



Christmas is coming! Advent is here! The season of Advent marks the beginning of the Church calendar year. It is a season of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of the Christ child, Jesus. He is Emmanuel – God with us – the coming of the Light among us, renewed in our hearts.

The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival”. The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ in his “first” Advent and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his “second” Advent. It is the celebration of a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. This is also a time for individuals and for a congregation to affirm that Christ **has** come, that God **is** present in the world today, and that Christ **will** come again in power.

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, anticipation, and preparation. So as we wait and prepare for Christmas, with our cleaning, decorating, baking, buying presents, cooking, shopping and traveling, let us not forget that, Jesus is the reason for the season. Let us not forget, that love is at the center of this season. God loves **us**, which compels us to love **others**. While anticipating this upcoming celebration, let us not forget those for whom this celebration is a reminder of being alone or feeling disconnected to the world around them. Let us remember those who have lost loved ones or are distant from them in heart or body. Those who have experienced loss often feel sad because Christmas is coming.

Let us embody this upcoming season of love that the Christ child brings; and reach out to those who are away from their family and friends, who feel lost, who are in need of shelter, who have suffered loss, who are food insecure, or just plain depressed. Share the love this Advent and Christmas in the little things. Perhaps it’s with a smile, a hello, a phone call, a visit, a meal, or a simple act of kindness. Be a witness to the love of God and the blessings you have received. Yes, Christmas is coming! Advent is here!

Peace, Joy and Blessings,

Pastor Gwen, Interim Pastor





PRE-K CHRISTMAS PAGEANT –

We will have our annual Christmas Pageant on **Thursday, December 6th**, at **7:00pm** in the Social Hall. All are welcome to attend.

We will also perform the pageant during Worship Service on **Sunday, December 9th**. Come out and see these youngsters portray the nativity and sing Christmas carols.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA – **Saturday, December 8th**,

9:00am – Noon. \$5.00 per person; children 2 and under are free.

A great way to spend your morning with your children or grandchildren.

HANGING OF THE GREENS –

Each year during the Advent season we decorate the church in anticipation of Christmas Eve. Just like you decorate your home, we need help to get ready for Jesus here also. We need help to put up the tree, decorate the tree, hang the lights and roping and wreaths on the doors. There are bows to tie and candles to prepare for the Candlelight Service. This year we will meet on **Sunday, December 9th**, after the service. Of course the more the merrier and faster. Join us for a fun

time to work with your family at Holy Spirit.

Christmas Gifts



It is that time again, when we donate Christmas gifts to needy organizations and/or individuals. This year we have selected a needy family in Prospect Park. The little boy has a very rare & aggressive type of brain cancer. We are asking for gift cards from Target, Acme, Giant and Acme to help the family since that is the greatest need.

We will also be collecting for the Community Action Agency of Delaware County.

Here are some gift ideas for the Community Action Agency: Toys, puzzles, games, socks (boys or girls – any sizes), underwear (boys or girls – any sizes, books, mittens, gloves, etc. Clothing for any age can also be donated. All gifts can be for any age and male or female. All gifts must be **new**.

Please return the **NEW - UNWRAPPED** gift(s) and leave them under the Christmas tree, except for the gift cards which you can give to Bill or Cyndi Kline, or leave them in the church office. **Please do not leave the gift cards under the tree.**

The gifts MUST BE RETURNED BY Sunday, December 9, so they can be

delivered to the agency by Friday,
December 14.

BEARS DUE BACK – Sunday, Dec.

9th. They will be shared with a needy family and with Community Action Program of Delaware County.

RECYCLED TEENS – A joint group of St. Mark’s and Holy Spirit invite you to attend their Christmas gathering on **Thursday, December 20th, at noon** here at Holy Spirit. Enjoy the music of the “Sunshine Singers”.

SMILE.AMAZON.COM

Christmas shopping? Placing an order on Amazon? Enter Smile.amazon.com and select “Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit” as your charity. Holy Spirit will get ½ of 1% of your purchase.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

We will again have a box in the front hallway. Save postage when you share greeting cards with people in the congregation. Please remember to check it out for a card for YOU.

COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday, December 7th, at 7:00pm.

REFRESHMENTS – After service on **Sunday, December 16th**, provided by the Fellowship Committee.

ANNUAL REPORTS – Are due in the office by **January 14th**.

POINSETTIAS ORDERS – Due in the office by **Sunday, December 16th**.



Joy Heacock 12/1
Patsy Gregg 12/1
Caroline Dougon 12/7
Michele Marusco 12/11
Sara Hoyt 12/12
William Petrelli 12/14
Gina Taddie Helt 12/20
David Heacock 12/29
Shelly Avila – 12/31

PUMPKIN PATCH SALES – The profit from selling the pumpkins was \$3,057.00. This would not be possible without everybody’s help.

CLOTHING DRIVE –The profit from the Clothing Collection was \$471.68 with a portion going to Loaves and Fishes.

CONDOLENCES to Christine Podgorski on the death of her son, David.

SCRIPT PROGRAM – The last date that orders will be sent into Shop with Script will be **Dec 3rd**. Please hand in your order forms to Patsy or put in her mailbox. Extra forms can be found in the office.

CHURCH TREASURER – We are still in need of a permanent church treasurer. If you are interested please see Greg Christensen or Pastor Gwen. Training provided.

DAY SCHOOL SECRETARY – Day School is in need of a secretary. If you are interested please see Kim Christensen.

ALTAR FLOWERS – Please consider sponsoring flowers for Sunday Services. The 2019 chart is located outside of the office. There are many spots still open for January. The cost has gone up to \$15.00 per vase starting in January. Unfortunately, the church can no longer cover the cost of unsponsored flowers.

We bring you greetings, from the members of your Transition Team. The members of the team are: Pat Colahan, Diana Downey, Jay Gerakaris, Nancy Harris, and Steve Keenan. Our major purpose is to work directly with Pastor Gwen and help the congregation through this process of transition. We will walk with congregational members to help answer the questions: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? What is God calling us to do and to be? Together we will explore five focus point areas critical to the future of Holy Spirit. They are heritage, leadership, mission, connection, and future. There will be more about these focus areas later. Ultimately, we will put together the Ministry Site Profile which will be essential in our search for future pastoral leadership. We are just beginning the process. We hope to keep you informed and updated about where we are in the process and what we are doing. Feel free to contact any of us with any questions or concerns you may have about the transition process. We ask for your prayers as we embark on this dynamic journey together.

Yours in Christ,

The Transition Team



Dear Holy Spirit Family,



*Infant holy, infant lowly for his bed a cattle stall
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bring:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!*

***MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES***

3:30 PM – CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

7:00 PM – CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

10:15 AM BREAKFAST SERVICE IN OUR SOCIAL HALL