FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 21, 2025



ELW SETTING 4 LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom, Pastor
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL

847-945-1550 www.holyspirit-elca.org



We are glad you are with us today.

We are a family of faith living and growing together in Christ.

This bulletin is filled with information about the life of the church, you are invited to take it home for reference and further reflection during the week. Various updates and additional church information, along with the Pastor Tim's sermons, are posted each week on our website — www.holyspirit-elca.org. Welcome cards/envelopes are located in the pew rack. Please take a moment to fill out the information and return it to the offering plate.

Our sound system includes a T-system hearing loop, which allows worshipers with T-system compatible hearing aids to tune in directly to the worship leaders' microphones for clearer sound. There are two hearing unit headsets available in the narthex for use. Additionally, large print bulletins are available at the sanctuary door.

As we worship and celebrate communion this morning we remind you that this is the Lord's table. Jesus is the host. We are his guests. God welcomes everyone to come and eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Come and eat and live! Please extend your hand to receive the bread, then take a cup from the tray. Please indicate if you prefer to receive a gluten-free wafer. Those not receiving communion are welcome to receive a blessing.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Holy Spirit, please see Pastor Tim. Membership comes through baptism or affirmation of faith.

Please let us know if we can be of service to you in any way!

Welcome visitors to LCHS! Please scan this QR code to share your info with us.



Portions of today's worship are from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2008 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20455. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Hymns are used by permission through *OneLicense.net* License #A-712844

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

All page and hymn numbers refer to the "red" ELW hymnal.

PRELUDE "Once He Came in Blessing" Michael Burkhardt

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

- P Long-expected God,
- C we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

- P God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
- C Amen.

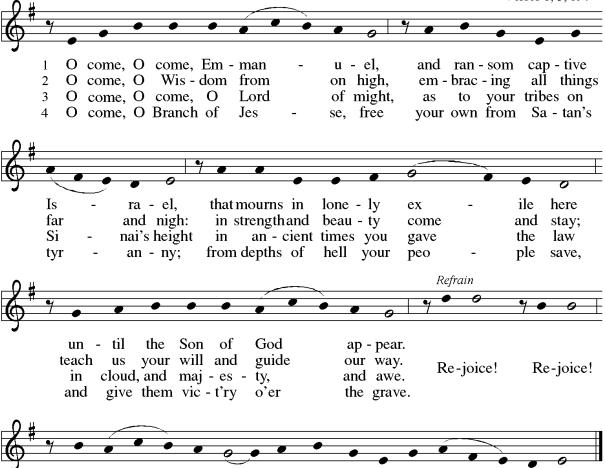
GATHERING HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

ELW 257



ra - el.



shall come to you, O

Is

5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

Em - man

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain

u - el

- 7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Hope for Those Who Are Wounded



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music ©1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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- P Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.
- C Come, Lord, and make all things new.
- P For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:
- C Come, Lord, and make all things new.
- P For any bitterness that scratches our soul:
- C Come, Lord, and make all things new.
- P For relationships left in decay and neglect:
- C Come, Lord, and make all things new.
- P For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:
- C Come, Lord, and make all things new.

Candle Lighting

P This morning, we light three candles. The first candle reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The second candle is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The third candle awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.



- P Merciful God, Advent reminds us that you left heaven's majesty to walk among wounded people in a broken world. We thank you that your love knows no boundaries or limitations. No wound of this earth is greater than the wounds you came to heal. For all who suffer this day, light the way, O Lord, towards the promise of healing and wholeness made known in you.
- C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Tim Linstrom

Isaiah 7:10-16

FIRST READING

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

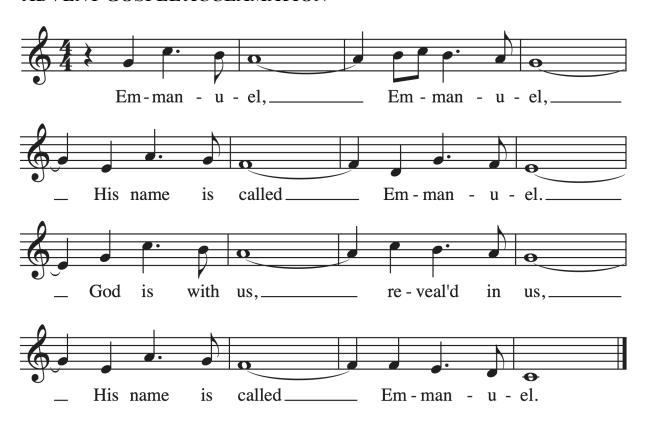
Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ADVENT GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the first chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.
- P 18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
 - ²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

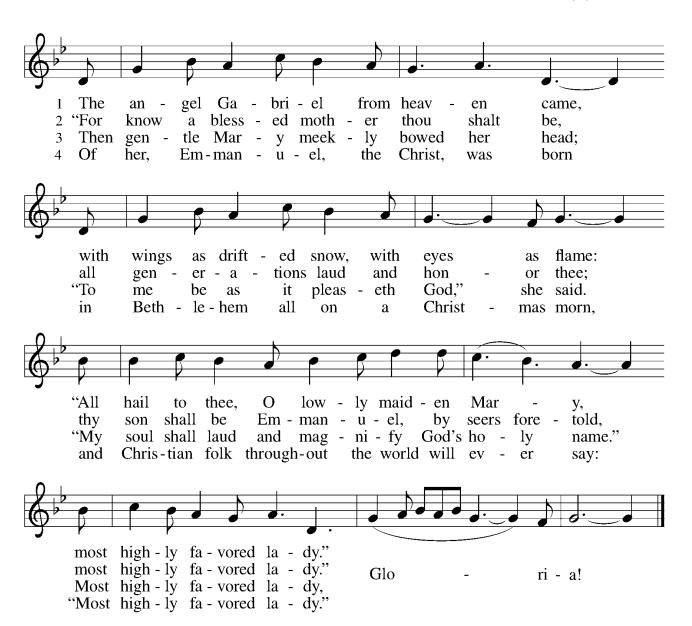
Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Tim Linstrom

HYMN OF THE DAY "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" ELW 265

Verses 1, 3, & 4



Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.
- A In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. We pray for those serving in the military and their families, especially **Amelia Eastman**, **Thomas Menter** (grandson of Louise), **Dylan Utterback** (son of Julie & Joel), **Jim Detjen** (brother of Mary), **Dylan Glenner**, **Hannah Best** (son and daughter of Anne-Marie Glenner). May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or A emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill. We especially pray for Carol Bertrand, Ruth Berman, Ethan Cloonan, Amy Dohler, Gordy Duprey, Elizabeth Falato, Marian McBride, Cathy Nathan, Darlene Neumann, Sandy Kalas, Tom Weglarz, Allison Wittich, Valerie Farran (friend of the Wittichs), Mick Garrison (family friend of the Fencls), Jacob Gombar (uncle of Jeanne Nelson), Jean Goodale (friend of Joan Roehl), Laura Hansel (sister of Mary Detjen), Tobey Lannert (sister-in-law of Carol Duprey), Vic Larson (former member), Cierra Mason (granddaughter of Jerry Mason), the Chase Petersen family (friends of Amy Dohler), Kari, Sydney, and Luke Stocks (daughter in-law and grandchildren of Dorothy and Ron Stocks), Michael Ungari, Lenita Spears, (relative & friend of the Labellarte family), Coco & Lukas (grandchildren of JoAnne Schwarcz), Jim Wahlund (brother inlaw of Chris Miller), **Dana Zingrone** (friend of Jeanne Nelson). God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

- A Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. We pray for the family and friends of **Andrew Wyrwicz** (father of Jason Wyrwicz), and **Gary Miller** (friend of Ruth Ann Grockis). Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
- C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always
- C and also with you.

All the people greet one another through the sharing of the peace.

THE OFFERING

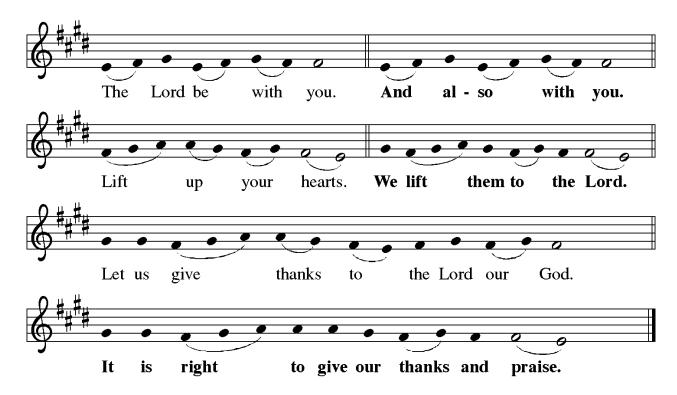
OFFERTORY "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Keesecker

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

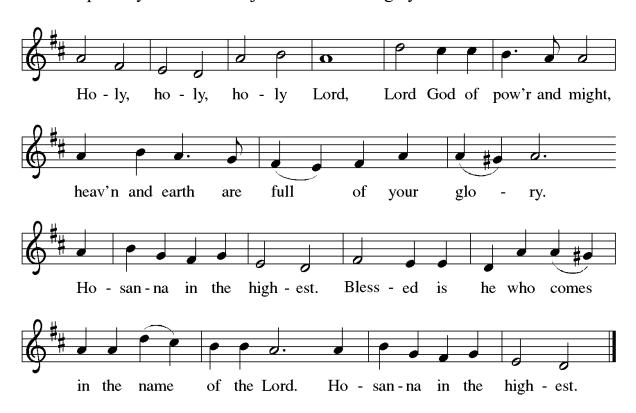
- A Nourishing God,
 you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
 Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
 that we may rejoice and be for the world
 signs of your kingdom come.
- C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P All who believe in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, are welcome at the table of the Lord. Let us pray together as our Lord taught us.
- C Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

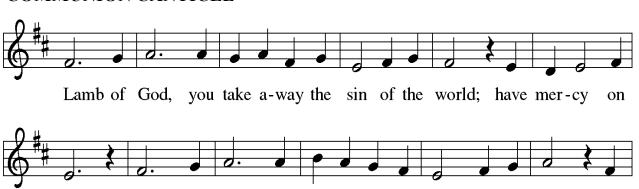
Amen.

Please be seated

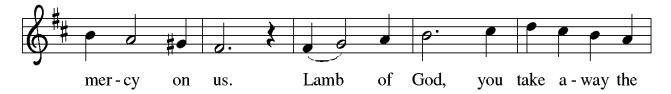
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

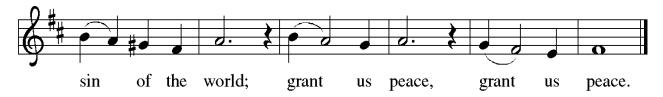
- P Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.
- C Amen.

COMMUNION CANTICLE



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have





Stand after all have been communed

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE





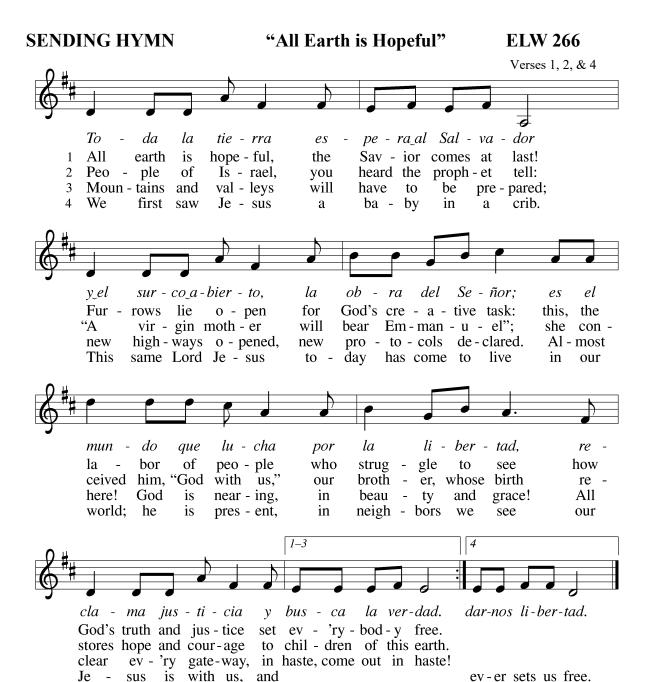
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P May God who comes among us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.
- C Amen.



- 2 Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel: 3 Montes y valles habrá que preparar; "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar. será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, con él la esperanza al mundo volverá. Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar, y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.
 - 4 En una cueva Jesús apareció, pero en el mundo está presente hoy. Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está; y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Keep awake
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Savior of the Nations Come" Walter Pelz

Sanctuary flowers were donated by the Adkisson family in honor of Ashley's 21st birthday.

<u>FLUTOPIA CONCERT</u> — Today, Sunday December 21 at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary join us for a soothing seasonal concert to calm and inspire you. Flutopia is a professional group of flutists with a whole range of flutes from the smallest piccolo to the largest contrabass flute. Free and open to all. Join us for an hour of heavenly sounds.

