



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



February 2021

Ash Wednesday

February 17 at 7:30 PM

Service of Ashes and Holy Communion



Join us as we begin our Lenten journey with the traditional service of ashes. Lent is a time for a probing consideration of our human condition, including sin and its deadly consequences for both individuals and society. It is also a time for an equally intense consideration of the new possibilities offered to us in Jesus Christ and their implications for practical living. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of this journey, as we remember we are dust and to dust we shall return, but also the promise of abundant, everlasting life, as we turn from sin to trust in God.

Due to COVID-19 only 25 will be able to gather for this service as of the time of this writing, but we are considering a drive through for ashes to be administered as well. Look for updates as we get closer to the 17th.

Mid-week Lenten Services

"Return to the Lord"

February 24–March 24 7:30 PM

In the Book of Joel, the prophet paints a vivid picture of the coming judgment of God, the Day of the Lord. The imagery is bold and terrifying: hordes of locusts swarming over the land and decimating everything. Joel's prophecy has teeth even today as wars rage, natural disasters threaten and destroy, a viral pandemic decimates lives, and our culture seems to be unraveling. But right in the middle of this frightening portent, we find a tender invitation from the Lord: ***"Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster"*** (Joel 2:13).

God's invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personifies and accomplishes all that God declares. During this season of Lent, we will consider the theme "Return to the Lord" and examine how the call to return played out in practical ways for the people who walked alongside Christ as He demonstrated and carried out God's grace and mercy on our behalf, taking God's wrath upon Himself, setting the stage for God to ***"turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him"*** (Joel 2:14). Join us virtually on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM, a link will be provided.

A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I was driving home from church the other day and listening to NPR on the radio, a mental health professional was discussing the amount of stress people were dealing with at the current time. He explained that normally about one in five people are dealing with some form of anxiety or depression or other significant mental health disorder. But currently, due to the pandemic, loss of work, a lack of leadership or knowing who to listen to, and many other stressors, he claimed that one in two are suffering from some form of mental distress. That's half of us! Some are calling this the second wave of COVID-19, a Mental Health Pandemic.

The health and financial cost of COVID-19 have resulted in widespread feelings of helplessness and overwhelming anxiety and despair in response to circumstances over which we have little or no control. The support of others as we look out for our neighbors is essential, for we all need to listen to others and share with others what we are all going through. But we also need something greater, we need to rely on a source that transcends our current situation. When feeling out of control, we need to rely on the one who is in control.

There's a story in the 5th chapter of Mark about an established community leader who had everything a man could ask for. He had affluence, influence, job security, a pension plan, friends, and a loving family. Who could ask for more? But suddenly an illness strikes down his daughter and there is nothing all his wealth and influence could do. The only thing he could do was fall down at the feet of Jesus and plead with him. "Please," he begged, "come and put your hands on her and she will be healed and will live." Others dismissed his effort, saying, "Your daughter is dead. There is no need to bother the teacher anymore." But Jesus paid no attention to what they said and said, "*Don't be afraid; just believe.*" Jesus was giving him the choice to either live by the facts or to see by faith, which is the same choice we have each day, whether we're faced with temporary obstacles or life-threatening challenges. Paul understood this when he wrote, "*We set our eyes not on what we see but on what we cannot see. What we see will last only a short time, but what we cannot see will last forever.*" (2 Corinthians 4:18) To conclude this story, when Jesus came to the man's daughter, he took her by the hand and commanded her to get up, and she did, for in Jesus we all can find new life and a new future. We simply must trust.



I give thanks for each of you and your willingness to huddle together with your brothers and sisters as we ride out the storm in our midst. To lift each other up and have patience with each other in all our distress is an incredible gift. And I appreciate all your efforts to assist those not as fortunate as ourselves. But above all, I encourage you to set your eyes on what we cannot see, and help others to have faith, for God is with us. He will not abandon us. He will see us through.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tim

The Quilters

The quilting ministry will not be meeting in February.

Thursday Bible Study

Our Adult Bible study group will be concluding a unit on the book of Exodus during the first two weeks of February, and will then begin a study of prominent theologian and Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber's book entitled *Accidental Saints: Finding God in all the Wrong People*.

In a time when many have become disillusioned with Christianity, *Accidental Saints* demonstrates what happens when ordinary people share bread and wine, struggle with Scripture together, and tell one another the truth about their real lives. This unforgettable account of their faltering steps toward wholeness will ring true for believer and skeptic alike. 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.

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 when prayer concerns change or to update your request.

Offering Envelopes

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

Church Office Hours

The office will be open on Tues., Thurs., & Fri from 8AM—2PM. Please wear a mask when you enter the building and use the main entrance into the Narthex on the East Side of the building.



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

Tuesday LYFE Continues!

Our group meets in Fellowship hall on Tuesdays at 4:00 PM. We kicked off our session with a dramatization of the story of Joseph and his release from prison to translate the Pharaoh's dreams. We reread the story, created a simple dialog, designed the scenery, assigned the speaking parts, and acted it out together. It was so much fun! The "actor's studio" will continue! Check out our Facebook page for pictures and video of the action.

Sunday-School-at-Home!

Sunday School-at-home continues our lessons on The Lord's Prayer. Families receive a specially designed weekly reflection, talking points, activity and prayer all about The Lord's Prayer. (Illustrated Children's Ministry LLC) If you send me a picture of any of the included artwork, I'll be sure to share it.

Families will be receiving Lent activities and a devotional calendar to check out at home!





February Birthdays

1-	Kari Davenport	13-	Will Davenport
	Sandra Swanson	15-	Hayden Brotz
6-	Mike Duffy	17-	Caitlin Bittner
8-	Henry Hathaway	20-	Sean Kelley
9-	Brent Dirks		Jackie Murphy
10-	Kim McElhinny	23-	David Schroetter
	Dylan Utterback	24-	Lora Dohler
11-	Keira Kelley	27-	Rita Adams
12-	Ujwalla Chebrolu		



In-Person Worship is Back! On a Limited Scale.

Beginning February 7th we will return to in-person worship, but we will be limited to 25 participants. Please sign up on the link provided through email as a reservation is required. We will perform temperature screenings and participants will be required to wear facemasks and maintain physical distancing. We look forward to celebrating the Lord's day with you and our gathered community!

We will continue to record our weekly worship service and send a video recording of the service through e-mail if you cannot attend on Sunday. The link to watch the recording will be available on Sunday morning, and we encourage you and your family to take time to worship as a family and stay connected with Holy Spirit when you can't be at a live service.

COOL Food Pantry

We are in need of clothing for a new family. A pregnant, single mom and daughter fleeing domestic violence had to leave everything behind and came to us with what they had on. When they went to retrieve their things, they had all been destroyed or thrown out.

Immediate need for :

Womens tops, pants, underthings - Size Large Maternity. Shoe size 6 1/2 womens

Girls tops, pants, underpants - size 12/14. Shoe size 3 1/2 girls

If you can help, please contact Amanda Williams at awilliams@coolministries.org or 847-662-12340, ext 1.

PADS

When is the next LCHS food drive: February 13th from 1– 2 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.



church council **MEETING**

Highlights from January 2021

The monthly Church Council meeting was held via Zoom on January 11th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$63,481 for December (YTD total is \$436,893 (including PPP loan amount)). Additional funds received in December were accounted for after the January Council meeting, and resulted in final year-end receipts of \$452,723. Operating expenses were \$41,107 in December (YTD total is \$436,893).

The Pastor's report: Alternative service options were offered for Christmas, and the outdoor Christmas Eve service was well attended. Online coffee hour after Sunday live-streamed service is being planned to begin in February. District 103 continues to use building space weekly. Lenten season plans are being developed. In 2021, the Pastor's office would like to emphasize church growth, long-range planning, technology, increased building use, and community connection and service. **Youth** reported that Youth Sunday is being planned for February 7 and that Jennifer Williams has reached out to the Youth seeking volunteers. **Christian Education** reported that Tuesday LYFE and online Sunday School are resuming after the holiday break. Finance reported that annual renewal of the line of credit has been received. **Human Needs** reported that PADs collected food donations in January. The next PADs food donation day will be held on February 7, in conjunction with Youth Sunday/Souper Bowl of Caring, with any monetary donations being donated to PADs. **Long-Range Planning** reported that ongoing and future needs continue to be assessed. **Personnel** reported that review forms are being considered for upcoming staff meetings and that staff holiday gifts were distributed. **Property** reported that Music Institute has been conducting business remotely but is interested in resuming building use as its needs and circumstances permit. The HVAC contractor's annual contract has been received for renewal. A substitute janitorial service provider has been secured. **Stewardship** reported that pledges from the annual appeal continue to be received. The office is addressing offering envelope distribution. **Worship and Music** reported that special music is being prepared to enhance virtual services. Online services are being well received and widely viewed, as were Christmas services. **Old Business:** The Council passed a motion to approve Daaron Dohler, Jeanne Nelson, Joel Utterback, and Kelly Wittich as the slate of candidates to be presented to the Congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting. **New Business:** The Council passed a motion for adoption of a resolution at the Annual Meeting regarding the ability to participate in the seminary's pastoral leadership program if requested.

Next council meeting currently is scheduled for February 8th 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.

New Church Council

Congratulations to our newly-elected Church Council members! At our annual meeting on January 17, we elected Joel Utterback and Kelly Wittich to our Congregation Council. Your executive board:

President - Jeanne Nelson
Secretary - Donna Williams

Vice-President - Larry Brady
Treasurer - Daaron Dohler

HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

February 2021

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



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED