

A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

For many, Thanksgiving Day is the best holiday of the year. Maybe it's the food with Grandma's special recipes, the traditional favorites, and the wonderfully prepared feasts. Maybe it's rooted in spending time with family, as family and friends gather to reunite and share, journeying from great distances on this busiest travel weekend of the year. These, of course, are important, but I think if it's the best holiday of the year, it's primarily because we take time to simply be thankful and reflect on all we have to be grateful for.

Henry Nouwen once suggested that "the purest, simplest holiday may be Thanksgiving. Christmas is distorted by a society that promotes consumer madness and ritual perfection. Even Easter is overshadowed by chocolate bunnies and new finery."

It has been said that gratefulness is the very heart of prayer, and so to truly observe Thanksgiving is to engage in fervent prayer.

Gratefulness, however, cannot be manufactured. It is grace, a gift that God bestows, and not anything we can create in our own hearts. True gratitude bears little resemblance to the forced optimism underlying the admonition to "count your blessings." Gratitude is not a denial of real pain and loss. It is not a stoic effort to concentrate on the good things in life. It isn't the "power of positive thinking."



We cannot attain a state of gratitude by presenting God a list of things we think we should be grateful for, but by presenting ourselves and our desire to know God more closely.

The writers of Scripture seemed to have understood that, and they share that insight in so many passages. For example, Psalms 106, 107, 118, and 135 all begin with, "O, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

Paul writes, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. And later he wrote, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11

I hope and pray that you all take some time to pause, during this blessed month before our National Holiday of Thanksgiving, time to meditate and give thanks for what you have to be grateful for, but also on how everything good comes from God, for wherever we find pause to give thanks, there is grace. And where there is grace, there is God.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving! May it be the best Holiday of the year!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim

Quilters

The quilting ministry meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. 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

Please join us in the sanctuary every Thursday morning at 9:30 AM. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.

EXPOS—November 9

We will be meeting at 10:30 AM at Church. Since this year is the 150th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the plan is to present a documentary on that fire and the city's "rise from the ashes" afterwards. As this Newsletter goes to press, we are still working out the technical details of how to present this film. Watch the Sunday bulletin and your email for updates.

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

The Thursday Bible study has resumed meeting in-person, with masks and social distancing. In October, we'll begin a unit focussing on the book entitled, "The Forgotten Luther: Reclaiming a Vision of Global Community". In this study, five prominent church leaders and Luther scholars will invite us to consider the new shape of global mission in today's world. The book reflects on Luther's largely forgotten social and economic reforms that flowed from the central doctrine of justification by grace through faith, and addresses the systemic causes of hunger, poverty, and injustice. Order the book, begin reading, and join us for a spirited 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 Laurie 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.

Children's Ministry News

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



College Treat Box Success!

Many thanks to all who contributed in the October treat box collection. As always, LCHS came through big with donations for our college students. No doubt, these "goodie boxes" will bring big smiles faces and brighten their day during a fall season that continues to be dampened by COVID.

It is hard to believe, but Advent is almost here. This time of the year is filled with so many activities, to-do lists and must-haves that it can be easy to let the four weeks go by without focusing on the true reason for the season: Jesus's birth. As Christian parents, it is our responsibility to help our children see beyond the mall Santas, glossy catalogs and mounds of sugar plums dancing about, and participate more fully in the religious aspects of Advent and Christmas. We have a wonderful opportunity to help connect our children with the hope and joy of the season: Our Annual Advent Wreath Making Event!



Confirmation Retreat Fun



Save the Date: Watch Party #2! Let's meet in the Youth Room at 10:45 on Sunday December 19 to view the service. We'll share a festive Christmas vibe with food n drinks. We'll also begin our plans for the "Souper Bowl of Caring" in February. Hope to see you there!



- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1- Wendy LaPlaca | 10- Kaitlyn Krejsa | 26- Aaron Rudloff |
| 5- April Neumann | 11- Cole Dirks | Benjamin Rudloff |
| 6- Rose Brisske | Paul Saydak | 27- Larry Brady |
| 8- Phil Bettiker | 18- Mary Miller | 29- Logan Steinberger |
| Robin Saydak | 21- Carol Duprey | 30- Janet Adkisson |
| 9- Katie Bally | 24- Tom Weglarz | |
| Ellie Kasche | 25- Dave Eastman | |



November 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 4:30pm Confirmation	3 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells	4 9:30am Prayer Group 10:15am Bible Study	5	6 6 pm Dinner/ Concert Fundraiser
7 Worship Services 8:30 & 10:45 AM	8 7:30pm Council Mtg	9 10:30am EXPOS 4pm LYFE 4:30pm Confirmation	10 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells	11 9:30am Prayer Group 10:15am Bible Study	12	13
14 9:30am Service 10:30am Steward- ship Brunch	15	16 10am Quilters 4pm LYFE	17 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells	18 9:30am Prayer Group 10:15am Bible Study	19	20 8-1pm Work Day
21 9:30am Jazz Service	22	23	24 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells	25 9:30am Thanksgiving Service	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 9:30am Hanging of the Greens Service 10:30am Advent Wreaths	29	30 4pm LYFE 4:30pm Confirmation				



Fun at Family Movie Night

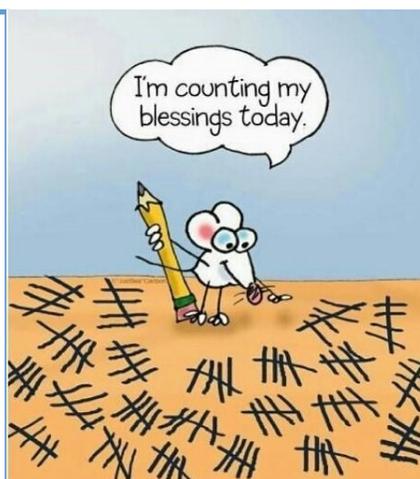
A lively group of Holy Spirit friends and family braved the wind and predicted rain on Friday night, September 24, for dinner and an outdoor movie in the parking lot. The skies cleared, and the audience enjoyed Woody, Buzz Lightyear, and the original Toy Story cast on a 16' screen. Many of the kids spent more time on the playground than watching the movie, but a great time was had by all. Hopefully this will become an annual event.

A BIG thank you goes to Ryan Hathaway and his technological skills for the set up.

Stewardship Celebration Brunch

November 14

After we faithfully commit to support the ministries of the church during worship, we will celebrate the gifts and talents God has blessed each of us with during a catered brunch. Please email the church office to RSVP. Our goal is for participation from every member and regular attendee.



Special Worship Services

All Saints Sunday November 1, 9:30 AM

We will remember all the faithful who have gone before us into the Church Triumphant.

Stewardship Service November 14, 9:30 AM

We are called to share with others the gifts God has blessed us with, we will be making our financial commitment to Jesus during worship. We hope all to have all members and regular worship attendees present.

Thanksgiving Service November 25, 9:30 AM

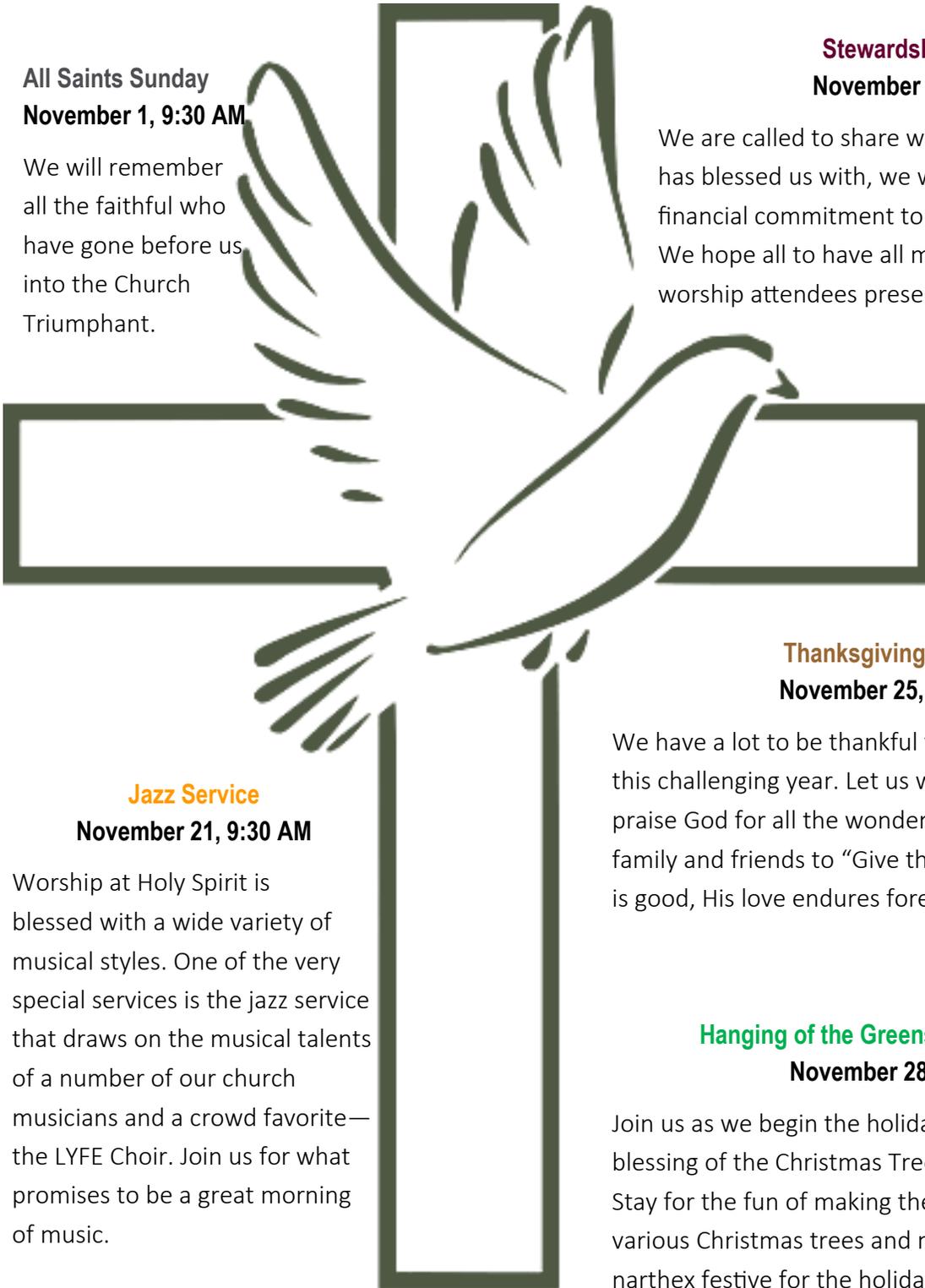
We have a lot to be thankful for, especially during this challenging year. Let us worship together to praise God for all the wonderful blessings. Invite family and friends to “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever.”

Jazz Service November 21, 9:30 AM

Worship at Holy Spirit is blessed with a wide variety of musical styles. One of the very special services is the jazz service that draws on the musical talents of a number of our church musicians and a crowd favorite—the LYFE Choir. Join us for what promises to be a great morning of music.

Hanging of the Greens Worship Service November 28, 9:30 AM

Join us as we begin the holiday season with a special blessing of the Christmas Tree and other decorations. Stay for the fun of making the halls jolly, trimming the various Christmas trees and making the sanctuary and narthex festive for the holidays!



Planning for Advent and Christmas

Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday, November 28 after the 9:30 AM worship service, we will be getting the church ready for the Advent and Christmas seasons by putting up the Christmas tree and decorating the church. This event will be fun for the whole family. Mark your calendar to join us!

Advent Wreath Making

Join us for this favorite family event on Sunday, November 28 after the 9:30 AM service.

Mid-Week Advent Worship

Wednesday evening in the midst of the rush of preparing for Christmas, take time to also receive Christ. On the first three Wednesday evenings in December, 1st, 8th and 15th, we will have a Taize service at 7:00 PM. This half-hour contemplative service will bring peace and focus as we center on Christ, the light of the world, who comes to heal us, redeem us, and dwell with us.

Christmas Program and Sing-Along

Don't miss the kids performing in this adorable annual program on Sunday, December 12 at 9:45 AM.

