

SPIRIT MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2026

HOLY SPIRIT
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PASTOR'S ARTICLE

In thinking of what to write for each newsletter I often look at my past newsletter articles to see what I wrote for a particular month. In doing so I came upon a wonderful newsletter article that came from "All Saints Lutheran Church newsletter" Highland, Michigan, JUNE 2003. It was written by their pastor at the time: Rev. David M. Jahn. I had the privilege of observing Pastor Jahn some years ago when I was in Hudson, OH. I stayed at his home with his family and participated in the congregation.

"I struggle with exercise the way a lot of people struggle with getting to church. I know exercise is something I need. When I exercise I feel better, I have more energy, and everything else in my life is greatly improved. I'm even able to deal with stress and avoid illness better. Something in my body "switches on" when I give it regular exercise. I don't know that is, but I can definitely feel it. You might think that, with all of the obvious and felt benefits of exercise, I would be faithful at it and make it a regular part of my routine. How wish that were true.

The fact is that I go in spurts. For a few days I will be faithful and do it every day in an effective way. Then something comes up and I have to miss a day. Then I have a late night and I sleep through my exercise time. Pretty soon I am out of the habit and my body goes back to fighting the flab, stress, and lethargy that comes with a lack of exercise.

Gathering for worship is a similar struggle for many of you. (I've noticed.) You know that it's something your soul needs (God has hard-wired us to need each other, especially when we worship) you feel so much better when you worship regularly, everything in your life seems to work better when you keep that grounding of spending some time in God's presence with God's people each week. and yet...well, you know what happens.

If I end up having a heart attack or having some other part of my body fail me because I didn't get around to taking care of it, I wonder what I will think about the choices I have made? I wonder what I will say to my family?

What will you say to the Holy Spirit when you meet God face to face and see clearly without the benefit of all of the rationalizations and excuses that seemed good enough to fool yourself that you chose to neglect the single most important relationship in the brief moment God gave you to spend on earth?

The undeniable truth is that every time you decide to ditch God and do something else instead of worship you have made a statement about the importance of God in your life that is clear to everyone (especially to God) and you cannot take it back. Actions speak much louder than words. You can try again later, but until then your statement stands.

Once a week the God who gave you the gift of life is waiting to meet with you. Once a week God (who appears in a unique and powerful way through the gathering of Jesus' followers asks you to show up and spend some time giving and receiving in a life-giving, life-changing way.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE *continued*

Every day this summer I am going to need exercise. Every day I skip it will be one more little bit that my body goes downhill. Every Sunday this summer God is going to be waiting to meet with you. (Even up north, down south, out in the woods, or wherever else you might be.) As you are deciding whether or not to attend worship, don't get into the game of coming up with the lame excuse of the week."

As summer continues through the month of August, please take time to Worship God, wherever you are!



New Adult Study – 3 weeks in August (12, 19, 26)
"PUBLICLY, BOLDLY AND HONESTLY"

Answering God's ancient call to love our neighbor—especially the poor, the widow, the orphan, the foreigner, the oppressed, the powerless and the voiceless — takes many forms. They include prayer, service, provision of necessities, financial assistance and fellowship.

Advocacy and activism are especially potent expressions of love because they challenge the systems, ideas or structures that cause suffering.

Like other Christians, Lutherans are eager to stand up for our marginalized neighbors.

Week 1: Sheep and goats

Week 2: What God requires, Going upstream

Week 3: Risky business, Civil disobedience

The study is taken from the latest Issue of "Living Lutheran" the magazine of the ELCA.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

ADULT YOGA CLASS offered Tuesdays at 9 a.m. w/ Instructor Tina Green leading the class. Bring a yoga mat for floor poses. Fee: \$5.00 per class.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Join us and bring a project to work on. Our fellowship continues as we go out to lunch afterwards.

MEN'S GROUP MONTHLY DINNER is Tuesday, August 11 at 6:30 p.m. at TBD. All men of the church are invited to attend. Signup posted.

DINNER WITH FRIENDS is Friday, August 14 at 6 p.m. We'll be getting together at The Highland House, 2630 E. Highland Rd., Highland, MI 48356 (M-59 just west of Duck Lake Road). Signup posted.

WELCA POTLUCK DINNER is Thursday, August 20 at 5 p.m. at church. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.

BOOK CLUB meets Thursday, August 27 at 7 p.m. to discuss the book, *The 7½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* by Stuart Turton. Speak with Janet Martin if you'd like the book.

CELEBRATING YOU IN AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

Rose Filipp	1
Jeff Buckler	9
Lorry Prus	10
Nancy Fish	11
Heinz Mattern	19
Marge Dronsella	22
Bob Burns	23
Liesa Helfer	23
Ralph Green	27
Beth Carter	29

ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry & Linda Iverson	3
Mimi & Shawn Curlee	13
Norm & Carolyn Werner	13

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Zumba (Rental) 9:30 a.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Choir Rehearsal (Sept. - May) Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. - May)	Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	Adult Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting 8 p.m.	Zumba (Rental) 9:30 a.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Choir Rehearsal (Sept. - May) Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. - May)	Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	Adult Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. Men's Group Dinner 6:30 p.m.	Adult Study Bell Choir Rehearsal	Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	Dinner With Friends 6 p.m. AA Meeting 8 p.m.	Zumba (Rental) 9:30 a.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Choir Rehearsal (Sept. - May) Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. - May)	Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	Adult Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.	Adult Study Bell Choir Rehearsal	WELCA Potluck Dinner 5 p.m. Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting 8 p.m.	Zumba (Rental) 9:30 a.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Choir Rehearsal (Sept. - May) Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School v	Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	Adult Yoga 9 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.	Adult Study Bell Choir Rehearsal	Book Club 7 p.m. Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting 8 p.m.	Zumba (Rental) 9:30 a.m.
30	31					
Choir Rehearsal (Sept. - May) Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. - May)	Zumba (Rental) 6:30 p.m.					



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join us for worship, study, and activities.

WORSHIP

10 a.m. Sundays

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45 a.m. (during the school year)

CONTACT US

1-248-682-5441

office@spiritdrivenchurch.com



@ spiritdrivenchurch

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

Reader: Jean Samuelsen

Ushers: Andy Meyer, Bob Frick

Counters: TBD

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

Reader: Tina Green

Ushers: Dennis Kunkel, Doug Opthoff

Counters: Janet Martin

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

Reader: Rob Carson

Ushers: Stan Samuelsen, Lukas Mattern, Roy Salowich

Counters: Andy Meyer

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

Reader: Dennis Kunkel

Ushers: Janet Martin, Hilda Sawicki, Melinda Kern

Counters: TBD

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

Reader: Cindy Ward

Ushers: Andy Meyer, Bob Frick

Counters: TBD

HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

4800 Orchard Lake Rd.

West Bloomfield, MI 48323

PASTOR

Rev. William J. Matlack

MISSION STATEMENT

We are CALLED by Christ in our Baptism

GATHERED by the Holy Spirit to

celebrate God's grace in our midst

SENT to share God's blessings in our community and beyond.