



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



December 2021

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NOEL

Seasons of Advent & Christmas

December 1, 8, 15—**Mid-week Advent Worship**—Wednesday evenings— In the midst of the rush of preparing for Christmas, take time to also receive Christ during the 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.

December 12 at 9:45 AM—**Christmas Program & Sing-A-long**

December 24—**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 Youth Choirs

10:00 PM - Candlelight Communion Service with Special music plus Adult & Bell Choirs



Christmas

A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As many of us took on the 30 Days of Giving Thanks Challenge this past month, it was inspiring to hear from many of you how the simple practice of giving thanks has changed your perspectives and attitudes. Because even though we all practice giving thanks in various situations, to make it a daily intentional practice, somehow invites a gracious spirit into our daily lives that brightens our days and lightens our challenges.

There are so many things to be grateful for, and yet it can be surprising to give thanks for things that we wouldn't normally consider blessings. When we give ourselves the opportunity to give thanks for the challenges we've been through, the mistakes that have become blessings, and the negative circumstances as well as the positive ones, we transform our lives in ways that builds trust in God. For in our gratefulness to God, God will "make all things new" and reveal to us an even better way. I loved to hear about some of your experiences this past month, and it was inspirational to me to hear of some of the surprises that you discovered in giving thanks to God.

And what a surprise I received in the midst of this month of giving thanks, as we all celebrated the five-year anniversary of my being called to Holy Spirit to serve as your pastor. It has been an honor to serve you in that role, and it was truly humbling and fulfilling to be celebrated and thanked in that way. The songs filled with thoughtful and humorous words, the stole with the children's handprints, and your presence and thanks were incredible! Thank you all for being a part of this ministry and for the generous and heartfelt gift you gave me this past month. I will cherish that celebration forever.

And now after a month of giving thanks, we prepare to receive the greatest gift of all, the gift of our Savior Jesus who came to us as an infant, born to the virgin Mary, in such humble circumstances, at Christmas. We look forward to the day when he will come again just as the ancients looked forward to a messiah that would come to save the world. And we can celebrate that future, just as the prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of the Messiah in those renowned words:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government (dominion) will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government (dominion) and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

In the spirit of giving thanks, let's welcome Jesus once again into our hearts and lives as the mighty savior He is, and let's also look forward to our future with Him, with praise and thanksgiving. Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

Have a wonderful, blessed, thank-filled season, and may the spirit of Christmas bring you joy and love and peace.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim



Quilters

The quilting ministry will meet on Dec. 14th this 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—December 14 at Noon

Due to COVID restrictions, this year's luncheon will be a catered boxed lunch from Sunset Foods. Please sign up and place your sandwich order using the form in the narthex by 12/12. Bring a wrapped ornament for the ornament exchange. Contact Mary Giampietro at maryg61563@yahoo.com or 847-508-5619 or Louise Menter at 847-215-7928 with questions or to place your lunch order.

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

The Thursday Bible study will resume on December 2nd. We're currently studying 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

Sunday School will be meeting Dec. 5 for a "Sensational Sunday"! Bring the kids to the triple room during education hour as we learn about Christmas! We'll also meet on the 19th as we explore Isaiah's words. Hope to see you then!

The Youth Choir will be hosting their annual Christmas Performance on December 12. Mr. V will be doing a Christmas carol sing-a-long as well. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for this fun event.

Tuesday LYFE will be wrapping our 2021 up with a NATIVITY ESCAPE ROOM activity. We'll see everyone in 2022! All kids are welcomed to join us at LYFE. Please let Jennifer know.



We'll be having our second "WATCH PARTY" on Sunday December 19 at 10:45 AM. Meet in the youth room so we can watch the service, snack, chat, complete sermon notes, etc. We can also get planning for our Youth Sunday and Souper Bowl of Caring in February. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Make it Your Christmas *Tradition*

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 is the best time of year.

For many others 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.



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

December 2021

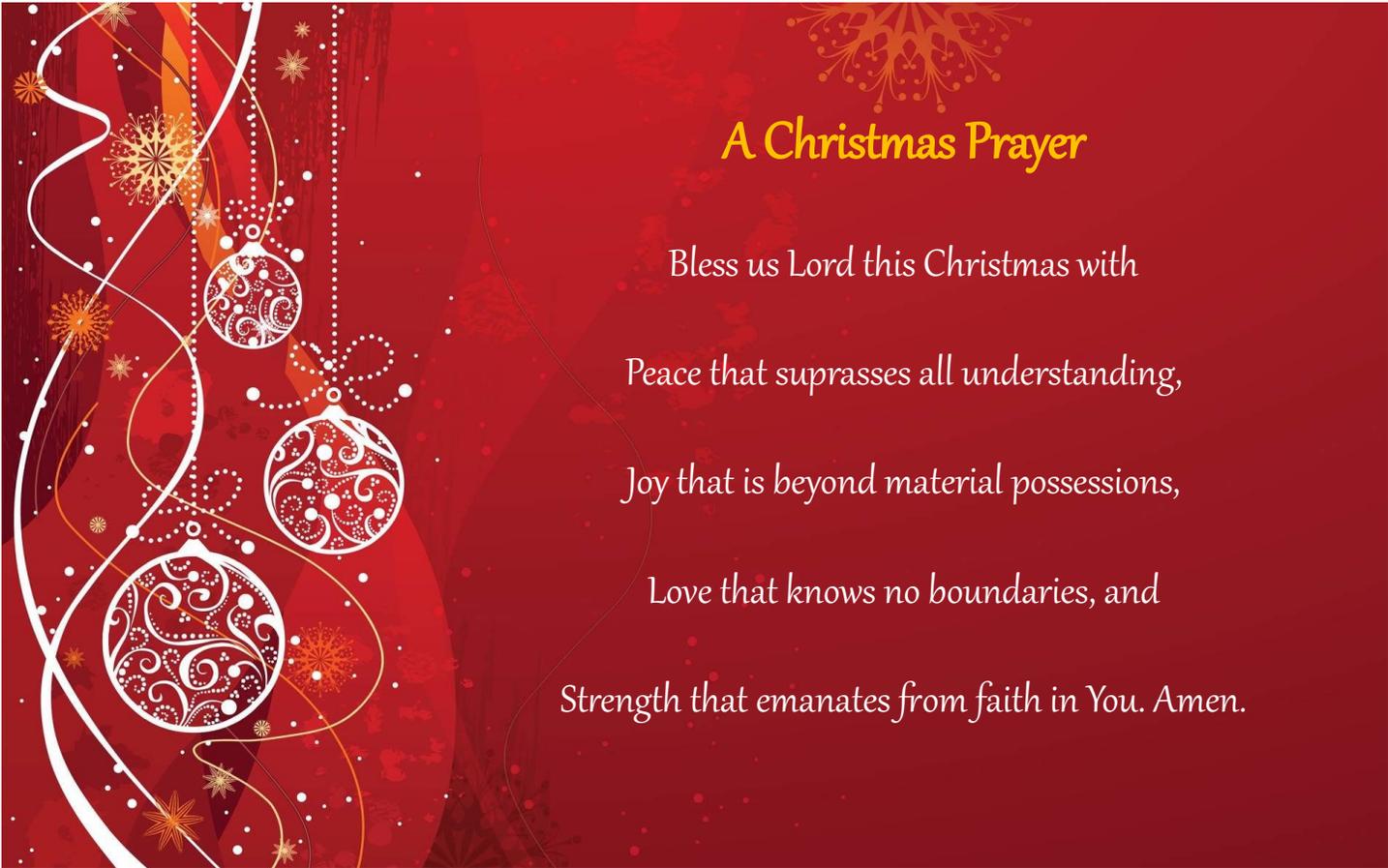
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7pm Advent Service 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells	2 9:30am Prayer Group 10:15am Bible Study	3	4
5 Worship Services 8:30 & 10:45 AM	6	7 4pm LYFE 4:30pm Confirmation	8 7pm Advent Service 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells	9 9:30am Prayer Group 10:15am Bible Study	10	11 9:30-11am Christmas Program Practice
12 9:45am Children's Christmas Program & Sing Along	13 7:30pm Council Mtg	14 10am Quilters 12pm EXPOS Lunch 4pm LYFE 4:30pm Confirmation	15 7pm Advent Service 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells	16 9:30am Prayer Group 10:15am Bible Study	17	18 3pm Flutopia
19 10:45am Youth Watch Party	20	21	22 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells	23	24 3:30, 5 & 10 pm Christmas Eve Services	25 
26 9:30am Service 10:30am Meet & Greet	27	28	29	30	31 	

Pastor Tim's 5 Year Anniversary Celebration



Hanging of the Greens





A Christmas Prayer

Bless us Lord this Christmas with
Peace that suprases all understanding,
Joy that is beyond material possessions,
Love that knows no boundaries, and
Strength that emanates from faith in You. Amen.



May **GOD** be with you
Through the New Year
And fill your life with
COMFORT, LOVE and **CHEER**.
May this day and the days ahead,
Hold many **BLESSINGS**
For you and yours.

Happy New Year!

A Festive Flutopia

Back by popular demand! Another Festive Flutopia: the sounds of angels will float through the air and settle in your hearts and souls. Saturday, Dec 18 at 3PM at Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. Join us for Music of the Season to soothe, inspire, reminisce and sing along!

Covid protocols will be followed – so you will be safe. All are welcome. Free concert, but donations accepted. For more information contact the director: Laurel Kaiser at 847-902-4235



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 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. 12.

Name _____ Phone _____

Number of Poinsettias _____ @ \$20 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 Update

As of November 30, we have received commitments towards our ministry planning for next year: 39 pledges totaling approximately \$214,000. Our thanks to everyone who have responded not only with commitments of money but also their time and their talents.

If you have not yet had time to prayerfully consider how you will respond to God's blessings this year, please review the material distributed during the stewardship drive and return the completed commitment card. Our ministry depends on the response of our members and friends with commitments of time, energy, abilities and money. Every commitment is important for we are connected to one another as one body in Christ. Please return your commitment as soon as possible.

2022 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your envelopes located by the coat rack starting in December. Even if you only make an offering once a month you need to pick up your box since the numbering of the boxes enables us to properly assign and credit your contributions. Simply Giving electronic transfers provides you with stickers to place on your envelopes if you choose to use them on any given Sunday.



Tax Time Cometh

While we are still many months away from April 2022, the end of the year is approaching rapidly. You may want to consider contributing some shares to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit.

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. 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. 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.



Thanksgiving Baskets Thank You

Many thanks to all who so generously donated to our Thanksgiving Dinner drive for Vernon Township Food Pantry. The meal boxes and gift cards were delivered, and as we were unloading, needy pantry clients were waiting to pick up a box. They were amazed by all that was included in each box and were so thankful!

Many opportunities exist in our community to help those in need this holiday season. By way of limited example, Vernon Township Food Pantry and Hawthorn Elementary School North have noted particular need this year, and COOL and PADs always welcome donations of needed items. If you are interested in spreading a little extra holiday cheer in our community this year, please contact Donna Williams at 847-331-7651 or rdjrwilliams@att.net for further information or assistance.



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 from Lutheran Day Nursery/After School Program for whom we purchase gifts at Christmas. Many times, these are the only gifts these children will receive. These children have come to be called our “angels”.

Sign up for a child/children at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0944ABAF22A7F49-angel>. If you are unable to do so, contact Kari Davenport and she will assign you a child.

Drop Off—gifts are due to the church by Sunday, December 12th. You can drop off during office hours or take advantage of the contactless drop off on Sunday, December 12th from 1:00-3:00pm. Pull up and we will be happy to take the packages right out of your car! If these options do not work for you, please contact Kari to make other arrangements.



Appropriate items—We strive to provide each child with an age appropriate toy, an article of warm clothing (like a hat, mittens, sweater, 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.

Label gifts with the child’s name when you return them so that they are delivered to the right child.

Gift Cards—Lutheran Day Nursery has 6 families that are in need this year. We are collecting \$25 Target Cards to help these families purchase food, clothing and toiletries. Please drop off gift cards to the office by Sunday, December 12th. Label the envelope “LDN Gift Cards.”

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



church council **MEETING**

Highlights from November

The monthly Church Council meeting was held on November 8th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$33,440 for October (YTD total is \$353,847 (including amounts for PPP loan technology from Endowment Fund)). Operating expenses were \$32,787 in October (YTD total is \$350,550).

The Pastor's report: October was a busy month with many activities and events. Reformation Sunday service was October 31. November special services include Commitment Sunday on November 14, Jazz Sunday on November 21, and Thanksgiving service, with Hanging of the Greens and Advent wreath making on November 28. **Committee Reports: Christian Education** reported that Trunk or Treat was well-attended and well-received. Preparations are underway for holiday services and activities, including the Christmas program, Hanging of the Greens, and Advent wreath making. **CUFF** reported that the benefit concert was very successful and well-attended; final receipts and expenses are being tabulated, and a generous contribution will be made to COOL Ministries. Consideration is being given to a congregation book exchange or lending library. **Finance** reported that the finance committee will be convening for its annual financial review. **Growth** reported that signage will be posted for upcoming events and services. **Human Needs** reported on delivery of Thanksgiving meal boxes with appreciation to all who generously donated, and that Kari Davenport is posting Angel Tree information. **Planning** reported that focus group strategies are being planned for meetings in the new year. **Property** reported that safety features will be installed on a few doors that were singled out during a Nursery School safety inspection, and a few other inspection issues are being addressed. November work day focus is on fall clean up and winter preparations. **Technology** reported that assistance is needed for live streaming and recording services with the new software and equipment. **Worship & Music** reported that Ushers and worship assistants are needed for services. Taize services will be held in December. Flutopia concert is scheduled for December 18. Three services are scheduled for Christmas Eve, at 3:30 pm, 5:00 pm, and **10:00 pm**. **Old Business:** Nominating Committee continues its work on a slate of candidates. **New Business:** Updated COVID Practices and Policies were discussed and reviewed. Committee Reports for the Annual Report are due by December 31, 2021.

Next council meeting currently is scheduled for December 13th 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.

HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

December 2021

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



Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
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Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom, Pastor
Phone: 847-945-1550

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED