**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 Wednesdays from 6-8PM

Pastoral Office Hours on Thursdays from 10AM-1PM

**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, FEBRUARY 5th, 2023**

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE**

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**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cape May County’s status has changed with the CDC. We are now in the **RED** as per the COVID-19 County Check. We are in an area of high community spread. Per CDC guidelines, it is highly recommended that masks be worn inside buildings. At this time, we will move back to our former stance of strongly encouraging masks to be worn. However, it remains as a personal choice. Please continue to refrain from handshakes or hugs, and continue to social distance. Also, please continue to be respectful of people’s various comfort levels. May you encounter God, connect with others, and go out to serve God and neighbor by letting your light shine in the world!

**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**

We utilize Pre-Filled Communion Kits with a wafer, and a choice of wine or grape juice. They will be provided during Worship Services that an Ordained Minister is Presiding over to adults and children who have had First Communion instruction.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE**

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

LOGAN GRUBB by The Rinier Family.

**ALTAR CANDLES**

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

CLAIRE MILLER by Jean, Phil, & Bob Zimmerman.

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

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

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Offered by Worship Leader, Assistant, and Congregation.)

WL. Good Morning and Welcome to our Worship Service today. Unfortunately, we

cannot have Holy Communion together as we follow guidelines set forth by the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I know we look forward to the weekly

presence of being one with the Lord. A Supply Pastor has been requested once

monthly through the New Jersey Synod to Preside over our Worship Services to

allow for Holy Communion. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause,

but I do look forward to worshipping together with you today.

**INTRODUCTION**

A. Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares

that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry,

the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the

Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their

good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to

shine with the light of Christ.

**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**

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

who makes all things new,

whose mercy endures forever.

**C. Amen.**

WL. Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

WL. Holy One, source of our renewal,

**C. we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,**

**and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness.**

**Our hearts have turned away from you.**

**For the sake of the world you so love,**

**forgive us,**

**that we may be reconciled to one another**

**for the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

WL. Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass

and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of ☩ Christ our Savior.

**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

**718 Here in This Place: Gather Us In**

**GREETING**

WL. 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**

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

**HYMN OF PRAISE**







**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

WL. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

WL. Let us pray,

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you.

By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and

power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C. Amen.**

(We invite you to be seated.)

**FIRST READING**

R. Our First Reading is from the 58th Chapter of Isaiah (Verses 1-9a [9b-12]).

R. 1Shout out, do not hold back!

   Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

  Announce to my people their rebellion,

   to the house of Jacob their sins.

  2Yet day after day they seek me

   and delight to know my ways,

  as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

   and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

  they ask of me righteous judgments,

   they delight to draw near to God.

  3“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

   Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

  Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,

   and oppress all your workers.

  4Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight

   and to strike with a wicked fist.

  Such fasting as you do today

   will not make your voice heard on high.

  5Is such the fast that I choose,

   a day to humble oneself?

  Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,

   and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

  Will you call this a fast,

   a day acceptable to the Lord?

  6Is not this the fast that I choose:

   to loose the bonds of injustice,

   to undo the thongs of the yoke,

  to let the oppressed go free,

   and to break every yoke?

  7Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

   and bring the homeless poor into your house;

  when you see the naked, to cover them,

   and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

  8Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

   and your healing shall spring up quickly;

  your vindicator shall go before you,

   the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

  9aThen you shall call, and the Lord will answer;

   you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[9bIf you remove the yoke from among you,

   the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

  10if you offer your food to the hungry

   and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

  then your light shall rise in the darkness

   and your gloom be like the noonday.

  11The Lord will guide you continually,

   and satisfy your needs in parched places,

   and make your bones strong;

  and you shall be like a watered garden,

   like a spring of water,

   whose waters never fail.

  12Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;

   you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

  you shall be called the repairer of the breach,

   the restorer of streets to live in.]

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 112th Psalm (Verses 1-9 [10]).

**C. Light shines in the darkness for the upright.** *(Ps. 112:4)*

R. 1Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord

   and have great delight in God’s commandments!

  2Their descendants will be mighty in the land;

   the generation of the upright will be blessed.

  3Wealth and riches will be in their house,

   and their righteousness will last forever.

  4Light shines in the darkness for the upright;

   the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

**C. Light shines in the darkness for the upright.** *(Ps. 112:4)*

R. 5It is good for them to be generous in lending

   and to manage their affairs with justice.

