



THE FLAME

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Celebrating and living God’s Message”

March 2008

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

New Life Springs Forth

As I sit here to write this article, I am staring out at a cold, dark and depressing day. It must be Michigan in February! We are at the halfway point of Lent, the Liturgical season, during which we are confronted with our mortality and the brokenness of our lives. Lent began with the ashes of Ash Wednesday, and as we have traveled through the 40 Days of Lent, we have marched ever closer to Holy Week and the cross that waits at the end of it. Lent is a season that begins with a reminder of our death, and it ends with the death of our Savior, Jesus.

We do not need Lent, though, to remind us of death, for we can see it all around us. We are nearing the end of winter, with dead vegetation and bleak days surrounding us. Many people have been cooped up in their homes for months, battling illness, the cold, and bad roads and sidewalks. At church, our prayer list is swelling with more and more families in need battling life-threatening health conditions and debilitating treatment regimens. On the news, we hear about the chilling of the economy, massive layoffs and buyouts, and an economy that seems to be killing our feelings of financial security. For many people, various forms of death are all too real right now.

The Good News of Lent is that as we move beyond the cross, we are confronted with the empty tomb and a Risen, Lord Jesus. The word, “Lent”, means, “springtime”. As we move through Lent, we are reminded of the promise that even when we are surrounded with the appearance of death, new life is coming. As dark as things may be, dawn is coming.

In a few weeks time, we will gather in the dark of Easter morning to celebrate the coming of dawn with Jesus’ Resurrection. Together, we will declare, “He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!” With the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, everything changes. Where we look around us and see death, there is now the promise that death will not have the last answer. Dead plants will yield up new shoots. Cold dark days will give way to warm and bright days. Depression and despair will be overcome by hope. Illness and disease will give way to wholeness and healing. Good Friday will happen, but Easter is right around the corner.

Brothers and sisters, take heart. It may look like a dark, dark Friday, but Sunday is coming! Join us this Easter as we celebrate the new life that comes to us in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because he lives, so will we! Thanks be to God!

Have a Blessed Easter!

Pastor Will

Easter Worship Schedule:

Sunrise Service 8:00am, Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30am

Worship Notes

Lenten Soup Suppers Wednesdays at 5:30pm

Don't worry about what to cook on Wednesday evenings. Come and join us for a simple meal and worship. Volunteers will be cooking the soup (sign up on the board to the left of 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.

Sunday Lent/Easter Worship Themes:

Lent is a time when we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, from testing and temptation through miracles and mission, to confrontation and conflict, and finally to commissioning and the cross. 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.

- **March 2** Confessing the Faith: Living in a Hostile World
- **March 9** Raised to Life: Casting off the Bindings
- **March 16 Palm Sunday** – Journey to Jerusalem; Were You There?
- **March 23 Easter** – Called by Name, We Find Life

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

This year, we are offering two Wednesday Lenten Worship opportunities. The two services will each have a 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.

Cry of the Whole Congregation Palm Sunday March 16, 10:30am

This special worship service will prepare us fully for our Holy Week journey. Through special music, emotional instrumentation, the complete passion reading, and dramatic elements we will journey together to Jerusalem and experience anew our Savior's last days walking among us. Invite your family and friends and join us for this special worship experience.

Easter Festival Worship March 23 8:00am and 10:30am

Join us for a very celebratory service as we recognize the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord with choirs, special music, relevant preaching, and the celebration of Holy Communion.

The Passion of the Christ

March 22, 6:30pm

On this Holy Saturday, join your church family for night of fellowship, reflection, and discussion as we contemplate our Lord's Passion through the very emotional *Passion of the Christ*. Due to the very graphic nature of the material, all children and junior high youth should be accompanied by their parent. Following the movie, Pastor Will will lead a discussion of Mel Gibson's depiction of the Death of the Messiah. Use this as a tool to help you connect with Jesus' death, as well as preparing you for the joy of the Resurrection.

Caring for our Community

Paper Recycling

Holy Spirit is continuing its efforts to be good stewards of God's creation through recycling all paper used at the church. In addition, we are very thankful for all the members and friends of HSLC who continue to bring in their paper to be recycled. Paper that can be recycled in the green dumpster is: magazines, catalogs, office paper, newspaper, shredded paper (bagged in paper bags), and junk mail. We are in need of individuals to take posters to their places of business, condo associations, and apartment complex bulletin boards. Thank you for recycling your paper, now let's encourage our neighbors to also be good stewards of the resources God has given us. Please consider taking a poster to a nearby apartment building or housing complexes. Posters can be picked up from the church office.



Fun Facts About Paper Recycling

- One ton of recycled paper saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space, 4100 kw hours of electricity (enough to heat a home for 6 months or run a television for 41 hours)
 - De-inked paper fiber is the most efficient source of fiber for the manufacturing of new paper products; one ton of de-inked pulp saves over 7000 gallons of water, 390 gallons of oil, and reduces air emissions by 60 lbs compared to traditional virgin fiber processes
 - Enough paper is collected for recycling each year to make a box-car train 7,600 miles long
 - Everyday Americans buy 62 million newspapers and throw out 44 million
 - One ton of recycled paper uses: 64% less energy, 50% less water, 74% less air pollution and creates 5 times more jobs than one ton of paper products from virgin wood pulp
- Abitibi-Consolidated Recycling Division and its Abitibi Paper Retriever® partners collect enough newspapers each year to completely cover 12,336 football fields in paper one inch deep.

Habitat for Humanity



Plans are well underway for this summer's Habitat homes in Flint. This summer, we are once again participating with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in the Thrivent Builds project. We will be building two homes in the Burton area, across from Meijer off of Center Rd. Building will begin in June. Mark your calendar now for the **Volunteer Kickoff and Training Meeting on April 12 at 10:00am.**

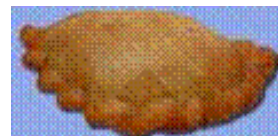
YOUNG AT HEART NEWS

Pastie Making Event

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MARCH 13th AT 10 A.M.



Our Pastie Sale has been such a big success that we will once again be making pasties. All of our memories of the aches and pains have subsided, so it's time to do it again this year. Bring your paring knives, rolling pins and energy with you. We also need all the hands we can get. Don't miss out on spending time with all of us Young At Heart. We will work at the church, 10am on March 13th, and work until we get tired. Lunch will be provided. Sign up on the kiosk at church. Any questions, call Karen Setera. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Order Your Pasties Today!!!

Young at Hearts will be making HOME MADE PASTIES (beef and chicken). We will be taking orders for the PASTIES. The cost is \$5 each. They will be available for pick up on Sunday, March 16th. If you don't place an order, you will still be able to purchase some PASTIES! Sold on a first come-first serve basis. They go fast!! Please call the Setera's at 584-0165 to reserve your HOME MADE PASTIES, or sign up on the sheet on the kiosk. We are taking orders now. Place your order now, You don't want to miss your chance to try them. YOU'LL LOVE 'EM!

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.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following people in your prayers:



- Ed Chan, undergoing treatment
- Carol Clark, under doctor's care
- Nan Hudson, awaiting surgery
- Lila Horwath, homebound
- Barb Noble, recovering from surgery
- Helen Erickson, recovering from surgery
- 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
- Barb Stenke, Pastor Will's mother, undergoing treatment

“Senior Version of Jesus Loves Me”

Submitted by Chet Wilkinson

Here is a new version just for us who have white hair or no hair at all. For us middle age (or event hose almost there) and all you others check out this newest version of Jesus Loves Me.

Jesus loves me, this I know, though my hair is white as snow. Though my sight is growing dim, still He bids me trust in Him.

Chorus:

Yes, Jesus Loves Me.. Yes, Jesus Loves, Me..
Yes, Jesus Loves Me. For the Bible Tells Me So.

Though my steps are oh, so slow, With my hand in His I'll go. On through life, let come what may, He'll be there to lead the way. (Chorus)

When the nights are dark and long, In my heart He puts a song. Telling me in words so clear, "Have no fear, for I am near." (Chorus)

When my work on earth is done, and life's victories have been won, he will take me home above, then, I'll understand His love. (Chorus)

I Love Jesus, does He know? Have I ever told Him so?

Jesus loves to hear me say, That I love Him every day. (Chorus)

Worship at Genesys Convalescent Center

Sunday March 2 @4pm

Come and be a part of worship and holy communion with the residents of Genesys Convalescent Center on Holly Rd. This a great opportunity to share the love of Jesus through worship and your presence with those who love their Lord. Sign up on Top opportunities or the Invitation to Serve Bulletin Board.

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 and deepen our ministry. The personnel committee and the congregation council have reviewed our current staffing situation 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:

- Develop, Resource, and Coordinate Small Group Ministries.
- Lead classes for those joining the congregation, on a quarterly basis.
- Administer ministry inventories (e.g. Hearts and Hands, Spiritual Gifts, LifeKeys) to all members, including each new member class.
- Oversee ALPHA and faith formation ministries that invite and encourage people in the surrounding communities to become engaged in discipleship at Holy Spirit.
- 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 available upon request.

Financial Assistant

The Financial Assistant is a 5-10 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 will be posted at church in the near future. For more specific information on this position, please contact Paul Wenstrom either via phone at 810-768-7622 or email at paul_wenstrom@ml.com

Average Monthly Worship Attendance for January

	2007	2008
8:00am	44	41
10:30am	128	138
Total	172	179

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Pre-K through 5th grade

We have almost completed our sixth 4 week module. The story is about Abraham, Sarah and Isaac from Genesis and the focus is Abraham's faith in God, how God blesses Abraham for believing what sometimes seems unbelievable.

The song is "Father Abraham" and Jean Pike who leads the Opening really has the kids moving with this song!

The Bible verse is Hebrews 11:1. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

The rotation workshops are the following:

Rhonda Utter is doing 2 activities about joy. One is called Muk and the other is a Mummy Relay.

Lisa Nash is doing one art project with clay, Outsmart the Crushers, and another game activity called The River Bend.

Tara Babbitt is doing 2 projects about having faith in the unseen.

Tammy Schild is focusing on sharing faith and counting on God.

The Junior High class has been taught by Mark Johnson who is filling in for Dwight Bobo. Thank you Mark! They continue to discuss the "Top 20 Messages for Youth Ministry".

The High School group led by Gerry Tucker has been discussing the end of the book of Genesis. They are now starting the book of Exodus and the story of Moses.

VBS Dates are set July 20—24 (Sunday thru Thursday). Planning meetings will be scheduled soon, so watch the calendar for upcoming opportunities to serve.

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

As you can see, there are many opportunities to learn more about your faith and strengthen your knowledge of the Bible. Please join any class any time. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!



There's a Class for You!

No Sunday School on March 23!!!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Second Tuesdays at 10:00am

A Women's Bible study meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 10:00 in the morning until, loosely, 11:00 at the church. We meet for study, fellowship, coffee and treats. For the next few months Michelle Traynor will be guiding a study on the beatitudes, March 11 we will study the seventh beatitude: "Blessed are the poor in heart, for they will see God" (Mthw 5:8).

All women are encouraged and invited to attend! You do not have to commit to attending every month, each beatitude is a study in itself, so please feel free to come, even if you haven't been there from the beginning. We hope to see you there!

Finance Committee

1. The Finance Committee's monthly meeting was held on February 18th and the next meeting will on March 11th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. All members of the church are encouraged to contact any member of the committee with questions, comments and ideas regarding any financial matter relating to the church.

2. Review of January 2008

- a. Total Church Income (January 2008) \$20,500 - versus \$17,600 in 2007 and \$15,700 in 2006.
- b. The January 2008 income includes \$500 from the building fund.
- c. The monthly mortgage payment is \$2,250. This is fixed until October 2012.
- d. January 2008 expenses were \$24,700.
- e. January's negative cash flow of \$4,200 was covered by a partial use of the \$13,500 unrestricted surplus of 2007.

3. Assets -

	January 31, 2008	December 31, 2007
a. Citizens Bank	\$ 35,000	\$ 38,100
b. Merrill Lynch	\$ 70,300	\$ 71,400
c. Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 600	\$ 600
d. Total Cash	\$105,900	\$110,100

4. The Finance Committee is seeking a Stewardship chairperson to become part of the Finance Committee. Any member of the church interested in taking on this very important role in our church is encouraged to contact Paul Wenstrom or Congregation President Bob Kuerbitz.

5. A 'Youth Scholarship Fund' will be established. This fund will be available to receive contributions and make grants to young members of the church who request financial assistance to attend church camps, retreats, etc.

6. The Finance Committee looks forward to the addition of a new church part-time financial staff member: A full job description of the Financial Assistant will be posted soon.

Finance 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	GInnMcComb@aol.com
Jerry Tucker - Member at Large	gmtucker@chartermi.net
Terry Katzur - Member at Large	tkatzur2@comcast.net
Stewardship - Open Position	
Pastor Will	pastorwill@holyspiritlc.net

Calling All Members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans!!!! March 9 is Thrivent Sunday

All Thrivent members are invited to a special meeting following the late service. The meeting will be relatively short, but we will be discussing important business: 1) electing leaders of our congregation's chapter, 2) Discussing the recipients of the \$1300.00 of matching funds that we will receive this year. Come and meet our new Financial Representatives from Thrivent!

MUSIC NEWS

It is hard to believe, but spring is almost here. In the spring we think of Palm and Easter Sunday. The choirs at Holy Spirit are presently learning music for these special Sundays.

We are looking forward to Palm Sunday when all the musicians at Holy Spirit join with the congregation in a unique presentation of the Passion in which we all become a part of the crowd that welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem and just a short time later demanded his death. Every musician at Holy Spirit will join the congregation in singing Hosanna, Hosanna as we recreate his triumphal entry into the city. As the service progresses we will turn from shouting Hosannas to shouting Crucify Him, Crucify Him. Then, as the services draws to a close we will mournfully sing "Were You There When they Crucified My Lord."

On Easter Sunday the sadness of Palm Sunday and Holy Week will be forgotten as the musicians join the congregation in singing "Jesus Christ Is Ris'n Today!" The youth choir will join the adult choir on two exciting and uplifting Easter Anthems and the two children's groups Kids Ring and Sing and SonBurst Ringers and Singers will ring an Easter Medley of familiar songs.

All the choirs continue to rehearse faithfully for our Sunday services and for special festival days as well as continuing to present music on Sundays

The adult choir sings at the 8:00 service the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month and at the 10:30 service the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month.

Sonburst Ringers and Singers and Kids Ring and Sing will be presenting music on March 2nd, March 16th and March 23rd. Kids Ring and Sing will also present music on Maundy Thursday.

The youth choir will be joining the other choirs on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Our instrumentalists continue to add to our worship services every Sunday and we are thankful for their commitment to using their musical gifts.

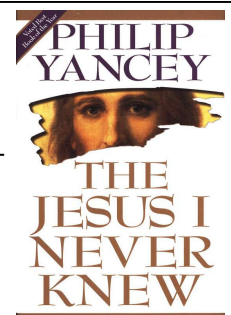
If you are interested in you or your child being a part of our music program please contact Jean Pike at 810 655 6764 or jpik49@comcast.net



The Jesus I Never Knew

Sunday Mornings at 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.



Youth News

Sr. High March Fellowship Event
Lost and Found Concert
March 8 at 2:30pm (details below)

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. Scholarship money is available for those who may need assistance. If interested, please contact Pastor Will.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Vacation Bible School will be held
Sunday, July 20-Thursday, July 24.

Senior High Youth News

A meeting was held last month scheduling events for our high school-age members. It is our hope to provide enrichment activities through service projects, spiritual growth and recreation.

- **Saturday, March 8th:** Lost & Found concert in Walled Lake for Confirmation and High School students and their families. Carpool from HSLC at 2:30, attend the concert and go out for dessert. Concert cost is \$8/person for advance tickets.
- **Friday, March 21st:** Senior High members will meet at church at 3:00 p.m. to view the movie *The Passion of the Christ*. Devotional time and a light dinner will be shared following the movie. Participants are encouraged to stay for the evening's Good Friday service.

Sign-up sheets for both these events will be posted. Please feel free to contact Sally Piggott with any questions at 603-0260.

BAPTISMS:

Jan. 13th—Donald Moore
Jan. 20th—David Alley



- 3/1 Will Stenke
- 3/3 Lance Zarzycki
- 3/4 Ben Johnson
- 3/4 Sue Smith
- 3/6 Eddie Albani
- 3/6 Jerry Tucker
- 3/6 Gloria Walstad
- 3/8 Daniel Geiser
- 3/8 Peggy Hunt
- 3/10 Marla Dais
- 3/15 Mitchell Augenstein
- 3/17 Lila Horwath
- 3/19 Jenny McKay
- 3/21 Linda Brooks
- 3/23 Forrest Chan
- 3/23 Dominic Hawley
- 3/23 Pat Odgers
- 3/24 Nathaniel Stenke
- 3/25 Bev Langer
- 3/26 Sadie Kondel
- 3/27 Erika Brumit
- 3/27 Beth Chan
- 3/30 Ellie Goebel
- 3/30 Lu Salgat

CELEBRATING AN
Anniversary

- 3/2 Warren & Marilyn Wildey
- 3/17 Jim & Jean Ott
- 3/23 Grant & Jaimi Hegenauer
- 3/27 Bob & Kristine Kuerbitz
- 3/30 Jeff & Cathy Watson

