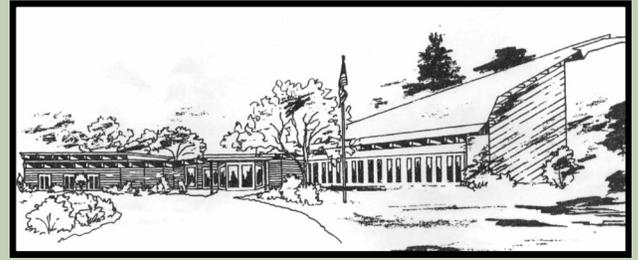




*Lutheran Church
of the Holy Spirit*
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



January 2022

Budget Preview Meeting - January 9 at 10:30 AM

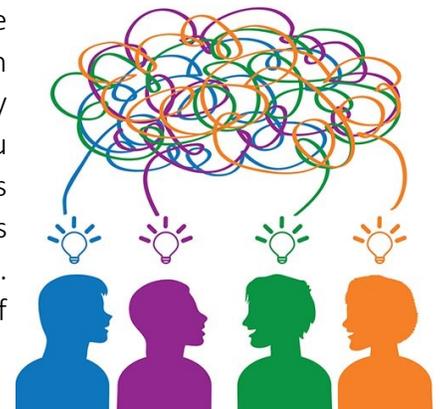
On Sunday, January 9th after our 9:30 worship service, we'll be reviewing the Annual Report ahead of our Annual Congregational Meeting, which is the following week. Please join us and bring your comments and questions as we review and look forward to the new year.



Please join us for our congregation's Annual Meeting on January 16th after our 9:30 AM worship service. We'll be electing new council members, approving the budget and reviewing the reports of our ministries from the past year. We also want to cast a vision for a mission-oriented 2022, and we want your insight, so plan on attending this important gathering.

Focus Groups with a Focus on Mission

During the first few weeks of January, our Long Range Planning Team will be conducting focus groups aimed at exploring questions about what's most important and what's most effective when it comes to the mission of our congregation. We also want to learn more about how different age groups interact with the life of our congregation and what challenges they are facing. Many will be invited to participate in Zoom teleconference calls, but if you can't meet at the designated times, we would love to hear from you as well. From the information we gather, our goal is to refine the emphasis of our mission and develop a plan to better reach out to our community. Please contact Daaron Dohler at dldohler@gmail.com or Pastor Tim if you have any comments or questions.



A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

It was great to see so many attending worship on Christmas Eve this year, especially since the only way we could meet last year, was by gathering outside. But even though the threat of increasing numbers with COVID kept many away, we had a wonderfully blessed evening, with joyous music, candles to gently push away the darkness, and a star was added to our beautiful sanctuary, like the light of the world, as we sung our praises to God. And we sang “Glory to God in the Highest!”, for “Unto you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!”

And so we bring the excitement of that new birth, and the new day that the Lord has made; we bring all that joy and gratitude and wonderment with us, as we look forward to a New Year. A year filled with hope and promise, but also a year brimming with uncertainty.

That uncertainty, reminds me of a game we’d often play in youth groups, where one person would have to rely on another to lead them through a maze. One would be blindfolded and the other would guide the other with phrases like, “Two baby steps to the left, and four giant steps straight forward.” Afterwards we’d always share what the experience was like for those who were blindfolded and hear things like, “I didn’t like it.” “It’s scary going where you can’t see.” “I was afraid I was going to fall.” “I kept taking little steps to be safe.”

As adults we don’t like to travel in the dark either. It’s scary to go where we cannot see. And we too, often take timid steps, so we won’t fall.

And we have reason to be cautious. We are blind. We can’t see the future. We have absolutely no vision beyond the present. We don’t know with any certainty whether we’ll live long enough to make it to next year. We are blind to the future.

*God Himself has said,
"I will not in any way fail you nor leave you,
I will not leave you helpless, nor forsake you,
nor let you down or relax my hold on you."
Hebrews 13:5*

In the Gospel of Mark, there is a story of a leader of the synagogue named Jairus. His daughter was very ill and dying, so he sought out Jesus to heal his daughter. He believed that if Jesus would put his hands on his daughter she would be healed and live. But by the time he got to him, his daughter had died. Those who gathered there told Jairus there was no need to bother the teacher anymore, but Jesus paid no attention to what they said. He turned to Jairus and said, “*Don’t be afraid; just believe.*” Don’t limit your possibilities to the visual. Don’t listen only for the audible. Don’t be controlled by the logical. Believe there is more to life than meets the eye.

Paul wrote, “*We set our eyes not on what we see but on what we cannot see. What we see will only last for a short time, but what we cannot see will last forever.*” (2 Corinthians 4:18)

It is with this new profound vision of believing in, and relying on, and trusting in God, that I am looking toward entering this New Year, and I invite you to do the same. There will be many voices that will attempt to cloud your vision. There will be many distractions and diversions that will challenge you with uncertainty, doubt, and fear. And yet, as Jairus learned, in Jesus Christ there is life, life everlasting. And that we can be assured of.

Have a blessed, exciting, thrilling, fulfilling, spirit-filled New Year! And put your trust in the One who will never let you down.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim

Quilters

The quilting ministry meets on the third Tuesday of every 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—January 11

We will meet at 10:30 AM at the Church for an IMPORTANT PLANNING MEETING. We will discuss the format of our monthly meetings/events, and who will be responsible for conducting each of the meetings/events. Your ideas and opinions are important and needed. Bring your lunch and stay for a time of fellowship after the planning session. Remember that masks are required inside the church building.

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

This Bible study explores various Christian topics and provides meaningful opportunities to apply scripture to your daily life. In January we'll be starting a unit on John Goldingay's book on *Daniel and the 12 Minor Prophets*. We don't often hear as much from the final twelve books of the Old Testament, but Goldingay brings these prophetic words alive with an attentiveness to contemporary life. Join us each Thursday from 10:15 to 11:30 AM, for a thought-provoking inspirational time of reflection, study, and discussion. 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

Our whole group meetings begin again on Sunday, January 23. Please meet in the triple room during education hour (9:45-10:30) Cherub choir meets during this time as well.

Tuesday LYFE

Join us in the new year! All kids are welcomed to attend our meetings on Tuesdays from 4:00-5:30 PM. We start with games, lessons and activities and end with Mr. V and youth choir. Our first meeting will be January 11. Please let Jennifer know if you're interested and we'll get you registered!

Mardi Gras

Please mark your calendar for Mardi Gras on February 27 after our 9:30 AM service.. This family event is a staple here at Holy Spirit, more info to come!



Youth Sunday and our "Souper Bowl of Caring" will be Sunday, February 13



3- Hannah Werner
 5- Laura Duprey Sieland
 6- Don Bally
 8- James Lehtinen
 9- Katelyn Dohler
 10- Jess Brown
 Bryan Dick

12- Courtney Dick
 Lynn Kasche
 15- Kathie Deyerler
 16- Terri Becker
 20- Wayne Giampietro
 Larry Mosner
 Allison Wittich

21- Joe Labellarte
 Jan Schwanke
 Madison Werner
 23- Olivia Brown
 28- Jan Burke
 30- Joanna Lynn
 Julie Utterback

JANUARY 2022						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9:30am Worship Service	3	4 4:30pm Confirmation	5 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells	6 9:30am Prayer Group 10:15am Bible Study	7	8
9 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Budget Review Mtg	10 7:30pm Council Mtg	11 10:30am EXPOS 4pm LYFE 4:30pm Confirmation	12 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells	13 9:30am Prayer Group 10:15am Bible Study	14	15
16 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Congregational Mtg	17	18 10am Quilters 4pm LYFE	19 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells	20 9:30am Prayer Group	21	22
23	24	25 4pm LYFE	26 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells	27 9:30am Prayer Group 10:15am Bible Study	28 5-10pm Confirmation Retreat	29
30 8-1pm Blood Drive	31					

A beautiful Christmas Eve



Dear Lord,

*Thank you for a new year filled
with fresh grace and countless opportunities!*

*Lead me to Your heart, Your Word and Your ways
as I strive to live out Your love in 2022.*

In Jesus Name,

Amen.

happy new year



Thank you for your generosity! Once again, our church made the holidays a little brighter for the children at Lutheran Day Nursery. We collected gifts for 32 children in their preschool and afterschool program. We also surpassed our goal of gift cards. The 6 families in need will each be receiving \$150 in Target gift cards!!!



Support PADS in 2022

Unfortunately, increasing numbers of our neighbors continue to experience homelessness. Our longtime community service partner PADS continues to provide food, shelter, and resources to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Pandemic conditions have impacted the ability to operate and staff monthly shelters at church locations around Lake County, and PADS has made remarkable alternate arrangements to offer shelter. Donations of food, personal care products, and other items are needed for those they serve. In the New year, we will resume PADS donation drives with information to follow in newsletters, bulletins, and emails. Please watch for announcements and prayerfully consider how you can assist the less fortunate.



Give the Gift of Life in the New Year!

Vitalant (formerly LifeSource) has resumed in-person Blood Drives, and we are having one at LCHS, on January 30, 2022 from 8:00 am-1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. This allows everyone to participate no matter which service you attend. Please keep an eye out for emails, bulletin announcements, etc.

All donor eligible people are encouraged to participate—this is **NOT** for members only, so please spread the word and invite friends and family to help save lives.

Any questions, please contact Donna Williams at rdrjwilliams@att.net



Books, Books, Books!

Did you receive some wonderful new books for Christmas and want to share favorites from the past few years?

During the month of January, bring a box of your hardbound or paperback books to the labeled box in the front entry.

We will sort them and offer them for exchange in February. Novels, non-fiction, and children's books are all welcome.

Please note: This is NOT an opportunity to dispose of your college textbooks and old romance paperbacks.

Think of books you would want to share with a good friend. Watch February's newsletter for details about how to select some great reads for the coming year. Please contact Jan Schwanke at bennett95@comcast.net if you can volunteer to help.

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

Stewardship Update

As of December 23, we have received commitments towards our ministry planning for next year: 44 pledges totaling approximately \$235,000. 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

If you do not give electronically, please pick up your envelopes located by the coat rack. 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

Simply Giving is a program that enables Holy Spirit members to fulfill their commitment to support our ministry through electronic fund transfer (EFT). Just as many members use EFT to meet regular commitments such as mortgage, insurance, and utility payments, you can also use this method to fulfill your commitment to our ministry. Authorization forms can be obtained in the narthex or by calling the church office.

Members using this program should complete a revised authorization form to validate any changes you wish to make in your commitment for 2022.

Vanco Mobile App

Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile to replace GivePlus Mobile. You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation.



church council MEETING

Highlights from December

The monthly Church Council meeting was held on December 13th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$26,446 for November (YTD total is \$80,293 (including amounts for PPP loan technology from Endowment Fund)). Operating expenses were \$32,852 in November (YTD total is \$383,402).

The Pastor's report: November special services and activities included Commitment Sunday, Jazz Sunday, Thanksgiving service, Hanging of the Greens, and Advent wreath making. Meeting schedules will be circulated for early January focus group discussions regarding the congregation's mission, needs of the membership, and challenges facing members. **Committee Reports: Stewardship:** The Stewardship campaign culminated in November with a special service and meal. Follow up on pledges is ongoing and members are encouraged to submit pledges if they have not already done so. Enhancement and alterations to the Time and Talent Form were discussed. **Technology** reported that additional help is need to assist the youth member who is recording services. **Worship & Music** reported that 3 services are scheduled for Christmas Eve, at 3:30 pm, 5:00 pm, and 10:00 pm with special music; ushers are needed. The organ motor needs replacement; the damage to the motor appears to have been caused by a lightning strike, and a possible insurance claim is being assessed. **Christian Education** reported that Children's and Youth ministries have had a productive, active, and participatory fall season, culminating with the Christmas Program, which was well-attended and a great success. Confirmation classes continue with additional activities. **CUFF** reported that a book exchange is being planned for the new year, when books can be dropped off for sharing, and then picked for enjoyment, and that a wine tasting is being considered for February. **Finance** reported that the finance committee conducted its annual financial review. **Growth** reported that signage will be posted in the Lincolnshire kiosk for Christmas Eve services and that several potential new member families have attended services, with follow up. **Human Needs** reported that Thanksgiving meal boxes and additional gift cards were delivered, that with appreciation to all who generously donated; Angel Tree ministry spearheaded by Kari Davenport was a great success, with additional donations of gift cards generously donated by members to families in need; a Vitalant Blood Drive is scheduled on January 30; and PADs donation drives will resume in the new year with information to follow in newsletters, bulletins, and emails. **Planning** reported that focus group strategies are being planned for meetings in the new year. **Personnel** reported that Carmaline Spurrier has retired after many years of much appreciated service to the congregation, with plans for a more formal recognition of service and appreciation. **Property** reported that a November successful work day was conducted. Joel has been very busy with fall clean up activity and winter preparation activity, as well as ongoing maintenance and repairs. Joel has secured a contractor for 2022 parking lot sealcoating and also has secured estimates for soffit-related repairs. HVAC system repairs have been made. Additional needed repairs and maintenance are underway for the nursery school. **Old Business:** Nominating Committee continues its work on a slate of candidates. Budget update was discussed. Council member annual reports are due by December 24. The revised addendum for building use was discussed. **New Business:** Personnel recordkeeping and related issues were discussed and a motion passed to approve increasing Pastor Tim's annual vacation by 5 days. **Next council meeting currently is scheduled for January 10h at 7:30 PM and the Annual Meeting on January 16th, 2022 after service.** 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

January 2022

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