

HOLY HAPPENINGS



**We are an ELCA,
Reconciling in Christ,
and Rejoicing Spirits,
congregation.**

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

info@holyspirit-
emmaus.org
www.lchsemmaus.org

Upcoming Events

November 23

New Member Welcome
New Member
Welcome Breakfast

November 26

Thanksgiving Eve
Worship

November 27 & 28

Church Office Closed

December 5

Crafts, Cookies and Cocoa

December 7

The Bells of Christmas
Concert

Sunday, November 23, 2025

***8:30 am Worship and Praise**

9:15 am

Breakfast to welcome new members

9:30 am

HS Connect, CAT Class

9:45 am Family Worship

**10:15 am Sunday School,
Sermon/Gospel Replay**

***10:45 am Worship**

**Nursery Care is available at all
morning services in Room 113.**

***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 communion.

[Zoom Link](#): Meeting ID: 511 504 8051
Audio only: 929-205-6099

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.

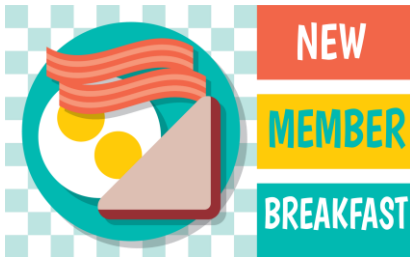
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

In Person Zoom

November 16, 2025

8:30 am	147	11
9:45 am	107	N/A
10:30 am	94	11

WORSHIP HELPERS	8:30 AM	9:45 AM	10:45 AM
Assisting Ministers	Deb Stevens		Becky Leiby
Communion Assistants	Carol Walrod Don Walrod	Dianna Olszewski Sheila Huff Leigh-Anne Wimmer	Dianna Olszewski Robert Neitz
Readers	Joseph Burke	Gabriella C.	Ava Killingsworth
Children's Message		Eric Kahler	
Greeters	Fran Derhammer	Smith Family	Ava Killingsworth
Ushers	Bill Derhammer	Smith Family	Brenda Truhe
Production/ Technology	Jimmy Lee Werley Alexis H. Volunteers Needed	Craig Kauffman Volunteer Needed	Craig Kauffman Volunteers Needed



NEW MEMBER WELCOME BREAKFAST

Join the Church Growth Team and other members of the congregation for a time of connection as we offer a warm welcome to Holy Spirit's new members.

Stop in for breakfast in the Fellowship Center on Sunday, November 23rd anytime from 9:15 – 10:30am for fellowship and sharing. Get acquainted with our new members, re-acquaint with others, and enjoy conversation over a light brunch.

CHRISTMAS INGATHERING REMINDER

All gifts should be in by November 23rd There are designated bins in the Fellowship Center Coat Room for items for the Sixth Street Shelter and Refugee Resettlement Program along with gifts for the children at Topton. Please contact Alice Mudge at 610-400-5349, if you need more time to deliver your gifts. Thank you for your generosity this year. Your kindness to those in need is an amazing gift to all who will share in this program.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP AT NOON

Wednesday, November 26

We will be worshipping in person and on Zoom.

Join us as we give thanks in worship and praise.

INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT ACTIVITIES EVENT **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH**

Between 9:15 and 10:45, join us in the Fellowship Center for the beginning of Advent. Activities vary from writing cards to refugee families and making a paper plate advent calendar. Pick up prompts for advent journaling or a game to play during this advent time. So many ideas to explore for all ages. If you attend family worship, plan to attend this opportunity before or after. All ages are welcome!



ADVENT - WE WAIT IN HOPE

Families or pairs of people are invited to lead us in the Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles at the 8:30, 9:45 & 10:45 worship services each Sunday in Advent, and on Christmas Eve. You will share a brief reading with the congregation and light one of the candles on the Advent

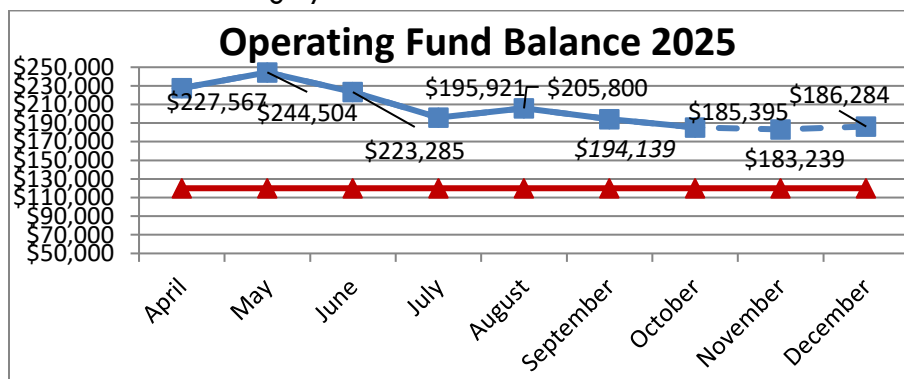
Wreath. Materials will be provided well in advance. There is a signup sheet available in the narthex. Please contact [Deacon Mel](#) if you have any questions or would like to sign-up.

Financial Results and Discussion – October 2025

Operating Performance: October income was \$82,610, \$18,732 or 29.3% above budget. Operating expenses were \$91,355, \$8,650 or 10.5% above budget. We finished October with a \$8,745 deficit, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$18,827. The graph below presents our operating cash balance shown against our monthly cash requirement April - December.

Thank you to everyone that continues to share their financial gifts in support of our ministries!

- **Straight Line at \$120,000:** Represents our 6-week cash requirement to operate the church.
- **Upper Straight Line:** Represents our **current** operating cash balance at the end of each month.
- **Upper Dotted Line:** Represents our **projected** operating cash balance through year end.



Building Fund: The building fund decreased \$3,395.00 during the month and has a balance of \$5,222.44.

Mortgage Update: The mortgage balance as of October 31, 2025, is \$347,487.75.

****Note:** The mortgage rate is set to adjust in April 2026 and is expected to be higher. Any funds contributed to Spirit Led, Spirit Alive will be used to pay down the principal balance before the interest rate adjusts on the mortgage.

Gospel Reading of John Challenge - CHALLENGE

We are **collecting cans of soup** for the Angel Network in November in gratitude for the opportunity to engage God's Word in a new way. This will allow for an extra giving to families in December, while we consider how we can participate in dwelling in scripture during Advent.

HOLY SPIRIT'S ADVENT GOSPEL OF JOHN CHALLENGE

Join us for reading the **Gospel of John** during **Advent**.

Follow these steps:

1. Choose a partner (can be nearby or far away, a spouse, family member, friend, coworker, neighbor, etc.) You **must** have their name and email when you sign up.
2. **Sign up** on Sunday after worship services on Nov. 23.
3. **As partners, read and discuss a chapter a day in the Gospel of John from November 30th through December 21.** (21 STRAIGHT DAYS!)
4. **All instructions and materials will be distributed when you sign up.** Again, you must have name and email of your partner at that time.
5. Weekly video overviews with Pastor Shari will be available to access at your convenience.

Another way to join the challenge is by praying.

Follow these steps:

1. **Sign up as a "PRAY-ER"** on sign up Sunday, Nov. 23.
2. **You will receive instructions** about your prayer support efforts when you sign up.

All Challenge participants, READERS, AND PRAY-ERS are invited to attend an Epiphany Challenge Celebration on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at noon or 5:30 pm. A light meal, Challenge wrap-up, and informal worship will be included.

Sign-up sheets are in the Worship Center lobby.



PRESCHOOL CAR WASH GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Holy Spirit Nursery School is partnering with The Car Wash (Broadway, Hamilton, and West Main), to offer a gift card fundraiser. Gift cards in denominations of \$10, \$25, and \$50 will be sold with delivery in time for Christmas gift giving. The preschool will receive 50% of each gift card sold. **The proceeds will be used to support the preschool playground fund.**

Gift cards can be used at any of the three locations and can be used toward the purchase of a variety of wash options.

Orders are due by Sunday, November 30th. Paper forms are available on the Information Table in the Lobby or an electronic form can be accessed by [clicking here](#). Payment can be made using the church website, Venmo, cash, or check. Any questions, contact [Karin Kahler](#) or Leigh-Anne Wimmer.



LCHS Spirit Wear Sale - available through 1/31/2026

1. Scan the QR code to access the store or [click here](#).



2. Select the item(s) you would like to purchase. Make sure to choose color and size and add to cart. Submit payment.
3. Check out and your order will be shipped directly to you!



November is designated as **National Family Caregivers Month** in the United States.

This month serves to recognize and honor the millions of family caregivers who support loved ones with chronic illnesses, disabilities, or age-related needs.

Celebrating Family Caregivers during National

Family Caregivers Month enables all of us to:

- Raise awareness of family caregiver issues
- Celebrate the efforts of family caregivers
- Educate family caregivers about self-identification
- Increase support for family caregivers
- Reduce feelings of isolation



Welcome to Carol Campbell Faith Community Health Liaison

This is the new name of the former Faith Community Nurse. Carol was raised in Athens, located in North Central, PA. After High School she

received a Diploma in Nursing from the Robert Packer Hospital School of Nursing. She worked as a staff nurse for 6 years and then moved to Connecticut to continue work and her nursing education which culminated in becoming an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. As an APRN she worked for Hartford Hospital in Cardiac Surgical I.C.U. and worked for a Cardiology Practice. In retirement, she moved back to the area to be near family and joined LCHS. We are grateful that she has said yes to joining our church staff.

ADDRESSES

Please help us out by letting us know if your address has changed. There are some forms on the information table you can fill out, or call/email the office. We would really appreciate you sharing ones who are attending university this year. Thank you.

FAITH AND CIVIC LIFE – LISTENING TO JESUS' WORDS

When asked what the greatest commandment is, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 18:18: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your strength, with all your might and your neighbor as yourself."

In this season of Thanksgiving, we give thanks that God has placed us in this country where each citizen has not only the right, but the responsibility to use their hearts, minds, strength and voices to promote care for their neighbors. Each citizen is called to care for the *polis*, the civic community. This includes the neighborhood, town, county, state, and extends to nation and the world.

Being truly thankful goes beyond words to include action. What will guide your actions in this season of Thanksgiving?

Caring for the world may seem overwhelming. Maybe just start with Micah 6:8 "What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

ESTIMATE OF GIVING - Connecting the Dots

Thank you to everyone that has submitted their 2026 Estimate of Giving over the past two months! The Finance Team has already started the 2026 budgeting process and the only way to accurately budget our expected 2026 income is through the Estimate of Giving process. ***If you have not already returned your Estimate of Giving, we ask that you submit it by the end of November.*** Estimate of Giving cards are available on the information table in the narthex and completed cards can be placed in the box in the narthex (to the left of the center doors) or in the offering plates on Sunday. Other ways to return your Estimate of Giving are to email finsec@holyspirit-emmaus.org or go online at lchsemmaus.org (click on Stewardship, then follow the prompts).

Again, thank you for your support as our church leadership plans for our ministries in the coming year. ~ From the LCHS Stewardship Team



**Lunch
with
Pastor
Shari**

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

LUNCH BUNCH WITH PASTOR SHARI

Bring your lunch and join with Pastor Shari in conversation from Noon to 1pm on **December 1st** the Fellowship Center.

HOLDEN VILLAGE SUMMER TRIP MEETING

An informational meeting about members traveling together to Holden Village this coming summer will be held on Zoom on **Tuesday, Dec. 2nd at 7 pm**. Email your interest to Pastor Shari at prduminy@holyspirit-emmaus.org to receive a link to join the discussion or questions needing to be addressed. Jan. 1st is the day that registration opens for the coming summer. Preparation for meeting this deadline allows us to be able to attend the week that we want to travel. Check out more about Holden Village at <https://www.holdenvillage.org/>



CRAFTS, COOKIES AND COCOA

You are invited to join us for our annual crafts, cookies and cocoa event on **Friday, December 5th** from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Children will have the opportunity to create Christmas themed crafts. The children can share the crafts they

made as Christmas gifts for family and friends so that they can experience the joy of giving. Refreshments of cookies and cocoa will be provided. All are welcome to join in the festivities! You can participate by planning/leading a craft, or bringing children (family, friends, and neighbors) to attend. [Sign up using this link](#) so we can plan for crafts and refreshments. If interested in leading a craft, please contact [Karin Kahler](#).

YOUTH SUMMER TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC Informational Meeting

We invite all high school youth and their parents to attend an informational meeting about the DC Summer Trip from July 20 – 24th on **Sunday, Dec. 7 at 9:30 am**. You will hear about the plans that have already been made and contribute ideas for what you are hoping the trip can include. It will be a time to ask questions and get registered. Join us in room 117/119.

VOLUNTEER AT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE Our first visit to Neighborhood House at Christ Lutheran will be at 7:30 am Sunday, Dec 7th. We need six people to help to serve the breakfast from 7:30 am to around 11 am. Youth volunteers must be accompanied by a parent. We are also in need of food donations - approx. 8 hot breakfast foods - egg dishes, french toast, etc. prepared in a disposable pan. We can heat these items at the church, but they must be cooked/baked when they are delivered. There are sign-up sheets in the narthex for all of the food items. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Deb Smith by email dsfotog@outlook.com or text at [610-972-6176](tel:610-972-6176).



The Bells of Christmas – December 7, 4:00 pm

A concert of Advent and Christmas music featuring the Spirit Ringers with singers and instruments.

With special guests: our Rejoicing Ringers!

~ BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES ~

Wednesday 12/17 at 12:00pm and Sunday 12/21 at 12:30pm

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.*

M&M's TOO – an inspirational time for women to get together in prayer and discussion. Our next meeting will be on December 17th at 9:30 am in Room 117/119. Join us in a Carol sing and enjoy some Christmas cookies with friends.

ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE DECEMBER 19

In an effort to streamline our annual report, we are asking teams to consider what they would like to share with the congregation. Try to highlight three or four key accomplishments / impact stories that lift up what your team does for our congregation, our local community and beyond. Annual Reports will be due to the church office no later than Friday, December 19, 2025.



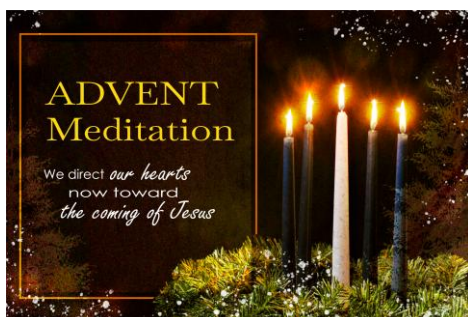
WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer to be a [Communion Assistant here.](#)

Volunteers choose what day(s) they would like to serve. Training is available.

Production Team Members are always welcome. Not sure what all is involved, ask one of our team members. Training is provided and you can sign up for whatever services you'd like. [Click here](#) to sign up.

You can also **call the church office** if you are interested in serving and Nikki will add you to the list.



Advent Meditation

**December 3 in the Fellowship Center at 2 pm
and December 17 in the Worship Center at 2 pm**

Take some time to slow down and center yourself during this busy time of the year. We will start with Centering Prayer. Experience a walking meditation time. We will end with an Advent guided meditation to prepare our hearts and minds to receive the coming Messiah. We would love for you to join us.

DECEMBER ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Join us each Sunday at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Center

Sunday, Dec. 7th – Spiritual Practice

Lectio Divina with Deacon Mel Werley

Lectio Divina (Latin for "divine reading") is a traditional Christian practice of prayerfully reading scripture to expand one's communion with God and gain deeper spiritual insight. It's a slow, contemplative engagement with a biblical text, not merely an intellectual study. The goal is to move from reading the text to internalizing it as the living Word of God, allowing it to shape one's life. We will experience Lectio Divina together as a group, as well as learn ways to practice Lectio Divina individually.

Sunday, Dec. 14 – Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Support our children as they tell the story of Christmas. 9:45 am in the Worship Center

Sunday, Dec. 21 – Christmas Around the World

On this Sunday close to Christmas, we ask you to share some of your own Christmas traditions with your Holy Spirit Church family. Register to bring in on that day, a family Nativity Scene to share. We will have rooms set up where you will display your Nativity from 9:30 to 10:30 that day. Or think about sharing a Christmas Treat that your family enjoys. We will have them on trays in the various rooms, or you can show us how they are made. (Fill out a separate registration to participate.) Pastor Shari will be making Lefsa and would love for you to come and assist.

Sunday, Dec. 28 – One worship at 10 AM – Lessons and Carols

Join us for Christmas Breakfast in the Fellowship Center following.

If you would like to help, please reach out to [Linda Devine](#).



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

Our homebound members: Dale, Fern, Phyllis, Gayle, Joan, Dick, Gordon, Christopher, Lee, Darla, Larry, Jean, Norine, Billie, and Bob.

Pray for God's healing for our members and friends: Alex, Al, Ben, Janet, Phyllis, Tom, Joe, Donna, Ron, Bill, Jane, Rod, Tom, Dayton, Lisa, Dave, Brad, John, Peter, Ann, Patrick, Laura, Rich, Jim, Marcus, Nancy, Scott, Larry, Laura, Rick, and Don.

We give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Michael, Erin, Landon, Emilia, Ruth, Carol, Carol, Janelle, Simphiwe, Alfred, Busi, Mike and Tacy, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit.

In times of sorrow for the family and friends of Ernie Olszewski, Ryan's uncle.

In the Event of a Pastoral Emergency If you are in emergency need of having a pastor contact you, please call the church 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 Request Reminder: Prayers requested for a particular individual will be spoken by name at Sunday worship for one month following the date of the request. Should prayers be desired beyond this initial period, another request may certainly be made. The names of our homebound members will be offered in worship at least once a month.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS AT HOLY SPIRIT



We had a great time at Kalahari water park with 15 youth and 8 adults!



7 amazing youth shared about their faith journeys and got Confirmed on Reformation Sunday.



We had around 20 Trunk or Treat youth volunteers who helped with set up, tear-down, games, s'mores, and face tattoos at Trunk-or-Treat. They also passed out door hangers earlier in the month to spread the word!

We had 14 youth and 4 adults attend Catechism Camp for a fun-filled fall weekend praising God and enjoying nature.



**Support our LCHS Youth
and get ready for the holiday season with festive gifts!**

The LCHS Youth are selling gifts perfect for friends, family, co-workers, teachers, and more. All proceeds go to supporting LCHS Youth activities, including their service trip to Washington, D.C. this summer. Purchase our delicious Christmas Crunch Popcorn Mix or cozy up with our Hot Cocoa Kit available in Arctic White, Chocolate Supreme, and Mint Chocolate flavors! You can also sweeten your celebrations with a Candy Sleigh. Mix and match any three kits for \$20. Scan the QR code for easy ordering or pick up a paper copy available at the back table in the narthex. The last day to order is Dec. 7th. Pick up your order at all three services on Dec. 14th and Dec. 21st. Thank you in advance and have a Merry Christmas!



Holiday gifts

BUNDLE DEAL
3 for \$20

Christmas Crunch popcorn mix \$8

Hot Coco Kit \$8

Candy Sleigh \$10

DEC 7TH LAST DAY FOR SALES

The advertisement features a pink background with a red border. In the top left corner, there is a green holly leaf with three red berries. In the bottom right corner, there is a green Christmas tree with white and red ornaments and a yellow star on top. The text 'Holiday gifts' is written in a large, black, cursive font. Below it, the items are listed with their prices. Each item is accompanied by a small image: a bag of popcorn, a hot cocoa kit, and a candy sleigh. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner. The text 'DEC 7TH LAST DAY FOR SALES' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

CALENDAR

Sun. 11/23	Noon	Handbell Rehearsal (WC)
Mon. 11/24	10:00 am	Counters (116)
	11:00 am	LCHS Book Group (117/119)
	11:00 am	Pastor's Meeting (Office)
	7:00 pm	Spirit Voices (WC)
Tues. 11/25	9:00 am	NS Thanksgiving Celebration (110/112 & WC)
	1:00 pm	NS Chapel (WC)
	2:00 pm	Staff Meeting (116)
	5:30 pm	Grief Support Group (ASR)
Weds. 11/26	Noon	Thanksgiving Eve Worship (WC & Zoom)
	Noon	Church Office Closing
Thurs. 11/27		Church Office Closed
Fri. 11/28		Church Office Closed
Mon. 12/1	10:00 am	Counters (116)
	11:00 am	Pastor's Meeting (Office)
	12:00 pm	Lunch w/ Pr Shari (117/119)
	7:00 pm	Stephen Ministers (ASR & 119/119)
Tues. 12/2	9:15 am & 12:40 pm	NS Chapel (WC)
	Noon	Staff Christmas Luncheon
	5:30 pm	Grief Support Group (ASR)
	6:30 pm	NS Board Meeting (117/119)
	6:30 pm	Community Justice Panel (SC)
	7:00 pm	Holden Village Summer Trip Mtg. (Zoom)
	7:00 pm	Tech Team Meeting (Zoom)
Weds. 12/3	9:15 am	NS Chapel (WC)
	10:00 am	Staff Worship Planning (116)
	2:00 pm	Advent Meditation (FC)
	2:30 pm	Rejoicing Ringers (WC)
	6:30 pm	Spirit Ringers (WC)
	6:30 pm	Faith & Civic Life (110/112)
	6:30 pm	Girl Scout Service Unit (SC)
Thurs. 12/4	8:30 am	NS Conferences (110/112)
	6:00 pm	Children's Choir (WC)
	7:00 pm	Spirit Voices (WC)
	7:00 pm	Staff Support (116)
Fri. 12/5	10:00 am	Decorating
	6:00 pm	Crafts, Cookies, Cocoa (FC)
Sat. 12/6	10:00 am	Spirit Ringers (WC)
Sun. 12/7	9:30 am	Youth Washington DC Trip Mtg. (117/119)
	1:00 pm	Angel Network (FC)
	4:00 pm	The Bells of Christmas Concert (WC)
	6:00 pm	Youth Hang (SC)