



**SPIRIT  
LUTHERAN  
Newsletter**

**Two-Week Edition:  
September 4 – September 17, 2016**

## **Important Dates for 2016**

**September 7** – Wednesday evening education resumes

**September 11** – Sunday School resumes and our \*Fall worship schedule begins

**October 14-15** – “Recharge” at Luther Park for Grades 4-8.

**Fall Worship Schedule – Please note upcoming Sunday worship and Faith Formation times beginning September 11, 2016:**

**8:30 a.m.** Organ–led worship

**9:30 a.m.** Sunday School & fellowship

**10:30 a.m.** Band–Led worship

\*\*\*Note: Only one service on September 18 at 9:00 a.m. due to our congregational annual meeting.

**Join us for a Spirit Lutheran Open House event on October 23, 2016! More information coming soon!**

Office hours:  
Monday-Thursday, 9:00 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

## **Council Update 8/23/2016**

The August Council meeting started in fun fashion as we had our picture taken as a group. This group of individuals was the first Council of Spirit Lutheran, and 3 of the 9 members retired from the Council at the end of the meeting.

Financials were reviewed and July was an amazing month, due to the hard work of two council members and the generosity of several Spirit Lutheran members. Even though there was no budget with which to compare for the month of July, the actual general offerings numbers were remarkable. \$60,884 was given during the month of July – our highest month ever as Spirit Lutheran. Many thanks to all who felt the calling to jump start our year in this way!

Spirit Lutheran is in the process of creating a pictorial directory, with portrait photo-shoot days scheduled for October 6, 7, 8, 24, and 25 (see your newsletter and the church's website for details). One copy of the directory will be made available free of cost to each family whose photo appears in the directory. Since both prior congregations had directories made in the recent past, families and individuals may choose to use those previously-taken photos instead of new portraits, if desired. Look forward to scheduling your session.

A discussion of whether the staff employment year should be calendar year or fiscal year took place. This relates to Paid Time

## **Altar Flowers provided by**

Judy & Corky Kneer on the occasion  
of their 55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!

# COMMUNITY

## ***At Home on Earth – Spirituality and the Climate Crisis: Honesty, Hope, Resistance***

A free, three-part presentation by public theologian David Weiss of St. Paul

**HONESTY** -- Sunday, September 11, 2016 -- 10:00 AM  
Owen Park Bandshell, with Grace and St. John's  
"Owning the Devastation"

**HOPE** -- Sunday, October 9, 2016 -- 7:30 PM  
Ecumenical Religious Center UWEC Lower Campus  
Building Something Better

**RESISTANCE** -- Sunday, October 30, 2016 -- 7:00 PM  
Grace Lutheran Church, 202 West Grand Ave  
"Devoted to the Change"



Off (PTO) and potential compensation increases. After discussion, it was decided the staff employment year would be the calendar year.

The Hospitality Committee is spearheading an Open House on October 23 to celebrate our 1st year Anniversary as Spirit Lutheran. All committees are asked to participate. This should be a fun time for all.

The fall worship schedule was discussed and it was determined that two Sunday services will continue after Labor Day: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. with Sunday school and fellowship between the worship services. Wednesday evening service will continue as previously scheduled.

This has been an exciting first year for Spirit Lutheran. As a departing Council member, I would like to thank each of you for your support, patience and prayers during this year – we learned a lot about each other and built a solid foundation for the future. The Holy Spirit is at work here, and I feel so blessed to be a part of this.

Yours in Christ,  
Denise Freid-Schepke

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## ***SPIRIT UPDATES***

### ***A.E.D Units***

Spirit Lutheran has three Automated External Defibrillator units. The other two units were installed on Tuesday, August 31. The location of all three are as follows:

1. Narthex, left of the main doors leading into the Sanctuary.
2. Fireside Room by Room 207.
3. Downstairs in the Link just before you enter the Fellowship Hall on the right-hand side of the door.

There is an alarm on the cabinets that house the AED units. When the door is opened the alarm will sound. When the door is closed the alarm will turn off.



## ***Fellowship Hall Closed on Sept. 12***

For the purpose of floor refinishing in Spirit Lutheran's fellowship hall, the area will be off limits on Monday, September 12.

If you must enter the lower level of the facility, please plan your route to avoid the fellowship hall. Thank you!

## **FAITH FORMATION**

### ***Family Night Opportunity – Join us for DISNEY ON ICE on December 4, 2016 at the Xcel Energy Center!***

We depart from church at 1:00 p.m. (hop on the church bus or drive your own vehicle). We'll stop for an early dinner and arrive at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minnesota. The performance will be at 5 p.m. and the cost is \$35.00 per ticket (group price).

We must have a minimum of 25 people for group price. **Sign up today! The deadline to sign up is September 15, 2016.**

We will secure tickets when we get a minimum of 25 people.

### ***Spirit Lutheran's Christmas Parade of Homes***

We invite you and your friends to be part of the first Spirit Lutheran Christmas Parade of Homes on December 18, 2016!

Houses of all sizes, condos and apartments are welcome to host! We are looking for 5 homes to be showcased. **What does this entail?** We ask that you have your Christmas tree up and decorated. That's all it takes!

This will be a fundraiser for the 2017 young adults Mission Trips. The church bus will be available for the parade of homes and will stop at each home that day. You are invited to hop on the bus or drive on your own to the houses. This is a great event to have fellowship with our Spirit Lutheran members at Christmas time.

If you would like to offer your home as one of the 5 homes to be showcased that day from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. or have more questions about this please call Carole DeJardin @ 715-641-0592 by November 15, 2016.

Tickets will go on sale in November for \$10.00 each.

### ***Christmas With Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant Featuring Jordan Smith – Minneapolis, MN, December 10, 2016 7 p.m.***

We'll need 10 people to receive a group price. We will choose prices according to the majority who want to go. Tickets are either \$27 or \$37. Our deadline is September 20 to sign up. You can ride the bus or drive yourself. Sign up on the activity board in the narthex!

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## **HEALTH & HEALING**



### ***Prayer Opportunities***

Join a group listed below or give a prayer request to them.

Email: blecleir@aol.com. Phone: Audrey Parrett--715-835-9882

Prayers requests can also be given to the prayer groups by writing a request on a communion card and placing them in the offering plate or Black Prayer Box located in the office hallway.

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DAVE RAMSEY'S  
**FINANCIAL PEACE**  
UNIVERSITY

Classes are  
**STARTING SOON!**

www.spiritlutheran.org/news  
715-832-2421  
daveramsey.com/findaclass

## **SMALL GROUPS**

### ***Spirit Ring Invites New Ringers***

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 4:15 p.m. for our handbell choir, Spirit Ring. Women AND men are welcome! All you need is enthusiasm and music-reading experience, we will provide ringing instruction and gloves. For more info, or advance tutoring, please contact Karen Lionberger at [bellhog76@gmail.com](mailto:bellhog76@gmail.com)

### ***Special Choir Rehearsal***

All singers encouraged! We'd like to offer special music on Sunday, September 11 at the 8:30 a.m. service. Please join us for rehearsal in the choir room at 8:00 a.m. prior to worship.

### ***Men of Spirit***

We meet Saturday, September 10 (second Saturday) at 9:00 a.m. at Hardee's on Clairemont near Sacred Heart. Join us!

## ***Enjoy recreational activities?***

If you enjoy recreational activities and would like to be on a group recreational email list for upcoming activities such as walks around town, bike rides, trail hiking, or other fun activities, please email or talk to Sue Bauer: [skbauer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:skbauer@sbcglobal.net) or Julie Carr: [carrjk@uwec.edu](mailto:carrjk@uwec.edu).

### ***Spirit Lutheran Bike Ride***



Wear your Spirit t-shirt if you have one! Let's join the Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance on a bicycle tour of the Chippewa River coming up on Saturday, September 10 as part of "Celebrate the Chippewa River!" Meet at 10:30 a.m. at Phoenix Park near the trailhead building for a low-key two-hour tour mostly on trails! This will have frequent stops, probably totaling 12 miles in 2 hours. Would be best if children under 16 have adults with them. The focus on the ride will be the history and geography of the river.

If you have questions or if you plan to attend, contact Sue Bauer 715-529-1853 or [skbauer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:skbauer@sbcglobal.net) or for more information on the ride you can also contact Jeremy, one of the tour leaders at [jragert@gmail.com](mailto:jragert@gmail.com)

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## ***Update from the Call Committee***

It is with considerable pleasure that I have the privilege of writing to each of you regarding the current status of the Call Committee. You may expect updates to be given to you on a regular basis. It is the desire of the Call Committee that each and every individual should and ought to know of the progress being made. We also invite feedback from any of our members that may assist us in this endeavor.

Thus far, the Call Committee has had two separate meetings. The first was our connection with the Synod through Pastor Greg Kaufmann. During this discussion, a substantial amount of very meaningful information was imparted to us. Perhaps the most surprising to me is the fact that within our own Synod, one-third of the congregations are seeking pastors at the current time. Secondly, as you may well expect, there is a shortage of pastors, not only in the Synod but nationwide. Therefore, as we seek to call a pastor, we are joined by a vast number of others attempting to do the same thing.

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***Don't forget! Spirit's Congregational Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday September 18, 2016 after worship.***

You should all know and fully understand that the calling of specific pastors is a confidential process. Therefore, our committee members will not be able to disclose the identities of candidates and interviewees for this position. You may ask, "Why?" The answer is that when a pastor in a current call submits his/her name to the Synod as someone seeking a new call, that pastor, understandably, often does not want their current congregation to know the same less he/she is not called at all. One need not ponder long how, if this information was shared, there could be disruption within the congregation that a pastor is seeking to leave. Therefore, we will not be able to share with you the specific persons we are interviewing.

With that stated, however, the Call Committee and the Synod as a whole are entirely receptive to any and all of us submitting names of pastors of whom we have personal knowledge and believe would be good candidates for the Senior Pastor position at Spirit. If you are aware of anyone that you believe is well suited for this, whether they be in our Synod or anywhere else, please feel free to submit that name to any of the committee members identified below.

Be furthered advised that as we prepare to solidify the questions that will be posed to each candidate, we also are pleased to inform you that we will be working with the Synod and Jim Pence. As most of you know, Jim has been involved with Spirit Lutheran for many months and has been instrumental in preparing the Ministry Site Profile. We believe that Jim's many years of experience will be of great value to us in streamlining this process enormously.

Finally, many of the contacts that we will make, particularly with pastors, will involve interviews which will take place by Skype (tele-video conferencing), thereby avoiding cost of travel, etc. As we work through the potential candidates, the process will ultimately lead to a recommendation to the council as to a pastor that we have concluded would best fit the needs of Spirit Lutheran at this time.

As I close, permit me to provide you with the names of each of the Call Committee members:

Tyler Bauer	Lisa Buchholz	Lynn Fering, Co-Chair
Denise Freid-Schepke	Tom Guelzow, Co-Chair	Heather Leisz
Violet Pederson	Naomi Woods	Dennis Wepler

Pastor Greg Kaufmann, Assistant to the Call Committee  
Jim Pence, Assistant to the Call Committee

If any of you have questions, please feel free to contact me or any of the committee members.

Tom Guelzow  
Call Committee Co-Chair



## Passing on the Faith

Passing on faith to the next generation is really important. What if the disciples had said they were too busy to follow Jesus, or what if they just didn't want to pass on the faith to anyone including their own family, or what if they didn't think of their lives as a witness to God's love? Where would we be – where would the church be? Life is busy and we all have full schedules, but God's children need dependable and caring adults in their lives as they develop a healthy and well rounded faith life.

Sharing and passing on faith one generation to another comes in many forms:

- Financially sponsoring kids who go on mission trips - Talk with Carole De Jardin
- Financially helping kids attend youth events –Talk with Carole De Jardin
- Sharing a children's message in worship - Sign up on the clipboard in the back of church.
- Teaching Christian education on Wednesdays or Sundays – Talk with Marion Ennen or Carole De Jardin
- Helping with the Christmas Program – Talk to Carole De Jardin
- Helping with Spirit's Milestone Ministry – Talk with Carole De Jardin
- Help build faith chests – Talk to Debbie Market
- Help with mentoring Confirmation students – Talk to Pastor Amy or Michelle Pride
- Help chaperone kids' activities – Talk to Carole De Jardin
- Help with Spirit Camp (VBS) – Talk with Lisa Nelson or Tawna Sikora
- Drive the church bus - Talk to Tim De Jardin
- Help by praying for our children – Talk to God

There are so many ways to participate! Remember the line, "It's takes a village to raise a child?" Well, we all know it takes a church to raise a Christian child. Use your skills and gifts – share the love of Jesus with our younger ones. There is a spot for EVERYONE to help pass on faith to the next generations here at Spirit Lutheran. We are disciples together!

## What is that bowl all about up front – to the right of the altar?



It is a Rice Bowl - Spirit Lutheran's means of collecting funds to help feed the people of Africa – specifically Malawi. El-Nino has induced drought and flooding since last year and has left over 30 million people in need of food aid. Many people in the affected countries are down to one meal a day. This past month Spirit Lutheran was able to collect and send \$147.92. Since Spirit Lutheran's birth last November, we have sent \$1,722.29. Please continue to support this important ministry.

## It is Twice Blessed

*“The quality of mercy is not strained. It droppeth as a gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed: It blesses him that gives and him that takes...And earthly power doth then show likest God's when mercy seasons justice.”* from William Shakespeare's famous soliloquy in 'The Merchant of Venice'.

We are twice blessed this summer with an invitation to join St. John's and Grace Lutheran congregations on Sunday, September 11 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in a variety of work sites with activities that will suit all ages and interests in their 'God's Work. Our Hands'.

Today will be your chance to sign up for your favorite way to be twice blessed and a blessing to others! Look for signup sheets on the corner table out by the coat racks.

## **MORE COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Healthy Living Workshops**

Have you been thinking about doing something for better health? You don't have to do it alone. Get support, learn and have fun through proven programs. We have FREE workshops starting soon to help individuals make healthy and sustainable change:

- Healthy Eating for Successful Living – Uses MyPlate as a tool for choosing heart and bone healthy choices – Sept. 16
- Healthy Living with Diabetes – 7-week workshop for adults with type 2 diabetes, pre-diabetes and their caregivers – Sept. 7
- Living Well with Chronic Conditions – Learn 13 self-management tools in this program developed by Stanford University – Sept. 13
- Powerful Tools for Caregivers – Strategies and resources to better handle unique family caregiver challenges – Sept. 6
- Stepping On – Multifactorial program demonstrated to build confidence and reduce falls – Sept. 12, Oct. 5
- Strong Bones – Strength and balance training program designed by Dr. Miriam Nelson of Tufts University – Oct. 3 & 4

All classes are interactive and fun! Most workshops are limited to 12 - 14 people. Early registration is advised. Register online at [www.adrcevents.org](http://www.adrcevents.org), call 715-839-4735 or email [adrc@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:adrc@co.eau-claire.wi.us).

It is with gratitude to many partnering agencies, who generously provide staff as facilitators and space for workshops, that we are able to bring these effective health promotion workshops to hundreds of individuals each year.

## **Boys & Girls Clubs 10th Annual Steak & Burger Dinner!**

**Rise to Greatness - Inspiring the Next Generation of Leaders**

**When:** Thursday, September 22nd, 2016 at the Florian Gardens at 5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

\$600 Table Sponsor, \$85 Individual Ticket

For tickets or more information, call the Boys & Girls Clubs at 715-855-0081 or register online at [www.cvclubs.org](http://www.cvclubs.org).

## **Eastside Hill Neighborhood Association Photo Contest**

This is another chance to submit up to two images that artfully express “Eastside Hillness.” The contest has been expanded to welcome all photographers, from professionally acclaimed to self acclaimed. Give us your best shot! You can enter past or new images through November 4, 2016. In any season, artfully capture the Eastside Hill vibe. Images will be judged on concept, composition, color, aesthetic and emotive powers. Send your high resolution digital photos to [news@eastsidehill.com](mailto:news@eastsidehill.com) along with your contact info. Entitle your images. Of course there will be prizes!

## **Hike for the Homeless!**

Please join the Eau Claire Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc. for the 12th Annual Hike for the Homeless benefiting their programs including the Beacon House, a shelter for families with children who are homeless.

**Date:** September 24, 2016 at Phoenix Park

**Time:** Registration begins at 8am, 1 to 3 mile hike begins at 9am, Refreshments will follow

**Registration forms are available on the Events page of our website [www.beacon-house.org](http://www.beacon-house.org).** T-shirt guaranteed only with pre-registration date of September 9. We look forward to seeing you on the 24th! Thank you for helping homeless families with children in the Eau Claire area.

## **EVENTS THIS WEEK:**

### **Sunday, September 4**

Noisy Offering

9:00 AM Spirit-filled Worship

10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship

### **Monday, September 5**

Labor Day - Offices Closed

### **Tuesday, September 6**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

5:30 PM Generosity & Resources Committee

6:00 PM Teachers' Meeting

### **Wednesday, September 7**

CONNECTIONS begins!

8:30 AM Wednesday Quilters

4:15 PM Spirit Ring handbell rehearsal

5:00 PM Dinner - Hot Dogs (picnic)

5:50 PM CONNECTIONS worship

6:25 PM Confirmation Class

6:25 PM Education and Mission Projects

7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, September 8**

6:00 PM Health & Healing Committee Meeting

6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee Meeting

7:00 PM AL-ANON Meeting

### **Saturday, September 10**

9:00 AM Men's Group Meeting

### **Sunday, September 11**

8:30 AM Organ-led Worship

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Band-led Worship

### **Monday, September 12**

6:30 PM Hospitality Committee Meeting

### **Tuesday, September 13**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

9:00 AM Tuesday Quilters

### **Wednesday, September 14**

8:30 AM Wednesday Quilters

10:15 AM Worship at The Clairemont

1:30 PM Worship @ Oakwood Home Apartments

4:15 PM Spirit Ring handbell rehearsal

5:00 PM Dinner - Chicken Sandwiches

5:50 PM CONNECTIONS worship

6:25 PM Confirmation Class

6:25 PM Education and Mission Projects

7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, September 15**

9:30 AM Joy Gathering

6:00 PM Eastside Hill Neighborhood Association Meeting

6:00 PM Spirit Lutheran Council

7:00 PM AL-ANON Meeting

### **Saturday, September 17**

9:00 AM Men's Group Meeting

### **Sunday, September 18**

9:00 AM Blended Worship

## ***Spirit Lutheran Urgent Contacts***

Senior Pastor

Amy Odgren

715-552-7883

Visitation Pastor

Roger Benrud

715-836-7158