

# The Spirit

## A Note from Pastor Robin



“My prayer for us this year is that we experience God’s shining light through Jesus Christ...”



So January is here. Christmas celebrations have past. Maybe your tree is still up in observance of the Twelve Days of Christmas, but soon it will come down. Gifts will be put away and decorations will be packed up. Cold weather and short days can make one feel sad and tired.

But there is a cure...there is a better way!

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate The Epiphany of our Lord. Epiphany is a time in the church year when we celebrate God’s revelation of our Lord by the leading of a star. This brilliant shining star is the light of the world. Through this light we see and experience God’s love to others through Jesus Christ. We are all recipients of this bright and glorious light.

And as we face a New Year, we can approach it with the warm and brilliance of the true light that is spread for all people. My prayer for us this year is that we experience God’s shining light through Jesus Christ and that we take that light throughout the world into places where it is dark and cold and where people have yet to hear the Good News of forgiveness and grace.

I’m not much on New Year’s resolutions, but let us recognize that we are Children of the Light, called to be witnesses to the gospel and messengers of God’s love. Open our hearts, dear Lord, that we may follow that star.

AMEN!



**Spread the shining light!**

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**Inside this edition, you will find words from your Pastor, committee reports, ongoing events, upcoming events, and other exciting news. We encourage you to take part and get involved at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church.**



## Attention All Lectors!

**D**id you know that you are following in the footsteps of Jesus (see Luke 4:16-17)? Lectors are an important part of our worship services, reading the lessons and leading the congregation in the Psalm for the day. We thank you for your service! To help you fulfill this important responsibility, I've put a new page out on our website. It's under "Worship" and is called "[Worship Assistants](#)." It includes the following:

- \* Some tips for lectors
- \* A link to the ELCA lectionary page for Year C so you can find out what the lessons are in advance and look them up
- \* A link to a page that will help you pronounce difficult Biblical names

*Check it out and let me know what you think. If you would like to see any additions to this page, please let me know.*

AiM Linda

## Stephen Ministry Training Begins

**O**ur first Stephen Minister training class begins on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Three members of Holy Spirit, Milt Taylor, Holly deBenedictis, and Scott Smith, have made the commitment to become Stephen Ministers and serve the needs in this congregation and in our community for two years. The training will take place on Tuesdays, 5-7:30 p.m. for 20 weeks. To put that into perspective, we will begin in early January, when winter is upon us, and finish in the middle of May, when we'll have enjoyed the spring blooms and be looking forward to summer. Please keep our Stephen Minister trainees in your prayers as they nurture their gifts and acquire new skills so that they can bring Christ's love and care to hurting





## Message from Music and Worship

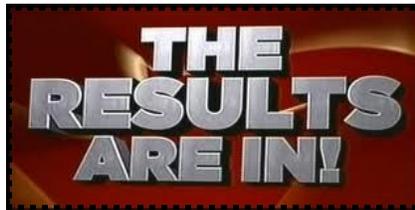


After one mandated year off Council.....I'm back on again.....continuing as the chairperson of the Music and Worship Committee.

As the chairperson of the Music and Worship Committee, I meet regularly (about every 2 months) with Pastor Robin, AiM Linda, and the other M&W committee members to go over the worship music and other aspects of the worship services. I select appropriate anthems for the Senior Choir and work closely with our church musician. I attend an annual seminar in Hanover, Pennsylvania, which allows me to participate in singing about 40 prospective anthems and hear which of them will be appropriate for the voices in our choir. I oversee the decorating of the church for the Christmas, Lent, and Easter seasons, and the ordering of poinsettias, palm fronds, and lilies. I prepare the list of service volunteers for the 10:45 a.m. worship services and the 9:30 a.m. summer worship services.

I would love to talk to you about joining the choir or becoming a worship service volunteer. I'm at church just about every Sunday, or call me at (410) 795-3415.

*Nancy Bowman*



At the annual congregational meeting held Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, members were elected to positions for the 2013 Council, Synod Reps, Audit committee, and Nominating committee.

The new council members are Dena Dahlman, Bill Miller, and Nancy Bowman. Returning for a second term are Phaedra Larner and Will Stecher. They will be joining Beth Gray, Jim Robinson, Rick Beauchamp, Bill Dodson, Andy Jones, and Alyson Lamb on the 2013 council. Eleven out of twelve seats have been filled.

The 2013 Synod reps for Holy Spirit are Steve Bonsall and Bill Dodson, with Patsy Taylor as an alternate.

The new 2013 Audit committee members are David Willson and Dave Larner, who will be joining Steve Graybill.

The 2013 Nominating committee members are Sue Podobnik, Marge Meisinger, Nancy George, Joyce Peregoy, Joyce Romans, and Joyce Emge.

*Congratulation to all of the 2013 elected leaders of HSLC!*

Thank you to exiting Council members Laura Blum, Sue Podobnik, Holly deBenedictis, and Steve Bonsall for leading our congregation with your faith and energy!

Thank you to the 2012 nominating committee members LaRue Anderson, Stephanie Arnold, Melinda Callis, David Larson, and Lorraine Markosky for canvassing the congregation for volunteers.

An open position on the 2013 council needs to be filled. If you are interested in serving on the congregational council, please contact Pastor Robin, AiM Linda, or any of the council members.

### Collection for New Jersey – Mission Accomplished!

The picture on the right shows what my office looked like on Saturday morning, December 15. This was after about three weeks of collecting things from the congregation, from the preschool, and from ROSCO. But there was still more to come over the next couple of days, including some things which had been collected at the Merritt Athletic Club.



On Monday afternoon, Ray and I packed up everything and moved it from my office into the library. We made a pile of water and other heavy things by the outside doors and put the rest of the things on the table and the credenza. The space was pretty much filled!

Speaking of filled, here's what Steve Bonsall's pick-up looked like with just about everything packed into it! I'd say it was full. Based on how low it was riding, Steve estimated that the load was about 1500 pounds.





On Tuesday morning, Steve and I left for Burlington, NJ, home of Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey. We were greeted by a number of folks who were on the lookout for "the people from Maryland." Their cupboard – a shed behind their building – was looking a little bare! I think they had one case of water left.

As you can see, we did quite a bit to remedy that. By the time we finished unloading, most of the free space was full. Lisa Barnes, the disaster response coordinator for LSM/NJ, told us that they'd had a request that morning from one of their centers in the northern part of the state for more supplies. So our donations may already be on the move again.



In addition to the goods, we also brought them a donation of \$300.00. They were very grateful for everything and asked us to thank everyone who contributed.



## Church & Village: Partners in Ministry

**T**hank you to those who attended the annual Village Holiday hosted by the Friends of the Village auxiliary on December 1. Photographer Michael Smith unveiled his new photograph and local musician Monte Leister performed selections from his first Christmas CD. Proceeds from the event benefit the reinvention of the Health Care Center and the Diven House for Assisted Living.

Carroll Lutheran Village will become a smoke- and tobacco-free workplace effective January 1, 2013. Employees, contractors and the public may not use tobacco of any kind on campus. "Carroll Lutheran Village is committed to the health and wellbeing of all staff, residents, and visitors," said President/CEO Geary Milliken. "As a health care facility, it is important that we provide a healthy environment for everyone on campus and be a community leader in setting higher care standards."

Residents of Carroll Lutheran Village have been very generous this fall. They raised \$2,180 to benefit the Alzheimer's Association through the annual Wellness Walk in October and most recently raised \$6,500 for Carroll County Food Sunday through the Carroll County Times' Holiday Hope campaign.

Sara Evans, a Geriatric Nursing Assistant (GNA) at Carroll Lutheran Village, has been named the GNA of the Year by the Tri-County Directors of Nursing Association representing nursing directors in Carroll, Frederick and Washington Counties. Sara is just one example of the many highly qualified staff working with residents in the Health Care Center and Diven House for Assisted Living who make a difference every day.

Carroll Lutheran Village was honored by the Carroll County Department of Economic Development in November with a 2012 Business Achievement Award. The "Workforce Development Award" was presented for an ongoing commitment to employee development initiatives, including student employee scholarships, a partnership with Carroll Community College to provide clinical training to nursing students, utilization of the Business & Employment Resource Center to identify and assess qualified candidates, and ongoing opportunities for continued learning and professional growth. More than one-third of Carroll Lutheran Village's 470 employees have been employed for five years or more.

Save the date for the Winter Games on Saturday, January 2<sup>6th</sup> from 1-4 p.m. hosted by the Friends of the Village auxiliary. Beat the winter doldrums with three hours of board game fun. Tickets are \$12 per player. For tickets call (410) 848-5706 or (410) 848-1814.



**Holy Spirit  
Lutheran Church**

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Evangelical Lutheran Church of America  
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Sunday Worship Service: 8:30, 10:45 am  
Sunday School: 9:30 am



**Visit us online at**  
[www.hslceldersburgmd.org](http://www.hslceldersburgmd.org)

“Our purpose is to love God  
and to bring people into a  
growing relationship with  
Jesus and His church.”



For newsletter updates, please send your electronic version to Lindsay Holbig at [Lpodobnik@yahoo.com](mailto:Lpodobnik@yahoo.com), or contact the church office at (410) 795-6333, or leave your printed copy in Ami O'Hara's church office mailbox.

**Updates are due the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**



## Preschool News

**T**he Children had a great program at Christmas. The program had lots of family members who attended. The children sang, danced, and acted out the Christmas story using a play titled *Counting Down to Christmas*.

The Breakfast with Santa was very well attended. Santa was awesome.

We will have Club's Choice items available to order until the 10<sup>th</sup> of January. Please see our order forms in the back of the church. The orders will come in just in time for the Super Bowl. If you have any questions, please call the school office at (410) 795-2287 or email me at

[hslc.preschool@comcast.net](mailto:hslc.preschool@comcast.net)

As we return in January we will be talking about the weather, penguins, and snowmen. We continue learning our sight words, letters, letter sounds, and our numbers. The 3s will start with a letter a day with many activities to promote their learning of the alphabet. The 2s continue to make many crafts and projects.

Registration is now open to the community; we have many spaces available in each class. If you have or know any families who have preschool age children please share our information with them or have them call the office at (410) 795-2287 or email at [hslc.preschool@comcast.net](mailto:hslc.preschool@comcast.net).