



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
 150 Lions Drive at Elk Grove Boulevard
 Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007-4299

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**December
2018**



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CHRONICLE

Pastors Message

Thankful Hearts

We've been taught that our happiness is somehow dependent on how well things go for us. Really our attitude and perspective on our circumstance really determines our joy and happiness. The apostle Paul often found himself in difficult situations. He was: beaten, judged, criticized, rejected, arrested and thrown in prison. While he was in prison, he sang songs to God and shared his faith. In difficult times when writing to the Philippians he wrote.

Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always," "and again I say it rejoice."

Paul was happy despite being in prison, he learned to thank God in everything he did. It was really his perspective on life.

A young woman wrote her mother from college: "Dear Mom: Sorry I haven't written sooner. My arm really has been broken. I broke it, and my left leg too, when I jumped from the second floor of my dormitory...when we had the fire. We were lucky. A young service station attendant saw the blaze and called the Fire Department. They were there in minutes. I was in the hospital for a few days. Paul, the service station attendant, came to see me every day. We both fell in love and decided to get married. We live in an apartment now instead of the dorm that burned to the ground. Love, Your daughter, Susie. P.S. Mom, none of the above is true. But I did get a "C" in Sociology

and flunked Chemistry. I just wanted you to receive this news in its "Proper Perspective!"

Happiness is really determined by our perspective in life not by circumstances. If we learn to be grateful people despite circumstances that will greatly improve our happiness. Do you know how the apostle Paul began most of his letters in the Bible?

To Rome he wrote "First, I thank my God for all of you." Romans 1:8

To Corinth "I always thank God for you" 1 Corinthians 1:4

To Ephesus "I have not stopped giving thanks for you; remembering you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:16

To Philippi "I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3

To Colossi "I always thank God when I pray for you." Colossians 1:3

A thankful heart helps us keep our eyes on Jesus. It is His love and grace that fills our day with blessings from Heaven. God is always giving so we are always thankful.

Thankful for His Grace,
 Pastor Steve

About LCHS

Our mission: We proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and witness God's love for us through worship, education, fellowship and human care.

Sundays

9AM Worship and Holy Communion
10AM Fellowship Coffee
10:30 Education Hour (Sept.-May)
Sunday School, age 3 - Gr. 8
Adult & Youth Studies

Christian Education

Sunday School, age 3 - Gr.5 10:15 – 11:15 AM
Grades 7 & 8 Confirmation:
Mondays, 6:00 – 7:00PM

Serving Opportunities:

Acolytes & Altar Assistants
Communion Assts. & Lectors
Choir & Instrumentalists
Greeters
Sunday School
Ushers
Youth Group (Jr. & Sr. High)
Working Boards: Administration, Communications/Outreach, Education/
Worship & Music, Finance, Human Care/Missions, Stewardship, Trustees.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
150 Lions Dr. & Elk Grove Blvd.
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Church Office: 847-437-5897
Website: www.HolySpiritEgV.org

Music Ministers:
Reverend Steven Okpiz
Richard & Kathleen Rose
Lay Minister: Girard Russell

President's Message

LITTLE CHURCHES

I recently read some information that talked about Mega churches and the decline of many community churches amongst all denominations.

There were many statistics that I had heard before and I've come to learn they are surprisingly universal across denominational lines and geographical regions.

Over 90 percent of our churches are under 200 in weekly attendance, and 80 percent are under 100.

Thinking about the numbers seemed pretty bleak to me at first. For some reason we're always counting heads each week and then we have to post it in the service folder to remind everyone what our attendance was. What if this wasn't such a bad thing? What if we turned our focus elsewhere?

What if when Jesus said "I will build my church" what He had in mind wasn't a bunch of pastors and congregations wringing their hands because their congregation's attendance isn't as big as someone else's congregation?

What if Jesus' idea was for churches of all sizes to work together, with mega, big, small, and house churches each contributing something special to the whole?

Instead, in the last generation or two, we've made big- and megachurches the standard, one that most churches will never reach and one, I believe, many of us aren't supposed to reach because we're called to be small.

There's nothing wrong with big- and megachurches; They serve their purpose and I'm grateful for them. How can we not celebrate it when 2,000-

20,000 people gather in one church to worship Jesus? That's fantastic!

But it's also cause for celebration when 2,000-20,000 people are worshipping Jesus across 20, 200, or more different churches in groups of 10, 50, 200, 500. Jesus has been building His church for 2,000 years using all kinds of people, all types of methods, all styles and sizes of churches.

Great churches don't happen by mistake. No matter what size they are.

They take prayer, planning, hard work, cooperation, and the calling of God. But no church can be a great church if they don't know they can be a great church.

Too many small churches are laboring under a false impression that their church can't be great until it becomes bigger. We need to put that notion to rest, starting in the heart and ministry of every member and pastor of every small church.

Instead let's say "So what?!" So what if our church is small? So what if we're one of my denomination's 90 percent? So what if half the people in our denomination are attending small congregations instead of big ones? If they're doing good, outreaching, Jesus-honoring, kingdom work, so what if they're small?

If each of us would take the time to focus on doing everything we can to make sure each and every person in our congregation is being taken care of including our Pastor, Ministers of Music, Lay Pastor, church administrative assistant, shut in's and hospitalized it'd be great. It's a big job. Maybe even bigger than those at a Mega church.

The most important thing is we

December Birthdays

- 1 Marilyn Schnabel
- 2 Amy Choyinski
- 3 Norma Estep
Holly Fortuna
Matthew Hinze
- 4 Michael Preissig
- 5 Kathi Mode
Mark Munson
- 7 Ashley Graf
Leslie Grant
Evan Okpiz
- 8 Harold Pottker, Jr.
- 9 Lila Keith
Jean Knutson
- 10 Larry Herforth
- 11 Sandra Wudtke
- 12 Caroline Bezik
Taryn Urich
- 13 Hannah Fink
Robert Johnson
Gladys Parker
- 14 Ashley Herr
- 15 Lisa Freidenfelds
Christopher Miller
- 16 Ruth Hatzold
- 17 Kyle Kiedaisch
Kimberly Moeller
- 18 Sandra Tengler
- 19 Denton Andersen
Kenneth Erbe
Kathy Hicks
Jan Nickelson
Jesse Zaccard, Jr.
- 20 Charlene Fink
Alicia Preo
- 21 Lynda Consolazio
Kellie Franke
Beth Szczygielski
- 23 Lorry Christensen
- 24 Rick Carlson
- 25 Rhonda O'Brien
- 26 Charlie Carlson
Douglas Keith
- 27 Brian Schnabel
- 29 Robert Forni
- 30 Brianna Baenke
Janice Wilshe
- 31 Hannah Carlson
Hannah Fortuna

December Anniversaries

- 21 Ron & Karen Preissig
- 27 William Sr. & Shirley Mashare
Richard & Kathleen Rose



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

in Elk Grove Village

Presents its



“LIVING NATIVITY”

Saturday, December 8th at 4:00 & 5:30 PM

150 LIONS DR. (corner of Lions Dr. & Elk Grove Blvd., next to Elk Grove High School)

Dress warm for the outdoor performance as you enjoy the chorus and drama including stable animals. Refreshments will be available after each performance.

*For more information call the church office at (847) 437-5897
website: www.holyspiritlutheranchurchelkgrove.org*



Come witness what it was like on the first Christmas in Bethlehem, in a manger, over 2000 years ago!!

do good work and we do it together with the help of God. Be grateful and celebrate each and every Sunday at LCHS.

Jerry Jacobson

Letter from the Martyrs

Harriet and I, who attended the anniversary events Nov. 18, thank the leadership and participants at church for their invitation to and hospitality at the Anniversary. We thank Ken Jarosch for organizing and presiding at many features of the day. We were so pleased to meet the Okpiszes, and now expect great things of Pastor's response to the congregation's call, finding good reasons to foresee a rewarding pastorate. We also were glad to hear and see-in-action veteran lay minister Jerry Russell, President Jacobson in the liturgy, plus the choir, organist, instrumentalists, and bell-ringers who contributed so much to worship on that thrilling Sunday. We were heartily greeted and led by ushers, and are aware of and grateful to the many members who did "backstage" planning and work. May we also point out those who hosted the festive meal? They continued in the well-remembered tradition of gourmet provision for lunches and dinners at the Church of the Holy Spirit.

When we moved to Chicago's down town ten years ago, we had to abandon our autos and convert to trains and taxis, a change that brought travel inconvenience whenever we headed to Elk Grove, so we have met with you seldom, after having so regularly participated through the early years of the congregation. So this was a day for us to get re-acquainted, as it were, and especially to re-visit members from those early years of the congregation. The confirmands from my pastoral years are now well into their seventies. Scores of adult members from those early years have gone on to and been received in glory, and I readily tear up in sorrow that they are currently not available to us, but more readily I smile when I recall their witness and victories.

Micah Marty creatively "caught" the day, with photos that will help us keep the memories vivid. The day was not dedicated to revisiting and recalling 'the good old days,' or whatever kind of days they were, so much as it pointed the congregation to meet the challenges of the difficult new days in which Christ's church everywhere calls upon the Holy Spirit to

guide and lead us. He will be with us, as he was in 1958 and ever since.

BOARD OF EDUCATION, WORSHIP & MUSIC

Bell Choir – Thank you to Mr. Govert and the bell choir for their beautiful performance of Amazing Grace at the 60th anniversary service. You all worked hard and it was a very nice addition to the commemoration service.

Youth Creation/Evolution Class will be postponed until about March. In the interim Pastor invites the Confirmation students and other youth (Gr. 6 – 12) to attend his Bible study class with the adults. Pastor has the following topics planned for his upcoming classes:

Video and Discussion Classes with Pastor Steve:

Dec 2, 9, 16 General Videos on Martin Luther and the Reformation

Jan/Feb "A Man Named Martin" Video series and discussion.

Mar/April "Creation vs. Evolution"

All are welcome any Sunday.

DECEMBER 2018

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP**

We greet you this blessed Advent & Christmas season and invite you to join us for worship and fellowship.

Advent Midweek Wednesdays:

Dec. 5, Dec. 12, Dec. 19

All are encouraged to enrich their Advent devotion by joining us for **6:00 PM Advent Dinners** followed by the **7:00 PM WORSHIP** service with communion.

Theme: "God With Us"

Week 1: Our Potter

Week 2: Our Shepherd

Week 3: Our Living Branch

Christmas Eve Monday, December 24:

5:30 PM Family Service

10:30 PM Lessons & Carols Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Tuesday, December 25:

10:00 AM worship with Holy Communion.

May you and your family have a blessed Advent and Christmas!

Happy holidays everyone!

Board of Education, Worship & Music

- Julie G.

Stewardship

A Stewardship Twist on Christmas -

It's easy to get caught up in our culture's consumerist Christmas mindset. Here is a 2015 article written by Chris Brown, Stewardship Leadership from Dave Ramsey's Peace University team, on how to step away from the junk and refocus the season on Christ.

5 Ways to Celebrate Christ this Christmas

It's December, which means Andy Williams is once again serenading frenzied shoppers through mall speaker systems across America: "It's the most wonderful time of the year!" Cue the record scratch. *Wonderful?*

Well, Christmas *should* be the most wonderful time of the year. But often, **instead of celebrating what matters, you get caught up in our culture's consumerist Christmas mindset.** And that stresses you out long after you've left the mall. Then you wake up in January with a holiday spending hangover. Yuck. Friends, it doesn't have to be this way. You can have a Christmas that's as calm and bright as the night Jesus was born. **The key is turning the focus on Him while keeping less spiritual traditions in check.** We're not suggesting you be a Scrooge and box up the stockings and tinsel for good. It's okay to have fun! You just need the **courage** to step away from the junk.

It's tough to go against the grain.

But **refocusing the season on**

Christ can *really* make Christmas the most wonderful time of the year. How can you shift your perspective? Read on for some ways to bring Jesus into your Christmas traditions.

1. Celebrate Jesus' Birthday

Instead of a pie at Christmas dinner, bake a birthday cake and let the kids decorate it. Then round out your meal by singing "Happy Birth-

day" to Jesus. Just don't try sticking a few thousand candles on top.

2. Read or Watch *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*

This '70s children's classic by Barbara Robinson (made into a TV movie in 1983) is substantial enough to be a favorite of adults too. It reminds us that **Christmas is the perfect opportunity to love the unlovable and to share the story of Christ's birth with them.** You may have something to teach, but you'll probably learn a thing or two about love and acceptance as well. So snuggle up with some cocoa by a warm fire and enjoy this story as a family.

3. Tame the Gift Monster by Instituting a Three-Gift Rule

If we aren't careful, kids can begin to see Christmas as an occasion for tearing into a pile of gifts. To quash any budding sense of materialism, **buy everyone in your family three gifts apiece to mirror the three gifts the Magi brought to Jesus.** If it was good enough for the King of kings, it's good enough for your little princess. Then pull last year's gifts from the bottom of the toy pile and donate them to charity. Contentment? Check. Generosity? Check. A bank account with money in it? Check.

4. Give Gifts to Jesus

Speaking of generosity, **what better way to honor Christ than to be His hands and feet for others?** Buy some chickens for a hungry family through Compassion International's gift catalog. Help your kids save their money to contribute to a special family offering at church. Tip your waitress a few hundred dollars on Christmas Eve. Each time you show Christ's love, write it down and put the paper in a gift box under the tree. On Christmas morning, open it up and read through each gift for Christ.

5. Remember the Greatest Gift of All

Start Christmas morning by **reading the gos-**

pel accounts of the Christmas story and **saying a prayer of thanksgiving** to God for the greatest gift of all—salvation through Christ. If you have children, carry the message home by placing a baby doll on a bed of straw in a basket. Then put the basket under your Christmas tree along with the other gifts.

Ready to start some new traditions with your family this Christmas season? Try one or two of the suggestions above to **keep Christ at the center of this most wonderful time of year.** Merry Christmas!