

WELCOME TO HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY, JULY 20TH, 2025
10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION



THIS WEEK AT HOLY SPIRIT + NEXT SUNDAY							
Sun, 7/20	Mon, 7/21	Tues, 7/22	Wed, 7/23	Th, 7/24	Fri, 7/25	Sat, 7/26	Sun, 7/27
10:30AM Worship Service with Holy Communion 12NOON 75th Anniversary Committee Meeting				10AM-1PM Food Pantry 6PM-8PM Church Office			10:30AM Worship Service with Holy Communion and Special Preacher, Pastor Chuck Romanowski



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



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



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



SANCTUARY CANDLE FOR JULY

Given to the Glory of God & In Memory of JERRY DAILY by Fran Green & Family.

ALTAR CANDLES FOR JULY

Given to the Glory of God & In Memory of DAVE STITELY by Kathy Stitely, Suzanne, Jason, Avery, & Delaney Mesher, Heather & Vince Piekarski.

CONFERENCE CALL CHECK-IN

(Roll Call and Attendance.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

INTRODUCTION

- A. To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God’s mercy in responding to one’s neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the “gospel that has come to you”—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

PRELUDE

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

O Jesus I Have Promised

CHIMES

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

Jesus Calls Us; O’er the Tumult

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

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

- V. In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

- V. Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

- V. Merciful God,

**C. you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.**

- V. You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God’s children through faith.
In the cross of ✙ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
- C. Amen.**



GATHERING HYMN

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

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book
526—Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



APOSTOLIC GREETING

V. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

KYRIE

V. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

V. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

V. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

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

C. Lord, have mercy.

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

C. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

V. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

V. Let us pray,

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

C. Amen.

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

FIRST READING

The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

R. Our First Reading is from the 18th Chapter of Genesis (Verses 1-10a).

R. 1 The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. 2 He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. 3 He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. 4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5 Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” 6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” 7 Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. 8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

9 They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.”

10a Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 15th Psalm.

C. Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

R. 1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;

C. Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

R. 3 they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

4 In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

5 They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

C. Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

SECOND READING

This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

R. Our Second Reading is from the 1st Chapter of Colossians (Verses 15-28).

R. 15 [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, 16 for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

21 And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, 23 provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

24 I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. 25 I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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 hold the word fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance. Alleluia. (Luke 8:15)

GOSPEL READING

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

V. The Holy Gospel According to Luke, the 10th Chapter (Verses 38-42).
C. Glory to you, O Lord.

V. 38 Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. 40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you

not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, 42 but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

V. This is the Gospel of the Lord,
C. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

(Delivered by Vicar Vince Piekarski.)

V. 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
403—Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak

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. In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

(A brief silence.)

A. Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. God of grace,

C. hear our prayer.

A. Every creature under heaven has been promised the hope of the gospel. From that promise, generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with your words of life. God of grace,

C. hear our prayer.

A. Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. God of grace,

C. hear our prayer.

A. Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or Despair; especially:

- BettyAnn Rich-White (Church Member)
- Chip & Marie Hand (Church Member)
- Lynn Bargstadt (Church Member)
- Frank Ford (Church Member)
- Carol Amundsen (Church Member)
- Kim McGinley (Church Member)
- Judy Brannan (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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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 MacFarlane (Carol Amundsen's Friend)
 Patrick Davenport (Sue Waltz's Friend)
 Sonja Anderson (Theresa & Kim McGinley's Family)
 Thish Kelly (Theresa & Kim McGinley's Family)
 Joanne Shipper (Del McKenna's Family)
 Edward Charleski (Allison Call's Family)
 Mary March (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)
 Scott Levin (Rose Lang's Friend)
 Anthony DeLuca (Church Member)
 Lynne Curlett (Del McKenna's Family)
 Alice Ann Dennis (Diana DeNote's Family)
 Nancy Taylor (Ted & Diane Bell's Family)
 Santa Isabel Lutheran Church (Elizabeth, NJ)
 Messiah Lutheran Church (Oakland, NJ)
 Mary Matta (Rose Lang's Friend)
 Carla Krause (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)
 Carol Brand (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)
 Joyce Thompson (True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center)
 Barbara Callaway (True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center)
 Barbara Paynter (Leon Stitt's Family)
 Frank Brunner (Church Member)
 Kristy (Pastor David Jones' Family)
 The Family & Friends of Sharon Ford (Church Member)
 (Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)
 A. Bring honor to any who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others. God of grace,
C. hear our prayer.

A. Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. God of grace,
C. hear our prayer.

A. For Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Mary, Martha, and all the saints who attended to your word, we give thanks. Open our ears to your voice until that day when we realize the promise of the gospel with all creation. God of grace,
C. hear our prayer.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

V. Watch over all of us who are worried and suffering, and especially those whose names we now say aloud or hold within our hearts (pause). God of grace,
C. hear our prayer.

V. Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.
C. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C. And also with you.

V. As we return to some of our familiar ways of the past, I offer you the opportunity to extend your hand and shake it with your neighbor as your offer peace. Please respect your neighbor if they desire to still only offer a peace sign or wave.

V. Let us share God's Peace with one another.

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

OFFERING

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

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

(Vicar and Assistant prepare the Altar for Communion.)

OFFERING SONG

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

Worship & Praise

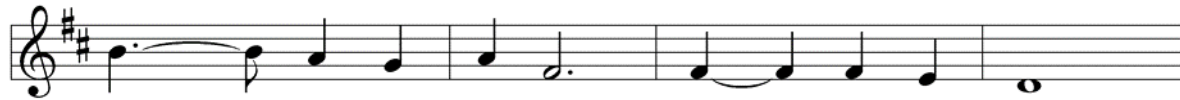
156—What Have We to Offer?



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



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



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



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



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



give? Lives we will live.

Text: Ray Makeever

Music: LET US ENTER IN: OFFERTORY, Ray Makeever

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

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

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

OFFERING PRAYER

V. Let us pray,
Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

V. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

V. Lift up your hearts.

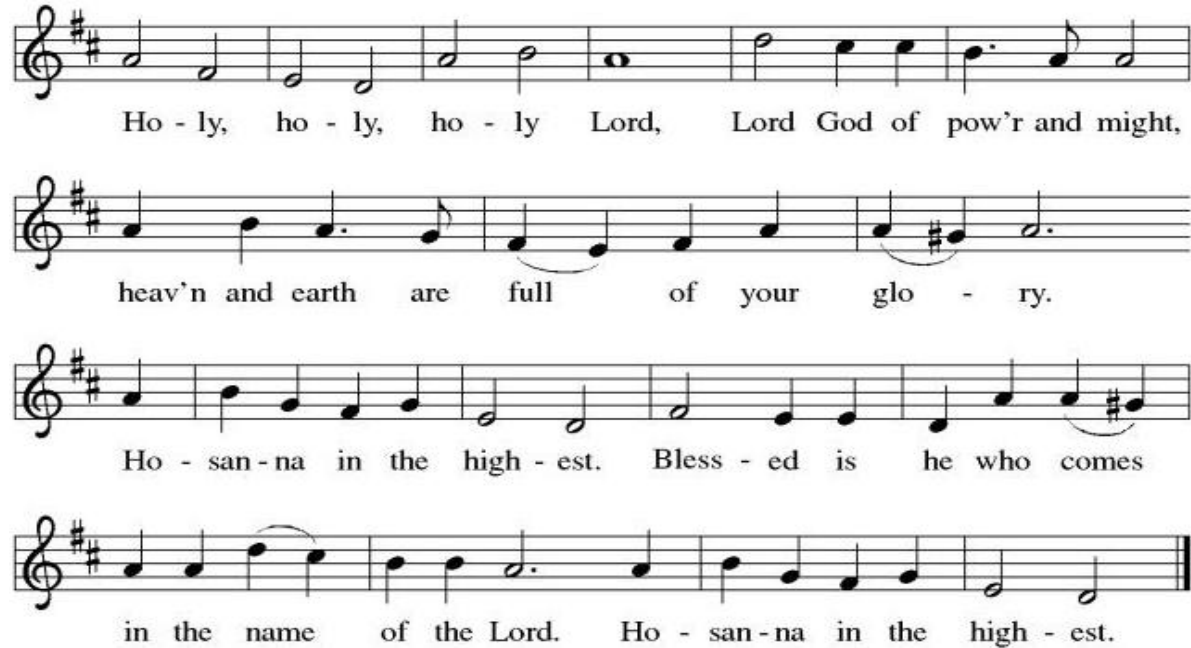
C. We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

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

SANCTUS



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

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

V. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, in mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

C. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, he gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

V. Again, after supper, He took the cup, he gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.*

Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(We ring the bell throughout the Lord's Prayer at all services to invite those in the community to join in praying the Lord's Prayer.)

V. May we now join with one another and pray together as Jesus has taught us.
C. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



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

(We invite you to be seated.)

HOLY COMMUNION

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

"Do this for the remembrance of me."

LUKE 22:19

Holy Spirit
Lutheran Church
SUNDAYS @ 10:30AM

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

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

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

Children who have not had their First Communion instruction, and adults who do not wish to receive Communion, are welcome to come forward and give a sign in order to obtain a special blessing.

If you are unable to leave your pew for health or other related reasons, please inform the Usher of your desire to remain in your pew and have us come to you.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

V. The kingdom of God is set before you.

Eat and rejoice.

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.)

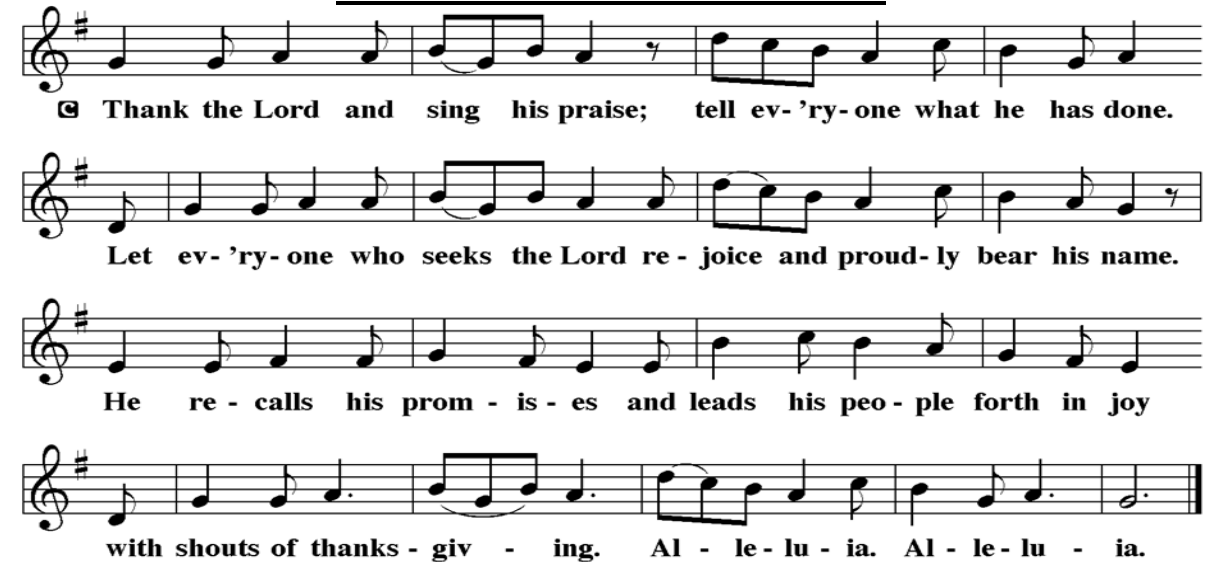
(We invite you to stand as you are able.)

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-joice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray,
Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C. Amen.

BLESSING

V. The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

C. Amen.



SENDING HYMN

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

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book

316—Jesus, the Very Thought of You

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

(Vicar processes out once the Altar Candles have been extinguished.)

(We invite you to be seated.)

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Offered by Assistant and Congregation.)

BIRTHDAY

25th Nona Martin

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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

We Are God's People

LICENSES & EXPIRATION DATES

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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
July 20th	Vicar Vince	Vicki	Vicki	Bonnie	Fran
July 27th	Rev. Chuck Romanowski	Vicki	Vicki	Doreen	Heather
August 3rd	Vicar Vince	Doreen	Doreen		Heather
August 10th	Vicar Vince	Doreen	Doreen		Heather
August 17th	Vicar Vince				Heather
August 24th	Vicar Vince				Heather
August 31st	Vicar Vince				Heather

75TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Let's continue thinking how we are going to celebrate this legacy as we continue our preparations during our next Committee Meeting **TODAY, Sunday, July 20th, following our Worship Service.** We will also review Banner Designs and Costs.

FOOD PANTRY

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

48 people were served in June. 426 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.

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

Thursday, 7/24	Saturday, 7/26	Thursday, 7/31
Tori & Garnet	Bonnie & Skip	Cathie & Tori

FOOD PANTRY GRANTS & VOLUNTEER UPDATES

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church is happy to announce that we are working closely with the Avalon Lion's Club and the Greater Cape May Elks in applying for Grants for Food and Supplies, as well as having Volunteers work in and with our Food Pantry.

COMMUNITY FOOD DONATIONS, DELIVERIES, & MORE

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

BULLETIN ENTRY DEADLINE

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

CHURCH OFFICE

Open **Thursdays 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.

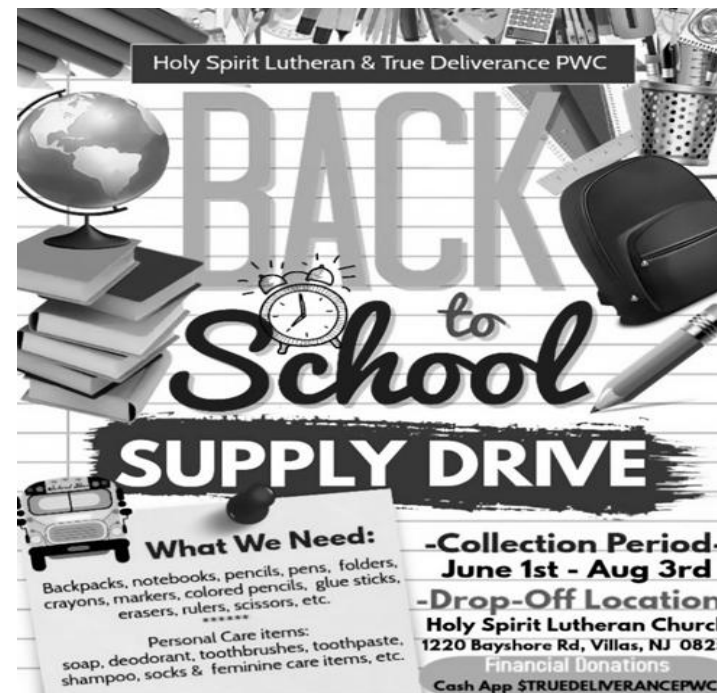
SPECIAL PREACHER

Pastor Chuck Romanowski has been confirmed and is happy to be here and Preaching on **Sunday, July 27th**, while Vicar Vince is on Vacation in Pittsburgh. There will be Holy Communion during this Worship Service.

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
July	Canned Corn	Bars of Soap	Backpacks
August	Canned Potatoes	Stickers	1 Subject Notebooks



BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE UPDATES

Our Church Council discussed, voted, and approved that our Social Ministry Fund allocate money from our budget to support this event. A total of \$1,983.84 will go to support various needs for this Social Ministry Project. Thank you one and all for continuing to contribute and support our community and neighbors.

Reverend Brooks and True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center are continuing to work with neighbors and other Congregations for donations and support.

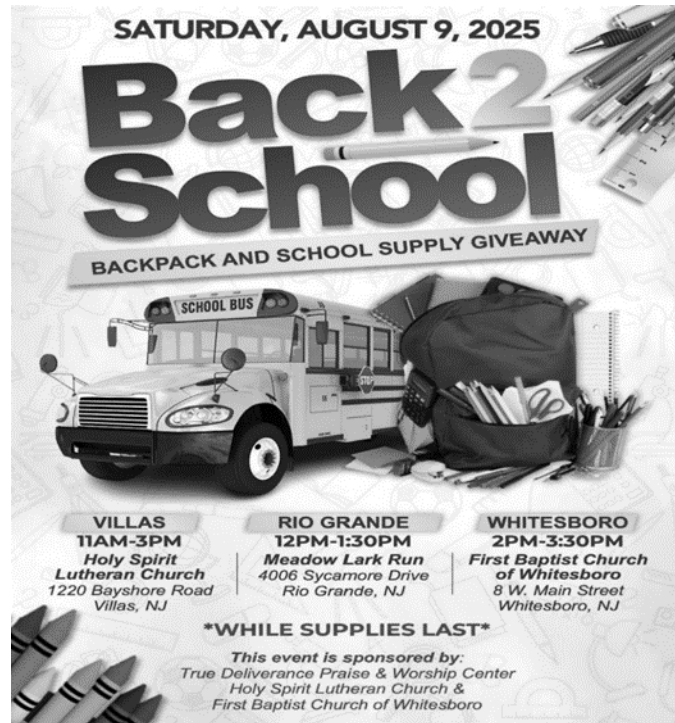
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church has been approved for a Thrivent Action Team! \$250 will be provided from Thrivent to help with the purchase of various items. We are happy to report that Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wildwood and St. John Lutheran Church in Ocean City are collecting supplies and funds as well. Glen Stewart, Thrivent Representative and member of St. John, has also applied for and been approved for \$250 to support with the purchase of items too.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

The next monthly meeting will be held on **Monday, August 4th, at 6PM**. New members are always welcome to attend! Contact Judy for more information.

BACK TO SCHOOL PACKING

We look forward to joining together with several church families and community members to pack all of the backpacks on **Friday, August 8th, at 4PM.** Please come out and join us as other Congregations will be here that day as well. What a wonderful way to fellowship and work together with our neighbors!



COFFEE HOUR

The Women of the Church will be hosting our next Coffee Hour on **Sunday, August 10th,** following our Worship Service. See Judy or Kathy for more info. Our Church Council discussed and voted on the importance of Grace being said prior to our meal together. Vicar Vince will pray at the end of the Worship Service before we all depart and head over to the Fellowship Hall.



TDPWC CHURCH PICNIC & BBQ

Vicar Vince joined our True Deliverance family a year or two ago, and is looking to do so again this year. Vicar Vince has room for three other people in his vehicle if you desire to attend. Please reach out to save your space.

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, August 19th, at 6PM.**



THE NEW JERSEY SYNOD
of the
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN
AMERICA

requests your prayers and presence as

The Rev. Dr. Christa M. Compton

*is installed as the fourth Bishop of the Synod
at a Festive Service of Holy Communion
Saturday, August 23, 2025
2:00 PM
at*

*First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens
711 Somerset Street, Somerset, NJ 08873*

*The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop,
Preacher*

BISHOP-ELECT INSTALLATION

We look forward to this event and the celebration of our new Bishop-Elect! Vicar Vince will be attending, and has room for three other people in his vehicle if you desire to attend. Please reach out to save your space.

INTINCTION DURING COMMUNION SERVICES

Following discussion and the vote of our Church Council we will be introducing and educating on Intinction while communing together in months that have a fifth Sunday. If you have any questions please see Vicar Vince. Our first time doing this will be on **Sunday, August 31st**, during our 10:30AM Worship Service.

BIBLE STUDY & FAITH DISCUSSIONS

Bible Study & Faith Discussions was started in order to focus on various readings, books, Bible verses, people of faith, and other general topics. Group Members offer various points of view while reviewing the Bible and various aspects of faith while being respectful and supportive of each other. **Join us on Tuesdays at 6PM when we return from our Summer Break following Labor Day.**

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 Summer Break and will resume on Sundays from 9-10AM in September.**

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.

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.

SPECIAL PREACHER

Chip Hand has been confirmed and is happy to be here and Preaching on **Sunday, October 5th**, while Vicar Vince and Heather are on their annual trip to Knoebels. Please note 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 Congregational Studies in Context classes from **October 15th to October 18th.**



We are on the Bishop’s Calendar for **Sunday, October 19th with one Worship Service to be held at 3PM**, that was voted on by Church Council. Planning will occur for special preaching, music, and a catered meal. This congregation is a legacy that we have all lived in and through over the 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 now and in the future. We are the church carries a strong mentality with it, and it does not just mean within these very walls. We need to celebrate our faith and all that led up to the 75 years of our Congregation and being part of this community. We also look to celebrate our vision and moving forward as well. A special account has been created for specific giving for this event. We have also applied for a Feast of Abundance \$1,000 grant from United Lutheran Seminary for our Community Meal.

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!

SPACE AVAILABLE

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

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!

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A NEW MEMBER

Have you been attending our church for a while? Have you just recently returned to church after being away for a bit? Maybe you transitioned from another church, or just started to recently attend our church. We are glad to have you, and would love to have you as a member of our Congregation. See Vicar Vince for more info.

BAPTISM

We are a church whose unity is in Jesus Christ, who gathers us around word and water, wine and bread. Baptism is a significant part of our faith journey as we come from the baptismal waters to live a new life as children of God. Our baptism sets us out on a lifelong journey that is characterized by our relationship to God, our relationship to our faith community, our relationships in our community and the wider world. Living our baptismal covenant means living a life of growth in the faith practices of discipleship. Please see Vicar Vince for more information.

FIRST COMMUNION

Although no particular age for first communion is prescribed by The Use of the Means of Grace, one guideline is offered. Because admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord to the baptized, "baptized children begin to commune on a regular basis at a time determined through mutual conversation that includes the pastor/vicar, the child, and the parents or sponsors involved, within the accepted practices of the congregation." Each congregation is encouraged to ask the question of readiness for first communion, establish their own policies regarding age and practice, and accompany that practice with catechesis appropriate to the age of the communicant. If anyone has questions, please see Vicar Vince.

FAVORITE HYMNS

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

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.

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.



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.

VICAR VINCE’S DAY OF REST

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

VICE PASTOR UPDATE

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

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**.

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

2025 FINANCIAL STANDING	
JUNE INCOME	\$6,191.00
JUNE SPENDING	\$10,845.54
JUNE GAIN OR (LOSS)	(\$4,654.54)
2025 INCOME	\$39,050.00
2025 SPENDING	\$45,983.41
2025 GAIN OR (LOSS)	(\$6,993.41)
ED GREEN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$12,552.55
FOOD PANTRY FUND (SOCIAL MINISTRY)	\$11,983.84
CD	\$25,912.07
75TH ANNIVERSARY	\$7,260.41

JULY WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE			
6th	13th	20th	27th
33	37		



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.

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

HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH



Celebrating 75 Years in 2025