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 22
New Member Welcome Breakfast

November 23
Lutheran Basics Study

November 24
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

November 26, 27
Church Office Closed

December 4
Crafts, Cookies & Cocoa

December 6
Bells of Christmas Concert

Sunday, November 22, 2026
***8:30 am Worship and Praise**

9:15-10:30 am New Member Welcome Breakfast,

9:30 am CAT Class, High School Connect

9:45 am Family Worship

10:10 am Sunday School, Gospel/Sermon Replay

***10:45 am Worship**

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

***Worship will be online.**

If you are worshipping with us online, 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.

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ in our homes, our communities, and the world.

ATTENDANCE: November 15, 2026

	In Person	Online
8:45 am	**141**	**8**
9:45 am	**80**	**N/A**
10:30 am	**87**	**16**

WORSHIP HELPERS	8:30 AM	9:45 AM	10:45 AM
Assisting Ministers	John Guignet		Deb Stevens
Communion Assistants	Suzanna Wendt Sue Mathieu	Sheila Huff Volunteers Needed	Jackie Leipert Susann Madara
Message		Deb Smith	
Readers	Max H.	Camille B.	Bennett S.
Greeters	Susan Smith	Slaby Family	Marian Harrison
Ushers	Rob Smith	Slaby Family	Victor Schmidt
Production/ Technology	Bill Keane Eric Kahler Al Bauernschmidt	Craig Kauffman Bill Keane	Craig Kauffman Volunteers Needed

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Join us in the Fellowship Center from 9:30 to 10:30 am each Sunday for Faith Formation. Topics are listed below:

Nov. 22 – **New Member Welcome Breakfast (9:15 – 10:30 am)**
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 newest members. Stop in for breakfast in the Fellowship Center.

Nov. 29 - **Intergenerational Faith Formation Event**
This year, as we transition from Thanksgiving to Advent, we invite you to join us in the Fellowship Center from 9:15 to 10:40 AM on Sunday, Nov. 29th. We will have activities for all ages to help us express our thankfulness and prepare for Christmas. You will have opportunities to help with a project or write on a card to show care for people beyond our church and homes. Join us for a time of learning, discerning, and care.

CHRISTMAS INGATHERING

By Sunday, November 22, all gifts for the Ingathering should be in. There are designated bins in the Fellowship Center Coat Room for Bright Hope Pregnancy Center and gifts for the kids at Topton. Please contact Alice Mudge, 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. Thank you.

ANGEL NETWORK UPDATE is as follows:

Corn - **Completed** for December and April
Laundry Detergent - December completed (**ONLY 50 MORE NEEDED TO COMPLETE the SPRING COLLECTION!!**)

We have 2 weeks left in our collection and we have never done this well before! **HOLY SPIRIT YOU ARE REMARKABLE!!**

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for your very generous hearts! ♥

~ Deb Walsh and the EHS Angel Network



Dear Bloomin Faith,
Your flowers meant so much to me on my birthday. I had to throw a few away, but the rest I enjoyed for another week. Not only do I appreciate and love the flowers, but your delivery service is most exceptional. The visit, although brief, and the flowers made my birthday so exceptional. ~ Blessings, Pattie Bisbing

Prime Timer's

Movie Group will meet on December 15th at 10:00 am in the All Saints Room to watch, "*We Bought A Zoo*" starring Matt Damon and Scarlett Johansson, based on a true story.

Christmas Coffee Hour – Bring a friend or neighbor and join us for a holiday celebration on December 30th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Center.

Our Last Lutheran Basics Study is November 23rd

You are warmly invited to explore the basics of the Lutheran faith during our last study on Monday, November 23rd at 7:30 PM.

Location: Online Zoom Link: Join Zoom Meeting
Join Zoom Meeting
https://holyspirit-emmaus-org.zoom.us/j/84918159759?pwd=ePOKR6lKLXAjLLZZgoBF1aVIR1LCmt.1

Meeting ID: 849 1815 9759 Passcode: 279201

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Great Expectations by John K. O'Neal Jr. explores Isaiah as a book of prophecy that also contains some of the Bible's most poetic writing. They show up for us during the season of Advent. Imagery such as the lion and the lamb lying down together, with great expectations of the life to come.

The 4-Session Bible Study explores word pictures in Isaiah and encourages participants to explore this study thoughtfully together:

Two options are available to join together with others in the pondering. The first is an Online Session on Mondays at 7:30 PM. Join with this link. Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 849 1815 9759 Passcode: 279201

The second is an In-person session on Wednesdays at 2:00 PM in Room 110-112.

Advent 1 (Nov. 30th & Dec. 2)
Peace for God's People - Isaiah 2:1-5
Advent 2 (Dec. 7th & 9th)
Hope for God's People - Isaiah 11:1-10
Advent 3 (Dec. 14th & 16th)
Joy for God's People - Isaiah 35:1-10
Advent 4 (Dec. 21 & 23rd)
Promise for God's People - Isaiah 7:10-16

ONLINE BOOK STUDY - The NEPA Synod Racial Justice Team invites participants to an online study of Amanda Tyler's **How to End Christian Nationalism**. The sessions will explore the difference between Christian nationalism and the teachings of Jesus, religious freedom for all, and ways to have difficult conversations with loved ones.

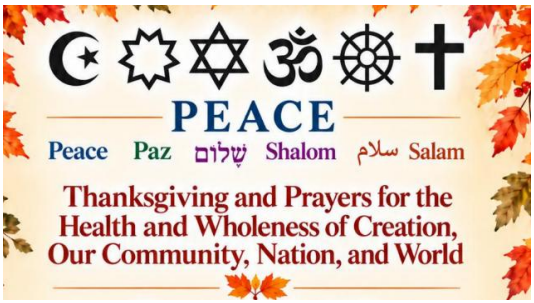
Sessions meet on select Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom.
Dates: Monday Evenings - November 23, Dec 7, Jan 11, Jan 25, Feb 8, Feb 22, March 8, March 22
Time: 7 pm-8:30 pm via Zoom.
Led by: Rev. Brandon Heavner and Rev. Samantha Drennan (Synod Racial Justice Team)
Materials: Participants are asked to purchase their own copy of the book. However, assistance is available if needed. A rental copy of the book is available through the synod's Resource Center.

To register: Please contact Samantha Drennan at: (samantha@nepsynod.org) to be enrolled in the class and receive the Zoom link.

ABOUT THE BOOK: Christian nationalism is a powerful and pervasive ideology, one that is becoming normalized. From Amanda Tyler, lead organizer of the Christians Against Christian Nationalism campaign, comes ***How to End Christian Nationalism***, a vital companion for countering this dangerous ideology. Tyler draws on her experiences, conversations with pastors and laypeople, research, Scripture, her Baptist convictions, and her work as a constitutional law expert to help us confront Christian nationalist fervor.

TIPS TO ENJOY A HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON
With the rush that comes with the holiday season, we should take steps to stay healthy and happy.

- Positive mindful eating: eat slowly and savor the food. Balance traditional holiday dishes with some lighter options. Practice portion control.
- Stay Active: squeeze a short walk in after eating to aid digestion and get some fresh air.
- Set Boundaries: say "No" to tasks that can drain you emotionally to protect your mental health.
- Get enough sleep: avoid excessive caffeine, alcohol and large meals.



INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 7:00 P.M.

Join people of many faith traditions as we gather in gratitude for the countless blessings our nation has received. Together, we will offer prayers for peace, healing, and wholeness for creation, individuals, our community, our nation, and the world.

This year, **Holy Spirit** is honored to host this gathering, sponsored by the **Interfaith Action Committee of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches**. As we worship together, we will experience a variety of traditions and expressions of faith. For those of us in the Lutheran tradition, this is a wonderful opportunity to grow in awareness and appreciation of the many ways people worship. Such experiences enrich our understanding, deepen our respect for one another, and remind us that learning from one another is a gift.

We welcome everyone to attend the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, on Tuesday, November 24, at 7:00 p.m., at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus. An offering will be collected for the **Second Harvest Food Bank**. If you would like to be **part of the Choir for the service**, attending two rehearsals, on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 6:30 p.m., and an hour before the service, please contact Reylene Starego at deaconstarego@holyspirit-emmaus.org. **A reception will follow the service.** Feel free to bring something from your tradition to share!

This Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will serve as **Holy Spirit's Thanksgiving worship offering for this year** and will be **livestreamed** for those who are unable to attend in person. To encourage participation in this special gathering, **the Wednesday noon worship service will not be held that week**.

Come and join us as we give thanks together and celebrate the rich diversity of faith within our community.

"*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*"
Psalm 118:24



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 29th. Paper forms are available on the Information Table in the Lobby or an electronic form can be accessed HERE. Payment can be made using the church website, Venmo, cash, or check. Any questions, contact Karin Kahler.



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.



CRAFTS, COOKIES AND COCOA

You are invited to join us for our annual crafts, cookies and cocoa event on Friday, December 4th 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. Please click here to sign up so we can plan for crafts and refreshments. If interested in leading a craft, please contact Karin Kahler.



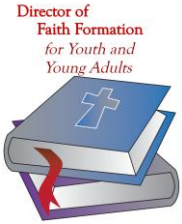
ANNUAL REPORTS DUE DECEMBER 18

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. If possible, include a picture or two of your event(s). Annual Reports will be due to the church office no later than Friday, December 18, 2026.

BLOOMIN' FAITH MINISTRY



Thank you for your part in helping us spread the healing power of flowers. Here are some ways you can continue to support our ministry: deliver small bouquets to members; donate flowers from your garden; help make the bouquets the Friday before we deliver. **Upcoming delivery date is December 19.**
Please sign up if you wish to help by clicking here.



WE ARE HIRING!

The search for LCHS's new full-time Director of Faith Formation for Youth and Young Adult Ministries is officially underway. The search committee has reached out to local and regional synods, seminaries, universities and camps to communicate our opening and share the job description with hopes of finding viable candidates. We are seeking applicants who are:

- Passionate mentors and relational leaders
- Exceptional communicators with strong interpersonal skills
- Contemporary, creative youth ministry leaders
- Committed Christians and members of the Lutheran Church

Preferred qualifications include a bachelor's degree in youth ministry, Christian education, family ministry, or a related field, and 2–3 years of experience working with youth and young adults.

Please direct inquiries or referrals to **Diane Evans at diasevans02@gmail.com** by **December 30, 2026.**



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

Prayers for God's presence for our homebound members: Gayle, Joan, Dick, Gordon, Christopher, Janet, Darla, Larry, Sylvia, Jean, Norine, and Bob.

Prayers for God's healing in times of illness for our members and friends: Andrea, Ed, Glen, Al, Janet, Phyllis, Joe, Mark, Sally, Dayton, Lisa, Joan, Joe, Terry, Josh, Barb, John, Jan, Kathy, Bob, Bill, Patricia, Donna, Carol, Mary, and Don.

In times of joy and celebration for Lee and Brenda Minnich's 70th wedding anniversary.

We give thanks as we welcome Bob, Kathy, Emerald, JP, Erica, Addison, Bryce, Levi, Rob, Kelly, Will, Emmie, Charlie, Eileen, Ben, Hutson, Wilder, Everett, Jeff, Amanda, Henry, Ava, Emilia, Brittany, Jason, Addy, and Hannah, as new members into the life and ministry of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit.

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.