<u>CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP</u> —

- 3:30 PM Service of Candles and Communion with special music.
- 5:30 PM Family worship with Candles and Communion, the Christmas Orchestra, and Youth & Cherub Choirs.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — January 18

The annual meeting of Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit will be held following the 9:30 am worship service on Sunday, January 18, 2026. Join us as we celebrate the past year and approve new council members and budget. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect council members, review ministry priorities, and approve the operating budget for 2025. All baptized and confirmed members of the congregation are voting members. It is important for all members to attend this meeting so we can have your input and to ensure we have a quorum.

TRIVIA NIGHT — Saturday, January 11 at 7 PM

Join us for a fun night of "brainbashing" as Jeremy Cahnmann will again host a fun Trivia Night here at LCHS on Saturday, January 10th! 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! Cost is \$15/ person. Refreshments will be available for purchase. A link to sign up online can be found on the church website at holyspirit-elca.org/#trivia or by scanning the QR code above. If you prefer, email Jeanne Nelson at jnelson814@comcast.net and let her know how many will be attending.

<u>STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT</u> — Do you still need to make your 2026 stewardship commitment? A link to submit your commitment online can be found on the church website at <u>www.holyspirit-elca.org/stewardship</u>. Stewardship forms are also available in the church gathering space.

<u>GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORMS</u> — for anyone who needs to update their giving amount based on their new 2026 pledge this can be done online by logging into your Vanco Simply Giving account. If you are unable to do this or prefer we update it for you, authorization forms are available in the church office.

<u>IMPORTANT TAX BENEFIT</u> — Have you reached that golden IRS age of 70 ½? If so, then you can donate directly to Holy Spirit from your taxable IRA with a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

- Currently the maximum annual QCD amount any individual can make in total is \$108,000 (index adjusted annually).
- This direct contribution satisfies any RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) you may be subject to.
- This distribution is not included in your Adjusted Gross Income for the year and thus will not be taxable income.
- This amount will not count against your IRMAA (income related monthly adjustment amount for Medicare).

Just direct your IRA custodian to distribute via direct check to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. You may already have a checkbook for your taxable IRA account for making such charitable contributions written directly to the charity. Remittance information should include the donor name. Questions can be directed to Jackie Murphy at Jmurph2803@gmail.com.

<u>THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY</u> — Join us on Thursday mornings from 10:15 am to 11:30 am for a time of Biblical reflection and spirited conversation. During the course of the year we study the Bible, contemporary theologians, current events, what it means to be the church, and Lutheran specific topics. Your thoughts and opinions are valued as we learn from the experts and from each other. Make this wonderful study a part of your new year! We always close our time together in prayer.

QUILTERS — The Quilting Ministry meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

<u>PRAYER GROUP</u> — Our prayer group meets at 9:30a.m. on Thursday mornings in room 3. If you'd like to pray with us, please come! We'd love for you to join us.

ON-LINE GIVING AND TEXT TO GIVE — Our secure online giving option makes it more convenient for members and visitors to donate. Giving is also as easy as sending a text with our text-to-give feature. Text the amount you want to donate to 844-573-1379. A registration link will be texted back for you to enter your information. Tap "Process" to complete your donation. Please scan this code with your phone

<u>LIVE STREAM</u> — Our services are live-streamed and archived on our Holy Spirit YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/ @churchinthewoods-holyspirit or scan the QR code. Please reach out to Daaron Dohler or Ryan Hathaway if you have any questions.

to donate using our secure online giving page.



HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

Sunday December 21 9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

3:00 pm Flutopia

Wednesday December 24 Christmas Eve — Church Office Closed

3:30 PM Service of Candles and

Communion

5:30 PM Family worship of Candles

and Communion

Thursday December 25 Christmas Day — Church Office Closed

Sunday December 28 9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

Pastor: Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom

Office Manager: Ciara Crews
Music Ministers: Karen M. Jirsa, Bill Vaananen,

Nancy Fencl

Organist: Karen M. Jirsa Children's Ministry Director: Jennifer Williams

Assistant Minister Joe Labellarte

Usher Pam Labellarte, Al Edwards

Greeter

Communion Jackie Murphy, Nila Bilstad

Record Nancy Fencl

Church office hours: Weekdays. 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Church email: lutheranholyspirit@gmail.com

Church Phone number: 847-945-1550