

Holy Spirit  
Church Council

President/  
Evangelism:  
Bob Frick

Vice President/  
Finance:  
Norm Werner

Secretary:  
TBD

Education:  
Melinda Kern

Congregational Life:  
Ruth Dziuba

Health & Wellness:  
Leo Szalma

Property:  
Petra Mattern

Worship & Music:  
Roy Salowich

PASTOR MATLACK

STORYTELLING...

I love to tell stories! Those of you, who do know me, know that fact. I think I've been a storyteller all my life. I know that this is something I inherited from my Dad, he was always telling stories.

Growing up with my Dad, I remember his stories about his job managing an Auto Parts Store. He also told many stories that tended to get longer and more involved as the years went on. He was also good at telling jokes.

Storytelling has always been a part of my sermonizing as well. I really think that no matter what I say people will most often remember the story attached to the sermon. Often the story is one that I find in a resource, but many times it is a true story of my life or the life of my family.

I love to tell stories, most of all "The Story." You know, the one about Jesus and his love.

Remember the hymn:  
I love to tell the story, of unseen things above.  
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
It satisfies my longings, as nothing else would do.  
I love to tell the story; I'll sing this theme in glory,  
and tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

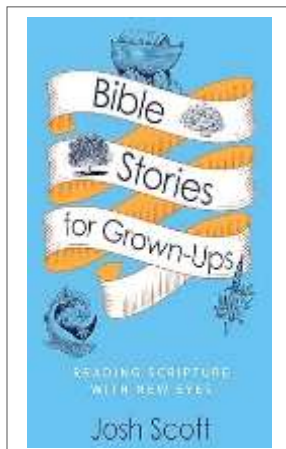
As people of faith, do we tell the story of Jesus' love?

AUGUST 2024



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A new Adult Study will begin in late August/early September based on the book "Bible Stories for Grownups."



Introduction Preventing the Flood: The Story of Noah  
A New Vision of God: The Binding of Isaac  
It's Not About the Fish: The Story of Jonah  
Jesus in Unexpected Places: The Parable of the Talents  
When Repentance Isn't Enough: Looking for Zacchaeus  
Updating Our Lenses: Healing the Man Who Was Blind  
Postscript: Where Do We Go from Here?

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**ADULT BASIC YOGA CLASS** with Instructor Tina Green meets Tuesdays at 9 a.m. Please bring a yoga mat for floor poses. The fee per class is \$5.00.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Coffee Hour area. Join us and bring a project to work on. The fellowship continues as we go out to lunch afterwards. We hope you'll join us!

**DINNER WITH FRIENDS** is Friday, August 9, 6 p.m. at Blue Pearl/Lei Ting in Milford. Please use the signup sheet. We hope you will join us!

**MEN'S GROUP DINNER** is Tuesday, August 13, 6:30 p.m. at Crispelli's Pizzeria in West Bloomfield. Please use the signup sheet. We hope you'll join us!

**WELCA DINNER** is Thursday, August 15 at 6 p.m. , hosted by Petra Mattern at home, with a meeting to follow if it is needed. Signup posted at church.

**BOOK CLUB** meets Thursday, August 22 at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Windsor Knot" by S J Bennett. Please speak with Janet Martin if you would like the book or have any questions.

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COMING IN OCTOBER!



More details to come!

## SERVING US SUNDAYS THIS MONTH

### AUGUST 4

Reader: Doug Opthoff

Ushers: Andy Meyer,  
Stan Samuelsen

Counters: TBD

Altar Guild: Donna Opthoff

### AUGUST 11

Reader: Liesa Helfer

Ushers: Dennis Kunkel  
Doug Opthoff  
Tom Sweda

Counters: Andy Meyer

Stan Samuelsen  
Altar Guild: Donna Opthoff

### AUGUST 18

Reader: Norm Werner

Ushers: Stan Samuelsen  
Lukas Mattern  
Roy Salowich

Counters: Janet Martin

Altar Guild: Donna Opthoff

### AUGUST 25

Reader: Bob Frick

Ushers: Janet Martin  
Hilda Sawicki

Counters: TBD

Altar Guild: Donna Opthoff

## COMING UP @ HSLC IN AUGUST 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Zumba 6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting 8 p.m.	Zumba 9:30 a.m.
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Worship 10 a.m.	Zumba 6:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall Used as Precinct  Yoga 9 a.m.  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.		Zumba 6:30 p.m.	Dinner w/ Friends 6:30 p.m.  AA Meeting 8 p.m.	Zumba 9:30 a.m.
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
Worship 10 a.m.	Zumba 6:30 p.m.	Yoga 9 a.m.  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.  Men's Group Dinner 6:30 p.m.		WELCA Dinner 6 p.m.  Zumba 6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting 8 p.m.	Zumba 9:30 a.m.
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
Worship 10 a.m.	Finance Committee Meeting  Zumba 6:30 p.m.	Yoga 9 a.m.  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.  Church Council Meeting 7 p.m.		Book Club 7 p.m.  Zumba 6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting 8 p.m.	Zumba 9:30 a.m.
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
Worship 10 a.m.	Zumba 6:30 p.m.	Yoga 9 a.m.  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.		Zumba 6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting 8 p.m.	Zumba 9:30 a.m.

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*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.*

- 1** Pray for those recovering in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl in the Caribbean, the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico and the Texas Gulf Coast region. Pray that their faith and the care and support of neighbors near and far will sustain their hope and reassure them that they are not alone in this time of suffering. Give thanks for the support of congregations, synods and Lutheran Disaster Response.
- 2** “Elisha said, ‘Give it to the people and let them eat’” (2 Kings 4:42). The food that Elisha intended for the hungry crowd wasn’t scraps or leftovers; it was from the “first fruits” — the first and best of the harvest that was offered to God. Pray that our generosity toward our neighbors in need will come from our first fruits for the sake of their dignity and well-being.
- 3** Remember our neighbors who are most vulnerable to hot weather, including older adults, children, people who are ill and those without shelter. Pray that they will find public cooling centers and neighbors offering relief.
- 4** Pray for the Spirit’s presence and work, which enable our words and actions as we stir hope, inspire faith in Jesus Christ and pursue justice and peace for all people.
- 5** Give thanks for the gift of Christian community, through which the Spirit unites us with siblings offering hospitality, encouragement, wisdom and skills for doing God’s work in the world together.
- 6** Be persistent in praying for peace, justice and reconciliation in the world, including in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Sudan, Yemen, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- 7** Pray that we will be mindful of our oneness — one body, one baptism, one Spirit, one Lord, one God and one faith — while also valuing our diversity, which strengthens and enriches our life together for bearing public witness to God’s boundless love.
- 8** Thank God for the ELCA’s special relationship with the Moravian Church in America, a full communion partner since 1999 and one of the oldest Protestant denominations in Christianity. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength, resources and encouragement for the work of sharing the gospel, serving our neighbor and growing the church.
- 9** Praise God, for God provides all that is good and sustains us, imploring us to use these gifts to care for our neighbors in need.

**10** Praise God for deacons who are called to serve as ministers of Word and Service in diverse settings and contexts — congregations, special ministries, social services, parish nursing, schools and beyond. Pray that we will identify and encourage siblings in Christ as they discern how they might serve the church, our society and the world.

**11** Give thanks to God for the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, the bread of life and son of God, and that this faith brings a new life that stretches beyond human understanding and imagination — eternal life with God.

**12** Pray for teachers, school staff and administrators as they prepare to welcome students to a new school year. Ask the Spirit to inspire their energy, creativity, wisdom, compassion for students and enthusiasm for their vocation; promise to affirm those involved in the education and care of our children and youth.

**13** “Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:31-32). What could be more relevant than Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus? Pray that the Spirit will equip us to live by the gospel of Jesus Christ and be imitators of God in all we say and do.

**14** Pray for congregational leaders and volunteers who will be launching Christian education opportunities, faith formation programs and community ministries for all ages and abilities this fall.

**15** As we discern who should serve as leaders of our nation, ask the Spirit to stir within us civility, wisdom, compassion for our neighbors in need and faith that we are bound together as children of God, with abundant and diverse gifts for uplifting one another and resolving persistent problems and injustices.

**16** Pray for high school, college and university athletes, that they will be safe and will embrace the values of teamwork and mutual care and respect.

**17** “Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!” (Psalm 130:1-2). Make time today to pray from the depths of your inner being about those things that weigh heavily on you.

**18** Give thanks for the sacrament of Holy Communion, in which Jesus Christ comes to us with grace, love and forgiveness, nourishing and strengthening us for doing God’s work in the world.

**19** Observe the world around us and give thanks for the multitude of little things that inspire our gratitude, stir our curiosity, make us smile, remind us of someone we need to reach out to, or draw our attention to God’s presence in the world.

**20** Remember children and youth who will soon begin a new academic year; pray that they are filled with anticipation and will feel safe, cared for and supported by their parents, teachers and peers.

**21** “Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul,” wrote Martin Luther. “It is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.” Praise God for the gift of music in your daily life and when you gather for worship.

**22** Remember in prayer pastors and deacons discerning God’s call to service and accepting calls to new places where they are needed. Pray for the Spirit to open their hearts, give them wisdom and strengthen their families during their moves and transitions.

**23** Pray for the work of Sumud: For Justice in Palestine and Israel (formerly Peace Not Walls), a new ELCA initiative of accompaniment, advocacy and awareness-raising with our partners in the Holy Land and in the United States, that together we will find the justice required for peace in the Middle East.

**24** Pray for youth and adults who experienced the ELCA Youth Gathering and related events, that they will bear spirited witness far and wide to God’s love and presence in the world and that the Spirit will continue to nourish their faith and identity as bold disciples of Christ.

**25** “Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God’” (John 6:66-69). Ask the Spirit to renew and strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, especially when we grapple with the hard sayings of Jesus and wonder how to live by the gospel.

**26** Give thanks for Sunday school teachers, volunteers, Bible study leaders and faith formation coordinators, who share their faith, time and gifts to build up the church and equip all ages for our baptismal journey of witness and service.

**27** Give thanks and praise to God for young adults who served at Lutheran summer camps across the country, impacting the lives of children, youth and adults. Pray that they will continue to seek opportunities for ministry in response to God’s call for service and leadership.

**28** Pray for understanding that the “whole armor of God” (Ephesians 6:10) is a gift from God to protect our faith in Christ when we are confronted by temptation and things that weaken our faith.

**29** Pray for our siblings in Christ around the world who are baptized as children of God, and for our common journey of lifelong growth and learning as we witness to God’s mercy, care for others and celebrate God’s presence in our lives.

**30** Give thanks and praise to God for responding to our cries for help — silent and spoken — in times of trouble, when our spirits are crushed.

**31** Who or what has drawn your attention and inspired your prayers today? Ask the Spirit to embolden you to move forward and respond.

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*This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Contact [info@elca.org](mailto:info@elca.org) for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101. Telephone: 800-638-3522.*

## CELEBRATING YOU IN AUGST

## PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE WHEN...

### BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

Rose Filipp	1
Jeff Buckler	9
Lorry Prus	10
Nancy Fish	11
Jarrood Dexel	14
Jennie Sweda	15
Heinz Mattern	19
Marge Dronsella	22
Bob Burns	23
Liesa Helfer	23
Ralph Green	27
Beth Carter	29
Sue Gates	31

A member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so visits can be made and the proper people notified.

A new family moves into your neighborhood.

A significant event is happening in your life or in the life of someone you love.

A new baby arrives in your family.

Your phone number, address or email has changed so that our records can be updated.

Planning your wedding and especially before setting the wedding date.

Before making funeral arrangements.

You are planning to move, either out-of-town or locally.

When you need information about some process or happening in church life or when you have questions about your faith.

You feel the church can assist you in any way.

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Jerry & Linda Iverson	3
Dustin & Danielle Dronsella	8
Mimi & Shawn Curlee	13
Norm & Carolyn Werner	13
Jarrood & Sophia Dexel	14
Matthew & Krystina Sawicki	28

*If you or your family member is missing from our lists or the date shown is incorrect, please contact the church office.*



You're welcome here! In person worship at 10 a.m.  
Or join us online and worship with us wherever you are!

[www.youtube.com/@spiritdrivenchurch/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@spiritdrivenchurch/streams)

#spiritdrivenchurch



## YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!

Join us for worship, study, and activities.

## WORSHIP SERVICE

10 a.m. Sunday

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45 a.m. Sunday (during the school year)

## CONTACT US

1-248-682-5441

[office@spiritdrivenchurch.com](mailto:office@spiritdrivenchurch.com)

## CONNECT WITH US

[www.spiritdrivenchurch.com](http://www.spiritdrivenchurch.com)

## 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.