



THE FLAME

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Celebrating and living God’s Message”

April 2008

7234 Fenton Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439 (810) 424-6707 www.holyspiritlc.net

FROM THE PASTOR

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen! These wonderful words were spoken as we gathered on Easter Sunday, and they are repeated each Sunday for the next six weeks. They are a cry of victory that reminds us of God’s triumph over death, despair, and everything that keeps us from the abundant life that Jesus came to give us.

Jesus died and rose, so that you and I could know real and abundant life in God. Unfortunately, our lives do not always feel abundant. In fact, they often feel quite the opposite, as we wrestle with a challenging economy, job losses, illness, and a long winter. In particular, over the last month, we as a community have struggled through deaths, sudden diagnoses of long-term illnesses, and out-of-state moves by a number of long-term families. These losses personally, and as a community, can cause us to question God and shift our focus from God’s gracious love and grace. However, Jesus died so that we could experience the amazing joy of a never-ending, and life-giving relationship, with God.

This Easter, we need a reminder of the POWER of God to change our lives, and a SURGE of God’s life-giving energy. God’s PoWeR SuRGe comes when we live every day as disciples of Jesus Christ, following him and modeling our lives after his. Following Jesus’ ascension into heaven the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to live out their discipleship. Once, they began to fully live as Jesus’ disciples, they were never the same. We can experience the same life-giving and life-changing experience when we strive to live as a community of Christians who commit to follow the Marks of Discipleship. For the next month, we will spend time looking at each of the Marks / Lifestyles of a Disciple.

Jesus called each of us in Baptism and invites us to live these Marks/Behaviors. When we do so, he promises that our relationship with God and other Christians will grow. May God bless us this month as we study how to follow God more faithfully, and in doing so, find more energy for living in God’s Kingdom.

	<i>PoWeR SuRGe: Energy for An Easter Life</i>	
March 30	Living the Easter Life	
April 6	Pray Daily	Luke 1-8
April 13	Worship God Weekly	Hebrews
April 20	Read the Bible	John 8:31-38
April 27	Serving in God’s Name	Malachi 3:13-18
May 3	Relate through Spiritual Friendships	Mark 6:6b-13
May 10	Giving to God’s Kingdom	Luke 12:13-21

Genesys Convalescent Center Worship Service

April 20th, 4:00pm

Come and join other members of Holy Spirit as we bring worship and Holy Communion to the residents of Genesys Convalescent Center, located on Holly Rd by Cook Rd. Come to sing, visit, and share a worship experience with those who would love to have some company as they worship.

Nursery for New Member Orientation

Saturday, April 26th, 9:00am—12:00pm

Individuals are needed to serve in the nursery for a few hours so prospective members can focus on learning about our ministry here at Holy Spirit. If you can volunteer for this important ministry opportunity, please email pastor at pastorwill@holyspiritlc.net.

Connections: New Member Orientation

April 26, 9:00am to 12:00pm

Are you interested in Exploring Membership at Holy Spirit? This workshop is an invitation for participants to join the members of Holy Spirit on a journey of faith. This interactive session will help participants to explore Holy Spirit Lutheran and enable them to fit their families into our ministry.

Thanks for the Easter Egg Hunt

To the adults and youth who helped plan a successful egg hunt – Thanks! It was a great morning of fun and activities for multiple ages. Check out the bulletin board at church and the website to see some of the fun and games.

News Release

Pirate Alert!

Suspicious-looking pirates have been sighted near Holy Spirit Church. Pastor Will assures us that these pirates are the good-hearted sort. They've made port at the church in preparation for The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything—A VeggieTales® VBS, scheduled for July 20-24. Kids from age four through those entering fifth grade next fall are invited for a fun-filled week of Bible adventure. For further information, contact Danielle Stenke (dstenke@comcast.net) or call Amy Cochran at 810-695-8954.



Social Mission Ministries

Soldier Spirit Boxes Update

Thank you to all of those who donated items and helped send them out to our troops overseas. Here is an email we received from the soldier in charge of the Soldier Spirit boxes we sent out over the holidays:

My wife informed me you sent her an e-mail regarding the packages you sent my team for Christmas. I apologize for not letting you know earlier that they all arrived. Unfortunately I was not in Afghanistan over the Christmas holiday due to a kidney stone. But everyone else on my team LOVED all the packages. Most of the goodies were already gone by the time I returned to Afghanistan in January, so I know you all must have sent some good snacks! Please tell everyone we really appreciate everything you have done for us. It definitely made Christmas feel a little more like home than being in Afghanistan.

Ken Stice

Since this letter was received, we have word that Maj. Stice and his unit are coming home! Start saving things for our next care packages, going out next month.

Thrivent Builds / Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Training and Kickoff

Saturday April 12, 10am

Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent will be building 2 homes in Burton, off of Center Rd, this year. We would love for everyone in our church to be a part of their efforts. Join us for an important training and inspirational meeting. Together we can make a difference and bring hope to two families. Helping someone earn quality housing, puts skin on the Gospel!

Children's Offering Goes to Habitat

For the rest of this academic year, our children's offerings (collected in the jar during church) will be going to purchase boards for the habitat house which we will be helping to build this year. Change banks will soon be distributed to children in the Sunday school classes and can be picked up from the Thrivent Builds Table. With boards costing \$2.00/each, we hope to see our children raise enough funds to buy 100 boards this spring. We would also like every child to sign the 2x4 on the Thrivent Builds table. We will take this board to the ground blessing and present it to the Thrivent Builds leaders and the new homeowner to show them our church's support.

ADDRESS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

We currently have two of our own members serving in National Guard units in Iraq. Please pray for them and their families. Cards and packages can be sent to them at:

ENI Cliff Cleary
ACB-2 SEABEES
CAMP DELTA
APO AE 09331

CAPT James Babbitt
TF 1-293rd IN Team HHD
OIF 08-10
APO AE 09391

RELAY FOR LIFE—June '08

The Relay is just around the corner! We are once again looking for walkers on Saturday, June 7th 10am to Sunday, June 8th 10am. In order to get your free t-shirt, we are asking all walkers to try and raise at least \$50. This is a lot of fun and we would love for you to participate and help find a cure for this disease that has infected so many of our loved ones. Please sign up on the board in the hallway today to walk for an hour or two. We also have the luminary bags on sale for \$10 to decorate in honor or memory of a loved one. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sandy Willoughby at 584-0510 or Sue McComb at 695-1944.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Pre-K through 5th Grade

Lesson-Easter through the eyes of Peter

Song-If You're Happy and You Know It

Bible Verse- "All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory." Romans 3:23

Thank you to our Rotation Leaders!

- Margaret Mitchell- A variety of greeting cards made by the children to be sent to our members.
- Janet McGillis- The Easter story told through a "trail mix" activity.
- Sandy Willoughby-The Easter story revisited through an exciting Quiz Show with prizes.

Junior and Sr. High

Dwight Bobo continues to teach the Junior High Class and Gerry Tucker continues with the High School Class. A new format with greater opportunity for student participation and leadership is being considered for each class as we finish the Sunday School year.

The Adult Class is presently doing a video and discussion class, led by Pastor Will called "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Phillip Yancey. Please join this class any Sunday at 9:15 am for a cup of coffee and a relaxed informative discussion.

VBS NEWS!!!!

VBS dates are July 20-24 (Sunday through Thursday). The first planning meeting will be held Wednesday, April 9th at 6:30 pm.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets on second Tuesdays at 10 am and is studying the Beatitudes. All women are encouraged and invited to attend! Please feel free to attend at any time.

Early First Communion Workshop Begins Monday April 14 at 6:30pm

Receiving Holy Communion for the first time is an important milestone in the faith development of a Christian. Holy Spirit offers young children the opportunity to receive Holy Communion once their parents believe they are ready to understand how special and important this meal is for us.

Children and their parents will attend a series of Monday night workshops (4/14, 4/21, 4/28), during which participants will explore the meaning of Holy Communion, the elements used, its connection with Baptism, and the way in which it is received.

Please sign up for instruction on the Kiosk in the Narthex or by sending an email to Pastor Will at PastorWill@holyspiritlc.net.

Spaghetti Dinner Benefit May 2 at Our Risen Lord, Burton

On May 2, from 5:00-8:00pm, there will be a special spaghetti dinner benefit to raise money to send youth from Salem Lutheran Church in Flint to Camp Michi-Lu-Ca this summer. With our assistance, these students will have be able to go to camp for the first time. The Fundraiser is a joint project with the other churches of the Flint Cluster, and they invite anyone who would like to help with setup, serving the meal, or cleanup to consider being a part of the event and contacting Our Risen Lord Lutheran Church at 742-3780.

In addition, the Genesee County chapter of Thrivent Financial will be supplementing the funds raised. The cost of the meal is \$8.00 for adults, and \$5.00 for children. If interested, please sign up on the Kiosk in the Narthex.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH April Events



Habitat for Humanity Kick-Off Brunch

The youth have been given a unique fundraising opportunity thanks to Pastor Will and Thrivent Financial. On Saturday, April 12th, we'll be providing brunch for up to 100 attendees of the county-wide Habitat for Humanity kick-off meeting hosted by HSLC. Youth and parent volunteers are needed to help set-up, prepare and serve this meal. If you're available on Friday after 5pm or Saturday morning, please let Sally know.

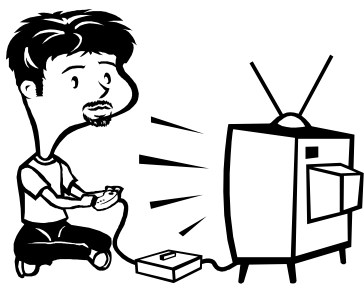
Senior High Planning Meeting

Youth and their families are invited to attend a planning meeting at the Piggott's on Sunday, April 13th after the late service. Agenda includes finalizing event plans, scheduling chaperones and brainstorming fundraising ideas...and socializing! Lunch will be served.



Electronics Night

Confirmation and Senior High youth are encouraged to attend our Electronics Night on Friday, April 18th from 6pm-midnight. Bring a \$5 donation, your favorite games, plenty of extension cords and a few friends for fun evening! Parents – volunteers needed!!



A peek into May . . .

Food Distribution

Loads of help is needed at HSLC's May 3rd distribution. Please plan to be a part of this worthwhile cause!



Job Opportunities! New Staff Positions at Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit is the recipient of a three year, *Fast Growing Congregation's Grant* from our local synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America . The grant money is intended to enable us to continue to grow, expand, and deepen our ministry. The personnel committee and the congregation council have reviewed our current staffing and have identified new positions that are being posted. If you, or someone you know, is interested in either position, please contact Pastor Will(pastorwill@holyspiritlc.net) or Tim Houle (kthat@comcast.net) of the Personnel Committee. The new positions being offered are:

Director of Connecting Ministries

The Director of Connecting Ministries is a part-time position whose purpose is the connection of new and existing members to the congregation, other members, and meaningful opportunities for growth and service within the congregation. An overview of the position's responsibilities are as follows:

1. Develop, Resource, and Coordinate Small Group Ministries.
2. Lead classes for disciples joining the congregation, on a quarterly basis.
3. Administer ministry inventories (e.g. Hearts and Hands, Spiritual Gifts, LifeKeys) to all members, including each new member class.
4. Oversee ALPHA and other outreach ministries that invite and encourage people in the surrounding communities to become engaged in discipleship at Holy Spirit.
5. Manage computer membership database.

A successful candidate should be a self-starter with strong organizational and communication skills. Experience and knowledge of church leadership, as well as a Bachelor's degree are preferred. Compensation information and a more detailed overview of the position description are posted on the Opportunity to Serve Board in the Narthex.

Financial Assistant

The Financial Assistant is a 5 hour per week part-time position whose purpose is to support the volunteer financial and stewardship leaders in the congregation through record keeping, data entry, and the production of reports. A complete job description is posted on the Opportunities to Serve Board. For more information or to turn in a resume, please contact either Pastor Will (pastorwill@holyspiritlc.net) or Paul Wenstrom, either via phone at 810-768-7622 or email at paul_wenstrom@ml.com.

Administrative Assistant

As a part of the Personnel Committee's work this last year, they have also reviewed our current staff positions. After reviewing our staffing needs, the committee has created a new Administrative Assistant position that will replace the current secretary position. The new position will require experience as an administrative assistant, strong computer and desktop publishing skills, an ability to learn new software applications, and strong written and verbal communication skills.

The Administrative Assistant is responsible to perform and coordinate administrative duties within the church office in support of the function of the church, its leaders, staff and members. Duties may include administrative support to the pastor, staff, and council members; desktop publishing; data entry; managing church communications; and other duties assigned by the pastor. A complete job description is posted on the Opportunity to Serve. The position is 20 hours per week, and is compensated at a rate between \$11.50—12.00 per hour. Interviews will begin immediately, and applicants can direct questions and resumes to PastorWill@holyspiritlc.net.

Diane, our current secretary, has been invited to join other members and the outside community in interviewing for this new position, but she has declined to participate. Her last day is April 1st.

Finance Committee

For 2008, total Church Income through Sunday, March 16th is \$58,000.

- This compares with income of \$52,000 through the same Sunday last year - March 18, 2007.
 - This is an increase of 11%
1. Cash balances: As of March 18, 2008 the Church bank balances amounted to \$105,200.
 - This compares with \$110,100 on December 31, 2007.
 - This means that \$4,900 has been used for expenses, so far this year, from the 2007 undesignated surplus of \$13,500.
 - The current cash balance is made up of: the building fund, operating fund, memorial fund, special offering fund, etc.
 1. A job description has been prepared by the Personnel Committee for a part-time 'Financial Associate'. The job is posted on the opportunity to serve board and interviews will begin soon.
 2. The Finance Committee is exploring financial planning/educational programs that are available to churches, their members and friends from the community. These 'classes' range from one time presentations to full 13 week series. Topics and series could include: Dave Ramsey's 'Total Money Makeover'; knowing and improving your 'credit score'; and debt reduction programs. These series have been very popular at many churches. Please share your thoughts on this idea with any Finance Committee member.
 3. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held at church on April 8th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.
 4. The position of Stewardship Director is currently open. If you are interested and feel called to serve Holy Spirit as a member of the Finance Committee in this capacity please let any member of the committee know.

Committee Members:

Paul Wenstrom - Director	Paul.Wenstrom@ml.com
Bob Kuerbitz - Congregation President	Bob.Kuerbitz@gm.com
Bill Lundquist - Treasurer	wmlund1@aol.com
Sue McComb - Purchasing Agent	GlnnMcComb@aol.com
Jerry Tucker - Member at Large	gmtucker@charter.net
Terry Katzur - Member at Large	tkatzur2@comcast.net
Stewardship - Open	
Pastor Will	pastorwill@holyspiritlc.net

Female Needed for Site Plan Committee

The church is in the process of forming a site plan committee to create a plan for the future use of our building and property. To date, we have commitments from Phil Rice, Phil Holmblade, Jerry Setera, and Melanie Piggott. We would like one or more interested women to round out the group. If you can see yourself serving in this area call Jeff Watson at 694-2191.

Easter Thanks!!!!

Thank you all of the wonderful volunteers who came forward and made our worship during Holy Week and Easter so wonderful.

Thank you to:

- Our musicians, singers, and drama leaders for a Palm Sunday
- Our Basin Preparers and Altar Assistants on Maundy Thursday
- Our Acolytes on Good Friday
- Our Weeping Marys on Easter Morning
- Our Guest Musicians on Easter Morning
- All of the ushers, greeters, communion assistants, readers, and assisting ministers who helped with all of the extra services.

We had many members and visitors comment on how meaningful our holiday worship was this year. Thank you for all you do!

Young At Heart News

I would like to thank all of you who helped us make the Pasties on March 13. Thank you also for those who purchased pasties, we hope you enjoy them. We had another very successful year.

The Young at Heart is not planning an April meeting, due to the fact the Setera's will be on vacation. Don't forget to mark your calendars for May, we are planning on learning Line Dancing from Pat Hughes. Watch for the article in the May newsletter.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

- **Ed Chan**, undergoing treatment
- **Carol Clark**, hospitalized
- **Nan Hudson**, awaiting surgery
- **Lila Horwath**, homebound
- **Jeri Steward**, under doctor's care
- **Stacy Reynolds**, preparing for surgery
- **Barb Wyrwicki**, under doctor's care
- **Ron Hay**, Nan Hudson's son-in-law, undergoing treatment
- **Jim Ott**-recovering from surgery
- **Joe Wyrwicki**- awaiting surgery
- **Bob Roberts**-under doctor's care

Will You Join the Prayer Chain?

Do you know what a prayer chain is? It is a group of members who commit to praying for those in the church who are in need of prayer. No special training or background is needed, other than a willingness to pray for those who request it. The prayer requests could be related to health concerns, deaths, celebrations, family transitions—whatever people need.

Join the Prayer Chain by emailing the office at info@holyspiritlc.net

THANK YOU'S

The family of Helvi Ranta would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of you for your kind words, cards, funeral visitations, donations to the Memorial Fund, for your help in preparing the church for the Saturday funeral, for participating in the luncheon and for preparing such delicious desserts. We feel blessed to be members of this wonderful church family.

Thank you to all of you who sent cards and offered words of comfort after the recent death of my father. All were truly appreciated.

Diane Smith

Dear Friends,

We wanted to thank everyone at Holy Spirit for caring for dad and for all the expressions of kindness and sympathy extended to us at the time of his death. He was very proud to be part of your church family and through your teachings and love he knew he would be with Jesus. We thank Pastor Will for the special care during the time of his illness and helping us through a difficult time. We also thank everyone who served at the dinner and made it so nice for our family. Your love and generosity is very much appreciated.

The Salgat Family

"The Jesus I Never Knew"

Bible Study

Sundays @ 9:15am

Tapping the drama and immediacy of motion pictures, *The Jesus I Never Knew* curriculum will engage your hearts, minds, emotions, and senses as you compare well-known and little-known film portraits of Jesus with the Jesus of the Bible. This remarkable program will spark discussion, interaction, application and growth. Together, you will share life-changing discoveries about God, the Bible and yourselves.

Senior High Youth News

Habitat Kick-Off Brunch

Youth and parents are needed to help set up and serve at the Habitat for Humanity kick-off at HSLC on Saturday, April 12th.

Senior High Planning Meeting

High-school age students and their families are invited to attend a planning meeting at the Piggott's on Sunday, April 13th after the late service. Agenda includes finalizing event plans, scheduling chaperones and brainstorming fundraising ideas...and socializing! Lunch will be served.

Electronics Night

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For more information, feel free to contact Sally Piggott.

MUSIC NEWS

May 18—Worship And Music Appreciation Sunday

On May 18th, all the choirs and instrumentalists will present music during the worship service. Each group will present a piece to the congregation, accompanied by our instrumentalists. It will be a day of offering our musical gifts to the Lord and to the congregation.

Rehearsal Schedule (until May 18)

- **Adult Choir** will rehearse on Thursday from 6:30-8:00.
- **SonBurst Ringers and Singers** and **Kids Ring and Sing** will rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:30 beginning on April 9th.
- The **Youth Choir** will continue to rehearse at 5:00 pm on Sunday afternoons when they have confirmation.

After May 18th the Youth Choir, Kids Ring and Sing and SonBurst will not rehearse again until the fall. The adult choir will continue to rehearse until June 19th and then will take a break until fall also.

If you or your children would like to be involved in our music please call Jean Pike at 655-6764 or email her at jpika49@comcast.net



- 4/1 Brent Cleary
- 4/1 Alan Cochran
- 4/2 John Neil
- 4/4 Scott Haddon
- 4/5 JoAnn Bobo
- 4/5 Caden Tucker
- 4/6 Allison Loney
- 4/6 Alison Tramell
- 4/7 Henry Augenstein
- 4/7 Pma Holmblade
- 4/10 Hope McGillis
- 4/13 Phil Goebel
- 4/15 Konnor Robinson
- 4/18 Jim Ott
- 4/20 Jeremy Augenstein
- 4/20 Jacob Sarsfield
- 4/21 Nancy Byrd
- 4/21 Barb Noble
- 4/21 Lori Ross
- 4/21 Joe Wyrwicki
- 4/25 Bob Roberts
- 4/26 Jane Engstrom
- 4/28 Phil Rice
- 4/29 Richard Steward
- 4/30 Anya Gregg



- 4/28 Bruce & Sally Piggott
- 4/28 Ron & Eddie Albani

Average Monthly Worship Attendance for February

	2007	2008
8:00am	39	52
10:30am	110	122
Total	149	174

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

APRIL 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Education Hour 9:15am Worship 8 & 10:30 Youth Choir 5pm Confirmation 6pm	7 Worship Planning Team 9am	8 Women of the Spirit 10am Finance Comm 6:30 pm	9 Dinner 6:00 pm Kids Ring & Sing & Sonburst Ringers 6:30 pm VBS Meeting 6:30 pm	10 Adult Choir 6:30 pm	11 Brunch prep/set-up 5pm	12 Habitat For Humanity Kickoff 10-12am Koininia Outing 6pm
13 Education Hour 9:15 am Worship 8 & 10:30 Sr. High mtg. 12:30 Swedish Group 1:30-5	14 First Communion Workshop 6:30 pm	15 Congregational Council 6:30p.m.	16 Dinner 6:00 pm Kids Ring & Sing & Sonburst Ringers 6:30 pm	17 Adult Choir 6:30 pm	18 High School Electronics Night 6pm-Midnight	19
20 Education Hour 9:15 am Worship 8 & 10:30 Genesys Worship Serv. 4pm Youth Choir 5pm Confirmation 6pm	21 First Communion Workshop 6:30 pm	22	23 Dinner 6:00 pm Kids Ring & Sing & Sonburst Ringers 6:30 pm	24 Adult Choir 6:30 pm	25	26 New Member Class 9am-12 Noon
27 Education Hour 9:15 am Worship 8 & 10:30 Youth Choir 5pm Confirmation 6pm	28 First Communion Workshop 6:30 pm	29	30 Dinner 6:00 pm Kids Ring & Sing & Sonburst Ringers 6:30 pm			



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HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH
7234 FENTON RD.
GRAND BLANC, MI 48439

**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED**

HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH
7234 FENTON RD.
GRAND BLANC, MI 48439
OFFICE: (810) 424-6707
Website: www.holyspiritlc.net
Email: info@holyspiritlc.net

8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
9:15 am Education Hour for Children, Youth, and Adults
10:30am Worship with Holy communion