**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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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 28TH, 2024**

**FIFTH 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. This Sunday’s image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of

the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the

mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John.

Baptism makes us a part of Christ’s living and life-giving self and makes us alive

with Christ’s life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his

table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

**PRELUDE**

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

**All People That On Earth Do Dwell**

**CHIMES**

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

**Jesus, Thy Boundless Love To Me**

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.)

With One Voice – Blue Book

**674 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen**

**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 God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live.

Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know

the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and

reigns with you 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**

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his

African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their

encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is

baptized by Philip.

R. Our First Reading is from the 8th Chapter of Acts (Verses 26-40).

R. 26An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road

that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27So he

got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the

Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come

to Jerusalem to worship 28and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was

reading the prophet Isaiah. 29Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this

chariot and join it.” 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet

Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31He replied,

“How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit

beside him. 32Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

  “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

   and like a lamb silent before its shearer,

    so he does not open his mouth.

  33In his humiliation justice was denied him.

   Who can describe his generation?

    For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say

this, about himself or about someone else?” 35Then Philip began to speak, and

starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

36As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch

said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” 38He

commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went

down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39When they came up out of the

water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more,

and went on his way rejoicing. 40But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he

was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns

until he came to Caesarea.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 22nd Psalm (Verses 25-31).

**C. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.** (Ps. 22:27)

R.25From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

   I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

  26The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

   Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

  27All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

   all the families of nations shall bow before God.

 28For dominion belongs to the Lord,

  who rules over the nations.

**C. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.** (Ps. 22:27)

R. 29Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

  all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

  30Their descendants shall serve the Lord,

   whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

  31They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,

   saying to them, “The Lord has acted!”

**C. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.** (Ps. 22:27)

**SECOND READING**

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love

God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly

see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the

essence of God is love.

R. Our Second Reading is from the 4th Chapter of 1st John (Verses 7-21).

R. 7Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves

is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for

God is love. 9God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only

Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10In this is love, not that we

loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for

our sins. 11Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one

another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us,

and his love is perfected in us.

13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of

his Spirit. 14And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as

the Savior of the world. 15God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son

of God, and they abide in God. 16So we have known and believe the love that

God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

17Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the

day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18There is no fear in

love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and

whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19We love because he first

loved us. 20Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are

liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot

love God whom they have not seen. 21The commandment we have from him is

this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**C. Alleluia. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in**

**them bear much fruit. Alleluia.** (John 15:5)

**GOSPEL READING**

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they

would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart

from him, they can do nothing.

V. The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 15th Chapter (Verses 1-8).

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

V. [Jesus said:] 1“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2He removes

every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to

make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have

spoken to you. 4Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear

fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

5I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear

much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6Whoever does not abide

in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered,

thrown into the fire, and burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,

ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by

this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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.)

**BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS**

V. Throughout the Bible God commands: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

In the 14th chapter of John we have these words of Jesus on the night he was

betrayed: “A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved

you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know you are my

disciples, if you love one another.”

As we have gathered together this morning in the presence of God, we celebrate

one of the ministries of this congregation, the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Many

dedicated people make a variety of Prayer Shawls, Prayer Squares, Lap Quilts,

and other various items to be distributed throughout the world. They are a

tangible sign of our care, concern, and love. They are a very real reminder of

God’s love for all people.

V. Let us pray,

God of love and comfort, we thank you for the opportunity to share your love and

presence with others through these Prayer Shawls. While we know that you are

always present in our lives, and your love transcends all tragedy, illness, and

pain, we also know that often a physical reminder can bring hope, healing, and

peace, to those who are hurting. We ask for your blessing on these Prayer

Shawls, and all those we have distributed. May those who receive these Prayer

Shawls be wrapped in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and surrounded by

your love. We ask all this in Jesus’ name,

**C. Amen.**

V. These Prayer Shawls have been made by our members and friends. Some gather

together to learn new stitches and discover fresh patterns. Others are making

them at home whenever they have a few moments to work on this project. They

are offered free to anyone who would like to have one, something to hold as

tangible evidence of our care and concern, as well as God’s love. We keep a

collection of Prayer Shawls and other items in the Narthex. Everyone is invited to

select one for themselves, or to give to a family member, friend, or neighbor.

V. Let us pray,

Heavenly Father, Bless the ones who will receive these prayer shawls, Give them

comfort, peace, healing, and strength. Remind them they are loved and never

forgotten. We ask your blessing on all who are lonely, sick, and suffering in any

way. In the name of Jesus Christ, the gentle healer.

**C. Amen.**

(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

**189 We Know That Christ Is Raised**

**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. We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of

the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our

hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes,

streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of

the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for

elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that

justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for

those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or

suffering; 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)

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)

Edward Chapleski (Allison Hopkin's Friend)

Evalice De La Cruz (Vince Piekarski's Friend)

Charlie Marsden (Vicki Rinier's Friend)

Greg Hettenbach & Squad (Leon Stitt's Family)

(Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)

A. God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who

visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care

centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to

bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that

heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. 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

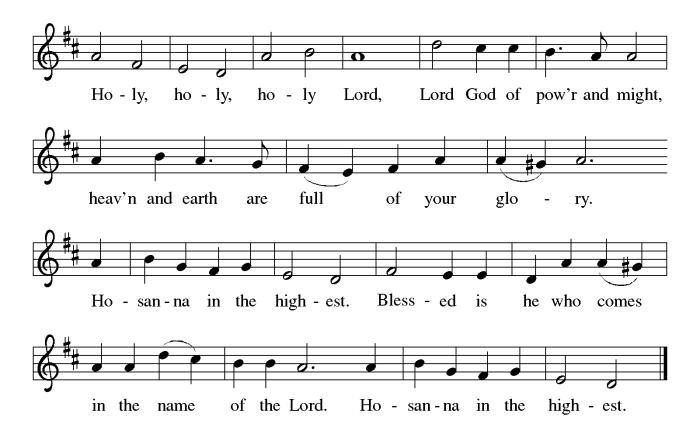
thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who rose

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

**143 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds**

(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**

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



**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

**557 Let All Things Now Living**

(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.)

**ANNIVERSARY**

2nd Wayne & Eleanor Rand

**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.)

**When In Our Music God Is Glorified**



**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.



**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!

**We will be blessing all new crafted items today during our Worship Service.**

**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!

**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, 5/2** | **Thursday, 5/9** | **Thursday, 5/16** |
| Tori & Garnet | Cathie & Garnet | Cathie & 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 next 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?”

**COFFEE HOUR**

The Women of the Church will be hosting the next Coffee Hour on Sunday,

**May 19th**, following the Worship Service. See Judy or Kathy for more information.

**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!

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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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