



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church  
4800 Orchard Lake Road  
West Bloomfield MI 48323  
A Caring Community of Faith  
Celebrating 50+ Years of Ministry

# The Spirit

August 2021

---

## Pastor's Article

**Many years ago, in fact in 2003, I read a Newsletter Article written by Rev. David M. Jahn from All Saints Lutheran Church in Highland, Michigan. I referred to it in an August Newsletter that same year. I think it is still appropriate.**

*I struggle with exercise the way a lot of people struggle with getting to church. I know exercise is something I need. When I exercise, I feel better, I have more energy, and everything else in my life is greatly improved. I'm even able to deal with stress and avoid illness better. Something in my body "switches on" when I give it regular exercise. I don't know what it is, but I can definitely feel it.*

*You might think that, with all of the obvious and felt benefits of exercise, I would be faithful at it and make it a regular part of my routine. How wish that were true. The fact is that I go in spurts. For a few days I will be faithful and at it every day in an effective way. Then something comes up and I have to miss a day. Then I have a late night and I sleep through my exercise time. Pretty soon I am out of the habit and my body goes back to fighting the flab, stress, and lethargy that comes with a lack of exercise. If anybody has any advice on this, I am more than willing to listen.*

*Gathering for worship is a similar struggle for many. You know that it's something your soul needs (God has hard-wired us to need each other, especially when we worship) you feel so much better when you worship regularly, everything in your life seems to work better when you keep that grounding of spending some time in God's presence with God's people each week. And yet... well, you know what happens.*

*If I end up having a heart attack or having some other part of my body fail me because I didn't get around to taking care of it, I wonder what I will think about the choices I have made? I wonder what I will say to my family?*

*What will you say to the Holy Spirit when you meet God face to face and see clearly without the benefit of all of the rationalizations and excuses that seemed good enough to fool yourself that you chose to neglect the single most important relationship in the brief moment God gave you to spend on earth? What will you say when you see in stark, un-fogged clarity what impact your decisions had on those around you and their ideas about God and how important a relationship with God is?*

*The undeniable truth is that every time you decide to ditch God and do something else instead of worship you have made a statement about the importance of God in your life that is clear to everyone (especially to God) and you cannot take it back. Actions speak much louder than words. You can try again later, but until then your statement stands.*

*Every day this summer I am going to need exercise. Every day I skip it will be one more little bit that my body goes downhill.*

*Every Sunday this summer God is going to be waiting to meet with you. (Even up north, down south, out in the woods, or wherever else you might be.) As you are deciding whether or not to attend worship, don't get into the game of coming up with the lame excuse of the week. If you decide not to gather for worship as God has asked you to, just name it. Say it out loud, "God, I'm putting \_\_\_\_\_ in front of you today. Sorry." If it doesn't feel very good, ask yourself why. "Why does it feel so wrong to ditch God like this?" It's an important question.*

His words from so many years ago certainly still speak to me! I'm not trying to make anyone feel guilty about not being in Worship, I do know why some aren't able to be here.

I do hope that we all will take seriously our commitment to God and Holy Spirit Lutheran Church this Summer.

**Adult Basic Yoga Flow  
Meets Tuesdays @ 9 am**

Simple Basic Poses  
With On-Hand Modifications Available.  
Bring A Yoga Mat For Floor Poses.  
\$4.00 Per Class.  
Tina Green Is The Fitness Instructor.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Meets Tuesdays @ 10 am**

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. Please think about joining us!

**Men's Group Meets  
Tuesday, August 3 @  
Dave & Amy's, Walled Lake, 6:30 pm**

Check your email for more information.  
Please consider joining us for great food, fun, & fellowship!

**Altar Candles Sponsor (2 Per Month)**

Signup at church to sponsor the candles.  
The cost is \$10 monthly.

**Dinner With Friends  
Friday, August 13 @ 6:30 pm  
Benstein Grille**

2435 Benstein Rd., Commerce Twp., 48390  
Signup at church.

**WELCA  
Thursday, August 19 @ 6pm**  
Limited parking. Please carpool!  
Hosted by Hilda Sawicki  
Signup at church

Meets the third Thursday of the month for dinner, with meetings following if they are needed. Open to all women of Holy Spirit, so please think about joining us!

**Book Club Meets  
Thursday, August 26 @ 7 pm**

We'll be discussing,  
"Dutch Girl: Audrey Hepburn and World War II"  
by Robert D. Matson

**Altar Flowers (Bring From Home)**

Signup at church if you'd like to bring flowers  
for a specific Sunday.

**AUGUST**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	FRI
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Worship 10 am		Yoga 9 am Prayer Shawls 10 am  Men's Group @Dave & Amy's 6:30 pm			AA 8 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>
Worship 10 am		Yoga 9 am  Prayer Shawls 10 am			Dinner w/Friends @Benstein Grille 6 pm  AA 8 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>
Worship 10 am	Finance Meeting	Yoga 9 am  Prayer Shawls 10 am  Council Meeting 7 pm		WELCA 6 pm @ Hilda's Limited parking Please carpool	AA 8 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>
Worship 10 am		Yoga 9 am  Prayer Shawls 10 am		Book Club 7 pm	AA 8 pm	Zumba 9:30 am
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>SEPT 1</b>	<b>SEPT 2</b>	<b>SEPT 3</b>	<b>SEPT 4</b>
Worship 10 am		Yoga 9 am  Prayer Shawls 10 am		Zumba	AA 8 pm	Zumba 9:30 am

### Worship Assistants

AUG 1	AUG 8	AUG 15	AUG 22	AUG 29
LECTOR Stan Samuelsen	LECTOR TBD	LECTOR TBD	LECTOR TBD	LECTOR TBD
GREETER TBD	GREETER TBD	GREETER TBD	GREETER TBD	GREETER TBD
USHERS Dan Bergman George Kuljurgis Andy Meyer Bob Frick	USHERS Dennis Kunkel Doug Opthoff Bill Thayer Tom Sweda Bob Burns	USHERS Jarrod Dexel Jeff Parko Stan Samuelsen Lukas Mattern Roy Salowich Tim Moore	USHERS Janet Martin Mary Martin Hilda Sawicki Jeanne Myers	USHERS Dan Bergman George Kuljurgis Andy Meyer Bob Frick
COUNTERS Stan Samuelsen Andy Meyer	COUNTERS Mary Martin Janet Martin	COUNTERS Dan Bergman Marian Rowland	COUNTERS Nancy Green Barb Kunkel	COUNTERS Stan Samuelsen Andy Meyer



#### Happy Birthday!

Rose Filipp	August 1
Jeff Buckler	August 9
Heinz Mattern	August 9
Lorry Prus	August 10
Nancy Fish	August 11
Jarrod Dexel	August 14
Jennie Sweda	August 15
Marge Dronsella	August 22
Bob Burns	August 23
Liesa Helfer	August 23
Ralph Green	August 27
Beth Carter	August 29
Cort Yohn	August 30
Sue Gates	August 31

#### Happy Anniversary!

Jerry & Linda Iverson	August 3
Dan & Melanie Bergman	August 5
Mimi & Shawn Curlee	August 13
Norm & Carolyn Werner	August 13
Jarrod & Sophia Dexel	August 14
Matthew & Nicole Voorhees	August 14
Hal & Sue Adams	August 20
Matthew & Krystina Sawicki	August 28

If you or your family member is missing from our anniversary or birthday list  
or the date is incorrect; please contact the office at (248) 682-5441.

### **Prayer Ventures – August 2021**

*These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.*

What do we seek or yearn for when we follow Christ; what proof do we plead for when told of God's presence, activity and infinite power? Pray that the Spirit will stir in us an enduring faith in God's word and promises that does not depend on miracles, signs or personal favors.

Pray for people in our country and around the world who are suffering from persistent drought and extreme heat. Ask God to keep them safe, restore life-giving water to their lands and grant us the wisdom to use our water resources with respect, responsibility, restraint and concern for the present and the future.

Though we have different gifts, perspectives, life experiences and passions as siblings in Christ and children of God, pray that we will receive and take to heart God's assurance that our faith and baptism unite us to do God's work in the world, together.

Remember in prayer victims of gun violence, their families and friends, impacted communities and all who are working to prevent gun violence in our country. Ask God to remind us that when anyone suffers, grieves or experiences trauma, we are all affected.

Pray for teachers, school staff and administrators who have begun a new school year, and for those who are preparing to open schools. Ask God to sharpen their wisdom and judgment as they make decisions for protecting the health and well-being of students and responding to social, emotional and academic needs that have surfaced because of the pandemic.

Give thanks that God reveals the true Jesus and what he has accomplished for humankind through Scripture and the work of the Spirit. When gathering for the sacramental meal, give thanks for the clarity of Jesus' words: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh" (John 6:51).

We are not perfect in our actions, motives or relationships, but we can be imitators of Jesus and follow Paul's urging to "put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:31-32). Give thanks and praise that we live each day in God's grace and forgiveness.

Pray that we will trust and honor God's word and ways, and heed the psalmist's urging: "Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it" (Psalm 34:13-14).

Pray that we will follow Jesus and grow in faith and trust even when we are perplexed by the mysteries of our faith, have questions and doubts, or wonder how to respond to God's call to serve our neighbors and share the gospel.

Give thanks and praise that God hears our cries for help, attends to the brokenhearted, saves those whose spirits are crushed and rescues us from our troubles.

Ask God to equip us spiritually with everything we need to resist darkness, evil and temptation so that we will be bold, living witnesses of God's love, mercy, truth, goodness and power.

Pray for volunteers, leaders and staff who are planning fall programs for congregations, that these will enable all ages to deepen their faith and their understanding of Scripture, to serve their neighbor, to share the gospel and to do God's work in the world.

### **Welcome**

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

### **Schedule**

10 am Sunday Worship  
In-Person or Live Stream

### **Connect**

Website: [www.spiritdrivenchurch.com](http://www.spiritdrivenchurch.com)  
Facebook: [fb.com/spiritdrivenchurch](https://fb.com/spiritdrivenchurch)  
YouTube: [tinyurl.com/spiritdrivenchurch](https://tinyurl.com/spiritdrivenchurch)  
Instagram: [instagram.com/spiritdrivenchurch](https://instagram.com/spiritdrivenchurch)

### **Contact**

Phone: 248-682-5441  
E-mail: [office@spiritdrivenchurch.com](mailto:office@spiritdrivenchurch.com)

### **Location**

NW corner of Orchard Lake and Green Road  
(across from West Bloomfield HS)



[fb.com/spiritdrivenchurch](https://fb.com/spiritdrivenchurch)

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



Mission Statement: We are: CALLED by Christ in our Baptism and GATHERED by the Holy Spirit into this community of faith to celebrate God's grace in our midst so we can be SENT to share God's blessings in our community and beyond.