



## MISSION NEWS from Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Questions, comments or to unsubscribe contact Pastor Dave Fisher at 303-941-0668 or [dave.fisher51@gmail.com](mailto:dave.fisher51@gmail.com). Also visit us on the web at [www.spiritofhopelcmc.org](http://www.spiritofhopelcmc.org).

### **HOPEFUL SPIRITS NEWS!**

The Next Hopeful Spirits Meeting is TODAY!!! Tuesday, December 13, from 2 to 4 pm at the home of Sara Gutknecht (20490 Oakbrook Lane, Parker, CO 80138). This is a special event as it is the Christmas get together! Spouses and friends are welcome to attend and join in the fun with the Hopeful Spirits!

### **THIS SUNDAY AT SPIRIT OF HOPE – 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

Sunday, December 18, is the fourth and final Sunday in the season of Advent. This coming Sunday at Spirit of Hope we will conclude our sermon series, “Character for Christmas,” by looking at the challenge and blessing that Mary and Joseph faced in the months before Jesus was born. The Bible verses for this Sunday are Luke 1:26-38, 46-55 and Matthew 1:18-25. Fellowship Time is from 9:00 to 9:30 am. Worship is from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Two special Sunday School classes will meet at 11:00 am, one for adults and one for kids through high school (see article below).

### **SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES THIS SUNDAY**

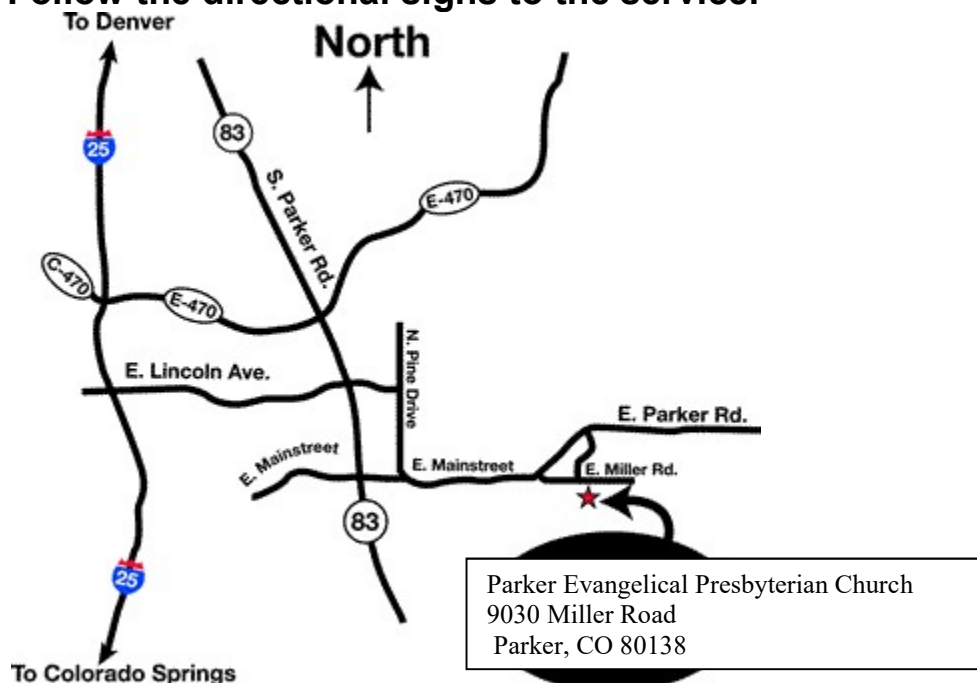
This coming Sunday, there will be two special classes! Wayne Schultz will give a presentation for adults entitled, “A Christian Approach to Charitable Giving.” This will be a timely and important topic to consider, especially during this time of the year. Pastor Dave will lead the kids through youth in a class called, “Best Of...for Christmas.” Bring your “best” picks for Christmas (carol, scripture verse, family tradition, etc.) and why it is best for you. We will spend a fun time getting to know each other in a different way and anticipate the celebration of Christmas. Sunday School will go into recess on

Christmas Day and New Year's Day and will resume on Sunday, January 8, 2017.

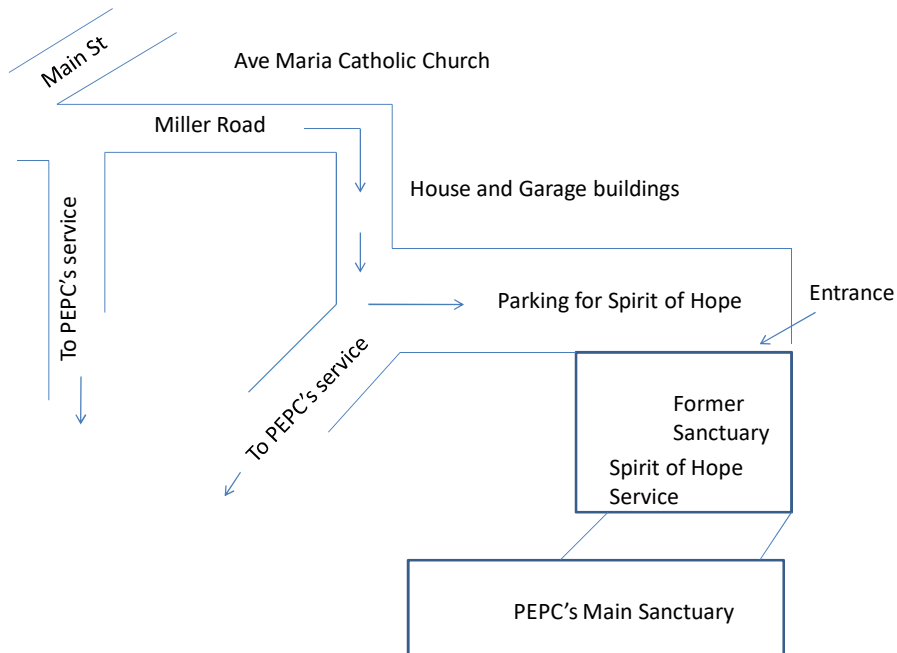
### **WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS EVE, DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Once again, our good friends at Parker Evangelical Presbyterian Church (PEPC) are allowing us to use their Student Center (former sanctuary) for not only Christmas Eve worship, but also Christmas Day and New Year's Day as well. Both of those holidays are on Sunday this year. PEPC is located at 9030 Miller Road, Parker, CO 80138 (see maps below). The Christmas Eve communion and candlelight service will be at 7:30 pm. Christmas Day and New Year's Day services will be at 9:30 am. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CORRECTION FROM WHAT WAS ANNOUNCED ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4.

PEPC is located on East Parker Road. At South Parker Road and Mainstreet, go east on Mainstreet for about 2.5 miles to Miller Road. Turn right on Miller Road and you'll see the main entrance to PEPC on the right. Their property is adjoined to Ave Maria Catholic Church. Follow the directional signs to the service.



Once you arrive to the campus at PEPC follow the directions of the parking attendants and signs to the former sanctuary that is now called the Student Center. Please see the map below.



**PLEASE BRING A SMALL PLATE OF COOKIES AND OTHER CHRISTMAS "FINGER FOOD" TO SHARE FOR OUR BRIEF RECEPTION AFTER WORSHIP!**

### **VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

Once more there is a need for some volunteers to help with worship and fellowship on Christmas Eve. Two Communion assistants, two ushers, and fellowship set up and clean up helpers are needed at this time. Please see or contact Pastor Dave ASAP if you are able to help in any of these ways. Thank you!

### **MISSION FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SHORT TERM MISSION TRIPS**

The Mission Fund at Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church exists to help support short term mission trips for youth and adults in the congregation. The fund offsets costs of youth mission trips in order to make mission opportunities more available to families. For adults, the fund is meant to help those who believe they are called to participate in a short-term mission trip, but may not have all the funds

available for that trip to happen. Overseen by the Mission Team on a case by case basis, the mission fund can provide up to 1/3 of the cost of an individual's short-term mission trip costs. Many mission organizations such as our partners at EEMN take applications for the coming year's trips now in December. Please contact the members of the Mission Team (Pastor Dave, Wendy Poch, Tim Lehnerz, or Chuck West) if you are interested in applying.

## **YOUTH NEWS!**

### ***Upcoming Youth Group Events***

1/8 Youth Group Night, Poch Home, 6-8 pm

1/22 Youth Group Night, Poch Home, 6-8 pm

## **CROSSWAYS UPDATE**

We have met the minimum for the upcoming Crossways course, but we certainly still have room for you! Materials for this two-year long Bible study will again be available for previewing this Sunday. Class begins on January 25th. Please contact Wendy Poch or Sara Gutknecht by January 4th if you would like to join us. More details can be found in the letter attached to this newsletter.

## **CHURCH BOARD NEWS**

At the meeting of November 9, the church board recognized the proposed incoming board members for 2017. Current board members Wayne Schultz, Brad Hoyt and Wendy Poch are scheduled to off the board. Board members Susan Spancers, Steve Gutknecht and Tim Lehnerz have one year remaining on their terms. Spirit of Hope member John Parsons has been nominated to come onto the board. Board members Wayne Schultz and Brad Hoyt have agreed to renew their terms on the board with an option to step down after the completion of the building project. As a point of information Wendy Poch will continue to attend board meetings as part of her student pastor requirements with ILT. She will have voice but no vote and be required to make periodic reports to the board as a part of her internship.

From now until the annual meeting of the congregation in late January or early February (the date has not yet been set) members of the congregation are welcome to submit input to the board as a whole or any individual board members regarding the proposed incoming board members.

### **LCMC THREE DAYS OF PRAYER**

Once more our association, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) is calling for all member congregations to start the new calendar year by giving themselves to prayer for three days from January 3 – 5. The days may be structured in any way that a congregation feels led. The theme for each day is as follows: January 3 – confession; January 4 – petition; January 5 – vision. Click on the following link to learn more:  
<http://www.lcmc.net/three-days-of-prayer>

### **BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE**

The concrete pouring of the pad is expected this week (weather cooperating). We are still waiting for approval of the resubmitted drawing package that was sent to the fire department last week. Please pray they finally are approved. Thank you for continuing to pray for and support the building project.

### **GIFTS FROM STOCK TRANSFERS POSSIBLE FOR SPIRIT OF HOPE**

End of the year giving is upon us! One way a family may give to the building project is through a gift of appreciated stock. Oftentimes cashing out appreciated stock brings with it capital gains taxes that must be paid. However, gifting that appreciated stock to the church can bring a substantial tax benefit to the donor. Spirit of Hope has set up a mechanism with Scottrade whereby the stock gift can be immediately cashed and deposited into the building account. Please consult a professional tax advisor before making such a gift to confirm that this will work for you. Contact Pastor Dave or Board President, Wayne Schultz, if you wish to make such a gift for more information regarding details of such transactions.

### **COMING IN JANUARY – SPECIAL SECOR TOUR**

Plans are being made for a special “Beyond the Cupboard Tour” at Southeast Community Outreach’s new facility. Many Spirit of Hope members toured the former facility that was located on the campus of Southeast Christian Church. The newer facility located about an eighth of a mile north in the Solomon Building is much more spacious and allows SECOR to serve many more of the suburban poor in our area. Watch for more details coming soon.

## **SPECIAL ALL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP EVENT COMING SOON**

**Mark your calendars and save the date of Sunday, February 19, 2017, for an all church fellowship event – chili potluck and game event! More details will come in next month's newsletters!**

**Prayer Requests - If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain please contact Pastor Dave at 303-941-0668 or [dave.fisher51@gmail.com](mailto:dave.fisher51@gmail.com)**

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

### **Please include the following people in your prayers:**

Prayers for safe travel for all we know who will be traveling for the holidays

Prayers for President Obama and President-elect Trump as they work together to peacefully transfer political power over the next several weeks

Prayers for renewed healing and strength from cancer for Sue Schultz as she continues this current round of stronger chemotherapy

For healing for Dane Zwegardt as he continues treatment for lung cancer

For our church as we seek God's guidance and providence as we continue the building project

For Spirit of Hope mission partners: Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, Southeast Community Outreach, Apache Youth Ministries, East European Mission Network, Tartu Academy of Theology

For special prayers of providence for the Tartu Academy of Theology in Estonia to meet their current funding shortfall

For missionaries around the world as they seek to proclaim the gospel

All of our military fighting for our freedoms

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

### **December Birthdays**

12/5 Denise Christensen  
12/5 Laura Zwegardt  
12/7 Lowell Grauberger  
12/11 Carolyn Kleven  
12/16 Chloe Lehnerz  
12/20 Herb Potthoff  
12/21 Delmer Zwegardt  
12/28 Joseph Ravitts

**December Anniversaries**

12/14 Marvin & Polly Gates  
12/18 Justin & Crystal Trawny  
12/23 Wayne & Sue Schultz  
12/27 Jack & Jean Huebsch

**QUICK SPIRIT OF HOPE FINANCIAL UPDATE**

December income (to date) = **\$9,740**

December expenses (to date) = **\$2,784**

Checking = **\$29,656**

Money Market (Reserves) = **\$22,203**

Building Fund = **\$86,290**