



The Flame Newsletter February 2012

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

What Does The Future Hold For Us?

Last week, I joined with pastors and rostered leaders from across the lower peninsula for a conference to discuss the future of the synods and congregations of lower Michigan. You may ask the question, “What is a synod?” The truth is that many people these days are asking that same question – including some pastors and congregational leaders. We are living during interesting times, as many of the institutions of society are experiencing change and transition, and the church is no exception. Even as you read this, leaders from across Michigan are continuing to meet to discuss how Evangelical Lutheran congregations will relate to one another, how we will be governed and served by a broader organization, and what form the over-arching governing/serving body will take.

“What does this have to do with Holy Spirit Lutheran Church and our mission and ministry?”, you may ask. Part of our task as a congregation is to discuss that question. To be as effective as possible, we need to network with other churches to tackle large projects and ministries. We also look to the synod to train and oversee the development and recruitment of new pastors and congregational staff. There are also many other tasks that are performed currently by our synod office for congregations in our territory.

Over the last few years, the funding for the synod that comes from congregations has been steadily declining. While HSLC’s giving has been increasing consistently each year, there are many congregations that have struggled to maintain their commitments. As a result, the synod has struggled to continue to meet the ever-increasing needs of congregations and ministries within our territory of southern Michigan. The synod is currently exploring new ways to offer quality ministry in a transitional economy. One of the most significant changes that the synod is exploring is doing more shared ministry with the other synod in the lower peninsula. Over the next few months, conversation will continue about the future of our synod and its relationships to other synods.

The synod has invited us to be a part of these discussions, and your input is desired. On February 19, we will be holding an adult forum (**Mission 2012: Where Are We Going?**) after the late service to discuss the mission of our congregation, the ministries that make us unique, the role of the synod in our mission, and what relationship there should be between the synod and our congregation. The end result of the meeting will be direct input from our congregation regarding the future of our synod. We can help to provide the shape that our synod will take. If you have thoughts or feelings about these questions, I encourage you to join the conversation. Attend the meeting on Feb 19 after the late service. If you cannot attend the meeting, talk with me privately about your thoughts and feelings about the direction of our synod and its many partnerships. May God continue to guide us as we discern where God is leading.

Pastor Will

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 am Traditional Worship
10:00 am Blended Worship
Both Services celebrate Holy Communion. The nursery is available for children four years old and younger at the 10:00 am service.

February Worship at Holy Spirit



Oasis Worship

Every Wednesday
at 6:45-7:15 pm,

If you can't make it to Sunday morning worship, desire an alternative form of worship, or are looking for a quiet space in your week, Oasis worship is the place for you.

Worship Notes

ReThinking Church: A Sermon Series for Epiphany 2012

As we enter into a new year, we as a church need to examine our calling as a congregation and as a gathering of Christians. What *does* it mean to be the church, or to be a Christian, in 21st Century North America? What is our message to the world, our identity and role in our community, and our relationship to other churches? As we enter into a new year, how is God calling us to be new people and a new church? Jesus came to make all things new – how is God going to make us new in this New Year? For the season of Epiphany, we will explore how we ReThink Church and reimagine our role as Christians in the world.

- 2/5 **New Hope** – Jesus brings healing and hope
- 2/12 **New Relationships** – Jesus breaks down barriers between people
- 2/19 **New Focus** – Jesus defines the mission

Love the Lord Your God: A Lenten Sermon Series

Throughout Lent, Christians often give things up to show their love and commitment to God – or to have a better motivation to lose weight or break a nasty habit. This Lenten season, we will spend time considering what God wants from *us*. We will explore this through exploring one of the most significant stories about Jesus. In Mark 12, a scribe comes to ask Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answers, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12: 28-30). Jesus responds to the scribe's question with words from the Shema, the passage from Deuteronomy 6 that is recited daily by many of the Jewish faith. These words form a covenant between God and God's people and show us a way to respond to this God who so extravagantly loves us through the cross.

Each Sunday of the series, we will explore a different aspect of our response – heart, soul, mind, and strength. On Wednesday evenings, we will look at concrete ways we respond as we keep God's Commandments through a contemporary video series on the Ten Commandments.

- Feb 26 A Promise to Love the Lord Our God
- March 4 With All My Heart
- March 11 With All My Soul
- March 18 With All My Mind
- March 25 With All My Strength

Ash Wednesday Worship, Feb 22, 7:00pm

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 6:00pm

Join us on Wednesday evenings for soup suppers, beginning Feb. 29 Don't worry about what to cook on Wednesday evenings, just come and join us for a simply meal and worship. Volunteers will be cooking the soup (sign up on the Opportunity to Serve Board, 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.

The Ten: The Ten Commandments for Modern Lives

Midweek Lenten Services: Wednesdays at 6:45pm

The Ten Commandments were written in stone 3500 years ago, half a world away. Now we can see them lived out on the streets of the City of Angels: Los Angeles, California. In "The Ten" dramatic stories and characters capture the commandments viewed through the lens of today. We see the dire consequences of choosing to ignore God's commandments, but more importantly, we see the power of God's enduring love through the journey of redemption. Through these videos, we will explore what it means to really give God our whole lives, loving God with heart, mind, soul, and strength. These midweek service begin February 29, and they will include music that is easy to sing, the drama segments, and special music from the choirs of the congregation.

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 regrettable (giving up sweets in order to lose the weight that was gained over Christmas).

Of late, many people now add something to their regular routine for the season of Lent as a form of sacrifice. An example would be those who read a devotional book daily during Lent. While any increase in devotional activity can be of benefit to the Christian, these are merely short time activities that 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 and 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.

Important Meeting February 19, 11:45am, Mission 2012, Where Are We Going?

How is our congregation doing? What are our strengths? Growing Edges? On-Going Needs? New opportunities? What is the role of the synod (the larger collection of Evangelical Lutheran Congregations in Southeast Michigan)? How should we relate to them and they to us? Should our synod share ministry with another synod to save resources and find new ministry opportunities?

Join leaders from HSLC's various ministries as we discuss important questions regarding the life and ministry of our church, our synod, and God's greater church. Following our discussion, our recommendations will be sent to the synod to shape its future mission and direction. Let your voice and opinion be heard.

Attention ladies! The next First Monday Dinner will be Feb. 6 at 6pm at Little Joe's in Grand Blanc.

Mark your calendar! Invite a friend! Come and enjoy an evening of good conversation and tasty food. Hope to see you there! If possible, please sign up on the activities board so we can reserve enough seats.

Personnel Team Updates

Greetings! The HSLC personnel team has been meeting over the last few weeks to review our staffing needs. These meetings have resulted in a staffing plan that includes some changes to existing staff, as well as the addition of some new staff.

The first major change is the hiring of a new office administrator with added technical responsibilities, as a result of the departure of Renee Heck from the position of Administrative Assistant, effective this week. In the interim, Beth Chan has returned to this position, and we are confident that she will be up to speed with our office tasks and communication. Over the next two months we will be posting and interviewing for this position. Once posted, if you know of individuals who would be interested in serving in this capacity, please contact the church office or have them send their resume to hslcpersonnel@holyspiritlc.net.

While interviewing for this staff position, we will also begin the process of hiring a Director of Child and Family Ministries. This position will also be part time and will focus primarily on meeting the needs of growing our Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Kids of the Kingdom ministries. A strong candidate will have good organizational skills, a demonstrated ability to coordinate events, and experience at recruiting and supervising volunteers.

Finally, the team will be looking to hire a nursery attendant to offer personal care to children in our nursery, and an IT technician to manage our technical arts ministry on Sundays, as well as assist with the production of worship presentations.

All of this hiring means that the personnel team will be very busy over the next few months. Anyone with experience screening candidates or reviewing resumes, is invited to assist with this important task. If interested, please contact Daleene Grandy via email at 810-635-4388.

Office Administrator Sought

The personnel team of HSLC is currently hiring for the position of Office Administrator. The position includes responsibility for all church publications (e.g. Flame newsletter and weekly bulletins), organizing membership data, scheduling of meetings and events, and the production of slides for worship and announcements. A successful candidate will have a desire to serve in a Christ-centered work environment, excellent organizational skills, and proficiency in Microsoft Office products, experience with presentation software, and previous secretarial experience. If interested, please send a resume to HSLCpersonnel@holyspiritlc.net.

Building Committee Forming

As previously announced, a building committee is being formed to review Holy Spirit's Mast Site Plan and consider the possibility of expanding our facility. As classrooms become more crowded, the kitchen is used with increasing frequency, and we run out of room for tables and chairs in the Narthex, it is time to look at ways to maximize how we use our current space and explore our options for expansion. If interested, please call Alex Murray 810-287-1278 to join the team.

Social Missions

Genesys Convalescent Center Worship Service

February 5th, 4:00pm

Come and join other members of Holy Spirit as we bring worship and Holy Communion to the residents of Genesys Convalescent Center, located on Holly Rd by Cook Rd. Come to sing, visit, and share a worship experience with those who would love to have some company as they worship.

Confirmation

Calendar Events for February

Feb. 5 5:00 Superbowl party at Lipkas

Feb. 12 6:00 Theme Event at church

Feb. 26 6:00 Theme Event at church

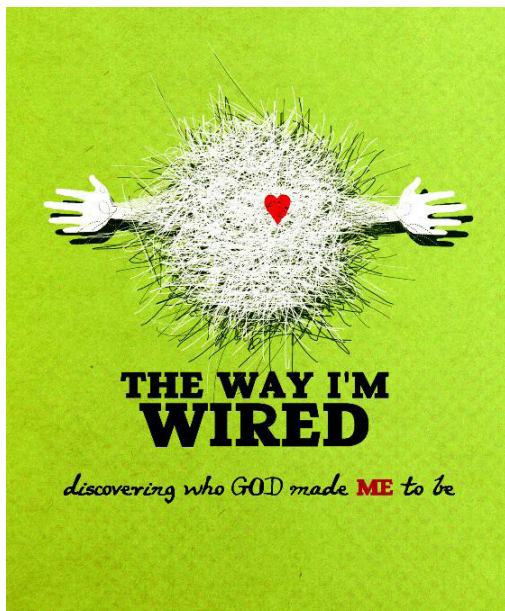
Superbowl Party at the Lipka's on Feb. 5, all are welcome! Are you ready for some football? There will be a taco bar, boys bring drinks and girls bring a snack or dessert. Sign up on the board.

Phil and Marty's Excellent Retreat, March 9-11.

A group of Confirmation students and adults will be participating in a winter retreat at Camp Michi-Lu-Ca north of Mio, MI. We will join other youth groups in studying the life and work of Martin Luther and other reformers. During our time at the camp, we will enjoy the wonders of this great setting. The cost is \$75.00.

Youth News February 2012

For any information on any aspect Youth Ministries, please feel free contact Melanie Pig-gott at youthministries@holyspiritlc.net



Bible Study

- February 12
- February 26
- March 4
- March 18

Join us for our study of *The Way I'm Wired: Discovering Who GOD Made Me To Be* from 6-7:30pm, during Confirmation.

Topics include:

- Rethinking Your Motives, Relationships, and Use of Time
- Knowing Your Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
- Praying for Courage, Perseverance, and Miracles
- Writing Your Lifetime Dream Statement
- Surrendering All to Jesus

National Youth Gathering

Thank you to all our volunteers and the congregation members that have made fundraising so possible and profitable. We were able to make \$595 dollars on our pancake breakfast last month, making our fundraising total over \$9,000! Here are the important upcoming dates for February:

- Saturday, February 4, 2012 – assemble Superbowl Subs (Fundraiser)
- Sunday, February 5, 2012 – deliver Superbowl Subs
- Sunday, February 12, 2012 – “NYG Prep Rally” (mandatory meeting for participants and parents).

Summer Camps

Michi-Lu-Ca's and Stony Lake Camp's earliest registration date ends February 15, 2012. Many different camps are available to elementary, junior high, and senior high aged youth this summer.

Summer Camping

Confirmation Camp

All Confirmation students (6-8) are invited to attend Confirmation Camp this summer at Michi-Lu-Ca. The dates for the camp are June 24-29. Campers can expect a high energy week of games, Bible study, ropes course, campfires, swimming and making new friends. Come and experience a week that can change your life. The cost is \$320.00. A deposit is due by Feb. 15 to hold your reservation. If paid in full, the cost is \$300.00. Scholarship money is available for anyone in need, contact Pastor Will.



Elementary Camp

This camp is similar to Confirmation Camp except they will not be participation in the week as a church group. Students who have completed grades 3-5 are welcome to attend this exciting week at camp during the same week as the Confirmation students. The cost for this camp is the same and the activities are similar as well. The activities include swimming, campfires, Bible study, group games and worship. The cost is \$320.00 with a deposit of \$100 due on Feb. 15. If paid in full, the total cost is \$300.00. Scholarships are available, contact Pastor Will.



God's Global Barnyard

Watch for information about a new mission project for the Children's Coin Jar.

The Connection Corner

A tool for getting connected and staying connected!

Tara Babbitt 574-329-0565

connectingministries@holyspiritlc.net

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings." ~1 Peter 4:10

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALZHEIMERS INFORMATATIONAL GROUP MEETING: February 13th at 6:00pm. Knowing that there is a great interest in our congregation for a support group; this meeting will be for anyone who is interested in attending. We will be discussing the times, dates, and general info. Please contact the office if you are interested.

LADIES LUNCHEON: Monday, February 6th at 6:00pm the ladies will be meeting at Little Joe's in Grand Blanc. Please sign up on Top Opps board so we can reserve enough seats. Thanks.

MEN OF THE SPIRIT: Upcoming dates: Feb. 7th, Feb. 21, March 13, April 3, April 24th & May 15th. At 7:00 pm at Panera Bread in Grand Blanc. Contact Dan Traynor with questions.

WOMEN OF THE SPIRIT: Study continues on the book of Romans. Next meeting is on Feb. 7th at 10:00 am at the church.

Save the Date! S.O.A.P. LOCK-IN: May 11th, 2012 6th -12th grade kids are welcome. "Learn why Jesus and soap have so much in common" Featuring a Jetty Rae concert from 6-7. Contact Bri Willoughby with questions.

TUESDAY NIGHT BOOK CHAT: Come join us for a lively discussion comparing two views of thought. Rob Bell's "Love Wins" and then Frances Chan's "Erasing Hell." The study will begin on Feb. 7th. It will be at Lonnie Moore's home. Please contact Shana Adikson at 989-415-7820.

General Reminder: Please let the office know if your email or phone number has changed. We are cleaning up our computer system so we may be asking for information from you!! Thanks for your patience and support.



News from the fun place, the choir:

Exciting things are happening in the world of singing at Holy Spirit.

Drop by some Thursday evening from 6:30-8 and join us for a rehearsal and see!

If you can't participate at this time, but would like to, please contact me:

directorofmusic@hslc.com

God and Me Scouting Classes

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

Tuesday Night Book Chat:

Come join us for a lively discussion comparing two views of thought. First we will look at Rob Bell's "Love wins" and then Frances Chan's "Erasing Hell." The study will start on 2-7-12. It is normally at Sally Piggotts but on the 7th it will be at Lonnie Moore's home. If you would like to join please contact Shana Adkison @ [989-415-7820](tel:989-415-7820) for further information.

Would you like to receive your copy of *The Flame* by email?

In an effort to reducing the amount of paper we use, as well as the cost of postage. We are considering a change in our pattern of distributing our newsletter from first class postage to email. Not only will this save us postage, but it will also allow you to receive it as soon as it is completed. During January, you will have the opportunity to sign up to receive the newsletter via email. Please consider utilizing this new form of distribution.

February Celebrations

Birthdays

- 2/1 Ryan Bradley
- 2/2 Ken Benning
- 2/2 Judy Kreis
- 2/2 Colin Kooy
- 2/2 Nathan Tucker
- 2/3 Helen Erickson
- 2/5 Rob Porter
- 2/6 Jeff Watson
- 2/7 Aaron Houle
- 2/7 Trevor Houle
- 2/7 Sydney Gladly
- 2/9 Katie Loutzenhiser
- 2/13 Sally Neil
- 2/14 Gage Jameson
- 2/14 Ella Beck
- 2/15 Ethan Quates
- 2/16 Heidi Hawley
- 2/16 Julie Alley
- 2/16 Brody Szaro
- 2/17 Kyle Brow
- 2/18 Makenzi Sells
- 2/19 Laura Wilkinson

- 2/19 Denise McIntyre
- 2/19 Linda Clark
- 2/20 Evelyn Alley
- 2/21 Norma Roberts
- 2/21 Austin Stone
- 2/22 Michael McGillis
- 2/25 Devyn Ballard
- 2/25 Lillian Kuerbitz
- 2/26 Megan Martin
- 2/26 Janie Black
- 2/26 Zana McEntire
- 2/27 Rose Haney
- 2/28 Krista Bobo
- 2/29 Casey Kondel

Anniversaries

- 2/9 Cliff and Renee Cleary
- 2/20 Gerry and Mary Tucker

Please note these important deadlines:

Deadline for announcements is Wednesday at noon.
 Deadline for the Flame is February 20. **ARTICLES SUBMITTED MUST BE READY FOR PRINT, THANKS!**

Updates to the Church Calendar
 Can be found at our website www.holyspiritlc.net

Reminder: Any changes to your telephone number, address, or e-mail address? Please call the office at 424-6707 or e-mail the changes to info@holyspiritlc.net. We will be happy to make the changes in our database so you can continue to receive the Flame newsletter and the weekly announcements. The church office is open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Holy Spirit Congregation Council Members

- President: Alex Murray
- Director of Worship: Stacy Jameson
- Secretary of Council: Sally Piggott
- Director of Youth: Melanie Piggott
- Youth Representative: Nathan Bradley
- Director of Properties: Mike Martin

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



Church Attendance for November:

December 2010

Early 37 Late 180 Oasis 20

December 2011

Early 36 Late 173 Oasis 29

Save the date for the SOAP Lock-in on May 11

starting at 5:30 and ending May 12 at 7am. It is open to grades 6 to 12.

February 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

5 8:30am Worship 10:00am Worship 4:00pm Genesys Worship 5:00pm Superbowl party	6 6:00pm First Monday dinner at Little Joes	7 10:00am Women of the Spirit 6:00pm Karate for Christ 7:00pm Men's Bible Study at Panera 7:00pm Book Chat	8 5:30pm Children's/ Sonburst Choir Reh. 6:00pm dinner 6:45pm " Oasis " Worship 7:30pm Bible Study	9 6:30 pm Adult Choir Reh.	10 9:00am KOTK 9:30am Bible study	11 9:00am KOTK 9:30am Bible study
12 8:30am Worship 10:00am Worship 11:45am National Gathering Meeting 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Senior High Bible Study	13 6:30pm Alzheimer Support Group Information meeting	14 6:00pm Karate for Christ 7:00pm Book Chat Happy Valentine's Day!	15 5:30 pm Children's/ Sonburst Choir Reh. 6:00pm dinner 6:45pm " Oasis " Worship 7:30pm Bible Study	16 6:30pm Adult Choir Reh.	17 9:30am Bible study 2:00pm-5:30North End Soup Kitchen	18 9:30am Bible study 2:00pm-5:30North End Soup Kitchen
19 8:30am Worship 10:00am Worship 11:45pm Adult forum	20 President's Day	21 10:00am Women of the Spirit 6:00pm Karate For Christ 7:00pm Men of the Spirit 7:00pm Book Chat	22 Ash Wednesday 5:30pm Children's Choir / SonburstReh 6:00pm POTLUCK 7:00pm Ash Wed. Worship	23 6:30pm Adult Choir Reh.	24 9:30am Bible study	25 9:30am Bible study
26 8:30am Worship 10:00am Worship 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00pm Senior High Bible study	27	28 Primary Election , HS is polling place 7:00pm Men's Bible Study at Panera 7:00pm Book Chat	29 5:30pm Children's Choir/ Sonburst reh. 6:00pm Soup Supper 6:45pm Lenten service 7:30 Bible study			

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

8:30 am

10:00 am

6:45 pm

7:00 pm

Sunday-Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday-Blended Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesday-Mid-week "Oasis" Service

Ash Wednesday, February 22