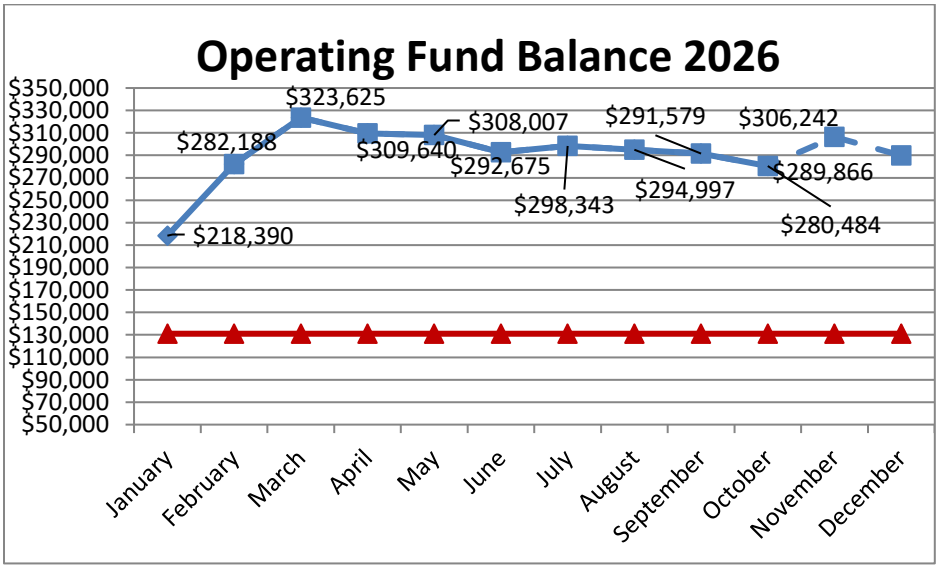
Prayer Request Reminder: Prayers requested for a particular individual will be spoken by name at Sunday worship for one month following the date of the request. Should prayers be desired beyond this initial period, another request may certainly be made. The names of our homebound members will be offered in worship at least once a month.

Financial Results and Discussion – October 2026

Operating Performance: October income was $57,090, $36,755 or 39.2% below budget. Operating expenses were $68,184, $20,419 or 23.0% below budget. We finished October with an $11,094 deficit, compared to a budgeted surplus of $5,241. 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 $1020.00.00 during the month and has a balance of $20,189.94.
Mortgage Update: The mortgage balance as of October 31, 2026, is $314,358.45.



Our work with EVOKE to move our membership to a new platform has been underway for the past 10 weeks.

Members who give online are being contacted to move over to the new platform. You were informed by email if you need to do this. Thank you to all who have made this change. We hope we can be using the Church Center fully in 2027. Please talk with Terri Hinderliter if you need clarification. Your help in making this change is greatly appreciated and will allow us to move forward with one system.

The week of Nov. 30th, you will receive instructions to go into the Church Center and review the current information that the church has for you. Other details about the mobile app, online directory information, and accessing church center on the computer will be provided.

Please reach out if you have any questions or need assistance. Your response to all Church Center requests in the coming weeks will help us get off to a great start as we move into an important digital connection that will help us share information in new ways. I do not want you to miss out.

Peace to you!
Pastor Shari



WORSHIP LEADER OPPORTUNITIES

If you would be interested in serving as a **COMMUNION ASSISTANT** at one of our Sunday morning worship services, please sign up by clicking here.

Interested in becoming a member of our **Production/Technology Team**? Training is provided and you can pick the date(s) you would want to serve. Speak with one of our tech people on a Sunday morning to find out more or volunteer by signing up by clicking here.

ALTAR CARE HELPER ***Would you like to help at church but don't have a lot of time?*** Preparing the altar for services is the perfect choice! 15 minutes before and after the service you attend is all that is needed. We will train and support you until you are comfortable.

Worship volunteers choose what days they would like to serve, and training is available. Sign Up here or you can **call the church office** if you are interested in volunteering and Nikki will add you to the list.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Bring your family and come to enjoy our annual Sunday School Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 13 at 9:45 am in the Worship Center. Our Sunday School classes will present "*The Christmas Donkey*"



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH BRUNCH ON DECEMBER 27

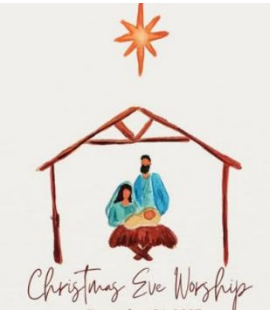
Join us for Christmas Brunch in the Fellowship Center following our 10:00 am Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 27th.

If you would like to help, please reach out to Linda Devine or sign up to bring a dish by clicking here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

- **Nov. 24** • 7:00 PM – Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- **Dec 4** • 6:00 PM – Crafts, Cookies & Cocoa
- **Dec 6** • ***3:00*** PM – Bells of Christmas Concert
- **Dec 13** • 9:45 AM – Children's Pageant
- **Dec 20** • 12:30 PM – Blue Christmas Service



Christmas Eve – Dec 24

***3:00 PM | *5:00 PM**
Family Worship
***7:30 PM**
9:30 Special Music & Carols
10:00 PM Traditional Candlelighting

(*Childcare available)

Sunday – Dec 27 • 10:00 AM

Lessons & Carols *(Light breakfast follows)*
Worship will be livestreamed.





~ BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE ~

Sunday, 12/20 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 on December 20th.***

CALENDAR

Sun. 11/22	1:00 pm	Zumba (SC)
Mon. 11/23	10:00 am	Counters (116)
	11:00 am	Pastor's Meeting (Office)
	11:00 am	LCHS Book Group (110/112)
	6:00 pm	Total Body Toning Class (SC)
	7:30 pm	Lutheran Basics Study (Zoom)
Tues. 11/24	9:00 am	NS Thanksgiving Feast (110/112)
	9:20 am	Nursery School Chapel (WC)
	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting (116)
	5:30 pm	Interfaith Choir Rehearsal (WC)
	7:00 pm	Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship (WC)
Weds. 11/25	9:00 am	Decorating

The Church Office will close at Noon on Wednesday, November 25 and will remain closed until Monday, November 30th.

Sun. 11/29	1:00 pm	Zumba Class (SC)
Mon. 11/30	10:00 am	Counters (116)
	11:00 am	Pastor's Meeting (Office)
	6:00 pm	Total Body Toning Class (SC)
	7:30 pm	Advent Bible Study (Zoom)
	7:30 pm	FFY&YA Search Committee (Zoom)
Tues. 12/1	9:15 am & 12:40 pm	NS Chapel (WC)
	12:00 pm	Staff Christmas Luncheon
	(Office will be closed from 11:30 to 3:00 pm)	
	6:30 pm	Nursery School Board Meeting (116)
	6:30 pm	Community Justice Panel (SC)
	7:00 pm	Worship & Music Committee (117/119)
Weds. 12/2	8:00 am	In-Gathering (FC)
	9:15 am	NS Chapel (WC)
	2:00 pm	Advent Bible Study (110/112)
	2:30 pm	Rejoicing Ringers
	6:00 pm	Fitness Class (SC)
	6:00 pm	Kiwanis Club (FC)
	6:30 pm	Girl Scout Service Unit (110/112)
	6:30 pm	Spirit Ringers (WC)
Thurs. 12/3	9:25 am & 12:40 pm	NS Music (WC)
	6:00 pm	Daisy Girl Scout Troop (SC)
	6:30 pm	Staff Support (116)
	6:30 pm	Mutual Ministry Pr Tami (ASR)
	6:45 pm	Spirit Voices
Fri. 11/4	9:00 am	Decorating
	6:00 pm	Crafts, Cookies, Cocoa



Name: _____

Please Indicate your ***color choice* with quantity** below:

Red _____ White_____ Marble _____

Plants cost $14.00 each Total Enclosed: $_____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

In Honor of _____

_____

In Memory of _____

_____

_____

Poinsettia's can be picked up following the last Christmas Eve worship or on Sunday, December 27th.

Please return form in the offering plate or to the office *with your payment* ***no later than* Sunday, November 29th.**



You and Your Congregation are Invited!
Each year, community members gather in Muhlenberg College's Egner Chapel to mark the season of Advent with candlelight services adapted from the Festival of Lessons and Carols of King's College, Cambridge University in England.
In addition to scripture readings, the services feature the college's Chamber Choir, Treble Ensemble, College Choir, and congregational singing. Please join us!
Muhlenberg College, Egner Memorial Chapel

Saturday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 6 at 3:30 p.m. *Livestream available

Register for Candlelight Carols

Although the event is free, registration is required to reserve your seat. If you can't join us in person, you can register to watch the Sunday service livestream. Visit our registration site to register for in-person attendance or the livestream.
For more information, please contact Muhlenberg College's Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at egnerchapel@muhlenberg.edu.

Rev. Janelle Neubauer
Chaplain; Director, Office of Religious & Spiritual Life

Muhlenberg College