HOLY HAPPENINGS

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

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

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Upcoming Events

March 15
Bear Creek Camp Visit

Mid-Week Lenten Worship
March 18, 25

March 29
Palm Sunday

April 2
Maundy Thursday

April 3
Good Friday

April 5
Easter Celebration

Sunday, March 15, 2026

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

9:30 am Adult Faith Formation, Cat Class, HS Connect

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 service will be 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
March 8, 2026		
8:30 am	**118**	**12**
9:45 am	**74**	**N/A**
10:45 am	**81**	**15**
2:30 pm	**43**	**N/A**

WORSHIP HELPERS	8:30 AM	9:45 AM	10:45 AM
Assisting Ministers	Carole Wetherhold		Marian Snyder
Communion Assistants	Carol Walrod Don Walrod	Jennifer Wetzel Volunteers Needed	Sheila Huff Deb Smith
Readers	Beth Fatzinger	Camille B.	Marian Snyder
Children's Message		Courtney Keiser	
Greeters	Barb Roba Beth Fatzinger	George Family	Nancy Slimmer
Ushers	Gerry Masteller	George Family	Rick Slimmer
Production/ Technology	Jimmy Lee Werley Eric Kahler Kristen Newill Bill Newill	Jimmy Lee Werley Eric Kahler	Volunteers Needed

ADULT FAITH FORMATION – SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM

Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Center Connect to Community – CIVICS 101: Toward a better understanding of the U.S. Constitution - When we pray, "'Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,'" we are reminded that God is at work in caring for creation, and we are called to strive to understand and join in that work." In his small catechism, Luther reminds us that our prayer for "daily bread" includes a prayer for good government. Join Kyle David and members of the Faith and Civic Life team, as we consider how and why the U.S. Constitution was written, ways it is read, and some of the paradoxes it presents. A Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All; ELCA, 2025.

Sunday, March 22, 2026, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Center
Connect with One Another – Time with the CAT Class students on faith
During Fellowship, we will be joined by CAT Class students for Adult Faith Formation. We invite you to participate in important conversations about what faith means to us and how we live it out in the world. Your time and openness are greatly appreciated.

Sunday, March 29, 2026, at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Center
Connect to the Generations – Palm Sunday/Holy Week Intergenerational Event - We will learn together through hands-on activities about this important time for the church. It is through growing in our understanding of what Jesus imparted through words and actions that led to death on the cross that we approach the Resurrection on Easter with full and grateful hearts. Please set aside time not only to learn, but to be in conversation with all members throughout our worship experiences. This is a come-and-go event where you can stay for as long as you want. Try something new and check it out!

EASTER EGG FILLERS NEEDED

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, April 5th at 10:30 am. We are asking for donations of items to fill the plastic eggs. Stickers, small toys, tattoos, bouncy balls, and ***NUT FREE*** candy make great fillers. Donations can be placed in the marked donation bin the Fellowship Center lobby by **Sunday, March 15th**. Thank you!

BEAR CREEK SUMMER CAMP

The Bear Creek Camp community consists of campers from 1st-12th grade centered mostly on small group activities with experiences in large group settings as well. All aspects of our program are designed to build an inclusive community, care for creation, promote adventure and fun, share grace-filled faith, cultivate empathy, and develop leaders. **Scholarships are available.**

For more information, click here or you can ask questions as representatives from Bear Creek will be with us at all three services on March 15th.

PRIME TIMER'S EVENTS FOR MARCH

BOOK CLUB - Thursday, March 19 - 10:00am in Room 117-119. We will review opinions on "*Children's Blizzard*" and "*The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*."

MOVIE GROUP - Tuesday, March 24 - We will be watching, "*Little Miss Sunshine*" in the All-Saints Room at 10:00am. All are welcome to join us.

COFFEE HOUR - Wednesday, March 25 - Join us for goodies, fruit, intellectual stimulation, trivia, and lots of fun. We will meet at 10:00am in Room 110/112. Bring a friend or neighbor.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AND CELEBRATED!

The Children's Ministry table and basket in the worship center lobby contains a variety of items for children's use during worship. Stop by to borrow a book or pick up some coloring sheets and crayons.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COLLECTION

for God's Global Barnyard is a noisy offering! We invite you to bring your spare change (and dollars!) through April 5th. God's Global Barnyard is an ELCA World Hunger initiative.

2026-2027 Preschool Registration

Registration for the 2026 – 2027 school year has begun. Click here to register. Holy Spirit's Nursery School has proudly been serving the children of our church and community for 50 years. Classes are provided for children ages 3, 4 and 5 years old. If interested in learning more or registering, please contact Karin Kahler.

EHS ANGEL NETWORK

The Angel Network is still in need of laundry detergent for our spring baskets. Click here for an Amazon link for 70 loads of Arm and Hammer laundry sheets for only $12.58!

We will accept pods and liquid detergent as well. **93 laundry detergents are still needed and our *collection will run through March 22nd.*** You can find the collection bins in the fellowship center lobby. Thank you.

2026 SPRING MISSION TRIP

Holy Spirit's spring mission trip is again heading to York, PA. We will be working with SERVANTS, INC. to provide home repair work to families in the local community. We will be staying at beautiful Camp Friendly Acres, which is a church camp run by Advent Lutheran church in York. We will be traveling to York on **Sunday April 26th** and returning Thursday afternoon April 30th. We do have opportunities to coordinate carpools with other people if you can only work part of the week. There will be work for all skill levels. Please contact Bob Mueller if you have any questions (610-442-7892).

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Ushers and Greeters are needed for Holy week worship services. Please click here to volunteer.

Readers are needed for our Noon Good Friday service. Please sign up here.

Volunteer to be a **Communion Assistant** at one of our Sunday morning worship services by clicking here

Volunteer to be on the **Production/Technology Team** by clicking here.

Volunteers choose what days they would like to serve, and training is available. You can also **call the church office** if you are interested in volunteering and Nikki will add you to the list.

Join us for "**Tell Me Something Good**": Grounding ourselves in the good news", a program series by Sanctified Art that will guide our weekly worship services throughout the season of Lent. What is it about? Central to Jesus' life and ministry are radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, and nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teaching, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace – all of which are meant to be very good news for us all. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be and how we can be "good news" people in a world too often burdened by bad news.

We gather for worship:

Sunday Mornings at 8:30, 9:45, and 10:45
Wednesday during Lent at Noon and 7 PM

This week's theme:
The good news is... protection & care for the vulnerable

Holy Week 2026:

Palm Sunday - March 29th
The good news is... inspiring us to act
Worship at 8:30, 9:45, and 10:45
Intergenerational Faith Formation - 9:15 to 10:45

Maundy Thursday - April 2nd
The good news is... even Judas gets his feet washed
Worship at Noon and 7 PM

Good Friday - April 3rd
The good news is... revealed through nonviolence
Worship at Noon and 7 PM

Easter Sunday - April 5th
The good news is... alive in the world
Worship at 8:30, 9:45, 11 AM
(Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30 AM)

JOIN US AS WE ROOT OURSELVES IN THE GOOD NEWS!

LENTEN ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL

During this Lenten Season, we are supporting the ELCA World Hunger effort. Over 821 million people in the world, 11% of the world's population, are hungry. In the United States alone over 40 million people are unsure where their next meal is coming from.

Here are the various ways you can donate:

- Click here to go to our on-line donation form (on the church's website) and enter your donation amount on the World Hunger line.
- Use your weekly offering envelope by entering "World Hunger" and your donation amount on the Special Gifts line or use the special Lenten Offering envelope.
- Send your check to the church office payable to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, noting World Hunger on the check memo line.
- Use our Venmo app noting World Hunger on the memo line.

venmo

WHAT IS OPERATION BOOTSTRAP AFRICA (OBA)?

At least 6 of the programs our Holy Spirit members visited in Tanzania in 2025 receive funds through OBA. So, what is Operation Bootstrap Africa?

Founded by Rev. David Simonson, a Lutheran missionary dedicated to education and empowerment in Africa, OBA has been guided by his vision for over 60 years. Here is how OBA describes that vision:

Rooted in a faith that calls us to serve, we believe that all people are created with inherent dignity and deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our work in education reflects these values, answering the call to love, uplift, and empower others.

In pursuit of that vision, OBA partners with Africans to strengthen their future through education, healthcare, agriculture, and other long-term development projects. More to come….

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 15 – 19
9:15 am – 11:45 am

VBS VOLUNTEERS: VBS provides as opportunity for teens and adults to serve in a variety of ways. Please click here to complete the Volunteer Interest Form. Our Protection of Minors Policy and the PA Child Protective Services Law requires VBS volunteers to have current background clearances. Please contact Carol Osenbach or Nikki Clark in the office to inquire about the process.

