

**SPIRIT OF CHRIST COMMUNITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
5801 Minnetonka Blvd.  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416**

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**LEFSE IS COMING!! Tell your friends and family!!** The youth will be making and selling Lefse that will be available April 1st, just in time for Easter. There will be pre-order forms available at Church in February and will be in the March newsletter. Deadline for pre-orders is March 25th. All proceeds will go towards the 2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

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The SPIRIT OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER is published monthly for members and friends of Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church. If you would like to be on the Spirit of Christ mailing list or if you have a change of address, please notify the church office. Deadline for newsletter articles is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

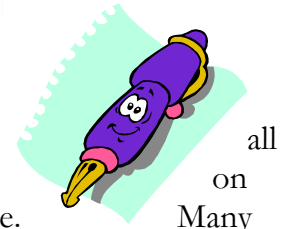
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Editor: Teresa Nordahl  
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## Pastor's Pen

Katie P. asked me in confirmation why I decided to be a pastor. My church was great. As a kid, it offered me kinds of opportunities. I learned early, that it isn't what is on the outside of a person that matters but what is on the inside. Many people took me under their wing to guide me. I was in the pageants. On one such occasion I was to play a hymn on my accordion. Shortly before going on my friend Bob did a Lawrence Welk impersonation with my accordion that stuck one of the keys. Needless to say it didn't work out. But it was OK. I was more important than my part.



Our church hired a youth worker and more opportunities came my way. There is so much I did as part of my church. I have a picture of myself mounting the cross on top of our new sanctuary. Church and faith were part of my life and I wanted to pay back, I wanted to enable other young people to experience what I experienced.

Pam thought she was going to marry a pharmacist but ended up being a pastor's wife. She became a youth pastor's wife for many years and then a "real" pastor's wife until now. Thirty eight years of ministry in forty three years of marriage.

I have always demanded a lot of myself in my ministry. My motto has always been: "Don't ask someone to do what you wouldn't or don't do." My heart has often been greater than my brain. Pam can relay stories of ministry first. I stopped my car in the middle of a three lane freeway to go help someone lying in the road. My wife sat terrified with my two children in the car in the left lane of the freeway while I was out helping a total stranger.

Parishioners may seldom see me unless they are hospitalized or home bound. I am more often to be found talking to strangers about our church and faith. I have a heart for the broken and wounded. I may have left the 99 for the one lost sheep more often than not. I am a fixer, I am equipped with band aids for boo-boos and a faith that can help all causes.

**Continued on p. 7**



## Stewardship...A Way of Life



When I call someone who isn't sick or having a problem, I think I hear an inward groan. I have a handful of people that I rely on for help. The call means that once again I am asking for help, specifically for their help.

It's one thing to have signed up to bring bars or work on the newsletter or usher. It's another to have something dumped on you that you didn't ask for. Yet, time and time again these people have taken on tasks and done them well.

Our ministry warms cold hands and ears in winter weather. It gives a warm blanket to cuddle up in on cold nights. It provides a warm meal at the beginning of a long day or at the end of it. It provides an emotional lift in life.

When I see all that we are doing on behalf of Christ, we should hear the words: "Well done good and faithful servant!" Spirit of Christ is filled with good and faithful servants.

As we enter into 2012, I invite you to think about how you might help or how your gifts might be used. And don't think you're too old. Cleo is actively involved in doing ministry here and in February she will be 90!

We often use Spirit of Christ as our tag but an important part of our name is Community. How big is that? Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church: big name, big ministry!

*Pastor Wes*

## Youth

Lock-In **February 3 - 4** (Friday-Saturday) 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 a.m. -Dinner, games, dialogue, some sleep, breakfast! Join your friends for a fun night! If attending, please e-mail Wendi at [wharmsen@comcast.net](mailto:wharmsen@comcast.net) or Bruce at [BruceStrachota@edinarealty.com](mailto:BruceStrachota@edinarealty.com) and also let us know if there is something you want to add to the night.

### **February 20** - "Interfaith Youth Leadership Coalition Day of Service"

This attracts 300-400 youth and adults representing a broad cross-section of the Twin Cities community for a day of service, learning and dialogue across religion, cultural and other differences.

Monday, February 20 (President's Day), 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Macalester College Please RSVP to Nancy M. by February 5 if you plan on attending. This is a free event. Cindy G. and Nicole G. will be chaperoning for this event. If the group decides to get t-shirts, they are \$11 each.

### **February 19** - Dialog & Meeting

**February 22** - Ash Wednesday Soup dinner. Dinner at 6:00, service at 7:00. Youth, please be to the Church by 5:00.

## Sunday School

Family Event Sunday, February 12. Hopefully we will be sledding, if not see Walter M. the week before for details. Lunch will be provided. All are welcome!

Sunday School kids will sing February 12.

## Children, Youth, & Families (CYF) Committee

The CYF committee meets on Monday, February 6 in the Green Room at 6:30. If anyone would like to be part of our committee, please come to the next meeting.

# Congregational News

## Prayer Corner

Prayers for the family of Rob F.



## Thank you's

We would like to thank all of you at Spirit of Christ for your prayers, cards, and your thoughtfulness during and after my surgery. They were all so much appreciated. We are happy to be part of such a caring congregation and we are grateful for all of you and your concern for us. *Dave and Pat L.*

To everyone who contributed bars and help with the funeral of Rob Flatten.

## You're invited!

Cleo E.'s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration

Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

3-5 p.m.

Please contact the church office regarding the location.



## Active Adults

We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. on February 16 for dessert followed by entertainment. Tony Garry will be providing our special musical entertainment. His music spans all styles and genres. He will be performing a variety of music for all ages.

## Young Adults

Monthly young adults get togethers happen most 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month. We gather for conversation, friendship and service in the community. Contact Nicole G. [nkreme@gmail.com](mailto:nkreme@gmail.com) or Kristina F. [kristina.fruge@gmail.com](mailto:kristina.fruge@gmail.com) for more details.

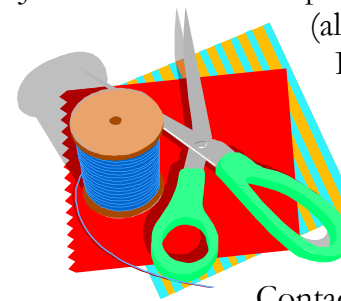
## Women of Spirit

Join the Women of Spirit in the Fellowship Hall on February 25, 9:30 - 12:30 (although you may stay later if desired) for a "craft day".

Bring your sewing, your scrapbooking or card making materials, or whatever craft project you may have in the works for a few hours of conversation and fun.

Coffee and treats will be provided. Invite a friend or bring tools to share. If you just want to come for a "kaffe klatsch", please join us.

Contact Karla L. if you have any questions.



# Events



# February Worship

## Our February Theme: Where in the world is Jesus?

February 5 and 12 are Epiphany services.

February 19 is Transfiguration Sunday.

February 22 is Ash Wednesday and February 26 is the first Sunday in Lent.



## Lenten Opportunities coming your way in February.

The season of lent is just around the corner. On February 22 we begin the season with Ash Wednesday services.

This year our Wednesday night joint services will be with Wooddale and Prince of Peace. This will be the thirtieth year of joint Lutheran Lenten services in St. Louis Park. The 150<sup>th</sup> joint service will be a celebration on March 28.

Our theme this year is: Renewing Our Society.

Our Sunday worship theme is: Old Shoots, New Roots: Is there growth in your faith? We begin the series on Sunday, February 26 with: Time; Maybe it's not the best time, maybe it's the only time! March 4: Do we live as if we have a savior? March 11: What is the church? March 18: Do I understand the meaning of grace? March 25: Do I find God in my everyday life?

# Help Needed

We are in need of volunteers in several area of the church. If you can help with any of these, please email Teresa at [teresa@spiritofchristcommunity.org](mailto:teresa@spiritofchristcommunity.org) or talk to the person listed.

**Ushers** – We are in need of a minimum of 7 ushers. Please consider being placed on an ushering team. Talk to Anne K. if you can help.

**Newsletter** – We are in need of a team lead for September and December assembly. We could also use team members for other months. This is a 2 – 3 hour time commitment per month your team assembles the newsletter. The more teams and team members we have the smaller the time commitment. Please let Teresa know if you can help.



**Power Point** – We are in need of power point operators for Sunday mornings. Training will be provided. Please let Glen S. know if you can help.



**Snow Shoveling** - We are in need of people willing to shovel snow. Please sign up in the Narthex, talk to Dale, or email Teresa if you can help.

**Pastor's Pen Continued** - I love being a pastor. God has blessed me and my ministry in so many ways. Yet, it is time. You will have heard at our annual meeting that I am retiring from SOC. I will make way for the next pastor. I will be working hard this year to take us into the future and give a strong foundation to our ministry. I want SOC to continue to be a place where opportunities abound to kids of all ages. *Pastor Wes*

## Social Action

### Our Saviour's Shelter Breakfast – February 11<sup>th</sup>

Breakfast at Our Saviour's Shelter is on Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup>. We will serve French toast, sausage, bacon, fruit, juice and milk. If you are interested in donating a menu item, talk to Carolee about quantities and logistics. Groceries cost approximately \$70.00, so monetary contributions or donations of coffee, boxes of tea and other menu items are always appreciated. Please contact Mark or Carolee C. sign up for serving or to donate to the grocery fund.

### TreeHouse Meals

Spring 2012 meals: TreeHouse still needs more volunteers and especially on Thursday nights through June 14<sup>th</sup>. If you don't have time to cook or serve, we are also looking for meal sponsors and trying to match up people who might be able to fund a meal or a portion of the cost with those who have the time to do the cooking and serving.

Here are details to help you decide what kind of help you can provide. On the serving night, one person needs to arrive by 5:15 for set-up. Dinner needs to be served at 6:30pm. Please plan to feed 40 people. Many more details will be emailed two to four weeks before the serving date.

Please contact Audrey Gustafson, [agustafson@treehouseyouth.org](mailto:agustafson@treehouseyouth.org) (or call 612-801-4741) with your name, contact number, email, to find out about available dates. Or for more information about collaborating with others to get a meal together, contact Kristina F. at [kristina.fruge@gmail.com](mailto:kristina.fruge@gmail.com).

## Social Action

### Back by Popular Demand..... It's time to TP STEP!

For the month of February, SOC is collecting toilet paper. Instead of decorating the trees out in the churchyard with it, there are collection baskets in the rear of the narthex for you to make contributions. STEP distributes over 80 rolls each week and a family is limited to two rolls during a STEP shopping trip. We would like to collect enough to meet STEP's needs for a month (that's at least 320 rolls). Can you spare a square or two to share with your neighbors? Better yet, bring a six or twelve pack of this basic staple to church any Sunday in February.



### STEP Empty Bowls Event

March 8<sup>th</sup>

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

STEP, St. Louis Park's local food shelf, is excited to announce the date for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Empty Bowl Event for Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Held at the St. Louis Park Recreation Center for soup lunch (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) or dinner (4:30 p.m. to 7p.m.).

### Get Involved!

The Social Action Team welcomes everyone in the congregation to join us for planning and organizing mission and social action events. This could be an ongoing activity or a one-shot time commitment. Talk to anyone on the Social Action Team (Mark or Carolee C., Wendi H., Matt K., Pat L., Lydia M., Deb S., Joanne S. or Jeanne W.) if you are interested in being more involved in these activities.

# Serving in February

## Lectors

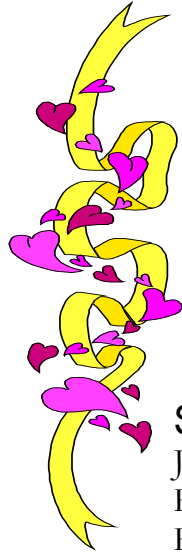
Feb 5 Bob K.  
Feb 12 Bob K.  
Feb 19 Sara B.  
Feb 22  
Feb 26 Sara B.

## Ushers

Feb 5 Team 8  
Feb 12 Team 9  
Feb 19 Team 10  
Feb 22 Team 10  
Feb 26 Team 11

## Money Counters

Anne K.  
Jason & Nicole G.



## Power Point

Feb 5 Carolyn G.  
Feb 12 Amber C.  
Feb 19 Nikki C.  
Feb 22  
Feb 26 Mark C.

## Snow Shoveling

Jan 30 – Feb 5 Needed  
Feb 6 – 12 Needed  
Feb 13 – 19 Needed  
Feb 20 – 26 Needed  
Feb 27 – Mar 4 Bruce S. & Kevin R.

# Social Action Calendar February 2012 to April 2012

## February 2012

2+ TreeHouse Meals  
11 Shelter Breakfast 5:30 to 7:30 a.m.  
13 Meals on Wheels  
20 Dinner at Your Door

## March 2012

1+ TreeHouse Meals  
8 STEP Empty Bowls – Lunch: 11 am – 2 pm & dinner: 4:30 pm – 7 pm  
9 Shelter Supper 6:15 to 8:30 p.m.  
12 Meals on Wheels  
19 Dinner at Your Door

## April 2012

3+ TreeHouse Meals  
9 Meals on Wheels  
14 Shelter Breakfast 5:30 to 7:30 a.m.  
16 Dinner at Your Door

The usher's schedule has changed. Ushers please check the Usher's schedule in the banner room.