



Moving with the Spirit

Inspired for Ministry in Daily Life

January 2018

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

Emmaus, PA

Alphas (Beginnings) and Omegas (Endings)

As 2017 draws to a close, I'd like to share with you a few items related to ending 2017 and beginning 2018.

First of all, thank you! Thank you to those who have served so faithfully this year, staff (paid and unpaid), Council members, and volunteers of all sorts. Thank you! Thank you as well to all who have shared so generously to support our congregation financially. It appears, if the giving remains strong, that we will end the year strong financially because of generous giving, careful spending and cost cutting. Thank you as well, to all who generously supported the extended "All Are Welcome" Campaign. Thank you!



Secondly, I hope you are ready to begin a new chapter in our congregation's life. Pastor Spencer Steele will begin his ministry with us on February 1. You are asked to prayerfully support his ordination on January 14 in Southern California and the subsequent move that he and his wife Amanda will be making later in January. Thanks as well to all the parents and youth mentors who have stepped in and helped make our youth program as strong as possible in anticipation of Pastor Spencer's arrival. Thank you!

Thirdly, our Annual Meeting will be held on February 4th following our 10:45 am worship service beginning with a light lunch. The agenda includes consideration of the 2018 budget, election of Council Members and Synod Assembly representatives. Please be aware, there is a Council Forum to help you prepare for the meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 28th in the Fellowship Center at 9:45 am. Make plans now to attend both important meetings.



Lastly, if you have not already done so please complete an Estimate of Giving Form and submit it to the church office. I want to urge you to carefully and prayerfully consider how God has blessed your life and how you might share those blessings with others. This is not only an important step in your own spiritual walk of faith with Christ, but a helpful tool for the Council as we look toward responsible budget planning for 2018 and beyond. We seek to be a congregation, growing in faith and growing in generosity!

Pastor Rec



January Worship Schedule

- 7:30 am- Traditional Liturgy with Holy Communion
- 8:45 am- **Spirit Alive!** Worship with Holy Communion
(Child Care and Word for God's Children)
- 9:45 am- Faith Formation- Sunday School, Catechism, and Center for Faith and Life
- Fellowship- Coffee Community in Room 117/119 or Speary Café
(Child Care Available)
- 10:45 am- Traditional/Blended Liturgy with Holy Communion
(Child Care Available)

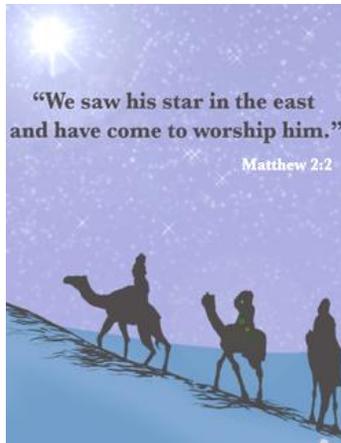
Jan. 7 - Baptism of our Lord

- 7:30 am- Traditional Music
- 8:45 am- Praise Ensemble
- 10:45 am- Adult Choir



Jan. 14 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

- 7:30 am- Traditional Music
- 8:45 am- Praise Ensemble
- 10:45 am- Adult Choir
- 2:30 pm- Rejoicing Spirits



Jan. 21 - Stephen Ministry Sunday

- Bear Creek Camp Visits
- 7:30 am- Traditional Music
- 8:45 am- Praise Ensemble
- 10:45 am- Adult Choir



Jan. 28 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany

- 7:30 am- Traditional Music
- 8:45 am- Praise Ensemble
- 10:45 am- Adult Choir

Praise Kids Rehearsals

9:45-9:50 am- In January, our 4th and 5th grade classes will join Sharon MacCabe in the Music Room as they prepare to share their song during worship on Jan. 28th.

Children can be dropped off and picked up at their Sunday School classroom.



Make a New Year's Resolution

- to connect with God
- be fed through God's word and communion
- learn how to share your faith in your family
- connect with our community at worship.



Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit Rejoicing Spirits

Our next Rejoicing Spirits Worship is Sunday, Jan. 14th at 2:30 pm in the Worship Center followed by Fellowship.

Join us as we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord.



Blessings of Bach Concert

Bach's Magnificat
Friday, March 23rd @ 7:30 pm

Holy Spirit Festival Choir and Orchestra



FLY to ABE

FLY to ABE will meet on January 22 at 10 am to discuss *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

Please park and enter by the downstairs door. We meet in room 1/2. Please sign-up at the Event Center.



Coffee Fellowship

Take time to relax and connect with your church family.

Coffee Fellowship every Sunday in Room 117/119 upstairs or the Speary Café downstairs for coffee, tea, juice, and snacks.



Council Forum

Sunday, Jan. 28th in FC

Lorie Stout Sherman, Council President, will lead discussions concerning our 2018 goals and review the 2017 financials in preparation for our Annual Meeting.



M&M's Too

Join us for an inspirational time for women to talk, connect, and pray together.

We meet on Wednesday, January 17 at 9:30 am in the Speary Café downstairs.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 4th

After the 10:45 am worship service, there will be a luncheon in the Fellowship Center and then the Congregational Meeting beginning at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Souper-Bowl of Caring

Sunday, Feb. 4th

Please bring a can of food or monetary donation to help the local people in need of a meal.

Our youth will be collecting before and after the worship services.



Prime Timers

There will be no Prime Timers breakfast in January, but the breakfasts will resume on Wed, Feb. 28th at 9 am.



Bear Creek Camp is Visiting

Sunday, January 21st at 9:45 am

Come to the worship center to hear about the fun and excitement of camp, sing some songs and hear about Winter Camp, Summer Camp and Family Camp.

BCC is for all ages- all are welcome.



Summer Time

IronPigs Game: Friday, June 15th

VBS 2018: July 9-13



Church Family Hockey Night

Friday, February 2nd @7:05 pm
 PPL Center
 Lehigh Valley Phantoms vs. Charlotte Checkers
 \$20.00 per ticket (section 121)

Payment due by Sunday, December 31st

Sign up on the sheet at the Event Center. Limited tickets are available.

Checks made payable to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, mark "Phantoms" on the memo line. Payment should be placed in Karin Kahler's mailbox at the canopy entrance. Payment can also be made on the Giving Kiosk.



November 2017 Financial Results and Discussion

Year to date, we have a surplus of \$17,410.93 vs. a budgeted deficit of \$14,131.63. The strong revenue during October and the previous months have helped to keep us ahead of budget year to date. Some of the surplus is due to timing from pledges that have been paid in advance.



November was not a strong month on the revenue side. Revenues totaled \$57,986 while expenses were \$70,527 giving us a deficit of \$12,541. We had budgeted a deficit of \$8,096 so we missed our target by \$4,445.

We ran a deficit mainly because pledged giving was \$12,303 behind plan. The effect of this was softened by the fact that expenses were \$6,214 less than plan.

Overall expenses were under budget by \$6,214. Approximately \$4,000 were savings from the Director of Youth salary and benefits. We also saw savings in several mission areas including Resources for Ministry (\$542), Worship (\$369), Faith Formation for Children (\$214), and Faith Formation for Youth (\$320).

Available Operating Cash: We ended the month with an available cash balance for operations of \$85,091, down \$12,899 from October.

Building Fund: The balance in the fund increased during the month to \$8,560.

Available Capital Campaign Cash: Our available cash balance in the Capital Campaign Fund decreased to \$44,226. The balance decreased due to four checks totaling \$9,000 written for the distribution of Capital Campaign funds for benevolence: \$3,000 went to Bear Creek Camp for cabins, \$3,000 went to Mosaic for the Rejoicing Spirits ministry, \$1,500 went to Arusha Hospital Operations for the NICU and \$1,500 went to the Foundation for Cancer Care in Tanzania.

Commissioning of our new Stephen Ministers

Sunday, January 21st

The Stephen Ministry class is nearing completion. Our trainees Nancy McClain, Ann Neitz and Dianna Olszewski have worked extremely hard and their dedication is paying off. The course involved pre-class reading assignments, in-class lectures, discussion and some dynamic role playing opportunities. It has been rewarding to see some real growth in knowledge and skills for all of us who have participated in the training sessions. During the skill practices some real ministry has taken place as we have had the opportunity to minister to one another, which will help us all be better caregivers.

Through various exercises we focused on strengthening the characteristics of the caregiver to become more compassionate, faith-filled, skilled and trustworthy, and by reminding ourselves to place Christ at the center of all that we do. The training will go beyond the training classes as we all continue to enhance our skills and learn new ways to care through peer group supervision sessions twice a month along with continuing education opportunities. These activities will provide the best care possible for our care receivers.

We invite you to the commissioning of our new Stephen Ministers on Stephen Ministry Sunday, January 21st at all 3 services. Let us thank God for all that they will bring to this congregation in providing care to others, and let us promise them our daily prayer and support as we send them out to minister among us.



~The Stephen Ministry Team

Holy Spirit Christian Nursery School Registration

Tuesday, January 9th

It's registration time at the nursery school! Registration for Holy Spirit members and current students begins on Tuesday, January 9th at 5:00 pm. Holy Spirit Christian Nursery offers programs for three-year-olds, four-year-olds, and five-year-olds, an extended day option, and a Friday enrichment class for four and five-year-olds.

Program information is available in the Lobby, or by calling Karin Kahler at the preschool office (610) 965-5208.



CAT Club Begins

Each Sunday in February

CAT Club is coming each Sunday in February. CAT club is time to focus on Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*. Luther wanted to help carry out the ministry of the church by instructing the children in the basic Lutheran teachings about God.

CAT Club is held during the Sunday morning Faith Formation time for the elementary classes here at Holy Spirit. Each elementary class will study a different portion of Luther's *Small Catechism*. Here are a list of the classes and topics:

- First Grade - The Lord's Prayer
- Second Grade - The 10 Commandments
- Third Grade - Learning to Use My Bible
- Fourth Grade - The Apostles' Creed
- Fifth Grade - The Sacraments: Baptism and Communion



CAT club is also a time for other members to serve as Sunday School teachers for a short time. So, if you are interested in serving in this way, please contact [Karin Kahler](#).

Sunday School Service Project on Sunday, Jan. 14th @ 9:45 am

Our Sunday School students will be participating in two different service projects. Our preschool and kindergarten classes will be making Valentine cards for our shut-ins. Our elementary classes will be preparing snack bags for individuals who visit the Warming Station in Allentown.



Family Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, Jan. 21st @ 3 pm

Children of all ages and their families are welcome to come and participate in our Scavenger Hunt. It will be an afternoon of teamwork and surprises. We can't wait to see who completes the list first!



Mark your Calendars



- Sunday, Jan. 7th
- Sunday, Jan. 14th @ 9:45 am
- Sunday, Jan. 21st @ 9:45 am
- Sunday, Jan. 21st @ 3 pm
- Sunday, Feb 4, 11, 18, 25 @ 9:45 am
- Sunday, Feb. 2nd @ 7:05 pm
- Sunday, Feb. 18th @ 9:45 am

- Sunday School Resumes
- Sunday School Service Project
- Bear Creek Camp Visit
- Scavenger Hunt
- CAT Club for Grades 1-5
- Phantoms Game
- Jesus and Jammies

Ordination and Installation



Pr. Spencer will be ordained into Word and Sacrament ministry of the ELCA at his home congregation in California on Sunday, January 14 at 8 pm EST. We hope to have a live stream or tape of the service to view here at Holy Spirit.

Pr. Spencer will be installed as Associate Pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus, PA on Sunday, February 25 at 3 pm EST. More details to follow.



Souper-Bowl of Caring

Sunday, Feb. 4

Mark your calendars and bring a donation and support the local people in need of a meal.

Monetary and non-perishable food items will be collected at all worship services.

Youth volunteers are needed to collect the donations before and after the worship services.



Youth and Young Adults Ministry Team

The Youth and Young Adults Ministry Team will meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

The next meeting is Jan. 14th at Noon in Room 117/119. See you there!



