**WELCOME TO**

**HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

1220 Bayshore Rd.

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Church Office Open on Thursdays from 6 to 8PM

Vicar Vince Piekarski can be contacted at any time through call or text at

412-225-0287 or through email at vpie8282@gmail.com

**MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, are People of God, who

are called by the Holy Spirit to pray, worship, joyfully proclaim Jesus Christ,

and compassionately witness and serve others in Christian Love.

**SUNDAY, MAY 5TH, 2024**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

**AN ESPECIALLY WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

We are glad that you joined us for Worship today! Thank you for enriching our time together! We would like to get to know you better, and we would like for you to get to know us better too. Brochures, welcome gifts, prayer shawls, Bibles, and other items are available at our welcome areas. Church members are happy to show you around and share about our ministries. Please don’t hesitate to speak up and ask questions.

**CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION**

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

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

All who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome at the table. We utilize bread or wafers, and we also have the option of individually wrapped gluten free wafers. We have pre-filled red wine or white grape juice cups in the Communion Tray to choose from.

The Usher will offer the option to leave your pew, and you can proceed forward on the right side of the aisle to the steps between the Communion Rail. Following Communion, please process back on the left side of the aisle and place your empty cups in the basket before returning to your pew. Children who have not had their First Communion instruction and adults who do not wish to receive Communion, are welcome to come forward for a special blessing.

If you are unable to leave your pew for health or other related reasons, please inform the Usher of your desire to remain in your pew and have us come to you.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE**

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

JEAN FARINA & WALT MILLER by Jean, Phil, & Bob Zimmerman.

**ALTAR CANDLES**

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

EDWARD & LINDA SCHUBERT by Vicki, Bob, & Evan Rinier.

The Sanctuary Candle and the Altar Candles cost $10 each, and can be dedicated in memory of someone. The sign-up sheet is located on a clipboard in the narthex.

**CONFERENCE CALL CHECK-IN**

(Roll Call and Attendance)

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Offered by Vicar, Assistant, and Congregation.)

**INTRODUCTION**

A. This Sunday’s image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of

 friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John’s

 gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the

 essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep

 mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that

 true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian

 community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

**PRELUDE**

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

**Petite Allemande**

**CHIMES**

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

**Be Still, My Soul**

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

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

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

 the wellspring of grace,

 our Easter and our joy.

**C. Amen.**

V. Look, here is water!

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

V. Immersed in the promises of baptism,

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

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

 your voice thundered over the deep

 and water became the essence of life.

 Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers.

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

 Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea

 into freedom’s land.

 In a desert pool the Ethiopian official

 entered your boundless baptismal life.

 Look, here is water!

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

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

 and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

 By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection

 you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,

 freeing us to live as Easter people.

 We rejoice with glad hearts,

 giving all honor and praise to you,

 through the risen Christ, our source of living water,

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

**C. Amen.**

V. Look, here is water!

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

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

**GATHERING HYMN**

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

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Book

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

**GREETING**

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

 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C. And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

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

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

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

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

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

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

 let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C. Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**



**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

V. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

V. Let us pray,

 O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding.

 Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may

 obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your

 Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,

 now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

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

**FIRST READING**

 While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family,

 the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in

 the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be

 baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

R. Our First Reading is from the 10th Chapter of Acts (Verses 44-48).

R. 44While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

 45The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the

 gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46for they heard

 them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47“Can anyone

 withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit

 just as we have?” 48So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus

 Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 98th Psalm.

**C. Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands.** (Ps. 98:4)

R.1Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,

   whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

  2O Lord, you have made known your victory,

   you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

  3You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

   all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

  4Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;

   lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**C. Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands.** (Ps. 98:4)

R. 5Sing to the Lord with the harp,

   with the harp and the voice of song.

  6With trumpets and the sound of the horn

   shout with joy before the king, the Lord.

  7Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

   the world and those who dwell therein.

  8Let the rivers clap their hands,

   and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.

  9The Lord will judge the world with righteousness

   and the peoples with equity.

**C. Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands.** (Ps. 98:4)

**SECOND READING**

 God’s children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God’s

 commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but

 through love and faith.

R. Our Second Reading is from the 5th Chapter of 1st John (Verses 1-6).

R. 1Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and

 everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2By this we know that we love the

 children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For the love

 of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not

 burdensome, 4for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the

 victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5Who is it that conquers the world but

 the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

 6This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water

 only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for

 the Spirit is the truth.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**C. Alleluia. Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love**

 **them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Alleluia.**

(John 14:23)

**GOSPEL READING**

 On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help

 them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his

 commands, that they love one another.

V. The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 15th Chapter (Verses 9-17).

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

V. [Jesus said:] 9“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

 10If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept

 my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11I have said these things to

 you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

 12“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

 13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

 14You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15I do not call you servants

 any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I

 have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I

 have heard from my Father. 16You did not choose me but I chose you. And I

 appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give

 you whatever you ask him in my name. 17I am giving you these commands so

 that you may love one another.”

V. This is the Gospel of the Lord,

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

(We invite you to be seated.)

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

(Delivered by Vicar if Children are present.)

**SERMON**

(Delivered by Vicar.)

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

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

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Book

**170 Crown Him with Many Crowns**

(4 verses)

**NICENE CREED**

V. Let us confess our faith together using the Nicene Creed.

**C. We believe in one God,**

 **the Father, the Almighty,**

 **maker of heaven and earth,**

 **of all that is, seen and unseen.**

 **We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

 **the only Son of God,**

 **eternally begotten of the Father,**

 **God from God, Light from Light,**

 **true God from true God,**

 **begotten, not made,**

 **of one Being with the Father.**

 **Through him all things were made.**

 **For us and for our salvation**

 **he came down from heaven;**

 **by the power of the Holy Spirit**

 **he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

 **For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

 **he suffered death and was buried.**

 **On the third day he rose again**

 **in accordance with the Scriptures;**

 **he ascended into heaven**

 **and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

 **He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

 **and his kingdom will have no end.**

 **We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

 **who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

 **With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

 **He has spoken through the prophets.**

 **We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

 **We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

 **We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

 **and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

(The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion.)

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

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

 (A brief silence.)

A. Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of

 your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our

 commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that

 habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species

 and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world

 leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen

 international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted

 by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in

 our care for one another. We pray especially for:

 Betty Lang (Church Member)

 Betty Becker (Church Member)

 Debbie West (Church Member)

 BettyAnn Rich-White (Church Member)

 Jacalyn Nehlig (Church Member)

 Chip Hand (Church Member)

 Del McKenna (Church Member)

 Evie Coyle (Church Member)

 Marie Hand (Church Member)

 Lynn Bargstadt (Church Member)

 Frank Brunner (Church Member)

 Audrey Kinka (Church Member)

 Carol Amundsen (Church Family)

 Megan Pratz (Betty Lang’s Friend)

 Patty Cioce (Betty Lang’s Friend)

 Carla Wagner (Betty Lang’s Family)

 Tom McNamara (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

 Beth & Bill Knapp (Betty Lang’s Family)

 Rhiannon (Frank & Sharon Ford's Family)

 Bill Kanass (Betty Lang's Family)

 Kevin (Betty Becker's Friend)

 Ed Borse (Betty Lang’s Friend)

 James Kershaw (Audrey Kinka’s Friend)

 Kali Poe (Betty Lang's Family)

 Linda Dressic (Carol Detweiler's Family)

 Bandit (Betty Lang's Pet)

 Suzie Clark (Rose Lang's Friend)

 Evy (Betty Lang's Friend)

 Amelia Skyrm (Audrey Kinka's Family)

 Cindy Irana (Betty Lang’s Friend)

 Ed Watson (Betty Lang's Friend)

 Francis Clock (Dianna DeNote’s Family)

 Andrew Hudak (Rose Lang’s Friend)

 Fred Lang (Betty Lang’s Family)

 Viena Murtha (Bob Fritsch’s Friend)

 Sally Shaffer (Betty Becker's Friend)

 Christine Schneider (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

 Jackie Churchman (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

 Caroline Palush (Bonnie & Skip Millard’s Family)

 Sharon Waicus (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)

 Karen O'Brien (Paul Bowker's Friend)

 Dustin Irizzary (Mary Melnicoff's Family)

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

 Linda Smith (Rose Lang's Friend)

 Joan Brown (Betty Lang's Friend)

 Donna Bradley (Betty Lang's Friend)

 Theresa Marioti (Betty Lang's Friend)

 Tim McCartney (Betty Becker's Family)

 The Bryan Family (Wanda Bryan's Family)

 James Andreotta (Charlie & Karen Buckley’s Friend)

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

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

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

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

 The Hickson Family (Emily Hansen's Friends)

 Sarah Dutton (Frank & Sharon Ford's Family)

 Edward (Betty Becker's Friend)

 Christina McNasby (Fran Green’s Family)

 The Kinkson Family (Judy Brannan's Friends)

 Mark Stephen Dennis (Diana DeNote's Family)

 Cathy Snyder (Audrey Kinka's Family)

 Kim McGinley (Theresa McGinley's Family)

 James Robbins (Beth Lang's Friend)

 Callie Gresham (Paul Bowker's Family)

 David Salas (Charlie & Karen Buckley's Friend)

 Dellie Valcourt (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Family)

 Joyce (Betty Lang's Family)

 Hannah (Betty Lang's Family)

 Donna Lee (Betty Lang's Friend)

 Bill Lodge (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)

 Patricia Maguire (Betty Becker's Family)

 Patrick & Denise Brannan (Judy Brannan's Family)

 Joseph Sheretta (Fran Green's Friend)

 Ernie Rink (Fran Green's Friend)

 Michelle Smith (Heather & Vince Piekarski’s Family)

 Ron Anderson (Bill Kelly's Friend)

 Christy Marcotte (Bill Kelly's Friend)

 Kathy Jenkins (Church Member)

 Edward Chapleski (Allison Hopkin's Friend)

 Evalice De La Cruz (Vince Piekarski's Friend)

 Charlie Marsden (Vicki Rinier's Friend)

 Greg Hettenbach & Squad (Leon Stitt's Family)

 Vivian Kendi (Vince & Heather Piekarski's Friend)

 Brian (Wanda Bryan's Friend)

 (Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)

A. God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this

 congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who

 plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers.

 God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A. Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have

 gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet

 table. God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

 (Here other intercessions may be offered.)

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

 names we now say aloud or within our hearts (extended pause). God of grace,

**C. hear our prayer.**

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

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

**C. Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

**C. And also with you.**

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



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

V. We invite you to be seated.

**OFFERING**

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

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

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

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

(Vicar and Assistant prepare the Altar for Communion.)

**OFFERING SONG**

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

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

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

**OFFERING PRAYER**

V. Risen One,

 you call us to believe and bear fruit.

 May the gifts that we offer here

 be signs of your abiding love.

 Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

 through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**C. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

V. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

V. Lift up your hearts.

**C. We lift them to the Lord.**

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C. It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

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

 beyond the bounds of death and, as he promised, poured out your Spirit of life

 and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless

 joy. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your

 name and join their unending hymn:



**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

V. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, in mercy for our fallen world you gave

 your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have

 eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us

 through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may

 receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

**C. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

V. In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, he gave

 thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.*

*Do this for the remembrance of me.*

V. Again, after supper, He took the cup, he gave thanks, and gave it for all to

 drink, saying:

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood,*

*shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.*

*Do this for the remembrance of me.*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

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

invite those in the community to join in praying the Lord’s Prayer.)

V. May we now join with one another and pray together as Jesus has taught us.

**C. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily**

**bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass**

**against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For**

**thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**

 **Amen.**

**THE LAMB OF GOD**

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V. We invite you to be seated.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

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

 wafers, and we also have the option of individually wrapped gluten free wafers.

 We have pre-filled red wine or white grape juice cups in the Communion Tray to

 choose from.

 The Usher will offer the option to leave your pew, and you can proceed forward

 on the right side of the aisle to the steps between the Communion Rail. Following

 Communion, please process back on the left side of the aisle and place your

 empty cups in the basket before returning to your pew. Children who have not

 had their First Communion instruction and adults who do not wish to receive

 Communion, are welcome to come forward for a special blessing.

 If you are unable to leave your pew for health or other related reasons, please

 inform the Usher of your desire to remain in your pew and have us come to you.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

V. The risen Christ is made known to us

 in the breaking of the bread.

 Come and eat at God’s table.

**C. Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN**

(Please enjoy music offered by our Organist.)

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Book

**508 Come Down, O Love Divine**

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

V. Let us stand as we are able.

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

V. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us

 always in His grace.

**C. Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A. Let us pray,

 Shepherding God,

 you have prepared a table before us

 and nourished us with your love.

 Send us forth from this banquet

 to proclaim your goodness

 and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,

 our redeemer and friend.

**C. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

V. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

V. The God of resurrection power,

 the Christ of unending joy,

 and the Spirit of Easter hope

 ☩ bless you now and always.

**C. Amen.**

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

**SENDING HYMN**

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

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Book

**165 Holy, Holy, Holy**

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

(Vicar processes out once the Altar Candles have been extinguished.)

(We invite you to be seated.)

**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Offered by Assistant and Congregation.)

**BIRTHDAY**

7th Cathie Russell

**DISMISSAL**

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

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

**POSTLUDE**

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

**Christ The Victor! Christ The King!**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS & GENERAL INFORMATION**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Children of all ages are welcome to attend on **Sundays** from 9-10AM. Children

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

See Heather & Bonnie for more information and volunteer opportunities. The

last class for the 2023-2024 school year will be on Sunday, May 19th.

**WORSHIP MINISTRY**

The most important thing we do each week is gather together as God's people to worship. God is the center and focus of everything we do. Participating in worship is active. Liturgy means the work and actions of the people gathered. Everything we do during the week to prepare for worship, and everything we do as we assist in leading worship is important. We are thankful for all the wonderful work being done. If you are interested in any position let Vicar Vince know so a training can be set-up.

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



**ANNUAL CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE**

It’s that time of year again that we begin our spring cleaning, and that time of year we get our committee together and begin planning for our Annual Church Rummage Sale on **Saturday, June 29th**, from 6AM to 12Noon. Ournext meeting will be **TODAY**, following our Worship Service to make additional plans. You can

**bring items to the church starting** **Monday, May 20th**, and place them in the Sunday School Room. We will also plan to coordinate things before Whale of A Day so that all unsold items can be transported there to have a second chance in being sold to raise funds for the Property Owners Association of Townbank.

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

**BIBLE STUDY & FAITH DISCUSSIONS**

What makes the Lutheran confession of faith unique? Why is Lutheran worship different than at the church next door? Does it have to be confusing? If you're a lifelong Lutheran looking to dig deeper, new to Lutheranism and want answers,

or are just curious about the Lutheran church-this is for you!

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

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

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

90 people were served in April. 439 people have been served in 2024. Donations can be dropped in the basket in the Narthex, placed in the outdoor drop-box by the Church Office door, placed in the money jug in the back of the Church, mailed into the Church Office, or placed in the Offering Plate. Volunteers are needed each week. If you are interested see Heather, Vicar Vince, or Bonnie.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Thursday, 5/9** | **Thursday, 5/16** | **Thursday, 5/23** |
| Cathie & Garnet | Cathie & Garnet | Tori & Garnet |

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

**BULLETIN ENTRY DEADLINE**

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

**CHURCH OFFICE**

Open **Thursdays** from 6PM to 8PM to serve the Congregation, the Community,

and to continue handling the business of the Church. Feel free to stop in to talk, pick-up or drop off something, pray in the Sanctuary, or for whatever reason.

**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH**

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

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

with questions or if you are interested in attending.

**36TH ANNUAL SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

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

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”

**COFFEE HOUR**

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

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

**PREACHING AT BROOKDALE**

Vicar Vince will be helping out Reverend Schoenberger and the other Pastors

again by covering and Preaching at Brookdale Senior Living in Cape May

Court House on Sunday, **May 19th**, at 1PM.

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Share your comments, concerns, questions, or joys with one of our Church Council Members who can bring them back to our meetings. Visitors are always welcome to attend and listen to what is going on in and around the church. Join us In- Person or on our Conference Call at our next Meeting on Tuesday, **May 21st**, at 6PM.

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

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

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

**BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT**

True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center will be holding the event on Saturday, **August 10th**, from 11AM to 3PM. Several donations and funds need to be raised to help the efforts for this event to help the target goal of 1,000 children this year. There will be on-site backpack pick-up and mobile units again in order to get supplies to those in the community. We currently need backpacks, notebooks, pencils, pens, paper, folders, highlighters, crayons, markers, glue, erasers, rulers, sharpies, composition books, scissors, etc. See Heather for additional info and questions.

**NEWSLETTER**

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

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

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

You can pick up a copy of your 2024 Church Directory by the Church Office on the bookshelves. We continue to keep it updated throughout the year. Undoubtedly, we probably missed a few changes. The printed church directories have spaces for changes in people’s information, new people’s information, notes, and your favorite Bible verses. If you have any changes or updates, please make it a point to inform the Church Office to keep us most up to date and current with your information.

**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!

**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.

**BAPTISM**

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

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

**FIRST COMMUNION**

Although no particular age for first communion is prescribed by The Use of the Means of Grace, one guideline is offered. Because admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord to the baptized, "baptized children begin to commune on a regular basis at a time determined through mutual conversation that includes the pastor/vicar, the child, and the parents or sponsors involved, within the accepted practices of the congregation.” Each congregation is encouraged to ask the question of readiness for first communion, establish their own policies regarding age and practice, and accompany that practice with catechesis appropriate to the age of the communicant. If anyone has questions, please see Vicar Vince.

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

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

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

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

**PRAYER LIST**

Our Prayer List continues to lengthen and we realize the important need for prayers and healing. Sometimes the unfortunate result is that someone has passed on, and the words “The Family & Friends of” appear before someone’s name. However, sometimes we forget names are still on the list and “they are healed” or the “they are no longer struggling” and they can be removed. Share the good and bad stories as we continue to pray for strength and healing. Names can be added or removed from the list on the clipboard in the Narthex prior to the Worship Service, by calling the church office, or addressing it on the Conference Call. Please let us know the relation to the person(s) you listed so we can be more mindful with our prayers too. Names will stay on the list until removed by the person(s) who requested prayer.

**HALL RENTAL**

​​​​​Do you know anyone interested in renting our Fellowship Hall for a Party or Event?

It is $250 for hall and kitchen use, and a $50 refundable security deposit. There is no alcohol permitted due to ELCA policy. Contact Vicar Vince or the Church Office with questions, for info, or to reserve a date & time.

**TITHES & OFFERINGS**

We worship God with our tithes and offerings. These are monetary gifts in order to support our ministry for service in God’s name. Feel free to drop your envelopes in the offering plate, mail them to the church, or drop them off in the locked mailbox.

**ED GREEN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**

We continue raising money for any unforeseen costs or repairs.Kathy continues to sell Wawa Tickets for $6. We also have the donation bin in the back of the church. Thanks for your continued donations, prayers, & support!

**OUR LIBRARY**

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

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

**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.

**VICE PASTOR JEFF ELLIOTT UPDATE**

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

**VICAR APPOINTMENT ON MARCH 19TH, 2023**

A Memorandum of Understanding On the Matter of Pastoral Appointment

In Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) Candidacy

TO: Congregation Council, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Villas

FROM: The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Bishop, New Jersey Synod

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

This memorandum is in support of your discussions with Vincent Piekarski as pastor of Holy Spirit, Villas. Because this is not the usual pattern for completing the educational and candidacy requirements for ordination, it is my hope that this memorandum will both provide guidelines and engage in conversation with those who are invested in this process.

I would say at the outset that because Vincent is an outstanding candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, we will all want to do whatever is necessary to assure that his placement serves the mission of the church in the best possible fashion.

The following notes reflect my own understanding of this matter:

(1) The appointment for Vincent will begin on April 1, 2023. At this time, Vincent will

 assume all responsibilities of a regularly called pastor, including presiding at the

 Sacrament of Holy Communion and Baptism at Holy Spirit, Villas.

(2) A pastoral appointment in the TEEM process is an option for completing

 seminary educational requirements and the steps of the candidacy process.

 Upon completion of the candidacy process and seminary education, the

 candidate may receive and accept a call to ordained ministry from the

 congregation where the appointment is being served.

(3) This appointment is jointly supervised by the Office of the Bishop and the TEEM

 pastor’s seminary. A mentoring relationship with a local pastor is required for the

 length of this appointment.

(4) The synod of candidacy origin will be responsible for the approval process.

(5) Upon approval for ordination, the congregation would be expected to extend a

 call to the pastoral appointee.

(6) Compensation for the TEEM pastor will be according to the guidelines of the New

 Jersey Synod. All normal forms of compensation should be in place for the term

 of the appointment, including stipulation that base salary and housing shall be in

 accord with synod guidelines for first call at time of ordination.

(7) The ELCA Portico benefit plan for lay persons in full-time church service should

 be used for the pastoral appointee up to the time of ordination, whereupon the

 benefit package is to be converted to the plan for ELCA clergy.

(8) A decision for Pastoral Appointment is made with the agreement of a synod and

 its candidacy committee, and the ELCA, normally represented by the regional

 staff person of each in consultation with the seminary and its Director for

 Contextual Education.

(9) Pastoral Appointment in a TEEM Candidacy is an option that is to serve the

 mission of the Church in a particular and vital way and is not to be viewed or

 used as a means to circumvent the normal candidacy process and/or first call

 placement process.

In the specific case of Vincent, the New Jersey Synod remains responsible for the candidacy and approval process, and has agreed to this proposal for Appointment at Holy Spirit, Villas.

Continued blessings to both Holy Spirit and Vincent Piekarski as you embark on this journey of mutual ministry. As partners in ministry, we walk with you and rejoice in this new relationship.

**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.



**TRUE DELIVERANCE PRAISE & WORSHIP CENTER**

Reverend Maria Brooks and her Congregation continue to utilize our facilities

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

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

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

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

**CHURCH STAFF & VOLUNTEERS**

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

Vicar Vince Piekarski

**VICE PASTOR**

Pastor Jeff Elliott

**ORGANIST**

Carol Amundsen

**CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Mary Melnicoff

**CHURCH COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT**

Currently Vacant

**CHURCH COUNCIL TREASURER & CHOIR**

Bonnie Millard

**CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY**

Vicki Rinier

**CHURCH PROPERTY**

Frank Ford & Wayne Rand

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

Heather Piekarski

**LICENSES & EXPIRATION DATES**

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