

Spirit Life Transitions

Sylvia Schram passed away Monday, April 17, 2017. The celebration of her life was held Saturday, April 22, 2017 at Smith Funeral Chapel in Eau Claire.

May God grant peace and hope to those who mourn.

Blessing of Our Commitment Cards

We will receive and bless our commitment cards (our promises to share what God has given us) at worship on Sunday, May 14, Consecration Sunday.

If you cannot attend worship that day, feel free to drop off your commitment at the church office anytime during the 4-week appeal.

A BIG THANK YOU to Jan Favret, our blood drive coordinator, and her many volunteers who made the Good Friday blood drive a huge success. The Good Friday blood drive had been a long tradition at the Oxford location, and the Health and Healing Ministry Committee was elated to continue the tradition at Spirit Lutheran. Jan and others spent months in planning with the Red Cross to ensure the success of the event. There were lots of phone calls made to potential donors, and if you attended church this past month you could find Jan in the narthex recruiting donors... another wonderful example of Spirit Lutheran supporting community missions.



I am writing to you on behalf of our Generosity & Resources Committee. This week marks the beginning of our annual stewardship campaign and our appeal to you, our members.

This week's Gospel reading is from John 20:19-31. This text has become known as the doubting Thomas text, since Thomas admitted until he saw the Lord with his own eyes he wouldn't believe, but when he did see the Lord and then said he now believes, the Lord responded, "because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

How many of us have been doubting Thomases through the young life of Spirit Lutheran? I know even as involved as I have been, I too have had my moments of doubt and concerns, but those days are behind us, and I believe we can and will become anything we want to be.

We are at an exciting period in the life of Spirit Lutheran. We will soon install our new pastor, Rev. Jim Ahlquist, which will mark the beginning of a new era for Spirit Lutheran.

We can now take all of the hopes and dreams expressed by our members in the "CAT" survey and begin to make Spirit Lutheran move forward in the direction chosen by you, our members. In order to do this, it takes the time, talent and the treasures of God's people, YOU!

Spirit Lutheran has people who have taken personal risks like Thomas may have taken for other believers. Today we are asking for your financial support so Spirit Lutheran will have resources for ministries in and around Eau Claire, in our region and synod, and to the ends of the earth, including places like Malawi. Thomas was strong willed, as he said "unless I can place my finger in his (Jesus') hands and my hand in his side, I will not believe." We too need strength of will to make a plan for giving and then follow through with this plan.

You should have recently received the Expanding Generosity "ask" letter and commitment card. We hope that you will consider expanding your commitment and giving level so we can all support the ministries of Spirit Lutheran. Please return your commitment card on or before the 14th of May.

I've been asked to review the ways you can give; they are actually quite simple.

The traditional method of giving through the use of our church envelopes given weekly during our Offerings or mailing them to the church office.

For those of you that are a little higher-tech, you can use our website to make your contributions, or use the "QR" code on the back of our communion cards or within the bulletin, which allows you to scan it with your phone and make a payment directly to Spirit Lutheran.

You can also use Automatic Giving, where you simply fill out a form provided by the church office and your pledge will be transferred from your savings or checking account to the church.

Consistent giving works best for our church and Automatic Giving makes it easy to be consistent. As a church, we would really appreciate it if our members would consider the Automatic Giving method. Contact the church office if you need help getting enrolled.

No matter how you want to give of your time, talent, and treasures, the real message is we need your support in order to function and to support Spirit Lutheran and the missions we are involved with.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and positive comments that I have received over the past couple years. It truly has been a pleasure to be part of something which has become so exciting.

Thank you,
Dan Market
Past Council President

'Spirit Lutheran News' ©2017 Spirit Lutheran

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.

Mission of the Month: Chippewa Valley Street Ministry

From the Chippewa Valley Street Ministry Journal, April 11 2017

Many of us had awoken to snow on the ground this morning, by the time we were in service on the street there was little to no indication that we'd had any snow at all. The air temperature was warmer than we'd expected as many volunteers came with warmer coats than perhaps were needed. The sun was bright and the skies were clear. The volunteers this evening were Brent, Mariah, Jake, Barb, Joe, Chuck, Joe and myself.

One woman visited with Barb and Mariah for several minutes. I learned later that she had some facial injuries that are typically suggestive of an assault but she reported a different injury. Regardless of what happened she was grateful to have a place to come and talk -- this is one of CVSM's biggest assets: providing a safe environment to share a story which is often the only thing they have. She shared much of her personal history and current situation with Barb and Mariah. She feels unsafe in her current living situation and the shelter is a good option for her. She said she was going to talk with the staff the next day to see if anyone there would be able to help her find other living arrangements.

I overheard a man talking with Chuck near the end of our visit. I do not know specifically what they were discussing but I did hear the man refer to their conversation from last week and the man expressed gratitude multiple times for that interaction. He is working and that his employer had openings for other workers; the man encouraged Chuck to share the information with others.

We dispersed a few items tonight, the weather gets chilly in the evening and after dark so we will keep hoodies, light coats, gloves and hats with us for a few more weeks and then transition to the warmer weather items. Our visitors are always very grateful for the food, the water and juice and any of the items they receive while in need. Please remember, all of those items are because of you, our amazing network of support. On behalf of those we serve, THANK YOU!

Please take a look at the needs list and if you are able to donate any of the items listed, we'd appreciate it. Looking at the weather forecast for the rest of the week, it looks like our friends will be subjected to quite a bit of rain so I'm adding umbrellas and rain gear to the list.

Have a wonderful week, please continue to pray and care for the people we serve. Thank you!

-Karen -- Street nurse

NEEDS LIST:

Spring is on its way but HOODIES are still a need, especially XL and larger sizes.

RAIN GEAR-- ponchos, jackets, etc

UMBRELLAS -- smaller, collapsible preferred

TENTS - small (2-3 person)

SLEEPING BAGS

MEN'S BOXERS (all sizes) are appreciated.

BACKPACKS -- always in need! Larger sized, neutral colors appreciated.

GAS CARDS / MONETARY GIFTS (We do not hand out cash and occasionally have requests for help paying for gas, and when we put someone in a motel at night we need to provide food for them. Gas and food cards are a big help!)

Beacon House Needs You!

We have another opportunity to serve families in need at Beacon House (Interfaith Hospitality Network) during Spirit Lutheran's week to host: Sunday, May 7 through Saturday, May 13. Please check the posted sheets next to the church office for a chance to buy some food, make and serve a meal, or come by to spend some time with families in our area who would welcome a listening ear. We need you! Will you help?

We are thankful to everyone who helped with the Zarins family fundraiser. Today we will celebrate with them the blessing of the van. Anna now has a new, safe way to travel with her family. Join us at 10:00 a.m. and at 11:30 a.m. to lay hands on the van and bless the van. Anna and her family will also be at the coffee hour so that you can talk with them.

Spirit Lutheran **budget worksheets** for July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 have been distributed to committee chairs and staff members. Budgets are due on Friday, May 5. If you have any questions on preparing the budget or more detail on current year expenses, please email Brenda. If your committee did not receive a budget worksheet but will have some expenses for the budget period of July 2017-June 2018, please contact Brenda Thalacker at bthalacker@spiritlutheran.org



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Seder meal. It was a night to remember. Such a special night for our First Communion students and families and all others who attended. This night is a big undertaking and took many hands to make it special. THANK YOU, THANK YOU! If you missed this night this year ask someone about it and we hope you will join us next year.



Special Secret Egg Drop was a success. Our middle school kids laid eggs on many houses on Saturday morning. They left a note that read “you have been egged” there are 12 eggs on your lawn and 1 empty egg. The empty egg is a remembrance that Jesus died for you and Jesus has risen.

The eggs were filled with candy and placed on some church members houses, some people we did not know and some friends.

Thanks middle school kids for sharing the good news that Jesus has risen!



PICNIC WITH A PURPOSE

a benefit for Roxanne Litchfield-Holey
Our Director of Music Ministry – Roxanne Litchfield/Holey, several months ago had a stroke which left her and her husband with heavy medical expenses.

Saturday, May 6th
St. John’s Lutheran Church
1804 Highland Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54701
6-7pm Picnic Supper
Brats, Hotdogs, Potato Salad, Beans, Chips,
Beverage & Dessert
7-8pm Benefit Concert
Musical numbers by friends of Roxanne
Free Will Offering to help cover medical expenses



Spirit Lutheran high school and middle school kids along with our quilters sent 20 tied

blankets to the Palliative Care unit at Sacred Heart Hospital this week.

Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing problems associated with life-threatening illnesses.

Patients who have had a lengthy and difficult hospital stay or who are imminently dying are given a donated blanket. Patients and families treasure their comfort blanket because it makes a hospital room feel more like home. The blanket is given to the patient upon discharge or given to the family as a keepsake after the patient’s death.

Jesus told us to serve one another. What a great way to serve.

Confirmation is coming up quickly. Please help our students celebrate this Affirmation of Baptism milestone. There are a few ways you could celebrate with them.

1. By attending the confirmation banquet. You must RSVP by April 26th. Dinner is \$6.00 per person.
2. You are invited to write a note and place it into the Confirmation gift bags that are located on the table in the overflow area of church.
3. Take time to look at the faith projects that they created. These will be in church on Confirmation morning.
4. Congratulate them when you see them.

Congratulations

to the First Communion students and their families.

Dakota Bellomy,
Sienna Bellomy,
Josie Dahlgren, Joey Garrison, Jayse Garrison, Ajay Lenberg, Finley Sullivan, and Nathen Swing.



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.

Weekly Calendar

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

Monday, April 24

5:00 p.m. Faith Formation Committee
 5:30 p.m. Beacon House Board Meeting
 6:00 p.m. Chippewa Valley Youth Choir Concert
 6:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Committee

Tuesday, April 25

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 9:00 a.m. Tuesday Quilters
 5:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, April 26

8:30 a.m. Wednesday Quilters
 4:15 p.m. Spirit Ring handbell rehearsal
 5:00 p.m. Dinner
 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
 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Photo Session
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 27

5:00 p.m. P*ART*y for Africa
 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon meeting

Saturday, April 29 - Synod Assembly at Trinity Lutheran

6:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Night
 8:00 p.m. High School Youth Night

Sunday, April 30 - Camp Day!

8:30 a.m. Organ-led Worship
 9:00 a.m. Mission Team meets at Immanuel Lutheran
 9:30 a.m. Council Update
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School "Camp Day"
 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 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.

Update on The Meadows by Spirit Lutheran Foundation

The Meadows is a 36 unit independent living apartment complex located on Otteson Lane on Eau Claire's south side. The estate gift of Ellie Otteson afforded the Foundation the opportunity to develop a care campus for adults 55 years of age and older. As a ministry of the Foundation, we have intentionally created an affordable, quality facility for the independent senior.

Today at our worship services, the Foundation will honor Sue Abboud for her work at The Meadows for 19 years. She will be retiring this summer and we want to thank her, not only for her management skills but also for the relationships she has formed with the tenants. We invite you to join us today between services during coffee hour to watch a PowerPoint presentation on The Meadows, have some treats provided by the Foundation, and ask Sue any questions about her experience with The Meadows.

8:30 a.m. Helpers

Greeter: Dave Hoffe, Marry Hoffe
Ushers: Tom Tompkins, Chris Thalaker, Jim Severson, Vera Merrick
Communion Assistants: Dorothy Thompson
Rover:
Reader: Kristina Johnson
Children's Message: Lynn Fering

10:30 a.m. Helpers

Greeter:
Ushers: Tyler Bauer
Communion Assistants: Jane Voll
Rover:
Reader:
Children's Message: Lynn Fering

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Friday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 1310 Main Street
 Eau Claire WI 54701
 715-832-2421
office@spiritlutheran.org
www.spiritlutheran.org

Spirit Lutheran Urgent Contacts

Bridge Pastor	Visitation Pastor
David Wall	Roger Benrud
952-484-0593	715-836-7158