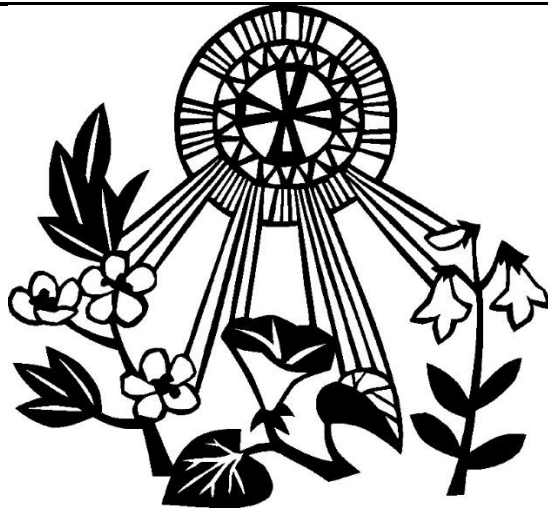


WELCOME TO HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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
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, MAY 10TH, 2026
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION



THIS WEEK AT HOLY SPIRIT + NEXT SUNDAY							
Sun, 5/10	Mon, 5/11	Tues, 5/12	Wed, 5/13	Th, 5/14	Fri, 5/15	Sat, 5/16	Sun, 5/17
9-10AM Confirmation Class		6PM Bible Study & Faith Discussions		10AM-1PM Food Pantry		9AM Donuts & Devotions	10:30AM Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:30AM Worship Service with Holy Communion				6PM-8PM Church Office Hours			12Noon Coffee Hour
1PM Worship Service at Brookdale							



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 MAY

Given to the Glory of God & In Memory of
HELENE KIROW by Rose Lang, Vicar Vince & Heather Piekarski.

ALTAR CANDLES FOR MAY

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

CONFERENCE CALL CHECK-IN, WELCOME, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

INTRODUCTION

- A. Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

PRELUDE

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

Etude in A Minor

CHIMES

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

Finlandia

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

V. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C. Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

V. Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C. Amen.

V. Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

V. Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.
We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
We thank you for the waters that nourish us.
Blessed are you.

C. You guide us to springs of the water of life.

V. Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

C. You guide us to springs of the water of life.

V. Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

C. You guide us to springs of the water of life.

V. Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

C. Amen.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

V. God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

V. Fountain of living water,

**C. pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your
cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as
healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

V. Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love
of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, † your sins are forgiven, and God
remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

C. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

(We invite you to sing along.)

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book
522—Come, Thou Almighty King



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.



B 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,

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

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

FIRST READING

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

R. Our First Reading is from Acts (Chapter 17, Verses 22-31).

R. 22 Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,
‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

29 “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.
30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands

all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 66th Psalm (Verses 8-20).

C. Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)

R. 8 Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.

9 Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.

C. Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)

R. 10 For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

11 You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

12 You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

13 I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—

14 those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

15 I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.

C. Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)

R. 16 Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

17 I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.

18 If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

19 but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.

20 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

C. Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)

SECOND READING

The author of 1st Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

R. Our Second Reading is from 1st Peter (Chapter 3, Verses 13-22).

R. 13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, 16 yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. 21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

V. I invite you to stand as you are able, and I invite you to announce the Gospel Acclamation with me.

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

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

V. The Holy Gospel According to John (Chapter 14, Verses 15-21).

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

V. [Jesus said to the disciples:] 15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

V. This is the Gospel of the Lord,

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

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
508—Come Down, O Love Divine

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. Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

(A brief silence.)

