



**We are a
Reconciling in Christ
and Rejoicing Spirits
Congregation**

3461 Cedar Crest Blvd.
Emmaus, PA 18049
610-967-2220

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 17
Children's Christmas
Pageant**

**Blue Christmas Service
and Labyrinth**

**Youth Group
Gift Wrapping Event**

**December 20
Blue Christmas Service
And Labyrinth**

HOLY HAPPENINGS

**Sunday, December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent**

***8:30 am Spirit Worship
9:30 am Children's Christmas Pageant
9:30 am CAT Class, High School
Connect, Coffee Tea, Connect
*10:30 am Spirit Worship
12:30 pm Blue Christmas Service**

**Nursery Care is available at all
morning services.**

***Our 8:30 & 10:30 am
worship services are on Zoom.**

If you are worshipping with us on Zoom,
please remember to have bread, grape
juice, or wine available and ready for
digital communion.

[Zoom Link](#): Meeting ID: 511 504 8051

Bulletins are available on the [website](#)
prior to the Sunday service for those who
wish to follow along.

If you are interested in watching the
Pastor's sermon and listening to the
Gospel, please visit our [website](#) and click
on the "Watch a video recorded Sunday
service" button.

ATTENDANCE FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 2023

	IN-PERSON	ZOOM
8:30 SERVICE	105	12
9:30 FAMILY SERVICE	76	N/A
10:30 SERVICE	69	19
2:30 REJOICING SPIRITS	49	N/A

December 17 WORSHIP HELPERS	8:30 AM	9:30 AM	10:30 AM
Advent Wreath Lighters	Mason and Rebecca Mills		Robbie and Tom Flynn and Owen
Assisting Ministers	Eric Kahler		Carole Wetherhold
Communion Assistants	Mary Vink Angie Niland		Glynnis Rea Alice Mudge
Readers	Nina McNally		Griffin M.
Message		CHRISTMAS PAGEANT	
Greeters	Ricki Stringfellow		Victor Schmidt
Ushers	Barb Roba		Brenda Truhe
Production Technology	Chris Pirrotta Bob Stevens Diana Sorrentino	Chris Pirrotta Eric Kahler	Carol Osenbach Diana Sorrentino



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:

Come and enjoy our annual Sunday School Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17 at 9:30 am. Our Sunday School classes will present ***"Twas the Night Before: The Christmas Story for Kids."*** All are welcome!

Coffee, Tea, Connect Fellowship will be in 117/119 this Sunday

December 24 and December 31- NO Sunday School, Cat Class, High School Connect, Coffee Fellowship, Gospel/Sermon Replay

BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday 12/17 at 12:30 pm and

Wednesday 12/20 at 1:00 pm

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified.

Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. Blue Christmas worship services provide a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

*Please join us for healing, wholeness and hope.
Walk the Labyrinth before or after the services.*



GIFT WRAPPING FUNDRAISER FOR THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

You can drop any gifts off and tell us who they're for and who they're from and we'll wrap them for you! Gifts can be brought to the High School Room (114) any Sunday morning. We will keep them locked away and safe. **We will be wrapping them on Sunday December 17th.** We are offering a wrap while you wait option, if you'd like to wait while your gifts are wrapped. We are accepting donations to support our youth on their trip to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering. For any questions or more information contact Amber O'Brien at obrien@holyspirit-emmaus.org

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS are needed for our regular Sunday morning services and our Christmas Eve services. If you are interested in volunteering, please [click here](#) to sign up. Thank you.

LCHS BOOK GROUP – We will be meeting on **Monday, December 18 at 11AM in Room 117/119. Following the meeting, for those interested, we will be going out to lunch.** Please join us!

Book Group Coming Attractions...

January 22: **The Midnight Library** by Matt Haig

February 26: **Stranger in the Lifeboat** by Mitch Albom

M&M's On Wednesday 12/20 at 9:30a in room 117/119 we will gather for fellowship, discuss Christmas story, sing some carols with assistance of Sue Smith and Nancy Pfeffer and exchange a few cookies (bring some to share if you wish) and if you wish, bring something for Zionsville food bank.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

We are looking for volunteers to serve as Ushers and Greeters on Christmas Eve. Youth volunteers are also needed. If you are willing to serve, **please sign up in the narthex.**

PRIME TIMER'S DECEMBER EVENTS

10:00 am Dec. 18 – MOVIE, “Year by the Sea”

10:00 am December 21 – BOOK CLUB, “Small Great Things” by Jodi Picoult. January’s book will be “Moscow Rules” by Daniel Silva.

10:00 am December 27 – CHRISTMAS BRUNCH in the fellowship center with music, singing, trivia, Christmas puzzles and fun! Please join us.

CUT OFF DATE FOR 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS:

All contributions that you wish to have applied to 2023 must be in the church office ***no later than Thursday, December 28th at noon.***

If you are mailing your donations, please mail them in enough time to arrive in the church office by the cutoff date and time.

Any contributions that are brought to church on Sunday, 12/31 will be applied to 2024. Please contact Bob Mueller (610-967-2220, extension 104) if you have any questions.

The Church office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26. The office will be open 9:30 am to Noon December 27 through Dec. 29 and closed on Monday, January 1st.

BLOOMIN' FAITH Thank you for your support of Bloomin' Faith, our monthly flower ministry, which reaches all members of our church family no matter what their age: those who are grieving, those facing difficulties, and those celebrating milestones. If you have a recipient in mind, please let Pr. Tami know. Upcoming delivery dates are Saturday Dec 23 and Jan 27.

Ways you can help: Donations: branches, small pinecones and evergreen are welcomed this time of year. Drop off in the church kitchen before 10 am the Friday the bouquets are made. Arrange: bouquets are created the Friday morning before delivery in the church kitchen. Deliver: drivers are needed to pick up and deliver 2-4 bouquets. Please let us know if you are able to help on the [sign up genius](#) form. If you have questions, please contact Lisa Walton or Leesa Wimmer.

WREATH MAKING EVENT On Thursday Dec 28 at 10 am in the Speary Cafe, Bloomin' Faith will be making dried flower wreaths to be distributed to members who are unable to attend church regularly due to physical and health issues. The wreaths will be delivered by the Eucharistic ministers during their February visits.

6" grapevine wreaths were purchased in bulk - we have extras! We'd like to invite the congregation to come help with a "make one, take one home" crafting event. Dried foliage and flowers will be available for you to create a wreath for a church member, and one for yourself. Children are welcome with adult supervision. If you have a hot glue gun, please bring it.

Spots are limited, [please sign up here](#). Priority will be given to those who have signed up. Suggested donation is \$10.

If you have questions or dried materials to donate, please contact Lisa Walton at 484-431-7298 or lmwalton@aol.com

ANNUAL REPORTS Please submit your annual report to the church office no later than Monday, January 8, 2024.

Our Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 4, 2024.



HOLY SPIRIT CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL

registration for the 2024-2025 school year will take place for church members on Tuesday, January 9th. Registration opens to the community on Thursday, January 11th. Don't want to wait until next year, limited openings remain for the current school year. Please see Karin Kahler for additional information.



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

– We hope you can be Santa to a child in need. Your contribution to the NICU at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center will provide life-saving services to a child who desperately needs help to stay alive and thrive. Please

contribute through Holy Spirit – whether you give by check, at the kiosk, or via online donation, please use a memo line notation to the Love for the Least campaign. Also, please visit the Love for the Least tree in the narthex or FC lobby to admire the colorful hats that preemies wear to stay warm, and to pick up a paper ornament to honor or remember someone special in your life.



Hey there! Did you know that washing your hands is the most important thing you can do to prevent the spread of diseases? It's a simple but effective practice that's like a do-it-yourself vaccine! Just use warm, soapy water and rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds.

Make sure to wash the front and back of your hands, in between your fingers, and don't forget those fingernails! If you don't have soap and water handy, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to clean your hands. Let's all have a healthy and safe Christmas season by keeping our hands clean!

~ Dean Black, Faith Community Nurse



Please remember these members and friends of Holy Spirit in your prayers

Our homebound members:

Ray, Dale, Gloria, Judith, Phyllis, Deb, Dick, Gordon, Christopher, Grayson, Jean, Norine, Billie, Trevor, Bob, and Don.

Pray for God's healing for: Ben, Randy, Al, Paul, Michael, Joe, Helen, Donald, Gale, Carolyn, Glenn, Jane, Dick, Reinhold, Andrew, Fred, Jim, Lester, Christopher, Nancy, Tammy, Bob, Mary, Denise, Sara, Fred, Pete, Jack, Wilma, Jim, Glenn, Timothy, Cat, Sherri, Judith, and Mary Lou.

This weekend we **celebrate the baptism of Sydney Jane**. We welcome her into the body of Christ and our fellowship here at Holy Spirit.

In the Event of a Pastoral Emergency, at any time, you find you are in emergency need of having a pastor contact you, Call the office at 610- 967-2220 and press the number 3 after the general announcement.

If you, or a member of your family, are ever hospitalized, please let the pastors know by contacting the church office at 610-967-2220. The hospitals no longer notify the church due to HIPAA laws.

