

Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry

A monthly publication of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Pastor's Page

JULY? Already? I can't believe that I'm writing my newsletter article for July 2020!

I am sitting in my living room on a beautiful day in mid-June writing this article. As I reflect on life over the past months, I can't believe how things have changed in my life and yours as well.

COVID has certainly changed everything! We must still practice Social Distancing wherever we are. We are still not Worshipping together.

In the midst of the statistics of COVID-19, I am also reminded of the events that have taken place in our Country since May 25, 2020.

From Wikipedia

George Perry Floyd Jr. was an African American man [killed by police during an arrest](#) in [Minneapolis](#), Minnesota on May 25, 2020. [Protests in response](#) to both Floyd's death, and more broadly to police violence against black people, quickly spread [across the United States](#) and [internationally](#).

Who would have ever thought things would unfold as they did! When we began this year, who would have ever thought how much our lives would be affected by not only COVID-19 but Racism.



I am reading a book entitled, "How to be an Antiracist" by Ibram X Kendi.

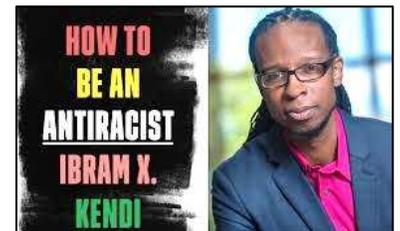
Definitions in his book:

RACIST: One who is supporting a racist policy through their actions or inaction or expressing a racist idea.

ANTIRACIST: One who is supporting an antiracist policy through their actions or expressing an antiracist idea.

When you see the word, Racism or Racist, what comes to mind? Do you know people who are Racist? I sure do! Including myself.

In one way or another we are all racist. That's a tough pill to swallow, but it is true. As we continue in our quest to be antiracist, may we look to our Lord, Jesus, who loved all people!





Chuck & Melinda Kern's son:
Braxton Kern, Walled Lake Western HS
He will be attending U of M Dearborn in the fall
He will be playing Lacrosse for them

Ann Elliot's son:
Chris Elliott, Case Western Reserve University
Earned his Master of Business Administration

Nancy Fish's grandson:
Noah Stout, Rochester HS
Attending Clemson University, South Carolina

Dan & Judy Bergman's grandson:
Jack Bergman, Michigan Technological University
Earned his BS Computer Security
He is now head of security for Air Boss Corporation

A message to the Congregation of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church of West Bloomfield - June 15, 2020

The Church Council met via Zoom on June 9, 2020 to discuss the topic of if and when to reopen the church building for services and for use by outside groups. The health and safety of the congregation and any outside visitors was the primary concern driving the decisions of the Council. After consideration of the demographics and health of our congregation and the costs involved with creating and maintaining a safe environment, the Council unanimously decided against reopening the facility for services or use by any outside group until the State declares that our area is well into Phase 5 of recovering from the Coronavirus pandemic (see State infographic about the 6 Phases). We will revisit that decision in our next Council meeting on July 21.

Council President, Norm Werner, did research into the costs and the risks involved with reopening, as well as contacting our insurance company for guidance. All of the guidance provided by the State, and by our Synod, points to the need for extensive and expensive cleaning and sanitizing before and between uses of the building. Our insurance company guidance was that we will be covered for liability, so long as we implement and follow those guidelines. The Council is still researching the cost of items such as electrostatic sprayers and the sanitizing chemicals, which could be used to sanitize the building areas after each use. If you have the means and the desire to help with those expected expenses, please let the pastor know.

In addition to the cleaning and disinfecting guidelines, the State guidance for church gatherings, even in Phase 5, still requires social distancing, the use of facemasks and hand sanitizer stations when meetings are held indoors and recommends gatherings be of less than 50 people. The Council felt that those requirements would not allow resumption of services in a manner that we felt our congregation desires.

The Council also discussed ideas for trying to hold some gatherings of the congregation, most likely outdoors somewhere, as a means of maintaining congregational contact with each other. We welcome your inputs on what you would like to see us plan and on whether you would feel comfortable attending such gatherings. One idea was a picnic at Marshbank Park this summer. That would allow for the maintaining of social distancing, while also allowing us to see and talk to each other. Please let us know your ideas by emailing, calling or talking to any of the Church Council members that you might know or calling the church office. We will discuss the ideas that are submitted at the July 21 Council meeting.

The Council would like to thank you for your continued support of the church through this crisis. The Finance Committee reported we are in a sound financial position, so long as you continue to support the church with your giving. The Council voted to continue paying our musicians – Bonnie and Kelly - as they perform for our video services through July and we will consider extending that again at the July meeting.

Let us all pray for the quick development of a vaccine against this virus and a return to more normal church services. Until then, we will continue to offer the weekly video service on YouTube. Let's all be safe and healthy. We look forward to being able to meet in person again as soon as it is safe to do so.

Norm Werner, Church Council President and Pastor Bill Matlack



For more information go to www.michigan.gov/coronavirus

GOV WHITMER HAS DECLARED THAT REGIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7 ARE IN **STAGE 4** as of 6/8/20.

GOV WHITMER HAS DECLARED THAT REGIONS 6 & 8 (UP NORTH) ARE IN **STAGE 5** as of 6/10/20.





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- + 2. Use your card
3. Earn rewards for us!

You can support Holy Spirit through your shopping at Kroger. Every time you use your Kroger card, HSLC will receive a percentage of your purchase at no cost to you!

Giving Through PayPal



To support Holy Spirit Lutheran Church with a donation, you can use this button on our webpage <https://www.spiritdrivenchurch.com/> to contribute via a secure transaction.

Stay connected!



Follow / Like [Holy Spirit Lutheran West Bloomfield on Facebook](#) for a daily Bible reading or prayer, church events, photos, videos (and more).



Go to our YouTube channel [Holy Spirit Lutheran Church West Bloomfield](#) to see our weekly worship service videos (and more).



Pastor Bill Matlack	July 4
Kim Wolenberg	July 4
Donna Opthoff	July 6
Tom Sweda	July 10
Braxton Kern	July 11
Eleanor Clark	July 13
Philip Kuljurgis	July 13
Laura Bergman	July 17
Jill Johnsen	July 20
Dennis Kunkel	July 20
Garrett Kern	July 21
Mimi Curlee	July 22
Gary Figi	July 25
Kristin Fontichiaro	July 25
Jean Samuelsen	July 28
Brian Welch	July 30
Sandy Thayer	July 31



Doug & Donna Opthoff July 14

Annual Blanket Drive for Children & Babies at Children's Hospital of Detroit

St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Warren is once again sponsoring an Annual Blanket Drive for the Children and Babies at Children's Hospital of Detroit. Last year St. Peter's collected over 700 plus blankets as well as assorted hats, booties and scarves. A great gift! We are asking for your help in collecting these again.

The blankets can be purchased new, knitted, sewn, tied, quilted, crocheted. We only ask that the items be washable. Items will be delivered to St. Peter's Church by October 31.

Let's turn our blankets into an armor of comfort, love and, prayer. Together we can create smiles, snuggles and cuddles, for the little ones.

Holy Spirit: A Praying Community

As you pray throughout your days please include...

As this time of stress and uncertainty continues, pray that we will be persistent in our generous support for the mission of the church: comforting and caring for our neighbors, responding to the global impact of the pandemic, providing food and basic necessities for people in need, reaching out to the isolated and lonely, and aiding organizations that work for the health, well-being and restoration of our communities.

Give thanks for God's ever-present love and care, and for the message of the psalmist who proclaims, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Ask the Spirit to help us express our gratitude and concern for first responders, nurses, doctors and hospital employees, and to show us how to serve as God's hands and voice in caring for their spiritual, physical and emotional needs.

Ask God to help us cherish and not abuse the blessings of freedom and liberty, work to change our society where there is injustice and oppression, and accompany our global neighbors and companion churches striving for freedom, justice and voice.

Give thanks that God's love and truth are revealed to us through faith in Jesus Christ and that the Spirit is at work inspiring and equipping us to share the good news, spread truth and invite others to believe.

Pray for wisdom and patience as we navigate how to gather as congregations and discern what is appropriate, safe, caring and respectful of the ongoing concerns of our members, communities and nation.

We understand well Paul's struggle between the inclinations of human nature and following the ways of God and teachings of Jesus. Pray for forgiveness and strengthened faith when we are weak or make poor decisions; pray that we will be guided and encouraged by the Spirit of God that dwells within us.

Remember in prayer refugees and immigrants throughout the world and at our borders who hope for and seek welcoming, safe communities where they can reestablish their lives and raise their families. Pray that they will have access to health services, food and resources to meet their daily needs during this time of heightened vulnerability and isolation.

Pray that we will sow the seeds of the good news of Jesus Christ without bias or judgment as to how people will receive it, and that we will trust the Spirit to accomplish what God intends through our witness and service in the world.

Pray for businesses that are struggling or reopening or have shut down, and for their owners, their employees and all the other people and businesses they impact. Ask God to help them make decisions and implement new health precautions that take into consideration the well-being and needs of their employees, the people they serve and their community.

It is a painful, nagging reality that there are both good and evil in the world. Pray that the Spirit will renew our faith, trust and patience that God's righteousness, judgment and mercy will reign when the end of time comes.

We are church together, many members of the one body of Christ. Pray that the Spirit will unite us in our commitment to condemn sexism, anti-Semitism, white supremacy and racism against indigenous people and people of color, whenever and wherever these sins occur.

JULY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 28	June 29	June 30	1	2	3	4
					Online A A 7:30pm	Independence Day 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Online Worship Service Video Online NA 7:30 pm					Online A A 7:30pm	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Online Worship Service Video Online NA 7:30 pm					Online A A 7:30pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Online Worship Service Video Online NA 7:30 pm	Online Finance Meeting 7pm	Online Council Meeting 7pm			Online A A 7:30pm	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1
Online Worship Service Video Online NA 7:30 pm					Online A A 7:30pm	



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
4800 Orchard Lake Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48323
A Caring Community of Faith

Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry

248-682-5441

www.spiritdrivenchurch.com

fb.com/spiritdrivenchurch

Worship 10:00 am
Sunday School 10:45 am
(September – June)



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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4800 Orchard Lake Rd.
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

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.



A link to the Alternative Worship Service video is emailed to everyone. The videos are also be posted on our [Facebook page](#).