 6For they will never be shaken;

  the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

 7They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;

  their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

 8Their heart is established and will not shrink,

  until they see their desire upon their enemies.

 9They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;

   they will hold up their head with honor.

[10The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;

  the desires of the wicked will perish.]

**C. Light shines in the darkness for the upright.** *(Ps. 112:4)*

**SECOND READING**

R. Our Second Reading is from the 2nd Chapter of 1st Corinthians (Verses 1-12

[13-16]).

R. 1When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the

mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. 2For I decided to know nothing

among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3And I came to you in

weakness and in fear and in much trembling. 4My speech and my proclamation

were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit

and of power, 5so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the

power of God.

6Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this

age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. 7But we speak God’s

wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

8None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not

have crucified the Lord of glory.

9But, as it is written,

  “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,

   nor the human heart conceived,

  what God has prepared for those who love him”—

10these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches

everything, even the depths of God. 11For what human being knows what is truly

human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what

is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. 12Now we have received not the spirit of

the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts

bestowed on us by God. [13And we speak of these things in words not taught by

human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who

are spiritual.

14Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are

foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are

spiritually discerned. 15Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are

themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny.

16“For who has known the mind of the Lord

   so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.]

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. Jesus says, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will**

**have the light of life. Alleluia.** *(John 8:12)*

**GOSPEL READING**

WL. The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter. (Verses 13-20).

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

WL. [Jesus said:] 13“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how

can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out

and trampled under foot.

14“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15No one

after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it

gives light to all in the house. 16In the same way, let your light shine before

others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in

heaven.

17“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come

not to abolish but to fulfill. 18For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass

away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is

accomplished. 19Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these

commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the

kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called

great in the kingdom of heaven. 20For I tell you, unless your righteousness

exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of

heaven.”

WL. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(We invite you to be seated.)

**SERMON**

(Delivered by Worship Leader.)

(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

**423 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

WL. God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in

trust and hope let us confess our faith together using the Apostles’ Creed.

**C. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the**

**power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under**

**Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into**

**hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is**

**seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the**

**living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of**

**saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life**

**everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A. Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

(A brief silence.)

A. Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give

the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and

practiced injustice. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark

night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know

well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters.

Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and

industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters

and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness.

Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put

an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse

in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way;

especially:

Betty Lang (Church Member)

Betty Becker (Church Member)

Mary Pierce (Church Member)

Janet Coleman (Church Member)

Linda Bowker (Church Member)

Debbie West (Church Member)

BettyAnn Rich-White (Church Member)

Jacalyn Nehlig (Church Member)

Kay Call (Church Member)

Frank Ford (Church Member)

Lorraine Fennimore (Church Member)

Rosalie Stackhouse (Church Member)

Mo Bixler (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)

Christy Spero (Blanche Cameron's Family)

Megan Pratz (Betty Lang’s Friend)

Patty Cioce (Betty Lang’s Friend)

Butch Mitchell (Mary Pierce's Family)

Carla Wagner (Betty Lang’s Family)

Tom McNamara (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

Beth & Bill Knapp (Betty Lang’s Family)

Denny Lauer (Maryanne Lauer's Family)

Terry Davis (Alice Davis’ Family)

Pete (Maryanne Lauer’s Friend)

Dave Griffin (Sandy Hansen's Family)

Christine Fuller (Betty Lang's Family)

Rhiannon (Frank & Sharon Ford's Family)

Bob Brady (Maryanne Lauer’s Friend)

Bill Kanass (Betty Lang's Family)

Kevin (Betty Becker's Friend)

Ed Borse (Betty Lang’s Friend)

James Kershaw (Audrey Kinka’s Friend)

Edna McCann (Maryanne Lauer's Friend)

Patrick Brannan (Judy Brannan's Family)

Bandit (Betty Lang's Pet)

Suzie Clark (Rose Lang's Friend)

Kathy Beard (Maryanne Lauer's Family)

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)

Joe Cox (Maryanne Lauer's Friend)

Francis Clock (Dianna DeNote’s Family)

Jamie Miller (Vicki Rinier's Family)

James Colubiale (Diana DeNote's Friend)

Mike (Maryanne Lauer's Friend)

Jean O’Brien (Diana DeNote's Friend)

Joanne (Maryanne Lauer’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)

Carlie McGinn (Judy Brannan's Family)

Joseph Sheretta (Ed & Fran Green’s Friend)

Sally Shaffer (Betty Becker's Friend)

Carmen & Brook (Maryanne Lauer’s Friends)

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)

Susan Horn (Judy Brannan's Friend)

Doug Green (Ed & Fran Green's Family)

Jill (Maryanne Lauer & Betty Becker's Friend)

Tom & Anne Dickinson (Dianne & Ted Bell’s Family)

Bill Johnson (Maryanne Lauer & Betty Becker’s Family)

Karen O'Brian (Linda & Paul Bowker's Friend)

The Henning Family (Maryanne Lauer’s Family)

Dellie Valcourt (Bonnie & Skip Millard’s Family)

Jerry P (Wanda Bryan’s Friend)

Analida Irizzary (Mary Melnicoff’s Family)

Ernie Rink (Fran & Ed Green's Friend)

The Hartman Family (Marie & Chip Hand's Family)

Dustin Irizzary (Mary Melnicoff's Family)

Mark Elliott (Leon Stitt's Family)

Kenny Payner (Leon Stitt's Family)

Nicky Melnicoff (Mary Melnicoff's Family)

Helen Ehlers (Judy Brannan's Friend)

Cathy Smith (Mary Melicoff & Judy Brannan’s Friend)

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

Mardella Allen (True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center)

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

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

Dolores Johnson (True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center)

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

(Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)

A. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your

commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in

our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you

for all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in

our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. Merciful

God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

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

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

**C. receive our prayer.**

WL. We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power

revealed in Christ crucified.

**C. Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

**C. And also with you.**

WL. 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.)



**OFFERTORY**

**WHAT HAVE WE TO OFFER?**

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

**OFFERING PRAYER**

WL. Let us pray,

Liberating God,

you break the bonds of injustice

and let the oppressed go free.

Receive these offerings in thanksgiving

for all your works of merciful power,

and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.

You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior.

**C. Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

WL. May we now join with one another and pray the Lord’s Prayer.

**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.**

**BLESSING**

WL. The God who faithfully brings forth justice

and breaks the oppressor’s rod

☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,

today and always.

**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

**237 O God of Light**

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

(Worship Leader 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 & ANNIVERSARIES**

None

**DISMISSAL**

A. Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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

**LICENSES & EXPIRATION DATES**

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

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| **2022 FINANCIAL STANDING** | |
| **DECEMBER INCOME** | $6,609.24 |
| **DECEMBER SPENDING** | $4,819.91 |
| **DECEMBER GAIN OR (LOSS)** | $1,789.33 |
| **2022 INCOME** | $108,312.36 |
| **2022 SPENDING** | $73,408.60 |
| **2022 GAIN OR (LOSS)** | $34,903.76 |
| **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND** | $26,159.56 |
| **FOOD PANTRY FUND** | $18,205.16 |



**ANNOUNCEMENTS & GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

Vince is working on the Call, Candidacy, and Seminary processes in an effort to work on the TEEMs Theological Certificate Program. Vince attended his Candidacy Entrance Interview on Thursday, January 19th, 2023, at 2PM and received a positive entrance decision. The Bishop from the NJ Synod has sent along this decision and recommendation to the ELCA for further approval. The Bishop will reach out to coordinate a visit and meeting to discuss processes once a response is received from the ELCA. Additional feedback and other meetings will be relayed once Vince has been made aware of them. Vince has applied to United Lutheran Seminary (ULS), all reference checks, the background check, and former college transcripts have been received and the school is reviewing things for admissions.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Our Annual Meeting is quickly approaching on Sunday, February 12th, following our Sunday Morning Worship Service. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend so we can vote on things and handle all of our Church Business. If you are the head of a Committee or Group, please start gathering your information and get Vince your Reports so that the Annual Report can start to be compiled for this meeting.

**COFFEE HOUR**

The Women of the Church will be hosting their next monthly Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 19th, following our Worship Service. See Judy or Kathy for more info.

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Share your comments, concerns, questions, or joys with one of our church council members who can bring it back to our meetings. Visitors are welcome to attend our meetings & listen to what is going on in and around the church. Join us In- Person & on our Conference Call at our next Meeting, Tuesday, February 21st, at 6PM. Please ensure that if you are a member of council that you do attend, as we have a topic that we need to discuss and vote on due to timelines and follow through. We currently have a vacant Church Council seat. If you are interested, or happen to have any interest or questions, please see Vince or any member of Church Council.

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

We are having a Worship Service with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday, February 22nd, at 7PM. Join us In-Person or on the Conference Call.

**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH**

The Women will be taking their annual winter break from meetings. Their next meeting will be Monday, March 6th, at 6PM. New members are welcome to

attend! Contact Judy if you are interested, or have any questions.

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

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

75 people were served in January. 75 people have been served in 2023. We have been blessed to serve a total of 6,662 people since we reopened in May

of 2014. Donations can be dropped in the basket in the Narthex, placed in the outdoor drop-box by the Church Office door, placed in the money jug in the back of the Church, mailed into the Church Office, or placed in the Offering Plate. Volunteers are needed each week. See Heather, Vince, or Bonnie if you are interested.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS** | | |
| **Thursday, 2/9** | **Thursday, 2/16** | **Thursday, 2/23** |
| Cathie & Volunteer | Cathie & Tori | Tori & Cathie |

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.

**BOARD GAMES & CARDS**

Are you looking for something new to do? Are you looking for people that share some of the same interests in playing board games or cards? Are you interested in learning some new games? Are you interested in another fellowship alternative?

We are looking forward to planning a Board Game & Card day or night. All will be invited to play and meet in our Fellowship Hall. We will look at options for snacks and beverages for this event as well. Please provide any feedback and interest to Vince so we can begin planning for this fun time of gathering and fellowship.

**STAINED GLASS REPAIR**

Cumberland Stained Glass, Inc. has started repairs on the Stained Glass window above the front entryway doors, and will work on the other two front windows as well.

**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 Wednesdays at 5PM. Thank You!

**NEWSLETTER**

Our next Seasonal Newsletter will be for Spring. Please start collecting all of your information, stories, pictures, and committee reports for the upcoming Publication. Feel free to submit them to Heather at any time.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Come learn about the Heroes of the Bible on Sundays at 9AM. Children of all ages are welcome to attend in order to learn through Scriptures, Crafts, Games, Videos, and Activities. See Heather for more information or volunteering 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 as we explore Lutheranism 101 on Wednesdays from 7PM to 8PM.

**CHURCH OFFICE**

Open on Wednesdays 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 other reason.

**PASTORAL OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Jeff Elliott has office hours weekly on Thursdays from 10AM to 1PM for various levels of support and prayer as needed. He can also be reached via email

at Jeffrey.elliott2006@comcast.net or calls and texts at 609-770-3207.

**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 is continuing to sell $5 Wawa Tickets, and the donation bin is in the back of the church. Thank you for your continued thoughtfulness, donations, prayers, & support!

**WORSHIP MINISTRY**

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



A Supply Pastor has been requested once monthly through the NJ Synod of the ELCA to Preside over Worship Services to allow for Holy Communion. If we are notified that we have been assigned a Pastor the Worship Leader will be replaced.

**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.

**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.

**CLEANING & DISINFECTION SERVICES**

Heather’s Heavenly Cleaning Services cleaned the building on December 17th. Dave from Bactronix completed another swab test on our surface levels on Sunday, January 8th. The results showed that we would benefit from having another treatment. Church Council voted to have this done, and it was completed on Friday, January 27th. Please continue to be mindful and ensure good cleaning each week to make sure we provide a safe environment for everyone.

**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.

**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.



**HOME COMMUNION MINISTRY**

When an Ordained Minister celebrates with us during our Worship Service our Home Communion Kits will be blessed. 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.

**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.

**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.

**VICE PASTOR APPOINTMENT ON JUNE 7, 2022**

The Rev. Jeffrey Elliott

Jeffrey.elliott2006@comcast.net

609-770-3207

Cape May Lutheran Church

509 Pittsburgh Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204

Dear Jeffrey,

With much appreciation, I write this letter to confirm your appointment as Vice Pastor of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Villas, New Jersey, beginning June 13, 2022. I shall recount the understanding and expectations discussed with you.

The Synod Constitution accords to the Vice Pastor the full rights of a regularly called

pastor (see Chapter 14, Section S14.17). There are seven specific responsibilities I have indicated for the Vice Pastor. They are:

(1) To meet monthly with the Congregation Council of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

and provide them with pastoral counsel and guidance. If there is a schedule

conflict, the Congregation Council should accommodate itself to your schedule.

(2) To preside, or arrange appropriate Lutheran presidency, at any extraordinary

worship services such as weddings or funerals.

(3) To supervise the educational program of the congregation, and, if possible, to

teach the catechetical program.

(4) To call upon and provide pastoral care for those members of the congregation

who are hospitalized or long-term home bound.

(5) To make yourself available, including how to be reached, to those who need to

see a pastor, e.g. crisis counseling.

(6) To see that the administrative matters of the congregation are well attended to,

and especially that the Parish Register is correctly maintained during the interim.

(7) To report on a monthly basis to the Office of the Bishop as to the status of the

congregation's life in the interim.

The Congregation Council of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church is responsible to assist and support you in every reasonable way so that the mission of the congregation continues to be well served. The Congregation Council is also responsible to compensate you for your services. The compensation proposal, to which I believe you agreed, and to which I trust the Congregation Council will also agree, is as follows:

(1) Compensation of $600.00 per month for serving as Vice Pastor.

(2) Extra compensation, not less than $175 per event, for any extra worship services

such as funerals or weddings.

(3) Reimbursement for travel expenses (1current I.R.S. standard for reimbursement)

including tolls, parking, and also for other usual expenses such as telephone

charges. If and when long distance travel to provide pastoral care is involved, say

in a distant hospital, such should be agreed upon in advance with the chief lay

officer of the congregation.

Again, let me tell you how pleased we are that you are willing to take on this responsibility. Thank you for your willingness to be the Vice Pastor at Holy Spirit.

Blessings to you.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Bishop

**CHURCH STAFF & VOLUNTEERS**

**VICE PASTOR**

Pastor Jeff Elliott

**ORGANIST**

Karen Buckley

**CANTOR**

Charlie Buckley

**CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT, WORSHIP LEADER, EVENTS, & WEBSITE**

Vincent Piekarski

**CHURCH COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT & CHURCH PROPERTY**

Ed Green

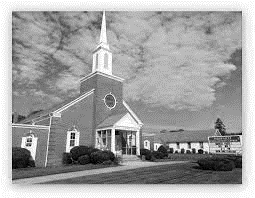
**TREASURER, CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY, & CHOIR**

Bonnie Millard

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

Heather Piekarski

**Community Resource Day**

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**February 18th, 2023 10am – 4pm**

**34 local social service organizations will be available for discussions at:**

**Tabernacle United Methodist Church**

**Michael Hall**

**702 Seashore Rd.**

**Erma, NJ 08204**

**For additional information please contact**

**732-850-5453 bistaksp@gmail.com**

**Snacks and Beverages will be provided**

**Hazardous weather date 3/18/23**

**This event will focus on raising community awareness on the resources available to provide aid to those in need within our community….. be it food, clothing, shelter, physical or mental health support, or other needs.**

**The following organizations have committed to participate.**

* **Cape May County Department of Human Services**
* **Cape May County Division of Aging & Disability & Meals on Wheels**
* **Cape May County Veterans Services**
* **US Department of Veterans Affairs**
* **New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**
* **Cape May County One Stop Career Center**
* **Tabernacle Basic Blessings**
* **Cape May Community Food Closet**
* **Family Promise of Cape May County**
* **Hope Pregnancy Center**
* **The Arc**
* **The Branches Outreach**
* **Cape Assist**
* **Seashore Community Church Food Pantry**
* **St. Barnabas Cares Food Pantry – Villas.**
* **St. Barnabas Thrift Store - Villas**
* **Cape Regional Home Health Care: managed by BAYADA**
* **Hope One**
* **Visiting Angels**
* **Holy Spirit Lutheran Church – Villas**
* **Volunteers in Medicine**
* **Angelic Health**
* **Redeemer Health**
* **Holy Redeemer Food Pantry**
* **Healthy Living**
* **Brookdale Sr. Living**
* **Pelican Point Post Acute Nursing & Rehabilitation**
* **Complete Care – Victoria Commons, NCM**
* **Complete Care CMCH**
* **Atlantic Cape Community College**
* **Cape Regional Hospital**
* **Ennoble Care**
* **Our Lady of Angels Food Pantry CMCH**
* **Fare Free**