



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church  
4800 Orchard Lake Road  
West Bloomfield MI 48323  
A Caring Community of Faith  
Celebrating 50+ Years of Ministry

# The Spirit

July 2021

## Pastor's Article

I have been reading a very insightful book, "Grace And Gigabites: Being Church In A Tech – Shaped Culture" by Ryan M. Panzer. Copyright 2020, Fortress Press.

Ryan worked for Google in Ann Arbor for a few years and now works for a tech company in Wisconsin. He grew up in the Lutheran Church and was concerned about the fact that his generation does not attend church and how to reach his generation. He recently graduated from Seminary.

I shared part of Chapter 6 with the Church Council on June 15, "Integrating Online Connection". Allow me to share some of it with you:

"Live streaming offers a viable solution to help churches bring the Word to those who are unable to attend on a given Sunday, while building bridges to the differently abled within a faith community, those who may be physically or mentally unable to leave their homes, travel to church, and enter the sanctuary.

When your community gathers for a public worship service, it should be live-streamed. Preaching should be broadcast live, then posted to social media for later viewing. Prayers of the people should gather up the petitions of those in attendance both physically and virtually. On occasion, readings should be provided by those outside the physical sanctuary. While the communal experience of singing may not transfer to a web group, words, lyrics, or interpretations of a piece of music should be provided for the reflection of those assembled online.

***To not stream the worship service is to block those on the other side of the screen from having that encounter with the grace of God.***

Live streaming is a necessary and widely adopted first step towards virtual integration in the church, though church leaders will need to be thoughtful about creating parity in the offline and online worship experience. As more churches stream worship and other gatherings, leaders should think creatively about building a bridge between virtual and face-to-face experiences, lest virtual worship feel like a second-tier experience."

I do hope that we come to understand the importance of what is being said in this book. We may ask, "Why do we need to live stream the Worship" or "Why do we need a monitor/screen in the Sanctuary?"

I think that we must understand that even before the pandemic, business as usual was not working for this congregation. The pandemic made me understand that if we would not have embraced technology such as ZOOM, YouTube and Facebook Live, we would have not survived!

Think about it. Technology is what sustained us as a congregation, without it we wouldn't have survived!

So what does this mean for the future? We must be open to change in order to grow!

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PLEASE NOTE: Our Adult Study will resume in September

**ADULT BASIC YOGA FLOW  
MEETS TUESDAYS @ 9 am**



Simple basic poses with on-hand modifications available. Bring a yoga mat for floor poses. \$4.00 per class. Tina Green is the Fitness Instructor.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY  
MEETS TUESDAYS @ 10 am**



We meet in the Coffee Hour area.

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!

**MEN'S GROUP MEETS  
TUESDAY, JULY 6 @6:30 am**



Meeting Place TBA

Please consider joining us for great food, fun, & fellowship!

**DINNER WITH FRIENDS  
FRIDAY, JULY 9 @ 6 pm**



July's Restaurant is:  
**Highland House Restaurant**  
2630 E Highland Rd,  
Highland MI 48356

A signup sheet is available at church.

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA**



We meet the third Thursday of the month for dinner, with meetings following if they are needed. A signup sheet will be posted once WELCA monthly dinners resume.

WELCA is open to all women of Holy Spirit, so please think about joining us!

**BOOK CLUB MEETS  
THURSDAY, JULY 22 @ 7 pm**



July's book club selection is "Daisy Jones and the Six" by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

We meet the fourth Thursday evening of the month, except in December.

**JULY**

<b>SUN</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>TUE</b>	<b>WED</b>	<b>THU</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>FRI</b>
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
					AA 8 pm	
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Worship Service 10 am  Ice Cream Social Follows Worship		Yoga 9 am  Prayer Shawls 10 am  Men's Group 6:30 pm			Dinner w/Friends 6 pm  AA 8 pm	
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
Worship Service 10 am		Yoga 9 am  Prayer Shawls 10 am			AA 8 pm	
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
Worship Service 10 am	Finance Meeting	Yoga 9 am  Prayer Shawls 10 am  Council Meeting 7 pm		Book Club 7 pm	AA 8 pm	
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
Worship Service 10 am		Yoga 9 am  Prayer Shawls 10 am			AA 8 pm	

<b>Worship Assistants</b>				
<b>JUL 4</b>	<b>JUL 11</b>	<b>JUL 18</b>	<b>JUL 25</b>	<b>AUG 1</b>
<b>LECTOR</b> Tom Sweda	<b>LECTOR</b> TBD	<b>LECTOR</b> TBD	<b>LECTOR</b> TBD	<b>LECTOR</b> TBD
<b>GREETER</b> TBD	<b>GREETER</b> TBD	<b>GREETER</b> TBD	<b>GREETER</b> TBD	<b>GREETER</b> TBD
<b>USHERS</b> Dan Bergman George Kuljurgis Andy Meyer Bob Frick	<b>USHERS</b> Dennis Kunkel Doug Opthoff Bill Thayer Tom Sweda Bob Burns	<b>USHERS</b> Jarrod Dexel Jeff Parko Stan Samuelsen Lukas Mattern Roy Salowich Tim Moore	<b>USHERS</b> Janet Martin Mary Martin Hilda Sawicki Jeanne Myers	<b>USHERS</b> Dan Bergman George Kuljurgis Andy Meyer Bob Frick
<b>COUNTERS</b> Janet Martin Mary Martin	<b>COUNTERS</b> Stan Samuelsen Andy Meyer	<b>COUNTERS</b> Dan Bergman Marian Rowland	<b>COUNTERS</b> Nancy Green Barb Kunkel	<b>COUNTERS</b> TBD

**IN JULY WE CELEBRATE THE FOLLOWING**

**Happy Birthday!**

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
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

**Happy Anniversary!**

Doug & Donna Opthoff	July 14
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If you or your family member is missing from our anniversary or birthday list  
or the date is incorrect, please contact the office at (248) 682-5441.

### Prayer Ventures – July 2021

*These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.*

Give thanks to God for the gift of freedom we enjoy in our nation. Pray that we will use that freedom thoughtfully and responsibly, working for justice and equity to liberate our neighbors—here and around the world—who are oppressed or excluded.

Praise God for calling, equipping and entrusting us to do God’s work in the world. Pray for strength, boldness and wisdom to proclaim the gospel, overcome obstacles and hesitance, engage others in conversations and questions about faith, and serve our neighbors in need.

Ask God for mercy and forgiveness when weakness and imperfection tangle our daily life; give thanks that God’s enduring mercy and grace renew our faith, no matter what is happening in our lives.

Pray that our senses will be tuned to God so that we “hear what God the Lord will speak,” and will be obedient and faithful in following God’s word, commandments and ways for the sake of the world.

Ask the Spirit to help us greet our neighbors with hospitality, empathy, concern and hope as we maneuver the uncertainty of reopening public places and holding events where people once again gather in person.

Pray that we will respond to God’s call to serve our neighbors in need and share the gospel wherever we go with those unique gifts, skills and passions the Spirit has cultivated in us through our education, life experiences and communities of faith.

Remember in prayer those congregational leaders and volunteers planning and creating fall programs and ministries for all ages that will offer education, service and spiritual growth.

Ask God to remind us daily that we live in hope and unity, drawn together as “citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God,” with Christ at the center.

The work of a shepherd is unfamiliar to most of us, but we all know how it feels to be guided and assisted through dark and difficult times, to have our spirit restored when we are weary and to be reassured that we are not alone in life. Give thanks and praise to God for being our ever-present, loving and good shepherd and for equipping our communities of faith and siblings in Christ to shepherd one another and our neighbors.

Ask God to strengthen our commitment and guide our efforts to end hunger in our nation and throughout the world. We ask for the faith to believe that there will be enough food and resources for all if we let God’s justice and generosity influence our own, listen closely to our neighbors in need, deal with the root causes of hunger and poverty, and work together to create sustainable solutions.

Who in your community, congregation or family concerns you right now? Pray for their needs and well-being, and ask the Spirit to guide you in responding to, caring for and accompanying them.

Pray that with Christ in our hearts and the Spirit in our midst, we will grow in our understanding of God’s boundless love and broaden our vision of what we can accomplish as we do God’s work in the world.

Give thanks and praise to God for being kind, just, understanding of our complexities, responsive to our prayers and needs, and trustworthy in word and deed.

### **Welcome**

We warmly invite you to join us for worship,  
study, and activities.

### **Schedule**

10 am Sunday Worship

### **Connect**

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

Facebook: [fb.com/spiritdrivenchurch](https://fb.com/spiritdrivenchurch)

YouTube: [tinyurl.com/spiritdrivenchurch](https://tinyurl.com/spiritdrivenchurch)

Instagram: [instagram.com/spiritdrivenchurch](https://instagram.com/spiritdrivenchurch)

### **Contact**

Phone: 248-682-5441

E-mail: [office@spiritdrivenchurch.com](mailto:office@spiritdrivenchurch.com)

### **Location**

NW corner of Orchard Lake and Green Road  
(across from West Bloomfield HS)

JOIN US AT  
OUR  
ICE CREAM  
SOCIAL  
SUNDAY,  
JULY 4



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**Holy Spirit Lutheran Church**  
4800 Orchard Lake Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323



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