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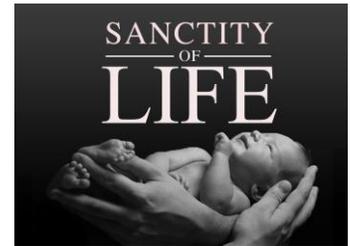
Mission News From SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Questions, comments, or to unsubscribe, please contact Pastor Wendy Poch at 303-841-3553 or office@spiritofhopelcmc.org.

Visit us on the web at www.spiritofhopelcmc.org.

THIS SUNDAY AT SPIRIT OF HOPE

This Sunday is Sanctity of Life Sunday at Spirit of Hope. Linda Saccomano, Executive Director of Alternatives Pregnancy Center, will be worshipping with us and also leading our adult education hour at 11:00 am where she will share what's happening at Alternatives, what's happening in our community and the nation, and how Spirit of Hope can help be a part of this vital mission to save lives. Our elementary students will have their regular Sunday School class at 11:00 am.



ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Church Board of Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church has set the date for our annual congregational meeting which will be on Sunday, January 30, 2022 at 11:00 am. A Zoom link has been sent out for those who are unable to attend in the sanctuary.



NEW MEMBER CLASS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22nd, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Those interested in formally calling Spirit of Hope their church home and/or those who would like more information about Spirit of Hope are invited to attend our new member class. Bagels will be served! Please RSVP to Pastor Wendy so she can prepare the necessary class materials.

“God forgives you. Yes, even for that!”



COMING UP THIS WEEK AT SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Wednesday, January 19th

4:30 pm – 5:45 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Book Study: C.S. Lewis *The Great Divorce*

Wednesday's activities have been moved to online-only due to weather.

Thursday, January 20th

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Zumba Gold

Saturday, January 22nd

9:00 am – 12:00 pm New Member's Class

Sunday, January 23rd

Sanctity of Life Sunday

9:30 am Worship; 11:00 am Sunday School

Tuesday, January 25th

12:00 pm Digging Deeper Bible Study

Wednesday, January 26th

4:30 pm – 5:45 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Book Study: C.S. Lewis *The Great Divorce*



ONLINE WORSHIP

If you are sick and cannot attend worship in the sanctuary, or if you would like to share an upcoming worship service with a loved one or friend, you can always find our

upcoming worship services by clicking here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC3L5-lzeFJpzoO_rdojtsQ/videos?view=2&live_view=502

NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Due to an increase of evening activities at Spirit of Hope, Pastor Wendy has new office hours: Tuesday – Friday 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm.



BEST WISHES TO MADDY YEUNG!

Our accompanist, Maddy Yeung, is moving to Florida. Her last Sunday at Spirit of Hope will be on February 6th. Please be sure to stop by the keyboard and let her know how much she is loved and how greatly she will be missed at Spirit of Hope! Pastor Wendy has begun the search for a new accompanist.

MISSING COAT

If you have worn a black coat to church in recent weeks, would you please double check that it is yours? Pastor Wendy's black coat is missing, and there is a different black coat that looks very similar that has been on our coat rack for several weeks. It would be great to be able to swap them!

ZUMBA GOLD IS BACK!!!

Want to work off those Christmas cookies and New Year's treats while enjoying a time of fellowship? Join us for Zumba Gold on Thursdays from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm (starting on January 13th). Certified Zumba instructor Tanya

Diederich will lead us in this program that is safe for everyone, including seniors, as it is low/no impact. Music is uplifting and fun! Please bring a \$3.00 donation for each class (or purchase a punch card).



INSTITUTE OF LUTHERAN THEOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

One of our mission allies, the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), is on a mission is to preserve, promote and propagate the Christian tradition from the Lutheran perspective. ILT's undergraduate programs are designed to help students be planted and grow in this tradition, which is centered on the saving work of Jesus

Christ. College students who study at ILT will be equipped to live in whatever calling God leads them and to serve God's people in whatever vocation God places them. ILT students know the Bible and the Christian tradition. They are critical thinkers and see the world from a historical perspective. They are grounded in the scriptures and in the past so that

they will not be “tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine” (Ephesians 4:14 ESV).

ILT does not only train pastors and theologians. ILT’s undergraduate programs prepare students of all ages for a life of faith and Christian vocation. These programs are true liberal arts education which gives students a broadest perspective, so they are prepared for wherever God leads them. ILT undergraduate programs are also a solid preparation for seminary or graduate school. Our undergraduate students can begin to prepare for graduate school and even start taking graduate course for dual credit. These students will be the ones to carry on the classical Christian tradition into the future.

There are tough times ahead for the Western Church, but this is nothing new. The enemies of the church have not changed, and God will be our guide and protector as always. Come to ILT and get prepared to face these challenges head on. Classes start in two weeks for all levels of study. There is still time to register. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Wendy.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

*1/4 Renee Nefe
1/7 Thane Larson
1/8 Tim Lehnerz
1/10 Kasja Larson
1/17 Sara Gutknecht
1/22 Penny and Violet Garrett
1/30 Delores Admundson
1/31 Melissa Andrews*



STEPHEN MINISTER INTERVIEWS NOW TAKING PLACE

Interviews for those interested in training to become Stephen Ministers in 2022 are now taking place. If you are

interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please see Kandy Parsons, Stephen Leader, for an application.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES



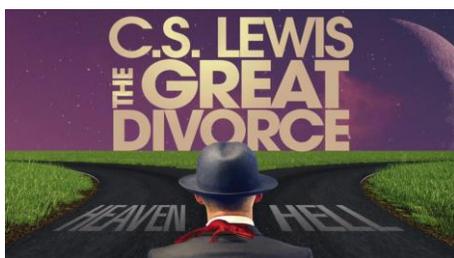
THE BOOK OF JAMES SUNDAYS 11:00 am

Wayne Schultz leads this study through the book of James. There's a lot that's packed into this little book and all of it is practical for us as Christians today.

DIGGING DEEPER WITH PASTOR WENDY THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

TUESDAYS 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Join Pastor Wendy as we dig deeper into the Gospel of John. You are welcome to bring a lunch! No homework and no prep.



WEDNESDAYS 7:00 – 8:30 pm

THE GREAT DIVORCE by C.S. Lewis

The Great Divorce is a fascinating allegory by C.S. Lewis in which a busload of people take a trip from hell up to the entrance of heaven. For various reasons, some make it to heaven while others make the choice to

remain separated from God in hell. Each of the characters brings to light various struggles we often have with grace. The book also touches upon theological concepts that are also worthy of deeper discussion. Pastor Wendy will be leading this class.

ADVENTURES IN THE NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

Our elementary students will be studying the sermon text of the day as presented in the Narrative Lectionary. On occasion, there will be times when a different and more age-appropriate subject will be studied instead. This class meets at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings and is taught by Pat Schmidt and Pastor Wendy.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY?

If you are interested in participating in an online version of our “Digging Deeper” class, where we are going through the Gospel of John verse by verse, please contact Pastor Wendy and let her know what day (morning or afternoon) of the week would work best for you.

FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS (NEW EVERY WEEK!)

THE APOSTLES' CREED: The Third Article

"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

FROM THE SMALL CATECHISM

"...On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

FROM THE SCRIPTURES

"If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." (Romans 8:11)

FROM LUTHER'S WRITINGS

"Now Christ, the Head of Christendom, through whom it lives and has everything, is so great that He fills heaven and earth. Because He has risen from the grave and thereby became a mighty Lord of all things, even of death and hell, as we have heard, we, as His members, must also be affected and touched by His resurrection and must quite certainly participate in what He accomplished with it, since it happened for our sake. As He has taken everything with Him through His resurrection so that both heaven and earth and sun and moon must become new, so He also will bring us with Him, as St. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 4 and Romans 8 that the same God who has awakened Christ from death will also make our mortal bodies alive, and all creatures, which are now subjected to vanity and anxiously long for our glory, will also be freed from decay and become glorious together with us." [AE 57:134]

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.'"

— C.S. Lewis, The Great Divorce





Life Together

I recently told someone in the congregation that we, as a church family, are called to “do life together”. And, this is most certainly true!

We are called to participate in one another’s lives. We are to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who are rejoicing! We are to help one another whenever and however help is needed. And that help doesn’t always have to look “spiritual”. If someone is sick, we are called to bring them food, help run errands, or help them get to the doctor. If someone is poor in spirit, we may be called to take them out to lunch or for coffee and be a listening ear.

Sometimes, though, we are more eager to help than we are eager to receive it. Christian life, however, must go both ways. As a church family, there must be give and take, times we give help and times we receive it. To only give but refuse to receive is actually the sin of pride. We always have our reasons, of course. We don’t want to be a burden. We want to be “successful”. We may think it’s just easier to do it ourselves. But then, not only do we not get the help we need, which forms strong bonds within the Christian family, but we also deny someone the opportunity to help, which also strengthens *their* bond in the Christian family.

I will be the first to admit that I often struggle with accepting help when I need it. I am getting better, but I am definitely still working on this!

What about you? Will you join me in both giving and *receiving* help from within our church family? Will you make your needs known so that others have the blessed opportunity to walk alongside you?

“Christian community is like the Christian's sanctification. It is a gift of God which we cannot claim. Only God knows the real state of our fellowship, of our sanctification. What may appear weak and trifling to us may be great and glorious to God. Just as the Christian should not be constantly feeling his spiritual pulse, so, too, the Christian community has not been given to us by God for us to be constantly taking its temperature. The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us, the more surely and steadily will fellowship increase and grow from day to day as God pleases.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*)

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...” 1 Peter 4:10. Thanks be to God for His grace and for calling us to do life together as a family in Christ.

Your Sister in Christ,
Pastor Wendy

PRAYERS

Prayer Requests - If you have a prayer request for the prayer team, please contact Pastor Wendy @ 303-841-3553 or wendy.poch@spiritofhopelcmc.org

Jesus said; "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."



A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

By Pastor Wendy

Lord, this week we lift up all those who are struggling with tremendous loss due to the Marshall Fire. There are thousands of people who now have no place to call home, who have lost pets, all their earthly goods, and have nothing but memories. It will take years to rebuild, if they can rebuild at all.

Lord, you are their provider and protector. Raise up your Church to walk alongside them. And remind us all, Lord, that this earth is not our home, your kingdom is not of this world, and that our relationships with others are the most important treasure we can have this side of heaven. We thank you, Lord, for the people you have put in our lives. Show us how to bless them as you have blessed us. And help us to remember that our most important relationship is the one we have with you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Please include the following people and situations in your prayers:

For Lavonne who is recovering from surgery.

For Kylie who is pregnant, due in March, but who has been in early labor.

For Pam and her daughters as they grieve the death of their beloved husband and father, John.

For Stephanie who is recovering from radiation treatments.

For Rebecca who is undergoing radiation.

For Sara as she goes through intensive chemotherapy.

For Janie as she begins radiation after completing chemotherapy.

For those who are first responders to all emergencies: fire fighters, EMTs and law enforcement.

For all of our local, state, and federal leaders that they would hear God's voice and lead with His wisdom.

For our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world who suffer persecution to be comforted and strengthened and for the Lord God to defeat the evil of terrorism done to them. We also pray for missionaries around the world.

For Spirit of Hope mission partners: Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, SECORCares, Mean Street Ministry, Alternatives Pregnancy Center, Apache Youth Ministries, LCMC Disaster Relief, Tartu Academy of Theology, Marion Medical Mission.

For Spirit of Hope mission allies: Compassion International, SONetwork, Operation Christmas Child/Samaritan's Purse, the Institute of Lutheran Theology, Stephen Ministry.

All of our military fighting for our freedoms.

QUICK SPIRIT OF HOPE FINANCIAL UPDATE

January Income (to date) = \$17,580

General Fund Offerings = \$10,933

Debt Reduction Offerings = \$1,100

Dedicated Offerings = \$119

Other Income = \$5,428*

January Expenses = \$48,456**

Checking Accounts Balance = \$59,861

Debt Reduction Account Balance = \$0

Money Market Account Balance = \$113,754

*Payment from CORE for acquisition of easement for Pine Lane/Ponderosa Drive expansion.

** Includes some of the payments to promissory note holders.