



THE FLAME

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Celebrating and living God’s Message”

Nov 2007

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

Thankful Hearts, Helping Hands

By Pastor Will Stenke

I find watching our culture that we as Americans have difficult time with thankfulness. Our media drives us to always want something more, to never be content with what we have, and to always seek to “up-size” life. I see this same tendency in my children, and even in myself. How can we combat this tendency? During the month of November, we often sing the old hymn, **“Now Thank We All Our God”**. The hymn begins, “Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices...” I believe this old song can help us to regain a sense of thankfulness.

“With hearts and hands and voices...” Thankfulness first begins in our hearts. It is an inner state, where we see and examine all that God is doing in our lives. True thankfulness comes out of our knowledge that God loves us and all of creation, even when we don’t deserve it. God’s love is with us every day, strengthening us, comforting us, supporting us, challenging us, and blessing us. God’s love is forever! A Thankful heart is always aware of, and grateful for, this love. However, our hearts should go beyond simple gratefulness to contentment. We need to be content with the gifts we have received and the blessings we have been given. When our hearts are truly content, we do not need things to make us happy or fulfilled. When our hearts are content, we can say enough is enough. It is a struggle, though, to be content, isn’t it?

“With hearts and hands and voices...” Sometimes, using our hands to help others can help us to be more thankful ourselves. Have you ever been really disappointed or frustrated about a situation in your life, only to have your attitude change dramatically after you have done something to help someone who was less fortunate? When we use our hands to help others, our burdens seem to become lighter. Being a helping hand can help us to truly appreciate what we have, and what can give to others.

“With hearts and hands and voices...” Finally, our hearts become more thankful when we use our voices to declare to God and those around us our blessings. When we actually sit down and list out our blessings, it can be surprising how richly blessed we are. Even when we struggle in life, there are still things that we can be thankful for. There is no day so dark, that God’s light cannot shine into it.

This Thanksgiving, grow in your thankfulness: Take some time this month to examine your heart, watch for chances to help others with your hands (see box on this page), and lift your voice in thankfulness to God at a Thanksgiving worship service (listed later in the newsletter). Now Thank we all our God, with HEARTS and HANDS and VOICES. Have a Blessed thanksgiving!

Helping Hands Opportunities:

1. Fill a care package box for a soldier
2. Bring in canned goods for the hungry
3. Help serve meals at the Thanksgiving meal at Genesys Conference Center
4. Rake a neighbor’s leaves

Worship and Music Notes

Family Thanksgiving Eve Service November 21

Before you leave town to visit family this Thanksgiving, join us as we celebrate God's blessings together as a congregation. Join us for an informal, interactive communion service of readings and songs, designed for all ages.

Community Thanksgiving Service November 20

If you cannot join us for worship on Thanksgiving Eve, consider attending the Community Thanksgiving Service at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church on Tuesday evening at 7:00pm. The service features readings and songs, as well as special music from a mass choir made up of members of Grand Blanc Churches and the Grand Blanc high school choir.

Advent Services – A Family's Chance to Prepare for Christmas Wednesday in December 6:45pm

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:45pm beginning in December for a *brief* order of worship that will help us all to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Each worship service will feature music from our choirs, readings, Lenten carols, and a drama.

Christmas Eve Services

Mark your calendars now, this year's Christmas Eve services will be at 4:30pm, 6:00pm, and 10:00pm. The 4:30pm service will be specifically targeted at young families, with a shorter more interactive format and a longer time for children. Services at 6:00 and 10:00pm will be Candlelit services with Communion.

MUSIC NEWS

Each year at Christmas we celebrate Emmanuel: God with us. This year, On December 16th, the choirs at Holy Spirit will present the Christmas musical "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 month of November and December, SonBurst Ringers and Singers will be presenting music on November 18th with Kids Ring and Sing, November 28th for the midweek Advent service, December 2nd and December 16th. Kids Ring and Sing will present music on November 4th, November 18th with SonBurst Ringers and Singers December 5th for the midweek Advent service, December 16th and December 30th. The Youth Choir will sing for us on November 18th, November 25th with the adult choir, December 12th for the midweek Advent service and December 16th.

The Adult choir will continue to provide music for the 8:00 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month, the 10:30 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and will also sing at the midweek Advent service on December 19th.

I am looking forward to the Christmas season when we remember the birth of our Savior and 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.

Young At Heart

Sign up if you will be attending the Pot Luck Luncheon at the Church on November 8 at 10:00 a.m., after lunch we will continue on to Outdoor Adventures in Davison and learn how to Line Dance with Pat Hughes. No pressure to dance, you can just watch or do numerous other activities such as swimming in the indoor pool, the hot tub or enjoy the sauna and exercise machines, etc.

I can't believe that Christmas is just around the corner. We have a couple of very fun things planned for this Joyous Season.

1. Make and Bake Christmas Cookies, Thursday, December 6 at 10:00 a.m. Bring your favorite cookie recipe and the ingredients. We'll work together, play Christmas Carols and have a good time singing our hearts out. Everyone will leave with a variety of cookies to enjoy!

2. Annual Christ Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange, Thursday, December 13 at 11:00 a.m. We will be enjoying a Turkey Dinner with all the goodies from Thompson Creek, cost \$5.00. We'll eat dinner, sing Christmas Carols, exchange gifts and have fun. We will also have a guest speaker making us aware of Identity Theft. Don't forget to mark these dates on your calendars, and look for the sign up sheets on the Kiosk.

Any questions call Karen and Gerry Setera
810-584-0165.

THANK YOU

*Thank you to all of you who said prayers and sent cards after my recent heart attack. It was much appreciated.
Joe Wyrwicki*

Worship

The TEAM approach to serving on Sunday mornings has been running smoothly. Thanks to all you on TEAMS 1-5 who have faithfully served. Please remember to find your own sub if you cannot fulfill your responsibility on any given Sunday. The rotations for 2008 will be out in the beginning of December. A big THANK YOU to Ed & Michelle Loney, Clay & Sandy Willoughby, Stacey Jameson and Mark Reese for all their time and talent in creating the dramas of Ron and his search for purpose. I hope all of you have been able to participate in a small group and have found "The Purpose Driven Life "series to be helpful in your faith walk. The worship planning team has been busy planning the Advent and Christmas services. More information on these services will be publicized in the near future.

In Christ,
Jan Wenstrom

Hangin' of the Greens November 28, 6:45pm

Do you decorate your home for the holidays? Are there traditions that you use to welcome the holiday season? Join us as we decorate the sanctuary for the season, while we also learn about the meaning of the different decorations and symbols. Also, bring one of your family's Christmas ornaments to place on the Holy Spirit "Family" Christmas tree – a great symbol of the way we are all a family in Christ. As the year's progress, we can watch our tree fill up with ornaments as our "family" at HSLC grows. This service is a great way to keep our focus where it needs to be this season.

FYI

Due to cost and non-delivery we will no longer be having Tim Horton's during coffee hour on Sundays.

The Fellowship Committee

Youth News!

Early First Communion Recipients

We celebrate with the following youth who have completed their instruction for their first communion. Please keep them in your prayers and congratulate them on this important milestone in their walk of faith. Lauren & Emily Hudson; Jack & Lilly Babbitt; Taylor Clark.



Michigan Youth Gathering for Senior High

Dec. 27 – 30

Senior High youth have the opportunity to attend a spectacular youth gathering during Christmas break. The Gathering is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and we will be sure to have an amazing experience. Students from Holy Spirit will enjoy great music, dynamic speakers, exciting free time options, meals at local eateries and pizzerias, caring small groups, and time to get to know new people and get to know other Holy Spirit youth better. The cost of the Gathering is \$125, plus the cost of your meals for the three days. Sign up on the Kiosk in the Narthex, take a registration form, and return your \$50.00 deposit to Pastor Will by November 10.

Senior High Bottle and Can Collection Located in the south entryway

The youth of Holy Spirit will once again be collecting bottles and cans to help offset the cost of the Youth Gathering this winter. Please bring in your clean bottles and cans for our students to return. If you cannot bring them in, let the office know, and a member of the youth group will come and pick them up. Your few bottles and cans, when added together with other members, can make a big difference.

Camp in a Box

Junior and Senior High Activity.

Camp in a Box is bringing a box to church, sleeping in it on the front lawn through the night, and walking away with respect for those less fortunate than us. Donations raised will go to the Harvest House Shelter in Flint.

The Camp in a Box is scheduled for Saturday, November 10. We will have a meeting after church on Nov. 4 for those wishing to participate. I will have a sign up sheet at church the next few weeks. Contact me if you have any questions.

Chaperones are needed in two or three hour shifts for our activity. Please help us out to make this possible. It will likely start at four in the afternoon and go until church the next day.

We will be having a pancake breakfast to end the events the next morning, provided by the Young at Heart group. Thank you Young at Heart!!!

- Melanie Piggott (810) 814-6107

Food Distribution Update from October 6

Because of the generosity of Thrivent Financial and 60 volunteers from HSLC, we were able to provide food for 165 families, which include over 550 individuals. Together we can make a difference in the lives of those in need!

The Challenges of Growth

By now you should have received a letter regarding Stewardship and offering pledges for next year. I certainly don't want to repeat what was in the letter or what may have been reviewed in your last 40 Days of Purpose small group session. But I do want to emphasize some of the important goals and initiatives planned for next year.

The most important of the goals is our ability to make our monthly mortgage payment from our operating budget. Before this church was built, the congregation initiated a capital campaign to raise money for a building fund. Since we've built the church and moved in, the building fund has been the source of monies for our mortgage payments. Well, the capital campaign has ceased, since it was only a 3 year campaign, and the building fund does not have enough money in it to continue paying the mortgage. Since we have refinanced the mortgage, our payment has dropped from \$3,300 per month to \$2,300 per month, which is what we need, above and beyond what was in our 2007 operating budget.

Another very important goal is to add more staff to the church. Currently, besides Pastor, our paid staff includes our Choir Director, Church Secretary, and Nursery Coordinator. Since we've grown so much lately, the growth is starting to put a strain on our volunteer processes, particularly in regards to the administrative aspects of the church. We have received a grant from the Southeast Michigan ELCA Synod and the National Church that requires matching funds from Holy Spirit for additional staffing. We're looking at using this grant to add part-time assistance with our finances and other areas to support our goals and initiatives.

Although the two above goals are inwardly focused on our own operations, a third goal we have is to significantly increase our Outreach within the community. We cannot exist just to serve ourselves. So we have plans to make sure the community knows who we are, as we spread the Good Word. A significant amount of our planned Outreach budget will be for direct marketing to individuals in the immediate Grand Blanc area to make them aware of Holy Spirit. Also, we are focusing on doing more Food Ministry events and provide assistance to another nearby parish (yet to be determined), similarly as we have this past year with Christ The King Lutheran Church in Lapeer.

On a more long-term planning basis, the Congregational Council will be initiating a Site Development Plan to assist in determining the best use of all our land and facilities, now and in the future. We've got a lot of land that currently isn't being used. So this will allow us to identify where possible building expansion should take place, along with the ability to make plans for other land uses such as ball fields, a playground, and maybe even a pavilion.

These goals and initiatives, along with a number of others, including facilities maintenance, youth ministry and congregational care all take a lot of resources – time people, and money. They are the right things to do. Some of them are because we've grown so much lately, and others are to prepare for more growth. Some are to put ourselves on a better financial foundation, and others are to help people within the community know about Christ.

If you have not yet submitted your 2008 Stewardship pledge cards, I strongly encourage you to do so. If you are a regular giver of offerings, I ask you to please consider increasing your offerings. If you're not a regular giver, then I ask you to prayerfully consider pledging a regular offering. Currently, the majority of our offerings are given by a small percentage of the congregation. And if we are to prepare for another building fund campaign within the next few years, it is imperative that we're able to take care of our current needs on a regular operating basis.

As I've said before, these are great problems to have! It is certainly more fun to deal with the challenges of growth, than to figure out what needs to be cut.

May God be with us and guide us as we step into another phase of our ministry.

In Christ,

Bob Kuerbitz - President

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We've started our second 4 week module. The story is Adam and Eve and the focus is on obedience to God. The new Rotation Sunday School looks like this:

A 15 minute opening. This includes a prayer and singing. Several of the junior and senior high students assist in leading the singing. We'll start a Christmas song soon to sing during the Christmas Program on Dec. 16 during the 10:30 service.

Bible Story Time *The teachers, Bev Langer, Lonnie Moore, Nicole Ballard and Anne Castleton teach the lesson and the Bible verse for this module.*

Workshop Time *The children attend one workshop a week during the 4 week module for 20 minutes. The topics for this module are;*

The importance of dog obedience to the dog and to its owners led by Sylvia and Alex Murray

Sign language and obeying the rules of signing taught by Jenny McKay

Outside games and the need to obey the rules led by Pat Odgers

Survival in the desert and obeying the laws of nature taught by Bob Kuerbitz

Closing *This is a 10 minute prayer time called Glad and Sad led by the Sunday School teachers.*

The junior high group, taught by Marci Augenstein is discussing the biblical questions most often asked by students today.

The senior high class, taught by Gerry Tucker is finishing their discussion of the Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren.

We hope to start brightening up the classroom walls with painted murals.

Our team of painters is Lisa Nash, Jeannette Neu-Ballew, Nicole Ballard, Lonnie Moore. Pat Odgers and Tammy Schild.

Adult Classes for new and current members will be starting in November. Please see the Sunday bulletin for details.

Pat Ranta



New Member Workshops Sunday Mornings, Beginning on Nov. 11

Thinking of joining Holy Spirit Lutheran Church? Do you want to take the next step in your faith journey? Looking for a place to belong? Be a part of the next new member workshop series at Holy Spirit and discover whether Holy spirit is a good fit for you. The new member workshops are an informal place to discuss your faith, explore the ministry of Holy Spirit, and consider what membership here entails. This three week workshop will be held this fall during the education hour on Sunday mornings, Nov. 11 and 18, and December 2. New Members will be received into membership on Sunday, December 9.



From the Finance Committee

Important information about the financial position of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church:

1. Through September 30, 2007 pledges received are up 30% versus 2006; \$170,000 compared to \$131,000.
2. Total Church income so far this year amounts to \$229,000.
3. Total expenses through September 30th were \$228,000 (year-to-date cash flow +\$1,000)
4. The income figure (above) includes \$30,000 from the Church Building Fund to make the mortgage payments.
5. The Church mortgage of \$304,000 has been refinanced for 20 years at 6 1/2% interest (adjustable every 5 years).
6. The new mortgage payments will be \$2,250 per month (27,000 for the year 2008 versus \$40,000 in 2007) .
7. A goal for 2008 is to make the mortgage payments from pledge income.
8. If the above goal is met the Church Building Fund of \$35,000 will be preserved for future projects.
9. The cost of the Church parking lot expansion has been fully paid.
\$16,000 came from the Church Building Fund and \$6,300 from the Special Gift Fund:
Total cost \$22,300.
10. The new Church pianos, costing \$10,000, are fully paid for.
\$8,000 was covered by special gifts to the piano fund and \$2,000 from operating cash.
11. Current Assets:
Citizens Bank checking account \$50,000
Church Building Fund \$35,000
Special Gift Fund 0
Good Samaritan Fund 600
Total Cash \$85,600
12. Future Business - Establish the Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Endowment Fund.
13. The Finance Committees work will now focus on the year 2008 Church budget.

Committee members: Paul Wenstrom, Ed Chan, Jerry Tucker, Sue McComb, Bob Kuerbitz, Bill Lundquist and Pastor Will

Average Monthly Worship Attendance for September

	2006	2007
8:00am		43
10:30am	150	174
Total	150	217

Sing for a New Day

On Saturday, November 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, the Flint Cluster will gather to sing and pray for a new day in our joint mission adventures. As we sing and pray, we will ask: "Together, how can we better do mission?" As a larger community of faith, we can discover the answer to this question. As a larger community of faith, we can joyfully seek God's will. As a larger community of faith, we can gather together and find hope for our current congregations and opportunities to start new ones.

Who: The Flint Cluster

What: A Time to Sing and Pray for a New Day

When: Saturday, November 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Where: Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 7234 Fenton Road, Grand Blanc, MI (810-424-6707)

Why: To Celebrate Our Greater Mission Together as the People of God

What to Bring: A Hopeful Spirit

The Flint Cluster
Our Risen Lord, Burton
Transfiguration, Fenton
Salem, Flint
King of Glory, Flushing
Holy Spirit, Grand Blanc
Christ the King, Lapeer
Christ the Shepherd, Ortonville
Messiah, Swartz Creek



- 11/3 Bailey Neubecker
- 11/6 Kevin Clark
- 11/10 Greg Hamman
- 11/10 Anne Martin
- 11/10 Leon Moore
- 11/12 Danielle Hamman
- 11/13 Diane Gregg
- 11/13 Helvi Ranta
- 11/13 Sandy Willoughby
- 11/14 Karen Setera
- 11/14 Rick Shaffer Jr
- 11/17 Jacob Tucker
- 11/19 Pat Horvath
- 11/22 Grace Hamman
- 11/23 Alex Murray
- 11/23 Barb Wyrwicki
- 11/24 Amy Cochran
- 11/24 Anne McBroom



- 11/1 Dwight & JoAnn Bobo
- 11/16 Wayne & Marleen Brandon
- 11/23 Robert & Tracy Sarsfield

BAPTISMS:

September 23, 2007
Vivienne Marie Krywko Sjolander,
daughter of Chris & Diann Krywko
Sjolander

October 7, 2007
Terry Katur
Aiden Weible, son of Jeromy & Paula Weible





THE FLAME

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**