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 30 & Dec. 2
Advent Bible Study

December 4
Crafts, Cookies & Cocoa

December 6
Bells of Christmas Concert

December 7
Lunch w/Pr Shari

December 13
Sunday School
Christmas Pageant

Rejoicing Spirits

December 20
Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, November 29, 2026

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

9:15-10:40 am
Intergenerational Event

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 22, 2026

	In Person	Online
8:45 am	**139**	**15**
9:45 am	**68**	**N/A**
10:30 am	**80**	**15**

WORSHIP HELPERS	8:30 AM	9:45 AM	10:45 AM
Assisting Ministers	Eric Kahler		Alice Mudge
Communion Assistants	Linda Devine	Jennifer Wetzel	
Message		Video	
Readers	MacKenzie Leister	Gabriella C.	Julie Timmcke
Greeters	Nancy Yablonski	John McClain	Carol Goodley
Ushers	Michael Yablonski	John McClain	Chuck Coe
Production/ Technology	Jimmy Lee Werley Al Bauernschmidt	Eric Kahler	Carol Osenbach Molly Olszewski John Osenbach

Nov. 29 - **Intergenerational Faith Formation Event**

As we transition from Thanksgiving to Advent, we invite you to join us in the Fellowship Center from 9:15 to 10:40 AM. 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.



HURRY – LAST CHANCE TO ORDER PRESCHOOL CAR WASH GIFT CARDS

Gift cards for *The Car Wash* (Broadway, Hamilton, and West Main) are in denominations of $10, $25, and $50 and will be here in time for Christmas gift giving. **The proceeds will be used to support the preschool playground fund. *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.

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



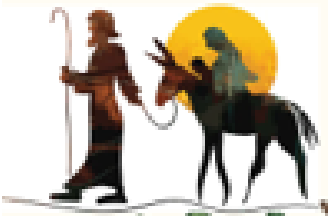
CRAFTS, COOKIES AND COCOA

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.

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*".



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.



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.

Bringing Health and Joy to the Most Vulnerable

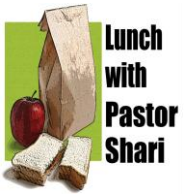
Through the Advent and Christmas seasons, the congregation's Love for the Least fundraising will be focused on Kafika House and the NICU at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center. Both facilities use low-tech, high-love techniques to bring health and joy to children facing major health challenges.

Please donate online via Holy Spirit's website or by check made out to the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit – please be sure to designate that the donation is for Love for the Least.

Also, please take an ornament packet from one of the Global Missions trees (narthex and Fellowship Center lobby) to help you, or someone to whom you give the ornament, think about how your blessings can be used to address the needs of others. Wait for the savior with faith, hope, and action.



Due to Kafika House, a child can look forward to a life without disability.



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 7th** in Room 117/119.



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.

~ 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 provides 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.

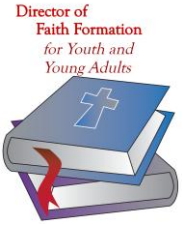
Please join us for healing, wholeness and hope on December 20th.



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.



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.**



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.



TIPS FOR 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.



PRAYERS CURRENT AS OF NOVEMBER 25, 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, Al, Janet, Phyllis, Joe, Mark, Dayton, Lisa, Joan, Dennis, Joe, Terry, Barb, John, Jan, Kathy, Bob, Bill, and Don.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Charles Moniak, a friend of the Guignet family and family and friends of Donna Seng, mother of Nicole Seng, one of our Rejoicers.

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.

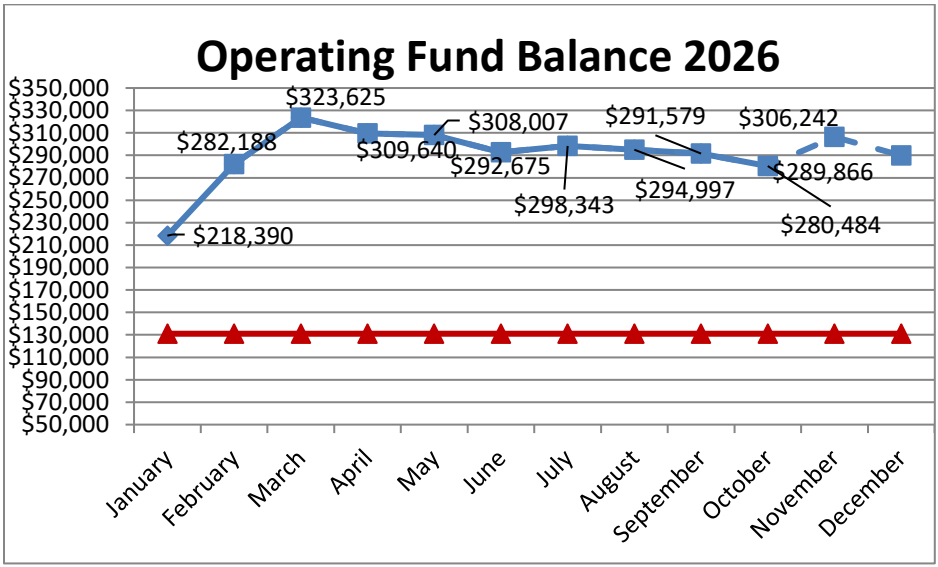
Prayer Request Reminder: Prayers requested for a particular individual will be spoken by name at Sunday worship for one month following the date of the request. Should prayers be desired beyond this initial period, another request may certainly be made. The names of our homebound members will be offered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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 6	3:00 pm	The Bells of Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 13	9:45 am	Sunday School Christmas Pageant
	2:30 pm	Rejoicing Spirits Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 20	12:30 pm	Blue Christmas Worship
Thursday, December 24	Noon	Church Office Closing
	*3:00 pm	Traditions Renewed
	*5:00 pm	Family Worship
	+7:30 pm	Praise and Worship
	9:30 pm	Carols and Special Music
	+10:00 pm	Traditions Renewed
December 25, 28		Church Office Closed
Sunday, December 27	+10:00 am	Festival of Lessons and Carols
Thursday, December 31	Noon	Church Office Closing
Friday, January 1		Church Office Closed



*Child Care Available

+ Worship is livestreamed


The Bells of
Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 6, 2026
3:00 PM
Featuring the
Spirit Ringers
and Rejoicing Ringers


SUNDAY SCHOOL
Christmas Pageant
"The Christmas Donkey"
DECEMBER 13, 2026
9:45 AM


Blue Christmas
Worship Service
Sunday
December 20, 2026
12:30 PM

OUR GLOBAL REFUGE ORGANIZATION MARCHES ON

Lutherans faithful commitment to humanity displayed by Global Refuge, formerly known as LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service), during the past 85 years is inspiring heritage.

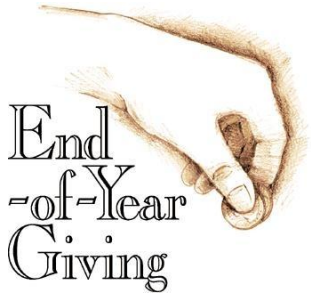
Many crises over the past eight decades have forced neighbors from places like Cuba, Uganda, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Haiti, Iraq and Ukraine to seek a safe haven in the United States – and Global Refuge always stepped forward to assist.

Since January 20, 2025 Global Refuge's work has been very challenging. Krish O'Mara, the organization's president and CEO, recently noted, "The landscape for refugee resettlement and immigration services looks very different now. Funding, policies and the needs of the people we serve are changing. But our commitment to welcome, to dignity and to helping people rebuild their lives remains constant."

Global Refuge is looking forward to durable immigration reform as a minimum of 120 newly-elected Senators and House of Representatives members prepare to join Congress in January. Be watching for regular Global Refuge updates in the weeks ahead.

CUT OFF DATE FOR 2026 CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions that you wish to have applied to 2026 must be in the church office ***no later than Wednesday, December 30th at noon.***



One-time electronic contributions should be entered by 12/26 to allow for processing time (4-5 business days) for it to appear on your 2026 statement.

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 received at church after 12/30 will be applied to 2027.

Please contact Terri Hinderliter if you have any questions.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF KIDS OF ALL AGES!!
HOLIDAY BABYSITTING AT NO CHARGE
on Friday Dec. 11th from 3:00-6:00 pm.
Shop without your kids, enjoy a date with your spouse, or take some time for yourself! Spend the time however you'd like!

Bring your kids to Holy Spirit, and our responsible and engaging youth and adult volunteers will watch them for you and provide age-appropriate activities for them. This has no cost! Donations for our Youth Gathering Trip to Minneapolis are always welcome, but not required. Sign up using **THIS LINK.** *Please indicate the age of your child and any specifics we need to know about them such as food allergies.* **Once you sign up, you will receive an official permission form for participation. Sign ups are due by December 6th so that we can adequately prepare.**



YOUTH UPDATES

Tis the season for:
Holiday Lock In: December 11th
Middle School can come for Holiday activities from 6:00-10:00 and high school can stay overnight and pick up Saturday at 10:00am. Sign up on the BAND APP!

Shopping for Angel Network! Meet us at Kohl's at **3:15 on December 3rd** to shop for Angel Network! We're choosing bedding and linens for teens in the area! Sign up on the **BAND APP**!

Do you want to help but can't shop that day? Drop donations off at the high school room on Sunday! We are collecting: twin and full size sheets, comforters and quilts of all sizes, and towels!



CAROLING!!! We want to carol for some of our senior residents! If you'd be interested in participating, sign up on the **BAND APP**!



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.**

CALENDAR

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	NS Chapel (WC)
	12:00 pm	Staff Christmas Luncheon
	(Church Office Closed between 11:30 and 2:30)	
	5:00 pm	Staff Support (116)
	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	9:15 am	NS Chapel (WC)
	1:30 pm	Music Therapy (ASR)
	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 & 12:45 pm	NS Music (WC)
	6:00 pm	Daisy Girl Scout Troop (SC)
	6:30 pm	Mutual Ministry Pr Tami (ASR)
	6:45 pm	Spirit Voices
Fri. 12/4	9:00 am	Decorating
	6:00 pm	Crafts, Cookies, Cocoa
Sat. 12/5	9:00 am	Praise Band (WC)
	10:00 am	Bell Rehearsal (WC)
Sun. 12/6	1:00 pm	Zumba Class (SC)
	3:00 pm	Bells of Christmas Concert (WC)
	6:00 pm	Angel Network (FC)
Mon. 12/7	10:00 am	Counters (116)
	11:00 am	Pastor's Meeting (Office)
	12:00 pm	Lunch w/Pr Shari (117/119)
	6:00 pm	Total Body Toning Class (SC)
	6:30 pm	Stephen Ministers (Zoom)
	6:30 pm	Stewardship Team (116)
	7:30 pm	Advent Bible Study (Zoom)