



March winds are blowing, and as we look ahead we see the Season of Lent, just over the horizon ready to begin. Ash Wednesday is just around the corner (March 6th) and will begin our journey into Lent. Once again ashes will be offered to Lenten pilgrims around the world to remind each one of us of our mortality. Physical death will come to us all – “we are dust and to dust we shall return”. Symbolically ashes are imposed on our foreheads, where anointed with oil and water the cross of Christ was first placed at our baptisms. In those baptismal waters we were “sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever”. That cross of ashes reminds us of Jesus, and the gift of his sacrifice, on our behalf on the cross at Calvary. It reminds us of the deep love of God for us and the invitation to join with God in relationship and walk together in this journey of life.

During these forty days and nights, (Lent in Latin- “Quadragesima” means forty) we are to intentionally take time and step back in our daily lives to remember, reflect, and prepare to walk with Jesus once again through his “Passion”. Ultimately, we will celebrate his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Through practicing the discipline of Lent: intentionally setting aside time for prayer, study of the Word of God, periodic fasting, and the giving of alms to those in need; we prepare our hearts to be more open and forgiving, vulnerable and aware of God’s presence in our lives. As we put on Christ, we see the world around us through the eyes of a servant of the Living God. Hopefully, our perspectives and attitudes change accordingly so that we might truly be instruments for peace and justice for the Kingdom of God.

This year, Holy Spirit’s observance of the Lenten Season will include a partnership with five other Lutheran Churches in the DELCO Conference by sharing in a “Soup Supper and Worship Service”, each Wednesday night during Lent. We will rotate from church to church sharing a meal and worshipping together. The theme of these mid-week services will be “Unity in the Church”. Holy Spirit will be the host on **Wednesday, March 20th**. (see later pages of “Voice” for more detail) Let me encourage all of us to participate and join together with fellow travelers in these Lenten events.

So may this Lenten Season open us to new possibilities, relationships, help us renew our faith, and prepare us for the journey ahead. Remember, God is with us.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Gwen, Interim Pastor

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL **PRESIDENT**

As we continue to progress through our Transition period it is important for members and friends of Holy Spirit to put our best foot forward from a spiritual, physical and financial standpoint. As we get closer to selecting a Call Committee and the search process begins in earnest, we as a congregation will be under more scrutiny as the pastoral search begins and candidates begin to look at us as potential landing spots.

It is important that we all (members and friends alike) step forward to make Holy Spirit a welcoming and desired location for a pastoral candidate to continue their spiritual journey.

How can we all help?

Sunday worship attendance has been down over the past several months and we need to reverse that trend and start filling the seats.

Attendance at other church events such as the Lenten soup suppers, fundraising events, etc is also important to the health of our congregation. Who knows you may even enjoy it!!

Dig a little deeper in your weekly contributions. I realize it seems like we talk about this all the time but just like your expenses at home continue to go up, the same is true of the church's expenses. If we want to attract potential pastoral candidates we must have our finances in order.

The next several months at Holy Spirit will be a busy and exciting time as we plan for the future. I hope that all of you will find it in your hearts and prayers to get involved and help make Holy Spirit a better and desirable place.

Prayerfully,
Bill Kline
Church Council President



ASH WEDNESDAY **SERVICE – March 6th**

at 7:00. The service includes communion and an opportunity to receive ashes on your forehead.

COFFEE HOUR Sunday, March 17th provided by Christian Ed Committee.

COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00pm.

SOUP & SERVICE – Wednesday, March 20th starting with sharing a meal at **6:30pm** – followed by a worship service at **7:30pm**. Holy Spirit will be hosting the second soup and services held on Wednesday's during Lent. Please see chart for weekly Wednesday soup and services. The theme for worship will be "Unity in the Church". Offerings will go to Lutheran Refuge and Immigration Services. Please come out and enjoy worship and fellowship with area Lutheran churches. There is a sign-up sheet for soup, salad, and breads across from the church office.

SPRING FORWARD!! Turn you clocks forward on **Sunday, March 10th** for Daylight Saving Time.

HOPE CIRCLE – We meet in member’s homes on usually the **fourth Tuesday night at 7:30pm**. Call Barbara Saporetta at 610-544-9141 for more information.

GOOD WORKS CIRCLE – For a long time the Good Works Circle at Holy Spirit met once a month. We had a devotion with a discussion, shared dessert and wrote short cheerful cards to homebound members. We selected a charitable project at each meeting – whatever change you had in your pocket or more if you wished. We selected Heifer International, an organization that provides livestock in 25 countries to families, plus training in the care of and sharing the gifts.

Our Treasurer, Marie Longaker, informed us that our collection amounted to \$120.00. We purchased a goat which can supply a family with nutritious milk. Offspring of this goat (with 2-3 kids a year) helps a family out of poverty for food, health care and education.

If your group is interested to know more about Heifer International you can reach them for a catalog by calling:

1-855-848-6437

www.Heifer.org/catalog.

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

LENTEN COIN CARDS – Don’t forget to pick up your Lenten Coin Cards starting Ash Wednesday. Please write your name and envelope number on card.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, March 30, 2019

1:00pm-3:30pm

“Making the Connections”

A panel of Church and Community Leaders will share stories about their organization and the importance of making connections. Come out and bring a friend. Snacks will be served at this interactive event.

Hosted by the Transition Team.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	Location	Preaching
Wed., March 13	Immanuel Lutheran/ St. Matthews, Woodlyn 501 Chester Pike Norwood, PA	Pr. Scott Lee
Wed., Mar 20	Holy Spirit Lutheran, Secane	Pr. Gwendolyn King
Wed., Mar. 27	St. Timothy Lutheran 535 Lamp Post Lane Aston, PA	Pr. Kristine Peterson
Wed., Apr 3	St. John's Lutheran 1500 Glen Ave. Folcroft, PA	Pr. Wendy Bleam
Wed., Apr 10	Holy Trinity Lutheran 927 S. Providence Rd. Wallingford, PA	Pr. Jennifer Casey

Looking ahead.....



Joseph Lucas 3/3
Jay Gerakaris 3/3
Dolores Downey 3/5
Denis Colahan 3/5
Shirley Fidelibus 3/9
Pat Colahan 3/10
James Gerakaris 3/13
Linda Taddie 3/14
Bill Kline 3/14
Betty Leckner 3/19
Bud Chetty 3/19
Jack Dowd 3/20
Colleen Gregg 3/21
Chris Colahan 3/23
Greg Christensen 3/24
Pastor Cheryl Hensil 3/27



HOLY SPIRIT'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT Saturday, April 13, 2019

Yes, it's almost time for our Easter Egg Hunt. We will need help with donating candy, hotdogs, water and some of your time. Please plan to help in some way. Pass around the flyers that will be available soon. Even if you don't have any kids participating, come out and see what it's all about. Remember, this community event is only successful with help from YOU!

PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

In the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection, we share with you the death of our dear sister, **Marie (Mary) B. Longaker** who joined the church triumphant and all the saints in glory Monday, February 11, 2019. Marie died peacefully at home surrounded by family.

A "Celebration of Life Service" in Thanksgiving to God will take place here at Holy Spirit Lutheran, Secane on **Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 11:00am**. Visitation will be **9am-11am**. Interment will be private.

We offer prayers for Marie's family in this time of loss.

Cards may be sent to:

John Longaker (son)
1235 Providence Rd.
Springfield, PA 19064

I lieu of flowers:

Please send memorial contributions to Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in memory of Marie B. Longaker.

Please remember in your prayers the Oaster family on the passing of Michelle's Grandmother, **Doris Lockley** on February 6, 2019.



FOOD CERTIFICATES – Are you taking advantage of buying gift certificates for Acme or Giant to do your food shopping. They are on sale every Sunday near the front door and Monday thru Thursday 9:00-2:00 in the office.

SMILE.AMAZON.COM

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.

ELECTRONIC GIVING – Holy Spirit relies on the consistent financial support of the congregation and “Simply Giving” offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Call the office for an authorization form.