This Month in Faith Formation

Talk about it with your family

Catechism

- Jan. 7th- Samson with Pr. Jim
- Jan. 14th- Prepare for Souper Bowl of Caring
- Jan. 21st- Bear Creek Camp Preview
- Jan. 28th- Valentines for Shut-ins and College students

Sr. High

- Jan. 7th- Baptism Theme
- Jan. 14th- Epiphany Theme
- Jan. 21st- Bear Creek Camp Preview
- Jan. 28th- Council Forum

ELCA Youth Gathering

Important Dates for Participants

January 21	April 15
February 18	May 20
March 18	

12- 2pm in the Fellowship Center
(lunch will be provided)



Winter Camp at BCC

CONNECT is a fun weekend at Bear Creek Camp during the winter! It's a time to CONNECT with God and with friends. The weekends kick off on Friday night and run until Sunday after lunch.

7th-12th Grade: January 12-14
4th-8th Grade: January 26-28

[Registration Link](#)



Upcoming Events- Mark your Calendars

- Catechism and Sr. High Class resume on January 7th.
- Youth Activity Nights: Sun, Jan. 7th and 21st @6-8 pm
- On January 21st- Bear Creek Camp visits! It will be a great opportunity to learn more about this amazing ministry and all about Summer 2018!
- February 2nd- LV Phantoms Game: Reserve your tickets
- February 4th- Souper Bowl of Caring/Congregational Meeting



Lenten Worship and Study

By Heart: Conversations with Luther's Small Catechism,

Lutherans old & new- Lenten study 2018. We will offer the same study and worship twice each week, on Monday nights at 7 pm and Wednesdays at noon including Lenten worship. Sign-ups begin in January.

By Heart is a richly illustrated, in-depth exploration of the Small Catechism. It will generate meaningful conversations about the biblical and historical context of the Small Catechism, its link to the church's faith, and its connection to Luther's life and our life today. The course is for longtime Lutherans and those new to the faith, as well.

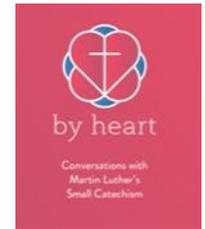


Table Talk

Table Talk meets next on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 6:30 pm downstairs in the Speary Café to discuss the Lutheran perspective on the next Sunday's Bible readings, led by Pr. Ric: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11. All are welcome. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, sign up at the Event Center in the lobby and park and enter by the downstairs door.



Circle of Friends

Circle of Friends is created to extend our circle through intentional fellowship opportunities with other people of Holy Spirit. We have three Circle of Friends styles. Whatever the style of the gathering, the goal is to connect, share a meal or experience, and expand their Circle of Friends.

- Family Adventure Circle of Friends will be comprised of three families who will each have an opportunity to host an adventure. All family units are welcome. In addition, the hosts have the option to invite another family as your guests.
- Adults Venture-In Circle of Friends will be comprised of six adults- couples and/or singles, who will each have an opportunity to host a gathering. In addition, the hosts have to option to invite two adult guests.
- Adults Venture-Out Circle of Friends will be comprised of eight adults- couples and/or singles, who will each have an opportunity to make a reservation at their favorite restaurant for the Venture-Out Circle to enjoy together. Each person pays their own way. Couples and singles are welcome.



The guests can be a neighbor, friend, or a member of Holy Spirit. The idea is to reach out to extend your circle of friends. Please ask someone who is not participating in Circle of Friends.

The gatherings may be as creative, traditional, formal, or casual as each Circle prefers. The style is initially determined by the hosts. It may be a dinner, picnic, appetizers with desserts, breakfast, brunch, play date, swim party, game night, or costume night. The hosts providing the main part (appetizers, entrée and beverages) and the others bring something to share. It is helpful if the hosts indicate what they will be serving. Please be aware of any allergies and/or preferences. The guests do not bring anything.

Each circle sets their own dates for their convenience. Hopefully, each circle can complete their rotations within 6-9 months. You are welcome to keep meeting after the first rotation. Please sign-up by Feb. 15th. Your new circle of friends will be notified by March 2018.

