

Spirit's Life Transitions

A Funeral Service was conducted for:

- Willard Leitzke on February 22, 2017 at Spirit Lutheran.

May God grant peace and love to those who mourn.

February's Soup to Go Fundraiser is today! –Sunday, February 26!

Don't worry about lunch because we'll have it ready for you! (Freewill offering event. Thank you for supporting our Mission Trip team!)



Council update and our Kid's Zone discussion are between services today, Feb. 26, in the Fellowship Hall.

Office hours:
Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.
1310 Main St.
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715-832-2421
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www.spiritlutheran.org

THE LEAST OF THESE

By Curtis Miller

Immigration has received a lot of attention in recent weeks. We have a special opportunity to hear an important perspective on these issues. Pr. Paul Erbes of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) will be preaching at Spirit Lutheran on Sunday, March 5.

LIRS has been helping resettle refugees since 1939. We easily forget what a shock it can be to enter a new culture and a new environment. I am reminded of the family that flew into Sioux City, Iowa one January night. They were taken to their new home arranged by a local congregation. The next morning the mother looked out and saw a landscape unlike anything she had ever seen. The trees were bare and white stuff was falling from the sky. She began to cry because she could only conclude that there had been a nuclear war. We may chuckle at this, but think of the challenge of being forced from your home by threat of death and dropped into a situation you don't understand. *Continued on next page...*



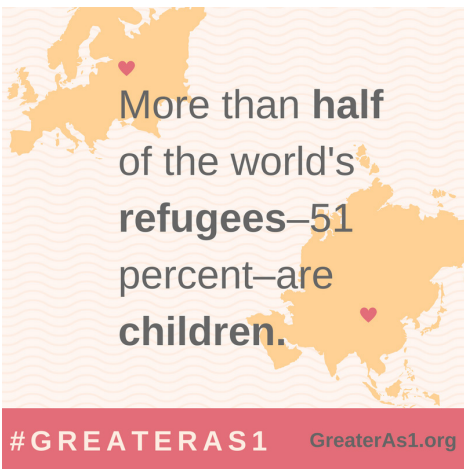
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

*Altar flowers sponsored by
Barb, Kim and John Emery Family.*

In honor of Elaine Turner

When you enter a new community there is a lot to learn: how do you learn that you need a fishing license...a new tag for your car license every year...how to read a map...that frostbite can cause real injury.

Working with other denominations and ELCA organizations such as Lutheran Social Services, LIRS has developed an efficient system that provides essential support in the first weeks and months after refugees arrive. Some members of Spirit may have been involved in these efforts in years past and understand how important this is. People involved usually conclude it has been a blessing to them and that they have gained new and interesting friends.



Sharyl and I have been financial supporters of LIRS for many years because we have seen the effectiveness and benefit of its ministry in so many places. You have an opportunity to support it as well by your gifts at church or by going to the LIRS website.

Please plan to attend worship on Sunday, March 5, and to meet with Pastor Erbes between services to hear more about the work of LIRS in the world. Pastor Erbes will also be presenting to our greater community at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider inviting others to attend to learn about this important ministry.

ATTENTION SPIRIT LUTHERAN FAMILIES

Ever wonder about our "Kid Zone" and its purpose and use? Want to suggest changes and / or updates to make this area "Spirit" friendly?

Come join representatives from Worship & Music and Faith Formation committees at one of two meetings (or both if you would like). We will discuss the Kid Zone, its purpose, and gather ideas to make this area the best it can be for families.

Join us today, **Sunday, February 26 between services, in the fellowship hall.** (with Council updates to follow).

...About Our Churches

...Of Our Mouths

...About Luther's Means of Grace

"Getting The WORD Out!"

Walking Together

March 18, 2017
Davies Center UWEC

500 for the 500th

Schedule

8:30	Registration
8:45	Tangled Blue
9:00	Music/TED Talks
10:45	Workshop 1
11:45	Workshop 2
12:30	Lunch
1:30	Workshop 3
2:30	Workshop 4
3:30	Workshop 5

Tangled Blue, musical duo from Minneapolis, MN, will be featured during our morning session and as worship leaders.

tangledblue.com

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Congratulations to Dawson Eilts - He made it to state for wrestling!

Children's Choir practice continues in the choir room. Join us at 6:00 p.m. every Tuesday! **We are looking for a Co-leader 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)

FROM THE SPIRIT OFFICE!

Help Wanted:

We are looking for office help during Padee's maternity leave. The position is for general office duties including answering phones, newsletter development (print and email news), managing Spirit's Facebook page, blog upkeep, assisting the public and congregation members. The dates run from March 13, 2017 through May 5, 2017. The hours are flexible, but would be during normal business hours. Spirit's council allocated 20 hours per week at a rate of \$10 per hour. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Mark Miller, Office Manager at 715-832-2421 or mmiller@spiritlutheran.org.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Spirit Lutheran Foundation
— Gifts of the Spirit —

College Scholarships

The Spirit Lutheran Foundation is accepting scholarship applications from students pursuing higher education. Anyone from Spirit Lutheran who is interested in higher education, either at a college or technical school, is invited to apply. High school seniors who will graduate this fall and students who are currently enrolled in higher education, or to be enrolled, are eligible. Awards are not based on financial need or grades. Applications are available at the

Spirit Lutheran church office and are due by Monday, April 3, 2017. For further information please contact Marian Ennen at ennen.4@juno.com or any Spirit Lutheran Foundation Board member.

Spirit Lutheran Children's Choir Spring 2017

Rehearsal Schedule:

Tuesday, February 28	6:00 p.m.– 6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, March 7	6:00 p.m.– 6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, March 14	6:00 p.m.– 6:45 p.m.
*Tuesday, March 21	– No rehearsal – Spring Break
Tuesday, March 28	6:00 p.m.– 6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, April 4	6:00 p.m.– 6:45 p.m.
*Tuesday, April 11	– No rehearsal – Holy Week
Tuesday, April 18	6:00 p.m.– 6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, April 25	6:00 p.m.– 6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, May 2	6:00 p.m.– 6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, May 9	6:00 p.m.– 6:45 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 worship service.

Sunday, March 12
Sunday, April 23
Sunday, May 14

ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP RESPONDS TO ATTACKS ON JEWISH COMMUNITY

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

These famous words attributed to the German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller have been on my lips in recent days: “Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Jew. ... Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me.”

In the face of anti-Semitism, we are called to speak out – as an expression of our love of neighbor and as our faithful response to the love of God in Jesus. In doing so, we become ambassadors of hope in the face of despair, imitators of Christ.

Our Jewish neighbors are once again living under threats, fearful for their safety and security. Over the weekend, a Jewish cemetery in St. Louis was desecrated, and on Monday, another wave of bomb threats was made to Jewish community centers across the country. This was at least the fourth round this year alone. As Christians, we affirm that Jews remain “beloved of God” and that an attack on them is an attack on those whom our God – the one God – has called “my people.”

In many places, with leadership from across this church, we are reaching out and showing up with our Jewish neighbors, often with ecumenical and inter-religious partners. We can and should continue and expand these important ministries of presence.

There is also the critical long-

term work. As a church, in our 1994 Declaration to the Jewish Community, we have pledged “to oppose the deadly working of such bigotry, both within our own circles and in the society around us.” This will not happen quickly. It will take concerted efforts to correct “the complicity of our own tradition within this history of hatred” and to seek deeper mutual understanding and cooperation between Lutheran Christians and the Jewish community. We have many excellent resources to aid us in these complicated but necessary tasks.

So, let us continue to speak out, to reach out, to show up, and to root out this deadly bigotry of anti-Semitism. For the courage to do God’s will, and for the peace of our Jewish neighbors, we pray.

In peace,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Spirit Lutheran is hosting a blood drive for the American Red Cross

Blood Drive - Good Friday, April 14 from noon – 6:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment to donate, please:

- Log onto redcrossblood.org (search by sponsor code Spirit) or
- Call 800.733.2767.

The eligibility dates are:

For Whole Blood: on or before February 17
For Power Reds (previously known as Double Red

Cell): on or before December 23

You don’t need a special reason to give blood.

You just need your own reason.

- Some of us give blood because we were asked by a friend.
- Some know that a family member or a friend might need blood some day.
- Some believe it is the right thing we do.

Whatever your reason, the need is constant and your contribution is important for a healthy and reliable blood supply. Help us make a difference this Good Friday!



2017 Lenten Journey

We hear the historic words that have been spoken through the centuries as ashes are imposed on the foreheads of the people of faith: "*Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.*" Lent gives us a focus upon the disciplines of the faith. We pray, fast, study scripture and remember the poor. We hope and pray it will be a significant Season of Lent for you and your household and invite you to join us on Wednesdays for worship, food and fellowship and education.

Ash Wednesday begins our Season of Lent. This year, Ash Wednesday is March 1. Our Wednesday schedule for the Lenten Season is:

- 4:00 p.m. Traditional Worship (we focus on Luther's Sm. Catechism)
- 4:45 p.m. and beyond – 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

On March 1, our Ash Wednesday Services at both 4 and 7 p.m. will be traditional services with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Peace for the journey--Pastor Dave

Lent 2017: Here I Stand

The year 2017 marks the international observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In honor of that anniversary, the midweek Lenten series for the 4:00 p.m. worship service at Spirit Lutheran will be built around Luther's Small Catechism. Pastor Benrud and Pastor Wall will be sharing leadership in conducting the worship experience.

- March 8: Ten Commandments
- March 15: Lord's Prayer
- March 22: Apostles' Creed
- March 29: Baptism
- April 5: Holy Communion

After the Lenten worship service, everyone will be invited to a family evening meal in the Fellowship Hall at 4:45 p.m. Meals and fellowship provide an opportunity for our congregation to gather in community with our friends and neighbors.

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. You, too, are called!

The Mission & Outreach Committee invites you to attend the last of the 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 for our third workshop on Sunday, March 19 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We're excited to have Pastor Mike Thompson facilitate this exploration. 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.

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.

▶ **YOUTH, FAMILY, & ADULT OPPORTUNITIES** *(More opportunities on separate insert)*

We are off and running with our new Spirit youth night!

We are looking for adults/parents/faithful adults that are interested in leading a night or two for our NEW youth group.

This new group will meet once a month for a night of fun and fellowship. The schedule will look like:

6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Middle School (Grades 5-8)

8:00-11:00 p.m. High School (Grades 9-12)

There will be ½ hour overlap for pizza time and fellowship.

There will be a charge of \$2.00 per night to cover the pizza.

We are planning an orientation meeting for those adults that would like to be a AAA – (Authentic, Available, Affirming) adults. The planning meeting for interested adults will be on **March 16 @ 6:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Come with your ideas of what your night might look like. Each adult team can decide what their night might look like. Come with dates that you would like to sign up for. Come and get the rest of the details for these nights. Come sign your background checks. Come and get excited to be part of building the youth program at Spirit and build healthy relationships with our youth.

Dates for the new Spirit Youth Nights for 2017:

March 25

April 29

May 20

June 24

July 29

August 26

September 30

October 28

December 2

January 27, 2018

For questions contact Carole De Jardin at cdejardin@spiritlutheran.org.

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!

Open the Door to the National Youth Gathering 2018...

How Does the Door Work?

- Choose an amount that you would like to donate: \$1.00 ~~\$144.00~~; \$133.00
- Take the envelope off the door.
- Fill out the card inside of the envelope.
- Put the card back into the envelope.
- Put cash or a check made out to Spirit Lutheran into the envelope.
- Thank you! You are now a partner with the youth and adults that will be going to the National Youth Gathering.

Watch for the door in worship each Sunday and Wednesday. Once all envelopes are gone, the door will disappear and our first goal will be met. We will make the National Youth Gathering a possibility. We won't be doing additional fundraising for this trip until next September. Help us open the door to the National Youth Gathering.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Feed My People Food Bank

Empty Bowls

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! **Tickets are also available in the church office at Spirit Lutheran.**

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

Enrich your soul and help Feed My People by attending CVASING's annual concert, Sunday March 5, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The concert will again be presented at Trinity Lutheran Church. This event is in its ninth year, and continues to raise thousands of dollars for Feed My People. This year's performance is entitled For the Beauty. The concert features a mix of sacred and secular music, performed by a chorus of over 80 singers plus instrumentalists. The chorus is directed by Gary Rambo and accompanied by Karol Hommen.

Our featured guest this year is Jack Knowlton. This remarkable saxophonist from Memorial High School will be attending college on scholarship at a prestigious university to be selected soon.

Tickets are \$10 per person, and may be purchased from CVASING members, local grocery stores and at the door.

FREE workshops at The Aging & Disability Resource Center of Eau Claire County

Fliers are posted in the church hallway.

- **Stepping On** – Building confidence, reducing falls – starts March 7
- **Strong Bones** – Progressive strength and balance training – starts March 27
- **Healthy Living with Diabetes** – Designed for adults with type 2 diabetes, pre-diabetes or their caregivers – starts March 29
- **Living Well with Chronic Conditions** – Learn 13 self-management tools to live better with an ongoing physical or mental condition – starts May 4
- **Healthy Eating for Successful Living** uses MyPlate as a tool for making heart and bone healthy choices – starts July 12

Class sizes are limited. Participants learn and are supported by a small group of peers led by two trained facilitators.

Want to hear more about one (or all!) of these excellent, evidence-based programs? Contact me for more information!

Register online at www.adrcevents.org or call 715-839-4735, toll free 1-888-338-4636.

Hey Spirit, our Annual Eggroll Sale is back!

Hmong Christian Church is having our annual eggroll sale on March 11, 2017. It's \$15/dozen and you can have your choice of pork or veggie. **Pick up hours are from noon-4 p.m. Saturday March 11.** If there are orders for a bulk delivery to the congregation, let us know too, and we can arrange delivery for Sunday March 12. Thank you for your support and God bless! Call 715-559-6580 for further information.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, February 26

Soup "Lunch to Go" fundraiser
8:30 AM Organ-led Worship
9:30 AM Council Update & "Kid Zone"
Conversation
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Band-led Worship
11:30 AM Bible Study for Age 0-2 & Parents
11:30 AM Mission Trip Meeting

Monday, February 27

6:00 PM Mission & Outreach Committee
7:00 PM Foundation Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 28

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

Wednesday, March 1 – Ash Wednesday

8:30 AM Wednesday Quilters
4:00 PM Lenten Worship Service
4:15 PM Spirit Ring handbell rehearsal
4:45 PM Dinner
6:00 PM Confirmation Class
6:00 PM Education and Mission Projects
6:00 PM High School Youth Group
7:00 PM No Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Lenten worship w/Noisy Offering

Thursday, March 2

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

Saturday, March 4

9:00 AM Men's Group Meeting

Sunday, March 5

Noisy Offering
8:30 AM Organ-led Worship
9:30 AM Lutheran Immigration and Refugee
Services Presentation
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Band-led Worship

8:30 a.m. Helpers

Greeters:

Ushers:

Communion Assistants:

Darrell Leitzke
Lynn Fering

Rover:

Reader:

Children's Message:

Pastor Dave

10:30 a.m. Helpers

Greeters:

Ushers:

Tyler Bauer

Communion Assistants:

Rover:

Reader:

Children's Message:

Pastor Dave

Spirit Lutheran Urgent Contacts

Bridge Pastor

David Wall

952-484-0593

Visitation Pastor

Roger Benrud

715-836-7158



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

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