stream service, have breakfast and chat. Please let Jennifer know if you can make it.

Confirmation will hold its Winter Retreat on Feb 7 for 6:00-9:00. Please let Pr. Tim or Jennifer know if you can make it. Activities depend on attendance, please do not delay.

Youth Sunday is Feb 9! We hope to see everyone there. If you'd like to be included or have a special role, come to the Watch Party on Feb 2 to discuss.

First Communion is March 16. Please let us know if your 3rd grader or above will be celebrating. Classes with Pr. Tim will be held the 2 Tuesdays prior. We need advance notice.

SPECIAL SERVICES

YOUTH SUNDAY

Join us on **February 9th** as our kids take part in our service. They'll be reading, ushering and greeting folks.

JAZZ Service

Worship at Holy Spirit is blessed with a wide variety of musical styles. We also use seven different worship settings each year, with a wide variety of spirited music. One of the special musical emphases we enjoy is a jazz service that draws on the musical talents of many of our church musicians. Join us on **Sunday, March 2nd at 9:30 a.m.** as the ever popular jazz service returns.

MARDI GRAS SUNDAY

Help us celebrate on **Sunday, March 2nd at 11:00 a.m.** The kids will create parade props during Sunday School and display them throughout the building in our annual parade. Join us in the narthex after the service for treats and fun!



Blood Drive —

Sunday, February 23rd
8:30 AM to 12:30 PM.



LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY

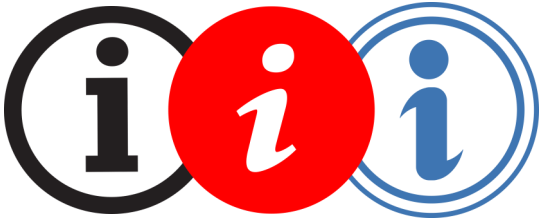
March 5th at 7:00 p.m.

"Service of Ashes and Holy Communion".

Fellowship Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner

March 15th





FRENCH WINE & CHEESE PAIRING EVENT —



Saturday, February 22 at 7pm.

Please join us as The British Wine Butler takes us on a trip around the most famous wine regions of France! After enjoying a glass of sparkling wine on arrival and a short presentation, we will taste through five French Wines paired with five of the most amazing cheeses that America has to offer. Having been on many holidays to France plus numerous wine trips The British Wine Butler is sure to make this a fun and educational evening! Cost is \$40pp. Please note—RSVP is required no later than **Sunday, February 9th !!** You can sign up with Sign-Up Genius using the QR code, on the signup sheet on the information desk in the Gathering Space, or email Jeanne Nelson at jnelson814@comcast.net.



SHARING OUR TIME AND TALENTS —

Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant church that reflects Christ's love to those

around us. A significant component of our stewardship to our congregation includes the countless opportunities to share our gifts with each other and contribute to the life of our church in ways other than financial.

Last month we asked each of you to consider how you see your time and skills supporting our ministries, uplifting our community, and sharing God's love in practical ways. Many of you answered that request and have graciously offered to serve our church with you many talents and your time. We would love to have many more involved in this time & talent stewardship.

We have created an online form that can be completed by going to the church website at

www.holyspirit-elca.org/timetalent

Printed copies of the form are also available in the church gathering space.



EMAIL & TEXT SCAM ALERT –

Some of you received a text message from Pastor Tim last week. The text was **NOT** from Pastor Tim, but rather a scammer. Many reached out to the church office immediately and Ciara was able to send an email to all of our members alerting them of the fraudulent text.

The Village Church of Lincolnshire, also reached out last week to share information about an upcoming workshop about email and text scams. This past November, one of their own senior members was scammed out of a significant amount of money. This prompted them to organize a workshop to address the growing need for awareness and education in our community. They are partnering with the Police Department, Fire Department, local retirement communities, and potentially the State's Attorney's Office, as well as the local Library to create a workshop that equips seniors and their families with tools to prevent similar situations in the future. Everyone is at risk and no one should feel ashamed for falling victim.

Seniors Workshop on Scams and Safety –

Here's what we know so far:

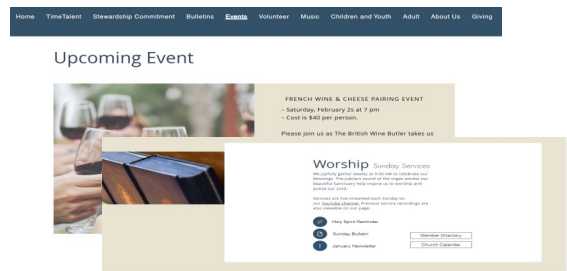
When: Late March or early April 2025
(final date TBD)

Where: Village Church of Lincolnshire

Duration: 3–4 hours in the morning

Cost: **Free**

CHURCH EMAILS –



In an effort to ensure all members are informed about the happenings at the church we send a weekly reminder every Thursday in addition to this monthly news letter. The church website is consistently updated with links to the weekly reminder email, the Sunday service bulletin, and upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

We have found that some members have not been receiving these emails. Ciara is actively monitoring which email recipients are experiencing problems. If you find that you are no longer receiving emails each Thursday please reach out to Ciara to let her know.