For more information or questions, please contact
 Pattie Bisbing, coordinator, psbisbing@verizon.net 610-967-4425
 Deacon Jane Elliott, staff liaison, Jelliott@holyspirit-emmaus.org 610-967-2220 x 108

Center for Faith and Life

Center for Faith and Life provides Holy Spirit's Adult Sunday School programs with a mission to deepen our faith. Sessions are held Sunday mornings at 9:50 am in the Fellowship Center (unless otherwise noted) and can be freely attended by simply showing up. No pre-notification or registration is required. All are Welcome!



Three Week Series - A Gospel for Outsiders

Dr. Virginia Wiles, Professor of New Testament, New Brunswick Theological Seminary

Our religious loyalties so often become a kind of "hardening of the arteries" in our communities. Church becomes a "safe family" of comfort and familiarity. A comfy couch, a remote-control worship, and food that makes us happy. But what about those Scriptures that focus on those who are outside our comfort zone? Those others who don't really "fit" inside our safe family? What can we learn about how to relate to those outside our familiar circles? In this series, Dr. Wiles will explore three key biblical stories that ask us to wrestle with precisely this question. Come and wrestle with us as we encounter these time-tested stories and our own discomforts and excitements around engaging the "Other."

- Jan. 7th- The Book of Jonah
- Jan. 14th- The Book of Ruth
- Jan. 21st- Luke 4

Jan. 28th- Council Forum: Lorie Stout Sherman, Congregation Council President

Council will have a full agenda for the January Council Forum. We plan to address: the 2018 proposed general operating budget, property update, personnel update, the capital appeal and benevolence tithe endowment and legacy giving, and mission statement revision. We encourage our members to attend the Forum and to take part in the discussion.



Thank You to all who participated in this years Christmas Ingathering! Whether you provided one of the 58 wrapped gifts for the children at Topton Home or donated some of the 500 small unwrapped items to be shared among 8 local charitable organizations, you made a positive difference in the lives of others this Holiday Season right here in the Lehigh Valley! A special thank you to Cindy Hastings & Mary Anne Keating who filled in while I was away and those who helped sort and pack this year! Thank You Alice for doing a great job advertising the needed items and due dates!

Your generosity is very much appreciated and has made the Christmas Holidays much brighter for so many people!

~Diane McMenamin



Thank you to our many volunteers for their dedication to keep our ministry alive at Holy Spirit.

- Decorating Team
- Sunday Bulletin Team
- Newsletter Team
- Property Team
- Offering/Finance Team
- Church Office Assistants
- Worship Assistants
- Altar Care Team
- Outreach Mission Teams
- Music Ensembles
- Kitchen Crew
- Flower Delivery
- Church Sign Team
- Worship Team/Coordinators

- Faith Formation Teams
- Rejoicing Spirits Team
- Prayer Shawl Team
- Stitch and Chat Team
- Church Growth Team
- Technology Team
- Fellowship/Hospitality Team
- Stephen Ministry Team
- Congregation Council
- Greeters/Ushers/Readers
- Crucifers/Acolytes
- Communion Assistants
- Stewardship Team
- Staff Relations Team

- Member Care Team
- VBS Volunteers
- Teachers/Mentors
- Global Missions Team
- Nursery School Team
- Capital Campaign Team
- Health Ministry Team





January 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

In the Event of Pastoral Emergency, please call the Office at 610-967-2220 and press #3 after the general announcement.

Website: <http://lchsemmaus.org/>
 Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LCHSEmmaus>
 Church Office email: info@holyspirit-emmaus.org
 Sign-up for newsletter emails: <http://eepurl.com/tIRNf>
 Address: 3461 Cedar Crest Blvd., Emmaus PA 18049-1599
 Phone: 610-967-2220


Newsletter

The February Newsletter deadline is Wed, Jan. 17th.
 It will be issued by Wed, Jan. 24th.
 Submissions may be emailed to Angie at newsletter@holyspirit-emmaus.org or placed in the Newsletter Mailbox. Thank You!