

HAPPENINGS AT HOLY SPIRIT

December 20, 2020

Sunday Worship Schedule via Zoom:

8:50 am Zoom Worship Room opens and remains open
8:57 am Children's Music
9:00 am Family Worship
9:20 am Kids Connections
9:30 am Readers and Assisting Ministers Log on
9:50 am Gathering Music
10:00 am Spirit Worship followed by Connections
11:00 am Center for Faith and Life (CFL), CAT Class

You can join us on Facebook Live Sundays at: <https://www.facebook.com/LCHSEmmaus/>

Please remember to have bread, grape juice or wine available and ready for digital communion which will be offered at both services.

CENTER FOR FAITH AND LIFE - 11:00 am – Join us for the congregation vote on the building project including a time of virtual fellowship which will include a selection of classic hymns and Christmas carols with LCHS Director of Music, Sharon McCabe.

CAT CLASS – 11:00 am Join Pastor Spencer as the class continues studying the New Testament Heroes. Join CAT CLASS on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98972850807?pwd=RUVPMREZDJnZFFGcFBTaHNEUkp6UT09>

Meeting ID: 989 7285 0807 Pass code: 157453 (This will remain the same for every Sunday of class)

YEAR-END OFFERINGS To ensure that your donations are included in church year 2020 they will need to be in to the church office no later than **noon on December 30th**. You can drop your offering in the office vestibule lock box between 8:30am – 12:30pm weekdays. Please do not rely on the US Mail or postmarks to determine your end-of-year contribution. Because our church accounting is on a cash basis, **all donations must be in the church office by Noon on December 30th in order to be counted for 2020**. Thank you.

ANNUAL REPORTS are due to the church office no later than Friday, January 8, 2021 in preparation for our annual congregational meeting which will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2021.

ADVENT CRAFT PACKETS for children are available for pick up at the Canopy Entrance. Feel free to take one packet per child from the labeled bin. The crafts make great gifts to share at Christmas.

PRIME TIMERS You're invited to join our [Zoom](#) get together for Prime Timers 9:30 am on Wednesday, December 30th for our Christmas virtual get together. It will be a celebration like we usually held between Christmas and New Year's but virtually. Many of us miss the good times we enjoyed every month at our monthly breakfasts. We enjoyed the fellowship, good food, good and bad jokes, trivia and occasionally crazy games. Sign in to Zoom, sit and enjoy a coffee and your favorite baked good while we catch up virtually on the latest news, trivia, and share a favorite funny celebration. I will also present a short 5-minute program on the history of the Bethlehem (PA) Star and the Magi. It will be great hearing and seeing each other again. Renee Wetherhold

EMOTIONAL WELL BEING PRESENTATION There will be a special presentation on Wednesday, December 23rd at 7:00 PM on [Zoom](#). This program was designed with you in mind to explore the emotional impact the many stressors the year 2020 has placed on all of us. What are the stressors? In what ways do they affect us, our family, friends and neighbors? What resources are available for coping with them? Our guest speaker will be Carol Olzinski, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and psychotherapist, from St. Luke's Behavioral Health Services. A follow up session is also planned for January 31, 2021 (a happier new year). Please join us.



3:00 PM: Family Worship service featuring the Children's Christmas Pageant.

6:00 PM: This service will be a youth lead service celebrating the Birth of Christ through the nativity story, music and prayer.

8:30 PM: There will be special music and carols led by members of Holy Spirit's Adult Choir, Spirit Ringers, instrumentalist and vocalist.

9:00 PM: Christmas Eve Spirit Worship

Financial Results and Discussion – November 2020

Operating Performance: November operating income of \$58,937 was \$1,370 higher than expected. November operating expenses of \$84,182 were \$14,250 higher than expected. In our continued focus on outreach, Council authorized paying the remainder of 2020 budgeted benevolence in November rather than December which added \$16,000 to November expenses. As a result, our net income for November was below projections by \$12,880 (-\$25,245 actual rather than the expected -\$12,365). With the November operating results our operating cash reserve is \$98,924.

We received some fantastic news this month! Our PPP loan of \$136,474 was fully converted to a grant. We used \$9,962 to pay salaries for the Nursery School last Spring, and the remainder to pay staff salaries and utilities in May-July. Since the funds were a loan until this month, they were not reflected in our operating results. With the conversion to a grant, \$126,511 was now income. Council authorized spending \$17,961 to pay back a loan to our Endowment Fund to help repair the roof in 2015. Council reserved \$20,000 to help cover potential losses for the Nursery School in the 2020-2021 academic year due to reduced enrollment from COVID protocols. Finally, Council authorized \$36,175 for the down payment on the new organ. Those funds will be reflected as income in 2021 when we receive the donations designated for the organ. The final \$52,376 was added to cash reserves raising our current balance to \$151,300.

Spirit Led, Spirit Alive Capital Campaign Cash: The current total in our Spirit Led, Spirit Alive account is \$465,605. Total donations for the month of November were \$44,370. The two expenses for the month were for interest on our Mission Investment Fund loan for the HVAC (\$223) and paying down that same loan by \$10,000.

HVAC System: The balance on our Mission Investment Fund loan for the HVAC system is \$50,000.

Building Fund: Our building fund decreased to \$16,013 during the month of November. Donations totaled \$1,533. There was an expense for two dehumidifiers (\$3,100). Thank you for your continued support of our Building Fund!

OUTREACH CAUSE OF THE MONTH - *In-Reach is Outreach Too!*

We often think of Outreach as helping people in need – often focusing on those ‘outside our church walls’. The Outreach Mission Team would like to encourage you to reach *within* our communities this month and be intentional about connecting with one another. During this time of social isolation, the Advent/Christmas season may be difficult. There are many among us – in our Holy Spirit family, our individual families, even our next-door neighbor...who may be experiencing emotional, mental or spiritual struggles.

Let us reach out! Send a card. Take a random page from the church directory and make some calls. Share your story or a scripture verse. Check-in with a distant friend or family member. Intentionally pray for one another. *You are not alone. We are in this together – with God!*

Please visit the below links for information/resources in coping with social isolation and loneliness:

<http://farfromalone.com/resources/>

<https://www.endsocialisolation.org/Resources>

For more information on mental health issues and where to seek help – please visit the [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)

2020 Shelter for the Savior Appeal
November 29, 2020-January 24, 2021



Plaster House is a home where Tanzanian children with treatable disabilities such as burns from home cooking fires, club foot, cleft palate, and bent legs caused from skeletal fluorosis, can prepare for and recover from corrective surgery. It is one of many ministries envisioned and developed by ELCA missionaries Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson and many partners. Newly constructed housing now serves 160 children. Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit has been helping to support the Jacobson's for over 30 years. <https://www.theplasterhouse.org/>

At the moment,

\$4 supports one child for one day at The Plaster House

\$10 provides one special feeding bottle for therapeutic feeding program

\$20 provides shoes/foot abduction brace for one child following clubfoot treatment

\$50 provides 10 locally made reusable diapers

\$100 provides one month of rehab and residential stay for one child

\$200 provides feeding program formula for one child for one month

\$500 provides monthly salary for one therapy staffer

If you would like to support The Plaster House through our Shelter for the Savior appeal, you can send your check payable to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, noting Shelter for the Savior on the check memo line. You may also give online to our congregation (lchsemmaus.org/), noting Shelter for the Savior in the “*other*” line. If you would like a packet sent to you, which includes a Christmas ornament and greeting card by which you may tell someone you made this gift in their honor, please email Nikki Clark at our church office at <mailto:clark@holyspirit-emmaus.org>



With the holiday's right around the corner, did you know that Holy Spirit is an "AmazonSmile" charitable organization? AmazonSmile is a way to support a charitable organization when you shop. To shop at AmazonSmile, go to smile.amazon.com on your computer or mobile device and enter Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit as your designated charitable organization. For all subsequent purchases, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible purchases to Holy Spirit.

CALENDAR

Sat. 12/19	8:00 AM	Bell Rehearsal/Recording (Sanctuary)
Mon. 12/21	7:00 PM	Stephen Ministers (Zoom)
Tues. 12/22	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
	6:00 PM	Building Re-opening Task Force (Zoom)
Weds. 12/23	7:00 PM	Emotional Well Being Presentation (Zoom)
Thurs. 12/24	3:00 PM	Family Christmas Eve Service (Zoom)
	6:00 PM	Youth led Christmas Eve Worship (Zoom)
	9:00 PM	Christmas Eve Spirit Worship (Zoom)
Fri. 12/25		Church Office Closed – Merry Christmas
Weds. 12/30	9:30 AM	Prime Timers (Zoom)