

HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, New Jersey Synod
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SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH, SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY,
10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION.



THIS WEEK AT HOLY SPIRIT + NEXT SUNDAY							
Sun, 4/13	Mon, 4/14	Tues, 4/15	Wed, 4/16	Th, 4/17	Fri, 4/18	Sat, 4/19	Sun, 4/20
9-10AM Confirmation Class		6PM Church Council Meeting	6-8PM Special Church Office Hours as a result of Holy Week	10AM-1PM Food Pantry 5PM Maundy Thursday Worship Service	6PM Good Friday, The Service of Tenebrae	5:30PM Easter Vigil, St. Simeon's By The Sea, N. Wildwood	10:30AM Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday Worship Service 40 Days 40 Items All Donations to be turned in at Church
10:30AM Palm Sunday Worship Service							
12Noon Coffee Hour							
3PM TDPWC 6th Church & Pastoral Anniversary							



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.

AN ESPECIALLY WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

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

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.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN 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. Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

PRELUDE

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

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

CHIMES

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

There is a Green Hill Far Away

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

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

V. As we set the scene for worship, we are reminded that we would traditionally be processing into the church symbolizing Jesus entering Jerusalem. However, we are not doing so due to our continued modification of our service that allows us to be blessed to worship together in-person and on our conference call.

So, as we enter into the final days we start with a message from the Holy Gospel According to Luke, the 19th Chapter (Verses 28-40).

C. Hosanna in the highest.

V. 28 After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.' " 32 So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 They said, "The Lord needs it." 35 Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 36 As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. 37 Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, 38 saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." 40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

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,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C. Amen.

V. Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

V. Compassionate One,

**C. you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

V. Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

C. Amen.

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

GATHERING HYMN

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

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book

108—All Glory, Laud, and Honor

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

V. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

V. Let us pray,

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord
Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy
enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his
resurrection, 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

This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's
obedience amid persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood
as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often
recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.

R. Our First Reading is from the 50th Chapter of Isaiah (Verses 4-9a).

R. 4 The Lord God has given me
a trained tongue,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens,
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

5 The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I did not turn backward.

6 I gave my back to those who struck me
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

7 The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
8 he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand in court together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

9a It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 31st Psalm (Verses 9-16).

C. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

R. 9 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
10 For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.
11 I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors,
a dismay to my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
12 Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a | broken pot.

C. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

R. 13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.

I have said, "You are my God.

15 My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."

C. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

SECOND READING

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.

R. Our Second Reading is from the 2nd Chapters of Philippians (Verses 5-11).

R. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

7 but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
10 so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

(We invite you to remain seated for the reading of the Passion.)

V. I invite you to announce the Gospel Acclamation with me.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C. Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above ev'ry name. (Phil. 2:8-9)

GOSPEL READING

Through the teachings and events of the passion story we see and hear the great contradictions that characterize the coming of God's reign. The leader serves the followers, proud Peter is revealed in his cowardice, and Jesus—the innocent bringer of life—is arrested, beaten, executed, and buried.

V. The Holy Gospel According to Luke, the 22nd and 23rd Chapters (22:14—23:56).

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

V. 14 When the hour came, [Jesus] took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. 15 He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, 16 for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of

God." 17 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, 18 for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. 21 But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. 22 For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" 23 Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

24 A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. 25 But he said to them, "The kings of the gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. 26 But not so with you; rather, the greatest among you must become like the youngest and the leader like one who serves. 27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

28 "You are those who have stood by me in my trials, 29 and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, 30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

31 "Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail, and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." 33 And he said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!" 34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day until you have denied three times that you know me."

35 He said to them, "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "No, not a thing." 36 He said to them, "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. 37 For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless,' and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled." 38 They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." He replied, "It is enough."

39 He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. 40 When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." 41 Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done." 43 [[Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. 44 In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]] 45 When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, 46 and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

47 While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" 49 When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" 50 Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. 51 But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. 52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as though I were a rebel? 53 When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour and the power of darkness!"

54 Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. 55 When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. 56 Then a female servant, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." 57 But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." 58 A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" 59 Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean." 60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. 61 The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." 62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

63 Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; 64 they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it who struck you?" 65 They kept heaping many other insults on him.

66 When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. 67 They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe, 68 and if I question you, you will not answer. 69 But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." 70 All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." 71 Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

23:1 Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. 2 They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man inciting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to Caesar and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." 3 Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." 4 Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." 5 But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

6 When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. 7 And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. 8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. 9 He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. 10 The chief priests and the scribes stood by vehemently accusing him. 11 Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. 12 That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

13 Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people 14 and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people, and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. 15 Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. 16 I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

18 Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" 19 (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city and for murder.) 20 Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, 21 but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" 22 A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." 23 But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified, and their voices prevailed. 24 So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. 25 He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

26 As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. 27 A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. 28 But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' 30 Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' 31 For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

32 Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34 [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35 And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine 37 and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38 There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." 43 He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 45 while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. 47 When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." 48 And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. 49 But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things.

50 Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph who, though a member of the council, 51 had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. 52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 53 Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. 54 It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. 56 Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

V. This is the Gospel of the Lord,
C. Thanks be to God.

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

94—My Song Is Love Unknown

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. Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(A brief silence.)

A. Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy,
C. receive our prayer.

A. Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy,

C. receive our prayer.

A. Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy,

C. receive our prayer.

A. Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering, bring healing to those in need; 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)
Carla Krouse (Skip & Bonnie Millard'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 McFarland (Carol Amundsen's Friend)

Joe Smith (Heather & Vicar Vince Piekarski's Family)
Mark DeFrancis (Vicar Vince Piekarski's Friend)
Evan Rinier (Vicki Rinier's Family)
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)
The Family & Friends of Betsy Marsh (Jean Zimmerman's Family)
The Family & Friends of Everett Brown, Jr. (Community Member)
The Family & Friends of Ernie Kinzler (Marie Hand & Doreen Kinzler's Family)
(Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)

A. God, in your mercy,
C. receive our prayer.

A. Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors, vicars, and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers and greeters, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

C. receive our prayer.

A. We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence. God, in your mercy,

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 (extended pause). God, in your mercy,

C. receive our prayer.

V. Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

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.)

The Palms

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

811—On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.
Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

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

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

OFFERING PRAYER

V. Let us pray,
Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

V. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

V. Lift up your hearts.

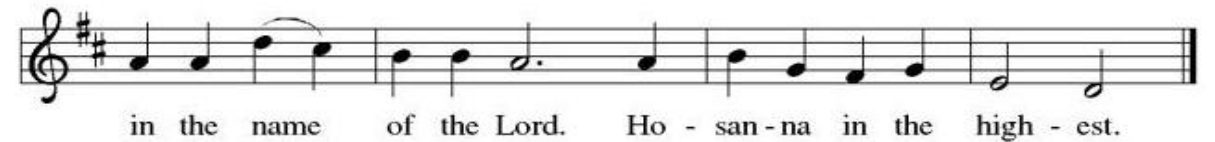
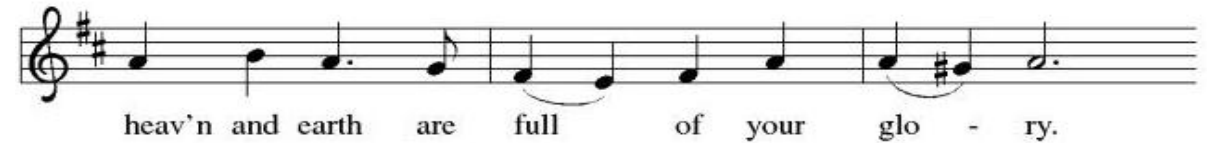
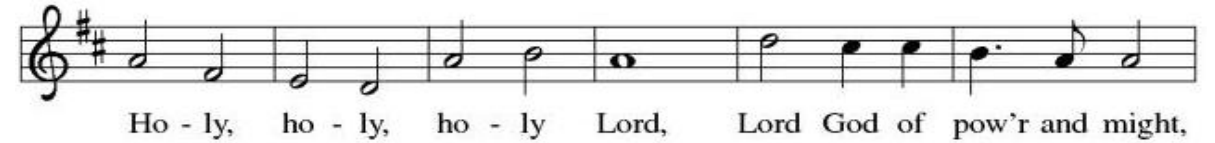
C. We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

V. It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who rose beyond the bounds of death and, as he promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless joy. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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.

V. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C. Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

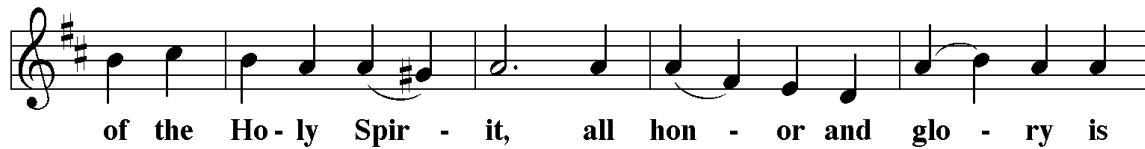
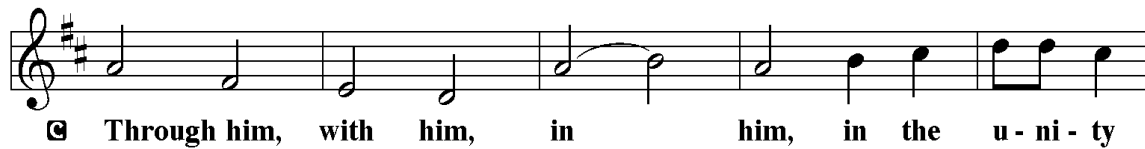
V. Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

V. Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

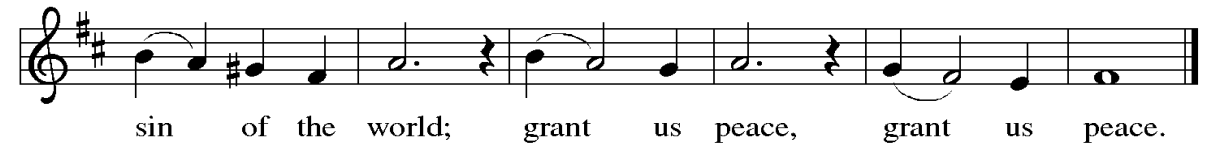
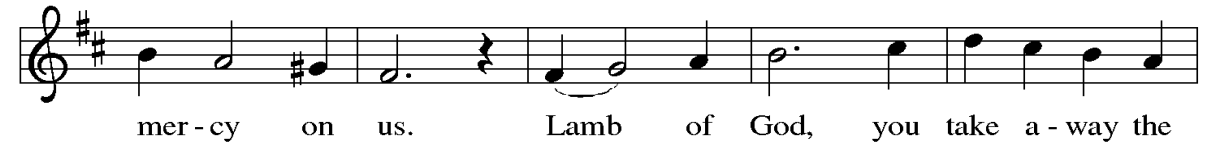


THE LORD'S PRAYER

(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. All who are hungry, come!

The feast of grace is spread.

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



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo- ple: A light to re- veal you to the



na - tions and the glo- ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,



and will be for - ev - er. A - men

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray,
Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

BLESSING

V. God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

(We invite you to sing along with the music offered by our Organist.)
Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book
258—Hosanna to the Living Lord!

(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.)

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

None

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

(Music offered by our Organist as we depart following our Worship Service.)
Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessings

LICENSES & EXPIRATION DATES

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

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.



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.

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.

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	Cantor	Greeter/Usher
April 13th Palm Sunday	Vicar Vince	Vicki	Vicki	Kathy		Heather
April 17th Maundy Thursday @ 5PM	Vicar Vince	Vicki	Vicki	Carol		Bonnie
April 18th Good Friday @ 6PM	Vicar Vince	Vicki	Vicki	Carol		Heather
April 20th Easter Sunday	Vicar Vince	Vicki	Vicki	Wayne		Heather
April 27th	Vicar Vince					
May 4th	Vicar Vince					
May 11th	Vicar Vince					
May 18th	Vicar Vince					
May 25th	Vicar Vince					



COFFEE HOUR

The Women of the Church will be hosting our next monthly Coffee Hour **TODAY, Sunday, April 13th**, following our Worship Service. See Judy or Kathy for more info.

TRUE DELIVERANCE PRAISE & WORSHIP CENTER’S 6TH CHURCH & PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

Let us lift up our church family in prayer and thanksgiving for their ministry and support throughout the years. All are invited to a special Service and Celebration of TDPWC’s 6th Church & Pastoral Anniversary **TODAY, Sunday, April 13th, at 3PM.**

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.** **There will not be a session this week due to our Church Council Meeting.**

CHURCH COUNCIL

Share your comments, concerns, questions, or joys with one of our Church Council Members who can bring them back to our meetings. Visitors are always welcome to attend and listen to what is going on in and around the church. Join us In- Person or on our Conference Call at our next Meeting on **Tuesday, April 15th, at 6PM.**

BULLETIN ENTRY DEADLINE

The Bulletin will be printed on **WEDNESDAY** during special Church Office Hours as a result of Holy Week. Changes need to be submitted to Vicar Vince or Heather no later than **WEDNESDAY by 4PM.** Thank you for adjusting to the change!

CHURCH OFFICE

Open **WEDNESDAY 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.

FOOD PANTRY & COMMUNITY DELIVERIES

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, 4/17	Thursday, 4/24	Saturday, 4/26
Tori & Garnet	Garnet & Cathie	Vicki & Bonnie

Our local North Cape May Acme provides us with Expiring Soon, Recently Expired, and Slightly Damaged Foods & 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 thanks to all who donate, pray, and help in any way!

PREACHING AT BROOKDALE

Vicar Vince will be Preaching at Brookdale Senior Living in Cape May Court House on **Good Friday, April 18th, at 1PM.** No Holy Communion due to a Special Service.

HOLY WEEK INVITATION & EXTRA OPPORTUNITY

Mother Allison and Father Marcel, together with their congregations, started celebrating Easter Vigil together a few years ago. Last year Father Marcel became aware that not all congregations celebrate it. With the Episcopal Church and Lutheran Church (ELCA) being in full communion with one another, we have been extended an invitation to celebrate the **Easter Vigil at St. Simeon's By The Sea in North Wildwood, on Saturday, April 19th, at 5:30PM.** Carol has volunteered to read, and Vicar Vince has been asked to deliver the Sermon. Please see Vicar Vince with any questions, or to inform him of your interest or intent in attending.

40 DAYS – 40 ITEMS

We will be joining True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center on this Lenten Challenge to support those in need in our communities. It is rather simple, for each day of Lent remove one item from your closet, drawers, chest, etc. that you no longer wear or need and place it in a trash bag. Brings the bags into the church **on or before Easter Sunday, April 20th, 2025.** All items will be donated to the Branches in Rio Grande and the Atlantic City Rescue Mission. Make sure you grab a bag and card from the church with directions for this Lenten Journey Challenge.

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

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,** Inspirational Sharing at 6PM, Snack & Chat at 7PM, and a Dance Party from 7:30-8:30PM. Organized by Kelsy Wise 609-889-4968.

SOUP & 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.



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

It's that time of year again that we begin our spring cleaning, and get our committee together and plan for our Annual Church Rummage Sale on **Saturday, May 31st, from 7AM to 12NOON**. Please start gathering items until we come up with a date to bring them in. We will plan to coordinate things before Whale of A Day so that all unsold items can be transported there to have a second chance in being sold to raise funds for the Property Owners Association of Townbank. We look forward to this event raising funds for our 75th Anniversary. Join us at our next Committee Meeting on **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.

75TH ANNIVERSARY

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 18th, after our Worship Service**.



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.

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**.

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.

TAKING FAITH HOME

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.

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 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.

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!

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.

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.



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.



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.

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 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

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