

A big thank you to Pastor Jack Freed for the following article written by a Lutheran Pastor friend.

PASTOR WILLIAM MATLACK

Stadiums, Cathedrals: Marks of Their Eras

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Buildings matter. For a thousand years, cities in the Western world built cathedrals to bring glory to God and civic pride to their communities. At the dawn of the third millennium, we build stadiums.

One hundred years ago, there was a building boom of cathedral churches in the Twin Cities: St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral (1910), the Basilica of St. Mary (1914), the St. Paul Cathedral (1915) and Hennepin Avenue United Methodist (1916).

Almost exactly a century later, the Twin Cities have seen the addition of TCF Bank Stadium (2009), Target Field (2010), CHS Field (2015) and U.S. Bank Stadium (2016). How did we move from building cathedrals to building stadiums?

The Rev. Lucien Galtier came to bring Christianity to the Upper Mississippi River Valley in 1841. He encamped at Pig's Eye Landing, a settlement named after fur trapper Pierre "Pig's Eye" Parrant. Galtier built a log chapel that became the first St. Paul Cathedral. NFL football came to the Upper Mississippi River Valley in 1961. The Minnesota Vikings settled in an erector set baseball stadium and captured the region's imagination when fur trapper Bud Grant returned from an expedition in Canada.

The church and the Vikings grew rapidly in their popularity, and eventually built two of the most prominent buildings in our area: The St. Paul Cathedral and U.S. Bank Stadium. These edifices have much in common.

The stadium cost \$1.1 billion to build. Estimates are that in today's dollars, the cathedral would cost about the same. The cathedral is named after the Apostle Paul, the great Christian missionary who wrote, "The love of money is the root of all evil." The stadium is named after U.S. Bank, which will pay \$220 million for the honor.

The word "cathedral" comes from the Latin cathedra, which means "seat." Every cathedral has a Bishop's Seat where only the bishop can sit.

The stadium has premium seat licenses that allow anyone with a wheelbarrow full of money to sit wherever they want.

The St. Paul Cathedral has three large doors that provide the main entrance for parishioners. These doors honor the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The stadium has gates that welcome ticket holders in honor of modern-day gods: Verizon, Ecolab, Pentair and Polaris.

The cathedral's main seating area is called the nave. "Nave" comes from the Latin *navis*, which means "ship." U.S. Bank Stadium is designed to look like a Viking ship.

The cathedral is held up by four pillars representing the evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Vikings are supported by four Wilfs: Zygi, Mark, Jonathan and Leonard.

The cathedral has 24 stained-glass windows depicting angelic choirs that have not killed any birds (that we know of). There have been 13 bishops in the history of the cathedral. The Vikings have had Bill Bishop, Desmond Bishop, Keith Bishop and, of course, Christian Ponder.

The cathedral was visited by Eugenio Pacelli two years before his election to the papacy. U.S. Bank Stadium will be visited by Roger Goodell two years before his removal as NFL commissioner. Pacelli took the name Pius the XII when he became pope in 1939. U.S. Bank will host Super Bowl LII in 2018.

In U.S. Bank Stadium, a Hail Mary is a long pass made in desperation hoping for a miracle. Same at the cathedral.

Sermons in the cathedral recount the suffering of the ancient Israelites and the struggles of the early church. Purple fans recount their four Super Bowl losses, Gary Anderson's miss against Atlanta, Brett Favre's late interception in the Superdome and Teddy Bridgewater's season-ending injury.

The St. Paul Cathedral and U.S. Bank Stadium are two great buildings. But since Fran Tarkenton's amazing debut against the Bears in the home opener in 1961, Christianity in America has been in a slow but steady decline. Attendance is dropping; churches are closing and the religiously unaffiliated, or "nones," are the fastest-growing segment of the religious landscape.

The popularity of the NFL, in comparison, is at an all-time high. On any given Sunday, more people in the U.S. are playing fantasy football than are attending church. Everybody wants to get on the Vikings bandwagon. Twin Cities Orthopedics has bought naming rights for the new Vikings headquarters and practice facility in Eagan.

Sports and religion have switched places in American culture. And so we build stadiums and not churches. Is there anything wrong with that? Not by itself. I am glad that we are not a cold Omaha, and I will be there on Sept. 18 for the first regular-season home game. Football is fun.

But Christianity and the cathedrals it inspired have meant something to American life that we forget at our peril. The NFL has very little to teach us about forgiveness, empathy, compassion and humility, much less the Apostle Paul's triple option of faith, hope and love. Even a billion-dollar Viking ship won't make us forget the Al and Alma's party boat scandal. Where do we learn our values if not in our churches and synagogues and mosques?

U.S. Bank Stadium is the new cathedral in town. Zygi Wilf is sitting in the Bishop's Seat. The ship has sailed. Is that OK?

As we begin a New Calendar Year, this article gives us something to think about! So how do we respond? Is there hope for the church?

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
MEETS ON TUESDAYS
@ 10 AM**



to knit/crochet or do
handwork together.

Please join us and 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
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2
@ 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 12
@ 6:30 PM**



Wixom Station
49915 Pontiac Trail
Wixom, MI

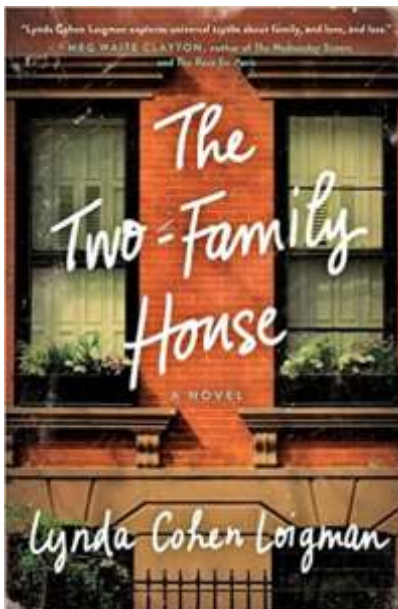
Please see the
bulletin board to sign up.

**WELCA
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18
@ 6:30 PM**



Please see the bulletin board
to sign up.

**BOOK CLUB
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25
@ 7:00 PM**



**ANNUAL
MEETING**

The Annual Meeting and
Dinner is Sunday, January 28
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.



I just want to send a super big thank you to all that helped with the holiday basket program. My children and I ate for almost a whole week with all the food provided. Thank you, more than words can express.

(From a Roosevelt Elementary family)

I would like to thank the church for helping my family with food. It's very helpful and we very much appreciate your giving hearts. May God bless all of you and Merry Christmas.

(From a Roosevelt Elementary family)

Good Morning Pastor & Holy Spirit Lutheran Congregation, I'm just contacting you all to thank you so much for the Christmas Basket and Gift card!!! My family & I truly appreciate being a recipient of your gift of love this Christmas Season. God bless you all & have a very Merry Christmas.

(From a Scotch Elementary family)

HOLY SPIRIT: A PRAYING COMMUNITY

As you pray throughout your days please include...

A new year often brings new hopes, resolutions, goals and beginnings. Ask God for strength and perseverance to meet the challenges of new and unfamiliar endeavors, and shout praise for God's forgiveness and love that renews us and frees us to get up, learn and begin again when we stumble or fail.

Seasonal workers in our communities often go unnoticed during the busyness of the holidays. Pray that workers now searching for new jobs find steady, fair employment to sustain their families and that our faith communities embrace them with support, concern and welcome.

We remember in our prayers those who continue to recover and rebuild after the devastation left in the wake of storms and fires, that individuals, families and communities will find new ways forward with the support and encouragement of the church, relief agencies and one another.

Sometimes God's word and voice can be loud and majestic and shake all of creation. Pray we recognize God's voice in daily life and give thanks for how it strengthens us and gives us peace.

We pray that when Jesus invites us to "Come and see," we are moved by faith to follow and invite our neighbors – friends and strangers alike – to hear the good news of Jesus Christ, believe and also follow.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day We remember in our prayers saints who have gone before us, like Martin Luther King Jr., and courageous people in our midst today who endure criticism and suffering for the sake of standing with, advocating for and serving God's children who suffer injustice, neglect or oppression.

Give thanks to God for people who mentor us in our faith, daily life and work and have helped us grow and mature through the sharing of their gifts, wisdom, life experiences and faith.

The spirit of God is always at work in the church. We pray God will renew the church and our faith communities, especially when we grow weary, have questions about serving in changing communities, find ourselves in conflict or need to refresh our sense of mission.

We pray that everyone in need of warmth and shelter through the winter months has safe, dependable housing, especially elders and those who are homeless, and that we are unceasing in our work to care for and respect the dignity of people in need.

Ask God to open our eyes to the ways – intentional and unintentional – in which we isolate our neighbor, cause others to stumble in their faith or stir division and conflict; ask for forgiveness and for the Spirit to redirect and inform our thoughts, words and actions for the well-being of our neighbor and the church.

Worship Assistants

	1/7	1/14	1/21	1/28
Lector & Greeter	Bob Frick	Norm Werner	Mark Filipp	Chris Kuljurgis
Ushers	Dan Bergman George Kuljurgis Andy Meyer Bob Frick	Dennis Kunkel Doug Opthoff Bill Thayer Tom Sweda Bob Burns	Jarrod Dexel Jeff Parko Stan Samuelsen Lukas Mattern	Janet Martin Mary Martin Hilda Sawicki Jeanne Myers
Counters	Barb Kunkel Nancy Green	Janet Martin Mary Martin	Dan Bergman Marian Rowland	Stan Samuelsen Ken Casagrande
Altar Guild	Judy Bergman & Laura Bergman			

Birthdays This Month

Craig Rand	January 1
Janet Martin	January 4
Charlene Meyer	January 5
Alex Casagrande	January 10
Beverly Bartlett	January 12
Alayna Rozman	January 12
Bob Chiaravalli J	January 15
Roger Herrington	January 15
Meghan Buckler	January 19
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

Anniversaries This Month

Ralph & Nancy Green	January 2
Al & Kay Grabenstein	January 19
Chris & Nicole Yohn	January 19

JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Year's Day	Yoga 9 AM Prayer Shawls 10 AM Men's Group 6:30 PM Zumba 6:30 PM	Bells Rehearsal 7 PM NA Meeting 7 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM	AA Meeting 7 PM	Zumba 9:30 AM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM NA Meeting 7 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM	Yoga 9 AM Prayer Shawls 10 AM	Bells Rehearsal 7 PM NA Meeting 7 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM	Dinner with Friends 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7 PM	Zumba 9:30 AM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM NA Meeting 7 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM Finance Meeting 7 PM	Yoga 9 AM Prayer Shawls 10 AM Council Meeting 7 PM	Bells Rehearsal 7 PM NA Meeting 7 PM	WELCA 6:30 PM Zumba 6:30 PM	AA Meeting 7 PM	Zumba 9:30 AM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM NA Meeting 7 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM	Yoga 9 AM Prayer Shawls 10 AM	Bells Rehearsal 7 PM NA Meeting 7 PM	Book Club 7 PM Zumba 6:30 PM	AA Meeting 7 PM	Zumba 9:30 AM
28	29	30	31			
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School Annual Meeting NA 7 PM	Zumba 6:30 PM	Yoga 9 AM Prayer Shawls 10 AM	Bells Rehearsal 7 PM NA Meeting 7 PM			

Visitors Welcome

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

Worship Schedule

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Christian Education

10:45 AM Sunday School

Contact Us

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248-682-5441

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Connect With Us

Web:

www.spiritdrivenchurch.com

Facebook:

facebook.com/spiritdrivenchurch

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

A Monthly Publication of
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.