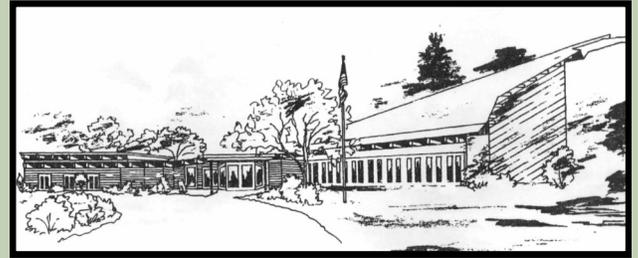




Lutheran Church
of the Holy Spirit
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



June 2021

Congratulations to this year's Confirmation Classes



Dane Brown, Liam Sieland, Amanda Spoehr,
Anneliese Rudloff, Jayne Upadhyay



Austin Zehnder, Will Nack, Will Hanigan,
Courtney Dick, Julie Kasche

A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's been quite a month here at Holy Spirit with two confirmation classes getting confirmed, the celebration of Jesus' Ascension, along with Mother's Day, a funeral to celebrate the life of one who has gone before us, and the Day of Pentecost is upon us as we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. It's been an incredible, wonderful month!

But as I attended a continuing education conference this past week, much of the attention was on the past year and how incredibly challenging, overwhelming, and devastating the year has been. The toll taken on us may be hard to measure as we live day-to-day in the midst of things we can't control, but if we consider what we've been through, it's been a year of stress like no other.

The impact of COVID-19 has been felt by all, but especially by those who've lost loved ones and the medical care workers who have had to live with so much loss. Then there's the economic impact on the many families who lost income, their health insurance coverage, and their savings in order to get by. Families have had to coordinate their lives without much assistance from all the structures they used to rely on, and then figure out how to work from home, teach school from home, and meet the needs of everyone, while trying to minimize conflict. We had such divisive political turmoil that our Capitol was attacked during a session of congress. Who could have imagined that ever happening?! And we've been made aware of the ongoing racial injustice that has made names like George Floyd recognized around the world. And on top of all this, each of us have had our own personal struggles during this time of isolation, as we try to stay connected and survive in ways we have never experienced before.

So in the midst of this staggeringly difficult year, where do the people of God take refuge? It's interesting to learn that Kindle, that e-reader that allows you to access books, magazines, and newspapers on their electronic devices, found that the verse that was highlighted most in Bibles on Kindle during these challenging times was Philippians 4:4-8:

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

No matter what the circumstances, our trust in God will lift us up to transcend our challenges so we can "Rejoice in the Lord Always!" Our anxiety can be quelled with a peace that passes all understanding, and we can turn our focus to God's ways, rather than the ways we may dwell on, or the ways the world may seduce us into thinking.

During this past year, many have fallen away from the faith, and many have had spiritual crises as a result of their experiences. Some believe God has let them down or has not responded to their prayers. And yet God is with us and is ever faithful. If you know someone who needs that encouragement, share your experiences with them, share with them this powerful verse and speak to how it guides you in remaining faithful, for we have all had times of discouragement.

As we continue to try to look forward to a better day, and experience signs that we're beginning to come out from the grip that the coronavirus has had on us, let's follow the wisdom of Paul and take everything to our Lord in prayer, for He is near. And I pray that you will turn your focus to the most excellent and praiseworthy things, so that you may rejoice in your overcoming the challenges of this past year, and that you may rejoice in the Lord, always!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim

IN THE HAPPY MOMENTS
PRAISE GOD
IN THE DIFFICULT MOMENTS
SEEK GOD
IN THE QUIET MOMENTS
TRUST GOD
IN EVERY MOMENT
THANK GOD

The Quilters

The quilting ministry will be meeting on June 15 at 10:00 AM. You are invited to join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. No experience necessary.

