



7060 Ponderosa Drive
Parker, CO 80138

Mission News From SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Wednesday, January 26, 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

Sunday worship begins at 9:30 am. Our text this week is John 4:1-42 and is about the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus at the well. Our mission ark is open to receive donations for Alternatives Pregnancy Center, Mean Street Ministry, and SECORcares. Sunday School is in recess this week as we will be holding our annual congregational meeting at 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome to attend. One must be a formal member in order to vote.

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.



WE HAVE A NEW MISSION PARTNER!

At the January meeting of the Church Board, a new national mission partner was formally adopted by Spirit of Hope: Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries. Our congregation gave a special gift to this ministry last November in honor of Veterans Day and we received a positive response from many of our congregation's veterans! Click this link to learn more about this special ministry: <https://lmvfm.org/> We will continue to support our existing national mission partners.



FEBRUARY 6, 2022 HEALING SERVICE WITH PRAYERS & ANOINTING

At our worship service on Sunday, February 6th, we will be offering individualized prayers for healing as well anointing for anyone who desires to be anointed and prayed over. This will take place just after receiving communion. Our Gospel text will also focus on healing. And healing takes on many forms, not just physical healing, but also mental and spiritual. If you have a family member, friend, or neighbor who would be blessed by receiving a special prayer for healing, please consider inviting them to this service.

WINDOW WASHING HELP NEEDED

We have a lot of windows, both large and small, in our church facility. And they are in desperate need of cleaning both inside and out. While it is too cold this week to clean the outside of the windows, Pastor Wendy is looking for volunteers to help clean them on the inside. If you can spare some time and are willing to come and clean a few windows, your help would be very much appreciated. The church is open from noon – 4:00 pm Tuesday – Friday and you can just drop in during those times. If a different time works better for you, just let Pastor Wendy know so that she can deactivate the alarm system for you. Extra squeegees are welcome as they make cleaning large windows much easier!



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.



COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR NEW DAY & TIME!

Starting this week, Pastor Wendy will be at Fika Coffee House on Main Street on Friday mornings from 9 am – 11 am. You're welcome to drop by for a cup of coffee and good conversation! It's also a great way to engage with members of our community!

COMING UP THIS WEEK AT SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Wednesday, January 26th

4:30 pm – 5:45 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Book Study:

C.S. Lewis *The Great Divorce*

Thursday, January 27th

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Zumba Gold

Friday, January 28th

9:00 am – 11:00 am Coffee with the Pastor

Sunday, January 30th

9:30 am Worship; 11:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, February 1st

12:00 pm Digging Deeper Bible Study

Wednesday, February 2nd

7:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

4:30 pm – 5:45 pm Confirmation

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



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!

"We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it."

-Madeleine L'Engle



CHRISTIAN LIVING AND CHRISTIAN DYING

This Lenten season, we will be focused living and dying as Christians. Why this topic?

How to live as Christians is fairly obvious. Living as Christians is part of our witness for Christ. As a church family, we are called to “do life together”! But we are also called to die as Christians and that topic is one we don’t like to think about as much. As such, we tend to put off the necessary preparations, which can cause unnecessary suffering both for us and those we love.

Martin Luther said, “We should familiarize ourselves with death during our lifetime, inviting death into our presence when it is still at a distance and not on the move. At the time of dying, however, this is hazardous and useless, for then death looms large of its own accord. In that hour we must put the thought of death out of our mind and refuse to see it (because then we must focus solely on the love of Christ and the promised resurrection!). The power and might of death are rooted in the fearfulness of our nature and in our untimely and undue viewing and contemplating of it”.¹

Nothing in life or death is easy. We need God’s presence every hour. One of the biggest changes in our day (compared to Luther’s day) is the sheer number of decisions we have to make with regard to treatments for both living and dying. These decisions are tough for an individual to make. For guilt-laden loved ones, who are often asked to make decisions for those who can no longer make them for themselves, they are nearly impossible.

So, what are we supposed to do? How do we go forward? How are we supposed to live and die? “For all this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey him. This is most certainly true.” (Small Catechism). God has done everything for us. He created us, he saved us through the blood of his Son, he gives us faith by the power of his own Spirit. Our response? In life and in death we want to give him thanks.

During this year’s Lenten Season, we will think through these issues as we hear again what Christ went through on our behalf and as we consider

¹ Martin Luther. “A Sermon on Preparing to Die” Am Ed. VI 42 p. 101-102

Luther's explanation of the Lord's Prayer. In addition, I am working on developing several "seminars" some of which may take place during Lent and others that may take place over the summer, that will help us meet the tangible needs we all have, not only in preparing for our own deaths, but for supporting and caring for our loved ones as they prepare to meet our Lord.

In order to make this series and these seminars as pertinent as possible, ***I would like to hear from you!*** What have you always wondered about when it comes to death and dying? Do you have questions about suffering? Do you have questions about medical decisions, estate planning, or funeral planning? Do you have general questions about living and dying as a Christian? ***Beginning this week, and for the next several weeks, there will be a basket and pre-printed papers in the narthex in which you can submit your questions anonymously.*** Knowing what's on your mind will help my own prayer and discernment process as I continue to develop plans for this Lenten series and for the rest of the year.

Our desire in both life and death is to serve our God and Father who has given us all things in Christ Jesus. "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of our Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17). We want to do this because "none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living" (Romans 14:7-9).

God bless you as we continue to "do life together" as a church family.

Your Sister in Christ,
Pastor Wendy



*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*

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

"This is most certainly true."

FROM THE SCRIPTURES

"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

FROM LUTHER'S WRITINGS

"Therefore, we should be prepared in such a manner that even if some of us were to fall away in order to flatter the pope or tyrants and become liars and knaves, everyone may so firmly have laid hold of the Gospel that he is able to stand by himself and to exclaim: Well, I do not believe the Gospel because a certain man has proclaimed and taught it! Let him go and stay where he will! The doctrine is right. This I know, no matter what, in the providence of God, may happen to me and others because of it.

"So far, I have had to act in this way for myself personally, and I must continue to do so. Otherwise, I would have been terrified and tired out when I saw the pope, bishops, the emperor, kings, and all the world opposed to the doctrine which they ought to sustain. Thoughts such as these would have overwhelmed me: See here, after all, they are people too; surely, they cannot all belong to the devil. How can I find comfort and stand firm except by saying: Even if ten more worlds and all that is great, high, wise, and prudent, and all my dear friends and brethren besides desert me, yet the doctrine is right. It stands; nor will it fall as men fall and waver. I will stand by the Word of God no matter what else may stand or fall." [WLS 4500: Luther's writings on the close of the Articles]



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

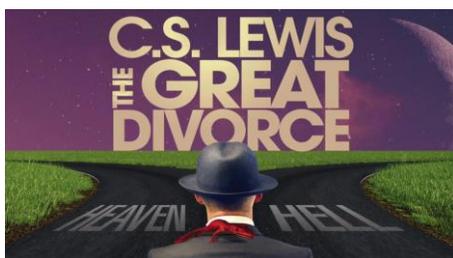


THE BOOK OF JAMES SUNDAYS 11:00 am

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.

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

Loving Lord,

You knew us before we were born. You knit us together in our mother's womb. You alone number our days. You've given us special gifts and talents not only to bless us, but so that we could help those around us know more deeply of your love for them. Lord, show us how you have gifted us and show us how best to share those gifts so that you alone may be glorified among us. Show us how to care for and serve one another. Show us how to love everyone, from the pre-born to the most elderly among us. Help us to reflect your grace as you continue to work your gifts of love, mercy, and forgiveness in us each day. We pray this in Jesus' name and for his sake. Amen.

Please include the following people and situations in your prayers:

For Susan, who is grieving the death of her father.

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, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, 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) = \$31,728

General Fund Offerings = \$19,494

Debt Reduction Offerings = \$6,400

Dedicated Offerings = \$146

Other Income = \$5,688*

January Expenses = \$65,941**

Checking Accounts Balance = \$62,092

Debt Reduction Account Balance = \$0

Money Market Account Balance = \$111,122

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

** Includes some of the payments to promissory note holders as well as benevolence checks we issued in December being cashed in January.

"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*