



## Mission News from SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021

Questions, comments, or to unsubscribe, please contact Pastor Wendy Poch at 303-841-3553 or [office@spiritofhopelcmc.org](mailto:office@spiritofhopelcmc.org).

Visit us on the web at [www.spiritofhopelcmc.org](http://www.spiritofhopelcmc.org).

### THIS SUNDAY AT SPIRIT OF HOPE ADVENT: A SEASON OF HOPE @ SPIRIT OF HOPE

Please join us for the last Sunday in the Advent season. At the beginning of the service, we will be inviting the kids to come forward for the lighting of the Bethlehem candle on our Advent wreath. Our text will be Luke 2:1-14. In adult Sunday School, Wayne Schultz will be teaching a class on the dating of the birth of Christ and why we have come to celebrate on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Our elementary youth will be learning more about the nativity of our Lord with Pat Schmidt and Pastor Wendy.



### CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS



Would you help us decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve by donating a poinsettia or two? You can bring them with you at services on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>; Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>; or on Christmas Eve (please come a little early!). You will be able to take your poinsettia(s) home with you after worship on Christmas Eve. Thank you for helping to make our worship space beautiful and inviting as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM

Join us for a special service of carols, communion, and candlelight as we worship our newborn King – Jesus Christ who is the Light of the world!



## ADVENT @ SPIRIT OF HOPE

In addition to Advent worship on Sunday mornings, here are the details of the upcoming Advent and Christmas Season:

### Wednesdays (12/15, 12/22):

**6:00 pm: Fellowship Dinners** (*Bring a dish to share*)

**12/15: Potluck from the Past**

*(Favorite foods from your childhood and/or Lutheran potlucks of days gone by.)*

**12/22: Simple Soups** (*You know the drill!!*)

**7:00 pm: Holden Evening Prayer Worship Service**

The message each week will feature the Christmas story creatively told from the vantage points of various people within the Christmas narrative.

## HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAYS DURING ADVENT, 7 PM

As is our tradition here at Spirit of Hope, we will be utilizing the Holden Evening Prayer for our mid-week Advent services. Our message this week will be "Christmas Through the Eyes of a Wise Man".



Spirit of Hope Congregation,

I want to thank everyone who prayed for me during my recent hospital incarceration and current home detention tethered to oxygen. {I worked my last 13 years in booking at the Arapahoe County Jail}.

Also thank you for the phone calls, cards, Email well wishes, meals and errands to pick up supplies and offers to run errands. Friends have loaned me their portable oxygen concentrator, so I am able to {slowly} get back to out and about. The more I do for myself, the sooner I can regain physical strength I lost while in the hospital. – My oxygen need evaluation isn't for another month.

I am truly grateful to belong to a congregation of such loving, caring people.

In Christ's Love,  
Carol Palin



## COMING IN JANUARY:

### THE GREAT DIVORCE by C.S. Lewis

Beginning January 12<sup>th</sup>, you're invited to join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm as Pastor Wendy leads discussions on a range of theological topics as they are presented in C.S. Lewis' *The Great*

*Divorce*. Amazon describes this fascinating book as follows: "C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce* is a classic Christian allegorical tale about a bus ride from hell to heaven. An extraordinary meditation upon good and evil, grace and judgment, Lewis's revolutionary idea in the *The Great Divorce* is that the gates of Hell are locked from the inside. Using his extraordinary descriptive powers, Lewis' *The Great Divorce* will change the way we think about good and evil." Class participants will need to read about a chapter or so a week. The class will run for seven weeks. **Pastor Wendy has a few copies of the book available for purchase in the church office or you can purchase them easily on Amazon here:**

[https://www.amazon.com/Great-Divorce-C-S-Lewis/dp/0060652950/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=2KYNCV8S6HA0L&keywords=the+great+divorce+cs+lewis&qid=1639540579&srefix=The+Great+Di%2Caps%2C551&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Great-Divorce-C-S-Lewis/dp/0060652950/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2KYNCV8S6HA0L&keywords=the+great+divorce+cs+lewis&qid=1639540579&srefix=The+Great+Di%2Caps%2C551&sr=8-1)

## DIGGING DEEPER WITH PASTOR WENDY

TUESDAYS 12:00 – 1:00 pm

LUNCH TIME BIBLE STUDY

Join us as we dig deeper into the text from each Sunday.



## STEPHEN MINISTER APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Kandy Parsons of Pastor Wendy for an application. Interviews will begin in January.

*"The authority of Scripture is greater than the comprehension of the whole of man's reason."*

– Martin Luther

**Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast  
6:00 pm Advent Dinner (Potlucks of the Past)  
7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service  
8:00 pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

2:30 pm Church Board Meeting  
5:30 pm Zumba Gold

**Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am New Member Class

**Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Worship  
11:00 am Sunday School

**Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

12:00 pm AA

**Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

8:30 am – 10:30 am Coffee with the Pastor @ Fika on Mainstreet  
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Digging Deeper with Pastor Wendy

**Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

12:00 pm AA  
6:00 pm Advent Dinner (Simple Soups)  
7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service



**NEW MEMBER CLASS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am**

Would you like to become a member of the Spirit of Hope family? Would you like to know more about our history, about LCMC, our core beliefs, and be able to ask Pastor Wendy

whatever questions you may have about Spirit of Hope? Then you are invited to attend our new member class on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. You will have the opportunity to fill out a membership packet, but there is no pressure at all to do so. Bagels and beverages will be provided. Please contact Pastor Wendy if you would like to attend.

## **FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD**

### **(The Lutheran Confessions):**

#### **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**

“What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith...”

#### **FROM LUTHER'S WRITINGS**

“The whole world with all diligence has struggles to figure out what God is, what He has in mind and does. Yet the world has never been able to grasp the knowledge and understanding of any of these things. But here we have everything in richest measure. For here in all three articles, God has revealed Himself and opened the deepest abyss of His fatherly heart and His pure, inexpressible love (Ephesians 3:18-19). He has created us for this very reason, that He might redeem and sanctify us. In addition to giving and imparting to us everything in heaven and upon earth, He has even given to us His Son and the Holy Spirit, who brings us to Himself (Romans 8:14, 32). For we could never grasp the knowledge of the Father's grace and favor except through the Lord Christ.... But we couldn't know anything about Christ either, unless it had been revealed by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:12). [LC II 63-65]

#### **FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

“Now we have received no the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.” (1 Cor. 2:12).

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

### **Processing Volunteers Urgently Needed!**

This message is from Samaritan's Purse: “We praise God that millions of Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts were collected during National Collection Week in November. But before these prayerfully packed gifts can make their way to children in need around the world, they first must be

carefully inspected and prepared for international shipment. Thousands of volunteers are already at work serving in this critical capacity, but more help is urgently needed this week at a processing center near you. Will you join them? You can actually just show up at the processing center at your convenience. There will be a place for you to serve! Please contact Renee Nefe for more information.

### **\*\*\*CHURCH BOARD NOMINATIONS\*\*\***

In September and October, the Church Board accepted nominations from the congregation for three available board positions, each being a two-year term that begins on February 1, 2022. The Church Board has authorized Pastor Wendy to formally vet following Spirit of Hope members who have been nominated and have agreed to serve pending a successful vetting process and formal acceptance by the Church Board: **Ken Carpenter, Tom Clausen, and Carol Palin** (this would be a second term for Carol and as such she does not need to be vetted again). This notice is being posted per Spirit of Hope's bylaws so that if there are any objections to these nominations by the congregation, members may contact Pastor Wendy or any member of the Church Board prior to 2:30 pm on December 16, 2021 at which point the Church Board will vote on the acceptance of the nominees.



**Prayer Requests** - If you have a prayer request for the prayer team, please contact Pastor Wendy @ 303-841-3553 or [wendy.poch@spiritofhopelcmc.org](mailto: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."***



## **PRAYER FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT**

**By Pastor Wendy**

**Gracious Father, you sent your Son to come to us to die for us so that He could become our sin and we could become our righteousness. This is how much you love us! Help us, then, by giving us faith in the midst of our trials. Lead us and rule our hearts with your Holy Spirit so that we will turn only to you and your Word. We ask your Spirit to guide us in all interpretation and action. Let us always glorify you so that others will know of your love. We pray this in your name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

**Please include the following people and situations in your prayers:**

For those in Mayfield, KY and all who have suffered death and loss due to recent tornadoes.

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

For all those for whom the holidays will be difficult this year.

For those in our local area who are in need during this holiday season.

For Ian who is in the ICU battling COVID.

For Stephanie who is fighting colon cancer.

Rebecca who is fighting breast cancer and undergoing radiation.

Sara as she goes through intensive chemotherapy.

Janie as she goes through intensive 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.



## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** **(Members and Friends)**

### December Birthdays

12/11 Carolyn Kleven  
12/16 Chloe Lehnerz  
12/20 Herb Potthoff  
12/28 Joseph Ravitts

### December Anniversaries

12/14 Marvin & Polly Gates

## **QUICK SPIRIT OF HOPE FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**December Income (to date) = \$10,287**

**General Fund Offerings = \$9,525**

**Debt Reduction Offerings = \$500**

**Dedicated Offerings = \$212**

**Other Income = \$50**

**December Expenses = \$4,376**

**Checking Accounts Balance = \$42,586**

**Debt Reduction Account Balance = \$54,523**

**Money Market Account Balance = \$106,215**