Thursday Bible Study 10:30-11:30AM

We are studying "Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic - and Beyond" by Matthew Fox. Julian of Norwich lived through the dreadful bubonic plague that killed close to 50% of Europeans. Being an anchoress, she 'sheltered in place' and developed a deep wisdom that she shared in her book, "Showings", which was the first book in English by a woman. A theologian way ahead of her time, Julian develops a feminist understanding of God as mother at the heart of nature's goodness. Fox shares her teachings in this powerful and timely and inspiring book.

If you'd like to participate, please contact Jan Schwanke at bennett95@comcast.net and she will send you the link to be invited to the Zoom meeting. Join us for some spirited conversation! We always close out time together in prayer.

Prayer Group

Our prayer group is continuing to meet at 9:30 AM every Thursday using ZOOM. If you'd like to pray with us, please contact Jeanne Nelson at jnelson814@comcast.net and she will send you the link to be invited in.

In-person Worship Changes

Maximum attendance for indoor worship is now 70 persons, but we will no longer require reservations or do temperature checks. People who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks, although we encourage everyone to wear a mask for their protection and that of others. Anyone not yet fully vaccinated should wear masks while inside the church building to protect themselves and those who may be medically more vulnerable. We still require 6 feet social distancing.

If you are unable to attend in-person, we encourage you and your family to join us live at 9:30 AM on Sundays via Facebook or on our YouTube Channel (Church in the Woods-Holy Spirit Lutheran). Our weekly recorded service is available on our YouTube channel. Sunday's worship bulletin is emailed, and for now, a separate e-mail providing you with the link to the video recording of the service. Please use these and other resources to stay in the rhythm of weekly worship during these unprecedented times, and invite others to worship with us by sharing the links.



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

Tuesday LYFE

We had a wonderful time planting our garden as a close to our year together!

This amazing group of kids deserve a huge shout-out! Their dedication and commitment to this program is amazing! We are grateful to them and their families for making this happen.

We will be picking up where we left off in the Fall! Please consider joining us for faith and fun. All children in grades 2-6th are encouraged to join us. It's a great beginning for faith formation and an awesome catapult into Confirmation. Contact Jennifer for information or questions.



Sunday School has concluded for this school year. Please keep watch for information about the fall.

VBS now = "Summer Season of Service"

LCHS has a long tradition and dedication to service throughout our community and elsewhere. We have had many great opportunities in the past: Bernie's Books, FMSC are just a couple I can quickly mention. Our congregation still has a strong relationship with PADS and Cool Ministries. In an effort to further our support and get EVERYONE involved we are hosting a "SUMMER SEASON OF SERVICE". These events are scattered throughout the summer giving everyone an opportunity to serve. Families can come together, our Confirmation class and youth can jump in, as well as all members of the congregation. Here's what we have scheduled so far:

Thursday, June 24 (evening) "Together We Rise"—assemble duffel bags for children in foster care

Tuesday, July 13 (evening) "Lutheran World Relief"—assemble personal care kits

Tuesday, July 27 (evening) "Pads"—make and deliver hot meals for PADS

Please mark your calendars for one or all opportunities. Detailed information will be coming soon, keep watch in our Friday emails. Remember this is open for everyone!

Itty Bitty Bible Camp—August 3, 4, 5 10-11:30 AM

LCHS is hosting an "Itty Bitty Bible Camp" for children ages 4-6. We will hear stories, sing songs and do crafts. The cost is \$30 per child (\$50/family if there are multiple children). Please contact Jennifer Williams for more information or registration.



LET'S CELEBRATE!

June Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 2- | Trudy Bettiker
Jean Gates | 13- | Emma McGee
Lisa McGee | 24- | Daniella Cantagallo
Bernard Kasche |
| 3- | Peter Ahlschwede | 18- | Ethan Becker
Ron Stocks | 27- | Sienna Dirks |
| 4- | Bennett Dirks
Jim Koblas
Don Roth | 23- | Kaitlin Driscoll
Ken Rosko
John Sieland | 30- | Donald Brotz
Liam Sieland |
| 12- | Dane Brown
Anne-Marie Glenner | | | | |

Name that Graduate!