HOSPITALITY CHART –

The hospitality chart for the year is in the



gathering space. There are many available Sundays. Hosting is not very difficult and is very much appreciated by all. If every family hosts at least one Sunday we would have someone for each Sunday of the year. Please sign up to be a hospitality host. If you have any questions contact Kelly Wittich at kellywittich@yahoo.com.



church council MEETING

JANUARY 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly Church Council meeting was held on January 13th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$33,345 (YTD \$406,454). Operating expenses were \$43,141 (YTD \$444,906).

- **Pastor's Report:** Christmas Eve services went well. The 3:30 service had double the attendance from last year! EXPO's will be having a chili luncheon to get everyone together again.
- **Finance:** The Finance Review Committee conducted the annual review on January 9th . All audited transactions reviewed matched and were validated. Our current CD at Chase will mature on January 16th . We will leave \$20,000 in a 3- month CD at Chase to keep our accounts at the appropriate level to avoid fees. The rest will be transferred to the Schwab Money Market account in either another CD or left in the Money market account depending on the best interest rate.
- **Christian Education:** Sunday School and Tuesday LYFE resumed this week.
- **Fellowship:** 41 people attended the trivia night! Our next event will be the British Wine Butler on February 22 nd . Join us for a night of tasting wines and cheeses.
- **Property:** A new two-year electricity contract was signed, and several repairs were completed by Mike Pedersen and his family.
- **Stewardship:** We received 49 pledges for a total of \$286,200. This included 13 new pledges, and 22 members increased their pledges from last year.
- **Worship and Music:** Youth Sunday is February 9th . If any youth are interested in playing their instrument, please reach out to Nancy Fencil. Mardi Gras Sunday will be March 2nd.

Old Business: Please fill out the Time and Talent sheets. A task force has been assembled to gather information and bids for redoing the sanctuary floor.

New Business: We are still looking for a Council Member for Stewardship.

Next council meeting is scheduled for February 10th 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 church gathering place.



CHURCH COUNCIL —

Thank you to those who attended our Annual Meeting on January 19. It was uplifting to look back on 2024 and realize all that our congregation has accomplished! Our 2025 Church Council consists of the following:

President: Allison Wyrwicz

Vice President: Jeanne Nelson

Secretary: Kari Davenport

Treasurer: Daaron Dohler

Christian Education: Amy Lambrecht

Fellowship: Mary Lou Gilliam

Finance: Jackie Murphy

Growth and Hospitality: Kelly Wittich

Human Needs: Kari Davenport

Long Range Planning: Jeanne Nelson

Personnel: Andy Eastmond

Property: Mike Pedersen

Stewardship: OPEN POSITION

Technology: Ryan Hathaway

Worship and Music: Nancy Fencel

Each of these individuals will depend on your support. Please volunteer to help Holy Spirit thrive in the coming year.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS —

Council meetings 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, February 10th at 7:30 pm, and meetings tend to last about 2 hours.

FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 4:15 pm LYFE 4:30 pm Confirmation	5 6:15 Bells 7:15 pm Choir	6 9:30 am Prayer Group 10:15 am Bible study	7 Confirmation Retreat 5-9pm	8
9 9:30 am Youth Sunday & Super Bowl Offering	10 7 pm Council Meeting	11 4:15 pm LYFE 4:30 pm Confirmation	12 6:15 Bells 7:15 pm Choir	13 9:30 am Prayer Group 10:15 am Bible	14	15
16 Baptism	17 PRESIDENTS DAY	18 10 am Quilters 4:15 pm LYFE	19 6:15 Bells 7:15 pm Choir	20 9:30 am Prayer Group 10:15 am Bible study	21	22 Wine Tasting Fellowship
23 Blood Drive 9am-1pm	24	25 4:15 pm LYFE	26 6:15 Bells 7:15 pm Choir	27 9:30 am Prayer Group 10:15 am Bible study	28	



1- Kari Davenport
Sandra Swanson
6- Sara Leska
8- Henry Hathaway
9- Arlo Quintana

10- Kim McElhinny
Dylan Utterback
12- Ujwalla Chebrolu
13- Will Davenport
15- Hayden Brotz
17- Emily Tantillo
Lucy tantillo

20- Jackie Murphy
23- David Schroetter
Benjamin Lambrecht
24- Lora Dohler
25- Claire Tamalonis
Jill Pink
27- Rita Adams

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 study various books of the Bible, contemporary theologians, our Lutheran roots, and current issues as they impact our lives.

In February we will begin a new unit on the book of James. Although Luther criticized the book of James for its focus on works, because Luther claimed a person is not justified by works but by faith alone, the book of James is a powerful witness in its practical wisdom of right behavior. As a kind of wisdom literature, James is concerned with morals and ethics, and is committed to an understanding of reality as measured by God. With so many "worldly" views in our conversations today, James can lead us to live humbly and respectfully toward God. Join us for some spirited discernment and joy-filled conversation! We always close our time in prayer.



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

LIVE STREAM **YouTube**

SUNDAY SERVICE LIVE STREAMED



Go to our YouTube channel youtube.com/@churchinthewoods-holyspiri6256/streams

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

HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

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

CHURCH LEADERSHIP



Allison Wyrwicz—*President*

Jeanne Nelson—*Vice President*

Daaron Dohler—*Treasurer*

Kari Davenport—*Secretary*

Nancy Fencil

Kelly Wittich

Andy Eastmond

Mary Lou Gilliam

Michael Pederson

Wayne Giampietro

Jackie Murphy

Amy Lambrecht

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED