



MISSION NEWS from Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church
Tuesday, December 20, 2016
SPECIAL TWO WEEK EDITION!

Questions, comments or to unsubscribe contact Pastor Dave Fisher at 303-941-0668 or dave.fisher51@gmail.com. Also visit us on the web at www.spiritofhopelcmc.org.

This edition of Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church's electronic newsletter will cover both December 20 & 27! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**THIS SUNDAY AT SPIRIT OF HOPE – CHRISTMAS DAY!
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD!**

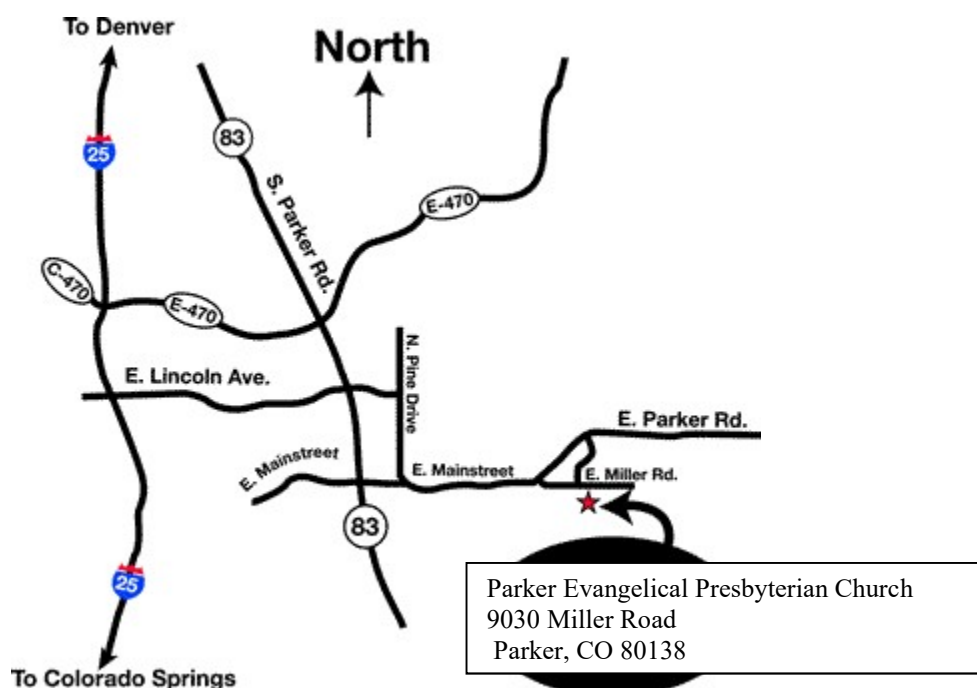
This coming Sunday is the Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Day, December 25! With Christmas Day falling on Sunday this year we will gather and worship the Lord at 9:30 am at Parker Evangelical Presbyterian Church (PEPC). We will keep things simple this Sunday foregoing our normal fellowship and education activity and focusing solely upon celebrating our Savior's birth. See the articles below for more information regarding the services of Christmas Eve, Day and New Year's Day as well. We will return to our normal schedule of fellowship, worship and education at Pine Lane South on Sunday, January 8.

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

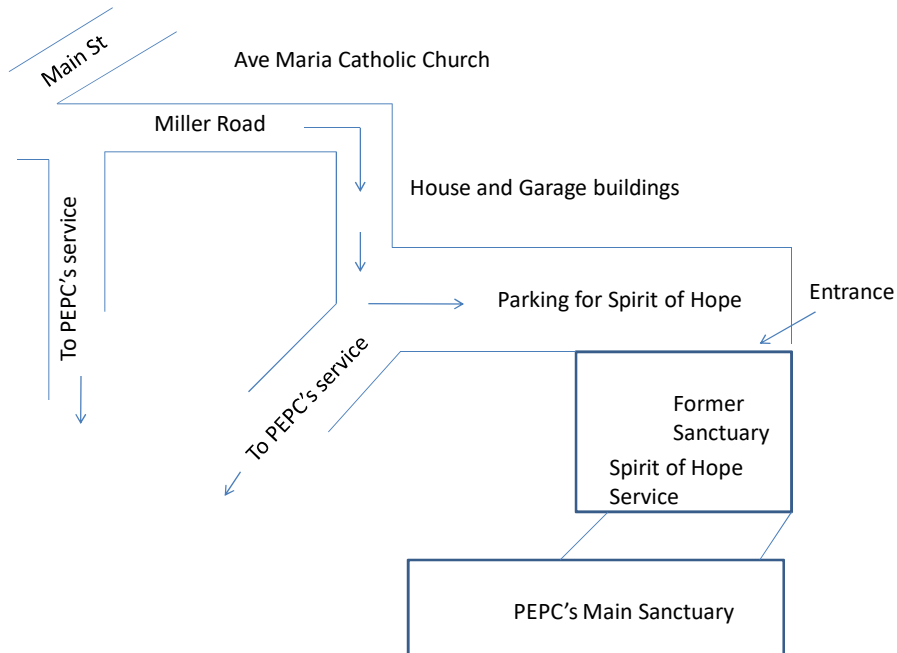
Once again, our good friends at Parker Evangelical Presbyterian Church (PEPC) are allowing us to use their Student Center (former sanctuary) for not only Christmas Eve worship, but also Christmas Day and New Year's Day as well. Both of those holidays are on Sunday this year. PEPC is located at 9030 Miller Road, Parker, CO 80138 (see maps below). The Christmas Eve communion and candlelight service will be at 7:30 pm. It will feature familiar carols, communion, and candle lighting. Plan now to join us with your family and friends to celebrate the birth of the savior on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day services will be at 9:30 am. On Christmas Day, we will read the Christmas gospel according to John 1:1-14 and continue to sing praises through carols and celebrate Holy Communion. On Sunday, January 1, the theme is the naming of Jesus as recorded in Luke 2:21. We will look at what the name of Jesus means for us. Sunday School will be in recess until Sunday, January 8.

PEPC is located on Miller 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.



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 ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Once more there is a need for some volunteers to help with worship and fellowship on Christmas Eve. One more communion assistant, and one more usher are needed as well as fellowship set up and clean up. 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

HOPEFUL SPIRITS NEWS!

The next meeting of the Hopeful Spirits will occur on Tuesday, January 17, from 2 to 4 pm at the home of Sara Gutknecht (20490 Oakbrook Lane, Parker, CO 80138).

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 was once again delayed by weather last week. The good news from last week, though, was the approval obtained from the fire department for our revised drawings. As reported last Friday to the congregation via e-mail. “Our general contractor, Skarco Design, now has the big permit needed to begin construction in earnest; we expect this to happen as soon as Skarco can mobilize resources. Since this process has taken so long, subcontractor bids will need to be renewed and that will be done over the next few weeks, but not delay construction. Skarco will then provide us with a final cost estimate that the church board will review and share with the congregation at the annual meeting for any further congregational approval needed.”

Thank you for your patience, prayers, and persistent help and gifts to keep this project going.

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 for Wednesday evening, January 18 and Thursday afternoon, January 19. 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

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 of support and comfort for the victims of terror around the world and that these attacks will cease

Prayers for President Obama and President-elect Trump as they continue to work to peacefully transfer political power over the next month

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) = **\$11,453**

December expenses (to date) = **\$7,594**

Checking = **\$26,559**

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

Building Fund = **\$85,287**