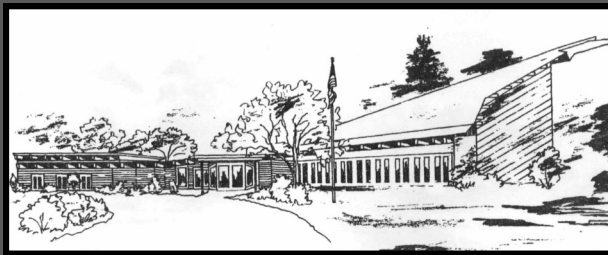




***Lutheran Church  
of the Holy Spirit***  
30 Riverwoods Road  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



*January 2021*



## **Sunday, January 17 AT 11 AM**

Due to the continuing safety concerns surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, the council has approved that the Annual Meeting will be held virtually in January. There will be options to join the meeting via Zoom or via phone. Specific information regarding the meeting will be sent to all members of the congregation prior to the meeting date.

At this year's Annual Congregational Meeting we'll be electing new council members, approving the budget, and reviewing the reports of our ministries as we do each year. Please join us for this important meeting as we celebrate the past year and look forward to the future.

## **Budget Preview Meeting—January 10 at 10:30 AM**

On Sunday January 10th at 10:30 following our live broadcast of our worship service, we'll be reviewing the Annual Report ahead of our Annual Congregational Meeting. A link to join the zoom meeting will be provided the week prior to the review. Please join us and bring your questions and thoughts to share as we review and look forward to the new year.

# *A Note from Our Pastor*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christmas is a time of gifts and there is no greater gift than the gift of the Christ child that comes to us once again this time of year. Jesus came to us as an infant child so that the whole world would be saved. It's an incredible thing to consider, that God would become like us, and that God would accept death so that we might accept life, but that's part of the wondrous mystery of Christmas. Sometimes gifts come in very strange and unusual packages.

As we enter into the season of Epiphany, we also remember some other famous gift givers, the "Three Kings" or Magi who came bearing gifts for a newborn king. These are more than just gifts for they symbolize as much about the receiver of these gifts as they do of the givers.

Gold was the privilege of the kings, who owned all the gold could get their hands on. The incense, Frankincense, was used in many ancient cultures in religious rites to indicate the presence of the deity. And Myrrh was used as a painkiller, an embalming substance, a fragrance, and a beauty treatment. Thus by the gifts they bring, the Magi identify Jesus as the supreme ruler of the world, as God's anointed high priest, and as the suffering servant who dies as a fragrant and beautiful offering before God. And like the Magi, the gifts we give can also say a great deal about us and the one we praise.



As we enter into a new year, perhaps it's a good time to take inventory of our gifts and how we plan to use them in the coming year. God has given us the gift of faith, the gift of forgiveness from our sins, and the promise that he will never leave us. God has also provided for us throughout our lives with food, shelter, family and friends. Sometimes we look past all that we have been given and forget to count all the blessings God has bestowed upon us.

God has blessed us to be a blessing to others, and the gifts we have been given can be multiplied a hundredfold when we use them in service to our God. In the coming year, there will be many opportunities for us to use our gifts to respond to a need, to provide healing, to build something new, and to grow in mission. Our congregation will also need your gifts to overcome the challenges that face a church in these difficult times. Together, we can learn and grow in faith and in giving so that God's mission for us will be fulfilled.

I pray that we will have a fruitful and blessed year at Holy Spirit in 2021, and I give thanks for all the gifts you have shared and given to the mission of our church. Because of you, we have much to look forward to in the year ahead. Your leadership in the coming year and willingness to serve are the qualities of true disciples of the faith. Thank you for all you do, and let's make 2021 a year to remember in our service to God.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Tim*

## **The Quilters**

The quilting ministry will not be meeting in January.

## **Thursday Bible Study**

We are studying a unit on the book of Exodus. The book of Exodus is the story of abject slavery and glorious liberation. But for Israel, their exodus to freedom did not give them the right to do as they pleased. They had to learn loyalty and obedience to God as a consequence of his giving them their independence. This story becomes a model for every Christian's exodus from the enslaving power of sin, to the saving love, power, and grace of God. If you'd like to participate please contact Jan Schwanke at [bennett95@comcast.net](mailto:bennett95@comcast.net) and she will send you the link to be invited to the Zoom meeting. Join us at 10:30 as we delve into how our faith informs our dealing with the challenges of today.

## **Prayer Group**

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

## **Every Contribution is a Blessing**

LCHS is blessed to have so many talented and willing people come together to make the Christmas Season a truly magical time for everyone! Thank you for all your help!

We had many readers and soloists, "one verse wonders", and musicians at our outdoor Christmas Eve service. We've had volunteers to dress up our sanctuary for our "Hangin' of the Greens". We had a virtual musical offering from our LCHS brass, and a wonderful virtual children's Christmas program. Thank you to our staff, parents, and children for making the program so successful again this year.

## **Offering Envelopes**

Please pick up your 2021 envelopes located on a table in the Narthex.



**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](mailto:jennifer.williams@lchschildren@gmail.com)

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas! As we begin 2021 I'm sure everyone is looking forward to this new year!

**Tuesday LYFE** continues and will kick-off 2021 with meetings in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, January 5 from 4:00-5:00 PM. If you'd like your child to join us these afternoons please email Jennifer for more info.

**Sunday School at home** begins a series on The Lord's Prayer. Beginning January 10 families are invited to experience this prayer through art, discussion and reflection. The curriculum focuses on Matthew's version and I encourage everyone to examine the language of this prayer and how it can be different although the same. This six week journey will lead us all right into lent!





# Angel Tree

Thank you to everyone who helped spread a little Christmas cheer for our young friends at Lutheran Day Nursery! We were able to put smiles on 40 faces this year! The car was filled to the ceiling!!! They are always so appreciative of your generosity.



- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 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     |                      |

*January Birthdays*

## Stewardship Update

To date,, we have received commitments toward our ministry planning for next year: 46 pledges totaling over \$240,000. Our thanks to everyone who has responded not only with financial commitments but also of their time and talents.

If you have not 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 estimate of giving pledge card and the time and talents form. 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, so we can plan for the coming year.

## Simply Giving

To stay current with your 2021 commitment and avoid checks being lost in the mail, we encourage you to sign up for Simply Giving. This easy method allows for monthly donations to be debited from your checking account and credited directly as a contribution to LCHS. Email Laurie in the Church office for a form.

## PADS

Thank you for your generous donations last month. It's time for our monthly food drive!!

**When is the next LCHS food drive:** January 9th from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

**What do they need most:** PADS has requested specific items for donation this month. If you are able to help, please consider donating any of the following:

- Non-perishable food that **must have a pop-top lid and be microwavable**
  - o Chef Boyardee
  - o Ramen
  - o Soup cups
  - o Beef stew
  - o Hormel complete meals
  - o Packaged snacks like cheese and crackers, peanut butter and crackers
  - o Snack bags of chips or pretzels

**Who are you helping:** Lake County residents currently experiencing homelessness and in need of food

**Where are they staying:** PADS is supporting these residents through hotel accommodations due to the COVID pandemic

To learn more about PADS, please click the video link below to hear Craig's story:

<https://youtu.be/-sGtH6ztsg8>

**Thank you all!!** Call me if you need help with your donation! Wendy LaPlaca at 847-275-3892 or [wlaplaca@comcast.net](mailto:wlaplaca@comcast.net).



## church council **MEETING**

## **Highlights from December 2020**

The monthly Church Council meeting was held via Zoom on December 14th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$29,381 for November (YTD total is \$373,411 (including PPP loan amount)). Operating expenses were \$33,783 in November (YTD total is \$401,136).

**The Pastor's report:** Consistent with State guidelines and recommendations, formal office hours temporarily have been suspended, and the office is open by appointment only. District 103 will be using building space one day per week. Other building use remains on hold due to the pandemic and in-person school closures. The church's longtime custodial service is ceasing operations due to medical reasons and a replacement service is under consideration. **Christian Education** reported that Tuesday LYFE continues with appropriate precautions, based upon participating family input. Sunday school has moved online. The virtual Christmas program was a great success and very well done. Advent wreath kits were distributed to families upon request. **CUFF** reported that virtual game events are being planned. **Finance** reported that The Finance Review Committee is working on annual review processes and audits. **Growth** reported that church social media accounts have been updated with events and activities. **Human Needs** reported that PADs collected food donations in December and Angel Tree donations were delivered. **Long-Range Planning** reported that Technology needs are being assessed for live streaming worship services and for staff. **Personnel** reported that evaluation processes are underway. **Property** reported that Joel is monitoring property conditions and conducting upkeep tasks. Monitored security service proposals were considered and determined to be cost-prohibitive. Joel continues to reach out about building use. **Stewardship** reported that the annual Stewardship appeal is underway; pledges and time and talent forms continue to be received. **Worship and Music** reported that online services are being well received and widely viewed. Weather permitting, an outdoor, informal Christmas Eve service without communion will be held, by reservation; it also will be live streamed. A recorded traditional Christmas Eve service also will be made available. Communion cups are available and can be picked up by appointment from the church office. **Old Business:** The Task Force continues to meet and plan, monitoring conditions, guidelines, guidance, and congregation considerations. The Council continues to receive updates and unanimously approves of the work of the Task Force. The Nominating Committee has compiled a slate of candidates. Preparations for the virtual format Annual Meeting are underway.

**Next council meeting currently is scheduled for January 11th 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.

### **Prayer Concerns**

We freshen prayer concerns after 3 weeks so the list remains current. Please remember to email Laurie in the church office at [lutheranholyspirit@gmail.com](mailto:lutheranholyspirit@gmail.com) when prayer concerns change or to update your request.

# ***HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS***

*January 2021*

More information may be found on our website: [www.holyspirit-elca.org](http://www.holyspirit-elca.org)



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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED