

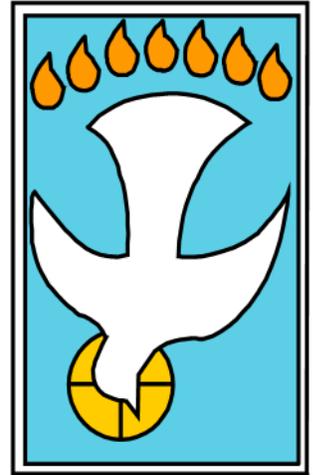
“THE SPIRIT”

APRIL 2020

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

57 Hurlbut Street ~ Albany, NY 12209 ~ 518-463-6224
email: holyspiritbany@nycap.rr.com ~ web: www.holyspiritbany.com

Laura Wayman, Editor



*God's purpose for Holy Spirit is to guide
the Community to Christ with support and love*

MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

1. DAILY PRAYER

- A. Prayer list in weekly devotional — please pray daily
- B. Personal prayer (needs/thanks/conflict) during Zoom service
- C. “Christ in Our Home” daily devotionals (see mail option in newsletter)

2. WORSHIP

- A. Sunday Zoom worship at **10:00 AM**
- B. Holy Week Zoom worship at 7:00 PM - **April 6-11**
- C. Easter Sunday Zoom worship at 10:00 AM - **April 12**

3. BIBLE READING

- A. Individual daily reading
- B. Mid-week Message
- C. Koinonia group via Zoom - **April 13 & 27**

4. SERVICE

- A. Service needs for LCHS include: Altar Care & Greeters
- B. Individual spiritual gift counseling available from Patti Henry

5. SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP

- A. Friendship Luncheoneers*
- B. Fellowship Hour after worship*
- C. Faith, News & Brews*
- D. Koinonia group via Zoom - **April 13 & 27**
- E. Yarn & Needles*

6. GIVING

- A. Donna in Ghana
- B. Albany Lutheran Cluster — **Items for St. Paul's Center**
- C. Food for the Shelter Dinner @ First Lutheran — **April 21**

[*not currently meeting]

APRIL Birthdays

- 02** Ryan Donovan
- 05** David Preisinger
- 06** Dorothy Johnson
- 10** Walter Ragotzkie
- 11** Merrill-Lee Lenegar
- 22** Bridget Place
- 27** Chase lintner
- 28** Mark Bender
Patrick Murphy
Nancy Richards
- 30** Brianna Capuano

APRIL Anniversaries

- 12** Tony & Lynn Lintner



- for our "at home" members
- for Donna Rohrmiller (our missionary in Ghana)
- for Campus Ministry at UAlbany
- for our sister Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe
- for all those in service of our country



Sunday 10 AM worship is via Zoom in **April**

Holy Week worship will be held at 7 PM via Zoom from **April 6-8**

Maundy Thursday service is at 7 PM via Zoom on **April 9**

Good Friday service is at 7 PM via Zoom on **April 10**

Easter Vigil service is a 7 PM via Zoom on **April 11**

Easter service is a 10 AM via Zoom on **April 12**

May *SPIRIT* articles are due by Monday, **April 13**

Koinonia meets online via Zoom on **April 13 & 27**

Book Club meets via Zoom on **April 14**

Church Council meets via Zoom on **April 15**

Holy Spirit provides dinner for the Shelter at First Lutheran on **April 21**

Annual CROPWalk will be held at Holy Spirit on **May 3**

Confirmation Students please read information in this newsletter

Grace and Peace in the Hope for Tomorrow!



This picture is the hope for sharing a meal together in the near future. A total surprise — it gave me such joy when I found the tray of glazed fruit on my doorstep. It was sent by my cousin's daughter and husband with no fanfare, it was just there. Along with the fruit are napkins brought from my daughters recent trip to Paris (when we could still travel). The table is set and ready to welcome guests to my table when we may freely join together.

I hear, so often, how we are awaiting the day when we meet at our Holy Meal in the sanctuary of our church. I miss the Lord's Supper also, but, know that the anticipation raises the truth that Christ is truly with us all the time.

One of my favorite Biblical stories is the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:13-35. After the crucifixion, Jesus walked with the disciples as they walked toward Emmaus. They did not recognize him and in the true understanding of the hospitality of the area, he was invited to a meal. When they shared the meal, we read:

When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

We are called to share with one another even when circumstances do not allow us to be together. A phone call, a meal sent to someone who cannot leave home is truly Christ sharing with each other. Each time we reach out, He is there.

We have opportunities to worship together in a way we never had before. During this time of gathering remotely, we still find the presence of our Lord. We may not see each other, but we know we are together in the Word.

Looking forward to seeing you soon and saying "Peace be With You!" before sharing the Eucharist.

~ Pastor Joyce

Donna in Ghana

Rev. Donna J. Rohrmiller, IAM Ambassador-Ghana, P.O. Box SG34, Sogakope, V/R, Ghana
Phone: 011 233 246997899 or 504328551, Email: msroh2@yahoo.com

March 20, 2020

Dear Friends and Family,

A lot has happened since I sent out my last newsletter on February 6th! There is One who I am sure has not changed, even though the world around us has. There is One in whom we can still trust.

***Your throne is established of old; You are from everlasting.
The floods have lifted up, O LORD, The floods have lifted up their voice;
The floods lift up their waves.***

***The LORD on high is mightier Than the noise of many waters, Than the mighty waves of the sea.
(Psalms 93:2-4)***

Well...in my last newsletter I gave you the dates for my trip home to the U.S. My time in churches is all scheduled. And now... I have not cancelled my flight on the slight chance things could improve. I do not need to make a final decision until about two weeks before May 13th which is when I am scheduled to leave Ghana. However, I know it is likely I cannot come. I have a number of factors to consider; not only how the situation is in the U.S., but also how it is here in Ghana. There is no one who can fully take over me when I travel, and I do not want to leave the work, the staff, and the children leaderless during a trying time. In addition, the U.S. government has just notified me that if I (any citizen) want to return to the U.S., I should do it now. And that potentially, if I stay, I might have to stay in the country I am in for a long time. Really, since I live here, that is not a problem for me, except that I miss you!

The state of things in Ghana (to give perspective, Ghana is the size of the state of Oregon):

We have 16 cases. The number increased from 11 to 16 today.

In the latest group of people, we have our first case or two of community transmission.

The cases are mostly in Accra, the capital, with 1 in Tema, a port city near Accra and 2 in our second largest city, Kumasi. I live about 2 ½ hours from Accra, and far from Kumasi.

Anyone who has been in a country, that has 200 or more cases of COVID-19, within the last 14 days, is barred from entering Ghana. Citizens and residents can return but must self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival.

All schools are closed until further notice.

All public gatherings, including church activities, are cancelled for 4 weeks.

Adaptations we have made in our work:

The IAM Bible School, Adidome is not meeting until the president allows schools to reopen. We started our 4th class on 3/7, met 3/14, and then had to stop for a while. Eleven students have come and more have shown interest. I expect more in class when we can reopen. Some women do bring their children to class.

Loaves and Fishes, our monthly outreach to the elderly in Adidome from Titian Ministries International, continued today but in a modified form. We were not able to congregate to worship and hear a message, so as they arrived, we gave them the prepared packages. We missed the fellowship, but were glad to still be able to help. Since schools are out, many sent their younger relatives instead of coming themselves.

Our children, Children of Zion, are not in school, but are safe and being well cared for. Their new home, the bungalow we are building at the ocean under Titian Ministries, is near completion. A garage is being built for the bus, to prevent rust from the ocean wind. The last project will be an outside kitchen. We hope to move them there before 6/30.



BEFORE the effects of corona virus, I was dealing with medical issues. These are the people we helped since the beginning of the year:

A young woman needed a C-section; her baby was in distress. It required more money than she or our village church could come up with. Pastor Etonam called and appealed for help. The woman and her little baby boy are doing well. We do not have a picture because she left the area to live with relatives until she recovers.

In January, we helped three of our women in Jesus Elderly Care in Atronie to have glaucoma surgery, and one woman this month. Everyone who comes to us is very desperate because they have gone without preventative care. All are doing well after surgery, and are very appreciative. These are pictures, taken before the eye surgery, of the first three. We have one more woman on our waiting list and hope to help her in April.



ALWAYS, always, please PRAY for us! AND we will for you!

Love in Christ,

Donna

Rev. Donna J. Rohrmiller

Contributions can be made to International Accelerated Missions (IAM) by mail or on the website, www.iamoutreach.org.

If by mail please do not put my name on the check, instead enclose a note saying it is for me.

Address: 114 Rock Rd; Berne, NY 12023 Phone: 518-872-0987.

To contribute to the work done through Titian Ministries Int'l, give on the website, titianministries.com,

or send a check to: Debra Hess, 360 Protection Ave. Apt. J-12, Herkimer, NY 13350.



COUNCIL CORNER

The Social Ministry Committee strives to support the community and those in need.

We are always seeking new projects, ideas and volunteers. Please share your ideas with us. Members of the Social Ministry Committee are: Deb Baranowski, Sheila Pacowski, Loren Place, Gabriella Sacks, Mary Tennermann, Laura Wayman and Claudia Wolfgang.

In 2017 we established the Bedding Bank to help the USCRI assist new immigrants coming into our community. Recently, with your generous donations, we donated 2 sets of twin sized sheets, 1 twin sized blanket and comforter to the USCRI. They were so happy to receive them and really appreciated the donation. They are now requesting new twin sized blankets and gently used twin sized comforters.

They are also in need of push shopping carts. The push shopping carts will help people with getting their groceries, etc. If you have a push shopping cart you no longer need please consider donating it to the USCRI.

In 2019, 250 new people arrived and settled in our community. At this time, people are arriving from Guatemala, the Congo, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Burma. In the last few weeks 13 new people have come into our community and are getting settled.

An upcoming event is the **May 3** CROP Walk.

The Friendship Garden is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. The Friendship Garden Committee is trying to raise money for a secure garden shed. The secure shed will keep tools and supplies safely locked away. Claudia and Loren are members of the Friendship Garden Committee along with community leaders and Delaware Community School Teachers. They are exploring grant opportunities and donations for the shed.

A Friendship Garden Open House is planned for **May 17** after Sunday Worship. Watch for details on this and other events for the Friendship Garden.

Sheila Pacowski
Social Ministry Committee chair

HOLY WEEK

Stories of Worship, Adoration, Praise, Confession, Ritual, Promise, Death and Resurrection

This year we will walk through Holy Week using Zoom technology to connect our community of faith. Each day of the week there will be opportunities to practice ritual on our own and to gather as a body to hear the ancient stories that give us the foundation for our life of faith in Jesus Christ.

PALM SUNDAY ~ APRIL 5 ~ 10 AM

Community worship will focus on Jesus' Triumphal Entry Into Jerusalem

Spiritual Practice: As we prepare to gather, notice the plants in your home and in your neighborhood. How many of them thrive and how many might be dying? How many have buds? Notice the different shades of colors, the greens and browns and other flowering colors.

PALM SUNDAY ZOOM LINK

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/478762823>

Meeting ID: 478 762 823

One tap mobile +16465588656,,478762823# US (New York)

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 478 762 823

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/apZXTfObe>

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY ~ APRIL 6-8 ~ 7 PM

The Prayer of Examen

We are invited to gather in prayer each day. Join us on Zoom or use the prayer resource at home. The resource we will use during these days is "The Prayer of Examen". This prayer helps us review our day, noticing gratitude alongside hardship and God's presence in it all. We will also have a time of open prayer for the healing of the world.

You can find the prayer practice here: <https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/practices/practices/view/28485/theprayer-of-examen>

ZOOM LINK FOR MONDAY-WEDNESDAY

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/143586643>

Meeting ID: 143 586 643

One tap mobile +16465588656,,143586643# US (New York)

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 143 586 643

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/apZXTfObe>

MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ APRIL 9 ~ 7 PM

Community worship will focus on the Last Supper and the practice of the washing of feet and eating meals together. We will reflect on what we know in scripture to be some reactions of the disciples in those last hours of Jesus' life.

Spiritual Practice: As you go through your day, take special notice of the role water and washing plays in your life. Eat your meals mindfully, noticing every part of the meal. Notice the way your body takes in the food. If you are eating with others, notice conversation at the table. Notice the act of preparing the food and cleaning up the dishes.

MAUNDY THURSDAY ZOOM LINK

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/772418315>

Meeting ID: 772 418 315

One tap mobile +16465588656,,772418315# US (New York)

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 772 418 315

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/apZXTfObe>

GOOD FRIDAY~ APRIL 10 ~ 7 PM

Tonight we will listen and sit with the stories of betrayal that mark this often solemn day of lament and prayer.

Spiritual Practice: Spend time in personal prayer as you prepare to hear the stories of the betrayal and death of Jesus. Pray for our world and all who are in need.

GOOD FRIDAY ZOOM LINK

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/199297179>

Meeting ID: 199 297 179

One tap mobile +16465588656,,199297179# US (New York)

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 199 297 179

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/apZXTfObe>

EASTER VIGIL~ APRIL 11 ~ 7 PM

Tonight we gather together as part of the company of saints and hear the stories of promise.

Spiritual Practice: Tonight, light a candle (if it is safe) as you prepare to join the story telling circle. Take time to be still and notice God. During worship, practice prayerful listening as the ancient stories of promise are shared again.

EASTER VIGIL ZOOM LINK

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/229302520>

Meeting ID: 229 302 520

One tap mobile +16465588656,,229302520# US (New York)

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 229 302 520

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/apZXTfObe>

EASTER SUNDAY~ APRIL 12 ~ 10 AM

In the midst of all that was and is and is to come we give name and claim to the ancient story of the resurrection of our savior and the hope of the empty tomb.

Spiritual Practice: Be ready to shout "Alleluia" from your windows and porches and beds. Think of creative ways to share hope from a distance. Notice which traditions you can still maintain even while physical distancing.

EASTER ZOOM LINK

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/633385349>

Meeting ID: 633 385 349

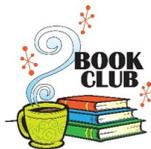
One tap mobile +16465588656,,633385349# US (New York)

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 633 385 349

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/apZXTfObe>

HOLY SPIRIT BOOK CLUB



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, **April 14**. We will gather via Zoom at 6:30 PM. The book to be read in advance is *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware. Please note: Patti Henry needs the email addresses for all who would like to join the Zoom meeting.



Confirmation Classes have been suspended. Pastor Edwina Landry who coordinates and co-leads class lost her mother to (non virus) illness very recently. Prayers are appreciated, as no funeral service is allowed at this time. More information to come soon.

Students: keep in touch by email at Pastorjoycef@live.com. Sermon notes are still required. Zoom worship services are available online or via phone. Sermon summary sheets will be collected when the class meets again.

KOINONIA

This is a group that gets together on two Monday evenings per month for Bible study. You're more than welcome to (virtually) join in — or just try it out if you've been meaning to do so.

Here is the connection information for the meetings on **April 13 & 27** at 6:30 PM:

KOINONIA ZOOM LINK

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/155909755>

Meeting ID: 155 909 755

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,155909755# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 155 909 755

Find your local number:

<https://zoom.us/u/apZXTfObe>

CHRIST IN OUR HOME

Many of these daily devotionals have been mailed to members. However, we still have copies available. If you'd like one mailed to your home, please email Laura Wayman at holyspiritalbany@nycap.rr.com or call her between 10 AM and 2 PM at 518-763-3344 (Monday-Thursday).



- Our next Shelter Dinner is on Tuesday, **April 21**. Deb Baranowski is coordinating this dinner for us. If you would like to donate something for the dinner please call Deb at 315-430-3281 to coordinate separate drop offs for the same meal. At this time, the Shelter at First Lutheran is open 24 hours a day—7 days a week.

The number of guests is reduced, so our meals are now serving 15 people. However, lunches are now being provided, as the guests are now at the Shelter full-time. Lunch and dinner can now be dropped off at any time. The procedure is to place items on the stoop of the shelter entrance. Call the shelter at 518-426-1227 to let them know a meal is outside, and they will be right up to collect it. This allows the much needed donations to be made while maintaining a safe distance for all.

- The Shelter at First Lutheran is open through the month of April. Because of the Corona virus, many groups and individuals have pulled out from volunteering to prepare dinners during the next four weeks. The Shelter is in need of monetary donations, in order for them to purchase items and make meals for April. If you would like to donate money, please write a check to: the Capital Area Council of Churches and write in the memo section "Shelter Dinners". The address is: 646 State Street, Albany, NY 12203. Any and all donations are truly appreciated!

- The Shelter Closing Dinner originally scheduled for the month of April, is postponed for the near

future. We may look at having a celebration in the Fall. Thank you for all who have contributed through your donations, supplies and meals.

- Our April Cluster Collection is for St. Paul's Center for Homeless Mothers and Children in Rensselaer. Per their website: "St. Paul's Center provides emergency shelter to mothers and their children without a place to call home. Our 19-bed facility operates year round so families always have a place to go in times of need. Our dedicated staff provides support and individualized services to families as they transition to independent living." Here is a list of items they are requesting. Items can be new or gently used.

Wash cloths
Hand towels
Bath towels
Shower curtains
Shower rods
Shower curtain hooks

[For those who would still like to donate items, we will gratefully receive them when we are able to gather again for worship at Holy Spirit.]

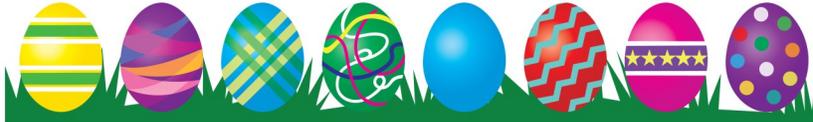
- CROPWalk 2020 will be held on **May 3**, but it will be different this year. Instead of a kick-off at First Lutheran and a walk in that neighborhood, we will be gathering at Holy Spirit to walk around the neighborhood. Walkers must register online at www.crophungerwalk.org/albanyny and they need to go to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in the dropdown list to register.

So far it seems that people need to give electronically. I have not yet received materials from Kitt Jackson. I will do updates as soon as I have more information; please watch the Midweek Message.

— Mary Tennermann



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
57 Hurlbut Street
Albany, New York 12209



Zoom Worship Services for Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday – April 5 – 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday – April 9 – 7:00 PM

Good Friday – April 10 – 7:00 PM

Easter Vigil – April 11 – 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday – April 12 – 10:00 AM