



THE FLAME

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Celebrating and living God’s Message”

Feb 2008

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

A Change of Perspective

Happy, Lent! If you grew up in the church, that phrase probably doesn’t sound right to you. Historically, Lent is the 40 Day period (not counting Sundays) before Easter, when people were to reflect on their lives and see if there are changes that God is calling them to make in their priorities, habits, or attitudes. Because of this call to examine ourselves, Lent can be a frightening time.

To help us on our journey this season, our Scripture readings over the next few Sundays have us following Jesus, listening to his teachings about the Kingdom, and being invited to live as his disciples. Being a disciple of Jesus is not an easy task, but thanks be to God that we do not follow him alone. Instead, we have the joy of following him in a community of people who support us, study with us, encourage us, challenge us, and pray with us. What a gift the community of God’s people can be!

Maybe part of the change in perspective we need this season is to really appreciate this community that we have been given. Some questions to consider as we challenge our perspectives this Lent:

- Do you take full advantage of the opportunity to meet new people, spending time with them and getting to know them? (Our new tables in the Narthex may help us to mingle more and spend time with newcomers.)
- Do we seek out opportunities to study with other Christians, reading The Bible together to guide our lives?
- As a community, are we open to the gifts that youth may bring to our ministry as we invite them to critique the programs we offer and the worship services we lead?
- As a congregation, do we seek out the input and ideas of all of our members, old and young, new and long-term, as we make decisions and seek to follow Jesus?

For myself, I need to spend time slowing down again, studying in a group as we focus on God’s Word. At the same time, I need to listen anew to God’s voice in Scripture, as well as through the voices of trusted colleagues and members of our church family. What a gift we have in our community here at Holy Spirit, can we spend time this Lent growing in our sense of community?

During this season of Lent, take advantage of the gift of this community by being a part of our Sunday morning Bible Study I will be leading. We will be studying, *“The Jesus I Never Knew”* by Phillip Yancey, a study that will surely challenge us to look again at how the Bible depicts Jesus. At the same time, give your children the gift of community by bringing them to Sunday School. Let them get to know the other youth their age, make friendships, and study God’s Word together. Lent can be a great time of growth, if we take advantage of opportunities to live, study, worship, and play together. Let’s take time this Lent to examine our lives, the way we live as Jesus’ disciples, and let the Holy Spirit guide us in changing our perspectives.

In Christ,

Pastor Will

Worship Notes

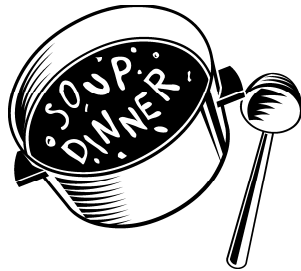
Ash Wednesday Worship, Feb 6, 6:45pm



Come and Join us as we usher in the Season of Lent with the Ash Wednesday service. This service includes the celebration of Holy Communion, meaningful music, reflective lessons, and experiential elements like the imposition of ashes to help us examine our lives and consider the life-changing nature of confession and forgiveness.

Lenten Soup Suppers Wednesdays at 5:30pm

Join us on Wednesday evenings for soup suppers, beginning Feb. 6. Don't worry about what to cook on Wednesday evenings, just come and join us for a simple meal and worship. Volunteers will be cooking the soup (sign up on the board next to the kitchen, if you like to make soup), and a free will offering will be collected for the Good Samaritan Fund, with matching funds coming from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.



Midweek Lenten Services: Wednesdays at 6:45 and 7:30pm

This year we will be experimenting with 2 Wednesday Lenten Services, beginning on February 13. The two services will each have a very different feel and style to them.

- The first service at 6:45pm will be geared for families, featuring Scripture Readings, Lenten songs, contemporary video clips, and a brief message.
- The second at 7:30 pm will use *The Holden Evening Prayer Service*. This will be a quieter more meditative service for those desiring a reflective format, with a richer traditional music format.

Sunday Lenten Worship Themes:

Lent is a time when we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, from testing and



WORSHIP
SCHEDULE
for
LENT

temptation through miracles and mission, to confrontation and conflict, and finally to commissioning and the Cross. This is not a journey for the faint of heart. As we follow Jesus, we will see the ways that we fail to fully live as his disciples. When we watch the purpose and focus in Jesus' actions, we will see the emptiness and futility of so much of what our world values. However, as we get closer to Good Friday and the cross we see more and more clearly the victory that he won for us and the new life that he is offering us. Through the cross of Jesus, we die to this world, and we are resurrected to a new and better life. Join us on the journey, and God will change your lives forever.

Feb 6	Ash Wednesday: Going to the End, We Find the Beginning
Feb 10	Temptation in the Wilderness: Which path to Follow?
Feb 17	Baptism: Born Again to Start the Journey
Feb 24	Worship: Quenching our Deepest Thirst

Thank You

A big thank you to Gerry Setera, Ron Albani, Phil Rice, Joe Wyrwicki, and Jerry Tucker & family for taking down the old tables and setting up the news ones that we are all enjoying. Also thank you to Alex Murray for taking care of all the cardboard boxes.

My family was truly blessed by your generous giving this Christmas Season. It was truly an unexpected blessing. God Bless you all one hundred fold. The Emmanuel Family

Should I Give Things Up For Lent?

Over the years, people have often asked whether or not they should give things up for Lent. There are many reasons why people historically have given things up for Lent, some of them commendable (fasting in order to more fully focus their attention on Christ and his suffering for us) and others were somewhat self-serving (giving up sweets in order to lose the weight that was gained over Christmas).



In recent years, many people now add something to their regular routine during Lent as a form of sacrifice and devotion. An example of this would be those who begin reading a devotional book daily during Lent. While any increase in devotional activity can be of benefit to the Christian, these short time activities usually only lead to short term results. Of greater benefit to the Christian is to use the season of Lent to make long term changes in our lives. Below is a series of questions that may stimulate our thinking about things we can do to make long term changes in our routine or state of mind. In this way, Lent can be a time of true repentance, since true repentance only happens when we not only confess our failings, but also seek to change our actions.

- What progress am I making in sharing gladly what I have with others, particularly with the stranger and the poor?
- What attitudes do I convey to those who irritate me? How can awareness of my own need of God's grace enable me to be more gracious to them?
- How has my sense of interconnectedness in corporate worship grown of late, and how can I move ahead in appreciating the contributions and needs of other members in the congregation to which I belong?
- Am I as charitable and thoughtful to family members as to others? Or do I "take it out" on my family when life at school or work gets hectic?
- Can I redistribute my long-range personal budget in order to have more money to give away?
- When I hear someone being unjustly maligned; do I speak up to correct the record, or am I a silent accomplice?
- How can I more effectively and consistently support legislation and social programs that help the disadvantaged rather than hurt them?
- In devotional acts of prayer and reading, am I increasing my attention span and discovering new ways of listening rather than of talking, of giving thanks rather than of complaining?
- As I uncover and attempt to deal with one level of prejudice in my life, what other levels do I find lurking underneath, and how can I confront them?
- In addition to intercessory prayer, what habits can I develop that allow me to be more responsive to the sick, the distressed, and the bereaved, particularly when their needs emerge suddenly and require immediate attention? Can I plan spaces into my life to allow for such unanticipated opportunities to minister to others?
- Am I, by consistent attendance at worship, a witness to others of the worthiness of the God I follow? Or am I, by my sporadic attendance, suggesting that God is worth serving some times, but not others?

These and similar disciplines are designed to have effects far past the Lenten season and indeed are intended to produce new pathways of devotion and discipline in the same way that the exercises of the pianist create new and enduring neural pathways.

MUSIC NEWS

Psalm 100 tells us to “serve the Lord with gladness” and to “come before His presence with singing.” At Holy Spirit we have many opportunities to offer our musical gifts in service to the Lord and to the church. If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument for our worship services we invite you to consider the following options.

The **Adult Choir** rehearses on Thursday evenings at 6:30 and provides musical leadership to the hymns and songs sung by the congregation on Sunday. They also present an anthem every week, alternating between the 8:00 and the 10:30 service, and sing a variety of musical styles from classical to contemporary. In addition to singing every Sunday this group prepares extra music for Christmas, Easter and other special programs.

The **Youth Choir** meets every other Sunday evening at 5:00 before Confirmation. Youth Choir is open to any young person in grades 6-10 who is interested in learning Christian music and presenting it to the congregation. Through February and March the Youth will be singing on the following Sundays and Wednesdays:

Sunday, Feb. 17th
Midweek Lenten Service Feb. 27th
Midweek Lenten Service Mar. 12th

March 16th Palm Sunday
March 23rd Easter Sunday

Kids Ring and Sing is for children between the ages of 6 and 10 and normally meets on Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. However, on Ash Wednesday Feb. 6th this group will begin rehearsing at 6:00 in order to allow us to start the Lenten services at 6:45. This choir learns songs that teach them about God’s love for them and their commitment to God as His children and as part of the family of God. In addition to singing they also ring color-coded handballs to the tune of well loved traditional hymns. Through February and March they will sing or ring on the following Sundays and Wednesdays:

Sunday, Feb 3rd with Sonburst Ringers and Singers
Midweek Lenten Service Feb. 20th
Midweek Lenten Service Mar. 5th with
SonBurst Ringers and Singers

March 16th Palm Sunday
March 23rd Easter Sunday

The **SonBurst Ringers and Singers** is for children who are 4 and 5 years old. They rehearse every Wednesday at 5:30 P.M. Most of them are just beginning to sing so we sing simple songs about God and His love for them. They also ring color-coded handbells. Through February and March they will sing or ring on the following Sundays and Wednesdays:

Sunday, Feb. 3rd with Kids ring and Sing
Midweek Lenten Service Feb. 13th
Sunday, Mar. 2nd
Midweek Lenten Service Mar. 5th with Kids Ring and Sing
Sunday, Mar. 16th Palm Sunday with Kids Ring and Sing
Sunday, Mar. 23rd Easter Sunday with Kids Ring and Sing



If you are interested in participating in our music program, vocally or instrumentally, please contact Jean Pike at music@holyspiritlc.net, jpik49@comcast.net or 810.655.6764

President's Article

Dear Congregation,

As we've just completed our first Congregational Committee (CC) meeting of the New Year, we're already identifying the tasks and plans we need to execute in order to achieve the goals and initiatives we've set for ourselves for 2008.

One of the key activities we've identified is to form a Property Management Team (or whatever Jeff Watson and the team or committee wants to name themselves!) to begin the process of developing a site development plan. HSLC owns a substantial amount of land that can be developed for a number of different usages for the church. The task of this team will be to determine how best to lay-out the use of the site. What does the congregation want? Can we/Should we get temporary classrooms? If so, where would they go? When we initiate a building expansion program, what are we going to build and where are we going to add on? Do we want ball fields or a playground? Where would those go so we don't interfere with a future building program? Answers to all of these questions and more are what we're trying to accomplish - to determine a plan of how we expand and grow physically in the near future. If you're interested in serving on this team, please contact Jeff Watson (Director of Church Properties) or myself.

Another important part of our goals and initiatives is to fill our open leadership and staff positions. We are currently in need of people from the congregation for the following volunteer positions:

- **Director of Youth Ministries** to work in partnership with the youth of the congregation in their faith development and discipleship through worship, learning, fellowship and service opportunities.
- **Stewardship Chairperson** to develop and implement year-round stewardship programs regarding the talents, abilities and financial gifts of the congregation.

Additionally, the Personnel Committee is in the process of finding candidates from either inside or outside the church for the following paid positions:

- **Nursery Coordinator** to manage the nursery and ensure child-care is provided for all church events
- **New Member and Adult Ministry Coordinator** to work with Pastor Will in developing small group ministries and assimilating new members into the congregation

If you are interested in any of these positions, or know of any good candidates, please feel free to contact Pastor Will, Tim Houle (Vice-President, Chair of Personnel Committee) or myself to further pursue.

In future Flame articles I will touch on the status and activities of other goals and initiatives we're pursuing for 2008. And as always, I ask that you please keep the Congregational Council in your prayers as we work toward the best for Holy Spirit Lutheran Church and our ministries.

In Christ,
Bob Kuerbitz - President

Average Monthly Worship Attendance for December (Includes Christmas Eve & Wed.)

	2006	2007
8:00am		37
10:30am		267
Total	229	304

Outreach Committee

Here we are in 2008 and as they say it's a New Year and a New You! I'd like to thank everyone for their time and commitment every week in their individual roles in outreach. You are all very appreciated and needed for your work here at Holy Spirit! Thank you to Bill Reaves who took over the publicity and advertising of our great church. A big Thank you also goes out to Don Langer who rebuilt the kiosk. Take a look!

As we look ahead, there will be a short **meeting with our "Greeters & Outreach" people on Sunday February 10th, after 8:00 am & 10:30 am services.** Please mark your calendars. If you are not serving in this area, but are considering it, please join us. Please call me (691-7623) with any questions. Your suggestions and comments are always welcome. We are looking forward to an exciting year of sharing our congregation with all of those in our community.

Barb Shaffer

Director of Board of Worship Report

The Worship Planning Team has begun planning worship services through the Easter Season. Again, we will need volunteers to make soup for each Wednesday evening for 6 weeks. Please look for the sign up sheet and consider making a pot of soup for all to enjoy.

A constructive feedback box will be placed near the kiosk for those individuals who have constructive thoughts regarding our worship services. Please feel free to offer your thoughts to help us continually try to improve our worship experience.

Happy New Year and thank you again to each and every one of you who serve on Sundays to make our worship services complete. We need you and could not do it without your willingness to serve.

In Christ,
Jan Wenstrom

Paid Nursery Coordinator Sought

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church is looking for a paid nursery coordinator to guide our ministry to children from birth through preschool. The coordinator should be a high school graduate with, preferably, 1+ year's experience in an early childhood setting, as well as course work in early childhood development. The job responsibilities include: caring for children in the nursery; the supervision, coordination, training and scheduling of nursery volunteers; and the development of guidelines and procedures for the nursery ministry. The position will require up to ten hours/week, compensated at the rate of \$10.00/hour and candidates must be available on Sunday mornings from 7:45am to 12:00pm, as well as Wednesday evenings from 5:30 – 7:30pm. Congregation members are invited to apply, but external candidates will be considered, with the position being posted at local colleges and universities. Interested candidates should drop their resume off in the church office, labeled, "Attention: Pastor Will", or email their resume to: pastorwill@holyspiritlc.net.

YOUNG AT HEART

*Valentine's Day Lunch
Held at: Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
February 14, 2008 11:00 a.m.*

Ladies this is your day to be pampered by the men. The men will be preparing and serving our delicious lunch and dessert to us. Meanwhile, we will be having fun making a shell basket door stops.

Don't forget to sign up asap, so we know how many to plan for. The sign up sheet from now on will be located in the education hallway (on the way to the restroom) on our bulletin board. Looking forward to seeing all of you.

Any questions call Karen Setera, 810-584-0165.

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

- 1 The Finance Committee is seeking a new Stewardship Chairman. Due to health reasons, Ed Chan had to step down from this position.
2. The committee discussed establishing a Scholarship Fund. This fund would be used to help fund camping experiences and educational advancement of students. The criteria for scholarships and funding methods is now being reviewed.
3. A part time accounting position will be established at Holy Spirit. A job description is being drafted.
4. Review of 2007

a.	Total Church Income	\$348,000
b.	Total Church Expenses	\$324,000
c.	Year 2007 Cash Flow	+ \$ 24,000

The 2007 income included \$40,000 from the Building Fund and \$31,000 in Special Gifts. The \$24,000 year 2007 surplus will be available for year 2008 expenses. \$10,500 of this amount has been directed to specific uses. Without the Building Fund and Special Gift income, the Church would have had a \$47,000 negative cash flow in 2007.

5. Projections for 2008.

Income

a.	Pledges and visitors	\$267,000 + 11% vs. 2007 (\$241,000)
b.	Building Fund	\$ 6,000
c.	Investment Income	\$ 4,000
d.	Other Income	\$ 10,500
e.	2007 Surplus	\$ 13,500 (of \$24,000 total 2007 surplus)
f.	Total Income	\$301,000

Expenses

a.	Mortgage	\$ 27,000
b.	Salaries and Admin	\$165,500
c.	Maintenance, util. etc.	\$ 42,000
d.	ELCA Support	\$ 21,500
e.	Reserve Fund	\$ 13,500
f.	All other i.e., programs. etc.	\$ 31,500
	Total Expenses	\$301,000

Summary:

The Finance Committee is grateful for the generous support the members and friends have extended to Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. Through the time, talents and financial gifts received, the 2007 was a very good year for Holy Spirit.

The committee knows that membership is growing and church attendance is increasing. We will proceed with cautiously optimistic recommendations to the Congregational Council. We are aware of how the local economy can affect church income. Reserves will be used very carefully. Additional debt should be used only if very necessary to achieve the long term mission of Holy Spirit. Fortunately, the only current debt is the \$300,000 mortgage on the property.

The next Finance Committee meeting is on February 12, 2008 from 6:30 to 7:45 pm. Please share any, comments or suggestions with any committee member.

Finance Committee Members are:

Paul Wenstrom	Director	Sue McComb	Purchasing Agent
Bob Kuerbitz	Congregation President	Open Position	Stewardship
Bill Lundquist	Treasurer	Pastor Will	
Jerry Tucker	Member at Large		

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Pre-K through 5th grade

We have started our fifth 4 week module as of the first Sunday in January. The story is the Tower of Babel from Genesis and the focus is on the fact that we are to give credit to God instead of to ourselves, not to be prideful and to remember that God is Number 1. The song is the B-I-BL-E and the memory verse is from John 14:6. "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes unto the Father except by me."

The rotation workshops are the following:

- Joyce Rice is doing two fun art projects.
- Rachel Langer is teaching the children basic Foreign languages (French, German, and Spanish)
- Kari Robinson is leading Team Building Projects.
- Stacy Reynolds is doing a quick-answer quiz show about Tower of Babel facts.

STOP IN ANY SUNDAY TO SEE OUR OPENING IN THE SANCTUARY AT 9:15 , THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS WITH THEIR CLASSES AT 9:30 OR THE WORKSHOPS IN ROOMS 2,3,4 AND AT THE END OF THE HALLWAY STARTING AT 9:45!!!!

The Junior High class is now being taught by Dwight Bobo. Welcome and thank you Dwight. However, for the four weeks beginning Jan 20, Dwight will be gone and his replacement is Mark Johnson. Thank you Mark! This group is discussing the "Top 20 Messages for Youth Ministry". They meet in the cozy room connected to the Fellowship Hall.

The High School group led by Gerry Tucker meets in the Board Room and is discussing the end of the book of Genesis. Perhaps, they will begin meeting in an area restaurant, now and then, to complement their informal study with conversation and sharing.

"The Jesus I Never Knew"

By Phillip Yancey

Sunday Mornings at 9:15am
(Beginning February 3)

The study, facilitated by Pastor Will, utilizes an engaging video and discussion in order to explore the true picture of Jesus in the Bible.

Yancey offers a new and different perspective on the life of Christ and his work—his teaching, his miracles, his death, and his resurrection. Join us as we seek to see Jesus during this Lenten season.

God and Me Scouting Class **Organizing Meeting Feb. 16, 11:30am**

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, depending on the grade level.

Workshops will be one hour in length, and we plan to meet each Saturday morning at 11:30am. Invite the rest of your pack or troop and join us.

Youth News

Youth Parent and Student Meeting Feb 3 at 12:15pm

As we seek to grow our youth ministry at Holy Spirit, we need to know what the families of the congregation are looking for our program to offer. Come and be a part of a discussion of the shape of our youth ministry. We will talk about events students would like to see scheduled, safety and supervision, summer trips, youth group nights, and more. Come and be a part of shaping the future of our ministry to and with youth!

Super Bowl Party at the Tucker's!

All youth are invited to join us for a great evening of fun and football. Whether you like to watch the game, evaluate the commercials, or just hang out with friends, you will be sure to enjoy yourselves. The fun begins at 5:00pm, and goes until around 8:30pm. Call the Tuckers to RSVP—658-9378.



Confirmation Camp (July 13-18)

All confirmation students (those in 6-8th grade) are invited to attend Confirmation Camp this summer at Michi-Lu-Ca. We will be attending camp the week of July 13-18. Students can expect a high-energy week of games, Bible Study, ropes courses, campfires, swimming, and making new friends. Come and experience a week that can change your life. The cost of camp this summer is \$350.00, with a \$100.00 dollar non-refundable deposit due by February 15 to hold our spots for that week. However, if the total tuition is paid by Feb 15, then the cost is reduced to \$290.00. Scholarship money is available for those who may need assistance. If interested, please contact Pastor Will.

BAPTISMS:

Donald Moore-Jan. 13th

David Alley-Jan. 20th



- 2/1 Ryan Bradley
- 2/2 Ken Benning
- 2/2 Corey Gulick
- 2/2 Judith Kreis
- 2/2 Nathan Tucker
- 2/3 Helen Erickson
- 2/5 Sheryl Porter
- 2/6 Jeff Watson
- 2/7 Aaron Houle
- 2/7 Trevor Houle
- 2/9 Katie Loutzenhiser
- 2/11 Rob Porter
- 2/13 Sally Neil
- 2/14 Ella Beck
- 2/14 Gage Jameson
- 2/16 Julie Alley
- 2/16 Heidi Hawley
- 2/17 Toni Campbell
- 2/19 Linda Clark
- 2/19 Laura Wilkinson
- 2/20 Sue McComb
- 2/21 Norma Roberts
- 2/22 Michael McGillis
- 2/25 Devyn Ballard
- 2/25 Lilly Kuerbitz
- 2/26 Zana McEntire
- 2/27 Rose Haney
- 2/29 Casey Kondel



- 2/9 Cliff & Renee Cleary
- 2/20 Jerry & Mary Tucker



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**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED**

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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