

## *Spirit's Life Transitions*

### Funeral services were conducted for:

- Rose Anderson on Tuesday, January 24 at Smith Funeral Chapel.

May God grant peace and love to those who mourn.

## *Opportunities to Serve:*

- We are looking for people who could give an hour or two helping us organize the Sunday School supply room. The supplies have been moved but now need to be put away. Please talk with Carole D if you are able to help out.
- We are looking for substitute teachers: Sunday 5th grade through March and also a long-term sub starting in March for 7 Wednesdays.

## **A LIVING LUTHERAN ARTICLE: UNSOLICITED ADVICE FROM A DEPARTING PASTOR**

By Frank G. Honeycutt January 24, 2017

This was the final newsletter column of my pastoral career. I was part of four parishes in 31 years. They are all different, but they share common challenges as Christianity across the country has experienced great change over three decades. Disciples need disciplines for the Spirit to transform us. These four disciplines have been practiced by Christians for 20 centuries. Take these common observations as a form of pastoral advice.

### **Study**

Continue to become proficient in your study and understanding of the word of God.

Lutherans may not agree with a fundamentalist slant on the Bible, but you have to hand it to them—they know how to get around in “The Book.” Martin Luther changed the world because he was in love with his Lord

revealed in Scripture. It's been enlivening and exciting to be part of small study groups throughout these decades. It's also been disappointing to discover that some Lutherans can't articulate the basic difference between Exodus and Acts.

Spend time daily in the word. Start new study groups. Ponder slowly a tough passage. One sign of a strong church is biblical fluency. (2 Timothy 3:16-17.)

## Worship

Show up for worship.

We are given an amazing gift each week in the celebration of communion. Faithful discipleship cannot be sustained without this sacrament. Jesus assumed regular reception of the bread and wine as the early church was forming.

As you might imagine, I've heard a multitude of excuses over the years for worship absence. In most cases, these excuses are rather flimsy compared to what's being missed. I've stopped trying to understand how Christians can spend an entire Saturday tailgating and watching the game, but cannot find a couple hours for church on Sundays. Communion is central for the health of a disciple. Don't neglect this amazing gift. (Luke 14:15-24.)



## SPIRIT ACTIVITIES OCCURRING WEEKLY

- Children's Choir practice continues in the choir room. Join us at 6:00 p.m. every Tuesday! **We are looking for a volunteer coordinator in this ministry.** Let us know if you are interested!
- Adult Choir practices are Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.
- CONNECTIONS on Wednesdays starting at 4:15 p.m. (Spirit Ring rehearsal, dinner, worship, youth & adult education)

## Baptism

Remember your baptism.

If you don't know the date of your baptism, I must caringly wonder why. In (psychologist Abraham) Maslow's old hierarchy of needs, identity is one of the keys to health and maturity. Baptism shapes our Christian identity. For a Christian, life begins and is viewed through this watery lens. You were ordained for ministry in baptism, a sacrament that exceeds (in biblical importance) any ordination. Your baptism date defines and shapes all other dates—birth, marriage, national holidays. If you don't know your baptism date, discover it.

Luther made the sign of the cross over his body at dawn and at bedtime in remembrance of his baptism. The cross is the shape of the baptismal life. The Christian life is the sacrificial life. (Romans 6:3-11.)

## Give

Give generously.

I'll never forget a talk with my dad. "Your mom and I," he said, "did not have a lot of money when we were first married. But we committed to giving generously early on. It wasn't easy; still difficult some months."

If you don't give a percentage of your income away to others, I invite you to start. There is joy in sacrificial giving. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8.)

Frank G. Honeycutt  
Frank G. Honeycutt recently retired from St. John Lutheran Church, Walhalla, S.C. He is the author of seven books and numerous articles on preaching and ministry.

# THANK YOU SPIRIT LUTHERAN!

- On behalf of the Mission & Outreach and Health & Healing Committees, we would like to extend to all members of Spirit Lutheran a very sincere thank you for the numerous donations made toward the Christmas Bags that were delivered to our home bound members of the congregation. This special touch of kindness over the holidays brought joy and an abundance of smiles to those on the receiving end. Following are a couple of messages that warm the heart:

*“Dear Friends of Spirit Lutheran, Thank you so much for the bag of gifts you gave us at Christmas, all were enjoyed by both of us. We feel so blessed to have the wonderful friendship of the people there. We thank God every day for that!”*

*“It was so much fun to empty the Christmas bag of goodies. Thank you, with love, God Bless you.”*

Again, thank you for touching the hearts of your family of faith!

- Thank you to all who bought soup last Sunday! We ran out of soup after our first service. **The next 'Soup to Go' will be February 26** – mark your calendars...we'll have lunch ready for you! Thank you so much for supporting the Mission Trip team!

# FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## Health & Healing

### Newsletter Delivery Update

For years, faithful congregation members have delivered newsletters to our nursing home residents in Eau Claire and Altoona. Spirit's Health and Healing Committee, after thoughtful consideration, has decided that these residents will now receive newsletters by mail. (Weekly Spirit Lutheran newsletters are mailed to over 70 Spirit members.) We want to thank those members who have delivered these newsletters in the past years. Through your ministry, you have brightened the days of many!

## Women of Spirit News

### Women's Circles

If you are interested in joining a Circle, please see the Women's bulletin board for times and locations. There are four Circles from which to choose. We meet monthly for a Bible study from the Gather Magazine. Come join us!

### All Anew

"All Anew," the tenth Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering is coming to Minneapolis on July 13-16, 2017. Mark your calendars and register now for "four days of conversation, prayer, laughter, worship, praise, lament, and invitation -to be women who act boldly on their faith." You can find registration packets on the Women's bulletin board outside the church offices or go online to the [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org).

## Men of Spirit News

The February meeting for Men Of Spirit will be Saturday February 4 at 9:00 a.m at Hardee's on Clairemont Avenue. For details please contact group leader Blake Robinson at 715-834-8237.

## **Prayer & Blessings for New Drivers & Parents on February 8 and 12**

I recently found this article from a mom who is driving with their new driver. Although it doesn't reflect all parents' view, it does some.

– Carole De Jardin

By Theresa Ceniccola on September 13, 2016

If you have teenagers you have probably been in this situation before, but I am now navigating the waters of driver's education. Because I'm "the patient parent," I've had the privilege of riding in the passenger's seat, holding my breath and my tongue as my firstborn practices his new skills. Honestly, it's more difficult than childbirth, potty training and the first day of Kindergarten all wrapped up in one.

Recently, I let him drive on a family road trip. He did well, considering it was his first time going over 55 MPH. But I didn't fare so well. I was grinding my teeth, clenching my fists, biting my lip and slamming my foot down on an imaginary brake pedal. When I called it quits after 30 minutes, he was disappointed. So I said, "You're doing great! It's not you – it's me." Of course, he could see right through that cliché and I had to convince him that – yes! – it truly was MY problem.

I think the problem is that I can't let go... of him... of control...of anything. I'm working on that. This is all so new to me. I don't know how to handle it more gracefully. But one thing I do know about this process – and any other situation – is that God is in control. So I'm trying to remind myself of that truth as I begin a new season of parenting. And, as I turn this over to Our Lord.

On Wednesday, February 8 and Sunday February 12, youth who have received their license since last February, and parents, join us for a Milestone blessing, a prayer and a gift. We will bless the new drivers at Spirit Lutheran and pray for them and their parents.

## **Answering Your Call**

Spirit Lutheran is in the process of 'calling' a pastor. The Call Committee continues to meet, to pray, and to interview candidates to determine who the Holy Spirit is calling to be our Senior Pastor. In the Bible, God does indeed 'call' people to particular work and gives all people various kinds of guidance. God calls people to become united with God in every aspect of life. This occurs for us when we respond to Christ's call to follow him. Martin Luther referred to this as the 'priesthood of all believers' and it is vital for the health and effectiveness of the church. You, too, are called!

The Mission & Outreach Committee invites you to attend 3 workshops exploring our own personal call, to learn about our spiritual gifts, and to prepare ourselves for new pastoral leadership at Spirit Lutheran.

**Please join us from 9 a.m. to noon on three Saturdays - January 28, February 18 and March 18.** We're excited to have Pastor Mike Thompson facilitate this exploration (a short bio about Pastor Mike is on the left hand column). After each workshop we'll share a midday meal. You are encouraged to attend all three sessions, but are welcome to attend any – all are welcome.

Please sign up in the office at Spirit Lutheran or in the Narthex so we may plan for lunch on each of the workshop days. If you have questions, please contact Michelle Pride at 715.563.0023 or [mapride@hotmail.com](mailto:mapride@hotmail.com).

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### **Interested in ordering altar flowers?**

Sign up to provide flowers for the altar on the flower chart hanging on the bulletin board in the office hallway. Flowers may be given in honor of or in memory of a loved one or a special occasion. Call the office for details.

# YOUTH, FAMILY, & ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

**February 26 - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Parents - come for a new kind of Bible study;** no experience needed! Bring your baby, meet other new parents. A light lunch will be served. Sign up by February 22.

**March 25 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.- Lenten Happenings** - Come and bring the whole family. This morning is full of crafts, food and fellowship. See the sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the church. Friends are always welcome. Sign-up deadline is March 22.



**February 17-19 – Ski & Snow Boarding Trip at White Cap Ski Resort** – We will leave Friday night at 6:00 p.m. from Spirit and return on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$25 (includes ski lift pass & ski rental). Permission slips are available in the youth room and on the Youth & Family bulletin board. Permission slips due by February 10.

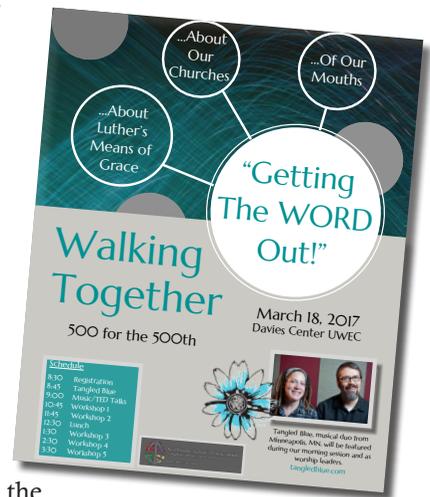
**February 25 - WE ARE CALLED... to Act with Justice: Anti-racism Day for high school youth and adults 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Metropolis Hotel**

This is a special opportunity for you to engage in a day sponsored by the Northwest Synod of WI Synod Youth Board. The day will deal with tough situations. You will hear stories of racism in your own communities, and you will learn how to make a difference in your community to stop racism. We'll have a keynote speaker and a time to watch selections from the movie, *Selma*. The afternoon will include time with anti-racism trainers that will equip us so that we can act with Justice.

Cost is \$10.00 and includes a pizza buffet. A poster & sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board located near the main offices.

## March 18 Walking Together

Did you ever wonder what is working in other churches in our synod? This day is full of other churches in our synod sharing their successes. Everything from programs to worship ideas to Confirmation to mission and outreach ideas. The day is full of learning and worshiping with 400 others from our synod. It really is a GREAT day. See sign-up sheet on the board outside the church office.



## Fundraisers

Gas Cards from Kwik Trip and Holiday will be 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!

## **Mission Team Dates:**

**February 8** – 7:30 p.m. Meeting with Immanuel, sign up for committees

**February 26** – Soup to go fundraiser

**February 26** - regular Mission Trip meeting @ 11:30 a.m. in Youth Room. (Meeting must be made up if you miss.)

**March 26** – Fundraiser: TBA

**March 26** – Mission team meeting – 11:30 a.m.

Wilderness Training \*Note time change!

**April 9** – Palm Sunday

Breakfast Fundraiser be in the kitchen @ 8 a.m.

**April 30** – Worship and meeting at Immanuel, load the bus at 9:00 a.m. return at noon.

**May 17** – Mission Trip meeting 6:00 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m.

Parents meeting.

**June 14** – Last Mission Team meeting at Immanuel, 6:00 p.m. dinner.

**July 8** – Leave for Montana at 5:00 a.m. SHARP!!! Every minute your late you will have an extra KP.

**July 18** – return to church approx. dinner time.

## **CAB RIDES**

**Need a ride to worship or other church-related event? Here are the answers to frequently asked questions about this First Lutheran Foundation ministry.**

### **Who is eligible to use the Limo Cab service?**

Rides are provided for those members of Spirit Lutheran who are temporarily or permanently unable to safely drive - this includes conditions such as inclement weather or darkness.

### **What is the cost of a Limo Cab ride?**

Limo Cab rides are provided free-of-charge to those who are eligible as part of the ministry of First Lutheran Foundation.

### **When can I use the Limo Cab?**

A few examples of when the Limo Cab service may be used include, but are not limited to, attending Sunday or mid-week worship, Wednesday night Connections activities, and Women's Ministry gatherings.

### **How do I arrange a ride?**

Call the Spirit Lutheran office (715-832-2421). For Sunday worship, please schedule a ride through the office by the end of the day on Thursday. For events that happen during the week, please schedule two days before the event. For example, if the event is happening on Wednesday, contact the office by the end of the day on Monday. Church office hours are Monday through Thursday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

### **If I attend Sunday worship every week, do I need to schedule a ride every week?**

No. Just let the church office know that you would like to automatically be placed on the list for a ride to church every week. Then, if you will not be at worship on a particular Sunday, please call to cancel for that week. For answers to any of your other questions or to begin using this service, contact the church office (715-832-2421).

See separate flier for more Youth, Family, & Adult Opportunities!!!  
Come join the fun!

## ***Luther Park Bible Camp's 6th Annual Winterfest – Sunday, January 29 at 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.***

Come for fun, food, live music, open mic and a chili cookoff! All proceeds support the ministry of Luther Park. Visit [lutherpark.org](http://lutherpark.org) for more information or see our Luther Park bulletin board outside the office hallway.

## ***What's New At Luther Park Bible Camp....***

Jacque Scoates, Program Director at Luther Park, reports that registrations are coming in nicely for summer programming. They are beginning recruitment for summer staff this month. If you or any youth you know may be interested in working at Luther Park this summer, please complete the online application at [lutherpark.org](http://lutherpark.org).

Keith Newman, Executive Ministry Director, reports that Luther Park ended the year in the black and also paid a substantial amount to the Endowment Fund. Deep-cleaning is going on in the cabins so all will be ready for summer campers.

If you're interested in Adult Ministry programs, please give Jacque your suggestions.

### **Upcoming events:**

Quilt Retreats: February 2-5 and  
March 9-12  
Recharge – March 3 & 4

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### ***Hmong Christian Church invites Spirit Lutheran to the grand opening of their new church expansion!***

On behalf of the leadership and congregation at Hmong Christian Church, we want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for your generous giving to support our expansion project.

We are thrilled to announce the grand opening of our NEW church expansion here at Hmong Christian Church, and would like to cordially invite you to our Grand Opening Celebration on **Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

At Hmong Christian Church our goal is to meet the needs of our community and to provide a place of worship, growth and caring for one another.

We strive to provide a Christian community where you can worship - renew your faith and restore your strength each Sunday to start the next week refreshed and ready for any challenge that comes your way. Feel free to contact Chong Her, Minister, at 715-379-3200 or email [ccher61@gmail.com](mailto:ccher61@gmail.com) for more information.

### ***Feed My People Food Bank***

#### **Purchase Empty Bowl Tickets on Thursday, March 2 | 11 A.M. - 7 P.M. at The Florian Gardens**

Join us for Empty Bowls! This benefit meal of soup, bread and dessert, features hand-crafted bowls donated by local artists! We look forward to seeing you there.

All tickets ordered online through February 23 will be mailed; those ordered after February 23 will be available for pick-up at the door. Tickets may also be purchased in person at FMP Food Bank and at the door the day of the event. A limited number of bowls are available, so purchase tickets early!

- \$20/meal and bowl, \$8/meal only
- Free meal only for child(ren) under 10

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Sunday, January 29

8:30 AM Organ-led Worship  
9:30 AM Council Update  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Band-led Worship

### Tuesday, January 31

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
9:00 AM Tuesday Quilters  
5:00 PM Al-Anon Meeting  
6:00 PM Children's Choir Practice

### Wednesday, February 1

8:30 AM Wednesday Quilters  
4:15 PM Spirit Ring handbell rehearsal  
5:00 PM Dinner - Chicken Sandwiches  
5:50 PM CONNECTIONS worship w/Noisy Offering  
6:25 PM Confirmation Class  
6:25 PM Education and Mission Projects  
6:25 PM High School Youth Group  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, February 2

6:00 PM Health & Healing Committee Meeting  
7:00 PM AL-ANON Meeting

### Saturday, February 4

7th & 8th Grade Retreat  
9:00 AM Men's Group Meeting

### Sunday, February 5

7th & 8th Grade Retreat  
Noisy Offering  
8:30 AM Organ-led Worship  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Band-led Worship

### 8:30 a.m. Helpers

#### Greeters:

#### Ushers:

John Sandquist  
Warren Woods  
Naomi Woods

#### Communion Assistants:

Logan Prunty  
Jill Backhaus

#### Rover:

#### Reader:

#### Children's Message

### 10:30 a.m. Helpers

#### Greeters:

#### Ushers:

#### Communion Assistants:

Jane Voll  
Julie Carr  
Jean Sivertson  
Robbie Joern

#### Rover:

#### Reader:

Helen Heggerness

#### Children's Message

### Spirit Lutheran Urgent Contacts

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



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