We'd like to celebrate the graduates of 2021 in the next newsletter. Please email your child's name and the school they are graduating from to the church office before June 15th.



Live Streaming Help Needed



Do you take a lot of pictures with your cell phone? Do you spend time on YouTube? Are you interested in making movies? Then we'd love for you to share your gifts with us as we begin using our new equipment to live stream our worship services and other events. We have a new camera and video software that's actually a lot of fun to work with, and offers all kinds of creative ways to share our church with the virtual world. If you'd like to join our new live stream team please contact Pastor Tim or the church office.



Community
Connection



Buffalo Grove PRIDE Parade Sunday, June 6th 12-3 pm (or anytime in-between)

Come represent LCHS and have *fun* at this family-friendly event .
For more details and to RSVP, contact Jen Prosk jep7513@gmail.com 312.203.3515

Virtual Blood Drive

In times when we can't be together in person, we can still be together in support of our community. To join our virtual blood drive:

1. To receive an email invitation, sign up during June 2021 at https://learn.vitalant.org/LP=148?drive_code=LS06&division=NORTHEAST%26%region=CHI or contact mccrowley@vitalant.org
2. Once your email arrives, click "Schedule Now" to book your appointment using group code LS06
3. Prepare for your donation by eating a healthy meal and drinking plenty of water.

Be sure to use the same email address throughout the process. Any medical questions, call 847-260-2647.
For more general info, contact Donna Williams at rdrjwilliams@att.net

COOL Golf Outing

Friday, July 16

Join us at Bonnie Brook Golf Course, Waukegan for a fun day of golf to support the food pantry and Transitional Housing programs for COOL (Christian Outreach of Lutherans).

Registration and brochure available online at: <https://coolministries.org>.

Questions: Contact Joe Labellarte – 847-322-5040.



Yard Signs

Envision these signs in your yard to show your pride and promote your church. Cost is \$10

The logo features the text "church council MEETING" in white. "church council" is in a lowercase sans-serif font, while "MEETING" is in a larger, bold, uppercase sans-serif font. The text is enclosed in a white rectangular border. The background is a blue geometric pattern of overlapping triangles and polygons.

church council MEETING

Highlights from May 2021

The monthly Church Council meeting was held via Zoom on May 10th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$38,602 for April (YTD total is \$171,358) (These amounts include the second PPP loan and Endowment Committee funds for technology). Operating expenses were \$34,726 in April (YTD total is \$143,296).

The Pastor's report: Confirmation activities made for a busy May, with two services held for two classes of Confirmands. Live streaming equipment is being installed and adjusted for use in worship services. National Day of Prayer service was led by the Prayer Group; the service is available on YouTube. There have been some challenges with the building custodian, and consideration is being given to another provider. A memorial service for individuals whose funerals were impacted by the pandemic is being discussed. LCNS expects to return to normal operations in the Fall. **Growth:** Yard signs for members are being developed. Plans are underway for participation in the Buffalo Grove Pride parade in June, adjusted as needed based upon pandemic conditions. **Christian Education** reported that Tuesday LYFE is wrapping up after a successful year, with hopes for a return to more normalcy in the Fall. In-person Sunday school has taken place the past few weeks and will pause this month until Fall. A "Season of Service" for all members (children, families, youth, adults) will replace the traditional VBS program this year. The plan is to host service events throughout summer to engage and connect with each other, the church, and the community. Jennifer Willians will host "Itty Bitty Bible Camp" during the regular VBS week for kids 4-6, with Carmaline Spurrier assisting. Season of Service may continue in fall and winter, and other fun and informal social activities over the summer are being considered. **Human Needs** reported we are coordinating with Vitalant to host a "virtual" blood drive in June; information will be posted and circulated. The May Human Needs focus is A Safe Place domestic violence and abuse shelter, with donations being collected. In connection with Pride month and the parade, an additional June Human Needs focus will include donations to a LGBTQ organization. **Long-Range Planning** reported on work to identify the congregation's mission field to work with Growth and develop a plan for community outreach and church growth. **Worship and Music** reported that services continue to be held indoors with steady attendance at about 40. One indoor service may resume for the summer. The new service recording system is close to being ready, and when it is up and running Facebook Live recordings will cease. Volunteers are sought for service assistants, especially hymn selectors and worship assistants, for the summer. **Personnel** reported that staff reviews continue and will be completed soon. **Property** reported that the May work day was very productive, thanks to all who helped. Upon passage of a motion, Pastor Tim will follow up with LCNS and SWALCO regarding placement of a textile recycling bin on the property, with SWALCO sharing any revenues. The new camp lease has been signed. Property maintenance and repair tasks continue. **Technology** reported that a technology team is being assembled and that service recording volunteers are sought. **New Business:** Congregation Survey: A member survey to discern worship and activities that best serve members' needs is being conducted. ELCA Open Doors Grant: The application process is underway, and plans are being made for a possible summer gathering for members and the community using grant funds.

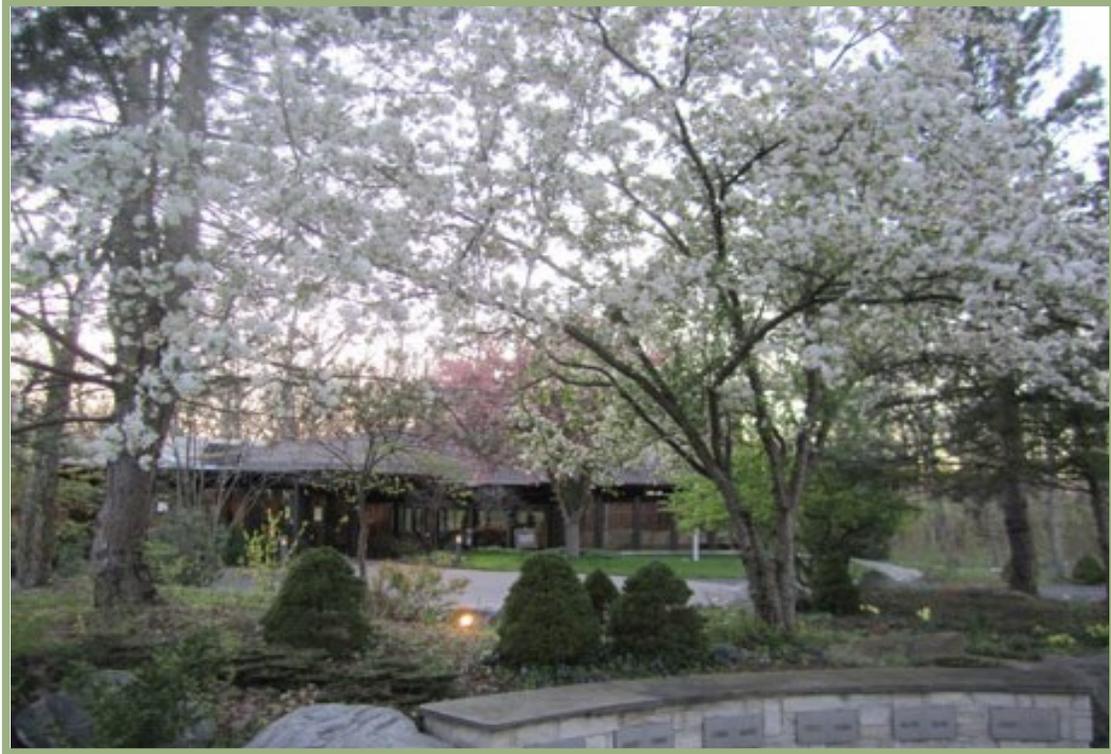
Next council meeting currently is scheduled for June 14th at 7:30 PM. All council meetings are open to Holy Spirit members. Minutes and reports of the council are kept in a public notebook in the narthex.

This year's **Synod Assembly** is on June 5th and will be attended virtually by Jeanne Nelson, Donna Williams, Wayne Giampietro and Pastor Tim.

HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

June 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