



THE FLAME

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Celebrating and living God’s Message”

Oct 2007

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

It’s Time to Celebrate

Celebration! On Sunday, **October 28**, we will gather together as a congregation for one special service of Celebration! That’s right **One Service at 10:30am**– not two services like normal. Why are we celebrating? If you look around you, you can see many different things to celebrate and which can make us excited. Let’s consider some of the things we have to celebrate:

1. We have **A Faithful God** who loves us with a never-ending love. God guides us and leads us through God’s Word and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
2. We are completing a **40 Day Journey** with God to discover why on earth we are here. Throughout September and October, we as a congregation have studied God’s Word and worshipped together to discover God’s purposes for our lives.
3. We are **Weekly Adding Members to the body of Christ**. As the year has progressed, the Holy Spirit has continued to lead new people to our ministry with new families joining us every Sunday and youth ministries. Even more, we are growing in faithful service and study as our Sunday school is bursting at the seams and with over 100 adults and young adults involved in small groups.
4. We are **Serving Our Community Faithfully**. This month, we will have a strong delegation of walkers participate in the annual Crop Walk. On the same weekend, we will feed hundreds of people through the Fall Food Distribution partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.
5. We have **Renewed Purpose and Direction**. The Congregation Council has worked over the last month to define our purpose as a congregation and to apply that to strategic goals for our ministry.
6. We have a **Solid Financial Footing**. Due to your generosity and service, Holy Spirit is in a good financial position, despite the state and local economic woes. We are finally in a position to challenge ourselves as a congregation to pay our mortgage payments out of our general budget and use our building fund for future development of our ministry. We will be able to do this because of God’s generosity and your faithful sacrifice of your time and resources.
7. We have **New Opportunities for Growth and Faithful Service**, to our members, to the community around us, and even around the world. During the last few months, we have received approval of a request for a Fast-Growing Congregations Grant of \$22,000 from our local synod and the national church. This money will allow us to increase our staffing in order to more effectively meet the needs of new members and the new programs that the congregation council feels led to begin.

These are just a small taste of all the reasons we have to celebrate! I pray that you will make every effort to join us on October 28 as we celebrate in one festival worship service at 10:30am. God has been so good to us, let us gather around the Word and the Table to give God thanks. See you all on October 28!

Pastor Will

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Important Changes! Most of you are all ready aware of the recent changes made to scheduling servers for each worship service. There are 5 teams, as posted on the Invitation to Serve board.

Team 1 will serve the first Sunday of EVERY month.

Team 2 will serve the second Sunday of EVERY month.

Team 3 will serve the third Sunday of EVERY month.

Team 4 will serve the fourth Sunday of EVERY month.

Team 5 will serve only those months where there are 5 Sundays.

The schedule has been made through the end of the year, excluding holiday services as those will be filled by signing up when that time is closer.

Our hope is that this rotation will be easy to remember and follow. We pray the changes did not inconvenience anyone. Much thought went into scheduling individuals with family members, but we may have overlooked some areas. We apologize if this happened. We welcome your thoughts or suggestions on how to improve this system ,or even just let us know how it is working for you. We will be drafting the schedule for the new year the end of October.

The Worship Planning team has been busy getting ready for The 40 Days of Purpose. The banners that are hanging in the front of the sanctuary were lovingly made by Lonnie Moore and Mary Anne Wildfang. Please thank them for their hard work in making these beautiful banners. Also, thank you to Ed Loney and the "Drama Team" for their time in making the videos to be shown each Sunday during 40 Days of Purpose.

Thank you to each and everyone of you who faithfully serve each week in all the various roles. Your service glorifies God and helps to make our worship services meaningful. We have been blessed with many talents in our congregation and we thank you for sharing them with all of us.

In Christ,
Jan Wenstrom
Worship Committee Chair

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Words are not enough to express my "Thank You" for the many "get well wishes and prayers", that I received during my illness in the past two months. All these prayers & wishes have now put me on the road to recovery, and feeling a little better each day. God willing, I hope to be returning to church soon. Thanks again!

*Love & God's Blessings,
Myrtle Tewell*

REMINDER !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**On Celebration Sunday,
October 28, there will only
be ONE SERVICE at
10:30am**

Fall Free Food Distribution – October 6

On October 6, we will again be offering a free food distribution to residents of Genesee county. Last spring, we were able to feed over 700 individuals due to the generosity of Holy Spirit members, other area churches, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Once again, the need is great for this feeding ministry. Volunteers are needed to: set up our area, box and bag the food, help with distribution, provide hospitality and parking, and staff the sign-in table. The need is so great, please consider bringing your family to help with this vital ministry to the hungry. Sign up on the table in the narthex or email Pastor Will at pastorwill@holyspiritlc.net.

Giving Thanks for the Garden

As I write this the cool weather is starting, and soon it will be time to clean out and winterize the garden here at church.

I am thankful for all that participated in the garden project this year! We started in May with a successful perennial sale fundraiser here at church. We ended with a farm market which raised money for the Food Bank.

Each week the children met and we focused on a theme linking a Bible verse or story with the things that go on in the garden. Our garden grew and so did we!

A special thank you goes out to the adults that weeded, watered, mowed, took pictures, and helped with the children. A huge thank you to the children that came on Sunday mornings to help and learn in the garden. The experience was wonderful in every way.

Beth Chan



Making Space - Parking Lot Expansion

As you arrive at church this month, it should get a little easier for visitors and members to find a place to park. This is good news, as our current parking lot throughout September has been running at 85 – 90 percent of its capacity, even before the holidays. To meet this need, the Congregation Council has approved the use of Special Projects Funds, as well as money from the Operating Fund, in order to make more space at the rear of our parking lot. 23 spaces have been added, which should easily be able to provide much needed space for additional guests and members around the holidays and for our overall future growth in attendance. This is particularly necessary in the winter when we lose spaces to snow piles, and it is not possible to park on the lawn. We project that this number of spaces will meet our needs through next year. Thanks be to God that our council, through careful management of our resources, had the money set aside to complete this needed expansion.

YOUNG AT HEART

(Holy Spirit's 55+ Ministry)

On September 20th, 27 of the Y.A.H. came together to enjoy a delicious meal at the Bavarian Inn and a cruise on the Bavarian Belle Riverboat in Frankenmuth. God surely blessed us with a perfect fall, 79 degree, day. We had a short meeting to discuss future plans and activities. It was decided that we will meet on the second Thursday of every month, unless of course it is a Special Event or Program.

Oct. 11th Apple Pies Making

Oct. 14th Apple Pie Sale

Nov. 8th Outdoor Adventure in Davison

(lunch and to learn how to Line Dance from our very own Pat Hughes.)

Dec. 13th Annual Christmas Party

(White Elephant Gift Exchange and Pot Luck Luncheon.)

Please mark these dates on your calendar.

Watch the kiosk for the sign up sheets. Come join us for Fun, Food, and Fellowship.

President's Article

The Planning and Budget Cycle

In last month's Flame I wrote about how the Congregational Council (CC) is in the process of developing a Five Year Plan. This month I'd thought I'd expand on that process, in regards to how it fits in with the overall annual planning and budgetary cycle.

This time of year, every year, we go through a budgeting process - defining and refining the budget requests from each of our boards to be aligned with the projected income from offering pledges and loose plate collections. As you may know, every year we try to propose and adopt a balanced budget – i.e. expenses = income – which is presented at the Fall Congregation Meeting for approval in December. However, in order to come up with our budget requests we have to have an idea of what we're going to be doing in the upcoming year. This is where we get our tie-in to planning.

This year as we go through our process of developing a Five Year Plan, we'll also be focusing on the priorities and initiatives that we believe God is leading us to pursue next year. Based on this, we'll start out big with our "dream budgets" and then refine those to be aligned on an aggregate level with our projected income. Our target budgets and plans will be presented to you during the 40 Days of Purpose small group meetings to get your feedback. This will also give you an indication of the level of pledges that will be needed in order to fund everything we want to do as a church.

And then it's a balancing act – trying to adjust our budgets (and plans) to be aligned with income – until we reach a balanced budget that's ready for congregation approval. So, just so you know, what we see in pledges each fall has a direct affect on the plans and activities for the following year.

In the near future, you can look forward to hearing more about our immediate and extended plans, and preliminary budget requests for next year. And we, as a CC, will certainly be looking forward to hearing your feedback regarding them. This will be an important step in the process to ensure we're targeting and pursuing the correct priorities. We certainly want to be prayerfully looking for God's direction during our planning process and activities, and ask that you keep the CC and the church in your prayers.

In Christ,

Bob Kuerbitz
 President – Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Average Monthly Worship Attendance for August

	2006	2007
8:00am		36
10:30am	134	125
Total	134	161

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The following is a summary of the Finance Committee meeting held on September 11th.

1. Through August 31st - 2007 pledges received amount to \$148,000. This is versus \$119,000 for the same period in 2006.
2. Total income through August 31st amounts to \$193,000 with year-to-expenses of \$200,000.
3. Cash balances: \$35,000 in the checking account; \$50,000 in the building fund; \$7,000 in the special gifts fund; and \$1,100 in the Good Samaritan fund.
4. The Piano Fund has received gifts of \$7,600. The goal is to reach \$10,000: the full cost of the new pianos. Additional contributions will be gratefully accepted.
5. The church mortgage: In November 2007, the \$304,000 church mortgage will be refinanced for 20 years at 6 1/2% interest. The monthly payment will be \$2,262 (versus the current monthly payment of \$3,333).

It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to make the 2008 mortgage payments from the church's operating budget. For the past 4 years, the mortgage payments have been made from the church building fund. This action is in response to the significant growth in the membership of Holy Spirit. It would also preserve the balance in the building fund for future expansion rather than use it up to make current mortgage payments.

6. Stewardship Sunday will be on held on October 28, 2007.

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

CHURCH PROPERTIES

First of all we want to sincerely thank the volunteers that kept our grounds looking good this summer. Weeding is a continuous job, and we all appreciate your help and dedication.

Please notice the parking lot expansion. We did a lot of work judging our needs versus what we could afford and came up with twenty three new parking spaces. Running out of space is a great problem to have. We have certainly been blessed with all of our new members.

Also, in August two classrooms and the nursery received a fresh coat of paint in preparation for murals to be painted by some of our members. The murals will be started soon and may even be finished by the time you read this.

We are now in the process of getting bids for new paint in the Sanctuary, hallway and fellowship area to be included in next year's budget.

If you have not already noticed, take a moment to look at the picture, complements of our senior group, "Young at Heart", of Jesus' Baptism. It has been hung just inside the south entrance. Take a real close look; it's made up of all of our pictures that went into the Holy Spirit picture directory. Thank you - Young at Heart group!

Respectfully submitted,
Church Properties
Alan Cochran
Alex Murray
Jeff Watson

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Rally Day was a huge success! We had over 150 people stay after service to enjoy fellowship, food, and fun. Thank you to everyone who brought food, helped in so many ways, and joined in the fun. The weather was perfect and the Sunday School kids enjoyed not only the lawn games during Sunday School hour but also the Bounce House, the Inflatable Slide and all the delicious food during the Tail Gate Party after church. The adults had lots of time to be together and enjoy the morning too. Thank you to the older kids for assisting the younger kids. You did a great job!.

Now for Sunday School, we're off to a tremendous start with super teachers, large classes and lots of enthusiasm. The lesson for the first four week module is The Story of Creation. In a nutshell, the new Rotation Sunday School looks like this:

A 15 minute Opening (Including a prayer and the song, "He's Got the Whole World in his Hands", as well as time to interact with a High School youth).

Bible Story Time (the teachers have 15 minutes to present the lesson and the Bible verse.)

Workshop Time (children attend one workshop a week and will visit most of them over the course of four weeks:

- Hygiene and good eating habits, led by Nan Hudson
- Art "thumbprint" project, led by Kari Robinson
- Astronomy led by Paul Wenstrom, and
- The Garden with Beth Chan, witnessing the miracle of growth and God's creation.

Closing (A 15 minute prayer time called Glad and Sad led by the teachers).

The Next module is Adam and Eve, beginning Oct. 14. Our presenters will be Bob Kuerbitz, Alex and Sylvia Murray, Pat Odgers and Jenny McKay and each of them will be leading creative and interactive workshops.

Thanks be to God for this year's caring, dedicated, and loving teachers. They are:

Pre-school Bev Langer	K-1 Lonnie Moore,	2-3 Nicole Ballard
4-5 Anne Casselton	6-8 Marci Augenstein	9-12 Gerry Tucker

Pat Ranta

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

Mark your calendars, Now!!!

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

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

What to Bring: A Hopeful Spirit

We Believe

Youth News!

Head to the Heart Confirmation Has Begun

Confirmation has begun for our 6th – 8th grade age youth. This year they will be tackling the issue – What is a Christian? Specifically, students this fall will study the Lord's Prayer through song, Scripture, video, conversation, and games. This is not going to be a year of the same old, same old confirmation. With 11 boys and 2 girls, it will surely be an exciting year! Confirmation Learning Events are every other Sunday night from 6-8pm.

Senior High Bottle and Can Collection

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.

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. More info and registration forms will be available at the next youth meeting.

Beware – Rake and Run is Coming

If you live in the Grand Blanc area, beware, you might become the recipient of a Rake and Run. During October, students from our confirmation ministry will be going out into neighborhoods to do random acts of raking for complete strangers – a great example of selfless acts of service in the name of Jesus. So, watch out! You just might come home to find all of the leaves gone from your yard.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group met on Sunday, Sept. 16th and enjoyed pizza and fellowship during their first meeting and brainstorming session. The youth have decided to "camp in a box" to learn more about the problems of homelessness that plague our nation. We are still in the planning stages now, but these kids would like to raise awareness about this problem while raising money for a local homeless shelter. Also, for all youth interested in attending the Michigan Youth Gathering, please see Pastor Will for a registration form. The Gathering is from December 27th to December 30th. Adults: Once we select a date for our "Camp in a Box" experience, we will need chaperones! Please contact Marci Augenstein if interested in helping out. Date of activity and other information to come!

Early First Communion Workshop, October 13

An Early First communion workshop will take place on October 13 from 9:00am – 12:00pm. This workshop is designed for parents and children to experience the wonder of Holy Communion together. They will learn about the history of Holy Communion and its meaning. It is intended for children younger than 5th grade whose parents feel they are ready to take communion.

Choir News

All the choirs at Holy Spirit are starting to prepare Christmas music for the program on December 16th at 10:30. It doesn't seem possible that we are thinking of this now because we are at the end of summer and just beginning to edge slowly into fall. However, it is an exciting time as the choirs begin to learn the music for special programs and I am looking forward to the day that it is all presented.

As you all know we purchased a new piano this summer from the Synod, it has proven to be a wonderful instrument and those who play it really enjoy the sound and the mechanics of how it plays. We have also purchased a digital piano that is used as a rehearsal piano on Sunday mornings for the choir and for solos or small groups. If you would like to look at the digital piano and see what it can do please talk to me when you are at the church and I will be happy to demonstrate its many features.

If you have considered joining a choir or bringing your child to one of the kids choir rehearsals, but feel that it is an extra commitment that you can't handle at this time, let me encourage you to commit yourself through the end of the year and to be involved in the Christmas Program on December 16th. You can "get your feet wet" so to speak and see how it fits into your schedule.

There is still time before Christmas to join one of the choirs or to be a part of Holy Spirit's music ministry by playing an instrument. I would love to talk to you about becoming a part of our music ministry.

If you are interested in you, or your child becoming a part of our music program please email Jean Pike at jpik49@comcast.net, music@holyspiritlc.net or call her at 655-6764 We love to get new people involved and it is always encouraging to those of us who are already part of the program.



SING PRAISES TO HIM



- 10/1 Irma Crickmore
- 10/4 Phil Holmblade
- 10/5 Matt Brunzlick
- 10/6 Dave Jameson
- 10/6 Courtney Utter
- 10/7 Cameryn Ballard
- 11/7 Tracy Beck
- 10/9 Paul Smith
- 10/10 Kaitlyn Sarsfield
- 10/13 Jerry Baker
- 10/16 Michael Beck
- 10/17 Gerry Setera
- 10/18 Deryk Cleary
- 10/19 Nathan Bradley
- 10/19 Sue McBroom
- 10/19 Warren Wildey
- 10/21 Grant Hegenauer
- 10/24 Jared Hawley
- 10/24 Rick Shaffer
- 10/25 Sarah Wenstrom
- 10/26 Drew Zarzycki
- 10/30 Pat Ranta
- 10/30 Emilee Schild
- 10/31 Robert Brooks
- 10/31 Scott Gregg

BAPTISMS:

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



- 10/2 Brian & Catherine Geiser
- 10/6 Bob & Pat Ranta
- 10/9 Michael & Tracy Beck
- 10/10 Scott & Diane Gregg
- 10/12 Michael & Janet McGillis
- 10/21 Rick & Barb Shaffer
- 10/23 Rob & Sheryl Porter
- 10/25 Chet & Laura Wilkinson



THE FLAME

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

**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED**

REMINDER !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
On Celebration Sunday,
October 28, there will only be
ONE SERVICE at 10:30am

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