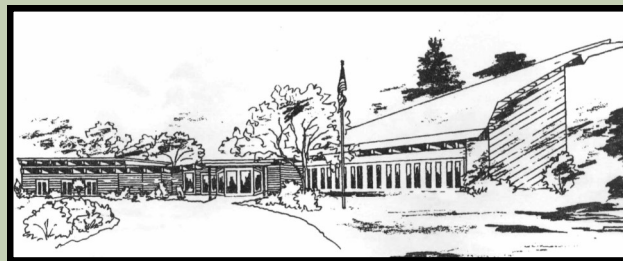




Lutheran Church
of the Holy Spirit
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



October 2021

WE'RE OFF TO A GREAT START!



A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter into the month of October, we can look forward to the beautiful colors of the changing season, for summer has already turned to fall. And as the weather gets cooler, we bring out the warm sweaters and look forward to cuddling up by the warmth of a fire. And pumpkin spice, and apple and cinnamon, and all the flavors of fall once again draw our fancy. Halloween decorations and costumes must be prepared, and Lutherans in particular, remember Reformation Day and Martin Luther for taking a theological stand, claiming we are saved by grace through faith!

It's going to be a wonderfully exciting month, and it starts out on October 2nd with a simple celebration for all God's creatures, as many of us gather to have a blessing of our pets. Which reminds me of a story to share.

A boy went into a pet shop, looking for a puppy. The store owner showed him a new litter of delightful little puppies in a box. The boy looked at the puppies. He picked each one up, examined it, and put it back in the box. After several minutes, he walked back to the owner and said, "I picked one out. How much will it cost?" The man gave him a price, and the boy promised to be back in a few days with the money. "Don't take too long," the owner cautioned, "puppies like these sell quickly." The boy turned and smiled, "I'm not worried," he said, "mine will still be here."

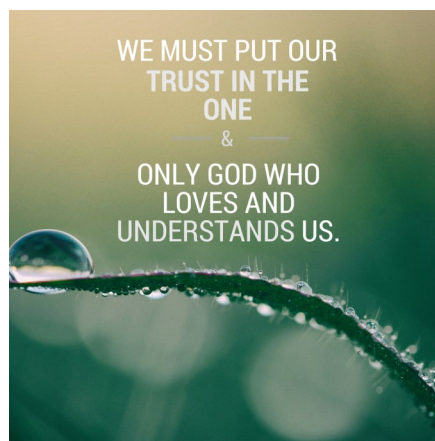
The boy went to work – weeding, washing windows, cleaning yards. He worked hard and saved his money, and when he had enough, he returned to the store. Laying down a pocketful of wadded up bills, the store owner verified he had enough and said, "All right, son, you can go get your puppy." The boy reached all the way to the back of the box and pulled out a skinny dog with a limp leg and started to leave. The owner stopped him. "Don't take that puppy. He's crippled. He can't play. He'll never run with you. He can't fetch. Get one of the healthy pups." "No thank you, sir," the boy replied. "This is exactly the kind of dog I've been looking for." As the boy turned to leave, the store owner started to speak, but remained silent. Suddenly he understood. For extending from the bottom of the boy's jeans was a brace – a brace for his crippled leg. Why did the boy want that dog? Because he knew how the dog felt. And he knew it was very special.

What did Jesus know that enabled him to do what he did? He knew how people felt, and he knew that they were special. Jesus knows how you feel. You're under the gun at work? Jesus knows how you feel. You've got more to do than is humanly possible? So did he. You've got children who make a "piranha hour" out of your dinner hour? Jesus knows what that's like. People take more from you than they give. Jesus understands. Your teenagers won't listen? Your students won't try? Your employees give you blank stares when you assign tasks? Believe me, Jesus knows how you feel. You are precious to him. So precious that he becomes like you so that you would come to him. When you struggle, he listens. When you yearn, he responds. When you question, he hears. He has been there. And like the boy with the puppy, he paid a great price to take you home.

Let's have a great month together as we celebrate the home we share with Christ our Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tim



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

There will not be an ExPOS Meeting in October. Check out this space in the November Newsletter for details on the November ExPOS event.

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.

Church Work Day

Saturday, October 9th 8 AM-1:00 PM

Many helpers are needed to take care of our church building and property. Please join us on Saturday, October 8th between 8 and 1. 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!



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@lchschildren@gmail.com

Annual Trunk or Treat October 26, 6-7:30 PM

Come, if you dare! Everyone is welcome and invited to bring your friends. Parents and high school teens, please consider decorating your car.



Reformation Sunday Family Activity October 31, 10:30 AM

Our traditional "Scavenger Hunt" is on. Clues around the building will lead to some problem solving and prizes.

Sunday School

We're back! We began our year together with the stories of Creation and Noah. Please have your child join our teaching team in the "Triple Room" at 9:45 on Sundays. Our Cherub choir breaks at 10:20 and joins Mrs. Fencil in the preschool room. All other children are dismissed at 10:30. We are looking forward to a great year.

Tuesday LYFE

We've been holding our regular Tuesday Meetings from 4:00-5:30. Our focus has been Old Testament Heroes; Adam, Noah, Moses and Esther are just a few. If anyone would like their child to participate, please reach out to Jennifer.

Trunk or Treat

Materials will be on hand to decorate Jennifer's car. If you'd like to bring your own that will be awesome too.



Watch Party

Let's gather in the Youth Room Sunday, October 26 at 10:45 to watch our streamed church service. We'll snack and chat together.

College Student Treat Boxes

We will be packing and mailing treat boxes to our college students to brighten their day and remind them that they are important members of our church family. Please email name and mailing address to the church office at lutheranholyspirit@gmail.com by 10/13. Candy, small packages of snacks or monetary donations towards the cost of shipping are much appreciated. Food donations can be placed in the narthex; please drop off any monetary donations or checks (marked "college treat boxes") in the office by 10/13. Please contact Donna Williams at rdrijwilliams@att.net or 847-331-7651 with any questions.



- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1- Erin Hathaway | 12- Tammy Cantagallo | 20- Marcie McIntyre |
| 3- Kristen Ahlschwede | 13- Tim Tagge | 22- Dorothy Stocks |
| 4- Kaitlyn Koblas | 14- Scott Schwanke | 28- Mary Giampietro |
| 5- Joseph Cloonan | 15- Don Thurman | Jayne Upadhyay |
| 6- Ingeborg Hektor | 16- Judy Shambrook | Paige Werner |
| 8- Audrey Hathaway | 17- Kelly Wittich | 30- Ethan Cloonan |
| 9- David Fencil | 18- Jerrold Swanson | Lily Upadhyay |

Save the Date



DINNER/CONCERT FUNDRAISER

Saturday, November 6 at 6:00 PM

Featuring the very talented Bill Vaananen and Mia Hart

\$75/person— benefitting COOL Food Pantry

Limited Attendance ●

More details soon! ●

trudybettiker@aol.com

October 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 9am Blessing of the Pets Service |
| 3 10:45am First Holy Communion Service | 4 | 5 4pm LYFE 4:30pm Confirmation | 6 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells | 7 9:30am Prayer Group 10:15am Bible Study | 8 | 9 8-1pm Work Day |
| 10 Holy Family Speakers | 11 6:30pm Council Mtg | 12 10:30am EXPOS 4pm LYFE 4:30pm Confirmation | 13 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells | 14 9:30am Prayer Group 10:15am Bible Study | 15 5-10pm Confirmation Retreat | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 10am Quilters 4pm LYFE 4:30pm Confirmation | 20 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells | 21 9:30am Prayer Group 10:15am Bible Study | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9:30am Meet & Greet 10:45am Youth Watch Party | 25 | 26 4:30pm Confirmation 6-7:30pm Trunk or Treat | 27 7:30pm Choir 8:10pm Bells | 28 9:30am Prayer Group 10:15am Bible Study | 29 | 30 |
| 31 9:30am Service Reformation Sunday 10:30am Family Activity | | | | | | |



Special Worship Services

First Holy Communion

Sunday, October 3 at 10:45 AM

Congratulations to **Amelia Tagge, Audrey Hathaway, Lauren Auer, Nicholas Auer and Tyler Zehnder** who will make their First Communion. Prayers for them and their families.

Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 31

Join us as we celebrate the Reformation and rejoice in a time of homecoming for all! We will have one 9:30 AM service.

Blessing of the Pets

St. Francis of Assisi was known for his love for all of God's creatures. The feast day that celebrates him is October 4th, and so during that first week of October, many churches have provided a special ceremony for the blessing of our pets. We too, will participate in this tradition by having a Pet Blessing Service on Saturday, October 2nd at 9:00 a.m. In past years, this service has been a great success as both pets and owners found this to be a very meaningful event. So please join us with your furry, feathery, and scaly friends. All pets and their owners are welcome!

Holy Family Ministries

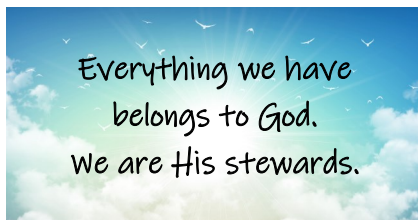
Sunday, October 10

Chaplain Leslie Hunter from Holy Family Ministries will be joining us to preach at both services. He and Cynthia Schmidt, Development Director, will also be conducting an Adult Forum between services that day. Please join us to learn more about all the great things happening at Holy Family!

All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is November 7. On this day we remember all the faithful who have gone before us into the Church Triumphant, but particularly those who have passed in the last year.

As part of our morning worship, we will give thanks in our prayers for those saints and light a candle in their remembrance. If you would like the name of your loved one, family members, or close friend included, please fill out a form located in the Narthex.



What Belongs to God?

Traditionally the latter part of the Pentecost season has been a time of stewardship emphasis in our congregations. On any given Sunday in October or November you might hear a message on stewardship in your congregation.

I remember vividly the feeling of panic that came upon me when I was a young and newly ordained pastor and needed to come up with a stewardship message for my congregation on “Stewardship Sunday.” So when a lay member of the congregation volunteered to present a program on tithing I was elated and gladly accepted his offer. For his presentation he set up two tables in the front of the sanctuary. Then he began to demonstrate how we have been richly blessed by God and how little God requires of us in return. The presenter did this by taking 10 apples putting 9 of them on one table and one apple on the other. He did the same with 10 bananas and 10 oranges and 10 shirts, etc. Soon the table with the 9 items of each kind was stacked high with all kinds of blessings. And the table with one of each kind was dramatically less abundant. His point was that tithing was a small thing to do in comparison to all that we have received. God gives us abundantly and expects so little of us, that we can surely give that little tithe. Then came the clincher when pointing to the abundant table of blessings, and said, “God has given us all this to do whatever we want, so at least we can give a tithe back to God.”

Through the years I have come to understand how limited this concept of stewardship is. Sure, God does ask us to tithe. That is biblical. But the Bible doesn’t stop with the tithe. Biblical stewardship has more to do with what we do with the 90% left after we tithe. These gifts are not just ours to do with as we please. All that God gives us is to be used according to God’s will for us, our family, our community, our nation and all people. One of the Gospel stories we hear in congregations this time of year is the story of Jesus’ encounter with the Pharisees. Trying to entrap him they asked, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” Jesus’ answer was simple. He asked for a coin they used to pay the tax and then said, “Whose head and title is on this coin?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Jesus said, “Give therefore to the emperor that things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And what belongs to God? Everything belongs to God. All things come from God and all things return to God. And all that we have been given is on loan to us from God and is to be used according to God’s will. To be a “steward” is to be in charge of someone else’s property, which is to be used according to the owner’s wishes. That’s the biblical concept of stewardship.

Therefore stewardship includes all that we do and say. It includes all our resources and how we use them for the good of others. It includes all of our money and how we spend it. It includes how we respond to the needs of our neighbor and our world. It includes issues of justice and welfare for all God’s people. The tithe is a biblical concept that is meant just to be a beginning point for our stewardship. And it is a good beginning point, but it is only a beginning point. I encourage you to look beyond the tithe as you consider the stewardship of the resources God has given you. We often pray:

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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



Holy Family Ministries

Thanks to your generous donations, we gave a check for \$1,880 to Holy Family School to purchase Chromebooks for their students. Our goal was five tablets, and we were able to provide enough funds for nine!



Digital access is a critical issue and has only been accentuated by the pandemic when everything shifted to virtual. At the beginning of the pandemic, Holy Family conducted a survey which showed many of their families only have access to the internet via their cell phone -- efficient for some things, but not for being a student! Equipping every student with a device is critical for them to excel in school. Adequate digital access also expands their networks and connects them with resources not otherwise available. These tablets will help to close the digital divide of low-income city schools versus suburban schools. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information about Holy Family School, please visit <https://www.hfm.org/>



“A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed”

You're invited to celebrate World Food Day with “A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed,” featuring Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and guidebook author and travel TV host Rick Steves. This online benefit for ELCA World Hunger will take place on Thursday, Oct. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Central time. Special guests include the Rev. David Beckmann, who is being honored for his lifelong service to end hunger; the Rev. Rebel Hurd; Willie and Anne Langdji; and the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla. There will also be performances by Rachel Kurtz, Peter Mayer and the St. Olaf Choir.

As a church, we remain focused on supporting our neighbors near and far as the pandemic continues disrupting and impacting lives. At this event, you will learn about the ways ELCA World Hunger is responding. Register today.



church council **MEETING**

Highlights for September

The monthly Church Council meeting was held via Zoom on September 20th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$21,182 for August (YTD total is \$287,716) (These amounts include the second PPP loan and Endowment Committee funds for technology). Operating expenses were \$40,633 in August (YTD total is \$279,866).

The Pastor's report: Regularly scheduled weekly and monthly programs have resumed. Building use requests have increased, including Camp Lincolnshire's request for next summer. Volunteers are needed to assist with worship services and service recording. Blessing of the pets is scheduled for October 2, subject to weather and interest. **Growth** reported that yard signs and signage continue to spark interest and participation. We are actively promoting events in the Lincolnshire kiosk and on social media. **Christian Education** reported that Backpack Blessing with celebration in August and Rally Day on September 12 were very successful. Sunday School classes have resumed. Youth will be conducting a car wash on September 26. **Human Needs** reported on collection of over \$1,800 for Holy Family Ministries, far exceeding our \$1,000 goal. In October we will collect and package college student treat boxes; information and requests are being posted and circulated. We will donate Thanksgiving dinners to Vernon Township food pantry in November. We continue outreach to PADs to plan for the upcoming PADs season. **Finance** reported that the PPP loan has been forgiven and thanked Jeanne Nelson and Daaron Dohler for their effort regarding the loan. **Stewardship** reported that Time and Talent forms are available for completion and also will be circulated electronically. **Fellowship** reported on the outdoor movie and fellowship night on September 24. CUFF is working with WELCA to present a benefit for C.O.O.L. Ministries featuring Bill and Mia Vaananen on November 6, with a dinner preceding. **Long Range Planning** reported on assembly of focus groups to obtain broad-based input regarding the congregation's mission and activities. **Worship and Music** reported that worship service assistants, ushers, hymn selectors, service recorders, and altar guild volunteers are needed. Choirs are rehearsing and participating in the 10:45 service. Two services now are being held on Sunday. **Property** reported on a productive work day in August. Joel has been working on a variety of building repair and maintenance projects. A work day is scheduled for October 9. **Technology** reported on ongoing efforts to secure assistants to record worship services. **New Business:** The Nominating Committee will begin work on a Council slate for next year.

Next council meeting currently is scheduled for October 11th at 6:30 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

October 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