



SPIRIT OF HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

7060 E. Ponderosa Drive
Parker, CO 80138

MISSION NEWS from Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Questions, comments or to unsubscribe contact one of our pastors at 303-841-3553 or office@spiritofhopelcmc.org. Also visit us on the web at www.spiritofhopelcmc.org.

SENIOR PASTOR DAVE FISHER IS ON CALL FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES AND URGENT ISSUES THIS COMING SATURDAY, December 19th AT 303-841-3553.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

HOPEFUL SPIRITS MEET TODAY!

The Hopeful Spirits will be meeting via Zoom **TODAY**, December 15th at 1:30 pm. We will continue our study on Martin Luther's "A Simple Way to Pray". We will be starting a new section on the Ten Commandments. So, if you haven't had the opportunity to attend during the last few months, this will be a great time to jump in! If you would like to read Martin Luther's "A Simple Way to Pray", click here: [ASimpleWaytoPray.pdf \(wmpl.org\)](#) (or cut and paste the link into your browser. The questions we will be discussing have been sent with body of the email that accompanied this newsletter.

THE NEXT MEETING OF SPIRIT OF HOPE MEN FOR PRAYER IS TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, AT 7:30 am IN THE FELLOWSHIP AREA OF CHURCH

FINAL MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE IS TOMORROW!

Our third and final Wednesday night worship service for this Advent season is tomorrow, December 16th, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary at Spirit of Hope.

We will conclude our series on Advent: Past, Present and Future. Pastor Dave will deliver the message on Advent Future. Once again, we will use the pleasant and inspiring Holden Evening Prayer Service by Marty Haugen for our worship.

IN PERSON ATTENDANCE REQUIRES EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO COME TO MAKE A RESERVATION. The link was sent out on Sunday and is <https://sohadventdec16.eventbrite.com>.

To worship with us online, please click here (or cut and paste this link): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVB0aZh7nso&list=UUC3L5-IzeFJpzoO_rdojtsQ&index=4 Attached to the email for this newsletter is also a pdf copy of the Holden Evening Service and the lyrics to the Christmas Carol we will sing after the homily tomorrow night. Plan to make time to worship the Lord, either in person or online at Spirit of Hope Lutheran this Advent season!

THIS SUNDAY AT SPIRIT OF HOPE: 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Pastor Wendy will preach on Luke 1:46-56 in which Mary sings the famous “Magnificat.” The theme is “The First Christmas Carol.” Our praise band will be back to lead us in the singing of traditional Christmas carols in a contemporary style. As we light our Advent Wreath, we will focus on Bethlehem where the gospel began with Jesus’ birth!

IN PERSON ATTENDANCE REQUIRES EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO COME TO MAKE A RESERVATION.

You can do that by cutting and pasting this link:

<https://sohworshipdecember20.eventbrite.com> into your browser. The YouTube live-stream link and worship bulletin for those who wish to join us online will be sent later this week. Our intergenerational Sunday School will meet in the fellowship hall after worship. **ALSO, THIS SUNDAY WE ASK THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE ABLE TO SHARE POINSETTIAS TO BEAUTIFY OUR SANCTUARY, TO BRING THEM TO CHURCH. YOU MAY TAKE YOUR POINSETTIA WITH YOU AFTER CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TO ENJOY AT HOME. THANK YOU!!!**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PATIENCE AND COOPERATION WITH HEALTH GUIDELINES AND PRACTICES!

SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK

The final Sunday school lesson of the calendar year is this week (we take a short break after Christmas)! we will be focusing on the theme of the Incarnation as we take a look at the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-20.

We will also look at Micah 5:2-5a, a famous prophecy that foretold of the coming of Jesus. All ages are welcome to join us as we meet in the Fellowship Hall after worship. If you would like to attend Sunday School via Zoom, please contact Pastor Dave or Pastor Wendy by 8:30 am on Sunday morning.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT SPIRIT OF HOPE CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT – UPDATED!

If current COVID regulations remain in place, Spirit of Hope will be having **two Christmas Eve “Carols and Candlelight” worship services, one at 5:00 pm and one at 7:00 pm.** Pastor Wendy will officiate at the 5:00 pm service and Pastor Dave will officiate at the 7:00 pm service. Both services will also be live streamed. **AN EMAIL WITH THE RESERVATION LINKS WAS SENT LAST THURSDAY AND IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.**

We will need to limit attendance at each service to allow for appropriate physical distancing and also to allow for the potential for walk-in visitors seeking to visit our church to be able to worship with us rather than us having to tell them “there’s no room in the inn!” and turn them away. So, as part of our ministry to our community, we are asking that every member of Spirit of Hope register for worship in advance. Should we reach capacity, we will start a waiting list and will do everything possible to accommodate you. We would like to ask everyone to be as flexible as possible (perhaps being willing to attend the other service, be willing to sit in the overflow seating area, etc.).

**AS OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, THE RESERVATIONS AT THE 7:00 PM SERVICE ARE FULL! THERE ARE STILL 14 SPACES AVAILABLE AT THE 5:00 PM SERVICE. PLEASE RESERVE FOR THE 5:00 PM SERVICE IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY. CONTACT PASTOR WENDY IF YOU WISH TO BE PLACED ON A WAIT LIST FOR THE 7:00 PM SERVICE.
THANK YOU.**

Should Douglas County be moved to “Level Purple” we will pre-record our worship service and send it out so that you may worship in your homes on Christmas Eve.

Thank you for being extra-flexible as we work through this COVID Christmas!

PINE LANE ELEMENTARY: MEALS FOR THOSE IN NEED THANK YOU

At 6:30 pm last Wednesday evening, just prior to our Holden Evening Prayer service, about ten or so Spirit of Hope members packed 48 bags of groceries for families in need whose children attend Pine Lane Elementary School. This service project was also a Thrivent Action Team event! Over \$900 of benevolence funds and \$250 of Thrivent Action Team funds were utilized to help the families from Pine Lane Elementary School and blessed them with extra meal support over the Christmas break. **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO WERE ABLE TO HELP IN THIS VERY SUCCESSFUL PROJECT!**

SPIRIT OF HOPE DEBT REDUCTION UPDATE

In August of this year Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church had a special emphasis and effort to begin to be intentional about reducing the debt on the facility. The response to that effort was outstanding! The extra cash contributions we collected allowed us last week to send out an early principal payment to our loan holders. This has reduced our debt in the following way. The starting balance on our loans was \$1,481,494. Cash contributions and loan forgiveness has allowed us to pay down the debt in 2020 as of December 6 by \$152,321. This leaves a balance on the facility debt of \$1,329,173. Any remaining dedicated debt reduction giving in 2020, after December 6, will be added to the regularly scheduled payment by January 15, 2021. **THANK YOU ALL** for your continued generosity! Thank you to those of you who were able to make the loans in the first place. Thank you to those of you who were able to do loan forgiveness this year. Thank you to all of you able to make extra contributions to reduce our debt so that greater ministry can happen here at Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church! **AGAIN, THANK YOU!!!**

DOUGLAS COUNTY COLORADO COVID UPDATE

As of November 20, 2020, Douglas County is now in CODE RED on the Colorado COVID Dial. For Spirit of Hope, this means that Sunday fellowship and communion have been suspended until further notice. Masks are required at all times while in the building (except for worship leaders actively leading worship) as is the keeping of a six-foot distance between household units. Our pastors and church board are monitoring the situation and may make further adjustments as deemed necessary.

COMING IN JANUARY TO SPIRIT OF HOPE

January 6th – PRAYER – A six-week class about the practice of prayer
January 11th – OVERCOMING ANXIETY IN THE AGE OF COVID-19
January 31st – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Due to COVID, we are happy to hold new member classes for individual families/households and are happy to schedule them at your convenience. Attending our new member class doesn't mean you have to become a member. But it is a great opportunity to learn about our congregation's history, core beliefs, vision for ministry, and to ask questions about Spirit of Hope, LCMC, or anything else that you've been wondering about! If you would like to schedule a new member class, please contact Pastor Dave or Pastor Wendy. We would be delighted to meet with you!

Prayer Requests - If you have a prayer request for the prayer team please contact Pastor Wendy Poch or Pastor Dave Fisher at 303-841-3553 or wendy.poch@spiritofhopelcmc.org. or pastor.dave@spiritofhopelcmc.org.

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:

For Jean Huebsch and her daughters as they continue to grieve the death of our brother Jack.

Thanksgiving for continued healing for Chris and Pat Schmidt.

For our nation to return to calm this Christmas season

For racial reconciliation to occur in our nation

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

For our nation and Parker community as we deal with the COVID-19 coronavirus situation that the virus will be suppressed, that treatment and the coming vaccine will be effective, that those infected will be healed and that those who have lost loved ones will be comforted,

For states and areas of our nation that have seen increases and spikes in COVID-19 cases for those outbreaks to subside

For our economy and the economies of the world to recover

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

For Spirit of Hope mission partners: Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, SECORCares, Mean Street Ministry, Apache Youth Ministries, East European Mission Network, Missionary Carrie, Tartu Academy of Theology

For Spirit of Hope mission allies: Marion Medical Mission, Bethesda Lutheran Ministries, Compassion International, the Institute of Lutheran Theology

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

All of our military fighting for our freedoms

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES (Members and Friends)

December Birthdays

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

QUICK SPIRIT OF HOPE FINANCIAL UPDATE

December Income = \$13,136

General Fund Offerings = \$9,930

Debt Reduction Offerings = \$1,300

Dedicated Offerings = \$1,906*

Other Income = \$0

December expenses = \$16,288**

Checking = \$39,394

Money Market = \$23,221 (Reserves = \$10,438 Dedicated = \$12,783)

Loan Interest Escrow Account = \$51,056

Building Money Market = \$16,334

***Includes \$1,800 for Associate Pastor Salary**

****Includes dedicated \$10,000 gift to Tartu Academy of Theology given in November 2020**