

2017 Lenten Schedule

Our Wednesday schedule for the Lenten Season is:

4:00 p.m. Traditional Worship (we focus on Luther's Small Catechism.)

March 29: Baptism

April 5: Holy Communion

4:45 p.m. Light supper

6:00 p.m. Connections & Education Time

7:00 p.m. Worship – Holden Evening Prayer and character portrayals of the Passion and Biblical stories

March 29: Nicodemus, the Pharisee

April 5: Stephanus, the Rich Young Ruler

Palm Sunday & Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 9

8:30 a.m. Organ-led Worship

9:00 a.m. Breakfast Fundraiser

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Band-led Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 13

4:00 p.m. Worship

6:00 p.m. Seder Service & First Communion

Good Friday, April 14

4:00 p.m. Tenebrae Worship

6:00 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday, April 16

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship

8:30 a.m. Band-led Worship

10:30 a.m. Organ-led Worship

We have exciting news, Spirit Lutheran members!



You are invited to a special congregational meeting for the sole purpose of calling the next pastor for Spirit Lutheran.

The meeting will be on **Sunday, April 2 at 9:30 a.m.* in the Fellowship Hall at Spirit Lutheran.**

We will share information about our pastoral candidate before we vote and there will also be time to ask questions.

This is an exciting time in the life of Spirit Lutheran, so please plan to attend.

*Arrangements will be made so that Sunday School staff may attend the meeting.

ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD

Nine months before Christmas on Saturday, March 25, the church celebrated the annunciation. In Luke, the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will give birth to the Son of God, and she responds, *“Here am I, the servant of the Lord.”* Ancient scholars believed that March 25 was also the day on which creation began and was the date of Jesus’ death on the cross. We celebrate the Annunciation of our Lord on this Sunday morning at Spirit Lutheran at our 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services.



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Submissions for publication are due by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for content, quality, brevity, and accuracy. Any content submitted to Spirit Lutheran becomes the sole property of the congregation and cannot be used in part or in whole without the congregation’s consent.

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
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Message from the bishop...

Dear Saints of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

By the time you read this, one major event in our synod will have been completed and the next one will be just around the corner. The completed one will be “Walking Together” when 400+ folks will have gathered to learn, to laugh and to walk together toward a new future. The “around the corner” event will be our annual Synod Assembly in April. But, both events will be tied together by the theme: “**BOLDLY Invite...ONE More!** With the symbol of a big RED door, emblazoned with Luther’s seal, we will be challenged to get the word out about Jesus!



But, here’s the Easter connection. When we were picking a theme verse for the events the verse we chose was from Mark 16:15. In this verse, Jesus says "Go into all the world.." And, seemingly, the women and even some men did just that!

As we were picking this verse, we also were laughing, because it comes from what is called “The Longer Ending of Mark.” The ending of Mark that is from the oldest manuscripts says this, “So they (the women) went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; *and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*”

I often refer to this last verse as the “Lutheran Ending” of the gospel of Mark. “They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”

We are Lutheran, and we need no longer be afraid! We live in a culture where our neighbors are hungry for good news, they are hungry for life, and they are hungry for love. Our churches can give them all of those things. The day is over when we can silently leave the empty tomb at Easter and tell no one. So this is my Easter challenge to every one of you who takes the time to read these words: “**BOLDLY invite...ONE more!**”

This year, before Easter, you, and everyone in your family, invite one person to come and worship with you. If you have family who live somewhere else, but who do not have a church, encourage them...“I sure hope you can find a church for this Sunday!” Be BOLD. What’s the worst that can happen? Let the *amazement* overcome the *fear*.

We have the amazing privilege of getting up on that Sunday morning and worshipping the God of Easter! I for one will make sure I share that with not just one person, but I commit to sharing it with everyone that will give me the opportunity. What’s the worst that can happen????

BOLDLY, Invite...ONE More!

Bishop Rick Hoyme
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA

Easter Flower Orders

As we look toward the celebration of Christ’s resurrection on Easter morning, Spirit Lutheran offers you an opportunity to participate in the beauty of the day by purchasing an Easter Lily in memory or in honor of a loved one. You are welcome to take your plant(s) with you following our 10:30 a.m. worship service on Easter morning. The deadline for ordering plants is Sunday, April 2.

To purchase plants, please pay in advance (\$8.00 per lily) using the green Easter Flower envelopes that can be found on tables in the back of the church and in the pews. Place your envelope in the offering plate on Sundays or Wednesdays, or deliver it to the church office. Please make checks payable to Spirit Lutheran.

Seeking Synod Assembly Representatives

The 2017 Synod Assembly will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Eau Claire on Saturday, April 29, 2017, running from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Spirit Lutheran is seeking two representatives for our congregation. See the event details below. If you are interested in representing our congregation, please contact Mark Miller, Office Manager, at 715-832-2421 or miller@spiritlutheran.org by April 1, 2017. Assembly Registration Fee, which includes program costs, materials, lunch, and breaks will be paid by Spirit Lutheran. *Your registration will be completed by Spirit Lutheran staff.

Handbell Concert on 4/1/17

Spirit Ring members and seven other area handbell choirs will be participating in the 19th Annual Eau Claire Area Ring on Saturday, April 1 at Hope Lutheran. The event concludes with a free handbell concert at 2:00 p.m. at Hope Lutheran, 2226 Eddy Lane, Eau Claire. All are invited!



Seder Maundy Thursday April 13 - 6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday is the night in which Jesus took the cup, gave it to us and told us to drink of it. He also took the bread and broke and said, "Do this in remembrance of me." Come for worship; this evening will be an interactive Seder meal experience with Jesus and the disciples.

Eau Claire Marathon Cheering Section

Sunday, May 7 at 9:30 a.m.

The congregation is invited to come and cheer on runners of the Eau Claire Marathon. We are lucky to have the race go right behind church that morning. Come and join in on singing outside to bring the Good News of Jesus to the runners. Bring a sign and bring your cowbells.

Spirit Lutheran Children's Choir Spring 2017

Rehearsal Schedule:

Tuesday, March 28 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 4 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
*Tuesday, April 11 – No rehearsal – Holy Week
Tuesday, April 18 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Worship Schedule:

Please arrive at church by 9:00 a.m. to warm up. We sing at the end of the 8:30 a.m. worship service and the beginning of the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

- Sunday, April 23

Cookbooks for Sale - on the counter in the back of the church. Make a free-will offering! These books make great gifts. Proceeds will help our youth get to Montana for their summer Mission Trip.



Lunch to go! - Sunday, March 26
come and get soup for lunch. Proceeds go to the mission team.

Bake sale next weekend – the mission team will be selling lots of goodies downstairs in the fellowship hall. Stop by and pick up a sweet or two on April 2.

Seder Meal Help

We are looking for people to help with this year's Seder meal. The Seder meal is not really a meal, but an experience. The Seder is traditionally done on Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter. This is the night our Lord Jesus took bread and broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take and eat; this is my body given for you." And then he took the cup and said, "This is my blood, shed for you and for all." We would like to offer the congregation a time to remember this special night.

Sign up on the table in the back of the church if you would be able to help make the Seder happen this year.

Each year you make hundreds, if not thousands, of choices with your money. And with each choice, you are directly and indirectly making a statement about what matters most to you. -- Nathan Dungan

Want to support the mission & ministry of Spirit Lutheran?
Scan this QR code with your smart phone for a quick and easy process!



Join Pastor David and Carole for a Bible Study for Parents with Young Families

Sunday, April 2
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

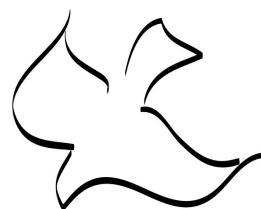
No experience needed! If you have a Bible, bring it. Bring your children; we will have childcare if you need it. Meet other parents and get ideas on how to take faith home. A light lunch will be served. Sign up at church by March 26.

Gas Cards from Kwik Trip and Holiday Offered for Sale on Sundays and Wednesdays

The church will receive a percentage of each purchase when these gas cards are used. Pre-orders for cards from both businesses are due by the 18th of each month. Cards will be available to pick up on the following Sunday. Thanks for supporting this year's summer Mission Trip to Montana.

Spirit Life Transitions

A Service of the Resurrection for Mildred I. Krause is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2017. Visitation at the church will begin at 10:00 a.m., and the service will begin at 11:00 a.m.



May God grant peace and hope to those who mourn.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 26 - Soup "Lunch to Go" fundraiser

- 8:30 a.m. Organ-led worship
- 9:30 a.m. Council Update
- 9:30 a.m. Mission Team Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Band-led worship
- 1:00 p.m. First Communion Instruction Session #2

Monday, March 27

- 5:30 p.m. Faith Formation Committee
- 6:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Committee

Tuesday, March 28

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 9:00 a.m. Tuesday Quilters
- 5:00 p.m. Al-Anon meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir practice

Wednesday, March 29

- 8:30 a.m. Wednesday Quilters
- 4:00 p.m. Lenten worship service
- 4:15 p.m. Spirit Ring handbell rehearsal
- 4:45 p.m. Dinner - Chicken sandwiches
- 5:15 p.m. Choir rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Confirmation class
- 6:00 p.m. Education & Mission Projects
- 6:00 p.m. High Scholl Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten worship service

Thursday, March 30

- 10:30 a.m. "Conversations with God" at The Meadows
- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon meeting

Saturday, April 1

- 9:00 a.m. Men's Group Meeting

Sunday, April 2 - Noisy Offering

- 8:30 a.m. Organ-led worship
- 9:30 a.m. Congregational meeting & Vote on Pastoral Call
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Band-led worship

Sunday School, Confirmation, and Connections Updates

- April 26 @ 6:30 p.m. Pictures for Confirmation Youth – meet in Sanctuary.
- May 4 - Confirmation Banquet for family members, council members and friends and Spirit members. This will be dinner and program. The program will be our youth sharing their faith statements and faith projects. Dinner tickets can be purchased from Carole DeJardin.
- May 7 - Confirmation Sunday- Confirmands please be at church at 10:00 a.m. Meet in the Fireside Room.
- May 21 - Graduation Sunday – Graduates will be recognized in worship, blessed, and given a special gift. Graduates, watch for your letter in the mail.
- April 12 - no Connections – Holy Week
- April 16 - no Sunday School – IT'S EASTER, Praise the Lord with your families.
- May 3 - Last Connections night
- May 7 - Last Sunday School day... The Sunday School kids and adults are invited to cheer on runners in the Eau Claire Marathon and join in on singing outside that morning. Bring a sign and bring your cowbells.

Mark Your Calendars

SECRET EGG DROP – Grades 5-8

April 15 from 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meet at church. We will be dropping eggs and spreading the news of Jesus rising from the dead. Sign up on board outside of the church offices. Permission slips also are available on the board.

Eau Claire Express Faith Night!

This year's Faith Night is on Sunday, June 4 at 5:05 p.m. at Carson Park.

The ticket special is \$12 for a seat at the baseball game, a hot dog, and small beverage. Sign up on the board by the church office so we can order tickets and sit together as Spirit Lutheran! Please sign up by May 1.

NEW Spirit Youth Nights

Spirit Youth Nights are scheduled once per month - a night of fun and fellowship for our middle-school and high-school youth.

A typical evening will be:

- 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Middle school youth (grades 5-8)
- 8:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. High school youth (grades 9-12)

There will be a 30-minute overlap for pizza time and fellowship. Cost of the pizza will be \$2.00 per person per night.

Dates: April 29, May 20, June 24, July 29, August 26, September 30, October 28, December 2, and January 27, 2018.

8:30 a.m. Helpers

Greeter: Jane Robertson Johnson

Ushers: Jack Brimer, Carole Everson, Jerry Johnson, Vera Merrick

Communion Assistants:
Kathy Robertson

Rover:

Reader: Sharyl Miller

Children's Message:

10:30 a.m. Helpers

Greeter:

Ushers: Linda Knott

Communion Assistants:
Lynn Fering, Robbie Joern, Jim Schepke, Denise Freid Schepke

Rover:

Reader: Craig Hughes

Children's Message:

Palm Sunday Breakfast

April 9, 9:00 AM

Come and share your morning meal with the Mission Trip Team, who will be making and serving a full breakfast this day.

