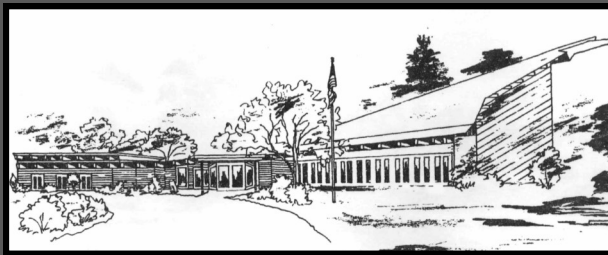




**Lutheran Church
of the Holy Spirit**
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



November 2020



Our Thanksgiving Service is a wonderful opportunity to gather together to give thanks and praise to God. This year we will not be gathering in the sanctuary, but a recorded service will be made available for you to share with your loved ones, for a time of tranquil thankfulness. The link to the service will be made available on Thanksgiving Eve as we all "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever."



Stewardship Sunday, November 15 will look a lot different this year due to COVID-19. We will be sending out pledge cards as usual, but instead of handing them in during worship, we ask that you either drop them off (use the mailbox if the office is closed) or mail them in by November 15. Please prayerfully consider how you are going to help further the Church's ministries.

A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

When President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday on October 3, 1863, the nation was in conflict. Yet even in the most difficult of times, he found encouragement. And we too, can find encouragement, for his words can be equally encouraging to us today.

And we need encouragement, for Thanksgiving will be different this year, as many families refrain from meeting to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Many will be visiting virtually this year, and some will be fairly isolated. But we still have so much to be thankful for, if we open ourselves up to see what God is doing in our lives, and what God is provided for us.

Perhaps this year we might read Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Day Proclamation, taking a moment to reconnect with history can do much to clear the fog and help us remember what really matters and why.

When Lincoln wrote his Proclamation the country was at war with itself, and we can kind of relate, for we too are experiencing great strife in our land, as our country is so divided.

The first thing Lincoln does is observe that even in the midst of strife any sensible heart will see that we remain under "the watchful providence of Almighty God."

The year that is drawing towards its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they all come, others have been added, which are so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

Another thing Lincoln does is call for penitence and mercy. There are concepts we've almost forgotten but how we need them today as he did then, and the healing of wounds that follows:

And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to him that, for such singular deliverances and blessings; they do also with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.

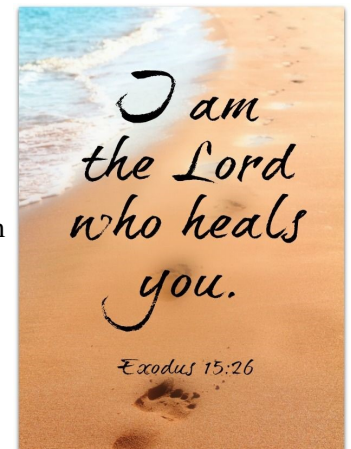
Our greatest challenges both personally and nationally are neither political, nor even cultural, but spiritual. Lincoln encourages all Christians to join in humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience. And he encourages all citizens, Christian or otherwise, to join in reaching out in tender care to those among us who are widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers. Lincoln had confidence that God would heal the wounds of the nation and restore it, and I believe God will do the same in this time and place.

So as we celebrate Thanksgiving in ways like never before, let's trust that our good and gracious God is about to bring about healing, restoration, and a new found sense of unity and abundance. Let's pray for all who are in need, and let's give thanks for the privilege of being children of God.

Have a happy, healthy, and blessed Thanksgiving!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tim



The Quilters

The quilting ministry is still busy making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. You are invited to join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am. No experience necessary.

Thursday Bible Study

We are beginning a new 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.

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.

Mid-Week Advent Worship

Our Mid-week Advent Services will take place the first three Wednesdays in December at 7:30 p.m., on December 2, 9, and 16. These services will be virtual through Zoom so that all may join us during this busy season. Join us as we center ourselves on the reason for the season and on Christ, the light of the world, who comes to heal us, redeem us, and dwell with us.

Hanging of the Greens

It's nearly that time to decorate the church and put up the Christmas tree for the Advent and Christmas seasons! Our scheduled plan was to invite the congregation to join in after our 9:30 worship service on Sunday, November 29th to do the preparations. We may have to change those plans to limit the number of people gathering in close proximity, but we will certainly dress up the church for the joy of Christmas. Please look for future announcements as we get closer to that date.



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@schschildren@gmail.com

We had a wonderful time with our outdoor **Tuesday LYFE** meetings! The kids were wonderful and enthusiastic participants so we are going to keep the momentum building. The kids will begin indoor LYFE sessions Tuesday, Nov 3 from 4:00-5:00 PM. Our focus will be on Advent/Christmas. Please let me know if you'd like to join the fun! We will continue to socially distance, hand wash, take temperatures and generally be safety and health conscious. An email with a registration link coming soon!

In a similar fashion our **Sidewalk Sunday School** will be moving indoors along with Sunday worship. We will parade to our classroom location right after Pastor Tim's Children's Message. Our group continues to mirror the Sunday-School-At-Home series on the Beatitudes.



- | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----|-------------------|
| 1- | Dave Johnson | 12- | Brent Meilman |
| | Wendy LaPlaca | 18- | Mary Miller |
| 5- | April Neumann | 21- | Carol Duprey |
| | Amber Malone | | Lucy Hale |
| 6- | Rose Brisske | 24- | Tom Weglarz |
| 8- | Phil Bettiker | 25- | Dave Eastman |
| | Robin Saydak | 26- | Aaron Rudloff |
| 9- | Katie Bally | | Benjamin Rudloff |
| | Ellie Kasche | 27- | Larry Brady |
| 10- | Kaitlyn Krejsa | 29- | Logan Steinberger |
| 11- | Cole Dirks | 30- | Janet Adkisson |
| | Robin Fina | | |
| | Paul Saydak | | |

November Birthdays

What Belongs to God?

Traditionally the latter part of the Pentecost season has been a time of stewardship emphasis in our congregations. On any given Sunday in October or November you might hear a message on stewardship in your congregation. I remember vividly the feeling of panic that came upon me when I was a young and newly ordained pastor and needed to come up with a stewardship message for my congregation on “Stewardship Sunday.” So when a lay member of the congregation volunteered to present a program on tithing I was elated and gladly accepted his offer. For his presentation he set up two tables in the front of the sanctuary. Then he began to demonstrate how we have been richly blessed by God and how little God requires of us in return. The presenter did this by taking 10 apples putting 9 of them on one table and one apple on the other. He did the same with 10 bananas and 10 oranges and 10 shirts, etc. Soon the table with the 9 items of each kind was stacked high with all kinds of blessings. And the table with one of each kind was dramatically less abundant. His point was that tithing was a small thing to do in comparison to all that we have received. God gives us abundantly and expects so little of us, that we can surely give that little tithe. Then came the clincher when pointing to the abundant table of blessings, and said, “God has given us all this to do whatever we want, so at least we can give a tithe back to God.”



Through the years I have come to understand how limited this concept of stewardship is. Sure, God does ask us to tithe. That is biblical. But the Bible doesn't stop with the tithe. Biblical stewardship has more to do with what we do with the 90% left after we tithe. These gifts are not just ours to do with as we please. All that God gives us is to be used according to God's will for us, our family, our community, our nation and all people. One of the Gospel stories we hear in congregations this time of year is the story of Jesus' encounter with the Pharisees. Trying to entrap him they asked, "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" Jesus' answer was simple. He asked for a coin they used to pay the tax and then said, "Whose head and title is on this coin?" They answered, "The emperor's." Jesus said, "Give therefore to the emperor that things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." And what belongs to God? Everything belongs to God. All things come from God and all things return to God. And all that we have been given is on loan to us from God and is to be used according to God's will. To be a "steward" is to be in charge of someone else's property, which is to be used according to the owner's wishes. That's the biblical concept of stewardship.

Therefore stewardship includes all that we do and say. It includes all our resources and how we use them for the good of others. It includes all of our money and how we spend it. It includes how we respond to the needs of our neighbor and our world. It includes issues of justice and welfare for all God's people. The tithe is a biblical concept that is meant just to be a beginning point for our stewardship. And it is a good beginning point, but it is only a beginning point. I encourage you to look beyond the tithe as you consider the stewardship of the resources God has given you. We often pray:

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Vernon Township Food Pantry continues to assist our neighbors in need with food and other items. We are collecting donations of food items and grocery store gift cards to provide Thanksgiving dinners to families in need. Please use the link below to sign up to donate by Nov 8. Contact Donna Williams (847-331-7651 text/ phone or rdrjwilliams@att.net) with any questions. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B49AEAB2EA1FE3-vernon>

COOL Food Pantry

With the help of the community, 1000 Thanksgiving and Christmas meal baskets can support a family in need.

You can either provide a meal: gift card for turkey or ham, gravy, stuffing, canned veggies, fruit/cranberry sauce, rolls, dessert or donate pre-made meal for \$20 each. Please drop off food donations or mail in monetary donations to: Cool Food Pantry at 800 W Glen Flora Ave, Waukegan, IL 60085

PADS Food Drive a Success!!



Thank you to all who participated in the October food drive for PADS. As always, LCHS came through big with donations of food and supplies for our Lake County neighbors experiencing homelessness. The donations will help provide meals for individuals and families currently being sheltered in hotels this season.

Our next food drive will be Saturday, November 14 from 1:00 to 2:00 PM. You may also drop off donations in the PADS drop box, located in the narthex, on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 8 AM-2PM.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy LaPlaca at wlaplaca@comcast.net

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.



church council **MEETING**

Highlights from October 2020

The monthly Church Council meeting was held via Zoom on October 12th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$32,460 for September (YTD total is \$320,400 (including PPP loan amount)). Operating expenses were \$32,776 in September (YTD total is \$329,894).

The Pastor's report: The Pastor's Office has been reaching out to lapsed members about their continued membership intentions and also has been reconnecting with additional congregation members in outreach. Pastor has been in contact with the 2020 Confirmand class and their families, and they are planning for their Confirmation service Spring 2021. Current junior high Confirmation classes are underway. The Nursery School has completed a full month of classes, and things are going well. The Music Institute has not yet returned; outreach efforts are ongoing. Camp Lincolnshire has requested building use for next summer. District 103 has inquired about using the building for classes. Additional worship offerings are being developed in anticipation of cooler weather and suspension of outdoor Sunday services. Recorded Sunday services will continue to be made available, and live streaming is planned. **Committee Reports** were suspended for this meeting, to focus on 2021 budget planning and discussions. **2021 Budget Discussions** were conducted and a preliminary draft budget is under consideration. **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 is working on a slate of incoming Council candidates.

Next council meeting currently is scheduled for November 9th 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.

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.

HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

November 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