VBS REGISTRATION: Children age 3 ½ - entering grade 5 are welcome to join us for VBS. Please click here for the Participant Registration Form. We ask that you **return the form by June 1st** so that we can adequately plan for supplies. Feel free to invite a friend!

Paper forms are also available on the information table in the Worship Center Lobby.

VBS DECORATING SESSIONS:
Come out, think summer, and connect with others as we create the decorations that will be used for Vacation Bible School. It's a wonderful fellowship opportunity. No artistic skills are required, and you need not attend all of the decorating sessions. Middle school youth are welcome to attend with an adult. Please enter at the church office entrance as we will meet in the Fellowship Center on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 31 – 6:00 pm
Wednesday, April 15 – 6:30 pm
Wednesday, April 22 – 2:00 pm
Monday, May 11 – 6:00 pm

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

Our homebound members:
Gayle, Joan, Dick, John, Gordon, Christopher, Darla, Larry, Jean, Norine, Billie, and Bob.

Pray for God's healing for our members and friends: Bill, Al, Janet, Brian, Phyllis, Joe, Donna, Ron, Rod, Mark, Dayton, Lisa, Charles, Terry, Laura, Mark, Jim, Joan, Bob, Grace, Sophia, Tom, Laura, Jack, Angela, Jim, Mary, Rich, Don, Ron, and Philip.

In times of sorrow for the family and friends of Fred Taylor, friend of Lynn Snyder.

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.

LUTHERAN DAY AT THE CAPITAL Gather on Monday, April 20, for a day of learning, community building, inspiration, and advocacy. Team with advocates from across the Commonwealth to stay grounded in our faith and be equipped to take collective action on issues that impact everyone's well-being. This event is known as Lutheran Day in the Capital. Early registration is open until March 20, since we at Holy Spirit already meet the group discount rate, use the discount code CONGREGATION26 when registering. We will need volunteers for carpooling to accommodate everyone attending. So far, there are two cars available, which can carry 8-10 people.

For more information, see the flyers on the information table or contact Dean Black at 484-357-4500 or dblack3105@gmail.com, or Tom Bradley at 814-934-2980 or tmbradley1717@gmail.com. Additional details are available on the LAMPa website at https://www.lutheranadvocacypa.org/.

Let your voice and faith be heard.

Direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars Today!

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent client you may be able to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. To qualify for Thrivent Choice Dollars, you must meet one of the following qualifications:

1. Have $750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life or health insurance products.
2. Have $20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance or annuity products.

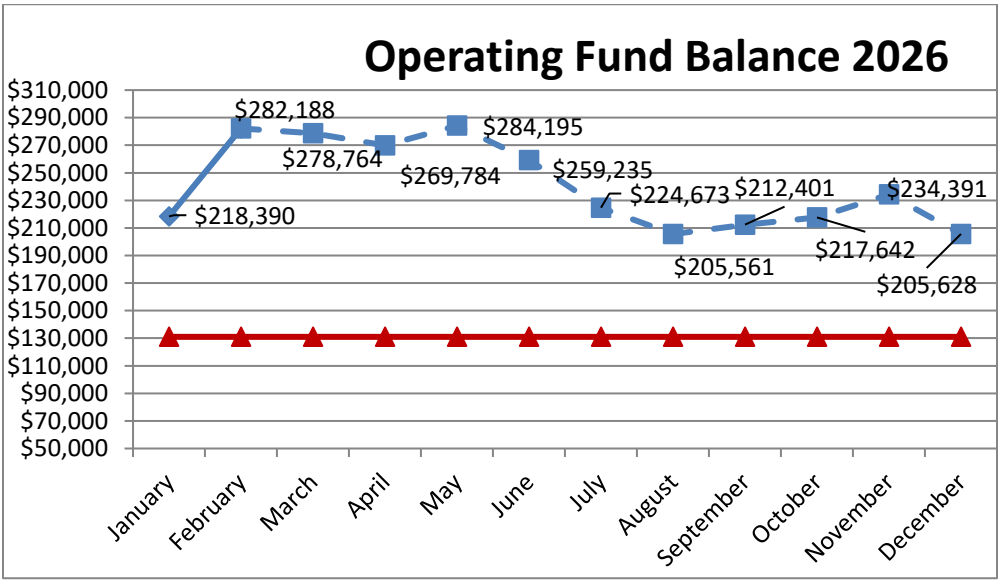
Thrivent Choice Dollars are earned every calendar year and can be directed to the organization of your choice by March 31st of the following year. You have **until March 31, 2026** to designate the direction of your 2025 Thrivent Choice Dollars. You can designate your choice of organizations on the Thrivent website. If you have questions, please review the program on the website or contact your Thrivent Advisor. Please consider directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to our church.

Financial Results and Discussion – February 2026

Operating Performance: February income was $149,262, $4,135 or 2.8% above budget. Operating expenses were $85,464, $4,934 or 5.5% below budget. We finished February with a $63,798 surplus, compared to a budgeted surplus of $54,729. The graph below presents our operating cash balance shown against our monthly cash requirement **January - December.**

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

- **Straight Line at $131,000**: 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 increased $655.00 during the month and has a balance of $6,734.94.

Mortgage Update: A $23,252.85 principal paydown of the mortgage was applied in February. The mortgage balance as of February 28, 2026, is $320,000.00.

COLLECTION FOR THE ALLENTOWN EUCMENICAL FOOD BANK

The following is a list of the most needed foods at the pantry. Please remember to ***check the best by dates*** before dropping off any contributions. Thank you!

Most Needed Foods:

- Canned fruits, packed in natural juices preferred
- Individual fruit cups
- Shelf-stable individual microwavable meals such as Dinty Moore Stew or Mac 'n Cheese cups, or Hormel Completes
- Packages of precooked rice, grains, or pasta
- Ready-to-drink breakfast protein drinks
- Jelly
- Flour
- Sugar
- Vegetable oil
- Low-sugar cereal such as cheerios, bran flakes, etc.
- Oatmeal
- Condiments such as salad dressing, ketchup, mustard
- Hearty soups
- Mac 'n cheese cups
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Diapers Size 5, 6, 7
- Feminine care products

Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank

Foods NOT Accepted:

- Home cooked, processed, or baked foods
- Foods in open containers
- Foods with best buy date greater than 6 months

Please place your contributions in the benches located in the Fellowship Center Lobby. The benches are marked. Thank you for your continued support.

CALENDAR

Sun. 3/15	12:00 pm	Youth Candy Making (Kitchen)
Mon. 3/16	10:00 am	Counters (116)
	11:00 am	Pastor's Meeting (Office)
	6:00 pm	Finance Team (116)
	7:00 pm	Stephen Ministers (ASR & 117/119)
Tues. 3/17	9:15 am & 12:40 pm	NS Chapel (WC)
	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting (116)
	6:30 pm	Community Justice Panel (SC)
	7:00 pm	Council (116)
Wed. 3/18	9:15 am	NS Chapel (WC)
	9:30 am	NS Music (WC)
	9:30 am	M&M's (117/119)
	12:00 pm	Lenten Worship (WC)
	5:30 pm	Spirit Ringers (WC)
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship (WC)
Thurs. 3/19	9:00 am	NS Conferences (110/112)
	9:25 am	NS Music (WC)
	10:00 am	Prime Timer's Book Group (117/119)
	6:00 pm	Children's Choir (WC)
	7:00 pm	Spirit Voices (WC)
Sat. 3/21	10:00 am	Calling Hour for Nancy McClain (WC)
	11:00 am	Service and Celebration of Life (WC)
Sun. 3/22	10:00 am	Easter Egg Filling (117/119)
	3:30 pm	Angel Network (FC)
Mon. 3/23	10:00 am	Counters (116)
	11:00 am	LCHS Book Group (117/119)
	11:00 am	Pastor's Meeting (Office)
	6:30 pm	Outreach Mission Team (Zoom)
	6:30 pm	Stewardship Team (116)
Tues. 3/24	9:15 am & 12:40 pm	NS Chapel (WC)
	10:00 am	Prime Timers Movie Group (ASR)
	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting (116)
Wed. 3/25	9:15 am	NS Chapel (WC)
	9:30 am	Stitch-n-Chat (113)
	10:00 am	Prime Timer's Coffee Hour (110/112)
	12:00 pm	Lenten Worship (WC)
	2:30 pm	Rejoicing Ringers (WC)
	5:30 pm	Spirit Ringers (WC)
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship (WC)
Thurs. 3/26	9:15 am	NS Music (WC)
	6:00 pm	Children's Choir (WC)
	7:00 pm	Spirit Voices (WC)
Fri. 3/27	10:00 am	Bloomin' Faith (Kitchen)
Sat. 3/28	9:30 am	Bloomin' Faith (Parking Lot)
Sun. 3/29	6:00 pm	Youth Hang-Out (FC)