**WELCOME TO**

**HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

1220 Bayshore Rd.

Villas, NJ 08251

609-886-2414

holyspiritlutheran@comcast.net

holyspiritvillas.com

facebook.com/holyspiritvillas

Church Office Open on Thursdays from 6 to 8PM

Vicar Vince 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, APRIL 21ST, 2024**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**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 for you to get to know us better too. Brochures, welcome gifts, prayer shawls, Bibles, and other items are available at our welcome areas. Church members are happy to show you around and share about our ministries. Please don’t hesitate to speak up and ask questions.

**CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION**

We continue conducting our Worship Services in coordination with our Conference Call. Join us at our # 657-390-7423. If that does not allow you to gain access, please utilize our other # 701-802-5170 and access code 8221190, then hit the # key. You may need to dial 1 first, depending on your phone plan. After you log-in, please announce your name. Feel free to talk with others until we start our service.

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

All who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome at the table. We utilize bread or wafers, and 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 to you.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE**

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

NANCY JONES by Jean, Phil, & Bob Zimmerman.

**ALTAR CANDLES**

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

OLAF & REGINA AMUNDSEN by Carol Amundsen.

The Sanctuary Candle and the 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.

**CONFERENCE CALL CHECK-IN**

(Roll Call and Attendance)

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Offered by Vicar, Assistant, and Congregation.)

**INTRODUCTION**

A. The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It

is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual

knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd’s

willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates

what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our

wealth with any sibling in need.

**PRELUDE**

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

**He Arose**

**CHIMES**

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

**He is Alive**

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

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.)

V. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

the wellspring of grace,

our Easter and our joy.

**C. Amen.**

V. Look, here is water!

**C. Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

V. Immersed in the promises of baptism,

let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning

your voice thundered over the deep

and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea

into freedom’s land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official

entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**C. Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

V. At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John

and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection

you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,

freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,

giving all honor and praise to you,

through the risen Christ, our source of living water,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

V. Look, here is water!

**C. Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

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

**GATHERING HYMN**

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

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Book

**128 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!**

**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.**

**KYRIE**

V. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

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V. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

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V. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for

the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

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V. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray

to the Lord.

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V. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

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**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 Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into

your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole.

Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

V. We invite you to be seated for our Readings and Psalm.

**FIRST READING**

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were

proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today’s reading, Peter

is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus’ name to

the religious authorities.

R. Our First Reading is from the 4th Chapter of Acts (Verses 5-12).

R. 5The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, 6with

Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the

high-priestly family. 7When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they

inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” 8Then Peter, filled

with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9if we are

questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and

are asked how this man has been healed, 10let it be known to all of you, and to

all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the

name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from

the dead. 11This Jesus is

  ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

   it has become the cornerstone.’

12There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven

given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 23rd Psalm.

**C. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.** (Ps. 23:1)

R.1The Lord is my shepherd;

   I shall not be in want.

  2The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures

   and leads me beside still waters.

  3You restore my soul, O Lord,

   and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

  4Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

   for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**C. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.** (Ps. 23:1)

R. 5You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

   you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

  6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

   and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**C. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.** (Ps. 23:1)

**SECOND READING**

Jesus’ death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the

very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through

our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God’s commandments.

R. Our Second Reading is from the 3rd Chapter of 1st John (16-24).

R. 16We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we

ought to lay down our lives for one another. 17How does God’s love abide in

anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet

refuses help?

18Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 19And

by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before

him 20whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and

he knows everything. 21Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have

boldness before God; 22and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we

obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

23And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son

Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24All who

obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we

know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

V. We invite you to stand if you are able for our Gospel.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**C. Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own**

**know me. Alleluia.** (John 10:14)

**GOSPEL READING**

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the

shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to

overcome death for them.

V. The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 10th Chapter (Verses 11-18).

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

V. [Jesus said:] 11“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life

for the sheep. 12The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the

sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf

snatches them and scatters them. 13The hired hand runs away because a hired

hand does not care for the sheep. 14I am the good shepherd. I know my own and

my own know me, 15just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I

lay down my life for the sheep. 16I have other sheep that do not belong to this

fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one

flock, one shepherd. 17For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down

my life in order to take it up again. 18No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of

my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again.

I have received this command from my Father.”

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.)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

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

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Book

**501 He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!**

**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. Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the

church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

(A brief silence.)

A. Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one

another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve

alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God

of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists,

researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of

caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God

of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in

solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those

with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing,

victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised

immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are

vulnerable; 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)

Evie Coyle (Church Member)

Marie Hand (Church Member)

Judy Brannan (Church Member)

Lynn Bargstadt (Church Member)

Frank Brunner (Church Member)

Audrey Kinka (Church Member)

Carol Amundsen (Church Family)

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)

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)

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)

Francis Clock (Dianna DeNote’s Family)

Andrew Hudak (Rose Lang’s Friend)

Fred Lang (Betty Lang’s Family)

Viena Murtha (Bob Fritsch’s Friend)

Sally Shaffer (Betty Becker's Friend)

Christine Schneider (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

Jackie Churchman (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

Caroline Palush (Bonnie & Skip Millard’s Family)

Sharon Waicus (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)

Karen O'Brien (Paul Bowker's Friend)

Dustin Irizzary (Mary Melnicoff's Family)

John Lauer, Jr. (Betty Becker’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)

James Andreotta (Charlie & Karen Buckley’s Friend)

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

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

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

Bruce Becker, Jr. (Betty Becker’s Family)

The Hickson Family (Emily Hansen's Friends)

Sarah Dutton (Frank & Sharon Ford's Family)

Edward (Betty Becker's Friend)

Christina McNasby (Fran Green’s Family)

The Kinkson Family (Judy Brannan's Friends)

Mark Stephen Dennis (Diana DeNote's Family)

Cathy Snyder (Audrey Kinka's Family)

Kim McGinley (Theresa McGinley's Family)

James Robbins (Beth Lang's Friend)

Callie Gresham (Paul Bowker's Family)

David Salas (Charlie & Karen Buckley's Friend)

Dellie Valcourt (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Family)

Joyce (Betty Lang's Family)

Hannah (Betty Lang's Family)

Donna Lee (Betty Lang's Friend)

Bill Lodge (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)

Patricia Maguire (Betty Becker's Family)

Patrick & Denise Brannan (Judy Brannan's Family)

Joseph Sheretta (Fran Green's Friend)

Ernie Rink (Fran Green's Friend)

Michelle Smith (Heather & Vince Piekarski’s Family)

Ron Anderson (Bill Kelly's Friend)

Christy Marcotte (Bill Kelly's Friend)

Kathy Jenkins (Church Member)

Glenn Mortensen (Del McKenna's Family)

The Family & Friends of Aggie Lamanna (Rose Lang & Vince Piekarski's Friend)

Edward Chapleski (Allison Hopkin's Friend)

Trevor Borger (Del McKenna's Friend)

The Family & Friends of Mike M (Vince Piekarski’s Friend)

(Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)

A. God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call

us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply

love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of

grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the

good news in our own day. God of grace,

**C. hear 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). God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

V. Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting

in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**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.)

V. We invite you to be seated.

**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 Ushers will be around to your pews to pass the Offering Plates.

(Ushers come forward to get the Offering Plates from the Assistant.)

(Vicar and Assistant prepare the Altar for Communion.)

**OFFERING SONG**

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

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

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

**OFFERING PRAYER**

V. Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**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 give him thanks and praise.**

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

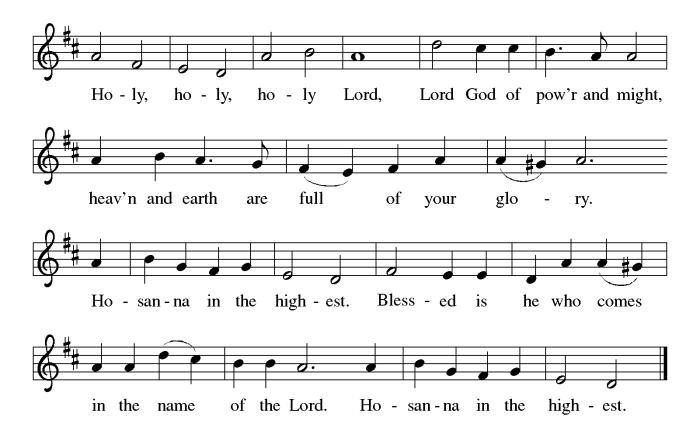
thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who rose

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**

(We ring the bell throughout the Lord’s Prayer at all services to

invite those in the community to join in praying 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**

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V. We invite you to be seated.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

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

wafers, and 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 to you.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

V. The risen Christ is made known to us

in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God’s table.

**C. Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN**

(Please enjoy music offered by our Organist.)

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Book

**256 Oh, Sing Jubilee to the Lord**

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

V. Let us stand as we are able.

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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**

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**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A. Let us pray,

Shepherding God,

you have prepared a table before us

and nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this banquet

to proclaim your goodness

and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,

our redeemer and friend.

**C. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

V. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

V. The God of resurrection power,

the Christ of unending joy,

and the Spirit of Easter hope

☩ bless you now and always.

**C. Amen.**

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

**SENDING HYMN**

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

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Book

**196 Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing**

(Assistant extinguishes the Altar Candles half way through the Sending 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 Charlie Buckley

**DISMISSAL**

A. Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C. Thanks be to God.** **Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

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

**He Rose**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS & GENERAL INFORMATION**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Children of all ages are welcome to attend on **Sundays** from 9-10AM. Children are able to learn through Scriptures, Crafts, Games, Videos, and Activities. See Heather & Bonnie for more information and volunteer opportunities. The last class for the 2023-2024 school year will be on Sunday, May 19th.

**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. We are thankful for all the wonderful work being done. If you are interested in any position let Vicar Vince know so a training can be set-up.

Sign-up sheets are now located on the bulletin board between the church offices.



**COFFEE HOUR**

The Women of the Church will be hosting the Coffee Hour following the

Worship Service **TODAY**! See Judy or Kathy for more information.

**NEW LIFE FOR WEARY SOULS**

Vicar Vince will be attending this Easter Retreat at Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center in Port Murray, NJ, from Tuesday, April 23rd through Thursday, April 25th. Please feel free to call and leave a message, text, or email for any needs.

**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!

Come on out and join us on **Tuesdays** at 7PM. All are welcome!

**There will be no session this Tuesday due to Vicar Vince being out of town.**

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

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

121 people were served in March. 349 people have been served in 2024. 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 see Heather, Vicar Vince, or Bonnie.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Thursday, 4/25** | **Saturday, 4/27** | **Thursday, 5/2** |
| Tori & Cathie | Vince & Heather | Tori & Garnet |

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.

**BULLETIN ENTRY DEADLINE**

The Bulletin is Printed on **Thursdays** during Church Office Hours. Changes need to be submitted to Vicar Vince or Heather no later than **Thursdays at 4PM**. Thanks!

**CHURCH OFFICE**

Open **Thursdays** from 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.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

You can pick up a copy of your 2024 Church Directory by the Church Office on the bookshelves. 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 information, new people’s information, notes, and your favorite Bible verses. If you have any changes or updates, please make it a point to inform the Church Office to keep us most up to date and current with your information.

**ANNUAL CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE**

It’s that time of year again that we begin our spring cleaning, and that time of year we get our committee together and begin planning for our Annual Church Rummage Sale on **Saturday, June 29th**, from 6AM to 12Noon. Our **next meeting will be on Sunday, May 5th,** following our Worship Service to make additional plans. You can **bring items to the church starting** **Monday, May 20th**, and place them in the Sunday School Room. We will also plan to coordinate things before Whale of A Day so that all unsold items can be transported there to have a second chance in being sold to raise funds for the Property Owners Association of Townbank.

We look forward to this event helping rebuild our Capital Improvement Fund.

**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH**

The women will be holding their next monthly meeting on Monday,

**May 6th**, at 6PM. New members are welcome to attend! Contact Judy

with questions or if you are interested in attending.

**36TH ANNUAL SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

Vicar Vince, Mary, and Wayne will be attending on Saturday, **May 11th**, at the Grounds for Sculpture, 80 Sculptors Way, Hamilton Twp. It will be a day of fellowship, food, prayer, voting, and other church business under the theme

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”

**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, **May 21st**, at 6PM.

If you have any questions, see any member of the Church Council.

**THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR EMERGING MINISTRIES (TEEM) INFO**

Vicar Vince is enrolled in 3 classes at Seminary in Gettysburg from **June 16th-21st**.

**NEWSLETTER**

We continue with our seasonal quarterly newsletters. Please collect all of your information, stories, pictures, and committee reports and submit them to

Heather in-person or through her email at hstitelyadpc@yahoo.com.

**BAPTISM**

We are a church whose unity is in Jesus Christ, who gathers us around word and water, wine and bread. Baptism is a significant part of our faith journey as we come from the baptismal waters to live a new life as children of God.

Our baptism sets us out on a lifelong journey that is characterized by our relationship to God, our relationship to our faith community, our relationships in our community and the wider world. Living our baptismal covenant means living a life of growth in the faith practices of discipleship. If anyone has questions, please see Vicar Vince.

**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 anyone has questions, please see Vicar Vince.

**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.

**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.

**CHOIR IS RESUMING! ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING?**

Our Organist, Carol, is looking forward to everyone interested in singing a joyful noise unto the Lord. Please let Carol know of your interest to join choir rehearsals and accompany our Worship Services on Sunday with your awesome voices!

**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. We are also blessed to have a donation station located by the doors leading to the Fellowship Hall from the Narthex. Find some supplies to help you make your next creation!

**The next blessing will be next Sunday, April 28th, during our Worship Service.**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

They are available in your mailbox in the back of the church, or from the Church Office. Pick up yours today, and take them home with you. We thank you for all of your continued tithes and offerings to support the continued mission of our church, the ministries, the NJ Synod, and many other things!

**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.

**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, and a $50 refundable security deposit. There is no alcohol permitted due to ELCA policy. Contact Vicar Vince or the Church Office with questions, for 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.Kathy continues to sell Wawa Tickets for $6. We also have the donation bin in the back of the church. Thanks for your continued donations, prayers, & support!

**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.



**OUR LIBRARY**

New books are added to our library from time to time. Several are borrowed and read and exchanged. Who knows, you might find one particularly interesting and share that with someone as well. Reading is a great way to pass spare time, learn, and explore. You may find some fresh ideas for prayer, ways to grow more spiritually, ways to grow closer to God, or some opportunities to understand our faith more. Visit the library between the church offices and see what books are there!

We also have another donation station for books that are donated by various stores, the library, or other people and places that are for you to take home and read. They may not always be related to various things within our faith, but they are books that you can feel free to take home or loan out to others as well. These books are located in the tower of drawers located underneath the coat rack by the front doors.

**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.

**VICE PASTOR JEFF ELLIOTT UPDATE**

Pastor Jeff continues to supervise Vicar Vince, answer questions, provide support, attend Church Council Meetings, and is continuing to help with the Food Pantry.

**JERSEY JOTTINGS**

Jersey Jottings is a weekly e-newsletter that connects our synod together with weekly prayer, upcoming events, synod and churchwide activities, mission stories, congregational activities, and more. You can also sign up by going to https://www.njsynod.org/stay-connected and filling out the form! You can get the app on your smartphone in the Apple App Store or on Google Play on your android.

**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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| **2024 FINANCIAL STANDING** | |
| **MARCH INCOME** | $7,340.00 |
| **MARCH SPENDING** | $8,151.71 |
| **MARCH GAIN OR (LOSS)** | ($811.71) |
| **2024 INCOME** | $20,577.00 |
| **2024 SPENDING** | $31,771.49 |
| **2024 GAIN OR (LOSS)** | ($11,194.49) |
| **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND** | ($5,264.33) |
| **FOOD PANTRY FUND** | $12,850.51 |

**CHURCH STAFF & VOLUNTEERS**

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

Vicar Vince Piekarski

**VICE PASTOR**

Pastor Jeff Elliott

**ORGANIST**

Carol Amundsen

**CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Mary Melnicoff

**CHURCH COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT**

Currently Vacant

**CHURCH COUNCIL TREASURER & CHOIR**

Bonnie Millard

**CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY**

Vicki Rinier

**CHURCH PROPERTY**

Frank Ford & Wayne Rand

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

Heather Piekarski

**LICENSES & EXPIRATION DATES**

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