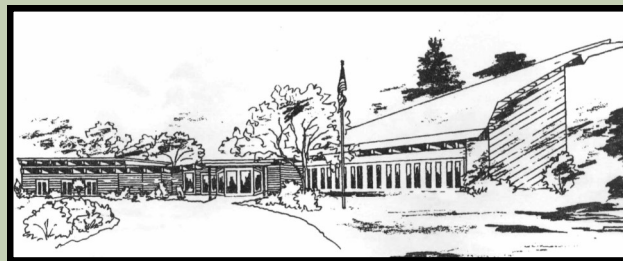




*Lutheran Church
of the Holy Spirit
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069*



July 2021

Fourth of July: Remembering America as One Nation Under God

America became a free country on July 4, 1776, however, what many may not know - or forget - is that America is also a nation under God founded on Christian principles.

54 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Christians, 27 held theology degrees. Many went on to form Bible societies.

The signers intended the document to officiate the separation between America and Great Britain. However, they based the Declaration which has served as a foundation to the beginnings of the American nation upon a greater foundational belief that God, or as written in the Declaration "Creator", was the source for men's irrevocable rights.

Samuel Adams, who signed the historic document and writer of the Rights of the Colonists (November 1772), once said, "Just and true liberty, equal and impartial liberty, in matters spiritual and temporal is a thing that all men are clearly entitled to by the eternal and immutable laws of God and nature, as well as by the laws of nations and all well-grounded and municipal laws, which must have their foundation in the former."



Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration, also believed "God who gave us life gave us liberty."

Two of the Continental Congress' first actions were to hire military chaplains and to purchase 20,000 Bibles to remedy a national shortage.

Although America was already a free nation during the presidency of George Washington, he suggested that only religion could uphold its morality. During his farewell address he said, "And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

The U.S. Supreme Court identified America as a Christian nation in 1892, after 10 years of examining hundreds of documents on the foundation of the country. The justices came to the unanimous conclusion that the documents undeniably "add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a religious people, a Christian nation."

John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, summed up the historic event that led to America's independence best when he said, "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: that it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

As we celebrate our Independence Day and our Freedom of Religion, let's be thankful for the divine guidance God has provided us in the ongoing experiment called the United States of America, let's ask for forgiveness for the trespasses we have made along the way, and may God continue to guide us to form a more perfect Union, with liberty and justice for all.



A Note from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I've been looking in on and caring for my father the last couple weeks, as he contracted a serious infection and was also preparing to have a valve replacement in his heart, it's led me to think a lot about health and healing, primarily of the physical health side of things.

And as I've heard in the news about the incredible increase in violence, particularly in our own metropolitan area of Chicago, it's also led to me to think about health and healing, but more on the mental, emotional, and spiritual health side of things, though physical healing is also required in these many acts of violence.

And as we're still recovering from the deadly COVID-19 virus, ongoing natural disasters, political divisiveness, racial inequality, and the list goes on and on, it's clear to me that we're all in need of healing in some way. We're all in need of healing!

Now there are many sources from which we can receive healing. The use of doctors and medical science, mental health professionals, and therapists of all kinds, are all at our disposal, and we should take advantage of the gifts they have been given and how they can assist us in healing. It's been amazing for me to see the medical expertise at work as I've learned of the medical procedures used to replace a valve in the heart with only a few small incisions. It's truly a miracle of modern science, and we learn to put our trust in these instruments of healing.

But in the end, all healing comes from God. Only God has the power to heal the whole person.

In the New Testament we find many stories of Jesus healing people:

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news and healing every disease and sickness." (Matthew 9:35)

"All the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all."
Luke 6:19

And in the Old Testament, particularly in the Psalms, we find more evidence of God's healing power:

"Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me." (Psalm 30:2)

"The Lord sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness." (Psalm 41:3)

"Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases." (Psalm 103:2-3)

The healing we all need comes from God, and it's up to us to trust that God will provide the healing we need and desire. So we must never forget to ask for it. We must pray with confidence, trusting God's goodness and grace, and pray with conviction that God will reward those who pursue Him.

"Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)

So I've been praying, as boldly as I am able, for healing, for my father, for myself, for our society, and for all who are hurting in any way and in need of healing. And I encourage you to do the same! For we all are in need of healing, and God is the source of all we need.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim

The Quilters

The quilting ministry will be meeting on July 20 at 10:00 AM. You are invited to join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. No experience necessary.

Thursday Bible Study 10:30-11:30AM

We are studying "Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic - and Beyond" by Matthew Fox. Julian of Norwich lived through the dreadful bubonic plague that killed close to 50% of Europeans. Being an anchoress, she 'sheltered in place' and developed a deep wisdom that she shared in her book, "Showings", which was the first book in English by a woman. A theologian way ahead of her time, Julian develops a feminist understanding of God as mother at the heart of nature's goodness. Fox shares her teachings in this powerful and timely and inspiring book.

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 for some spirited conversation! We always close out time together in prayer.

Please note: when we conclude our current study on July 15, we will take a break and meet back in September.

Prayer Group

Our prayer group is continuing to meet at 9:30 AM every Thursday 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.

In-person Worship Changes

Maximum attendance for indoor worship is now 70 persons, but we will no longer require reservations or do temperature checks. People who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks, although we encourage everyone to wear a mask for their protection and that of others. Anyone not yet fully vaccinated should wear masks while inside the church building to protect themselves and those who may be medically more vulnerable. We still require 6 feet social distancing.

If you are unable to attend in-person, we encourage you and your family to join us live at 9:30 AM on Sundays via Facebook or on our YouTube Channel (Church in the Woods-Holy Spirit Lutheran). Our weekly recorded service is available on our YouTube channel. Sunday's worship bulletin is emailed, and for now, a separate e-mail providing you with the link to the video recording of the service. Please use these and other resources to stay in the rhythm of weekly worship during these unprecedented times, and invite others to worship with us by sharing the links.



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

Summer Season of Service

Help Needed! We have a summer series of service events planned for everyone. We will be collecting items, packing and mailing kits, making and delivering meals, organizing food pantries and this is just the start. Please choose one or both of the remaining events and lend a hand!

Dates:

Tuesday July 13, 6 PM (LWR) - assemble personal care kits

Tuesday July 27 (PADs) - make & deliver hot meals

Please email Jennifer for info or to sign up to attend!



Itty Bitty Bible Camp

August 3, 4, 5 (10:00-11:30 AM)

Designed for children ages 4-6 years old, we will hear stories, sing songs and do crafts. Our theme is Noah's Ark. The cost is \$30 per child; \$50/family with multiple children.

Register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesZjnKnN5eG7BTP3GwTP5LIVNDP9_-w0evVouS7fXyko3FAw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0 or email Jennifer Williams

Live Streaming Help Needed

Do you take a lot of pictures with your cell phone? Do you spend time on YouTube? Are you interested in making movies? Then we'd love for you to share your gifts with us as we begin using our new equipment to live stream our worship services and other events. We have a new camera and video software that's actually a lot of fun to work with, and offers all kinds of creative ways to share our church with the virtual world. If you'd like to join our new live stream team please contact Pastor Tim or the church office.



LET'S CELEBRATE!

July Birthdays

1-	Ryan Becker	9-	Chris Miller
	Pam Labellarte	10-	Elaine Petersen
	Darlene Neumann	13-	Mitch Prosk
2-	Kami Spoehr	18-	Dave Engen
3-	Joseph Neela	21-	Paul Becker
	Sharon Ryan	28-	Amelia Eastman
4-	Mary Lou Gilliam	30-	Kymm Brown
7-	Gabrielle Brown	31-	Joshua Neela
	Dominic Cantagallo		



Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

On the days when the road ahead looked too hard for me to walk alone, your Prayers of the Church carried me through. I learned about "God's will be done" when you all were praying for me because even when I couldn't pray for myself, I knew you were praying. Your prayers help me to keep moving forward. Often times it was not so easy, but I was led to live out His perfect law in love and understanding. It was a privilege for me to know that my faithful followers of Christ were helping me carry the weight of my burdens.

It's been over 18 years since my diagnoses of a "deadly brain tumor." The neurosurgeon told me recently that he had never met anyone who lived that long with a GBM. I've had 4 surgeries in the past 2 years and I know God and your prayers have gotten me through all of them.

I can't thank you enough for all you "praying angels" God has sent to me during these hard times. God is faithful and trustworthy. God is full of grace and has had mercy on me.

Hopefully, I won't be back on the prayer list, but if I am, I do know who I can count on to help me through whatever God has in store for me.

Trudy Bettiker



A Safe Place greatly appreciated our generous donations to its mission.

In July, our focus will be on Lutheran World Relief, coordinating with the Children/Youth ministries. Please plan to participate on Tuesday July 13 at 6:00 PM to help assemble Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief and/or sign up to donate specific items. Sign ups will be available in the narthex and online.

COOL Golf Outing

Friday, July 16



Join us at Bonnie Brook Golf Course, Waukegan for a fun day of golf to support the food pantry and Transitional Housing programs for COOL .

Registration and brochure available online at: <https://coolministries.org>.

Questions: Contact Joe Labellarte – 847-322-5040.



Yard Signs

Envision these signs in your yard to show your pride and promote your church. Cost is \$10

Looking Ahead...

Blessing of the Backpacks Worship Service—Aug. 22, 9:30 AM

Kona Ice Cream Truck—Aug. 22, 10:30 AM

Sunday School Teacher Installation Worship Service—Sept. 12, 9:30 AM

Rally Day—Sept. 12, 10:30-1 PM



What's Your Talent? Do You Share It with the Church?

"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

With high hopes we all look forward to having things back to normal by Fall. One of the positives from Covid -19 is to make us more aware of how much we desire, and hopefully, appreciate our normal lifestyle.

With that in mind, we ask every member to think about our church life returning to normal and how each of us can use our God given time and talent to help accomplish this. Please prayerfully consider how best your can help. Volunteer forms will be available in a couple months.



church council **MEETING**

Highlights from June 2021

The monthly Church Council meeting was held via Zoom on June 14th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$42,770 for May (YTD total is \$214,128) (These amounts include the second PPP loan and Endowment Committee funds for technology). Operating expenses were \$25,285 in May (YTD total is \$168,581).

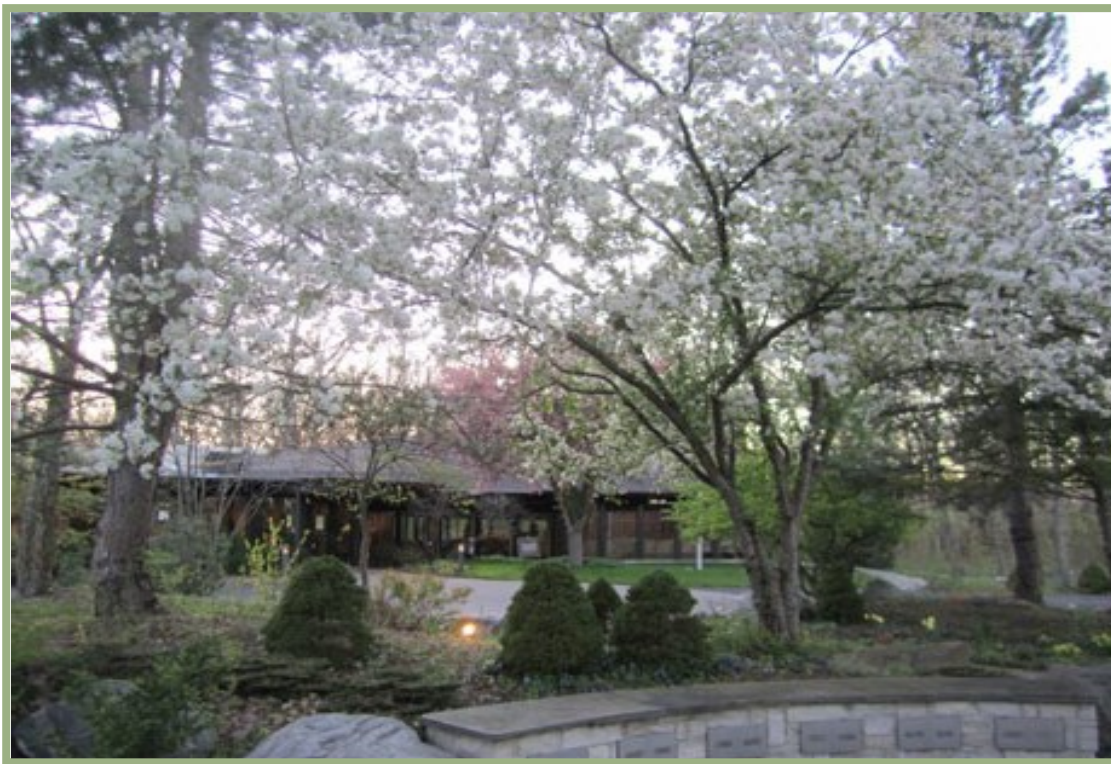
The **Pastor's report**: Pastor Tim spoke with SWALCO about placement of a textile recycling bin on the property. Live streaming equipment continues to be installed and adjusted for use in worship services. Volunteers are needed to assist with streaming. Pastor Tim and staff have begun work on a calendar for the upcoming year, planning to include traditional activities and events as possible. Backpack blessing will occur on August 22. Rally Day is scheduled for September 12. Outreach to past Holiday Boutique vendors will begin to gauge interest and whether the event will occur. Plans are beginning for the next national Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. **Growth** reported on participation in the Buffalo Grove Pride parade on June 6, that masks and yard signs for members are available, and that we will hand out sanitizer, candy, and possibly water bottles at the Lincolnshire July 4 parade; a sign up Genius is available for the July 4 parade. **Christian Education** reported that traditional VBS activities will be replaced with separate initiatives to engage youth and families in the church: 1) On Thursday June 24 at 6:00 pm youth and families are invited to participate in decorating and packing duffel bags for foster children for "Together We Rise." RSVP required to order the bags ahead of time. 2) On Tuesday July 13 at 6:00 pm youth and families are invited to help assemble Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. There will be electronic and traditional sign up opportunities for specific items with RSVP to Jennifer Williams. 3) On Tuesday, July 27, we will be making and delivering meals for PADs, more info to come. For Children ages 4-6, "Itty Bitty Bible Camp" will be held on August 3,4,5 from 10:00-11:30am, exploring "Noah's Ark" in song, crafts and play! Info and registration will be available on the church website soon. **Human Needs** reported that the "virtual" blood drive continues through June; A Safe Place thanked us for generous donations; we will coordinate with Jennifer Williams on the Lutheran World Relief July initiative; and Vitalant has requested a traditional blood drive on January 30, 2022. **Finance** reported that mortgage prepayment options are being discussed, depending upon financial circumstances. **Stewardship** reported that plans are beginning for the next stewardship program including Time and Talent forms, and announcements will follow, with Commitment Sunday planned for November 14. **Fellowship** reported on plans for a "Welcome Back" event. **Worship and Music** reported that it has been wonderful to see more people returning to services and that planning is underway for a return to having ushers, altar guild, and choir. **Property** reported that a work day will be scheduled, that Music Institute has reached out about returning to the building, that pest control is underway, and that Camp Lincolnshire is using the building and will be reminded of clean up obligations. **Technology** reported that service recording volunteers are sought.

Next council meeting currently is scheduled for July 12th 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

July 2021

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



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30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069*

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED