



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

4800 Orchard Lake Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

A Caring Community of Faith

Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry

The Spirit

DECEMBER 2020

A monthly publication of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Pastor's Page

WHAT IS ADVENT?? and why do we celebrate it?

Advent is a season. It is a season of preparation prior to the celebration of Christ's first advent, or coming, into the world. When the church decided in the 4th century to celebrate the birth of Christ with a holiday, there was little argument about the need for a period of preparation, but little agreement on the length of that period.



It took another 600 years before everyone agreed that Advent - the period of preparation - would include the four Sundays prior to Christmas, beginning on the Sunday nearest November 30th. The Advent Season concludes on Christmas Eve.

Advent traditions around the world are as varied as Christmas traditions. One favorite tradition, though, has emerged through the years - the Advent wreath, or crown. The circle of green and the four candles marking the four Sundays of the Advent season have become a nearly universal symbol of Advent in Christian cultures.

"The (church) year begins with Advent, a season of preparation that looks toward both Bethlehem and the consummation. The preferred color for advent is blue, which has a precedent in the Swedish Church....Blue suggests hope, a primary theme of Advent....To allow Advent to have its fullest dramatic impact, congregations must be encouraged to defer Christmas music, decorations, & parties until the 12 days of Christmas (December 24-January 5).

So, what is Advent? It is a season of HOPE. It is a time to prepare for Christ's birth and his second coming. Advent is important because it helps us to be patient for his coming!

This year especially it is certainly more difficult to wait! With the COVID Pandemic we have had a lot of time to wait and hope. Maybe this year, that is our Advent discipline, to wait, to hope to social distance so that we might be able to join together in person this coming year!

After reviewing the online survey and much discussion, the Church Council made the decision at the November meeting that our CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE will be on YouTube. The link will be e-mailed when the Service is available! NOTE: This service will include Virtual Communion. Please have bread and wine/grape juice at your home to celebrate!

CHRISTMAS DAY ZOOM WITH PASTOR MATLACK 10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Please join either time to share your Christmas traditions! The ZOOM links will be posted Christmas Week!

FINANCIALS

As of the publication of this Newsletter, we are still running behind in our weekly giving. Please consider a special gift by the end of 2020 to help HSLC continue ministry in the next year.

A note of GOOD NEWS: In the past decade we have been able to substantially pay off our mortgage! On January 1, 2009, the mortgage was \$188,000.00. At the end of November, we owe a little less than \$20,000.00! I thank God for this wonderful news.

We have managed over the past 12+ years to pay our regular bills, including salaries and benefits, as well as recarpeting and putting new lighting and painting all of the Sunday School Rooms. We have also recarpeted the Sanctuary, Narthex, Offices, Choir Room & Nursery and putting a new kitchen and floor in the Coffee Hour area. We have also re-done the flat roof over the Sunday School.

Now, as we consider the next few years, we have a lot we still need to accomplish: Restroom updates, Sanctuary lighting update, Fellowship Hall update. We must also think about resurfacing the parking lot, putting in new outside doors in the Fellowship Hall as well as replacing aging HVAC!

Much has been accomplished, much needs to be done!

Financial Update: As of November 30, our total pledges for 2021 are 19 with \$72,936 pledged! If you have not already returned your Commitment Card, please do so as soon as possible.



Please Support Our Holiday Food Drive!

We are collecting food for 8 families and we are looking for donations of the following:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Cereal | Christmas Cookies |
| Peanut Butter | Bath Tissue |
| Jelly | Facial Tissue |
| Pasta | Paper Towels |
| Pasta Sauce | Potatoes in 5 Lb. Bags |
| Gravy | Tuna Fish |
| Cranberry Sauce | Rice |
| Canned Baked Beans | Canned Fruit |
| Canned Soup | Turkeys |



Thank you to Bonnie Sweda for the Thrivent Gift Card that purchased much of the food.

Thank you to Hilda Sawicki for food shopping.

Thank you to Nancy Green, Ruth Dziuba, Jean Samuelsen, Sally Cossin and Barb Kunkel for putting together the baskets.

Thank you to the congregation for your generous donations!



We are collecting food for 8 families.

Please bring your donations to church by Thursday, December 17.

Food will be sorted on Friday, December 18. Pickup is Saturday, December 19.

Please speak with Nancy Green or Hilda Sawicki if you have questions.



Join Pastor Matlack Sundays at 11 a.m.

To download and install the Zoom Application go to <https://zoom.us/download> and click on the Download button under "Zoom Client For Meetings". (This application will automatically download when you start your first Zoom Meeting).

Once the download is complete, proceed with installing the Zoom application onto your computer.

**Adult Basic Yoga Class
Tuesdays @ 9 a.m.**



The class is geared toward developing a yoga practice that does not intimidate.

Please bring a yoga mat for floor poses. Facemasks and social distancing required.

The fee per class is \$4.00.

Tina Green is the instructor.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesdays @ 10 a.m.**



The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets each Tuesday in the Coffee Hour area.

Facemasks and social distancing required.

Please join us and bring a project to work on or we can supply you with yarn to make a prayer shawl.

Please think about joining us!



**Book Club
Thursday, December 10
@ 7 a.m.**



The Book Club meets the fourth Thursday evening of the month, except in December.

We will be discussing, "Less" by Andrew Sean Greer.

Facemasks and social distancing required.

DECEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Yoga (On Hold) Prayer Shawls (On Hold)	Handbells Rehearsal (On Hold)	Adult Study 10 a.m. Zoom	Alcoholics Anonymous (Offsite) 7:30 p.m.	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Coffee & Conversation 11 a.m. Zoom Narcotics Anonymous (Offsite) 7 p.m.		Yoga (On Hold) Prayer Shawls (On Hold)	Handbells Rehearsal (On Hold)	Adult Study 10 a.m. Zoom Book Club 7 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (Offsite) 7:30 p.m.	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Coffee & Conversation 11 a.m. Zoom Narcotics Anonymous (Offsite) 7 p.m.	Finance 7 p.m. Zoom	Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Council 7 p.m. Zoom	Handbells Rehearsal (On Hold)	WELCA	Alcoholics Anonymous (Offsite) 7:30 p.m.	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Coffee & Conversation 11 a.m. Zoom Narcotics Anonymous (Offsite) 7 p.m.		Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawls 10 a.m.	Handbells Rehearsal (On Hold)	Christmas Eve 	Christmas Day 	
27	28	29	30	31		
Coffee & Conversation 11 a.m. Zoom Narcotics Anonymous (Offsite) 7 p.m.		Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawls 10 a.m.	Handbells Rehearsal (On Hold)	New Year's Eve		

Please Contact the Church Office

- When your contact information has changed so we can update the church records.
- When a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so Pastor may visit if you would like.
- When a significant event is happening in your life or in the life of someone you love.
- When planning your wedding and especially before setting the wedding date.
- Before making funeral arrangements.
- When a new baby arrives in your family.
- When you have questions about your faith.
- When you need information about some process or happening in church life.
- When a new family moves into your neighborhood.
- You feel the church can assist you in any way.



- Submit weekly e-news by 5 p.m. on Wednesdays.
- Submit newsletter items by December 15 for January issue. Thank You!

December Birthdays

Tina Green	December 5
Will Lawson	December 5
Dustin Dronsella	December 11
Lukas Mattern	December 12
Richard Clark	December 14
Mike Julius	December 14
Sheperd Kern	December 14
Cindy Ward	December 16
Laura Lawson	December 17
Bill Fodor	December 21
Chris Chiaravalli	December 26
Rita Julius	December 26
Sue Fodor	December 29
Annika Mattern	December 29
Quinn Rand	December 30
Weston Rand	December 30

December Anniversaries

Craig & Jenny Rand	December 1
Mark & Kim Filipp	December 3
Russ & Lorry Prus	December 4
John & Ruth Dziuba	December 27

Keep Up With Holy Spirit on Social Media



[Follow and Like Holy Spirit on Facebook](#)



[Visit Holy Spirit's YouTube Channel](#)



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248-682-5441

www.spiritdrivenchurch.com
fb.com/spiritdrivenchurch

Pastor

Rev. William J. Matlack

Administrative Assistant

Cheryl Brouillette



Congregational President

Norm Werner



Music Staff

Bonnie Sweda, Musician

Kelly Perrin, Choir

Heinz Mattern, Handbells

A Monthly Publication of
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Our Mission:

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