

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE

### ADVENT - TIME TO REFLECT!

How many shopping days are left until Christmas? That's what most people are asking at this time of the year!

Personally, I really don't care how many shopping days are left since I tend to have my Christmas shopping done in advance.

It's unfortunate that shopping has become the focus for Christmas. I remember seeing Christmas ads & merchandise even before Halloween. I know that these 2 holidays are the biggest for retailers but give me a break! Can't we have a little breathing room!?

While the focus for the secular world is shopping, for Christians it is preparing & waiting! Advent is a season of waiting. We hear it in the Sunday readings each of the 4 Sundays in Advent.

We hear about John the Baptist, Mary (imagine her anticipation) and of course, the prophets.

What are we waiting for? Why Jesus, the Christ, of course!

But are we only waiting for December 25th because then we can let loose, celebrate, open gifts, and eat too much. Or are we waiting not only for his first coming, but his imminent return?

For Advent is so much more than preparing and waiting for that baby in a manger. Advent is preparing and waiting for his return at the end of the age.

Do we prepare for this event in our daily lives, or do we just go along with the world and expect only a little baby? Where are our hearts when it comes to Christ's return? Are we ready or not?

My hope for the people of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church is that we are ready! That we are waiting expectantly for Jesus to come again.

That we slow down during this season of hope to prepare our hearts and minds for his return.

THE SPIRIT  
MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

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

**Holy Spirit Christmas Eve Services**  
**Tuesday, December 24 at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.**  
**You're invited to come celebrate Christ with us!**

## 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!

**WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY**, Outreach Bag Assembly & White Elephant Gifts is Saturday, December 7 at 11:00 a.m., hosted by Ann Elliott. All ladies of the church are invited. Please see the bulletin board to sign-up!

**MEN'S GROUP DINNER** is Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 p.m. at Crispelli's Pizzeria in West Bloomfield. Please use the signup sheet. We hope you'll join us!

**BOOK CLUB** meets Thursday, December 5 at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Matzoh Ball" by Jean Meltzer. Please speak with Janet Martin if you would like the book or have any questions.



**FOR 11 FAMILIES**

**Check the bulletin board for the latest list updates!**

Turkeys (sign-up sheet)  
Stuffing Mix  
Gravy  
Spaghetti or Pasta  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly  
Breakfast Cereal  
Canned Vegetables  
Canned Fruit  
Applesauce (Jars)  
Macaroni & Cheese (Boxes)  
Cranberry Sauce  
Tuna Fish  
Mayo  
Rice  
Sweet Potatoes  
Potatoes  
Onions  
Carrots  
Butter  
Sliced American Cheese Packs  
Eggs  
Bread  
Honey  
Raisins (Snack Box size)  
Toilet Paper  
Clean Paper Grocery Bags

Please put your donated turkey in the refrigerator or freezer at church.

Food Basket donations needed by Tuesday, December 17.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DECEMBER 1	DECEMBER 8	DECEMBER 15	DECEMBER 22	DECEMBER 29
Reader/Greeter: Doug Opthoff	Reader/Greeter: Liesa Helfer	Reader/Greeter: Norm Werner	Reader/Greeter: Bob Frick	Reader/Greeter: Stan Samuelsen
Ushers: Andy Meyer Bob Frick	Ushers: Dennis Kunkel Doug Opthoff Tom Sweda	Ushers: Stan Samuelsen Lukas Mattern Roy Salowich	Ushers: Janet Martin Hilda Sawicki	Ushers: Andy Meyer Bob Frick
Counters: Janet Martin	Counters: TBD	Counters: TBD	Counters: Andy Meyer Stan Samuelsen	Counters: TBD
Altar Guild: Petra Mattern & Jean Samuelsen				

## CELEBRATING YOU IN DECEMBER

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

5	Tina Green
11	Dustin Dronsella
12	Lukas Mattern
14	Mike Julius
14	Sheperd Kern
16	Cindy Ward
21	Bill Fodor
21	Chuck Kern
26	Chris Chiaravalli
26	Rita Julius
29	Sue Fodor
30	Quinn Rand
30	Weston Rand

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

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

# DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m.  <b>Worship 10 a.m.</b>  <b>Sunday School 10:45 a.m.</b>	<i>Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.</i>	Yoga 9 a.m.  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.	Handbells Rehearsal 7 p.m.	<i>Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.</i>	AA Meeting 8 p.m.	<i>Zumba (Rental) 9:30 a.m.</i>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m.  <b>Worship 10 a.m.</b>  <b>Sunday School 10:45 a.m.</b>	<i>Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.</i>	Yoga 9 a.m.  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.  Men's Group Dinner 6:30 p.m.	Handbells Rehearsal 7 p.m.	<i>Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.</i>	Dinner w/ Friends 6:30 p.m.  AA Meeting 8 p.m. <i>Coffee Hour area</i>	<i>Zumba (Rental) 9:30 a.m.</i>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m.  <b>Worship 10 a.m.</b>  <b>Sunday School 10:45 a.m.</b>  Council Meeting 11:15 a.m.	<i>Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.</i>	Yoga 9 a.m.  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.  Carol Sing 7 p.m.	Handbells Rehearsal 7 p.m.	<i>Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.</i>	AA Meeting 8 p.m. <i>Coffee Hour area</i>	<i>Zumba (Rental) 9:30 a.m.</i>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m.  <b>Worship 10 a.m.</b>  <b>Sunday School 10:45 a.m.</b>	<i>Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.</i>	Yoga 9 a.m.  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.  <b>Christmas Eve Services 4 p.m. &amp; 8 p.m.</b>	Christmas Day  	<i>Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.</i>	AA Meeting 8 p.m. <i>Coffee Hour area</i>	<i>Zumba (Rental) 9:30 a.m.</i>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m.  <b>Worship 10 a.m.</b>  <b>Sunday School 10:45 a.m.</b>	<i>Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.</i>	New Year's Eve  Yoga 9 a.m.  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.				

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts” (Colossians 3:14-15). Pray for the Spirit to shape our lives, that our words and actions might embody the gospel, the heart of our faith.

“To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul” (Psalm 25:1). Lift up everything to God — your joys, concerns, questions, lamentations, confessions and praise.

Thank God for the example of John the Baptist, who endeavored to spread the life-giving news of Jesus Christ and to encourage faith in a loving, forgiving God.

Pray that our faith and anticipation will be stirred by Advent candles, songs, art and Scripture that draw our attention to God’s abundant love for humanity and amazing gift of Jesus Christ.

Give thanks for siblings in Christ who accompany us on our baptismal journeys and encourage our faith and understanding of God’s ways. Pray that we will not hesitate to share the gospel or to show love, concern or mercy for others, as God does for us.

“I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ordinary people like you and like I” (With One Voice 642). Praise God that our salvation does not depend upon our actions, the strength of our faith or our perfect understanding of what God has accomplished for us through Jesus Christ.

December is a time of anticipation and joyful celebration, expressed through shared meals, gatherings of friends and family, community events and special opportunities for worship. Promise to invite and welcome others, especially those in our communities who feel alone, ignored or forgotten.

Give praise and thanks to God for blessing us with Jesus Christ, our true Savior, Messiah, teacher, light and hope.

Promise to be a faithful, generous and merciful follower of Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel in word and deed and doing God’s work in the world.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6). To worry is normal, especially in these times. Know that you are not alone and that God listens to our prayers, caring for us through faith communities and our siblings in Christ.

Pray that — like Elizabeth awaiting the birth of John, and Mary awaiting the birth of Jesus — we will trust God and move forward through our uncertainties.

Give thanks for the enduring impacts of Christmas and the good news of Jesus Christ, letting them shape your life and guide you throughout the year.

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive” (Colossians 3:12-13). Promise to bear witness to God’s love for all people, a love unconfined and undiminished by national borders, political affiliations, human laws or social problems.



YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!  
Join us for worship, study,  
and activities.

WORSHIP SERVICE  
10 a.m. Sunday

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:45 a.m. during the school year

CONTACT US  
1-248-682-5441  
office@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.

