



SPIRIT MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 2026

HOLY SPIRIT  
CHURCH COUNCIL

President:  
Bob Frick

Vice President:  
Melinda Kern

Secretary:  
Gina Carson

Christian Education:  
Melinda Kern

Worship & Music:  
Roy Salowich

Congregational Life:  
Ruth Dziuba

Property:  
Petra Mattern

Evangelism &  
Social Ministry:  
Bob Frick, Gina Carson

Health & Wellness:  
Leo Szalma

Stewardship & Finance:  
Stan Samuelsen

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE

I recently discovered a new devotional book entitled, "All God's Creatures 2026: Daily Devotions for Animal Lovers."

I shared one of the devotions, "A Furry Example" with our Council on January 20.

### **A Furry Example**

**"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)**

The author, Aline Newman, writes: My husband, Neil, and I enjoy feeding the birds in winter. We relax by sitting in our recliners and watching them out our picture window. A bonus is that the sunflower seeds we set out for the birds draw other critters too. Squirrels and chipmunks come most often. They scrounge around the base of the feeder pole and gobble up the seeds that get swept to the ground by the birds' heads and feet.

The first four-legged creature to show up this winter was an adorable-looking red squirrel. We could identify him by his small size. However, except for his head and a thin red streak on his back and the top of his tail, his fur was all gray. He must be a hybrid, I thought. But when I looked it up, I learned that red and gray squirrels are different species. They don't interbreed.

The second squirrel was twice Red's size, with a big, fluffy tail. A gray squirrel, for sure. Only he wasn't the right color either. His body was gray, but his head and ears were red!

Lastly, a jet-black squirrel appeared. My research said he was a variant gray squirrel, called melanic, and that this variant was becoming more common in New York State. We had three squirrels, none of whom conformed to their official descriptions. And sometimes all three came at once.

Equally surprising, they all got along. It was fun to watch these odd-looking creatures sharing a meal without a cross word between them. They made me think of us humans, who can be quick to judge others based on superficial appearances.

The squirrels' unquestioned acceptance of each other reinforced my conviction that God means for us to get along. And with His help, I'll do my part. —

Never judge someone by the way he looks or a book by the way it's covered; for inside those tattered pages, there's a lot to be discovered. —Stephen Cosgrove

*Editors of Guideposts. All God's Creatures 2026: Daily Devotions for Animal Lovers*

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Ash Wednesday Service, February 18 @ 7 PM

Soup Suppers/Worship on Wednesdays

March 4 @ HSLC at 6 PM

March 11 @ WB United Methodist at 6 PM

March 18 @ Spirit of Grace at 6 PM

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**Adult Basic Yoga Class** taught by Tina Green is offered on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets Tuesdays at 10:00 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 not meeting in February. We'll meet again in March!

**The Souper Bowl of Caring** is Tackle Hunger's annual event raising millions for local food charities nationwide. Join us as we help #TackleHunger now through February 18! This year's recipients are Lighthouse (Pontiac) and Covenant House (Detroit). Place your hunger ministry offering in the green Souper Bowl of Caring stockpot!

**Join us for Cookies & Crafts**, Saturday, February 7 at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome to enjoy a few goodies and participate in an assortment of Valentine's Day crafts. Bring your friends and family to this free event.

**Men's Group Dinner** is Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m. at El Nibble Nook in West Bloomfield. All men of the church are invited! Sign up is on the bulletin board.

**Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent.** Join us for our traditional Ash Wednesday worship service that includes the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion on February 18 at 7:00 p.m.

**WELCA Potluck Dinner** is Thursday, February 19 at 5:00 p.m. at church. All ladies of the church are invited. Sign up is on the bulletin board.

**Book Club** meets on Thursday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the book, *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi. The books are available to sign out now. Speak with Janet Martin if have questions.

### 2026 Sign-ups now available for . . .

Fellowship Coffee Hours  
Sanctuary Candle Sponsors  
Bring Sanctuary Flowers

## CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS!

Gina Carson	02/01
Catherine Martin	02/03
Ruth Dziuba	02/09
Shelly Holtquist	02/09
Jaci Green	02/12
Liz Dziuba	02/14
Nancy Green	02/24
Russ Prus	02/29

### ANNIVERSARIES!

Bill & Sue Fodor	02/15
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*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, February 1

Reader/Greeter: Mark Filipp  
Ushers: Andy Meyer, Bob Frick  
Counters: TBD

Sunday, February 8

Reader/Greeter: Petra Mattern  
Ushers: Dennis Kunkel, Doug Opthoff  
Counters: Janet Martin

Sunday, February 15

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

Sunday, February 22

Reader/Greeter: Tina Green  
Ushers: Janet Martin, Hilda Sawicki, Melinda Kern  
Counters: TBD

Altar Guild: Sally Cossin & Ruth Dziuba

# F E B R U A R Y

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m. <b>Worship 10 a.m.</b> Sunday school 10:45 a.m.	<i>Zumba</i> 6:30 p.m.	Adult Yoga 9 a.m.  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal (on hiatus)	<i>Zumba</i> 6:30 p.m.	<i>AA Meeting</i> 8 p.m.	<i>Zumba</i> 9:30 a.m.  <b>Cookies &amp; Crafts</b> 2:00 p.m.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m. <b>Worship 10 a.m.</b> Sunday school 10:45 a.m.	<i>Zumba</i> 6:30 p.m.	Adult Yoga 9 a.m.  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.  Men's Group Dinner 6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal (on hiatus)	<i>Zumba</i> 6:30 p.m.	NO Dinner w/ Friends  <i>AA Meeting</i> 8 p.m.	<i>Zumba</i> 9:30 a.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Choir Rehearsal 8:45 a.m. <b>Worship 10 a.m.</b> Sunday school 10:45 a.m.	<i>Zumba</i> 6:30 p.m.  Finance Meeting (?)	Adult Yoga 9 a.m.  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.  Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.	<b>Ash</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>Service 7 p.m.</b>	WELCA Potluck 5:00 p.m.  <i>Zumba</i> 6:30 p.m.	<i>AA Meeting</i> 8 p.m.	<i>Zumba</i> 9:30 a.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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#### 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.



## Join Us For Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm February 18

4800 Orchard Lake Rd  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

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