



THE FLAME

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Celebrating and living God’s Message”

Dec 2007

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

Flames of the Faithful

I am sitting in my office, looking out over a darkened, cloudy sky. It is nearly December (it will be when you are reading this), and I miss the warmth and sunshine of summer already. December contains that darkest day of the year, when we have the latest sunrise and the earliest sunset. December is a time of darkness. There is the physical darkness we see outside, and the internal darkness we feel in our hearts. December is a time of family gatherings, gift-giving, and parties. For some people, instead of filling them with joy, this season brings the darkness of despair, grief, and depression because it reminds them of the losses they have experienced. December can be a dark time.

However, as Christian people, December is also a time of hope and promise. We see and experience this hope and promise when we see the light of candles, and remember the light of a new star that heralded the birth of a savior. This December, we are going to focus on the promise of that new light coming into the world. We will gather as a congregation to light candles, read the promises of Scripture, sing the songs of faithful waiting and watching, and celebrate at the table a meal that makes the promise of Jesus’ presence real. December is a time of darkness, but the light is coming.

One of the traditions of the Christian church during the season of Advent is the lighting of the Advent wreath. For generations, families have gathered around the Advent wreath, lit a candle each week, and read the stories of the birth of Jesus. As a congregation, this season, we are going to spend time learning more about these Flames of the Faithful. Each candle has something to teach us about the light that is coming into the world. Each week, we will light another candle, read parts of Scripture, and say a prayer to help us prepare for the coming of the true light of the world Jesus. Over the following week’s we will consider the following themes:

Dec. 2	The Prophecy Candle bids us listen to God's Word ... and act upon it.
Dec. 9	The Bethlehem Candle calls us to prepare our homes and hearts for the presence of Christ.
Dec. 16	The Shepherd’s Candle with On This Very Night – Christmas Program
Dec. 23	The Angel's Candle urges us to live lives of celebration.
Dec. 24	The Christ Candle calling us to remember the real reason for Christmas
Dec. 30	Lessons and Carols invites us to join the heavenly host in rejoicing at Jesus’ birth.

This December, look to the light. See the lights of candles, the lights glowing on houses or trees, even the light shining in the eyes of a child, and remember. Remember that even on the darkest night of the year, there is light, for Jesus, the light of the world has been born. Have a blessed Christmas. Alleluia! Jesus is Born!

Pastor Will

Worship & Music News

Advent Midweek Services

Wednesdays in December at 6:45pm

Take time away from your busy schedules to come and prepare your hearts and minds for Christmas. Sing a carol, watch a drama about the lives of the lesser known characters of Jesus' story, or sit and pray. These 30 minute services are a great way for families to get away from the chaos of Christmas preparations and remember Jesus!

On this Very Night

December 16, 10:30am

On Christmas, everything changed. Join us for a musical worship experience of the miracle of Jesus' coming. The service will feature the many musical gifts of Holy Spirit's members, as well as readings and Holy Communion.

Christmas Eve

December 24, 4:30, 6:00, and 10:00pm

Join us as we celebrate the birth of our savior. All services will sing the classic carols and celebrate Holy Communion. Candle-lighting at 6:00 and 10:00pm.

What does the prevailing cultural symbol of Christmas – Santa Claus – have to do with the true meaning of Christmas? Bring a friend with you to services this Christmas Eve and discover together.

A New Christmas Eve Service – Family Service at 4:30pm

This new service on Christmas Eve will be family-oriented, with a very special guest—hint: Do you hear hooves on the rooftop?

Christmas Worship

Music Director's Report for December

The musicians at Holy Spirit have been rehearsing faithfully since the fall. In addition to preparing music for the Sunday services we have been learning the Christmas musical which we will present to the congregation on December 16th at 10:30

Each year at Christmas we celebrate Emmanuel: God with us. This year, the choirs will be presenting "On This Very Night" by Karla Worley. As a congregation we will again hear the exciting news that the shepherds heard long ago, the Son of God has come to earth! The story will be told by the adult choir, both the children's choirs and narrators. This is going to be a beautiful and exciting presentation celebrating the birth of Christ. I hope that you can plan on being there with your family that day.

During the Advent and Christmas season Kids Ring and Sing is changing their rehearsal time. Beginning November 28th through December 19th they will rehearse at 6:00 rather than 6:30. SonBurst Ringers and Singers will continue to rehearse at 5:30.

The choirs traditionally take a short break from rehearsals during the Christmas season. This year SonBurst Ringers and Singers and Kids Ring and Sing will not rehearse on December 26th and January 2nd. They will begin regular rehearsals again on January 9th and also go back to their normal rehearsal times. SonBurst at 5:30 and Kids Ring and Sing at 6:30. The adult choir will not rehearse on December 27th or January 3rd. They will begin their regular rehearsal schedule on January 10th.

I am excited about the music we are presenting for Advent and Christmas and looking forward to the Christmas season when we remember the birth of our Savior. I look forward to celebrating His birth with our church family and with those who will visit us during this time. I pray that the light and love of Jesus will show in our music as we continue to offer our musical gifts to Him.

Confirmation News

Caroling at the Nursing Home

December 9, 5:45pm—meet at church

All confirmation youth and their families are welcome to join us as we carol at an area nursing care center. After we have brightened some spirits with our singing, we will go back to the church to share some cookies and cider.

Youth Quake – January 4-6

10 youth and adults from HSLC will be attending Youth Quake, a Lutheran youth gathering for middle school age youth. Students will listen to inspirational speakers and participate in worship led by excellent Christian bands. In addition, students will experience Bible studies, enjoy free time, and meet new friends.

Confirmation Schedule for December

December 2	Theme/Learning Event
December 9	Caroling – meet at church at 5:45pm
December 16	Theme/Learning Event



The Gathering – Dec 27-30

The Gathering is an opportunity for groups of Lutheran youth with adult chaperones from all over Michigan and some from Ohio to gather in Christ at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing for three days of fun, worship, spiritual growth, and much more. The Gathering features worship time, key-note speakers, skill shops, small groups, and a lot of recreational options all focused on this year's theme: Ewe Are Loved (The Lord is my shepherd...

Psalm 23:1). The cost to attend is \$125.00, plus the cost of your meals during the weekend. If interested, please contact Pastor Will as soon as possible.

THANK YOU

On behalf of Christ the Shepherd and Karen Zeile, please accept our warmest thank you for your presence and participation at Karen Zeile's Consecration Service. We are so proud and appreciative of Karen's accomplishments and feel truly blessed.

Thank you to your congregation who so graciously allowed us to use your church for the Consecration. Please accept the enclosed \$100 as a token of our thanks.

As Karen and our congregation move forward spreading God's word and providing service to our community and the world please pray for our continued vision. May the Holy Spirit move us and guide us forward.

Thank you again and may God bless you!

In Christ,
Douglas Walls
Council President of Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ortonville

YOUNG AT HEART

I know that December is a very busy month for all of us. That is why I am asking you to get these dates on your calendar early so you don't forget!

Christmas Cookie Event

Thursday, December 6th, 10 a.m.

*We will be meeting at the church and Making and Baking Christmas Cookies together. Bring your favorite recipe and the ingredients. We will work together making, baking, tasting and singing Christmas Carols. It will be **FUN!** At the end of the day we will each go home with a variety of goodies. Lunch will be provided. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!***

5th Annual Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange

Thursday, December 13th, 11:00 a.m.

Join us for the 5th annual YAH Christmas Party. The cost is \$5.00 for a Turkey Dinner from Thompson Creek. We will be having a guest speaker presenting a program on MI Identity Theft Awareness. Please come and join us, we always have such good fellowship together. Looking forward to seeing all of a you.

PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE KIOSK IF YOU WILL ATTENDING.



BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

The Young at Heart enjoyed a Pot Luck Lunch and Surprised Helvi Ranta and Carol Clark by throwing them a 90th Birthday Party on, November 8th. They were so happy and enjoyed every minute of the party. Helvi and Carol appreciated everything very much. We also viewed two movies, Evan Almighty and Deck the Hall, some of us played cards, and all had a good time. Thank you all for coming.

I would like to also thank the Young at Heart for the Birthday Gift of flowers and a certificate to Sagano Japanese Bistro. What a nice surprise, I really appreciate the gifts. Thank you all from the bottom of my **Heart**.

We would like to invite anyone 55 and older to join us, we are a very fun loving group. We take trips, do crafts, play games, do lunches and of course enjoy each other friendship. There is no membership required, there are no dues, and there are no commitments, just a lot of really great people getting together in the name of Christ. Give it a try you might just like it.

God's Blessings to you all at Christmas and in the New Year.

Karen and Gerry Setera, and questions call:
810-584-0165

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We are half way through our third module for Pre-K-5th grade Sunday School. The story is Noah and the Ark and the focus is on trusting God. Our rotation presenters are Sheryl Porter and Janet McGillis-Art, Diane Gregg-Edible Art, Tim Houle-Magic and a Noah and the Ark movie.

The song for this module is “Rise and Shine and Give God the Glory” and the Bible verse is Gen 6:22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him. And 1 Thess. 5:16-18 Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. **Parents: Please** help your children earn silver stars for attending all four Sundays of the module and/or for memorizing the Bible verse.

The Junior High Class is discussing “The Top 20 Messages for Youth Ministry” and the Senior High class taught by Gerry Tucker is studying the book of Genesis for the entire year. They started with Creation, Cain and Abel, Noah and will continue with the Tower of Babel, Abraham and maybe will get to Moses.

The Adult Class is currently studying the Lord’s Prayer. The class is being led by Bob Ranta. Please join us any Sunday for coffee, fellowship and study.

Thank you’s:

- To our dedicated teachers: Bev Langer, Lonnie Moore, Nicole Ballard and Anne Casselton.
- To Jean Pike for doing our musical opening and for the high school students who assist her each Sunday.
- To our past presenters: Nan Hudson, Beth Chan, Paul Wenstrom, Kari Robinson, Pat Odgers, Bob Kuerbitz, Jenny McKay and Sylvia and Alex Murray. Ask them what they did!

Check out the Children’s Nursery walls that were recently painted with stick-figure children thanks to Lisa Nash. Rooms 3 and 4 are next and will be done by our painting team of Jeannette New-Ballew, Nicole Ballard, Lonnie Moore, Pat Odgers, Tammy Schild and Lisa Nash.

God and Me Scouting Classes

If you have a child who participates in a scouting program, such as boy scouts or girl scouts, as well as Indian guides or 4H, then you may be interested in the religious badge program. The religious emblem program offers badges for working on faith-developing and defining activities. The program offers badges at various levels of scouting, from kindergarten-age up to high school. The badges usually can be completed in as few as three sessions, which can be scheduled once we have a group that wants the workshops.

We are currently hoping to offer the program in the winter – potentially on Saturday mornings or on Wednesday evenings. If interested in this program, please sign up on the board in the narthex.



What were those Dogs doing in Church?

During the past four Sunday's children in Sunday school had the opportunity to learn what dogs can teach us about God and obedience. Wire Fox Terriers, Jack and Zoey, demonstrated obedience without questioning and with joy (especially when a treat was involved). The children learned that we should also be obedient to God in the same way. When dogs are disobedient, their human guardians are disappointed and sad, as God is when we are disobedient. Dogs understand and learn a trick or command with practice and by going to obedience school. In the same way we must continue to practice obedience to God by attending Sunday school, reading Bible stories and praying. If we don't practice with our dogs, they might forget and become lost. If we stop learning about God, we might also forget and lose our way.

Jack and Zoey did a few tricks and demonstrated sit and stay commands as well as to come when called. All the children had a chance to interact with the dogs and learned the correct way to approach a strange dog. The classes ended with petting the dogs and playing the game, guess which closed hand had the dog treat. I think that was the best part for Jack & Zoey.

Thank you to the Sunday school classes for allowing us to share our dogs with them and demonstrate joyful obedience to God.

Alex & Sylvia Murray



President's Report

I'd like to invite you to our upcoming 4th quarter 2007 Congregation Meeting. We have a lot of important information to cover. The meeting is scheduled for:

Fourth Quarter 07 Congregation Meeting

Sunday, December 9

9:15 – 10:15

(in between services – No adult Sunday School)

The agenda for the meeting looks to be shaping up like this:

- President's Report – to include information on Goals & Priorities and the draft of a Five Year Plan
- Pastor's Report – to include an explanation on grant funding for additional staffing that we've obtained
- Finance Director's Report – to include updates on finances and Stewardship, and most importantly, the presentation of and voting on the proposed 2008 budget

It's important that all of the members of the church understand what the Congregation Council (CC) is doing. And likewise, it's even more important that the CC understand the ideas and concerns of the congregation. One of the best ways we do this is via meetings like these. So, please stick around after early service, or come early for late service and participate in the business of our church.

Additionally, since it's near the year-end, I'd like to thank everyone who's done so much important work within the church this past year. I'd like to start out thanking the Call Committee, who earlier this year spent a lot of time and effort identifying the members of the current Congregational Council. And the CC members themselves, for all of the unknown hours and work they've put in making sure HSLC is operating correctly and planning for the future. I'd also like to thank the Finance Committee for their due diligence in making sure we remain in good financial standings. And finally, a thank-you to the staff and all of the volunteers within the church who have helped in so many different activities and functions.

I'm looking forward to jumping into full motion and executing on the plans we've identified for next year, and laying the foundation for even more growth in the future.

May God be with you always - Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

Bob Kuerbitz - President

Flames of the Faithful Bible Study – Wednesday Evenings at 7:30pm

Are you prepared for Christmas? Not just with the decorations, presents and Christmas cards, but with your heart and soul. Come and spend an hour each Wednesday reading the lessons of Advent, considering the promises of Jesus' coming, and reflecting on what those promises mean for us today and every day.

Director of Finance Report:

The goal of the finance committee is to build a solid financial foundation on which Holy Spirit Lutheran Church can grow and achieve its mission.

1. Income: through October 31, 2007 - total church income amounts to \$267,400
2. Expenses: through October 31, 2007 - total church expenses amount to \$258,700
3. The above income includes \$33,300 from the building fund to make the church mortgage payments.
4. Starting on December 1, 2007 the church mortgage payment will be \$2,262 per month or \$27,000 per year. This is versus \$3,333/month of \$40,000/year currently.
5. Through October 31st, income from pledges, new members, visitors and special gifts (i.e., piano fund) is approximately \$225,000. This is an increase of over 25% versus 2006.
6. The recent building improvements, parking lot expansion and new pianos are all paid for.
7. Current Assets:

Citizens Bank checking account	\$33,000
Church Building Fund	\$41,000
Good Samaritan Fund	<u>\$ 1.100</u>
 Total Cash	 \$75,100
8. As of November 20, 2007 the Finance Committee and Congregation Council have made the following projections for the Year 2008:

Income from pledges, new members and visitors	\$ 267,000
Income from holiday offerings, dinners and use fees	\$ 10,500
Interest on Building Fund balance '07 and '08	\$ 4,000
Building Fund (versus \$40,000 used in 2007)	\$ 6,000
Projected 2007 positive cash-flow	<u>\$ 13,500</u>
 Total 2008 Income	 \$ 301,000
Base Church Expenses	\$ 274,000
Mortgage payments for 2008	<u>\$ 27,000</u>
Total 2008 expenses	\$ 301,000
9. The goal for 2008 is to pay \$21,000 of the total mortgage payments of \$27,000 from current income. This will help preserve the Church Building Fund balance for future growth.
10. The proposed budget will be presented to the entire congregation on December 9, 2007 for review and approval.

If you have any questions or comments about the financial matters of Holy Spirit please contact a member of the finance committee: Paul Wenstrom, Ed Chan, Jerry Tucker, Sue McComb, Bob Kuerbitz, Bill Lundquist and Pastor Will.

New Members This Fall

Throughout the fall, we have been blessed to welcome a number of new families into a life of discipleship here at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. In order to help you to get to know these new families, we are now providing brief bios of each family. It is our hope that these intros to each family will help you to make some new connections as we welcome them into the life of the congregation. Reading through the list, it is easy to see that God is sending some wonderful individuals to join our ministry. To God be the glory!

Stacy Reynolds is a divorced mother of two daughters, Rachel 25 and Rikki 19. Rachel lives in Las Vegas & Rikki is enrolled at Mott. I have always struggled with trying to support the girls and when Rikki graduated I felt free to change careers (massage therapy) and move. I love my new home at Thornridge and I feel like God lead me there and to Holy Spirit. In my home, I feel like I really am home for the first time...maybe ever. And the same is true of Holy Spirit. I feel comfortable and safe. I also have a really fat cat named squid.

Phil & Ellie Goebel both retired in 1998. They moved to Fairfield Glade Tennessee returning to Michigan in 2003. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and feel they are already in heaven.

Stephen Hoisington (husband of member Vicky Hoisington). Steven was born in Durand, Michigan and married Vicky in 1983. They raised their family in Durand. In 2003, we moved to Grand Blanc. I work 2nd Shift at Genesys Health Park. Our daughter, Kristina was recently married in September. She and her husband Tony reside in Montgomery, Alabama

Jennifer Durbin who likes to be called Jenny is married and has a daughter named Amber Rose. Amber is in the 2nd grade and is the joy of her life. She is a stay at home mom who sells Avon and baby-sits Jayden Loney. She enjoys scrap booking, crafts, movies and music.

Sandra Ireland is the mother of a 5year old son named Donald. I have been attending Holy Spirit since October. I am the sister of Tammy Schild and daughter of Cathy Ireland. I love animals and reading books.

Dave & Julie Alley are graduates of Michigan State University and have been married 2 ½ years. They recently had their first child, a boy named David James Alley.

Terry & Lisa Katur have been married for 7 years and reside in Grand Blanc. They have been attending Holy Spirit since February. They are expecting their first child in April.

Jeromy & Paula Weible have been married for 4 years and reside in Waterford. Their family consists of 2 very happy dogs and a 2 year old son named Aiden, who was recently baptized at Holy Spirit.

Jim & Tara Babbitt Jim & Tara have been married for 13 years and have 4 children. Trevor Nielson attends IUSB in Indiana and does ROTC at Norte Dame: Mitch is in the 6th grade and plays soccer; Jack loves to play football, baseball and basketball and is in 3rd grade. Lilly is a great gymnast and is in 1st grade. They also have a dog named Max. Jim works in Troy and is in the Army National Guard and is preparing to deploy to Iraq .Tara is a para-pro at Brendel Elementary in Grand Blanc. We are excited to have found Holy Spirit and to have made great friends!

Mikael & Leslie Sells have been married for 6 years and have 2 children, Christian and Makenzi. They are expecting a baby in June. Mike and Leslie play on a co-ed softball team in the summer and fall. Christian plays hockey and loves to skate. Makenzi is in figure skating. We starting attending Holy Spirit in July of 2007 after loosing our 3rd baby. We received a warm welcome form everyone at Holy Spirit.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Thanks to all who contributed time, money and gifts to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Our gifts for this year were shipped in October.

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
QUILTS	3	14	25	32
BLANKETS	6	6	0	1
SCHOOL KITS	0	42	78	59
SOAP	265 bars	210 bars	464 bars	371 bars
USED CLOTHING	boxes+	5 boxes	3 sm. boxes	NO LONGER ACCEPTED
MONEY		\$100.00	\$20.00 and \$898.00 youth	\$187.00

OUTREACH

The Board of Outreach could use your help. We could use someone for marketing our Holy Spirit Church. Please see me or call for details.

Have you looked at our Church Website lately? Sylvia Murrays doing a great job! Let her know what you think or any suggestions. Thanks Sylvia!

Bev Langer has been busy working on the bulletin boards. Let her know what you think. A BIG thank you Bev!

I'll be mailing or emailing a few pointers for our Greeters. If you would like to be a Greeter or Visitor (or Guest) information deliverer please let me know.

A BIG thank you to everyone who give their time as Greeters and "outreach" delivering the packets of information to our visitors (guests).

Barb Shaffer
 Director of Outreach
 810-691-7623

Average Monthly Worship Attendance for October

	2006	2007
8:00am		40
10:30am	173	190
Total	173	230

Homeless Packs Ministry

I am happy to share with the people of Holy Spirit an opportunity to serve the community and spread the message of God's love. Flint area Police and Emergency Services Personnel are our "eyes and ears" on the street and are concerned about the many homeless people that do not make it into the shelters before they close for the night. The hospital emergency departments often see the tragic results. These workers on the front lines often feel helpless to do anything for those suffering in the cold. Thus the "homeless pack" was born. These packets consist of a warm blanket, 2 pair of socks, gloves or mittens, and a hat or scarf. Holy Spirit can help ensure that this need is met by bringing new or used items and dropping them in the boxes located near the entrances of the church. With the weather growing colder, the need is urgent, so please bring what you are able to contribute as soon as possible. Thank you and God's Blessings upon you.

Stacy Reynolds

Farewell to Stephanie and Patrick Anderson

It is with regret that we announce the resignation and moving of Stephanie Anderson, our Nursery Ministry Coordinator. For the past 10 months, Stephanie has been a source of love, coordination, and stability in our ministry to young children. Recently, Stephanie has taken time off of work for maternity leave, as she delivered her newborn, Alexander, on October 31. Shortly after the birth of their son, Patrick, Stephanie's husband accepted a new job in Dallas, TX, near where his parents are living. We wish God's blessings to Stephanie and Patrick as they head out on this new leg of their journey. Thank you, Stephanie, for the work you have done this year and the love you have shown our children.

BAPTISMS:

November 11-Paula Marie Weible
November 22-Alexander Anderson



- 12/2 Dwight Bobo
- 12/7 Stacey Jameson
- 12/8 Carol Clark
- 12/10 Alyssa Cleary
- 12/10 Kari Robinson
- 12/12 Marci Johnson
- 12/14 Jayden Loney
- 12/15 Catherine Geiser
- 12/15 Jaimi Hegenauer
- 12/15 Erich Vogel
- 12/16 Wayne Brandon
- 12/16 Bea Foote
- 12/16 Nan Hudson
- 12/16 Jamie Peterson
- 12/17 Louise Grandy
- 12/19 Ian Gregg
- 12/19 Kristine Kuerbitz
- 12/19 Emily McBroom
- 12/21 Michelle Loney
- 12/23 Rachel Langer
- 12/25 Mark Schild
- 12/28 Brian McBroom
- 12/31 Jill Kondel



- 12/1 Clay & Sandy Willoughby



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**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED**

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7234 FENTON RD. GRAND BLANC, MI 48439

OFFICE: (810) 424-6707

Website: www.holyspiritlc.net

Christmas Services Schedule

Wed. Nights	Brief Advent Service	6:45-7:15pm
December 16	Carol Sing	8:00am
	Christmas Musical	10:30am
December 24	Family Christmas Eve	4:30pm
	Candlelit Service	6:00pm
	Candlelit Service	10:00pm
December 30	Lessons and Carols	8:00 and 10:30am