



SPIRIT OF HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

7060 E. Ponderosa Drive
Parker, CO 80138

MISSION NEWS from Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church Tuesday, December 8, 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.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR WENDY POCH IS ON CALL FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES AND URGENT ISSUES THIS COMING SATURDAY, December 12th AT 303-841-3553.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE IS TOMORROW!

Our second Wednesday night worship service for this Advent is tomorrow, December 9th, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary at Spirit of Hope. We will continue our series on Advent: Past, Present and Future where Pastor Wendy will deliver the message on Advent Present. 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://sohadventdec9.eventbrite.com>.

To worship with us online, please click here (or cut and paste this link): [LIVE - Holden Evening Prayer Service, December 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. - YouTube](#). 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: 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. Pastor Dave will preach on Luke 1:39-45 in which Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is the mother of John the Baptist. The theme is "Great Anticipation". It will be a traditional Sunday service. As we light our Advent Wreath, we will focus on the shepherds as they had the good news of the gospel proclaimed to them.

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

You can do that by cutting and pasting this link:

<https://sohworshipdecember13.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.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK

In Sunday school this week we will be focusing on the theme of "Hope" as we study Isaiah 11:1-10, "The Root of Jesse". We will also look at Hebrews 1:1-4 which shows that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of that hope. 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.

*****PINE LANE ELEMENTARY: MEALS FOR THOSE IN NEED**

The church board has released over \$900 of benevolence funds to be utilized to help families from Pine Lane Elementary School who would be blessed by receiving meal support over the Christmas break. We have also received \$250 from Thrivent to create a Thrivent Action Team to help support us with this giving project. Pastor Dave, Pastor Wendy, and John Parsons will secure the food items today. We will be creating food bags with these items at 6:30 pm on Wednesday evening, just prior to our Holden Evening Prayer service. So, anyone who wishes to come early to worship and help pack and pray over the food packages is most welcome. Current COVID safety protocols will

be in place. We are grateful to Pine Lane Elementary for all the years they allowed us to worship on their campus. We are blessed to be a blessing and excited about this opportunity to help them now.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT SPIRIT OF HOPE CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT

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. You will receive an email with the reservation links on Thursday.

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.).

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!

SPIRIT OF HOPE DEBT REDUCTION UPDATE

In August, our congregation began an emphasis for debt reduction for our facility. As a part of that effort, one of our building loan holders graciously offered to match up to \$50,000 in forgiveness of their loan for every dollar given for debt reduction or other loans forgiven. The offer is good until December 15, 2020. As of today, here is where we stand.

Extra gifts given for debt reduction (payment of principal) = \$31,775

Amount of other loans forgiven = \$25,897

Total of cash and loan forgiveness contributions = \$57,672

TOTAL with matching \$50,000 loan forgiveness = \$107,672

PRAISE GOD THIS GOAL HAS BEEN MET FOR THIS YEAR!

Along with an \$11,794 loan forgiveness given before the match offer started, \$119,466 has been given or forgiven since July this year to reduce the debt on our building! This is an OUTSTANDING start to eliminate our debt, which is now down to \$1,330,073! Thank you, donors and contributors!

HOPEFUL SPIRITS

The Hopeful Spirits will be meeting via Zoom next Tuesday, 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.

CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX UPDATE

By Renee Nefe

Thank you so much to everyone who donated supplies for our shoebox packing party. Our goal this year was to beat last year's 104 shoeboxes...

And we packed 114! YAY! Thank you all so much! We have also received 23 shoeboxes packed by members and 16 build a shoebox online have been done so far for a grand total of 153 shoeboxes. You are all amazing, thank you all so very much.

If you still would like to pack a shoebox or build a shoebox online, there is still time. Just bring your filled shoebox to church and they will get delivered the next day to the processing center. You can still build a box online by clicking here: <https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/goal/view/c381c193-e7f3-45b4-87cd-865bc128a935>

Shoeboxes processed at the Denver Processing Center go to Mexico, Native American Tribes and then to South Africa from Johannesburg. Shoeboxes built online go to countries that are not Christian Friendly and are packed so they can get into those countries. On behalf of the 153 children and their families who are going to get to know Jesus through your gifts, 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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR NOVEMBER MISSION COLLECTION DONATIONS!

November was a five Sunday month. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ALL YOUR DONATIONS! We filled the mission ark to overflowing TWICE during the month for Operation Christmas Child boxes, tomato and paper products for SECORCares, and Christian coloring books, small action figure toys, reading glasses, scarves, hats and mittens or gloves for Mean Street Ministry. Thank you for your donations!

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 grieve the death of our brother Jack.

For continued healing for Chris and Pat Schmidt.

For our nation to return to calm and practice true justice in light of the events of violence and death that have happened this summer and fall

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 those infected will be healed and that those who have lost loved ones will be comforted, that reopening will continue and go smoothly and that treatment and a vaccine will be developed rapidly

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

12/5 Denise Christensen
12/5 Laura Zwegardt
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
12/27 Jack & Jean Huebsch

QUICK SPIRIT OF HOPE FINANCIAL UPDATE

December Income = \$8,896

General Fund Offerings = \$6,090

Debt Reduction Offerings = \$900

Dedicated Offerings = \$1,906*

Other Income = \$0

December expenses = \$5,020

Checking = \$46,422

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

Loan Interest Escrow Account = \$50,056

Building Money Market = \$17,566

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