

# 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, JANUARY 11TH, 2026**  
**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**  
**10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**



THIS WEEK AT HOLY SPIRIT + NEXT SUNDAY							
Sun, 1/11	Mon, 1/12	Tues, 1/13	Wed, 1/14	Th, 1/15	Fri, 1/16	Sat, 1/17	Sun, 1/18
<b>9AM-10AM</b> Here We Stand Confirmation Class <b>10:30AM</b> Worship Service <b>12Noon</b> Coffee Hour		<b>6PM</b> Bible Study & Faith Discussions	<b>10AM</b> Executive Council Meeting	<b>10AM-1PM</b> Food Pantry <b>6PM-8PM</b> Church Office		<b>6PM</b> Soup & Scripture	<b>9AM-10AM</b> Here We Stand Confirmation Class <b>10:30AM</b> Worship Service



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 JANUARY**

Given to the Glory of God & In Memory of JOSEPH “MAC” MCKENNA  
 by Del McKenna & Children.

### **ALTAR CANDLES FOR JANUARY**

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

**CONFERENCE CALL CHECK-IN, WELCOME, & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God.  
Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God’s beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God’s healing.

**PRELUDE**

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

**Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive**

**CHIMES**

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

**Then Sings My Soul**

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

**CONFESSION & 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.)

With One Voice—Blue Book

**684—Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness**

**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.



6 I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
7 to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
8 I am the Lord; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.  
9 See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM**

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 29th Psalm.

**C. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.** (Ps. 29:3)

R. 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.  
3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.  
4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

**C. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.** (Ps. 29:3)

R. 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;  
6 the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.  
7 The voice of the Lord  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.  
8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**C. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.** (Ps. 29:3)

R. 9 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"  
10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.  
11 O Lord, give strength to your people;  
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

**C. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.** (Ps. 29:3)

### **SECOND READING**

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

R. Our Second Reading is from the 10th Chapter of Acts (Verses 34-43).

R. 34 Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Alleluia.** (Matt. 3:17)

## **GOSPEL READING**

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

V. The Holy Gospel According to Matthew, the 3rd Chapter (Verses 13-17).

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

V. 13 Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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  
**90—Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

## **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**

(The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion.)

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. Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, vicars, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving 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 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)  
Tommy Stanford (Sue Waltz's Family)  
Audrey McAlister (Sue Waltz's Family)  
Joe Waltz (Sue Waltz's Family)  
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)  
Patrick Davenport (Sue Waltz'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)  
Carol Brand (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)  
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)  
Myrna (Brookdale Resident)  
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)  
Dieter Noak (Philomena Noak's Family)  
Kathy Schroder (Carol Amundsen's Friend)  
(Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)

A. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

A. Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. 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

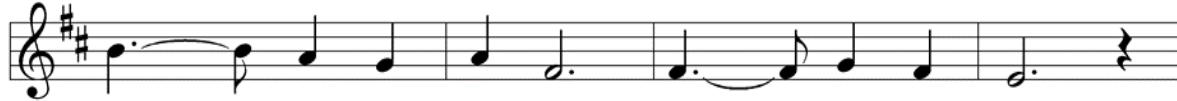
(We invite you to sing along.)

Worship & Praise

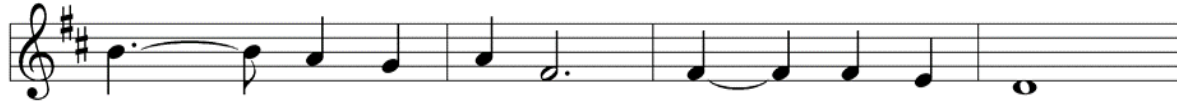
### 156—What Have We to Offer?



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

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.

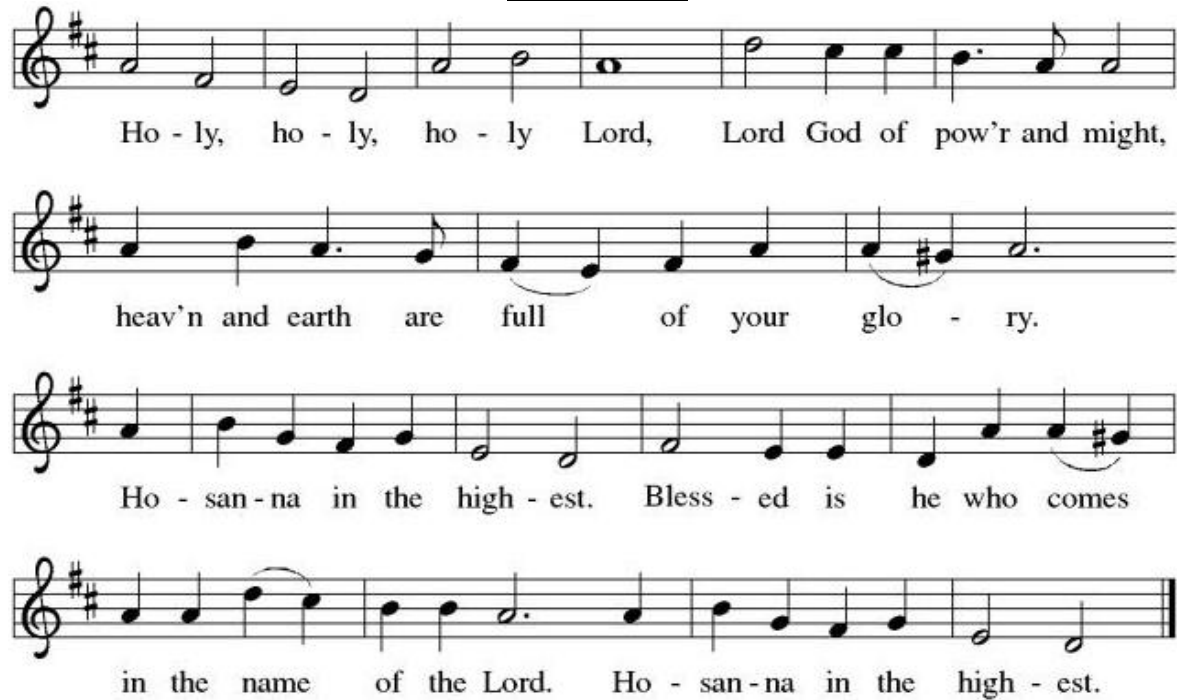
**C. It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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:

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



## 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.*

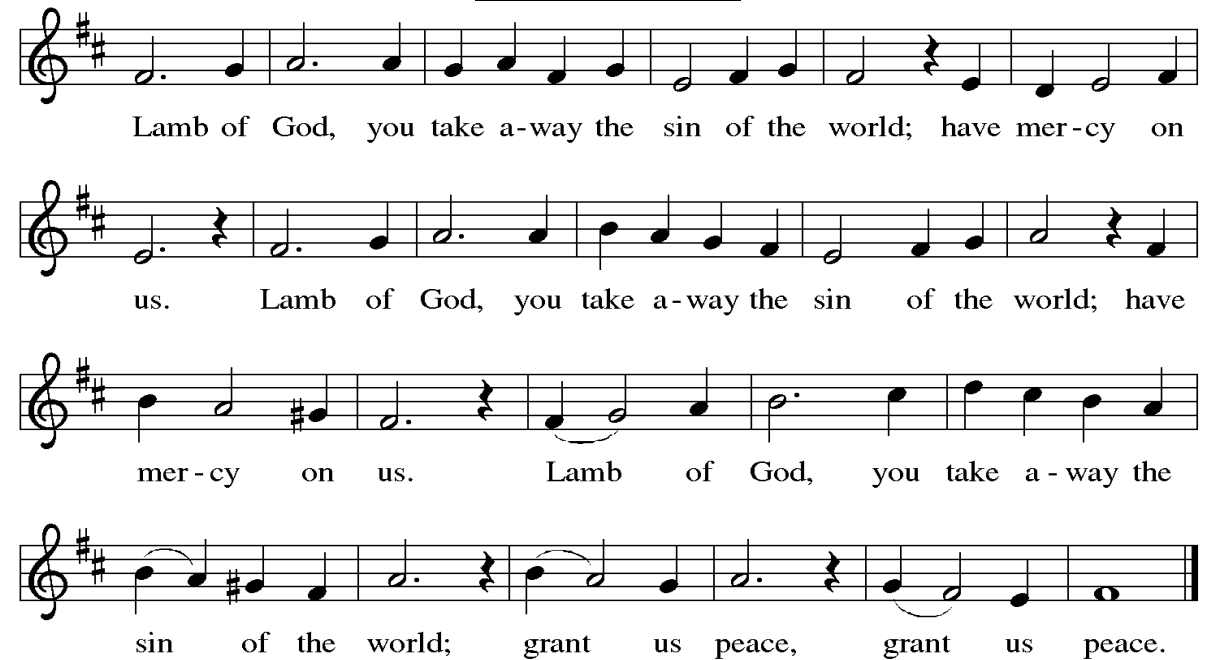
## THE LORD'S PRAYER

(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.)

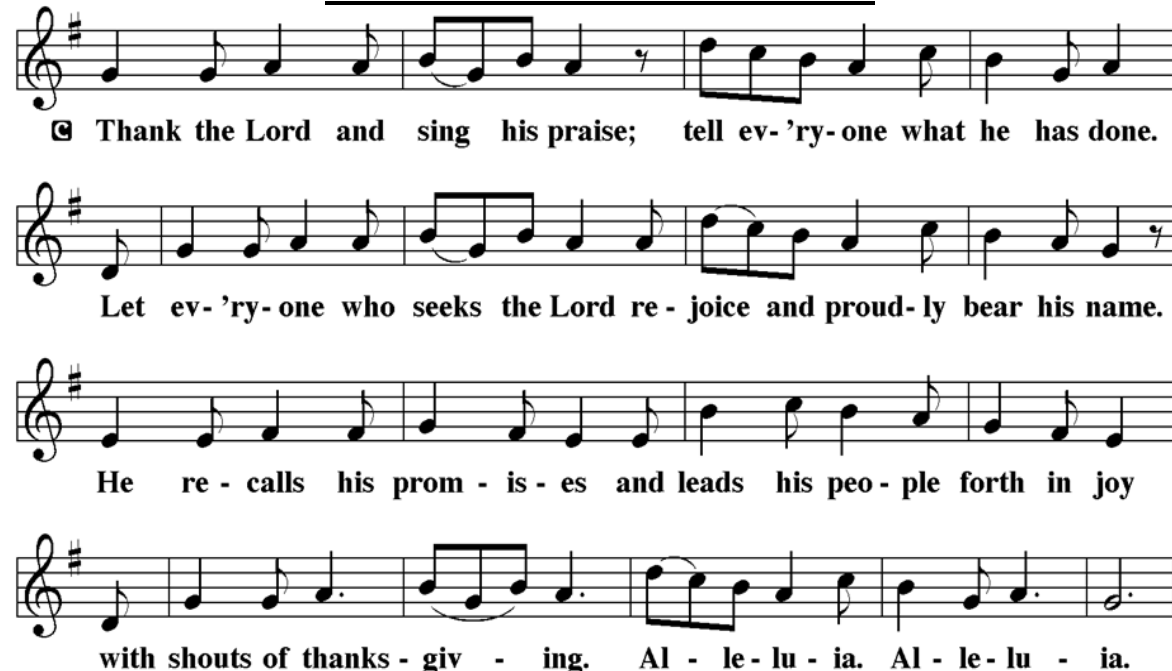
V. We invite you to stand as you are able.

### 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  
**690—Shall We Gather at the River**

(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**

17th Carol Amundsen

**ANNIVERSARIES**

None

**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.)

**Rock of Ages**

**LICENSES & EXPIRATION DATES**

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**TITHES, OFFERINGS, & ENVELOPES**

**2026 Offering Envelopes are available in the back of the church.** 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 New Jersey Synod, and other needs!

**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
January 11th	Vicar Vince	Vicki	Vicki	Wayne	Heather
January 18th	Vicar Vince	Vicki	Vicki	Carol	Heather
January 25th	Vicar Vince	Vicki	Vicki		Heather
February 1st	Vicar Vince				
February 8th	Vicar Vince				
February 15th	Vicar Vince				
February 18th Ash Wednesday	Vicar Vince				
February 22nd	Vicar Vince				

Coffee Hour Hosted By  
The Women of The Church



**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.**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

We will be meeting at Bonnie & Skip's Residence on **Wednesday, January 14th, at 10AM** to review our budget for the upcoming year and to handle other business leading up to our Annual Congregational Meeting. Please keep us in prayer.

**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, 1/15	Thursday, 1/22	Thursday, 1/29
Tori, Garnet, & Joe	Bonnie & Skip	Tori & 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.



**PREACHING AT BROOKDALE**

Vicar Vince preaches again at Brookdale Senior Living in Cape May Court House, on **Sunday, January 18th, at 1PM.** Holy Communion will follow the service.

**2025 GIVING ERROR CORRECTIONS DEADLINE**

Please reach out to Heather or the Church Office if you have received your 2025 Giving Statement and have questions, or have found errors that need corrected. The deadline for this is Sunday, January 18th. Thank you!

## 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, January 20th, at 6PM.**

## 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
January	Cereal	Erasers
February	Shelf Stable Milk	Rulers



Now that 2025 is over, we will be wrapping up the books and reports in preparation for a new year. 2026 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 start compiling your committee reports and submit them to Vicar Vince.** We will be meeting on **Sunday, February 8th** after our Worship Service together. We also have two seats that have been vacated by council members who have chosen to come off following their three-year terms of service. We currently have one person interested in a seat. If you are interested of have questions please see Vicar Vince.

## 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.**

## *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*

## 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](mailto:vpie8282@gmail.com).

## SPACE AVAILABLE

Do you know anyone interested in utilizing our Fellowship Hall for a Party or Event? It is a suggested \$50 refundable security deposit, and \$250 for facility use. There is no alcohol or games of chance permitted due to ELCA policy. Please contact Vicar Vince or the Church Office with questions, for info, or to reserve a date and time.

## 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!

## **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 or the they are no longer struggling, and they can be removed. Please share the good and bad stories as we continue to pray for strength and healing. Names can be added or removed from the list on the clipboard in the Narthex prior to the Worship Service, by calling the church office, or addressing it on the Conference Call. Please let us know the relation to the person(s) you listed so we can be more mindful with our prayers.

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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **JERSEY JOTTINGS**

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](http://www.njsynod.org/stay-connected) or download the app.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **ST. BARNABAS CARES THRIFT STORE**

Are you a person who enjoys staying active, interacting with others, likes the flexibility of working an hour or two per month and would like to support a good cause? If so, then St. Barnabas Cares Thrift Store is looking for you! The store in the Villas is looking for friendly, outgoing people to volunteer and sell clothing. There is no heavy lifting, but instead you would be arranging clothing attractively for sale. The Thrift Store is open **11-3 Monday through Saturday** so even volunteering a few hours a month will help. If interested, please call Maureen Kersch 609-425-1317.

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](mailto:tillie26@verizon.net)  
Martha Neff at [marthaneff1@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:bgebhart@lsmnj.org)  
or  
Michele Musto (609) 391-6321,  
[merociani@umccommunities.org](mailto:merociani@umccommunities.org)



**Journey HOSPICE.**



**THE SHORES**  
a UMC Community



**St. John Lutheran Church**  
Ocean City, New Jersey

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

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE			
4th	11th	18th	25th
31			

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

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](http://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.