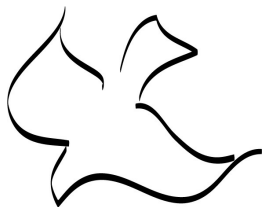


Spirit Life Transitions

A funeral service for Violet Leitzke, who died on Monday, April 10 was conducted at the Evergreen Funeral Home by Pastor Benrud on Good Friday morning.

May God grant peace and hope to those who mourn.



During the Easter season, it is encouraging to see both new and familiar faces at our worship services. Throughout the year, many of you already support the congregation with your time, talent and financial contributions but greater participation is always welcome. We encourage you to look into our electronic giving program. It takes just a few minutes to set up a recurring giving plan. Visit the church website and locate the donation link or complete a paper authorization form.



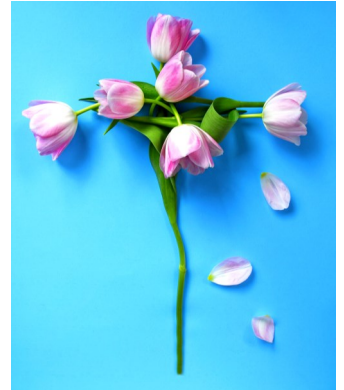
Alleluia! Christ Has Risen!

Easter comes this year when we begin to think of spring. It is easy for us to confuse Easter with springtime, trees budding, and flowers blooming —

spring is a parable for new life. However, it is not just the annual renewal of the earth we celebrate. Our Easter comes by the power of Almighty God who created us, breathed the breath of life into us, and who will recreate us as new beings in a new heaven and a new Earth.

Through daily repentance the Christ rises within us giving new life. It will not be long before our new Pastor James Ahlquist is here with us. Great days are ahead for Spirit Lutheran. You can help this transition. Be here, continue to serve, and give generously. Your Easter offerings can help give Pastor Ahlquist the start he deserves by answering the call to be our leader. Now, more than ever, your church needs **you**.

Pastor Benrud



In April, lend a helping hand to our **Free Clinic Meal Ministry**

as we prepare a meal for the volunteer Health Care Team at the Free Clinic on Tuesday, April 18. This ministry provides a nourishing meal for the volunteer Health Care Team which is made up of 20 professionals who come directly from their daytime work to care for clients at the Free Clinic. While doing your grocery shopping, pick up specific food items for the dinner that is being prepared for the Health Care Team. Volunteers are welcome to lend a hand in the kitchen as the meal is prepared on Tuesday, April 18 at 3:30 p.m. in the kitchen at Spirit Lutheran. To donate specific food items or help in meal preparation, a sign-up sheet is located on the white bulletin board outside of our worship space (near stairwell to Fellowship Hall). Please bring food items to the Spirit Lutheran kitchen by noon Monday, April 17 (clearly mark the items "Free Clinic"). All are welcome to become involved in this ministry, many hands make light work! Questions, contact the church office or Jeff Lorentz at jdlorentz@hotmail.com

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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.



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
God's Work. Our Hands.

Thank You!



For plentiful rains and bountiful crops we give you thanks, O Lord.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank the saints of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin for their generosity in responding to famine in Malawi.

With great thanksgiving and joy we announce that the Malawi Famine Relief Appeal will conclude on April 30, 2017.

Easter Lily Gifts

Given in memory of Loved Ones from Carol M. Anderson

Given in memory of Loved Ones from Shirley Barnes and Sharon Barnes

Given in memory of my Dad, Dewey Evenson from Vicki, John, Justin, Megan Carlson and Matt & Lauren Olson

Given in memory of Vernon Gullickson from Florence Gullickson

Given in memory of Patrick Hardy from Barb Hardy

Given in memory of Kyle Keith from Terry, Missy, Blakely Heard and Don & Mandy Heard

Given in memory of parents Clarence and Myrtle Lokke from Chuck and Elaine Johnson

Given in memory of Jim Keith and Kyle Keith from Barb Keith, Kristan, Wade and Hailee Motszko

Given in memory of Robert Knott from Carol, Keith, Joseph, Eric Knight and Crystal, Joe, and Lexie Strauch

Given in memory of husband Robert Knott from Doris Knott

Given in memory of Robert Knott from Linda Knott

Given in memory of Marilyn Lavik from Harold Lavik

Given in memory of parents, Norman and Bernadette Peterson and grandparents, Gilbert and Martha Peterson from Jane Lendle

Given in memory of Dorothy Olson from Sharon Loe

Given in memory of Donald Merrick and Jane Snyder from Vera Merrick

Given in memory of Lynne Oyen from Duane Oyen

Given in memory of Arnold, Ruby and Donald Tollefson from Betty Qualheim

Given in memory of our Mom, Eileen Robertson from her daughters - Kathy, Jane and Sally

Given in memory of Patricia and Edwin Schepcke from Kathy Schepcke

Given in memory of Terry and Harriet Peterson and Terry Peterson, Jr. from Julie Scott

Given in memory of Shirley Sivertson, Dale Rasmussen, Peter Rasmussen from Millard and Jean Sivertson

Given in memory of Elaine, Arnold and Bobby Wing from Debi Wing

Given in honor of Anthony Murry, Emily, Sam, and Paul Ennis



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.

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.

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. "This is a HUGE part of the race and everyone LOVES the spectators! We can not thank you enough!"

First Marathon runner should be coming by around 9:35 a.m.

First Half - Marathon runner should be coming by around 9:50 a.m.

You will see continuous runners from that point on until around 12:15 p.m.

Host a Student!

The Center for International Education at the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire needs the help of enthusiastic community members who are interested in being a Host Friend to international student. Host Friends provide a two to three day homestay for the international student before the students move into their residence halls. Host friends keep in touch with their students once a month for the student's first semester.

For more information, please contact hostfriend@uwec.edu or visit www.uwec.edu/cie/host.html

Wine & Cheese

Boys & Girls Club of the greater Chippewa Valley presents the 10th Annual Evening of Wine & Cheese. Saturday, May 13 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. at HOM Furniture. Assortment of wines, live music, craft beers, raffles, meat & cheeses, hors d'oeuvres, and a white chocolate fountain. 100% of proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Club - Mary Markquart Center. \$65 per person For tickets and more information call 715.855.0081 or register online at www.cvclubs.org

Spirit Lutheran Children's Choir Spring 2017

Rehearsal Schedule:

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.

International Folk Fair

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire's Center for International Education will host the 2017 International Folk Fair from 12 p.m.- 4 p.m., April 30 in UW- Eau Claire's Davies Center. One of the largest cultural celebrations in the Chippewa Valley, the International Folk Fair is a free event that honors diversity and gathers the community for an educational and enriching experience. The fair will have a new theme this year, focusing on Music. For more information, contact Shu Cheng in UW-Eau Claire's Center for International Education at shucheng@uwec.edu or follow on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/uwecfolkfair/>.

Weekly Calendar



Sunday, April 16 - Easter

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship
 8:30 a.m. Band-led Worship
 10:30 a.m. Organ-led Worship

Monday, April 17

Church Office Closed
 9:00 a.m. Spirit Lutheran Serves @ Community Table
 1:00 p.m. Book Club Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Hope Circle Meeting

Tuesday, April 18

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 9:30 a.m. Love Circle Meeting at The Meadows
 1:30 p.m. Mercy Circle at the home of Loreen Yager
 5:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting
 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Practice

Wednesday, April 19

8:30 a.m. Wednesday Quilters
 4:15 p.m. Spirit Ring handbell rehearsal
 5:00 p.m. Dinner - Tacos
 5:50 p.m. Connections Worship
 6:25 p.m. Confirmation Class
 6:25 p.m. Education and Mission Projects
 6:25 p.m. High School Youth Group
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 20

9:30 a.m. Joy Circle Meeting at Spirit Lutheran
 10:30 a.m. "Conversations with God" at The Meadows
 6:00 p.m. Spirit Lutheran Council
 6:30 p.m. Eastside Hill Neighborhood Association Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon meeting

Sunday, April 23

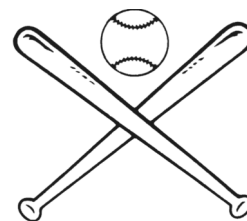
8:30 a.m. Organ-led Worship w/ Children's Choir
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Band-led Worship w/Children's Choir

Sunday School, Confirmation, and Connections Updates

- April 26 @ 6:30 p.m. Pictures for Confirmation Youth – meet in Sanctuary.
- May 3 - Last Connections night
- 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 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.
- May 21 - Graduation Sunday – Graduates will be recognized in worship, blessed, and given a special gift. Graduates, watch for your letter in the mail.

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.



8:30 a.m. Helpers

Greeter:

Ushers: Dave Hanson, Chris Thalaker, Jim Severson, Ron Berkland

Communion Assistants:

Marian Ennen, Chelsea Ennen, Darrell Leitzke, Mary Leitzke

Rover:

Reader: Naomi Woods

Children's Message:

10:30 a.m. Helpers

Greeter:

Ushers: Rod Anderson, Tyler Bauer

Communion Assistants:

Ruth Huse, Larry Jankowski, Audra Forrest, Kayla Peak

Rover:

Reader: Jan Favret

Children's Message:

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

1310 Main Street

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715-832-2421

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Spirit Lutheran Urgent Contacts

Bridge Pastor Visitation Pastor

David Wall Roger Benrud

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