**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.

**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**

(spoken format)

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**

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.)

Wayne Ingling (Church Member)

Christina McNasby (Fran & Ed Green’s Family)

The Kinkson Family (Judy Brannan's Friends)

Marie Hand (Church Member)

Barbara Jacobs (Mary Melnicoff's Friend)

(Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)

A. Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Teach us your paths as we pray for this congregation. Be at work in us and unite

us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. We give thanks for all the saints who died secure in the knowledge of salvation.

Keep us fearless in our faith and certain of your resurrection. 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.

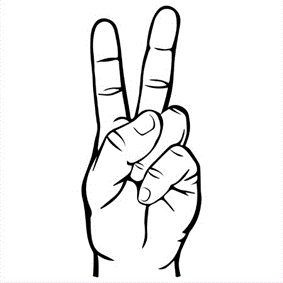
**C. Amen.**

**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.)

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)

Evie Coyle (Church Member)

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

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)

Arthretta Crandell (Heather Piekarski's Friend)

Moe (Betty Becker's Friend)

Cindi Buoni (Audrey Kinka's Family)

Lee Rash (Judy Brannan's Friend)

JP Rash (Judy Brannan's Friend)

**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

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

**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

**218 Strengthened for Service, Lord**

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)

**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 put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors,

deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold

truth and faithful witness. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests

of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be

advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other

positions of authority. Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs

of others. We pray also for our enemies. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or

suffering in any way, especially;

Betty Lang (Church Member)

Betty Becker (Church Member)

Debbie West (Church Member)

(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**

1st Riley Hansen

3rd Sharon Ford

5th Tori Heimall

**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 let Vicar Vince know so a training can be set-up. Sign-up sheets are located on a clipboard on the book shelf between the church offices.



**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.

**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. 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS** | | |
| **Thursday, 10/5** | **Thursday, 10/12** | **Thursday, 10/19** |
| Cathie & Vince | Cathie & Volunteer | Frank & Vince |

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.

**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

**230 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**

**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.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**C. Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they**

**follow me. Alleluia.** (John 10:27)

**GOSPEL READING**

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching

there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to

be in charge of the temple.

V. The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 21st Chapter (Verses 23-32).

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

V. 23When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people

came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing

these things, and who gave you this authority?” 24Jesus said to them, “I will also

ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what

authority I do these things. 25Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was

it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’

he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ 26But if we say, ‘Of human

origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” 27So they

answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you

by what authority I am doing these things.

28“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son,

go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he

changed his mind and went. 30The father went to the second and said the same;

and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. 31Which of the two did the will of

his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax

collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

32For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him,

but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it,

you did not change your minds and believe him.”

V. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(We invite you to be seated.)

**COFFEE HOUR**

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

October 8th, following the Worship Service! See Judy or Kathy for 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, October 17th, 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.

**7TH ANNUAL UNITY DAY**

The Right to Unite Organization invites everyone out for music, games, inflatables, free food, and more on Saturday, October 21st, 2023, at 12PM. The event is located at Fox Park Amphitheater, 4500 Ocean Ave., Wildwood, NJ 08260. For more info, go to right2unitenj.wixsite.com/unityday or email at jbolling410@gmail.com

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Classes will resume on October 22nd for the 2023-20024 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.

**TRUNK OR TREAT**

We are seeking all of you goblins, princesses, turtles, scarecrows, and any other costumed characters to come on out and join us at our annual Trunk or Treat hosted by True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center. We will decorate the trunks of our cars, while providing a safe space for neighborhood children, to come out and get candy, snacks, art supplies and more. Come join us on Sunday, October 29th, from 1-3PM in our church yard. Please see Vicar Vince or Heather with any questions.

**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.

**NEWSLETTER**

We will continue with our seasonal quarterly newsletters. Please collect all of your information, stories, pictures, and committee reports for the Winter Publication.

Submit everything to Heather in person or via email at hstitelyadpc@yahoo.com.

**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.

**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.

R. Our Second Reading is from the 2nd Chapter of Philippians (Verses 1-13).

R. 1If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any

sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 2make my joy complete: be

of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

3Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as

better than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the

interests of others. 5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

  6who, though he was in the form of God,

   did not regard equality with God

   as something to be exploited,

  7but emptied himself,

   taking the form of a slave,

   being born in human likeness.

  And being found in human form,

   8he humbled himself

   and became obedient to the point of death—

   even death on a cross.

  9Therefore God also highly exalted him

   and gave him the name

   that is above every name,

  10so that at the name of Jesus

   every knee should bend,

   in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

  11and every tongue should confess

   that Jesus Christ is Lord,

   to the glory of God the Father.

12Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my

presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with

fear and trembling; 13for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will

and to work for his good pleasure.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

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

have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!

Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32For I have no pleasure in the death of

anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 25th Psalm (Verses 1-9).

**C. Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.** (Ps. 25:6)

R. 1To you, O Lord,

   I lift up my soul.

  2My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,

   nor let my enemies triumph over me.

  3Let none who look to you be put to shame;

   rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

  4Show me your ways, O Lord,

   and teach me your paths.

**C. Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.** (Ps. 25:6)

R. 5Lead me in your truth and teach me,

   for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

  6Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,

   for they are from everlasting.

  7Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

   remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your

goodness, O Lord.

  8You are gracious and upright, O Lord;

   therefore you teach sinners in your way.

  9You lead the lowly in justice

   and teach the lowly your way.

**C. Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.** (Ps. 25:6)

**SECOND READING**

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early

Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the

cross. Christ’s selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as

the foundation for Christian accord.

**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, and a $50 refundable security deposit. Contact Vicar Vince or the Church Office with questions, for info, or to reserve a date & time.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

V. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

V. Let us pray,

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to

overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way

of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C. Amen.**

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

**FIRST READING**

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their

parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous

behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

R. Our First Reading is from the 18th Chapters of Ezekiel (Verses 1-4,25-32).

R. 1The word of the Lord came to me: 2What do you mean by repeating this proverb

concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the

children’s teeth are set on edge”? 3As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall

no more be used by you in Israel. 4Know that all lives are mine; the life of the

parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that

shall die.

25Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is

my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? 26When the righteous turn

away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the

iniquity that they have committed they shall die. 27Again, when the wicked turn

away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right,

they shall save their life. 28Because they considered and turned away from all

the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not

die. 29Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of

Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

30Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways,

says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise

iniquity will be your ruin. 31Cast away from you all the transgressions that you

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

C:\Users\vpie8\Downloads\LBW Setting Two Glory (Melody).tif

**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.

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

**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

**719 God Is Here!**

**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.**

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



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Offered by Vicar, Assistant, and Congregation.)

**INTRODUCTION**

A. Jesus’ parable about two sons who don’t do what they say reveals surprises in

the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the

Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look

to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own.

Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of

our needy 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.**

**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 October’s is given to the Glory of God & in memory of the DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE SHARP & DESTASIO FAMILIES by Tom & Laura DeStasio.

**ALTAR CANDLES**

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

JOAN NASH by Jean 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.

**LICENSES & EXPIRATION DATES**

Worship Service Content is used via permission through Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB144368. The next Subscription Renewal Date is 2/29/2024.

Our Hymns and Worship Music are used via permission through CCLI One

License #11327166. The next Subscription Renewal Date is 1/31/2024.

**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 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, OCTOBER 1ST, 2023**

**18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

