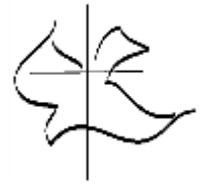


The Spirit



August 2019

A monthly publication of
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Luke 10:25-37

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

And Jesus said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.

Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

Jesus asked, "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Sunday, July 14, the Gospel reading was the Good Samaritan Story. One that is familiar to most people. In my sermon that day I quoted from a letter signed by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and many other Faith Leaders.

"For the Lord your God is God of gods ... who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger..." (Deuteronomy 10:17-19).

"Do not let the hatred of people prevent you from being just. Be just ..." (Qur'an 5:8).



Pr. William Matlack

Children coming to our nation for safety and protection are dying at our southern border while in U.S. detention. As U.S. religious leaders representing diverse faith perspectives, we are united in our concern for the well-being of vulnerable migrants who cross our borders fleeing from danger and threats to their lives.

A year ago we spoke out against the separation of families. Now we come together again to express our collective outrage and pain over the tragic loss of precious children, made in the image of the Divine.

Our houses of worship and agencies have welcomed, engaged and served many migrant families that have recently arrived in the U.S. These migrants have left their communities to provide safety for their children and protect them from harm. Sadly, as a nation we have denied them safety, instead placing them in detention facilities, sometimes long after the mandated 72-hour limit.

Many detention centers are overcrowded and lack sanitation, further elevating the risk of serious health issues for migrants already stressed and weakened by their journeys.

We believe our nation and its leaders have both the moral and legal responsibility on behalf of those who seek safety in our land. The U.S. has an international legal obligation to do so by virtue of having acceded to the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees and, therefore, must implement those duties in good faith.

My daughter, Jessica, and son-in-law, Wes, attended a rally “Close The Camps: Vigil Against Detention” in San Marcos, Texas!

Jessica posted the following post written by Bishop Erik Gronberg, of the NTNL Synod on Luke 10:25-37.

The individual asks Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” His question is one of moral responsibility. Regardless of politics or partisanship, it would be a great failure not to connect this well-loved story with the current situation on migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers on our southern border.

The reading challenges us to ask who are these human beings, these women, men, and children. What is their worth to us, to God?

The danger of these well-loved stories of Scripture is that they can become too well-worn. They can lose their teeth by familiarity and our self-justification.

We blunt the law in this text by looking away from the mirror and turning a blind eye to our neighbor’s needs.

Yet Jesus’ simple question and answer persist: Who is our neighbor? As followers of Jesus, given grace freely, not as a transaction but without merit, how are we to respond? The question is asked; we are called to live our answer!

He ends with this prayer: God of all nations, our anxieties, fears, and brokenness challenge us to see you in our neighbors. Strengthen our faith to help us respond to those in need, to see the humanity in all people, and to ask the question of who is our neighbor again and again. In your steadfast love. Amen!

Congregational Life

See the bulletin board for more information about the following activities . . . and to sign up!

- ❖ Adult Basic Yoga Class meets Tuesdays at 9 AM.
- ❖ Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Tuesdays at 10 AM.
- ❖ Men’s Group meets Tuesday, August 6, 6:30 PM.
- ❖ Dinner With Friends is Friday, August 9, 6:30 PM at Lakeview Bar & Grill in Novi.
- ❖ WELCA (Women of the ELCA) meets Thursday, August 15 at 6:00 PM.
- ❖ Book Club meets Thursday, August 22, 7:00 PM to discuss “Sunburn” by Laura Lippman.

August Celebrations

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
Rose Filipp	August 1	Jerry & Linda Iverson	August 3
Jonathan Voorhees	August 1	Dan & Melanie Bergman	August 5
Jeff Buckler	August 9	Shawn & Mimi Curlee	August 13
Heinz Mattern	August 9	Norm & Carolyn Werner	August 13
Lorry Prus	August 10	Jarrold & Sophia Dixel	August 14
Nancy Fish	August 11	Matthew & Nicole Voorhees	August 14
Jarrold Dixel	August 14	Hal & Sue Adams	August 20
Jennie Sweda	August 15	Matthew & Krystina Sawicki	August 28
Marge Dronsella	August 22		
Bob Burns	August 23		
Loraine Eliason	August 23		
Liesa Helfer	August 23		
Ralph Green	August 27		
Sue Gates	August 31		

Are you missing from our list? If you are missing from our anniversary or birthday list, please contact the church office and let us know what is wrong. THANKS!

Worship Service Assistants

8/4	8/11	8/18	8/25
Lector & Greeter Mark Phillip	Lector & Greeter Liesa Helfer	Lector & Greeter Chris Kuljurgis	Lector & Greeter Norm Werner
Ushers Dan Bergman George Kuljurgis Andy Meyer Bob Frick	Ushers Dennis Kunkel Doug Opthoff Bill Thayer Tom Sweda Bob Burns	Ushers Jarrod Dixel Jeff Parko Stan Samuelsen Lukas Mattern Roy Salowich Tim Moore Greg Wolenberg	Ushers Janet Martin Mary Martin Hilda Sawicki Jeanne Myers
Counters Janet Martin Mary Martin	Counters Dan Bergman Marian Rowland	Counters Ken Casagrande Stan Samuelsen	Counters George & Chris Kuljurgis Jeanne Myers <i>or</i> Sandy Thayer
Altar Flowers <i>Please sign up</i>	Altar Flowers <i>Please sign up</i>	Altar Flowers Mattern	Altar Flowers Gates
Coffee Hour <i>Please sign up</i>	Coffee Hour <i>Please sign up</i>	Coffee Hour <i>Please sign up</i>	Coffee Hour <i>Please sign up</i>
Sanctuary Candle Sweda Family & Mattern Family			
Altar Guild Donna Opthoff & Marian Rowland			

Church Office Hours

Pastor Matlack's office hours are: Monday – Thursday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Cheryl's office hours are: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM.

Monthly Newsletter

Submit your announcements by the 15th of the month to: hslcofficermanager@gmail.com

Weekly Newsletter

Submit your announcements by 12 noon on Wednesdays to: hslcofficermanager@gmail.com

AUGUST 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Zumba 6:30 PM <i>(rental)</i>	Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 PM	Zumba 9:30 AM <i>(rental)</i>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 10 AM Sunday School Narcotics Anonymous 7:30 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM <i>(rental)</i>	WB Twp Special Election <i>(rental)</i> Adult Yoga 9 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 AM	Adult Study 10:00 AM Bell Rehearsal 7 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM <i>(rental)</i>	Dinner w/ Friends 6:30 PM AA 7:30 PM	Zumba 9:30 AM <i>(rental)</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship 10 AM Sunday School NA 7:30 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM <i>(rental)</i>	Adult Yoga 9 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 AM	Adult Study 10:00 AM Bell Rehearsal 7 PM	WELCA 6 PM Zumba 6:30 PM <i>(rental)</i>	AA 7:30 PM	Zumba 9:30 AM <i>(rental)</i> Euchre Group 5 PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 10 AM Sunday School Council Meeting 11 AM NA 7:30 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM <i>(rental)</i>	Yoga 9 AM Prayer Shawls 10 AM	Pine Lake Cemetery Assoc. 12 noon Bell Rehearsal 7 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM <i>(rental)</i> Book Club 7:00 PM	AA 7:30 PM	Zumba 9:30 AM <i>(rental)</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship 10 AM Sunday School NA 7:30 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM <i>(rental)</i>	Adult Yoga 9 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 AM	Bell Rehearsal 7 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM <i>(rental)</i>	AA 7:30 PM	Zumba 9:30 AM <i>(rental)</i>

Holy Spirit: A Praying Community

As you pray throughout your days please include...

For health and healing . . .

For Bishop Kreiss and the Southeast Michigan Synod staff.

For the congregation and Pastor Bill.

Pray that the summer months will be a time of outreach. Lift up the efforts of Holy Spirit to become a presence in the community.

Pray that those who have lost loved ones will find the strength and peace they need to go on with their lives.

For the end of war and for dignity and justice for all people, and working for peace and reconciliation among the nations.

For peace in the Holy Land, and peace and justice throughout the world

For the unemployed and the homeless.

For families in crisis; and for all God's children who are hungry, homeless, ill and lonely.

Ask God to grant us the wisdom and humility to understand that our true identity and value lie not in earthly possessions, property, financial assets or positions of power and influence but in a life and faith centered in God's love, word and ways.

Pray that God will energize and sustain our ecumenical and interreligious work, advocacy and prayers to prevent gun violence, and to respond to people and communities affected by this violence with support, care and concern for as long as they are needed.

Pray that, without boasting or fear, we will speak God's wisdom and truth to all people in every place and circumstance.

Pray that, with a spirit of generosity and compassion, we will share all we have received from God with our neighbor, especially those in critical need who long for hope, loving care and relief from suffering.

Give thanks and praise for God's attentiveness, help and steadfast love for all humankind.

Pray that our baptism, the work of the Holy Spirit and the teachings and example of our brothers and sisters in Christ might equip us for the challenges and difficulties we encounter as we follow Jesus, share the gospel, serve our neighbor and strive to live each day according to God's ways and desires for humankind.

Ask God to dispel the fear, anxiety and hopelessness that children and youth internalize as a result of gun violence and threats in our communities, schools and public gathering places. Pray that we might become bearers of hope and concern for them, and fearless agents of change and peace in our nation and the world.

Ask God to grant us the wisdom, boldness and compassion to care for our neighbors in need, even when doing so is inconvenient, interrupts our routines or forces us to reconsider traditions, laws, rules and practices of society and the church.

Ministry Activities at HSLC

Children & Youth

Sunday School - Sunday School is held each Sunday during the school year. Children and youth are excused from the worship service following Communion for Sunday School. A special curriculum is selected by our Education Committee each year to provide the children and youth with material to learn about and develop their faith.

Confirmation Classes - Seventh and eighth graders meet for weekly confirmation classes. During their two-years of Confirmation classes they read and discuss the main teachings of the Lutheran faith: The Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion. At the end of two years, those students meeting the requirements are confirmed as members of the Holy Spirit congregation.

Youth Activities - Our children and youth have a number of opportunities for learning, philanthropy and fun in addition to Sunday School and Confirmation classes. The children present a Christmas program during Advent, hold fund-raisers and collections for the community and participate in other activities planned by the older youth and the Education Committee.

Adult Educational Opportunities

Topical Bible Studies - Adults are encouraged to participate in topical Bible study groups that are held periodically during the year. These groups meet on weekday mornings or evenings for 4-6 weeks to discuss each topic. The Pastor leads these discussion groups and topics range from current issues to Biblical subjects.

Book Club - Every 4-6 weeks the Book Club members choose a book to read. Most books are provided through the West Bloomfield Public Library Book Club program. A discussion night is then held to share thoughts about the issues and ideas raised in the current reading selection.

Service and Fellowship

WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) - The WELCA group at Holy Spirit is open to all women members of the congregation. The group holds monthly dinner meetings and is involved in numerous activities. WELCA sponsors major events during the year such as a Spring Fashion Show, Rummage Sale and others.

Men's Group - The men of Holy Spirit meet on the first Tuesday of each month for food and fellowship at an area restaurant. A highlight of each year is the Easter morning breakfast provided by the Men's Group.

Food Baskets - The congregation provides food baskets to deserving area families for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Members donate needed items and then gather them into baskets for each family.

Property Committee - Church members volunteer for projects to maintain and improve our church building and property. During the summer months, members share in a spring "clean up" day as well as planting and weeding the gardens and maintaining other plantings. Inside the church, members volunteer for a variety of improvement projects determined by the Property Committee.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Interested women of the congregation gather weekly to knit/crochet or do handwork together. The group maintains a supply of Prayer Shawls for members who are recovering from surgery or illness.

Music

Holy Spirit Choir - Members interested in "making a joyful noise" are welcomed into the Holy Spirit Choir. The Choir sings during worship services three Sundays of each month during the school year. Choir practice is each Sunday morning before the worship service.

Handbell Choir - Interested members are invited to join the Handbell Choir. This group plays special music for services every 4-6 weeks and practices weekly.

WELCOME

Join us for worship, study, and activities.

WORSHIP

10:00 AM Sunday

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

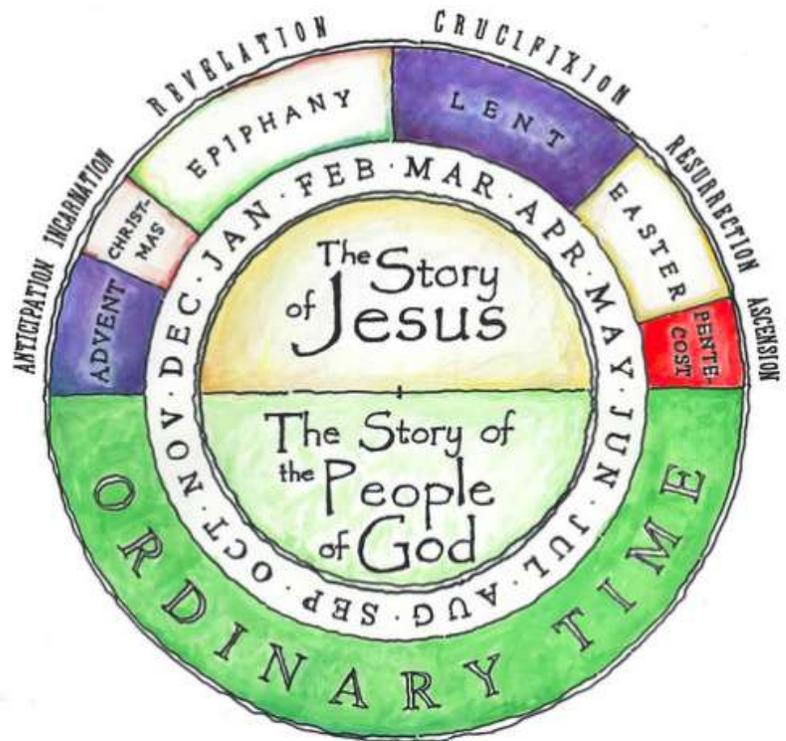
10:45 AM Sunday School
(September through June)

CONTACT

248-682-5441
office@spiritdrivenchurch.com

CONNECT

spiritdrivenchurch.com
fb.com/spiritdrivenchurch



A Monthly Publication of
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
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West Bloomfield, MI 48323



Our Mission

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