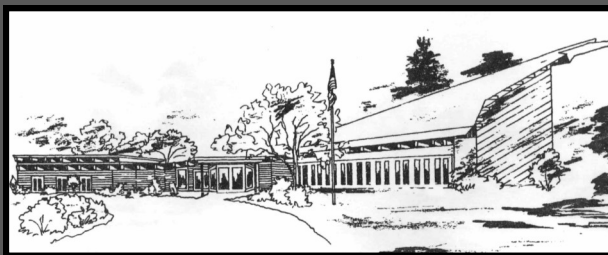




**Lutheran Church
of the Holy Spirit**
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



January 2020



Fellowship Planning Potluck

Sunday, January 12 at 11:00 AM

On Sunday, January 12, at 11:00 am, after our 9:30 worship service, the entire congregation is invited to gather for a potluck dinner as we plan new fellowship events for the coming year. There's nothing like a good old fashioned potluck dinner, and everyone is invited to bring one dish to share that would serve about 10-12 people. Please bring either a main dish, a salad, a desert, or an appetizer, and we'll have plenty for all. The main event on the agenda is to brainstorm ideas for fellowship events for the coming year, find a place for them on the calendar, and mutually share in leading and organizing these fellowship events. All ideas are welcome, and there are no suggestions that are too outrageous. A church family that plans and plays together, stays together! So bring your friends and family and join the fun!



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 19 at 11:00 AM

Please join us for our congregation's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 19, after our ONE SERVICE at 9:30 that morning. We have important business to conduct, including the election for our new Church Council members and an update about sanctuary repairs and enhancements. Your participation is important!

A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year!!! I pray that we will all have a blessed and prosperous New Year, and I look forward to the blessings and opportunities that will allow our church to grow and prosper in the coming year as well!

As we celebrate the beginning of a new year, it's hard to not reflect on how God has blessed us and inspired us this past year, and to give thanks for the abundance we have in so many aspects of our lives. And when we take time to give thanks it changes our perspective, our attitude, our orientation to the world we live in. We find new life revealed to us in surprising ways. That's what the season of Epiphany can be for us, a time of new revelations, a time when the light breaks through the darkness, a time when the old is gone and the new arrives.

My challenge for you for the first 30 days of this New Year, this new decade, is to take time to give thanks for something different each day of the new year, to adopt an attitude of gratitude and see how God will surprise you with new revelations and purpose. Because we have so much to be thankful for; our family our friends, those people who made a significant impact in our lives, those who pushed us when we needed it. We give thanks for the unique gifts we have, our health, our personalities, our life. And we are thankful for the food that nourishes our bodies, the shelter of our homes, the plethora of technological conveniences we take for granted, and all the people who participated in making all these things possible for us. And we give thanks for the incredible world filled with plants and animals, sun and stars, atoms and molecules, and the delicate balance that holds all of life together. The list goes on and on, but I encourage you to take some time to be truly grateful for whatever God puts on your mind and really experience all we have to be grateful for.



The famous theologian and writer, Eugene Peterson once wrote an article about gratitude, he wrote, "Is wonder-induced gratitude the most fundamental of human responses, the emotion most congruent with life? Johnny Bergman was a young man in my congregation. He and his wife were enthusiastic participants, but then the weeds of worldly care choked their young faith. They acquired children; they became suddenly wealthy and their lives filled up with boats and cars, house-building and social engagements. They were in worship less and less frequently and then not at all. After a two-year absence, on a bright winter Epiphany Sunday, Johnny was there again. Surprised to see him, I said, "Johnny! What brought you to worship today?" He said, "I woke this morning feeling so good, so blessed, so alive -- so created -- I just had to say thank you, and this is the only place I could think of to say it adequately. I wanted to say it to Jesus."

It is with this joyful and passionate sense of gratitude that we begin a new year, a year brimming with hope and promise. My prayer for each of you is that you let God dwell richly in your hearts, that you live with confidence that all things are possible with the God who strengthens us, and that you let the light of God's love shine brightly through you to a world that so desperately needs it. Happy New Year! God bless our congregation! And may God bless us to be a blessing to others!

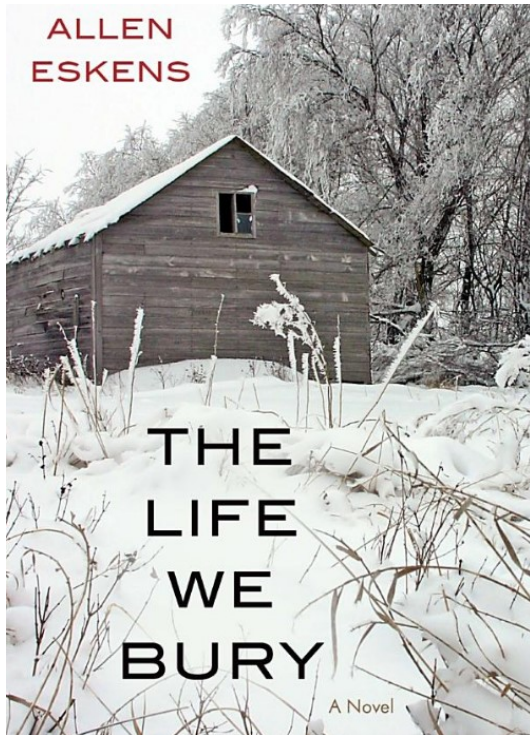
Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tim

Book Club

Friday, January 24 at 7:30 PM

The Life We Bury by Allen Eskens



College student Joe Talbert has the modest goal of completing a writing assignment for an English class. His task is to interview a stranger and write a brief biography of the person. With deadlines looming, Joe heads to a nearby nursing home to find a willing subject. There he meets Carl Iverson, and soon nothing in Joe's life is ever the same. Carl is a dying Vietnam veteran—and a convicted murderer. With only a few months to live, he has been medically paroled to a nursing home after spending thirty years in prison for the crimes of rape and murder.

As Joe writes about Carl's life, especially Carl's valor in Vietnam, he cannot reconcile the heroism of the soldier with the despicable acts of the convict. Aided by his skeptical neighbor, Lila, Joe throws himself into uncovering the truth. Thread by thread, he begins to unravel the tapestry of Carl's conviction. But as he and Lila dig deeper into the circumstances of the crime, the stakes grow higher. Will Joe discover the truth before it's too late to escape the fallout?



Have a Heart for Holy Family Valentine Benefit Luncheon

Saturday, February 8 at 11:30 AM

Join us for this festive luncheon to support Holy Family School. Please RSVP in the Narthex starting the beginning of January or email Jeanne at jnelson814@comcast.net. All proceeds go towards raising \$8000 to fund the annual tuition for one child at Holy Family School.

WELCA

All women of the congregation were invited to participate in a WELCA (Women of the ELCA) meeting on December 8 to designate philanthropies to receive the proceeds from our boutique in November. Participants voted to donate to the following causes:

Casa Jojo	\$500	COOL	\$500
Curt's Cafe	\$500	Lutheran Day Nursery	\$500
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries	\$500	LSSI Prison Ministry	\$400
Lutherdale Bible Camp	\$500	AMMPARO (child refugee advocacy)	\$500
PADS	\$1000	Women of the ELCA	\$50
Holy Family Ministries (school in inner city)	\$1000		

We also voted to reserve \$1000 toward equipment for the kitchen, either an additional stove with griddle and oven OR a warming oven. We will look into the best appliance to make our special meals easier to serve large groups.

A possible fundraiser for 2020 will be selling gift cards from a large variety of merchandisers. We would earn a percentage of each card sold.

We need to decide whether or not to hold our biennial rummage sale in the coming year. Are you willing to support this sale in late May/early June? Email Jan Schwanke at bennett95@comcast.net with your opinion.

2020 Offering Envelopes

Each year offering envelopes are available in the church narthex. Mailing these boxes is expensive, which means that if you pick up your envelopes you make a contribution toward wise stewardship. Offerings in church envelopes enable us to more accurately account for your charitable contributions and provide you with appropriate documentation for tax purposes.

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 2020.

Stewardship Update

Thank you to all who have returned their Estimate of Giving commitment cards. As of December 30 we have received 61 pledges totaling \$307,560. We have had an excellent response and are very close to achieving our goal. Every commitment is important in helping us plan our ministry for the coming year, so if you have not returned your commitment card, please prayerfully consider how you will respond to God's blessing to you this year, and return your response today! Thanks again for all your support as we look forward to a year of growth and abundance.

Proposed 2020 Budget

Please join us in the adult forum room at 9 AM on Sunday, January 12 for an update about the proposed 2020 budget.

Prayer Group

All are welcome to join us in the Prayer Chapel at 9:30 AM as we continue to lift up our joys and concerns either spoken aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

EXPOS

Please join us for on Tuesday, January 14 at 10:30 AM as we will be planning what to do for the next year. This is the time to bring your ideas for things to do. Bring a bag lunch and share fellowship after the meeting.

Thursday Bible Study

We are studying a new unit on "Luther's Small Catechism". Stemming from our last unit on the "Forgotten Luther", we will be getting reacquainted with the fundamentals of Luther's theology as we explore the 10 Commandments, the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. Join us for a thought provoking and inspirational time of reflection, study, and discussion. We always close our time together in prayer.

The Quilters

Will meet at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, January 21 to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. All are welcome. No experience necessary!

Meet and Greet

Join us Sunday, January 26 in the Narthex between services to gather as a family of faith to renew, sustain and form new friendships. To volunteer to provide fruit or a treat, please email Katie Bally at kbally@sbcglobal.net.



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

Children's Ministry News

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

Happy New Year Everyone! December was such a fun-filled month! I hope everyone enjoyed the kids' Christmas Tree display in the Narthex! We had so much fun creating those projects.



Sunday School enjoyed hearing stories leading up to the birth of Christ.

Please have the kids join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Jan. 5 after the service for our "Follow the Star" obstacle course!

Jan 12 is the Fellowship Planning Pot Luck! Join us after the 9:30 AM service to plan fun events!

Our next regular Sunday School Class will meet Sunday Jan 19.

Tuesday LYFE enjoyed some fun and games. We will see everyone again on Tuesday January 10!

Prayer Pals - Please continue to remember your "prayer pals" in the New Year! Things to pray for are: calm and patience as kids are spending a lot of time indoors with the cold weather!



Happy New Year!

On Sunday Jan 12 from 5:00-7:00pm, St Gregory's Church in Deerfield is hoping to get a group of other Church Youth Groups together for some fun. Please let me know if you are interested so we can join them! Look for an email with more info.

If anyone is would like to gather in the Youth Room during education hour on Sunday Jan 26, I'd love it! We can chat about Youth Sunday which is right around the corner; put Feb 2 on your calendars! I'll need all hands on deck! I'll have donuts and drinks! Hope to see you there!

LET'S CELEBRATE!

January Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1- Kathleen Pham | 16- Terri Becker |
| 3- Hannah Werner | 20- Wayne Giampietro |
| 5- Laura Duprey Sieland | Larry Mosner |
| 6- Don Bally | Allison Wittich |
| 8- James Lehtinen | 21- Joe Labellarte |
| 9- Katelyn Dohler | Jan Schwanke |
| 10- Jess Brown | Madison Werner |
| Bryan Dick | 23- Olivia Brown |
| 12- Courtney Dick | 28- Jan Burke |
| Jennifer Greenwell | 30- Joanna Lynn |
| Lynn Kasche | Julie Utterback |
| 15- Kathie Deyerler | |

Anniversary Milestones

Karin & Bruce Leska
35 years

Thank You for Your Hearts and Hands and Gifts

Our congregation is blessed to have so many talented and willing people come together to make the Christmas Season a truly inspirational time for everyone! Thank you to all the musicians and choirs who shared their gifts during Mid-week Advent and Christmas Eve services. Thank you to all who contributed toward the Children's Christmas Program and who helped prepare the church during the Hanging of the Greens. And thank you to all who helped with the many other behind the scene tasks and preparations. You make the Spirit of Christmas alive in this holy and joyful community!

Angel Tree Thank You

By Kari Davenport

Thank you to everyone who adopted a student from Lutheran Day Nursery for the holidays! The children and their families are always so appreciative of our generous congregation. It's the best feeling to see the smiling faces when we deliver the packages!

Oh, the Fun We Have.....



church council MEETING

Highlights from November 2019

The monthly Church Council meeting was held on December 9th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$40,237 for November (YTD total is \$441,237). Operating expenses were \$27,461 in November (YTD total is \$488,454).

The Pastor's report: We have had some major events in the past month heading into the holiday season. A Fellowship Planning Potluck will be held on January 12. The annual budget review meeting will be held at 9:00 am on January 12. **Committees** of the council provided reports of various activities. **Stewardship** reported that the celebration meal on November 17 was a great success. The stewardship appeal is underway; total amount pledged is \$ 308,940, with 62 responses. Cards are being developed so that those who give electronically can place a card in the offering basket for presentation at the altar. Offering envelopes for next year are available for pick up. **Youth** reported on participation in Hanging of the Greens and the Christmas program. Youth Sunday February 2 is the next big event. **Worship & Music** is preparing for Christmas holiday services with heavy hearts. Temporary accompanists are arranged in the short term. December 29, January 5, 12, and 19 are one-service Sundays, at 9:30. **Christian Education** reported that they have been very busy with Advent wreath-making/Hanging of the Green, the Christmas program, and the Christmas tree display. Tuesday LYFE went to Bernie's Book Bank and loved it. **CUFF** reported that upcoming events are Fellowship Potluck on January 12 and Wine Tasting in February. **Finance** reported that the Finance Review committee met and discussed the Preliminary Budget, reviewed Church Accounts, the Endowment Fund and Columbarium; no issues were found. Larry Brady made a motion to approve the slate of Wayne Giampietro, Arnie Bilstad, and Julie Utterback for the Financial Review committee. Daaron Dohler seconded the motion; the motion passed. The property insurer recently raised an issue about premium calculation; our insurance agent will follow up, and will verify calculation and proper premium amount. **Growth** reported that the committee mailed close to 500 postcards inviting visitors and new community members to our Christmas services. The families of several of our new Tuesday LYFE and Confirmation students have been attending, and some have made commitments to giving to Holy Spirit. **Human Needs** reported that plans continue for the Christmas outreach program. **Long-Range Planning** reported that the committee met and discussed a number of issues and the church's mission. The primary goal is to create a short-term team of diverse ages and backgrounds to focus on church development, outreach, and mission. **Personnel** reported that planning for Christmas gifts for staff is underway. **Property** reported that a variety of tasks have been completed and are underway, including gutter cleaning and gasket replacement. The property committee is looking ahead to tasks for springtime. **Old Business:** Nominating Committee continues work on a slate. The Sanctuary Enhancement Task Force met and reported on flooring options and costs, as well as seating configurations and the sound system. The 2020 budget proposal was reviewed and will be finalized. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 19.

Next council meeting is January 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. Annual reports are due in early January.

Flower Chart

If you would like to donate altar flowers, please sign up in the Narthex. Bouquets are \$26.

JANUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 9:30am Prayer Group 10:30am Bible Study	3	4
5 9:30am Epiphany Service Obstacle Course Family Event	6	7 4pm Confirmation 4:45pm LYFE	8 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	9 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	10	11
12 9:30am Service 11am Fellowship Planning Event	13 7:30pm Council Mtg	14 10:30am EXPOS 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	15 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	16 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	17	18 8am LifeLine Screening
19 9:30am Service 11am Congregational Mtg	20	21 10am Quilters 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	22 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	23 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	24	25
26 Meet & Greet	27	28 4pm Confirmation 4:45pm LYFE	29 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	30 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	31	

FEBRUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Youth Sunday -Super Bowl of Caring	3	4 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	5 7:15pm Choir 8:15 pm Bells	6 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	7 Winetasting	8
9	10 7:30pm Council Mtg	11 10:30 EXPOS 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	12 7:15pm Choir 8:15 pm Bells	13 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	14	15
16	17	18 10am Quilters 4PpmConfirmation 4:15pm LYFE	19 7:15pm Choir 8:15 pm Bells	20 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	21	22
23 9:30am Jazz Sunday 10:30 Meet & Greet 11am Mardi Gras	24	25 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	26 7:30pm Ash Wed Service 8:30pm Choir	27 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	28	29

MARCH 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 4pm Confirmation 4:15 LYFE	4 7pm Lent Service 7:30pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	5 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	6	7
8	9 7:30pm Council Mtg	10 10:30am EXPOS 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	11 7pm Lent Service 7:30pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	12 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	13 6PM Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	14
15	16	17 10am Quilters 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	18 7pm Lent Service 7:30pm Choir	19 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	20	21
22	23	24	25 7pm Lent Service 7:30pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	26 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	27	28
29 8-1pm Blood Drive Meet & Greet	30	31				

Special events are in red bold print

ATTENTION!

Please Note Special Service Times!

There will be one 9:30 AM service on January 5, 12 & 19.

We will return to our regular schedule of 8:30 & 10:45 AM on January 26th.

Snow Removal

Please keep in mind, we could use your help shoveling paths and walkways leading to the church on Sunday mornings and before special events.

HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

January 2020

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



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

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LINCOLNSHIRE, IL 60069

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED