



Mission News from SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021

Questions, comments, or to unsubscribe, please contact Pastor Wendy Poch at 303-841-3553 or office@spiritofhopelcmc.org.

Visit us on the web at www.spiritofhopelcmc.org.

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

This Sunday will be the third in our Advent season. At the beginning of each service in Advent, we will be inviting the kids to come forward for the lighting of the Advent wreath in place of a mid-service children's message. This Sunday, our candle will remind us of the shepherds who were the first to hear the good news of Jesus' birth. Pastor Wendy will be preaching from Isaiah 55:1-13. In Sunday School, Wayne Schultz will be teaching the second of a two-week series on preserving life. There's been a lot of activity in this arena due to recent court developments. Our elementary youth will be learning more about the nativity of our Lord.



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 19th; Wednesday, December 22nd; 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 24th, 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 (12/8, 12/15, 12/22):

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

12/8: Mexican (*Tacos, rice, chili, anything goes!*)

12/15: Potluck from the Past

(Favorite foods from your childhood and/or Lutheran potlucks of days gone by. You guessed it, anything goes!)

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.

Fellowship/Service Events:

12/10 5:30 pm Advent Gingerbread Event

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 Shepherd".



NEW MEMBER CLASS **NEW DATE**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18th @ 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 18th 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.

What's happening this week?

Tuesday, December 7th

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

Wednesday, December 8th

4:30 pm Confirmation
6:00 pm Advent Dinner (Mexican Night!)
7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service

Thursday, December 9th

12:00 pm AA
5:30 pm Zumba Gold
7:00 pm Christmas Choir

Friday, December 10th

12:00 pm AA
5:30 pm Gingerbread House Fellowship

Sunday, December 12th

9:30 am Worship
11:00 am Sunday School
4:00 pm Memorial Service for John Malone

Tuesday, December 14th

8:30 am – 10:30 am Coffee with the Pastor @ Fika on Mainstreet
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Digging Deeper with Pastor Wendy
1:30 – 3:30 pm Hopeful Spirits

Wednesday, December 8th

6:00 pm Advent Dinner (Potluck from the Past)
7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service

**ADVENT EVENT!
GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 5:30 pm**

Join us for this intergenerational event! We will enjoy a simple **dinner of appetizers** (please bring an appetizer to share) and also a **hot chocolate bar** while making gingerbread houses and having a blast. We are asking everyone to bring a second gingerbread kit (or more kits if you are so inclined) that can be donated to **Pine Lane Elementary School**. We would like to provide those families with a gingerbread kit to take home so that they can make some beautiful memories together over Christmas break. We would like to donate 50 gingerbread kits. So, donations of gingerbread kits are much appreciated even if you are unable to attend this event.

THANK YOU TO TIFFANY HANSON FOR ORGANIZING THIS EVENT!!!



**COMING IN JANUARY:
THE GREAT DIVORCE by C.S. Lewis**

Beginning January 12th, 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 by clicking here:**

https://www.amazon.com/Great-Divorce-C-S-Lewis/dp/0060652950/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Great+Divorce&qid=1638152959&sr=8-1

DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL

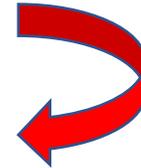
This week the Adult Sunday School class will continue to look at one of our core beliefs, **“Preserving Life”**. We will first review the history of the various ways in which lives are taken and then look specifically at the lives lost through abortion since Roe v. Wade. In week two we will look at the current abortion cases being heard by the Supreme Court and discuss possible outcomes and implications. Then, in a change of pace on December 19th we will investigate various theories regarding **when Christ was born** and learn why we celebrate His birthday on December 25th. Our Elementary Sunday School will be focusing on the birth of Jesus.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

*****APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE!**

*****TRAINING BEGINS EARLY 2022!**



Are you interested in training to become a Stephen Minister? Here's how the process works:

- 1) Pray about becoming a Stephen Minister.
- 2) Contact Kandy Parsons or Pastor Wendy for an application.
- 3) Turn in application.
- 4) Kandy & Pastor Wendy will sit down with you to interview you and share more about the ministry.
- 5) Those selected to train as Stephen Ministers will be contacted and invited to begin training together as a cohort. There are approximately 20 training sessions, each lasting about 2.5 hours.
- 6) Upon successful completion of the training process, Stephen Ministers will be commissioned at Spirit of Hope and their time as a Stephen Minister will begin.
- 7) Twice a month Stephen Ministers will attend Supervision Groups where they will receive continuing education as well as personal ministry support all while maintaining the strictest confidentiality. This allows Stephen Ministers to be strengthened and be supported at all times, which not only blesses them in their ministry and in their personal walk with God, but will also bless the person(s) they are caring for.

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.



FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD

(The Lutheran Confessions):

THE APOSTLES' CREED: The Second Article

"I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come to judge the living and the dead."

FROM THE SMALL CATECHISM

"...just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity..."

FROM LUTHER'S WRITINGS

"You cast your sins from yourself onto Christ when you firmly believe that his wounds and sufferings are your sins, to be borne and paid for by him... If we allow sin to remain in our conscience and try to deal with it there, or if we look at sin in our heart, it will be much too strong for us and will live on forever. But if we behold it resting on Christ and see it overcome by his resurrection, and then boldly believe this, even it is dead and nullified. Sin cannot remain on Christ, since it is swallowed up by his resurrection. Now you see no wounds, no pain in him, and no sign of sin. Thus St. Paul declares that "Christ died for our sin and rose for our justification" (Romans 4:25). That is to say, in his suffering Christ makes our sin known and thus destroys it, but through his resurrection he justifies us and delivers us from all sin, if we believe this." [AE 42:12-13]

FROM THE SCRIPTURES

"When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory!" (1 Corinthians 15:54)

*****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@spiritofhopelcmmc.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 SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

By Pastor Wendy

Loving Lord, by your Son you have revealed that even though heaven and earth shall pass away, our bodies will rise

again. You have promised, O Lord, to make us new again, to make all things new, to break into our death and bring us to life. As we continue our journey through Advent, help us to pray continually, with the full assurance of your grace, as we wait with joy and eager anticipation for the day you will return in the fullness of your glory. Amen.

Please include the following people and situations in your prayers:

Please pray for...

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.

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) = \$4,842

General Fund Offerings = \$4,480

Debt Reduction Offerings = \$300

Dedicated Offerings = \$62

Other Income = \$0

December Expenses = \$3,368

Checking Accounts Balance = \$37,146

Debt Reduction Account Balance = \$54,523

Money Market Account Balance = \$106,215