

The Spirit

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

August 2017

PASTOR'S ARTICLE



Pastor William J. Matlack

pastor@spiritdrivenchurch.com

Dazzling Bouquet (Refrain)

Mine is the church where everybody's welcome.
I know it's true 'cause I got through the door.
We are a dazzling bouquet of every kind of flower.
Jump in the vase, 'cause we've got space for more.

Copyright © 1995 Bret Hesla. bret.hesla@gmail.com. Admin Augsburg Fortress

I played a recording of this song on July 2. I referenced it because of the Gospel reading for that day:

[Jesus said to the twelve:] "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward." (Matthew 10:40-42)

Today's Gospel is all about being welcoming, being welcomed and what that can do for us.

We all have the need to be welcomed! Maybe because we all know what's like not to be welcomed.

A true story: I saw him in the church building for the first time on Wed. He was in his mid-70's with thinning silver hair and a neat brown suit. Many times in the past I had invited him to come. Several other Christian friends had talked to him about the Lord and had tried to share the good news with him.

He was well respected, honest, a man of good character. He acted much like a Christian would act, but he never came to church or professed Christ. After I got to know him well and we had talked about a wide range of subjects I asked him if he had ever been to a church service.

He hesitated. Then with a twisted grimace told me of an experience he had as a boy. He was raised in a large family.

His parents survived the depression but they struggled to provide food and clothing for the family.

When he was around ten years old a friend invited him to go to church with his family.

He went – the SS class was great. The songs were fun to sing and the stories, oh the great Bible stories, were exciting to hear. He had never heard anyone read from the Bible before.

As class ended the teacher pulled him aside and said, “Son, please don’t come again dressed as you are now. We want to look our best when we come into God’s house.” He looked down at his old hand me down overalls that were certainly worn and tattered. He thought about that for a moment and said softly, “No ma’am I won’t ever.”

Then he looked at me, the author wrote and said, “And you know what... I never did.”

The author reflected, I am sure that the Sunday School teacher meant well & in fact was representing the feeling of the majority of the folks in that church.

But what if, what if she had put her arms around the dirty little boy in the ragged overalls and said, “Son, I am thrilled that you came this morning and I hope you will come every chance you get to hear more about Jesus because he loves you so much.”

Moreover what if she would have talked with her pastor or her friends in the church and mobilized a full blown outreach effort to help this family make ends meet.

What if that church would have thought, “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Or whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple will receive a great reward.”

The story ended like this: “Yes I saw him in the church for the first time on Wednesday and I cried as I looked at the immaculately dressed old gentleman lying there in his casket. He was looking his best. But all I could think of were those words of an impressionable 10-year-old boy echoing in my mind, ‘No ma’am I won’t ever.’”

Being welcoming is so important in life, and in the church. Making a place, a space for everyone, to be known, to be loved, to belong.

Many church signs say, “All are welcome!”

When I see them, I always say to myself, “really, for sure, what about me?”

How about Holy Spirit? Are we willing to say, “All are welcome here?”

Jesus welcomed everybody – absolutely everybody. You are welcome here. You are loved. You belong. How does that make you feel?

Matthew 22:37-38

Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and most important commandment.

There are many words in the English language that conjure up feelings just by saying or thinking them. One such word is LOVE. It is a small word, only four letters, but multi-facet in meaning. It can be the "love" of a warm fall day, as you view the splendor of changing leaves on the trees. It can be the "love" you feel towards a stranger as he gives you an understanding smile, as you struggle to push a wheelchair up a curb. It can be the "love" you have for a friend, when she listens to you pour out your problems to her. It can be the "love" in your heart, as you hug your children, young or old, or as you hold your grandchildren on your lap and feel their arms around your neck. It can also be the "love" you and your spouse share by just looking into each other's eyes and knowing that the two of you are one.

But the greatest LOVE of all, according to the scriptures, is the love we should have for our Heavenly Father, the creator of love. For His love is constantly there, with no reservations and no limits. We don't have to search for it, but only believe and receive it. How then, can we not but love Him, with all our heart, soul and mind?

*Dear Lord,
Help us to love you and one another. Amen.*

Pat Longanbach

Congregational Life

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Tuesdays at 10 am

Knit, crochet or handwork

Bring a project to work on or we can supply you with yarn to make a prayer shawl.

We continue the fellowship by going out to lunch afterwards.

Adult Study

New York Times Bestseller

What Is the Bible?

How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything

Rob Bell

New York Times Bestselling Author of Love Wins

continues

Tuesdays at 10 am

Men's Group



**Tuesday, August 1
at 6:30 pm**

Food & Fellowship at
Mary Donnelly's Public House
3011 Orchard Lake Rd.
Keego Harbor

All men of Holy Spirit are invited to attend.

Dinner with Friends

**Friday, August 11
at 6:30 pm**



Buddy's Pizzeria

31646 Northwestern Hwy
Farmington Hills

WELCA Meeting

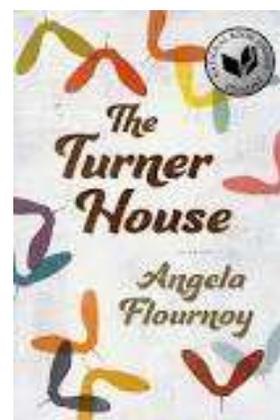
**Thursday, August 17
at 6:30 pm**



Potluck hosted by
Nancy Green
at Holy Spirit

Book Club

**Thursday, August 24
at 7:00 pm**



***The Turner House*
by Angela Flournoy**

Thank you to those who helped with the Green Road Cleanup on Sunday, July 16!

Norm Werner
Ken Casagrande
Alex Casagrande
Bob Chiaravalli
Stan Samuelsen
Liesa Helfer
Pat Helson
Pastor Matlack



BIRTHDAYS

Rose Filipp	August 1
Jonathan Voorhees	August 1
Jeff Buckler	August 9
Heinz Mattern	August 9
Lorry Prus	August 10
Shirley Schoening	August 10
Nancy Fish	August 11
Jarrold Dixel	August 14
Jennie Sweda	August 15
Marge Dronsella	August 22
Bob Burns	August 23
Lorraine Eliason	August 23
Liesa Helfer	August 23
Ralph Green	August 27
Cort Yohn	August 30
Sue Gates	August 31

ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry & Linda Iverson	August 3
Dan & Melanie Bergman	August 5
Shawn & Mimi Curlee	August 13
Norm & Carolyn Werner	August 13
Jarrold & Sophia Dixel	August 14
Matthew & Nicole Voorhees	August 14
Hal & Sue Adams	August 20
Matthew & Krystina Sawicki	August 28

Holy Spirit: A Praying Community

As you pray throughout your days please include...

When the disciples wanted to send hungry crowds away, Jesus said no, we can feed them. Ask God to stir our empathy, compassion and faith that, drawing on our collective resources and abundance, we have enough to share and will not turn away, ignore or disparage our neighbors who are hungry and in need.

We pray – we plead – with God to help us end terror and violence in the world and to lift from us any fear, suspicion, anxiety, anger and even apathy that dwells in us.

Pray that when we are overcome by fear and terror, feel vulnerable and alone, helpless and ill-equipped, we remember and trust that God is ever-present, powerful and active in our lives and world.

We are in awe of how God uses people like Mary, Mother of our Lord who are humble and poor to reveal God's presence in the world and accomplish great things. Give thanks, praise and glory to God for the many ways in which we are called and sent into the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ and serve as humble witnesses of our faith.

Elijah listened for God in a wind storm, earthquake and fire but instead heard God in the silence and calm that followed. Pray for patience and discipline that amid our busy, loud, attention-grabbing world we also create places and times for stillness and calm in which we do nothing but listen and talk with God.

Pray to God with humility as a servant and living sacrifice, asking for insight into the gifts and skills we each bring to the church and how – together – we can put them to use for the growth of the church and for the sake of our neighbors who cry out for good news, hope, comfort, connection and healing.

For health and healing and for those who grieve.

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 Yoga 9 am Prayer Shawls 10 am Men's Group 6:30 pm	2 NA 7 pm	3 Adult Study 10 am Zumba 6:30 pm	4 AA 7:30 pm	5 Zumba 9:00am
6 10 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School NA 7 pm	7 Zumba 6:30 pm	8 Yoga 9 am Prayer Shawls 10 am	9 NA 7 pm	10 Adult Study 10 am Zumba 6:30 pm	11 Dinner w/ Friends 6:30 pm AA 7:30 pm	12 Zumba 9:00am
13 10 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School NA 7 pm	14 Zumba 6:30 pm Finance 7 pm	15 Yoga 9 am Prayer Shawls 10 am Council 7 pm	16 NA 7 pm	17 Adult Study 10 am WELCA 6:30 pm Zumba 6:30 pm	18 AA 7:30 pm	19 Zumba 9:00am
20 10 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School NA 7 pm	21 Zumba 6:30 pm	22	23 NA 7 pm	24 Adult Study 10 am Zumba 6:30 pm Book Club 7 pm	25 AA 7:30 pm	26 Zumba 9:00am
27 10 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School NA 7 pm	28 Zumba 6:30 pm	29 Yoga 9 am Prayer Shawls 10 am	30 NA 7 pm	31 Adult Study 10 am Zumba 6:30 pm	1	2

Thank You to Our Worship Assistants

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
Lector	Mark Filipp	Liesa Helfer	Trudi Burns	Norm Werner
Greeters	Mark Filipp	Liesa Helfer	Trudi Burns	Norm Werner
Ushers	Dan Bergman George Kuljurgis Andy Meyer Bob Frick	Dennis Kunkel Doug Opthoff Bill Thayer Tom Sweda Bob Burns	Jarrod Dixel Jeff Parko Stan Samuelsen Lukas Mattern	Janet Martin Mary Martin Hilda Sawicki Jeanne Myers
Counters	Ken Casagrande Stan Samuelsen	George & Chris Kuljurgis Trudi Burns or TBA	Nancy Green Barb Kunkel	Dan Bergman Marian Rowland
Altar Guild	Jeanne Myers			
Altar Flowers	Gates	- -	Prus	Matlack
Coffee Hour	- -	- -	- -	Lily Moore



A Monthly Publication of
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
4800 Orchard Lake Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48323



Our Mission:

We are CALLED by Christ in Baptism, GATHERED into community and SENT out to share God's grace.