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Social Ministry:
Bob Frick, Gina Carson

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Leo Szalma

Stewardship & Finance:
Stan Samuelson

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

Uncomfortable by the Good News (Gospel) ?

Did you know that Gospel means “Good News?” When the pastor announces the Gospel, according to Matthew, Mark, Luke or John we expect to hear something good, don’t we?

Well, not always! Sometimes the Gospel/Good News contains things that are difficult to hear. For instance, the Gospel reading from Christ the King Sun, Nov. 23, said: “When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself! There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’”

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’

Doesn’t sound too good, does it? What is the good news here? Well, we could say, “that Jesus died for us!” Certainly, we could say that.

Later in that Gospel we hear: *‘But the other criminal rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong. Then he said, Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. He replied, Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”’*

That is indeed Good News!

But there are other words in the gospels that don’t seem to have “Good News.” There are condemnations, reprimands, words to make us think.

We need to understand that the Good News is only good because of God’s grace. But sometimes we need to hear words of caution, difficult words! Sometimes we need to be challenged.

Such as our Gospel reading from Matthew 3 on December 7: *“In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near...But when he saw many Pharisees & Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”*

Good news? These are difficult words, yet, we need to hear these words because we are often like the Pharisees & Sadducees. We are judgmental and condemning of others. We need to hear these words to grow!

How will you grow during Advent and Christmas?

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Hanging of the Greens follows worship on Sunday, November 30 (First Sunday of Advent). The Altar Guild will be decorating the church for the holiday season. All are invited to attend and help decorate the church for the holiday season. A light lunch will be served when we're finished.

Poinsettias to Grace the Sanctuary - If you'd like to purchase poinsettias, please see the bulletin board to sign-up. Speak with Ruth Dziuba if you have questions.

Our Christmas Food Drive for 9 families in the WB school system begins! Check your email, weekly E-News or the bulletin board.

Adult Basic Yoga Class taught by Tina Green is offered on Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Join us and bring a project to work on. The fellowship continues as we go out to lunch afterwards.

Dinner with Friends is taking December off.

Book Club is Thursday, December 4 at 7 p.m. to discuss "We Solve Murders" by Richard Osman. Speak with Janet Martin if you'd like the book or have questions.

WELCA Christmas Party is Saturday, December 6 at 11 a.m. Brunch at Ann Elliott's. White Elephant exchange if you want to participate. We will be filling the Toiletry Bags for the Wayne County Family Center. See sign-up for needed items.

Men's Group Dinner is Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. at El Nibble Nook in West Bloomfield. All men of the church are invited! Please RSVP if you're joining us.

**Join us for our Christmas Eve service
December 24 at 7:30 p.m.**

2026 Sign-ups for ...

Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Sanctuary Candle Sponsors
Bring Sanctuary Flowers

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Tina Green	December 5
Lukas Mattern	December 12
Sheperd Kern	December 14
Cindy Ward	December 16
Bill Fodor	December 21
Chuck Kern	December 21
Rita Julius	December 26
Sue Fodor	December 29
Weston Rand	December 30
Quinn Rand	December 30

ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, December 7

Reader/Greeter: Dennis Kunkel
Ushers: Andy Meyer, Bob Frick
Counters: Janet Martin

Sunday, December 14

Reader/Greeter: Cindy Ward
Ushers: Dennis Kunkel, Doug Opthoff
Counters: TBD

Sunday, December 21

Reader/Greeter: Ruth Dziuba
Ushers: Stan Samuelsen, Lukas Mattern,
Roy Salowich
Counters: Andy Meyer

Sunday, December 28

Reader/Greeter: Stan Samuelsen
Ushers: Janet Martin, Hilda Sawicki, Melinda Kern
Counters: TBD

Altar Guild
Petra Mattern & Jean Samuelsen

D E C E M B E R

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER 30	1	2	3	4	5	6
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m. Worship Sunday school Hanging of the Greens 11:15 a.m.	<i>Zumba 6:30 p.m.</i>	Adult Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	Book Club 7 p.m. <i>Zumba 6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>AA Meeting 8 p.m.</i>	WELCA Christmas Party 11 a.m. <i>Zumba 9:30 a.m.</i>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m. Worship Sunday school Council 11:15 a.m.	<i>Zumba 6:30 p.m.</i>	Adult Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. Men's Group Dinner 6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	<i>Zumba 6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>AA Meeting 8 p.m.</i>	<i>Zumba 9:30 a.m.</i>
14	15	16	17	18	18	20
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m. Worship Sunday school	<i>Zumba 6:30 p.m.</i>	Adult Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	<i>Zumba 6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>AA Meeting 8 p.m.</i>	<i>Zumba 9:30 a.m.</i>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m. Worship Sunday school	<i>Zumba 6:30 p.m.</i>	Adult Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.	Christmas Eve Service 7:30 p.m.	<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>AA Meeting 8 p.m.</i>	<i>Zumba 9:30 a.m.</i>
28	29	30	DECEMBER 31	JANUARY 1	2	3
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m. Worship Sunday school	<i>Zumba 6:30 p.m.</i>	Adult Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.	<i>New Year's Eve</i>	<i>New Year's Day</i>	<i>AA Meeting 8 p.m.</i>	<i>Zumba 9:30 a.m.</i>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m. Worship Sunday school	<i>Zumba 6:30 p.m.</i>	Adult Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	<i>Zumba 6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>AA Meeting 8 p.m.</i>	<i>Zumba 9:30 a.m.</i>



YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!

Join us for worship, study, and activities.

WORSHIP

10 a.m. Sundays

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

CONTACT US

1-248-682-5441

office@spiritdrivenchurch.com



@ spiritdrivenchurch



HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

4800 Orchard Lake Rd.

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.