**WELCOME TO**

**HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, New Jersey Synod

1220 Bayshore Rd.

Villas, NJ 08251

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holyspiritvillas.com

facebook.com/holyspiritvillas

Church Office Open on Thursdays from 6 to 8PM

Vicar Vincent Piekarski can be contacted at any time through call or text at

412-225-0287 or through email at vpie8282@gmail.com

**MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, are People of God, who

are called by the Holy Spirit to pray, worship, joyfully proclaim Jesus Christ,

and compassionately witness and serve others in Christian Love.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2023**

**16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**



**AN ESPECIALLY WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

We are glad that you joined us for Worship today! Thank you for enriching our time together! We would like to get to know you better, and we would like you to get to know us better too. We invite you to let us know how we can help you. Informational brochures, welcome gifts, prayer shawls, Bibles, and other items are available at our welcome areas. Church members are happy to show you around, answer questions, and share about our ministries. Please don’t hesitate to speak up and ask questions.

**CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION**

We continue to conduct our Sunday Worship Service in coordination with our Conference Call. Join us on our Conference Call # 657-390-7423. If that does not allow you to gain access, please utilize our other # 701-802-5170 and the access code 8221190, then hit the # key. Please announce your name after you log-in.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

All who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome at the table. We either utilize bread or wafers for Communion. We also have the option of individually wrapped gluten free wafers. We have pre-filled red wine or white grape juice cups in the Communion Tray to choose from. The Usher will offer the option to leave your pew, and you can proceed forward on the right side of the aisle to the steps between the Communion Rail. Following Communion please process back on the left side of the aisle and place your empty cups in the basket before returning to your pew.

Children who have not had their First Communion instruction, and adults who do not wish to receive Communion, are welcome to come forward for a special blessing. If you are unable to leave your pew for health or other related reasons, please inform the Usher of your desire to remain in your pew and have us come back to you.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE**

The month of September’s is given to the Glory of God & in memory of

ELAINE RAND by Wayne & Eleanor Rand.

**ALTAR CANDLES**

The month of September’s are given to the Glory of God & in memory of

PHILIP ZIMMERMAN, JR. by Jean, Phil, & Bob Zimmerman.

The Sanctuary and Altar Candles cost $10 each, and can be dedicated in

memory of someone. The sign-up sheet is located on a clipboard in the narthex.

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Offered by Vicar, Assistant, and Congregation.)

**INTRODUCTION**

A. In today’s second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all

stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus’

challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God’s boundless mercy.

When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the

cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

**PRELUDE**

(Music offered by our Organist before the start of our Worship Service.)

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

V. We invite you to stand if you are able.

V. Blessed be God,

the one who forms us,

☩ Jesus who bears the cross,

the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**C. Amen.**

V. Let us bow before God in humility,

confessing our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

V. Steadfast and faithful God,

**C. you have revealed the ways of justice,**

**yet we fail to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed**

**by the world’s violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have**

**for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused,**

**known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others**

**and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away**

**from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you**

**and set us on the right path;**

**in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

V. Beloved in Christ,

God’s justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God’s compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**C. Amen.**

(We invite you to remain standing if you are able.)

**FIRST HYMN**

(We invite you to sing along with the music offered by our Organist & Cantor.)

With One Voice – Blue Book

**745 Awake, O Sleeper**

**GREETING**

V. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of

the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C. And also with you.**

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**C:\Users\Vince and Heather\Desktop\Kyrie, ELW Setting Four (Melody).tif**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

V. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

V. Let us pray,

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.

Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may

delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C. Amen.**

(We invite you to be seated.)

**FIRST READING**

After Jacob’s death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime

they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God

used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

R. Our First Reading is from the 50th Chapter of Genesis (Verses 15-21).

R. 15Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph

still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we

did to him?” 16So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this

instruction before he died, 17‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your

brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive

the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they

spoke to him. 18Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We

are here as your slaves.” 19But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in

the place of God? 20Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it

for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. 21So

have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he

reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 103rd Psalm (Verses [1-7] 8-13).

**C. Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy.** (Ps. 103:8)

R. [1Bless the Lord, O my soul,

   and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.

  2Bless the Lord, O my soul,

   and forget not all God’s benefits—

  3who forgives all your sins

   and heals all your diseases;

  4who redeems your life from the grave

   and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

**C. Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy.** (Ps. 103:8)

R. 5who satisfies your desires with good things

   so that your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.

  6O Lord, you provide vindication

   and justice for all who are oppressed.

  7You made known your ways to Moses

   and your works to the children of Israel.]

8Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,

   slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

**C. Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy.** (Ps. 103:8)

R. 9you will not always accuse us,

   nor will you keep your anger forever.

  10You have not dealt with us according to our sins,

   nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

  11For as the heavens are high above the earth,

   so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

  12As far as the east is from the west,

   so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

  13As a father has compassion for his children,

   so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

**C. Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy.** (Ps. 103:8)

**SECOND READING**

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps

us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we

do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died

for all of us and will judge each of us.

R. Our Second Reading is from the 14th Chapter of Romans (Verses 1-12).

R. 1Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over

opinions. 2Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.

3Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain

must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. 4Who

are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that

they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them

stand.

5Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be

alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. 6Those who observe the day,

observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since

they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord

and give thanks to God.

7We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8If we live, we live

to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether

we die, we are the Lord’s. 9For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he

might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you

despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of

God. 11For it is written,

  “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

   and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

12So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

(We invite you to stand if you are able.)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**C. Alleluia. We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous; your sins are**

**forgiven on account of his name. Alleluia.** (1 John 2:1, 12)

**GOSPEL READING**

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable

that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

V. The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 18th Chapter (Verses 21-35).

**C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

V. 21Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins

against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” 22Jesus said

to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who

wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24When he began the reckoning, one

who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25and, as he could not

pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his

possessions, and payment to be made. 26So the slave fell on his knees before

him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27And out of

pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28But

that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed

him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you

owe.’ 29Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience

with me, and I will pay you.’ 30But he refused; then he went and threw him into

prison until he would pay the debt. 31When his fellow slaves saw what had

happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord

all that had taken place. 32Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You

wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33Should

you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ 34And in

anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

35So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive

your brother or sister from your heart.”

V. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

(We invite you to be seated.)

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

(Delivered by Vicar if Children are present.)

**SERMON**

(Delivered by Vicar.)

(We invite you to stand if you are able.)

**SECOND HYMN**

(We invite you to sing along with the music offered by our Organist & Cantor.)

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Book

**126 Where Charity and Love Prevail**

**NICENE CREED**

V. Let us confess our faith together using the Nicene Creed.

**C. We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,**

**and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

(The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion.)

A. Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church,

creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

(A brief silence.)

A. We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse

congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be

understood. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to

rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops

needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with

empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained

financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction,

or otherwise afraid or in harm’s way. Protect all who cry out for mercy, especially;

Betty Lang (Church Member)

Betty Becker (Church Member)

Debbie West (Church Member)

BettyAnn Rich-White (Church Member)

Jacalyn Nehlig (Church Member)

Chip Hand (Church Member)

Del McKenna (Church Member)

Ed Green (Church Member)

Anthony DeLuca (Church Member)

Mo Bixler (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)

Megan Pratz (Betty Lang’s Friend)

Patty Cioce (Betty Lang’s Friend)

Carla Wagner (Betty Lang’s Family)

Tom McNamara (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

Beth & Bill Knapp (Betty Lang’s Family)

Christine Fuller (Betty Lang's Family)

Rhiannon (Frank & Sharon Ford's Family)

Bill Kanass (Betty Lang's Family)

Kevin (Betty Becker's Friend)

Ed Borse (Betty Lang’s Friend)

James Kershaw (Audrey Kinka’s Friend)

Patrick Brannan (Judy Brannan's Family)

Kali Poe (Betty Lang's Family)

Linda Dressic (Carol Detweiler's Family)

Bandit (Betty Lang's Pet)

Suzie Clark (Rose Lang's Friend)

Evy (Betty Lang's Friend)

Amelia Skyrm (Audrey Kinka's Family)

Cindy Irana (Betty Lang’s Friend)

Ed Watson (Betty Lang's Friend)

Bill Bickley (Betty Bickley's Family)

Francis Clock (Dianna DeNote’s Family)

Jean O’Brien (Diana DeNote's Friend)

Andrew Hudak (Rose Lang’s Friend)

Fred Lang (Betty Lang’s Family)

Viena Murtha (Bob Fritsch’s Friend)

Salvatore Friscia (Diana DeNote's Family)

Amanda Testa (Betty Bickley’s Family)

Sally Shaffer (Betty Becker's Friend)

Christine Schneider (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

Maisie Donnelly (Betty Bickley’s Family)

Jackie Churchman (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

Caroline Palush (Bonnie & Skip Millard’s Family)

Sharon Waicus (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)

Jerry P (Wanda Bryan’s Friend)

Ann Dickinson (Dianne & Ted Bell’s Family)

Karen O'Brian (Paul Bowker's Friend)

Dellie Valcourt (Bonnie & Skip Millard’s Family)

Analida Irizzary (Mary Melnicoff’s Family)

Dustin Irizzary (Mary Melnicoff's Family)

John Lauer, Jr. (Betty Becker’s Family)

Laureen Leshik (Diane & Ted Bell's Friend)

Mark (Judy Brannan’s Friend)

Bill Sivley (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Family)

Linda Smith (Rose Lang's Friend)

Joan Brown (Betty Lang's Friend)

Donna Bradley (Betty Lang's Friend)

Theresa Marioti (Betty Lang's Friend)

Tim McCartney (Betty Becker's Family)

The Bryan Family (Wanda Bryan's Family)

Jimmy Ogg (Vince & Heather Piekarski's Friend)

James Andreotta (Charlie & Karen Buckley’s Friend)

Donovan Cruz Greenfest (Diana DeNote's Friend)

Ernie Kinzler (Marie Hand & Doreen Kinzler’s Family)

Craig Brearey (Judy Brannan & Mary Melnicoff's Friend)

Mike Maguire, Jr. (Betty Becker & Maryanne Lauer's Family)

Bruce Becker, Jr. (Betty Becker & Maryanne Lauer’s Family)

Debbie Pabon (Mary Melnicoff’s Family)

Evie Coyle (Church Member)

Evelyn DeFazio (Judy Brannan & Mary Melnicoff's Friend)

Sharon Ford (Church Member)

Claudine Guli (Bob Fritsch's Friend)

Michelle Smith (Heather & Vince Piekarski's Family)

James Johnson (True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center)

The Hickson Family (Emily Hansen's Friends)

Marlon Brooks (True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center)

Denise Brannan (Judy Brannan's Family)

Sarah Dutton (Frank & Sharon Ford's Family)

The Family & Friends of Pastor Leah Lavelle (Church Member)

Arthretta Crandell (Heather Piekarski's Friend)

The Kelly Family (Doreen Kinzler & Marie Hand's Friends)

Moe (Betty Becker's Friend)

Cindi Duoni (Audrey Kinka's Family)

Lee Rash (Judy Brannan's Friend)

JP Rash (Judy Brannan's Friend)

Wayne Ingling (Church Member)

Christina McNasby (Fran & Ed Green’s Family)

The Kinkson Family (Judy Brannan's Friends)

(Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)

A. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation.

Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over

judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety.

Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully,

creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

V. Watch over all of us who are worried and suffering, and especially those whose

names we now say aloud or within our hearts (extended pause). Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

V. Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers

of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

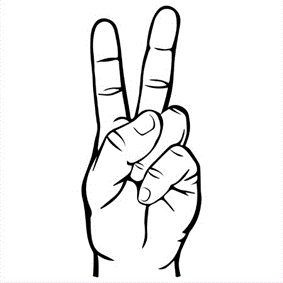
**C. Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

V. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**

V. Let us share God’s Peace with one another.



(Please remain in your pews and offer the sign of peace with a peace sign or wave.)

**OFFERING**

V. We now worship God with our tithes and offerings, wine and bread for use in holy

communion, and monetary gifts to support our ministry for service in God’s name.

