

WELCOME TO **HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, New Jersey Synod
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Vicar Vince Piekarski can be contacted at any time for conversation or prayer
through call or text at 412-225-0287, or through email at vpie8282@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION



THIS WEEK AT HOLY SPIRIT + NEXT SUNDAY							
Sun, 2/1	Mon, 2/2	Tues, 2/3	Wed, 2/4	Th, 2/5	Fri, 2/6	Sat, 2/7	Sun, 2/8
9AM-10AM Here We Stand Confirmation Class 10:30AM Worship Service		6PM Bible Study & Faith Discussions		10AM-1PM Food Pantry 6PM-8PM Church Office			9AM-10AM Confirmation Class 10:30AM Worship Service 12Noon Annual Congregational Meeting 1PM Coffee Hour

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.



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 for you to get to know us better too. Brochures, welcome gifts, prayer shawls, Bibles, and other items are available throughout the church. We would be happy to show you around and share about our ministries. Please do not hesitate to speak up and ask questions. Also, please make sure you sign-in on our clipboard on the podium in the lobby.



Our Worship Services are conducted in coordination with our Conference Call. Join us at 657-390-7423 or 701-802-5170, with access code 8221190#. You may need to dial 1 first depending on your phone plan. After logging in please announce your name and feel free to talk with others until we get started.

In Loving Memory



Candles cost \$10 each.
Sign-up sheets are located on the
bulletin board between the
church offices.

SANCTUARY CANDLE FOR FEBRUARY

Given to the Glory of God & In Memory of JAMES P. ROONEY
by Del McKenna & Children.

ALTAR CANDLES FOR FEBRUARY

Given to the Glory of God & In Memory of CLAIRE MILLER
by Jean, Phil, & Bob Zimmerman.

CONFERENCE CALL CHECK-IN, WELCOME, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Vicar (V), Assistant (A), Reader (R), and Congregation (C).)

INTRODUCTION

A. Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

PRELUDE

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

Glorified, Blessed, and Worthy

CHIMES

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

Alleluia

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

CONFESS& FORGIVENESS

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

V. Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

C. Amen.

V. Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

V. Mighty God, lover of justice,
C. you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,

**that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

V. The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in **☩** Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

C. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

(We invite you to sing along.)

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book
82—As with Gladness Men of Old
(4 Verses)

APOSTOLIC 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

A. Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.

C. Lord God, heav- en- ly king, al- might- y God and Fa - ther:

We wor- ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa- ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat- ed at the right hand of the Fa- ther; re- ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir- it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

V. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

V. Let us pray,

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

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

FIRST READING

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

R. Our First Reading is from the 6th Chapter of Micah (Verses 1-8).

R. 1 Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

3 "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

6 "With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 15th Psalm.
C. Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

R. 1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your holy hill?
2 Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;
C. Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

R. 3 they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.
4 In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.
5 They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.
C. Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

SECOND READING

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

R. Our Second Reading is from the 1st Chapter of 1st Corinthians (Verses 18-31).

R. 18 The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written,
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."
20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

26 Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, 29 so that no one might boast in the presence of God. 30 In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

V. I invite you to stand as you are able to announce the Gospel Acclamation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C. Alleluia. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.
(Matt. 5:12)

GOSPEL READING

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

V. The Holy Gospel According to Matthew, the 5th Chapter (Verses 1-12).

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

V. 1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

V. This is the Gospel of the Lord,

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

(We invite you to be seated.)

SERMON

(Delivered by Vicar Vince Piekarski.)

(Following the Sermon, we invite you to stand as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY

(We invite you to sing along.)

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book
383—Rise Up, O Saints of God!
(4 Verses)

APOSTLES' CREED

V. 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, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

V. As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

(A brief silence.)

