**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, DECEMBER 3RD, 2023**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**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 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 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 December’s is given to the Glory of God & in memory of

MARGE ELLIOTT, JIMMY, ROBERT, & ADA STITT by Leon Stitt.

**ALTAR CANDLES**

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

WALT MILLER by Jean, Phil, & Bob Zimmerman.

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.

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Offered by Vicar, Assistant, and Congregation.)

**INTRODUCTION**

A. Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist’s plea in Psalm 80:2 has become

familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open.

Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore.

When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling

from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope

for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share

the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

**PRELUDE**

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

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

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is

marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

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

who opens the heavens

and draws near to us with salvation.

**C. Amen.**

V. God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.

Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

V. Everlasting God,

**C. you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.**

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness**

**that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

**We are complicit in systems of exploitation.**

**We choose comfort over courage.**

**We are careless with creation’s bounty.**

**Look upon us with mercy.**

**Turn our hearts again to you.**

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways**

**for the sake of our waiting world.**

**Amen.**

V. Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation

and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

God’s covenant is eternal,

and God’s blessing rests upon us all.

**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.)

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Book

**32 Fling Wide the Door**

**GREETING**

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

the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C. And also with you.**

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

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

V. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

V. Let us pray,

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us

to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of

your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,

now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

(We invite you to be seated.)

**FIRST READING**

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The

visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah

40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and

famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought

deliverance in the past.

R. Our First Reading is from the 64th Chapter of Isaiah (Verses 1-9).

R. 1O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,

   so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

  2as when fire kindles brushwood

   and the fire causes water to boil—

  to make your name known to your adversaries,

   so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

  3When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,

   you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

  4From ages past no one has heard,

   no ear has perceived,

  no eye has seen any God besides you,

   who works for those who wait for him.

  5You meet those who gladly do right,

   those who remember you in your ways.

 But you were angry, and we sinned;

  because you hid yourself we transgressed.

 6We have all become like one who is unclean,

   and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

  We all fade like a leaf,

   and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

  7There is no one who calls on your name,

   or attempts to take hold of you;

  for you have hidden your face from us,

   and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

  8Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;

   we are the clay, and you are our potter;

   we are all the work of your hand.

  9Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,

   and do not remember iniquity forever.

   Now consider, we are all your people.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 80th Psalm (Verses 1-7,17-19).

**C. Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.** (Ps. 80:7)

R. 1Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;

   shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

  2In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,

   stir up your strength and come to help us.

  3Restore us, O God;

   let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

  4O Lord God of hosts,

   how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

**C. Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.** (Ps. 80:7)

R. 5You have fed them with the bread of tears;

   you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

  6You have made us the derision of our neighbors,

   and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

  7Restore us, O God of hosts;

   let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

  17Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,

   the one you have made so strong for yourself.

**C. Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.** (Ps. 80:7)

R. 18And so will we never turn away from you;

   give us life, that we may call upon your name.

  19Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

   let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**C. Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.** (Ps. 80:7)

**SECOND READING**

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how

the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to

strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

R. Our Second Reading is from the 1st Chapter of 1st Corinthians (Verses 3-9).

R. 3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

  4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has

been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in him,

in speech and knowledge of every kind—6just as the testimony of Christ has

been strengthened among you—7so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift

as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He will also strengthen

you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus

Christ. 9God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**C. Alleluia. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.**

**Alleluia.** (Ps. 85:7)

**GOSPEL READING**

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in

power and glory to end all suffering.

V. The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark, the 13th Chapter (Verses 24-37).

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

V. [Jesus said:] 24“In those days, after that suffering,

  the sun will be darkened,

   and the moon will not give its light,

  25and the stars will be falling from heaven,

   and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and

glory. 27Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four

winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and

puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29So also, when you see

these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I

tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

31Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor

the Son, but only the Father. 33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the

time will come. 34It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and

puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to

be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the

master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or

at dawn, 36or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37And

what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

V. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(We invite you to be seated.)

**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

**25 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers**

**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. With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all

who await God’s day of restoration.

(A brief silence.)

A. Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things.

Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially

those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to

come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of

the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our

commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in

all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness

to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain

futures. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to

those who await healing or relief; especially:

Betty Lang (Church Member)

Betty Becker (Church Member)

Debbie West (Church Member)

BettyAnn Rich-White (Church Member)

Jacalyn Nehlig (Church Member)

Chip Hand (Church Member)

Del McKenna (Church Member)

Ed Green (Church Member)

Anthony DeLuca (Church Member)

Evie Coyle (Church Member)

Wayne Ingling (Church Member)

Marie Hand (Church Member)

Mo Bixler (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)

Megan Pratz (Betty Lang’s Friend)

Patty Cioce (Betty Lang’s Friend)

Carla Wagner (Betty Lang’s Family)

Tom McNamara (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

Beth & Bill Knapp (Betty Lang’s Family)

Christine Fuller (Betty Lang's Family)

Rhiannon (Frank & Sharon Ford's Family)

Bill Kanass (Betty Lang's Family)

Kevin (Betty Becker's Friend)

Ed Borse (Betty Lang’s Friend)

James Kershaw (Audrey Kinka’s Friend)

Patrick Brannan (Judy Brannan's Family)

Kali Poe (Betty Lang's Family)

Linda Dressic (Carol Detweiler's Family)

Bandit (Betty Lang's Pet)

Suzie Clark (Rose Lang's Friend)

Evy (Betty Lang's Friend)

Amelia Skyrm (Audrey Kinka's Family)

Cindy Irana (Betty Lang’s Friend)

Ed Watson (Betty Lang's Friend)

Bill Bickley (Betty Bickley's Family)

Francis Clock (Dianna DeNote’s Family)

Jean O’Brien (Diana DeNote's Friend)

Andrew Hudak (Rose Lang’s Friend)

Fred Lang (Betty Lang’s Family)

Viena Murtha (Bob Fritsch’s Friend)

Salvatore Friscia (Diana DeNote's Family)

Amanda Testa (Betty Bickley’s Family)

Sally Shaffer (Betty Becker's Friend)

Christine Schneider (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

Maisie Donnelly (Betty Bickley’s Family)

Jackie Churchman (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

Caroline Palush (Bonnie & Skip Millard’s Family)

Sharon Waicus (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)

Jerry P (Wanda Bryan’s Friend)

Ann Dickinson (Dianne & Ted Bell’s Family)

Karen O'Brian (Paul Bowker's Friend)

Dellie Valcourt (Bonnie & Skip Millard’s Family)

Dustin Irizzary (Mary Melnicoff's Family)

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

Laureen Leshik (Diane & Ted Bell'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)

Michelle Smith (Heather & Vince Piekarski's Family)

James Johnson (True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center)

The Hickson Family (Emily Hansen's Friends)

Denise Brannan (Judy Brannan's Family)

Sarah Dutton (Frank & Sharon Ford's Family)

Arthretta Crandell (Heather Piekarski's Friend)

Edward (Betty Becker's Friend)

Christina McNasby (Fran & Ed Green’s Family)

The Kinkson Family (Judy Brannan's Friends)

Barbara Jacobs (Mary Melnicoff's Friend)

Mark Stephen Dennis (Diana DeNote's Family)

David Kurrle (Skip & Bonnie's Family)

Irv Fuller (Karen & Charlie Buckley’s Family)

Cathy Snyder (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

Vivian (Jason Mesher’s Family)

Katerina (Vince Piekarski's Friend)

Kim McGinley (Theresa McGinley's Family)

Maria Sooccro (Bob Fritsch's Friend)

James Robbins (Beth Lang's Friend)

Mike Horst (Frank Ford's Friend)

Callie Gresham (Paul Bowker's Family)

Barbara Horchak (Vince Piekarski's Friend)

The People of Israel & Palestine

(Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)

A. Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts,

caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or

those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and

comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time

and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those

who dwell in your eternal presence. 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. Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great

and everlasting mercy.

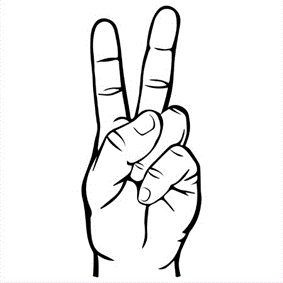
**C. Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

**C. And also with you.**

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



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

**OFFERING**

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

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

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

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

**OFFERTORY**

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

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Book

**34 O, Come, O, Come Emmanuel**

(First Two Verses Only)

(Vicar and Assistant prepare the Altar for Communion.)

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

(Let us stand as we are able.)

**OFFERING PRAYER**

V. Let us pray,

God our provider,

by your merciful hand

abundance springs up from the earth.

Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.

Let them be a sign of your steadfast love

and faithfulness for all people,

through 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**

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(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. In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.

Come, take your place at the table.

**C. Amen.**

**COMMUNION SONG**

(Please enjoy music offered by our Organist.)

(Vicar and Assistant 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**

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**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A. Let us pray,

Generous God,

in bread and cup you have revealed your glory

for all people to see together.

Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim

your good news of liberation and release,

brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

V. The God of peace bless you,

the love of Christ sustain you in hope,

and the anointing of the Spirit ☩ remain upon 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.)

With One Voice – Blue Book

**744 Soon and Very Soon**

(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.)

**BIRTHDAYS**

3rd Mason Jenkins

6th Anthony DeLuca

9th Rose Lang

**DISMISSAL**

A. Go in peace. Keep awake.

**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. 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.



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

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

133 people were served in November. 896 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 see Heather, Vicar Vince, or Bonnie.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Thursday, 12/7** | **Thursday, 12/14** | **Thursday, 12/21** |
| Cathie & Tori | Tori & Cathie | Cathie & Tori |

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

**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH**

The Women will be holding their next meeting tomorrow, Monday, December 4th, at 6PM. New members are welcome to attend! Contact Judy if you are interested.

**COFFEE HOUR**

The Women of the Church will be hosting their next Coffee Hour on December 10th, following the Worship Service! See Judy or Kathy for information.

**WINDOW & FRAMING REPAIRS**

The windows in the back of the Fellowship Hall are in need of replacement and repair due to rotted framing. The window in the Food Pantry will also be getting replaced due to leaks and framing issues. Work will be completed in December.

**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 no later than Sunday, December 17th, 2023, for it to be included in the publication.

**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 is Tuesday, December 19th, at 6PM.

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

**CLEANING & DISINFECTION SERVICES**

Heather’s Heavenly Cleaning Services cleaned the building on Sunday, July 16th. Church Council reviewed a new estimate from PJM Property Services, Tiffany,

and voted to switch over to their services. The cleaning has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 20th. Dave from Bactronix completed the last treatment on January 27th. We will have him 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.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE**

It is only every so many years that Christmas Eve and Sunday fall on the same day. We have done several different things when this has occurred in the past for sure. This year we will be having our regular Sunday Morning Worship Service at 10:30AM, and then have our Special Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7PM.

We hope to see you at both services as we remember the reason for the season.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Children of all ages are welcome to attend each Sunday from 9-10AM. Children

are able to learn through Scriptures, Crafts, Games, Videos, and Activities.

See Heather & Bonnie for more information and volunteer opportunities.

**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 Thursdays 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.

**PIANIST / ORGANIST NEEDED**

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

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

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

**FAVORITE HYMNS**

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

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

**HOME COMMUNION MINISTRY**

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

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

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

**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.

**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 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.

**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.

**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.

**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!

**OUR LIBRARY**

New books are being added to our library from time to time. Several people borrow them to read and have been continually exchanging them in and out on the shelves as well. Feel free to check out our book shelves between the offices and borrow any books you want. 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 and see what books may be of interest to you or anyone else!

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.

**PASTOR JEFF ELLIOTT UPDATE**

Pastor Jeff is Supervising Vicar Vince 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.

**FREE COVID-19 RAPID TESTS REMINDER**

Every U.S. household can again place an order to receive four free COVID-19 rapid tests, which are delivered directly to your home. COVID rapid tests can help you know if you have COVID-19 when you have symptoms, have been exposed, or are going to meet up with others. Go to https://www.covid.gov/tests

**TRUE DELIVERANCE PRAISE & WORSHIP CENTER**

Reverend Maria Brooks and her Congregation continue to utilize our facilities

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

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

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

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| **2023 FINANCIAL STANDING** | |
| **OCTOBER INCOME** | $5,051.01 |
| **OCTOBER SPENDING** | $20,913.08 |
| **OCTOBER GAIN OR (LOSS)** | ($15,862.08) |
| **2023 INCOME** | $104,273.67 |
| **2023 SPENDING** | $83,929.95 |
| **2023 GAIN OR (LOSS)** | $20,343.72 |
| **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND** | $9,984.35 |
| **FOOD PANTRY FUND** | $15,900.22 |



**CHURCH STAFF & VOLUNTEERS**

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

Vincent Piekarski

**VICE PASTOR**

Pastor Jeff Elliott

**ORGANIST**

Karen Buckley

**CANTOR**

Charlie Buckley

**CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Mary Melnicoff

**CHURCH COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT & CHURCH PROPERTY**

Ed Green

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

Bonnie Millard

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

Heather Piekarski



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE AND TREE TOUR!!!!!**

**THIS YEAR’S TREE TOUR FEATURES OVER 40 TREES & OTHER DECORATIONS!!!!**

WE WILL ONCE AGAIN OFFER 3 DIFFERENT DAYS AND TIMES FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO COME OUT, JOIN THE FUN, AND GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT.

(PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MAKE 1 OF THE 3 DAYS OR IF YOU ARE UNCOMFORTABLE COMING WHEN OTHERS ARE HERE, LET US KNOW AND WE WILL SCHEDULE A DIFFERENT DATE/TIME FOR YOU TO COME.)

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST 6-9PM**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND  5-9PM**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD 1-4PM**

**FACEBOOK LIVE TREE & HOUSE TOUR WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD AT 7PM FOR THOSE THAT CANNOT ATTEND IN-PERSON**

COME ON OUT AND ENJOY SOME FOOD, REFRESHMENTS, AND HOLIDAY FUN!!!!

\*\*\*PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT DAY YOU PLAN TO ATTEND SO WE CAN PREPARE ACCORDINGLY\*\*\*

RSVP TO HEATHER 724-875-6895 OR VINCE AT 412-225-0287

OUR RESIDENCE IS LOCATED AT 16 W TAMPA AVE., VILLAS, NJ 08251



**LICENSES & EXPIRATION DATES**

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