(Our Usher(s) will be around to the pews to pass the Offering Plate(s).)

**OFFERTORY**

(We invite you to sing along with the music offered by our Organist & Cantor.)

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Book

**LBW 362 We Plow the Fields and Scatter**

(First Verse Only)

(Assistant and Vicar prepare the Altar for Communion.)

(Usher brings the Tithes and Offerings up front to the Assistant.)

**OFFERING PRAYER**

V. Let us stand as we are able.

V. Let us pray,

God of power, God of plenty,

all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table,

that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved,

Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

V. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

V. Lift up your hearts.

**C. We lift them to the Lord.**

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C. It is right to givee him thanks and praise.**

V. It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer

thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who rose

beyond the bounds of death and, as he promised, poured out your Spirit of life

and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless

joy. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your

name and join their unending hymn:



**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

V. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, in mercy for our fallen world you gave

your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have

eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us

through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may

receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

**C. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

V. In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, he gave

thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.*

*Do this for the remembrance of me.*

V. Again, after supper, He took the cup, he gave thanks, and gave it for all to

drink, saying:

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood,*

*shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.*

*Do this for the remembrance of me.*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

V. May we now join with one another and pray together as Jesus has taught us.

**C. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily**

**bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass**

**against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For**

**thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**THE LAMB OF GOD**

**C:\Users\Vince and Heather\Downloads\Lamb of God, ELW Setting Four (Melody).tif**

(We invite you to be seated.)

**HOLY COMMUNION**

V. All who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome at the table. We either utilize bread

or wafers for Communion. We also have the option of individually wrapped gluten

free wafers. We have pre-filled red wine or white grape juice cups in the

Communion Tray to choose from. The Usher will offer the option to leave your

pew, and you can proceed forward on the right side of the aisle to the steps

between the Communion Rail. Following Communion please process back on the

left side of the aisle and place your empty cups in the basket before returning to

your pew.

Children who have not had their First Communion instruction, and adults who do

not wish to receive Communion, are welcome to come forward for a special

blessing. If you are unable to leave your pew for health or other related reasons,

please inform the Usher of your desire to remain in your pew and have us come

back to you.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

V. Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

**C. Amen.**

**COMMUNION SONG**

(Please enjoy music offered by our Organist.)

(Assistant and Vicar remove Communion Vessels from the Altar.)

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

V. Let us stand as we are able.

V. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us

always in His grace.

**C. Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**

C:\Users\Vince and Heather\Downloads\Thank the Lord, LBW Setting Two (Melody).tif

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**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A. Let us pray,

Blessed be your name, O God,

for we have feasted on your Word,

Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.

Strengthened by this food,

send us to gather the world to your banquet,

where none are left out and all are satisfied.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

**C. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

V. The God of glory,

☩ Jesus Christ, name above all names,

and the Spirit who lives in you,

bless you now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

(We invite you to remain standing if you are able.)

**CLOSING HYMN**

(We invite you to sing along with the music offered by our Organist & Cantor.)

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Book

**552 In Thee Is Gladness**

(Assistant extinguishes the Altar Candles half way through the Closing Hymn.)

(Vicar processes out once the Altar Candles have been extinguished.)

(We invite you to be seated.)

**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Offered by Assistant and Congregation.)

**BIRTHDAY**

21st Eleanor Rand

**ANNIVERSARY**

18th Karen & Charlie Buckley

**DISMISSAL**

A. Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

(Music offered by our Organist as we depart following our Worship Service.)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & GENERAL INFORMATION**

**WORSHIP MINISTRY**

The most important thing we do each week is gather together as God's people to worship. God is the center and focus of everything we do. Participating in worship is active. Liturgy means the work and actions of the people gathered. Everything we do during the week to prepare for worship, and everything we do as we assist in leading worship, is important. Worship Leaders, Worship Assistants, Conference Call and the Computer, Readers, Greeters and Ushers, Communion Assistants, Home Communion Ministers, Altar Guild, Choir and The Music Team help make worship a meaningful experience. We are thankful for all the wonderful work being done. If you are interested in any position, please let Vince know so a training can be set-up.



**COFFEE HOUR**

The Women of the Church will be hosting our Coffee Hour **TODAY**.

Join us following the Worship Service! See Judy or Kathy for info.

**NEWSLETTER**

We continue with our seasonal quarterly newsletters. Collect all of your information, stories, pictures, and committee reports for the Fall Publication.

Please submit everything to Heather no later than **TODAY**.

**CAPE MAY JAZZ VESPERS**

Feel free to enjoy some music and time out on the town at Cape May Presbyterian Church located at 500 Hughes St. The Show is at 3PM **TODAY** with Gina Roche. The Donation is $10 per person.

**ALL SAINTS DAY**

On Sunday, November 5th, 2023, we will be remembering those that have left us since last year. We will play a memorial sound and announce each individual’s name during our Worship Service on All Saints Sunday. Please check the list on the lectern by the church doors, and add names and your relation to them.

**BIBLE STUDY & FAITH DISCUSSIONS**

What makes the Lutheran confession of faith unique? Why is Lutheran worship different than at the church next door? Does it have to be confusing? If you're a lifelong Lutheran looking to dig deeper, new to Lutheranism and want answers,

or are just curious about the Lutheran church-this is for you!

All are welcome to join us for Lutheranism 101 on **Tuesdays**, at 7PM.

**There where be no Lutheranism 101 this week due to Church Council.**

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Share your comments, concerns, questions, or joys with one of our Church Council Members who can bring them back to our meetings. Visitors are always welcome to attend and listen to what is going on in and around the church. Join us In- Person or on our Conference Call at our next Meeting on Tuesday, September 19th, at 6PM. Vince stepped down from his President position and off of Church Council to take on the position of Vicar. We remain hopeful someone will feel the call to fill this position. If you have any questions, please see Vince or any member of the Church Council.

**FOOD PANTRY, COMMUNITY DELIVERIES, & MORE**

Open every Thursday, and the last Saturday of every month, from 10AM to 1PM.

86 people were served in August. 608 people have been served in 2023. We have been blessed to serve a total of 7,270 people since we reopened in May of 2014. Donations can be dropped in the basket in the Narthex, placed in the outdoor drop-box by the Church Office door, placed in the money jug in the back of the Church, mailed into the Church Office, or placed in the Offering Plate. Volunteers are needed each week. If you are interested in any way please see Heather, Vince, or Bonnie.

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| **FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS** | | |
| **Thursday, 9/21** | **Thursday, 9/28** | **Saturday, 9/30** |
| Joy & Cathie | Tori & Joy | Vicki & Bonnie |

Our local North Cape May Acme provides us with Expiring Soon, Recently Expired, and Slightly Damaged Foods weekly. Kathy helps those in need by delivering items each Saturday in the community. Kathy then brings leftover items to the Church for church members in need, and those who visit the food pantry during the week.

**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH**

The Women will be holding their next meeting on Monday, October 2nd,

at 6PM. New members are welcome to attend! Contact Judy if you are interested.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Classes have ended for the 2022-2023 school year. Classes will resume again

in October 2023 for next school year. Children of all ages will be welcome to

attend and learn through Scriptures, Crafts, Games, Videos, and Activities.

See Heather for more information or volunteering opportunities.

**BULLETIN ENTRY DEADLINE**

The Bulletin goes to print on Wednesdays during church office hours. Changes need to be submitted to Vince or Heather no later than Thursdays at 5PM. Thanks!

**CHURCH OFFICE**

Open Thursdays 6PM to 8PM to serve the Congregation, the Community, and to continue handling the business of the Church. Feel free to stop in to talk, pick-up or drop off something, pray in the Sanctuary, or for whatever reason.

**CLEANING & DISINFECTION SERVICES**

Heather’s Heavenly Cleaning Services cleaned the building on Sunday, July 16th. Dave from Bactronix completed the last treatment on January 27th. We will have Dave do another swab test in the near future to check that our levels are still safe. Please continue to be mindful and ensure good cleaning. We want to make sure

we continue to provide a safe environment for everyone.

**PIANIST / ORGANIST NEEDED**

Charlie & Karen have prayerfully considered and decided to retire. As a result, we are seeking a Pianist / Organist that has the ability to follow Worship Service.

With the availability of Sundays 10AM-Noon and for various special services.

Call 609-886-2414 or Email Resume to Holyspiritlutheran@comcast.net

**FAVORITE HYMNS**

Charlie & Karen are willing to play your favorite hymns for the Prelude & Postlude

on Sundays. Let them know your requests so that they can be added to the list.

**HOME COMMUNION MINISTRY**

A Minister is available if you have a loved one, or if you yourself desire services in the community. We look forward in sharing the Word and Holy Communion with you! We continue looking for anyone interested in being trained. Please inform Vince, Kathy, or the Church Office so plans can be made for visits through this ministry.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Prayer Shawls, Lap Quilts, and Scarves have been made with love for those in need. The blessed items are located in the Narthex, and are free for anyone. Members of the group continue to work at home on new stitches and patterns.

We have been blessed to continue collecting many more newly made items.

**PRAYER LIST**

Our Prayer List continues to lengthen and we realize the important need for prayers and healing. Sometimes the unfortunate result is that someone has passed on, and the words “The Family & Friends of” appear before someone’s name. However, sometimes we forget names are still on the list and “they are healed” or the “they are no longer struggling” and they can be removed. Share the good and bad stories as we continue to pray for strength and healing. Names can be added or removed from the list on the clipboard in the Narthex prior to the Worship Service, by calling the church office, or addressing it on the Conference Call. Please let us know the relation to the person(s) you listed so we can be more mindful with our prayers too. Names will stay on the list until removed by the person(s) who requested prayer.

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A NEW MEMBER**

Have you been attending our church for a while? Have you just recently returned to church after being away for a bit? Maybe you transitioned from another church,

or just started to recently attend our church. We are glad to have you, and would love to have you as a member of our Congregation. Please feel free to ask Vince any questions, and for more information about becoming a member.

We are blessed to have a few people considering membership in our congregation. Classes and plans for this special day will be taking place soon.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

You can pick up a copy of your 2023 Church Directory by the Church Office. We continue to keep it updated throughout the year. Undoubtedly, we probably missed a few changes. The printed church directories have spaces for changes in people’s info, new people’s info, notes, and even your favorite Bible verses. If you have any changes or updates, please make it a point to inform the Church Office.

**PASTOR JEFF ELLIOTT UPDATE**

Pastor Jeff is Supervising Vicar Vince and is continuing to help with the Food Pantry.

**DONATION STATION**

Get on the train and place all purchased items in the specified project donation bins located on the counter by the front doors. See Heather for more information.



**FIRST COMMUNION**

Although no particular age for first communion is prescribed by The Use of the Means of Grace, one guideline is offered. Because admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord to the baptized, "baptized children begin to commune on a regular basis at a time determined through mutual conversation that includes the pastor/vicar, the child, and the parents or sponsors involved, within the accepted practices of the congregation.” Each congregation is encouraged to ask the question of readiness for first communion, establish their own policies regarding age and practice, and accompany that practice with catechesis appropriate to the age of the communicant. If you have questions, or want to provide support, please see Vince.

**HALL RENTAL**

​​​​​Do you know anyone interested in renting our Fellowship Hall for a Party or Event? It is $250 for hall and kitchen use, plus a $50 refundable security deposit. Contact Vince or the Church Office with questions, for more info, or to reserve a date & time.

**TITHES & OFFERINGS**

We worship God with our tithes and offerings. These are monetary gifts in order to support our ministry for service in God’s name. Feel free to drop your envelopes in the offering plate, mail them to the church, or drop them off in the locked mailbox.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**

We continue raising money for any unforeseen costs or repairs at the Church.Kathy continues to sell Wawa Tickets for $6. We also have the donation bin in the back of the church. Thanks for your continued thoughtfulness, donations, prayers, & support!

**VICAR APPOINTMENT ON MARCH 19TH, 2023**

A Memorandum of Understanding On the Matter of Pastoral Appointment

In Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) Candidacy

TO: Congregation Council, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Villas

FROM: The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Bishop, New Jersey Synod

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

This memorandum is in support of your discussions with Vincent Piekarski as pastor of Holy Spirit, Villas. Because this is not the usual pattern for completing the educational and candidacy requirements for ordination, it is my hope that this memorandum will both provide guidelines and engage in conversation with those who are invested in this process.

I would say at the outset that because Vincent is an outstanding candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, we will all want to do whatever is necessary to assure that his placement serves the mission of the church in the best possible fashion.

The following notes reflect my own understanding of this matter:

(1) The appointment for Vincent will begin on April 1, 2023. At this time, Vincent will

assume all responsibilities of a regularly called pastor, including presiding at the

Sacrament of Holy Communion and Baptism at Holy Spirit, Villas.

(2) A pastoral appointment in the TEEM process is an option for completing

seminary educational requirements and the steps of the candidacy process.

Upon completion of the candidacy process and seminary education, the

candidate may receive and accept a call to ordained ministry from the

congregation where the appointment is being served.

(3) This appointment is jointly supervised by the Office of the Bishop and the TEEM

pastor’s seminary. A mentoring relationship with a local pastor is required for the

length of this appointment.

(4) The synod of candidacy origin will be responsible for the approval process.

(5) Upon approval for ordination, the congregation would be expected to extend a

call to the pastoral appointee.

(6) Compensation for the TEEM pastor will be according to the guidelines of the New

Jersey Synod. All normal forms of compensation should be in place for the term

of the appointment, including stipulation that base salary and housing shall be in

accord with synod guidelines for first call at time of ordination.

(7) The ELCA Portico benefit plan for lay persons in full-time church service should

be used for the pastoral appointee up to the time of ordination, whereupon the

benefit package is to be converted to the plan for ELCA clergy.

(8) A decision for Pastoral Appointment is made with the agreement of a synod and

its candidacy committee, and the ELCA, normally represented by the regional

staff person of each in consultation with the seminary and its Director for

Contextual Education.

(9) Pastoral Appointment in a TEEM Candidacy is an option that is to serve the

mission of the Church in a particular and vital way and is not to be viewed or

used as a means to circumvent the normal candidacy process and/or first call

placement process.

In the specific case of Vincent, the New Jersey Synod remains responsible for the candidacy and approval process, and has agreed to this proposal for Appointment at Holy Spirit, Villas.

Continued blessings to both Holy Spirit and Vincent Piekarski as you embark on this journey of mutual ministry. As partners in ministry, we walk with you and rejoice in this new relationship.

**TRUE DELIVERANCE PRAISE & WORSHIP CENTER**

Reverend Maria Brooks and her Congregation continue to utilize our facilities

from 1-4PM on Sundays. Their congregation helps us with the Food Pantry and hosts or assists with various other events throughout the year at the Church.

True Deliverance PWC also hosts a Prayer Line you can join on their Conference

Call # 1-657-390-7957 on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays at 5PM.

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| **2023 FINANCIAL STANDING** | |
| **AUGUST INCOME** | $5,015.00 |
| **AUGUST SPENDING** | $4,514.95 |
| **AUGUST GAIN OR (LOSS)** | $500.05 |
| **2023 INCOME** | $94,182.67 |
| **2023 SPENDING** | $56,574.70 |
| **2023 GAIN OR (LOSS)** | $37,607.97 |
| **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND** | $22,768.54 |
| **FOOD PANTRY FUND** | $17,169.24 |



**CHURCH STAFF & VOLUNTEERS**

**VICAR, BIBLE STUDY & FAITH DISCUSSIONS, EVENTS, & WEBSITE**

Vincent Piekarski

**SUPERVISING PASTOR**

Pastor Jeff Elliott

**ORGANIST**

Karen Buckley

**CANTOR**

Charlie Buckley

**CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Vacant

**CHURCH COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT & CHURCH PROPERTY**

Ed Green

**TREASURER, CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY, & CHOIR**

Bonnie Millard

**SUNDAY SCHOOL, CHURCH OFFICE, FOOD PANTRY, & NEWSLETTER**

Heather Piekarski

**LICENSES & EXPIRATION DATES**

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