

# The Spirit

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

January 2017



A Season of Light by  
Pastor William J. Matlack

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## A Season of Light

That is exactly what Epiphany is all about!

The dictionary defines Epiphany in this way:

1. an appearance or manifestation, esp. of a deity.
2. a Christian festival, observed on Jan. 6, commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi; Twelfth Day.
3. a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into reality or the essential meaning of something, often initiated by some simple, commonplace occurrence.

But why is it about light? Well, the season of Epiphany focuses on the light of Christ in the darkened world.

What a wonderful time of year to focus on the light of God, especially in this part of the country when we don't see a whole lot of light. Winter brings us much darkness! Many people suffer from light deprivation syndrome.

From the world's standpoint, it is the bleakest time, but we know of the hope in Christ that we are privileged to have. We know that this darkness will soon end and it will become more and more light. Those of us who worship Christ know for a fact that the darkness will not overcome our lives!

In Isaiah 60 we hear: "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you." (Isa. 60:1-2)

Take time during this season to focus on God's light in your life. Ask yourself, "What am I doing to promote God's light in the world?"

This year, during the season of Epiphany, we have an opportunity for a Bible Study that will focus on the Sunday Gospel Readings: Heaven on Earth: Studies in Matthew.



**New Adult Study  
Begins Thursday, January 19 at 10 am**

**Heaven on Earth: Studies in Matthew  
by Janelle Hooper**

The kingdom of heaven is not some distant place separated from earth. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus describes the importance of love and announces that "the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 4:17).

This 6-session Bible study delves into what it means for heaven to come to earth by studying Jesus' words, his way of life, and the manner in which he loved. Discover how we are the change agents Jesus is calling forth to make the kingdom of heaven a reality on earth!

**January 19:** Who wants heaven on earth?

(Matthew 4:12-23- Sunday, January 22)

**January 26:** What does the kingdom of heaven have to do with us?

(Matthew 5:1-12 – Sunday, January 29)

**February 2:** Are we the right ones to bring heaven to earth?

(Matthew 5:13-20 – Sunday, February 5)

**February 9:** If this is heaven on earth, what's up with all the laws?

(Matthew 5:21-37 – Sunday, February 12)

**February 16:** Bringing heaven to earth sounds hard—do we have what it takes?

(Matthew 5:38-48 – Sunday, February 19)

**February 23:** Will you trust God for help in bringing heaven to earth?

(Matthew 6:24-34)

# Congregational Life



**Dinner with Friends** is Friday, January 13, at 6:30 pm at the Uptown Grill, 3100 East Maple Road, Commerce Township.

This is a fun evening of food and fellowship. Please consider adding this to your New Year's resolutions and join us.

Sign up by January 8 so that reservations can be made.

**WELCA** will meet on January 19 at 6:30 pm. This meeting is being hosted by Jean Samuelsen and Petra Mattern at Jean's home, 5988 Glen Eagles Drive, West Bloomfield.

This will be the meeting to discuss the Fashion Show scheduled for April 20, 2017. Consider volunteering for various committees to make this event a success. Half of WELCA's income is derived from the Fashion Show.

Please sign up if you plan on attending so that Jean and Petra can prepare food accordingly.



ANNUAL  
MEETING

**The Annual Meeting** and Dinner will be held Sunday, January 29 following worship.

Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up, deserts and drinks.

Please sign up if you plan on attending and also to help with this event.

## Holy Spirit: A Praying Community

*As you pray throughout your day include...*

For health and healing and for those who grieve.  
For Bishop Kreiss and the Southeast Michigan Synod staff. For the congregation and Pastor Matlack.

In this new year, we ask God to open our hearts and minds to newness and change, knowing that whether we succeed, struggle or fail in our endeavors, the love and forgiveness we have in Jesus Christ never waivers.

As the newness of Christmas gifts wears off, we ask God to center us in the lasting gifts of faith in Christ, caring relationships, supportive communities, and love and forgiveness - given and received.

We remember in our prayers our elders, those who are ill, and people who struggle with mobility who are homebound or living in places of care and pray that we are mindful of including them in the life of our congregations and affirming their value as brothers and sisters in Christ.

For people - of all ages - who suffer with depression, especially during this time of the year, we pray for relief, hope, appropriate skilled care, supportive relationships and communities, and healing.

Uncertain of what awaits us each day and what the year ahead holds for us, we ask God to grant us courage, hope and wisdom for facing the challenges and tasks that take us by surprise.

We pray for God's blessings on food and clothing pantries, community meals and emergency assistance programs provided by congregations and communities for people living with poverty and hunger or seeking temporary assistance in difficult times.

We pray we are not hesitant to live as active, concerned members of society, that our actions, words and influence reflect God's word and will for the world.

A graphic with the words "Happy Birthday" written in a red, cursive font. There are three small red stars above the word "Happy".

Craig Rand	January 1
Janet Martin	January 4
Charlene Meyer	January 5
Nattie Miller	January 8
Alex Casagrande	January 10
Beverly Bartlett	January 12
Hans Grabenstein	January 13
Bob Chiaravalli	January 15
Roger Herrington	January 15
Anna Grabenstein	January 18
Meghan Buckler	January 19
Harolyn Reed	January 20
Jenna Clark	January 21
Gary Gates	January 22
Don Frayer	January 24
Hilda Sawicki	January 25
Chris Yohn	January 29
Sally Cossin	January 30
Dale Mellema	January 30

A graphic with the words "Happy Anniversary" written in a green, cursive font.

Ralph & Nancy Green	January 2
Dick & Pat Longanbach	January 3
Al & Kay Grabenstein	January 19
Chris & Nicole Yohn	January 19



meets each Tuesday at 10 am  
to knit, crochet or do  
handwork together.

Please join us!

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.

## Men's Group

meets  
Tuesday, January 3,  
at 6:30 pm  
for 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, January 13  
6:30 pm



Uptown Grill  
3100 East Maple Road,  
Commerce Township

Sign up by January 8 so that  
reservations can be made.

## New Adult Study

begins Thursday, January 19  
at 10 am,

Heaven on Earth:  
Studies in Matthew



meets Thursday, January 19,  
6:30 pm hosted by  
Jean Samuelsen  
and Petra Mattern

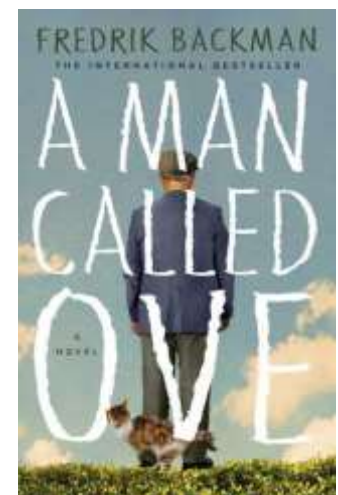
Please sign up if you plan on  
attending.

WELCA is open to all women  
of Holy Spirit so please think  
about joining us.

## Book Club

meets Thursday, January 26,  
7:00 pm to discuss

**A Man called Ove**  
by Fredrik Backman



# Worship Assistants

	1/1	1/8	1/15	1/22	1/29
<b>Lector</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Greeters</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Ushers</b>	Dan Bergman George Kuljurgis Andy Meyer Bob Frick	Dennis Kunkel Doug Opthoff Bill Thayer Tom Sweda Bob Burns	Tom Butler Russ Cossin Jarrod Dixel Jeff Parko Stan Samuelsen Lukas Mattern	Jean Butler Janet Martin Mary Martin Hilda Sawicki Jeanne Myers	Dan Bergman George Kuljurgis Andy Meyer Bob Frick
<b>Counters</b>	Janet Martin Mary Martin	Stan Samuelsen Ken Casagrande	Trudi Burns The Kuljurgis'	Loraine Eliason Nancy Green	Dan Bergman Marian Rowland
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Judy and Laura Bergman				

## February 2017 Newsletter

Please submit your information to the church office no later than January 15.

## Bulletin Announcements

Weekly bulletin information needs to be submitted no later than Wednesdays at 10:00 am.

## Flowers, Altar Candles, and Coffee Hour Hosts

See the bulletin board to sign up!

Please print when filling in your information.

Please use the payment envelopes specially marked for flowers and candles.

# JANUARY

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

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



Pastor William J. Matlack

10:00 am Worship  
Sunday School 10:45 am

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