



**Spirit Life Transitions**

Audrey Olson passed away Thursday, April 20, 2017. The celebration of her life is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 2017 at Spirit Lutheran. Visitation at 9:00 a.m. with the service at 11:00 a.m.

*May God grant peace and hope to those who mourn.*

**Spirit Lutheran gives thanks for the following memorial gifts received in April:**

- A gift in memory of Marlys Gynnild
- A gift in memory of Kyle Keith
- Gifts in memory of Mildred Krause
- Gifts in memory of Ray Parrett
- A gift in memory of Jorin Sandquist
- A gift in memory of Erv Schmidt
- A gift in memory of Sylvia Schram
- A gift in memory of Jeanette Severson

The senior choir would like to invite all interested people to join us for rehearsal on May 3 at 7 p.m. We will be rehearsing a song for our new pastor's installation in June. Please take this opportunity to be a part of Spirit's adult choir!

**\*\*Please take a moment to volunteer your time at being involved with future services. Sign-up sheets are located in the narthex.**

Dear Friends and Family of SPIRIT,

I am honored and humbled to accept your call to serve as pastor of SPIRIT Lutheran Church. With eager and excited anticipation, I look forward with all my heart to being with you. After all, how could anyone turn down a call from the SPIRIT!

I truly believe the SPIRIT is at work in bringing us together, and together (you and I and God) can change hearts and lives in the congregation, community, and the world. As we grow in our relationships, we are privileged to KNOW God, to LOVE one another, and to SHARE our gifts. The mission statement keeps it simple and says it best.

As we begin together, allow me to get to know you. I want to hear your stories of struggle and joy, and walk with you in times of illness, grief, and celebration. In these first few months, please invite me into your homes, places of work and school, the coffee shop and the golf course. I would like to meet as many of you as possible, listening to where you have been, and what your hopes might be for the future. How has the SPIRIT been with you on your journey?

June 1 will be the official first day together in ministry. Please join in the Installation Service on Sunday, June 4 at 9:00 AM, which just happens to be Pentecost Sunday, the day the SPIRIT descends on all of us! I will do my best, by the grace of God to serve as your pastor in words and deeds, and may grace abound, as I might do ministry a bit different than you are used to.

Thank you for considering me for this important call, and for your vote of confidence with the nearly unanimous vote. Special thanks to the Call Committee, the Council, and you, the Congregation for your continued time, energy, thoughts, patience and prayers throughout this journey. I look forward to our partnership together in sharing the Good News.

Christ is Risen!

Pastor Jim Ahlquist



**Spirit Lutheran continues to support the Boys & Girls Club of the Chippewa Valley. Here is a great chance to help out again.**

The Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley- Mary Marquart Center is seeking event volunteers for an upcoming annual fundraiser!

What: 10th Annual Wine and Cheese Fest  
When: Saturday, May 13, 6p.m.-10:30p.m.  
Where: HOM Furniture

There are three shifts which you can choose from  
30 volunteers- Set-up/Food Server 4:45p.m.-8p.m. and Food Server 8p.m.-10:30p.m.  
14 volunteers (21 and up)- Alcohol Server 6p.m.-9:30p.m.

When you are done with your shift you would be free to hang out and socialize while trying different kinds of beer, wine, and, cheese from vendors around the Chippewa Valley. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Sawyer Sturz, Program Coordinator, at [sturz@cvclubs.org](mailto:sturz@cvclubs.org).

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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.

## From Generosity & Resources Committee

I am writing on behalf of our Generosity & Resources Committee. This is the second week of our annual Stewardship campaign and our appeal to you, our members.

Our gospel reading this week is from Luke 24: 13-35 “Road to Emmaus”. As I read the text, I thought how this is like the world today. Two people walking and talking – just going about their everyday and not recognizing Jesus. They seem to be caught up in their own concerns and as such may “miss” Jesus. They see Jesus in the breaking of the bread, at worship.

Everything you see today is here because of what we give. But we are more than what we can see because Spirit Lutheran also supports other ministries (both local and global). Just this month we supported local organizations such as CARELINK, Jonah, Chippewa Valley Free Clinic, and others.

So how can we receive the good news of Jesus and then go out into the world and share that with others so they can have their own “Road to Emmaus” experience? Financial resources will directly give others the chance to see Jesus, as will we.

As Dan mentioned last week in his temple talk, we are in an exciting time at Spirit Lutheran as we will soon install Pastor Ahlquist. This is a new era for Spirit Lutheran and takes all of our work that started with the CAT survey and moves us to the direction that was chosen by you, our members. In order to do this, we need you and your time, your talent and your treasures.

There are several ways in which you can give which 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 the Automatic Giving, where you simply fill out a form provided by the church office and your pledge will be transferred from your checking or savings account directly 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.

The message today is, in order to function and support Spirit Lutheran and the missions we are currently involved with, we need your time, talent and treasures.

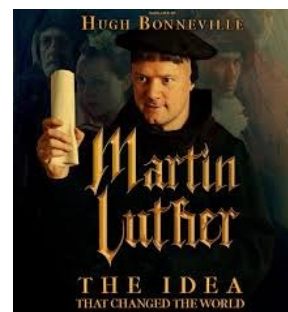
And lastly, thank you all for your support during my time as council president. I have appreciated all your encouraging words, thoughts and prayers and will continue to do my best for you and this congregation.

Thank you,  
Ann Wathke, Council President



Great news! Concordia Lutheran is hosting a special one-time screening of the new Martin Luther movie on May 2, 6:30 PM at the Oakwood Mall theatre, and I hope you can come! The film tells the rousing adventure story that was Martin Luther's life, following his bold quest for truth—a journey that would reshape the church, and the world. To reserve your tickets, please visit [EauClaireLutherans.com](http://EauClaireLutherans.com), and click the link there for the movie. Then you will find a link so you can watch the movie trailer, and another link where you can buy the tickets at cost, \$10.00 each. Unlike a traditional movie showing, 78 tickets are required to be reserved before April 25 in order for the screening to occur. I'm going to need your help if we're going to make this event happen! I'd be happy to see you in the audience, and I'd really appreciate you helping me spread the word. Tell your other friends and have them join us for this special one-time screening.

Thanks for all your support!  
Carl from Concordia



## 500 Years of Lutheran/Roman Catholic History—

A free presentation for Catholics, Lutherans and others from the Chippewa Valley on Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m., at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls. Presenters are Pastor Curt Rohland and Father John Schulz. There will be a short review of the 500 year history but the focus will be on the first fifty years, 1517-1565, and the last fifty years since the Second Vatican Council. This presentation is part of a series leading up to a commemoration of the 500 anniversary of the Reformation in an Ecumenical Prayer Service on October 29, 2017 that will be held at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Eau Claire with a reception following at St. John's Lutheran Church, Eau Claire.

## 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?

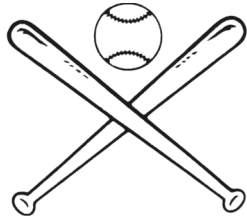


Blessing of the Zarins van for Anna took place April 23, 2017. Thank you to all who came out for this celebration!



## 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.



## 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.

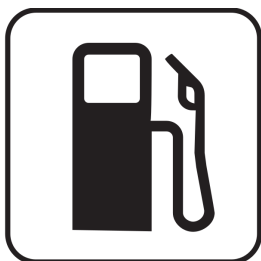
First marathon runner should be coming by around 9:35 a.m. First half-marathon runner should be coming by around 9:50 a.m. You will see continuous runners from that point on until around 12:15 p.m.



## 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.

**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.



## Luther Park News

Today we welcome Keith Newman and Jacquie Scoates from Luther Park Bible Camp. Keith and Jacquie will be helping us by sharing the sermon and kids message today in worship.

Jacquie and a few of the camp staff will join us in our camp day for our kids during education time today.

During education today our kids will be hearing about camp and this year's VBS experience. Kids will take a hike, make a craft, enjoy a snack and make a nature service project.

The early bird registration due date is tomorrow (Monday) by midnight. Spirit Lutheran Foundation will be offering camperships for camp this year. Campers are to pay the registration fee and the Foundation will cover the balance. If you have additional questions about funding camp please see Carole De Jardin Register and pay in full by May 1 to receive \$20 off full-week programs and \$10 off half-week programs.

Julie Carr is selling raffle tickets for the "Heart for Luther Park" event. A chainsaw wood carving, 2 camp registrations, and a quilt will be raffled at the event on August 6. You do not need to be present to win. Watch for Julie at church on Sundays between services.

Please pray for camp and those whose faith is nurtured through this very important ministry

## Spirit Lutheran Sponsors Disc Golf Course at Luther Park Bible Camp

At their April 20 meeting, Spirit Lutheran's Council voted to sponsor one hole (basket) of a new disc golf course planned for Luther Park Bible Camp.

Luther Park is working with the Innova Disc Golf company and an area designer to install an 18-hole course. The designer is volunteering his time and Innova is giving the camp a tremendous rate. The course will add to the summer activities at Luther Park and will be available for youth groups or any other group to use throughout the year.

Spirit Lutheran will be recognized at the sponsored hole.

## PICNIC WITH A PURPOSE

a benefit for Roxanne Litchfield-Holey, Director of Music Ministry at St. John's, several months ago had a stroke which left her family with heavy medical expenses.

Saturday, May 6

St. John's Lutheran Church

1804 Highland Avenue

Eau Claire, WI 54701

6-7p.m. Picnic Supper

Brats, Hotdogs, Potato Salad, Beans, Chips, Beverage & Dessert

7-8p.m. Benefit Concert

Musical numbers by friends of Roxanne

Free-Will offering to help cover medical expenses

# Weekly Calendar



## 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

## Monday, May 1

- 6:30 p.m. Foundation Board Meeting

## Tuesday, May 2

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

## Wednesday, May 3 Last Connections of year

- 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 w/Noisy Offering
- 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, May 4

- 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Banquet
- 6:00 p.m. Health & Healing Committee Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon meeting

## Saturday, May 6

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

## Sunday, May 7 Confirmation w/Noisy Offering

- 8:30 a.m. Organ-led Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School- Last Sunday School of year
- 9:30 a.m. Marathon Cheering Section
- 10:30 a.m. Band-led Worship w/ Confirmation
- 2:00 p.m. Facility Maintenance Committee
- 3:00 p.m. Facility Use Task Force

**\*Noisy Offering** Did you know? The cost to provide Weekend Kid's Meals is \$75.00 per child? How can we help as a congregation? Through Noisy Offerings! Every first Sunday & Wednesday of the month, bring some spare coins to service. When you see the children bring the buckets around, fill them on up! For info on Weekend Kid's Meals please visit: [www.fmpfoodbank.org](http://www.fmpfoodbank.org).

## Sunday School, Confirmation, and Connections Updates

- 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

### Electronic giving is good for you

- Provides convenience for you
- Keeps you on track with your giving
- Guarantees your uninterrupted support
- Provides you with today's most popular payment methods

### 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.

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

### 8:30 a.m. Helpers

#### **Greeter:**

**Ushers:** Tom Tompkins, Chris Thalaker, Jim Severson, Ron Berklund

**Communion Assistants:** Darrell Leitzke, Mary Leitzke

#### **Rover:**

**Reader:** Naomi Woods

### 10:30 a.m. Helpers

**Greeter:** Linda Knott

**Ushers:** Linda Knott

**Communion Assistants:** Robbie Joern, Elaine Johnson, Rose Tomter

**Rover:** Esther Hager

**Reader:** Lynn Fering

### Office Hours

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

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

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715-832-2421

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[www.spiritlutheran.org](http://www.spiritlutheran.org)

### Spirit Lutheran Urgent Contacts

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David Wall Roger Benrud

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