

*WELCOME TO WORSHIP*

*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
June 21, 2026*



*Holy Spirit Lutheran Church*

Website Address:  
[www.holyspiritsecane.org](http://www.holyspiritsecane.org)  
Church Email:  
[Holyspiritsecane@verizon.net](mailto:Holyspiritsecane@verizon.net)  
Office Hours:  
Monday-Thursday 9am – 2pm

*To all who are tired and need rest; to all who mourn, and need comfort; to all who are friendless and need friendship; to all who are homeless, and need sheltering love; to all who pray, and to all who do not pray; to all who sin and need a Savior; to whomsoever will, this church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus Christ, says Welcome!*

Welcome to Holy Spirit! Thank you for joining us today to worship the Living God! Through prayer, music, the proclamation of God's word and the sharing of a meal together we offer praise to God! Please come again and invite others to come with you. You are always welcome here at Holy Spirit!

We welcome the participation of all in worship. This worship bulletin is inclusive and contains the order of worship and all music you will need to participate. We sit and stand where indicated (\*) in reverence to God; do what is comfortable for you. The people respond where indicated in **boldface** type.

A: Assisting Minister C: Congregation P: Presiding Minister

If you are having difficulty reading the bulletin, we have enlarged print bulletins available. Please ask the usher.

Visitors, please fill out a communion card and place in the offering plate.  
Members, please fill out a communion card at least once per month and place in the offering plate.

**OUR MISSION**  
**“KNOW CHRIST! GROW! SPREAD GOD’S LOVE!”**

# ***ORDER OF WORSHIP***

## ***WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS***

### **+ GATHERING +**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose compassion endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Most merciful God,

**C:** we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

**P:** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, † your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## \*GATHERING HYMN: Let the Whole Creation Cry (ELW 876)



1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"  
 2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,  
 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"  
 those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.  
 and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;  
 Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;  
 from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.  
 all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"  
 "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832–1916, alt.  
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray. Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve,

**C:** to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

+ **WORD** +**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13**

<sup>7</sup> O LORD, you have enticed me,  
and I was enticed;  
you have overpowered me,  
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;  
everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I must cry out;  
I must shout, “Violence and destruction!”  
For the word of the LORD has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup> If I say, “I will not mention him  
or speak any more in his name,”  
then within me there is something like a burning fire  
shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup> For I hear many whispering:  
“Terror is all around!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”  
All my close friends  
are watching for me to stumble.

“Perhaps he can be enticed,  
and we can prevail against him  
and take our revenge on him.”

<sup>11</sup> But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.  
They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonor

will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous;  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

<sup>13</sup> Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!

For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***PSALM 69:7-10, 16-18***

<sup>7</sup> Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,  
and shame has covered my face.

<sup>8</sup> **I have become a stranger to my own kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.**

<sup>9</sup> Zeal for your house has eaten me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

<sup>10</sup> **I humbled myself with fasting,  
but that was turned to my reproach.**

<sup>16</sup> **Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;  
in your great compassion, turn to me.**

<sup>17</sup> Hide not your face from your servant;  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

<sup>18</sup> **Draw near to me and redeem me;  
because of my enemies deliver me.**

***SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11***

<sup>1b</sup> Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that,

just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand, as you are able)*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW 174

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39**

**P:** The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup> “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to

you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

<sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

<sup>36</sup> and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

<sup>37</sup> “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

P: This is the Good News of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON**

**Rev. Christopher Drummond**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY: Children of the Heavenly Father

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,  
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.  
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.  
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

## \*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 remain standing)*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*(response after: God of grace,)*

**C: hear our prayer.**

## **PEACE**

**P: The peace of Christ be with you always.**

**C: And also with you.**

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, 'Peace be with you'.*

### **“LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH”**

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.*

*Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.*

*With God as our Parent, siblings all are we*

*Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now*

*With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow,*

*To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.*

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.*

*(Please be seated)*

## **OFFERING:**

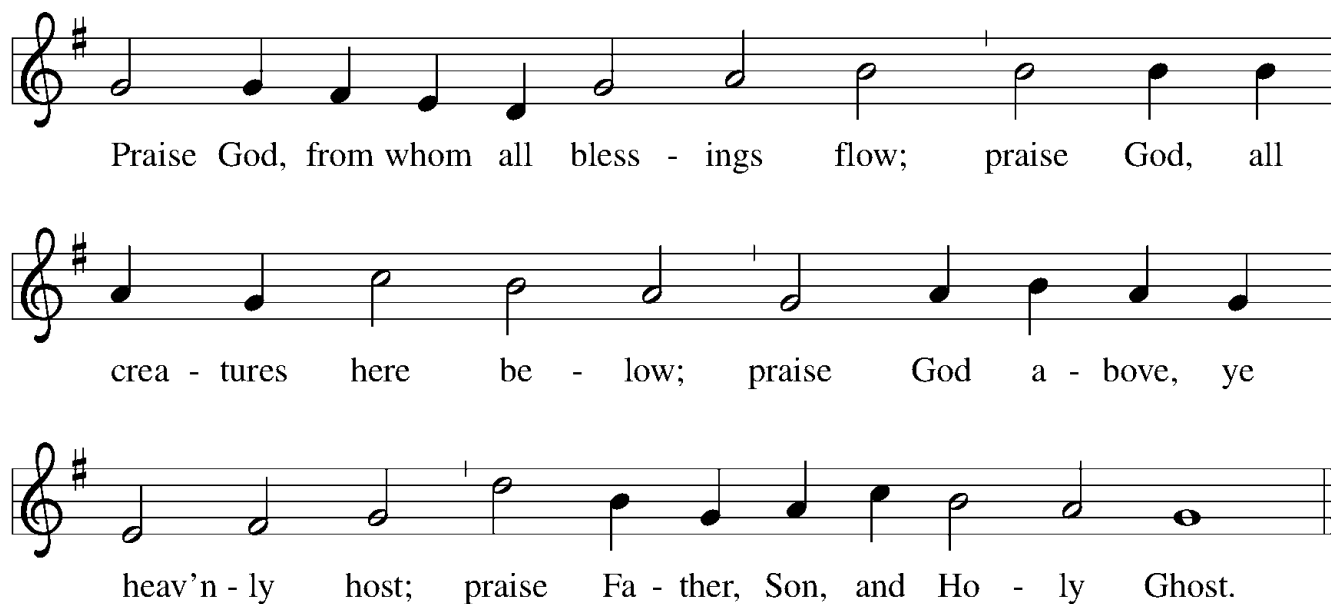
**A:** We worship through our tithes and offering. Now let us joyfully respond to God's goodness, through our personal giving.

*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.*

*As the Offering is presented at the Altar, we sing:*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**(ELW 885)**



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDT, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

**+ TABLE +**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray:

**A:** Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**C:** Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,  
so that all creation can taste your abundance.

**We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us  
now and forever. Amen.**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: God of new beginnings,

As we prepare to come to this Table, pour out your Spirit in this room.  
Allow this meal to feel like a new beginning.

**C: Allow us to experience welcome here.**

**Allow for all to be fed here.**

**Allow for all to sense your presence here.**

P: And may these experiences jumpstart our faith, hope, and love  
in new ways. With hope we gather. With hope we begin again.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the  
hosts of heaven: we praise your name and join their unending hymn, as we  
sing:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Glory be to you, O God, for the comfort of your creative Spirit.  
By your Spirit your Son preached and healed, rebuked and forgave.  
Dying on the cross for a wounded world, he gave over his Spirit.  
Risen from death, he pours out your Spirit on all who believe.

On the night before he died, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us—on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Send us your Holy Spirit. Come among us in our gathering, within this meal, and among your people.

**C: Nourish us with the body and blood of Christ for your service. Renew the world with your healing, your justice, and your peace.**

P: Together with all your saints, the earth, and its creatures:

**C: All praise and glory are yours, O God, blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**P:** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**C: have mercy on us.**

**P:** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**C: have mercy on us.**

**P:** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**C: grant us peace.**

*(Please be seated)*

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*In Holy Communion, we encounter the Real Presence of Jesus Christ as we reverently receive the consecrated bread and wine. Everyone is invited to receive this Sacrament—without exception; however, if you would prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest and the pastor will know to give you a blessing. Gluten free bread is available.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

## COMMUNION SONG: **Borning Cry** (ELW 732)



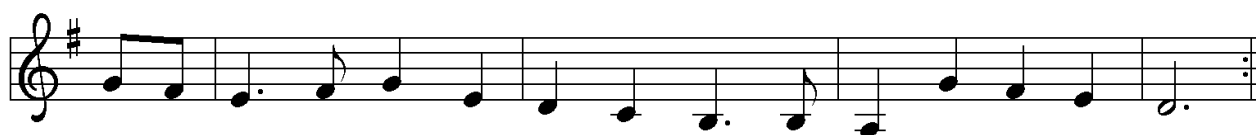
- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;  
 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.  
 you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.  
 I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
 If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."  
 I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."  
 I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937  
 Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker  
 Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.

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*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A:** Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son.

**C:** By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR ALL KINDS OF FATHERS

+ SENDING +

## \*BLESSING

**P:** Please bow your heads. [...] And the blessing of our most-loving God: **+** Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of life be with you this day and always.

**C:** Amen.

## \*SENDING HYMN: O Jesus, I have Promised (ELW 810)



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.  
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still  
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.  
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear.  
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.  
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,  
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

(Cont'd)



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.  
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.  
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

## \*DISMISSAL

**A:** Heaven has come near. Now go and share the good news!

**C:** Thanks be to God!

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are dedicated to the Glory of God in honor of Denis Colahan on Father's Day by Pat, Chris, and Stephen Colahan and in honor of Janet Kline for her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday by Pat and Denis Colahan

**BULLETIN COVERS** are dedicated to the Glory of God in honor of all Father's and Grandfathers.

**May's Income: \$ 17,398**

**May's Expense: \$ 9,980**

**Average Attendance: 32**

## ***MINISTERS – ALL BAPTIZED PEOPLE OF GOD***

### **Scheduled to serve 6/21**

*Donna G. – Assisting Minister*

*Klines – Ushers*

*Colahans – Counters*

*Meghan G. - Altar*

### **Scheduled to serve 6/28**

*Alan S. – Assisting Minister*

*Colahans - Ushers*

*Downey/Deemer - Counters*

*Volunteer - Altar*

\*\*\*\*\*WEEKLY CALENDAR\*\*\*\*\*

**Wed, Jun 24**                    **7:30pm - AA (Hall)**  
**Thu, Jun 25**                    **7:00pm – AA (Hall)**  
    **8:00pm – AA (Mtg Rm)**  
**Sat, Jun 27**                    **10:00am – AA (Hall)**  
    **11:00am – DA (Mtg Rm)**  
**Sun, Jun 28**                    **10:15am – Worship**  
    **12:30pm – Song of Praise**

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

**Healing:**

*Annie Berner*  
*Eileen Maloney*  
*Lisa McDonough*  
*Hugh Mullarkey*  
*Lois Saunders*  
*Betty Lake*  
*Anne Rainsford*  
*Dolores Maurer*  
*Marie Schall*  
*Jack Bierling*  
*Joan & Harry Chaykun*  
*Nikki Miller*

*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 Jun, 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, and Bob Kerns.

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

## **Announcements and Upcoming Events**

**NURSERY SCHOOL DIRECTOR** – The Nursery School is looking for a new Director (President). We thank Kathy Dowd who has recently resigned. Kathy had been Director since 2023. It is a very rewarding experience to oversee the Nursery School and watch the children grow. If you are interested in this position, please let Pastor or the office know.

**COFFEE HOUR** – **Today, June 21<sup>st</sup>** after service sponsored by Meghan Gordon.

**ALTAR** – We are in need of volunteers for June to set up and take down altar each week. Can you volunteer for a week? Please see sign up list on bulletin board in front of office.

**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 \$20 per vase. Many openings for June and July.**

**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.



## **Backpack School Supply Collection 2026**

### **Collection Ends August 2, 2026**

### **3 Ways to Contribute**

It's time for the Backpack School Supply Collection. We hope to again be able to supply stuffed backpacks to students in the Chester and Upper Darby Communities. Last year 605 backpacks were filled by 18 faith communities in Delaware County. Here are 3 ways you can support the collection this year.

One way to make a contribution this year is to use the links below to an Amazon Wishlist – School Supplies. Place an order and it will be shipped directly to the crew that will assemble the backpacks.

Link to Amazon Wishlist: <https://tinyurl.com/Interfaith-School-Supplies> or use the QR code: You can also make a monetary contribution. Checks can be mailed to School Supplies c/o Jody Troyan, 1201 Swarthmore Ave., Folsom, PA 19033. Checks should be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church – Broomall. Dave Ehret is again serving as Treasurer of this effort. **As in past years you can do the shopping and drop off the supplies at your congregation. See the suggested list of supplies on table in back of sanctuary**

## DELCO CONFERENCE VBS

**St. Matthew in Springfield** is holding VBS **July 27-31** from 9:00 - 11:30 AM for ages Pre-Kindergarten through 5th Grade. The theme is *Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God*. Our flyer is attached.

**Temple Lutheran Church in Havertown** presents *Emerald Crossing* VBS. Children ages 4-10 are \$20 for the week, or \$40 max per family. VBS will be **August 3-7** from 9 am to Noon. Sunday, August 9th is TLC's VBS Sunday. We sing songs from the week and children are invited to teach the congregation the hand motions learned at camp! [templelutheran.org/vbs](http://templelutheran.org/vbs)

**St. Timothy's in Aston** is hosting VBS "*Under Construction*" **August 10-13**, from 6-8:15p. Ages 3-years-old to 5th Grade. To register online: [Free VBS](#)

**Immanuel in Norwood** is hosting VBS "*Snowball Mountain Challenge*" on **August 10-14** from 9-11:30am. [ImmanuelNorwood.org/calendar](http://ImmanuelNorwood.org/calendar)

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

### God Comes First

God is, the theologians say, transcendent—beyond us, always exceeding our easy grasp. Recognizing God’s awesome transcendence brings a reevaluation of other values. The God of vertigo-inspiring infinitude is also the God who know the hairs of our head. Trusting this God, fear is defanged and faith becomes a sort of courage. We live in faithful relationship to the hair-counting God as we joyfully “acknowledge” the one who acknowledges us. And as we do so, reveling in the intimacy of God’s loving regard for us, other relationships, even familial ones, take on a different cast. God comes first, we realize, not only in priority, but ontologically, “in the beginning” (John 1:1). Before the God who is at once gracious and transcendent, we “lose” our lives and discover the true life in following the way of Jesus the crucified Son.



***Holy Spirit Lutheran Church and Nursery School***  
***2545 Franklin Avenue, Secane, PA 19018***  
***Office: 610-544-2707***

### ***OUR STAFF***

#### ***Holy Spirit Lutheran Church***

*Pastor – The Rev. Christopher Drummond*

*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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