A. God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth.
Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way; especially:

BettyAnn Rich-White (Church Member)

Chip & Marie Hand (Church Members)

Lynn Bargstadt (Church Member)

Frank Ford (Church Member)

Carol Amundsen (Church Member)

Kim McGinley (Church Member)

Anthony DeLuca (Church Member)

Frank Brunner (Church Member)

Joan Sommerman (Church Family)

Arleen Kinka (Church Family)

Rick Lang (Church Family)

Suzie Clark (Rose Lang's Friend)

Francis Clock (Dianna DeNote's Family)

Andrew Hudak (Rose Lang's Friend)

Viena Murtha (Bob Fritsch's Friend)

Sharon Waicus (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)

Karen O'Brien (Paul Bowker's Friend)

Dustin Irizzary (Mary Melnicoff's Family)

The Bryan Family (Wanda Bryan's Family)

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

Sarah Dutton (Frank Ford's Family)

Christina McNasby (Fran Green's Family)

Mark Stephen Dennis (Diana DeNote's Family)

Bill Lodge (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)

Ron Anderson (Bill Kelly's Friend)

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

Mary Skain (Kathy Poehler's Friend)

Robert Chaplin (Mary Melnicoff's Friend)

Jack Wieckouski (Theresa & Kim McGinley's Family)

Carolyn Santarpio (Bob Fritsch's Friend)

Harry (Judy Brannan's Friend)

Janet K (Philomena Noak's Friend)

Michael Hart (Diana DeNote's Friend)

Rocco Leonard DeNote (Diana DeNote's Family)

Sherri Lynn (Bob Fritsch's Friend)

John Bannco (Bob Fritsch's Friend)

Nancy Pazarinie (Bob Fritsch's Family)

Jane & Paul Eiben (Rose Lang's Friend)

Joe DiMassimo (Judy Brannan & Mary Melnicoff's Friend)

Denny Papst (Rose Lang's Friend)

Mike & Alice Rhoades (Rose Lang's Friends)

Chris (Judy Brannan's Friend)

Helen Ehlers (Judy Brannan's Friend)

Leanne Bueth (Joan Kilcoyne's Family)

Janett MacFarlane (Carol Amundsen's Friend)

Thish Kelly (Theresa & Kim McGinley's Family)

Edward Chapleski (Allison Call's Family)

Scott Levin (Rose Lang's Friend)

Alice Ann Dennis (Diana DeNote's Family)

Nancy Taylor (Ted & Diane Bell's Family)

Santa Isabel Lutheran Church (Elizabeth, NJ)

Messiah Lutheran Church (Oakland, NJ)

Joyce Thompson (TDPWC Member)

Barbara Paynter (Leon Stitt's Family)

Ruth (Anthony & Vincent Bruno's Family)

William T Hodgetts (Pastor William Hodgetts' Family)

Paul Bowker (Church Member)

BettyAnn & Bill Whitman (Mary Melnicoff's Friends)

Bob Poole (Kathy Poehler's Family)

David Smith (Heather & Vicar Vince Piekarski's Family)

Joe Smith (Heather & Vicar Vince Piekarski's Family)

Barbara Hoitink (Lucas & Sabrina Munson's Family)

Kathy Raynor (Philomena Noak & Mary Melnicoff's Friend)

Jordan (Carol Amundsen's Friend)

Jeremy Pochatko (Vicar Vince Piekarski's Friend)

Ann Wieckouski (Theresa & Kim McGinley's Family)

Rich (Kim McGinley's Friend)

Gloria Sutton (Church Member)

Elizabeth McCafferty (Mary Melnicoff's Friend)

Amy Johnson (Ted Bell's Sister)

Jerry & Marlana (Carol Amundsen's Friend)

Theresa Dolan (Joan Kilcoyne's Family)

Sandy Bloomberg (Judy Brannan's Family)
Simon (Carol Amundsen's Family)
Chuck & Carol Pearson (Carol Amundsen's Friends)
Jane Dougherty (Carol Amundsen's Friend)
Bill Ransing & Family (Frank Ford's Friends)
Barbara Brosius (Philomena Noak's Friend)
Barbara Schmiedel (Bob Fritsch's Family)
Cathy Bell (Ted & Diane Bell's Family)
Doreen Kinzler (Church Member)
(Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)

A. Merciful God,
C. receive our prayer.

A. God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. 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 hold within our hearts (pause). Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

V. Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

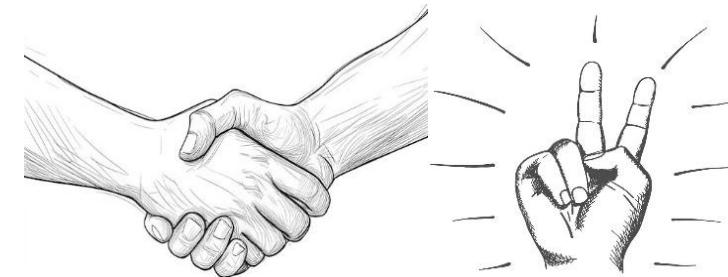
C. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C. And also with you.

