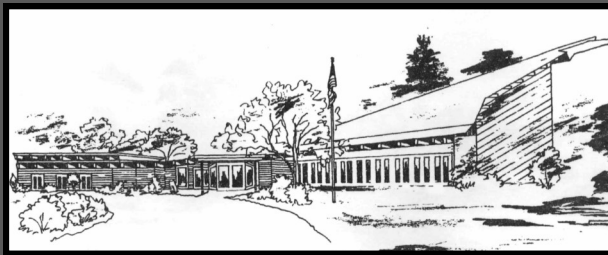




**Lutheran Church
of the Holy Spirit**
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



December 2018 Issue

Advent & Christmas at Holy Spirit

December 1 starting at 2:00 PM—**Hanging of the Greens**— We will be getting the church ready for Advent and Christmas by putting up the Christmas tree and decorating the church. This event is fun for the whole family as we gather together for a variety of festivities:

- 2-4 Decorating of the tree, sanctuary and narthex
- 3-4 Family fun including movie, hot cocoa, craft
- 4 Christmas Story and caroling

December 2 at 9:35 AM— **Advent Wreath Making**—A favorite tradition! Families make their own Advent wreaths to celebrate the season at home.

December 5, 12, 19—**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 9— **Art of the Angel** (new this year!) - Projects our kids have been working on during Sunday School & Tuesday LYFE will be on display for all to enjoy. If you have an angel you'd like to share, please bring it in to be part of the display.

December 16 at 9:35 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 Christmas Orchestra, Youth & Cherub Choirs

11:00 PM - Candlelight Communion Service with Special music plus Adult and Bell Choirs

A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I celebrated Thanksgiving this past week with my side of the family and Maria's side of the family, I was captured by the many stories that were told of memorable events and memorable people. And as these stories are told they not only recall legendary events and people, but they also bring us into and make us part of the story.

The prophet Micah (5:2-5) told a story as well, he told of the promise of a Savior.

The birth of a Savior would take place in Bethlehem, an unknown and unimportant town. Out of this city, One would be born who would "come for me," that is, come to carry out the Father's saving will. He would rule over Israel as her spiritual king. The new ruler, Jesus, would establish a new kingdom, one that would never fall. This promised king would have no beginning, because his "origins are from old," in the timelessness of eternity. "He will shepherd his flock...and they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And He will be their peace."

What the prophet Micah said would happen, happened, and his words still capture us today.

There's another story of a little girl who had a father who was always traveling and away from home. He decided, because he wasn't there to read bedtime stories to her every night, he would simply record them on a tape recorder, so she could play one whenever she wanted. One evening, as he was across the country on business, he called his wife and asked to talk to his daughter. "How are you doing?" he asked. "Fine," she said, "but I wish you were here to read me a story." "Remember," he said, "you have tape recordings I made...listen to one of them." She paused for a moment and then she said, "No, Daddy, I want a story told by someone with skin and teeth."

The Christmas story and all the many stories of faith are best told face-to-face by people with "skin and teeth." And what better time to share these stories and invite all our loved ones into these stories, but at this special time of year. The intimacy we have with our friends and families are the ideal setting for us to share our faith.

For nothing was more intimate than that God came down from heaven to dwell in our midst, to be one with us. To live under the law, and do what we cannot do, fulfill the law perfectly for us. He would not do it via the internet, or by texting, or by simply speaking from heavenly angels. He would come in the flesh and communicate God's love, face-to face. He would not come to live but to die. God would make "*Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*" (2 Cor. 5:21)

I pray that during this wonderful Christmas season that we might all share the story of Christ. May His light guide your way and shatter all your darkness. Have a blessed Christmas!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tim

One Worship Service Sundays

On December 23rd the day before our Christmas Eve services, December 30th, and January 6th we will only have one worship service at 9:30 AM. We will not have our regular Christian education hour during this holiday break. On January 6th we will celebrate Epiphany with a Sensational Sunday event for children and families following the 9:30 service. On January 13th we will return to our normal schedule of worship at 8:30 and 10:45 and Christian education and 9:45.

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.

Poinsettias for Christmas

You are invited to place donations of poinsettias to the glory of God or in honor or memory of someone special to you this Christmas season. Cost is \$12 per plant. Complete an order form found in the narthex and attach a check (made out to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit) or cash and return it by **Dec. 9th**. Poinsettias may be picked up following the final service Christmas Eve or during the following week to be enjoyed at home.

Christmas Baskets

COOL Food Pantries are preparing for the thousands of people in Lake County who will come to the pantries seeking food assistance for the Christmas holidays. This season we are asking you to help to feed needy families. Holiday Gift Baskets are available for a low price of \$20.00. This box is generously packed with a 12-16 pound turkey, 4 cans of vegetables, 2 cans of fruit, a beverage, potatoes, gravy and a dessert. Please make checks payable to COOL and write "COOL Holiday gift basket" on the memo line and return it to the church office by December 16. Any questions, contact Pastor Tim or Laurie in the church office.

Angel Tree

One of the most rewarding Christmas activities around Holy Spirit is the sharing of gifts with inner city children. Each year, WELCA receives the names of children for whom we purchase gifts at Christmas. Many times, these are the only gifts children will receive. These children have come to be called our "angels".

We will adorn an "Angel Tree" in the narthex with the names of children that we have received from Winthrop Harbor Preschool and Lutheran Day Nursery in Chicago. We ask that you follow the steps for selecting a name and then purchase the appropriate items as recommended. 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. Be sure to properly label all your gifts when you return them by **December 16th** so that they are delivered to the right child. If you have any questions, please contact Kari Davenport, karikdavenport@yahoo.com or 773-844-7542.



Stewardship Update

BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM TOGETHER

"...like living stones, you yourselves are being built into a spiritual house..."

1 Peter 2:5

We are making great progress on our Lego Luther Rose! If you have not returned your Lego piece yet, please do so. As of November 21, we have received commitments towards our ministry planning for next year: 31 pledges totaling over \$194,000. 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 you should have received from Holy Spirit and complete the commitment forms. 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.

2019 Offering Envelopes

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 electronic transfers provides you with stickers to place on your envelopes if you choose to use them on any given Sunday.

Youth News

Hello everyone!!

Winter is almost here, and with it comes a new season of fun at Crossroads. Over the course of Winter Break (or shortly after), Crossroads will be holding it's first Lock-in! Dates and times for this fun event will be sent out with the weekly Crossroads updates. If you are not currently receiving our weekly updates for meeting and events, please email Colin Pilkington at cpilkington0712@gmail.com to sign up for the weekly emails.

This year as a part of Hanging of the Green, I am looking for students to help decorate the Crossroads and Confirmation rooms, as well as the rest of the church. We hope to see you there on December 1st at 2 PM!

Confirmation students and Crossroads teens are having a Christmas party on Sunday, December 9 at 7:00 PM. Don't miss the fun and food!

Peace and God bless, Colin Pilkington, Youth Director

Confirmation Update

Our 2019 confirmation class is proceeding well in their coursework, and we had some fun at a lock-in as well. Students have been completing their self-study packets and received special instruction on The 10 Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and Martin Luther. There will be a special emphasis on Worship and the Church Year this month. Keep our confirmands and their parents in your prayers as they learn and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Group

In December the Prayer Group will be focusing on Advent by using Advent Candles and Advent Prayers. The candles symbolize the light of Christ coming into the world. We meet each Thursday morning from 9:30-10 AM. Please join us as we prepare for the coming of our Lord and Savior. All are welcome!

WELCA Christmas Party

(Women's Group)

Ladies are invited to share the holiday together at Jackie Murphy's house: 193 Willow Pkwy, Buffalo Grove on Thursday, December 6 at 7 PM. Please bring a white elephant gift and either an appetizer, dessert or wine to share. Sign up in the narthex.

Thursday Bible Study

On Nov 29th we will start a unit based on the renowned biblical scholar Amy Jill Levine's book, "Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi". Levine interweaves history and spiritual analysis to explore Jesus' most popular teaching parables, exposing their misinterpretations and making them lively and relevant for modern readers. Join us for this six session course! We close our time together with a time of prayer.

The Quilters

Will meet at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 11 before the EXPOS Christmas lunch. All are welcome. No experience necessary!

EXPOS

ExPOS will be gathering on December 11th for our Christmas lunch at Italian Kitchen in Deerfield at 11:30 AM for lunch served at noon. Cost is \$20 per person (includes starter, main course, dessert, and soft drinks/coffee). Please sign up in the narthex.

Adult Forum

The adult forum meets from 9:45 to 10:30 AM each Sunday as we provide an opportunity for all ages to connect their faith to their daily lives. In December, we will be joining the family Advent wreath making event on the 2nd, participating in our monthly Meet & Greet on the 9th, and joining the congregation for the Children's Christmas program on the 16th.

Children's Ministry News

By Jennifer Williams, Children's Ministry Director - jennifer.williams@lchschildren@gmail.com

Sunday School

Our Sensational Sunday for NOVEMBER was about **GRATITUDE**. We focused on one of the Psalms of David. We discussed David's attitude and how it carried him through hard times. We hope to remember things we have to be thankful for during our own quiet times.

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1



Tuesday LYFE

The Tuesday LYFE class enjoyed making Christmas ornaments and selling our crafts at the boutique. Thanks to all who supported our efforts!



LET'S CELEBRATE!

December Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1- Eileen Hoffman
Thomas Tagge | 20- Ruth Berman
Susan Middlebrook |
| 3- Andrea Culp
Wendy Koblas
Pastor Tim Linstrom
Inge' Ohnona | 21- Barry Nelson
Don Sheridan
Elaine Shull |
| 4- Al Edwards
Michelle Labellarte
Amanda Spoehr
Jeff Voermans | 22- Dennis Burke
Joan Roehl |
| 6- Elizabeth Falato | 23- Ashley Adkisson
Gordon Duprey |
| 7- Mark McElhinny
Bill Neumann | 24- Jack Eastman |
| 8- Judy Mosner
Michael Qualley | 26- Jeff Henningson
Kimberly Koblas
James Qualley |
| 9- Todd Davenport
Sue Rosko | 27- Bill Shambrook |
| 10- Jacob Steinberger | 28- Erika Lange
Jacob Schroetter
Allison Travetto |
| 16- Arthur Hektor
Cecilia Clatch | 29- Lucas FencI
Wyatt Thurman |
| 17- James Ahlschwede | 30- Kristen Eastman |
| 18- Nolan Greenwell
Diane Neumann | 31- Melissa Brotz
Shel McGee
Abby & Andrew Keevens |

Anniversary Milestones

Bonnie & Fred Harper
45 years

Boutique Thank You

By Trudy Bettiker

Thank you to all the people who helped me make this years annual Boutique a success! Our profit this year was over \$4000.00! We had fewer vendors, but the raffle and bake sale made up for it. Thank you to all the bakers and all the people who bought raffle tickets. Nine out of twelve winners are members out of our church!

A big thank you especially to Kati Davenport, who once again set up the successful bake sale and cafe and to Kristin Eastman who put the best raffle baskets together! Another big thank you to Jean Gates who went out and got many gift certificates for raffle baskets. Thank you to Laurie who had the patience to help me with all the computer work! Thank you for helping with the set up, clean up and to all who worked shifts during the Boutique! I saw team work at its best.

The venders were happy too! Thanks for shopping and bringing friends to shop!

Emergency Response Plan

Sadly enough, we live in a world where we must be vigilant for the safety of ourselves and our families. The Lincolnshire Police Department is in the process of helping us develop an emergency response plan. Once that plan is developed, we will hold a two-hour workshop to share that information and to help us all be prepared for both natural and man-made emergencies. Please watch the weekly announcements so you can be fully informed.

Prayer Concerns

Typically, we freshen prayer concerns after 3 weeks so the list doesn't get too long. Please remember to email Laurie in the church office at lutheranholyspirit@gmail.com when prayer concerns change or to update your request.

The Christmas Band is Back!

It's time for the Christmas orchestra. Any instrumentalist with at least one year of playing may join us. We will perform prelude music for the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Music will be out in the narthex; pick your part and sign it out with your contact information.

Rehearsal dates are Sunday, December 9 from 12:00-12:45 PM, Tuesday, December 18 from 3:45-4:30 PM and Sunday, December 23 at 10:30 AM. Contact Nancy Fencel at njflood@yahoo.com if you are interested in joining us.

Keeping Us Secure

Many of you know that since the beginning of the fall, the Lincolnshire Community Nursery School has been using our nursery for an additional classroom. In order to provide the security necessary for these young ones, we're requesting that if you are going to be entering the building between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., that you use the main entrance and check-in with our Office Manager, Laurie so that we can better monitor who is in the building. This procedure protects both us and the nursery school kids and their families. Thank you for helping with this and don't forget to turn out lights and lock the doors if you're one of the last to leave the building.

CPR Training

On November 11, we had a wonderful turnout to train for an event we hope NEVER occurs: CPR and AED emergency response.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automate External Defibrillators save lives every day. Thanks to the generosity of the Mosner, Rosko, Brown, Collins, Lehtinen, and Heyward families, we have a new AED mounted in our narthex. Check out its location so you can be a first responder.

Dave Schroetter conducted the training session in the Fellowship Hall after the second service. We thank those who attended, and especially thank Dave for his time and professional expertise. Thanks, Dave!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!
and a
Happy, Healthy New Year!

church council **MEETING**

Highlights from November 2018

The monthly Church Council meeting was held on November 12th. Treasurer's report included year-to-date operating fund income of \$362,703. This includes 10/12th of \$66,000 of prepaids for 2018. Our year-to-date fund expenses are \$376,448.

The Pastor's report: Pastor Tim attended a Boundary Workshop with the Metro Chicago Synod. He's been busy with various activities throughout the church. Items have been going missing in the church so we are having to lock more doors than usual. We would like members to come in the front door and check in if they're going to be working in the building during the week.

Committees of the council provided reports of various activities. **Worship & Music** had a great turnout for the concert to benefit Refugee One. Please note we will have one service at 9:30a.m on November 25th, December 23rd, December 30th and January 6th. **Christian Education** had a good turnout for Trunk or Treat. Our next event will be during the Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 1st. More information to come. **Long Range Planning** will address the broken tiles in the sanctuary and carpet issues on the altar. **Youth** will be planning service and fun activities for the upcoming months. **Stewardship** has ended. Please return your commitment cards and Lego pieces. **Property** has received multiple estimates for the roof. Council has recommended using D-Wing Construction to complete the project. More information will be given at the Annual Congregational Meeting. **Human Needs** is in need of overnight volunteers for PADS. Please sign up on the Sign Up Genius link.

Old Business: The Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers to fill three spots. If you are interested in serving as Christian Education, CUFF or Stewardship Council Representative, please contact Donna Williams, Carol Duprey, Dave Schroetter or Larry Brady. Aaron and Ben Rudloff completed their Eagle Scout Projects. The boys improved the front berm area as well as the outdoor sanctuary. **New Business:** Jan Schwanke, Dave Schroetter and Kari Davenport will start working on an Emergency Response Plan. They will work with the Lincolnshire Police Department to come up with a plan then share with the congregation. After the holidays, we will start a Listening Campaign to help guide our ministries in the future. If you would like to be part of this group, please see Pastor Tim. More information will be out next month.

Next council meeting is December 10th 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.

Please Note Special Service Times!

There will be one 9:30 AM service on 12/23, 12/30 and January 6.

**Family Event on January 6 following the 9:30 service:
Follow the Star Obstacle Course!**





Homeless Shelter Season is NOW!

Would you donate 4 ½ hours of your time to help a neighbor in need? The PADS ministry at LCHS needs your help. Please check your calendar for the dates below and sign up for just one shift to serve some of our Lake County neighbors who are experiencing homelessness this season.

December 8/9, January 12/13, February 9/10, March 9/10, April 13/14

For more information about PADS or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Wendy LaPlaca at wlaplaca@comcast.net or 847-275-3892. Thank you!

Special events are in red bold print!

December 2018						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Hanging of the Greens—2-5pm
2 9:35 AM Advent Wreaths	3	4 4pm Confirmation 4:15-6pm LYFE	5 7pm Advent Service	6 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	7	8 PADS
9 7pm Youth Group/ Cfm party, Art of Angel display	10 7:30pm Council Mtg	11 10am Quilters 10:30am EXPOS 4pm Confirmation 4:15-6pm LYFE	12 7pm Advent Service	13 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	14	15 9-11am Xmas program practice
16 9:30 Xmas Program & Sing-A- Long No Youth Group	17	18 4pm Confirmation 4:15-6pm LYFE	19 7pm Advent Service	20 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	21	22
23 9:30am Worship Service No Sunday School or Youth Group	24 3:30, 5 & 11pm Xmas Eve Services	25	26	27 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	28	29
30 9:30am Worship Service No Sunday School or Youth Group	31					

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	3 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	4	5
6 9:30 Epiphany Service 10:30 Family Event Obstacle course	7	8 10:30am EXPOS 4pm Confirmation 4:15-6pm LYFE	9 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	10 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	11	12 PADS
13 Youth Group Pizza, Friend & Parent Night	14 7:30pm Council Mtg	15 10am Quilters 4pm Confirmation 4:15-6pm LYFE	16 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	17 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	18	19
20 12pm Congregational Mtg	21	22 4pm Confirmation 4:15-6pm LYFE	23 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	24 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	25	26
27 Meet & Greet Family Event-Skating	28	29 4pm Confirmation 4:15-6pm LYFE	30 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	31 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study		

2019 FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Youth Sunday -Super Bowl of Caring No Youth Group	4	5 4pm Confirmation 4:15-6pm LYFE	6 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	7 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	8 Winetasting	9 PADS
10 Sun School & Youth Group Chinese New Year Activity	11 7:30pm Council Mtg	12 10:30am EXPOS 4pm Confirmation 4:15-6pm LYFE	13 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	14 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	15	16
17	18	19 10am Quilters 4pm Confirmation 4:15-6pm LYFE	20 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	21 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	22 Blind Volleyball Tourney	23
24 9:30 am Jazz Service Meet & Greet	25	26 4pm Confirmation 4:15-6pm LYFE	27 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	28 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study		

HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

December 2018

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



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30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069***

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PERMIT NO. 31
LINCOLNSHIRE, IL 60069

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED