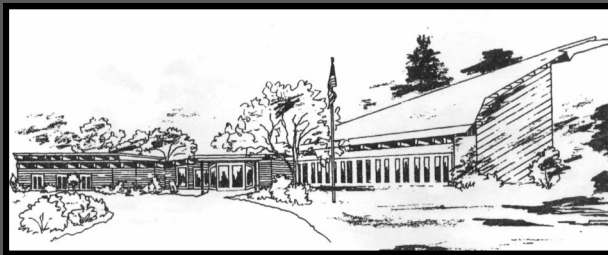




**Lutheran Church  
of the Holy Spirit**  
30 Riverwoods Road  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



*December 2020*

## Mid-week Advent Services

**December 2, 9, 16 at 7:30 pm**

"Watch, Wait, and Wonder" will be the theme of our Advent worship services this year, and will be available virtually through Zoom. Join us for a time of contemplative and prayerful worship. The first week centers on watching for Christ's coming again. The second week calls us to prayerful waiting in preparation for the coming of Jesus. Drawing upon the idea that "wisdom begins in wonder", the third week invites us to embrace imaginative wonderment at the things of God. A link to join the zoom worship meeting will be sent to all through email.



## Christmas Eve

As of this writing, our in-person worship has been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions. We will be providing a video recorded service with holy communion and special music on Christmas Eve for you to worship at home. An email will provide you with the link for the Christmas eve service. The link will also be made available on our website.

We are also entertaining the idea of having an outdoor worship service at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve. We may have to brave the elements, but many have expressed interest in a shortened outdoor service with all the required restrictions in place (temperature checks, mask wearing, social distancing, etc.). Stay tuned for more information as this brave new worship experience develops.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

We will have Holy Communion as part of our recorded services. If you'd like to pick up some communion cups at church so you can commune at home during your time of worship, we invite you to do so. We look forward to the day when we can all gather together around the altar, but we're trying to be innovative for now.

## *A Note from Our Pastor*

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the days get shorter and darker, and as we continue to feel the oppressive grip of COVID-19. The word of Isaiah that we often hear this time of year caught my attention. The prophet wrote, *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.”* During these times, it can feel like we’re living in darkness, and that’s why it’s so essential to look for the light.

I recently heard about a village at the bottom of a canyon in Norway that hardly receives any sunlight. During the long Norwegian winters, when the sun barely rises over the horizon, the people of Rjukan live in perpetual twilight. Even in middle of summer, sunlight is limited by the canyon walls, and only in the middle of the day do you receive direct sunlight.

The effects on the human spirit were predictable. Rjukan was a dark, depressing place to live.

The idea of reflecting sunlight into the valley with mirrors was first dreamed up in 1913, but a little over a century later, technology made it a reality. At a cost of nearly a million dollars, three immense mirrors were constructed atop surrounding peaks. Carefully situated to catch the maximum amount of sunlight, their angle adjusted throughout the day by solar powered electric motors, Rjukan’s mirror array now reflects winter sunlight down into the valley.

The change in the quality of life has been dramatic. Even the mirror’s biggest opponents have been won over. “I thought it would be a waste because we have a lot of bad weather here,” Robert Jenbergsen told the New York Times. “But when we got the sun, you could see the happiness it brought. We had never seen anything like that before.”

What was once a parking lot in the village’s center has become a town square, a bustling hub where neighbors pause to socialize. This rarely happened in winters past, when villagers hurried from building to building with downcast eyes, collars raised against the bitter wind.

When the mirrors were first installed, townspeople delightedly donned sunglasses and unfolded beach chairs in the parking lot, tilting their faces toward the light. Now, benches grace the sunniest spots. The town is considering installing a fountain to make the square even more of a gathering place.

The citizens of Rjukan once walked in darkness. Now - thanks to the high-tech wizardry of their mountaintop mirrors – they see a great light.

The prophet Isaiah never knew a Norwegian winter, but he didn’t have to. Anyone who’s ever lived through a dark night can appreciate the cheering properties of light.

The prophet Isaiah wrote, *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.”*

Jesus Christ was born into the world to save the light-starved villagers of Rjukan, and all of us light-starved believers in our times of darkness. *“I am the light of the world.”* Jesus proclaimed, *“Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”*

Light brings hope. When dawn breaks and darkness flees, hope returns to the human spirit. Most of us are happy when the sun rises. We have renewed hope that the day will bring many blessings.

Jesus is our light, and Jesus brings hope. His birth reminds us that there is hope for the world. His birth reminds us that he brings the hope of salvation. His birth reminds us that he offers the gift of eternal life. His birth reminds us that in our bleakest hour, he is close beside us.

As we continue to navigate through these dark times, put your faith and hope in Jesus, for he is our hope and our joy and our light! Have a blessed Christmas!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Tim*

## Thank You!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we want to give a big THANK YOU to all who have been giving of their time and talents to help celebrate our church and maintain its property. To all who helped decorate the church and raise the Christmas tree during the Hanging of the Greens including Al Edwards, Dave Engen, Dave and Nancy Fencil, Jan Schwanke, and Ron and Dorothy Stocks. . To all who participated in our work day at church when ten trees were removed including Daaron Dohler, Mike Pedersen, Dave Schroetter, Joel and Dylan Utterback. And to all who continue to perform maintenance and property improvement tasks around the church including Arnie Bilstad, Paul Saydak, Dave Schroetter, Scott Schwanke, Ron Stocks, and Joel Utterback. We give thanks for you and all you do! You make the spirit shine brighter at Holy Spirit!

## LYFE Christmas Program

Our 2020 Holy Spirit virtual Christmas program is *Countdown to Christmas!* The kids will count down the 12 days until Christmas. A link for the program will be sent on December 13. We hope you will join us!

## 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 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.

## The Quilters

The quilting ministry will not be meeting in December.

## Poinsettias

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 \$15.00 per plant. Checks may be made payable to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. You can email the church office or mail info along with your check to the church by Dec. 8th.

## 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 and she will send you the link to be invited in.



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

# Children's Ministry News

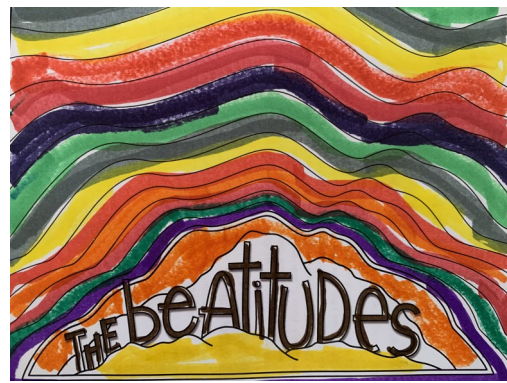
by Jennifer Williams, Children's Ministry Director - [jennifer.williams@lchschildrens.org](mailto:jennifer.williams@lchschildrens.org)

Blessed be all of you! Thanks so much for participating in our "Sunday School at Home" session on The Beatitudes. Hopefully, the central questions and prayer on the family page sparked conversations in your home while church remained virtual. I appreciated your kind words and positive feedback on the series.

Advent is here! Many families participated in our Advent Wreath Grab n Go! It was nice to see so many of you. Family Advent Devotional, "What Child Is This?" was mailed home. Have fun taking this journey getting to know other children in the bible that helped point the way to baby Jesus! Follow the LCHS Children's Ministry Facebook page for occasional updates and posts related to the readings.

## Tuesday LYFE!

Our group has had an amazing time these last weeks creating a Jesse Tree. We've taken a crash course in the Bible stories from creation in Genesis to the birth of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. The kids read each story and created a corresponding ornament for each story. Check it out on our Facebook page.



## December Birthdays

1- Eileen Hoffman	9- Todd Davenport	26- Jeff Henningson
Thomas Tagge	Sue Rosko	Kimberly Koblas
3- Wendy Koblas	10- Jacob Steinberger	James Qualley
Pastor Tim Linstrom	17- James Ahlschwede	27- Bill Shambrook
Inge' Ohnona	18- Diane Neumann	28- Jacob Schroetter
4- Al Edwards	21- Barry Nelson	Allison Travetto
Michelle Labellarte	22- Dennis Burke	30- Kristen Eastman
Amanda Spoehr	Joan Roehl	31- Melissa Brotz
6- Elizabeth Falato	23- Ashley Adkisson	Shel McGee
7- Mark McElhinny	Gordon Duprey	
8- Judy Mosner	24- Jack Eastman	
Michael Qualley		

## Angel Tree

One of the most rewarding Christmas activities around Holy Spirit is the sharing of gifts with inner city children. Each year, we receive the names of children from Lutheran Day Nursery/After School Program for whom we purchase gifts at Christmas. Many times, these are the only gifts these children will receive. These children have come to be called our “angels”. It is important to us to continue this tradition, even in the midst of a pandemic. So, we are going to do things a little differently this year.

### Sign Up

We are asking people to sign up for a child/children through our Signup Genius. If you are unable to do so, you may contact Kari Davenport and she will assign you a child. If you are unable to shop but still want to help, you may also donate funds for Kari to do the shopping for you. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0944ABAF22A7F49-lchs>

### Drop Off

Gifts are due to the church by Sunday, December 13th. You can drop off during office hours or take advantage of the contactless drop off hours on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm. Pull up and we will be happy to take the packages right out of your car! If these options do not work for you, please contact Kari to make other arrangements.

### Appropriate Items

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. However, if there is ever a time to spoil a child, this is one of those times that it's okay. For some, these will be the only gifts they get.

### Labeling Gifts

Please be sure to properly label all your gifts with the child's first and last name when you return them so that they are delivered to the right child.

If you have any questions, please contact Kari Davenport, [karikdavenport@yahoo.com](mailto:karikdavenport@yahoo.com) or 773-844-7542.

## PADS

Thank you to all who donated food for PADS this past month. LCHS will continue to help our friends and Lake County neighbors who are in need, by having a monthly food drive for PADS. Here are details:

**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

**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

**When is the next LCHS food drive:** December 12 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. You may also drop off donations, any time when the church office is open, in the drop box at the front of the narthex.

If you have any questions or need assistance with your donation, please contact Wendy LaPlaca at 847-275-3892 or [wlaplaca@comcast.net](mailto:wlaplaca@comcast.net). *Thank you all!!*



## Stewardship Update

As of December 1, we have received commitments toward our ministry planning for next year: 39 pledges totaling almost \$200,000. 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.

## Tax Time Cometh

While we are still many months away from April 2020, the end of the year is approaching rapidly. You may want to consider contributing some shares to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. Stocks that you have held for a long time and that have very low basis cost may be especially attractive as charitable gifts. Stock gifts have double value because they often avoid capital gains tax and they result in an income tax deduction for charitable gifts. Also, making a stock gift earlier in the fall - rather than waiting until the very end of the year - may help you avoid any fluctuations in the stock market. During the past month, several members made stock transfers to the church to fulfill their pledges and to contribute to the building and designated gifts fund. Few people contribute to the church just for the tax advantages yet it is a consideration for when you might want to make a contribution. As you look toward the end of the year and the special needs of our church budget, you might consider the timeliness of certain contributions now. Please be sure that if you make a transfer to the church, you notify our office so we can be sure all is completed in an orderly manner and proper credit is received.

## COOL Transitional Housing Families

There are 10 families in the Family/Transitional Housing program, 5 of which still need assistance with winter gear for the upcoming season. Here is the list for each family and their specific needs:

Family #1: Ayden (5 year old boy) coat – 6/7 youth: boots – 13.5/1

Family #2: Tremaine (9 year old boy) – coat 12: boots – 6.5

Family #3:

La'Marion (10 year old boy) – coat 14/16 boys; boots 7

Amir (2 year old boy) - coat 3t

Za'Carian (5 month old boy) – coat 12 month

Family #4:

Justin (16 year old boy) – coat mens small; boots 11

Victor (13 year old boy) – coat mens small: boots 10.5

Family #5: Cayden (5 year old boy) – coat 6

If you would like to help, please e-mail Don Hanigan at [dwhanigan@gmail.com](mailto:dwhanigan@gmail.com), or call at 608-217-7242, and specify which child you would like to sponsor. Please feel free to pick 1 child from the families with multiple children if that works better for you. Thank you for your consideration!

## church council **MEETING**

## **Highlights from November 2020**

The monthly Church Council meeting was held via Zoom on November 9th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$23,375 for October (YTD total is \$343,775 (including PPP loan amount)). Operating expenses were \$37,459 in October (YTD total is \$367,353).

**The Pastor's report:** Daniel Wright Middle School is interested in renting Fellowship Hall twice per week; details are being finalized. Other building use remains on hold due to the pandemic and in-person school closures. The congregation membership roster has been updated upon communication with inactive members. Mid-week Advent services will begin December 2 and will be conducted via Zoom. Indoor services began; procedures are reviewed and adapted to meet evolving circumstances and regulations. The Thanksgiving Day service will be a recorded service. The Task Force continues planning and monitoring of conditions, government guidelines, and Synod input. Discussions are underway regarding Christmas Eve worship and holiday decorations. Hanging of the Greens is scheduled for November 29, modified as appropriate under the circumstances. **Christian Education** reported that Trunk or Treat was well-attended and an amazing evening. Outdoor family activities are being planned for Hanging of the Greens, and a sign-up is available for families to volunteer to hang decorations inside. Tuesday LYFE and Sunday school continue. Remote Advent family activities are being planned. **CUFF** reported that a virtual fellowship game events are being planned. **Human Needs** reported that PADs collected food donations in November and Thanksgiving food donations were delivered to Vernon Township food pantry. **Personnel** reported that preparations are underway for staff evaluations. **Property** reported on a successful work day with another being planned. Joel is monitoring property conditions and conducting upkeep tasks; he will contact Comcast about security measures. Many outdoor lights have been replaced, thanks to volunteers. Joel continues to reach out about building use. **Stewardship** reported that Packets were mailed, and a video was prepared and circulated. Stewardship Sunday was November 15. **Worship and Music** reported on live-streaming of indoor services that occurred and adaptations to services based upon conditions and circumstances. **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 meets and is completing preparation of a slate of candidates. **New Business:** Committee reports will be due in December. A motion passed a remote conduct of the Annual Meeting on January 17, 2021, if circumstances dictate.

**Next council meeting currently is scheduled for December 14th at 7:00 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.

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

**January 17, 2021**

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.

# ***HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS***

*December 2020*

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