V. Now, let us share God's Peace with one another.



(Please respect your neighbor if they desire to still only offer a peace sign or wave.)

(Following the Sharing of the Peace, 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.)

Worship & Praise

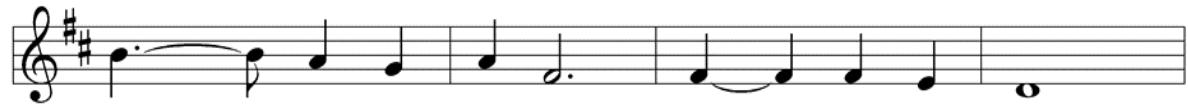
156—What Have We to Offer?



1 What have we to of - fer? What have we to share?
2 What have we to of - fer? What have we to bring?
3 What have we to of - fer? What have we to give?



Coins from the cof - fer, hearts filled with care.
Love, ripe with laugh - ter; hope that we can sing;
Eyes that are wide o - pen; lies that we won't live;



God will not fal - ter; so let us dare
dreams of what we're af - ter; prom - is - es of when.
truth that must be spo - ken; jus - tice some - how.



lay it at the al - tar there.
Lay it at the al - tar then.
Lay it at the al - tar now.



4 What have we to of - fer? What have we to



give? Lives we will live.

Text: Ray Makeever

Music: LET US ENTER IN: OFFERTORY. Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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

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

OFFERING PRAYER

V. Let us pray,
God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(We invite you to be seated.)

HOLY COMMUNION

V. Communion here is pretty simple, and all who are baptized and believe in Jesus Christ are welcome at the table.

"Do this for the remembrance of me."
LUKE 22:19



**Holy Spirit
Lutheran Church**
SUNDAYS @ 10:30AM

Communion here is pretty simple. All who are baptized and believe in Jesus Christ are welcome at the table.

Bread or wafers are utilized, and the option of individually wrapped gluten free wafers is present. Pre-filled red wine and white grape juice cups are in the Communion Tray to choose from.

The Usher offers the option to leave your pew, and you can proceed forward on the right side of the aisle. Following Communion, place your empty cups in the basket and process back on the left side of the aisle.

Children who have not had their First Communion instruction, and adults who do not wish to receive Communion, are welcome to come forward and give a sign in order to obtain 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. Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

C. Amen.

(Distribution of Holy Communion)

COMMUNION HYMN

(Please enjoy various music offered by our Organist during your quiet time, prayer, and reflection following Holy Communion.)

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

V. We invite you to stand as you 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

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev- 'ry-one what he has done.
Let ev- 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and proud- ly bear his name.
He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray,
Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

BLESSING

V. May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
☩ bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

(We invite you to sing along.)

With One Voice—Blue Book

723—The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve (4 Verses)

(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, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Offered by Assistant and Congregation.)

BIRTHDAY

2nd Chrissy Thomas

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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

All Praise to Thee

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE			
4th	11th	18th	25th
31	27	34	28

LICENSES & EXPIRATION DATES

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CONFIRMATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL

"Here We Stand" allows our young folks to go through a 2-year process while focusing on the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. Studies for year two of our program have resumed. Classes are on Sundays from 9-10AM.

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, as 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 have questions, or are interested in any position, reach out to Vicar Vince. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board between the church offices.

Date	Worship Leader	Assistant	Conference Call	Reader	Greeter/Usher
February 1st	Vicar Vince	Vicki	Vicki	Kathy	Bonnie
February 8th	Vicar Vince	Heather	Heather		
February 15th	Vicar Vince	Vicki	Vicki		Heather
February 18th					
Ash Wednesday 5PM Service	Vicar Vince				Heather
February 22nd	Vicar Vince				Heather

PREACHING AT BROOKDALE

Vicar Vince will be preaching at Brookdale Senior Living in Cape May Court House, TODAY, Sunday, February 1st, at 1PM. Holy Communion will follow the service.

BIBLE STUDY & FAITH DISCUSSIONS

Bible Study & Faith Discussions was started in order to focus on various readings, books, Bible verses, people of faith, and other general topics. Group Members offer various points of view while reviewing the Bible and various aspects of faith while being respectful and supportive of each other. Come join us on Tuesdays at 6PM.

FOOD PANTRY

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

103 people were served in December and 971 people were served in 2025. Donations can be dropped in the outdoor drop-box, in the money jug in the back of the Church, mailed into the Church Office, or placed in the Offering Plate. Volunteers are needed. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board between the church offices. If you have questions or need training see Heather, Vicar Vince, or Bonnie.

A special thank you goes out to all who donate, pray, and help in any way!

Thursday, 2/5	Thursday, 2/12	Thursday, 2/19
Garnet, Patti, Kim, & Theresa	Joe & Garnet	Patti & Bob

COMMUNITY FOOD DONATIONS, DELIVERIES, & MORE

Our local North Cape May Acme provides us with Expiring Soon, Recently Expired, and Slightly Damaged Food and Items weekly. Kathy helps those in need by delivering items each Saturday in the community, brings leftover items to the Church for church members in need, and those who visit the food pantry during the week. Additional items are taken over to the Branches Outreach in Rio Grande on Monday.

BULLETIN ENTRY DEADLINE

The Bulletin is printed on **Thursdays** during Church Office Hours. Changes need to be submitted to Vicar Vince no later than **Thursday by 4PM**. Thank you!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Open **Thursdays from 6PM to 8PM**. It is open to serve the Congregation, the Community, and to handle 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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

2025 is over and we have wrapped up the books and reports in preparation for 2026. The new year will bring about several new things and changes I am sure, but one thing is for certain, we will be meeting as a Congregation for our Annual Meeting. We will discuss and review things, as well as vote on a new budget. **Please compile your committee reports and submit them to Vicar Vince ASAP**. We will be meeting **NEXT, Sunday, February 8th** after our Worship Service together. We also have three seats that have been vacated by council members who have chosen to come off following their time of service. We currently have one person interested in a seat. If you are interested or have questions please see Vicar Vince.

**Coffee Hour Hosted By
The Women of The Church**

ALL I Need is A Little
Bit of coffee AND A
WHOLE Lot of Jesus



Sunday, February 8th,
following our Annual
Congregational Meeting

NEW 2026 CHURCH DIRECTORY

The 2025 Church Directory is by the Church Office on the bookshelves. We continue keeping it updated, but we undoubtedly miss a few changes or have made a few errors. The printed church directories have spaces for changes in info, new people's info, notes, and your favorite Bible verses. If you have changes or updates, please inform the Church Office to keep us up to date. **Our 2026 Church Directory will be made available to you the week following our Annual Congregational Meeting.**

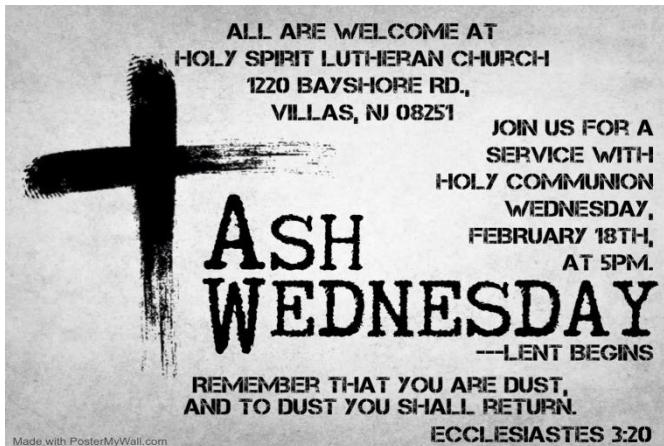


CHURCH COUNCIL

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, February 17th, at 6PM**.

PREACHING AT BROOKDALE

Vicar Vince will be preaching at Brookdale Senior Living in Cape May Court House, on **Wednesday, February 18th, at 1PM**. Holy Communion will follow the service.



40 Days - 40 Items

Wednesday, February 18th will mark the first day of Lent. Join True Deliverance PWC & Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in our 40 Days - 40 Items Challenge. It's simple: for each day of Lent (you can include Sundays if you so desire) remove one item from your closet, drawers, chest etc. that you no longer wear or need and place it in a trash bag. On or before Easter Sunday (April 5, 2026) simply drop off your bags at the church. Call the church office at the number listed below for specific drop off times. All items will be donated to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission.

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

1220 Bayshore Road
Villas, New Jersey
(609) 886-2414

*Prayer * Fasting * Giving*

Lent 2026

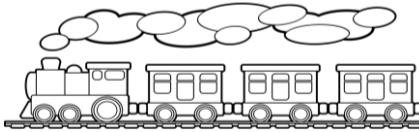
For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

MISSION DISTRICT MEETING

Our annual meeting of the Southern Mission District will be on **Saturday, February 21st, at 10am** at Christ Lutheran Church in Whiting. The partial agenda for our time together is election of a clergy member to the Synod Council. We will be joined by Bishop Christa Compton. Please see Vicar Vince if you would like to attend.

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.



	Food Pantry	Back-To-School
February	Shelf Stable Milk	Rulers
March	Jelly	Glue Sticks

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

They will be on Winter Break and will Resume Meetings on **Monday, March 2nd, at 6PM**. New members are always welcome to attend! Contact Judy for more info.

NEWSLETTER

Collect information, stories, pictures, and reports for our next publication. Everything needs submitted to Vicar Vince in-person or via email at vpie8282@gmail.com. The deadline for information to be submitted for Spring is **Sunday, March 15th**.

NEW JERSEY SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Assembly will transition back to a one-day event on **Saturday, May 30th, 2026**. We are awaiting more details. Mary & Judy are considering attending with Vicar Vince.

TITHES, OFFERINGS, & ENVELOPES

We worship God with our tithes and offerings. We hear in scripture, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7) Envelopes can be dropped in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or dropped in the locked mailbox. Thanks for your support in the mission of our church, its ministries, the NJ Synod, etc!

SPACE AVAILABLE

Interested in utilizing our Fellowship Hall for a Party or Event? There is a suggested \$50 refundable security deposit, and it is \$250 for facility use. No alcohol or games of chance permitted due to ELCA policy. Please contact Vicar Vince for more info.

ED GREEN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

We are seeking out a new fundraiser at this time. We also have the donation bin in the back of the church and we have our Annual Church Rummage Sale to raise funds. Thanks for your continued donations, prayers, and support!

HOME COMMUNION MINISTRY

A Minister is available if you have a loved one, or if you desire services. We look forward in sharing the Word and Holy Communion! Please inform Vicar Vince, Kathy, or the Church Office so plans can be made for visits.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer Shawls, Lap Quilts, Scarves, and other items have been made with love. Blessed items are located in the Narthex, and are free for anyone. Members of the group continue working at home on new stitches and patterns. We are blessed to be able to continue collecting new items. We have a donation station of yarn and other items located in the Narthex. You can find some new supplies for 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 away, and the words "The Family & Friends of" appear before someone's name. However, sometimes we forget names are still on the list and their health has improved and they can be removed. Please share various 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. Names will stay on the list until removed by the person(s) who requested prayer.

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. We also have an extended library located in Vicar Vince's office. There are Bibles of various translations, books from his personal collection, books inherited from Pastor Leah, movies, past Bible Study Curriculums, and more. Visit the library between the church offices, or just ask to be able to check things out.

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. See Vicar Vince for more info.

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. Please see Vicar Vince 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 anyone has questions, please see Vicar Vince.

FAVORITE HYMNS

Carol is willing to play some of your favorite hymns for the Prelude & Postlude each Sunday during our Worship Service. Feel free to let her know of your suggestions.



There is a weekly e-newsletter connecting our synod together with weekly prayer, upcoming events, synod and churchwide activities, mission stories, congregational activities, & more. Sign up at www.njsynod.org/stay-connected or download the app.

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.

VICAR VINCE'S DAY OF REST

A day of rest can have physical, mental, and spiritual benefits. "Mittwoch," German for mid-week, or Wednesday, is the day that Vicar Vince will use to recharge and do some other things. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is an emergency!

VICE PASTOR UPDATE

Pastor William Hodgetts continues to attend our Church Council Meetings and provides Supervision and Support to Vicar Vince.

WHAT IS THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA?

The ELCA was formed in 1987 by the merger of three Lutheran Church bodies – the ALC (American Lutheran Church), the LCA (Lutheran Church in America), and the AELC (Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches). Learn more at elca.org.



The New Jersey Synod is a geographical grouping of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregations that share the mission and ministry of the Church on the New Jersey territory. It is one of 65 synods in the ELCA. The NJ Synod is comprised of 143 congregations, which include over 45,000 baptized members.

TRUE DELIVERANCE PRAISE & WORSHIP CENTER

Reverend Maria Brooks and True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center utilize our facilities from **1-4PM on Sundays**. TDPWC hosts or assists with other events throughout the year. TDPWC hosts a **Prayer Line on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays at 5PM** on the **Conference Call 1-657-390-7957**; & **Bible Study** on **Thursdays at 6:30PM** on Zoom. See Rev. Brooks for more information.

ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS FROM OUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

Tuesday Sewing Circle

COFFEE, CHIPS, FELLOWSHIP, QUILTS!

You all—men included—are warmly invited to join us Tuesday morning at 10 AM. *No sewing skills required!*

We welcome anyone looking to be part of a friendly group that enjoys doing a variety of activities together.

We meet in the front room of the Parish Hall at 2810 Atlantic Ave. There's parking available behind the church, and you can enter through the rear door. Just bring a sandwich or snack for lunch!

For more information, please contact: Louise McHugh at tillie26@verizon.net Martha Neff at marthaneff1@yahoo.com

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
2800 Atlantic Avenue
Corner of Atlantic & Poplar Avenues
Wildwood, New Jersey 08260
Proclaim the Gospel • Work for Justice • Serve People

Grief Support Group

Meeting In-person on the 2nd Wednesday of the month
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

The support group is open to all adults grieving loss. Join us as we support each other. This group provides a welcoming and confidential environment for you to share with others in a similar situation



St. John's Lutheran Church

1001 Central Avenue
Ocean City, NJ

Corner of 10th & Central Ave.
Parking available in the church lot on Central Ave.
Enter thru the alley door off 10th Street.

For questions, contact

Beth Gebhart (609) 760-6073,
bgebhart@lsmnj.org

or

Michele Musto (609) 391-6321,
meroclani@umcommunities.org



JUST FRIENDS

Promotes a spirit of fellowship among adults 50 years and older. Bring your own lunch to enjoy, beverages and deserts are provided. Everyone is welcome regardless of faith or parish affiliation. The group meets in Our Lady Star of The Sea Parish Hall on the **last Wednesday of the month from 12Noon to 2PM** from **September through May**. For more info call Martine Simonis 609-884-5312 x 110.

2025 FINANCIAL STANDING

DECEMBER INCOME	\$18,368.12
DECEMBER SPENDING	\$6,154.14
DECEMBER GAIN OR (LOSS)	\$12,213.98
2025 INCOME	\$89,570.50
2025 SPENDING	\$81,652.42
2025 GAIN OR (LOSS)	\$7,918.08
ED GREEN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$2,058.55
FOOD PANTRY FUND (SOCIAL MINISTRY)	\$13,621.22
CD	\$26,414.45

CHURCH STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

VICAR

Vicar Vince Piekarski

VICE PASTOR

Pastor William Hodgetts

ORGANIST & PIANIST

Carol Amundsen

CHURCH OFFICE, SUNDAY SCHOOL, & FOOD PANTRY

Heather Piekarski

CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Melnicoff

CHURCH COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Judy Brannan

CHURCH COUNCIL TREASURER

Bonnie Millard

CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Vicki Rinier

CHURCH PROPERTY

Wayne Rand