

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Third Sunday after Epiphany
Jan 25, 2026

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
And Nursery School
2545 Franklin Ave.
Secane, PA 19018
Office: 610-544-2707

We thank Alan Stiteler for leading us in service today.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME, WORSHIP NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ GATHERING +

(Please stand as you are able)

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 513

Listen, God Is Calling *Neno lake Mungu*

Refrain

Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give-ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.
1 Je - sus gave his man-date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand ing stead fast,

Leader All Refrain

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk-ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune

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CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Please be seated)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, [☩] one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: **you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.**

We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

**We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.**

Turn us to seek your face.

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.**

Amen.

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in [☩] Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

All



Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,



we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.



Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;



you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.



For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,



you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,



in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ THE WORD +

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 9:1-4*

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27:1, 4-9

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;**

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message—“Seek my face.”**

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that

each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the

gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

ELW 798

Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you - you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my -
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

(Cont'd)



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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(Please stand, as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

GOSPEL MESSAGE

A New Way to Follow

Nations wage war, gangs battle each other, families quarrel, communities of faith divide. We hear others say and even hear ourselves saying, “There is no other way.”

In Jesus, the light of God’s kingdom draws near and a new way shines for us to follow.

In today’s gospel, Jesus first withdraws (Matt. 4:12). The word *anachoreo* (to withdraw) is used ten times in Matthew’s gospel—each time as Jesus’ response to violence or conflict. John the Baptist has been arrested, and tension is beginning to build. The way of God and the way of the world’s rulers are beginning to collide.

In Jesus, a new kingdom has drawn near, a kingdom of nonviolence and non-retaliation. Jesus’ withdrawal is not simply passivity but points to a vision of an alternate way of reigning as king. Jesus rules not with violence, abusive power, or through division but through voluntarily emptying himself of power, identifying with the oppressed and burdened, and healing that which is broken. Into this new reign, Jesus calls the disciples to follow him, a way that appears foolish and weak to those who cannot discern it. To those God calls, it is the wisdom and strength, the light and power of God.

To follow in the way of Jesus places one’s life at risk, for it eventually leads to the cross. To follow, though, implies someone is leading. The way God calls us to follow has already been filled with the loving kindness and mercy of Jesus who has gone before us and who leads us to the foot of the cross. There, in the shadow of the cross, God makes a way for unity in the midst of division, for healing in the midst of brokenness, for peace in the midst of violence, for forgiveness in the midst of betrayal. Around the table, the kingdom of God draws near; Jesus’ broken body announces forgiveness, healing, peace, and unity. Many bodies are nourished and formed into the one body of Christ, called and sent to follow in the way of Jesus, to be broken and shed for the sake of the world.

Alan Stiteler

(Please stand as you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY**ELW 763****My Life Flows On in Endless Song**

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH –APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated)

+ RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD +**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

(response after: Merciful God

C: receive our prayer.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Let us greet one another from our seats in the name of the Lord, saying, 'Peace be with you'.

OFFERING:

A: We worship through our tithes and offering. Now let us joyfully respond to God's goodness, through our personal giving.

It is only through your giving that the ministry and mission of Holy Spirit continues. Many people give electronically and we thank all growing disciples in advance for their generous giving. Offerings can also be dropped in the mailbox or mailed in.

OFFERTORY

Come by Here



1 Come by here, Lord, come by here; come by here, Lord, come by here;
 2 Some-one needs you, Lord, come by here; some-one needs you, Lord, come by here;
 3 Send a bless-ing, Lord, come by here; send a bless-ing, Lord, come by here;



come by here, Lord, come by here.
 some-one needs you, Lord, come by here. O Lord, come by here.
 send a bless-ing, Lord, come by here.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

A: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P: Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher, your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word. All that has life and breath praises your name.

For your Word that sustains the earth, we thank you, O God.
We thank you, O God.

P: You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry,
preached your mercy, and called us to faith.
For your Word in our Lord Christ, we praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

P: Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word,
that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption,
and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world.
For your Word in our lives, we entreat you, O God.
We entreat you, O God.

P: Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer,
for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Savior.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

+ SENDING +

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise † bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN**ELW 841****Lift Every Voice and Sing**

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

(Cont'd)



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
we have come, tread-ing our path through the blood of the slaug - tered,
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
shad-owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let where us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
true the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938
Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

Dec's Income: \$ 9,251 Average Attendance: 20

Dec's Expense: \$ 5,387

MINISTERS – ALL BAPTIZED PEOPLE OF GOD

Scheduled to serve 1/25

Alan S. – Assisting Minister

Klines – Ushers

Downey/Deemer – Counters

Volunteer – Altar

Scheduled to serve 2/1

Donna G. - Leader

Gary P. - Usher

Gary P./Volunteer - Counter

Barb S. - Altar

*****WEEKLY CALENDAR*****

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mon, Jan 26 | 6:30pm – G/S (Mtg Rm) |
| Wed, Jan 28 | 6:30pm – G/S (Mtg Rm) |
| | 7:30pm – AA (Hall) |
| Thu, Jan 29 | 7:00pm – AA (Hall) |
| | 7:00pm – DA (Mtg Rm) |
| Sat, Jan 31 | 10:00am – AA (Hall) |
| | 11:00am – DA (Mtg Rm) |
| Sun, Feb 1 | 10:15am – Worship |
| | 12:30pm – Song of Praise (Sanctuary) |

*****PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS*****

Healing:

Annie Berner
Eileen Maloney
Lisa McDonough
Hugh Mullarkey
Lois Saunders
Betty Lake
Anne Rainsford
Dolores Maurer
Harry Collins
Geralyn Gerakaris
Joan & Harry Chaykun
Nikki Miller
Cyndi Kline

Jackie Bernduer White
Jackie Dewitt
Maureen Colahan
John Turner
Lynn McGrane
Sue Thomas
Jean Cilurso
Phyllis Horton
Lou Vallies
Linda Martin
Bill McVian
Suzie Thomas

(If you would like to add someone to the prayer list for Jan, please call the office)

Also please remember in your prayers homebound members: Ruth Dell’Orefice, Jane Croghan, Diane Kuhn, Hank Kuhn, Janet Kline, Dudley Henriques, Gerilyn Gerakaris, and Bob Kerns.

Men & women in our armed forces, firefighters, police officers and emergency services personnel.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

COUNTERS NEEDED – We are in need of one or two counters for the first week of the month. If you are able to volunteer for this, please call the office.

ANNUAL MEETING – **Sunday, February 1st.** Mark your calendars and plan to be there to hear 2025 reports, plans for 2026 and vote on a 2026 budget.

CHURCH'S 75th ANNIVERSARY!

As you may have heard, this year is Holy Spirit's 75th Anniversary. We are going to celebrate this achievement on Sunday, April 26, 2026 during a special worship service and a luncheon. There will be invitations coming to you in the next few months.

We would like to display pictures/mementos at the luncheon for everyone to see Holy Spirit through the years. If you have any pictures (or anything related to the church) that you could lend us, please put your name on it and hand them to Nancy Harris, Gary Pysher or Bill/Cyndi Kline. We will make sure you get them back.

ALTAR FLOWERS - THANK YOU everyone who signed up to sponsor altar flowers throughout the year. 2026 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board. Please take a dedication form when you sign up and return to office. **Flowers are now \$20 per vase. There are several openings to sponsor flowers in January.**

BULLETIN COVERS – There is a sponsor sign-up sheet to sponsor special bulletin covers for **special occasions**. The cost is \$15.00. Please see sign-up sheet outside the office.



OUR STAFF

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
Director of Music – Samuel Stevenson
Office Secretary – Jeanne Warner

Holy Spirit Nursery School
Pre-K Teacher – Nancy Harris
Teaching Assistant – Colleen Hall
Pre-School & MMO Teacher – Shelly Avila
Teaching Assistant – Michelle Brackin

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