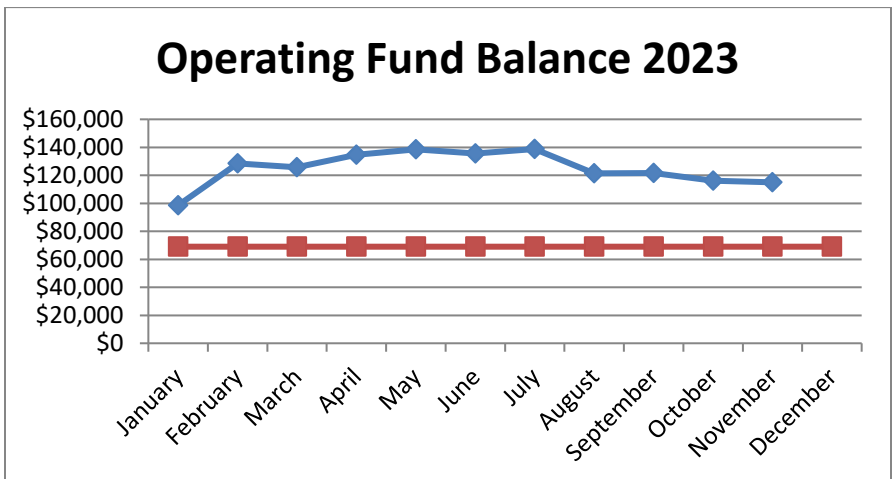
Prayer cards are available at the Information Desk. Completed prayer cards may be given to a pastor for inclusion in the morning prayers. During the week, please notify the church office if you or a member of your family is hospitalized.

November 2023 Financial Results and Discussion

Operating Performance: November's income was \$54,199, 15% under budget. Operating expenses were \$55,296, 25% under budget. We finished November with a \$1,097 deficit, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$8,897.

The graph below presents our operating cash balance shown against our monthly cash requirements.

- **Straight Line at \$69,000:** This represents our monthly cash requirement to run the church.
- **Upper Line:** This represents our current operating cash balance at the end of each month.



Building Fund: The building fund increased \$1,005 during the month to a balance of \$11,509.

Spirit Led Spirit Alive: This fund decreased \$1,506 during the month and has a balance of \$8,247.

Our Youth Group had a blast at our Holiday Lock In! They played a variety of games, made delicious cookies, decorated our Fellowship Center, and cleaned up for church that Sunday. Many of our youth brought their friends to share in the holiday fun. We love our youth!



CALENDAR

Sun. 12/17	National Youth Gathering Gift Wrapping Fundraiser (Drop off your gifts in Room 114)
	9:30 am Children's Christmas Pageant (WC)
	12:30 pm Blue Christmas Service (FC)
Mon. 12/18	10:00 am Counters (116)
	10:00 am Prime Timer's Movie Group (ASR)
	11:00 am LCHS Book Group (117/119)
	7:00 pm Finance Committee (FC)
	7:00 pm Stephen Ministers (ASR & 117/119)
Tues. 12/19	10:00 am Staff Meeting (117/119)
	11:00 am Nursery School Sing A Long (WC)
	7:00 pm Congregation Council (FC)
	7:00 pm Community Justice Panel (SC)
Weds. 12/20	9:30 am M&M's Too (117/119)
	1:00 pm Blue Christmas Service (FC)
	5:00 pm Girl Scouts (110/112)
	6:00 pm Children's Chimes Ensemble (WC)
	6:40 pm Spirit Ringers (WC)
Thurs. 12/21	10:00 am Prime Timer's Book Club (117/119)
	6:30 pm Music Rehearsal (WC)
Fri. 12/22	10:00 am Bloomin' Faith (Kitchen)
	10:00 am Decorating
Sat. 12/23	9:30 am Bloomin' Faith (Parking Lot)
Mon. 12/25	Church Office Closed
Tues. 12/26	Church Office Closed
Weds. 12/27	10:00 am Prime Timer's Christmas Brunch (FC)
	Noon Church Office Closing
Thurs. 12/28	10:00 am Bloomin' Faith (FC)
	Noon Church Office Closing
Fri. 12/29	11:00 am Counters (116)
	Noon Church Office Closing

Joy

HOLIDAY EVENT CALENDAR

Sunday, December 17, 2023

9:30 am

Family Service

12:30 pm

Christmas Pageant

Blue Christmas Service

Walk the Labyrinth

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

1:00 pm

Blue Christmas Service

Walk the Labyrinth

Sunday, December 24, 2023

+10:00 am

Advent 4 Service

2:40 pm

Carol Sing

+3:00 pm

Traditional Service

5:00 pm

Family Led Worship

7:10 pm

Pre-service music

7:30 pm

Spirit Worship Service

9:30 pm

Carol Sing

+10:00 pm

**Traditional Service
with Candlelighting**

Monday December 25 & Tuesday December 26

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 31, 2023

++10:00 am

Lessons and Carols

Monday, January 1, 2024

Church Office Closed

CHILD CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE 3:00 & 5:00 PM SERVICES

Reminder: There is no Sunday School, CAT Class, High School Connect, Coffee Fellowship, Gospel Reading/Sermon Replay on Sunday, December 24 and Sunday, December 31.

+ Services are also on Zoom