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

3:30 PM - Service of Candles and Communion with special music

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

10:00 PM - Candlelight Communion Service with special music plus Adult and Bell Choirs

Poinsettias for Christmas

Help us decorate the altar for Christmas Eve services by donating poinsettias to the glory of God or in honor or memory of someone special. Cost is \$15.00 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. 12.

Name _____ Phone _____

Number of Poinsettias _____ @\$15.00 each

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

Poinsettias may be picked up following the 11:00 PM Christmas Eve service or any time during the following week.



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

Stewardship Sunday Is Coming November 14

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Stewardship Sunday, November 14, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Stewardship Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our pastor or leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Stewardship Sunday events through the Stewardship team and governing council members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Stewardship Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Stewardship Sunday events.

Stewardship Chairperson,

Bill Collins

bcollins@apextool.com



Thanksgiving Baskets

Vernon Township Food Pantry continues to assist our neighbors in need with food and other items. We are collecting donations of food items and grocery store gift cards to provide Thanksgiving dinners to families in need. Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B49AEAB2EA1FE3-vernon> to donate by Nov 12. Contact Donna Williams (847-331-7651 text/ phone or rdrjwilliams@att.net) with any questions. Thank you!



Angel Tree

One of the most rewarding Christmas activities around Holy Spirit is the sharing of gifts with inner city children. Each year, we receive the names of children for whom we purchase gifts at Christmas. Many times, these are the only gifts children will receive. These children have come to be called our "angels".

Please be on the lookout for an email with the link to the Sign Up. The sign up will include all the important details. Thank you in advance for supporting this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Kari Davenport, karikdavenport@yahoo.com or 773-844-7542



A Night of Musical Theater

Featuring
Mia Hart, vocalist
 "The Bigmouth Ingénue"
 with
Bill Vaanenen, piano



Benefiting COOL Ministries



Food Pantry & Family Housing

Saturday, November 6th
 Fellowship & Dinner 6 pm
 Concert 7:30 pm
 \$75/person

PLEASE NOTE: Attendance will be limited to the first 70 registrants.
 Beer & wine will be available for purchase during dinner.
 Masks will be required during the concert.

Please complete and submit along with your check (made out to LCHS) to the church office,
 or mail to: 30 Riverwoods Road, Lincolnshire, IL 60069.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Dinner Entree Selection: Please indicate an entree selection -- Grilled Flank Steak or Grilled Salmon -- for each person on your registration. Dinners also come with salad, jasmine rice, grilled vegetables, and dinner roll.

Name: _____ Grilled Flank Steak Grilled Salmon

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING: _____ x \$75.00 = _____

I cannot attend the concert but wish to contribute to COOL Ministries: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

church council MEETING

Highlights from October

The monthly Church Council meeting was held via Zoom on October 11th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$32,690 for September (YTD total is \$320,407 (including amounts for PPP loan technology from Endowment Fund)). Operating expenses were \$37,897 in September (YTD total is \$317,763).

The Pastor's report: Activities, events, and building use requests continue to increase. Blessing of the pets was held on October 2. Reformation Sunday service and event are scheduled for October 31. First communion was completed October 3, with 5 young proud people. Trunk or Treat is Tuesday, October 26. Several special services will be held in November, with some single services held on Sundays at 9:30. A sign up is available for Vernon Township Food Pantry Thanksgiving meal donations. CUFF and WELCA are presenting a concert to benefit COOL Ministries featuring Bill Vaananen and his daughter Mia Hart on November 6. Dinner and the concert will be available for \$75 per person. The Stewardship appeal is underway, with Commitment Sunday November 14 to include a shared meal. **Committee Reports** officially were suspended for this meeting, to focus on 2022 budget planning and discussions. **2022 Budget Discussions** were conducted and a preliminary draft budget is under consideration.

Old Business: Building upgrades have been requested by LCNS due to inspection and insurance issues that have arisen.

Next council meeting currently is scheduled for November 8th 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.



Saturday, November 20 8 AM-1:00 PM

Many helpers are needed to take care of our church building and property. Since this is the last workday before winter, we are hoping for a large turnout. Whatever time you can donate is greatly appreciated. This is a great family service project, or if your kids need service hours for school. Many hands make light work!

HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

November 2021

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



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

Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom, Pastor
Phone: 847-945-1550

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED