



The Spirit  
Monthly  
Newsletter

Holy Spirit  
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Evangelism:  
Bob Frick

Vice President/  
Finance:  
Norm Werner

Secretary:  
TBD

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Health & Wellness:  
Leo Szalma

Property:  
Petra Mattern

Worship & Music:  
Roy Salowich

PASTOR MATLACK, APRIL 2024

## HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!

These are the words that begin each Worship during the Easter Season. This most important season of the church year lasts fifty days and concludes on Pentecost.

The readings for the Fifty Days include both the stories of Jesus' appearances to the disciples and selections from John's discourses.

We certainly need to be reminded that Easter is a fifty-day celebration so that we realize it is not a one-time event.

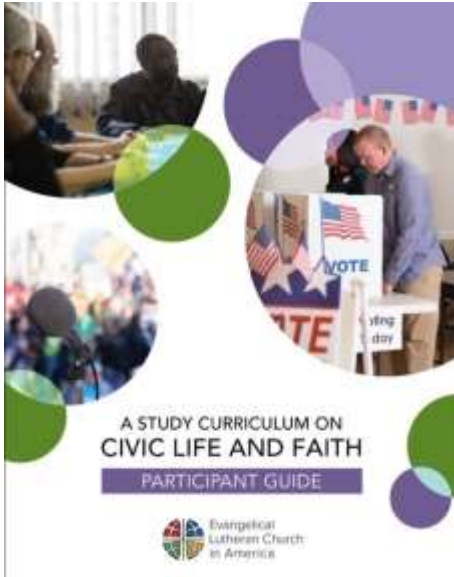
Easter is also the weekly celebration of meeting Christ in the breaking of the bread & also the daily "dying and rising" of each baptized Christian.

The season concludes with Pentecost and the story of the tongues of fire, Luke's way to say what John said of Easter Sunday evening: that Christ gives to the community of believers the Spirit of his resurrected body. Christ is now alive in us.

What an opportunity we have to share this good news with the world! We not only have Easter Sunday, March 31 this year, but 7 weeks of Easter & beyond that the entire year! For each and every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection of our Lord.

For the Jewish Community the Sabbath was celebrated from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday. This was a portion of the time our Lord was in the tomb. For Christians, in the early years, the Jewish Sabbath was still observed. Finally, it was felt that Christians needed to distinguish themselves from their Jewish roots, and thus the Sunday Sabbath, the First day of the week when our Lord rose from the dead, became the norm.

As we come together each Sunday to Worship our God, we need to remember that He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! It is a truth we need to share with the world! May we do so boldly!



## New Adult Study Beginning May 8!

MAY 8: How Is God's Invitation to Discipleship Lived Out In A Democracy?

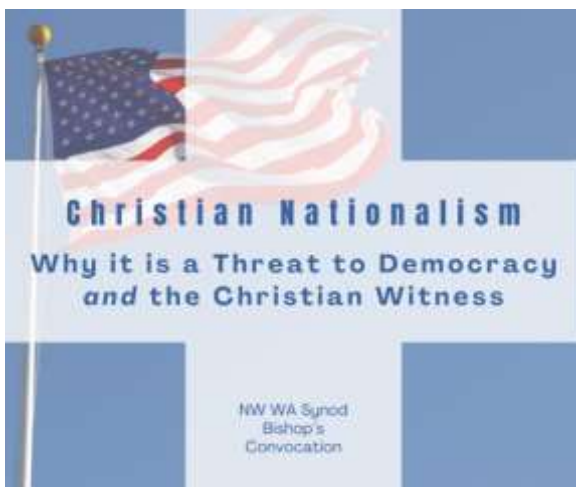
MAY 15: How Do Christians Address Controversial Civic Issues?

MAY 22: What Are Lutheran Views on Civic Life?

MAY 22: What Are the Objectives of Democracy In The United States?

MAY 29: What's Faith-Based Living Got To Do With Civic Life?

JUNE 5: How Do We Go In Peace To Love And Serve The Lord In Civic Life?



Pastor Matlack will be attending a Continuing Education Event from APRIL 22-24, 2024 in Seattle, Washington. The Topic is Christian Nationalism.

Mindful that we are in an election cycle fraught with discord and danger, we will share learning and discussion around the theme of Christian Nationalism - what it is, the real threats it presents to us both as citizens of a democracy and as Christian disciples, and what our role is as faith leaders in the public arena.

Opportunities will be available to share thoughts on the newly released draft social statement, *Civic Life and Faith*.

## PRAYER VENTURES – APRIL 2024

“We need to hear the gospel every day, because we forget it every day” (attributed to Martin Luther, 1483-1546). Pray that we might never grow weary of hearing the story of Easter or experiencing God’s love and mercy for the world in the gift of Jesus Christ.

Ask God to help us see the presence and influence of Jesus in our daily lives, our relationships and our conversations with neighbors, co-workers and siblings in Christ.

Pray that the leaders of Russia and Ukraine and of Israel and Palestine will commit to their respective cease-fires and meet face-to-face to resolve their conflicts and create peaceful ways forward, ending the widespread human suffering and destruction that have impacted generations of their people.

We live in a world that pits different groups of people against each other, causing inequity and anguish. Ask the Spirit to transform our fear and prejudice into compassion, kindness, empathy and respect — qualities that strengthen our relationships with each other and affirm the goodness of God’s creation. “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1).

“Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth” (1 John 3:18). Praise God for ELCA World Hunger’s 50 years of action to end hunger, bring relief to those who suffer, develop sustainable solutions to hunger and raise awareness of the needs of our neighbors — here and around the world. Pray that we might exercise generosity, wisdom and perseverance to meet the challenges of ending hunger.

Give thanks that we can live in the joy of being God’s children and that, though we may not understand completely what that means, it will be fully revealed to us someday.

Praise God for the lengthening daylight of spring, which stirs new life and reminds us of the light God brings into the world through the gift of Jesus Christ.

Jesus, our good and loving shepherd, laid down his life for us, his sheep. Give thanks and praise to God!

Remember in prayer our neighbors and siblings in Christ whose vocations pull them away from their family, friends, congregation and community. Pray that the Holy Spirit will sustain their faith and spirit and that we will express our connection with them as they come and go.

To whom do we turn when we are tired or unsure of our path in life? Praise God, who stays by our side through every twist and turn.

“Those who say, ‘I love God,’ and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen” (1 John 4:20). Give thanks that God loved us first, so that we might know unconditional love and mercy and pass them along to all our neighbors.

“To the servant of God ... every place is the right place, and every time is the right time” (Catherine of Siena, theologian, 1347-1380). Pray for the wisdom to see every moment of every day as an opportunity to honor God through loving, serving and honoring our neighbors in need.

Thank God for the gift of baptism, which affirms our faith, washes us clean with God’s love and forgiveness, welcomes us to the vast community of siblings in Christ and grants us a new life of service and sharing the gospel wherever we go.

**APRIL 2024**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Fri</b>
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	Zumba 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	Yoga 9 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. (Coffee Hr area)	Handbells Rehearsal 7 p.m.	Zumba 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  Book Club 7 p.m.	AA Meeting 8 p.m. (Coffee Hr area)	Zumba 9:30 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m.  Worship 10 a.m.  Sunday School 10:45 a.m.	Zumba 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	Yoga 9 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. (Coffee Hr area)  Men's Group Dinner 6:30 p.m.	Handbells Rehearsal 7 p.m.	Zumba 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	Dinner with Friends 6:00 p.m.  AA Meeting 8 p.m. (Coffee Hr area)	Zumba 9:30 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m.  Worship 10 a.m.  Sunday School 10:45 a.m.	Zumba 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  Finance Meeting	Yoga 9 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. (Coffee Hr area)  WELCA Fashion Show 6:30 p.m.	Handbells Rehearsal 7 p.m.	Zumba 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	AA Meeting 8 p.m. (Coffee Hr area)	Zumba 9:30 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m.  Worship 10 a.m.  Sunday School 10:45 a.m.	Zumba 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	Yoga 9 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. (Coffee Hr area)	Handbells Rehearsal 7 p.m.	Zumba 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  Book Club 7 p.m.	AA Meeting 8 p.m. (Coffee Hr area)	Zumba 9:30 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m.  Worship 10 a.m.  Sunday School 10:45 a.m.	Zumba 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	Yoga 9 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)  Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. (Coffee Hr area)				

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**



**ADULT BASIC YOGA**  
Tuesdays at 9 a.m.  
w/ Instructor Tina Green  
\$5 per class

Simple basic poses with on-hand modifications available. Please bring a yoga mat for floor poses.



**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**  
Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Join us and bring a project to work on.

We continue the fellowship by going out to lunch afterwards. We hope you'll join us!

**APRIL 7**  
Reader: Jean Samuelsen  
Ushers: Andy Meyer  
Stan Samuelsen  
Counters: TBD

**APRIL 14**  
Reader: Liesa Helfer  
Ushers: Dennis Kunkel  
Doug Opthoff  
Tom Sweda  
Counters: Andy Meyer  
Stan Samuelsen

**APRIL 21**  
Reader: Doug Opthoff  
Ushers: Stan Samuelsen  
Lukas Mattern  
Roy Salowich  
Counters: Janet Martin

**APRIL 28**  
Reader: Stan Samuelsen  
Ushers: Janet Martin  
Hilda Sawicki  
Irene Oshiyoye  
Counters: TBD

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**CELEBRATING YOU IN APRIL**

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**MEN'S GROUP DINNER**

Join us Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. at The Lodge Grill & Bar in Keego Harbor.

The men of Holy Spirit meet monthly for food and fellowship.



**DINNER WITH FRIENDS**

Join us on Friday, April 12 at 6 p.m. at The Uptown Parthenon in West Bloomfield!

Dinner With Friends is a fun evening of dining out once a month with others from our congregation.

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 16 Crista Buckler
- 16 Cara Kunkel
- 24 Linda Iverson
- 25 Jeanne Myers
- 26 Melinda Kern
- 28 Chris Elliott
- 28 Doug Opthoff

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 6 Stan & Jean Samuelsen

**WELCA SPRING FASHION SHOW**

Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m.  
It will be held at the Clothing Cove in Milford. Tickets are \$25 per person. Please see Petra Mattern for tickets. Refreshments and finger food will be provided. Themed baskets will also be available. All women of the church and their friends are welcome! We hope to see you all there!!



**BOOK CLUB**

Join us Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. in the Coffee Hour area to discuss "Black Cake" by Charmaine Wilkerson.

## VISITORS WELCOME

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

## WORSHIP SERVICE

10 a.m. Sunday

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45 a.m. Sunday

## CONTACT US

248-682-5441

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## CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

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## HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

4800 Orchard Lake Road

West Bloomfield, MI 48323

## PASTOR

Rev. William J. Matlack

## MISSION STATEMENT

We are CALLED by Christ in our Baptism  
GATHERED by the Holy Spirit to celebrate  
God's grace in our midst SENT to share God's  
blessings in our community and beyond.