A. God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill; especially:

BettyAnn Rich-White (Church Member)

Chip & Marie Hand (Church Members)

Lynn Bargstadt (Church Member)

Frank Ford (Church Member)

Carol Amundsen (Church Member)

Kim & Theresa McGinley (Church Member)

Anthony DeLuca (Church Member)

Frank Brunner (Church Member)

Paul Bowker (Church Member)

Joan Sommerman (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)

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)

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)

Denny Papst (Rose Lang's Friend)

Mike & Alice Rhoades (Rose Lang's Friends)

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)
Scott Levin (Rose Lang's Friend)
Alice Ann Dennis (Diana DeNote's Family)
Nancy Taylor (Ted & Diane Bell's Family)
Joyce Thompson (TDPWC Member)
Barbara Paynter (Leon Stitt's Family)
Bob Poole (Kathy Poehler's Family)
David 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)
Ann Wieckowski (Theresa & Kim McGinley's Family)
Rich (Kim McGinley's Friend)
Amy Johnson (Ted Bell's Sister)
Theresa Dolan (Joan Kilcoyne's Family)
Sandy Bloomberg (Judy Brannan's Family)
Simon (Carol Amundsen's Family)
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)
Linda Stonelake (Kathy & Butch Poehler's Friend)
Anne Pfaff (Bonnie Millard & Vicki Rinier's Friend)
Anna Perez (Bob Fritsch's Family)
Ann Duhadway (Community Member)
Louise Helmes (Wayne & Eleanor Rand's Family)
Marion & Ernie Rink (Fran Green's Friends)
Paul Rand (Wayne & Eleanor Rand's Family)
Dr. Ed. Tinney (Bonnie & Skip Millard's Friend)
Tommy Mieluchowski (Philomena Noak's Friend)
Ron Halbruner (Kathy & Butch Poehler's Friend)
Bill Eichorn (Wayne & Eleanor Rand's Friend)
Joe (Carol Amundsen's Friend)
Robin (Carol Amundsen's Friend)
Jeremy Pochatko (Vicar Vince Piekarski's Friend)
Olivia Holland (Bonnie & Skip Millard's Friend)
Kenzo (Philomena Noak's Friend)
Jake Burks (Mary Melnicoff's Friend)

Michelle Smith (Heather & Vicar Vince Piekarski's Family)
Murph Murphy (Church Member)
Christine Schaller (Chuck Schaller's Family)
Joe Romolini (Church Family)
Mary Jane Wichryk (Rose Lang & Vicar Vince Piekarski's Friend)
Denise Varroni (Mary Melnicoff's Friend)
Bob Fritsch (Church Member)
(Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)

A. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. You are love and you desire that we love one another. On this Mother's Day in 2026 we pray and ask that as a mother hen cares for her chicks, you bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. 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 (brief pause). Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

V. God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

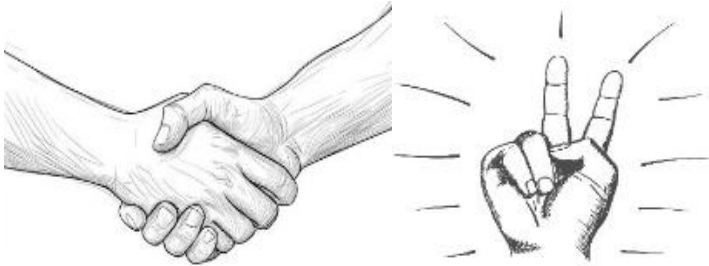
C. Amen.

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

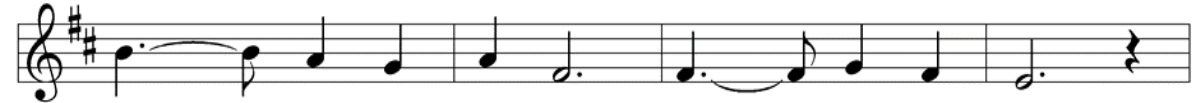
(We invite you to sing along.)

Worship & Praise

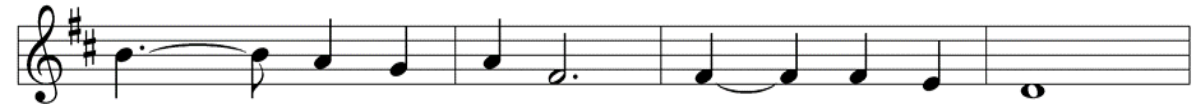
156—What Have We to Offer?



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,
Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus,
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, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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. We extend the invitation to Communion to all who are baptized and believe in Jesus Christ.

"Do this for the remembrance of me."

LUKE 22:19

Holy Spirit
Lutheran Church

SUNDAYS @ 10:30AM

Communion here is pretty simple, and all who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome at this very table.

We utilize bread or wafers, and 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 and give a sign 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. Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord.

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,
Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,

C. Amen.

BLESSING

V. God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

(We invite you to sing along.)

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book
397—O Zion, Haste

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

(The Paschal Candle remains lit.)

(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

14th Joe Frazier

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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

Just A Closer Walk with Thee

LICENSES & EXPIRATION DATES

Worship Service Content is used via permission through Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB144368. The next Subscription Renewal Date is 2/28/2027.

Our Hymns and Worship Music are used via permission through CCLI One License #11327166. The next Subscription Renewal Date is 1/31/2027.



CONFIRMATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL

“Here We Stand” allows our young folks to go through a 2-year process focusing on the Bible and Luther’s Small Catechism. Our last class in this 2-year cycle was

THIS MORNING, Sunday, May 10th 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(s)	Assistant	Conference Call	Reader	Greeter/Usher
May 10th	Vicar Vince			Kathy	Heather
May 17th	Vicar Vince				Heather
May 24th	Vicar Vince				Heather
May 31st	Vicar Vince				

BIBLE STUDY & FAITH DISCUSSIONS

Bible Study & Faith Discussions focuses on various readings, books, Bible verses, people of faith, and other general topics. Group Members offer various points of view while being respectful and supportive of one another. **Our Last Session before**

Summer Break will be THIS Tuesday, May 12th, at 6PM.

FOOD PANTRY

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

93 people were served in April and 421 people have been served in 2026. 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, 5/14	Thursday, 5/21	Thursday, 5/28
Garnet & Wayne	Skip & Bonnie	Kim & Theresa

COMMUNITY FOOD DONATIONS, DELIVERIES, & MORE

North Cape May Acme provides us with Expiring, Recently Expired, and Slightly Damaged Food and Items. Kathy delivers on Saturdays in the community, brings items to church and the food pantry, and to the Branches Outreach in Rio Grande.

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.



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, May 17th,
following our
Worship Service



Carol, our Organist, will be playing at this event and is hopeful to see some of us in attendance supporting her and enjoying all of the music.

CHURCH COUNCIL

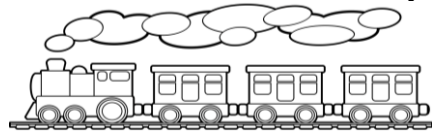
Share your comments, concerns, questions, or joys with one of our Church Council Members who can bring them back to our meetings. Visitors are always welcome to attend and listen to what is going on in and around the church. Join us In- Person or on our Conference Call at our next Meeting on **Tuesday, May 19th, at 6PM.**



Our NJ Synod Assembly will be on **Saturday, May 30th, 2026.** Wayne & Judy are attending with Vicar Vince. Please keep them and the Assembly in your prayers.

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.



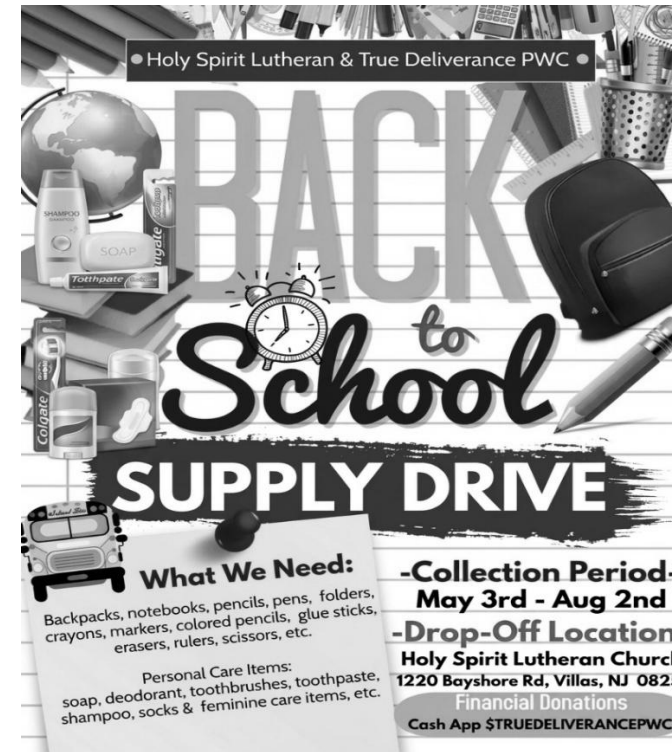
	Food Pantry	Back-To-School
May	Ramen	Crayons
June	Canned Carrots	Markers

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Their next meeting is on **Monday, June 1st, at 6PM.** New members are always invited and welcome to attend! Contact Judy for more information.



Confirmation is a journey of faith filled with new questions and answers, new discoveries, new relationships, new responsibilities, and new possibilities. Clearly confirmation is intended to be a milestone, not a destination; it is not graduation! Rather, Confirmation is a tool that equips for the life-long process of living out Christian identity. Traditionally we would be celebrating Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday. However, due to it falling on Memorial Day Weekend, and the schedules of our young folks, we will be moving it to **Sunday, June 14th,** during our 10:30AM Worship Service. Please come out and join Caylee Thomas and Robert Thomas on this special day and celebrate with them at the Coffee Hour afterwards.



BACK TO SCHOOL PACKING

We look forward to joining together with several church families and community members again to pack all of the backpacks on **Friday, August 7th,** in the afternoon. Please check out the flyer in this bulletin for our supply needs. See Heather for information, or with any questions.

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center will be working with our Congregation and holding the event on **Saturday, August 8th, from 11AM to 3PM**. There will be on-site backpack pick-up and mobile units again in order to get supplies to those in need in and throughout the community.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

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. **We are looking forward to having new member classes in the near future.** Please stay posted. Feel free to ask Vicar Vince any questions or for more information as well.

NEW SPLIT UNITS INSTALLED IN THE SANCTUARY

What a blessing it was to have Pete Meehan install our new Split Air & Heating Units in the Sanctuary. We utilized money from our ED GREEN Capital Improvement Fund to pay for a portion of this cost, as it was not a budgeted expense. At this time, **we are looking to replenish that Fund and are running at a deficit of \$4,092.08.** Please consider donating to help bring this budget back into the positive.

ED GREEN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

We continue to raise money for any unforeseen costs or repairs. We are currently exploring a new Annual Fundraising opportunity where we will be handing out coffee cans to raise money at home. We also have the donation bin in the back of the church. Thanks for your continued prayers, support, and donations!

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.

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.

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.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

2026 Church Directories are 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. Please inform the Church Office of updates or changes to keep us up to date.

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.

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. 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 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. Come check things out.

JERSEY JOTTINGS & NJ SYNOD APP

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

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.

VICE PASTOR UPDATE

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

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!

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.

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.

WHAT IS THE NEW JERSEY SYNOD?

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

TDPWC utilizes our facilities from **1-4PM on Sundays**. TDPWC hosts or assists with other events. 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.

JUST FRIENDS

The group promotes a spirit of fellowship among adults 50 years and older. Bring your own lunch, beverages and deserts are provided. Everyone is welcome. 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 information, please call Martine Simonis 609-884-5312 x 110.

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 & CHURCH PROPERTY

Wayne Rand

CHURCH COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT & WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Judy Brannan

CHURCH COUNCIL TREASURER

Bonnie Millard

CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Vicki Rinier

2026 FINANCIAL STANDING

APRIL INCOME	\$6,196.00
APRIL SPENDING	\$6,882.52
APRIL GAIN OR (LOSS)	(\$686.52)
2026 INCOME	\$24,700.00
2026 SPENDING	\$27,804.11
2026 GAIN OR (LOSS)	(\$3,104.11)
ED GREEN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	(\$4,092.08)
FOOD PANTRY FUND (SOCIAL MINISTRY)	\$13,451.23
CD	\$27,002.59

MAY WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE

3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
28				

