



The Spirit

December 2018

A monthly publication of
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church



Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00 PM
All are welcome. Come and sing! We hope you'll join us!
Light refreshments will follow the singing.



Join us as we sing, worship and celebrate Christ's birth.

Christmas Eve Services
Monday, December 24 at 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM

ADVENT NOT CHRISTMAS...YET**Pastor William Matlack**

We begin another Church year on Sunday, December 2. This coming year we are in the third year of our Lectionary Cycle which focuses on the Gospel of Luke.

Already, the Christmas Music is playing, the decorations are hung and the stores have had Christmas Displays for quite a while. But, it's not Christmas...yet! In fact, for the church & Christians, it doesn't begin until December 24!



So what are we to do to keep ourselves from falling into all the pomp and circumstance of "Christmas."

First of all, we should take time to reflect on the real meaning of the Advent Season, preparing the way for the Lord!

Some years ago now, Amy Grant recorded the song, "I need a Silent Night." Reflect on the words of that song:

I've made the same mistake before
 Too many malls, too many stores
 December traffic, Christmas rush
 It breaks me till I push and shove
 Children are crying while mothers are trying
 To photograph Santa and sleigh
 The shopping and buying and standing forever in line
 What can I say?

Chorus: I need a silent night, a holy night
 To hear an angel voice through the chaos and the noise
 I need a midnight clear, a little peace right here
 To end this crazy day with a silent night

December comes then disappears
 Faster and faster every year
 Did my own mother keep this pace
 Or was the world a different place?
 Where people stayed home wishing for snow
 Watching three channels on their TV
 Look at us now rushing around
 Trying to buy Christmas peace
 (Chorus)

These words are so true! Too much rushing around, frantically preparing for Christmas gifts, parties, etc, when we should instead reflect on our Savior's coming!

My prayer is that we take time this Advent to truly reflect on what Christmas really means!

Holy Spirit: A Praying Community

As you pray throughout your days include...

Pray for the recovery and well-being of those affected by recent hurricanes, flooding, wildfires and other natural disasters, especially for families, people living in poverty, older adults and communities with scarce resources.

Ask God to help us shape and renew our congregations to be life-giving and imaginative places for people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds and circumstances to gather around God's word and the sacraments, practice hospitality, build relationships and care for the needs of our neighbor – friend or stranger, member or not.

Pray for the safety and protection of all who are traveling during the holidays.

Remember in prayer first responders, firefighters, doctors and nurses, military, law enforcement and care providers working the holidays for our safety and well-being; pray for people who serve the public in retail stores, restaurants, and the hospitality and travel industries; and pray they all find opportunities for renewal and time with the family, friends and communities that enrich their lives and faith.

Pray that during our congregational activities, worship, gift sharing and community meals we remember to reach out and involve individuals and families confined to home or care facilities, without family or friends, homeless or forgotten.

Christmas Eve Pray we are childlike in our faith and excitement for the birth of Christ – a gift of light that no darkness can overcome, a gift for us that is full of life, grace and truth.

Christmas Day Glory to God in the highest! Give thanks and praise to God for the birth of Jesus Christ, the son of God, who lived among us full of grace and truth, that God's love for humankind might be clear, tangible and revealed in ways that speak to our human needs and senses – then and now.

Pray we exercise daily unbiased generosity with all the gifts, resources and abilities God has entrusted to our care and use.

Ask that the Holy Spirit guide and inspire our church as it reflects on and makes plans for the present and future, seeking to be ever faithful, centered in the gospel, wise and nimble in doing God's work in the world as it shifts and changes.

We gather in congregations to worship God, learn, grow in faith and care for and equip one another for living as followers of Christ in the world. Pray we each contribute to the vitality of our faith community, strive for unity, and help each other move beyond the walls of our buildings and into our communities and world with a fervor to serve our neighbor and share the gospel.

A new year is at hand! Pray we are not swept into it with anger, vindictiveness, division, apathy or fear, but rather with hearts open to the word of Christ dwelling in us and lives that shine brightly with compassion, kindness, humility, forgiveness, patience and an eagerness to work together for unity.

Congregational Life

WELCA Advent Tea



This is for all women of Holy Spirit and their guests.

Join us for a special holiday fellowship celebration on Sunday, December 2 at 4:00 PM. This is the perfect start to the Advent season.

Consider hosting a table!

Please sign up on the bulletin board to host a table or provide refreshments or call the office to sign up.

Men's Group meets Tuesday, December 4 @ 6:30 PM for food & fellowship

The Men's Group is open to all men of Holy Spirit, so please think about joining us!



Carol Sing Along Wednesday, December 12 @ 7 PM



All are welcome to come & sing! We hope you'll join us.

Please see the bulletin board to help out with light refreshments following the singing.

Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 16 @ 10 AM



The Greatest Joy by Sylvia Washer is the Children's Christmas Program which takes place on Sunday, December 16 at 10 AM.

WELCA Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange

Thursday, December 20
@ 5:00 PM
(hosted by Nancy Fish)



WELCA is collecting supplies for personal hygiene bags that will be donated as part of their community outreach programs.

Please see the bulletin board for further information and to sign up.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Monday, December 24
@ 5:00 & 9:00 PM



Join us as we sing, worship and celebrate Christ's birth.

DECEMBER 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
						Zumba 9:30 AM
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Choir 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School Advent Tea 4PM NA 7:30 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM	Yoga 9 AM Prayer Shawls 10 AM Men's Group 6:30 PM	Bells Rehearsal 7 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM	AA Meeting 7:30 PM	Zumba 9:30 AM
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Choir 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School NA 7:30 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM Finance 7 PM	Yoga 9 AM Prayer Shawls 10 AM Council 7 PM	Christmas Carol Sing Along 7 PM	WELCA Christmas Party 5 PM Zumba 6:30 PM	AA Meeting 7:30 PM	Zumba 9:30 AM
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Choir 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School Christmas Program NA 7:30 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM	Yoga 9 AM Prayer Shawls 10 AM	Bells Rehearsal 7 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM	AA Meeting 7:30 PM	Zumba 9:30 AM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Choir 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School NA 7:30 PM	Christmas Eve Services 5 PM & 9 PM	Christmas Day		Zumba 6:30 PM		Zumba 9:30 AM
30 Choir 8:45AM Worship 10AM NA 7:30PM	31		Bells Rehearsal 7 PM	Book Club 7 PM	AA Meeting 7:30 PM	

Holiday Food Baskets

Sharing our blessings at Holy Spirit



We're collecting for 11 families:

- Turkeys
- Potatoes
- Dressing
- Gravy
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Cereal
- Bath Tissue
- Facial Tissue
- Onions
- Carrots
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruits
- Cheese
- Eggs
- Bread
- Honey

If you're donating a turkey, sign up on the bulletin board and place the turkey in the refrigerator or freezer at church.

Bring your food donations to the church no later than Wednesday, December 19.

Baskets will be picked up on Saturday, December 22.

If you have questions, speak with Nancy Green or Hilda Sawicki.

December

Birthdays

Greg Wolenberg	December 4
Tina Green	December 5
Will Lawson	December 5
Dustin Dronsella	December 11
Lukas Mattern	December 12
Richard Clark	December 14
Mike Julius	December 14
Sheperd Kern	December 14
Cindy Ward	December 16
Laura Lawson	December 17
Bill Fodor	December 21
Chris Chiaravalli	December 26
Rita Julius	December 26
Sue Fodor	December 29
Annika Mattern	December 29
Quinn Rand	December 30
Weston Rand	December 30

Anniversaries

Craig & Jenny Rand	December 1
Mark & Kim Filipp	December 3
Russ & Lorry Prus	December 4

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: hslcofficecmanager@gmail.com.

Weekly Newsletter

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

December Worship Assistants

	12/2	12/9	12/16	12/23	12/30
Lector & Greeter	Lorry Prus	Barb Kunkel	Carole Salowich	Stan Samuelsen	Emilie Samuelsen
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 Roy Salowich Tim Moore Greg Wolenberg	Janet Martin Mary Martin Hilda Sawicki Jeanne Myers	Dan Bergman George Kuljurgis Andy Meyer Bob Frick
Counters	Janet Martin Mary Martin	Dan Bergman Marian Rowland	Ken Casagrande Stan Samuelsen	George & Chris Kuljurgis, Jeanne Myers or Sandy Thayer	Nancy Green Barb Kunkel
Altar Guild	Ruth Dziuba				



Poinsettias for Christmas

Poinsettias are available for purchase to adorn our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Please place your order by Sunday, December 16.

Plants may be taken home after the 9:00 PM service on Monday, December 24

See the bulletin board to sign up!

Welcome

We warmly invite you to join us for worship, study, and activities.

Worship

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Christian Education

10:45 AM Sunday School
(September through June)

Connect With HSLC

spiritdrivenchurch.com

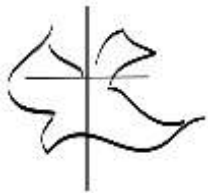
[facebook.com/spiritdrivenchurch](https://www.facebook.com/spiritdrivenchurch)

Contact HSLC

248-682-5441

office@spiritdrivenchurch.com

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Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
4800 Orchard Lake Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48323



Pastor William J. Matlack

Our Mission

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



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