

SPIRIT MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
JULY 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

"What is your number one wish for this congregation for three to five years down the road?" asked the pastor of a longtime member of Central Church. The minister had arrived 6 weeks earlier and was in the process of calling on each of the households in the parish. He continued with, "How would you like to see tomorrow different than today? What changes should be high on the agenda?"

"To tell you the truth," replied Nancy Henderson, a 57 year old empty nest mother, "I don't see any changes that need to be made here. I like it just the way it is!"

"That goes for me too" added her husband. "We put a new roof on the church 3 years ago, and we replaced the furnace about a year later. We always have enough money to pay our bills, so I don't see the need for change. Oh, it would be nice to see some more young people coming to church, but I guess every church feels that way. I'm with Nancy. I like it just the way it is now."

"That's right," added Nancy's mother, Hazel, "Why change when everyone is happy with how things are now?"

These three mature adults are expressing an opinion shared by literally millions of today's church members. Why change when everyone is content with the status quo? One response is do not try. There may be a serious shortage of support if everyone is satisfied with the status quo.

A more-threatening response is that a refusal or inability to adapt to a changing world often means institutional decline and eventual demise. In more-positive terms, a half dozen reasons can be offered to explain why change may be necessary, even when it is not immediately and eagerly embraced.

FIRST, change usually must be one component of a larger strategy by any long-established congregation that seeks to reach new generations of people....The most highly visible example of the need to change to reach new generations can be seen today in:

- (a) church music,
- (b) the use of drama in worship,
- (c) new channels of communication in preaching,
- (d) an improvement in the quality of the nursery,
- (e) more weekday programming,
- (f) a greater emphasis on adult Bible Study groups,
- (g) offering at least two different worship experiences every weekend,
- (h) better training experiences for lay volunteers,
- (i) more extensive reporting to the members about what is happening in the life of that congregation,
- (j) a shift from a presentation to a participation approach to corporate worship,
- (k) creating more attractive new entry points for newcomers, and so on and so forth.

SECOND, and more important, is that change usually is part of a larger strategy to challenge people with a new vision of what tomorrow could be!

THIRD, change is an essential component of any strategy to focus a congregation's agenda on ministry and outreach. The natural, normal, and

(Continued)

predictable tendency in any institution is to seek to perpetuate yesterday, to move institutional survival goals to the top of the agenda, and to place means-to-an-end issues (such as a new roof on the building or paying the bills on time) ahead of the reason for the existence of that institution in formulating priorities.

FOURTH, perhaps the most pragmatic argument in support of change in the church is to keep up with the competition.

During the 20th century, thousands of churches accepted change, sometimes reluctantly, in order to keep up with the competition. An incomplete list of these changes includes: electric lights, the telephone, central heating, indoor plumbing, off-street parking, pledging, eliminating rental charges for pews, a unified budget, larger budgets, better training for lay volunteers, typewriters, two or three worship services on Sunday morning, drama, team-teaching, a variety of vocal choirs, air-conditioning, Saturday evening Worship, contemporary Christian music, female officers, computers, and the list goes on and on.

Another reason for change is a response to the discontented. While it may be true that 60 percent of the members are completely satisfied with the present schedule, if 20 to 40 percent would prefer a different format for the corporate worship of God, that may be sufficient to add a second and a different worship experience to the weekend schedule.

Perhaps the most obvious reason to change is when the old system no longer works. When the boats stopped coming over, the Swedish Lutherans parish in Wisconsin had to define a new role. When suburbia moved out to what had been a rural area, those farming community churches had to change to reach the newcomers. When aging congregations decided to seek to reach younger generations, many had to change their music."

DO WE NEED TO CHANGE?? OF COURSE....CHANGE IS INEVITABLE!

So what are we willing to do in order to change? How can we work together to bring change that will benefit Holy Spirit Lutheran?

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Congregational Picnic & Ice Cream Social following worship on Sunday, July 5. Please stay and enjoy the fellowship celebrating Independence Day and Pastor Matlack's birthday (July 4)!

Adult Yoga Class offered Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. w/ Instructor Tina Green leading the class. Bring a yoga mat for floor poses. Fee: \$5.00 per class.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. Join us and bring a project to work on. Our fellowship continues as we go out to lunch afterwards.

Dinner with Friends is Friday, July 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Maples Bar & Bistro in Novi MI.

Men's Group Dinner is Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m. at TBD.

WELCA Potluck Dinner is Thursday, July 16 at 5:00 p.m. at church. All ladies of the church are invited!

Book Club is Thursday, July 23 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the book, *Happiness Falls* by Angie Kim. Speak with Janet Martin if you'd like the book!

CELEBRATING YOU IN JULY

BIRTHDAYS

Pr. William Matlack	04
Kim Wolenberg	04
Donna Opthoff	06
Braxton Kern	11
Laura Bergman	17
Dennis Kunkel	20
Garrett Kern	21
Mimi Curlee	22
Gary Figi	25
Jean Samuelsen	28
Brian Welch	30
Sandy Thayer	31

ANNIVERSARIES

Doug & Donna Opthoff	14
----------------------	----

J U L Y

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Bell Choir Rehearsal (On-Break)	Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting 8 p.m.	Independence Day Zumba (Rental) 9:30 a.m.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Choir Rehearsal (On-Break) Worship Service 10 a.m. Sunday School (On-Break)	Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	Adult Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal (On-Break)	Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	Dinner With Friends 6 p.m. AA Meeting 8 p.m.	Zumba (Rental) 9:30 a.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Choir Rehearsal (On-Break) Worship Service 10 a.m. Sunday School (On-Break)	Zumba (Rental) 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-Break)	WELCA Potluck Dinner 5:00 p.m. Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting 8 p.m.	Zumba (Rental) 9:30 a.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Choir Rehearsal (On-Break) Worship Service 10 a.m. Sunday School (On-Break)	Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	Adult Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal (On-Break)	Book Club 7 p.m. Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting 8 p.m.	Zumba (Rental) 9:30 a.m.
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Choir Rehearsal (On-Break) Worship Service 10 a.m. Sunday School (On-Break)	Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	Adult Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal (On-Break)	Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting 8 p.m.	



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, July 5

Reader: Donna Opthoff

Ushers: Andy Meyer, Bob Frick

Counters: TBD

Sunday, July 12

Reader: Bob Frick

Ushers: Dennis Kunkel, Doug Opthoff

Counters: Janet Martin

Sunday, July 19

Reader: Mark Filipp

Ushers: Stan Samuelsen, Lukas Mattern,

Roy Salowich

Counters: Andy Meyer

Sunday, July 26

Reader: Petra Mattern

Ushers: Janet Martin, Hilda Sawicki, Melinda Kern

Counters: TBD

Altar Guild: Laura & Judy Bergman

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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.