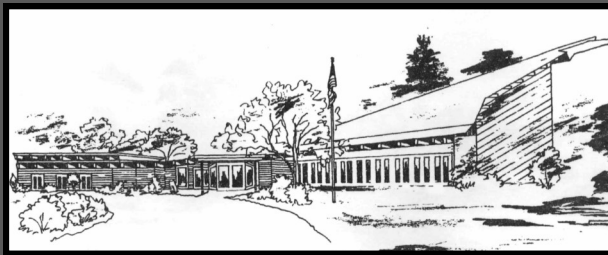




**Lutheran Church  
of the Holy Spirit**  
30 Riverwoods Road  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069



*December 2019 Issue*

## ***Advent & Christmas at Holy Spirit***

December 1 after the 9:30 AM worship service—**Hanging of the Greens**—We will be getting the church ready for Advent and Christmas by putting up the Christmas tree and decorating the church. This event is fun for the whole family as we gather together for a variety of festivities.

December 1 at 10:45 AM—**Advent Wreath Making**—A favorite tradition! Families make their own Advent wreaths to celebrate the season at home.

December 4, 11, 18—**Mid-week Advent Worship**—Wednesday evenings—In the midst of the rush of preparing for Christmas, take time to also receive Christ during the Taizé service at 7:00 PM. This half-hour contemplative service will bring peace and focus as we center on Christ, the light of the world, who comes to heal us, redeem us, and dwell with us.

December 15 at 9:45 AM—**Children's Christmas Program & Sing-A-long**

December 24—**Christmas Eve Worship Schedule:**

3:30 PM - Service of Candles and Communion with special music.

5:00 PM - Family worship with Candles and Communion with the Christmas Orchestra, Youth & Cherub Choirs

11:00 PM - Candlelight Communion Service with Special music plus Adult and Bell Choirs

## *A Note from Our Pastor*

Dear Friends in Christ,

As Thanksgiving comes and goes, once again many of us find ourselves racing against time to put together the perfect Christmas. Between holiday parties and trips to the mall there are cookies to be baked, lights to be hung, guest rooms to be cleaned, holiday meals to be planned, cards to be addressed, and the perfect gift to be found. And so it begins. The joy and wonder of the season quickly becomes overshadowed if not completely lost by the exhausting quest to make every detail just right.

How foolish to think that the joy of Christmas is found only when every last thing meets our grand expectations. If that were the criterion, then the first Christmas surely would have been considered a disaster. Mary probably hadn't planned on going into labor during her trip to Bethlehem. Far from the comfort of her home and family, she no doubt was distraught to learn that there was no room for them in the inn. Delivering her precious baby in a smelly stable and laying him in an animal's feeding trough was certainly not the way in which the Son of God should enter the world. Or was it?

The joy of Christmas is not found in buying the perfect gift or preparing the perfect meal even if we do receive satisfaction in accomplishing it. The joy of Christmas is found in receiving the perfect gift of Immanuel – God with us. So no matter how our plans turn out this year the important thing is that our Savior was born!

And the joy of Christmas is always new each year. There is a difference between pleasure and joy. C.S. Lewis puts it very clearly in one of his books when he writes, "Joy is never within our power, but pleasure often is." We're like children faced with presents under the tree. Do we tear into them all at once, in a mad frenzy that will be over as quickly as it began, with only a pile of torn wrapping paper and dismembered bows to show for it? Or do we hang back, watching for the right cues, waiting for the unexpected joys to be revealed to us?

The very definition of joy, according to Lewis, is that it is unexpected. Lewis entitles his autobiography, "Surprised by Joy". That's because his personal journey to Christianity was a journey away from aimless pleasure-seeking and towards joy. We must learn to let go of our fears that pleasure is all there is, and learn to trust God to give us those gifts of joy that come to us so unexpectedly, beyond our deserving.

Joy surprises. That is its very nature. You can't capture joy any more than you can capture the wind – yet, there are plenty of people trying to bottle it and sell it to us.

My hope and prayer for you this Advent and Christmas season is that you allow yourself to and be open to God's fascinating way of revealing his love to us, and that you experience unexpected, delightful, and incredible joy! Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Tim*



## Make it Your Christmas *Tradition*

There are so many wonderful traditions that we celebrate as we anticipate Christmas. We create nativity scenes, we have family reunions, we give gifts, we sing carols, and we have festive worship services. It is a joyful time, and for many it is the best time of year.

For many others it can be the most difficult time of year, as memories of loved ones that have died, and feelings about relationships that have been broken, can cause some to feel lost, alone, depressed. As we look forward to Christ's return and celebrate his coming in the birth of the Christ child, let's keep all those who need help getting through this Christmas season in our hearts and our prayers. Perhaps we can seek out the forgotten in our midst and share our concern and our joy, and share the true reason for the season. Let's create a new Christmas tradition, looking beyond those closest to us, to reach out to someone who may need one of the greatest gifts of all, a friend.

## *Poinsettias* for Christmas

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 per plant. Complete an order form found in the narthex and attach a check (made out to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit) or cash and return it by **Dec. 8th**. Poinsettias may be picked up following the final service Christmas Eve or during the following week to be enjoyed at home.

## The Christmas *Band*

It's time for the Christmas orchestra. Any instrumentalist with at least one year of playing may join us. We will perform prelude music for the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Music will be out in the Narthex; pick your part and sign it out with your contact information.

Contact Nancy Fencil at [njflood@yahoo.com](mailto:njflood@yahoo.com) if you are interested in joining us.

## *Angel* Tree

One of the most rewarding Christmas activities around Holy Spirit is the sharing of gifts with inner city children. Each year, WELCA receives the names of children for whom we purchase gifts at Christmas. Many times, these are the only gifts children will receive. These children have come to be called our "angels".

The "Angel Tree" in the Narthex is adorned with the names of children that we have received from Winthrop Children's Center and Lutheran Day Nursery in Chicago. We ask that you follow the steps for selecting a name and then purchase the appropriate items as recommended. 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. Be sure to properly label all your gifts when you return them by **December 15th** 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.



## Stewardship Update

As of November 24, we have received commitments towards our ministry planning for next year: 57 pledges totaling over \$288,000. Our thanks to everyone who have responded not only with commitments of money but also their time and their talents.

If you have not yet 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 commitment 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.

### 2019 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your envelopes located by the coat rack. Even if you only make an offering once a month you need to pick up your box since the numbering of the boxes enables us to properly assign and credit your contributions. Simply Giving electronic transfers provides you with stickers to place on your envelopes if you choose to use them on any given Sunday.

## 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.

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.

## Youth News

Hey Everyone!

Join us for our "Hanging of the Greens" on Dec. 1 right after the 9:30 service. We need your help. We will also have a few special snacks in the youth room on this day. Hope you can come!

I'd love to get some ideas for a January event. What would you like to do? In house pizza and game night/afternoon? Ice skating outing? Movie? Bowling? Put your thoughts together and email me at [jennifer.williamslehschildren@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.williamslehschildren@gmail.com)! Fridays? Sundays? Tuesdays? Finals will be over so you might have time for something different. Please let me know.

There is a church fellowship planning meeting on Jan 12 at 11 am. Join us and let's get a few events on the calendar!

### **Prayer Group**

All are welcome to join us in the Prayer Chapel at 9:30 AM as we continue to lift up our joys and concerns either spoken aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

### **WELCA**

#### **(Women's Group)**

All women of Holy Spirit are invited to attend a meeting between services on Sunday, December 8, to discuss our 2019 giving. We have typically made donations from the proceeds of our May rummage sale and our November boutique. Please plan to attend to offer your input!

### **Thursday Bible Study**

We will not be meeting November 28 as we break to celebrate Thanksgiving. In December we'll be starting a new unit on "Luther's Small Catechism". Stemming from our last unit on the "Forgotten Luther", we will be getting reacquainted with the fundamentals of Luther's theology as we explore the 10 Commandments, the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. Join us for a thought provoking and inspirational time of reflection, study, and discussion. We always close our time together in prayer.

### **The Quilters**

Will meet at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 17 to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. All are welcome. No experience necessary!

### **Meet and Greet**

Join us Sunday, December 22 in the Narthex between services to gather as a family of faith to renew, sustain and form new friendships. To volunteer to provide fruit or a treat, please email Katie Bally at [kbally@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kbally@sbcglobal.net).



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

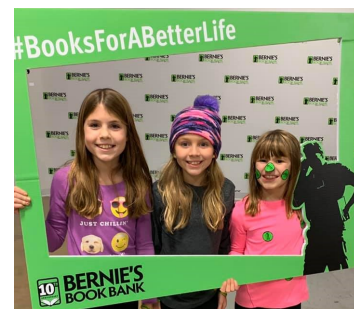
# Children's Ministry News

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

## Sunday School

The kids created Christmas trees, both individual and collaborative, during the November Sensational Sunday. Our Trees will be on display in the Narthex during advent.

Parents, please join us at the January Fellowship Planning Meeting on Sunday, Jan 12 at 11 AM after the 9:30 worship service. What events have you participated in, that you liked? What events have you read about that seem fun? What interests (skiing, shopping, baseball, movies, books, baking, etc.) do you have that you can share? These are all things to chat about at this meeting.



## Tuesday LYFE

The Tuesday LYFE crew has been busy having fun!

Our LCHS Boutique items were SOLD-OUT! The kids had a great time using their adorable marketing skills to sell ornaments and sugar scrubs.

We traveled to Bernie's Book Bank for an onsite service project. Our kids were stamping and organizing stacks of books for needy kids!

We also kicked-off the Christmas season with making Christmas Trees. Look for them to be on display in the Narthex during advent.

Our annual Christmas performance will be during education hour on Sunday Dec. 15. Please join Mr. V and the kids for this wonderful treat!



# LET'S CELEBRATE!

## *December Birthdays*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1- Eileen Hoffman<br>Thomas Tagge                                      | 17- James Ahlschwede                                     |
| 3- Andrea Culp<br>Wendy Koblas<br>Pastor Tim Linstrom<br>Inge' Ohnona  | 18- Nolan Greenwell<br>Diane Neumann                     |
| 4- Al Edwards<br>Michelle Labellarte<br>Amanda Spoehr<br>Jeff Voermans | 21- Barry Nelson<br>Elaine Shull                         |
| 6- Elizabeth Falato  | 22- Dennis Burke<br>Joan Roehl                           |
| 7- Mark McElhinny<br>Bill Neumann                                      | 23- Ashley Adkisson<br>Gordon Duprey                     |
| 8- Judy Mosner<br>Michael Qualley                                      | 24- Jack Eastman   |
| 9- Todd Davenport<br>Sue Rosko   | 26- Jeff Henningson<br>Kimberly Koblas<br>James Qualley  |
| 10- Jacob Steinberger  | 27- Bill Shambrook                                       |
| 16- Arthur Hektor<br>Cecilia Clatch                                    | 28- Jacob Schroetter<br>Allison Travetto                 |
|  | 30- Kristen Eastman                                      |
|  | 31- Melissa Brotz<br>Shel McGee<br>Abby & Andrew Keevins |

## *Anniversary Milestones*

Kathleen & Tim Tagge  
10 years

Thanks to those who donated to Pastor Tim & Maria's Housewarming gift. They are grateful for the outpouring of support and generosity!

Those able to attend the shower had a great time!



## *Boutique Thank You*

By Trudy Bettiker

Thank you all for once again making our annual Holiday Boutique successful. We made over \$3700!  
Thank you to all the "Saints" who showed up to help in so many ways. By the grace of God we did it together!





### **WELCA Christmas Party**

Ladies are invited to share the holiday together at Mary Lou Gilliam's house: 4139 Picardy Dr, Northbrook on Thursday, December 12 at 7 PM. Please bring a white elephant gift and either an appetizer, dessert or wine to share.

### **EXPOS**

ExPOS will be gathering on December 10th for our Christmas lunch at Italian Kitchen in Deerfield at 11:30 AM with lunch being served at noon. Cost is \$22 per person (includes starter, main course, dessert, and soft drinks/coffee). Please sign up in the Narthex.

### **Flutopia**

Flutopia, a flute choir directed by Laurel Kaiser, friend/colleague of Nancy Fencel, will be performing beautiful renditions of familiar and not-so-familiar seasonal music sure to lift your spirits and rest your weary bodies at Holy Spirit on Sunday December 15th at 3pm. Open to all ages, admission is free, but donations are welcome. Any questions, contact Nancy Fencel at [njflot@yahoo.com](mailto:njflot@yahoo.com) or 847-940-1859.

*We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!*  
*and a*  
*Happy, Healthy New Year!*



# church council MEETING

## Highlights from November 2019

The monthly Church Council meeting was held on November 11th. Treasurer's report included monthly Benevolence offerings and other income of \$41,642 for October (YTD total is \$401,211). Operating expenses were \$47,963 in October (YTD total is \$460,993).

**The Pastor's report:** We joyfully welcomed new members in the past month. We have had some major events in the past month as we head into the holiday season, with tremendous support from volunteers--many thanks to all. The interfaith Thanksgiving service will be held at Makom Solel in Deerfield. **Committees** of the council provided reports of various activities. **Property** reported that snowplowing has begun and the grounds are prepped for winter. The focus of the November 16 work day was on the interior due to weather. **Stewardship** reported on the Stewardship appeal and catered celebration meal on November 17, with stewardship pledge cards filled out and presented at the altar during the worship service. **Youth** reported on a successful Thanksgiving basket drive. The next activity is Hanging of the Greens on December 1. **Worship & Music** reported on a successful October 20 concert benefitting AMMPARO. The music ministry is planning for holiday worship services. November 24 is Jazz service. Taize services are on Wednesday nights in December. November 17, 24, and December 1 are one-service Sundays, at 9:30 am. Thanksgiving Day service is at 9:30. **Christian Education** reported on a great Trunk or Treating event, LYFE service at Bernie's Book Bank, a great sales at the Holiday Boutique. The children are preparing for the Christmas program. Advent wreath making is on December 1 after the service, as well as Hanging of the Greens and a holiday children's ministry activity. **Finance** reported that the anticipated mortgage reset will occur in January, rate to be announced by Thrivent. **Growth** reported that volunteers will gather on Tuesday, Dec 3, to address postcards inviting church visitors and residents new to the community to join us for Christmas services. There are several new families who are beginning to attend as they accompany their confirmation-aged children to services. **Human Needs** reported that plans continue for a Christmas outreach program. **Long-Range Planning** reported that Sanctuary re-flooring planning is in progress. **Personnel** reported that responses to insurer requests have been submitted. **Old Business:** The holiday boutique and bake sale was held on November 3; thanks to all who participated and assisted. WELCA planned a new home shower for Maria on November 14. The holiday white elephant gathering will be held on December 12. The search continues for a new WELCA coordinator. The Nominating Committee is working on a slate. **New Business:** Preliminary discussion of the 2020 budget.

**Next council meeting is December 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. Annual reports are due to Laurie by Dec. 27th.

### Flower Chart

If you would like to donate altar flowers, please sign up in the Narthex. Bouquets are \$26.

### Prayer Concerns

Typically, we freshen prayer concerns after 3 weeks so the list doesn't get too long. 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.

# DECEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> 9:30am Service Advent Wreaths Hanging of the Greens	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 4pm Confirmation 4:15 pm LYFE	<b>4</b> 7pm Advent Service 7:30 Choir 8:15 Bells	<b>5</b> 9 :30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:30pm Council Mtg	<b>10</b> 10:30am EXPOS 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	<b>11</b> 7pm Advent Service 7:30 Choir 8:15 Bells	<b>12</b> 9 :30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study <b>7pm WELCA Christmas</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> PADS <b>9-11am Christmas Program Practice</b>
<b>15</b> 9:45am Christmas Program <b>3pm Flutopia Concert</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10am Quilters 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	<b>18</b> 7pm Advent Service 7:30 Choir 8:15 Bells	<b>19</b> 9 :30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Meet & Greet	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 3:30, 5 & <b>11pm Christmas Eve Services</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> Church office closed	<b>26</b> 9 :30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30am Service No Sunday School	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> No Confirmation No LYFE				

Special events are in red bold print

# JANUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> <i>Happy New Year!</i>	<b>2</b> 9:30am Prayer Group 10:30am Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:30am Epiphany Service Obstacle Course Family Event	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 4pm Confirmation 4:45pm LYFE	<b>8</b> 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	<b>9</b> 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30am Service 11am Fellowship Planning Event	<b>13</b> 7:30pm Council Mtg	<b>14</b> 10:30am EXPOS 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	<b>15</b> 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	<b>16</b> 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:30am Service 11am Congregational Mtg	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10am Quilters 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	<b>22</b> 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	<b>23</b> 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Meet & Greet	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 4pm Confirmation 4:45pm LYFE	<b>29</b> 7:15pm Choir 8:15pm Bells	<b>30</b> 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	<b>31</b>	

# FEBRUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Youth Sunday -Super Bowl of Caring	3	4 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	5 7:15pm Choir 8:15 pm Bells	6 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	7 Winetasting	8
9	10 7:30pm Council Mtg	11 10:30 EXPOS 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	12 7:15pm Choir 8:15 pm Bells	13 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	14	15
16	17	18 10am Quilters 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	19 7:15pm Choir 8:15 pm Bells	20 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	21	22
23 9:30am Jazz Sunday 10:30 Meet & Greet 11am Mardi Gras	24	25 4pm Confirmation 4:15pm LYFE	26 7:30pm Ash Wed Service 8:30pm Choir	27 9:30am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	28	29



## Please Note Special Service Times!

There will be one 9:30 AM service on 12/29, January 5, 12 & 19.

Family Event on January 5 following the 9:30 service:  
Follow the Star Obstacle Course!

## Fellowship Planning Event

January 12 after 9:30 AM Service

Bring your ideas! What do you like? What would you like to see?

## Congregational Meeting

January 19 after 9:30 AM Service



# **HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS**

*December 2019*

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



---

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.U.S.  
POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 31  
LINCOLNSHIRE, IL 60069

---

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED