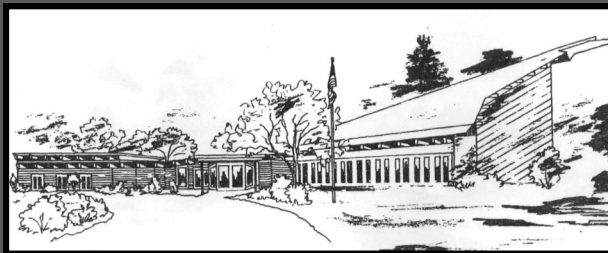




**Lutheran Church
of the Holy Spirit**
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



April 2020



Holy Week and Easter

Our worship services for Holy Week will be live-streamed and recorded for viewing since we cannot gather for worship this year. We are learning new technologies in the face of the COVID-19 crisis, and we hope to provide an engaging experience with each service. Our worship schedule for Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, April 5 at 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 12 at 9:30 a.m.

For all but the Maundy Thursday service, a worship bulletin and link will be provided for you to view and participate in the service from home. On Maundy Thursday we are planning to use Zoom to go through the Stations of the Cross. You will need to download the Zoom app on your computer, and a link will be provided for you to join in and participate in the service.

Thank you for your grace and support as we venture into new ways of worshiping and being the church.

We wish you all a very blessed Easter!

A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' triumphal resurrection with the entire church across the world, it may feel more like we're wandering through the desert, hoping that some day we'll find the promised land. I find myself already complaining about little things and I hear myself in the words of those who regularly lifted up their complaints to Moses as he was leading them from slavery to a new start and in a new land of their own.

In many ways, the whole of scripture is about people who go through struggles. It's about challenges and painful experiences. And the message is to remain strong through prayer and through relying on Christ, and when we do we feel our burdens lifted and we develop strength to carry on.

John Maxwell once wrote an article for *Christianity Today* that can provide us some hope and inspiration for this journey. He wrote:

I heard a silversmith talk about refining silver. He said, "I must sit with my eyes steadily fixed on the furnace; for if the time necessary for refining be exceeded in the slightest degree, the silver will be injured. I never take my eye off the silver in the furnace. If I take it out too early, it won't be purified. If I leave it in too late, it will be injured. When the silver is in the fire, I focus. I don't let anything distract me. I watch the silver, carefully waiting for the right moment to take it out.

"When is the right moment?" I asked. He said, "I know the silver is pure when I can see my face reflected there."

When I'm in a storm, as soon as the storm comes, I'm saying, "Okay, God bail me out! Find me. Rescue me!" Sometimes he doesn't rescue me. He doesn't come. But He is the great silversmith. While I'm in the furnace, he focuses and watches. His job isn't a quick rescue mission. His job is to purify. He holds me until the right moment, and then he comes – never too early – never too late – right on time.

If we choose to, we can look at this great ordeal involving the coronavirus as a time when God is carefully and intensively working to purify us, so that God's face might be reflected in all we are and in all we do. It's an intriguing way to reframe all the challenges and inconveniences and struggles we'll be going through, to believe that even in the heat of the moment, we are being gradually perfected into something much greater than we have ever been.

When we consider all that our Lord and Savior Jesus went through that led to his trial, persecution, and death on a cross, we know that he paid the price, he completed his journey, and he overcame the sins of the world, to rise triumphant on the third day! Jesus Christ is Risen! And we are a resurrection church that will rise to meet the challenges before us as we are refined and restored to new life!

We know the end of the story. And just as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, we will celebrate when this whole pandemic challenge is over, as we are restored to new life, refined and perfected to be the people of God.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tim

Thursday Bible Study (suspended until further notice)

The Quilters

The quilting group meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 10:00 AM All are welcome. No experience necessary!

EXPOS

Dunn Museum outing is canceled.

Prayer Group (suspended until further notice)

Meet & Greet (suspended until further notice)

Synod Assembly

Holy Spirit will be sending 3 delegates to the Metropolitan Chicago Area Synod annual convention in Tinley Park June 5-6. Past delegates have returned to Holy Spirit sharing their enthusiasm for the meaningful work of the greater church. Are you interested? Please see Pastor Tim for more info.

Church Calendar (suspended until further notice)

We have not included our normal three month calendar in the newsletter this month since we cannot predict when we will be able to resume face-to-face activities in the church. With all church gatherings suspended for now, we will begin re-planning events as we near the time when we resume them. It will be wonderful to get back together when we do, and we can look forward to a grand celebration when that day comes!

**THE GIANT
IN FRONT OF YOU
IS NEVER
BIGGER THAN THE
GOD INSIDE
OF YOU.**



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

LCHS Response to Covid-19

In response to the official guidelines by our state and health authorities we have suspended all formal worship services and large gatherings until further notice.

During this time of uncertainty and vulnerability, it is with great pastoral care, that we want to assure you that you are not alone. In the coming weeks we will continue to:

Bring you the Word of God.

Through recordings and downloads and live streaming we will continue to provide you the opportunity to join in worship with prayers, scripture readings, sermons, music, and children's messages

Provide Pastoral Care and Outreach

Though person-to-person visits will not be available, a network of contact has already been established to provide wellness checks with all members, solicit volunteers to help with providing assistance efforts, and continued contact from staff and members as we explore ways to connect with each other and the ministries of our church.

Receive Offerings for Continued Ministry

You may choose to mail your offerings in, drop off your offering, or sign up or continue to use Simply Giving, our pre-authorized automatic withdrawal program, to contribute to the church, world hunger, COOL food bank, LSSI, or Lutheran World Relief, for we recognize our need to sustain these vital ministries.

Continue to Gather as a Community

Through teleconferencing platforms like ZOOM, we will continue to meet with each other. The church council, prayer group and our capital campaign team have already utilized this technology so that we can continue to work together and be the church we are called to be.

Be a Community Committed to Prayer

Our relationship with God centers on our ongoing communication with God through prayer. As we learn of the many needs of people who need our prayer and lift them up in prayer, we also receive comfort, peace, hope, and inspiration as we experience the abundance that comes from God, and grow in our relationship with God through prayer.

As a church united, let us pray together...

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have fewer risk factors remember those who are most vulnerable. May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent. May we who have the flexibility of taking care of our children when their schools close remember those who have no options. May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go. May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market, remember those who have no margin at all. May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home. As fear grips our country, let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. In the grace and peace and love of our Lord Jesus, Amen.

Children's Ministry News

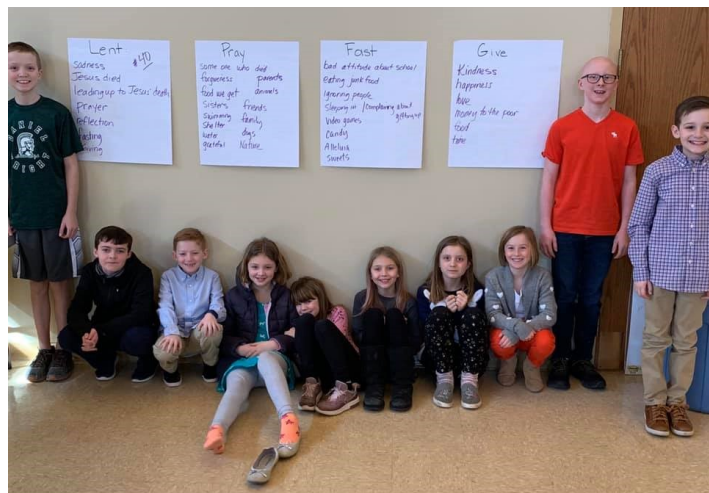
by Jennifer Williams, Children's Ministry Director - jennifer.williams@lchschildren@gmail.com

Sunday School Classes enjoyed a Sensational Sunday! All children gathered in the Fellowship Hall and we focused on LENT! We discussed how we can pray, fast and give during this season. Some of our discussion is listed on the wall in our hallway.

Tuesday LYFE celebrated Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday recently and as you all know this marks the start of Lent. Throughout the next few weeks LYFE will focus on The Disciples in our Tuesday meetings. Using different styles, the kids will learn about following Jesus.

Dramatic theme: Everyone can follow Jesus (all kids chose a disciple, read about him and reported to Pastor Tim!)

Cooking theme: Alone, we are good. Together we are great! (we made pizzas!)



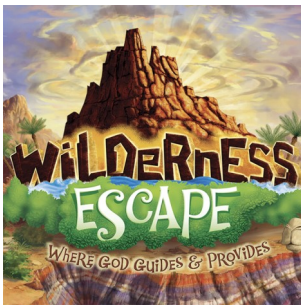
Tentatively Upcoming:

PROGRESSIVE DINNER BABYSITTING: If you babysit, and might be available on Sat May 2, please let me know so we can compile a list for families who would like to attend the LCHS Progressive Dinner.

Save the date, Sunday May 3: We will plan an event to meet and celebrate our new Confirmation class. We'll get together after church, stay tuned for info.

April Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----|------------------|
| 5- | Joel Utterback | 18- | Barbara Piechota |
| 6- | Chris Wittich | 20- | Haley Rossiter |
| 10- | Denise Friedrich | 21- | Ben Voermans |
| | Greg Olson | 22- | Collin Becker |
| 12- | Carl Friedrich | | Daaron Dohler |
| 15- | Calvin Reeser | 23- | Katie Bittner |
| | Lily Reeser | 25- | Rory Fencil |
| 17- | Kelly Reeser | 30- | Jan Ribordy |



VBS

Our annual VBS week is set for July 27-31. Mark your calendars! We will be going on a Wilderness Escape!!! Adult volunteers are needed to make this the success it has always been. Please let me know how you can help.

2020 Building Appeal

Building a Foundation

Remember the story Jesus told about the wise and the foolish men who each built their houses on different foundations. One on solid rock and one on sand. Eighteen years ago a solid foundation was laid and a building addition built here at Holy Spirit. But it was not just a building. It was a place of mission and ministry. A resource for touching lives, guiding and instructing in the faith, and providing the community with a gathering place for arts, education, fellowship and so much more.

But just as in all discipleship, there is a cost. So every three years the people of faith at Holy Spirit are called upon to share in the cost of paying for and caring for the holy space God entrusted to us. Between now and May 17 we are going to once more turn our eyes to see what God has done and will do through our support of the “**Building a Foundation**” appeal. Join us in discovering how God is guiding us in using our gifts and resources as we focus on the future of Holy Spirit’s ministry and mission.

COOL Food Pantry is grateful for your generosity!



Stay in Touch

Let us know what you are up to during this stay at home mandate by emailing pictures, particularly of worship and service, to be included in the next newsletter.





church council MEETING

Highlights from March 2020

The monthly Church Council meeting was held on March 9th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$32,369 for February (YTD total is \$57,958). Operating expenses were \$36,121 in February (YTD total is \$70,821).

PREFATORY NOTE: PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE MEETING MINUTES REFLECT THE MARCH 9 MEETING AND SINCE THAT DATE, DUE TO RAPIDLY CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, DATES, EVENTS, AND PLANS REFLECTED IN THESE MINUTES MAY NOT BE ACCURATE AT PUBLICATION IN THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.

The Pastor's report: Many events and activities have occurred and are scheduled. Sunday worship attendance and building use requests were discussed. The April Church Council meeting will be held on April 20, not April 13. Committees of the council provided reports of various activities. **Worship & Music** reported that Lenten suppers are underway, and volunteers still are needed for the April 1 meal. February 23 was Jazz Service successful and well-attended. The brass and Choir are rehearsing for Easter. Cherubs will sing Palm Sunday. Organists are scheduled through May. Worship assistants are being scheduled. **Christian Education** reported that Mardi Gras was a great success. VBS will be a "Wilderness Escape," July 27-31; many volunteers are needed, with more information to follow. Good Friday children's service is Friday April 10 at 11 am. LYFE dinner and celebration will be May 5 at 6 pm. **CUFF** reported that Trivia Night was well received, with corned beef and cabbage set for March 13. **Growth** reported that the committee is working with Ellie Kasche & Bill Vaananen to create a Facebook/Instagram campaign for Easter at Holy Spirit. The Easter banner is scheduled to be displayed during the 2 weeks preceding Easter. Pam Labellarte will chair the Holy Spirit booth at the July Deerfield Farmers' Market. **Human Needs** reported that Vitalant cancelled the March blood drive. Pam Labellarte spearheaded a successful food drive for COOL Pantry. LCHS is staffing and supplying PADS on April 11. **Long-Range Planning** reported that the committee continues its work and preliminary meetings will be held during Adult Forum time to provide updates and invite participation. **Property** reported that maintenance tasks and upkeep are ongoing. The next work day is April 4. **Stewardship** reported that Offering cards were introduced March 1, and many comments were received and are being considered. On March 1, Barry Nelson presented a very good tutorial concerning the benefits of a donor advisory fund and electronic giving. Cost-saving adjustments to future offering envelope box orders are under consideration. **Youth** reported that many youth participated in Mardi Gras and were very helpful, especially with floats. A "March Madness" bracket contest is underway, with a minimum \$5 contribution, to start fundraising for the next ELCA Gathering. The next Youth event will be Stations of the Cross on April 1; youth assistance is needed, please contact Jennifer Williams. Youth also are encouraged to assist with Good Friday service. **Old Business:** The Sanctuary Enhancement Task Force continued its work. Delegates for Synod Convention June 5-6 are needed; see Pastor Tim if interested. The Capital Campaign Creative Team met on March 8. The theme of this campaign will be "Building a Foundation." A logo design was submitted and is being developed with the theme. More information and opportunities to participate will be forthcoming. **New Business:** Council discussed preparations for and response to COVID-19. Preparations are underway in this developing situation and are being communicated via email, and at services and other events. Members are urged to personally monitor and follow CDC recommendations during this rapidly changing situation. WELCA is considering options for increasing oven capacity in the kitchen. Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit Continuing Resolutions and Policy on Sexual Harassment and Misconduct were reaffirmed. Scott Schwanke was appointed to the Columbarium Committee. Jackie Murphy and Werner Brisske were appointed to the Endowment Committee.

Next council meeting currently is scheduled for April 20th 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.

HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

April 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*

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED