



“God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might, led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.”

These words come from the third verse of the song, “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (ELW 841), often referred to as the Black National Anthem. It is a song about strength, faith and resilience and the power and presence of God. It is an acknowledgement of God as the source of that strength and the power of God’s guidance in a life with struggle. It is God’s light that leads us on the path forward.

How true it is, not only for a people, but for a community of faith, especially one in the midst of transition. During this Season of Light, Epiphany, we remember that God is the Source of **all** light and illumines not only our path, but shines light on the darkness in our lives. During this month of celebrations it is indeed appropriate to sing this song of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Although February is a short month, it packs quite a punch. First, there is Super Bowl Sunday, sadly this year, without the Eagles. Then, a celebration of love, with Valentine’s Day, when most of the world takes time to acknowledge love in our lives, giving cards and presents to special family members and that special someone who has captured our heart. Not only has February been designated as Black History Month, we also take a day to celebrate our presidents, especially George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, whose birthdays actually occur during this month. Finally, February is Heart Awareness Month.

There is one more special event that falls during this month. Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Secane will gather to hold its **Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 10, 2019**. During this time of transition it is important for all members of Holy Spirit to participate in this journey of opportunity, discovery and discernment. At this congregational meeting the Transition Team will bring us all up to speed as to where we are in the transition process, answer questions, as well as ask questions, of congregational members that will help the Team better do its job. I want to encourage **all** of you to attend this very important meeting, after worship services in the Social Hall. At this meeting we also hope to approve the 2019 Budget, elect new Church Council members, and listen to highlights from the various committees and ministries of Holy Spirit.

The Light of God **is** shining on Holy Spirit. Let us remember the words of the prophet.

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,” plans for your welfare, and not for harm, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jerimiah 29:11)

God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Gwen, Interim Pastor

TRANSITIONAL TEAM – The Transitional Team will be presenting important information at the Annual Congregational Meeting on **Feb 10th**. The next meeting of the Team will be, **Sunday, Feb 24th** after worship services. If you have questions about the transitional process, feel free to contact any members of the Transition Team or Pastor Gwen.

TRANSITIONAL TEAM MEMBERS ARE:

Nancy Harris Steve Keenan
Diana Downey Jay Gerakaris
Pat Colahan

FUNDRAISING MTG – **Sunday, Feb 3rd** - A brief meeting will be held after service to follow up with Ladies Night Out and Breakfast with Santa – pros and cons.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – **Sunday, Feb 10th** after worship service. The Worship Service will take place in the Social Hall, followed by the meeting and lunch. Plan to attend and find out what is in store for Holy Spirit in 2019.

COUNCIL MEETING – **Tuesday, Feb 12th at 7:00pm.**

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP – **Sunday, Feb 17th** provided by the Stewardship Committee.

BLOOD DRIVE – **Monday, Feb 25th 2:00pm-7:00pm.** Contact www.redcrossblood.org to make appointment. Give Blood. Help save lives.

MUSIC & WORSHIP MEETING – **Monday, Feb 25th at 6:30pm.**

HOPE CIRCLE – Meets once a month. See Barbara Saporetti for more information.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORS – are available. Check on the table outside the office. If you have a change to your information, please contact the office.



LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – **Wednesday, Mar 6th at 7:00pm.**

LENTEN COIN CARDS: -Be sure to pick up your Lenten Coin Cards. Please write your envelope number on the card.

LENTEN SOUP & SERVICE: Holy Spirit will be participating in the DELCO Lutheran Lenten soup supper and worship services. We will host one Soup Supper and Worship Service during Lent. More info to follow.

LENTEN FOCUS – We will be collecting items for the Homeless throughout Lent. We are collecting a different item each week with the most common items that someone experiencing homelessness would need for daily survival. See chart below:

Sunday , Mar 10	Comb
Sunday, Mar 17	Soap bar
Sunday, Mar 24	Hand cream
Sunday, Mar 31	Toothpaste
Sunday, Apr 7	Tooth brush
Sunday, Apr 14	Gently used wash cloths/towels

Join us by bringing in these items on a weekly basis and we will pack them up and send them to the homeless shelter along with your love and compassion. Thank you.



Goal Met!!

So we did it, we met our goal of Erasing the Deficit. We raised over \$8,000 dollars and we did it by the New Year. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Everyone should feel very proud that we were able to do this.

A special thanks to the day school for their large donation and also to the fundraising committee for donating money from the Ladies Night Out event in December. We all did this together and we proved our commitment to the church.

So after one goal is met, another goal must be set. How about this? Our goal can now be to not incur a financial deficit in 2019. This should not be difficult, if we stay committed to our giving. That means the funds keep coming in even when we can't attend church. One way is to sign up for "Simply Giving", another would be by giving electronically from your bank. You can do e-checks on a regular basis, so the money gets to the church even when you can't.

We have said that if everyone gave a little bit more every week we would always remain above water. For the cost of a cup of WAWA coffee added to your usual giving every week our church would never see another deficit. For the cost of a white mocha frappuccino from Starbucks we would have a surplus by the end of the year.

Remember we are trying to look inviting to a new minister and we need to be financially sound. We know how committed our members are to running the church, but we also have to pay for it; so remember this when you are deciding on your giving plan this year. Please continue to pray for the health of our church and let's all work together to meet this new goal.

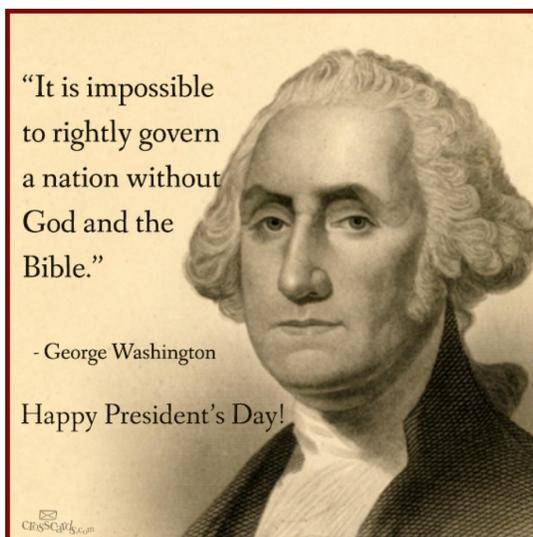
Stewardship

CONDOLENCES to the Hinchman family on the death of Dorothy Hinchman who passed away on January 12th 2019.



FEBRUARY

Hal Ferguson 2/1
Scott Keenan 2/7
Eddie Mapp 2/12
Anthony Helt 2/15
Mackay Greenlaw-Scully 2/18
Donna D'Agostino 2/21
Ruth Dell 'Orefice 2/21
Al Harris 2/20
Jesse Keenan 2/22
Geraldyn Gerakaris 2/24
Ruth Del'Orifice 2/27
Bonnie Wood 2/27
Sue Shillady 2/27



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING INVITATION

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Church Council, I would like to invite you once again to our annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 10th, 2019. The Worship Service on that day will be conducted at 10:15am in the Social Hall, with the Meeting occurring afterwards at noon.

This is a momentous time of transition in our church; we are in the middle of this process of transition which involves self-study and input from the membership to envision our future together, and what might be needed for leadership. Other aspects of the meeting will be procedural – election of council members, approval of the proposed budget for 2019 and a review of activities carried out by our various committees in 2018.

A luncheon will be provided by the Fellowship Committee after the meeting, when there will be plenty of time to chat, share news and catch up with one another.

I hope you can make it. Let us continue to work together as Holy Spirit Lutheran Church.

Yours in Christ,
Gregory Christensen
Holy Spirit Church Council President