



7060 Ponderosa Drive  
Parker, CO 80138

## Mission News from SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 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).

### UPCOMING SUNDAYS AT SPIRIT OF HOPE

**December 26<sup>th</sup>:** Pastor Wendy will be preaching on John 1:19-34 in which John acknowledges Jesus as the Lamb of God who has come to take away the sin of the world. Sunday School is in recess.

**January 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Rev. Carol Clark will be filling in for Pastor Wendy, who will be away visiting family. Pastor Carol will be preaching on John 1:35-51 in which Jesus begins calling his disciples with the invitation, "Come and see". We will also be recognizing Epiphany, which is on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School is in recess. After worship, we will pack up the Christmas trees and decorations (the "retiring of the greens"). Help is greatly appreciated!

**January 9<sup>th</sup>:** Pastor Wendy will be preaching on John 2:1-11 which records the first miracle of Jesus (turning water into wine). We will also be recognizing the Baptism of our Lord. Our praise band will lead us in singing! Sunday school resumes this week. Wayne Schultz will be beginning a class on James that will last 6-7 sessions. Elementary students will meet with Pat Schmidt and Pastor Wendy and will learn more about the wedding in Cana and Jesus turning water into wine.

If you would like to worship with us online, simply cut and paste this link into your browser and then click on the current video:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC3L5-IzeFJpzoO\\_rdojtsQ/videos?view=2&live\\_view=502](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC3L5-IzeFJpzoO_rdojtsQ/videos?view=2&live_view=502)



### 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 will be sent out for those who are unable to attend in the sanctuary.



## **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

The Church Office will be closed on Christmas Eve as well as from 12/27 – 1/7. John Parsons, Church President, will be screening calls for emergencies. All non-emergencies that are received via phone, email, or text will be responded to the week of January 9<sup>th</sup>.



## **COMING UP AT SPIRIT OF HOPE!**

**Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Worship

**Monday – Friday, 12/27 – 12/31**

12:00 pm AA

**Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am Retiring of the Greens

**Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

12:00 pm AA

**Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

**Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**

12:00 pm Digging Deeper Bible Study (Gospel of John)

**Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**

4:30 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm Bible Study (C.S. Lewis/The Great Divorce)

**Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 pm Zumba Gold

6:45 pm Church Board Meeting

**\*\*\*Please note that Pastor Wendy will be on vacation from 12/27/21 through 1/7/22.**

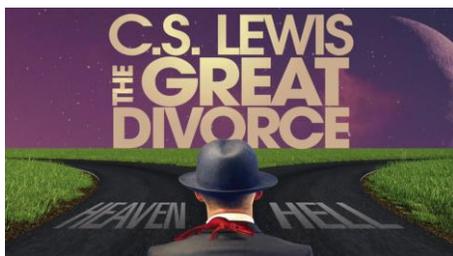


**THE BOOK OF JAMES**  
**SUNDAYS 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

After worship and fellowship, Join Wayne Schultz as we go through the book of James verse by verse. There's a lot that's packed into this little book and all of it is practical for us as Christians today.

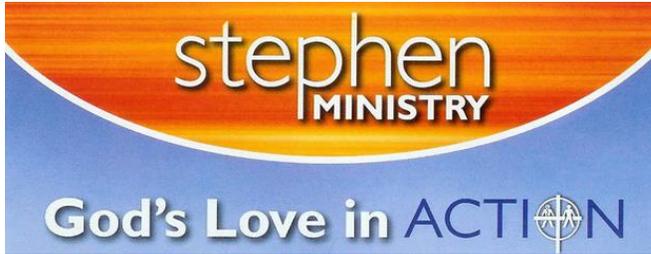
**DIGGING DEEPER WITH PASTOR WENDY**  
**THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**  
**TUESDAYS 12:00 – 1:00 pm**

Join us as we dig deeper into the Gospel of John. You are welcome to bring a lunch! No homework and no prep.



**(NEW ARTICLE!!)**  
**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 theological concepts and, if we're willing, God will show us some things about ourselves, too. Pastor Wendy has some copies available in the fellowship hall (you can take a book now and give PW \$9.00 at your convenience) or you can order a copy on Amazon for the same price. Participants are asked to read approximately a chapter a week (though you may enjoy reading it straight through and then revisiting a chapter each week). Please let Pastor Wendy know if you have any questions.



## **STEPHEN MINISTER APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!**

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Kandy Parsons or Pastor Wendy for an

application. Interviews will begin in January.

## **ZUMBA GOLD IS BACK!!!**

Want to work off those Christmas cookies and New Year's treats while enjoying a time of fellowship? Join us for Zumba Gold on Thursdays from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm (starting on January 13<sup>th</sup>). Certified Zumba instructor Tanya Diederich will lead us in this program that is safe for everyone, including seniors, as it is low/no impact. Music is uplifting and fun! Please bring a \$3.00 donation for each class (or purchase a punch card).



## **NEW MEMBER CLASS**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 22<sup>nd</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 CHURCH BOARD**

The congregation has nominated Tom Clausen and Ken Carpenter to serve a two-year term on the Church Board that will begin on February 1, 2022. Tom and Ken have been formally vetted and approved by the Church Board. As such, they have now officially been elected per our constitution and bylaws. They have been invited to attend January's Church Board meeting so that they can be brought up to speed, ensuring a smooth transition of church leadership. Carol Palin will begin a second two-

year term on February 1<sup>st</sup>. John Parsons, Sheri Giles, and Steve Gutknecht each have another year to serve on their present term. John Parsons will continue to serve as Church President in 2022. Pastor Wendy and the current Church Board wish to thank Gary Flora and Susan Spancers for their many years of service on the Church Board. They have both served the people of Spirit of Hope extremely well and we wish much them joy and peace in 2022!

## **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**

"...In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith..."

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

"Scripture speaks about Christendom very simply and in only one way... *the first way*, according to Scripture, is that Christendom means an assembly of all the people on earth who believe in Christ, as we pray in the Creed, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the communion of Saints." This community or assemble means all those who live in true faith, hope, and love. Thus, the essence, life, and nature of Christendom is not a physical assembly, but an assembly of hearts in one faith, as St. Paul says in Ephesians, "One baptism, one faith, one Lord." Accordingly, regardless of whether a thousand miles separates them physically, they are still called one assemble in spirit, as long as each on preaches, believes, hopes, loves, and lives like the other. So, we sing about the Holy Spirit, "You have brought many tongues together into the unity of faith." This is what spiritual unity really means, on the basis of which men are called a "communion of saints." This unity alone is sufficient to create Christendom, and without it no unity – be it that of city, time, persons, work, or whatever else it may be – can create Christendom." [AE 39:65]



## FROM THE SCRIPTURES

“And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd.”  
(John 10:16)

*“You cannot love a fellow creature fully till you love God.”  
— C.S. Lewis, The Great Divorce*

## COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR WILL RESUME JANUARY 25<sup>th</sup> DUE TO PASTOR WENDY'S CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASS

Pastor Wendy will be taking a continuing education class in January. The class is about Christian decision making at the end of life. This class meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00 am – 11:00 am for the first few weeks of January. While “Coffee with the Pastor” at Fika on Mainstreet will resume on January 25<sup>th</sup>, please know that Pastor Wendy is available to meet with you either at the church or even at Fika during other times.



## *HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!*

*12/28 Joseph Ravitts  
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*



## **ABOUT THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

On Christmas Eve we began our exciting journey through the Gospel of John. As a Christmas homily (a short sermon), I wasn't able to preach as long or cover as much as I normally would. And, in fact, there is so much that happens in the prologue of John (John 1:1-18) that one

could preach on it for weeks! So, I wanted to take a moment to introduce the movement and themes found in John's Gospel, most of which are actually introduced in the prologue. I encourage you to listen for these themes as God speaks to us in the coming months.

First, the Gospel of John is essentially broken down into two parts:

- 1) The Book of Signs (John 1 - 12)
- 2) The Book of Glory (John 13 – 21)

The Book of Signs focuses on Jesus' public ministry. This section of text takes place over a period of approximately three years. The Book of Glory focuses on Jesus' last day with his disciples, the crucifixion, and his resurrection appearances. This section of text spans only a few days.

There are eight themes introduced in the prologue that are revealed throughout John's Gospel:

- 1) The connection of Jesus to the creative activity of God.
- 2) The origin of Jesus.
- 3) The Word made flesh so that God can be personally revealed to us.
- 4) The full humanity and full divinity of Jesus.
- 5) Light and Darkness (Jesus entering into our sin, struggle, & disbelief).
- 6) Discipleship demands being a public witness of and for Jesus.
- 7) The relationship of God with His children (the call to abide in Him).
- 8) Abundance (Grace upon grace).

At the end of John's Gospel, we are told that these things were written so that you may believe. The Greek here also means "that you will be sustained in your belief". That means God is inviting you to come to him so that your faith can be nourished. My prayer is that you will be richly blessed by God's invitation!

*~ Pastor Wendy*

## **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED!**

When asked how to describe Spirit of Hope, my answer is always the same: “A Deeply Faithful Family of God”. Here at Spirit of Hope, we do indeed strive to be faithful. And, we are a family committed not only to God, but also to one another.



As in any family, every single member is equally important. And, every single member is called to contribute if the family is to be healthy and thrive. While it would be impossible to name every person and everything that they have done to help us thrive, I did want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you who have served at Spirit of Hope this year. You have shared your time, your talents, and your gifts and the kingdom is greatly blessed because of you!

You have helped in the kitchen, served meals to those in need, supported our mission partners, prayed for one another, served on boards and committees, taught classes, helped in the office, helped with cleaning and chores, counted offerings, run errands, crunched numbers, visited people, created slides for worship, helped with technology, served as greeters, ushers, and worship assistants, organized funeral receptions, organized family and outreach events, repaired our building, taken care of our property, sung in the choir, greatly encouraged your pastor, and shared the love of Jesus with our community and beyond. I know there are plenty of other things that you've done as well.

This is by no means a complete list. Perhaps not everyone sees all the work you do, but God does. And He is glorified by your gift of service. And the rest of us are blessed by you and your service as well. Please receive my heartfelt thanks you for your heart for God's people and for Spirit of Hope! It is an honor to serve alongside you as a member of this household in God's family.

*Pastor Wendy*



**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."***



### **A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING By Pastor Wendy**

Gracious God, as our year draws to a close and a new year is upon us, we want to pause and thank you for who you are and for all the ways you blessed us this year. 2021 has been hard for many of us. Yet, no matter what we have been through, no matter what we have lost, no matter how we have suffered, you have been ever-present with us. 2021 has been joyful for many of us. For that we also give you thanks and praise for having been ever-present with us for we recognize that every single one of our blessings comes from you. Lord, as we enter into 2022, remind us that there is nothing that can separate us from your love. Remind us that you are sovereign in all things. Remind us that in our weakness you are made strong. And most of all, we ask you to lead and guide us so that we may embrace your will and be a part of your kingdom work in our community and beyond. We pray this in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

*"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."  
— Martin Luther*

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

For safety for all those who are traveling over the Christmas holiday season.

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.

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

**December Income (to date) = \$15,733\***

**General Fund Offerings = \$13,571**

**Debt Reduction Offerings = \$1,050**

**Dedicated Offerings = \$1,062**

**Other Income = \$50**

**December Expenses = \$6,355**

**Checking Accounts Balance = \$48,735**

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

**Money Market Account Balance = \$103,229**

\*This does not include the Christmas Eve offering or the offering from December 26<sup>th</sup> as the banks have not been open yet to receive the deposit.

## *The Twelve Days of Christmas A Christian Interpretation*

- The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stand for faith, hope, and love.
- The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of ...the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.....
- Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit—Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit—Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping are the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolizes the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

***MERRY CHRISTMAS!***