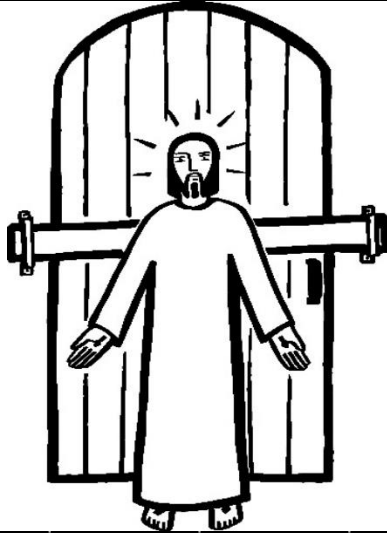


HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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, APRIL 27TH
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION



THIS WEEK AT HOLY SPIRIT + NEXT SUNDAY							
Sun, 4/27	Mon, 4/28	Tues, 4/29	Wed, 4/30	Th, 5/1	Fri, 5/2	Sat, 5/3	Sun, 5/4
10:30AM Sunday Worship Service		6PM Bible Study & Faith Discussions		10AM-1PM Food Pantry 6PM-8PM Church Office			9-10AM Confirmation Class 10:30AM Sunday Worship Service 12Noon Rummage Sale & 75th Anniversary Meetings

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, are People of God, who are called by the Holy Spirit to pray, worship, joyfully proclaim Jesus Christ, and compassionately witness and serve others in Christian Love.



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

CANDLE MEMORIALS

Candles cost \$10 each. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board between the church offices. Please feel free to see Vicar Vince with any questions.

SANCTUARY CANDLE

April's is given to the Glory of God & in memory of
ED GREEN by Fran Green & Family.

ALTAR CANDLES

April's are given to the Glory of God & in memory of
GARY SHUTTER by Waltz, Dougerty, and DeJesus Families.

CONFERENCE CALL CHECK-IN

(Roll Call and Attendance.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Offered by Vicar, Assistant, and Congregation.)

INTRODUCTION

- A. In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

(Assistant lights Altar Candles from the Paschal Candle.)

PRELUDE

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

In Deep Humility I Pray

CHIMES

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

Welcome Happy Morning!

(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. In the name of ✠ the One

who was, who is, and who is to come.

C. Amen.

V. Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

V. Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

C. make us one as you are one.

V. We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

C. make us one as you are one.

V. We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

C. make us one as you are one.

V. Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

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 with the music offered by our Organist.)

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book
154—That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

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.

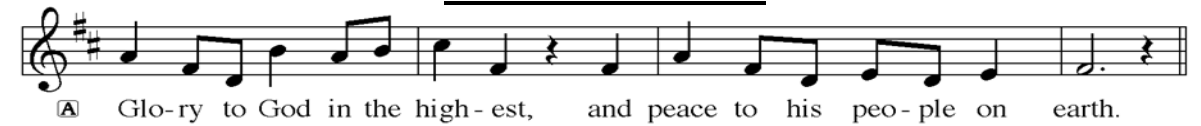
V. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

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

C. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

V. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

V. Let us pray,

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, 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

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

R. Our First Reading is from the 5th Chapter of Acts (Verses 27-32).

R. 27 When they had brought [the apostles], they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. 30 The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 118th Psalm (Verses 14-29).

C. You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28)

R. 14 The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

15 Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!

16 The right hand of the Lord is exalted!

The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

17 I shall not die, but live,

and declare the works of the Lord.

C. You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28)

R. 18 The Lord indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

20 "This is the gate of the Lord;

here the righteous may enter."

21 I give thanks to you, for you have answered me

and you have become my salvation.

C. You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28)

R. 22 The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 By the Lord has this been done;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Hosanna! O Lord, save us!

We pray to you, Lord, prosper our days!

C. You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28)

R. 26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

27 The Lord is God and has given us light.

Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.

28 You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will exalt you.

29 Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;

God's mercy endures forever.

C. You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28)

SECOND READING

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

R. Our Second Reading is from the 1st Chapter of Revelation (Verses 4-8).

R. 4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood 6 and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7 Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him,
and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.
So it is to be. Amen.

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. Alleluia. (John 20:29)

GOSPEL READING

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."

V. The Holy Gospel According to John, the 20th Chapter (Verses 19-31).

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

V. 19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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 with the music offered by our Organist.)
Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book
139—O Sons and Daughters of the King

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. God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(A brief silence.)

A. Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A. Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A. Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A. Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near.

Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way; especially:

BettyAnn Rich-White (Church Member)

Chip & Marie Hand (Church Member)

Lynn Bargstadt (Church Member)

Frank & Sharon Ford (Church Member)

Carol Amundsen (Church Member)

Kim McGinley (Church Member)

Judy Brannan (Church Member)

Blanche Cameron (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 & Sharon Ford's Family)
Christina McNasby (Fran Green's Family)
The Kinkson Family (Judy Brannan's Friends)
Mark Stephen Dennis (Diana DeNote's Family)
Dellie Valcourt (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Family)
Bill Lodge (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)
Patrick & Denise Brannan (Judy Brannan's Family)
Ron Anderson (Bill Kelly's Friend)
Pat Labrae (Kathy Poehler's Friend)
Bud Brearey (Judy Brannan & Mary Melnicoff's Friend)
Mary Skain (Kathy Poehler's Friend)
Bill Rand (Wayne & Eleanor Rand's Family)
Kevin Naylor (Vicki Rinier's Friend)
Robert Chaplin (Mary Melnicoff's Friend)
Jack Wieckouski (Theresa & Kim McGinley's Family)
Carolyn Santarpio (Bob Fritsch's Friend)
Cathy Hines (Rose Lang's Friend)
Ken Mortensen (Del McKenna's Family)
Harry (Judy Brannan's Friend)
Janet K (Philomena Noak's Friend)
Michael Hart (Diana DeNote's Friend)
Rocco Leonard DeNote (Diana DeNote's Family)
Julie Schlereth (Diana DeNote's Friend)
Al Singer & Family (Frank & Sharon Ford's Friends)
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)
Ronald Velli (Kathy Poehler's Friend)
Denny Papst (Rose Lang's Friend)
Mike Rhoades (Rose Lang's Friend)
Jannet Paynter (Leon Stitt's Friend)
Chris (Judy Brannan's Friend)
Helen Ehlers (Judy Brannan's Friend)
Hailey (Fran Green's Friend)

Emily Delaney (Kathy Poehler's Family)
Leanne Bueth (Joan Kilcoyne's Family)
Janett McFarlane (Carol Amundsen's Friend)
Joe Smith (Heather & Vicar Vince Piekarski's Family)
Mark DeFrancis (Vicar Vince Piekarski's Friend)
Rose Lang (Vicar Vince & Heather Piekarski's Family)
Patrick Davenport (Sue Waltz's Friend)
Sonja Anderson (Theresa & Kim McGinley's Family)
Thish Kelly (Theresa & Kim McGinley's Family)
Mike Hadden (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Family)
Chuck (Community Member)
Kenny Balog (Vicar Vince Piekarski's Friend)
(Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)

A. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A. Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A. We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

(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 (extended pause). Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

V. We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of 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. Let us share God's Peace with one another.

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



(Following the Sharing of the Peace, we invite you to be seated.)

ANTHEM

(Special Music for Everyone to Enjoy.)

A New Commandment

OFFERING

V. We now worship God with our tithes and offerings, wine and bread for use in holy communion, and monetary gifts to support our ministry for service in God's name. Our Ushers will be around to your pews to pass the Offering Plates.

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

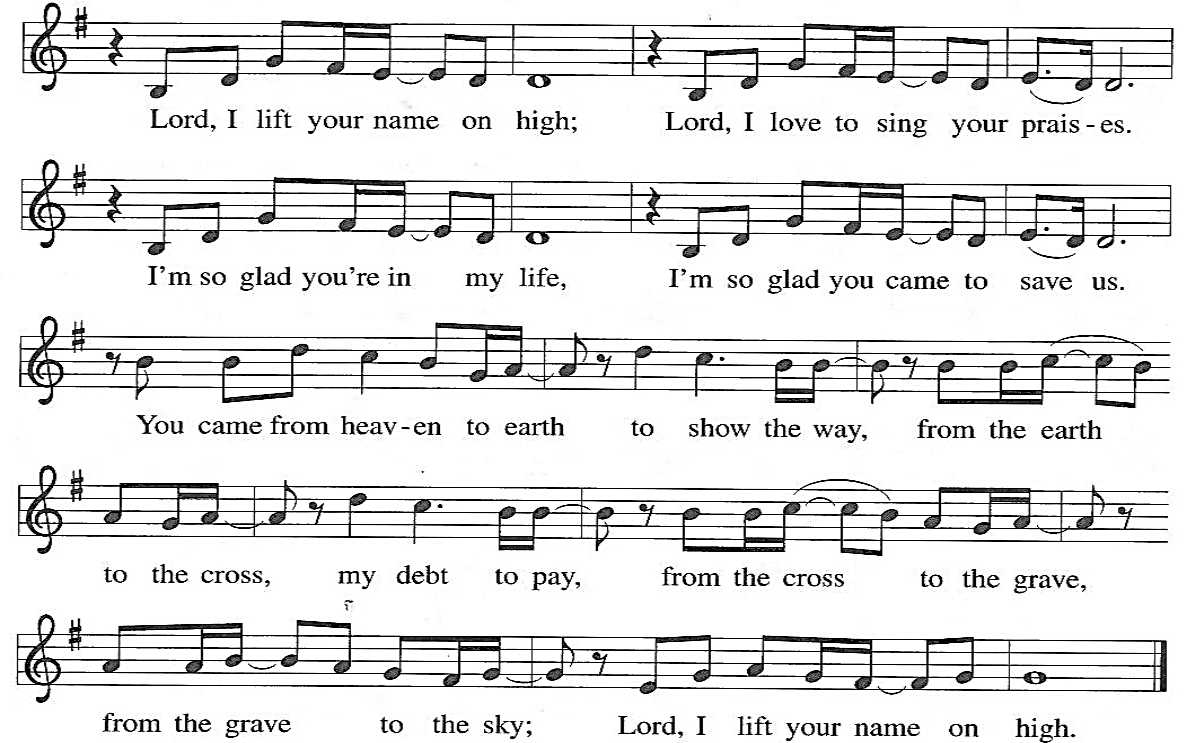
(Vicar and Assistant prepare the Altar for Communion.)

OFFERING SONG

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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

857—Lord, I Lift Your Name on High



Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your prais-es.

I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heav-en to earth to show the way, from the earth

to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave,

from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

Text: Rick Founds, b. 1954

Music: Rick Founds

Text and music © 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc., admin. Music Services

LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME
P M

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

OFFERING PRAYER

V. Let us pray,
Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.

C. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

V. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

V. Lift up your hearts.

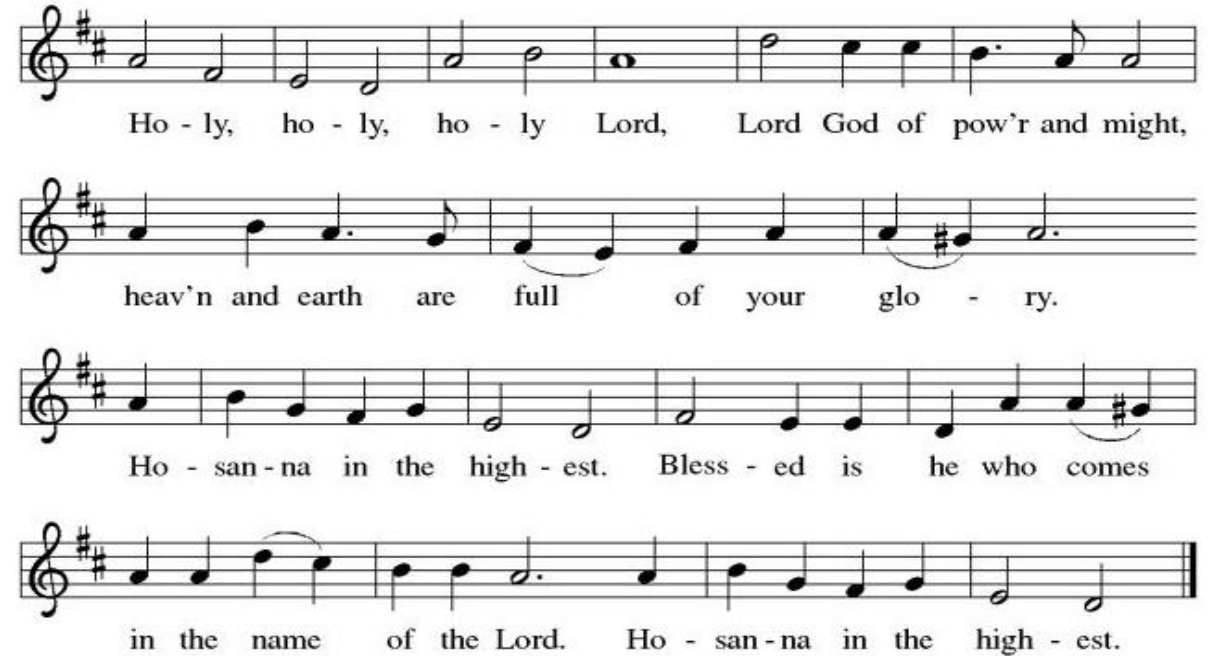
C. We lift them to the Lord.

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



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



(We invite you to be seated.)

HOLY COMMUNION

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

"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 grace. Receive the gift of new life.

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.)

(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 - jice 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,
Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.

C. Amen.

BLESSING

V. The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.

C. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

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

With One Voice—Blue Book

675—We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

(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.)

ANNIVERSARY

2nd Wayne & Eleanor Rand

DISMISSAL

A. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A. Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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

You Servants of God

LICENSES & EXPIRATION DATES

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APRIL WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE					
6th	13th	17th	18th	20th	27th
33	39	17	23	43	

2025 FINANCIAL STANDING	
MARCH INCOME	\$8,907.00
MARCH SPENDING	\$7,994.59
MARCH GAIN OR (LOSS)	\$912.41
2025 INCOME	\$20,136.00
2025 SPENDING	\$22,402.43
2025 GAIN OR (LOSS)	(\$2,266.43)
ED GREEN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$12,500.55
FOOD PANTRY FUND (SOCIAL MINISTRY)	\$12,442.56
CD	\$25,663.13
75TH ANNIVERSARY	\$2,562.41



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).

To learn more, go to the ELCA's website at www.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 146 congregations, which include over 45,000 baptized members.



WORSHIP MINISTRY

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

Date	Worship Leader	Assistant	Conference Call	Reader	Greeter/Usher
April 27th	Vicar Vince	Vicki	Vicki	Wayne	Heather
May 4th	Vicar Vince	Vicki	Vicki		
May 11th	Vicar Vince	Vicki	Vicki		Heather
May 18th	Vicar Vince				Heather
May 25th	Vicar Vince				Heather

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. Join us on **Tuesdays at 6PM.**

FOOD PANTRY

Open every Thursday, and the **last Saturday of every month**, from **10AM to 1PM.** 70 people were served in March. 234 people have been served in 2025. Donations can be dropped in the basket in the Narthex, placed in the outdoor drop-box by the Church Office door, placed in the money jug in the back of the Church, mailed into the Church Office, or placed in the Offering Plate. Volunteers are needed each week. 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.

Thursday, 5/1	Thursday, 5/8	Thursday, 5/15
Cathie & Garnet	Tori & Garnet	Cathie & Tori

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. Kathy then brings leftover items to the Church for church members in need, and those who visit the food pantry during the week. Additional items are then taken over to the Branches Outreach in Rio Grande. A special thank you goes out to all who donate, pray, and help in any way!

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	Operation Christmas Child	Back-To-School
April	Peanut Butter	Stuffed Animals	Pencil Top Erasers
May	Ramen	Small Toys	Crayons

BULLETIN ENTRY DEADLINE

The Bulletin will be printed on **Thursday** during Church Office Hours. Changes need to be submitted to Vicar Vince or Heather no later than **Thursday by 4PM.**

CHURCH OFFICE

Open **Thursday from 6PM to 8PM** to serve the Congregation, the Community, and to continue handling the business of the Church. Feel free to stop in to talk, pick-up or drop off something, pray in the Sanctuary, or for whatever reason.



COMMUNITY UNITY NIGHT

EVERYONE IS INVITED to A Night of Togetherness and Love on **Friday, May 2nd,** at Cape May Lutheran Church, 609 Pittsburgh Ave. **Doors Open at 5:30PM.**

ERNIE KINZLER FUNERAL INFORMATION

Visitation will be on **Saturday, May 3rd,** from **9:30-10:30AM** at St. John’s Lutheran Church of Mayfair, Philadelphia. The Memorial Service will follow at **10:30AM.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION

“Here We Stand” is a program that allows our young folks to go through a 2-year process while focusing on the Bible and Luther’s Small Catechism. The program is on **Sundays from 9-10AM** with snacks, games, arts & crafts, and other fun things. **Classes are on Easter Break and will resume on Sunday, May 4th, 2025.**

We are also exploring resuming regular Sunday School classes for children of all ages to attend. We are looking at various dates and times in this planning process. See Heather, Bonnie, & Vicar Vince for more information.



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Our Annual Church Rummage Sale will be on **Saturday, May 31st, from 7AM to 12NOON.** You can bring all of your items you would like us to sell into the Fellowship Hall. We will coordinate things before Whale of A Day so that all unsold items can be transported there to have a second chance in being sold to raise funds for the Property Owners Association of Townbank. We look forward to this event raising funds for our 75th Anniversary. Join us at our next Committee Meeting on **Sunday, May 4th, after our Worship Service.**



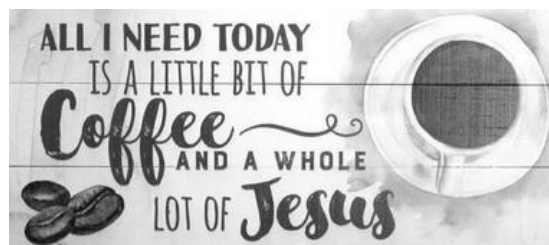
Our 75th Anniversary will be occurring this year! The Synod has been contacted, and we have been placed on the Bishop's Calendar for **Sunday, October 19th**. This congregation is a legacy that we have all lived in and through over all of these years, or maybe just for a short time. However, it is a legacy that we hope and desire to continue to carry on and move forward for those people that will be able to gather and worship with us and following us as well. We are the church carries a strong mentality with it, and it does not just mean within these very walls. We need to celebrate those 75 years of being part of this community, and all that has led up to the very start of this church body as well. I encourage you all to start thinking how we are going to celebrate this legacy as we continue preparations at our second Committee Meeting **Sunday, May 4th, after our Worship Service**.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

The next monthly meeting will be held on **Monday, May 5th, at 6PM**. New members are always welcome to attend! Contact Judy for more information.

SOUP & SCRIPTURE BACK TO S'MORES & SCRIPTURE

Did you ever look forward to sitting around a fire in the church yard hanging out with some folks, enjoying s'mores, and studying scripture? We will shift our Fellowship time from indoor Soup & Scripture, and be **back outside for S'mores & Scripture**. **Join us on Saturday, May 17th, at 6PM**. Ask Heather or Vicar Vince for more info.



The Women of the Church will be hosting our next monthly Coffee Hour on **Sunday, May 18th**, following our Worship Service. See Judy or Kathy for more info.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Share your comments, concerns, questions, or joys with one of our Church Council Members who can bring 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 20th, at 6PM**.

37TH NJ SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Behold! I Make All Things New. (Revelation 21:5) Assembly will transition from a one to a three-day event due to the election of a new Bishop, and other business. Vicar Vince is looking for two other church members to be able to attend the event. We will be at the Hilton East Brunswick Hotel - 3 Tower Center Blvd, East Brunswick, from **Thursday, June 5th to Saturday, June 7th**. Online registration opens in February, and the **deadline for registration is April 21st**. Synod Council has designated funds to cover most of the costs for attending with the hope that relieving the financial burden of attendance will prompt all congregations to send a full contingent of voting members. Voting Member: \$25 (includes Friday evening banquet) / \$50 (after April 21st). Rooms have been blocked for the NJ Synod. Rates are \$179 per night. **Hotel deadline is May 22nd**. Reach out to Vicar Vince with any questions.

SPECIAL PREACHER ON FATHER'S DAY

Chip Hand has been confirmed and is happy to be here and Preaching on **Sunday, June 15th**, while Vicar Vince and Heather are on Vacation in Virginia. Please note that there will not be Holy Communion that Sunday as a result.



THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR EMERGING MINISTRIES

Vicar Vince will be back in Gettysburg, PA at United Lutheran Seminary for Lutheran Heritage, Biblical Foundations, & Lutheran Leadership for Mission intensive classes from **Sunday, June 22nd, following Worship Service, to Saturday, June 28th**.

SPECIAL PREACHER FOLLOWING SEMINARY WEEK

Heather Piekarski has been confirmed and is happy to be here and Preaching on **Sunday, June 29th**, following Vicar Vince's week of 3 Intensive Classes. There will be Holy Communion that Sunday as Vicar Vince will be back from Seminary.

2025 CHURCH DIRECTORY

Additional copies are by the Church Office on the bookshelves. We continue keeping it updated and undoubtedly miss a few changes or have made a few errors. There are spaces for changes in info, new people's info, notes, and your favorite Bible verses. Please continue to inform the Church Office of any changes or updates.

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 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.

TITHES, OFFERINGS, & ENVELOPES

2025 Offering Envelopes are available. Please see Heather if you have not received yours, or would like to have some. For we do indeed worship God with our tithes and offerings. We hear this 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) Feel free to drop your envelopes in the offering plate, mail them to the church, or drop them off in the locked mailbox. Thanks for your continued support in the mission of our church, its ministries, the NJ Synod, and other needs!

ED GREEN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

We continue raising money for unforeseen costs or repairs. Kathy sells Wawa Tickets for \$6, the donation bin is in the back of the church, and we have our Annual Church Rummage Sale. Thanks for your continued donations, prayers, and support!

PROPERTY USE

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.



Vicar Vince was introduced to Milestones Ministries weekly guides for faith-filled studies and conversations through a Seminary class. A decision was made to pass these along to you. If you missed a week, or lost your insert, check our website for past issues. Feel free to ask questions and provide feedback to Vicar Vince.

NEWSLETTER

Collect information, stories, pictures, and reports for our next seasonal publication. Submit them to Vicar Vince in-person or via email at vpie8282@gmail.com.

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.

LIBRARY

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

We also have 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. Just ask to check things out!

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 is a weekly e-newsletter that connects our synod together with weekly prayer, upcoming events, synod and churchwide activities, mission stories, congregational activities, and more. You can also sign up by going to <https://www.njsynod.org/stay-connected> and filling out the form! You can also get the app on your smartphone in the Apple App Store or on Google Play on your android.

VICE PASTOR UPDATE

Pastor William Hodgetts continues to attend our monthly Church Council Meetings. Pastor William continues to provide Supervision and Direction for Vicar Vince.



VICAR APPOINTMENT ON MARCH 19TH, 2023

A Memorandum of Understanding on the Matter of Pastoral Appointment
In Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) Candidacy
TO: Congregation Council, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Villas
FROM: The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Bishop, New Jersey Synod

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

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

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

The following notes reflect my own understanding of this matter:

- (1) The appointment for Vincent will begin on April 1, 2023. At this time, Vincent will assume all responsibilities of a regularly called pastor, including presiding at the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Baptism at Holy Spirit, Villas.
- (2) A pastoral appointment in the TEEM process is an option for completing seminary educational requirements and the steps of the candidacy process. Upon completion of the candidacy process and seminary education, the candidate may receive and accept a call to ordained ministry from the congregation where the appointment is being served.
- (3) This appointment is jointly supervised by the Office of the Bishop and the TEEM pastor's seminary. A mentoring relationship with a local pastor is required for the length of this appointment.

- (4) The synod of candidacy origin will be responsible for the approval process.
- (5) Upon approval for ordination, the congregation would be expected to extend a call to the pastoral appointee.
- (6) Compensation for the TEEM pastor will be according to the guidelines of the New Jersey Synod. All normal forms of compensation should be in place for the term of the appointment, including stipulation that base salary and housing shall be in accord with synod guidelines for first call at time of ordination.
- (7) The ELCA Portico benefit plan for lay persons in full-time church service should be used for the pastoral appointee up to the time of ordination, whereupon the benefit package is to be converted to the plan for ELCA clergy.
- (8) A decision for Pastoral Appointment is made with the agreement of a synod and its candidacy committee, and the ELCA, normally represented by the regional staff person of each in consultation with the seminary and its Director for Contextual Education.
- (9) Pastoral Appointment in a TEEM Candidacy is an option that is to serve the mission of the Church in a particular and vital way and is not to be viewed or used as a means to circumvent the normal candidacy process and/or first call placement process.

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

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

VICAR VINCE'S DAY OF REST

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

TRUE DELIVERANCE PRAISE & WORSHIP CENTER

Reverend Maria Brooks and True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center utilize our facilities from 1-4PM on Sundays. TDPWC helps with the Food Pantry and hosts or assists with other events throughout the year. TDPWC hosts a **Prayer Line** on **Mondays, Thursdays, & Fridays at 5PM** on the **Conference Call 1-657-390-7957**.

TUESDAY SEWING CIRCLE **COFFEE, CHIPS, FELLOWSHIP, QUILTS!**

You all—men included—are warmly invited to join **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wildwood on 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 or Martha Neff at marthaneff1@yahoo.com

CHURCH STAFF & VOLUNTEERS **VICAR, BIBLE STUDY & FAITH DISCUSSIONS,** **EVENTS, NEWSLETTER, & WEBSITE**

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

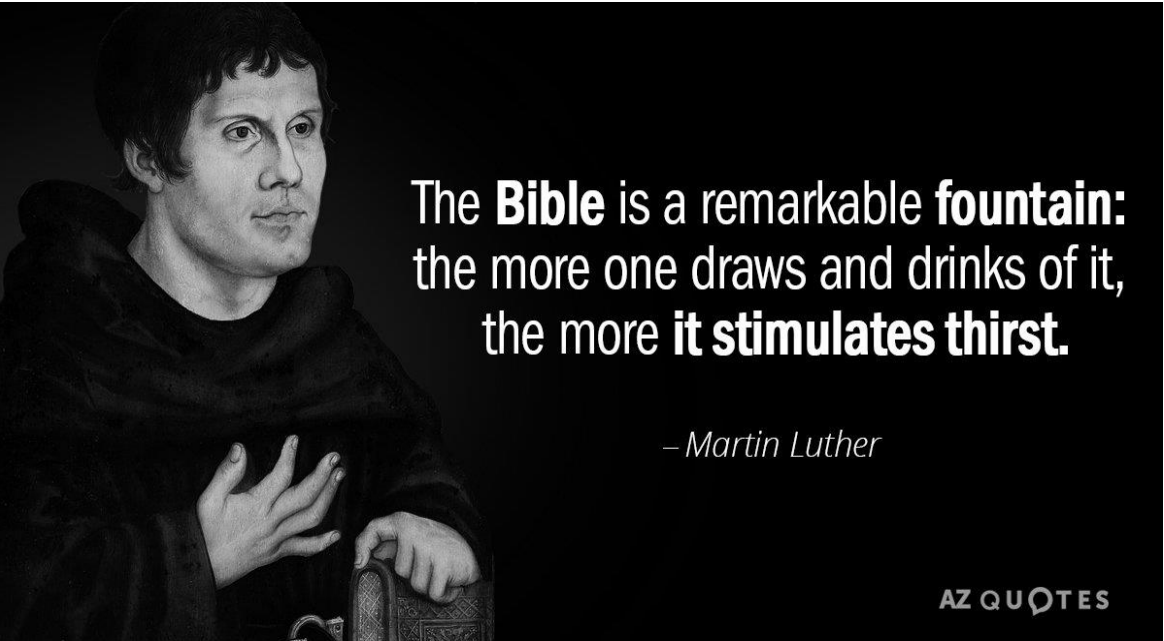
Bonnie Millard

CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Vicki Rinier

CHURCH PROPERTY

Frank Ford & Wayne Rand



The **Bible** is a remarkable **fountain**:
the more one draws and drinks of it,
the more **it stimulates thirst**.

– Martin Luther