

the Spirit



The scene at the Valentine's Day Dinner.

What's Inside:

Our Lent Rotation schedule

An invitation to the Empty Bowls event

A look at our financials from January

And much more!





A Message From Pastor.

Did you know that every Ash Wednesday we kickoff the season of Lent by reading Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 and that in these verses from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount we not only hear warnings about practicing our piety solely for personal attention, but Jesus also gives us some positive instruction on the proper way to align our life for discipleship?

Now, Jesus ends this section by reminding us that wherever “your treasure is, there your heart will be also” and truer words were probably never spoken.

There is so much in this life that is offered up as treasure that is in reality only false hope, so many things we think are real needs that actually are merely selfish wants, and an abundance of choices that we are confronted with that tempt us off a path of righteousness and unto a road of trepidation.

Life can be confusing, challenging, and chaotic and yet the promise is there for you today that Jesus loves you, is with you, forgives you, and will never abandon you.

Christ came so that you could have a personal experience with God; an experience that brings new hope for those of you who place your trust in what truly matters.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

I believe that it is no coincidence that these verses come in the middle of Jesus’ most famous teaching and I also believe that the real hidden gem comes at the very center of this passage, specifically in the omitted verses of Matthew 6:7-15, because this is the heart of Christ’s message.

This is the heart of Jesus’ promise.

And this is one of the greatest gifts we receive from God.



This is a true treasure because this is where Jesus tells you to...

“Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial,

but rescue us from the evil one.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

So remember these words and write them on your heart, pray them out loud daily, and know that God’s grace is poured out when Jesus teaches us to pray the Lord’s Prayer.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Lenten Blessings, Pastor Durk



Calendar– March 2018

Thu March 1, 2018

6:30pm N.A. (Green Room)

Fri March 2, 2018

7:00am N A

7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room)

Sat March 3, 2018

9:00am Boy Scouts Merit Badge
Expo

Sun March 4, 2018

9:00am Sunday School & Choir

10:00am Worship

11:15am Fellowship

Mon March 5, 2018

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship
Hall)

Tue March 6, 2018

5:30pm Women's AA (Elevator
Room)

6:30pm CYF

Wed March 7, 2018

6:00pm Dinner (Spirit of Christ)

6:30pm Women of the Choir

7:00pm Lenten Worship

8:00pm Choir

Thu March 8, 2018

6:30pm N. A. (Green Room)

7:00pm Church Council

Fri March 9, 2018

7:00am N A

6:15pm Shelter Supper

7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room)

Sun March 11, 2018

9:00am Sunday School & Choir

10:00am Worship

11:15am Fellowship

Mon March 12, 2018

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Tue March 13, 2018

5:30pm Women's AA (Fellowship
Hall)

Wed March 14, 2018

6:00pm Dinner (Wooddale)

7:00pm Lenten Worship

Thu March 15, 2018

Empty Bowls Event

1:00pm Active Adults

6:30pm N. A. (Green Room)

7:00pm Men's Group

7:00pm Prayer Shawl Group

Fri March 16, 2018

7:00am N.A.

7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room)

Sun March 18, 2018

Share the Spirit Sunday

9:00am Sunday School

9:30am Choir

10:00am Worship

11:15am Fellowship

Mon March 19, 2018

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship
Hall)

Tue March 20, 2018

5:30pm Women's AA (Elevator
Room)

Wed March 21, 2018

6:00pm Dinner (Prince of Peace)

7:00pm Worship

8:00pm Choir

Thu March 22, 2018

6:30pm N.A. (Green Room)

Fri March 23, 2018

7:00am N.A.

7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room)

Sun March 25, 2018

9:00am Sunday School
Choir

10:00am Worship

11:15am Fellowship

Mon March 26, 2018

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship
Hall)

Tue March 27, 2018

5:30pm Women's AA (Elevator
Room)

Wed March 14, 2018

6:00pm Men of the Choir

7:00pm Choir

Thu March 29, 2018

6:00pm Dinner (Spirit of Christ)

6:30pm Choir

7:00pm Worship

Fri March 30, 2018

6:00pm Choir

7:00pm Worship at Wooddale



Social Action Calendar – March to May 2018

March 2018

- 4 Minnesota FoodShare Kickoff
- 9 Shelter Supper 6:00 to 8:30pm
- 15 STEP Empty Bowls Event– SAVE the DATE!!
- 18 Share the Spirit Sunday

April 2018

- 14 Shelter Breakfast 5:30 to 7:30am
- 15 Share the Spirit Sunday

May 2018

- 11 Shelter Supper 6:00 to 8:30pm
- 20 Share the Spirit Sunday

Our Saviours Shelter Breakfast - Mar 9th

On Friday, March 9th, Spirit of Christ will serve dinner at the shelter. We will be serving baked chicken, stuffing, gravy, green bean casserole, rolls, milk, lemonade and dessert. Right now, we need volunteers to serve the meal and we can use homemade desserts and coffee or tea donations. If you would like to join us to serve the meal or make a monetary or dessert donation, talk to Carolee or Mark at church, email c-cohe@umn.edu or call 952-935-5608.

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month – You CAN make a big impact at STEP!

Minnesota FoodShare is a project of Twin Cities faith communities to stock community food shelves. Since 1983, Minnesota FoodShare has

held a March campaign inviting faith communities, businesses, and community organizations to stock the nearly 300 food shelves in Minnesota. In 2017, over \$8 million dollars and 4.7 million pounds of food were raised statewide during the March effort. It comes at a crucial time of year, when food donations are low, but the need remains.

Spirit of Christ donations in March will be taken to STEP. Last year, STEP was recognized as #2 in total donations in the mid-sized food shelf category. With the participation of community groups, workplaces, and faith communities, we CAN help them be that top spot in 2018!

What CAN you do? Donations are measured by weight so in March, we ask you to bring cans, cans and MORE CANS. Cans of soup, vegetables, fruit, stew, canned tuna are some suggested items. CAN you help? On your March shopping trips, if you CAN purchase a few extra CANS of your favorite items and then bring them to Spirit of Christ starting on March 4, the Social Action team will deliver all your CANS to STEP at month's end to be counted in the 2018 donation cycle. Borrowing shamelessly from the Pointer Sisters:

We know you can do it
We know darn well, you can bring those cans
Oh, yes, you can, we know you can, can
Yes, you can, can, why can't you?
If you wanna, yes, you can, can!!

STEP Empty Bowls Event – March 15th!

STEP's annual Empty Bowls event will be held at Westwood Lutheran Church (9001 Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park) on Thursday, March 15, 2018. The event is an opportunity for all ages in community to come together and support efforts to



eliminate hunger in St. Louis Park.

Community members of all ages are invited to join together for a simple meal of soup and bread provided by local restaurants for lunch or dinner. The event will include music entertainment and children's activities. Participants will receive a hand-made pottery bowl to take home as a reminder of empty bowls in our community. No tickets or reservations are required. A free-will donation will benefit the programs of the St. Louis Park Emergency Program.

If you would like more information on the importance of this fundraiser to STEP or on its history, take a look at <http://stepslp.org/latest-news/empty-bowls-save-the-date/> and save the date. Stay tuned for more details about serving times. If you want to know more about the experience of a volunteer, find the SOC member in the picture of a recent Empty Bowls event and ask her about it!



Share the Spirit Sunday



How can you share the Spirit? While sharing can take MANY forms, one opportunity we have every 3rd Sunday of the month is to contribute to the "Share the Spirit" fund. These donations are used in many ways: to support the shelter meals, Tree-House, special requests from STEP or Bird Feeder and our 363days.org sandwich making project.

Get involved with Social Action!

The Social Action team (aka SOC SAC) welcomes everyone in the congregation to join us to plan and organize mission and social action events. This could be an ongoing activity or a one-time commitment. Talk to anyone on the Social Action Team: (Mark or Carolee Cohen, Wendi Harmsen, Pat Latvala, Deb Schmitz, Joanne Stone or Jeanne Worm) if you want to help!

Lent

This Lent, we are again joining Prince of Peace and Wooddale for mid-week services. Dinner will be available starting at 6:00pm, with the exception of Good Friday. Here's the schedule of where worship will be:

February 28	Prince of Peace
March 7	Spirit of Christ
March 14	Wooddale
March 21	Prince of Peace
March 29	Spirit of Christ (Maundy Thursday)
March 30	Wooddale (Good Friday)



January 2018 Financials

	Current Month		Year To Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts	\$9,916	\$10,533	\$9,916	\$10,533
Total Expenses	\$11,112	\$12,928	\$11,112	\$12,928
Net Activity	(\$1,196)	(\$2,395)	(\$1,196)	(\$2,395)

The congregation passed a deficit budget in for 2018, which means we are projecting that our expenses will exceed our receipts by approximately \$26,000. However, the Council is committed to try to minimize that loss. Increased giving on the part of the congregation will play an important role in minimizing the deficit, also.

In January, our net activity was better than projected, with a loss of (\$1,196) which is favorable to the budget of (\$2,395). This was due to expenses being less than projected.

Synod Bishop Nominations

The following clergypersons were nominated at the conference assemblies:

Sarah Bunge, East Union Lutheran Church, Carver
Kelly Chatman, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
Tim Coltvet, Luther Seminary, Saint Paul
Tania Haber, Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park
Mary Halvorson, Grace University Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
Jennifer Henry, Bethany Lutheran Church, Spencer, Iowa
Gary Kinkel, St. John's Lutheran Church, Shakopee
David Lose, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
Jen Nagel, University Lutheran Church of Hope, Minneapolis
Jeff Nehrbass, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
Mary Pechauer, Bethlehem Lutheran Church--Twin Cities, Minneapolis
Ingrid Rasmussen, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
Andy Romstad, Cambridge Lutheran Church, Cambridge
Ann Svennungsen, Minneapolis Area Synod
Connie Forsberg Tiede, Zion, Anoka
Norman Wahl, Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester
Tom Zarth, Oak Grove Lutheran Church, Richfield

Two candidate forums will be held to meet and greet those rostered leaders participating in the bishop election process. Those events will be held 9:00-11:00 a.m., on Saturdays April 7 and April 14. April 7 will be hosted at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Bloomington and April 14 will be hosted at Faith Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids.

Check the synod website on March 15 for a final list of names moving on to Synod Assembly.



View From the Pew - No. 1, Vol. 16

By Bruce Lindquist

This week we have another very well-written paragraph from a Church Council member on thoughts pertaining to our church's future. "We have a strong congregation and have weathered some difficult times these past few years quite well and have done so with grace and perseverance. I believe that God has great things in store for our congregation and He will bring us to new and exciting opportunities which we have yet to discover. It is so awesome to have **Pastor Durk** in place as our pastor to help guide us into the next phase of Spirit of Christ, as we continue to build our faith as believers along with being a presence in our community. By going through the Learn, Lead, Launch program, we are learning that we need to focus on what will sustain and carry the church for the coming years. Most often this requires change and new ways of thinking. Both can be difficult to process, but we need to trust God to help us discern what is best. I ask that you be in prayer for our Church Council in the coming weeks and months as we take what we've learned from Learn, Lead, Launch and apply it to Spirit of Christ." **Dina Strachota**, SOC Church Council, Worship & Music

Update on our Adopt-A-Highway participation:

As you may know, our clean-up stretch is between 50th and 36th streets, on just the north-bound side of busy Hwy 100; the program requires a spring and fall clean-up; we do not do the median; we can renew our portion every two years; we are asked to view an online safety video; our church's recognition sign will most likely

be in place by April 1; garbage bags and safety vests will be provided. I will do additional updates as the warm weather season approaches.

He was one of us -- SOC's 43-year choir member **Harding Hanson** worked for years at the **Evangelist Billy Graham's** print shop in Minneapolis, and met him several times. A relative of mine was one of his administrative assistants when "America's Pastor" maintained his evangelistic world headquarters for a time on Hennepin Avenue. Many other aunts, uncles and grandparents were attendees at his mega-stadium rallies. At his passing earlier this month, at the age of 99, his remarkable story was retold many times. So I will not repeat those facts, but I will point out one incredibly-concise and wise piece of advice he once stated to the rest of us:

"First, accept the fact that you will die.

Second, make arrangements.

Third, make provisions for those you are leaving behind.

Finally, make an appointment with God."

I hope this week is a good one for you.

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