

Join us for our last ice cream social at Spirit Lutheran on September 7 at 6:30 p.m.



You're all invited to Lester Larson's 90th birthday!

**3113 Glenhaven Place,
Eau Claire, WI**

Everyone is welcome to celebrate with Lester and

his family on September 3, 2017 from noon to 3:00 p.m!

See you there!

Spirit's photo directories are ready for pick up! If you would like your copy to be mailed to you, or if you have any other questions, please contact the church office.

Fall is right around the corner! Please see insert for the beginning of our fall activities.

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

A LOT'S BEEN HAPPENING!

Yes, "a lot's been happening" during the past 3 summer months at Spirit Lutheran.

- A full church every Sunday
- Inspirational worship experiences
- People inviting friends and neighbors to worship
- Members becoming acquainted with each other
- Ice cream socials and Bible studies

Everyone can add to this list of positive happenings for our new church.

The key ingredient for making the summer of 2017 exciting has been the ministry of our new pastor, Jim Ahlquist. I join you in thanking God who has blessed us all in sending our new leader to Spirit Lutheran.

Many of us have discovered that we are taking on a new positive identity at Spirit Lutheran. Many of us have had our spiritual life refreshed and nourished.

Many of us have been able to "shake off" the negative feelings of the past so that we are able to enjoy the present and future blessings here at Spirit Lutheran. I am confident that God will continue to shower us with blessings.

—Roger Benrud, Visitation Pastor

Flowers at the altar on Sunday, September 3 are given by Jan Smith in memory of her parents, Allen and Verone Burt and her brother, James A. Burt.

REACHING OUT IN LOVE



Spirit Prayer List

Prayer is powerful and we need to pray for each other within our family of Spirit. This is the start of our prayer list, with people being prayed for by name in worship. Please take a moment each day to include these Spirit people in your prayers.

Phyllis N.
Beth & Milo M.
Dwight & Marilyn A.
Sonja T.
Ruth B.
Paula S.
Barbara K.
Richard F.
Kristan M.
Charles
Harold L.
Daryl B.
Traci A.

If you, or someone you know would like to be on our prayer list or is hospitalized, please contact the church office at 715-832-2421.

Spirit Worship Attendance

Sunday, August 27: 143

Spirit's August Offerings

August Offerings: TBA
Simply Giving: TBA
Total Offerings: TBA

August Memorials: TBA
August Noisy Offering: TBA
Malawi (Karonga) Bowl: TBA

The congregation of Spirit Lutheran gives thanks for the following gifts received in August 2017:

A gift in memory of Robert Bauer
Gifts in memory of James Benrud
Gifts in memory of Sharon Heller
A gift in memory of Pastor Sherman Iverson
Gifts in memory of David Nanstad

Spirit's Life Transitions

Thoughts and prayers to Dorthy Anderson who recently lost her niece, Kristine Turner, and our former Pastor Amy Odgren who lost her mother on Sunday, August 27.

If you wish to have mailing addresses to express your condolences, please contact the church office.

May God grant peace and love to those who mourn.



Lutheran Disaster Response

Your gifts are needed now to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey!

Hurricane Harvey, one of the most powerful storms to hit the United States in years,

made landfall last night, threatening millions of our neighbors in Texas and Louisiana with heavy rain, wind and rising tides.

The National Hurricane Center called the storm's effects "life-threatening, devastating and catastrophic" and predicted long periods of rain and flooding, along with massive power outages. While many have evacuated, significant damage is still expected, and thousands of people may be housed in shelters for extended periods of time.

We have an opportunity to accompany our neighbors during and after this disaster, in Jesus Christ's name.

Your support through Lutheran Disaster Response will bring hope and healing to those who have been or will be affected by this hurricane. Lutheran Disaster Response is already collaborating with our affiliates to initiate recovery efforts.

While the storm is not over, you can help now. Gifts designated for "Hurricane Response – United States" will be used in full until the response is complete to help disaster survivors recover and rebuild.

Please see the Lutheran Disaster Response insert provided from the ELCA for ways to help!

A taskforce is needed!

Can you believe Spirit is almost two years old? And our website has been live for only a year? Already, SO many things have changed. I'm looking for a team to work alongside me to 1) review the website to identify key areas that need updated information and 2) connect with the ministries that can provide that information.

If you're interested in helping improve the identity of Spirit Lutheran via our web presence, please email me at pkhang@spiritlutheran.or and/or Ann Wathke at awathke@spiritlutheran.org.

–Padee Khang, Communications Manager

WE ARE HIRING!

Spirit Lutheran in Eau Claire is searching for a dedicated Christian music coordinator!

Do you enjoy Christian music? Would you like to plan, develop, rehearse, and lead our modern/contemporary/alternative worship services on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights? This part-time coordinator will work in collaboration with the lead Pastor, Worship and Music Committee and Multimedia Personnel to plan worship services that glorify God and engage all ages. In addition, s/he will be responsible for recruiting and developing fresh Christian talent inside and/or outside the congregation. The coordinator must have a solid musical competence in at least one instrument. S/he needs to be a creative, enthusiastic, team player with a sense of humor who is committed to the excellence of worship!

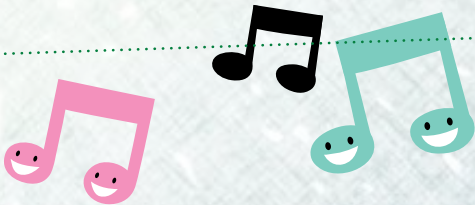
More positions on the next page.

Are you interested in using your talents, skills, experience and spiritual gifts in ministry? Spirit Lutheran is interested in you.

We are a new congregation looking for part-time Ministry Architects to join our team. Help guide and support people beginning at birth throughout the seasons of their lives in their personal connection to God and one another. Help empower families to love and serve Jesus.

Join us in our mission: Knowing God, Loving Others, Sharing our Gifts.

If interested, or for more information, please contact Pastor Jim Ahlquist at (715) 210-2245, email him at jahlquist@spiritlutheran.org or send inquiries/resumes to Spirit Lutheran, 1310 Main St, Eau Claire, WI 54701.



We're looking for two part-time children's music directors to join our music staff!

Do you enjoy working with children, music, and are you a team player? Apply now - stop in the office for an application or contact Bev Smith for more information (bsmith@spiritlutheran.org or 715-563-3804).



God's work. Our hands.

September 10 God's work. Our hands. Part 3: Advocacy

For this year's God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, the ELCA chose "Advocacy" as a major emphasis. With that in mind St. John's Lutheran Church has invited Rev. Cindy Crane from the Lutheran Office of Public Policy for Wisconsin as our featured guest for the day. Rev. Crane will preach at both Sunday services and then will lead a workshop on advocacy. Members of Spirit Lutheran are invited to come and hear Rev. Crane preach and to participate in her workshop, as well as a number of other service opportunities. A noon lunch will be provided for all taking part in the God's Work, Our Hands activities.

– Pastor Nathan Aaseng

9:00 a.m. - Worship at Spirit
10:45 a.m. - Worship at St. John's
11:30 a.m. - Commissioning to 'go out'.
12:00 p.m. - Bag lunch bar

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. – **Small Group Activities**

- Caring ministry: Empty Bowls painting in the small assembly
- Education ministry: providing placemats decorated by children for the St. John's apartment meal.
- Faith Family Ministry: Cemetery clean up
- Property ministry: cemetery clean up
- Sr. & Shut in Ministry: providing & serving hot lunch and music to residents at St. John's apartments/or Spirit's homebound.
- Youth Ministry: delivery of treats to shut-ins
- Worship & Music and Community & World Ministries: Workshop on Advocacy - Rev. Crane
- Quilters: meet in large assembly

Thank You From Mercy Circle

Thank you Spirit Lutheran and Thrivent Financial for your wonderful generosity! We have collected enough school supplies to fill over 100 backpacks for Lutheran World Relief.

We'll assemble all the school supplies into backpacks Wednesday, September 20 (education night). We invite all the children to help us! We're looking forward to this; it should be fun!

SANCTUARY CHANGES

You may have noticed some changes in the sanctuary recently:

- The altar has been moved forward to have the pastor closer to the congregation.
- The pulpit has been made mobile and the communion rails removed to make the chancel more accessible and flexible for weddings, and choral/drama presentations.
- A handrail has been added to the brick wall for access to the lectern pulpit for readers of the lessons and gospel.

There have been several pew relocations:

- The last pews have been moved up front to create an aisle between the last pews and the balcony stairs.
- Short pews were added to the front of the nave with wheelchair seating at the end of the pew.
- A transept aisle was added in the center of the nave to create room for worshippers needing a place to store their walkers and to make more room around the baptismal font which is in the center of the nave.

Upcoming projects:

- Modifying pew cushions to better fit the pews.
- Raising the projection screen for better visibility.

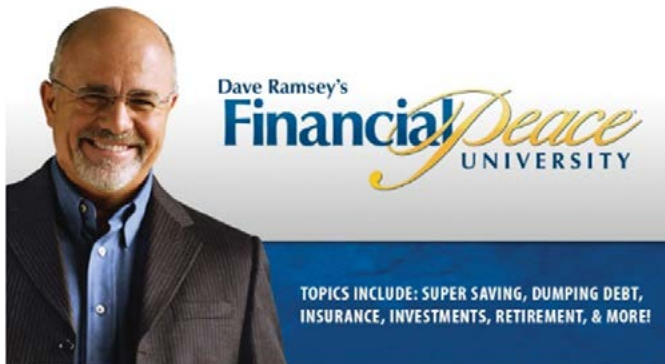
*Note—there are four locations that are wheelchair accessible at the ends of the shortened pews: two at ends of the front pews and two at the end of the center transept aisle. We ask that the pew behind the center transept aisle be reserved for those worshippers using walkers and/or have other mobility challenges.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Here's your chance to visit a handbell rehearsal!

Spirit Ring handbell choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 4:15-5:30 p.m. in the choir room. If you've ever wondered if you could ring handbells, you're invited to visit a rehearsal - we are always looking for new ringers! Contact director Karen Lionberger at bellhog76@gmail.com for more info.



Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

- Approximately 70% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, regardless of their income. This means that “broke” has become the new normal in our nation.
- At the end of the month, many individuals simply have nothing left because of debt and expenses. If this is you, I've got good news. You are not alone.
- You may be sitting there wishing you could get more financial margin in your life. If you'd like to take control of your money, then listen carefully.
- As a church, we want to share a practical plan that can help you discover God's way of handling money. We want to empower you to get on a budget, get out of debt, save for the future, and take control of your money.
- Financial Peace University is that plan. This 9-week class taught by money expert Dave Ramsey can change your financial story in a matter of weeks—and your family tree for generations to come.

BONUS: Spirit members, attend all 9 lessons and your cost of materials will be reimbursed by the Spirit Foundation. The costs of materials is \$102.30.

To sign up, go to

www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1043274

Class Start Date: Sept. 18 at 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Location of Class: Spirit Lutheran – Fellowship Hall

Come for a free preview on Sept. 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Spirit!

Attention Knitters, Crocheters & Wanna-be's!

As fall and winter approach, it is the perfect time to take out needles and create a prayer shawl to wrap someone in love and comfort. Our prayer shawl ministry group will begin meeting, starting September 12, on the second Tuesday of each month (September-May) at 5:30 p.m. Lessons, patterns and needles will be provided for beginners. All are welcome to get into the Spirit of stitching and praying. Please join us!

Calling Those with a “Spirit” of Adventure!

Have you heard of Holden Village, the remote Lutheran retreat center in the Northern Cascade Mountains of Washington state? Have you ever wanted to visit Holden Village? Here is your chance!

In September of 2018, a group from Spirit Lutheran and their friends will travel to Holden for a week of adventure. We will worship, learn, hike, eat, sing, listen to Railroad Creek tumble over the rocks, and feel the peace of the mountains.

If interested in this adventure, please sign-up on the sheet at the Welcome Table on Sunday, September 10 or 17 and plan to attend an information gathering at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 1. This opportunity for a Holden Village Adventure will be opened to other congregations after September 17.

Questions? Talk to Cheryl Jothen, Esther Hager, Linda Knott or Lorrie Franson.

Men of Spirit

The Men of Spirit fellowship group will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 9 at Hardee's on Clairemont Avenue. All men are invited!



On Sunday, **September 24**, at 10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room, we will begin a new choir here at Spirit. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcomed and we are not limiting it to adults or to only people who are “trained”...you are ALL welcome!! We will not sing each week in the church services; instead, we will have a printed schedule (see below) to follow. There will be NO rehearsals on week nights unless specifically called for. Our rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings when you are already here at the church for a worship service (you might even have time to snag a cup of coffee on the way to the Choir Room). We will plan to sing at least once a month at each of our worship services, both the 8:30 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m.

Spirit Singers Rehearsal Schedule for Fall 2017

Sept. 24 9:45 a.m. choir room
Oct. 15 9:45 a.m. choir room
Oct. 22 9:45 a.m. choir room
Oct. 29 9:45 a.m. choir room
Nov. 12 9:45 a.m. choir room
Dec. 3 9:45 a.m. choir room
Dec. 10 9:45 a.m. choir room
Dec. 17 9:45 a.m. choir room

Spirit Singers Singing Schedule for Worship Services for Fall 2017

Sept. 24 10:30 a.m. service
Oct. 15 8:30 a.m. service
Oct. 22 10:30 a.m. service
Nov. 12 8:30 a.m. service
Dec. 3 10:30 a.m. service
Dec. 17 8:30 a.m. service
Dec. 24 Early worship TBA

Come on and join us...you have nothing to lose and we all have EVERYthing to gain! If you have any questions, ask Bev Smith. She will be the director of this new group. bsmith@spiritlutheran.org or 715-834-9602

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Generosity Day - Saturday, September 9, 2017

The South Wisconsin Thrivent Member Network has set Saturday, September 9 as Generosity Day in WI. On this day hundreds of our members and guests will be hosting Thrivent Action Teams around causes they want to impact. **You have the opportunity to volunteer at two non-profits on September 9 in Eau Claire:**

King's Closet: Volunteers will be coming together at the King's Closet in Eau Claire to sort coats, mittens, boots, scarves, and hats for October distribution. The King's Closet (established in 2010) provides free clothing to those in need in the Chippewa Valley. For the sorting event, we have 4 shifts available by clicking [here](#) or call Sara Cramer at 715-271-7488.

Food and Refreshments will be provided to all volunteers. Questions can be directed to Thrivent Financial Associate, Sara Cramer at (715) 271-7488

Feed My People Food Bank: The South WI Thrivent Member Network has set Saturday, September 9, 2017 as Generosity Day. Our members across the state are holding Thrivent Action teams to help or support causes they are passionate about. Join us on this day at Feed My People Food Bank in Eau Claire to repack bulk cereal. Over 2100 weekend food bags are handed out to children in pre-school through high school each week. Cereal is an important food item for these weekly bags. To register for one of two volunteer times click [here](#) or call Sara Cramer at 715-271-7488.

Food and refreshments provided for all volunteers by a Thrivent Member Action Team.

EVENTS

Monday, September 4 - Memorial Day

Church offices closed

Tuesday, September 5

5:00 PM Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, September 6

8:30 AM Wednesday Quilters

4:15 PM Spirit Ring Rehearsal

Thursday, September 7

6:00 PM Health & Healing Committee Meeting

6:30 PM Ice Cream Social

7:00 PM AL-ANON Meeting

Saturday, September 9

9:00 AM Men's Group Meeting

Sunday, September 10

9:00 AM Worship

10:45 AM God's work. Our hands. w/
St. John's Lutheran Church

Monday, September 11

9:30 AM Staff Meeting

5:15 PM Generosity & Resources

Committee Meeting

5:30 PM Spirit's JOY

6:00 PM Free Preview of Financial Peace

6:15 PM Hospitality Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 12

9:00 AM Tuesday Quilters

5:00 PM Al-Anon Meeting

5:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wednesday, September 13

8:30 AM Wednesday Quilters

1:30 PM Worship @ Oakwood Home
Apartments

4:15 PM Spirit Ring Rehearsal

5:00 PM Dinner & Worship (No education
classes)

6:30 PM Confirmation Meeting

Thursday, September 14

7:00 PM AL-ANON Meeting

Spirit Lutheran Urgent Contacts

Pastor

Jim Ahlquist
715-210-2245

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!

'Spirit Lutheran News' ©2017 Spirit Lutheran

Submissions for publication in our newsletter are due by 12:00 p.m. on Monday. Spirit Lutheran News will be published, printed and emailed by Thursday. 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.