



Mission News from SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 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 is the second 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 angels involved in the Christmas narrative. It's also a praise band Sunday! Pastor Wendy will be preaching from Ezekiel 37:1-14 in which God gives Ezekiel a vision of dry bones coming to life. In Sunday School, Wayne Schultz will be teaching the first 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 Advent 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 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 (12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22):

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

12/1: Italian (*Pasta, pizza, anything goes!*)

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:

12/4 OCC Warehouse Event 10 am – 2:30 pm

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. Written in 1985-1986 while Marty Haugen was the musician-in-residence at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in Washington State, this lovely setting of vespers follows the traditional form while using contemporary language. Contents include "Service of Light," Evening Hymn-Joyous Light of Heav'nly Glory", "Evening Thanksgiving", "The Annunciation", "The Magnificat", "Litany and Prayers", and "Final Blessing."





**COMING UP THIS WEEK AT
SPIRIT OF HOPE**

Church Office Hours This Week

Tuesday 11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Wednesday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Thursday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Friday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Tuesday, November 30th

8:30 – 10:30 am Coffee with the Pastor at Fika on Mainstreet

12:00 – 1:00 pm Digging Deeper Bible Study

Wednesday, December 1st

7:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Village Inn

4:30 pm Confirmation

6:00 pm Advent Dinner (Italian Night!)

7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service

Thursday, December 2nd

5:30 pm Zumba Gold

7:00 pm Christmas Choir

Sunday, December 5th

9:30 am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

Tuesday, December 7th

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 8th

4:30 pm Confirmation

6:00 pm Advent Dinner (Mexican Night!)

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.



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. To obtain a copy of the book (\$8.99 new), click here or see Pastor Wendy:

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

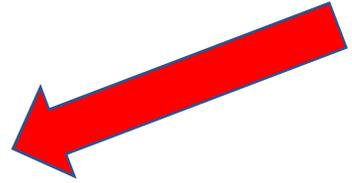
On December 5th the Adult Sunday School class will begin a two week look at one of our core beliefs, "**Preserving Life**". We will first review the history of the various ways in which lives are taken and then look specifically at the lives lost through abortion since *Roe v. Wade*. In week two we will 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:

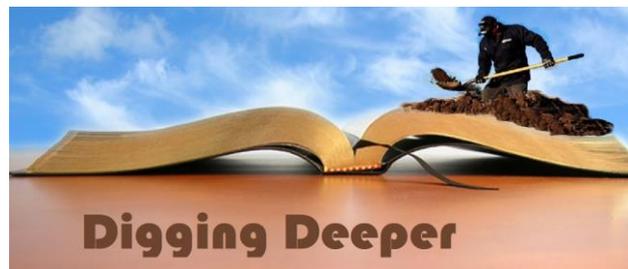
- 1) Pray about becoming a Stephen Minister.
- 2) Contact Kandy Parsons or Pastor Wendy for an application.
- 3) Turn in application.
- 4) Kandy & Pastor Wendy will sit down with you to interview you and share more about the ministry.
- 5) Those selected to train as Stephen Ministers will be contacted 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

"...Jesus has redeemed me...that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness..."

FROM LUTHER'S WRITINGS

"What the kingdom of God is has often been stated. To put it most briefly, it does not mean outward things like eating and drinking (Romans 14:17) nor other works that we can do. Rather, it means believing in Jesus Christ. In this kingdom He is the Head and the only King, in whom and through whom we have everything; whoever abides in it cannot be harmed by and sin, death, or misfortune, but has eternal life, joy, and salvation. Here he begins in this faith, but on the Last Day all will be revealed, and he will be eternally perfected in it.

Now, what does it mean to seek this kingdom? What is the method of reaching it, and what way or path leads to it?... For there are many ways, but they are all departures from that one way of believing in Christ and practicing and applying the Gospel, to which faith clings. This involves growing and being strengthened at heart through preaching, listening, reading, singing, meditating, and every other possible way. And it involves blossoming out in fruits, to advance it and to lead many other people to it."
[AE 21:204]

FROM THE SCRIPTURES

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)



NEW MEMBER CLASS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11th @ 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 11th 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.

*****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
Jesus said; "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."



PRAYER FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

By Pastor Wendy

Gracious God, help us to live a life of thanksgiving and praise, a life that glorifies you. For if you were not gracious, we would

remain under the burden of sin, death, and the devil. But because you are gracious, you appointed your Son, Jesus, to be both our Savior and also our King, our King who has given us his own righteousness and taken upon himself our own sin. Fill us with your Holy Spirit that we might cling to Jesus at all times and in all things, and so that during this Advent season we would not only embrace the lowly form he took for our sake at the incarnation, but also that we will eagerly anticipate his return in full splendor and glory! Amen.

Please include the following people and situations in your prayers:

Please pray for...

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 Carol who is in the ICU with COVID.

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.

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.

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

12/11 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

November Income (to date) = \$27,622

General Fund Offerings = \$25,738

Debt Reduction Offerings = \$1,510

Dedicated Offerings = \$463

Other Income = \$233

November Expenses = \$9,270

Checking Accounts Balance = \$47,330

Debt Reduction Account Balance = \$47,406

Money Market Account Balance = \$104,031